

THE OBSERVER

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NDSMCOBSERVER.COM

ND Habitat members spring into action



Three of last year's "Shack City" participants set up cardboard boxes as shelters for a night outdoors on South Quad.

By KATIE WAGNER
News Writer

Whether they're slamming a volleyball into the mud, sleeping in a cardboard box or painting a house, Notre Dame students are living out Habitat for Humanity's "Act! Speak! Build!" advocacy week.

The highlight of this week is "Shack City," a gathering of over 100 students on South Quad Saturday night. The event involves students spending the night sleeping in large cardboard boxes in order to increase awareness of the issue of substandard housing, as well as to raise money for the Notre Dame

chapter of Habitat for Humanity's house. Also, 10 percent of the proceeds will be donated to the Puebla, Mexico chapter of Habitat.

"We're recognizing that some people in America really do live this way," said senior Colin Dowdell, a co-president of Notre Dame's chapter of Habitat. "We're not trying to imitate or mock them."

Students will be writing facts about poverty and substandard housing on the boxes to further contribute to this visual "reminder that there's a larger need in the world," sophomore and Shack City planning team

see ACTION/page 6

Tryouts begin for new Irish mascot

Six final leprechaun candidates to face off

By PETER LEAHY
News Writer

Next fall will be the dawn of the Charlie Weis era for Notre Dame football and the beginning of the post-Chris Thomas era for Notre Dame men's basketball. There will also be another important change in the world of Irish sports — a new leprechaun.

Tryouts for the prestigious and highly-scrutinized position will take place today at 6 p.m. in the Pit of the Joyce Center. Students are welcome to enter through Gate 2 and watch the rigorous proceedings to see who their new mascot will be.

Interviews have been conducted for the past few weeks in order to narrow the list of candidates. Of the original 14 who strove for the magical pot of gold that is the position of leprechaun at Notre Dame, only six remain going into today's tryouts.

When all is said and done, just two official leprechauns will remain, as has been the custom.

The selection process will contain physical as well as mental tests, cheerleading coach Jo Minton said. A panel of nine people made up of members from Student Activities, Academic Services, the Alumni Office, the Athletic Department Compliance Department, the

see MASCOT/page 4

College's ring has rich tradition

By ANGELA SAOUD
Senior Staff Writer

Class of 2003 graduate Shannon Brewer still feels connected to the Saint Mary's campus when she looks at her right hand. On her middle finger she wears her class ring — the one familiar to Saint Mary's graduates for more than half a century.

"There is such a tradition, such meaning behind this ring for anyone who wears it," Brewer said. "It sets Saint Mary's women apart from others, and that's something I haven't really seen anywhere else. I just feel connected to the campus when I wear it."

And she is not alone. Balfour company salesman for Saint Mary's Jim Bell estimates that nearly 150 to 200 rings have been sold yearly for the 37 years he has been the Saint Mary's

representative. Rings are also sold by the Jostens company, but the Balfour company's design was in fact the original.

"The first class I sold rings to was the class of 1968," Bell said. "Back then we used to sell through the class officers, not through the bookstore like we do now. This has become part of the Saint Mary's tradition."

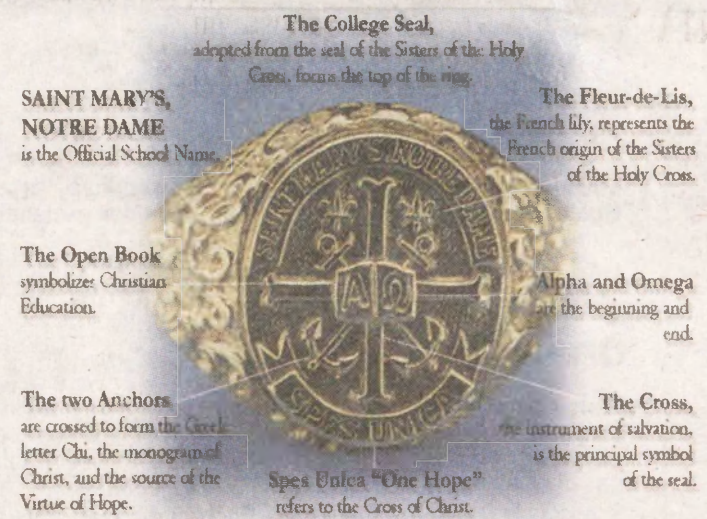
History

While Balfour has been selling rings to the College since at least the 1950s, the current ring design has been in place since 1973.

"Originally, the seal and the words 'Spes Unica' were the only things on the ring's surface," Bell said. "We later added the words Saint Mary's of Notre Dame. But in 1973 when the two schools decided not to merge,

see RINGS/page 6

SAINT MARY'S CLASS RING



GRAHAM EBETSCH/Observer Graphic

Interest in SUB events varies



Posters advertising various on-campus events brighten walls in an effort to catch students' eyes.

By JARRETT LANTZ
News Writer

South Bend has long lacked a venue for pop stars, a multitude of activities for students and the essence of a true college town, but Notre Dame's Student Union Board and Legends nightclub are working hard to show students that a good time can be had right here on campus. Students, however, differ over how well these events cater to their needs and tastes.

This past year, Legends and SUB have each had record-breaking attendance, stemming from their inclusion of more on-campus events. Both SUB and Legends provide students with several activities on various nights of the

see SUB/page 8

2005 football Shirt will be unveiled with Weis

By TRICIA de GROOT
News Writer

It's only spring, but the beginning of a new football era is already in the air. The 2005 season is full of promise with new head coach Charlie Weis, and to start off the season for fans, it is almost time for the release of the new Shirt.

The process for selection began in November with the submission of between 15 and 20 shirt designs. The president of this year's The Shirt Project, Katie Fox, narrowed these entries down to a few finalists and asked them to resubmit modified designs.

"One of the things most people don't know about The Shirt is how intensive the design modification process is," Fox said. "We don't select a design. We select a designer."

Junior David Redenbaugh was chosen as this year's designer, and he and Fox have worked and reworked The Shirt before submitting the finished shirt design to the vendor.

While Fox was unable to release any details about this year's Shirt design, it will be unveiled at a ceremony at noon on April 22 at the Hammes Bookstore. Fox did say, though, that Coach Weis will be speaking

see SHIRT/page 4

INSIDE COLUMN

Wherever life takes you...

My experience in life has taught me several life lessons to live by. With the new arrival of spring, and season of change and beginning of new life, we all realize the imminence of new situations and change in our own lives. I urge you to reflect on these lessons.

Brad Carmean
Photographer

The people around you, whether it's friends, family or classmates, are what give life and its journey meaning. They make the journey worth it. People enrich experiences that you couldn't experience by yourself. Great friends help you take life where you couldn't go alone.

Life could take you on a smooth ride or a rough one, across the sea, close to home or six feet under. You just don't know where it will take you. So just work hard on what you can control and don't worry about what you can't. The fact that you don't know where you will be down the road is why you need to enjoy everything you can now, no regrets.

Regrets are a void that can't be filled. It could be not trying to talk to that attractive person sitting next to you in class, or not taking advantage of an opportunity because of the fear of failure. Don't let life pass you by.

We also get so wrapped up in our goals trying to get to where we want to be that we don't get to enjoy the trip and before you know it, game over. What if your plans or goals didn't turn out how you wanted them to?

Enjoy the simple pleasures of life, the smell of freshly cut grass, walks, the sun on your face, holding hands, or a simple smile from someone. We need to stop and enjoy these types of gifts that God has given us that are overlooked everyday. You'll miss those simple things when they're gone.

Learn not to dwell on the past, learn from it, and then let it go. You can't move forward in life until you have. When you are dwelling on something you are missing everything that is going on right in front of you. Life is calling you forward. Keep your head up and keep moving.

Wherever life takes you remember that it's not what you do or how much money you make but who you are and what you stand for. It's about the people you spend time with and great opportunities like meeting someone in the laundry room, that is now a great friend, or the simple pleasures like getting excited because someone has the same area code as you.

Enjoy as much as you can, think positively, and smile throughout life.

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

Contact Brad Carmean at bcarmean@hcc-nd.edu

CORRECTIONS

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

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE SAINT MARY'S CLASS RING?



Katie Larson
senior
LeMans

"I think it's
classy!"



Maureen Langazel
freshman
LeMans

"I think it's
absolutely
gorgeous."



Sarah Brown
senior
Anunciata

"It's one of my
favorite
possessions. It
symbolizes my
Saint Mary's
experience."



Sarah Robinson
freshman
LeMans

"They're
original, very
unique."



Jolee Hughes
freshman
LeMans

"Eh, they're
alright. I'm not
getting one."



ERIN VRANISH/The Observer

Teams "Subject to Blackout" and "Cowabunga" face off in one of this year's heated Bookstore Basketball games. Teams often don outlandish attire for the matches.

OFFBEAT

Man to defend Cow Chip Throwing Title

BEAVER, Okla. — Fire Chief James Pratt returns Saturday to defend his title as champion of the World Champion Cow Chip Throwing Contest. People from across the country and from some foreign countries will be on hand for the 36th annual competition.

About 150 people usually compete in the women's, men's, VIP and team competitions. Tossing of the chips — officially recognized as "a piece of dried bovine dung" — starts at 1:30 p.m.

Contestants will choose from about 230 cow chips

which are "grown locally," said Gwen Schlehofer, secretary of the Beaver County Chamber of Commerce.

Each contestant gets two throws, with the longest distance winning.

Pratt, who also is the town foreman, says he doesn't practice, but does take care selecting his chips. He throws with an overhand, baseball-like motion.

Accused robber says he was joking

CHALMETTE, La. — A man wearing a hooded sweat shirt and a handkerchief over his face entered an all-night diner through

a rear door carrying what appeared to be a gun, announced a robbery, then said he was only joking when an employee quickly recognized him. The female employee called Chad Caron, 22, by his first name, authorities said.

Caron told her to relax, then removed his handkerchief and hood and said he was only kidding. He said the gun was a toy, then sat down and stayed for a while and talked to the employee, a St. Bernard Parish Sheriff's report said.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

The Mike Peterson Show, NDTV's late-night show, will hold its Year-End Spectacular at 7 p.m. tonight in Washington Hall. Guests include voice of the Fighting Irish Sgt. Tim McCarthy, as well as performances by musical guest Da Natural and Humor Artists of Notre Dame. Tickets are free at the LaFortune Box Office.

A multi-cultural Eucharistic Procession will be held Saturday. Mass in Sacred Heart Crypt will begin at 3 p.m., and the procession will leave from the Crypt at 4. Benediction with the Blessed Sacrament will be celebrated according to Filipino, Latino and traditional customs. During the celebration, Pope John Paul II will be remembered in a special way.

Four bands will play a Punk vs. Poverty benefit concert at 7 p.m. in the Center for Social Concerns Saturday. The money will go to the Poor People's Economic Human Rights Campaign.

The Campus Alliance for Rape Elimination [CARE] will be holding a film festival Saturday from 12 p.m. to 5 at the Hesburgh Center Auditorium. They will be showing "The Accused" and "Body Shots," followed by a discussion panel. The event is free and open to the public.

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

	TODAY	TONIGHT	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
	HIGH 65	HIGH 60	HIGH 69	HIGH 72	HIGH 75	HIGH 68
	LOW 41	LOW 40	LOW 48	LOW 51	LOW 53	LOW 49

Atlanta 69 / 45 Boston 48 / 36 Chicago 65 / 43 Denver 59 / 44 Houston 77 / 57 Los Angeles 75 / 56 Minneapolis 71 / 50 New York 56 / 40 Philadelphia 58 / 37 Phoenix 91 / 65 Seattle 54 / 49 St. Louis 72 / 48 Tampa 75 / 54 Washington 58 / 38

GRADUATE STUDENT UNION

Group approves chairperson

By PAUL SPADAFORA
News Writer

In the final Graduate Student Union meeting of the 2004-2005 academic year, the GSU approved a constitutional amendment and proposed new graduate student benefits, in addition to reviewing the year's big events.

The GSU voted 9-2 to approve a constitutional amendment that adds a new committee chair to the GSU. Outgoing GSU president John Young said the External Affairs chair will represent the GSU in two distinct ways.

"It's a two-pronged office," Young said. "One is to attend to external issues that are important to us ... the office will be a liaison to the National Association for Graduate and Professional Students (NAGS). The second part is community outreach: it's very vaguely described for a purpose. It's up to the discretion of the chair."

The GSU president also talked about upcoming legislation in Congress that will impact graduate student interests. Young especially focused on the Higher Education Act, and the impact it will have.

"The Higher Education Act, under title IV, states that students that take out

loans can consolidate them at a fixed interest rate. [This legislation] needs to be renewed periodically by Congress," Young said. "The current political climate is such that there is strong motivation in Congress to not renew the act."

Young said the GSU will continue to aid the NAGS in the group's lobbying efforts in Congress.

The outgoing GSU administration also reviewed the year's significant events, and evaluated the union's goals for the future. Among the major events of the year mentioned were the GUS parking survey and health insurance vote. The GSU parking survey was conducted for two months in the 2004 fall semester. "According to the students, approximately 75 percent of graduate students are dissatisfied or extremely dissatisfied with parking," Young said.

The GSU will be working with the ad hoc parking committee in the next year to arrange a parking situation that meets the needs of the graduate students.

The GSU also reviewed the health insurance issues of the year. Outgoing health insurance chair Erica Pirnie cautioned that while the current health insurance policy for the upcoming year will retain all benefits with an

added increase in premiums, the University may soon be unwilling to continue without cutting benefits.

"Next year during negotiations, we may have to start reducing some benefits to keep the premium increases below 18 percent annually," Pirnie said.

In closing, the outgoing GSU president and vice presidents outlined their hopes for next year's administration.

Amanda Matthews, co-vice president, said she would like to see more graduate student representation on the Faculty Senate.

"We need to represent the function of graduate students as teachers," Matthews said.

Young said the goals of the GSU have changed.

"Not only are we a social organization, but we are now a service organization," he said. "On the whole, the outlook for the GSU is extremely positive."

After the formal end of the school year, the current GSU administration's term will end. President-elect Misty Schieberle and co-vice president-elects Amanda Matthew and Tim Schoenhart will take office after May 6.

Contact Paul Spadafora at
pspadafo@nd.edu

Junior moms will spend weekend at Saint Mary's

By ERICA RANGEL
News Writer

As another year comes to an end and the stress of finals week nears, Saint Mary's juniors will spend this weekend with someone they love.

A tradition since the early 1980s, the College's annual Junior Moms' Weekend is an opportunity for junior women to spend quality time with their mothers on campus and around South Bend.

The four members of the Junior Moms committee began planning the event last April and have stuffed the two days chock-full of activities.

On Friday night, the new Student Center will serve as the backdrop for a wine and cheese reception for which 335 people have signed up. The event will feature a silent auction with many items from local businesses to gift baskets made by the juniors and their moms.

Junior Mom's Weekend chair Angela Rizzo said she is thrilled to have the reception in the new facility.

"I was very excited that we had the option of having an event in the new Student Center," Rizzo said. "The room is beautifully equipped with new furniture and a fireplace. It's a great chance to show our moms the new Student Center."

A dinner reception will be held Saturday night at the Century Center in South Bend. At the reception, 350 guests will view a slide show of pictures submitted by juniors of themselves with their moms

and friends.

"I think the slide show will be so fun to watch," junior Elizabeth Voss said. "I love looking at old pictures and guessing who is who."

An essay contest — entitled "Can you 'Belle'ieve this is my mom?" — produced five finalists who will read their essays at the dinner.

All of the mothers will receive a book of the essays submitted. The mothers will also receive a disposable camera and refrigerator magnet picture frame as souvenirs from the weekend.

Other optional events for mothers and daughters include a Yoga/Pilates class, Student Center and Opus Hall tours, spa treatments, the on-campus production of "Cinderella" and "Mamma Mia" at the Morris Performing Arts Center.

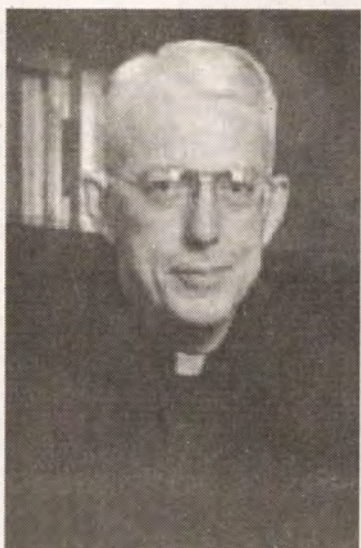
"My mom and I are really looking forward to going to the spa together," junior Megan Martin said. "It's one of our favorite activities."

The weekend will close with a mass Sunday morning at the Church of Our Lady of Loretto.

"Forever my mother, always my friend" will serve as the theme for the weekend. For many Saint Mary's students, this will be a chance to introduce their college friends to the friend they've had since birth.

"I'm excited for my mom to finally meet the friends I've made over the past few years and to just have a good time with everybody," junior Talia Matury-Vacaro said.

Contact Erica Rangel at
rang4716@saintmarys.edu



Monk's Farewell Mass

Sunday, April 17th

9:00 p.m. at the JACC

All students are invited to attend "Monk's Farewell Mass." Mass will be followed by a reception in honor of Fr. Malloy in the JACC Monogram Room, featuring:

~Live performance by the Chicago band MAGGIE SPEAKS~

~Fr. Malloy will be on hand to greet students~

~Great food~

Come celebrate with Monk and thank him for 18 years of service to the Student Body of the University of Notre Dame.

Shirt

continued from page 1

at the ceremony to share some thoughts about the upcoming season.

"The Shirt Project is and always has been a firm supporter of Notre Dame football, and I personally am looking forward to an upcoming season of new leadership and new opportunity," Fox said.

Even though last year marked

the 15th anniversary of The Shirt, Fox said she is hoping for an even bigger event this year. The unveiling ceremony will be the first opportunity for students, alumni and supporters to see and purchase next year's Shirt.

The ceremony will be followed

by entertainment including a band, inflatables, giveaways and concessions available for sale. The Shirt will also go on sale at this time at a special price of \$11 for students.

"We're hoping for another big year of sales to provide more sup-

port for the Notre Dame community," said Fox.

Proceeds from the sales go to student government as well as several scholarships and charities.

Contact Tricia de Groot at pdegroot@nd.edu

Mascot

continued from page 1

President's Office, the Men's Basketball Office, Student Development, a "super-fan" from campus and a past leprechaun — as well as the cheerleading coaching staff — will observe the try-outs.

Each candidate individually performs an opening to a pep rally, reacts to one game situation, simulates one community visit situation and then is drilled with questions by a local media personality. For the finale of the physical tests, the six candidates will come to the floor to do push-ups and the Irish Jig.

After these tests, the contestants will be subjected to individual interviews by the panel in a conference room above Gate 3.

Minton said the results of the process will be posted Friday night and that there is still hope for those that do not make leprechaun — tryouts for cheerleaders are Saturday morning at 8:30 a.m.

Once selections are made, the leprechaun is treated much like any student athlete.

"The leprechaun and cheerleaders are regarded as athletes and are subject to the same, if not higher, standards of conduct and academics as varsity athletes," Minton said.

However, along with this responsibility come the perks Notre Dame athletes enjoy, including great seats at sporting events and the Adidas practice clothes and shoes the cheerlead-

ers receive. After one full year, the leprechaun receives a custom-made suit and after two, he is eligible to receive a monogram. Of course, along with the material gains comes the prestige, exposure and community and public interaction that comes with the job, Minton added.

The leprechaun is and will remain a figure in the public eye. He travels with the cheer squad to competitions for men's and women's soccer, volleyball, men's and women's basketball and football.

According to Minton, the cheerleaders — and especially the leprechaun — are

the embodiment of the Notre Dame spirit.

"As ambassadors of our great University, the cheerleaders and leprechaun bring Notre Dame closer to the places we visit — we go to schools, community centers, hospitals and also do pep rallies and of course the games," she said. "The leprechaun, wearing the 'green suit,' becomes the

spokesperson for the cheer team in front of crowds when we put on rallies or events — starting cheers and leading the way."

The coach also said that more than anything, enthusiasm and excitement are

essential to a Notre Dame leprechaun.

"I look for someone that has a genuine passion for Notre Dame and its sports teams, someone who embodies the spirit of Notre Dame and its traditions," Minton said.

Contact Peter Leahy at pleahy@nd.edu

"I look for someone that has a genuine passion for Notre Dame and its sports teams."

Jo Minton
cheerleading coach

"The leprechaun, wearing the 'green suit,' becomes the spokesperson for the cheer team ..."

Jo Minton
cheerleading coach

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INFORMATION MEETING

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in Room 119 O'Shaughnessy

Or contact the Fellowships Office
103 O'Shaughnessy fellows@nd.edu



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WORLD & NATION

Friday, April 15, 2005

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Russian shuttle begins space flight

BAIKONUR, Kazakhstan — A Soyuz-FG rocket lifted off from Russia's base at the Baikonur Cosmodrome at sunrise Friday, launching two astronauts and a cosmonaut strapped into a cramped space capsule on a two-day journey to the international space station.

Russian cosmonaut Sergei Krikalev and American John Phillips were headed for a six-month stay on the ISS, while their colleague from the European Space Agency, Italian Roberto Vittori, was due to return to Earth in 10 days with the current station crew.

Jets of fire and billows of smoke accompanied the liftoff, which was being monitored at Russian Mission Control outside Moscow. The three-stage rocket system was to bring the Soyuz to a speed of 13,420 mph within 7 1/2 minutes of the launch.

A main task for the new crew will be welcoming a U.S. space shuttle to the station after a two-year absence.

China court bans torture as evidence

SHANGHAI — A provincial appeals court has issued what it says is China's first ruling that confessions or evidence obtained by torture, trickery and coercion can't be used in court, a government Web site reported Thursday.

Defense lawyers welcomed the ruling as a sign that Chinese courts might be trying to put an end to police torture. But they said it will be merely symbolic without legal changes allowing defendants to remain silent and to be told they are entitled to lawyers.

NATIONAL NEWS

Teens convicted of killing couple

FAYETTEVILLE, Ga. — A 15-year-old girl and her ex-girlfriend pleaded guilty Thursday to stabbing her grandparents to death last summer so the young couple could be together.

Holly Harvey told the judge that while she was knifing her 73-year-old grandmother, "my eyes were closed the whole time."

Harvey pleaded guilty to two counts of malice murder and was sentenced to two consecutive life sentences. She will not be eligible for parole for 20 years. Sandy Ketchum, 16, was sentenced to three life terms, to be served concurrently.

Police search for missing girl

RUSKIN, Fla. — Authorities investigating the weekend disappearance of a 13-year-old girl from her family's mobile home questioned a convicted sex offender who once had a relationship with her mother, officials said.

Volunteers continued searching Thursday for Sarah Michelle Lunde, who has a troubled past and has run away before, Hillsborough County Sheriff's David Gee said. But she has usually returned after a few hours, and officials don't believe this is "a typical runaway," he said.

LOCAL NEWS

Bennett to headline Jazz festival

INDIANAPOLIS — Grammy winner Tony Bennett and trombone great Slide Hampton will headline the Indy Jazz Fest June 17-19, festival organizers announced Thursday.

Bennett, 78, will be joined at the festival by the long-running R & B group The Commodores, the vocal group Manhattan Transfer, saxophonist Pookie Johnson and others.

This year's festival will differ from previous ones because the artists will perform one at a time, and all performances will take place on two stages at the White River State Park's Military Park. In past events, the lawn of IUPUI's library was also used.

10,000 federal fugitives caught

U.S. Marshals Service leads largest coordinated government crackdown in history

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — More than 10,000 fugitives wanted for murder, rape, child abuse and other crimes have been arrested in the largest coordinated crackdown by federal, state and local law enforcement officials in history.

The number of arrests during the weeklong effort was 10 times the average for such a period, according to the U.S. Marshals Service, which led the nationwide dragnet timed to coincide with National Victims Rights Week.

At the same time, however, those arrests represent just one percent of the one-million fugitives in the FBI's national database, according to the Marshals Service.

More than 150 of those nabbed April 4-10 were wanted for murder, 550 were sought on rape or sexual assault charges and more than 600 had outstanding arrest warrants for armed robbery, federal officials said Thursday.

Among those captured were 150 gang members and 100 unregistered sex offenders, said Attorney General Alberto Gonzales, who held a news conference with U.S. Marshals Service Director Ben Reyna to announce the results of "Operation Falcon" — an acronym for Federal And Local Cops Organized Nationally.

Jose Rivera-Sanchez was among the fugitives who had been on the run for years, living in Waterbury, Conn., until his arrest last week, 11 years after tunneling out of a prison in Bayamon, Puerto Rico. He had been serving a 37-year sentence for attempted murder, assault and robbery when he and nine other inmates escaped. One remains at large, Marshals Service spokesman Manuel Varela said.

Others arrested included Eddie Kelly, 24, wanted by



U.S. Marshals enter a home in Alorton, Ill. Thursday to search for a wanted suspect during their part of the nationwide "Operation Falcon."

Dallas police for allegedly killing a man by shooting him five times after leaving a drug house on Feb. 13, and Marcel Baldwin, 21, of Atlanta, who was found beneath a trap door in his kitchen. He was wanted on charges of assault and sexual offense against a child.

Nathan T. Speights, 28, of Syracuse, N.Y., was picked up in Baltimore on Sunday an hour after a warrant was issued for him in connection with the April 3 killing of Mark Sardella, 26, outside a private motorcycle club in Syracuse.

Gonzales said more than 70 percent of those picked up had prior arrests for

violent crimes.

"We know from history — and from the bitter experiences of far too many victims — that a fugitive with a rap sheet is more desperate, more predatory, and more likely to commit the crimes that plague citizens and communities," Gonzales said at the news conference.

The number of fugitives caught was at 10,472 Thursday, but officials said that could change as local police finish processing heavy caseloads from the past week.

Congress gave the Marshals Service more money and authority to go after fugitives when it refo-

cused the FBI's mission toward stopping terrorism in the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, said Marshals Service spokesman David Turner, noting that the agency now has five permanent regional task forces to search for fugitives.

The Marshals Service spent \$900,000 on the weeklong exercise, most of it to pay overtime to local and state police. More than 3,000 officers from 960 federal, state and local law enforcement agencies took part.

"Our goal was to find out what impact we'd have in a nationwide effort," Reyna said.

TURKEY

Turkish troops kill Kurdish rebels

Associated Press

ANKARA — Turkish troops backed by attack helicopters killed 21 Kurdish rebels near the Iraqi border overnight in the biggest clash since the rebels declared a unilateral truce more than five years ago, officials said Thursday.

The Turkish military has intensified anti-rebel operations following intelligence reports that hundreds of rebels had infiltrated Turkey from Iraq, a local military official said on condition of anonymity.

Three Turkish soldiers and a village guardsman also were killed in

the clash 25 miles from the Iraq border between the town of Pervari in Siirt province and Eruh in Sirnak province, the governor's office in Sirnak said in a statement. The area is in southeast Turkey.

Several dozen rebels crossed the border from Iraq on Tuesday, an intelligence official said on condition of anonymity.

On Thursday, some 600 Turkish soldiers and hundreds of village guards battled the rebel group. The soldiers were backed by U.S.-made Cobra attack helicopters, military officials said.

The governor's office said the

operation was still going on and Turkish troops had captured 19 Russian-made AK-47 assault rifles, 54 grenades, two machine guns, mines, plastic explosives and thousands of rounds of ammunition.

Turkey is home to an estimated 12 million Kurds, with half of them living in the southeast. Turkish intelligence sources estimate that some 4,500 Kurdish rebels are holed up in northern Iraq, while a few hundred reportedly operate in southeastern Turkey.

The rebels declared an end to a five-year unilateral truce in June, saying Turkey had not reciprocated to the cease-fire.

Ring

continued from page 1

we changed the logo to Saint Mary's, Notre Dame to show its independence from the University."

The current ring presentation was created by Bell. While the seal had always been a part of it, he added to the presentation pending what students and faculty wanted to see. While the ring has varied over the years, the parts of the ring have remained the same for the past 30-plus years.

And as the campus and the people on it have changed, Bell said the designs and styles of the rings have changed with the needs and wants of the Saint Mary's community.

"We used to only sell the two sizes, the small and the large," he said. "But in the early 1980s, women started wearing the ring on their pinkie finger, so they asked if we could sell a smaller version as well."

Ring prices range anywhere from \$250 up to \$600 or more, depending on the size of the diamond in the center and the karats of gold purchased.

Most rings are sold at Senior Dad's weekend, Sophomore Parents weekend and Junior Mom's weekend, Bell said.

Bell believes the ring is so popular because of the culture and history of the College.

"This ring and this school are unique in the sense that the

women here really like the rings," Bell said. "At other colleges, a ring may not seem so important, but it has come to symbolize part of the Saint Mary's experience here. This is a ring that is recognized wherever people go."

Symbols

Each ring is individually crafted with a variety of components, making it unique to Saint Mary's, Bell said.

The top of the ring consists of the College Seal, which was adopted from the seal of the Sisters of the Holy Cross.

The center of the ring, and by far the largest image of the surface, is the French Cross. Crisscrossing the French Cross are two anchors, which

meet to form the Greek letter Chi — the monogram of Christ, which stands for virtue of hope.

In the top quarters of the ring sit two fleurs-de-lis, representing the French origin of the Sisters.

The words "Spes Unica" emblazoned on the bottom of the ring stand for "One Hope," again referring to the Cross of Christ.

The rings also come with the option of having a small diamond or an open book in the center of the ring.

The Tradition

Alumni Jennifer Jermano Miller, class of 1993, said her ring has simply become a part

of who she is.

"I never take off my Saint Mary's ring, just like I never take off my wedding rings," Miller said. "I truly loved every moment I spent at Saint Mary's — the education was invaluable; the friendships I made were lasting. I hold Saint Mary's very close to my heart and I wear my ring as a symbol of lasting friendships, the wonderful education and the rich tradition [to which] only a Saint Mary's woman can relate."

Class of 1979 alumna Vickie Richardson said even through she no longer wears her ring, she believes it is special because her memories of Saint Mary's are so special.

"The ring is a symbol of the wonderful time I had there," Richardson said. "My ring sits in my jewelry box, but I do not wear it. I don't even remember when I stopped wearing it, but I knew I would never part with it. It's part of my tradition, and every woman who wears the ring's tradition."

As for Brewer and her ring, she says she will wear it for the rest of her life.

"It signifies important accomplishments in my life so that I know belong to the great sorority of alums and I remember my college experience with pride and a lot of nostalgia whenever I look at it," Brewer said. "There are a lot of people who have so much passion about this school. Some people think the College is just a small liberal arts school, but it's so much more than that. This ring simply reminds them."

Contact Angela Saoud at
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Action

continued from page 1

leader Ryan Iafigliola said.

"This year we have a lot more depth to the actual activity," he said. "We have a larger planning team and better organization."

Registration and setup for the night will occur between 5 p.m. and 8, followed by an opening prayer and guest speakers Cara Lowe, volunteer coordinator at the Center for the Homeless, and actual guests at the Center. The speeches, Iafigliola said, are "the highlight of the evening," because students come to a better understanding of the day-to-day plight of homeless people. A band performance and marshmallow roast will round out the event.

"When you see people in boxes, maybe it will make you think back to the actual substandard living, the actual shacks of the world," Iafigliola said. "We want people to notice it and maybe stop by ... even if you're not staying out, to come out for the speaker."

Iafigliola proposed the idea of having "Shack City" at Notre Dame last year to Habitat's board after attending Valparaiso University's version of the event. Although it took Iafigliola several months to convince the board to carry it out, "Shack City" has now become a major event for Notre Dame's Habitat.

"Last year we were surprised about how successful it was," said Knott senior Pete Mahoney, a co-president of

Habitat at Notre Dame. "Obviously, we'd like to do better than last year."

"One of the differences is that this year we are trying to expand it into a weeklong thing," Iafigliola said.

While last year's "Shack City" was an independent event, this year's organizers made it part of the Habitat for Humanity week of advocacy called "Act! Speak! Build! Week."

The week began this Monday, included a Wednesday session for students to write letters to U.S. senators and will conclude on Sunday with a mud volleyball tournament.

Another big event set for this weekend is the completion of the landscaping on Notre Dame students' Habitat house on Lyndon Street and Meade Street, the group's 11th house.

Notre Dame's group is an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity for St. Joseph County. Dowdell said that his chapter gets some funding from the University and some from the Habitat for Humanity Neighborhood Assistance Grant.

The chapter's other money comes from the fundraising that it does throughout the year. "Mud volleyball is a huge fundraiser for us," Dowdell said of the tournament, which has raised \$7,500 this year. "Next year I think that we are going to see a lot smaller fundraisers on campus."

Contact Katie Wagner
kwagner@nd.edu

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MARKET RECAP

Stocks			
Dow Jones	10,278.75	-125.18	
Up: 744	Same: 143	Down: 2,564	Composite Volume: 2,353,762,570

AMEX	1,444.50	-14.00
NASDAQ	1,946.71	-27.66
NYSE	7,063.74	-70.25
S&P 500	1,162.05	-11.74
NIKKEI(Tokyo)	11,563.17	-74.35
FTSE 100(London)	4,945.40	-15.40

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
NASDAQ 100 TR SER I (QQQQ)	-1.41	-0.51	35.55
APPLE COMPUTER (AAPL)	-9.21	-3.78	37.26
INTEL CP (INTC)	-1.45	-0.33	22.49
MICROSOFT CP (MSFT)	-0.80	-0.20	24.84
CISCO SYS INC (CSCO)	-1.06	-0.19	17.81

Treasuries			
30-YEAR BOND	+0.62	+0.29	47.16
10-YEAR NOTE	-0.37	-0.16	43.58
5-YEAR NOTE	-0.79	-0.32	39.94
3-MONTH BILL	-0.18	-0.05	27.12

Commodities			
LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl.)	+0.91		51.13
GOLD (\$/Troy oz.)	-5.40		425.60
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)	-2.38		85.88

Exchange Rates			
YEN			108.2000
EURO			0.7806
POUND			0.5316
CANADIAN \$			1.2417

IN BRIEF

Comcast users face service problems

PHILADELPHIA — Comcast's high-speed Internet customers nationwide have suffered Web and e-mail problems since last week, the company said Thursday.

The intermittent nature of the problem made it difficult to pinpoint how many of Comcast's nearly seven million broadband customers have been affected, Comcast spokeswoman Jeanne Russo said.

Some Web pages took a long time to load or were inaccessible altogether. E-mail was down for some.

The exact cause of the problem had not been determined, but the troubles related to Comcast's Domain Name Server system, which translates easy-to-remember domain names like "AP.org" into a Web site's actual numeric address, Russo said.

The latest service disruption started about 8:30 p.m. EDT Wednesday and ended shortly after midnight. Customers experienced similar problems last Thursday and during a three-hour period Tuesday starting around 6:30 p.m.

Russo said the problems have been confined to the evening hours.

"Throughout most of the day it doesn't seem to be a problem," she said.

IBM misses Wall Street estimates

NEW YORK — International Business Machines Corp., the world's top provider of computer hardware, is weighing a "sizable restructuring" after it surprised investors Thursday with a first-quarter profit that missed Wall Street estimates by five cents a share.

The company said results were hurt by difficulty closing transactions, increased pension expenses and a drop in sales in Western Europe and Japan.

In after-hours trading, IBM shares fell \$3.09, or 3.7 percent to \$80.55 a share on heavy volume after being halted earlier in the after-hours session. The stock fell 93 cents to close at \$83.64 Thursday on the New York Stock Exchange.

Details of the restructuring will come within the next three months, said Mark Loughridge, the company's chief financial officer.

Polo customers face data theft

Thousands of Ralph Lauren shoppers left vulnerable in credit card information theft

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Data apparently stolen from the popular clothing retailer Polo Ralph Lauren Corp. is forcing banks and credit card issuers to notify thousands of consumers that their credit-card information may have been exposed.

HSBC North America, a division of London-based HSBC Holdings PLC, has begun notifying holders of the HSBC-issued, General Motors-branded MasterCard that criminals may have obtained access to their credit card information and that the cards should be replaced.

HSBC spokesman Stephen E. Cohen said Thursday that "we began doing it last week, and we are continuing."

He said that about 180,000 GM-branded card holders are affected.

Neither Cohen nor spokesmen for MasterCard International would identify the retailer by name.

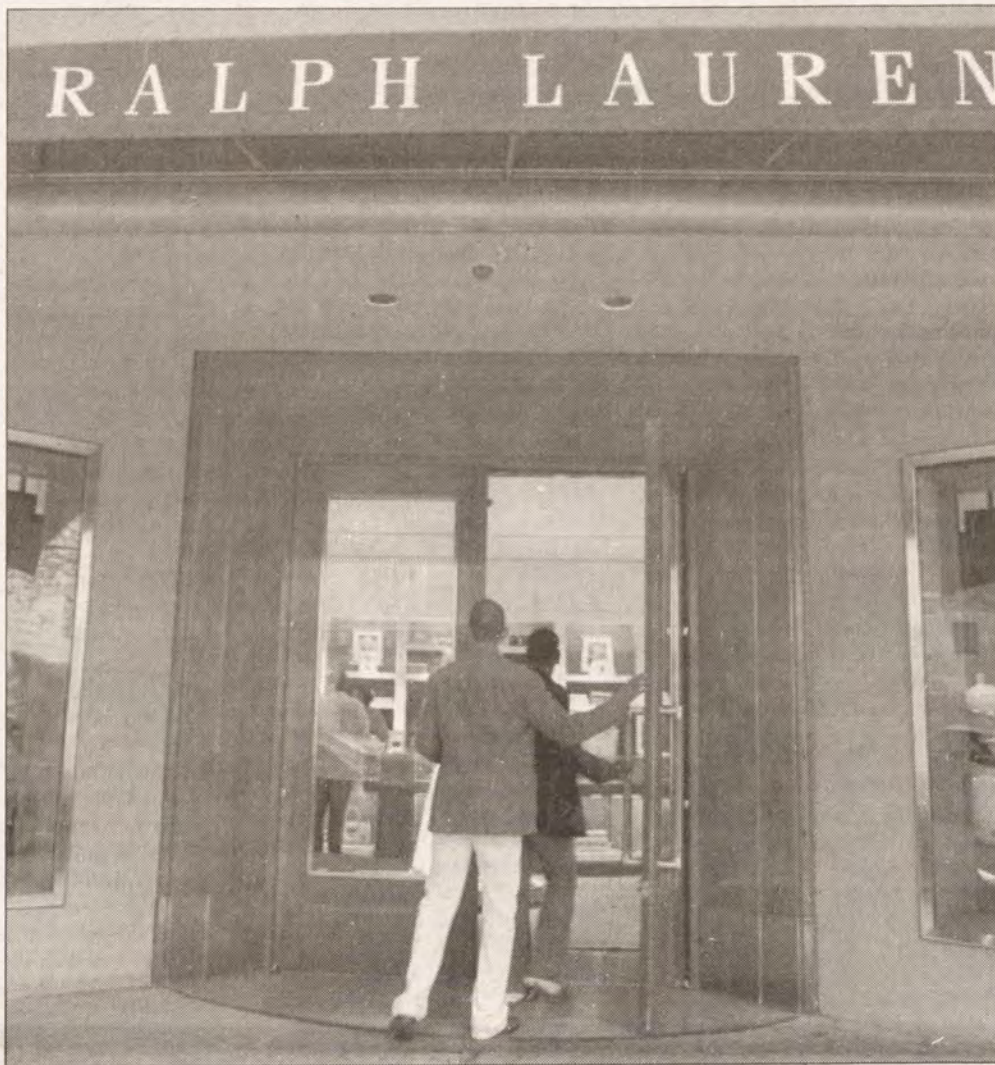
The security breach was reported in Thursday's editions of The Wall Street Journal, which quoted "people with knowledge of the matter" as saying the data was stolen at Polo Ralph Lauren.

A spokeswoman at Polo Ralph Lauren, which is headquartered in New York, said "we have no comment at the moment" on the report. She asked that her name not be used.

Polo Ralph Lauren shares dropped \$1.28, or 3.3 percent, to close at \$37.18 in Thursday trading on the New York Stock Exchange, where they have traded in a 52-week range of \$31.01 to \$42.83.

It was unclear how many other cards might be at risk, but both Visa USA Inc. and MasterCard — the nation's largest credit card associations — were reported to be dealing with Polo Ralph Lauren on the matter.

MasterCard said in a statement that it was informed of a possible security breach



Data apparently stolen from Polo Ralph Lauren Corp. is forcing credit card issuers to notify consumers their information may have been exposed.

"of transaction data associated with a U.S.-based retailer" in January 2005 and had launched an investigation immediately. The statement said banks that are members of the card association were notified.

"Investigations into this incident by MasterCard, law enforcement and other parties are ongoing," the statement said.

Visa USA issued a similar statement, saying it was notified "by a U.S. merchant" of a possible data security breach. Visa USA said it was working with the merchant, law enforcement agencies and its bank members "to monitor and prevent card-related fraud."

In response to a reporter's

query, Citigroup Inc., the nation's largest financial institution, confirmed that it currently was "notifying some customers who we think may be at risk." The New York-based bank said it takes "appropriate action" when notified by Visa or MasterCard of potential security breaches, but gave no other details.

It was the latest in a series of data thefts that have increased public concern about the security of their personal information.

ChoicePoint Inc., which is based in suburban Atlanta, disclosed in February that thieves, who operated undetected for more than a year, opened up 50 accounts and received vast amounts of

data on some 145,000 consumers nationwide. Authorities said some 750 people were defrauded.

In March, DSW Shoe Warehouse, based in Columbus, Ohio, said that more than 100,000 customers of a shoe-store chain likely were affected by a cyber break-in of the company's database.

Earlier this week, London-based Reed Elsevier, which owns LexisNexis, revealed that criminals may have breached computer files containing the personal information of 310,000 people since January 2003.

HSBC's Cohen said the bank did not yet know if the thieves had used any of the data they got.

Congress enacts tougher debt laws

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Bankruptcy lawyers expect thousands of debt-burdened people to rush to courthouses to beat a new law making it harder to wipe the slate clean of credit card bills and other obligations.

The biggest changes in U.S. bankruptcy laws in a quarter-century will occur 180 days after President Bush signs a bill that Congress sent him Thursday. The 30,000 to 210,000 people that the American Bankruptcy Institute estimates will be affected by the new law can escape its impact if they file for bankruptcy before then.

"We will be up working late trying to get those petitions filed before the deadline," said Eric Roland Spencer, a

bankruptcy attorney practicing in Roanoke, Va.

In recent weeks as Congress has debated the legislation, Spencer said, he's seeing seven to eight clients a day, up from four a day beforehand.

The bill passed by the House Thursday on a 302-126 vote marks the second major change in law to benefit business since Republicans increased their House and Senate majorities in last fall's elections. The Senate passed the bill last month, 74-25.

The measure requires people with incomes above a certain level to pay credit-card charges, medical bills and other obligations under a court-ordered bankruptcy plan.

Opponents say the change would fall especially hard on low-income working

people, single mothers, minorities and the elderly and would remove a safety net for those who have lost their jobs or face crushing medical bills.

The legislation "protects the credit industry at the expense of the consumer," Rep. Alcee Hastings, D-Fla., declared in House debate. "It will drive more Americans deeper into financial crisis and weaken the nation's economy and social structure."

But backers in Congress and the financial services industry argue that bankruptcy frequently is the last refuge of gamblers, impulsive shoppers, divorced or separated fathers avoiding child support, and multimillionaires who buy mansions in states with liberal homestead exemptions to shelter assets from creditors.

Doctor gets 25 years for drug trafficking

Associated Press

ALEXANDRIA — A prominent pain-management doctor who prescribed high doses of drugs such as morphine and OxyContin to patients around the country was sentenced Thursday to 25 years in prison.

William E. Hurwitz, 59, whose pain clinic drew patients from more than 39 states, was convicted in December of drug trafficking resulting in the death of a patient, along with charges including health care fraud and illegal drug distribution.

Prosecutors said Hurwitz turned a blind eye to patients who were obvious drug addicts and dealers, and that his waiting room was at times filled with stoned, sleeping patients with track marks on their arms from drug abuse.

Hurwitz frequently prescribed 100 tablets or more of OxyContin for his patients as they developed tolerance to lesser doses, and at least one patient apparently received a prescription for 1,600 pills a day. An FBI agent's affidavit indicated 21 percent of Hurwitz's patients had criminal records.

Hurwitz — who attracted a national following as an aggressive advocate of high-dose opiate treatment for patients, once touting his theories on "60 Minutes" — is appealing the conviction.

"Dr. Hurwitz, I do not feel sorry for you. You were one of the chosen people. You had the talent. You went to the best schools. You made

money. You were successful," U.S. District Judge Leonard Wexler said. "By your behavior you ruined people's lives. By your behavior, you killed people."

Hurwitz also prescribed massive amounts of opiates for legitimate patients seeking relief from chronic pain. One of them, Linda Lalmond, died within two days of entering Hurwitz's care after he prescribed morphine in doses 40 times higher than anything she had previously received.

About 100 of Hurwitz's supporters packed the federal courtroom, and several testified Hurwitz saved them from debilitating pain that other doctors were unwilling to treat.

"I was sick as a dog. I was 90 pounds soaking wet, and I wanted to die. If not for that man, I would be dead," Eyssel Gurganus of Goldsboro, N.C., said, pointing to Hurwitz. "I had been to 36 doctors, and every doctor is afraid of prosecution."

Hurwitz's lawyer, Marvin Miller, said the doctor was naive and was manipulated by drug-seeking patients. A graduate of Stanford Medical School, Hurwitz is "academically brilliant, but he's got no street smarts," Miller said. Hurwitz's ex-wife, Nilse Quercia, testified "one of my hus-

band's weaknesses is that he is too trusting."

Hurwitz twice had his medical license suspended, once in 1991 and again in 1996. The second time, he was required to attend classes to learn how to detect drug-seeking patients who wanted to abuse the medical system.

"By your behavior you ruined people's lives. By your behavior, you killed people."

Leonard Wexler
U.S. District Judge

"One of my husband's weaknesses is that he is too trusting."

Nilse Quercia
ex-wife of defendant

SUB

continued from page 1

week.

SUB is best known for showing movies on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights, but the organization has also hosted many different activities this year such as the Collegiate Jazz Festival, concerts at Legends, the Race and Religion Symposium, Rob Gonzales in concert, the Second City comedy show and more. But, while SUB does offer a variety of

events, many still see the organization as fairly one-sided.

"My perception is that SUB just does movies," Knott freshmen Nick McLees said. "But what I know they do, I like."

Tim Gibeau, a Keenan fifth-year student, also agreed that more advertising of on-campus events might increase attendance.

"Honestly, I'm not really familiar with what's offered by the Student Union Board," Gibeau said.

SUB manager Jimmy Flaherty agreed that there were some problems with the program. However, he noted that this year was one of SUB's most successful and that next year's group of SUB leaders is working even harder to improve the quality of campus life for all students.

"This year we're going to be working towards areas where we can improve, specifically our internal processes and public relations," Flaherty said. "We've created a new [public relations] division to heighten our positive effect

and image on campus."

For those more interested in dancing and bar hopping, Legends also provides several entertainment options for the weekend. Thursday through Saturday, Legends offers student performances, professional comedy, nightclub dancing, movie watches and more, along with a bar for those of age.

"Our goal is to bring in up and coming bands and musicians."

Aaron Perri
program coordinator
Legends

"I like Thursday nights when a lot of the seniors go and hang out," Cavanaugh senior Erin Marx said. "Legends is nice if you don't have time to go off-campus but still want to do something for an hour or two."

And while Legends does not often bring big-name bands to its venue, students overall have been pleased with the quality of both the comedy and music shows.

"Our goal is to bring in up and coming bands and musicians," Legends program coordinator Aaron Perri said. "A year from now, maybe two or three, we'd like our fans to say, 'Yeah, I saw them in concert when I was in college, before they were real big, they were amazing — I even got an autograph and my picture taken with them.'"

Between SUB, Legends, and other groups, many students feel like there are enough things to do on-campus for weekend nights.

"I think what they have going on is great," said Cavanaugh freshmen Mary Beugelsdijk. "Both groups do an excellent job."

Colleen Loris, also a fresh-

men, agreed that Notre Dame students are provided with enough of both on and off-campus opportunities for students to have fun on the weekends.

"There are definitely enough activities on campus," said freshmen Colleen Loris. "But when you have an accessible car, it's fun to get off-campus for a while too."

Many other students agree that Legends and SUB have a solid programming lineup, but also enjoy taking part in off-campus events as well. Many upperclassmen in particular prefer to spend their weekends off-campus by visiting bars or apartments.

"Most of my weekend life involves off-campus activities instead of on-campus," Gibeau said.

"On campus there isn't enough variety of bars," agreed Marx. "Legends is a good bar, but anything gets monotonous after a while."

However, despite some older students favoring off-campus events, lately Legends has brought in upwards of 4,000 people each month, with April poised to be the club's busiest ever. Still, Perri sees

a lot of room for growth.

"The potential for this place is amazing. Sometimes I think students don't realize what they have in Legends," Perri said. "Everything we do here is free and we have a nightclub, bar and live entertainment venue right on-campus. Not many schools have that."

Contact Jarrett Lantz at
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Flu virus debacle reveals flaws

Critics call for greater precaution in transfer of deadly germs to labs

Associated Press

Every day, deadly germs are shipped across the country and around the globe, right alongside the books, gourmet foods and birthday presents sent through FedEx Corp. and similar couriers.

Often their journeys can be circuitous, too.

Follow, for instance, a single vial of the potentially deadly flu virus causing a world health scare because it was included in test kits sent to more than 4,000 laboratories. It was grown in a Virginia lab, spent time in a Cincinnati freezer and passed through a small medical company on the Mexican border before it finally arrived at a Milwaukee lab.

Health experts, government officials and the couriers insist the transportation of these germs is tightly regulated, and that the samples are heavily packaged and labeled to ensure safety. A catastrophic outbreak has never occurred as a result of such shipments.

"The safety level of the transport of biological material is incredibly high," said Dr. Jared Schwartz, a microbiologist and officer with the College of American Pathologists, which is in charge of the flu testing program. "I have no concerns about the safety of the transport."

But accidents do occur — and some scientists feel they've been too close for comfort.

Last month, a FedEx truck carrying five boxes of samples of anthrax, flu, tuberculosis, salmonella and E. coli collided with a car in Winnipeg. None of the dangerous germs escaped.

In 2003, a FedEx package containing West Nile virus exploded at the Port Columbus International Airport in Ohio. Firefighters suspected dry ice caused it to burst open. No one was injured, but 50 workers had to be evacuated.

"This has been a big concern for us," said Sujatha Byravan of the Council for Responsible Genetics, a Boston nonprofit fighting the U.S. expansion of high-containment labs that will be home to the world's deadliest germs.

At least 18 such "hot labs" are being planned or built in the United States in the coming years, and a growing number of scientists are being trained in the darker aspects of microbiology as part of a huge federal effort to combat bioterrorism.

"The more FedEx exchanges of biological material you have between labs, the more opportunities there are for accidents," Byravan said.

The thousands of deadly flu samples that labs were hastily destroying at the urging of global health officials originated at American Type Culture Collection, according to the college of pathologists. ATCC is a nonprofit laboratory in Manassas, Va., that ships many

of the nation's flu viruses and other dangerous germs to labs everywhere.

ATCC was created in 1925 by a group of scientists who wanted a central location for the nation's supply of germs for laboratory use. The organization's biological library has grown to 100,000 different specimens. It ships 150,000 biological items annually, making revenues of \$32 million, according to its latest publicly available tax return.

An ATCC spokeswoman declined comment for this story.

In the days since some concerned Canadian scientists alerted the World Health Organization that their test kit included a flu strain responsible for killing between 1 million and 4 million people in 1957, blame is being placed on Meridian Bioscience Inc. of Cincinnati for shipping thousands of vials of the dangerous bug around the world.

In 2001, the Food and Drug Administration warned Meridian that the monitoring and tracking of components of its test kits failed to meet federal requirements. The problems led to a recall of 30 products and employee layoffs.

As it turns out, most of the Cincinnati company's test kits with the 1957 bug were ultimately assembled and shipped via FedEx and DHL by Proficiency Testing Service, a tiny Meridian subcontractor in Brownsville, Texas.

Government seeks umbilical cord blood

Valuable plasma has cancer-treating future

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Blood saved from newborns' umbilical cords could help treat about 11,700 Americans a year with leukemia and other devastating diseases, yet most is routinely thrown away, a panel of influential scientists said Thursday in calling for a tripling of the nation's supply.

Cord blood is rich in stem cells, the building blocks that produce blood — the same stem cells that make up the bone-marrow transplants that help many people survive certain cancers and other diseases. When frozen from cord blood shortly after a baby's birth, stem cells are ready to be thawed and transplanted at a moment's notice, much easier than traditional bone-marrow donation.

Now the government is preparing to open a national cord blood bank in hopes of providing an adequate supply to find a match for every patient who needs this kind of stem-cell transplant.

Private cord blood banking — in which pregnant women arrange to store their child's cord blood, for a hefty fee, in case a family member ever needs it — is a booming industry.

Women also can donate, for free, a baby's cord blood so that anyone can use it.

Many medical groups caution that odds are slim that privately stored cord blood will be used unless certain genetic diseases are common to a family. But because stem cells from cord blood are more easily transplanted into unrelated people than is bone marrow, specialists have long urged a bigger and better coordinated national stockpile.

But public donation is hard for women to learn about: It's seldom advertised and is offered only at hospitals affiliated with 22 public cord blood banks around the country.

About 100,000 donations from pregnant women in the next few years would be required to set up the bank, on top of the roughly 50,000 cord-blood donations already in stock at different public banks around the country, the Institute of Medicine said Thursday, in a report requested by Congress on how a better national banking system should be established.

Those donations shouldn't be hard to get, said Kristine Gebbie of Columbia University, a nursing professor and health policy specialist who led the IOM study. Four million U.S. babies are born every year, and most of the umbilical cord blood is simply thrown away.

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fisher regatta 11am holy cross hill
howard duck hunt 5pm Coleman-Morse
knott on the knoll 4pm
sub movie oceans 12 4:30pm 7pm DeBartolo 101

Sunday 4/17

free laundry 11am-6pm laFortune laundry center
closing mass for father malloy 9pm joyce center
followed by celebration of father malloy's presidency 10:30pm

Monday 4/18

panera delivery to classes
tye-dye t-shirt 11:30am east south quad
speaker ken jennings 7:30pm dbt 101

Tuesday 4/19

panera delivery to classes
big wheel racing 11:00am north entrance dbt
quarter dog eating contest 12am laFortune

Wednesday 4/20

big red chair & mini golf 2pm east south quad
punt pass & kick qualifying contest 2pm fieldhouse mall
late night grille 8pm north quad
drive-in movie billy madison 9pm north quad

Thursday 4/21

carnival 3pm south quad and west quad
comedian jim gaffigan 8pm legends
best of acoustiCafe 10pm legends
sub movie finding neverland 10pm DeBartolo 101

Friday 4/22

recess noon west quad trees
unveiling of "the shirt" noon hammes notre dame bookstore
battle of the bands 6pm legends
sub movie finding neverland 8pm and 10:30pm DeBartolo 101

Saturday 4/23

AnTostal concert 9pm legends
sub movie finding neverland 4:30pm and 7pm DeBartolo 101

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THE OBSERVER VIEWPOINT

THE OBSERVER

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Online trend has potential

The Internet is a fascinating tool. Within minutes, it can whisk you away from checking your fantasy baseball standings to making sure your bookstore basketball team is properly paid for and registered. Gone are the days of hiking out to the JACC to confirm registration for classes. In the place of pen and paper are a mouse and a keyboard, leaving the hassles of registration to simply waking up in time for online deadlines.

But the issue isn't that simple. The trend to put all manner of registration forms online has been met with a mix of success and disappointments. For every freshman who successfully fills out his online housing contract, there's a senior who wakes up to reserve his Cubs ticket only to find a disappointing senior week site-wide lock-down.

Among the new online systems this spring, the registration for housing contracts and Bookstore Basketball teams was quick and efficient. However, the InsideND course sign-up system was daunting, and thanks to a site malfunction, the Web-based senior registration was nonexistent.

The online housing contracts and Bookstore Basketball forms succeeded in streamlining their respective processes because they were simple and straightforward. Both of these online registration forms could be filled out in minutes, cutting down a lot of the extra burden of filling out a paper copy and attaching cash or a check.

The revamped course registration system, InsideND, clearly faced a much more complicated agenda. Changes were not made

out of convenience, but out of necessity, as Hewlett-Packard could no longer support the University's old IrishLink technology. That hasn't made the adjustment any easier, however, as many students accustomed to IrishLink have balked at the volume and complexity of information available on InsideND. But while it is far from simple, InsideND does have potential to streamline registration once the student body and the faculty are given a chance to adjust.

Senior week registration was another difficult case, as it was placed online out of senior leaders' desire for efficiency, but the University Business Operations Division required the site to be operated within its e-commerce services. Yet when the crash occurred, neither side pointed fingers, and both appear dedicated to fixing the glitches and following through on a

better way to execute senior week sign-ups. Therefore, given that InsideND is still in its relative infancy and the senior registration difficulties can be used as a valuable learning experience, there is still much to gain from the Internet's capabilities for registration.

In this day and age, it's rare for any type of registration to not be online. While the tendency to put every form possible on the Internet has its advantages and disadvantages, the outcome will be determined by how the plan is set in motion. If these and future online ventures are properly planned, monitored and refined, there's no reason why the Internet's capabilities can't continue to improve student life at Notre Dame.

The Observer Editorial

Bidding adieu to the senior class

The television commercial promoting tourism for Las Vegas hints that everything "done in Vegas stays in Vegas." Translated, it means keep your past in the past. Unfortunately, that is the out-and-out opposite of the meaning of Christianity in this world.

Gary
Caruso

Capitol
Comments

With commencement addresses and the wisdom of many elders about to bombard the Class of 2005, I add my advice. First, seniors should know that time can be slowed to further appreciate current events. With a month remaining before graduation, seniors can stretch these precious remaining moments prior to graduation to better appreciate others while drinking in every sight, sound and smell on campus. During my last semester at Notre Dame, I consciously tried to appreciate each day which led to many lasting memories I doubt I otherwise could treasure today.

Secondly, the key to life seems to lie in yesterday. All of the photographs of our loved ones shows us that the meaning of our existence lies in yesterday. How well did we enjoy those around us yesterday? How much did we show our love and respect for others yesterday? For today we grasp but a memory and a photograph.

Last spring I wrote to the senior class after suffering the loss of one of my pets. I commented that God has shown us through the eyes of a canine what heaven's realm must be. Those animals are vessels of pure unconditional love. Today I offer a more refined outlook.

Throughout the past year, Death has continued to camp on my doorstep. Having lost a parent, two aunts, an uncle and a great cousin, I better real-

ize how we must pass through each season of our lives. I even lost my other dog, Potamus, whose love and loyalty taught me much about myself. His life transformed me through patience and strengthened my faith in all living creatures.

I personally believe that we exist here on earth only as long as our souls need to help others and grow. Anyone who has lost a loved one is forever changed with a new perspective from within. It also strikes me that if we open ourselves to our surroundings, we gain so many subtle insights into life.

The wonders of life during your personal journey are like a spring shower. The first few drops seem to have no effect since they are barely felt. But with time, as the shower continues, it eventually drenches everything. Your journey will be most rewarding if you savor each drop as it falls. And remember, you are a drop along the journey of others, so make life incredible while you're in this world.

I have learned that nothing in this life is as good or as bad as some may try to portray. In our national political arena, Republicans, while currently in absolute power in Washington, will not solve every ill of the world. Nor did Democrats when they controlled the federal government a decade ago. Yet we have more in common than most would admit, and that is worth remembering as seniors today begin to journey along their careers.

Theologically speaking, being spiritual can bring one closer to heaven than literally believing every word of scripture. Does it matter whether or not Jesus might have been married if you live your life with love and compassion? Does it make a difference if we discover that church leaders throughout the first several centuries

tweaked the Bible to suit their notions of what should be emphasized? What counts is not how we define our values by excluding others but how we reach out to include society's outcasts like Jesus did.

Institutionally, sometimes change moves too slowly without regard for the consequences. Popes John XXIII and Paul VI led a great revival and modernization of the Catholic Church that John Paul II continued in many ways but refused to consider when it came to the participation of women in the Church or the outbreak of AIDS in Africa. The next pope must make sense of the conflicts between the realities of modern society with ancient Church traditions.

What awaits the Class of 2005 is anyone's guess. But I can predict one thing will be certain. Each will face humor and heartbreak. How your life progresses depends on if you think of others more often than of yourself. Notre Dame graduates are attracted to a higher call of community, public and family service. Many waste their opportunities through closed-minded resoluteness.

The Class of 2005 has endless opportunities ahead of them. Tuck the unconditional love of Potamus in your back pocket and remember that the Kingdom of Heaven is within you. If you can make time for others who are different from you, the meaning of life will be yours, as well.

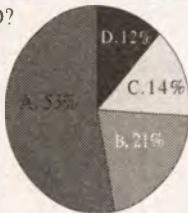
Gary Caruso, Notre Dame '73, served as a legislative and public affairs director in President Clinton's administration. His column appears every other Friday. He can be contacted at hotline@aol.com.

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

OBSERVER POLL

What do you think of insideND?

- A. What is insideND?
- B. Good idea, but poor execution
- C. Efficient
- D. Confusing



*Poll appears courtesy of ndsmcobserver.com and is based on 233 responses.

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

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"As I would not be a slave,
so I would not be a master.
This expresses my idea
of democracy."

Abraham Lincoln
former U.S. president

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Maintain faith in humanity

In a recent class discussion, I was saddened to learn more about my fellow students' political and moral outlook for the future. The class' principle sentiment was one of disillusionment. There was no hope for a better, more human, economic or governmental system. Recently, I have been thinking a lot about the source of this outlook. More and more, I am getting the impression that we live in a depressed, postmodern age of moral relativism. I do not sense a vital hope for the future. Instead, we, as a generation, are forfeiting our historical roles. We feel that, "Yeah, while the status quo is pretty messed up, it's the best that we can do." Thus, there are no radical or sweeping changes that we can make to improve our society.

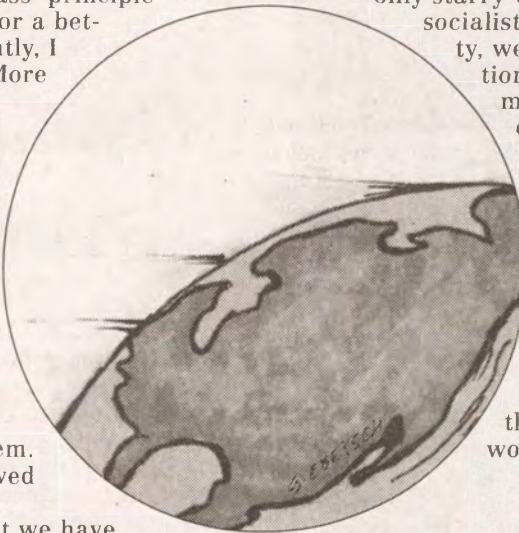
What, then, is this source of this ambivalence regarding the future? What happened to idealism? What happened to activism, and when did "liberalism" become a dirty word that (to some) connotes subversion and evil? Perhaps it was the fall of communist Russia that dealt a death blow to our world's hope for a better, more human political system. Maybe it was the terrorist attacks on our country that showed us the chaos and inhumanity that exist in our world.

Regardless of the source, the most harmful sentiment that we have, as a generation, is our lack of hope for the future and for mankind. Our generation sees a world where humans are too deeply flawed to attempt any type

of undertaking that relies on an inherent goodness existing in humanity. Now, only starry-eyed idealists believe in the workability of things like a socialist political system. As a result of this lack of hope in humanity, we are complacent. For the most part, we are not a generation of activists. We do not think that forward progress can be made on any great scale. We are largely individualistic, and our concern for others does not extend much past our own tight-knit communities. Therefore, I wonder how history will judge us.

Still, I want to make clear that I do appreciate the impressive efforts that many of my fellow students are making to improve our country and the world. I simply feel that, compared with previous generations, the changes that we hope to affect are not comprehensive enough. Lacking is a faith in inherent human goodness necessary for the implementation of comprehensive and widespread changes in our society. However, I believe that this lack of faith is based on flawed assumptions that hard work and cooperation will allow us to overcome.

Kevin Winnike
junior
off-campus
April 14



Different majors offer different opportunities

Accountancy not for the apes

ND founded in many majors

In Thursday's Viewpoint, math major Eric Staron made the profound insight that business majors "learn to take numbers and put them into the correct 'debit' or 'credit' columns." He then went on to remark that "you could essentially train a monkey to do this." If this be the case, I suggest that they start admitting monkeys to the University — because those would be some pretty brilliant monkeys. However, Staron has grossly overestimated the intelligence of monkeys and underestimated the academic prowess of the accountancy students who learn to "debit" and "credit."

If Staron went through the accountancy program, he'd learn that only the first two classes of Principles of Accounting 241 are devoted to learning to make the correct "debits" and "credits." The rest of the accountancy program is more like upper-level law and less like bean counting. If he wants proof, I will be more than happy to lend to him my CD-ROM of Financial Accounting Standards, which includes

thousands of minute regulations for obscure transactions in specific industries. I'd also like to see how Mr. Staron's monkeys could handle the details of compliance with Congress' 2002 Sarbanes-Oxley Act.

Incidentally, a plethora of business periodicals name accountancy as one of the most sought-after backgrounds in America, not to mention one of the most highly compensated professions. If it was so easy, as Staron claims, everyone would major in accounting, but the truth is that there is a vast shortage of accountants in society.

In closing, I cordially invite Staron to sit in on one of my accounting classes before the end of the semester — I know that he'd finally realize that the subject and profession isn't "monkey business."

Lynn Fogarty
junior
McGlinn Hall
April 14

This letter is in response to Kate Gales' April 11 column. Though she clearly states, "I'm not trying to bring down the engineers or the archys or the pre-meds," her article does just that.

Let's look at the implications that Gales makes in her article. She states, "the vast majority of engineers, architects and doctors are going to end up working for a business major." If that's not putting down the aforementioned groups, I'm not sure what is. And not only is Gales making ad-hominem arguments, she is making false claims. CEOs of hospitals, for example, tend to be physicians but may even have undergraduate degrees in many other areas.

For example, Gary A. Mecklenburg, CEO of Northwestern Hospital in Chicago, was an Anthropology major who later earned an M.B.A. I'll go out on a limb and say that most of the big research hospitals have presidents and CEOs with a scientific background.

Furthermore, the Fortune 500 has many CEOs who have engineering degrees; according to U.S. News and World Report, 20 percent of the Fortune 500 CEOs have engineering degrees. Jeff Bezos, Bill Gates and Jack Welch all have engineering backgrounds. Jack Welch, a chemical engineer, who knew?

The fact of the matter is technical backgrounds are often a necessity for running a company in an engineering or scientific field. So no, the vast majority of engineers will not necessarily be working for business majors.

Gales goes on to discuss how business majors learn skills that are immediately applicable in the real world, such as designing Web pages, reading stock quotes and developing detailed budgets.

There is an implication that other majors do not learn these skills, though I feel Gales is again mistaken. As an undergraduate here at Notre Dame, my senior design class required us to maintain a Web page to provide information to the engineers at Sears Corporation who were overseeing our projects.

Additionally, we had to prepare detailed budgets, as our designs were candidates for real world products. Perhaps there exists some confusion on both sides as to what the "other majors" do and learn in their four years at this University.

And Gales, perhaps you should step back and get a good look at reality, because you never know who your boss might be some day.

Lastly, I took particular offense to the statement: "Without business majors, this school would crumble." Is it true that the University of Notre Dame has grown in large part due to the College of Business? Yes.

Is the foundation of this University financing, marketing and business administration? No.

This University is rooted in Catholic tradition upon which our liberal arts, science and business educations are built.

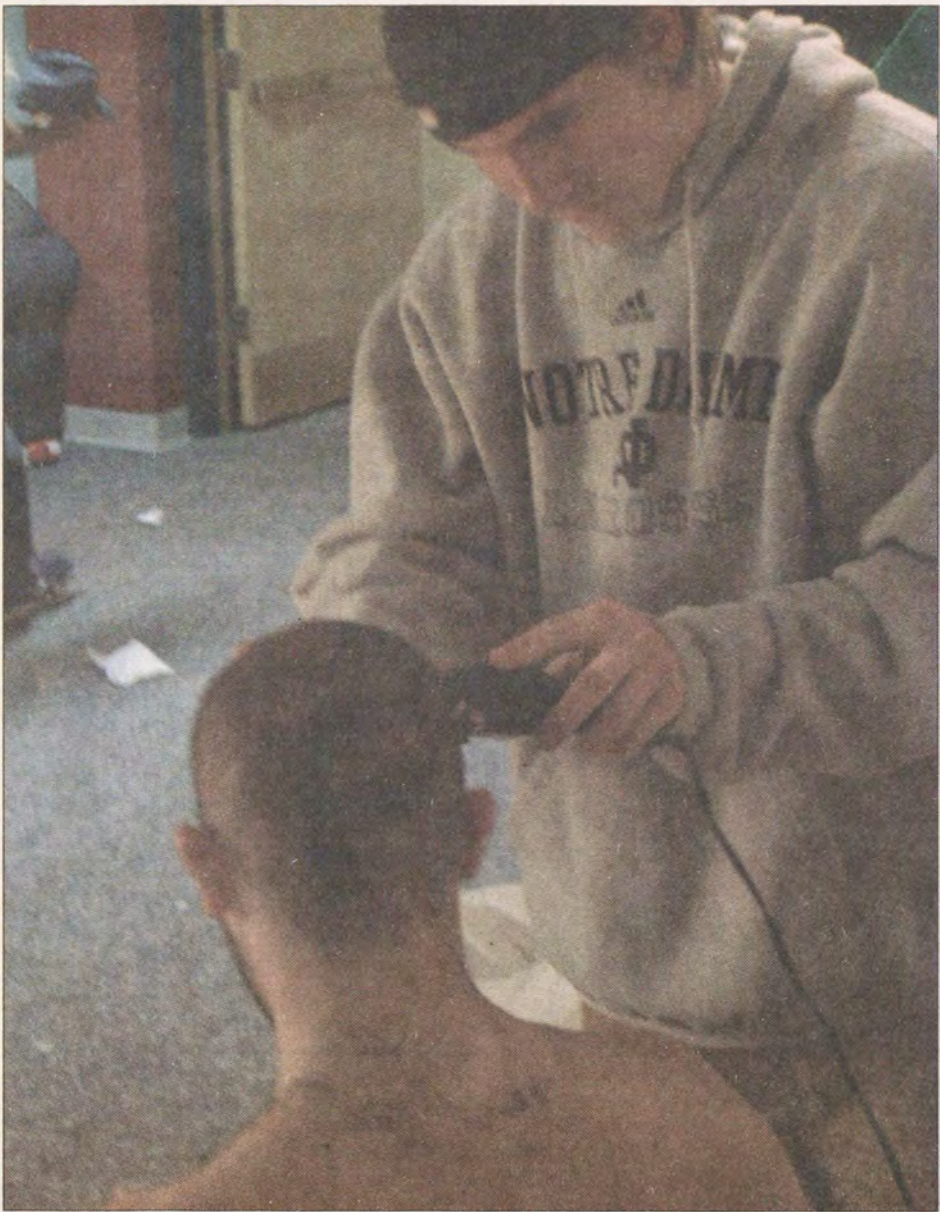
Dan Tyszka
graduate student
off-campus
April 12

EDITORIAL CARTOON



Want to be a columnist, copy editor
or illustrator for Viewpoint?

E-mail Sarah at Viewpoint.1@nd.edu



Fisher president Jake Benedict showed his dedication to his dorm at Section Wars, allowing sophomore Patrick O'Toole to shave an F in his head.



A dunk tank was set up on South Quad along with games, live music and food for Fisher's Spring Bling on Thursday afternoon.

Come sa

The Green Wave's annual Fisher

By CHRISTIE BOLSEN
Senior Staff Writer

Just like cross-dressing Bookstore Basketball teams and rampant procrastination, the Fisher Regatta can always be counted on to storm campus with enthusiasm each spring.

The spirited competition began modestly in 1987 and has since evolved into one of the premier signature dorm events as handcrafted boats race across Saint Mary's lake in pursuit of the prestigious Fisher Hall Regatta Cup. Rivalry and dorm pride abound as teams prepare for the aquatic battle. While many seem to train seriously, other watercrafts focus more on flaunting creative features like kegs and bicycles for flotation and paddling purposes.

These playful entries do provide entertainment for the crowds watching from shore, but water safety personnel have raised concerns that an increasing number of participants have been mixing alcohol with water in recent years. Since the Regatta organizers emphasize water safety, rowers who are deemed to be noticeably intoxicated will be disqualified and asked to leave the premises. Even sober paddlers have a tendency to fall overboard each year, so everyone is required to wear a life jacket on the water.

Many teams take their boating endeavors more seriously, though, and make earnest runs for the cup. Last year's showdown in

the men's final saw the Angry Mob of O'Neill defeat the Siegfried Ramblers, while the women's final pitted two Welsh Family boats against one another for the title. The host dorm's own boat made it to the semifinals before being edged out by Siegfried and will make its third Regatta appearance this year.

"We are happy that our boat is still in working condition," said Chris 'The Boat Guy' Tilton, Fisher's master craftsman who built the Green Wave's current vessel for the 2003 contest. "With some skilled rowers, we'll have a good chance to win the race."

"We are happy that our boat is still in working condition. With some skilled rowers, we'll have a good chance to win the race."

Chris 'The Boat Guy' Tilton
Fisher Hall master craftsman

Due to controversy last year stemming from close heats, the finish line officiating will be upgraded.

"In years past, the races have not been that close, and usually someone runs away with it," Regatta co-chair Mike Bufalino said. "And last year, there were a couple really good boats. O'Neill, Siegfried and Carroll all had really

good boats, and it all came down to the last second.

"Last year, we didn't really have an official at the finish line, so this year we're going to make a bigger effort to do a better job to declare winners."

Bufalino and co-chair Mike Coogan encouraged all dorm presidents to rally support within their respective halls for the tradition. As usual, free food and drinks will be available all day so rowers and their fans can enjoy burgers, hot dogs, pizza and snacks. Sponsors include Coca-Cola, which agreed to supply soft drinks for the duration of the event, and all proceeds



ail away

r Regatta hits campus Saturday

from the Regatta will directly benefit Andre House, a ministry to the poor and homeless in the Phoenix area.

"The residents of Fisher Hall are enthusiastic about this event, knowing that the Regatta provides a day of campus-wide entertainment and an atmosphere of healthy dorm competition," Bufalino and Coogan said in a letter to all hall presidents.

Tilton echoed this sentiment that it was an all-inclusive fun time, not only for Fisher.

"The Regatta is a great event for both Fisher and the rest of campus," Tilton said. "It creates some friendly rivalries between the dorms."

Part of Fisher's excitement is generated in the week leading up to the actual Regatta. Events each night amplify dorm unity for the main event and began last weekend with a dorm poker tournament at a former Fisher resident's Lafayette apartment.

Monday was Section Wars night in the basement, which included tests of physical and mental prowess, such as the Roommate Game. Reminiscent of the Newlywed Game, it reveals how much roommates know — or don't know — about each other. There were also heavyweight and lightweight arm wrestling contests, no-hands pie eating contests and the opportunity to get an unflattering haircut.

"I'm not sure how many people are going to be willing to do that though," Bufalino said before Section Wars night. "I'm sure we'll get a few freshmen to do it. That's

what always seems to happen."

A few brave Fishermen did sacrifice their hair for the sake of their sections, including hall president Jake Benedict, now sporting an F on the back of his head.

Next up was Traditions night on Tuesday, with guest speaker Patricia O'Hara, dean of the law school. Wednesday night the notorious Red Mock Awards took place, where honors were handed out for questionable distinctions like being smelly or lazy, or for antics from throughout the year. There were also contests running throughout the week, like a photo contest of random subjects, where the pictures were shown at the awards "ceremony."

An ongoing game of Assassins also took place during the week, where partners armed with squirt guns hunted down their assigned victims. The Spring Bling ensued Thursday, with live music, grilling and other entertainment on South Quad. Tonight's event is the Zoo, the annual dorm-wide bash where each

section throws a party. Wrapping up the week Saturday night, there will be a dorm dance in the Fisher/Pangborn courtyard after the Regatta.

"The dorm comes together as a community all the time," Coogan said, "but everyone gets really excited about this. It's a really big deal ... it's just a lot of fun to do all this crazy stuff and have a really big week of dorm pride."

The Fisher Regatta will begin at 1 p.m. Saturday on Saint Mary's Lake.

"It's just a lot of fun to do all this crazy stuff and have a really big week of dorm pride."

Mike Coogan
Regatta co-chair

Contact Christie Bolsen at
cbolsen@nd.edu



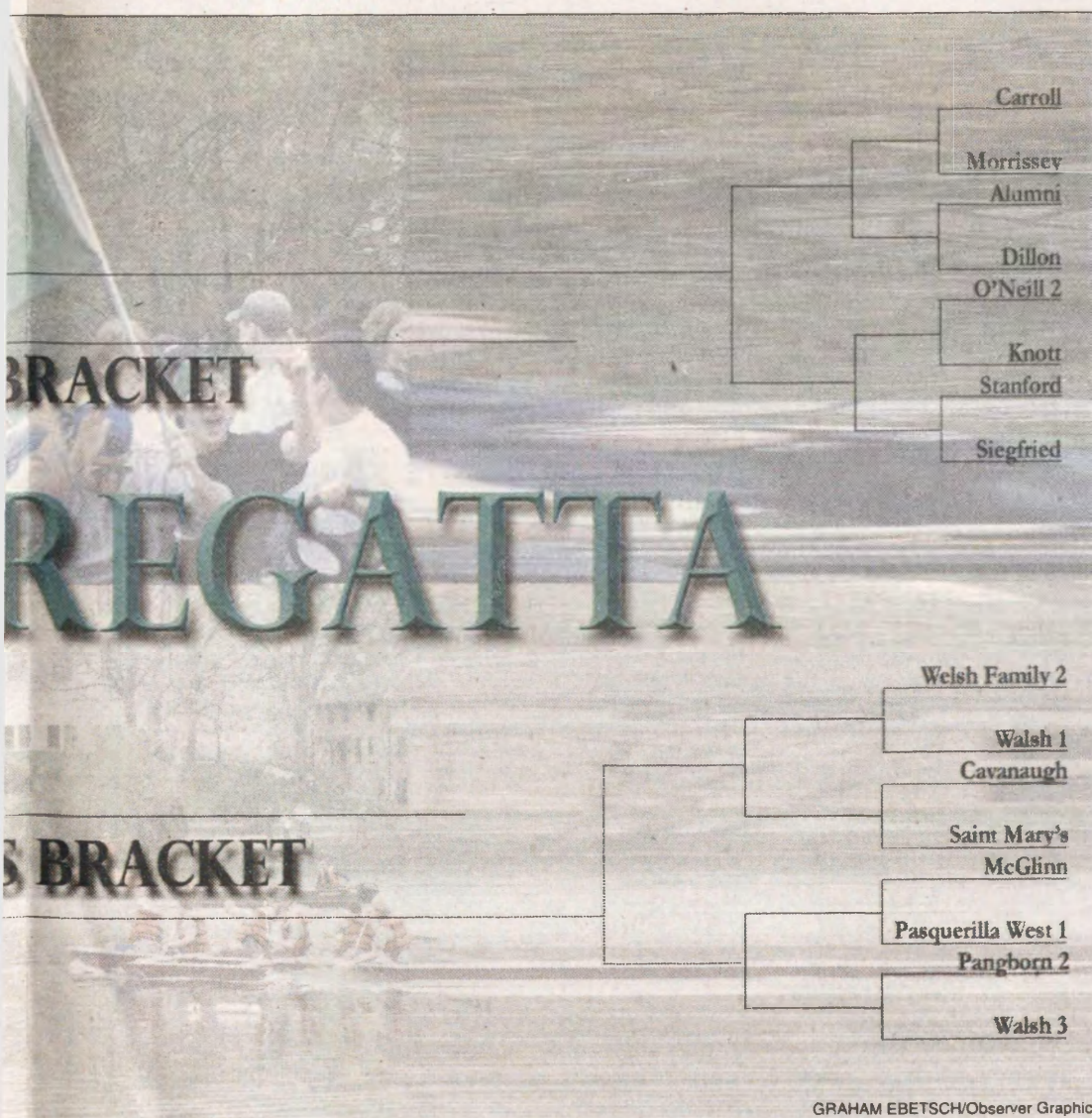
PAMELA LOCK/The Observer

Fisher vice president Jeremy Moreno arm wrestles Tom Bufalino at Section Wars night on Monday.



PAMELA LOCK/The Observer

Section Wars night also involved heavyweight and lightweight pie eating contests, where Fishermen went at it with no hands.



NBA

Iverson spoils Shaq's return as Sixers keep on winning

LeBron James and the Cavaliers fall to the Knicks as playoff hopes quickly fade for a struggling Cleveland team

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Allen Iverson again is leading Philadelphia upward in the Eastern Conference standings.

Iverson scored 38 points and had 16 assists, helping the Sixers spoil the return of Shaquille O'Neal and overcome a career-high 48 points from Dwyane Wade with a 126-119 overtime win over the Miami Heat on Thursday night.

"It's like a do or die situation," Iverson said. "A loss here or there and we could be out of the playoffs. We understand that. It just says a lot about us."

Marc Jackson scored 26 and Kyle Korver 20 for the Sixers, who won for the fifth time in six games. With Cleveland's 95-89 loss to New York, the Sixers (40-38) moved into a tie for seventh in the East standings. Philadelphia, though, holds the tiebreaker with three wins over the Cavaliers.

The next two games will go a long way toward deciding Philadelphia's fate. They play at Indiana on Friday and at New Jersey on Sunday before ending the season with games against Milwaukee on Monday and Atlanta on Wednesday.

"Playing a lot of games in a few nights, that comes with the territory," Jackson said. "You enjoy those things."

Wade's career-high in points and 10 rebounds couldn't keep the Heat from losing their season-high third straight game. While the Heat have already wrapped up the No. 1 seed and home-court advantage for the Eastern Conference playoffs, they're stumbling at the finish.

"We had a chance to put them away," Wade said. "They are a team playing for their playoff lives and you could see that tonight."

O'Neal returned after missing three games with a stomach ailment and viral infection that left him unable to eat for several days. Coach Stan Van Gundy limited O'Neal to 30 minutes in regulation. He scored 13 points and missed two clutch free throws in the final minute of OT.

O'Neal did not talk to reporters after the game.

Andre Iguodala opened overtime with a couple of high-flying dunks, and Iverson stole an inbounds pass and fed

Korver for a 3-pointer.

Miami's Damon Jones started complaining to the referees after the play and was whistled for a technical foul. Iverson made the free throw for a 114-106 lead.

"That steal was ridiculous," Heat coach Stan Van Gundy said. "We should be able to get the ball inbounds."

Jones came down and drilled a 3, then glared at the officials. Trailing by three with a minute left, O'Neal bricked a couple of free throws. Jackson's 18-footer from the left wing gave the Sixers a 118-113 lead and sealed the win.

"When we approach the game mentally the right way, these are the results," Iverson said.

The Sixers made 33 of 34 free throws and the Heat went 22-for-24. O'Neal missed eight of 11 attempts.

"He looked like Shaq to me," Iverson said, smiling.

O'Neal was a non-factor in the frantic final 1:50 of regulation with each team trading baskets before a boisterous crowd, giving the game a playoff atmosphere.

Wade sandwiched a driving layup and a jumper around Webber's 18-footer, and Iverson tied the game 104-all with a couple of free throws with 11.5 seconds left. Wade was 6-for-9 in the fourth and had a chance to win it in regulation, but his jumper over Iguodala was no good.

"I hit some shots, but missed the one at the end of regulation," Wade said. "I got some good looks at the basket tonight."

Wade made 18 of 33 field goals and was 10-for-13 from the line. Everywhere Wade was on the floor, he found a way to score.

"He showed he's a different kind of player by shooting the ball the way he did," Iverson said.

"Our scouting report said let him shoot jumpers. But it didn't work. He just played great."

New York 95, Cleveland 89

A promising season has turned into something else for the Cleveland Cavaliers. Panic.

Not long ago, the playoffs looked like a sure thing. Now, nothing about the Cavs' future is certain.

Jamal Crawford scored 25 points and Maurice Taylor had 16, including 11 in the fourth quarter, as the New York Knicks damaged Cleveland's playoff chances with a win over the Cavaliers on Thursday night.

"It was like we were just playing to play," LeBron James said. "It wasn't like we were playing for a playoff spot. We had no sense of urgency and I don't know why. Hopefully, this game won't come back to haunt us."

With guard Stephon Marbury watching from the bench for the entire fourth quarter, the Knicks held off Cleveland's rally and handed the Cavs a loss they couldn't afford with less than a week left in the regular season.

James scored 27 points on 7-of-25 shooting — 4-of-13 on 3-pointers — and had a career-high 18 rebounds for the Cavaliers (40-38), who are tied with Philadelphia (40-38) for the No. 7 playoff spot in the Eastern Conference but would lose a tiebreaker to the 76ers, who defeated Miami 126-119 in overtime.

Cleveland leads idle New Jersey (38-40) by two games in the standings with four games left, but three of those are on the road.

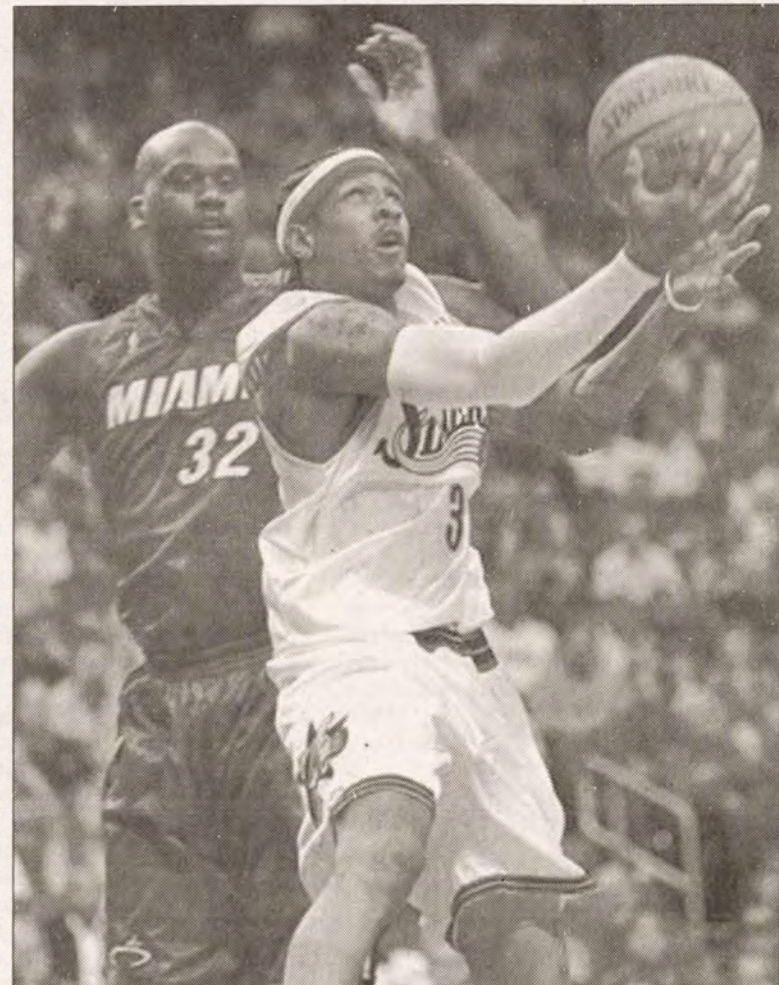
Also, the Cavs would lose a tiebreaker to the Nets, which is why this game, the Cavs' third straight against a non-playoff team, was one they couldn't let slip away.

But now that they have, the Cavs, who play in Washington on Friday, are in a spot they never imagined possible a month ago when they seemed destined to make their first trip to the playoffs since 1998.

"It's going to be tough now, man," said Cavs forward Drew Gooden. "Our backs are against the wall. It's like the NCAA tournament for us — one loss and we're out."

The Knicks, who blew a 12-point lead in the third quarter when James had 11 points and nine rebounds, took control in the fourth behind Taylor. He made five of his first six shots to open the period to help New York build an 87-77 lead with 4:57 left.

During New York's spurt, the Cavaliers turned the ball over five times. They had eight turnovers overall in the fourth quarter.



Philadelphia's Allen Iverson goes past Miami's Shaquille O'Neal for a reverse layup during the Sixers' 126-119 overtime win Thursday night.

"We just turned the ball over down at the end," said Cavs interim coach Brendan Malone. "We didn't handle it well."

James, though, made a pair of 3-pointers and fed Robert Traylor for a dunk as Cleveland cut it to 93-89 with 1:26 to go. But James couldn't come up with a big 3-pointer, and the Knicks held on despite making just 2-of-8 free throws in the final minute.

The Knicks, who were beaten here by 25 points on Jan. 8, snapped a seven-game losing streak in Cleveland. They did it by making James beat them from the outside.

"We wanted to make him into a jump shooter," said New York coach Herb Williams. "We wanted to keep him out of the lane."

All-Star center Zydrunas Ilgauskas returned to the Cavaliers' starting lineup after missing four games with a dislocated right ring finger. He finished with 13 points in 27

minutes.

Down by 12 points midway through the third quarter, James and the Cavaliers finally began playing as if their season was on the line. He hit a 3-pointer and scored on a dunk during an 11-2 run that brought Cleveland within 67-64.

James made two free throws to give the Cavs a 70-69 lead and then pulled down another rebound, his ninth of the period, before Eric Snow's layup put Cleveland up 72-70 going into the fourth.

With filmmaker Spike Lee fantasizing about him in a Knicks uniform and daily rumors swirling that he'll demand a trade, James said he's only focused on getting the Cavs to the playoffs.

"He's a good dude," James said of Lee, whom he filmed a commercial with last year. "I don't want to get into that. I'm more worried about wearing the Cavaliers uniform every night."

CLASSIFIEDS

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ND WOMEN'S GOLF

Youth key in weekend tee-off

By CHRIS KHOREY
Sports Writer

The Notre Dame women's golf team travels to Columbus, Ohio this weekend for the Lady Buckeye Invitational, its third of four tournaments in the month of April.

Despite the rough stretch that includes a tournament away from South Bend every week this month, Irish coach Debbie King is not worried about her team tiring.

"They're all drive trips so it's not too bad," King said. "Plus, I've been going light on practice during the week."

The tournament features 15 teams, all of whom the Irish have faced already this season. Six of the 15 — Notre Dame, Ohio State, Kent State, Purdue, Michigan State and Northwestern — are ranked in the top 50 in the nation by golfstat.com. Ohio State leads

the field with a No. 13 ranking. Unfortunately for Notre Dame, the Irish come into the tournament a woeful 1-10-1 against those opponents.

The good news is the Irish are 22-0 against the remainder of the field — Bowling Green, Eastern Michigan, Indiana, Iowa, Marshall, Ohio University, Penn State, Toledo and Western Michigan.

King is not worried by the disparity between the top and bottom of the field.

"We don't really look at stats like that," King said. "Golf is so much day to day, any team can beat any other on any day."

Taking the course this week for the Irish will be junior Katie Brophy, sophomore Stacy Brown, senior Karen Lotta, sophomore Noriko Nakazaki, freshman Jane Lee and junior Suzie Hayes. The young lineup is not new for the Irish.

Getting the youth experi-

ence will also help the Irish in coming years.

"Our goal is to get into the top 25," King said. "We seem to be improving each year."

The Lady Buckeye Invitational is played every year at Ohio State's Scarlet Course, one of the most difficult courses the Irish will play this year.

"Ohio State's Scarlet Course is known to be one of the toughest in the country," King said. "However, if you look at some of the past events we've played in, our team plays well in tough conditions, like bad weather or a hard course."

King explained the Scarlet Course challenges golfers in several ways.

"It's fairly hilly and long," King said. "It's also tight on quite a few holes. You have to hit it long and straight at the same time."

Contact Chris Khorey at
ckhorey@nd.edu

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Hoyas to visit Irish in a Big East matchup

Foote expected to be impressive for Notre Dame in order to win

By ERIC RETTER
Sports Writer

In what is becoming a pattern in Notre Dame's schedule, the Irish have another opportunity to slay a giant.

On Saturday at 1 p.m., Notre Dame will take on the No. 3-ranked Georgetown at Moose Krause Stadium.

Hoyas, who are entering the game with an impressive streak.

"Georgetown has never lost a Big East game since the Big East started sponsoring women's lacrosse," Irish coach Tracy Coyne said.

"It's a huge Big East game

for us."

Notre Dame has struggled this season, and wants to begin redeeming its campaign on Saturday.

"I think our goal is to hand them their first Big East loss," Coyne said.

To do so, Notre Dame will need stellar play from its offense, especially junior midfielder/attacker Chrysti Foote.

Foote, who has been named the Big East Offensive Player of the week twice already this year, leads the team in both goals and assists, with 23 and 13 respectively.

Notre Dame will also need freshman midfielder/attacker Caitlin McKinney to be on her game. McKinney missed the entire second half of last Sunday's game against Stanford after being ejected late in the first period.

McKinney is second in all scoring categories, having tallied 20 goals and 11 assists.

Saturday's game will mark the end of Notre Dame's toughest home stand, a five-game stint that has included tough losses to Connecticut, Duke and Stanford.

Against Stanford, the team suffered a heartbreaking loss, as Stanford broke a 5-5 tie with just 14 seconds to play.

With such a daunting schedule, the team has struggled to a 3-8 record, but its plan for winning has remained the same.

"Our strategy has continually been to improve our game and prove our game," Coyne said.

At the same time, the Irish know their opponent and understand their strengths and the challenge they will be facing.

"Georgetown comes out and tends to be very patient on offense," Coyne said.

Ultimately, while the team has had its difficulties this season, the Irish are still excited about playing in such a big game.

"We want to prepare as if this is an NCAA tournament game, and we're punching on every aspect," Coyne said.

Contact Eric Retter at
eretter@nd.edu

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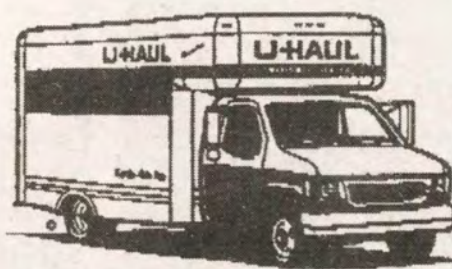


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BOOKSTORE BASKETBALL XXXIV

'Apostles' fall to Carlson-led 'Best Hands' 21-3

For much of the game the Apostles were at a 6-on-4 disadvantage

By RYAN KIEFER
Sports Writer

Some teams in bookstore basketball like to get pumped up for their games by bringing boom boxes and blasting music. The Apostles were no different, though their introduction music wasn't exactly "Eye of the Tiger" or any other classic pre-game song. The Apostles began their game by playing chants and other choir music. This was only the beginning of their pre-tip ritual, as the large crowd that gathered soon observed the toga-clad Apostles on their knees at mid-court devoutly praying the Our Father.

They then rose from their circle revealing the names John, Peter, Thomas, Matthew and Judas painted on their forearms.

It was clear from the first possession that the actual game would take a back seat to the Apostles' display. The Best Hands team used their size and speed to jump out to a quick 7-0 lead and never looked back. Thunderous dunks from John Carlson, a tight end on Notre Dame's football team, sealed the win in the second half.

Despite lacking somewhat in basketball ability, the Apostles were determined to put on a show for the fans. The second half began with a crowd member running on the court exclaiming, "Judas, I have your 30 silver pieces."

"Judas" (Jeremy Truelove) promptly stuffed them in his pocket, and "betrayed" his team by shooting at the wrong basket. His betrayal continued throughout the half as he played as if he were on the opposing team. Best Hands players even got to the point where they were comfortable passing the ball to Judas for a 6-on-4 advantage.

When asked where they got the inspiration for their team

name and costumes, "John" (Josh Meyer) admitted they received help.

"Jeremy and a friend of ours, the apostle James Schindler thought this up," he said. The Apostles enjoyed the crowd support, but admitted their first-round game may have been more fun.

"You should have been here for our first game. We did this whole act and we won playing four on six in the second half," Meyer said.

Platinum FUBU 2.0 21, Team 461 6

The 12th-seeded FUBU team asserted itself as one of the top teams in the tournament with a dominant performance. Overall quickness and smothering defense that extended to half court allowed FUBU to get numerous steals that led to fast break opportunities. FUBU jumped out to an 8-3 lead and closed the game on a 13-3 run.

Paul Pogge led the effort in the second half scoring four points and starting a number of successful fast breaks. Bert Lenny's slashing ability allowed him to earn his team easy points in the paint, and John Rompf's size and rebounding ability gave FUBU a big advantage inside.

Team members agreed that this wasn't their best performance, but that didn't concern Pogge. He was more concerned about his teammate's wardrobe.

"Honestly the most disappointing thing about the game for me was John Rompf's lack of FUBU gear," he said.

Rompf will look to find some FUBU clothing before his team's next game on Sunday.

STCC 21, MBA Ballers 19

In one of the closest games of the night, the STCC squad outlasted their MBA opponents. The game was an epic, lasting almost 90 minutes.

It was clear from the outset

that this game would be a war of attrition as both teams struggled to score. STCC, clad in black uniforms with a crab and the phrase "clinging to loose balls" on the back, came out in a 2-3 zone. This defense proved to be successful as the MBA Ballers could not consistently hit the outside shot.

STCC was methodical on offense, looking to work the ball inside for a high-percentage shot. They succeeded at the end of the first half scoring 8 of the last 11 baskets of the half to jump to an 11-6 lead. Jason Ryan established himself as an inside presence, scoring three baskets in a row to end the first half. His persistence was evident on the glass as he exclaimed "Get to your home!" as he made a shot on his third attempt of the possession.

The Ballers would not go away cutting the gap to 12-11 in early in the half, stealing an inbound pass and scoring an easy layup. The see-saw battle would soon turn in favor of STCC, however, as they scored the next six to go up 18-11, led by Joe O'Brien's three driving layups.

The game appeared decided with the score 19-13, but stingy defense and hot shoot-

ing allowed the Ballers to score six in a row to tie the score at 19. After enduring an almost 15-minute drought, Peter Wu and O'Brien scored on consecutive possessions to cap the victory for STCC.

STCC was pleased with its win, but puzzled at its second half cold streak.

"In the first half, everything went right, but in the second we couldn't get anything to go our way," O'Brien said.

When asked about their use of the zone defense, captain Jason Ryan was frank in his explanation.

"We can't run because we can't dribble. We have to slow it down, but we don't want it to take two hours," he said.

The Ligers 21, Johnny Appleseed and His Band of Thieves 11

In a game that featured a sloppy start, the Ligers cleaned up their play and hit their stride in the second half to pull away.

The Ligers displayed teamwork throughout the contest. Their unity was seen best in an 8-0 run which inflated their lead to 16-4. During this stretch they were able to take advantage of several Johnny Appleseed turnovers and

covert them into easy baskets. James Rogers showed great court sense in leading the fast breaks throwing numerous no-look passes to open teammates for easy lay-ups. Rogers was able to find teammate Brendan Venter for four consecutive lay-ups during the eight-basket run. Jesse Rodenbiker's hot shooting added to the Ligers' onslaught as the lefty was able to connect on six shots.

While the team appeared as though it had been playing together for some time, the Ligers admitted this game marked only its second outing as a team.

"We're just a bunch of freshmen and transfers thrown together," Rogers said.

Looking ahead to the next round, the Ligers anticipate a match up with CoCoa Butter, the 11th-ranked team featuring former wide receiver and current law student Bobby Brown. Braden Turner offered his thoughts on the game.

"I'm not sure we'll be able to beat that team with Bobby Brown," Turner said. "But it's cool because I have his autograph, and that's no lie."

Contact Ryan Kiefer at rkiefer1@nd.edu

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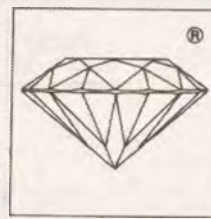
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Recycle the Observer

AROUND THE NATION

Friday, April 15, 2005

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

page 17

NBA

Eastern Conference, Atlantic

team	record	perc.	last 10	GB
Boston	43-35	.551	5-5	-
Philadelphia	40-38	.513	6-4	3.0
New Jersey	38-40	.487	6-4	5.0
Toronto	32-46	.410	4-6	11.0
New York	31-47	.397	2-8	12.0

Eastern Conference, Central

team	record	perc.	last 10	GB
Detroit	51-27	.654	9-1	-
Chicago	44-34	.564	7-3	7.0
Indiana	43-35	.551	8-2	8.0
Cleveland	40-38	.513	4-6	11.0
Milwaukee	29-49	.372	2-8	22.0

Eastern Conference, Southeast

team	record	perc.	last 10	GB
Miami	56-22	.718	4-6	-
Washington	43-35	.551	5-5	13.0
Orlando	35-43	.449	3-7	21.0
Charlotte	17-61	.218	2-8	39.0
Atlanta	12-66	.154	1-9	44.0

Western Conference, Northwest

team	record	perc.	last 10	GB
Seattle	50-28	.641	2-8	-
Denver	47-31	.603	9-1	3.0
Minnesota	41-37	.526	7-3	9.0
Portland	25-52	.325	2-8	24.5
Utah	25-53	.321	4-6	25.0

Western Conference, Pacific

team	record	perc.	last 10	GB
Phoenix	59-19	.756	8-2	-
Sacramento	48-30	.615	7-3	11.0
L.A. Clippers	35-43	.449	4-6	24.0
L.A. Lakers	34-44	.436	2-8	25.0
Golden State	31-48	.392	7-3	28.5

Western Conference, Southwest

team	record	perc.	last 10	GB
San Antonio	58-21	.734	7-3	-
Dallas	54-24	.692	9-1	3.5
Houston	48-31	.608	6-4	10.0
Memphis	44-34	.564	5-5	13.5
New Orleans	18-60	.231	3-7	39.5

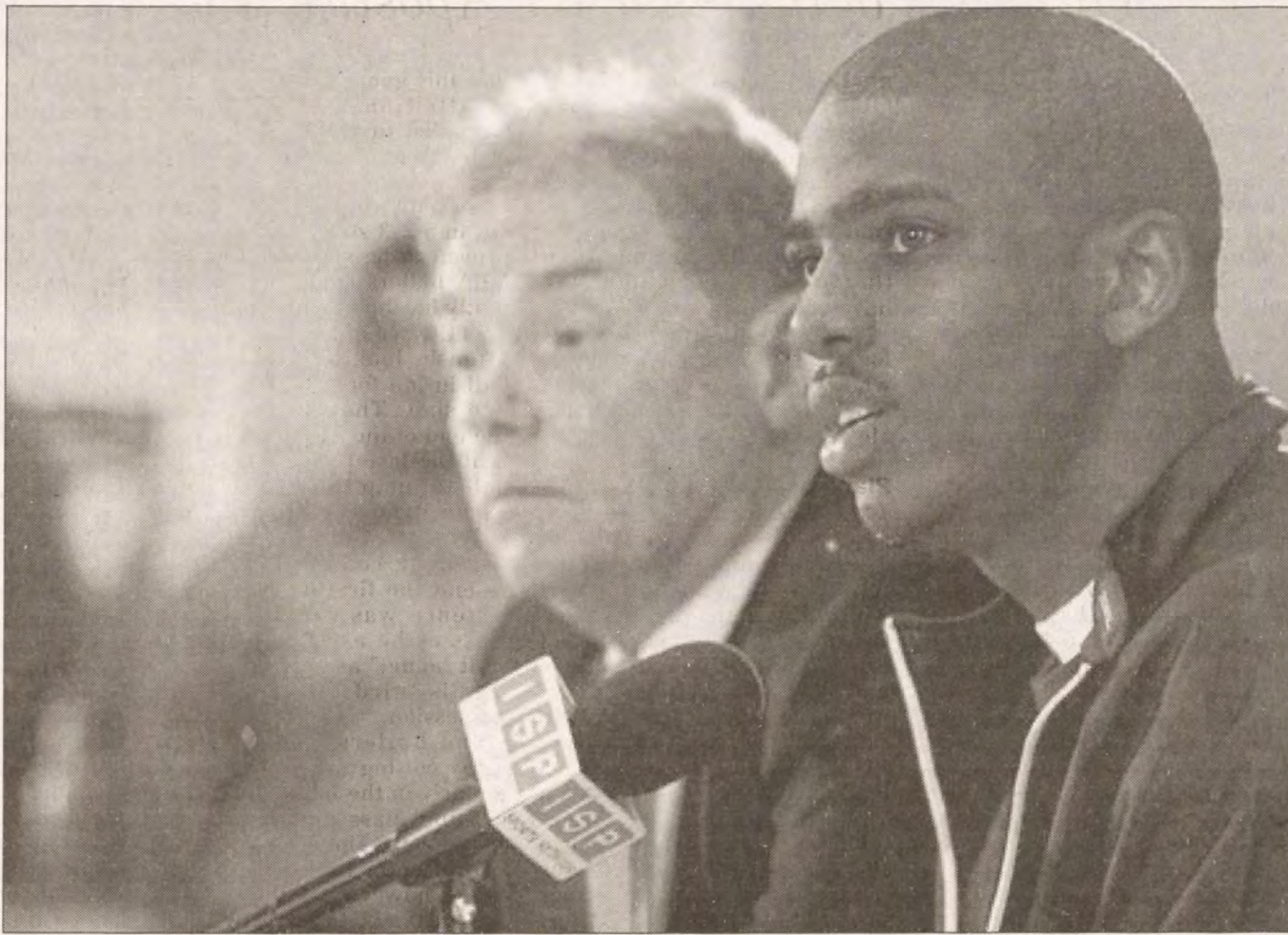
NCAA Baseball Big East Conference

team	conf.	record
St. John's	7-1-0	21-9-0
Boston College	7-3-0	21-9-0
Rutgers	6-3-0	18-11-0
Villanova	6-4-0	20-8-1
NOTRE DAME	5-4-0	17-15-0
Connecticut	4-4-0	19-11-0
West Virginia	4-6-0	15-19-0
Pittsburgh	3-7-0	17-13-0
Georgetown	3-7-0	18-17-0
Seton Hall	2-8-0	8-21-0

MIAA Softball

team	league	record
1 Alma	7-1	19-7
2 Calvin	5-1	15-9
3 Hope	8-2	17-6
4 Olivet	6-2	15-9
5 Tri-State	6-4	15-11
6 Albion	3-5	15-13
7 Adrian	3-7	8-16
8 Kalamazoo	0-6	1-19
9 Saint Mary's	0-10	5-14

NBA DRAFT



Wake Forest point guard Chris Paul, right, announces his intention to enter the NBA Draft Thursday as head coach Skip Prosser looks on. The sophomore averaged 15.3 points and 6.6 assists per game for the Demon Deacons.

Wake Forest guard Paul enters NBA draft

Associated Press

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. — Chris Paul got advice from his coach, his teammates and his family. He even talked with former Wake Forest stars Tim Duncan and Josh Howard.

In the end, when it came time to make a decision, Paul relied on himself.

The All-America point guard is giving up his final two years of eligibility with the Demon Deacons to enter the NBA draft, the second in what might be a long line of Atlantic Coast Conference players leaving school early.

North Carolina guard Rashad McCants made his announcement Wednesday,

and several others — including Paul's teammate Eric Williams — are contemplating the move.

"I just got this feeling maybe a couple of days ago, that this was what I wanted to do," Paul said Thursday. "This is all still so surreal. I have no idea that I would even be in this situation at the end of my sophomore year. I always thought I would play four years, and then, God willing, I would have an opportunity to play in the NBA."

Nearly all his teammates attended a news conference on campus, along with about 30 family members and friends. Coach Skip Prosser was there, too,

along with assistants Jeff Battle and Pat Kelsey.

As a sophomore, Paul was the leading vote-getter on The Associated Press' pre-season All-America team, and he was selected to the first team after the season. He averaged 15.3 points and 6.6 assists for the Demon Deacons (27-6), who set a school record for victories.

Wake Forest also was ranked No. 1 for two weeks early in the season, the first time that's happened. Paul plans to sign with an agent soon, which would make his departure final.

"It was Chris' decision, and as he said, I think it's an irrevocable decision,"

Prosser said. "I don't think it's necessarily a financial decision. I think it's a decision based on challenges."

Without Paul, Prosser likely will rely on Justin Gray to fill in at point guard, a position Gray played a bit as a freshman. Williams, a 6-foot-9 center, averaged 16 points and 7.7 rebounds in a breakout season, and he admitted he's also thinking of entering the NBA draft.

"This is Chris' day, I don't want to do anything to take away from that," Williams said. "But his decision doesn't affect me. It's a decision that I'll make for myself, by myself and with my family. I'm just here to support Chris."

IN BRIEF

Utah federal judge lifts ban on ephedra

SALT LAKE CITY — A federal judge Thursday struck down the FDA ban on supplements containing ephedra, the once-popular weight-loss aid that was yanked from the market one year ago after it was linked to dozens of deaths.

The judge ruled in favor of a Utah supplement company that challenged the Food and Drug Administration's ban. Nutraceutical claimed that ephedra has been safely consumed for hundreds of years.

Research shows ephedra — an amphetamine-like herb — can speed heart rate and constrict blood vessels even in seemingly healthy people, but it is particularly risky for those with heart disease or high blood pressure or who engage in strenuous exercise. Among the deaths linked to the substance was that of Baltimore Orioles pitching prospect Steve Bechler, who collapsed and died during spring training two years ago.

Bulls' Curry out for remainder of the season

CHICAGO — Chicago Bulls center Eddy Curry will miss the rest of the season because of an irregular heartbeat, but doctors are optimistic he'll be able to play again.

Curry will undergo further tests that will take another six weeks, meaning he'll miss the team's first playoff appearance since 1998. Doctors still aren't sure what caused the heart arrhythmia, which hasn't recurred in the last two weeks.

"We've been as diligent as we can to rule out anything possible that would put him at risk," Dr. Kathy Weber, a Bulls' team physician, said at a news conference Thursday night. "We're going to continue to do that until we feel it's safe for him to play."

The 22-year-old has been sidelined since March 30. He was a late scratch from the Bulls' game in Charlotte that night with what was listed as flulike symptoms, but the

Chicago Tribune reported that he'd spent the game hooked up to a heart monitor.

Lonard shoots 62 to lead MCI Heritage after first day

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, S.C. — Peter Lonard flirted with a 59 and finished with a two-stroke lead after Thursday's opening round of the MCI Heritage.

The 9-under 62 was one shot off the tournament record and brought some life to an event that doesn't have Masters champion Tiger Woods and his Big Four buddies.

Lonard was two strokes ahead of Thomas Levet, who birdied six of his last eight holes to shoot a 64. Darren Clarke was at 65 with Patrick Sheehan another stroke back.

Lonard, a 37-year-old Australian in his fourth season on tour, didn't look capable of a landmark round after opening with a bogey. But he made 11 birdies over the next 15 holes to take the lead and briefly flirt with golf's magic number.

around the dial

NBA

Cleveland at Washington, 7 p.m., ESPN
Sacramento at L.A. Lakers, 9:30 p.m., ESPN

MLS

DC United at Columbus, 7 p.m., ESPN 2

SMC TENNIS

Belles to battle against Albion in MIAA game

Saint Mary's ready to see solid opponent with a tough lineup

By PATRICK McCABE
Sports Writer

The Belles, seeking to recover from two crippling losses, play the Albion Britons at 1 p.m. Sunday in a critical conference match.

"This match is really important because our conference record isn't that good. We hope to make amends," co-captain Kristen Palombo said.

Belles' coach Dee Stevenson elaborated on her captain's feeling.

"We're trying to recover from Wednesday's loss (to Kalamazoo)," Stevenson said.

Albion is 3-0 in conference play and 12-3 overall. The Britons finished fifth in the Wisconsin tournament that snubbed the Belles.

"They're good. They're favored to win the conference this year," Stevenson said. "They return most of last year's players."

Palombo also acknowledged the strength of Albion, especially in reference to the Britons' deep lineup.

"Most teams have only one or two premier players, but

[Albion's players] are all good," Palombo said. "Preparation against them is tough."

Stevenson explained the recent wrenching losses.

"We're playing good teams. The matches could have gone either way," Stevenson said. "The injuries, academic obligations, and graduation have leeched our depth. There's nothing you can do."

Palombo echoed her coach's sentiments regarding the tough losses this season.

"The losses are disappointing, but we somewhat expected it. We're a brand-new team that needs match experience," she said. "We can't dwell on these losses. We have to suck it up and ask 'What did we do wrong?' Hopefully, we can figure it out by Sunday."

The Belles will receive extra motivation Sunday from cherished fans and friends.

"We're excited, too," Palombo said. "Last year's graduated players are returning to watch the match."

Meanwhile, Stevenson is focused on the technicalities of the matches.

"We change our game plan for each opponent," she said. "On Sunday, we have to play our best, and our players realize that."

Contact Patrick McCabe at pmccabe@nd.edu

ND WOMEN'S CREW

Irish rowers to host Bearcats

Notre Dame's only home regatta of the season occurs Sunday

By KYLE CASSILY
Sports Writer

The muddy waters of St. Joseph's River may not appear favorable to most onlookers, but the members of the Notre Dame women's crew team hope those waters prove conducive to speed.

The river that plays host to Notre Dame for all fall and spring water practices will now hold the shells of the Irish and their opponent, the Cincinnati Bearcats, this Sunday in Notre Dame's sole home regatta of the year.

According to Irish coach Martin Stone, the course that will be used for the regatta is radically different than the section of the water plied by the Irish women on a regular basis.

Although the course's location may be strange, coach Stone is optimistic.

"The familiarity of the team with the river will help," Stone said.

He feels that his team will be able to recognize certain landmarks along the way that will help to give a sense of bearing and

progress through the course, perhaps giving the Irish an advantage.

Cincinnati is fresh off of a successful Southern sojourn where the Bearcats defeated a strong field of teams, including North Carolina, Navy and Delaware, at the Carolina Rowing Invitational.

"The Carolina Invitational had some schools with some speed," Stone said.

Despite beating a field of competitive teams, the time of the Bearcats' varsity eight posted, 7:23.90, is far slower than the time often posted by the Irish women.

Such a discrepancy should favor a lengthy Irish victory in the 2,000 meter race, but Stone is not taking the Bearcats lightly.

"I think that for us, we need to race well and execute our plan, and just win," Stone said of his general goals for the regatta. "I think it is critical to win [this weekend]. We have got to get this done."

The Irish are heading into the final 20 strokes of the season with the next two weekends' regattas. It is at this juncture that much less than a first place finish in

"The familiarity of the team with the river will help."

Martin Stone
Irish coach

"The Carolina Invitational had some schools with some speed."

Martin Stone
Irish coach

any varsity eight race will make it tough for the NCAA selection committee to make a case for an Irish bid.

A clear victory over Cincinnati is key considering next weekend brings to bat the twin dangers of Harvard and Yale in the chilly confines of Boston, followed by the Big East Championships.

The Irish women were faced with a minor stumbling block earlier this week when their regatta with Michigan State had to be cancelled due to inclement weather.

The cancellation hindered Stone's chances to improve his different crew lineups.

"It had a dramatic effect with our selection pieces," the coach said.

Contact Kyle Cassily at kcassily@nd.edu

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ND MEN'S TRACK

Irish to compete in Mt. SAC race

By JOHN EVERETT
Sports Writer

Five Notre Dame men will compete in one of the largest and most prestigious track meets in the world this weekend. The Mount San Antonio College (Mt. SAC) Relays commence today and will continue through Sunday night.

Adam Currie, Tim Moore, Eric Morrison, Selim Nurudeen and Sean O'Donnell will represent Notre Dame at the meet in Walnut, Ca. Currie will run in the 800-meters, and Moore and O'Donnell will both compete in the 5,000 meters. Morrison will run the 1,500 meters, while Nurudeen takes his normal place in the 110-meter hurdles. There are no field athletes making the trip to California.

The meet will feature student-athletes from colleges all across the country and many other competitors from all over the globe.

The Irish will compete against runners from Air Force, Arkansas, Boston College, Duke, Florida, Florida State, Michigan, Michigan State, Stanford, USC and many others. There will also be competitors representing the nations of Canada, China, Japan and a host of others. In addition to these two groups, there will also be teams of athletes sponsored by Nike, Reebok and athletic apparel compa-

nies.

Notre Dame will send a much larger contingent to the Indy Relays in Indianapolis, a meet hosted by Butler University on April 16.

On the track, Chris Jacques and Tommie Lee will lead Notre Dame in the 100-meter dash. Geoff Bennett will run in the 110-meter hurdles, and the trio of Todd Placek, Kaleb VanOrt and Jake Watson will compete in the 1500-meters.

Notre Dame will also have a strong presence in the field competitions at Indy. Along with Derek Goguen in the javelin, the Irish will have a bevy of hammer throwers competing. Chip Roberts, Kyle Annen, Garrett Koxlien, Michael Schubert and Kevin Moffitt will all participate in the event. Irish jumpers will include Dave Viken and Justin Oppel in the pole vault and Chris Jacques and Chris Staron in the high jump, with Jacques also competing in the long jump.

Hammer thrower Kevin Moffitt explained the reason behind the split.

"Mt. SAC is more of a national meet, and therefore has higher qualifying standards," Moffitt said. "Indy is a more local meet and is a good opportunity for us to get out there and work on improving our Big East or Regional qualifying times."

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ND WOMEN'S TRACK

Meagher to lead team in event

By RYAN KIEFER
Sports Writer

California, here they come.

For the second time this season, a portion of the Notre Dame women's track team will be traveling west to compete in a meet in California. Much like the Stanford Invitational earlier this season, this weekend's Mt. San Antonio College Relays in Walnut, Ca. will feature NCAA-level competition. The Mt. SAC Relays is recognized as one of the premier events on the college track schedule, both for its size — more than 100 teams will be represented — and its level of competition. Many post-collegians run in the meet along with some of the best athletes from colleges across the country.

Irish coach Tim Connelly spoke highly of the meet.

"Conditions are always perfect for fast times, and it is always a great environment out there," Connelly said. "They always get a lot of fans out — people who are really interested in track."

Connelly will bring his best athletes this weekend, as a select group of nine has been chosen take on the elite competition. While he spoke highly of all the athletes competing this weekend, Connelly was especially excited for Kerry Meagher.

"It'll be a big weekend for Kerry," Connelly said. "She'll get her first chance to run against some really tough competition."

Meagher was an All-American at 1,500 meters last spring, but a lingering cross-country injury has limited her time on the track this season. The senior ran her first race of the track season two weeks ago at Purdue and was victorious in the 1,500.



CHUY BENITEZ/The Observer

Sunni Olding runs in a Jan. 29 mile race at the Notre Dame Invitational. The Irish will travel to California this weekend.

The Irish will also be looking for strong performances from Stephanie Madia and Sunni Olding in the 5,000 meters, Katie DeRusso in the steeplechase, Lauren King in the 10,000 meters, Okechi Ogbuokiri in the 200 and 400 meters, Maryann Erigha in the 100 and 200 meters, Emily Loomis in the high jump and Petra Dankova in the triple jump. All of these athletes are expected to push for NCAA qualifications this weekend.

The team will be in California through Sunday as the size of the meet requires three days of competition.

Connelly discussed the pros and cons of the long weekend.

"The travel will be tough on the girls," he said. "Anytime you have to go that far in a weekend it's difficult, and we'll have to be careful and make sure the girls recover next week in training."

"But it also gives people like Okechi a chance to run two competitive races on separate days [Friday and Sunday]. She'll be able to recover for her second race."

The rest of the Irish squad will travel to Butler University for the Indy Relays on Saturday. This meet will be much smaller, featuring schools exclusively from the Midwest, and will have only running events. The goal of this meet will be to qualify athletes for the Big East meet, an attainable goal for many team members.

With the Irish inching closer to the end of the season, Connelly likes his team's position.

"We had a good two weeks of training and I can see that we're heading in the right direction," he said.

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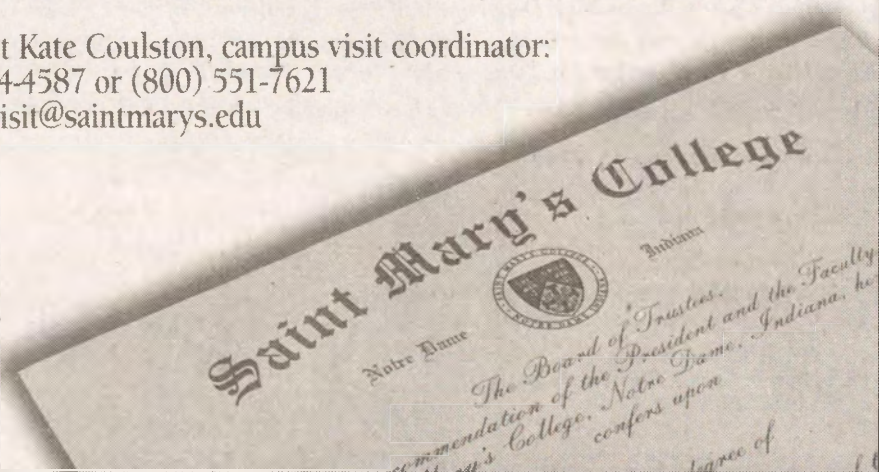
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Huskies

continued from page 24

World Series in Omaha, Neb.

Turnarounds happen. They can be done.

Notre Dame hopes to start its tear Saturday when it faces Big East foe the Connecticut Huskies (21-11, 4-4 Big East) in a pivotal weekend series at home.

"We really have to cultivate a sense of urgency about the rest of the season because it's time to light the fire and kick the tires about this thing," junior pitcher Tom Thornton said.

"We still believe that we have a team that can do great things. We've got a lot of young guys on the team that are really coming into their own. Right now I think we're really kind of starting to hit our stride after last weekend taking two out of three from [Boston College]."

The Irish take the diamond Saturday at noon for a double-header and Sunday at noon for the final game. Thornton (3-4) will start the second Saturday game, while sophomore Dan Kapala takes the mound for the opener. Sophomore Jeff Manship will try to earn his first win in the Sunday game.

Connecticut is coming off a 6-2 victory over Central Connecticut State Thursday. The Huskies snapped a three-game losing streak with the win. The Huskies are led on offense by outfielder Tony Mallozi who is batting .389. Infielder Jeff Hourigan is batting .325. Huskie ace lefty Rich Sirois holds a 5-2 record and a team-leading 43.2 innings pitched. He has also rung up 32 strikeouts.

In his last performance, Thornton hurled a complete-game outing against his home state team.

"After the game, there were about fifteen of my friends and family there. My dad and my mom, who can't come to a lot of baseball games, were there," he said. "It was great to be back home. It was a lot of fun to get some quality wins against a good team like that."

He believes the team is confident and poised to make a move up in the Big East standings this weekend.

"I think without a doubt we're very positive about this. I believe I can go in and get the job done any time against any opponent," Thornton said. "It's going to be a big weekend for us just like last weekend — really like every weekend from here on out. We've really got to come to grips with that. We need these games."

Taking the series from the Huskies would move the Irish out of the middle of the conference standings and into the upper tier. They sit half a game ahead of Connecticut and half a game behind Villanova, and better yet, only two and a half games back of Big East leader St. John's.

"The focus is totally on Connecticut now. If we get the job done this weekend, we can put ourselves in a pretty decent position," coach Paul Mainieri said.

Thornton put it a little more bluntly.

"We're looking forward to getting down to business on Saturday," he said.

Contact Tom Dorwart at tdorwart@nd.edu

Backs

continued from page 24

preparing for the regular season."

Directly overseeing their work is Michael Haywood, the Irish offensive coordinator and running backs coach. Haywood first saw time in Notre Dame Stadium as a player, winning letters in 1982 and 1984-86. Most recently, he was the running backs coach at the University of Texas, as well as the Longhorns' special teams coordinator and recruiting coordinator.

"The players are extremely coachable — they're willing and eager to learn," Haywood said. "I think they're getting better, understanding blocking schemes ... [and] where the free defenders are. I think they're getting better as a team."

The Irish rushed for 1,529 yards on 460 attempts last season, culminating in 17 touchdowns.

Seven of those scores came from Walker. The freshman had a brilliant breakout season, starting with his two-touchdown debut in the Irish upset of Michigan on Sept. 11.

"In a sense I have to prove myself," he said. "Coming last year, I had to learn the new system coming in, I kind of got comfortable with it. Now, I go on to something else."

Despite the fresh start in 2005, however, Walker has set high expectations for himself and his contributions to the team.

"Maybe people are expecting me to do a little better than I

did last year, but at the same time it's something [where] I'm embracing the challenge," he said.

Haywood has worked to develop a strong relationship with the running backs as a unit within the offense, speaking of them only as a unit.

"We try to speak of them as a group," he said, declining to comment on individual progress in the spring practices.

Walker said the running backs have embraced the group mentality.

"When you're out there, running backs will switch off, someone will get tired and things like that," Walker said. "Regardless of what's going on on the field, it's a group effort ... The kind of players we have here, the kind of unity we have here, we kind of push each other and we want each other to do well, so it is like a family."

As offensive coordinator of the New England Patriots, Weis had running back Corey Dillon play a key role in the championship-winning season. He has a specific idea of how Walker and the running backs will fit into his offensive strategy.

"I think that our running backs, starting with Darius, have very good instincts," he said. "I think they have a lot of natural running skills but you also have to force-feed where you want them to go and not give them too much freedom."

The players are not the only ones facing transitions as the season progresses. This is Haywood's first time as an offensive coordinator, and he will work under a first-time head coach who saw phenomenal success as an offensive coordinator in the NFL.

"It's been a pretty smooth transition," Haywood said. "Having the opportunity to work for Nick Saban, who worked under Bill Belichick, there's a lot of similarities [in the system] ... in the day to day work schedule, understanding the offensive philosophies."

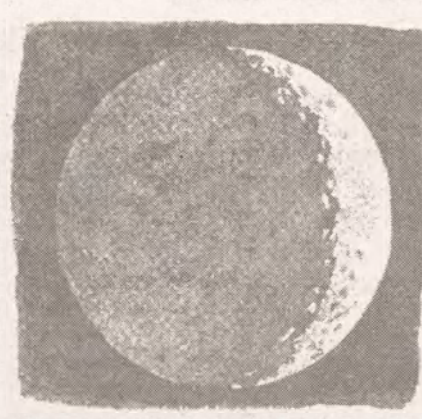
Haywood made the change to the double duty of offensive coordinator and running backs coach.

"Coach Weis has been a really good mentor, he gives a great direction," Haywood said. "It's been outstanding, and just coaching running backs is a usual thing, an everyday sort of deal."

The concept of teamwork is one thing that Walker and the running backs will take out of spring practice — perhaps the most important first lesson Haywood can teach.

"I think that we're coming together as a team more, a little different than we were last year, we're pushing each other," Walker said. "I think the team unity has definitely grown."

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ND MEN'S GOLF

Baldwin's performance at Warren typical of game

By KEN FOWLER
Sports Writer

Golfers worldwide know Masters' Saturday as "Moving Day."

This year, Moving Day was the perfect title not just for Tiger Woods' move into contention at Augusta, but also for Mark Baldwin's move into the record books with a stellar round for Notre Dame at the Warren Golf Course.

Playing against Texas Christian in a dual-match competition Saturday, Baldwin went out on a tear and etched his name in the Irish annals, shooting a seven-under 63.

"Everything just really fell into place," Baldwin said. "I felt comfortable."

He felt so comfortable that it wasn't until the 13th hole when he realized just how impressive his round was.

"Quite honestly, I really didn't know where I stood until the 13th hole," he said.

After two birdies in his previous three holes, teammate Eric Deutsch opened Baldwin's eyes to his unknowing pursuit of a record.

"Eric said to me, 'Dude, you have a chance to shoot 59 today if you birdie the last five out of six,'" Baldwin said.

He would not pull off that feat, but he would birdie two more and bogey only one to reach seven-under on his round, setting a slew of records in the process.

His front nine on the par-70 course put him in the rare waters of having a chance at such a feat as a 59, as he made an eagle and two birdies to make the turn in 31.

After several holes of stellar iron play to start the round, Baldwin finally got momentum with a 50-foot birdie putt on the fourth hole, and he followed that up with a chip-in eagle on five.

"That was kind of how I got my round jump-started," he said. "The first few holes, I hit it pretty close but missed a few putts. Then I hit a 50-footer to finally get under par."

One hole later, he chipped in from just off the green for an eagle, reaching three-under through five.

With an improbable birdie on the 185-yard, par-3 ninth, he had reached four-under at the turn.

"That shot isn't really a shot that fits anyone's eye well," he said. "Just to get it on the green, you're pretty happy."

"I hit a smooth six iron to four feet and made birdie."

At that point, he could have

played the back in even-par and still have tied the course record.

But that was not his intention in the least.

Baldwin said that he was unable to maintain good starts to rounds earlier in the year because he was too focused on posting a specific score.

"I had been concentrating too much on posting a number or parring out to shoot a number," he said. "That probably led to the downfall of those rounds."

He didn't have that problem this time because he wasn't thinking about his round in those terms Saturday.

Playing in the same group as Baldwin was Deutsch. "I got to see that round first hand," he said. "It was amazing."

Deutsch was most impressed with the way Baldwin continued to attack even when he had reached deep into red figures.

"It was very impressive to watch [Baldwin] handle himself," he said. "Usually people get nervous when they are under par like that, but he wanted to make more birdies."

Baldwin stayed aggressive, going after pins and taking firm strokes on his putts.

Thanks to that style, the back saw Baldwin sink four more birdie putts and make his only blemish — a bogey — for a 32 on the back and a 63 for his

morning 18.

While that score beat the 42-year-old, all-time Notre Dame record by a single stroke, it demolished the eight-month-old Warren Course record by three.

Previously, Notre Dame's school record for a round belonged to Mike O'Connell. In a quadrangular match on May 4, 1963, O'Connell fired a 64 at the old Burke Memorial Golf Course.

Indiana's Jeff Overton set the previous competitive round course record on September 19, 2004, posting a four-under 66 en route to a second-place finish at the Notre Dame Invitational/Central Regional Preview.

Both records, one time-tested and one quite recent, fell Saturday, as Baldwin played the round of his young life.

However, he had another 18 to play that afternoon.

"It's kind of funny, because after a 63, it's kind of difficult to know how to play a next round," he said.

"Relative to the first round, even if you're one-over, that's not a very good score."

In that afternoon round, Baldwin played well, but still posted a score nine strokes higher than his morning 18.

"I was battling my swing a little bit ... but I felt I was still comfortable," he said.

While Baldwin's 137 (63-74)

on Saturday won him first place individually and Deutsch's solid 145 (72-73) was impressive, Notre Dame's afternoon round cost the team the tournament.

The Irish went out in a stellar two-over 282, but shot a 299 in the second round.

"It was a really nice opportunity for us to get a nice win with TCU, ranked 10 or 11 in the country," Baldwin said.

In a reversal of fortunes, TCU compensated for its opening 292 with a remarkable nine-under 271 to beat the Irish by 18.

Baldwin was in awe of TCU's round. "Two-seventy-one is a score I didn't think I'd ever see on the Warren," he said. "It was just unbelievable."

The nine-under for TCU came largely thanks to David Schultz, who nearly broke Baldwin's hours-old record, eventually carding a six-under 64.

As chance would have it, Baldwin and Deutsch were in the same group with Schultz all day, and their foursome witnessed the two lowest rounds in course history on the same day.

Perhaps that's only fitting — it was Moving Day.

Two golfers moved into Warren history, and one moved into Irish lore.

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SMC GOLF

Belles face tough opposition

Saint Mary's to play in the Spring Fling in Bloomington, Ill.

By ANNA FRICANO
Sports Writer

Two more events stand between now and the NCAA Division III Golf Championships for Saint Mary's. The Belles, who are in great position for a spot in the competition, will get a chance this weekend to test their skills

against some of their bigger competitors in a two-day tournament. Saint Mary's travels to Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington, Ill. today to compete in the annual Spring Fling. The players will tee-off at 1 p.m., and the competition continues through Saturday.

After a disappointing loss to DePauw University last weekend, the Belles will get another chance to face them at this weekend's event. The Tigers are ranked fifth in the Division-III standings — behind Saint Mary's — but defeated the Belles at the Tri-

State University Invitational a week ago. Last year, the Tigers won the Spring Fling with a team score of 303.

Saint Mary's will have to improve their individual scores in order to compete well at the Spring Fling.

In 2004, the top 15 individual finishers at the event came in with scores ranging from 71 to 80. Saint Mary's did not compete in the event last year, but the team has had trouble scoring below the mid-eighties so far this spring.

Senior Stefanie Simmerman brought in a score of 79 at last week's invitational, but other than that scores have ranged from 83-100. Seniors Julia Adams and Chrissy Dunham both had several mid to high-seventy rounds in the fall, and the entire team is looking to pull in lower scores across the board.

The Spring Fling, held at the Ironwood Country Club, is a 5,832 yard, par-72 course. In addition to DePauw University, Saint Mary's will be competing against schools like Hope College, Wisconsin-Eau Claire and Illinois Wesleyan, all of whom finished in the top five last year.

As the Belles' spot in the NCAA Championships is all but secure, the women are primarily looking to improve on an individual basis between now and then. This weekend should give the Belles a fairly good idea of where they stand against some of the top Division-III programs in the country and what they will need to do in order to peak at the championships in May.

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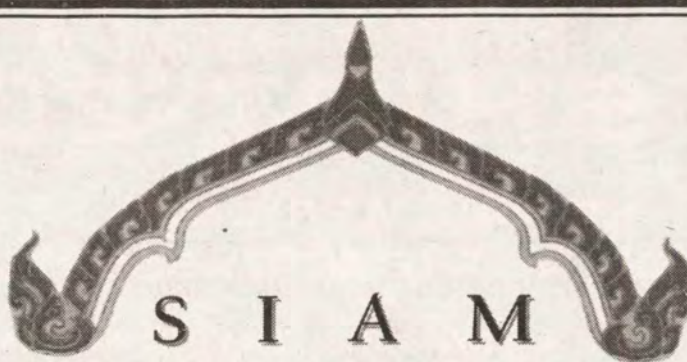
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Francis

continued from page 24

with Providence.

Irish coach Mike Brey supported Francis' decision, even if he has reservations.

"While my gut tells me that Torin Francis is a four-year player for us here at Notre Dame, I fully support the decision he has made to explore the option he has of playing in the NBA next season," Brey said in a statement Thursday afternoon. "My job now is to help him collect information on where he stands in regards to the June draft.

"We need to keep in mind that this is a young man that has undergone major back surgery, and I understand that he may want to take advantage of the fact that he is healthy right now."

Francis said he appreciates the support of his coaching staff.

"I feel comfortable with the decision I have made to look into the opportunity of playing at the next level, because I have the full support of Coach Brey and the entire Notre Dame community," Francis said in his statement.

As a sophomore, Francis played in 20 games before undergoing the surgery. An all-Big East honorable mention



BRAD CARMEAN/The Observer

Torin Francis posts up during Notre Dame's 85-77 loss to Pittsburgh in the Joyce Center March 5. Francis said Thursday he will enter the NBA Draft.

selection, he averaged 14.2 points and a team-leading 8.8 rebounds.

In his freshman season, Francis averaged 11.1 points and 8.4 rebounds en route to earning Big East all-rookie team honors.

Francis has started all 83 games he has played and owns

career averages of 11.2 points and 8.3 rebounds (931 points and 686 rebounds).

He is tied for fourth on the career blocked shots list with 126 and ranks fourth all-time with a 1.5 career average.

Contact Pat Leonard at pleonard@nd.edu

Lax

continued from page 24

been real competitive and I think that's been good for us."

Fairfield (8-2) is ranked 20th in the latest USILA coaches' poll and brings a six-game win streak, highlighted by an 11-10 overtime victory at Penn State on March 26. The Stags have made a living on close wins this year, averaging 10.38 goals per game and giving up 7.98.

"They've had a great year," Corrigan said. "They've won four one-goal games. They're competing very well. In a couple of the games they've been

down three or four goals in the second half and still found a way to come back and win. I think more than anything else they're just really getting after it."

Greg Downing and Mike Bocklet lead the Stags with 15 goals apiece on the year but no single player has stood out above the rest.

"It's been something different for [Fairfield] in every game," Corrigan said. "They're getting very good goaltending and I think they're getting a lot of different people contributing on the offensive end."

Contact Mike Gilloon at mgilloon@nd.edu



GEOFF MATTESON/The Observer

Senior Matt Malakoff fires a shot on goal against Air Force during the Irish's 14-13 overtime win Sunday.

SMC SOFTBALL

Hope College sweeps doubleheader with Saint Mary's

Struggling team loses 9th and 10th straight conference games

By TOM STILES
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's (5-14, 0-10) dropped both games of a doubleheader yesterday to a talented Hope College (17-6, 8-2) 3-1 and 10-4.

The two losses extended the Belles' losing streak to 15 games, with their last win coming against Emmanuel College more than a month ago during the team's spring trip.

In the game one loss, Saint

Mary's put up quite a battle in a losing effort against one of the best teams in the MIAA. Freshman pitcher/first baseman McKenna Corrigan and junior center-fielder Audrey Gajor each had a double to lead the offensive attack, with Gajor scoring the Belles' only run.

Junior pitcher/outfielder Bridget Grall turned in a quality pitching performance by scattering six hits over seven innings of work and surrendering only three runs.

"We did everything great in game one, I was very happy with how we played," head coach Kristi Beechy said. "We were hitting the ball hard, but Hope did too, and they found some more holes."

"We're going to keep doing the things that we're doing and keep building on our last few games."

Kristi Beechy
Belles head coach

Game two was a little more lopsided as the Hope College bats touched up both Grall and Corrigan for 10 runs. Each pitcher is still searching for her first

conference victory. Gajor again had a double, and sophomore third baseman Laura Helene

erupted for a three-run home run, her first of the conference schedule, giving her seven RBIs and tying her with sophomore shortstop Sarah Miesle for the team lead.

"I thought we played well in game two," Beechy said. "I give their team all the credit, Hope has some really good hitters. Our bats needed to be woken up a little bit."

The Belles will look to get their first conference win in this final stretch of the season by maintaining focus.

"We're going to keep doing the things that we're doing, and keep building on our last few games," Beechy said. "We'll get a few wins at the end of the season."

Kristi Beechy
Belles head coach

Next up for the Belles will be Bethel College over at Ivy Field tonight at 6 p.m. followed by a showdown with MIAA conference powerhouse Alma College (19-7, 7-1) tomorrow afternoon at 1 p.m.

Contact Tom Stiles at tstiles@nd.edu

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Weekend!

Rowing VS Cincinnati
(GOLD GAME)

Races Start @ 8AM

Margaret Prickett Park

• First 100 fans will receive a Gold Games t-shirt, sponsored by South Bend Orthopaedics

FREE ADMISSION WITH A VALID ND STUDENT ID!

Sunday, April 17th

Baseball VS Connecticut

12:05 PM @ Frank Eck Stadium

• The first 250 fans will receive a Notre Dame Baseball, sponsored by National City

DILBERT

SCOTT ADAMS



PEANUTS

CHARLES SCHULZ



JUMBLE

HENRI ARNOLD
MIKE ARGIRION

JUMBLE

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

TIHHC

KALCH

SIXECE

EXDOUT



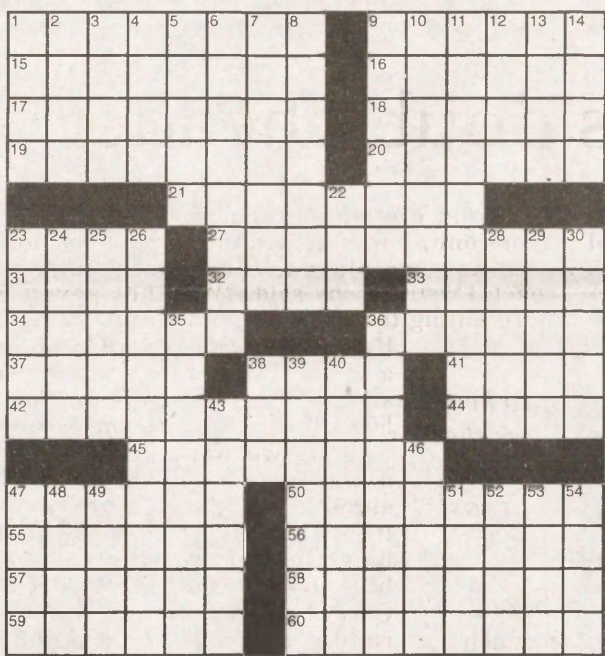
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: A " " (Answers tomorrow)
Yesterday's Jumbles: SANDY SORRY REVERE BUOYED
s Answer: Where Mom took her toddler when she went shopping - TO THE "NURSERY"

CROSSWORD

WILL SHORTZ

- ACROSS
- 1 Candy that, in urban legend, can be lethal when mixed with soda
- 9 Put under
- 15 It's exactly a foot long
- 16 Many an "S.N.L." cast member
- 17 Short musical composition
- 18 À la King?
- 19 Comforting words
- 20 Drinks akin to americanos
- 21 Plant that's a traditional symbol of remembrance
- 23 One to grow on
- 27 Remark to whisperers
- 31 In ____ (even)
- 32 Brits' "governors"
- 33 Remove
- 34 Ratify anew
- 36 What some singers sing in
- 37 Long series of troubles
- 38 Medical suffix
- 41 Pen fill
- 42 Beyond one's persona
- 44 Deal a low blow
- 45 Quickly recites
- 47 Special intuition, in modern lingo
- 50 Excitements
- 55 Designate
- 56 Field work
- 57 "The Conscious Lovers" playwright, 1722
- 58 Pregnant
- 59 Part of a safari party
- 60 Like some fruit
- DOWN
- 1 Furtive summons
- 2 Cry of excitement
- 3 Southern bread
- 4 Stern
- 5 Musk maker
- 6 Marine animals like the sea lily and feather star
- 7 Orson Welles's Wisconsin birthplace
- 8 Irish moss, e.g.
- 9 Of some monuments
- 10 Principal McGee's portrayer in "Grease"
- 11 Fast one
- 12 Mine access
- 13 Lacquered metalware
- 14 Bridge expert Culbertson and others
- 22 Some degs.
- 23 Tehrani tongue
- 24 Saved on supper, perhaps
- 25 Not as green
- 26 Just bread and water, e.g.
- 28 Sports



- 29 Concertedly
- 30 English 101 subject
- 35 Coastal flier
- 36 Resort to violence
- 38 Wicked
- 39 Medicinal teas
- 40 Start of a strong opinion
- 43 "How to Handle a Woman" lyricist
- 46 Was ready to blow, say
- 47 Have a sudden inspiration?
- 48 Communiqué segue
- 49 Scene of heavy W.W. I fighting
- 51 Windmill arm
- 52 "Artaxerxes" composer
- 53 Focus of some workouts
- 54 Goes with

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

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Sarah Michelle Gellar, 28; Robert Carlyle, 44; Brad Garrett, 45; Pete Rose, 64
Happy Birthday: It's your uniqueness that will enable you to get what you want, so don't hide your talent or try to be like everyone else. Take what you have and utilize your assets to the fullest. Once you separate yourself from the ordinary, you will see how fast you can accelerate. This year is all about taking things as they come and turning every negative into a positive. Your numbers are 9, 15, 24, 38, 44, 47
ARIES (March 21-April 19): Venturing out and seeing new things will stimulate you positively. You will get bored quickly, so make sure you have scheduled enough activity to hold your interest. The more you can fit in, the better. ****
TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Mix and mingle with a variety of people today. Business ideas may develop if you talk about your plans with friends, neighbors or a relative. A short trip will help you decide whether you want to make a change. ***
GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Put time aside for someone you really like to do things with. An interesting change regarding how you earn your living is evident. You may have to take a backward step to move forward in a more suitable direction. ***
CANCER (June 21-July 22): You may be emotionally confused today. You may be a collector, but you must rid yourself of some of the people and items you have in your life. Only then can you make room for what's needed to move ahead. ***
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You'll be walking a fine line today. On the one hand, you can make headway where relationships are concerned, but on the other you will have to deal with authority figures. Pick your words carefully before responding to someone who could decide your future. ***
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You'll be a little unnerved if you are confronted with the emotional problems of others. Try to help without being judgmental or critical. You may end up being blamed if you get too involved. **
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Travel, attending a conference or getting together with people you find stimulating should be your goal. You will capture whatever audience you have with your grandiose ideas. This could be the start of something new and productive. *****
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You will have plenty on your mind involving money or property deals. Don't let anyone push you into anything. You can make some promising changes to your future if you start with basics and build from there. ***
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): There will be too much going on today. You will have to stay alert emotionally. If someone you care about feels neglected, you will have a hard time getting him or her to respond. Compliments and positive actions will be your saving grace. ***
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't touch upon subjects you know little about. Keep things superficial, and plan something entertaining that won't encourage serious talks. Move forward in a healthier direction physically, emotionally and mentally. ***
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Do something that will help you improve your looks and raise your confidence. The more time you spend with friends, the better you will feel. Love is looking positive. *****
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Take control and stop letting everyone else have his or her say. You have valuable information to share. Someone who is too accommodating may be hanging around trying to take the glory for your actions. **
Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, changeable and help others in unique and special ways. You are well-liked by those who recognize your talent and opposed by those who are jealous. You are a humanitarian and strive for your personal best.

THE OBSERVER

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

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NBA DRAFT

Francis declares draft eligibility

Junior forward joins 2005 NBA Draft pool but does not hire agent

By PAT LEONARD
Sports Writer

Notre Dame junior forward Torin Francis declared himself eligible Thursday for the 2005 NBA Draft to be held June 28.

Francis said he does not plan to hire an agent and has the option to withdraw from the draft until June 21. An underclassman that declares early can return to school and pull his name from the draft until a week before the draft's scheduled date as long as he does not hire an agent.

In the meantime, Francis will continue workouts with Notre Dame and will participate in the NBA pre-draft camp June 7-10 in Chicago.

"I feel like I owe it to myself

and my family to explore this option," Francis said in a statement Thursday afternoon.

The team's fourth-leading scorer this season, Francis averaged 9.3 points and grabbed a team-high 7.9 rebounds per game, becoming the team's leading rebounder for the third straight season.

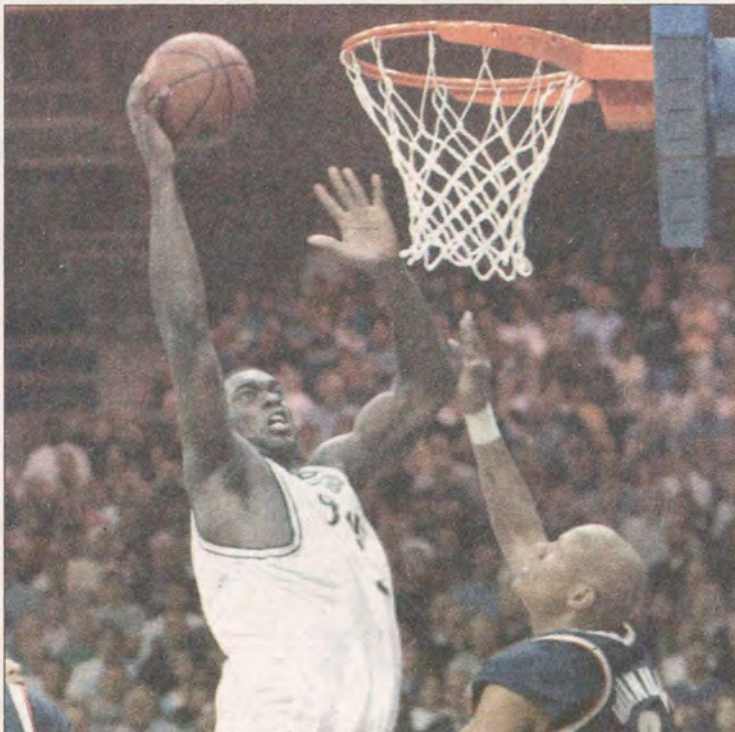
The 6-foot-10 forward scored double figures in 14 games and grabbed 10-plus rebounds in eight games.

Francis scored a season-high 21 points as the team's only consistent threat in a first round loss to Rutgers in the Big East tournament March 9.

Francis also struggled at times this season, however, coming off back surgery March 8, 2004 to repair a herniated disc.

He scored only six points against Boston College Feb. 8, one point against Pittsburgh in the team's next game and zero points in a Feb. 19 nail-biter

see FRANCIS/page 22



Torin Francis dunks during a win over Connecticut Jan. 30. Francis declared himself eligible for the NBA Draft Thursday.

BASEBALL

Huskies to face Irish in big series

By TOM DORWART
Sports Writer

It's not time to panic — just time to win.

Through 32 games, the Irish hold a disappointing 17-15 overall record and a subpar 5-4 Big East Conference record. While Notre Dame might not have the all-American pitching and the all-American catcher that last year's national champions had, the Irish can look on the bright side of things.

The Cal State Fullerton Titans were a dismal 16-16 at this point last season. Fullerton went on a tear to finish the season 47-22 and atop the college baseball world at the College

see HUSKIES/page 20

FOOTBALL

Running backs take center stage in spring



Running back Darius Walker takes a handoff during spring practice Wednesday. Walker is likely to start next year for the Irish.

Walker, Powers-Neal and others set to play strong in coming year

By KATE GALES
Associate Sports Editor

Last year, the Irish fortunes ran on the swift feet of running backs Darius Walker and Ryan Grant.

And despite this year's new

coaching staff and fresh offensive playbook, the returning backs are heading full steam ahead into the spring season.

"The thing about our team is that regardless of who's coaching us, we're looking ahead," Walker said. "I think last season, we kind of expected to do better. ... This year, regardless of who's coaching us, the team is looking forward to working hard in the off-season and

see BACKS/page 20

MEN'S LACROSSE

Irish set to face Fairfield on road

Team will play first game since overtime win over Air Force

By MIKE GILLOON
Sports Editor

After playing three games in eight days last week, the Irish have stopped for a breath. They head into Sunday's game

at Fairfield (Conn.) with a week of rest and preparation behind them.

"We're kind of enjoying the opportunity we've had this week to get back and work on ourselves," Notre Dame coach Kevin Corrigan said. "We went about three straight weeks where all we had time for was [working on] game preparation [in] practice. There comes a time where that starts to distract you from what you want

to do. You spend too much time talking about other people and not enough time concentrating on yourself."

Corrigan believes Notre Dame (5-3, 14th USILA coaches' poll) has benefited greatly from the downtime and is well prepared for the match.

"We've had some real spirited and fundamental practices," Corrigan said. "They've

see LAX/page 22

FOOTBALL RECRUITING

Star quarterback commits to Weis

Zach Frazer joins Irish class of 2010

By KATE GALES
Associate Sports Editor

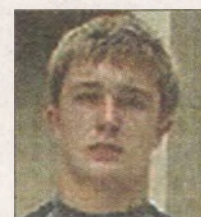
Zach Frazer, a junior quarterback from Mechanicsburg, Pa., became the third commitment of Notre Dame's recruiting class of 2010 Thursday.

"He's a big strong guy," Mike Frank of IrishEyes.com said. "I don't know if the recruiting gurus will have Frazer as a top five quarterback. I'm not exactly sure where he's going to rank. But I think that [Notre Dame quarterback coach] David Cutcliffe and [head

coach] Charlie Weis have far more experience evaluating talent than the recruiting gurus."

Frazer joins running back Munir Prince and wide receiver Barry Gallup in Weis' first full recruiting class.

Frazer, a junior at Mechanicsburg Area High School, was on campus for his second visit to Notre Dame this week. According to IrishEyes.com, he met with Weis on Thursday and gave a verbal commitment



Frazer

to the Irish.

"He's a true pocket passer and makes a lot of plays down the field," Frank said.

In his junior year, Frazer set a new state record for single-season passing yards. He was named Associated Press Class AAA Player of the Year, as well as the Mid-Penn Keystone Conference MVP. He was also named to the first-team Associated Press AAA All-State team. This year, he completed 285 of 440 passes and racked up 3,684 yards with 27 touchdowns and nine interceptions. He also rushed for 12 touchdowns.

Contact Kate Gales at kgales@nd.edu