Shields to speak at commencement ceremony

Syndicated columnist and political analyst Mark Shields will be in every American presidential election since 1968, either as a participant or analyst in every American presidential election since 1968. Since 1987, he has formed half of the popular and respected team of political analysts first known as “Gergen and Shields,” with Shields a moderator of political analyses of the 1988, 1992, and 1996 elections for PBS, as well as for CBS and NBC at various times. He was a principal contributor to the 1988 election coverage that won a Peabody Award for PBS.

Shields brought his understanding of the American election process to the Notre Dame campus in October 1992, when he gave a speech outlining the aspects of the nation’s political history that have helped determine the winners of presidential elections. In that speech, Shields said for President George Bush lost the 1992 election partly because voters thought he had lost touch with the electorate. “People felt Bush didn’t know what was going on in their lives,” Shields said at the time.

Because Americans felt a new leader would give them renewed hope for the future, Shields said, Bill Clinton became president. Shields’ weekly newspaper column first appeared in the Washington Post in 1979 and is distributed nationally by Creators Syndicate. He has taught at Harvard University and the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.

A native of Weymouth, Mass., Shields studied philosophy and history at Notre Dame. After graduation and service in the Marine Corps, he served in Washington, D.C., as a legislative assistant to then-Sen. William Proxmire of Wisconsin.


Workers from Christian Construction Co. have been at work for six weeks renovating the interior surfaces of the dome. Using careful techniques, they will restore the 100 year old murals to have an enhanced appearance without destroying any of the original work. Construction on the building is scheduled to be completed in the year 2000. In addition to work on the dome, a great deal of interior renovation will take place.

Crew takes on dome interior

By MICHELLE KRUPA

Although the Main Building has shed its pelts of scaffolding after having its exterior renovated last year, construction on this facility is far from over. For the past six weeks, crews have been working to refurbish the aesthetics of the interior of the building’s dome.

“We don’t want to eradicate any of the old artwork,” said Michael Smith, director of facilities engineering. “We just want to enhance it and allow for the original work to be preserved.”

Restoration is a thread that winds through the entire project of the Main Building dome restoration, according to Chuck Dwyer, artist foreman for Conrad Schmitt Studios. “We are putting back everything that was used to be here. Before we started, everything was really dirty, so we’re cleaning it all and making it look new again,” Dwyer said.

The artwork being refurbished was designed for the University nearly 100 years ago by Luigi Gregori, a Vatican muralist, artist in residence, and art professor at Notre Dame. Because of the age and significance of the work, much care must be taken in its upkeep.

The year-long project began six weeks ago when workers from the Christian Construction Co. and Conrad Schmitt documented all the original art in the work area for preservation purposes.

Since the inside of the dome is lined with tin with a sand finish, it was decided that the finish was therefore applied, in order to consolidate any fading paint and protect the original work. Now, any touch-up work can be done without detriment to Gregori’s original murals.

“They are very crude paintings (on the dome’s ceiling) because when you’re looking at them from a few hundred feet away, they really don’t need to be that detailed,” Dwyer said. “But we’re doing some touch-up painting.”

In addition to the murals themselves, work is being done on the "tramele" murals, those painted on the walls that give the appearance of being 3-D but are in fact two dimensional. This will be covered with a fiberglass adhesive, repainted, and protected with a reversible varnish so as to allow for the future re-exposure of the original.

This is the last edition of The Observer until Tuesday, March 18. Have a safe and happy spring break!

Lipset: Democracy results in equality

By CHRIS SHIPLEY

Sociologist Seymour Lipset compared the history and success of the budding democracies in many Latin American countries to the state of American democracy yesterday.

Lipset’s lecture, held Thursday afternoon at the Hesburgh Center Auditorium for an audience of teachers and students, was titled “The Development of Democracy in the Americas: Latin America and Anglophone America.”

The George Mason University professor is well known throughout his field for analyzing and contrasting the states of different countries. Lipset, who has taught at Columbia, Harvard, and Stanford Universities, was involved in a number of organizations, at one point, attempted to create a University of the Americas in Costa Rica.

“A person who knows only one country knows no countries,” Lipset said, stressing the advantages one can get from comparing two or more nations.

Lipset then related to his audience the striking differences in annual income, living styles and educational standards between the United States, Canada and the countries of Latin America. According to Lipset, Canada remains the best comparison to American politics in the Western Hemisphere.

Lipset focused on the importance of his talk on the differences between Americanism, the ideologies and influence of citizens of the United States on their neighbors to the north and south, and the general sentiments of the rest of the American states.

He attributed the economic and social gaps between Latin America and the United States to the varying social conditions which have fostered democracy in these areas.

Over the course of his speech, Lipset made clear that the United States has led the Western Hemisphere in industrialization, technological advances, and education. He referred to this notion as “American exceptionalism.”

Lipset’s idea of “American exceptionalism” was reinforced by his references to the United States long record of egalitarianism, the unique character of American religion, and its ability to fend off the influence of communism.

“People who know no countries, one country knows no coun-

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

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GOP unveils House priorities

By DAVID ESPO
Associated Press Writer

Two months after the opening gavel fell on the congressional session, majority Republicans in the House today unveiled a list of legislative priorities ranging from tax relief to full disclosure of campaign contributions.

"We believe these initiatives will bring lasting, tangible benefits," House Speaker Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., told a news conference announcing the 13-point list.

Two months after the opening of Congress, Gingrich said it was unfair to compare this year's pace with last year's agenda for the minority that suddenly found itself in power, he said. The original list of items being pushed by Republicans was off to a slow start. But he ducked out after only a few words, avoiding questions.

With Gingrich continuing to maintain the low profile he has shown since being reprimanded by the House in January for ethics misdeeds, House Majority Leader Dick Armey, R-Texas, was asked who was running the House.

"The speaker is running the House. The speaker is the leader," he asserted. Armey would not answer a question on how long it would take Gingrich to decide how to take charge. The development of legislative priorities comes at a time when Gingrich is continuing to work on his low profile he has shown since being reprimanded by the House in January for ethical misdeeds, House Majority Leader Dick Armey, R-Texas, was asked who was running the House.

"The speaker is running the House. The speaker is the leader," he asserted. Armey would not answer a question on how long it would take Gingrich to decide how to take charge. That was the initiative-laden, agenda-driven, agenda-driven agenda of a minority that suddenly found itself in power, he said.

The list of priorities also included improved access to health care, fighting gang violence and drugs, and reduced government regulation of business.

Topping the list was balancing the federal budget, including enactment of a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution. That measure is stalled in committee in the House and was defeated in the Senate on Tuesday by a single vote.

The development of legislative priorities comes at a time when some GOP lawmakers are grumbling that their own leadership has failed to produce an agenda for the Congress that convened in January.

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Dome

continued from page 1

inal work. New 23 carat gold leafing is also being added to detail the walls.

Many of the buildings windows, including the "monumen-

tal windows" on the walls of the dome, were replaced during the exterior construction and are being cleaned again during this project. Lighting is also being installed to allow for viewing through the building.

Paula Carlaccini, project manager for facilities engineering, commented, "We can all remember not being able to see through the dome when driving down Notre Dame Ave. because of the grime. "Now, with the new windows and lights, it should be quite clear," she said.

The project is only one part of the dome's planned $50 million renovation, which will last until the year 2000. The work will include electrical and duct maintenance, painting, and wall demolition and reorganiza-

tion of space.

Lipset

continued from page i

break with the governing politi-
cal system has ensured their im-
mediate success in the glob-

al order.

"People do prefer democra-
cy, and now they need to par-
cipate in the political sys-
tem," Lipset said.

At the lecture, organized by the Columbia, graduate students from the international system must be aware of the sta-

tist approach to politics that many Latin American govern-

ments are taking. While Latin America is now more economi-

cally, industrially, and politi-
cally stable, corruption could soon become a looming prob-

lem which will need to be dealt with.

"The fact that statism remains a strong view in Latin America doesn't mean the mov-

ing of democracy in those states," he said.

In conclusion, Lipset hig-

lighted the growing degree of individualism in the states of Central and Latin America.

Happy St. Patrick's Day
from
The Observer

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L.S. AYRES
Surfing the Internet uncovers many Notre Dame surprises

Andy Rooney would have been proud of me last night. I asked myself, "I wonder what I can find on the Internet by typing in the words 'Notre Dame' in my search engine?"

After thousands of listings were compiled, I thought I could share the information with you, dear reader, as an experiment which I considered for my project. The content is stranger than fiction, as only the real world can create.

Gary Caruso

Listings generally fell into three categories: Notre Dame students or alumni, high school students (some from Notre Dame High Schools) and Notre Dame haters. Students tended to love sports, sex, parties, and surfing while quoting various campus slogans. Many students loved everything ND or characterized the university in a sophisticated or quite academic manner. While diversity certainly abounded in the listings, the only one found in the listings was shared by husband and wife, Tim and J Billy. "Hobbies: TIM LOVES GOLF AND NOTRE DAME FOOTBALL, CINDI LOVES COOKING. Occupation: TIM IS A SALES MANAGER, CINDI IS A STUDENT. Quote: GO IRISH!"

Hate pervaded the Internet search. Some ND fans hated other schools: "E-mail me if you wish to join the anti-Boston College football club!" Others hated ND: "Alabama football, Watching Letterman. Quote: When you like Notre Dame, everything else is just garbage!"

Naturally, ND students liked other teams too. E-Man lists "Hobbies: Sports (Minnesota Vikings and Notre Dame)." However, more importantly, he and a fellow female student who lists herself as "Hobbies: European History, Star Trek," occupied "overworked student" seem to sum up this exercise in their profile: "G-MAN NEVER BLUFFS. If you ain't the lead dog, the scenery never changes," and "Never eat more than you can lift."

Gary J. Caruso, Notre Dame '73, worked at the U.S. House of Represenatives for 18 years and is now a publicist with the International Union of Electronics Workers (IUE) in Washington, D.C. His column appears every other Friday in this Journal. His Internet address is hostline@aol.com.

What's drinking? Notre Dame football, on the other hand, ranked high with many. A public relations associate for Earle Palmer Brown lists "Travel, Notre Dame football, reading, writing." An Electronics Executive notes "Notre Dame, golf, NOTRE DAME ALUMNI THINGS. One listing was shared by husband and wife, Tim and J Billy. "Hobbies: TIM LOVES GOLF AND NOTRE DAME FOOTBALL, CINDI LOVES COOKING, Occupation: TIM IS A SALES MANAGER, CINDI IS A STUDENT. Quote: GO IRISH!"

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Drums beat. Barred arms and legs flail wildly in rhythm to a ritual chant, the voices rising up into the night sky with the black smoke from a centralized ing up into the night sky with the fire. fueled by sacrificial offerings.

Legba, his eyes fixated on the mechanically stab a small cloth with features mirroring the doll, blazing flames while his hands doll repeatedly. Five hundred invisible stabbings.

miles away, an innocent victim, the world of vodou. writhes in pain from numerous, invisible stabblings.

Ah yes, a realistic glimpse into the world of vodou.

At one time or another, we all have probably witnessed this Hollywood depiction of vodou. It has long been viewed as a form of evil magic. In reality, it is an established religion with a long history and strong following. "It is a religion to help people," said Doug Bradley, curator of the Arts of the Americas, Africa and Oceania at the Snite Museum of Art.

The people of the Vodou religion communicate with their loa (gods) through a hougon (priest) or mambo (priestess) in order to ask for protection, advice, love, strength, or any other aspect of their lives.

In the rotunda of the Main Building, the Snite Museum of Art has displayed various interpretations of this religion which portrays symbols, images and pictures through flags. The exhibition features a Veve, a Veve sibumby, which is found on a particular flag, specifically dedicated to the deity. It is the most popular within the Vodou religion and made by hand to design the symbols and image relevant to the loa to which the flag is dedicated.

This painstakingly long process results in an intricate design that contains unbel- lievable detail. It is difficult to do the pieces justice with words, for the beauty and originality of each of the flags can only be appreciated through personal inspection.

After looking at a flag as a whole, look closely at the countless individual sequins that compose it (press your nose against the glass if necessary). If you take nothing else from this exhibit, it will give you an opportunity to see the virtue of patience manifested in each handwritten sequin.

"The purpose of exhibits such as those in the rotunda," stated Bradley, "is to highlight the artistic accomplishments of those who come from wide, diverse, ethnic backgrounds. Notre Dame has been known as a predominantly white, Catholic institution for 150 years. The University wants all students to feel welcome from all backgrounds. The rotun- da, being the interior area of the home, is the symbolic heart of the University. Much activity takes place and many deci- sions are made in this building, so it is a wonderful place to display such pieces of art." It was fascinating to examine each flag and figure out the story or message behind each symbol and image. A four-armed cross represents the loa, Legba. Iloun, lord of the Crossroads, and can be found on almost every flag, regardless of the main loa the individual flag represents. In order for humans to contact the spiritual world, all communications must go through Legba. In ceremonies, Legba is addressed first and last. "However, Legba is a trickster," said Bradley. "He is demanding and stern. You don't take him lightly. If your supplica- tion doesn't work, you're probably not paying close enough attention to Legba."

When asked if Legba was the loa you would least like to meet in a dark alley, Bradley immediately pointed out the flag of Baron Samedi in response. Samedi (Hat Man) — you'll know it by the huge red wings — watches over the land of the dead and is the one loa who "will kill if will." If someone is abusing the power of vodou by requesting evil to come upon an enemy in worship, Samedi may turn the evil back around on him or her. This is an effective and rather efficient way to keep corruption in check. The Vodou religion believes in the God of Christianity. However, the Christian deity is perceived to be so remote and distant that it does not affect everyday life and, therefore, is to be dealt with after death. Worshippers concentrate on improving the quality of life, so requests go to the specific loa of the Vodou religion. Emphasis is put on paying the debts to the deities here and now that affect day-to-day life and are ever present.

In admiring each of the flags, one sees images of more than one loa present on a flag. Usually the main loa's veve or image is the focus, with other images strategically placed in the background. Twin snakes which represent Damballah, the god of fertility; an anchor to symbolize the Agoue Royo, the lord of the sea; and the brazier, sword and serpent which represent Brise, the chief of the forests and cultivator of fruit trees, are some of the common symbols one will see present in these flags.

This exhibit in the rotunda began in February and will continue until March 17. After that, the flags will be displayed two at a time on a rotating basis in the Snite. This flag collection is on loan from Peter Joralemon.

After learning about the true history and culture of the Vodou religion, one has to laugh at the ignorance of the recent ridiculous chantre ritual scene that has been the predominant popular paradigm, especially in American culture. It is interesting to see Vodou as a legitimate religion serving to help its believers in a positive way.

And unless you've seen the flag of Samedi, don't be so quick to dismiss the power of that loa.
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**WANTED**
Irish will need depth to pave way to success

By GENE BRATALIK
Sports Writer

While many of the students prepare to go home for spring break, the Notre Dame Men's Golf Team will be spending their break along the sunny shores of Florida.

The men's team will begin their spring season six months after winning their second consecutive Big East championship. Unlike their female counterparts, the men's team is dependent on all the members playing well. The team is led by senior co-captain Joel Hepler. Hepler has been a four-year member of the team, and was a key component to the team's capturing their first Big East championship.

During the fall, he led the team to a tenth place finish out of 24 teams by finishing 23rd at the Falcon Cross-Creek Invitational with a stroke average of 74.7. Joel and fellow co-captain Brian Donohue will be looked upon by Coach George Thomas to provide leadership.

Donohue is another four-year member of the team looking to help the team make the NCAA tournament. Throughout the fall, Donohue consistently finished as the number two golfer for the Irish. His 77 on the par 71 Olympic Club Lake Course (site of 1998 U.S. Open Golf Tournament) enabled the men's team to capture 14th place at the prestigious San Francisco Invitational last fall. The golfer that impressed people in the fall was sophomore Brad Hardin. Hardin established himself as a top-notch golfer by shooting a 71 in the final round of the campus championship, and out of all the competition around Indiana, to Kentucky, Ohio and finally Ohio to face tough competition around the country. Hardin's stroke average of 73.8. Hardin's second place finish at the Big East Championships in Maryland enabled Irish to keep their first round lead over the competition, especially Seton Hall and Georgetown, enabling them to win the title again.

Hardin also led all Notre Dame golfers with a stroke average of 76.7. His 77 on the par 71 Olympic Club Lake Course (site of 1998 U.S. Open Golf Tournament) enabled the Irish to fifth place out of 17 teams. Both will be looked upon next year with the dismissal of Hepler and Donohue.

The newcomers for the team are freshmen Jeff Connell and Todd Vernon. Both were impressive in their debuts, especially Vernon. Vernon finished thirteenth at the Butler Invitational, finishing first for the team. His opening round of 75 led the team during the opening round. Over the next three years, Connell and Vernon will be the future, and Coach Thomas will expect them to step up and establish themselves by the time they become seniors.

After spending spring break in Florida, the Irish will travel around Indiana, to Kentucky, and finally Ohio to face tough competition around the country.
petition to individual will have positive effects on some, while others may have difficulty not having cheer from the sideline. "It should prove interesting who will react well to the different format. Some tend to do better as a team, while others like to compete individually," said head coach Yves Auriol.

In order to make a solid run at the championships, ten fencers in the five events will need to qualify. Similar to the regular season, the team will need to depend not upon their stars, but upon the second-tier fencers.

Of those members who will need to step up will be Junior epee captain Anne Hoos. Hoos and fellow senior Nicole Mustelli will be battling to fill the role of second fencer behind probable top qualifier freshman epeeist Magda Krol.

"When you compare Nicole and I, we are neck and neck. I don't think this one tournament will decide things," said head coach Yves Auriol.

"Both of us are great competitors, and I'm sure whoever qualifies will do a great job.

A similar difficulty occurs in the men's epee. Junior epeeist C.J. Jackson has the inside track to qualify, but junior epeeist Brian Stone and senior epeeist Brice Dille will be competing to fill the final spot.

"C.J. and I have been close ever since fencing in high school, so it just feels natural to compete with him. But Brice has been here a long time and put in his dues. It would be really nice if all three of us ended up in the final to determine who goes on," said Stone.

So through the stars of the team will be leaders in the competition, it will be the depth that will determine whether the 1997 fencing squad has a destiny with victory.

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**Swimming**

Swimmers hope to make splash at NCAAs

The Notre Dame women's swimming team has qualified two swimmers for the 1997 NCAA swimming championships March 20-22. The championships will take place at the Indiana University Natatorium at IUPUI in Indianapolis. The Irish will be represented by senior All-American Erin Brooks and freshman Alison Newell.

Brooks will swim the 100- and 200-meter backstroke and will be making her second appearance at the NCAA championships after earning All-American honors in 1996 as a junior. The Millington, N.J., native placed 10th at the 1996 NCAA championships in the 200-meter backstroke and was 13th in the 100-meter backstroke.

Newell will swim in the 100- and 200-meter butterfly in her first appearance in the NCAA championships.

The Parker, Colo., native won the 200-meter butterfly at the Big East championships in a University record time of 55.86 seconds.

The pair recently led the Irish to their first ever Big East women's swimming and diving championship on Feb. 22.

Brooks won both the 100 and 200 backstroke titles last month for the second consecutive year.

The 100-meter butterfly and backstroke will be swum on Friday, March 21, with the 200-meter backstroke swim on Saturday, March 22.
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2. Formulated close events in the Notre Dame and Saint Mary's Community.
3. Home of the Hittites
4. Lovecraft stories
5. Onetime (ing operation?)
6. Go after
7. Farm areas
8. Accepted
9. Mirrored
10. Ode subject
11. At all
12. Acuterate
13. Tao, Wairedly
14. Letter box deposits

DOWN

1. 1963 Martin Ritt
2. 1976 Winter Olympics Host City
3. 1961 Charlton Heston portrait
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The Irish fencing team will head to Wayne State this weekend where they will compete in the Midwest Regional. The stakes are high as it represents a chance to qualify for the NCAA Championships.

**Duellers face crunch time**

By DAVID FRICK

Sports Writer

For the fencing team, the preparation is over. Now it is time to get down to business. The squad will be traveling on Saturday to Wayne State to compete in the Midwest Regional Qualifiers. Those who finish among the top five will have a chance to compete in the 1997 NCAA Fencing Championship in Colorado Springs, Colo.

The format of this tournament will differ from many of the regular season meets. Instead of competing as a team, each fencer will compete individually. The fencers will be put into a pool to compete against other Midwest competitors. The top 80 percent will continue to the next round, where the process will be repeated until the qualifiers are determined. This change from team competition to individual competition is designed to give more fencers a chance to compete at the highest level.