Concern spurs changes in ND sex assault policy

But some claim officials should take additional steps

By JASON McFARLEY
Assistant News Editor

Prompted in part by student concerns last spring about rape on campus, Notre Dame officials this recent seminar announced a set of changes aimed at bolstering the University’s responsiveness to victims of sexual assault.

"What we’re looking at is how to address the issues that came up. We’re trying to be very responsive," said Bill Kirk, assistant vice president for Residence Life.

Kirk said that meetings last summer with representatives from the offices of Student Affairs and Residence Life yielded four changes to the way the University handles cases of alleged sexual assault:

- A change in the 2001 edition of the student handbook, du Lac, states that "student victims will not be subject to disciplinary action" in connection with alcohol or parietal violations related to a sexual assault.
- Two brochures detailing resources and courses of action for sexual assault victims will be printed this academic year.
- A committee will be established to advise University officials on issues and procedures pertaining to sexual assault on campus. Representatives from the student body, faculty, various University offices, Saint Mary’s and Sex Offense Services, among others will sit on the committee.
- A staff or faculty member will be appointed by ResLife as an official resource person for campus rape victims.

"They might seem merely cosmetic, but these are certainly significant changes," said Dennis Moore, director of public relations.

Sexual assault victims, however, question if these changes will be enough.

A long way to go

Kor’s concerns about sexual assault at Notre Dame are the type that perhaps only come from a firsthand knowledge of the issue. She’s had her share of it, first as a rape victim in 1997 and then as an outspoken champion for victims’ rights. She is an advocate for increased campus support services.

Malloy links tight budget to ND growth

Quality costs money, and Notre Dame will have to spend a lot of money if it wants to continue to provide a high quality education to its students, U.S. Rep. Edward MaIloy told the Faculty Senate Wednesday.

"Generations of fundraising campaigns topped the $1 billion mark last month, but Notre Dame’s growth, much of which has been spurred by that campaign, is creating a financial crunch," MaIloy said.

"We have a new reality at Notre Dame today," he said. "The University has grown in size, complexity and competitiveness. New buildings require more money for maintenance. Expanded academic programs need funding for research and classes, and most significantly, increasing the size of the faculty necessitates a lot of spending."

One of the goals of the "Generations" campaign is to hire 150 new professors. The University is approaching that mark, and will continue to increase the faculty until it is reached. Administrators are also trying to keep Notre Dame in the game in an escalating bidding war for top academicians.

"If we are going to be a great university in the very best sense, then we have to be competitive for the very best faculty," Malloy said, but he acknowledged that that would not be easy. "If we’re going to be competitive, it’s going to cost us a lot more money than in years past."
INSIDE COLUMN

Smudging our identities

As you may know, Wednesday was National Coming Out Day. For the past several years, students at Saint Mary’s College have used this day as a celebration of diversity and to show their solidarity with those struggling with issues of sexual identity.

Various ways students choose to show their support include rainbow ribbon distribution, the provision of information concerning community issues regarding homosexuality and the appearance of signs posted by student groups. Most recognizable, though, are the chalk-written phrases adorning the sidewalks on Saint Mary’s campus.

Friday morning, a group of dedicated students of Saint Mary’s College, lesbian, bisexual, and the opposition or any other sign of diversity. If you are not

The McGill Daily does not have a valid lease, ruled Judge Irving Halmor at the conclusion of court proceedings last week at the Palais de Justice. The ruling concludes a four-month lawsuit between the Daily and the Students’ Society of McGill University over a lease dispute after SSMU deemed it necessary to lock the paper out of its offices.

The Daily’s primary contention was that although there was no signed physical lease, past behavior between SSMU and the Daily constituted a legally binding agreement. Michael Bergman, attorney for the Daily, argued that lease arrangements made between SSMU and clubs housed in the University Centre building in the mid-1990s did not apply to the Daily. The focus on the Daily’s right to be in Shatner, Bergman argued, is that the ‘State between McGill University and SSMU for the building. is co-terminous with the lease between SSMU and the Daily, that is, the Daily’s lease expires when the Daily, the focus on the Daily’s right to be in Shatner, Bergman argued, is that the ‘State between McGill University and SSMU for the building. is co-terminous with the lease between SSMU and the Daily, that is, the Daily’s lease expires when the Daily.

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This Week at Notre Dame/Saint Mary’s

Thursday

- Lecture: "Progressing Toward Settlement," 12:30 p.m., C-103 Hesburgh Library

- Center: History Week Group, 7:30 p.m.

- Lecture: "Race: Dance Folk Dance"

- Lecture: "Divinity and Intellectuals,"

- Lecture: "The committee on Notre Dame's Position on the Ordination of Women:"

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**Board of Governance**

**Members cite alleged gay bias**

By AMY GREENE

"Coming Out Day" and defacement of student displays headline the Board of Governance meeting on Wednesday.

"Every year people across the nation and in colleges experience "Coming Out Day,"" said board member and Feminist Collective representative Julie Frischkorn.

Frischkorn discussed the unfairness that some students experience when students deface the signs or gay-themed paraphernalia they display.

"I don't have a problem with people sharing their different viewpoints," said Frischkorn. "But at the same time it's unfair for students to discriminate by taking down and defacing signs. We do not need that on this campus."

Frischkorn also said that the Feminist Collective has been discriminated against in the past.

"When the Right to Life groups placed a cemetery in front of McCandless no one spray painted or defaced those crosses," she said.

In other BOG news:

- A sister-dorm program between Saint Mary's and Notre Dame could be a new BOG project in the future. Junior Ana Ashraf and Gina Caponi recently met with some Notre Dame women who wrote a letter to The Observer regarding the junior class T-shirt.

"I felt threatened by the letter," said Ashraf about the T-shirt letter that caused friction between the Saint Mary's and Notre Dame student bodies.

"We wound up meeting Sunday, ordered pizza, and talked for hours. We gave them a tour of campus and it was a really great experience for all of us," said Ashraf.

I think a social event with the women of Notre Dame and Saint Mary's would really help to get rid of the stereotypes," she added. "We will be around each other for a very long time and the women of both schools should really get to know one another."

Ashraf and Caponi proposed a sister-dorm program as a possible solution to reduce the stereotypes.

"Overall we've had a positive experience with Notre Dame women, and there are definite possibilities with the women there and here to start a program. In a sense, we are sister," said Caponi.

- BOG will be "walking around campus to address security issues on campus after fall break," said Crissie Welsh, student body president.

Students' concerns about security on campus have recently increased, and BOG will work with security to address concerns.

- BOG announced that trick-or-treating in the residence halls will take place Oct. 30. The senior SFR is scheduled for Nov. 3. Fall Day On Campus is Nov. 5.

"The Showcase of Careers" will be held in LeMans lobby Nov. 9.

Senior Dad's Weekend is scheduled for Nov. 17 to 19.

**Bruno's Pizza**

**All-you-can-eat**

**Buffet**

*Pizza* $6.00

*Pasta*

*Salad*

*Other Italian Dishes*

Every Thursday at 5

2610 Prairies Avenue

288-3320

**HPC serves several roles on ND campus**

By KRISTIN ALLEN

Tuesday, November 8

Every Tuesday night, the presidents of Notre Dame's residence halls file into LaFortune for their weekly Hall Presidents Council (HPC) meeting.

"HPC is just another branch of student government. It acts as a representative of residence life. It's mission is to carry out a successful and happy stay in the dorm," said Kate Stephan, Welsh Hall president.

"HPC is just another branch of student government. It acts as a representative of residence life. It's mission is to carry out a successful and happy stay in the dorm," said Rak.

In addition to dorm presidents, the council consists of two co-chairs and an eight-person cabinet. Positions filled by past hall presidents.

This year, Rak added a new cabin member who is in charge of service.

Rak said this addition is necessary because the women of both schools have different roles on ND campus.

The council has a board, consisting of the HPC presidents, which allocates those funds, Stephan explained.

As a representative of residence life, the council is responsible for student government-provided money to dorms.

The council has a board, consisting of the HPC presidents, which allocates those funds, Stephan explained.

However, dorms or receive funds after a formal application process, according to Rak.

As a result, not every dorm gets exactly what it requests. The budget committee will sometimes grant all or part of the money requested, but in certain cases the committee will reject an application.

A dorm has the option of going a formal review process if it is not pleased with the committee's decision.

In the interests of equity, HPC tries to balance the budget committee with members from each campus and gender, from both male and female dorms.

The council also tries to avoid picking personnel committee members whose dorms served on the committee in the previous year, said Rak.
Changes continued from page 1

vices. Yet from where she stands now, the matter’s taken final form. University senior, three years removed from her rape attack — Kori says time has done little to quell her fears about rape happening to her or her friends, especially female University students. When the woman opted not to move forward with the case, Kori said Moore. "Some of our concerns can be addressed,” she added.

The issue became a source of controversy at Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s last spring, after The Observer reported on the alleged rape of a female University student. When the woman opted not to take any course of action against her alleged assailant, many students openly derided the closed-door nature and limited power of the campus disciplinary hearings offered through the University’s Office of Residence Life.

But the concern prompted both campuses to hold sexual assault forums and lectures with rape victims as guest speakers. Also added to the discourse was a South Bend Tribune four-part series dealing with on-campus rape and an Observer feature article detailing a 1997 rape in a Notre Dame residence hall and the victim’s experiences throughout the disciplinary hearing that ensued. "I'm excited that we've identified positive changes. We're trying to do more now," Kirk said.

But Kori isn't so sure. While she said that any changes University policy undergoes to make sexual assault procedures more victim-friendly "are a step in the right direction," Kori admitted that the changes are a little less than she might have hoped for.

"To be honest, I'm surprised that I've seen any changes in my time here. But the changes aren't ideal," she said.

Calling for an advocate

What concerns Kori most is that the proposed changes do not include the hiring of a full-time victim's advocate. The staff or faculty member who will eventually be hired as a resource person will not be full-time, and according to Kirk, said Kirk said there are currently no plans to hire an advocate. Several universities around the country employ advocates. Last summer, representatives from the University Counseling Center made a formal proposal to the Office of Student Affairs, supporting the hiring of a professional advocate.

"The University has received a lot of suggestions from both students and staff members concerned with the matter," Dennis Moore director of public relations

The other brochure will be available to victims of sexual assault. The other brochure will be

Kori pointed to the change in du Lac as a positive step toward getting victims to come forward. In the past, many students may have feared punishment for underage drinking or parietal violations, she said. The new rules state students will not be disciplined for these offenses.

The rules are now made explicit, it's been the University’s long-standing policy to disregard such violations in cases of alleged sexual assault.

While the change to du Lac has already taken effect, other changes will be gradually implemented throughout the semester, according to Kirk. "To gladda have seen changes like this while I'm still a student here. I hope the University continues to be responsive to the needs of sexual assault victims." Kori rape victim

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European kids impoverished: At least 50 million children in eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union live in poverty and are exposed to levels of tuberculosis directly associated with the Third World, a new report says. The report, titled "The Silent Crisis," was released Wednesday by the European Children's Trust, a non-governmental organization. Titled "The Silent Crisis," the report said poverty in the region has increased more than tenfold over the last decade.

Israelis accept mediator: The United Nations often has been viewed by Israel as favoring the Arabs. However, Israel's acceptance of Secretary-General Kofi Annan as a Middle East mediator is evidence of a recent change in Israel's attitude to the world body. The traditional anti-Israeli voting pattern by the U.N. membership certainly hasn't disappeared.

House debates education: The addition of 13 federal education programs and $10 billion in spending over the past four years have failed to improve students' reading and science scores, a House panel said Wednesday. GOP leaders said the report by a House subcommittee's Republican majority justifies the push for their education agenda: state freedom from federal spending rules, tax-free savings accounts for private and parochial schools, vouchers and expanded charter schools, and the conversion of $3 billion worth of programs into general grants.

Judge orders Ford recall: A judge took the unprecedented step Wednesday of ordering the recall of as many as 1.7 million Ford cars and trucks sold in California, accusing the automaker of concealing a dangerous design flaw that can cause the vehicles to stall in traffic. The ruling compiles Ford's troubles as the automaker tries to steer its way out of the Firestone tire recall crisis. Ford has insisted all along that the ignition module at issue is safe, and it said it will appeal the ruling.

Hawkins sentenced for killing infant: A man who pleaded guilty to reckless homicide in the death of a 4-month-old baby has been sentenced to seven years in prison and a year on probation. David Hawkins, 24, of Griffith was sentenced Tuesday in the death of Jacob Shebib, also of Griffith. Hawkins, the boy's godfather, told police he struck Jacob while he was babysitting. Before the sentencing, Hawkins apologized to the family.

Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori talks to Justice Minister Alberto Bustamante and Eduardo Latorre outside the Government Palace in Lima. Fujimori announced the disbanding of the Peruvian National Intelligence Service.

Fujimori orders spy agency to close

Campaign 2000
Candidates take softer tone in debate

Associated Press

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. By turns polite and prickly, Al Gore and George W. Bush debated stark differences on a wide range of issues Wednesday night, treading carefully to avoid offending voters or breaking precedent with their presidential mentors.

It got a little bit personal in the end to keep things lively.

Seeking an advantage in their nip-and-tuck race for president, the major party candidates painted different visions of the role of American military power overseas, with Gore defending humanitarian and nation-building missions and Bush warning that the U.S. forces are overstretched.

"I would be judicious about how we use our military," said the two-term Texas governor.

The policies of President Clinton and forerunner Bush loomed large over the second of three presidential debates. Gore suggested the United States could have saved lives if the Clinton administration had acted earlier in Rwanda and Bush chuckled slightly when asked to assess foreign interventions spearheaded by his father.

"Some of them I've got a conflict of interest on, if you know what I mean," he said with a smile.

The candidates agreed in many remarks on many matters, but clashed often on foreign policy, hate crime legislation, same-sex marriage, gun control, health care, taxes and the environment. Time and again the rivals took pains to stress their agreements, sensing that voters are turned off by conflict. Gore, in particular, had to mind his manners after his heavy sighs and interruptions put off some voters in the last debate.

"It seems like we're having a love fest tonight," the Texas governor said at one point.

Peru

Market Watch 10/11

DOW JONES 10,413.79 -110.61

Up: 361 Same: 239 Down: 790

Company Volume: 1,183,516,544

AMEX: 932.42 -6.52

Nasdaq: 5168.49 -72.05

NYSE: 690.96 +1.39

S&P 500: 1184.59 +0.52

Top 5 Volume Leaders

NTEL COMP (NTL) 3.91 -2.19 35.38

LI-CENT TECH INC (LIT) 0.27 -0.12 25.25

CIDCO SYSTEMS (CICS) 0.13 -0.06 51.19

MOBILE INTL (MINT) 0.32 -0.06 25.46

MICROSOFT COMP (MSFT) 0.18 +0.18 35.75

Perry: Tuesday's debate was a demonstration of the candidates' ability to appeal to a broad electorate. Bush's easygoing manner and Gore's more measured approach were highlighted, but both candidates tried to project a sense of seriousness and substance.

"I think both candidates showed a willingness to engage in the substance of the campaign," said Mark Green, a political scientist at the University of Virginia. "I don't think either candidate made a major misstep, but I think Gore probably was the more successful."
FALL BREAK THIS WEEK!!! nothing is going on here.

Movies@debartolo

**the patriot & the exorcist**

- **Thursday**: 10:30
- **Friday**: 8:00 & 10:30
- **Saturday**: 8:00 & 10:30

*renowned hypnotist* one night only

- **Friday**: 10:00 pm
- **Stephan Center**
- **Tickets**: $5 at Laffun info desk

**a perfect storm & rules of engagement**

- **Thursday**: 10:30
- **Friday**: 8:00 & 10:30
- **Saturday**: 8:00 & 10:30

*and we may even have a special surprise for you... but only if you are good!@sub*
Finances
continued from page 1

Full professors at Notre Dame currently earn an average of $108,000, placing the university 28th in the country in that category, Dame currently earn an average of $108,000, placing the university 28th in the country in that category, University 28th in the country in that category, and there are other expenses besides salary. Malloy said health benefit costs will rise 15 percent next year, and he noted that, for every professor it hires, Notre Dame must provide research funding, library resources and other costs. "The single most expensive reality is the growth of faculty and staff," he said. Nevertheless, Notre Dame has its highest operating budget ever — $535 million — and enjoyed a record-breaking year in endowment growth last year. Malloy said. The endowment is now $3.5 billion, placing it among the nation's elite, and that has enabled the University to substantially increase financial aid for both undergraduates and graduate students. The number of endowed professorships has also reached an all-time high. Earlier this week, Notre Dame celebrated the creation of its 150th endowed chair, and, according to Malloy, this growth has been a great improvement for the University. "If you think about our first endowed chair our 10th, 50th, 100th, and if you see who has either been attracted to the University, or promoted, I think you see the concrete and tangible results in the people we can attract or promote," he said. Malloy gave a short talk to the faculty and then answered a series of questions submitted in advance before opening the floor for a brief question and answer session.

Nader continued from page 1

Nader also mentioned the need for universal health care in America. "Here's what some Western governments achieved 30 and 40 years ago which we still have not achieved in this country, the richest country in the world," Nader said. "Universal health insurance coverage for all those people. They got it, we don't. With 80 million people and children without health insurance, 10 million more when than Gore and Clinton were elected in 1992, so much for universal health care step by step. Does that mean backwards or forwards, Al Gore?" "Western Europe and Canada got coverage for their people; we didn't. Why? Because powerful economic forces now represented by the giant HMOs, hospital chains, drug companies said no. They said no to our government, and our government wasn't strong enough to tell them to back off. And so these giant corporations are holding America down on one of the most critical rights of any civilized society."

By examining the minimum wage, Nader called into question the so-called prosperity that the U.S. is experiencing. "The minimum wage in 1968 when our country was half the size that it is today, only $2.15 an hour," he said. "Today, it's $5.15 an hour. The economy has doubled. In any stable and strong democracy, the minimum wage in purchasing power would be double what it was in 1968, not $2.15 less. Those are not living wages paid by giant corporations whose stock is skyrocketing and whose profits are spiraling upwards."

Nader noted the similarities between Gore and Bush on issues ranging from corporate welfare, foreign policy, the death penalty, the WTO and helping the small farmer. "What is the difference between Al Gore and George W. Bush in the area of enforcement against corporate crime, fraud, abuse?" Nader asked. "If Bush and Gore have anything to say about tougher corporate law enforcement? Do you ever hear them say I'm going to be tough on corporate crime. I'm going to be tough on the crime in the suites? No way. Those are the companies that are funding their elections."

Nader criticized the two leading candidates for their stances on international relations. "I see no difference essentially between Gore and Bush on foreign policy," he added. "Our country will still support dictators and oligarchs cut ting deals with big multi-national corporations and even 10 years after the end of the Soviet Union. Will our country support the workers and peasants and the downtrodden of the third world for a change?"

Ralph Nader was born in 1934 in Winsted, Conn. He is a magna cum laude graduate from Princeton University and a graduate of Harvard Law School. He gained national prominence in 1963 with his bestselling book, "Unsafe at Any Speed: The Designed-In Dangers of the American Automobile," which exposed the wrongdoing within General Motors and causing the entire automobile industry to make safer cars.

Enjoy dining out in a big way with juicy Chicago style steaks in hassle-free downtown South Bend. Pull up a chair to a tender filet, an extra thick t-bone, or our specialty, 12 oz. of USDA prime New York strip steak. Lighter options, too.
During my two decades in law enforcement and security work, I have conducted many classes on self-defense for women. Despite my sculpted body (hidden underneath a more modest exterior) and my lightning reflexes (I swat flies before they can even buzz), you thought it was a good idea to refer me to the juveniles in your family. I leave the rough stuff up to people like Officer Sue Tubbs and her excellent team of Rape Aggression Defense Instructors. (You can reach Sue at 1-5555.)

Here are our self-defense tips for women in the Notre Dame community:

1. Don't drink when you are underage. There is no good reason to break this law. There is a reason the drinking age is 21.

2. If you are old enough to drink, do so in moderation. Here are a couple of tests:
   - Can you go to a bar or party and have only a soft drink, or nurse one drink? If you can, you're not strong enough to resist peer pressure. For help, contact either the Alcohol and Drug Education program (1-71970) or the University Counseling Center (1-7336).
   - If you are exploring the single's scene, go with a friend and leave with her. If you meet a really cool guy, he shouldn't be so quick to make a pass. He should take time to get to know you. He should realize that this is a good test of his staying power. Here's another good test for potential boyfriends. See what he says when you say you prefer not to drink. If he pressures you to ("You drink everybody drinks."") you'll have more fun,") "You're losing your rights") etc., tell him you're sorry, but you've got to go to your friend and you can't drink because this is something that our students workers talk about. If I told you that the guy you just met had poured a "date rape drug" into your Dr. Pepper, you would not drink it. He wouldn't be so quick to make a pass because he knows that the culprit's gone.

3. Don't ever get into a car with a driver who has been drinking (unless you were drunk yourself). If don't believe me, tell Jack Rakow a call (1-8338). He's the director of NDOSP, but he's also conducted a number of vehicular death investigations which have resulted from alcohol. Also, when you get in a car, make sure everyone is wearing a seatbelt (unless you have a death wish or own stock in a company that makes wheelchair.

4. Don't ever get into a car with a driver who has been drinking (unless you were drunk yourself). If don't believe me, tell Jack Rakow a call (1-8338). He's the director of NDOSP, but he's also conducted a number of vehicular death investigations which have resulted from alcohol. Also, when you get in a car, make sure everyone is wearing a seatbelt (unless you have a death wish or own stock in a company that makes wheelchairs.

5. Remember the country song which asked us to do the girls all get out of your seat belt and go lookin' at closing time? The reverse is also true. When you are not drinking you have high standards in choosing your companions. Don't berate your reputation when you imbibe.

6. Don't scoff at parietals — they are one of Notre Dame's many rules designed to help members of the community. You too will be writing in defense of them, when your daughter enrolls here in the 2020s. While I realize that it is not chic these days to be writing about preserving virtue, remember a couple things. When you sleep with a man, you are sleeping with all of his sex partners. You are making a statement about your own worth every time you share intimacy with someone.

7. "No" is a complete sentence. Read Gaston de Becker's book, "The Gift of Fear." Never let a boy or man force you to do something you choose not to do, like a bannister. We have an armed police department on campus, with lots of shiny handcuffs and four of the most capable investigators in the country. We would be happy to help you arrest your assailant. Even if you're afraid that some of your own behaviors may have contributed to your attack, it is advisable to call immediately for help when things don't work out the way you wished. Most sober people know this.

It's a sorry state that we have to have a terrific SafeWalk Program. Call 1-5555 if you would like someone to walk with you on campus after dark.

Thirty years ago, when I was involved in juvenile delinquency work, I served on the "Drug Abuse Task Force" for St. Joseph County. When I was asked to name the most serious drug, I answered "alcohol." In those days, it was not yet a big problem with kids aged 12-16 (my target group), but it was a huge influence in the home life of those adults who posed as family for these kids (and many of the kids who were being "raised by wolves").

Now we have seen how in the past 30 years has changed my mind about the biggest social problem facing our society. I have done a lot of observational research (in taverns, pubs, the streets of Los Angeles and a couple of visiting team sections when a certain East Coast parochial school is in town) and come up with the definitive typology of what happens when males drink. They become one of five people. Morose (named after the Greek word for "gloom"). This is the easiest drunk to deal with. He falls asleep by half-time and you get to wish he were drunk. Or when his '64 Chevrolet near-rend you on the 1967 Fourth of July weekend (but that's another story). Note: sometimes this guy is not asleep, but when he wakes he's incredibly ugly and will still try to respond to the opportunities of the moment. Usually, though, he has had too much to drink.

I'm not talking to all men, only the ones who are affected when they drink, but a lot of young women acquire one harmful trait. They become forgetful, they forget things. They forget that all the things their parents taught them. Teen. Beer. Never makes you stupid, it also makes you forget things. Rape is wrong; acquaintance rape is preventable.

Cappy Gagnon, "66, has seen too many Notre Dame students embarrass themselves in the stadium because they were drinking beer instead of hot chocolate. His two daughters heeded his advice and grew up and married without ever being crime statistics. He is a great guy and always responds to their calls.

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

Scott Adams

Scott Adams

Quote of the Day

"I don't know, I don't care, and it doesn't make any difference." — Jack Kerouac

Writer
Putting the health of America first

Prioritizing the needy

Bush proposes a plan that works

The lies and sights of the Gore campaign have carried over to the issue of health care. President Bush has decided to lie about the details of Governor Bush’s plans instead of debating the substantive differences between the plans. This article will not throw out magic, very convenient numbers, targeted at tricking the uneducated, but instead it will rely on the facts.

President Gore has proposed extending tax credits to employers who provide health insurance to their employees. He has also proposed expanding the State-Children’s Insurance Program in order to provide universal health coverage for children. George W. Bush, who governs a state with one of the worst public health records in the nation, wishes to rely upon health care companies to offer private plans. The bottom line is that poor and middle-income families will continue to have little hope of becoming insured. The Vice President’s plan will actually drive down health care costs. People without coverage are forced to seek emergency treatment at the last minute. Emergency care is incredibly expensive. Providing preventive care and early treatment under a health plan is much more sensible.

The ever-increasing number of uninsured Americans is not the only health care problem facing the U.S. today. Currently, the price of prescription drugs is spiraling out of control. In 1999, the prescription drug bill for Americans was $112 billion, and the overall cost of prescription drugs is growing at a rate of 10 percent a year. The group of Americans who hurt most by the prescription drug hike over the past ten years is elderly.

Most elderly have some form of private insurance that pays for their prescription drugs. However, as drug costs have risen, private insurers have been more and more unwilling to pick up the tab. While they are the third of elderly Americans that have no prescription drug coverage at all. With drug costs totaling several hundred dollars a month, many elderly have seen their disposable incomes plummet. They must frequently choose between filling their prescriptions or buying food to eat. Often, prescriptions go unfilled and the health of elderly Americans suffer.

Vice President Gore has proposed using our nation’s economic prosperity to help elderly Americans meet the rising cost of drugs. He has proposed spending $253 billion of the federal budget surplus over the next ten years on a comprehensive prescription drug benefit program for Medicare recipients. The prescription drug benefits would be administered through the existing Medicare system, which would continue to provide traditional coverage as well.

Governor Bush, on the other hand, has proposed that prescription drug benefits be administered directly through private insurers. What the Bush plan does is leave the elderly at the mercy of the private insurance market. The Bush campaign has tried to suggest that bureaucrats or “rats” will decide who receives drug benefits under the Gore plan. Under the Bush plan benefits will be administered by executives worried about their share prices on Wall Street. There is definitely a degree of uncertainty in Governor Bush’s plan. Not only will prescription drug benefits be less generous under a Bush administration, but seniors cannot take comfort in knowing that they will receive no pay back to the skyrocketing drug costs.

There is simply a difference in priorities between President Gore and Governor Bush. The Vice President believes it is a priority of using our nation’s prosperity to solve some of the most pressing social problems in America. He wants to use the surplus to promote universal health care and improve the health of our nation’s seniors. Governor Bush makes a priority of letting market forces solve our nation’s problems. He doesn’t seem to believe that the government should provide help to those who are unable to help themselves. The prosperity over the last eight years has given the U.S. the special opportunity to improve the lives of the most needy Americans. We must not let this opportunity slip away.

Jeffrey Staffing is the president of the College Democrats Club. Political Face-Off will run every Thursday until the election. The views expressed in column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

Smeared words speak volumes

How does it feel to be rubbed out, completely destroyed, obliterated, extinguished, figuratively, literally and with malice? Walking around Saint Mary’s campus today, I notice that the streets are chalk messages on the sidewalks. These phrases and symbols are in recognition of National Coming Out Day. Many of the sayings, however, have been rubbed out. Apparently someone hates gays enough to believe that gay voices should be silenced. Maybe they think that gay people themselves should be erased — as if by wiping away the words, they can eradicate an entire group of people.

How much loathing does it take to stuff out a person’s soul? To the individuals who remind us to celebrate diversity today and every day: do not be disheartened. It takes a lot of courage to stand up to a world filled with fear, hatred and insouciance. In this case, the message is clear: smeared words speak volumes. Please, listen to what they are saying.

Elizabeth Karl
Notre Dame Class of ’95
Oct. 11, 2000

Correction:
The CSC column, “For a More Just and Humane World,” that appeared Tuesday, Oct. 11 was written by Rene Mulligan and Kathleen Maas Weigert, the associate director for academic affairs and research at the Center for Social Concerns. Also, the CLC article that appeared on Sept. 26 incorrectly stated that Bill Kirk was the vice president of Student Affairs. He is the assistant vice president of Student Affairs. The Viewpoint staff regrets these errors.
Stiller and DeNiro can't save their comedy

By MATT NARJ
Assistant Scene Editor

Despite a poor script and weak characters, "Get Carter" is stylish filmmaking that keeps it interesting. Kay owes a debt of gratitude to cinematic virtuoso Mauro Fiore for his wet, color-saturated rendering that makes everything look dark and dangerous. Editor Jerry Greenberg deserves part of the credit too, for maintaining the picture's dynamism, of suspenseful moments. Thanks to the kinetic, staccato cuts, "Get Carter" also manages to grab the audience for most of its running time.

Kay is smart enough to tell the story, though, by film's end. It's not bad luck on Greg's part: this house is a liability waiting to be burned to the ground. Greg is the starting domino in a series of chance events that will lead to absurd understanding works itself out and the happy couple is united for a limitless future. The main problem with this movie is that it peaks too early. When Stiller destroys a precious urn containing the ashes of DeNiro's beloved mother, the audience roars with laughter and gawps. Everyone feels compassion and humor for the situation, but it is too little, too late. The viewer's suspension of disbelief is broken too soon. It's with good reason that the picture is a remake of 1967's "Point Blank," and that's probably true, but if the flash docs exhibit a handful of suspenseful moments. Thanks to the stylishness and dynamism, "Get Carter" also manages to grab the audience for most of its running time (a killer "French Connection" style car chase ups the ante by taking place on Seattle's slippery-when-wet avenues.) One could easily accuse Kay of using directorial flash to service a weak story, and that's probably true, but if the flash helps evoke the mood and energy of the characters, what's wrong with a little overkill? These characters are violent and over-the-top. It only makes sense that the look of the film follows in suit. The poorly-scripted story takes its toll on the viewer, though, by film's end. There are long scenes that stretch forever and short scenes that stand as points.

There was so much promise for "Meet the Parents," a comedy directed by Jay Roach ("Austin Powers" 1 & 2) and starring Robert DeNiro as a watchful parent and Ben Stiller as a timid boyfriend. The premise never pays off. The movie feels much longer than its 108-minute running time. The premise is simple. Stiller plays Greg Pocker, a guy who wishes to get married to my longtime girlfriend, Pam Byrnes (Teri Polo, a TV character actress). Hoping to make the right moves, Greg suggests a weekend with Pam's parents. At the end of the weekend, Greg plans to propose, having secured the parent's approval.

This is a comedy, however, and everything goes wrong for Pocker. He accidentally destroys almost everything in and around the house. Suffice it to say, the meeting with the parents is a disaster. However, as things in movies always tend to do, every misfortune leads to another.

In Jay Roach's "Meet the Parents," Ben Stiller (right) plays a man looking to gain approval from his girlfriend's father, played by Robert DeNiro. Too many unbelievable circumstances and too few laughs make the film a surprising failure.

Movie Review

BY JUDY SEYMOUR
Same Movie Critic

In "Get Carter," the visual showcase of Carter is glamorous guns-a-blazin' itself a remake is the point of a determined to guy-going-after-worse-stuff. Stallone in almost every movie could have been. The promise never pays out and the happy couple is united for a limitless future. The main problem with this movie is that it peaks too early. When Stiller destroys a precious urn containing the ashes of DeNiro's beloved mother, the audience roars with laughter and gawps. Everyone feels compassion and humor for the situation. Greg is in his house being burned to the ground.

The viewer's suspension of disbelief is broken too soon. It's with good reason that the picture is a remake of 1967's "Point Blank," and that's probably true, but if the flash docs exhibit a handful of suspenseful moments. Thanks to the stylishness and dynamism, "Get Carter" also manages to grab the audience for most of its running time (a killer "French Connection" style car chase ups the ante by taking place on Seattle's slippery-when-wet avenues.) One could easily accuse Kay of using directorial flash to service a weak story, and that's probably true, but if the flash helps evoke the mood and energy of the characters, what's wrong with a little overkill? These characters are violent and over-the-top. It only makes sense that the look of the film follows in suit. The poorly-scripted story takes its toll on the viewer, though, by film's end. There are long scenes that stretch forever and short scenes that stand as points.

Also, instead of bringing Carter's revenge to a crescendo, the climactic showdowns deflate all the tension from the film. He goes on the rampage, people get killed, and the audience stops caring. If one thinks about "Get Carter" has all the ingredients of a dumb Hollywood movie - a washed-up action star, a weak storyline and a crop of stereotypical action characters. Yet, thanks to some flashy directing, quality performances and a fair share of quality action scenes, the film succeeds in at least maintaining our attention. In that sense, "Get Carter" isn't half as bad as it could have been.

In the crime-drama "Get Carter," Jack Black revenge on his brother's killers. Director Steph the film's stereotypical plot line.
and the humor becomes less funny and more annoying. Because of this, other things leave themselves open for scrutiny.

The De Niro-Stiller relationship is scripted haphazardly. There is a scene through the whole movie that De Niro will warm to Stiller's character by movie's end. Even when he is cursing the w*n*d-i*n-law for his mistakes. Teri Polo is miscast, and her role in the film is left undone. She becomes a sounding board of heard over phrases I'm sorry Daddy and I'll be okay, Greg. A Teddy Ragi joy could have repeated the three phrases she needed to learn to be a part of this movie.
 Kashmir and Mecca. He finally put the puck past Hackett, who recovered his stick at 1:13 of the second period, and made it a 2-0 lead. Healy, who had an assist in New York's 2-1 opening-night victory over Atlanta, left the Rangers for the Vancouver Canucks after the 1997-98 season. He return as a free agent, signing a two-year deal. Messier was honored as part of a 30-minute pregame ceremony celebrating the 10th anniversary of his first NHL season with the Rangers. In the first period, Brian Boucher in the opening game of the season, which was defeated by the Penguins.

Demitra finally put the puck past Hackett, who poked it in past the Minnesota's goalie. The puck hit the back of the net for his second goal of the season. Hecht, who had been unable to score with 55 seconds left in the second period. The puck hit the back of the net for his second goal of the season. Hecht, who had been unable to score with 55 seconds left in the second period.

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CA M P U S M I N I S T R Y

Calendar of Events

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<tr>
<td>Sunday, October 8, 1:30 p.m. Keenan-Stanford Chapel</td>
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<td>Spanish Mass</td>
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<td>President: Rev. Don McNeill, csc.</td>
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<td>Monday-Tuesday, October 9-10, 11:30 pm-10:00 pm</td>
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<td>Wednesday, October 11, 10:00 p.m. Morrissey Hall Chapel</td>
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<td>Basilica of the Sacred Heart</td>
<td>Saturday, October 7 Mass</td>
<td>30 minutes after the game Most Rev. Anthony Miles, Bishop, Great Falls/Billings, MT</td>
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<td>Sunday, October 8 Mass</td>
<td>8:00 a.m. Rev. Jim King, csc.</td>
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<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Most Rev. John M. O'Arny</td>
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<td>11:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Rev. Patrick M. Neary, csc.</td>
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<td>Stepán Center</td>
<td>Saturday, October 7 Mass</td>
<td>45 minutes after the game Rev. David J. Scheider, csc.</td>
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Scripture Readings for this Coming Sunday

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<td>Gospel</td>
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<td>2:1-6</td>
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Sing for me

by Steve Warner

It was the first day of Senior week, May 14, 2000. Mother’s Day. May in all her glory was enveloping Our Lady’s campus. On that brilliant day of sun and new-formed flowers, thirty-six members of the Notre Dame Folk Choir made their way to the Maximum Security Prison in Michigan City, Indiana.

The prison is on the edge of nowhere. Past the city, hardly marked, hang a right-hand turn off US 20, keep your eye on the grotesque cooling tower of the energy plant which frowns down on the barbed wire and guards and pathetic brick structures that make up the destitution and despair of the Level Four incarceration unit. And here we are, on Mother’s Day.

It is the Choir’s third trip to the prison. Each time, more and more inmates have shown up for our concert. On this day, almost six hundred of the offenders are here. The Catholic community of the prison - some of them just newly baptized - are proud as can be. We are “their choir;” they are our hosts. For forty-five minutes before our concert, we mingle with the men of the prison. Jovial conversations, timid at first, but always with a sense of hospitality and gratitude on their part.

“We sing our songs. One hour of dedication. A dedication to the men on death row (they are not allowed to attend the concert, as they are in permanent lock-down; however, they can view it on closed-circuit tv). Some lively gospel songs, bringing the men to their feet. Always, a shouted admonition to "take your time!" As we sing, there are tears. There are closed eyes.

Carols we belong to a few. Men of the prison gently rock back and forth. Many are there with Bibles clasped close to their hearts.

At the end of the hour, a long, joyful, standing ovation. The men know that we are not here for some isolated do-good venture. This is our third trip. We know some of these guys by name, or by their faces. Some, even their stories. Over the last few years, a bit of adoption has taken place… we pray for these men through the year.

We remember them during the Lenten season. And we journey to sing for them, to let them know that they are not forgotten and that they still have dignity; and that God forgives them their errors in this world - even when many of the voices in this world cannot.

There is a certain relief when we leave. The process of being searched, passing through four sets of iron bars, the dynamic of presenting music to such a needful group of human beings, and leaving again so quickly… this leaves a mark on the soul. We exit the dingy-green corridors of security, and then, suddenly, the May sunshine, now moving toward sunset, surrounds us again. So amazingly easy that we can walk around those bars, all those armed guards, and pass easily through the gates.

There is silence around the choir, and a natural need to huddle. Across the street from the prison is a small picnic table. We gather there, to regroup, to pray for a moment for the men locked inside. Fr. Joe Ross, then the chaplain for the prison, points to the right side of the complex. "Death row," he says. We gaze at the brick stockade, which seems to radiate fear and loneliness.

We see the face of Christ enfleshed in his words. We know, because we experienced the Word of God that could not be locked up: bars and guards and all the devices of human imprisonment could not hold back our simple song of hope.

**...we experienced the voice of God that could not be locked up: bars and guards and all the devices of human imprisonment could not hold back our simple song of hope...**

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The Observer • PAID ADVERTISEMENT
PITCHING ace Hampton powers Mets past Cardinals 6-2

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS  This was the reason the New York Mets were so eager to get Mike Hampton.

Pitching every bit like an October ace, Hampton won for the first time in the postseason, leading the Mets past the St. Louis Cardinals 6-2 Wednesday night in Game 1 of the NL championship series.

"I wanted to be a contributor instead of a liability," Hampton said. "I just wanted to do my part and help this team win. I couldn't do that in the first series."

The Mets extended their postseason scoreless streak to a team-record 26 innings before allowing two unearned runs with two outs in the ninth.

Hampton kept the big guy — pinch-hitter deluxe Mark McGwire — on the St. Louis bench and left after the seventh with a 2-0 lead. Believers John Franco and Armando Benitez finished up.

"There had been some doubts cast over Mike because of a small sample of postseason play, and I think he erased those doubts," Mets manager Bobby Valentine said.

And it was a good-luck victory for the wild card Mets — the last seven teams to win the NLCS opener went on to reach the World Series.

Mike Piazza Mets catcher

Mike Piazza put aside his post playoff slumps, hitting an RBI double in a two-run first inning. Todd Zeile and Jay Payton homered in the ninth and Edgar Alfonzo scored a run and drove in another.

"I liked the way we played, I just didn't like the final score," Cardinals manager Tony La Russa said. "Hampton and the Mets were a little better."

Game 2 will be Thursday night at Busch Stadium with Al Leiter starting for the Mets against rookie Rick Ankiel.

Acquired from Houston last winter to win at crunch time, Hampton delivered in outpitching former Astros teammate Darryl Kile. He blanked St. Louis on six hits and silenced the crowd of 46,149.

Hampton began the evening with a career record of 0-2 and a 5.87 ERA in four starts.

A loser last week in the opening round at San Francisco, prompting some to suggest Leiter should start the opener, Hampton tamed a Cardinals team that averaged eight runs in its first-round sweep of the Braves.

Not that the Cardinals didn't have their chances. They left the bases loaded in the first, when Carlos Hernandez grounded out and, down 3-0, threatened to tie it in the seventh.

With two on and one out, Edgar Renteria sliced a long fly that right fielder Timo Perez ran down on the warning track. Jim Edmonds followed with a high fly that left fielder Benny Agbayani caught just short of the wall, and Edmonds gave an "aw-shucks" skip as he rounded first base.

"I didn't breathe, I'll tell you that," Hampton said.

Hampton struck out four and walked three. He also got the extra attention to its positionning, making subtle shifts that gave an sign for the Mets — the All-Star catcher had zero RBIs in the four-game victory over San Francisco and began the night as a career .211 postseason hitter. Robin Ventura's sacri­fice fly.

"I swung the bat a lot better tonight, only because of my teammates getting on ahead of me, giving me the opportunity to drive in the runs," Piazza said.

"A good start for us, we know it's far from over," he said. "Got to keep the pedal down."

Hampton beat out an infield single in the fifth and later scored on an Alfonzo's single.

The Mets tacked on three runs in the ninth off Mike Hampton after Perez cleared out the Cardinals' lefty hit­ters. St. Louis was just 17-23 in games started by opposing left-handers.

With nearly every Mets player in the dugout leaning on the top railing, Perez got them off to a fast start. Keeping up his role as late-season sparkplug, he led off the game with a double and took third when Kile bounced a curveball for a wild pitch.

After Alfonzo walked, Piazza grounded a double down the third-base line. It was a good sign for the Mets — the All-Star catcher had zero RBIs in the four-game victory over San Francisco and began the night as a career .211 postseason hitter. Robin Ventura's sacri­fice fly.

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Polls
continued from page 20
head from the "others receiving vote" category.
While Texas was picking up wins against noted football pow-
erhouses like Louisiana-Lafayette, Houston and Oklahoma State, it
also lost to 2-3 Stanford and then
got pasted by Oklahoma 63-14. NC State's wins against
Arkansas State, Indiana, Southern Methodist and Georgia
Tech aren't exactly stunning vic-
tories, at least the Wolfpack didn't lose to Stanford. NC State's only
loss came against No. 5 Clemson
in a 34-27 shootout.
But Texas is supposed to be
good. Didn't the Longhorns read
all the preseason publications?
Didn't they see their rankings?
They are supposed to be unde-
fended and challenging for the
national title not losing to the
Cardinal and getting whipped by
one of their biggest rivals.
So Bobby Acquiesce will continue
to spin doctor. He will beg the
pollsters not to forget about the
Seminaries. He will plead that they
keep him team in their top 10 as
Florida State can win the title.
Because the real national
championship isn't decided on the
field, it's decided in the polls. The
best teams don't even get a
chance to play for the title if their
coaches don't know how to work
the voters.
"I think when it becomes later
in the year when you are talking
about 1-2-3, there's always pick-
and choosing going on," Davie said.
"That's part of it. But the bottom
line is that everything takes care
of itself in the end. Especially here
at Notre Dame because we play
such good football teams. I would
hope people recognize who we
are playing on a regular basis."
Did you hear that pollsters?
That was Davie's case for a BCS
bowl for his potentially 9-2 Irish.
"I think when
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\[\text{continued from page 20}
\]
head from the "others receiving vote" category.
While Texas was picking up wins against noted football pow-
erhouses like Louisiana-Lafayette, Houston and Oklahoma State, it
also lost to 2-3 Stanford and then
got pasted by Oklahoma 63-14. NC State's wins against
Arkansas State, Indiana, Southern Methodist and Georgia
Tech aren't exactly stunning vic-
tories, at least the Wolfpack didn't lose to Stanford. NC State's only
loss came against No. 5 Clemson
in a 34-27 shootout.
But Texas is supposed to be
good. Didn't the Longhorns read
all the preseason publications?
Didn't they see their rankings?
They are supposed to be unde-
fended and challenging for the
national title not losing to the
Cardinal and getting whipped by
one of their biggest rivals.
So Bobby Acquiesce will continue
to spin doctor. He will beg the
pollsters not to forget about the
Seminaries. He will plead that they
keep him team in their top 10 as
Florida State can win the title.
Because the real national
championship isn't decided on the
field, it's decided in the polls. The
best teams don't even get a
chance to play for the title if their
coaches don't know how to work
the voters.
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**Football**

high school player in Texas, he earned scores of awards and honors: selection as a USA Today first-team All-America defensive back, Parade prep All-American and a ranking of sixth nationally on listings of the top 100 national prospects by ESPN.com and The Sporting News. When people compared those accolades with an image of Sapp riding the bench, some began to question his talent. He wasn’t one of those doubters.

“I knew I’d have to work for it,” Sapp said. “The guys who were in front of me, Deke Cooper and A’Jani Sanders, ended up teaching me. Next year, I plan on making an impact nationwide, not just at Notre Dame.”

Sapp said, “Once they put me out there for good, I feel like I can make the plays I need to make.”

If Sapp does move into the national spotlight, an NFL career might not be out of the question. But that’s not first and foremost in his mind.

Sapp said. “At other schools, you get just the athletics. You don’t get the mix. They really stressed that as recruiters. You’re going to take classes like other students. You’re going to be like other students, to live and eat with other students. I know I actually enjoy that.”

Sapp came to Notre Dame in large part for the chance to be more than an athlete, to be a student-athlete.

“Were all students, too, student ath­letes,” Sapp said. “At other schools, you get just the athletics. You don’t get the mix. They really stressed that as recruiters. You’re going to take classes like other stu­dents. You’re going to be like other students, to live and eat with other students. I know I actually enjoy that.”

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INTERHALL BASEBALL
Keough squeaks by St. Ed’s for championship 3-2

By CHRIS FEDERICO
Sports Writer

Playing with the support of a lively pack of fans, the underdog Keough ‘Roos knocked off top-seeded St. Edward’s to win the interhall baseball championship 3-2 Wednesday night at Eck Baseball Stadium.

After being destroyed 8-0 by St. Ed’s in the first game of the season, Keough showed that the talented St. Ed’s squad did not intimidate the ‘Roos. Led by the strong arm of pitcher Matt Prill, the Keough defense kept the explosive bats of St. Ed’s under control, giving up only two runs on five hits. Prill pitched all six innings, had four strikeouts and only allowed one earned run on a home run by shortstop Andy Harris.

“When we came out tonight, we knew that St. Ed’s had the better team, but we stuck together and got it done,” Prill said. “My arm was feeling a little dead all night, but my defense made the plays behind me to give us a chance.”

St. Edward’s got on the board first in the first inning when Harris reached on an infield hit and then stole second. On an attempted pick-off, Prill threw the ball away, and then centerfielder Matt Lambera missed his target trying to throw Harris out at third, allowing him to score.

St. Ed’s pitcher, Mike Garofola, was golden in the first inning, striking out the side.

Keough tied it up in the second when first baseman Kevin McAbee reached on an error. Right fielder Chris Prill then hit a double to the gap in right-center, driving in McAbee from first.

In the top of the fourth, Keough would get a two-out walk from Brian Smith. Then McAbee hit a fly ball down the left field line that dropped in just fair for a double. Smith slid in under the tag at home plate to give Keough a 2-1 lead.

In their next inning, Keough pinch hitter Will Dubon reached on a fielder’s choice. The next batter, Matt Lambera, hit a clutch double to add an insurance run that would later prove to be the difference in the game.

Relief pitcher Tim Greene then struck out the next two batters to end the inning.

St. Ed’s player and coach Judson Penton was frustrated with his team’s performance. “We blew a lot of chances and left a lot of guys on the bases,” Penton said. “We also suffered some tough calls on the bases. I think that talent-wise, we’re probably the stronger team, and maybe on any other night we would have won. But I have got to tip my hat to those guys [the ‘Roos]—they came out here and put it all together tonight. I wish I could say we’d fight back, but that’s the tough thing about these short, single-elimination games.”

Keough first baseman Kevin McAbee, who had a solid offensive night with an RBI double and a run-scored, summed up the night. “I love playing with these guys. St. Ed’s may have been better than us, but we had more heart, and we came out here tonight and won it all.”

Matt Prill of the Keough ‘Roos pitches against St. Edward’s in last night’s championship game. Prill held the Steds to just two runs.
VOLLEYBALL

Belles struggle in straight-game loss to Kalamazoo

By ALICIA ORTIZ
Sports Writer

The Belles volleyball team battled against the Kalamazoo College Hornets Wednesday, dropping the match in three games. The game leaves Saint Mary's struggling at 2-8.

"Kalamazoo had a lot of depth, especially offensively," coach Julie Schroeder-Biek said. "We did not block at all."

The Hornets proved to be tough competition two weeks ago when they played at Saint Mary's. They won in a four game series of 15-7, 7-15, 15-7.

While the Belles have improved over the season, so have the Hornets.

"We were flat against Kalamazoo in the first and third games," Schroeder-Biek said. "The second game was much better. We served well."

Denise Langolis and Jamie Dineen each served two aces.

Communication was a problem for the Belles, said outside hitter Angie Meyers. "We have our good games where we cannot stop talking on the court," said Meyers. "Then we have our bad games when we do not communicate at all."

Meyers had 13 kills and 11 digs. Despite losses, the team has had strong individual performances, particularly in defensive specialist Victoria Butcko and middle hitter Jolie LeBeau.

"Victoria has had an awesome season, she always digs up the ball," Meyers said. "Jolie blocks the ball, which has helped our offense."

Friday the Belles face off against Calvin College. It is the second ranked team in the MIAA, with a record of 7-2.

"We are experimenting to add versatility to our game," Schroeder-Biek said. "The Belles have been practicing hard for this match. This season has been ups and downs for them, but they have played hard all throughout.

"We played well against Calvin on their home court," Schroeder-Biek said. "We have to play intensely and maintain our focus throughout the match."
The Observer

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FOOTBALL

Safety Sapp plays many different roles for Irish

By KATHLEEN O'BRIEN
Associate Sports Editor

Sophomore strong safety Gerome Sapp is content stretching like Silly Putty into any position the Irish need him to play. "I'm kind of like a rubber band man," Sapp said. "I do whatever they ask me to." So far, one of his biggest roles has been on special teams, where the Irish rely on Sapp to chase down opposing players on kickoff and punt returns. "I play a major factor in special teams," Sapp said. "As of right now, I'm leading the team in special teams points." As a freshman, Sapp made 164 special teams appearances. He's maintained his playing time on special teams this year as Notre Dame's special teams unit has become the program's force. "Our coaches are really preparing us for what we have to do, so we'll be ready for anything that they (opposing teams) can possibly think of to come at us," he said. While he enjoys special teams since it allows him to help the team, defense is his preferred position. "I like defense better," Sapp said. "In high school, I felt like I was part of the defense, and at any minute, I could play a part in the game. Special teams offer the same things, but defense I love." Last year, Sapp saw action in the secondary against Kansas, Michigan State, Oklahoma and Stanford. Against Michigan State, he came through with a pass interception, and in the game with Stanford, he made what he considers his best play to date. "In the Stanford game last year, on a punt I ran down Troy Walters, the guy that broke all the PAC-10 records, from behind and tackled him," Sapp said. "The camera was zoomed in on me, and my mom saw it and called me when I got back. That's probably one of my highlights." Most of the time, though, he found himself watching senior Mike Jenkins and Deke Cooper. "That came as a big adjustment for Sapp. As a special teams unit has become the program's forte.

College football 2000 — the real political race

I must be talking about the presidential debate last night, right? Wrong. I was talking about Bobby Bowden and the Florida State Seminoles. After his team's loss to Miami last Saturday, Bowden went on television and told America that he didn't see any reason why a team with one loss couldn't win the national championship. And of course Bobby is right. A team with one loss can still win the national title if that team was ranked highly enough in the preseason polls. One-loss teams like Florida State and Miami are still ranked in the top 10 of both the ESPN coaches poll and the Associated Press poll. Meanwhile, one loss teams like Northwestern and North Carolina State are ranked 17th and 26th, respectively. If Bobby can sweet talk the voters into keeping his one-loss team ranked near the top, he can increase his chances of going to a BCS bowl while other one-loss teams are left out in the cold. If both Northwestern and Florida State end up with two losses and neither team wins its respective conference, who do you think will be ranked higher? Florida State will always get the benefit of the doubt in rankings over teams with identical record — no matter who each team lost to — because Florida State always has a high preseason ranking. And that preseason ranking can almost be worth a few extra wins. Sure a team still has to go out and win all its games but if it's not highly ranked at the beginning, it probably just won't be highly ranked at the end. Just ask Tulsie or Marshall. All they did was win all their games in a season and neither team got even a second look from the BCS. Irish head coach Bob Davie said he only spends about 20 minutes filling out his poll every Saturday night. He just doesn't have enough time to look at every team, evaluate their plus and minuses and make informed decisions. His primary job is to get his team ready for next week, not figure out if Oregon State is for real or not. "You use your experiences over the last 20 years more so than exactly what happened," he said. "You just don't have time to follow it. It's not like I am going home and reading those newspapers and following it and looking at who's injured and who ain't. You are just trying to try and evaluate it. It's an inexact deal." A team like Texas can use that inexact deal to recover from some bad losses thanks to a high preseason ranking. The coaches polled Texas at No. 8 while the AP poll pegged the Longhorns as the No. 7 team; two writers even gave Texas first place votes. Now five games and two losses later, the Longhorns are still in the top 25 while 4-1 North Carolina State can only scratch its

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