Donning the Collar
A Notre Dame commission examines the possibility of ordaining women.
Is the ordination of female priests closer than ever or still light years away?

By MAUREEN SMITHE
Assistant News Editor

When accounting professor Ken Milani was abroad in the United Kingdom several years ago, he encountered a moment of truth, which led him to the Commission on Notre Dame’s Position on the Ordination of Women upon his return to the University.

“There was a statue honoring a man who was put to death by the clergy because he translated the Bible into English,” Milani said. “The Church isn’t always right.”

The Past
Created in 1989, the Commission was established in response to a letter sent to a Notre Dame faculty member. The letter indicated that a woman was interested in joining the Catholic clergy, but was obviously unable to be ordained.

In response, several faculty members from all of the University’s colleges came together to keep the discussion about women’s ordination alive on campus, especially because the University refused to grant an official position on the issue. The Committee is informal and not officially sanctioned by the University. University president Father Edward Malloy refused to comment on the issue.

“We’re looking for a more inclusive ministry in the Catholic Church,” Milani said. “Notre Dame is a place where the Church does its thinking.”

Committee members question the meaning behind the Church’s refusal to grant women access to the priesthood.

“It bespeaks a negative attitude toward women,” said Regina Coll, professional specialist of Theology. “Is there something wrong with being female?”

The Present
Today the Commission has 15 active faculty members from most of the University’s colleges. Discussion is their main goal. Committee members strive to push the issue forward through sponsoring three events each semester, including panel discussions, prayer services and lectures.

The Commission sponsored a lecture Nov. 14 by Mark Coli, priest-scholar of Theology. Coli discussed the relationship between intellectual and religious thoughts, encouraging people to question their faith in order to strengthen it.

“Our presentations are usually on the issue of women in ministry. We are keeping the educational lines open,” Coll said.

Members of the Commission maintain arguments in support of women’s ordination. Most talk of the Church’s reliance on tradition as their main stumbling block. Milani said that the Church has changed tradition in several instances, including moving from Latin to English mass.

Coli said that Popes, bishops and nuns held slaves in the past, a tradition long since abandoned.

“We hold onto traditions. It is important to hold onto traditions, but we have let go of many traditions,” Coll said.

“We are in the process of creating traditions.”

Other arguments against women’s ordination exist, all of which the Commission has a viable counterargument for.

“The original argument that Rome gave when they issued the rule was that Jesus did not ordain women, which is true, but Jesus did not ordain anyone,” Coll said.

In addition to discussing women’s ordination, the Committee also looks to...

see WOMEN/page 4

South Bend system aims to stop crime

By MAUREEN SMITHE
Assistant News Editor

When Notre Dame junior John Bodnovich moved off-campus this fall, he was aware of the safety concerns associated with living beyond the friendly confines of the Golden Dome. He, like many of his off-campus counterparts, was unaware of a community policing network throughout South Bend.

Established in 1997 as a means of improving the relationship between citizens and the police department, the program attempts to address the many causes of crime and the fear associated with it.

Lieutenant Dick Powers of the South Bend Police Department said the objective of community policing is three-fold: emphasizing partnership, problem solving and prevention.

“The Three P’s really put together what our definition of community policing is,” Powers said. “It is us and the community working together.”

The program operates under the understanding that crime is a community-wide problem, not just a duty of the police department. Everyone can contribute to a safe neighborhood.

Although he is not directly involved in community policing, Bodnovich and his fellow off-campus student neighbors keep an eye on what is going on around their dorm.

“We are pretty friendly with our neighbors. We are always watching their houses and they are always checking ours,” Bodnovich said. “I’ve heard of neighborhood watches, but I’m not aware of one being officially implemented here.”

Bodnovich recalled an instance where one neighbor tackled a potential bike thief, rescuing another neighbor’s bike from the pawnshop.

“It is instances such as this where the benefits of community policing are obvious. An essential element of community policing is the neighborhood watch system. Volunteer residents serve as block captains, relaying information regarding area crime from the police department to the neighborhood.”

At a crime prevention seminar held earlier this year for off-campus students, Corporal Patty Byrd outlined the duties of a block captain.

“They receive automated phone messages of felony arrests, assaults and burglaries that happen in their neighborhood,” Byrd said. “Neighborhood watch is one of the most successful means of preventing crime in your neighborhood.”

In addition to neighborhood watch, the police department also offers a citizens police academy. The 16-week course gives residents off-campus students an opportunity to learn and experience service in the community policing network.

Robinson: God-based service good for all

By KATIE KELLEHER
News Writer

God-based service is something everyone could benefit from, said Dr. Jim Robinson Tuesday night at Saint Mary’s.

Robinson travels abroad with Health Care Ministries to provide dental care to poor villagers. He spoke about his personal experiences with God and service.

“I am an ordinary man,” Robinson said, but he insisted that serving others is something anyone could do.

Robinson has been to more than 25 countries and has taken teens and college students on service trips around the world.

Robinson told stories from his travels in Honduras.

“We used a second grade classroom,” he said. “People traveled overnight from neighboring towns to visit in line at 5 a.m. The line was so long that many would be forced to wait till the
Yup, I'm back.

I went home to battle bacteria and infection, and have regained victory. Yay me.

Home is a different experience. Since I was not expected to be home, my brother and father had made previous plans in California for mom, who had decided to stay and finish her Master's degree, was going to be in and out of the house. It wasn't going to be the usual Thanksgiving, but it didn't matter.

I wanted to go home so much. For the previous four weeks all I thought about was the great feeling of being able to relax and just be home. The thought made me happy. It offered a chance for me to sit in my room and do absolutely nothing. Absolutely nothing. How appealing.

Oregon is my getaway place — my get better place. But minus the books. And, South Bend will always be home. South Bend home. I was in Arizona, my friends were in Arizona, my parents reside there. I live in South Bend. I work in South Bend. The Observer (USPS No. 48) is published Monday through Friday in South Bend, Indiana. The views expressed in the Inside Columbian are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

**CONCORD UNIVERSITY**

Wrestler dies of heart condition

As members of the Concord community continued to cope with the loss of Graham Morin, who passed away during a Saturday afternoon wrestling practice, more details emerged Monday regarding the medical cause of his death. An autopsy revealed that Morin suffered from Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy (HCM), according to Dr. Dittman, associate director of community relations with Gannett Medical Center. HCM is characterized by a thickening of the walls of the heart, results in obstruction to blood flow through the left ventricle outflow tract. The result can be fainting spells, shortness of breath and heart arrhythmia. "Unfortunately, so many people with HCM are asymptomatic," Dittman said. "For many, the first sign is cardiac arrest and sudden death." "There are only 10 to 25 deaths due to cardiac causes in athletes every year, and HCM is only a small fraction of that," according to Dr. Dittman. It's estimated that one out of every 1,000 Americans has HCM. The views expressed in the Inside Columbian are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

**LOCAL WEATHER**

5 Day South Bend Forecast

**NATIONAL WEATHER**

Lines separate high temperature zones for the day.
Cheney wants to keep health issues private

Associated Press

WASHINGTON

Dick Cheney said Tuesday night he was back at work full-time with his doctor's approval, feeling fine after his fourth heart attack and determined to keep at least some parts of his anatomy private.

"I think we have been very forth­coming," said Cheney, 59, asked on CNN's "Larry King Live" about criticism that he has not made public his health records.

There may be a few people out there who still want to look at certain parts of my anatomy we've not yet revealed, but I'm going to keep part of it private," he said.

Cheney, George W. Bush's running mate who is leading his transition effort, checked into a Washington hospital last week for chest pains. Doctors revealed he had suffered a slight heart attack and he underwent surgery. Cheney had three heart attacks more than a decade ago and had quadruple bypass surgery in 1988 to clear clogged arteries.

He said doctors gave him a clean bill of health after unusual medical scrutiny when Bush chose him as his running mate this summer.

"There was a more thorough scrub on my medical history than on any of the other candidates, I think, that were considered for vice president probably in either party this year," he said.

But Cheney has refused to release his past medical records. Asked about calls for him to be more forthcoming with his health history, he said: "There isn't much about my physical capabilities and history that aren't known. I've seen my coronary arteries diagramed on the front page of major newspapers all over America."

Cheney said his health won't affect his travel should he become vice president. More than anything, a 50-50 split in the Senate would keep him in Washington more, he said. The vice president presides as Senate president and can cast a tie-breaking vote.

"I could end up having to spend a lot of time in the U.S. Senate as vice president rather than traveling the world attending funerals of foreign leaders," he said.

Bush, Gore plea to Supreme Court

Governor asks Court to end crisis, declare winner

Associated Press

WASHINGTON

The Supreme Court should "repeal an impending constitutional crisis" over Florida's 25 electoral votes, lawyers for George W. Bush argued Tuesday, while Al Gore's lawyers said the court should not interfere.

Bush, whose appeal the high court is set to hear Friday, said the justices can bring "legal finality" to the presidential election by overturning the Florida courts and ending any further ballot recounts.

"There by now," Bush said. "I think the court should not interfere."

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Bush's attorneys wrote.

"The Florida Supreme Court's decision, which conflicts with both federal statutes and the federal Constitution, will thus continue to affect, and has the theoretical potential to change, the outcome of the presidential election in Florida, and thus the nation," Bush argued.

Bush's attorneys argued that the Florida Supreme Court's decision would affect the case from the official state election tally. That would give Bush a 930-vote margin instead of his current 537-vote lead.

Bush attorneys argued that the Florida high court violated the Constitution by extending a "clear" vote recount deadline set in law by the state Legislature to extend the election of the state's representatives to the Electoral College.

"Principles of federalism counsel strongly against interference by this court," the Gore legal team said in its brief.

At the same time, the vice president is asking a Florida judge to undo the secretary of state's certification that Bush is the winner. That certification came after the Supreme Court agreed to take Bush's appeal.

"I urge the court to end this crisis," Bush said.

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The fast growing jam band from Chicago returns to their Notre Dame roots for a rare all ages treat Don't miss this chance to see them in an up-close, intimate environment.

Thursday, November 30th

The LaFortune Ballroom

10pm - 1am

Information available at the LaFortune box office

$4 students $5 Public
Robinson continued from page 1

next day."

through some difficult situations that Robinson faced during his journeys, he said he remains con-

fident of the presence of God. "In the trips I have taken I have seen amazing and wonderful things," said Robinson. "I can tell you without any doubt that God exists." But he did not always have this strong faith in God. Robinson described how his difficult child-

hood caused him to question his faith, admitting, "I didn’t know if I believed in God."

Still unsure of his beliefs, Robinson questioned his mission and purpose during his first trip

abroad. He broke down to a friend during the bus ride to the village. The group of volunteers
gathered around him and placed their hands on his head and

prayed for him. "I felt the presence of God embracing me and lifting me, and it changed my life," he said. At that moment he said his purpose in life was clear. "My job was to help people with physical needs and to share the word of God." Robinson encouraged everyone to reexamine his or her lives to include service. "Allow God to use you for his glory. We have so much and it is so easy to get immersed in it all," he said. "In our country, we have all,"
**WORLD NEWS BRIEFS**

**Dutch first to legalize euthanasia:** The Dutch parliament approved a bill legalizing euthanasia Tuesday, positioning the Netherlands to become the first nation to openly let doctors help suffering patients end their lives. Advocates of patients’ right to die gave praise for the vote, but many say it will open up discussions about other terminal illnesses. The vote was 100-39 on a bill that would allow doctors to help sick patients end their lives. The measure would apply to patients otherwise defined as incurable, who have a reasonable expectation of death within six months and who request death and are able to make their decision of their own free will.

**Opponents predict government will be unable to meet standards under the law for allowing euthanasia.**

**National News Briefs**

**Scientists debate biotech corn:** Opponents of biotech food urged the government in Washington Tuesday not to allow a variety of genetically engineered corn to be used in food despite industry claims that the grain poses no risk to consumers. The corn, which was only supposed to be used for animal feed and industrial uses, mistakenly entered the food supply, prompting recalls of taco shells and disruptions in grain handling. To avoid further problems, the government decided to temporarily approve its use in food.

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**Indiana News Briefs**

**Court finds checkpoints unconstitutional:** The Indiana Supreme Court Tuesday suspended the state’s system of roadblocks in response to the court’s decision earlier Tuesday. “As of right now, the Indiana State Police will not be conducting sobriety checkpoints,” said 1st Sgt. Scott Beamon. The Indiana Association of Chiefs of Police recommended that local police agencies stop using checkpoints out of respect for the ruling.

**Israel agrees to early elections**

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak gestures as his speech in the Knesset, the Israeli Parliament, is disrupted by shouting parliament members. The members demanded an early vote Tuesday in Jerusalem.

**Barak agrees to early elections**

The date for elections will be set in the coming days by party leaders. Barak said the vote could be held as late as nine months from now, while several opposition lawmakers said they expected elections in May, two years after Barak took office.

Parliament had settled into a long debate on the five bills Tuesday evening when Barak made an unexpected appearance before the lawmakers. In a speech, Barak announced that he would no longer resist the opposition push for elections.

“I do not flinch from elections. I say if you want elections, let there be elections for prime minister and for the Knesset,” Barak told parliament. Throughout the day, Barak saw the opposition quit more and more votes, until it became clear that more than half the members would vote against him.

In his speech, Barak blamed opposition leader Ariel Sharon for rejecting his offer to create a unity government. However, in a later TV interview, Barak also acknowledged that he had “made mistakes.” Polls have indicated that if elections were held now, Barak would be defeated.

**Russua**

**Grozny Chechens mourn market**

Weeping merchants dug through the ruins of the central market in the capital of rebel Chechnya on Tuesday, trying to salvage something after Russian military vehicles smashed the stalls into the ground.

Russian authorities had no immediate comment on the decision to destroy the market, a key source of scarce food and supplies in the war-shattered city that also provides income for thousands of traders trying to struggle their way out of poverty.

I had goods there worth about $1,500 — for me that is a lot,” said trader Zharadat Agayeva. “I don’t know how I am going to pay my debts.”

Rebel attacks in the capital and elsewhere in Chechnya have been on the rise, with at least 10 soldiers being killed in the past day, and pro-Russian Chechen officials had warned that bigger actions were being planned for the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, which began Monday.

Russian troops sealed off the market on Sunday, fearing that its presence in the tense capital could assist the rebels in their attacks.

According to market workers the soldiers told the traders their foods and goods would be protected once they were placed in the market storerooms.

“But when I locked everything, they started to shoot the locks off with machine guns. Soldiers rushed inside and pillaged the shelves— sausages, butter, cheese,” said Musa Akhmatov, owner of a storeroom. Another storeroom worker, said soldiers “picked whatever they liked and would stash the goods in their bags, they would even undress and put on the new clothes.”
Activists mark WTO's 1-year anniversary

Associated Press

SEATTLE — The World Trade Organization meeting that collapsed in clouds of tear gas a year ago is being marked by activists this week in a city that's now known as much for civic happiness as it is for its good coffee and charm.

The violent anti-WTO street protests that overwhelmed police on Nov. 30, 1999 left Seattle with permanent scars, some say, even as it galvanized a growing movement against corporate globalization.

"One of the biggest things we learned with WTO is that Seattle is not Mayberry with high-rises," said City Council member Judy Nicastro. "People don't play nice anymore."

To mark the one-year anniversary, some 5,000 activists are expected to gather Thursday for a new WTO meeting in Seattle.

Failing to prepare and for acting to protesters with tear gas, rubber bullets and arrests, Seattle officials who'd banked on a civic boost as hosts to the talks, were instead targeted by critics of globalization.

"It wasn't good for the city's image. It was very un-Seattlelike," Lavin said. "My view of Seattle is what it's always been. It's a great town. But the rest of the country probably thinks we're a bunch of radicals, which is good because it might keep them away from here."

The impact of the demonstrations extended well beyond Seattle as officials in other cities hosting trade and banking conferences sought to avoid repeating the mistakes of Seattle.

In Washington, more than 1,300 activists, many of them veterans of Seattle WTO, were arrested at the April meeting of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund. Last month in British Columbia, organizers citing the Seattle protest scrapped a planned NATO conference over cost and security concerns.

The demands of anti-globalization protesters also descended on the Democratic convention in Los Angeles, a meeting of the Organization of American States in Montreal, as well as smaller trade events in Windsor, Ontario, and the Organization of American States in Los Angeles, a meeting of the Commission on Peace.

"Cultural diplomacy does have the power to penetrate our common humanity." - Bill Clinton, President

U.S. promotes cultural diplomacy

WASHINGTON — Pingp pong diplomacy in 1971 smoothed U.S. relations with China. When the United States reached out to a new democratic South Africa, it was the DANCE THEATER OF HARLEM that helped forge diplomacy. As the Cold War thawed, pianist Vladimir Horowitz returned to his native Russia in 1986 to give concerts.

Culture speaks a universal language and can play a critical role in U.S. relations abroad even where America has no formal diplomatic relations, President Clinton said Tuesday at the first White House Conference on Culture and Diplomacy.

"Cultural diplomacy does have the power to penetrate our common humanity," Clinton said.

Glen Miller and other American jazz bands had a positive effect on the morale of U.S. allies during World War II, he said. And singer Elvis Presley did more to win the Cold War when his music was smuggled into the former Soviet Union than he did as a GI serving in Germany, the president added.

Clinton and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, who wore a Navajo bolo - a symbol of America's early heritage - were joined in the East Room by about 160 authors, artists, diplomats, actors, actresses, poets, business leaders, and foundations from the United States and abroad. They talked about the role culture plays in foreign policy and how cultural exchange programs can improve relations among different peoples.

"Globalization should not be feared, he said. It should not blur cultural lines, but highlight them in a way to promote peace, Clinton said.

That, he said would "put a real roadblock in the path of those who would like the 21st century dominated by cultural wars, not cultural celebrations."

Ireland Chile Germany England France

INTERNSHIPS

International Internship/Teaching Position
Informational Session...sponsored by SIBC

WHERE? Jordan Auditorium, Mendoza College of Business

WHEN? Wednesday, November 29, from 7-9 pm

Joeyinka from Nigeria; and Joan Spero, president of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation in New York and former ambassador to the United Nations for economic and social affairs.

Clinton dismissed the argument that western culture has become too perva­sive - that soon every child will speak American English and every television will be tuned to MTV.

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Less than 1 percent of the federal budget is appropriated for foreign affairs, the White House said. Within that fraction, there has been a 15-year debate over support for State Department cultural programs. Clinton said he backs legislation before Congress that would set up a fund or endowment to support State Department's cultural exchange programs.
Bush considers choices for cabinet

Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas

George W. Bush has a "track record" in planning a new government, one that would include Democrats in key positions, aides suggested Tuesday.

"We are now in uncharted waters," said Bush spokesman Karen Hughes. "We're in an unprecedented period where a presidential candidate is going to court essentially to try in contest and overturn the results of an election that has now been certified."

The political morass stretched to the U.S. Supreme Court, with Bush's lawyers asking the nine justices to bring "legal finality" to the election by overturning Florida's top court and ending any further recounts. The case has the "potential to change the outcome of the presidential election in Florida, and thus the nation," Bush lawyers said in legal papers.

Bush's legal team argued in its high court brief that the issue "remains unresolved," that a recount is needed. Bush's ties.

"It's a fight for recounts to the election by overturning Florida's top court and ending any further recounts," said Bush's lawyers, who came to attend the Hughes meeting time: 09:45am mode: bus
departure point: Library Circle toll: $2
return time: 05:00pm

Michigan City Outlet Mall bus trip

November 29, 2000

Gore's fight spreads to 5 different courts

Associated Press

Al Gore sought a speedy hand recount of Florida's contested ballots Tuesday to ensure "no question, no cloud" hangs over the nation's 43rd president. A judge rejected his timetable, Democratic lawyers vowed to appeal and Republicans demanded, "It's time to wrap this up."

As the campaign played out in five separate courthouses, the vice president sought to accelerate the proceedings to avoid further testing of the public's patience three weeks after Election Day. "Seven days, starting tomorrow, for a full and accurate count of all the votes," the vice president said shortly after his lawyers asked Circuit Judge Sanders Sauls to order the recount of 13,000 questionable ballots in two Democratic counties.

The judge instead scheduled a Saturday hearing and ordered the ballots — along with one or two voting machines — sent to Tallahassee in case he agrees that a recount is needed. Bush's lawyers objected to Gore's timetable, saying they needed time to prepare their case against him.

Sauls is working against a Dec. 12 deadline for states to assign presidential electors.

"We could count until everybody is slap-happy, but if no one is on the same page, I don't know what's being accomplished," Sauls said, explaining why he wanted one broad-ranging hearing before considering Gore's request.

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Michigan City Outlet Mall bus trip

November 29, 2000

Gore's fight spreads to 5 different courts

Associated Press

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Closing one chapter, opening another

While most of the United States watched the drama slowly unfold in Florida, President Bill Clinton made a historic visit to communist Vietnam. Clinton is the first U.S. president to visit Vietnam since the Vietnam War ended.

Many people find the situation ironic since Clinton is an admitted draft-dodger. However, the irony is unimportant — Clinton's visit marks a milestone in U.S.-Vietnam relations.

This year saw the earnest beginning of America's relationship with Vietnam. Starting with the gradual lifting of embargo in 1994, Clinton has worked to improve ties with Vietnam, including opening diplomatic relations in 1995. This year saw the earned beginning of a Vietnamese-American trade agreement.

But the culmination of this progress was Clinton's visit. Although he wasindexOf human rights and a democratic government. Clinton believes that when Vietnam interacts with the world through economic means, the Vietnamese will gain more individual and political freedoms. "I think that the trend toward freedom is virtually irreversible," Clinton said.

When the trade door opens between the United States and Vietnam, everyone will benefit. Because 60 percent of Vietnam's population is under the age of 30, U.S. companies in Vietnam will have an able workforce.

According to The Boston Globe, "At $370 a year, Vietnam still has one of the lowest per capita incomes in the world." While many Americans would complain about the loss of jobs, Americans would receive more jobs when companies began exporting goods to Vietnam. This would be a win-win situation, with more jobs for both countries.

With Clinton's trip to a country where 38,000 American soldiers and 3 million Vietnamese died only a quarter century ago, many people awaited to see what he would say about the war. Clinton offered no apologies for the conflict, but instead discussed the future of those two countries. He avoided assigning blame for the war.

To many Vietnam veterans, the move is a poor kind of business. "A business that makes nothing but money is a poor kind of business," Henry Ford, automobile manufacturer.
I am writing in response to Professor Rice's recent article on homosexuality. As an alumnus, a Catholic and someone who has recently come to terms with my own identity as gay, I have studied this issue for most of my life. While Professor Rice is undoubtedly well intentioned, I respectfully disagree with the Church's teaching and Professor Rice.

Professor Rice argues that homosexual acts and the inclination toward them are objectively disordered because they are contrary to the nature built into us by God. As with many others, I spent most of my life, including my years at Notre Dame, believing this idea. After 26 years, however, I have come to reject this premise because I discovered that, rather than bringing me closer to Christ, the Church and those around me, it was the source of an alienation that I have struggled with my entire life.

While Professor Rice argues that homosexuality is contrary to the nature built into us by God, this misses the point. God has created each of us with a different purpose. The body of Christ is not a single part, but many, God placed the parts, each as he intended. If they were all one part, where would the body be? But as it is, there are many parts, yet one body (1 Cor. 13:18-20). God calls each person to do different things, each according to his plan. While the Church and Professor Rice may choose to describe certain parts of the body as objectively disordered, we are all Christ's body (1 Cor. 12:27).

This raises the question, what is the essential nature God has placed within us? In this Jesus was most clear: You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself (Luke 10:27).

When I believed that I was objectively disordered, I could not love God. I could not love myself. I could not love my neighbor. Rather, I could only believe that somehow God had made some sort of mistake, that my very being was an affront to creation.

At my lowest days, God granted me the grace to accept myself, not as someone who is objectively disordered, but rather as God's creation, born to love God as God created me. For me to accept what the Church and Professor Rice teach is to deny God's wisdom, to deny God. As such, I cannot disagree more with Professor Rice's contention that the University misleads students by refusing to admit that the homosexual inclination is disordered. While this may imply that the Church teaching is an arbitrary restriction, so be it. While the University has been less than a vanguard in accepting its gay and lesbian students and alumni, such a declaration would only serve to further push us away from the University, the Church and from Christ. I cannot think of any more serious betrayal of its mission.

Marc Echeveste Class of '95 Scottsdale, Arizona Nov. 28, 2000

I should like to respond to your editorial in The Observer on Friday, Nov. 10, in which you distorted my response on the question of suicide among teenage homosexuals. I simply took issue with the assertion that among teenagers who think they are homosexual there is a very high rate of suicide. A United States government agency in D.C. had made such a statement and subsequently had corrected its own statement. This does not mean that I regard suicide among homosexual men and women as "nonsequential." I have always taken this issue seriously in my counseling of people with same-sex attractions and never "silently dismembered" them. I am dismayed by this direct attack upon my character, coming as it does, from The Observer.

My response to the letter by William Dell, class of '69 on Nov. 13 is to appeal to your readers, asking them to read my books on the issue: "The Homosexual Prison" and "The Truth About Homosexuality". In doing so you will realize that Dell has no understanding of the Church's teaching on chastity.

Married people are bound by conjugal chastity, which does not mean abstaining from marital intercourse, but rather fidelity to each other and the avoidance of contraception and masturbation. In brief, chastity is a gift of God's grace by which we are able to control sexual desires and express affection in the right way, according to our state in life, recognizing that sexual intercourse is meant only for the married.

Rev. John F. Harvey, OSFS director of Courage Nov. 27, 2000

What is the chaplain's role in the military?

If you pick up a Catholic magazine, like Commonweal, you'll find an ad for the Army challenging you to "Be All That You Can Be." But it's not an ad for the service, it's for chaplains. The picture is of a priest in full ceremonial clothing, with a thick military cloak (called then a cappa), the act of which we get the word for "cappuccino." True, clergymen fought in the Gulf War and didn't come back to full time in the Church. But it is not to say underhandedly that chaplains ought to be anti-military; it is only to recall what their function is from and thus give us food for thought.

If you look back on the now almost 1,600 years and see the situation of soldiers in the era of modern warfare. Imagine — for to be sure, this situation was real — a young Catholic serving in the United States Air Force in 1990 while the U.S. began Operation Desert Shield, then Desert Storm. He is assigned to take part in flying sorties, bombing raids on Baghdad. He is informed well before the bombing begins, that the Pope has named the possibility of war on Iraq immoral, appealing for non-violent means be employed to seek resolution. The letter causes him to think deeply about his role.

He knows that Catholic teaching supports his right not to fight in this particular conflict because the church has spoken so often about just war. But his conscience is not clear about the pacifism or on the legitimacy of certain acts of war. As such, he is facing a difficult question of conscience. Yet he also knows that U.S. military law only recognizes conscientious objection to war, and does not allow someone in his case to refuse this particular mission.

As he ponders all this, he goes for advice to the Catholic chaplain of his unit. Here is where the story becomes muddled. For some young soldiers in this situation, the chaplains offered the advice that loyalty to their military oath requires service — no matter what. Many other Catholic chaplains knew well that the situation was more difficult and gave many different forms of advice. In this case, most Catholics fought in the Gulf War and chaplains were there when they returned to offer mercy and support, sometimes tending to the deep wounds of war.

Honesty, it's hard to write about this topic. Each of these stories can be read — and written — with a view to how they impact the "debate" on war and ROTC. It is my question that Church support of military service and the second service may show why we desperately need chaplains. But my purpose here is not to further one side. As someone who has never been in a war or been a military chaplain, I have a limited perspective.

And so what do we do when our perspective is limited, as all of us are together and talk, and have people who "have been there" tell their stories, then we pray over it and reflect some more.

Mike Griffin Pax Christi Notre Dame Muscat Seminary Nov. 28, 2000

What is the chaplain's role in the military?
Mid-winter blues got you dreaming of sunny beaches

Travel planning Web sites cater to college students, offer deals on all-inclusives

By MERIDETH PIERCE
Scene Writer

It is almost December and the weather just keeps getting colder. To top it off, exams are growing ever closer and students are beginning to feel as though hibernation might be a great idea. For those who choose not to hibernate, however, the best way to combat the winter blues is to plan an exotic, tropical getaway. A trip to a warm, sunny beach destination would be a perfect way to set your mind free and enjoy a stress-free vacation.

Although spring break feels like it might never come, it is actually just 100 short days away. With the need for warm thoughts and with time quickly ticking away, now is the perfect time to start planning.

But where will you go? What will you do? And how are you supposed to pluck out an entire dream vacation? To stop your worries, check out the help and deals on-line. There are hundreds of resources at your fingertips that all eagerly want to help you have a fun vacation for minimal costs.

The popular Travelocity.com is a great place to start. In general, Travelocity.com is easy to use and contains many tools to aid in every aspect of your vacation planning. You are allowed two visits to the site without becoming a member, but if you decide to purchase from Travelocity.com, membership is a must.

Although signing up is free, you are required to enter contact information such as your name and e-mail address. Once this is done, you are set to go. Travelocity.com offers reservations for more than 400 airlines, 47,000 hotels and 50 car rental companies. They offer thousands of vacation packages and cruise offerings that cater to your interests, along with information on hundreds of destinations from guidebook experts and other Travelocity.com members.

With so many options, it is easy to get carried away with plans for numerous destinations. However, the best way to critique the site is to look at one specific vacation destination and everything that it involves. Many college students will again swarm to Cancun, Mexico, this year. Its ever-growing popularity as one of MTV's official spring break locations provides many routes for visiting Mexico this break. Travelocity.com provides you with several options to plan a vacation to Cancun. You can either book your flight, hotel and attractions separately on this site, or book a package deal. The simplest option is working through their "planning a vacation" site. This can be reached by clicking on the "vacation" button at the top of the home page. Once you are here, there are many databases available, listed by "interest," by "destination," or by "search and compare." Search and compare is a great tool where you can choose your package type, maximum price per person, destination and time of travel. Then Travelocity.com will bring up all the possibilities arranged by hotel.

The great thing about this aspect of Travelocity.com is that you can select up to 10 vacations that are of interest and the site will list and compare them in a chart that is easy to read. Next you can choose whether or not you want the comparison chart that all eagerly want to help you have a fun vacation for minimal costs.

Once you decide on a vacation package, Travelocity.com has many "add-ons" that you can choose from. Many of these vacation add-ons are tours that range in price from $39 to $97 for one person. If this does not interest you, do not fear: there are many more travel Web sites with packages to choose from. However, not many other sites offer the vast amount of choices and add-ons that Travelocity.com has for vacation packages.

Other travel sites such as Priceline.com offer plane tickets, as does Travelscape.com. Travelfare included in Springbreak.com is similar to Travelocity.com in that it has a large selection of hotels as well as plane tickets, but it does not offer vacation packages.

Most other sites that offer spring break vacation packages have much narrower options.

Many sites can be found that offer vacations to sunny places like Cancun, Jamaica and Daytona Beach. These vacations are directed toward the fun-loving college student. A perfect example of this is Springbreak.com. This site is a notch down from Travelocity.com, but still provides great vacation options.
es? Surf the Web to plan your ideal spring break vacation packages to vacation hot spots — Jamaica, Cancun, Florida.

SpringBreakTravel.com works along the same lines as Springbreak.com. This Web site arranges trips to the Bahamas, Cancun, Mexico, Negril, Jamaica, Panama City, Daytona and Miami Beach, and also provides various cruise packages.

If these destinations spark your interest, then deciding where to go will be the hardest decision you make through SpringBreakTravel.com. One of the site’s selling points is its simple and attractive set-up. You can even watch videos online from the various vacation locations.

A vacation package through SpringBreakTravel.com includes round trip airfare, transportation to and from the hotel to the airport, hotel accommodations, hotel and departure taxes, seven free breakfasts, seven “buy one, get one free” dinners and lunches at some of the most popular restaurants in the Bahamas.

SpringBreakTravel.com is a great site to vacation through. Making reservations is fairly easy as well. The electronic registration is simple and fast, and you can also fax or call in reservations.

Suit your needs, there are still more options. For those who crave something a little different, check out European-bound travelers.

Not only is GorillaGuide.com a resource for purchasing a vacation, but it provides valuable tourist information as well. There is a "Trip Prep" page that lists information from American embassies to laundromats in your country of choice. It provides all the things that you might be too busy to worry about checking out.

If Europe is calling your name right now and you cannot wait for GorillaGuide.com to finish its construction, try out EuroVacations.com. Although it is not necessarily geared towards spring break craziness, there are still many options on this site. You can choose from a large variety of pre-planned European vacations or you can tailor your own trip in their "Dream Vacation" section.

However, if partying in Mexico or shopping in Paris does not satisfy you, there is still hope. The simple Vacation.com provides a huge number of preplanned as well as custom-made-to-fit vacations from all over the world.

Whether it be hiking in Alaska or swimming in Hawaii, there will be something on Vacation.com to spark your spring break desires and warm your thoughts as you get you through the cold winter months.
Blue Devils earn last-minute win

Associated Press
GREENSBORO, N.C.
Duke won its first test of the season Tuesday night.

The undefeated Blue Devils (6-0) got 23 points from Jason Williams and 21 from Mike Dunleavy to beat Illinois (No. 8 ESPN/USA Today, No. 9 AP) 78-77 in the marquee matchup in the ACC-Big Ten Challenge game Tuesday night.

Williams and Dunleavy matched career highs, while Carlos Boozer, saddled with foul trouble most of the night and held to 12 points in the first half, scored 12 in the second.

Frank Williams led Illinois (4-2) with 19 points. Boozer hit two free throws, and Dunleavy scored on a layup and 3-pointer in a span of 30 seconds as the Blue Devils grabbed control 77-68.

However, the Blue Devils had to survive a wild finish in which they turned the ball over twice over the final 3:31.

The win improved Duke to 125-18 all-time as the nation's top-ranked team, but this one didn't come easy against a physically more aggressive team that beat the Blue Devils on the boards 42-27.

But the Fighting Illini (4-2), playing its second No. 1 team in a span of six days, turned it over 26 times and couldn't pull out the close one down the stretch.

The Illini, coached by No. 1 Arizona 79-76 in the title game of the Maui Invitational, have fallen from more than three points in the opening 7 1/2 minutes of the second half in a game that took on an NCAA tournament type of feel between two titans predicted to win their respective conference titles.

But the Blue Devils went on a 9-0 run as Williams scored on a drive and a 3-pointer, and Shane Battier hit a 3-pointer and Boozer added two free throws.

Coach Mike Krzyzewski got his knees to the table in the run, pleading with his team to put Illinois away. But Illinois made six free throws and got a 3-pointer from Sean Harrington to go on a 11-1 run to regain the lead by three before Duke's late run.

Each team came in shooting better than 50 percent from the field, but both struggled in the opening 20 minutes on offense.

Illinois had trouble with Duke's press early on and ended up turning the score to 40 4 times in the first half. Meanwhile, the Blue Devils couldn't penetrate the zone of the Fighting Illini and had trouble from the outside, hitting just 3 of 12 3-pointers while shooting 40 percent.

Hawkeyes 85

Yellow Jackets 67

Luke Recker scored 21 points and Reggie Evans recorded his third double-double in as many games with 17 points and 15 rebounds as Georgia Tech defeated Iowa State 79-68 Tuesday night.

Iowa (5-0) took the lead for good midway through the first half after trailing by as many as six points and pulled away from the Yellow Jackets (3-0) down 15-9 in the second stretch.

Recker added 14 points for Iowa, which outreboundedTech 45-22 and shot 62 percent in the second half. Alvin Jones led Georgia Tech with 24 points.

Tony Akins of Marvin Lewis each scored 15.

Iowa 54-42, its biggest lead to that point, after Recker sank three free throws with 12.9 left. Alkin then scored 3 of 6 points as Iowa beat Georgia Tech 59-49.

They got no closer.

Bathrooms LOST: GOLD" in a game that took 2001-2002 REWARD III NOW! 773-486-8822

McVoy continued from page 20

say the women on the team only needed a little boost to know that they were good enough to win.

"They didn't believe in themselves last year," she said. "Now they believe they can do anything."

In addition, the team has taken on a new attitude. The women aren't playing these games to avoid losing. They're in it to win. That determination, along with that boost of confidence, has done a lot for this team, but it doesn't end there.

Smith has had a huge hand in this team's turn around. In addition to being full time, new and young, she inspires team confidence and respect; much more successfully than last year's head coach, Dave Roeder, ever did.

"Coach Smith is young, but we still respect her. she told me this early this week during an interview. "She's been the reason this team has turned around."

The Observer accepts classifieds every business day from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Daily Times office, 600 South Chillicothe, Deck, and by e-mail at classifieds@observer.com. The charge is $3 per word per character, including all spaces. The Observer reserves the right to edit all classifieds for content without incurring fees.

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Fri, Sat: 7:30am-11:00 pm
Sun: No service
PHONE 631-COPY

BATHS LOST: GOLD

024 South Dining Hall. Deadline for next-day classifieds is 3 p.m.

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where is the future of high tech?

hightechNY.com

There are over 40,000 high tech job openings throughout New York State.
Hornets hit new record in 95-63 victory
Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. - Rodney White scored 20 points and Charlotte hit a team-record 16 3-pointers Tuesday night in a 95-63 victory against Miami.

Denmon Brown scored 16 points for Charlotte (3-1); Jobey Thomas had 15, Dingo Gouvara scored 12 and James Zimmerman had 11.

It was Charlotte's second rout in 10 days of a team from a high-profile conference. The 49ers, from Conference USA, blew out North Carolina State 95-78 in Raleigh on Nov. 18.

The Niners had hoped the victory would push them into the Top 25 for the first time in two years, but a second 79-78 loss to St. Bonaventure on Saturday spoiled their expectations.

Against Miami, they set out early to redeem themselves by taking quick and confident shots at the basket - especially from long range.

The 49ers, who averaged 11 3-pointers a game, hit seven in the decisive first half. They finished 16-of-32 from long range, making so many that the students who had been hanging yellow 3s on each run out at 15.

Gouvara led the barrage by making 4-of-7, while Zimmerman was 3-for-4.

Miami (3-1) jumped out to a quick 17-2 lead. A 16-2 run by Miami over the final 1:45 of the first half gave Miami a 42-28 lead with 2:03 to play.

Gouvara and Brown both hit 3s at the beginning of a 12-2 run that gave Charlotte the lead for good at 20-19. The Niners then shifted into their transition offense and poured it on the Hurricanes.

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Miami (3-1) jumped out to a quick 17-2 lead. A 16-2 run by Miami over the final 1:45 of the first half gave Miami a 42-28 lead with 2:03 to play.

Gouvara and Brown both hit 3s at the beginning of a 12-2 run that gave Charlotte the lead for good at 20-19. The Niners then shifted into their transition offense and poured it on the Hurricanes.

Zimmerman and White hit long 3-pointers Tuesday night in a 95-63 victory.
"What Do We Want From Story?"

Conference and Inaugural Lecture

Includes:
Margaret Ann Doody, Christopher Fox, Patrick Jehle, Teresa Phelps, Rev. Edward A. Malloy, Vilsoni Hereniko, Michael Rose, John S. Dunne Melvin Pena, Valerie Sayers, & Marina Warner

Sponsored by the office of the Provost, the Henkels Lecture Series; the Graduate School; and by the Department of Anthropology; the Department of English; The Department of Film, Television and Theatre; the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures; the Department of Music.

University of Notre Dame * November 30 - December 2
Hewitt, Agassi earn opening round wins

Associated Press

LISBON, Portugal

Pete Sampras, playing his first match in more than two months, lost 7-5, 6-0 to Lleyton Hewitt on Tuesday in the opening round of the Masters Cup. Andre Agassi, coming off a three-week break because of a hip injury, was more successful, beating Gustavo Kuerten 4-6, 6-4, 6-3.

Marat Safin, seeking to become the youngest player ever to finish the year as No. 1, also won his round-robin match Tuesday, rallying past Alex Corretja 6-7 (6), 7-5, 6-3.

Safin's victory means the 20-year-old Russian no matter the final of the $3.7 million event will have lost a little interest at the year end, a feat Kuerten to 95 points.

“Coming off such a big break, Pete wasn’t at his best today,” said the 19-year-old Australian, who lost to Sampras in the semifinals of the French Open to Yevgeny Kafelnikov. Hewitt said Sampras, the Wimbledon champion, might have lost a little interest at the end of the second set.

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NCAA Football

Oklahoma's Heupel, Stoops awarded

Heupel, Stoops win player, coach of the year honors Tuesday.

Associated Press

NEW HAVEN, Conn. — Oklahoma's Josh Heupel and Bob Stoops won the Walter Camp player and coach of the year awards Tuesday. Heupel, quarterback for the Sooners, led the team to No. 1 Sooners. led the team to the top of the national rankings for the first time since 1987. It marked only the third time a player and coach from the same school were honored in the same year.

The winners of the awards, named for the former Yale coach who helped develop the rules of the game, are picked by a national panel of Division I-A coaches and sports information directors.

Stoops and Heupel will be honored at the Walter Camp 34th national awards banquet on Feb. 10 at the Yale University Commons in New Haven.

Heupel also was honored Tuesday as The Sporting News' player of the year. The St. Louis-based magazine selected Orange State's Dennis Erickson as the coach of the year, and Florida receiver Jabar Gaffney as the freshman of the year.

NFL

Packers' Dotson ends season with injury

Associated Press

Green Bay Packers defensive lineman Santana Dotson's season is over.

The Packers' locker room leader and pillar of consistency partially tore the quadriceps tendon just above his right knee in the second quarter of Green Bay's loss at Carolina on Monday night.

General manager Ron Wolf said tests Tuesday revealed that the nine-year veteran needs an operation and an off-season of rehabilitation to be ready for the 2003 season.

Meanwhile, Brett Favre needs another cast, and not the type he wore on his badly sprained left foot two weeks ago.

In spite of all his injuries, including tendinitis in his throwing elbow and a perpetually swollen thumb, Favre has regained his form. His supporting cast hasn't.

Last year, a bruised and swollen thumb contributed to a sub-par season in which Favre threw 23 interceptions and failed to lead Green Bay to the playoffs for the first time in seven seasons.

This year, the trouble is his teammates.

Favre, who has started an NFL-record 137 consecutive games, is throwing the ball with as much zip as ever. On Monday night, he threw a bullet pass to Donald Driver that traveled 50 yards on a line. He's just 107 yards shy of joining Dan Marino as the only quarterbacks ever to pass for 3,000 yards in nine consecutive seasons.

Favre has even curtailed his grunting habits because he recognizes the Packers can no longer afford for his aggressive tendencies through superior talent and depth.

Departures and injuries have left the Packers a shell of the team that dominated in the late 1990s. The Packers (5-7) now enter games with little or no margin for error.

That's why, Favre said, he can't try to win games by himself anymore — except in the fourth quarter, when he regularly finds himself trying to rally his team from self-inflicted damage.

Nine of Favre's 13 interceptions have come in the fourth quarter.

Disrepair set in earlier than usual for the Packers in their demoralizing 31-14 loss to Carolina Monday night.

Green Bay found itself down 14-0 early on to a makeshift Panthers lineup coming in at 4-7.

"At that point it didn't seem we could stop them," Favre said.

The Packers don't seem capable of stopping anybody once they fall behind.

Besides Favre, they have no playmakers. No Dorsey Levens, no Robert Brooks, to Mark Chmura, to Earl Dotson.

Favre has two rookie tackles protecting him in Chad Clifton and Mark Tauscher. Rookie tight end Bubba Franks and Ahman Green, a first-time starter at halfback, are prone to drops and fumbles.

Coach Mike Sherman, who has preached a return to fundamental football since replacing Ray Rhodes last winter, is particularly piqued by the drops, which have come in bunches of up to a dozen a game.

Then, there's Antonio Freeman, a colossal disappointment since signing a $42 million deal 15 months ago that at the time made him the high-paid receiver in the NFL.

Freeman entered this season intent on avoiding a repeat of last year, when he never got going after a long holdout and finished with 74 catches for 1,074 yards and six TDs — a down year by his lofty standards.

But his numbers are down even more this year. Although he has six TDs already, Freeman is averaging just 3.67 catches a game, down from 4.63 a year ago, and his per-game yardage is down from 67 to 54.

He committed a crucial fumble deep in Packers territory Monday night that led to a Carolina touchdown. Two weeks ago, he knocked the ball out of an official's hand for a 15-yard penalty that took the Packers out of field goal range in a close game at Tampa and cost him a $10,000 fine.

And the defense hasn't been able to offset the offensive blunders.

The Packers' top two defenders, linebacker Cato June and cornerback Mike McKenzie, have hardly been heard from because of injuries.
Football

continued from page 20

onto the ball at all costs, their opponents haven't been able to do the same. USC, which wound up 5-7 largely because of its 35 turnovers, including two interceptions and a lost fumble against Notre Dame.

"We win because other teams turn the ball over," Davie said. "We don't turn the ball over."

Notre Dame's low number of turnovers has the Irish in BCS contention for the first time in years.

Leading the error-free play for the Irish is an 18-year-old freshman, quarterback Matt LoVecchio. In seven games played as a starter and one as a reserve, he has thrown just one interception.

That's not a typo. LoVecchio's lone interception came back in mid-October against Navy.

Because LoVecchio has played in less than 75 percent of Notre Dame's games, he is not eligible for the NCAA record books.

But if you're interested in a comparison, of the 50 players at the top of the passing list in Division I-A football, the fewest interceptions thrown is four, by Toledo's Tavares Bolden.

Heisman candidates Drew Brees of Purdue, Josh Heupel of Oklahoma and Chris Weinke of Florida State have thrown 34 between them.

Davie's job got a little tougher after losing starting quarterback Arnaz Battle and captain Grant Irons at defensive end to injuries in the Nebraska game. Yet LoVecchio and Ryan Roberts proved able replacements, and the Irish are 9-2 and looking at a BCS bid.

Stoops has led the Sooners to a No. 1 ranking, an 11-0 record and a near lock on the Orange Bowl. Holtz has engineered a Gamecocks improvement from a winless season in '99 to 7-4 this year.

The winner will be announced Wednesday, Dec. 6.

Coach of the Year?

The Irish honors extend beyond the players.

Davie is one of three finalists for the Football News 2000 National Coach of the Year Award, along with Oklahoma coach Bob Stoops and former Irish coach and current South Carolina coach Lou Holtz.

"Our calling is to serve the Lord Jesus in mission not as independent individuals but as a brotherhood."

(Constitutions of the Congregation of Holy Cross, IV.33)
Irish end regular-season play with loss to No. 3 USC

By RACHAEL PROTZMAN
Sports Writer

Notre Dame volleyball built a 2-1 lead in the match against No. 3 USC before falling in the last two games to drop the five game match (15-7, 15-1, 15-17, 15-7, 15-11) on Saturday. 

"USC was a legitimate third in the poll rankings, but our team came out and fought hard for every point," sophomore Keara Coughlin said. "We found ourselves taking games away from them even though our statistics for the match were not at our usual level."

After not being able to come back from an 8-2 deficit in the loss of game 1, the Irish came on strong in game 2 to take a 14-10 lead. Then USC put up a fight, scoring five points to take the lead. Notre Dame hung on for the 17-15 win.

Freshman Kim Fletcher racked up a career-high 10 kills in the game.

In game 3 action, the Irish built an 8-3 lead before falling apart to allow the Trojans to take the 13-11 lead. Seniors Christi Girton and Denise Boylan each struck hard with a kill to give the Irish the tie before USC took the lead. With a burst of strength, Notre Dame stole back the lead and the win. USC took the nearly 8-lead in game 4 and went on to win as the Irish couldn't fight back.

Game 5 went back and forth between both teams with USC pulling ahead in the end for the win.

"After losing in five games to a talented team like USC," Coughlin said, "we were able to leave California hitching to get back in the gym for practice this week and start off our post season at the level at which we have proven we can compete."

Senior Christi Girton led the Irish in their last regular season game with 22 kills and 16 digs while junior Kristy Kreher followed with 18 kills. Junior Malinda Goralski added 16 kills.

USC moved to 25-2 on the season with their fourth win over the Irish.

Notre Dame has just one win in its history against the Trojans, a 1995 victory.

Next up for Notre Dame will be the first round in the NCAA tournament where it will face Cincinnati on Friday night.

"Even before going into the match on Friday," Coughlin said, "we knew that our performance against USC would mean a lot. In the back of our minds, we knew that what we did on Friday would affect our match-up in NCAA as well as our attitudes going into the tournament."

Freshmen Katie Neff, left, and Jessica Kindler go up to block in a game earlier this season. The Irish ended regular-season play Friday with a five-game loss to USC.

BELLES start season with wins

They say the road to success is a long road paved with many obstacles, but that it is a road worth traveling. This past weekend, the Saint Mary's basketball team proved that following that road is not only worth traveling, but it is imperative to travel the road. Following a long history of starting off the home season with a losing record, the Belles will start their home stand this Friday with a 3-2 record after coming off a tournament victory at Marietta over Thanksgiving.

A column I wrote earlier in November described team and fan's hopes that this year would be more successful than last year for the Saint Mary's basketball team. The team 2-1 record over break surpassed those hopes, at least in the early part of the season.

In addition to having a winning record, the Belles currently have an MIAA player of the week in sophomore Kristen Matha and hold the leading spots in several MIAA categories. Matha holds the No.1 spot in most rebounds in a game and most blocked shots in a game. Leigh Ann Matesich and Katie Christiansen are tied for the top spot with most assists in a game.

Why the sudden success? If you were to ask head coach Suzanne Smith, she would attribute the success to her team's confidence, she would see MCV0Y/page 12

**FOOTBALL**

Ball control, BCS bid go hand-in-hand

By KATHLEEN O'BRIEN
Associate Sports Editor

Head coach Bob Davie's plan for Notre Dame's running backs to tote the football with them every waking minute in the early season has paid off in the form of a 9-2 record.

After last year's Irish committed 39 turnovers — 15 interceptions and 15 fumbles lost, Davie decided his players needed some extra practice keeping the ball in their hands.

So he gave Julian Jones, Tony Fisher, Terrance Howard and teammates the order to carry the pigskin everywhere they went, be it practice, class or the dining hall.

Eleven games later, the Irish rank first in the nation with just eight turnovers.

Not only is that mark a Notre Dame record, besting the previous mark of 10 set in 1993, it also ties an NCAA record.

While the Irish have held see FOOTBALL/page 18