Experts caution others... has emerged. Drinks where it then dissolves. "Date rape drug," now commonly known as the date rape drug, Rohypnol ("roofies") or GHB has emerged. The drug is colorless, odorless and may be tasteless and is normally slipped into drinks where it then dissolves. Instead of memories of tailgating and rush­end as the one that changed her life — the weekend that she may have been raped. Accompanied by a friend who attends Notre Dame, Katie went with a group of college students eager to party to an off­campus apartment that was the home to several Notre Dame and Saint Mary's students. While not a frequent drinker, the college junior consumed about three beers in three hours, drinking conservatively in the new college environment. Feeling in control and not intoxicated, she finally made it back to the dorm where she was staying — although she doesn't remember how — just before sun­rise. Her friend later described how Katie was confused when she returned, still obviously under the influence of the drugs. She said she was "like nothing, she said I just sat there," Katie said. What confuses Katie most about the night is her whereabouts the hours after leaving the bathroom. "What doesn't make sense is that my...
Identities of a college grad

Five hours. After having spent more than 1600 hours, I can see the class over the past three and a half years and who knows how many hours studying, it all comes down to the five hours of class left in my college career. And in those five hours I will be turning in two 15-20 page papers, presenting one and taking two finals.

And tradition of scripted questions for college. And in the evening it seems to be everyone's conversation. I have answered the question. "Are you sad about almost being done?" a multitude of times recently. If I'm feeling honest, my answer is, "No, I'm not sad about leaving these friendships, even though they will continue after graduation."

At the same time, though, I have met some incredible people, from past three and a half years, I have lived with in Pangborn to the people I spend so much time with at The Observer to the mentors I have worked with academically. And it would be unreasonable to not feel sad about leaving those friendships, even though they will continue after graduation.

And I also don't want to do and things I probably won't be able to do before I leave, but whether I can accomplish them or not is not important, because of the huge number of things I have been able to do here. The good and bad episodes have contributed to my college experience in irreplaceable ways.

Yet what I will be doing next semester, next year, in a few years is completely unscheduled. And any senior will tell you that that is scary. "So what are you doing next semester?" everyone asks. This one is easy, no optional answers. "No idea." Most likely I'll be adjusting to life as a college graduate and making some money before I head off for a graduate school. Even if I'm doing something menial, I wouldn't trade that for another semester of school, especially at somewhere around $1000 a credit hour. I'm looking forward to not having 12 things to do at any given time, being able to sleep seven nights a week and maybe more than 4 hours a night and reading a book for fun.

So yes, I'm glad I'm almost done with college. And yes I'm sad to be leaving and yes I'm scared about the future. But isn't that the point?

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

Kate Steer
Associate News Editor

THIS WEEK IN NOTRE DAME/SAIN'T MARY'S HISTORY

WSND implements new policies
Dec. 3, 1979

In response to the controversial broadcast, "Sex at Notre Dame," new policies were implemented at WSND. The station submitted eight proposals to James Roemer, dean of students. Among other restrictions, WSND would tape delay all future talk shows, restrict the two station employees involved in the show from appearing on any future talk shows and cut these employees' air time by half.

Outside the Dome

Riot discipline: A tricky science for Ohio State

COLUMBUS, Ohio

In the wake of the early morning riots on Nov. 19 that produced five officers injured, a stabbing and a quick reaction from the Ohio State University's student government, President William "Brit" Kirwan has said Ohio State will consider punishing students for crimes committed off campus during rioting that followed OSU's men's basketball game with the University of Michigan.

All 10 of the OSU students who were arrested on the night of the riots have been suspended in abeyance, which means that they will be able to continue attending classes and go about their normal routine until they meet with Student Affairs. Recommendations will then be made for each student's status, said Bill Hall, interim vice president of Student Affairs. He has said that punishments may include probation, suspension, dismissal or even being barred from attending any school in Ohio.

The existing Code of Student Conduct makes no mention of punishing students for off-campus misconduct.

But a revised version of the code is being considered in the University Senate. If the revised code is passed, it would allow the university to discipline students for violent crime committed off campus or for destruction of property.

Kirwan said, "Put aside the code of conduct, (Kirwan's) disciplining the students by taking the faculty rules into consideration," Conklin said.

However, the possible penalties or punishments for students who are involved in off-campus misconduct are not detailed in the faculty rules.

TUFFS UNIVERSITY

Undergraduate students sit-in

MEDFORD, Mass.

Tufts University president John DiBella sent out a mass e-mail to the Tufts community Wednesday affirming specific sections of Tufts' nondiscrimination policy, in particular areas covering self-acceptance of identity. The statement prompted the 20 students who staged a 35-hour sit-in in campus to end their protest and claim victory in their battle to get the administration to address the issue of discrimination. During the protest, the students, most of whom are members of the group formerly known as Tufts Students Against Discrimination (TSAD), demanded that the administration affirm two aspects of the code of conduct.

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Local weather

5 Day South Bend Forecast

Accuweather: Weather for area conditions and high temperatures

National weather

The AccuWeather forecast for non-Friday, Dec. 1. Lines separate high temperatures on the day from those on the night.

Noah Amsrader

Andrew Soukup

Katie DeMent

Kate Steer

Tony Floyd

The Observer © 2000 INSIDE
Women's Resource Center plays educational role on campus

By LAURA ROMPI
Assistant News Editor

Nana Simpson of the Women's Resource Center told the senate Wednesday night that the center currently has three main functions: to serve as an information source, a coordinator, and an awareness organization.

"We have a substantial library right now where people can come look up information or check out books," Simpson said. "We also hope to coordinate resources for organizations both on campus and in St. Joe County. We don't offer counseling at the center, but we can send people to the appropriate places."

Simpson told the senate that the Center sponsors events throughout the year, starting with Freshman Orientation. The center is currently planning several programs.

"We are looking to have a speaker on eating disorders, and we're currently planning to talk to Tracy Gould of Growing Pains," Simpson said.

She also said the Center is looking for service opportunities and planning a forum about women in sports.

Simpson said the Center's main concerns are its budget and reputation. "Because of our small budget, it's hard to dedicate money to our day-to-day functions," she said. "We're looking at good ways to allocate our funds."

"A lot of people have a negative reaction to the Women's Resource Center because they don't know what it's about," she said. "We just want people to see what we're doing and what's going on." In other senate news:

- Senate passed a revised copy of the student union constitution, which included election reform amendments.

- In order to prevent violations that occurred in last year's elections from happening again, several changes were made to the original document. A detailed explanation of all election reforms will appear in Friday's Observer.

- Senate approved a letter to be sent to Bill Kirk, assistant vice-president of residence life, and DeBartolo Colman, dean of First Year of Studies, asking for their support of the Healthy Living Guide for Incoming First Year students. The packet would include information about various services available to Notre Dame students.

- We want their support before we go further in planning the packet," said Lewis senator Luciana Reali.

- Eventually we want to distribute the book to more than freshman so all students can use it as a reference in the future.

- Student body vice president Brooke Norton informed the senate that tickets will be available for the BCS football bowl game if Notre Dame participates. However, they will be distributed in the form of a lottery, so if students want a better chance at winning tickets, they should also enter into the parent lottery, for which an application was already sent home.

- Zahm senator Ryan Becker informed the senate that there will be mail service available in LaFortune. If students give mail to the LaFortune Information Desk, the senate said they would like to continue its normal hours.

- Some classrooms will be unavailable for student use if professors have reserved them for review sessions. The times when these classrooms are reserved will be posted outside the door to the classroom.

- The Office of the Provost, Student Affairs and student government started looking into the possibility of 24-hour access to DeBartolo Hall soon after Father Mark Poorman took charge of Student Affairs last May.

- The biggest concern in opening DeBartolo 24 hours was security — especially to computer use. The DeBartolo computer cluster will continue its normal hours.

- It was from a student standpoint," Norton said. "But if all the doors are open to DeBartolo, that's a big building with a lot of equip-ment."

- The office of the President encour-aged senators to sign a petition to open the hall, if the student senate so wishes.

- It will be mailed out the next morning. Senate unanimously approved professor Stuart Green as the faculty advisor to the student senate.

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Drug continued from page 1

friends] were all looking for me," she said. "They would have seen me at all the apartments or where I ended up outside if I'd been there because they searched the whole area."

The details that don't make sense, however, are the events leading to touring with Katie. Upon returning home that weekend, Katie began to fathom the events of that evening.

She became more and more confused about the events that transpired during the fateful night. After talking to her parents, she decided to see the doctor.

"I've never had sex before and so I was embar­rassed because I was going to see a doctor and have tests for STDs, AIDS and a preg­nancy test," said Katie. "I didn't realize anyone could have done this to me. I was just thinking that if I have an STD or AIDS or if I am pregnant? It can't be, it can't. I have a future ahead of me with so many plans and I want to go to college."

Although she learned she wasn't pregnant immediately, it took a week for the other tests to come back. All of the tests for AIDS and STDs came back negative. Her doctor told her he couldn't tell if she had been raped. Although the covering in the vagina that is normally broken during intercourse was intact, the doctor said that it does not back for everyone who has intercourse.

The doctor was also unable to test to see if Katie had been given the date rape drug since she had processed from her system by that time.

"My doctor said it was more than likely from everything he had told Kim. (My story was very similar to another case he had seen where the girl had been given the date rape drug)," she said. "He said that he was 99 percent sure I had been given "roofies" in my drink that night."

For several years Laurel Eslinger, director of South Bend's Sex Offense Services (SOS), has been hearing from women like Katie who suspect that they have been given the date rape drug — but cannot remember all the details.

"We began hearing about incidents involving the drug about five years ago," she said. "We average about one case a month where a woman has been given the drug and was raped."

"People want to come in and say a chunk of time had elapsed that they had no memory of or were confused about and we keep seeing this pattern emerge for about four years."

"This led us to believe that the drug had been drugged in some way," Eslinger said. "Throughout, Eslinger said there is no way to verify when one has been given the drug in some situations."

"One of the problems is that samples need to be collected quickly after ingestion of the drug so by the time the victims wake up, realize what has hap­pened, and want to take action, it is too late, so it is hard to conclusively prove what the person was given," she said. And it's not just college stu­dents who are being given the drug, Eslinger said.

"This drug is being given to everyone," she said. "We need to see it as every­one's problem not just one that is specific to college campuses."

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tained in "roofies" acts as a depressant on the central ner­vous system and can even account for amnesia for a peri­od of time after ingestion. Therefore, victims given the drug often cannot account for events that happened to them after ingesting the drug. It can take effect as quickly as 15 minutes after ingestion. Eslinger detailed signs that might indicate whether a per­son has been given the date rape drug.

"If you feel more intoxicated than usual from the amount of alcohol you have consumed, if you wake up and feel really hungover or can't account for some period of time, or if you feel someone has had sex with you but you can't remember any or all of the incident, these may be indications you've been given the drug," said Eslinger. She has suggestions to pre­vent from being given the drug.

"One of the big things to remember is not to drink a bev­erage that you didn't pour or open yourself," she said. "Also, don't share drinks, take drinks from a big punch bowl or a container that is being passed around and don't take drinks from strangers. If you are drinking at the bathroom, take the drink with you," she said.

"Eslinger warns that everyone needs to be aware. "It's some­thing that happens to be con­scious of and unfortunately, it really does exist. It's very sad."

Today, Katie is still coping with the experience.

"To tell you the truth, I don't think I feel the way I should feel," she said. "I'm grateful that everything was okay and I was so relieved when the tests came back and there was nothing wrong with me. I'm looking at it as a learning experience and especially after I got the test results back, I decided I was ready to move on."

The scheduled activities include face painting, crafts, cookie decorating and games such as holiday musical chairs.

The highlight of the event is expected to be the arrival of Santa, who will present each child with a gift.

However, Santa and Air Force ROTC are not the only ones contributing to the event. A number of donors including Keenan, McGlinn and Dillon, have collected gifts by asking residents to donate a Christmas pre­sent in place of ex­changing gifts at their dances.

Referrals were donated by local pizza places, sub shops and food services.

In addition, the children will be enter­tained by a variety of Notre Dame performance groups.

"I have a great service working with me and have received a lot of support from the squadroom staff members and the Notre Dame community," said Kim Milford, event organ­izer.

She said, "Pulling off an event like Field Day is really all about teamwork and using your resources."
**Guerrillas kill 16 in India:** Suspected separatist guerrillas killed 16 people and wounded 20 Thursday in three attacks in India's northeastern Assam state, police said. Insurgents demanding a state have killed more than 10,000 people in the last three years. Seven people have been killed this month — most Hindi-speaking minorities who settled in Assam.

**Indonesia takes military action:** President Abdurrahman Wahid ordered tough military action in far-flung Acehnese provinces of Indonesia on Thursday, fearing that the world's fourth most populous country could break apart. In scenes uncomfortably reminiscent of the 32-year reign of former dictator Suharto, more than 30 other children were taken to hospitals. State Trooper Chuck Roberto said the bus carrying 47 children apparently ran off the shoulder of the road and the driver overcorrected, sending the bus across both lanes before it overturned.

**Soccer mom guilty of assault:** A woman was found guilty of assault for her part in a brawl involving parents at a boys' soccer game. Jacqueline Lenon was ordered Tuesday to complete an anger-management program. She refused.

**State seeks to have Indianapolis man's pub­lic intoxication conviction expunged because it overcorrected, sending the bus across both.**

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**Mad cow disease sparks new tests**

**Fire kills dozens after pipe burst**
Debt forgiveness policies changing

By EMILY ORR
News Writer

According to the Nov. 2 edition of The Chronicle of Higher Education, the Department of Education passed new regulations regarding the responsibility of family members to repay student loans after a student becomes disabled or dies. These regulations were created to help the department crack down on people who use the false claims of disability or death to avoid repaying federal student loans.

Changes were made due to the large number of such claims made in the past, including a department study which, according to The Chronicle of Higher Education, found that $70 million in student loans were forgiven under fraudulent claims between July 1994 and Dec. 1996.

Under federal rules a disability refers to medical impairments, expected to continue indefinitely, that prevent a borrower from working and earning wages. A student cannot be considered totally and permanently disabled on the basis of a condition that existed at the time he applied for a loan, unless his condition substantially deteriorates.

Under the new regulations, department officials will conditionally approve a discharge for a loan borrower who becomes permanently disabled and then monitors the borrower's financial status for up to three years to ensure that the person does not begin to earn "significant" wages. If, at the end of three years the borrower still meets requirements for receiving forgiveness of his loan, the department will permanently discharge the loan.

The tightening of the regulation, senior Brian Dixon said it makes sense. People shouldn't be abusing the system and cheating others out of financial aid. Fellow senior Maureen Sullivan agreed with him.

"Suppose it's good because people who take advantage of it are just hurting other people. It takes away from people who really need (financial aid)," Sullivan said.

Under these new rules, colleges will be independently responsible for determining whether borrowers in the Perkins Loan and Federal Direct Loan programs that provide low-cost loans to students, qualify to have their loans discharged. Due to the operational changes that will take place for loan applications and the Education Department itself, the provisions will not go into effect until July 1, 2000.

However, as a result of falsification of death certificates that has taken place in the past, families will have to produce an original death certificate or a certified copy before a loan can be forgiven as of July 1, 2000.

"This will allow for each ticket to appeal can be heard by the judicial council. When the proposal was presented to the senate Wednesday night, several senators felt that would exclude some tickets and make the election process unfair," Hagan said.

"When I look at the new system, I see the spirit as solely to prevent a president by one person with the exception of listservs. Candidates are encouraged to create web sites and the judicial council will send an e-mail to all students with links to each ticket's web site.

"Student will still vote in dorms, and all campus material around polling station must be taken down 24-hours before the election.

"Nothing to do with the actual physical voting has been changed," Hagan said. "The way you cast your vote will remain the same."

Election

continued from page 1

and two will be appointed by the chair. The vice president of elections chairs the body, making its total membership five. The executive committee is responsible for voting, ballot distribution and other functional aspects of the election.

The final structural change will be executive liaisons, the president of the judicial council and a member from the student senate. These liaisons will keep the two bodies updated on all violations, hearing and appeals.

"I think there is a real difference in the organization," said Wagner. "There will be greater communication between the two bodies. It will be more efficient and this should help the candidates more than us."

Hearings

Last year's student body election ended with one ticket being disqualified, declaring the remaining ticket the winner. Eventually the vote totals were announced and designated the same winner as the forfeited, but the event brought to forefront the need for formal hearings.

"The new hearing process is more disciplined," Wagner said.

In the reformed system, allegations of misconduct must be reported to the vice president of elections, not the judicial council.

The motion committee reviews the allegation and votes on its merit. If a majority of the election committee finds a violation has occurred, both sides of the allegation will present their case, and a judgment will be made.

An appeal can be heard by the senate one week after the hearing. The senate should submit its decision in writing to the judicial council.

"By putting it in writing we can set a precedence for the future," said oversight co-chair Jessie Flores. "This will give some consistency because people will be able to go back and see what we did."

The election committee disqualifies a candidate or the candidate forfeits after the primary election, a re-election will be given to the student body.

"You can't have a president by default," Bauters said. "You can't give the election to one person without looking at the ballots... Ultimately, you should give the students a choice."

The two top remaining tickets will run for election and each may have a budget increase of $35.

The Campaign Process

In previous years, a single debate was held with all tickets. Because last year's debate contained few serious questions and answers, the oversight committee and judicial council proposed a new system that would allow each ticket to host a debate. The ticket would be required to invite a minimum of two other tickets, and judicial council would help facilitate the debate.

"People will be able to have more serious debates where they can cut to the heart of the matter," Hagan said. "They can make a debate as serious as they want."

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The Future

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Guatemalan Mayans, mob killings were only answer

Associated Press

LAS CONCHAS, Guatemala

When it came time to burn the five teen-agers alive, the gasoline flowed in from all directions.

"I didn't know so many people had brought it," said Alfredo Coy, the self-appointed "president" of this sweltering Guatemalan mountain hamlet of 37 metal-roofed houses. "The public came ready to do what had to be done."

He was referring to the events of Tuesday, when 500 area men, women and children converged on this Q'eqchi' Indian village and did the only thing they thought would guarantee their safety of their families: They burned five suspected murderers to death. Setting them on fire one by one.

As news of the slaying spread, locals from dozens of nearby villages congregated outside a small shop of mud-caked wooden walls and plotted what would soon become a murderous manhunt.

"The peasants were not going to rest until those responsible were dead," said Julia Srz. Srz., 21, owner of the shop, who watched the burnings from her store. "There was no excitement. There was calm and there was planning."

When the mob found the boys in a nearby forest, they beat them, confessed their two pistols and three plastic toy guns and escorted them back to this village, 200 miles northeast of Guatemala City.

The locals sat their captives in a circle and staged a public "trial" during which each of the teens fingered another for the killing.

When it became clear that the public saw no room for clemency, the locals doused the five boys with gasoline. Seconds later, matches were lit.

"I didn't feel anything. I wasn't happy. I wasn't sad," said Francisco Coy, a 36-year-old corn farmer who said he only watched. "But lots of people applauded as the criminals died. About 500 of us understood that this was necessary because these men committed such a terrible crime."

Barely a day later, life was back to normal in this valley of banana trees, rare tropical orchids and head-high cornfields. Barefoot children chased chickens through tall weeds, and roosters — confused by the highlands altitude — crowed all day long.

The red-clay ravine where the locals burned their victims might be a nice place to picnic under different circumstances. But today, huge yellow-and-black butterflies drift listlessly over piles of ash evidence of death.

A blood-soaked collar lies beside a charred shirt with a traditional Mayan stripe pattern. A melted phone card and a blackened Kansas City chiefs baseball cap lie a few feet away.

Mob violence has now claimed 28 victims this year in Guatemala, a figure that pales in comparison to last year's tally of 48 deaths and to the 52 Guatemalans who were killed in vigilante violence in 1998.

For Guatemalan Mayans, mob killings were only answer
Anthrax vaccine program to dwindle, supplies running out

Associated Press

WASHINGTON

Because of dwindling vaccine supplies, the Pentagon will cut back further on its plan to immunize all troops against the deadly anthrax virus, officials announced Thursday.

Under the change, only troops that will serve in the Persian Gulf for at least 30 days will receive the shot, said spokesman Kenneth Bacon. Forces deployed in South Korea, the only others currently receiving the vaccine under a program curtailed to preserve scarce supplies, no longer will be vaccinated.

"Given the fact that Saddam Hussein has used chemical weapons in the past against Iran and against the Kurdish minority in his own country, we assess the risk to be greater in Iraq than we do right now in the Korean Peninsula," Bacon said.

"This is in order to conserve supplies while continuing to protect the people going to the highest-threat areas," he said.

The Defense Department's only vaccine supplier, Bioport of Lansing, Mich., has experienced delays in obtaining certification and starting up its new manufacturing plant, which may not be operational for another year.

The Pentagon at first wanted to vaccinate all service members but cut back in the summer to only those serving in the Persian Gulf area and in Korea. Usage is running at about 17,000 doses a month.

The supply has since fallen to about 60,000 doses, meaning there is enough to give 5,000 shots a month to Gulf troops for a year, Bacon said. He said officials hope Bioport will have approval and be producing more vaccine by the third or fourth quarter of next year, and the Pentagon is working to find an alternate supplier as well.

Bacon said the military will save some 12,000 doses a month by temporarily discontinuing the program in South Korea, where the United States has helped maintain an armistice with North Korea since the end of the 1950-53 Korean conflict.

He also asserted once again that the program is safe.

A relatively small, but vocal, number of military members have refused to take the vaccine, saying they fear potentially damaging side effects.

"We continue to believe that the anthrax vaccine is the best protection against a biological threat that is 99 percent lethal. It is safe," Bacon said. "And we will continue our program at the current level in the Gulf, and then ramp it up as soon as we can."

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Happy Birthday,
Laura Januzik!
You're FINALLY
21!!!

love,
Mom, Dad, Joyce & Ken

NOTICE: CSC VEHICLE DRIVERS
ALL CURRENT VEHICLE REQUESTS
TERMINATE AT THE END OF FALL 2000 SEMESTER!
ALL GROUPS MUST REAPPLY AT THE BEGINNING OF THE SPRING SEMESTER!

Comments or questions
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Gore seeks court-ordered recount, Bush sees flaws in system

Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Gore’s lawyers framed their arguments to Florida’s Supreme Court Thursday as an appeal for the ages, one that could save the right to vote from an assault that would undermine its very foundations. George W. Bush’s legal team saw the issue differently.

In Florida, said attorney Barry Richard, the law “has been followed. There has to be an end point.”

While a truck brought 462,000 ballots — the first batch of 1.1 million ballots — to the state capital, Gore’s lawyers implored the state Supreme Court to step in and get the votes recounted immediately.

Gore’s lawyers have critiqued Sauls for not moving fast enough. He has refused to rule on the recount issue until he hears legal arguments Saturday. But in their view, Supreme Court briefs said they felt “respect and empathy” for the judge whose actions would be considered speedy in normal circumstances.

“However,” said the brief, “we do not casually sweep such intervention by this court, the lawyers said. “We urge the court to jump in and do what an election so far has not been able to — make George W. Bush’s younger brother, Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, was still holding out the possibility that Gore’s court challenges might be settled in the Republicans’ favor, making legislative intervention more likely.

“But in their view, Sauls was more likely. He said the justices continued their work.

“It is time to get some finality to the process.”

Bush said. “I don’t believe it should be done unless there is uncertainty.” Jeb Bush said. “If this could be cleared prior to Dec. 12 then, clearly, the Legislature doesn’t have to act.”

“But he said he was willing to sign into law a bill with a date of electors “if the bill is acceptable.”

“I can’t recuse myself from my constitutional duty as governor of the state and I can’t recuse myself, frankly, of being my brother’s brother either,” Bush said.

Meanwhile, both candidates turned to the state’s high court to settle the dispute.

“However,” Sauls, on Saturday. The judge has not yet considered the request.

“We believe there were a number of illegal votes for Gore in those counties,” McClellan said.

“While saying the Bush campaign believes that the recount was fundamentally flawed, McClellan said the Bush administration’s lawyers filed the motion because “If there is to be another manual recount, it should not be another selective one designed by and for the vice president.”

Unless the ballots are counted before Dec. 12, they said, it will be too late.

“No legal judgment can correct any error found after the fact,” their appeal said. “Only the judgment of history will be left to be rendered on a system that was unable or unwilling to ascertain the will of the voters.”

The 50-page legal brief repeatedly quoted from the justices’ own decision that allowed vote recounts and said the right of voters to be heard was paramount.

If votes are not recounted by the time Florida’s law makers urge special session to jump in and do what an election so far has not been able to — make George W. Bush the president-elect.

The state’s high court closed down for the day without a decision.

“No appeal has been made, and a Batmobile with loudly beeping horns and signs such as, “Al Gore Go Home!”

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nd Express in the Basement of Lafonte

Sign-up from 7:45-8:15pm by the Info Desk on the 1st Floor Three Tournaments and Three Great Prizes!

9-Ball Tournament for a DVD Player!
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Knock-Em In Tournament for a Discman!

This event is free and open to all ND students! Space is limited, sign-ups on a first-come basis. Rules will be explained at Sign-up.

Free snacks and drinks provided. Free Pool if time permits. Sponsored by Student Activities Office- Questions? Contact Banach, l @nd.edu
Res Life prevents student responsibility

Last night I sat a block from the White House at McPherson Square, waiting in the rain for a friend. Two dozen homeless persons began lining up along the sidewalk waiting for a soup truck to feed them. Eventually, more than seventy men and women of all ages and races found a warm and dry feed, oblivious to who should have won the election. House located just around the corner.

"We didn’t Let Friends Vote Republican" sticker is proudly displayed next to the Gore/Lieberman sticker on the rear of my van. It was my attempt to put a little humor and cause a tongue-in-cheek atmosphere around my personal involvement in the presidential campaign. In fact, I got a kick out of driving in front of Texas Senator Phil Gramm’s car in October, but the humor has since subsided.

Many Democrats believe, and every expert official I’ve spoken with agree that on election day more voters went to the polls in Florida and cast what they thought were votes for Al Gore. Republicans obviously believed that a large majority of Broward County’s absentee ballots were rejected by Democratic challenges and that they would win the contest. The fact was that only six military ballots were rejected, some because they were postmarked after election day, which is a clear violation of the law.

Democrats believe that the fiasco with the so-called “butterfly” ballot was a hate that went against them, but was not the deciding factor. The discourse could have gone on about how to count ballots and how many people felt a little bit of somewhat emotion. It was, when the Bush team challenged the validity of ballot counts, and portrayed the federal Supreme Court as a partisan Democratic tool, they focused their rhetoric not on the rule of law, but at the attempt of stealing the election.

As a result, the old scotch-the-city approach to politics we thought had ended with New Gingrich’s departure was the business as usual. Should Bush become president, the Democrats and Republicans of the congressional arena have done no favors for him in extending across the aisle to Democrats. This year, it did not have to become such a spin of rhetoric over the recount. Until the Florida Supreme Court ruled it, was a matter of waiting for the judicial process to decide. Another irony in this saga is the reversal of the party’s support. Usually, Republicans believe in states’ rights, until now. They want a federal standard to overturn the local and state laws that purport to leave wide discretion to the county recount boards. Democrats usually support federal standards in favor of a universal, across-the-board leveling of the field. Yet Republicans have chastised Democrats about using the Florida election law which relies on local decisions.

We are truly witnessing an historical period. The election recount had been keeping the nation transfixed, but is now slowly losing that level of attention. Regardless of who eventually wins the contest, public opinion is not the deciding factor. We will know the outcome of Florida according to the law, and half of us will not like the decision. The next couple of years are going to be difficult for everyone.

Gary J. Caruso, Notre Dame ’73, is currently serving in President Clinton’s administration as a Congressional and Public Affairs Director and worked at the U.S. House of Representatives for 17 years. His column appears every other Friday, and his Internet address is Hotline@aol.com.

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

Gary Caruso
Capital Comments

Putting different spins on the election

When minor students were cited in the Finngian’s bar raid in October, they faced court dates, community service, fines and the task of telling their parents that they had been arrested.

Students seemed ready to own up to the mistakes they made. However, by sending letters to the parents of cited students and automatically adding the $100 fine from their student account, the University interfered and failed to let the students take responsibility for their own mistakes.

Most student account fines are paid by their parents. Adding the fines for the Finngian’s incident from students accounts is a near guarantee that their parents, not the students themselves, will see the дележ consequence for these violations. Students were not given any options for payment of the fines by any other option on their own.

All other fines issued by the University, such as those assessed in conjunction with parking tickets, alcohol in hallways and other du Lac violations, come with payment options. The same measures should be adopted by the Office of Resdence Life in regard to the fines issued in the Finngian’s bust. Placing the responsibility for the repercussions of the Finngian’s incident on the students assures the students the opportunity to exercise the responsibility and judgement they were initially lacking.

When students are cited, they are more likely to own up to their mistakes. Community service, fines and the task of telling their parents that they had been arrested.

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Debating the possible ordination of women

Questioning papal infallibility

After cornering, it becomes increasingly important to follow rubrics precisely. Failure is adherence to the infallibility guidelines may result in severe penalties. For an egregi­ous infraction, the offending party will be designated as the one to go to an awesome delivery guy. He will have this duty for a specified period of time not to exceed six weeks. Level four of trash removal involves compaction. Compaction should not occur until a piece of garbage cannot be placed on top of the existing stack without falling off itself, or dislodging another portion (Jenga rules apply). After three unsuccessful attempts to add one more piece of garbage, the game must end (a penalty for their incompetence) compact the existing pile.

In a proletariat domicile, you will have a garbage bag or liner. In this case, you will stretch the plastic, using it as a glove, then press down on the trash until you can safely balance more on top.

Many people are not fortunate enough to have such a luxury. These blue-collar masses will pull the cleanest, widest thing out of the can and place it on top. Empty cases of beer, Grab and Go bags, or Observer work well. Using the clean trash as a sanitary barrier, push down, increasing the density of the garbage.

In later stages of compaction, it may become necessary to step on the sanitation barrier, using your body weight as a compaction device.

Step five: reinforcement.

After several compassionations and three more unsuccessful places, it is time to take out the garbage. For this, a trash bag or (reasonable facsimile) is required. Extra trash bags are stored between the existing liner and the trash can in the nearest public restroom. To empty, you place the inverted bag over the precarious pile of trash and slide it down over the bin, turning the bin upside down, and shaking it violently while you, the shaker, jump up and down.

Step six: finale.

After a knot is tied with the bag, the reinfacer sets the sealed bag down. A place where no person can walk out or into the front door without tripping over it. In doing so, he is exempt from any further role in the trash removal procedure. This also serves as a message to others to, well, to do something. I'm not really sure what. I think that's what the argument was about.

I have many, many disordered passions inclining me towards sinful behavior. Every one of us does. God has not "made a mistake" with us, rather due to original sin all humanity has suffered under the burden of dis­ordered passions. That the homosexual inclination is one of these passions for many people is simply a painful fact of life.

It is essential for the Catholic Church to point out the defects in human character that are the disordered passions. If it did not do so, it would not be fulfilling its role as a prophetic witness to the life of Christ.

It is up to us individually with our confessors and God to work out how we can live with these passions and still be good Christians. After all, of course, my own confessors who are reading this nod their heads and words the thought with (tongue)...

In the modern era, psychiatrists counsel us to be a sort of least-common-denominator "normal." In past days people did not visit their headshriner but rather their priest, and (for free!) people worked out with their confessors how to live lives of holiness. We are not called to be "normal." We are called to be holy.

Indeed, we are all called to be saints. Saints are not people who have never sinned. They are sinners just like us who have kept trying in spite of their weakness­es. The Church defines itself when it names saints. We are then, corporately, a pilgrim people, and so, to sin and to be sinners and to be a people Vanguarding the Church's ordination. The Church's ordination is a "made mistake" inhorn nor any other gay person has been picked out by the Catholic Church as disordere...
My room’s better

Scene searched high and low to find the most creative and impress

Determined each winner is never an easy task — look no further than the presidential elections for proof of that. But selecting the best dorm room around was a different challenge altogether.

The final decision was difficult not because of faulty vote tallies or the voters, inability to punch a card. Each contestant showed such true merit that while only one room will receive the title of “Best on Campus,” each of the following rooms is commendable for the character exhibited by both the furnishing of the room and its inhabitants. Few students were brave enough to put their room to the test in this competitive race for prestige (Note: There was a disappointing lack of nominations for females, rooms on either side of US 31. Here they are, some of the top rooms on campus.

457 KEOUGH HALL

Best Room on Campus

Beyond a shadow of a doubt, this room takes the cake. Nominations for this room came from both Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s students. Scene even received an e-mail from a student at Hope College who was so impressed with this room that, upon seeing this fierce competition taking place, felt she had to let us know just how unique this room is.

Juniors Ed Marks, Joe Feehan, Will Brukercr, Joseph Dwyer, Anhtuan Do and Shane McIlhenny, the men of 457 Kough, were intent on impressing the judges, and success is theirs. The focal point of their six-man arrangement culminates in their social room.

Upon first approach, one sees a regular West Quad door framed by garland, with a standard issue bulletin board on the side. The bulletin board is the only standard feature to be found in this room, however. Adorning the bulletin board is an odd box covered in blue plush carpeting. Upon closer inspection, one sees that this is a lock box. Because of the nature of the room set-up and rules regarding the copying of University keys, this box holds the two keys issued for room 457. Each of the six men who take turns using the room has his own key to allow access to the lock box.

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Open the door and it is hard to see what separates this room from any other. Yet with the push of a button, insta-Christmas is behold. All powered by a remote control, Christmas lights around the doorway and ceiling — along with two small Christmas trees and candles in the window — begin to glow. With the help of a satellite dish, a never-ending supply of holiday music is channeled through the speakers.

The floors of this room are covered in the same blue carpeting seen on the lock box. Floors, you ask? Yes, Floors. There are, in all, three levels in 457 Kough and what some might consider a basement. On the first floor sits two couches and one. hex of an impressive entertainment center. Equipped with a 36-inch television, DVD player, two VCRs, satellite television, several video game systems and a five-disc compact disk changer, it’s easy to see why there are nine remote controls on the table — a table the boys built themselves to match the rest of the room.

In the corner stand two refrigerators built into their own cubby with cabinets on top, a counter and a built-in terarium housing a chameleon above it all. The mini blinks were hand painted by the resi­ dents of 457 to display a blue “ND” outlined in gold, surrounded by green shamrocks.

All of the additions in this room — cabinets, table, separations between floors — were hand-built by the resi­ dents using a lovely color of wood pane­ ling.

Above the aquarium sits a projector that displays DVDs or video in a 94-inch screen hanging in the opposite cor­ ner of the room. This screen can be raised or lowered all by the spin of a boat steering wheel hanging on the wall. The multi-level lights beneath the aquarium provide entertainment for the men as they challenge their guests to turn them on. With no visible switches, the lights, function may seem an enig­ ma. All one has to do, however, is touch the screws in the paneling beside the lights to turn them on.

This same lighting feature is seen on the bunk-futon that also sits on the sec­ ond level. The underside of the top bunk houses four of these lights, one for each person seated on the lower level. The futon is fully functional as a bed, as most futons are, but being a bunk-futon, it also creates the third level in the room.

The top level of the futon, accessible by ladder, has been equipped with pan­ eling and carpet and holds a beanbag, throw pillows and the cushion from a circular chair. There is not a bad seat in the house for viewing movies, and rumor has it that as many as 31 people have fit “comfortably” in this double.

One cannot overlook the tasteful decor of the room. The men never stray from their theme of blue plush and panel. From the posters on the wall, to the classic cabinet-encased dart board, to the six blue and gold stockings — one for each resident — hand-made by Joe’s mom, to the lava and bubble lamps and fiber optic light displays — this room is a designer’s dream come true.

The men of 457 worked hard through the first weeks of school to create their masterpiece. The initial unveiling took place for the viewing of the first away football game in late September. However, it is a continual process of improvement as they strive to create their own Nirvana.

Having constructed the most high­ tech, classy and comfortable yet practi­ cal space in any dormitory, it is with honor that we bestow upon the resi­ dents of 457 Kough the honor of Best Room on Campus.

From the top of the third tier, one can take in the whole room, from double fridges, to terrarium, to the entertainment system — complete with DVD and CD player, two VCRs and several video game systems.
Insider

continued from page 1

sponsoring a Christian rock concert in the spring, but the scale and cost of the even have proven too much for the group to handle. University funds are often not great enough for government to afford bigger venues to visit campus, said Jay Smith, student government chief of staff. The group has since refocused its concert planning and downsized the program to ensure its production.

Student government plays a game of political hokey-pokey, with one hand in students’ needs and the other in administrative concerns. When students want something, it’s often government chief of staff. The group has concerns. When students want bigger venues to visit campus, said Jay Smith, student government advisor, according to Edgington, who has overseen the group since early July. The director of Student Activities has usually been that advisor. Edgington tries to meet with O’Donoghue and Norton in person at least once a month, but keeps in casual contact with them on a regular basis through e-mails and phone calls. She also sees Norton every week when she oversees Student Senate meetings.

Whether it’s getting a thumbs-up on a new diversity panel or an OK on Gravitron in front of Rolfs, the group heads to Edgington and fellow administrative officers. “I work with government hope-fully helping get things passed,” said Bill Kirk, vice president of Student Affairs. Kirk, whose most visible student government role is as member of the Campus Life Council, acts as a sort of guide in getting things done. On occasion Kirk serves as head of a smaller scale Congress, aiding government with “constituent interests” and meeting with student senators to facilitate student needs. Like Edgington, Kirk pushes the group in the right direction when it comes to planning projects and proposing new government initiatives. When there are cotton candy Founder’s Day issues, Kirk sends government to Food Services for help. Programs like the new Rector’s Endowment Fund go through many steps of administrative approval, O’Donoghue said, including those by the Office of Student Affairs. According to Smith, Father Mark Poorman, vice president for Student Affairs, has been a big advocate for more 24-hour space on campus. Student government has engaged in talks with him to extend DeBartolo Hall hours until 4 a.m. during finals week, with hopes of a future 24-hour extension.

With all this contact with administration, it makes one wonder when government has the time to talk with students. It seems their greatest input comes from familiar sources: friends. Smith says that he likes to “pick brains” on topics like du Lac revisions and a possible weekly student e-mail of campus events. Student government members come from different back­grounds, he added, noting that this helps when getting a greater consensus of student input. What about the students who don’t know Smith, or O’Donoghue, or even their hall senator? How are their concerns heard? This is something Smith says the group is working to improve.

According to Smith, about 500 – 1,000 people attended the Founder’s Day event throughout the course of the day. The event was a failure because of overall low attendance, Smith said, but “everyone who went thought it was a great thing.” Student government, however, has not yet gathered responses from students.

There was a follow-up meeting regarding the event with administration and groups involved in the planning. There was no meeting, though, to learn student reaction. Smith says the government is also looking to form student focus groups beginning in January. Norton and O’Donoghue also have met with the Office of Student Affairs and students will now for the first time be allowed in the Board of Trustees winter meeting in Washington.

Student Senate serves as the most visible mediator between student concerns and the main branch of government. According to Smith, there is not a great deal of interaction between the Senate and the Office of the President. While there is a weekly report from the office at every meeting, Smith says that the branches run independent of each other. “It seems that Senate has had its own agenda,” he said, and the same is true for the Office of the President. Because of this, he added, there can be a great deal of overlap between the two groups. Some topics do reach both avenues, including the University alcohol policy, an issue the government hopes the Board of Trustees will address at their winter meeting. The Senate offered help and support after the Board approved student involve­ment in the spring semester meeting.

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Communities see successes, hope for future

By LAURA ROMPF
In Focus Writer

At the halfway mark of their term, student senators have completed a handful of projects and hope to have their hands full with more now.

This year, the implementation of sexual assault programs and the posting of a 24-hour space policy in all residence halls, to honor code reform and food service changes, were some of the positive steps to making Notre Dame a better place for the students," said Zahn senator Ryan Becker. "And I promise, there is a lot more to come. We’re not done yet."

While some senate committees have been moving actively in other areas, each of the seven outlined ambitions in August and have been working to accomplish those goals throughout the year.

Committee on Gender Issues
In the past, the senate’s Committee on Gender Issues rarely brought forth resolutions, but this year it has been very active.

"Gender Issues used to be an idea and issues-oriented committee, but now we’re focused on projects," said co-chair, Maggie Clarke, Lyons senator.

In August, the committee said its main goals were to address 24-hour space issues and create a packet for first-year students to introduce them to campus.

Clarke and fellow co-chair Laura DiLeonardo senator, said the committee also worked on putting clocks in all residence halls, and the packet, which will include various resources available to students, were large accomplishments.

"We think if it is all the information is together in one large book for the freshman, they will go to this book. It will sit on their shelves as a reference — ultimately like the ‘dog book,’" Clarke said.

After accomplishing both of these, the committee has moved on to several other projects, including working with Student Affairs to create Sexual Assault Recognition in the Dorms, creating Freshman Orientation focus groups to study the weekend, researching a new student center and packages with meeting and campus Ministry, and researching the gay and lesbian community on campus.

"We set seven goals at the beginning of the year and we’ve accomplished half of them," said Zahn senatordi. "Now we’re deciding what to work on next."

Committee on Residence Life
In August, the Committee on Residence Life set five main goals to examine dining hall issues, provide more 24-hour space, deal with maintenance and security issues, and improve LaFortune Student Center.

Two of those projects have been completed and the other three have been researched and are on the way to completion, said Zahn Hall senator and co-chair Ryan Becker.

The committee co-sponsored a resolution to require 24-hour space for all students and passed a resolution for discount meal packages. "The 24-hour space resolution was by far the most ground-breaking thing senate has done all year," said committee co-chair Mark Berchou, Sorin senator.

Berchou said the committee had met with food services to work on LaFortune improvements. "We realized that there be better lighting in the basement," Berchou said. "We also suggested putting a snack bar down there."

Finally the committee met with maintenance to inquire about putting clocks in O’Shaughnessy Hall, but were informed clocks were stolen frequently in the past, and it is not practical to replace them.

Becker said the committee will turn its efforts towards dorm improvement and maintenance issues for the second half of the term. The committee also hopes to lower the meal plan rate for students staying over fall and spring.

Committee on Oversight
Because the Committee on Oversight’s main duty is to ensure that Student Union divisions adhere to their Constitutional duties, the only objective the committee set in August was to make constitutional updates.

The committee fulfilled this goal by passing several "housekeeping" amendments. "The constitution is not a perfect document and it is our job to make it as user friendly as possible and the best document for all students to use," said co-chair, Audra Higgins, Pasquerella West senator.

The committee recently completed a study of election reform. After several violations occurred in last year’s student body elections, the committee looked to revamp the entire process.

"Election reform is a big deal and it has been our prominent focus," said Junior senator Missie Flores, Carroll senator. "We definitely want to avoid what happened last year."

Committee on Diversity
As the committee on Diversity said its three main goals were to make the International Student Orientation, to distribute a survey to determine the feelings about diversity on campus, and research why a students’ ethnic background is shown on their new Teaching Course Evaluations (TCE’s)."In August, the committee had one of those goals has been accomplished while the other two are still in the works."

"Our main goal this semester was planning the Celebrating Diversity work shop," said, "In the next senate, said Nicholas Brogan. "We’re going to have a co-chair and Pasquerilla East senator Diane." "Now that we’ve had a little research, we can move on to work on the plan because we have all the policies down."

"I promise you there is a lot more to come. We’re not done yet."

Ryan Becker Zahn senator

Committee on Academic Affairs
The committee said on Diversity sponsors one of the most significant resolutions of the senate’s year which stated several reasons why students need four study days next fall. Instead of the four proposed three.

"Our biggest project has been the study days resolution, said McGinn senator and co-chair Melissa Rauch. "It wasn’t part of our original plan, because we weren’t made aware of it until a few weeks into the year, but it has taken over as the primary objective."

Because the committee focused on this resolution, their projects outlined in August were on hold, said on-line DARTing, having out-of-class assignments included in the DART book and creating faculty mentoring are not completed.

Rauch said DART is currently in the hands of Office of Information Technology (OIT) and research is being conducted about guidance for upperclassmen.

Rauci said the committee is working on a new project of consolidating all scholarship and grant information into one office where students could find information.

"We did a little research and found out that the Academic Council had made suggestions to do this years ago, but no one ever picked up the ball," Rauch said. "I would expect some legislation in the next couple weeks regarding implementing this new office."

Committee on University Affairs
When the new senators took office last April, the University Affairs Committee elected Phil Deen and Ryan Becker as co-chair. Around a month later, Clement resigned because he was accepted into the London program, and then in September, Dittmar resigned for personal reasons.

Ron Berchou speaks at a recent Student Senate meeting. The senate has seen mixed results this year, but some committees have been effective.

Committee on Ethics
Although the Committee on Ethics main purpose is to ensure Student Union members act ethically in accordance to the constitution, they said in August they hoped to reform the election process. The Oversight Committee took initiative and investigated election reform and presented a condensed constitution Wednesday in senate.

Last year’s committee on ethics researched old test files and how they could give students unfair advantages, but this year’s committee has not followed up on this issue, nor has it brought any new business to senate.

Report Card

Gender Issues: A
Residence Life: A-
Oversight: B+
Diversity: A
Academic Affairs: B+
University Affairs: B-
Ethics: C+
Total Grade: A-
Group tries to change with new task force structure

By HELENA PAYNE
In Focus Writer

Under the direction of a reform-minded chair, the CLC has abolished committees and set up a new task force structure to increase productivity.

"This year my personal goals for the CLC were to see the formation of a new structure which would raise the quality of work being done by that body, while at the same time quelling concerns by those within the membership and outside about the quality of work being done by that body," said student body president Brian O'Donoghue.

The CLC, which usually meets every other week, is a resolution-drafting body of 23 students, faculty, and an administrator who discuss campus issues such as alcohol to academics, dietary accommodations, and the general whole has helped the more controversial issues ever seen by the body," said O'Donoghue.

"We simply cannot afford to make a mistake," Norton said the CLC plans to address the 24-hour social space has been a big item on the agenda this year, as they deal with campus issues.

"Before, it seemed like folks were working just to have something done for the next meeting. As a result the product sometimes lacked the full research it could have had. The result of such past half-hearted efforts was a body which was losing respectability and frustration.

The committees have been replaced by task forces, which O'Donoghue and Norton said have more explicit, narrow goals. One, for example is the Task Force for Consistent Residence Hall Policies, which was recently created and is committed to serving the University.

"The task force system is working well and is committed to serving the University," said the new body functions well and is committed to serving the University.

"Generally the people who get involved early... those are people who will probably be involved actively their entire career here," said Romero. "I just hope that we can kind of speed up the process a little," said Norton.

"We need to see more proactive synthesis of the best possible product. This body cares about how it represents itself to the University community, a concern which used to be not given such high priority. The result is better work in being done for the Notre Dame community."
SAINT MARY'S STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT

Bouncing Back

After a controversial election, Chrisie Renner and Michelle Nagle had to unite a fractured student body. What they didn't know was that it would take another controversy to actually do it.

By NOREEN GILLESPIE

The presidential election of 2000 was not Board of Governance's shining moment. Chrisie Renner and Michelle Nagle won an election that is reminiscent of the current presidential campaign. After failing to secure the majority of votes in the initial election, the race went to a run-off, where the vote was tilted in a first-ever tie. After another vote, devideo declared their opponents. Emily Koelsch and Rachelle Bodarte were a last-minute appeal by Renner that called attention to improper runoff procedures for the Renner/Nagle ticket that presidency.

But the newly-elected duo did not have time to celebrate their victory last February, as a greater task lay ahead: the presidency. ballots, a last-minute appeal by Renner wanted students are opposed to what the ticket once sat in a platform that we had to do with students. Henner said.

Both women acknowledged that their platform goals were minimal.

"Our platform was a student platform," Nagle said. "We tried to make our best effort to meet the students' needs." They agreed that they kept the platform small because they could not foresee the future concerns of the student body.

"We couldn't foresee what the year would hold," Renner said.

"At times we had to unbind ourselves from the platform (to meet the needs of the student body)." The Renner/Nagle term has been anything but void of controversy, however. They wrestled with the junior class T-shirt, which stirred up controversy with its suggestion of a rivalry between Notre Dame and Saint Mary's women.

The event made Renner look at her job a little differently. "It was a time when I realized that I could not please everyone," she said.

Renner's commitment to fairly representing each student at Saint Mary's draws a line between her role and vice president.

Saint Mary's student body president Chrisie Renner holds up the controversial Junior Class Shirt. The shirt was the chance the ticket needed to prove their leadership after the election debacle last February.

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"We tried to make our best efforts to meet the students' needs." Michelle Nagle student body vice president

The Renner/Nagle administration has proven itself as strong leaders in trying times, including the 2000 election debacle, the Junior Class T-Shirt and the Keenan Revue decision. The year of trials has produced two student leaders who exemplify what student leaders should be.

The shirt was the first in which that has to do with the circumstances under which they were elected, but women will admit.

"We heard when the election happened, that students will move," Renner said. "We've tried to keep our students' eyes would be opened to us as leaders, and if we lead, the student body would follow." But finding the strength to lead had to come from inside, and after a tumultuous election, the ticket was forced to find the motivations that led them to run for office in the first place. That means trusting their leadership abilities, Nagle said.

"The election had a very humanizing effect on us," Nagle said. "We know how we came into office. But if we had doubled over for a minute, we would have never run for office. We know that we want to be connected to the women that we represent." Constructing an administration that prides itself on open-door policies, the opinion of the student body has been an element that is central to every decision that Board of Governance has made this year. Stressing the need for communication and education among board members before decisions can be made, the interests of the student body are something that is central to every decision the board makes, Renner said.

"My mother always told me that you can't listen with your mouth open," Renner said. "I have learned to listen. I have learned that the student body speaks when they knock on your door — and when they're not knocking on your door. I wake up each morning knowing that I am student body president, and that I represent 1,500 women who I care deeply about." Renner's commitment to fairly representing each student at Saint Mary's draws a line between her role and vice president.

The Renner/Nagle administration has proven itself as strong leaders in trying times, including the 2000 election debacle, the Junior Class T-Shirt and the Keenan Revue decision. The year of trials has produced two student leaders who exemplify what student leaders should be.

"It was an atypical term for the ticket, the year has taught both Renner and Nagle how to mature as leaders. And being leaders means learning that no matter how badly they want to receive consensus among their constituents, they know that they can't be everything to everybody. "You learn so much about what Saint Mary's is as an institution, as a community, and as a family," Nagle said. "But there is a constant pressure to be something to everybody. "I have personally learned that if I'm seeking to please, then I am setting myself up for failure," Renner said. "I've learned not to walk out my door every morning feeling that I have to please everybody. The student body will stand behind me no matter how I vote." As their term comes to a close with the onset of the campaign season again in January, the lessons and leadership learned could be enough to carry one half of the Renner/Nagle ticket into the presidency next year.

But it's too soon to make those decisions, Nagle said. "[Student body president] is a possibility," she admitted. "But I really try to take each day as it comes, and for now, that means living each day as vice president."
Kahn bridges gap between students and trustees

By MOLLY MCVOY
In Focus Writer

The opportunity to directly influence what the Board of Trustees decides is a unique one afforded to the student trustee at Saint Mary's. The student trustee is a voting member of the Board, a situation not found at many other schools.

"Most of the major decisions on campus happen on the Board, and as the student body, you should have a voice in a really important situation and a sadly unusual one," said Molly Kahn, this year's student trustee.

Because of the unusual role the student trustee plays in the College's decision-making process, the trustee's primary responsibility is to serve as a voice for the student body on the Board of Trustees.

"I think the purpose of the trustee is really to be a voice of the students to the Board of Trustees," said College president Marilou Eldred. "Their job is to bring issue of the students to the Board.

Part of the job of the trustee is to have an understanding of the issues that concern the student body. Kahn hopes that a reinstated student trustee for the year's student trustee.

"Sometimes people come to me with problems and concerns they have. A lot of students came to me telling me about Dalloway's or other problems and concerns they have. Kahn plans to bring more such topics to the next meeting in January.

"The Board discussed the issues with new facilities, athletics, personal safety and student diversity board," Kahn said. "In February, I'm looking to talk to the Board about what Saint Mary's is doing for seniors with plans after graduation."

Aside from bringing student concerns to the Board, the trustee often acts as the student voice in any questions the Board has about issues at the College.

"Molly clearly brought an important perspective when we [the Board] talked about Master Plan and the student center during hall project," Eldred said. "She was able to be very articulate as to why that was so important to the community life of the students and college in general."

The student trustee is appointed by a committee of faculty, administrators and students. When asked whether an elected trustee would more accurately represent the student body's needs and opinions, Eldred said she feels that the current system of appointment is the most suitable method.

"I like the process as it is now," Eldred said. "I think an appointed position is appropriate. The faculty and administration have a broader view of the college. We want to choose the student who we think will best represent the student body."

"I try to be really accessible and open. Sometimes people come to me with problems and concerns they have."

Molly Kahn student trustee

Because of the unusual role the student trustee plays in the College's decision-making process, the student trustee's primary responsibility is to serve as a voice for the student body on the Board of Trustees, and for us [the student body] to have an understanding of the issues that concern the student body. Kahn hopes that a reinstated student trustee for the year's student trustee.

"I'm very impressed with the dedication of the two newest additions to campus, Dalloway's and the Welcome Center, many student issues were on the agenda. Kahn also plans to bring more such topics to the next meeting in January.

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"Molly clearly brought an important perspective when we [the Board] talked about Master Plan and the student center during hall project," Eldred said. "She was able to be very articulate as to why that was so important to the community life of the students and college in general."

The student trustee is appointed by a committee of faculty, administrators and students. When asked whether an elected trustee would more accurately represent the student body's needs and opinions, Eldred said she feels that the current system of appointment is the most suitable method.

"I like the process as it is now," Eldred said. "I think an appointed position is appropriate. The faculty and administration have a broader view of the college. We want to choose the student who we think will best represent the student body."

"I try to be really accessible and open. Sometimes people come to me with problems and concerns they have."

Molly Kahn student trustee

We're looking for a student who has a sense of what the student voice in the Board of Trustees would be, someone who has given thought to the major agenda items for students," Timm said. "She also needs to have a plan for how to solicit student input so she is not just representing student government views and her views, but the student body's views."

In addition to being a student voice to the Board, the trustee acts as a representative of the Board to the student body. Both Eldred and Kahn felt that both responsibilities were equal.

"It's a full voting member of the Board, but it is also my responsibility to communicate the Board's plans after graduation."

Midnight Madness, Winter Carnival, and assist the Communication Commissioner.

Renner and Nagle also attempted to extend hours at the Library and the post office. Both Renner and Nagle approached the Library Committee, as well as, the post office, but administrators decided not to keep those offices open longer.

Renner and Nagle also were unable to increase the amount of Munch Money for students, but complimentary guest passes to the dining hall were made available.

The Board of Governance has successfully executed Pride Week, co-sponsored events, and streamlined communication between leaders and students. Renner and Nagle's "syrupy" campaign promise has come to life.

Michelle Nagle (left) and Crissie Renner (right) sit at a Board of Governance meeting. The pair has dedicated itself to keeping students up to date on BOG happenings through a monthly newsletter.

Molly Kahn, Saint Mary's student trustee, serves in a variety of capacities and works on a range of issues representing Saint Mary's students. One topic she has worked on is the Master Plan, giving student input on development and construction project at the College.

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NOTRE DAME STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT

Working for the future

O'Donoghue and Norton focus on a mix of student services and new programs

By LAURA ROMPF

Although students may not realize the impact of the current office of the student body president, several programs it has implemented are designed to benefit students for years to come.

Student body president Brian O'Donoghue said the Rector's Endowment Fund was a campaign promise and a great accomplishment for the office. One-third of the profits from The Shirt sales goes into a separate fund, available for students to use for medical school applications, football tickets, section dinners or other costly items.

Although only $900 of the fund's allotted $34,000 had been used as of Nov. 15, O'Donoghue said he expected the slow start.

"We've established the fund for the future," O'Donoghue said. "What's important is there is money out there to help students. It's early and it's growing. These things need time to develop. People need to be aware of it out there."

O'Donoghue, student body vice president Brooke Norton and chief of staff Jay Smith said the fund has not been highly publicized because of its personal nature.

"We want to recognize the dignity of the program," Smith said. "It's more about support for the students than publicizing our accomplishment."

The office said they are also proud of the Founder's Day celebration, even though rainy weather caused a low turnout for the event. Smith said he hopes the next office will build on Founder's Day so it will become an annual event.

"It was the first for that type of operation," Smith said. "Next year, hopefully, it will continue. We've paved the way, did the work and proved it can be done."

"We got 30 different groups involved instead of normal events that are just planned by one body," Norton said. "The students were very happy with it."

The third significant accomplishment the office completed is sending students to the Board of Trustees winter meeting.

"This has never happened before," Smith said. "Students will be going to the meeting in Washington, D.C., in February."

The office played a large role in the report to the Board of Trustees in the fall focusing on alcohol use and sexual assault.

"We got a great response from the Board," Smith said. "The issues were taken very seriously. They are often not talked about and we felt they needed to be addressed."

The office contributed to organizing the sale of The Shirt for Basketball and hopes to finish a project called the Greatness Grant, which will provide funds for students who want to do service or other works of ministry.

Hoping students would become active in Election 2000, the office planned debate and election watches in LaFortune which were well attended. They also helped register 1000 voters, gave away 1500 absentee ballots and helped plan a Congressional debate in South Bend.

"The students' voice in elections is absolutely necessary. A lot of folks say students are apathetic, but we proved them wrong beyond a doubt," O'Donoghue said.

During the campaign, O'Donoghue and Norton said they would work for student discounts at local businesses and a scholarship service. O'Donoghue said they have communicated with local businesses and soon will have a discount card available, primarily for use at restaurants. The scholarship search is currently available online. Although the office wanted to expand the Internet book-swap, they were unable to work with some organizations, so Smith said they hope to run a book-swap at a location where students can exchange books with each other.

"There are always signs around the dorms and campus where students are trying to sell books," Smith said. "We are looking to provide a centralized location where those selling and those buying books can come together."

O'Donoghue and Norton campaigned saying they would establish a satellite Grab’n’Go site in DeBartolo and a Recker's-like cafe in North Dining Hall.

"The office played a large role in the report to the Board of Trustees winter meeting. We still want to have 50 to 60 people who are dedicated towards their goals."

"Last year at this time, we had 12 people tops in this office working hard. This year we still have 50 to 60 people who are dedicated towards their goals.

"Every person who has made a suggestion to our office, we followed through with it," O'Donoghue said. "We determined the feasibility and tried to make it work."

"I have a lot of friends who fit into the 'critical of student government' group," Norton said. "It helps to reassess what we should be doing here. We want to know what would make the most students happy. We still want suggestions."
One Person's View

Let's open the doors

For the first time in recent memory, the Notre Dame student body has a leader. Brian O'Donoghue (SMC '98) campaigned to make this University a better place; he wants to take the talent and potential of the students of Notre Dame and realize a vision of a greater University.

But the students he wants to lead don't know that. They don't know that he believes in them. And that is a problem.

In preparing this special section, Observer staffers talked to hundreds of students about their government. And the most frequent thing students said about it was: "I don't know." Students don't know what their government is doing. They don't know that O'Donoghue and vice president Brooke Norton created a fund to help them when they need a place to live in an emergency. They don't know that the Student Senate is trying to expand sexual assault education on campus.

They don't know because they don't hear about it. And they don't hear about it because so much of what O'Donoghue's administration does is done behind closed doors.

Student government has always had a reputation as something of a insider's club. This year that reputation is deserved. While small sections of the student body are consulted when our leaders are deciding what to do, too many decisions are made with not enough consultation.

And when the decision has been made, and our student leaders sit down to talk with each other and the administration, to hammer proposals into reality, everyday students are even more removed. They aren't told what's going on; often they're not even told when something is accomplished.

Student government is not the only side to blame for this, however. If our representatives are insiders, most of the represented are indifferent. Students mock their senate and they ignore their president. And they don't give them a chance.

Student government held open forums about the alcohol policy at the start of the year, and attendance was low. Last December, the Student Union Board had a forum about campus concerts, and just a few people showed up. If we expect student leaders to act as our spokespeople to the administration, we need to tell them what to say.

Granted, student government has an image problem. Some past presidents have seemed to do little more than talk a lot and throw barbecues, attended mostly by other student government members and their friends. O'Donoghue wants to do more than that. He wants to use his office to make life better for Notre Dame students (and not just by supplying them with occasional free hamburgers). But, at the same time, he and his staff have a problem communicating with those students, to find out how they want their life bettered and to tell them when things change.

Effective student government requires steps in two directions. It requires the governors to make a step towards the students, and it requires the governed to take a step towards the leaders.

Let's take those steps. Let's talk to each other. Let's open the doors.

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

Finals may be approaching, but student government is just hitting midterms. The Observer looks at our student leaders, and issues a report card.

Student leaders must cooperate with administration

By CHRISTINE KRALY
In Focus Writer

Rain poured down on game booths and the stuffed animal prizes afforded to the winners. The hard ground turned to mud, and the echoing sounds were not of music and laughter but of raindrops hitting dormant carnival rides.

Student government's Founder's Day carnival drew praise from government members and administration, but few everyday students. Was it just the rain, or was something amiss in the government's planning?

Unlike Student Union Board (SUB), student government is a body that does not function solely to sponsor campus events and programs. Student government, though, has taken steps this year to organize such events, like the campus-wide Founder's Day carnival in October.

Founder's Day, a day of campus outdoor activities including carnival rides and game booths, was a sort of pet project proposed by student body vice president Brooke Norton at the beginning of the 2000 school year. Norton first brainstormed with student body president Brian O'Donoghue and fellow government members and then took the idea to advisor Mary Edgington, director of Student Activities.

"Most of all it comes down to time. You want to make it successful."

Mary Edgington, director of Student Activities

The idea was then sent to Peggy Hnatusko, head of the Financial Management Board (FMB), a division of Student Activities.

Groups like student government who wish to sponsor an event or program exceeding $5,000 must send a proposal to FMB, whose funds come from student activity fees. Founder's Day was approved and government members moved to bring in the clowns.

"I wouldn't say it's necessarily easy," Edgington said of getting proposals approved. Problems occur, she said, when the group does not have the time or funding to sponsor an event.

Founder's Day, for example, was produced with the help of nearly seven campus clubs, 11 dorms and 20 groups like Food Services and WVFI.

After all the planning and all the groups involved in the production, Norton said, many people were left wondering "whose jurisdiction is it under?"

Planning events usually doesn't fall under student government jurisdiction because large events are usually SUB sponsored.

"Most of all it comes down to time," Edgington said of planning campus events. "You want to make it successful," she added, noting that the success of events like Founder's Day take months to prepare.

Finding the money to make the cotton candy flow is often a difficulty, too. The student body president and vice president know their budget, Edgington said, and they know the limits it puts on their event spending.

Some initiatives, in fact, don't work because the money isn't available.

Government had planned on
215 Dillon Hall

Best Atmosphere Award

What in the world is a Boosy Hooten Flughafen anyhow? Just ask juniors Tim O'Connor, Paul Ricketts and Logan Foley in 215 Dillon. Taking its name from a small getaway in Austria that specializes in schmizted and large containers of beer, the Boosy Hooten (phonetic spelling, not proper German) was a restaurant the boys visited on spring break in Innsbruck. It's an Austrian restaurant, Flughafen, the German word meaning "to fly" comes from the bus the men rode in Austria. In honor of their trip, the men commemorated by converting their window box to provide supplementary seating arrangements.

With the accommodation of their massive DVD powered Flughafen Entertainment Center, attendance was so high that it seemed only fitting that they convert their window box to provide supplementary seating arrangements.

The men welcome visitors to the Boosy Hooten Flughafen, where what they lack in square footage they make up for in personality, and where nothing is on tap because there is no tap.

236 Zahm Hall

Best Room ... For Freshmen

Dan Maguire and Nick Shumacher may be the two luckiest freshmen on campus. Destined to reside in a triple at 236 Zahm, the boys were delighted to find that their third roommate decided against attending Notre Dame.

With no other student assigned to their room, Dan and Nick were granted the largest room in Zahm all to themselves. With an extra bed, they were able to create a day bed, complete with throw pillows, for comfortable television viewing.

The extra closet serves as a pantry of sorts, holding their refrigerator and food. Perhaps the most enviable feature of this room is the bathroom, complete with shower. The lucky guys don't even have to clean it themselves; the housekeeper comes once a week to do that for them.

The view from their window is one of the most breathtaking angles of the hallowed golden dome. But there is something even better just beyond their window — a small balcony that they intend to put to good use in warm weather. Currently, the balcony holds the Zahm Christmas tree. But the boys have dreams of cookouts and such on their personal porch.

Again, we must mention the décor of the room, filled with interesting signs and posters — most taken from girls' dorms or the library, according to the boys — spider webs that glow when the black light is on and an interesting monkey lamp. Is it unfair that these freshmen have such a nice room?

Indeed. But rest assured that they will be cramped into a real freshman double by the time they are juniors. Future has smiled upon them, and so we do award the Best Room ... For Freshmen.

408 Siegfried Hall

Neatest Boys' Room

Boys are notoriously messy. Strange odors are almost synonymous with a boy's dorm room. So it is with great honor that 408 Siegfried receives the Neatest Boy's Room award. We challenge you to find a more immaculate, spacious and well-organized double in any of the male residence halls.

Juniors Joe Gleason and most especially Mike Walsh take pride in the cleanliness. Mike is responsible for seeing that the room is vacuumed at least two to three times per week. It is doubtful that most boys, rooms even see a vacuum. But as Joe tells, it was a ritual in Mike's family to vacuum frequently.

Where some families stress the importance of washing hands before dinner, Mike's family tradition was to vacuum before dinner. Every day. Some habits are hard to break.

Being on the fourth floor, this room boasts a higher ceiling than most other Siegfried rooms. The extra two vertical feet facilitated the construction of the most elaborate loft system yet to be seen.

The beds, rather than resting on supports that reach to the floor, are suspended from the ceiling by a series of supports on the outer walls and chains from the ceiling.

The loft also doubles as a bike rack. With a full six feet and two inches of space beneath the beds, this design leaves the floor of the room extremely spacious. Also hanging from the loft is a hammock chair to accommodate guests who may not fit on the couch or futon sofa.

The room is well lit with several floor and desk lamps. Books and papers are neatly stacked and desks are clear. The walls display tasteful posters. There isn't a scantily clad woman to be found in the room.

Again, a rare feat for a male dorm room. Congratulations, 408 Siegfried.
MEN'S SWIMMING
Irish swimmers enter weekend competition in fourth place

By COLLEEN McCARTHY
Sports Writer

Although final exams are more than a week away, men's swimming head coach Tim Welsh told his team that they should consider this weekend's Notre Dame Invitational meet as the final test of the fall semester.

"Our objective coming into this meet is to look at it as the focal point of the fall semester," said Welsh.

"The team's focus this year has been to seek improvement in every meet and swim faster," said Welsh.

Thursday's close competition ended with the Irish in fourth place with 305 points. DENison University was in first place with 372 points followed by Michigan State with 365 points and Western Kentucky University with 321 points. The team lost their second place standing after being disqualified in the final event of Thursday's meet, the 400 medley relay.

Going into the rest of the meet this weekend, Welsh said the team expects that Thursday's portion of the meet is a good indicator of how the rest of the Invitational will end: in a very close competition.

Besides seeing a vast improvement in times and following closely behind third place Western Kentucky in the overall standings, the team is using the Invitational as an opportunity to achieve qualifying times in events for the Big East Championship in February. This is the first year qualifying times will be required for the Big East Championship.

Senior Jonathan Pierce and freshmen Matt Obrigier and J.R. Teddy made qualifying times in the 500 yard freestyle event. In the 200 IM, senior Ryan Verlin and sophomore Clay Miller had qualifying times along with junior Austin Anderson posting a qualifying time in the 50 yard freestyle.

Welsh was pleased with the results.

"Across the board, person to person, we have been faster today than we have been all year," said Welsh.

WANTED
Semester Break Employment: PT & FT Temporary Opportunities, 2 min. from Notre Dame.

\[Semester Break Employment: PT & FT Temporary Opportunities, 2 min. from Notre Dame.\]
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University of Notre Dame * November 30 - December 2
Irish sprinters pace team in competition

By ANDREW SOUKUP
Sports Writer

Even a stripped-down women's swimming team was good enough to grab first place in the Notre Dame Invitational after one day of competition.

Although several Irish swimmers did not compete Thursday because of conflicts with classes, the Irish still lead the seven team field with 374 points. Denison University is in second place with 356.5 points, and Harvard University is a distant third with 269 points.

"We feel pretty comfortable right now," said Irish women's swimming head coach Bailey Weathers. "A bunch of our swimmers didn't go today because they had class. We don't want to use up all our misses right away."

It didn't seem to matter that injured sprinter Carrie Nixon wasn't in the lineup for the Irish. Freshman Danielle Hulick turned in another strong performance in the 50-yard freestyle, finishing fourth. Junior Brooke Davey finished sixth, and Kelly Hecking won the B final to finish ninth overall.

"I thought the sprinters Kelly, Danielle, and Brooke did their best swims of the year," Weathers said.

Notre Dame also had two strong performances in both relays. In the 200-yard freestyle relay, the team of Hecking, Hulick, Sarah Bowman, and Davey won a tight battle for second place, finishing with a time of 1:37.29. Hecking and Hulick also teamed up with Allison Lloyd and Lisa Garcia to win the 400-yard medley relay in 3:52.71.

"Our relays have really put us in a good spot heading into the weekend," Weathers said.

The Notre Dame Invitational resumes action today at 10:00 a.m. with preliminaries. Finals will be held later tonight, starting at 6:30 p.m. Additionally, Notre Dame's elite diving corps will begin competing on the 1-meter springboard.

"We're going to do the same thing on Friday that we did today. Some of our swimmers are not going to compete because they've got class," Weathers said. "But on Saturday, we'll have everyone and we'll really be ready to go."
Write Sports - call 1-4543

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Yes, there are many roads to choose from, but only one destination: your success.

Basketball

continued from page 24

"I think our No. 1 key is going to have to be our defense in shutting down their shooters," Irish guard Matt Carroll said. "They've got a lot of big guys, and we're going to have to play consistent defense the whole game."

While the Commodores 3-point shooting percentage is well below Notre Dame's nationally leading 54 percent, the Commodores are still averaging about eight 3-pointer attempts per game. Notre Dame sharp shooters Carroll, David Graves and Martin Ingelsby have fans expecting the ball to drop through the net every time they let one loose from behind the arc, but 3-point shooting won't be enough for an Irish victory.

"We really have to be able to defend their 3-point shot," Irish head coach Mike Brey said. "That gives them momentum and gets their building going, their home court crowd.

"I hope we just don't come down and shoot 3s on each other because we certainly want to get touches to our big guys down low, Troy [Murphy] and Ryan [Humphrey] and Harold [Swanagan]."

Vanderbilt should challenge Notre Dame on the boards last Saturday helped Notre Dame pull out the victory. Humphrey and Murphy, Notre Dame's power tandem down low, average 9.3 and 8.3 rebounds apiece, respectively.

"Rebounding and defense are the keys to winning any game," Humphrey said. "When we play defense, our offense will take care of itself."

Notre Dame fell short in its last two matches with Vanderbilt, despite Graves going for a career-high 33 points a year ago. The Irish would like nothing more than to strike back at the Commodores.

"Whenever you lose to somebody the year before," Carroll said, "you always want to go out and beat them. Especially losing to them in the way that we lost to them, that makes you just want to beat them even more."

The Vandy homecourt advantage won't make the Irish search for revenge any easier.

Memorial Gymnasium is the only Division I arena that has team benches beneath the baskets instead of along the sidelines. The arena, with a seating capacity of 14,100, is a loud one that throws opposing teams off balance.

"This is going to be a tougher challenge than Cincinnati," Brey said. "People don't really understand that, but we're going to have to play on their home court. Our demeanor and our communication is going to have to be excellent, because we're not going to be able to hear."
WOMEN'S SWIMMING

Saint Mary's faces Calvin, Olivet in MIAA matchup

By JANEL MILLER
Sports Writer

There is a point in every season when you know that your team is ready for the competition. The Belles swimming and diving team is at that point.

Coming off a sixth place finish at the highly competitive Wabash Invitational, a win over University Nov. 14 versus Olivet College but was cancelled. Because of the Notre Dame Invitational the schedule was changed, and the Belles sacrificed their home turf. Because of scheduling conflicts with both teams, the Belles are now on the road for their first conference meet. But instead of swimming one team, the Belles are going for two. The Belles will experience their only home meet.

Gretchen Hildebrandt
Saint Mary's swim coach

The Belles caught some action against the Calvin women at the Wabash Invite and have a rough idea of the competition. "They're a tough team, it's going to be a tough meet," said Belles head coach Gretchen Hildebrandt after the Wabash Invite. The Belles haven't seen the Olivet women as of yet.

The Belles originally planned to swim both teams at home on separate occasions. Their first conference meet was to be at Rolfs Aquatic center on Nov. 14 versus Olivet College but was cancelled. Because of the Notre Dame Invitational the schedule was changed, and the Belles sacrificed their home turf. Because of scheduling conflicts with both teams, the Belles are now on the road for their first conference meet. But instead of swimming one team, the Belles are going for two. The Belles will experience their only home meet against Alma College Jan. 13, while the majority of their "would be fans" are gone for winter break.

Saint Mary's enters the meet with a clean conference slate.

Calvin is 1-0 after a close win over Albion College in early November. The Calvin women are coming off a 1999-2000 second place finish in the MIAA and a 5-1 record.

Olivet, having faced Hope College and Kalamazoo College, reflect a 0-2 start in the conference meets. The Olivet women placed below the Belles fifth place finish in the '99-'00 Championship meet.

Freshman Chloe Lenihan competes in the 400-yard backstroke relay at the Notre Dame relays earlier this season.

IN BASKETBALL
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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

No. 4 ranked Irish take on Tarheels in Disney World

By NOAH AMSTADTER
Assistant Sports Editor

The Irish are going to Disney World.

Ruth Riley and the fourth-ranked Notre Dame women's basketball team take on North Carolina at 1:30 Sunday afternoon in the first game of the Honda Elite Classic. The game will be played at the Walt Disney World Wide World of Sports facility in Orlando, Fla. The game will be televised on ESPN2.

The Irish come into the game riding high with a 5-0 record after doubling up Fordham 89-44 Monday night. In that game, forward Meghan Leahy came off the bench to lead the Irish with 16 points and 14 rebounds. The previous Friday, Notre Dame topped then No. 5 Georgia to win the Coaches vs. Cancer classic in Madison, Wis.

"We've opened up the season and been able to play better than we've ever have at this point in the season," said Notre Dame head coach Muffet McGraw. "I think that we are really on a roll right now."

The key for the Irish thus far this season has been an inside-outside game that is very difficult to defend against. With All-American Ruth Riley down low, teams often leave guards Alicia Ratay and Niele Ivey open down low. Either Ivey or Ratay has been the leading scorer for the Irish in all but one game this season.

"They have the whole package," said Tarheels coach Sylvia Hatchell. "They have the three key things that you must have to be a final four team or a national championship team. They have a point guard, a shooter and a center. They're all as good as anybody in the country."

North Carolina enters the weekend with a 3-2 record. After being upset by Buffalo in their season opener, the Tarheels have regrouped to record victories over Syracuse and North Carolina A&T. Hatchell utilizes a fast-paced offense that generally results in high-scoring games. "People like to see teams that get up and down the court," said Hatchell. "I don't like to play those 40 and 50 point games."

The key player for North Carolina thus far this season has been LaQuanda Barksdale, who scored 23 points and pulled down 13 rebounds to lead North Carolina to an 81-68 victory over Syracuse on Nov. 19.

"Barksdale's really the key to the team right now," said McGraw. "She's played extremely well."

The matchup between the Irish and Tarheels takes place almost one year to the day after Notre Dame topped a North Carolina team that was then ranked No. 9 in the country. Notre Dame won 99-86 in the opening round of the Wachovia Women's Invitational in Richmond, Va.

"They were a very good team last year when we played them," said Irish head coach Muffet McGraw of North Carolina. The Irish were led last year by the strong shooting of guard Alicia Ratay. Ratay scored 32 points, including six three-pointers, to lead Notre Dame.

"She made every shot she took against us last year," said Tarheels coach Sylvia Hatchell. "We couldn't stop her. She was just popping shots all over the court."

Forward Ericka Haney had one of her better games of the year, scoring 18 points and pulling down 14 rebounds.

Irish forward Meghan Leahy shoots a free throw during Notre Dame's 89-44 victory over Fordham Monday night. Notre Dame takes on North Carolina at 1:30 Sunday afternoon.
5 Irish Keys to Victory

1) Believe
North Carolina’s mystique is unavoidable. ‘They’ve won 16 of the 19 titles contested. The Irish must avoid getting caught up in history to score a victory over a team that has had their number in the past. Notre Dame enters this game as the favorite on the field. They need to ignore the tradition and focus on just playing the game.

2) Hang in There
The Tar Heels will have their chances, their offense is potent and shots are inevitable. The Irish must keep their wins early, weather any potential storms, and then find a rhythm from there. The Irish defense will have to be especially tough. Santa Clara ousted the Irish 18-4 last week. If Notre Dame wants to win, it has to cut down North Carolina’s shot opportunities while at the same time taking advantage of every scoring opportunity of its own.

3) Anne Makinen
College soccer’s best player can change games single-handedly. This is one she might need to alter. Makinen has been involved in 39 percent of Notre Dame’s goals. She needs to use her leadership to organize the offense. Makinen doesn’t want to end her collegiate career with a loss — her competitive instincts need to take over and dominate the game.

4) Midfield to Warner Connection
With Warner starting her first game since early October, the Irish will have more speed up front. The midfield must control play and feed Warner. She converts the opportunities she gets. It’s up to the Makinen-led midfield to get her the ball.

5) Liz Wagner
The Irish goalkeeper has played her best in big games this season and tonight’s game is the biggest of them all. She may need to change the凯. Wagner played her best game of the season against Santa Clara. Tonight, she has to play even better.

Kevin Bercho and Andrew Soukap
The Observer

5 Heels Keys to Victory

1) Stop Anne Makinen
Makinen, one of five finalists for the Hermann Trophy, has scored or assisted on 39 percent of Notre Dame’s goals. She needs four assists to become just the sixth woman in Division I soccer to record 60 goals and 76 assists for her career. This is a goal like that is just the motivation a player of her fierce competitive nature needs for extra intensity.

2) Mind the Middle
Because the Irish play with three central midfielders, the Tar Heels will need to help each other out defensively in the midfield of the field. They handled that scheme well in the final last year, but had Lorrie Fair, Lindsay Stoecker and Rebekah McDowell back then. A less experienced UNC defense could have problems.

3) Score Early
The Tar Heels have been at their best and most dominant this season when they have scored early and put games out of reach before they barely have a chance to begin. In their three losses, they outshot their opponents 66-25 but couldn’t find the back of the net when they needed to. The longer teams hang with UNC, the more confidence the Tar Heels will have in their own ability to close the game.

4) Meredith Florence, Please Stand Up
Florence’s 23 goals are tops in the nation, and her 58 points place her fifth. Her 1.14 goals per game average leaves her at third in the nation. She has been UNC’s most consistent and reliable scorer this season and can’t afford a slump against Elizabeth Wagner and an Irish defense that leads the nation in postseason. This is definitely not the most dominant of UNC teams but it still has that extra level it can kick into in the postseason.

James Gica
The Daily Tarheel
Soccer

continued from page 24

"She seems tough. She's tall, and she's strong and she's got good hands so I think she'll be tough to go up against," said Tar Heel midfielder Anne Remy.

"They're such a high pressure team, so we have to be more patient," said Waldrum. "Our defense will have to be at its best, and it's been good all year, while our offense will have to help take some of the pressure off the defense."

Offensively, the Irish will receive a boost as Waldrum plans on starting freshmen sensation Amy Warner - who has played only in spurts recently while recovering from a knee injury. Her speed should allow her to team with sophomore Ali Lovelace and senior Meotis Erikson to create plenty of opportunities. "He said.

"We're going to have to control their ball and keeping it," said Waldrum. "The game will likely be won or lost in the midfield. Last year, that was the case. We have to be more dominant in controlling the ball and keeping it," Waldrum said.

Since the Irish have one of the nation's best midfielders in Anne Makinen, they figure to have the edge in the midfield. Macken didn't play in the second half of last year's finals loss to the Tar Heels and her presence this year will make a world of difference in the Irish midfield.

"She's one of the best players to ever play collegiate soccer. She'll be their attacking midfielder, and we've got to come how contain her," UNC head coach Anson Dorrance noted.

While Waldrum concedes Carolina's forwards are likely slightly better than his own, he feels his team's strong midfield gives his squad an edge in the one of the biggest games they'll ever play.

"I think we're better in the middle, but they probably have the edge out wide," he said. "We don't have to prove anything, our record speaks for itself. I don't think we feel any outside pressure. We know what we have to do.

The winner, or maybe the survivor of this war, will go on to play the winner of the Portland-UCLA game in the final Sunday afternoon. But Waldrum knows that this game is most important. The two best teams remaining will play each other tonight.
Irish face Buckeyes in 1st round of NCAA tournament

By RACHAEL PROTZMAN Sports Writer

The Notre Dame volleyball team heads to Ohio State this weekend as it participates in the first round of NCAA tournament play against Cincinnati on Friday. The No. 19 Irish stand at 25-6 with all six losses being to ranked teams: Nebraska, UCLA, Michigan, USC, Michigan State and Colorado State.

Notre Dame led the Big East regular-season as an undefeated 11-0 tie year as well as earning the first ACC championship title with three-game sweeps over Connecticut and Rutgers. Senior Deniz Heynaud earned the Big East Player of the Year, Setter of the Year and Championship Most Outstanding Player awards while compiling a .268 hitting percentage which ranks first in Notre Dame history. Senior co-captain Christi Girton and Junior Kristy Kreher were also named to the all-Big East first team while junior Marcy Flomback was a conference second-team selection. Freshman Kim Fletcher earned the all-Big East rookie of the year title. Notre Dame rounded out the awards banquet with head coach Debbie Brown earning the 2000 Big East coach of the year.

The Irish record Big East play with the fifth of six years in which they didn't give up a game. Notre Dame will look for its second historical win over Cincinnati. The two teams have faced each other only once in 1987 when the Irish edged over the Bearcats in five games.

Senior Chirsti Girton, left, and Junior Malinda Goralski defend against Connecticut during the Big East Semifinals on Nov.18.

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WOMEN’S VOLLEYBALL

Seminoles’ season ends at ACC Tourney

By DAN WESTGATE

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.
The No. 4 Florida State Lady Seminoles ended their season after losing in four games to the No. 5 Duke Blue Devils (14-16, 10-15, 15-4, 10-15) at the ACC Tournament held in Winston-Salem, N.C.

"Losing to Duke in the ACC tournament was a real disappointment for the team," FSU head coach Dr. Cecile Reynaud said. "Duke blocked tremendously well in the game, and we just couldn't break through."

Junior middle hitter Norisha Campbell posted 16 kills, six blocks and a .364 hitting percentage in the four matches against Duke. She was named first-team all-conference by the ACC the day prior to the match.

Lone senior outside hitter Jennifer Werrick contributed a match-high 25 digs and 10 kills in the match after being named second-team all-conference by the FSU offense was run by setter Jennifer Anderson. The freshman had 49 assists in the match. She was named to the ACC All-Freshman team.

And topping the list of awards was Reynaud who was awarded ACC Coach of the Year for the second time. The last came in 1992 when she finished in first-place in the regular season.

The fourth-place ‘Noles finished their season with a record 21 wins and 11 losses and a conference record of nine wins and eight losses.

Reynaud hopes that the early signing of two student-athletes will improve the team and help them in the 2001-2002 season.

Aisha Carr, a 6-foot outside and middle hitter from Dallas, Texas and Ashley Meyer, a 6-foot middle hitter from Luling, Louisiana, will be joining the Lady Seminoles next season.

"Asha Carr was a nationally recruited player," Reynaud said. "She is well developed with the experience of playing for a top club. Aisha is also an excellent student-athlete and a dedicated volleyball player."

"Ashley will quickly develop into a dominant force at the net. She has a competitive personality which also helps her to excel in the classroom."

Reynaud is very excited about the future of Lady Seminoles volleyball with these two additions. However, they will have some big shoes to fill with the graduation of Werrick. Reynaud/confident that the new recruits will have opportunities to perform.

Jennifer Werrick is the only player that we are losing from this year’s team," Reynaud said. "These two women (Carr and Meyer) will have an opportunity to step in and make a spot on a young returning team."
THINGS COULD BE WORSE

TYLER WHATLEY

FRIEDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2000

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Happy Birthday! Set your sights on your goals and don't dramatize them. You are likely to worry about every little thing you do. With determination and hard work, you will find success. Your numbers:


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EUGENIA LAST

Friday, December 1, 2000

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WOMEN'S SOCCER

Irish must ignore Tar Heels past successes in order to advance in tourney

By KEVIN BERCHOU
Sports Writer

All season long the Notre Dame women's soccer team has known the way to San Jose. The nation's top defense, a big game goalkeeper and an offensive arsenal led by one of women's college soccer's best players have had the Irish banking on an appearance in college soccer's final four. However, one more thing was also certain — the Irish knew that to win the title they would have to topple the Tar Heels of North Carolina, a foe that has tormented the Irish and the rest of the women's game since its inception.

North Carolina's dominance speaks for itself. The Tar Heels have advanced to the NCAA semifinals each year they have been contested — their streak of 19 consecutive appearances dates back to 1982. Those annual trips to the final four have yielded 16 national titles, including wins over the Irish in 1996 and 1999. Though on paper the undefeated, top-seeded Irish may be a favorite over the Tar Heels — whose fifth seed is the lowest ever — Notre Dame head coach Randy Waldrum knows that until someone slays the giant, the giant still rules.

"Their history says enough, and it's not a different this year. Until someone beats them, they're the team to beat, it doesn't matter where they're ranked," Waldrum said.

Though they have lost three times this year, the Tar Heels' mystique has not been dulled. Since the regular season ended nearly a month ago, North Carolina has been on a tear, its game-by-game improvement culminating with a 3-0 win over Connecticut — the same team that played Notre Dame to a scoreless tie earlier in the year — in the quarterfinals.

When college soccer's titans clash tonight in San Jose, it will be a battle of two teams with few discernable weaknesses.

"I think it'll be an exciting game," said North Carolina junior midfielder Jen Kuegler. "They have probably one of the best defenses and I think we have one of the best offenses, so we'll see what happens. It's going to be a tough game, but we're going to do everything we can to win and be playing on Sunday. It'll be a battle.

The Notre Dame defensive corps will be charged with containing a high octane UNC attack that is led by senior Meredith Florance — who has already amassed 25 goals this season. Notre Dame fans will remember Florance well, as she scored the game-winning goal against Notre Dame in last year's final.

Additionally, the Irish will have to be watchful of speedy freshman Alyssa Ramsey, who has 14 goals and as many assists this season. If the Tar Heels can penetrate the Irish defense, they'll still have to contend with junior Lu Wagner — who has been arguably the best goalkeeper in the nation this season.

Irish face Commodores in battle of unbeatens

By KATHLEEN O'BRIEN
Assistant Sports Editor

The Commodores aren't the same basketball team they were when they edged the Irish 87-85 in overtime last year.

Vanderbilt lost leading scorers Dan Langhi and James Strong to graduation. The Commodores entered the season unranked with only two starters back from a team that lost in the first round of the NIT.

But Vanderbilt's 6-0 record indicates the Commodores are more than capable of adapting to the team's new make-up.

Senior center Greg LaPointe has tripled his scoring from a year ago, leading the Commodores with 15 points and nearly eight rebounds per game. Returning veterans Sam Howard and Anthony Williams, along with transfer Chuck Moore, all are scoring in double digits.

"They have weapons inside and outside," Irish forward Ryan Humphrey said.

Vanderbilt's strengths are perimeter shooting and rebounding.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Belles host Roundball Classic

By KATIE MCVoy
Assistant Sports Editor

Focus will be the key word for the Belles after coming off of a big win at the Turkey Shoot Classic last weekend as they open the tournament at home.

The Saint Mary's basketball team will open its home season tonight against a tough facility as it hosts the SMC Roundball Classic. The Belles enter the tournament with a 3-2 record but don't want to let the homecourt advantage last weekend's win get the best of them.

"We're working on staying focused and setting our goals," sophomore Kristen Matha said.

"It's our first home game," head coach Suzanne Smith added. "It's easy to stay focused on the road, but we will have to stay focused at home.

"Right now we're focused on Alverno," Smith said. "We can't start looking past it if we want to win.

Alverno comes into the tournament as a newly formed athletic program. The all women's college will prove to be interesting competition for the Belles.

"We really don't know too much about Alverno," Smith said. "We can't start looking past it if we want to win.

If Saint Mary's ends up facing off against Defiance in the second game, it will be an interesting combination of a competition and a reunion. Defiance transfer Junior Kelly Jones was a Saint Mary's junior the last time she stepped on the Angola court. This year she is playing on a Belles' team.

"The women are really excited to see her, and I think they would really like to play Defiance," Smith said.

The Belles will be looking to step up their defense and be sure the get under the boards. They've been focusing on both of these areas all week in practice.

"Defense and rebounding have always been our focus," Smith said.

With a win this weekend, the Belles will tie their victory total from last season. The improved team is already looking forward to next weekend's game against Saint Mary's.

"Everyone expects us to lose," Matha said. "We are playing to win.

SPORTS AT A GLANCE

Women's Swimming Notre Dame Invitational Today-Saturday

Men's Swimming Notre Dame Invitational Today-Saturday

Volleyball vs. Cincinnati NCAA tournament at Columbus, Ohio Sunday, 7 p.m.
Student leaders must cooperate with administration

By CHRISTINE KRALY
In Focus Writer

Rain poured down on game booths and the stuffed animal prizes afforded to the winners. The hard ground turned to mud, and the echoing sounds were not of music and laughter but of raindrops hitting dormant carnival rides.

Student government's Founder's Day carnival drew praise from government members and administration, but few everyday students. Was it just the rain, or was something amiss in the government's planning?

Unlike Student Union Board (SUB), student government is a body that does not function solely to sponsor campus events and programs. Student government, though, has taken steps this year to organize such events, like the campus-wide Founder's Day carnival in October.

Founder's Day, a day of campus outdoor activities including carnival rides and game booths, was a sort of pet project proposed by student body vice president Brooke Norton at the beginning of the 2000 school year. Norton first brainstormed with student body president Brian O'Donoghue and fellow government members and then took the idea to advisor Mary Edgington, director of Student Activities.

"Most of all it comes down to time. You want to make it successful."

Mary Edgington
director of Student Activities

The idea was then sent to Peggy Hutusko, head of the Financial Management Board (FMB), a division of Student Activities.

Groups like student government who wish to sponsor an event or program exceeding $5,000 must send a proposal to FMB, whose director of Student Activities, "[W]e wanted to do] a fun thing for students ... that would be different," Norton said.

She and other members wrote a proposal outlining format ideas for the event to Edgington. The idea was then sent to Peggy Hutusko, head of the Financial Management Board (FMB), a division of Student Activities.

Groups like student government who wish to sponsor an event or program exceeding $5,000 must send a proposal to FMB, whose funds come from student activity fees. Founder's Day was approved and government members moved to bring in the clowns.

"I wouldn't say it's necessarily easy," Edgington said of getting proposals approved. "Most of all it comes down to time." Edgington said of planning campus events. "You want to make it successful," she added, noting that the success of events like Founder's Day take months to prepare.

Finding the money to make the cotton candy flow is often a difficulty, too. The student body president and vice president know their budget, Edgington said, and they know the limits it puts on their event spending.

Some initiatives, in fact, don't work because the money isn't available. Government had planned on...
Let's open the doors

For the first time in recent memory, the Notre Dame student body has a leader. Brian O'Donoghue sincerely wants to make this University a better place; he wants to take the talent and potential of the students of Notre Dame and realize a vision of a greater University. But the students he wants to lead don't know that. And that is a problem.

In preparing this special section, Observer staffers talked to hundreds of students about their government. And the most frequent thing people said about it was "I don't know." Students don't know what their government is doing.

They don't know that O'Donoghue and vice president Brooke Norton created a fund to help them when they need a plane ticket home in an emergency. They don't know that the Student Senate is trying to expand sexual assault education on campus.

They don't know because they don't hear about it. And they don't hear about it because so much of what O'Donoghue's administration does is done behind closed doors.

Student government has always had a reputation as something of an insider's club. This year that reputation is deserved. While small sections of the student body are consulted when our leaders are deciding what to do, too many decisions are made with not enough consultation.

And once the decision has been made, and our student leaders sit down to talk with each other and the administration, to hammer proposals into reality, everyday students are even more removed. They aren't told what's going on. Some people say "I don't care," and some people give me an idea, and I go with it," Zachry said.

O'Donoghue also said that dorm life heightens awareness of campus issues. "Brooke and I both live in residence halls, so we gain input through that," he said.

"It's safe to say that Brooke, Jay and I aren't hiding up in the second floor of LaFortune." Brian O'Donoghue student body president

The nexus of interaction between students and government, he said, are the hall council meetings within the residence halls.

"Hall Council is where most of the action should take place," he said. Ideas and concerns brought up at Hall Council are then radiated to student senators, hall presidents, and then on to the Office of the President.

Outside the meetings of the Hall Council, members of the student government try to make themselves available to input from their neighbors.

"In my three years, I've always tried to ask people in the dorm what's going on. Some people say 'I don't care,' and some people give me an idea, and I go with it," Zachry said.

O'Donoghue also said that dorm life heightens awareness of campus issues. "Brooke and I both live in residence halls, so we gain input through that," he said.

Campus media also functions as a forum for suggestions and comments. "I personally read the Viewpoint page of The Observer religiously, and I know most people in student government do, too," Zachry said.

With all these avenues of input, however, some student concerns are still not addressed. According to Smith, decision making also takes into consideration those students who have no brought forth their issues.

"In our thought process, we have to think about every body," he said. "That's why we strive to be responsive to as many students as possible, because that's who we try to serve."

Tim Logan contributed to this report.

Student Opinion

Notre Dame Students

Do you think student government is effective?

85% of ND freshmen said yes but just 63% of ND seniors

Do you think Student Government represents your concerns?

83% of SMC sophomores said yes but just 27% of SMC seniors

Can you name your student senator/BOG rep.

Can you name your student body president?

Just 26% of SMC freshmen said yes, but 100% of SMC seniors did...
NOTRE DAME STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT

Working for the future

O’Donoghue and Norton focus on a mix of student services and new programs

By LAURA ROMPF
In Focus Writer

Although students may not realize the impact of the current office of the student body president, several programs it has implemented are designed to benefit students for years to come.

Student body president Brian O’Donoghue said the Rector’s Endowment Fund was a campaign promise and a great accomplishment for the office.

O’Donoghue said he expected the slow start.

"A lot of folks say students are apathetic, but we proved them wrong beyond a doubt."

Brian O’Donoghue
student body president

The office said they are also proud of the Founder’s Day celebration, even though rainy weather caused a low turnout for the event.

The office promised Grab’n’Go in DBRT, which includes a satellite Grab’n’Go site in North Dining Hall. Students can exchange books with each other.

"Last year at this time, we had 12 people tops in this office working hard. This year we still have 50 to 60 people who are dedicated towards their goals."

Jay Smith
chief of staff

Student body president Brian O’Donoghue works the phone in his office. O’Donoghue has spent much of his term thus far trying to advance his major campaign priorities.

The office is also helping to plan a celebration of Martin Luther King week, including a forum for students, and Blessing Into Others, a Christian rock concert whose proceeds will go to an orphanage in Chile. All these endeavors, plus several other projects, have kept the office busy, and enhanced, even after the midway break in their term.

"Last year at this time, we had 12 people tops still in this office working hard."

"It's early and it's young. These things need time to develop. People need to be aware its out there."

O’Donoghue, student body vice president Brooke Norton and chief of staff Jay Smith said the fund has not been highly publicized because of its personal nature.

"We want to recognize the dignity of the program," Smith said.

"It's not about support for the students but publicizing our accomplishment."

Cheers and Jeers

Cheers

O’Donoghue’s optimism: Backed by his ambitious personality and significance amount of time and energy, O’Donoghue has actually cut twice as many as half a term than the only student body president did the entire year. Only suggestion: sleep.

Founder’s Day: The Graviton on campus? Feel like a country fair right here at Notre Dame. However, it pointed out one important fact: O’Doe is not God. While he’s accomplished a lot, he can’t control the weather.

Polite Applause

Rector’s Endowment Fund: Good idea, just not useful. If only $1000 of the $34,000 is used, can’t that money be put to a better use? Maybe add it the $3 billion endowment because it’s not big enough yet.

Student to Board of Trustees: A major goal is accomplished. The students’ voice is heard. But if students won’t voice their opinion or more accurately, don’t seem to care, how can representatives go to board with “student opinion”?

Jeers

Changing Safeflute’s name: News flash, it’s not the name, it’s the program. It has been revised, and changed and revised again. Perhaps more time and effort into the program probably won’t change the number of volunteers to drive drunk students around.

Promised Grab’n’Go in DBRT: Got votes. Now the office claims it is the Senate’s duty. As a former senator, shouldn’t O’Doe have known not to promise something that was a “senate duty”?"
Kahn bridges gap between students and trustees

By MOLLY McVOY
In Focus Writer

The opportunity to directly influence what the Board of Trustees decides is a unique one afforded to the student trustee at Saint Mary's. The student trustee is a sitting, voting member of the Board, a situation not found at many other schools.

"Most of the major decisions on campus happen on the Board, and if you have a voice in this student body to have a voice is a really important situation and a really unusual one," said Molly Kahn, this year's student trustee.

Because of the unusual role the student trustee plays in the College, during her first year on the Board, the trustee's primary responsibility is to serve as a voice for the student body on the Board of Trustees.

"I think the purpose of the trustee is really to be a voice of the students to the Board of Trustees," said College president Marilu Eldred. "Their job is to bring issues of the students to the Board." Part of the job of the trustee is to have an understanding of the issues that concern the student body. Kahn hopes that a reintegration of the student house and of the off-campus housing office has allowed students to approach her with their concerns.

"I try to be really accessible and approachable," she said. "Sometimes people come to me with problems and concerns they have. A lot of students came to me telling me about Dalloway's or about their housing issues. Many of these things are on the agenda now." Kahn also plans to bring more topics to the next meeting.

"The Board discussed the issues of the student houses, athletics, personal safety and student diversity board," Kahn said. "In February, I'm looking to talk to the Board about what Saint Mary's does to help seniors with plans after graduation."

Aside from bringing student concerns to the Board, the student trustee often acts as the student voice in any questions the Board has about issues at the College.

"Molly clearly brought an important perspective when we [the Board] talked about Master Plan and the student common dining hall project," Eldred said. "She was very articulate in her articulation of the reasons that were so important to the community life of the students and college in general."

The student trustee is appointed by a committee of faculty, administrators and students. When asked whether an elected student trustee would more accurately represent the student body, Eldred said that she feels that the current system of appointment is the most suitable method.

"I like the process as it is now," Eldred said. "I think an appointed position is appropriate. The faculty and administration have a broader view of the college. We want to choose the student who we think will best represent the student body."

Linda Timm, vice president for Student Affairs, supervises the selection of the student trustee. Timm explained that the appointment process looks specifically for a person who will accurately represent the student population.

"I try to be really accessible and open. Sometimes people come to me with problems and concerns they have," said Molly Kahn, student trustee.

In addition to being a student voice to the Board, the student trustee acts as a representative of the Board to the student body. Both Eldred and Kahn felt that both responsibilities were equally important; the trustee not only represents the student's interests, but the Board's as well.

"As a student on the Board of Trustees, it is my responsibility to express student concerns, ideas, questions and comments, but it is also my responsibility to educate students about the Board of Trustees," Kahn said. The part of her job that involves informing the students about the Board's activities is one that Kahn is constantly working on. She explained. Aside from the e-mail sent to the student body, Kahn is looking for ways to communicate the Board's plans to the students. "There's a lot of interest in what the Board does," Kahn said. "Right now, I'm at the point of trying to hammer out how best to inform everyone." And of providing a bridge between both sides.

BOARD OF GOVERNANCE

Renner/Nagle focus on opening up communication

+ Duo works with administrators and student leaders

By AMY GREENE
In Focus Writer

When Crissie Renner and Michelle Nagle ran for student body president last spring, the main focus of their platform was to increase communication between the administration, student government, and the student body.

"That's what our campaign was all about," Renner said. "Making sure people had their voices heard and that they knew what was happening." Renner and Nagle worked with the administration to develop the new Dalloway's and also collaborated with the Strategic Planning Committee in their planning.

"I believe that people on the staff are very interested in having open communication with the Board of Governance and the students," Renner said. "They want to see what we're doing and they want to know what's going on." Renner and Nagle were also able to increase the amount of Munch Money for students, but complimentary guest passes to the dining hall were made available.

Midnight Madness, Winter Carnival, and assists the Communication Commissioner. The Renner/Nagle platform also attempted to extend hours at the library and the post office. Both Renner and Nagle approached the Library Committee, as well as the post office, but administrators decided not to keep those office open longer.

Renner and Nagle also worked with administrators to educate students about the Board of Governance votes on certain issues and also what events are being planned on campus.

The Board grew when Callie Kusco was named as the first Programming Commissioner. She assists in organizing Pride Week,
After a controversial election, Crissie Renner and Michelle Nagle had to unite a fractured student body. What they didn't know was that it would take another controversy to actually do it.

By NOREEN GILLESPIE
In Focus Writer

The presidential election of 2000 was not Board of Governance's shining moment. Crissie Renner and Michelle Nagle won an election that is reminiscent of the current presidential campaign. After failing to secure a majority of votes in the initial election, the race went to a run-off, where the votes cast ended in a first-ever tie. After another revote declared their opponents, Emily Koelch and Rachelle Rudarte the winners, a last-minute appeal by Renner that called attention to improper runoff procedures gave the Renner/Nagle ticket the presidency.

But the newly-elected duo did not have time to celebrate their victory last February, as a greater task laid ahead: the task of uniting a student body, half of whom did not support their ticket in office. As the student body stormed a Board of Governors meeting shortly after the decision was announced, a tearful Renner and Nagle admitted they had reluctance to enter their offices.

"I never thought we would assume office after the complaint was filed," Nagle said that evening in an interview with The Observer. "It makes me doubt how much I was in this position when I hear how adamantly students are opposed to what the Elections Commission and Election Appeals Board decided."

The ticket did assume office last spring, and after a year that has produced two successes and challenges for the Board of Governance, the ticket that once sat in a BOG meeting apprehensive to lead the student body has emerged as a brilliant administration, one that has to do with the circumstances under which they were elected, both women will admit.

"We heard when the election happened, that students will move on," Renner said. "We were told that students' eyes would be opened to us as leaders, and if we led, the student body would follow."

But finding the strength to lead had to come from inside, and after a tumultuous election, the ticket was forced to find the motivations that led them to run for office in the first place. That meant trusting their leadership abilities, Nagle said.

"The election had a very humanizing effect on us," Nagle said. "We know how we came into office. But if we had doubted anyone else, we never would have run for office. We know that we want to be connected to the women that we represent."

Constructing an administration that prides itself on open door policies, the opinion of the student body has been an element that is central to every decision that Board of Governance has made this year. Strengthening the need for communications and education among board members before decisions can be made, the interests of the student body are something that is central to every decision the board makes, Renner said.

"My mother always told me that you can't listen with your mouth open," Renner said. "I have learned that the student body speaks when they knock on your door — and when they're not knocking on your door. I wake up each morning knowing that I am student president, and that I represent 1000 women I care deeply about."

Renner's commitment to fairly representing each student at Saint Mary's draws a line between her role and vice president Nagle's role on the board, however. While Nagle is a voting member in the body, Renner said that her role as president forces her to keep a more unbiased position on controversial issues to allow her to fairly represent all women's viewpoints.

"While there is nothing in writing that says I have to remain neutral, realizing that I do represent each of these women can make me feel that way," Renner said.

But it is not always possible for a president to remain neutral, as Renner learned when the Junior Class Board decided the infamous "Garlic Onions" T-shirt and outcry from the student body over the shirt's inappropriately themed result. As the student body divided into pro-shirt and anti-shirt camps, Renner and Nagle's role began to merge. Renner announced the decision to purchase the shirts from the board and present them for their sale. It was the first time the student government had ever sanctioned a class board.

"I don't know if the T-shirt decision counts as one of our successes," Renner said. "But it was a chance for BOG to shine. It truly opened the door of student government to the community — whether students were in support or not in support [of the shirt], we heard so much feedback."

After the fracture in the student body caused as a result of the 2000 election, the decision presented a united picture of student government to the student body.

"It was definitely a chance for student government to demonstrate what they stood for as a whole," Nagle said. "It was a powerful educational tool for a lot of different reasons. I think it really showed the student body that student government does have an affect on their lives, and that it can make a difference."

While both political crises have defined the Renner/Nagle admin­istration, they have been strong leaders in trying times, including the 2000 election debacle, the Junior Class T-shirt and the Keenan Revue decision. The year of trials has produced two student leaders who exemplify what student leaders should be.

The Renner/Nagle administration has proven itself as strong leaders in trying times, including the 2000 election, the Junior Class T-shirt and the Keenan Revue decision. The year of trials has produced two student leaders who exemplify what student leaders should be.

Saint Mary's student body president Crissie Renner holds up the controversial Junior Class Shirt. The furor over the shirt was the chance the ticket needed to prove their leadership after the election debacle last February.

"As their term comes to a close with the election, they were elected, both women were admitted. Our platform was a student platform," Nagle said. "We tried to make our best efforts to meet the students' needs."

"It was an outlet to show what we can really do," Nagle said. "First, Renner and Nagle have also progressed in security on campus and the security of the BOG with the "Security Walk" which BOG members, security officials and other students surveyed the campus and addressed areas that were not well lit or appeared unsafe."

"This is my life," Renner said. "It is a twenty-four hour job. I am a figure for this campus and yes, it is overwhelming at times. I would do it again in a second for our campus and for my personal character."

Saint Mary’s student body president Crissie Renner and Michelle Nagle have united the student body, despite the controversy, both women believe that the shirt ordeal made them better leaders.

Renner continued from previous page

Despite the controversy, both women acknowledge that their platform goals were mini­mized.

"Our platform was a student platform," Nagle said. "We tried to make our best efforts to meet the students' needs."

They agreed that they keep the platform small because they could not foresee the future controversies that would arise.

"We couldn't foresee what the year would hold," Renner said.

"I wanted to show what we can do really, Nagle said. "First Renner and Nagle have also progressed in security on campus and the Security Walk which BOG members, security officials and other students surveyed the campus and addressed areas that were not well lit or appeared unsafe."

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"We tried to make our best efforts to meet the students' needs."
Group tries to change with new task force structure

By HELENA PAYNE
In Focus Writer

Under the direction of a reform-minded chair, the CLC has abolished committees and set up a new task force structure to increase productivity. "This year my personal goals for the CLC were to see the formation of a new structure which would raise the quality of work being done by that body, while at the same time quelling concerns by those within the membership and outside about the quality of work being done by the body," said student body president Brian O'Donoghue.

The CLC, which usually meets every other week, is a resolution-drafting body of 23 students, rectors, and faculty and an administrator who discuss campus issues. Recently, 18 of the 23 members have voted in favor of the other five fill advisory capacities. In years past, the CLC has written many resolutions to the Office of Student Affairs to address concerns about drivers parking on outdoor basketball courts or the installation of an ATM machine at North Dining Hall, among other issues. These issues were addressed by committees that met in some cases infrequently to create surveys or write resolutions for the entire CLC's approval.

This year, though, the group has directed itself towards more sweeping reforms. "Whereas past bodies would pass resolutions that made small improvements, O'Donoghue said, "This body is much more directed toward sweeping reforms. This is what I feel the duty of the CLC should be." However, O'Donoghue, along with student body vice president Brooke Norton and other CLC members, agreed to change the committee structure because of the attendance problems and lack of interest in some committees. These difficulties hindered output from the group. "I know in the past they had problems with committee meeting attendance and having people being excited about it," said Norton. "CLC has changed for the better this year and become a more productive body."

The committees have been replaced by task forces, which Norton and O'Donoghue said have more explicit, narrow goals. One, for example, is the Task Force for Consistent Residence Hall Policies recently changed from the task force for the disparity between male and female residence halls. Last year, this topic was covered under a Gender Relations Committee with less tightly-defined purposes. The new task force system, however, encourages more in-depth research to get to the root of campus issues.

"The task force system as a whole has helped the CLC in many ways. Many of the Task Forces are meeting more often than their committees ever did. I have heard of certain Task Forces meeting up to three times in a given week. That never used to happen," said O'Donoghue. Furthermore, inside those groups good hard research is being done to make sure that they are certain about their facts.

The Task Force for Consistent Residence Hall Policies, along with the Student Senate, was responsible for surveying dorms regarding their 24-hour space policies. Thus far, this CLC has not passed as many resolutions as last year's, but O'Donoghue claimed they have the students just as productive and the task forces have allowed more time for thorough analysis of campus issues.

"Currently, the Task Forces are working on some of the most controversial issues ever seen by the CLC," O'Donoghue said. "We simply cannot afford to make a misstep."

Norton said the CLC plans to address the issues of the Honor Code and students moving off campus. She said that the task force for the Honor Code is the only one to increase in size from last year's, but she would like to see some improvement. "I just hope that we can kind of speed up the process a little bit," said Norton.

Even with fewer CLC resolutions, "The one difference is that in consecutive years and became more controversial issues ever seen by the CLC," O'Donoghue said. "I can't tell you exactly what student government membership," said O'Donoghue.

Students play carnival games at Founder's Day in October. The day was one of many events sponsored by student government to entertain campus, and to recruit new members. By HELENA PAYNE
In Focus Writer

While student body president Brooke Norton urged students to "Believe" in student government, some students don't have time to believe and others have found interests elsewhere.

Sophomore Kevin Romero was once highly active in student government during his high school years in Las Cruces, New Mexico. Romero was elected a class president for three consecutive years and became the student body president his senior year. Like Notre Dame, the high school Romero attended is a private school and Romero's high school sponsored service projects and other student events and activities. The one difference is that if in high school, student government was also a class that offered high school credit. As a freshman at Notre Dame, however, Romero opted not to get involved in student government because he didn't receive information about it until he felt it was too late.

"When the freshmen elections come up I don't think it's very clear that in order to run for a class office, you have to be elected in your hall," Romero said. "Believe" freshmen elections, which occur at the beginning of the school year, determine the freshmen council, which consists of freshmen representatives from each residence hall.

"Generally the people who get involved early... those are people who will probably be involved actively their entire career here," said Romero. He said that this deterred him from getting involved in student government.

"My impression of student government... I feel like not a lot of people have access to it," said Romero. "The system is not really clear to those who aren't directly involved in it."

Since freshman year, Romero has joined three vocal groups at the University including the Glee Club, the Undertones, and Voices of Faith Gospel Choir. He is also a student manager for hockey's."I just pursued things that interested me and things that I felt I had enough time to involve myself in," Romero said. "Now, Romero said he doesn't have a clear definition of the purpose of student government. "To be honest, I can't tell you exactly what student government does," said Romero.

When he does hear about events, he usually unable to attend because of conflicting activities. "Generally it's not because I don't want to [attend student government-sponsored events] but it's because I already have something to do," Romero said.

Like Romero, junior Rachel Rothrauff also had an initial interest as a freshman in student government, but unlike Romero, she heard about freshmen representative elections enough to participate in her dorm's elections. Although she won and spent her first year active in student government, she has since decided to pursue other activities as well. Currently, she teaches a step aerobics class for RecSports and she works at the phone center.

"With time constraints, you can only do so many things here and the stuff I'm doing now is stuff I enjoy more," said Rothrauff.

Rothrauff said that while in student government as a freshman, she felt that she had done more in high school on student government. "I did a lot of stuff in high school, way more than I...
Committees see successes, hope for future

By LAURA ROMPF
In Focus Writer

At the halfway mark of their term, student senators have completed several projects and now have their hands full with new ones.

"From the implementation of sexual assault programs and the passing of a 24-hour space policy in all residence halls, to honoring code reform and food service changes, we are working on taking positive steps to making Notre Dame a better place for the students," said Senator Ryan Becker. "And I promise, there is a lot more to come. We’re not done yet."

While some Senate committees have been more active than others, each of the seven outlined ambitions in August and have been working to accomplish those goals throughout the year.

Committee on Gender Issues
In the past, the Senate’s Committee on Gender Issues rarely brought forth resolutions, but this year it has been very active.

"Gender issues used to be an idea and issues-oriented committee, but now we’re focused on projects," said co-chair, Maggie Broker, a junior. In August, the committee said its main goals were to address 24-hour space issues and create a packet for first-year students to introduce them to campus.

Clarke and fellow co-chair Luciana Roush, Lewis senator, said the 24-hour space resolution, which guarantees social space around-the-clock in all residence halls, and the packet, which will include various resources available to students, were large accomplishments.

"We think it is all the information is together in one large book for the freshman, they will go to all the time. It will sit on their shelves as a reference — almost like the dog book," Clarke said. After accomplishing both of these, the committee has moved on to several other projects including working with Student Affairs to create Sexual Assault Programs in the dorms, creating Freshman Orientation focus groups to study the week-end researching a new student center and partials and meeting with Campus Ministry, and researching the gay and lesbian community on campus.

"We set seven goals at the beginning of the year and we’ve accomplished three so far," said Clarke. "Now we’re deciding what to work on next.

Committee on Residence Life
In August, the committee on Residence Life set five main goals: improve Dining Hall issues, put 24-hour space, deal with maintenance and security issues, and improve LaFortune Student Center.

Two of these projects have been completed and the other three have been researched and are on the way to completion, said Zahn Hall senator and co-chair Ryan Becker.

The committee co-sponsored a resolution to ensure 24-hour space for all students and passed a resolution for discounted meal packages. "The 24-hour space resolution was by far the most ground-breaking thing the Senate has done all year," said committee member Kevin Berchou, Senior senator.

Berchou said the committee met with food services to work on LaFortune improvements. "We recommend that there be better lighting in the basement," Berchou said. "So we also suggested putting a snack bar down there.

Finally the committee met with maintenance to inquire about putting clocks in O’Shaughnessy Hall, but were informed clocks were stolen frequently in the past, and it is not practical to replace them.

Becker said the committee will turn its efforts towards dorm improvements and maintenance issues for the second half of the term. The committee also hopes to lower the meal plan rate for students staying over fall and spring break.

Committee on Oversight
Because the committee on Oversight’s main duty is to ensure all Student Union organizations adhere to their Constitutional duties, the only objective the committee set in August was to make constitutional updates.

"We have accomplished this goal by passing several amendments," said co-chair, Aura Higgins, Pasquerilla West senator.

The committee recently completed a study of election reform. After several violations occurred in last year’s student body elections, the committee looked to improve the revamp for the entire process.

"Election reform is a big deal and has been our prominent focus," said committee co-chair Jessie Flores, Carroll senator. "We definitely want to avoid what happened last year.

Committee on Diversity
In August, the Committee on Diversity said its three main goals were researching the International Student Orientation, to distribute a survey to determine feelings about diversity on campus, and research why a significant number of students are stolen frequently in the past, and it is not practical to replace them.

Senator Bethany Parrott, Senior senator, said the committee is looking to examine dining hall issues, put 24-hour space, deal with maintenance and security issues, and improve LaFortune Student Center.

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Committee on Academic Affairs
In August, the committee on Academic Affairs approved one of the most significant resolutions of the Senate’s year — the "backpack amendment." Said McGinn senator and co-chair Melissa Rauch. "It wasn’t part of our original plan because we weren’t made aware of it until a few weeks into the year, but it has taken over as the primary objective." Because the committee focused on this resolution, their projects outlined in August of establishing on-line DARTing, having out-of-class mentoring are not completed.

McCord and fellow chair, Dillon senator Brendan Dowdall, said the committee investigated the International Student Orientation and determined it has been successful.

McCord and Dowdall said they are working on removing the ethnic background question on TCES. "Either one or two minority students are often in a class, identifying race on the TCES really identifies who filled out the form," McCord said. Dowdall said the committee is working with the Office of the President to distribute the survey about diversity and feelings about campus attitudes. "When you tell the administration there is an issue but you don’t think it needs changing, they ask for specific examples," McCord said.

McCord said the committee now hopes to add a theology elective to the college’s current offerings. "You should be allowed to know what’s available to them," he said. Our goal is to open people’s minds to different experiences," said McCord.

Committee on University Affairs
When the Student Senate took office last April, the University Affairs Committee elected Phil Dionne and Chris Clement as co-chairs. Around a month later, Clement resigned because he was asked to become a student leader, and in September, Dittmar resigned for personal reasons.

"We’re definitely set back at the beginning," said current co-chair Bethany Parrott, Welsh Family hall senator. "But we are still trying to put forth effort." In August, the committee said its main goals were to investigate the surpluses of the Generations Campaign, establish centralized tutoring, determine the quality of long-distance telephone service and investigate Health Services.

Besides researching Broadway, the committee focused on resolutions from last year rather than those new projects.

The committee worked with Sophomore Class Council to create a sophomore signature event, kept contact with the University to ensure revamped of The Observer Memorial and worked with student government to find funds for Transfer Orientation.

The committee also combined with the committee on Academic Affairs to form and Honor Code committee that has been researched by faculty members and researched other school’s honor codes.

"Students should know what to expect when they go into an Honor Code Hearing," said Senator. "We want to compile a list of things students should know about all the policies. Overall, we want consistency.

Committee on Ethics
Although the Committee on Ethics main purpose is to ensure Student Union members act ethically in accordance to the constitution, they said in August they hoped to reform the election process. But the Oversight Committee took initiative and investigated election reform and last year’s amended constitution Wednesday in Senate.

"We were interested in ethics research old test files and how they could give students unfair advantages, but this year’s committee has not followed up on this issue, nor has it brought any new business to senate.

Report Card

| Gender Issues: | A |
| Residence Life: | A |
| Oversight: | A |
| Diversity: | A |
| Academic Affairs: | A |
| University Affairs: | A |
| Ethics: | A |

In August, the senate seemed too ambitious, but has filled several promises. Some committees have been very active, but others have done little, hurting the body’s productivity. Overall, the Senate handled large issues and did things that will benefit the student body.

"I promise you there is a lot more to come. We’re not done yet." Ryan Becker, Zahn senator
sponsoring a Christian rock concert in the spring, but the scale and cost of the even have proven too much for the group to handle.

University funds are often not great enough for government to afford bigger issues to visit campus, said Jay Smith, student government chief of staff. The group has since reformed its concert planning and downsized the program to ensure its production.

Student government plays a game of political hokey-pokey, with one hand in students' needs and the other in administrative concerns. When students want something, it's often government who goes straight to the top to "shake it all about."

The group has always had an advisor, according to Edgington, who has overseen the group since early July. The director of Student Activities has usually been that advisor. Edgington tries to meet with O'Donoghue and Norton in person at least once a month, but keeps in casual contact with them on a regular basis through e-mails and phone calls. She also sees Norton every week when she oversees Student Senate proceedings. Whether it's getting a thumbs-up on a new diversity panel or an OK on Gavitron in front of Hoffs, the group heads to Edgington and Norton to draw next steps.

"I work with government hopefully helping get things passed," said Bill Kirk, vice president of Student Affairs. Kirk, whose most visible student government role is as member of the Campus Life Council, acts as a sort of guide in getting things done.

On occasion Kirk serves as head of a smaller scale Congress, adding government with "constituent interests" and meeting with student senators to facilitate student needs. Like Edgington, Kirk pushes the group in the right direction when it comes to planning projects and proposing new government initiatives. When there are cotton candy Founder's Day issues, Kirk sends government to Food Services for help. Programs like the new Rector's Endowment Fund go through many steps of administrative approval, O'Donoghue said, including those by the Office of Student Affairs.

According to Smith, Father Mark Poorman, vice president for Student Affairs, has been a big advocate for more 24-hour space on campus. Student government has engaged in talks with him to extend DeBartolo Hall hours until 4 a.m. during finals week, with hopes of a future 24-hour extension.

With all this contact with administration, it makes one wonder when government has the time to talk with students. It seems their greatest input comes from familiar sources: friends.

Smith says that he likes to "pick friends' brains" on topics like du Lac revisions and a possible weekly student e-mail of campus events. Student government members come from different background, he added, noting that this helps when getting a greater consensus of student input.

What about the students who don't know Smith, O'Donoghue or even their hall senator? How are their concerns heard? This is something Smith says the group is working to improve.

According to Smith, about 500-1,000 people attended the Founder's Day event throughout the course of the day. The event was a failure because of low attendance, Smith said, but "everyone who went thought it was a great thing."

Student government has not yet garnered responses from students.

There was a follow-up meeting regarding the event with administration and groups involved in the planning. There was no meeting, though, to learn student reaction. Smith says the government is also looking to form student focus groups beginning in January. Norton and O'Donoghue have also met with the Office of Student Affairs and students will now for the first time be allowed in the Board of Trustees winter meeting in Washington.

Student Senate serves as the most visible mediator between student concerns and the main branch of government. According to Smith, there is not a great deal of interaction between the Senate and the Office of the President. While there is a weekly report from the office at every meeting, Smith says that the branches run independent of each other.

"It seems that Senate has had its own agenda," he said, and the same is true for the Office of the President. Because of this, he added, there can be a great deal of overlap between the two groups. Some topics do reach both avenues, including the University alcohol policy, an issue the government hopes will bring the Board of Trustees will address at their winter meeting. The Senate offered help and support after the decision of students who missed the hearing.

"There definitely is the select group... especially when you go beyond freshman year, you're kind of in it until you graduate," said Rothrauff, who decided to leave student government after her first year.

Sophomore Christine Bryant never had an interest in getting involved in student government, but said student government makes a good effort to appeal to students who do want to stay involved. Bryant also volunteered to make an effort to do more.

"I think (student government does) a good job since there are so many students that you never can talk to all of them," said Bryant.

Bryant has joined clubs that target a more specific interest group such as the Society of Women Engineers, Asian American Association and the Texas Club. Bryant also volunteers.

Because of these other time commitments, Bryant, like Romero and Rothrauff, cannot fit the events into her schedule.

"Another reason I don't attend student government events is sometimes they are just at bad times," said Bryant.

However, Bryant also said student government could work on making it more known to the students what it actually does.

"I can't think of many student government events even though I know there are a lot... they need to distinguish themselves more."

Bryant did attend an event that involved movies and dinner and said that was a more effective way to catch her interest.

"I don't enjoy or don't care for some of what they do, so I don't show up. I like food and movies, so I showed up for that... and I was free that night," said Bryant.

On the Notre Dame campus there are a variety of student organizations to join, including student government. Students like Romero and Bryant by choosing to avoid lack of information about student government decided to commit their time to other organizations.

However, for these three, at least, time constraints form the main roadblock to student government involvement.

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