Murphy succumbs to leukemia

Friends and family mourn the death of Notre Dame student Conor Murphy

By FINN PRESSLY
Senior Staff Writer

With family and friends at his bedside, Notre Dame senior Conor Murphy passed away at 8:30 a.m. following a year of intensive treatment for leukemia.

The Notre Dame community joined together in prayer Tuesday with a special Mass in Zahn Hall to bring together those on campus touched by Murphy. In preparation for his bone marrow transplant last April, a car-wide bone marrow drive attracted hundreds of students.

The response from the Notre Dame community has overwhelmed the Murphy family, and has reaffirmed their faith in the spirit of family here, according to Father Jim Lien, a former rector of Zahm Hall who kept in close contact with Conor and the Murphy family during his illness.

"When [Conor's] mother came to Freshman Orientation at Notre Dame, she was a little skeptical of all the talk about the Notre Dame family," said Lien. "But she said that in the last year she has come to know what that means, and values it nearly as much as her own family.

"I think they will always take pride that Conor went to Notre Dame and met so many fine people there," he said. "They will always be incredibly grateful for all that Notre Dame has done for him and all that they have done for the family.

"Zahn Hall community in particular has been profoundly affected by him, according to current rector Father Bednar.

"Zahn has a great spirit of brotherhood, and there's sense of the loss of a brother," he said. "But the same time, there's a pride in being able to comfort each other.

Murphy, a senior theology major, was interested to hear what Father Frank McCarthy, as a pacifist and self-proclaimed Catholic radical who, a few months earlier, had been arrested for pouring a vial of his own blood on a B-52 bomber at an air show. Sheila had heard about the Plowshares Movement, as Cardoro's group was called, and was intrigued. So she went to meet him.

Before the lecture, Cardoro and Sheila talked, and the activist had a question for the student.

"Well, why aren't you doing anything about ROTC on campus?" Sheila recalled. "He was very direct. I made some excuse about how I was taking a War, Law and Ethics class, and he just cut me off and said 'you just need three people to hold a banner and one to pass out flyers.'"

But it's a good thing she did.

"Before the lecture, Cardoro, McCarthy and I went to a lecture McCarthy. He invited Cardoro, then a sophomore theology major, was interested to hear about what Father Frank Cardoro had to say. Cardoro is a pacifist and self-described Catholic radical who, a few months earlier, had been arrested for pouring a vial of his own blood on a B-52 bomber at an air show. Sheila had heard about the Plowshares Movement, as Cardoro's group was called, and was intrigued. So she went to meet him.

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"But before they finished talking, Cardoro had convinced McCarthy to do something, and he made her follow up. The priest put the sophomore on the spot, asking her to stand and influence the small student audience to protest against ROTC.

"The next day, McCarthy and two others stood in the rain outside the Pasquerella Center, where the military training program is headquartered. They held three signs and prayed the Rosary, but they did not get much response.

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I can’t pray anymore. It’s not that I don’t try, I’ve sat in church, I’ve knelt at the Grotto. I’ve said my prayers. But the words don’t come. My heart is empty. Three and a half months ago, one of my best friends from high school was killed in a car accident. During Christmas break, I visited his parents several times, took his younger sister out to dinner, and attended Adam’s grave three times. I longed for Notre Dame, where I could lose myself in work and friends – and forget. I tried to pray at home, but I couldn’t. I went to Mass only once over break, on Christmas, and felt hypocritical. How could I be there, praying to a God, I thought might not exist? Last night, I went to Mass for Conor. I remembered him and his friends would come over on Wednesdays and go to watch Party of Five. They would complain about little Owen and his stupid, whiny character. Conor had a wonderful sense of humor. In Zach’s chapel, I watched Conor’s best friends sit in the pew, receiving communion, and quietly sobbing to themselves. I could see how much they missed him. I thought of Adam and our old tricks, and I felt I didn’t try to pray. But I couldn’t. My heart was empty. I had a conversation with Adam’s dad about Christmas. He said to me, “Life is a trial. God keeps knocking you down, and you just have to have faith through the entire thing, and know in the end, it will be worth it.” The dad had said something that rings in my ears to this day: “I prayed every day Adam walked out the door, that God would keep him safe. What good did that do? I just don’t know how to pray anymore.” Last night, I wished for a miracle. I tried praying that Conor would live, so his friends would not have to go through the pain, the hopelessness, the depression. But like Adam’s dad’s prayer, mine went unanswered. When I heard Conor passed away, I immedi­ately went to the Grotto, lit a candle, and knelt. Once again, I tried to pray, but I couldn’t. My heart felt empty. I hope someday my faith will return, my heart will feel peace, and I will pray. If you’re lucky, if your heart has not been hardened, and if you can find the words – please PRAY. Pray for Conor’s mother and father. Pray for his sisters. Pray for his friends. Pray for Meghan. If my experience rings true, they might have a hard time praying this weekend. When I returned from the Grotto, I sat down at my desk to write my mother an email. My little sign I needed to know God is here. The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

Laura Rompf
Assistant News Editor

Finding the words

In a controversial move, Yale University announced this month that it plans to offer the abortion pill RU-486 under its standard health plan. The new abortion drug, also known as mifepristone, induces a miscarriage when taken in the first seven weeks of pregnancy.

Yale University Health Services already offers the “morning after” pill and offers surgical abortions under its health plan for students and staff. Some students and activist groups like the Yale Pro-Life League have already complained that RU-486 should not be offered through the University’s health plan, which draws funds from students tuition. Yale spokesman Thomas Conroy dismissed these concerns as unrealistic, stating “health insurance patients who are receiving care through a health facility through an insurance plan do not pick and choose which services are available from that provider.”

“A male patient is never going to need the services of a gynecologist and gynecology ... but that’s the whole philosophy of insurance — that the group supports it so that no single person is burdened,” Conroy added.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved RU-486 — available only by prescription — in September because it is thought to be safer than surgical abortions. The drug has been available in Europe since 1995. Other schools will soon be offering the drug to students. Harvard will reimburse students who receive the abortion drug at local hospitals, according to the Chronicle of Higher Education. Also, Brown will continue to facilitate making appointments for students seeking an abortion and provide counseling both before and after the procedure.

Conroy said Yale has all the necessary resources to carry out its procedures safely.

Off-campus bonfire group disbands

Facing mounting bills, lack of support and a few regrets, Keep the Fire Burning (KTFB) will disband at its next meeting in March, said board member Joe Dyson. The group, which canceled its plans to build an off-campus bonfire last fall, has received donations to contribu­tion, will close its bank account and will remove itself from the state’s list of nonprofit organizations. “We’re trying to end this quietly — hopefully no damage was done,” said Dyson. KTFB was originally formed in defiance of the two-year hiatus imposed on Bonfire after the 1999 Aggie Bonfire collapse. The organization claimed the support of thousands of students and alumni in its effort to build an off-campus bonfire against the wishes of university administration. However, a lack of funding for safety insurance ended the plan. “People had big misconceptions about what we had money,” Dyson said. “In reality, there wasn’t enough interest to have enough money. What we probably should have done is called for an end — the stack we saw before it fell in ’99 was the last Bonfire we’re going to see.”

OUTSIDE THE DOME

Yale health services to offer RU-486

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Molly Walsh

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Malloy announces new committee

The University creates a new committee to address academic and student life

By JASON McFARLEY

University President Father Edward Malloy recently announced the nine appointed and elected representatives who will head up the new Associated Student Life and Campus Activity (ASLAC) Committee. ASLAC members include Notre Dame students, faculty and staff members. University provost Nathan Hatch and vice president for student affairs Father Mark Powell serve as co-chairs for the committee.

The ASLAC was established by Malloy in the fall at the recommendation of the University's Ad Hoc Committee on Academics and Student Life. Some members have held their positions on the ASLAC since late last semester.

According to Sister Pat Thomas, the new body will continue exploring the relationship between academics and student life on campus.

"These are two parts of [the students'] world that really do belong together. They don't have to be separate," said Thomas, who was appointed by Malloy to a one-year-long term on the ASLAC. Thomas, who was also elected by Notre Dame rectors to a one-year term; noted several issues he plans to highlight once the committee's work begins.

One of his concerns involves improving the on-campus scene for students inclined to venture off campus on weekends.

"We need to look at ways to integrate off-campus activities on campus," he said. Zeldler also hopes to make job fairs and Career Center events more effective, possibly by utilizing Notre Dame alumni and their resources.

Last year, amid talk that the ASLAC would replace the Student Life Council (CLC), University officials announced that the bodies would have separate tasks and functions. On Tuesday, Thomas, who also serves on the CLC, was hesitant to discuss what the differences between the two organizations will be.

"It's going to take time," she said. "We [ASLAC] members need to establish our ground rules."

The committee's first meeting is March 5. Two other meetings are planned before the end of the semester.

Pat Thomas
committee member

-Commerce and Beyond

Lecture Series

http://www.nd.edu/~7exmattha/mb-48l-speakers.htm

February 2
Khohl Matta (Director, MIS Program, University of Notre Dame) "Overview of the Lecture Series"

February 9
Aiken Hammond (CIO and Senior Scientist, World Resources Institute) "Impact of Globalization"

February 16
Joe McCarthy (Researcher, Accenture - Ctr. for Strategic Technology) "Awareness and Collaboration in the Workplace of the Future"

February 23
Mike Mozart (President, Henry L. Stimson Center) "Sociology and Psychology of People in the Electronic Workplace"

March 2
Greg Hedges (Partner, eBusiness Risk Consulting, Arthur Andersen) "Privacy Concerns in the Electronic Age"

March 23
Bob Reilly (President, DHR International) "New Age Leadership Skills"

March 30
Gary Reiner (Senior VP and CIO, General Electric) "Technology and E-Commerce Organizations: Future Directions"

April 6
Bob Buckman (Ret. Board Chairman and President, Buckman Labs) "Knowledge Management in the New Millennium"

April 20
Dan Hassel (Chairman, President, CEO, Terabase Networks) "Wires and Optical Technologies and Their Implications"

St. Edward's Hall

Players Presents:

"I HATE HAMLET"

A Play by Paul Rudnick

Directed by John Schirano

Feb 1-3 7:30, Washington Hall

Tickets are $5

On sale in LeFortune Box Office

Hesburgh travels aboard nuclear sub

By MEG DADDY

News Writer

What can you give a man that has said mass within a mile of the South Pole and broken the world speed record aboard an SR-71? The University of Notre Dame's new president, Father Theodore Hesburgh, had the opportunity to travel aboard the USS Portsmouth, a nuclear submarine.

He accepted, and from Jan. 16, when the boat departed from San Diego, Cal., until Jan. 22, when it arrived at Pearl Harbor, the hatch was closed and Hesburgh never saw the sun.

"It's just like getting into a dark cave. There's no communication with the outside world," said Hesburgh. After leaving San Diego, the boat submerged to 500 feet and occasionally dropped to 700 feet. But, according to Hesburgh, it never rose to less than 60 feet and that was only to receive satellite commands.

"A very large president was inaugurated while we were in there, but we were totally cut off from the world."

In addition to the roughly 130 crew members aboard the submarine, Hesburgh's brother who is a naval officer, and Pat Thomas, committee member of Notre Dame's ROTC program accompanied him on the trip.

The three of them slept in bunks that were stacked on top of one another. Hesburgh described the beds as "the size of a child's coffin. You had to get in sideways and you couldn't really sit up or even bend without hitting your head."

Not only were the sleeping conditions small, Hesburgh said, "The quarters were so tight you had to turn sideways to pass someone. And there was a lot of movement."

Despite the closeness, Hesburgh described the meals aboard the submarine as "terrific. We never had a duplicate meal. They have to do something for those guys; they can be under as long as three months."

In addition to saying mass everyday and hearing confessions, Hesburgh was granted unlimited access to the entire submarine.

"We saw everything on that ship; there were no restrictions. Normally, the whole engineering space is out of bounds to anyone except naval officers. They said we could go anywhere and we did," the former University President said.

One thing that struck Hesburgh was the quality of the officers and crew aboard the ship; instead of a 24-hour duty, the schedule on board was 18 hours long, allowing them six hours to sleep and 30 minutes to eat and relax. Instead of unwinding, however, the members of the crew studied throughout their free time.

Comprised of African-Americans, Hispanics and Asians, "The crew was a very good slice of America," he said. Mostly in their 20s and 30s, he believes about half are married.

"It's tough on families," he said. "There's no communication for long amounts of time."

There was one thing that particularly surprised Hesburgh during his trip. "Having spent considerable time in the Navy, I knew the language gets pretty rough," he said. "I was very surprised. I only heard one very mild curse word the entire trip."
Celebrate Black History Month 2000!

February is Black History Month

Americans have recognized Black history annually since 1926, first as “Negro History Week” and later as “Black History Month.” What you might not know is that Black history had barely begun to be studied or even documented—when the tradition originated. Although Blacks have been in America at least as far back as colonial times, it was not until the 20th century that they gained a respectable presence in the history books.

The 2nd Annual Multicultural Comedy Night
Featuring Owen Smith and Eric Nieves
8 p.m. @ Reckers
Saturday, February 3rd

sponsored by MSPS, BCAC and the Athletic Department

The Annual NAACP FORMAL
9:00 p.m. LaFortune Ballroom
Saturday, February 10th
sponsored by the NAACP Chapter of ND

SOUL FOOD SUNDAY
DINNER AND A MOVIE

5 p.m. Keenan Hall Basement
Sunday, February 4th

sponsored by BCAC, the NAACP, and MSPS

The Black Cultural Arts Council presents:
BLACK KOFFEE HOUSE
talent showcase

Friday, February 16th
8 p.m. LaFortune Ballroom
(tickets available in advance at the LaFortune Box Office)

“Killing Cool” Igniting the Soul of Society

Derrick Ashong

6:45 p.m.
LaFortune Ballroom (Call MSPS for reservations)

Wednesday, February 7th
sponsored by MSPS, Student Affairs, and Student Government

“What Brothas Think, What Sistahs Know”

Forum Discussion with Nick Chiles and Denene Milner

Thursday, February 22nd
8 p.m
LaFortune Ballroom
sponsored by the NAACP and MSPS
Drugs: 31-year-old man convicted of taking drugs on plane

A 31-year-old man was convicted on Thursday of taking drugs on a plane. The man, who has pleaded guilty to the charge, was convicted by a three-judge court and sentenced to 20 years in prison. The man was flown from the United States to Holland, where the trial was held.

**Student said to plot mass killing**

A student at a California college who allegedly plotted a mass killing has been arrested. The student, a 20-year-old man, was charged with first-degree murder and attempted murder.

**Libyan convicted for Pan Am bombing**

A Briton convicted for the 1988 Pan Am bombing was sentenced to life in prison on Thursday.

**Netherlands**

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**INDIANA NEWS BRIEFS**

Drug distributor sentenced: A Rockport man was sentenced Wednesday to 14 years in federal prison for his role in a methamphetamine trafficking ring based in California. William Short, 41, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to distribute and distribution of the drug, federal prosecutors said. Short was charged with transporting methamphetamine from Indiana and receiving the drug by mail.

**PARATOR**

**DOW JONES**

**TOP 5 VOLUME LEADERS**

**COMPANY/SECURITY** | **VOLUME** | **CHANGE** | **PERCENT**
--- | --- | --- | ---
RELIANT ENERGY | 22.10M | -2.27 | -9.67
NOKIA | 17.50M | -2.55 | -14.37
AMERICAN EAGLE OUTFITTERS | 10.30M | +0.35 | +3.39
WORLDCOM INC (WCOM) | 5.50M | +0.12 | +2.16

**National News Briefs**

Child imitates MTV show: The father of a 13-year-old boy, hospitalized with second- and third-degree burns after mimicking an MTV personality who set himself on fire during a stunt show, blames the network for his son's injuries. Jason Lind was severely burned Friday night when he and a friend poured gasoline on his feet and legs and lit him on fire while imitating a stunt on MTV's high school show "Jackass," police said. The fire grew out of control and burned the boy's legs and hands before it was extinguished, officials said.

Democrats collect votes against Ashcroft: John Ashcroft's confirmation as attorney general was in jeopardy Tuesday as Democrats were trying to muster enough "nays" to dissuade President Bush from trying to fill any Supreme Court vacancy with a candidate who shares his views against abortion and for states rights. The Senate agreed Wednesday night to hold a final vote Thursday afternoon on the nomination.

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Revue prepares to open tonight amid controversy

By NOREEN GILLESPIE
New Windsor

The Keenan Revue will take to a bigger stage than O’Laughlin Auditorium this weekend, as the Saint Mary’s student body prepares to voice their opinion over the controversial variety show in a bazaar lot initiative in Monday’s student body president election.

The pending vote, however, has not put a damper on the efforts of the show’s organizers, who displayed their antics in closed Wednesday night in their final dress rehearsal before the production opens tonight.

As the men of Keenan bands to South Bend’s brothersister news team to The Observer, it was clear that any pending threat the show could be moved off Saint Mary’s campus was not weighing on their minds.

"Compared to past years, the show is considerably tamer," said Chris Martin, the Revue’s producer. "[Moving off campus] isn’t really a concern. If we’re voted off campus, the show’s still going to go on.

The controversy over the Revue’s future on campus was evident in the production’s opening monologue, as the hosts joked openly about hearing about “paying through the nose” for the privilege of the O’Laughlin and then being subject to heavy scrutiny over what they were permitted to perform. Thanking both Saint Mary’s and Board of Governance in jest, the men of Keenan Hall forewarned the audience that the show isn’t for viewers "under the age of 18.

While most skits made the final cut, the “Saturday Night Live" style humor still generated some concerns from the censorship board, comprised of Keenan Hall, ResLife, and Saint Mary’s. While Saint Mary’s student for body president Crissie Renner sat visibly amused during Wednesday’s dress rehearsal, she did have to pull the plug on one Saint Mary’s joke early in the program.

Regardless, Renner said, the overall show is done in good taste.

“I laughed,” she admitted. "It’s appropriate and funny. I’m thankful that Keenan has been so cooperative, and at the same time, they haven’t lost their humor."

Father Gary Chamberland, rector of Keenan Hall, said that the censorship board is extremely important to the production, and the board does take into consideration the type of humor that is being presented to the audience.

“What is most important is the guys at Keenan get an idea of what people who are off guys in Keenan might find offensive,” he said. "Saint Mary’s has been kind enough to host us for 21 years, and recently expressed concerns. We’re trying to work with them.

The show’s producers teamed up with Board of Governance early this year to conduct a student poll in the dining hall to gauge student opinion towards the Revue. Because results showed that 93 percent of students polled approved of the Revue on campus, the show’s organizer believes that Monday’s results will show their initial tallies.

“A minority is so vocal," Martin said. "Even if one percent of the campus thinks it’s offensive, they’re going to get the news. There’s nothing wrong with [the Revue] at all. If you don’t like it, don’t go."

The results of Monday’s initiative will be tallied and presented to the administration by the Board of Governance, but do not have any substantial power to remove the Revue from campus.

The initiative is at the request of Saint Mary’s administration, who requested that the Board assist them in measuring students’ feelings towards the Revue. It is merely a different means of assessing student’s opinion, Renner said.

“This is not a vote, and there is no finality in it,” Renner said. "There were a lot of people who wanted to have a voice in this and didn’t [in the survey].""For the meantime, however, the show’s organizers do not feel any additional pressure to keep the show “toned down” to stay on campus going into the weekend.

“If I just want people to laugh," said Revue director Grant Gholson. "If it’s done perfectly and no one laughs, that’s worse than if it’s not done perfectly and people laugh.

It’s that time again....

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Baxter speaks on conscientious objection in Gulf War

By LIZ ZANONI
News Writer

As part of ongoing dialogue of Catholic Perspectives on ROTC started last spring, Father Michael Baxter, associate professor of Theology at Notre Dame, gave a talk Wednesday night at the Center for Social Concerns (CSC) entitled, "Conscientious Objectors and the Persian Gulf War."

On the 10th anniversary of the United States' involvement in Operation Desert Storm, Baxter reflected on his experiences working with Conscientious Objectors (CO) in Germany after the U.S. and allies launched the largest air assault in military history in retaliation of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait on Jan. 16, 1991.

"This war has never really come to an end for the Iraqi people," Baxter said. Since the cease-fire on Feb. 27, 1991, Baxter said that the U.S. has placed Iraq under an economic embargo and continues to use fighter planes to patrol Iraq on a regular basis.

In the fall of 1990, the U.S. deployed 500,000 troops in the Gulf region, many from Germany and other places in Europe where they had been stationed during the Cold War, said Baxter.

A Mennonite couple working with COs in Germany discovered they had more requests then they could handle and contacted Father Baxter for help. Father Baxter, who had been working on his Ph.D. in Theology and Ethics at Duke University, worked in draft registration in the early 1980s by helping to inform registrants of the possibility of filing as a CO. At Notre Dame, Baxter set up a draft counseling center under Campus Ministry and served as Counselor of the Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors (CCCO).

After accumulating donations to raise the necessary money, Baxter and his colleagues decided to go to Germany and dispense to various military bases to explain the legal process the department of defense requires of soldiers preparing to come forward as COs.

One important aspect of the registration process occurs when applicants are asked if they have ever applied for CO status before, said Baxter. The applicant must show, "not that he or she has always been a CO but has become one since signing the enlistment contract, thus having to show that there has been some kind of change or crystallization of conscientious after joining," said Baxter.

Baxter and his colleagues faced several critical questions about why COs would agree to enter military service knowing that there is a possibility of active combat.

"The military was to them an opportunity for employment," said Baxter. "They weren't just War people, they weren't pacifists, they weren't anything when they enlisted. They were just out of a job." During the Gulf War, COs were forcibly deployed to the Middle East, some in handcuffs and leg irons, said Baxter. Once in the Gulf region, many COs were arrested without even the right to receive letters from their families. Reports after the war showed that of the near 2,500 CO applications submitted, almost none of them were processed in the correct manner. Many COs were prosecuted and brought to trial for unauthorized absence and desertion, said Baxter.

"During the Gulf War no CO applications were processed even though military regulations provided for the rights of COs," said Baxter.

Baxter and his colleagues returned to the U.S. and started the CO support network, which encouraged military personal to write objections to commanding offices, Congressional representatives, and the Pentagon.

Baxter said he wanted to let the military know that people were well aware of the army's treatment and failure to recognize COs.

Baxter concluded his talk by focusing on what rights ROTC students should have at Notre Dame. Not only should they be informed about their options as COs, Baxter said, but also the University should challenge them on their own moral convictions of war.

"Similarly to the soldiers in Germany, Baxter said many ROTC students join under economic pressures, haven't seriously considered their personal stands on war, and often view their work in the military with certain abstractness as they train for positions as officers."

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SMC candidates take on communication as platform

By MOLLY McVOY
Saint Mary’s Editor

Communication is the focal point of the platform for Michelle Nagle and Kristen Matha, the one and only ticket running for Saint Mary’s student body president/vice president. “Accountable and accessible are the two words that sum up our platform,” Nagle said. “Nagle and Matha hope to increase their accessibility to the student body with the goals laid out in their platform. One of their goals is to institute a State of the Student Address at the beginning of each semester.”

Nagle and Matha hope this will give the student body the opportunity to understand what student government is accomplishing each semester. “What happens now is that candidates come out with a platform at the beginning of the year and then the student body forgets about it,” Matha said. “We hope this changes that.” In addition to the State of the Student Address, Nagle and Matha are planning to put up a bulletin board where they will post the agenda of the upcoming Board of Governance meeting. They also hope to update the student government Web page and hold breakfasts in the dining hall where students can meet with their administration.

“We want to give students a voice,” Nagle said. “Nagle and Matha hope to reopen the student government office and hold office hours to increase their availability to the student body.”

“We’re trying to have uniform ways for the student body to know what’s going on,” Nagle said. “They’re just picking up a student government and we want to do what we can to mentor Holy Cross in forming a student government,” Matha said.

The ticket also hopes to institute a welcome-back event for students returning from abroad. “We want to give abroad students a way to get involved,” Matha said. “If elected, Nagle and Matha will come into office in the wake of several major issues between the student body and the administration. The campus is currently debating whether to host both the Virginia Monologues and the Keenan Revue. The students will be asked to give their opinion on the Keenan Revue on the ballot during Monday’s elections.”

Nagle and Matha said that both are tough issues but they are unclear as to what steps should be taken. They said that voices outside the student body, including the administration, alumni, and donors need to be heard before any decision can be made. “As a student body, we need to understand what role the administration has,” Nagle said. “As a private institution, we have to look at donors, the Board of Trustees and the Parent’s Council.”

“We have to take into consideration how alumni feel,” Matha said. “Student body elections will be during the day on Monday.”

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surprised that there is not a greater turnout this year. “I’ve noticed a general apathy among students. Fewer people turn out for events,” said junior Kathleen Nickson, LeMans Hall council vice-president.

The situation came as a mixture of surprise and disappointment to Nagle, who initially believed that she would be a hindrance to Matha’s winning the election. A three-year veteran of student government, Nagle was concerned that her experience could be a negative in a tight campaign. She seriously considered not running because students may need a new face in student government, she said.

That wasn’t the case, however. “The fact that only one ticket is running is not a horrible thing,” said Georgieanna Rosenbush, Director of Student Activities. “In my 18 years at Saint Mary’s, it’s happened three or four times — it’s all part of a cycle.”

Time constraints could be another reason that students shy away from running, where a small campus finds many students involved in multiple activities.

The time commitment of student body president is something that has to be exclusive to other activities. “This could be deterring some students, Rosenbush said. “To Saint Mary’s, we give our study body leader a lot of power, and this comes with a great deal of responsibility,” she said. “This fall, I had many students approach me about running in the elections, but they also wanted to do other things; student body president is a full-time job.”

“I am honest with students when they ask about the level of commitment. Many student body presidents have ended relationships due to the immense time commitment,” Rosenbush continued.

Some students believe the responsibility of the job is deterring some potential candidates. “It’s hard to be a representative for every group and personality on campus,” said Julia Fletcher, junior and LeMans Hall council treasurer.

“It brings a lot of conflict, there are only a select few that can take on that feat. Those are the ones who are on the ticket and deserve the position.”

ND hosts visiting sculptor

Special to The Observer

International ceramic sculptor Peter Voulkos is an artist-in-residence at the University of Notre Dame this week and will present a lecture on his work at 4 p.m. today in the Arenenberg Auditorium of the Snite Museum of Art on campus. Sponsored by the Notre Dame Department of Art, Art History and Design, the Snite and the Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts, the lecture is free and open to the public.

A professor emeritus at the University of California, Berkeley, Voulkos has been creating ceramic sculpture for 50 years. His visit is providing Notre Dame art students with the unique opportunity not to observe his work, but also to assist him by wedging clay as he creates large abstract expressionistic sculptures.

Serving Peter Voulkos at Notre Dame is a wonderful experience. He has an international reputation and it’s wonderful to have our advanced undergraduates and our graduates rubbing shoulders with him,” said Rev. Austin I. Collins, C.S.C., department chair and associate professor of art at Notre Dame.

Voulkos’ sculptures will be wood-fired this spring and exhibited at the Snite Museum of Art. Following the exhibit, Voulkos will give one sculpture to the museum for its permanent collection.
Senate panel endorses lower Ind. drunken driving standard

Associated Press

Indianapolis

After years of being stalled at the starting gate, legislation to lower Indiana's standard for drunken driving is now on its way to both chambers of the General Assembly.

The proposal has lingered in a Senate committee for more than a decade, but this week lawmakers from both chambers endorsed similar measures that will soon be considered by the full House and Senate.

Members of the Senate Public Policy Committee voted 7-3 Tuesday to advance a bill that would reduce the level at which drivers are considered drunk from a blood-alcohol content of 0.10 percent to 0.08 percent. A day earlier, a House committee advanced a similar proposal.

Prospects for the legislation appear to be improving during this legislative session, thanks in large part to a new federal mandate that threatens to withhold highway dollars from states that don't adopt the reduced standard.

Sen. John Livengood, R-Fort Wayne, has introduced the bill in the 10 of the last 11 years. His bill reached the floor of the Senate just once. That was in 1999, when the measure died later in the House.

Testimony at Tuesday's three-hour Senate committee hearing mirrored remarks made Monday to House members. Supporters urged passage of the bill to improve highway safety, while opponents questioned whether there was sufficient evidence to prove the proposal would save lives.

John Livengood, a lobbyist who represents the Restaurant and Hospitality Association, said statistical studies have not shown lowering the threshold for drunken driving arrests will reduce traffic crashes.

"The arguments for this are emotional and political. I don't believe they are factual," Livengood said.

He and other industry representatives were concerned that similar measures in other states have cut alcohol sales by 10 to 20 percent, hurt- ing small family-run businesses. Some opponents suggested lawmakers wait two years to give the issue additional study.

Critics of the bill also questioned whether it was necessary because current state law already permits authorities to seek drunken driving charges against motorists with blood-alcohol levels below 0.08, if police officers can prove they were impaired.

The lower threshold would allow prosecutors to obtain a conviction based solely on a person's blood-alcohol content.

Since 1999, St. Joseph County Prosecutor Chris Toth has followed a policy of using that rule to pursue charges against greater numbers of dri- vers, but he wants the law to be stronger.

"Many of the arguments I've heard (against the bill) are strangely reminiscent of some the arguments set forth by the tobacco industry trying to argue that cigarettes don't cause cancer," Toth said.

Sen. Charles "Bud" Meeks, R-Leo-Cedarville, a former Allen County sheriff, recalled that people began to drink more responsibly after 1967, the last time Indiana lowered its drunken driving standard.

Meeks said he dreaded patrolling on Christmas Eve because drunken drivers often were return- ing home from holiday and office parties.

"In 1965, I buried two people and sent five to the hospital, four of those critical. Then we went from 0.15 down to 0.10, and we did have a behavioral change," said Meeks, who voted for the proposal.

Gov. Frank O'Bannon has expressed support for the measure and in his State of the State address urged lawmakers to pass it this year.

Congress enacted a law last fall that will begin penalizing states that don't adopt the 0.08 per- cent standard by 2004. Indiana is among 31 states that have a 0.10 percent standard or do not set a specific standard.

ND student fondled, report not published

Observer Staff Report

A Notre Dame student was forcibly fondled by another stu- dent Nov. 3, according to Notre Dame Security Police. The sex offense occurred in a residence hall on campus and was reported to Residence Life shortly after the inci- dent, director of security Rex Rakow said. The student also reported the fondling to Security on Nov. 5 but the incident was not entered into the police log until Jan. 22 when Security concluded their investigation and passed the case on to ResLife, Rakow said.

Rakow could not explain why the incident was not record- ed in the log in a timely manner of Nov. 13 as required by law.

"For some unexplained reason, it didn't get biased at that time," Rakow said.

Rakow did not believe the fondler posed a threat to the community so press releases were not issued and posters were not placed around campus.

"Whether or not to publicize acquaintance sexual assault is always widely interpreted," Rakow said. "We don't report acquaintance rape as danger in that we post flyers. We don't send out a flyer in the middle of the night because that's not going to do any good."

Conor continued from page 1

and console each other."

The wake is scheduled for Friday afternoon from 2 to 8 p.m. at McGorrey's Funeral Home in Lakewood, Ohio. The viewing will take place Saturday morning from 9:30 to 11 a.m. in the gymnasium of Saint Ignatius High School, followed by the funeral mass at 11:30 a.m., which will also take place at Saint Ignatius.

The Office of Student Affairs is sponsoring bus transporta- tion to Cleveland for a limited number of students. Busses will depart Notre Dame early Saturday morning and return that night. Complete informa- tion will be made available in Friday's Observer.

In lieu of flowers, Murphy's family requested that dona- tions be made to scholarships in his name at either Saint Ignatius High School or the University.

The Observer is now accepting applications for the following positions:

MANAGING EDITOR

Applicants should have strong editorial and journalistic skills and be comfortable in a management position. A basic understanding of newspaper production and experience with the Macintosh system is helpful.

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Applicants should submit a résumé and a five-page statement to Mike Connolly by 5 p.m., Friday, February 2, 2001. For additional information about the position contact Business Manager Tim Lane at 631-5313 or Editor in Chief, Mike Connolly at 631-4542. Applicants are also encouraged to stop by the office in South Dining Hall with any questions.
Nagle/Matha miss the issues

Michelle Nagle and Kristen Matha want to improve communication between the Board of Governance and the student body. Through breakfast meetings, bulletin boards and Web pages, Nagle/Matha intend to make student government more responsive to the needs of the students in the coming year.

Unfortunately they lack any idea of what the student body wants now. None of the critical issues currently facing Saint Mary’s students are addressed in their platform. There is no mention of the Keenan Revue; no stance on the Valentine Monologues; no concern for the censorship of student groups by the administration and the lack of an open speaker’s policy on campus.

While they developed their platform and prepared for their campaign, Nagle/Matha say they met with many administrators to find out what the Saint Mary’s administration would like to see accomplished in the next year. Through those meetings Nagle/Matha came to one conclusion: “There is no need for big initiatives.”

Nagle and Matha both have the best interests of Saint Mary’s at heart. They both want to do what is necessary to help the students at the College. But what they forecasted to do is spend more energy voicing the opinions of the students to the administration rather than voicing the administration’s demands to the students.

Reflected on a lost brother

The mass at 10:30 on the night of Tuesday, Jan. 30, 2001, was quite an oddity. The music was thrown together at the last minute, the Notre Dame Choir was skipped and 10 percent of the congregation was forced to stand due to lack of sitting space.

It was the most beautiful mass I ever attended. Allow me to begin afresh. In the Zahm Hall Chapel, a mass was held for Conor Murphy, a Zahm brother who was diagnosed with leukemia some time ago. As of Tuesday night, Conor’s condition had worsened and the men of Zahm were informed that Conor was not expected to make it through the night.

A freshman, I do not know Conor personally. I had not met him and I was called with only the brotherhood that members of Zahm Hall share, the brotherhood of which all people wish to know and possess. As an active member of the Zahm choir, our rector asked me to try and pull some music together for a mass for Conor.

Before the choir began to rehearse its first song of the night under my direction, the chapel began to fill. By the time the choir finished rehearsing its last song, before mass, the chapel was filled to overflowing with support for friends and acquaintances of Conor and people like me: people who had never met Conor before.

Mass was said. As of that night, I had never cried before and I will never cry again.

Infrequently do we ever put our lives on hold and reflect on what is really important. The Observer reserves the right to edit advertisements based on content.

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Nagle and Matha believe they have a responsibility to the administration, the alumnae and the donors. They need to do better under the greater responsibility to the students.

Their communication platform will probably help them better understand the needs of the student body and give the student body a clearer picture of how the student government operates.

What remains to be seen, however, is if they will act on behalf of the students. If Nagle/Matha stand up for students and refuse to bow to administrative pressure, the Nagle/Matha administration will be a success. If they continue to only listen to the administration, they will continue to believe “there are no specific issues facing Saint Mary’s right now.”

Once they start listening to students, Nagle/Matha will find that is entirely not true.
Let's begin with a clarification: every letter writer is responsible for the accuracy of his or her statements. The Observer does not fact check, print corrections, or list sources for letters. The letters section is not intended as a forum for exchanges of dialogue. Letters of 150 words or less may appear in this column or elsewhere in the newspaper. The views presented are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Observer. The Observer reserves the right to edit or to reject letters.

**LETTERS**

**Defending an MVP**

Lately, Observer articles have pointed to Ray Lewis as an evil, treacherous and murderous thug. As far as The Observer seems concerned, he might as well have played the Super Bowl in the orange jump suit with which we are so familiar.

The truth about Ray Lewis is simple. He was in the wrong place at the wrong time with the wrong people. Recognizing this, Lewis became the prosecution’s star witness against Reginald Oakley and Joseph Sweeting who were seen with knives that night. If there is a fight outside Boil Boat Club and you happen to be there and picked up by the South Bend Police, I’m sure you’d be telling Hon-Life the same story. It is time to realize that Ray Lewis is a victim of prejudice and ignorance.

To think of the MVP as an evil prophet. ESPN says he spends Friday nights with his family. This is true. But he also spends his summer months with them and his fiancé in Orlando and flies his three children to every home Ravens game. Not to mention, he was abandoned by his father, took care of his four siblings while his mom worked two jobs and has since bought each member of the family a home.

Ray Lewis is a great football player. For all he has been through and achieved, when he retired from the NFL, he didn’t do it in his prime. It’s a shame he didn’t continue playing. I say, if it was a rape, it was a good rape, a rape that turned my vagina into a kind of heaven.

The show’s final result is that it has condened and glorified rape, child molestation, pornography and prostitution.

In a world where feminists and all those who fight for women’s justice have worked so hard over the years to gain respect and admi-

**Fielding feedback on sport utilities**

One of the benefits of writing columns is that I often hear and learn from readers. In my last column, written half in jest and wholly serious, I argued that sport utility vehicles (SUVs) are a vestid Catholic social teaching in a number of ways. These vehicles create gas mileage, exhaust emissions and threat to other vehicles. One of the vehicle’s owners is said to be in conflict with human dignity, solari
dy, autonomy and common good in those instances — which is most of the time — when other vehicles would do. I also indicated that the pos-

Todd David Whitmore

The Common Good

One person noted the potential point with respect to the danger of being in the SUV in itself. He said that although SUV’s, because of their greater mass, cause more destruction to other vehicles, when they collide with things bigger than they are — for instance, a bridge abut-

Todd David Whitmore is an associate professor in the theology department. His column runs every other Thursday. The views expressed in this column are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Observer. 

women’s empowerment not expressed in ‘Monologues’

The last time I checked, rape and child molestation were not women’s empowerment issues. They were considered violence against women issues. Apparently, all those who wrote to The Observer in defending “The Vagina Monologues” believe otherwise.

I consider myself a feminist. I worked as a feminist organization over the summer, Feminists for Life of America. None of the women I have ever met, around town or on the job, would willingly support the publication of “The Vagina Monologues” as great women’s literature.

Here is a few little-known facts that I won-

Katherine Hoppe

Joseph Hall

It is a cheap way to fly to places, it is not the way to make a statement or to BLow the horns of their cars. But everyone knew that SUV’s was 1

In my last column, written half in jest and

Tony Griszold

Joseph Hall

January 30, 2001
**MOVIE REVIEW**

**‘Snatch’ will attract male audiences**

By JEFFREY Q. IRISH
Some Movie Critic

"Snatch" is young, chic and energetic. It looks like it belongs on MTV with its gangsters, quick cuts, fast zooms and killer soundtrack. The title is a bit misleading in that only four women share minimal screen time during the entire film. The original (and more appropriate) title was "Diamonds," but a Kirk Douglas film was released in 1999 under the same name. The brains in marketing came up with "Snatch" to target the young male audience that movie was made for.

The film is Guy Ritchie's sophomore effort after his debut independent film "Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels" became a cult hit in 1999. "Snatch" seems like a more expensive sequel to "Lock," so much so that a few critics have called it "A Few More Barrels." The claims are valid; Ritchie employs much of the same cast in a similar story line involving guns, robbery and evil characters with long names like "Bulat Tooth Tonto." The only noticeable difference is the addition of Brad Pitt as a wry pikey (British trailer-trash) named "One Punch Mickey." The character is a cross between Tyler Durden and a lep­rechaun, and Pitt brings a great deal of comedy with a dashy "orish" accent. It is interesting to see how Pitt's increasing ugliness has made him more appealing to male audiences. The plot begins when bare-knuckle boxing promoters Turkish (Jason Statham) and Tommy (Stephen Graham) decide to go into debt with Brick Top (Alan Ford). Brick Top is a local crime don and occasional pig farmer. If anyone can make a debt owed, then they are fed to his pigs.

Meanwhile, a Hassidic gambler Franky Four Fingers ("Traffic" star Benicio Del Toro) steals an 84-carat diamond and is on route to meet his Jewish cousin Avi in New York. When he finds a casino in London, he runs into his cousin Avi (Dennis Farina) who doesn't want to lose his diamond to a casino, so he flies to London before all hell breaks loose.

As everyone well knows, Ritchie is the new husband of pop icon Madonna. And like Madonna, Ritchie is dedicated to his art. "Snatch" is a very courageous exercise in film style. The entire movie feels like a music video. For 2 1/2 hours the camera never stops moving and cutting. The plot changes so much that if you blink for a second you might be lost for 30 minutes. The amount of planning that must've gone into so many shots at different angles is mind-boggling. The scenes of Cousin Avi flying across the Atlantic are cool and happen so quickly that in a matter of two seconds, we see him buy a plane ticket, board a plane, sit down, do a shot and declare at customs, "don't go to England."

The bare-knuckle Jewish Mafia boss are somewhat reminiscent of "Fight Club," but the adrenaline brought out to sounds of "Oasis"'s "...in the Morning." The bare-knuckle boxing matches makes everyone - even pacifists - want to jump into the ring. "Snatch" is probably more of what Ritchie originally wanted for "Lock." It surpasses "Lock" in that it is quicker and louder, but the similarities of the two films are what keep this film from perfection. It's time that Ritchie discovers a lesson that his elder bride learned long ago: you must reinvent yourself to stay on top.

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**MOVIE REVIEW**

**Make a ‘Pledge’ not to see this movie**

By LIAM DACEY
Some Movie Critic

The crime thriller "The Pledge," directed by Sean Penn, stars Jack Nicholson as a retiring cop in Northern Nevada whose last case involves the murder of a young girl. Based on Friedrich Durrenmatt's 1957 book, Nicholson makes a histrionic "pledge" to the film's parents to capture the murderer of their child. The lead suspect, a mentally challenged Native American (Benicio Del Toro) who was seen near the area of the murder, is subsequently apprehended. After this suspicious character commits suicide in a room behind bars, the case is closed and Nicholson leaves for retirement.

If the movie had ended there it could have saved some saving some sense of decency. However, before Nicholson leaves for retirement he "gets a feeling" (as characters often do in these situations) that the killer is still at large. From here the movie's cliches grow exponentially as it loses all credibility in its increasing outrageousness. Nicholson becomes completely obsessed with the case and believes (after hearing the account of a 17-year-old girl) that there may be other similar killings committed in the same area.

Nicholson bases this hypothesis on the circumstantial evidence that there were three blonde-haired, 8-year-old girls who were killed within the same proximity. Coincidentally, they were all wearing red dresses. Nicholson moves to the town of the killings and shortly thereafter meets a mother (Robin Wright Penn) and her young daughter.

Of course, Nicholson and Wright Penn fall in love, and the daughter is put in danger of being killed by the serial killer, who only Nicholson believes is still at large. For the rest of the film, the daughter is seen only in a red dress to heighten the suspense. The movie takes unnecessary, laughable twists and introduces characters who have no relevance to the overall plot.

For example, Nicholson is "thrown off" the hunt by a Christian preacher believed to be the killer. This sidetrack only leads to an unfilling dead end that does not relate to the rest of the film in the least.

Another example of "The Pledge"s lack of coherence occurs when Nicholson finds a link behind the killings of the porcupines given to the victims by a "Wizard," prior to their deaths. These pieces of the mystery are juxtaposed in a laughable manner. It fits together like a bad episode of "Murder, She Wrote."

Surprisingly, the ending is typical for a crime thriller, but it fails to add closure at a time when it is much needed. At the end of a long journey, the film only brings out Nicholson's personal failure. Is he more upset that he could not fulfill the pledge to the victim's parents, or is he disappointed with his own inner self?

The film should have focused on this question more and avoided the unnecessary plot twists. The opportunity was sorely missed to make this a much more profound movie experience.

The only bright spot in the movie is Nicholson's vivid performance, which some could argue is one of his best. It is unfortunate that it had to go to waste on such a disappointing film.

Sean Penn tries to go into the mind of an obsessed man who is struggling with his inner demons. Sadly, "The Pledge" is too uneven and embellished to accomplish Penn's goal. Perhaps he should stick to acting.
Elements of ‘Vampire’ don’t add up

By CHRISS BANNISTER
Some Movie Critic

Vampire films have been a staple of the film industry since its infancy. They have ranged from comical to sexy to terrifying and everywhere in between. “Shadow of the Vampire” mediates between the making of vampire films, and films as a whole, by exploring a fictional premise based on the filming of “Nosferatu,” a vampire film created by premier German director F.W. Murnau in 1922.

In “Shadow of the Vampire,” Murnau, played by John Malkovich, is obsessed with making a realistic vampire film. He is not alone. Max Shrek (Willem Dafoe), a real vampire, to play the part of Nosferatu. Murnau hides the vampire’s true identity by stating that his rather eccentric behavior is a result of his practice of never coming out of character while making the film.

However, as the film progresses, the tenuous bargain struck between Murnau and Shrek begins to collapse as the vampire’s bloodlust leads him to make victims out of the crew.

Separately, the various elements of “Shadow of the Vampire” are each superb; however, the film ultimately fails to create the entire mosaic as a whole and ultimately founders. The performances, the monologues of the characters and the photographic style are each elements worthy of praise. Both Malkovich and John Malkovich turn in great performances as their respective characters.

The make-up effects used to transform Dafoe into Nosferatu makes him almost wholly unrecognizable; yet, he is able to communicate a person within the vampire that entices a mixture of fear and sympathy. Meanwhile, Malkovich is able to communicate Murnau’s artistic hunger that pushes him towards mania.

Both Malkovich and Dafoe shine during their respective monologues, which are well written and explore the darker limits of filmmaking, reality and the human soul. For example, the monologue in which Murnau elucidates the sacrifices required for art creates an interesting debate over what the true nature of art is.

These debates are further explored in the film’s cinematographic style and camera work. In particular, the use of extreme contrasts in lighting and shadows follows and re-evaluates the Expressionist style of the original “Nosferatu.”

Thus, with these core elements accomplished with such skill, how can “Shadow of the Vampire” ultimately flounder? The film fails because it becomes too concerned with accomplishing the elements that it forgets to create a whole. Basically, it forgets that, at its heart, it is a vampire film. It is never able to effectively accomplish the most basic goal of a vampire film: to create fear and suspense.

Also, there are too many characters begging to be explored more thoroughly. For example, the second film director and the star actress are both interesting characters, but we are only given hints of their inner workings. The film could have been creating suspense or examining its main characters by dabbling in sketches that lead nowhere.

There are so many episodes in “Shadow of the Vampire” that it does not have time to really lengthen its most important moments to create suspense. If the film had pared down its scope, examining only a few characters and episodes, it would have functioned more effectively as a whole.

As it stands, “Shadow of the Vampire,” although intriguing, is only slightly above mediocre, and thus creates a rather lukewarm response.

When a movie character is hiding something, the screenplay usually focuses on an interesting, entertaining way to find out his dark little secret. Usually the secluded person is just waiting for someone to break down the walls he’s built around himself and bring him out of isolation. In “Finding Forrester,” Jamal Wallace (Rob Brown) is the young man in the shed who is ready to demolish the walls he’s built around himself and bring him out of isolation.

Jamal is gifted, on and off the basketball court. His impressive test scores catch the attention of one of the best private high schools in New York. Jamal leaves the comfort of his inner-city school to attend the privileged institution.

His new school brings out all the challenges of making new friends, meeting higher academic standards and playing for a competitive basketball team. What it does not bring out are any truly new elements to the my-school-and-life-are-changing plot. When a movie character changes schools, there is always one person of the same sex who offers friendship and another who, for some reason, automatically hates the main character.

With his newfound enemy—a wealthy basketball teammate—and friend and guide Claire (Anita Paquin), Jamal struggles to fit in socially and academically. Little screen time is spent dealing with his social life in the new school; much more is devoted to Jamal’s English class. It is in this class that he discovers that the strange man in the window across the basketball court is the once-famous writer William Forrester.

Tucked away in seclusion, William is unable to cope with life outside his apartment doors and the fame of the Pulitzer-prize winning talent he showcased four decades earlier. Already a gifted writer, Jamal seeks William’s help in becoming even better. William agrees as long as he doesn’t tell anyone that it’s “Finding Forrester.”

Well-proven director Gus Van Sant creates some terrific scenes between Connelly and Brown, and the actors fall into their roles with charm. The funniest moments come when Jamal proves himself worthy of William’s sarcastic ribbing and writing challenges.

Much like Van Sant’s Matt Damon-Ben Affleck tear jerker, “Forrester” is predictably heroic. The audience knows William will befriend Jamal because it is an old story: boy needs guidance; boy meets older man; older man becomes boy’s friend and teacher.

The chemistry between Brown and Connelly, though, is entertaining and genuine — even enough to make viewers forget that they essentially know what’s going to happen.

The movie doesn’t get overly psychological incidents in William’s past cause him to shut himself off from society, and this prevents him from doing the thing he loves best: writing. But the film spends just enough time addressing William’s personal problems, avoiding clouding the importance of the film: his relationship with Jamal.

Funny and dramatic, Connelly delivers one of his best performances; but it’s the new faces who deliver the unexpected surprises. Sixteen-year-old Brown makes an amazing film debut as Jamal, and there is even an impressive appearance by rap star Busta Rhymes as Jamal’s rap-aspiring brother.

Near the end of the film, audience members find themselves wanting Connelly as their teacher. Impatient and entertaining, erratic and unconvincing, Connelly’s William is motivating and caring. The Scottish-accented wit he delivers throughout the movie has everyone wishing James Bond were teaching them the do’s and don’ts of better writing.
Keenan’s kings of comedy
Like its predecessors, this year’s “Keenan Revue” is offensively funny

By MERIDETH PIERCE
Scene Writer

It might be surrounded in controversy, but it is here, and... It is funny. The 25th anniversary of the “SMC-Tacalar Keenan Revue” will be held in the newly renovated O’Laughlin auditorium tonight, Friday and Saturday at 7:30. If you do not already have your tickets for the popular and controversial show, you will have to hear about it from your friends. Last week 500 tickets were freely handed out to students at Saint Mary’s in 10 minutes. The remaining 1,500 tickets were handed out at Notre Dame in less than 30 minutes.

The 2001 Keenan Revue required much more planning than many would think. The Revue demanded that the planning process begin at the end of last school year. The boys of Keenan wrote roughly 2,800 letters to alumni asking for donations. They still came up about $5,000 short of the $11,500 cost of the production.

The real crunch time for the group came after Christmas break when 75 skits auditioned for the show and under 25 were chosen to actually perform. Originally formed in 1976 by Keenan Nos Tom Lens and Rick Thomas, the Revue was meant to be a fun, non-alcoholic alternative to partying in Michigan where the legal drinking age was 18. Today, Director Grant Gholson says the Revue serves to "entertain students, and to make fools of ourselves."

After seeing the Revue, it does exactly that. One of the main writers, Ryan Cunningham, guarantees the "same quality of Keenan Revue humor" as seen before.

For those who did not see the show in previous years, the Keenan Revue humor could be defined as witty but astute, where no joke is too low and the source of censorship is from the good rector himself. This was obvious in the opening song, which is quoted "recycled old bits, guys in fake ties." The words are complemented with a surprisingly coordinated dance routine that ends with the dancers in less clothing than they first appeared wearing.

The words are complemented with a popular topic of humor this year in the revue. In a skit called "Behind the Music," the Notre Dame Marching Band are traced through history. This hysterical historical telling comes complete with huge projected pictures accompanied by clever captions from the storyteller.

In another skit, the audience is deceived by the sweet piano player who plays and sings sentimentally. It is very important to pay attention to the words here for you will find the entire song is about a cross-dressing man named Barry who loves his velvvet underwear. The humor in this skit is found in the seriousness of the performers, and it makes for a very good laugh.

Many times the funny side of the skits is found in its scariness - likeness to real life. Whereas you may never really see something as extreme as the stuff on the stage, your finishing thought is, "that is so true." This is found in "Defense of Honor" as two guys beat each other for no apparent reason. It is also found in the especially funny "DART 2001." One can only imagine the venues for humor with DART.

Because they reach for every angle, some skits are slightly questionable. But some skits are just so stupid that they become, in turn, quite funny. This category would include the short "Wheel Chair Bit" and "The Happy Warbler Impressions Troupe." The Keenan members leave the stage while you laugh wondering, "What in the world...?"

Even if you are a tough audience member, the uncomfortably funny "Why Keenan Men Shouldn’t do Ballet" will at least crack a smile on your face. Without ruining the surprise of the skit, just imagine four men sharing their secret love of ballet and then performing it in tight leotards.

Next to Keenan boys doing ballet, two other skits stand out as the most humorous. One called "Natural 2" is Keenan’s own traditional boy band. It really is something you need to see. It is performed complete with cordless head mikes and pre-recorded music.

The final skit of the evening, called "Uncomfortable Situations," provides a way out for anyone who has felt mocked or ridiculed in the course of the evening. If at any point in the show you have found yourself offended in any way, shape or form, just wait. This last skit uses all forms of cheap and dirty humor. The entirety of Keenan Hall might as well be on stage begging you to laugh at them, not with them.

If you think you will attend the Keenan Revue not for its humor but for its talent, you might just find some of that in the bands that play at the beginning and end of the act. The music is a refreshing addition in comparison to the crass skits. The boys rendition of "Run Around Sue" is in fact very cute and a good end to the first act.

However, the main idea behind the Keenan Revue is its low-balled "Saturday Night Live" type of humor. It is not about the entire dorm of Keenan bash ing all the aspects of their college lives that have any potential for humor. Almost everyone and everything is mocked in some form in the course of the evening. If you are a person to laugh with the people on stage, then the Keenan Revue is for you. You might even love it so much that you will want your very own $10 Keenan Revue T-shirt.
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THOUSANDS HONOR CRASH VICTIMS

STILLWATER, Okla. Thousands of people gathered at Oklahoma State University Wednesday to remember what went wrong in a snowy field in Colorado.

Ten people, including two reserves, were killed when their small plane crashed three hours before a memorial service was to begin. Many said it was time to begin the healing process.

"I think maybe this will start bringing some closure," senior Laura Downing said. "This plane has been walking around campus lately kind of in limbo.

Afternoon classes were canceled so students could attend the memorial or watch TV.

Families of the victims and other special guests mingled among hundreds of bouquets of flowers before the memorial service started. Some stopped to write messages on an 8-foot tall board.

Many of the notes, scrawled in Oklahoma State colors of orange and black, were written to all 10 victims.

Among the group of special guests mingling were some photographers of those who died — players Nate Fleming and Dan Lawton; sports information employee Will Hancock; director of basketball operations Donjoy Noyes; trainer Linda Lustrina; student manager Jared Wolberg; broadcast engineer Kendall Duffey; KWTV sports anchor Bill Teegu; pilot Denver Mills; and co-pilot Bjorn Fabrisl

They died aboard the twin-engine plane returning from Oklahoma State University Wednesday after a game. It crashed in a remote field less than 20 minutes into the flight.

"This weekend, we feel like we have lost you so soon — and yet so fortunate and blessed to have you in our lives," said one note on the message board signed by Julie, Ed, Sarah, Kyle and Holly.

Another was to "10 special angels."

"You gave us the greatest happiness to so many," it said. "Thanks for all the memories. You will not be forgotten."
Searching for God.com

by Frank Santoni

The other night I made up my mind that I was going to find God. So I did what anyone looking for unlimited information on any topic does these days. I turned to the Web. I have become convinced during the last few years of the Internet boom that if I can not find something on the web, then it must not exist. So I set off into cyberspace confident that my efforts would be fruitful and enlightening.

First stop, God.com. Much to my surprise, no such site exists. My computer told me to check the address and try again. So I did, thinking, surely God must have paid the 75 bucks to register a not-for-profit enterprise and would qualify as a dot.org. Still no luck. All I got this time was an offer to buy the rights to the name myself. Thanks, but no thanks. I am not about to cyber-squat on one of God's potential net addresses. Then, I thought maybe God was trying to be ahead of the web-naming curve and set up shop at God.net. Wrong again.

That just tied up my computer as it searched, without results, for the site. I was beginning to get worried.

I punched in bigguypstairs.com. Zero. I saw a glimmer of hope at Dios.com, but all I found there was a blinking eye accompanied by a flat rendition of the 2001: A Space Odyssey theme music. I didn't even consider God.net at the time, though who knows what could happen under President Bush's new proposal. God is the original faith-based organization. Empty-handed, I was determined not to press on.

AltaVista, my search engine du jour, would certainly produce more useful results, I thought. I typed "god" to the blank field at the top of the page. Almost instantly it generated 3,947,335 links to web pages with references to God. That's more like it. Among the matches most looked like home pages for various religions and churches. Close, but not quite God. Worse yet, I located more options even farther off the mark at the bottom of the page.

"Shop the web for god," one link offered. "Find Yellow Page listings for god," another promised. Then there was my favorite: "Find god and millions of other cool items at eBay!" After some consideration, I concluded I had neither the time nor the money to spend outbidding anyone for God or any of the millions of other cool item, for that matter.


Ask.com and you shall receive. This site allows visitors to type in a question in natural language and get answers. Among the results this time: a menu of religious traditions listed in alphabetical order, inexplicably topped, however, by a link to paganism. But just below the list, I hit paydirt. There it was: The Homepage of God. For the first time since I first began this search, I felt I was getting close. I needed something that could give more order to my findings.

This is the challenging reality we face: while our minds learn to download and access unlimited information at an ever-quickening pace, our spirits are still nourished by a timeless Creator. If we ever hope to find God, we must quit demanding the same instant response we demand from our computers and ourselves. We must be able to unplug ourselves from the "everythingnow.com" expectations of the world we live in and embrace God's timeless rhythm of life.

That's deep stuff. Maybe, I should pay a visit to contemplate.com...
Thursday, February 1, 2001

The Observer • PAID ADVERTISEMENT

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student union
HAPPENINGS

THURSDAY

Kennan Revue 8pm O'Laughlin Auditorium
Acoustic Cafe 9pm LaFortune
SUB Movies 10:30pm DeBartolo 101 DeBartolo 155

Charlie's Angels
Bring It On

FRIDAY

Track and Field Meyo Invitational Loftus Fieldhouse
Men's Swimming vs. Cleveland State 2pm
Awadagin Pratt- piano master class 2pm Annenberg Auditorium
Downhill Ski Trip to Swiss Valley Library Circle 5pm (register by 1/31)
Kennan Revue 8pm O'Laughlin Auditorium
Snite Movie 7:30 & 9:45 Annenberg Auditorium American Psycho
SUB Movies 8 & 10:30pm DeBartolo 101 DeBartolo 155

Charlie's Angels
Bring It On
Alumni/PE Formal College Football Hall of Fame
McGlinn, Walsh Hall Dances

SATURDAY

Track and Field Meyo Invitational Loftus Fieldhouse
Harlem Globetrotters Game 7:30 JACC
Comedy Night 8-11pm Reckers "They're Back For More"
Kennan Revue 8pm O'Laughlin Auditorium
Snite Movie 7:30 & 9:45 Annenberg Auditorium American Psycho
SUB Movies 8 & 10:30pm DeBartolo 101 DeBartolo 155

Charlie's Angels
Bring It On

SUNDAY

Women's Tennis vs. Illinois State 9am Eck Tennis Pavilion
Women's Tennis vs. Western Michigan 2pm Eck Tennis Pavilion
Spanish Mass 1:30pm S/K Chapel
Soul Food Sunday 5-9 pm ND Room in LaFun
**MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL**

**Ex-Giants admit cheating in 1951**

Associated Press

NEW YORK

The Giants stole the pennant! The Giants stole the pennant!

For a half-century, fans of the old Brooklyn Dodgers claimed that's what Bobby Thomson and the New York Giants did in 1951. Now, there's evidence that maybe it happened just that way.

The Wall Street Journal on Wednesday quoted Hall of Fame outfielder Monte Irvin, catcher Sal Yvars and pitcher Al Geltel as admitting they stole catchers' signs to overcome a 13 1/2-game deficit and win baseball's most famous pennant race.

"Every hitter knew what was coming..." Geltel said. "Made a big difference."

Irvin said the Giants have nothing to be ashamed of. "Everything we did was on our own," he told The Associated Press on Wednesday. "Our accomplishments were true and genteel."

The AP reported the sign stealing on March 22, 1962, citing an unidentified source who was with the Giants.

Stealing signs by players and coaches is a long-standing tradition in baseball. Opponents suspected New York Mets manager Bobby Valentine of employing cameras to do it in 1997 and Boston manager Jimmy Williams accused Cleveland of doing it in 1999.

Valentine, by the way, is the son-in-law of Ralph Branca -- the pitcher who surrendered Thomson's three-run drive in the bottom of the ninth inning at the Polo Grounds lifted the Giants over the Dodgers 5-4 in the deciding Game 3.

The "Shot Heard 'Round the World" became the most replayed moment in baseball history, with Giants announcer Russ Hodges screaming, "The Giants win the pennant! The Giants win the pennant!"

Thomson said he didn't take notes when he connected on Branca.

"We would take a little away from me in my mind if I felt I got help on the pitch," he was quoted as saying. "My answer is no."

"Stealing signs is nothing to be proud of," Thomson said. "Several players said the Giants stole signs during home games in the last 10 weeks of the 1951 season. New York trailed the Dodgers by 13 1/2 games on Aug. 11 before mak­ing up the deficit in only 33 days."

The Journal said infielder Henry Schenz and coach Herman Franks relayed signals from the Giants' center-field clubhouse -- the wall was 483 feet from home plate -- to the bullpen with a buzzer system created by electrician Abraham Chadwick. Years said he then relayed signals to hitters.

"My wife never liked me to talk about it," Years told the Journal. "She gets embarrassed."

Branca refuted the account.

"I haven't talked about it in 49 years," he said. "If I'm ever asked about it, I'm denying everything."

Irvin contradicted him, saying: "He's sitting there with a telescope and he'd relay it to the bullpen."

Thomson batted with one out. At the time, Whitley Lockman was on second base and Clint Hartung was on third.

Lockman said he was unable to pick up the signs by himself and asked catcher Rube Walker, who was playing in place of injury catcher Roy Campanella, with a runner on second, as is the practice, Walker switched the signs and made them more elaborate.

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**Pebble Beach National Pro-Am**

Woods injures knee in incident with fan, may not play in tourney

Associated Press

PEBBLE BEACH

Tiger Woods sprained a ligament in his left knee Wednesday when he stepped awkwardly on a man's ankle while leaving the 18th green at Pebble Beach.

He said he was not sure if he would be able to play this week. Woods, still limping two hours after the accident, was asked what the odds were that he would be unable to defend his title in the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am.

"They're up there," he said. "We'll see what happens."

Woods was swarmed by autograph seekers as he left the 18th green, walking briskly and trying to sign whatever programs and hats were thrust in front of him.

One man, who had been hounding him for autographs during his practice round, tried to position himself in front of the pack, and Woods' inadvertently stepped on his ankle, hyperextending his knee.

"A lot of fans just kind of came down on top of me," Woods said. "One guy ran in front, I stepped on his ankle, and my weight going forward and his weight coming back... I hyperextended my knee."

Woods winced immediately, glanced at the man and grabbed the back of his leg as he hobbled up a hill. He tried to hit balls after lunch, but couldn't.

"No way," Woods said.

Woods, the No. 1 player in the world coming off a record-breaking season that included three straight major championships among his nine PGA Tour victories, is often swamped by fans after rounds.

A security detail was with him, but some fans went under the ropes and tried to get close.

"People get aggressive. That's the way it is," Woods said. "That's one reason we have security. Some of you say, 'Why do you have so much security?' It's for instances like this, so they don't happen. Unfortunately, it happened today."

The man never did get his autograph and "he yelled at me for not signing," Woods said.
LAS VEGAS — Las Vegas bookmakers are betting on Saturday’s debut of the XFL, but not in a big way, at least not yet.

The XFL, in turn, is hoping the mere fact that bets are taken gives it the look of real sports.

The maximum bettors can lay down on this weekend’s opening four games is $500 to $1,000, depending on the sports book.

So far, few are lining up to throw their money down on the Chicago Enforcers or the Orlando Rage, with some wagering the minimum $5.

Regardless of the light early action, some think that Las Vegas’ sports books have given the fledgling league much-needed credibility.

That’s because the World Wrestling Federation’s Vince McMahon is the league’s co-owner along with NBC.

“With Vince McMahon laying it, it has brought a lot of skepticism and recognition,” said Joe Lupo, manager for the Stardust hotel-casino’s sports book, the first to hang the opening line on the XFL last week.

But just because McMahon is associated with the scripted WWF, doesn’t mean the XFL will be comparable in any way, Lupo said.

“I believe McMahon is intelligent enough to know this sport won’t be successful if there’s a predetermined outcome,” he said.

It would be another staged event. It might as well be football on Broadway and we don’t put wagers on events that have a known outcome,” Lupo bookmaker

“I believe McMahon is intelligent enough to know this sport won’t be successful if there’s a predetermined outcome. It would be another staged event. It might as well be football on Broadway. And we don’t put wagers on events that have a known outcome.”

Joe Lupo bookmaker

Associated Press

XFL

Bets starting small for league opener

HONOLULU

Culpepper plans to watch Bowl with field

More than 131 million people watched the Super Bowl on television, with another 72,000 in the stadium.

Daunte Culpepper was among them.

The Minnesota Vikings’ quarterback says it will stay that way until he plays for the NFL title himself.

“I’m not going until I’m playing,” said Culpepper, whose team fell one win short of meeting the Baltimore Ravens in last Sunday’s championship game.

“I promised myself that in my rookie-year.”

Culpepper spent the week leading up to the Super Bowl in Tampa, Fla., but left a day before the game to go home to nearby Ocala, where he passed for 6,107 yards and 57 touchdowns in three seasons at Vanguard High before attending Minnesota.

The 11th overall selection in the 1999 NFL draft, Culpepper played briefly in one game as a Vikings rookie, but was given the job this season and made the most of it, passing for 3,937 yards and 33 touchdowns and being selected as the NFC’s starting quarterback in Sunday’s Pro Bowl.

“I know I had the ability to make plays,” Culpepper said.

“With the way we had, I thought I was a good fit, I knew the system. My main goal was to get out there, gain the respect of my teammates, show them I could do the job.”

Culpepper said he’ll magnate the 6-foot-4, 266-pounder playing better than he did until Jan. 14, when the Vikings were blanksed 41-0 by the New York Giants in the NFC championship game. He completed only 13 of 28 passes for 78 yards that day.

That’s for the first time in my career that’s happened to me, I had never been on any team that was shut out at any level,” Culpepper said.

That was the first time, I hope that’s the last time.

Despite the crushing nature of the loss, Culpepper said he was over it 24 hours later.

“Life goes on,” he said. “They just outplayed us that day. No excuses. We’ll be back. We’ve got to let it go.”

Minnesota receiver Randy McMichael, who is sitting out the Pro Bowl because of bruised ribs, said after the loss to the Giants that he would “miss Super Bowl someday, but doubted it would be with the Vikings.

“If he feels that way, that’s how he feels,” Culpepper said. “I’m different than a lot of people, I don’t think he meant it, I think he was blowing off steam. I think he’ll be with us for a while.”

And so will Cris Carter, the Vikings’ other standout receiver, who announced last week he’ll bet at least one more season.

Carter, the second-leading receiver in NFL history with 1,020 receptions, said Culpepper did everything he could do as a first-year starter.

“Tremendous player, tremendous attitude,” said Carter, who will play in his eighth straight Pro Bowl. “He’s handled everythign thrown at him. With the right supporting cast and staying healthy, he can be as good as anyone playing the game right now.”

NFC

Culpepper plans to watch Bowl with field

Associated Press

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

Murphy earns conference player-of-week honors

Junior forward Troy Murphy has been named the Big East player of the week for the third time this season.

Murphy, who averaged 25 points and 10 rebounds in leading the Irish to consecutive wins over top 10 opponents Syracuse and Georgetown last week, shares the honor with Troy Bell of Boston College.

Murphy earns the player-of-the-week honor for the ninth time in his career. He registered his 40th career double-double in Notre Dame’s 74-60 win over Syracuse as he scored 34 points and grabbed 16 rebounds. The Irish All-American shot nine-for-17 from the field and converted 16 of his 19 free-throw attempts, both career-highs.

Against Georgetown in the 78-71 road victory, Murphy scored 16 points and grabbed four rebounds before fouling out of the game with 4:28 remaining in the contest. Murphy is averaging 23.1 points and 9.4 rebounds for the 23rd-ranked Irish.

MEN'S SOCCER

NSCAA pegs Irish for 2000 academic award

For the second consecutive year, the Notre Dame men's soccer team has been recognized by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America with the NSCAA College Team Academic Award for exceptional performance as a team in the classroom during the 1999-2000 school year.

Notre Dame was one of 13 Division I schools honored with the award for achieving a cumulative grade point average of 3.00 and higher. Twelve players from the team were named to the Dean’s List following the 2000 spring semester, while 10 earned Dean’s List distinction after the ’99 fall semester.

Along with Notre Dame, the other schools to earn the award were: Bowling Green State University (3.12), Bucknell University (3.13), Coastal Carolina University (3.13), Davidson College (3.14), Duquesne University (3.14), Georgetown University (3.15), University of Akron (3.07), University of Dayton (3.09), University of Pennsylvania (3.28), University of South Carolina (3.06) and Western Kentucky University (3.04).

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Last Informational Meeting
Wednesday, February 7th, at 6:00 PM
At the Center for Social Concerns

Deadline for applications: February 9, 2001
Irish continued from page 24

points in the final 20 minutes. She also added 14 rebounds and five blocks.

Providence double-teamed Riley in the first half so at halftime McGraw decided to spread the court and give her all-American more room down the field and give her assists to the post. resulting in easy baskets for Riley. Her second-half performance was typical for games against the Friars. As a sophomore, Riley scored 36 and 41 points in Notre Dame’s two easy wins over Providence.

“She told me she was graduating on schedule,” Jabir said. “I was very pleased with that.”

Another senior, Niele Ivey also turned in her normal night’s work on the defensive end. The aforementioned steal (the 309th of her career) gave Ivey a new Notre Dame record and the Irish never trailed for the rest of the game. She finished with four steals, six rebounds and four assists but shot just 4-for-12 from the field for 12 points.

Ericka Haney added 17 points and nine rebounds, while seldom-used freshmen Le’Tania Severe’s all-around play (7 rebounds, 2 assists and solid defense in 26 minutes) impressed the coaches. With forward Kelley Siemon likely out again for Saturday’s Boston College game, McGraw said Severe will practice with the starters during the next few practices.

“She was player of the game,” McGraw said of Severe. “That’s what we need her to do (play defense and rebound).”

The unexpected contribution from Severe was a microcosm of the Irish’s night. Against the conference’s worst team, they struggled for their 33rd straight win at home. And as the winning streak continues, the attention and criticism will increase, not an ideal situation for McGraw.

“It’s been overwhelming,” McGraw said. “There’s been a lot of phone calls and a lot of talking, just a lot more interest nationally from people.

Muffet McGraw women’s basketball head coach

Currently, we were just so excited about it. I would talk to anybody. Now, it’s time to get back to business.”

Track continued from page 24

“From a facilities standpoint, we have nothing to offer (the team),” Kachmarik said. “We’d have to put hundreds of dollars to even have a track.”

The team lacks practice facilities, sufficient coaching and a track to hold meets. The addition of a four lane track suitable for running would cost the College $350,000 alone. In addition to the cost of the track, the team would need a total of three coaches—one each for long distance, sprints and field events.

“The program is dropped. We would have to raise a lot of money to consider bringing it back.”

Lynn Kachmarik athletic director

The members of the team feel differently. We understand (Kachmarik’s) points,” Bergeman said. “But we don’t think the team had to be eliminated. They had to make a tough decision, though. We respect that.”

“We want to raise the money to keep the team next year.” Burkei said. “We’re going to contact alumni and parents and hold fund raisers for the team.”

Despite high team efforts, it seems unlikely that the program will return in the spring of 2003. "The program is dropped,” Kachmarik said. “We would have to raise a lot of money to consider bringing it back.”

Both Kachmarik and Eldred are optimistic that the team will return at some point in the future of Saint Mary’s athletics but not 2002. “I don’t want to say that track and field is gone forever,” Eldred said. “It is definitely a sport we would like to bring back.”

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Carrot Top

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LORD of THE PROPS

A Nitelette Production Presentation

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The Notre Dame women's tennis team has its plate full this weekend as Michelle Dasso and Becky Varnum travel to Dallas to compete in the National Rolex Indoor Championships and the rest of the women stay home to take on Illinois State and Western Michigan.

The Irish are looking to perform well after a difficult tournament in Florida last week, where Dasso and Varnum lost in the early rounds. The team wants to put the losses behind them but it still has to come out and play well this weekend.

"I don't think that we really played badly," said head coach Jay Louderback. "They were all really good teams and we played against some good players and did well. I told the team to not even worry about last weekend because it was such a tough tournament."

Dasso and Varnum hope to get back to their winning ways this weekend as they both head down to Dallas. Dasso is participating in both singles and doubles and is ranked third in the singles bracket. Varnum will be joining her for the doubles and they hope to make up for a second round loss in Florida.

Since it is a national tournament the pair will be taking on some tough competition but they both have high hopes for victory.

"Both can do really well I think," said Louderback. "Michelle and Becky didn't play very well outdoors [last week] and playing indoors this week will help out a lot."

While All-American Dasso and Varnum are in Dallas, the rest of the team will remain in South Bend to go up against Illinois State and Western Michigan in dual matches.

With the top players out, the Irish will get a chance to show off some of their younger and less experienced players and have some players compete up a higher level than they normally do.

It is still to be decided who will play in the one and two positions vacated by Dasso and Varnum but Louderback thinks that it will be good for the team to compete without their two top players.

"This will give our girls a chance to play higher, whoever is one or two will really have to play well," said Louderback. "Things should be okay. It will be interesting but I am very confident in our play."

One thing that Louderback has reason to be confident about is the recent play of Kimberly Guy. After an impressive performance against Duke she went out last week and blew away the competition in Florida by going undefeated and winning the Flight-B singles.

"She played very well the whole weekend," said Louderback. "She's gotten older and more mature and has improved her game a lot. In the past she has played well but not consistently, last weekend she played four great matches in a row and she will be a big key for us this weekend."

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The Irish will take on Illinois State on Sunday during the morning and Western Michigan in the afternoon.
THINGS COULD BE WORSE

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Dick Cavett, Jack Nance, Freya Olafsdottir, Krystina Stalin.

ALSOP: Argue; persevere and be patient...

BIRTHDAY BABY: You are a bit stubborn but only when you feel that you are right. You will never back down and will always be able to find a solution to any problem that faces you. You are a thinker and a doer.

(Need advice? Check out Eugenia's Web sites at astroadvice.com, astromate.com.)

Visit The Observer on the web at http://observer.nd.edu/

NOTRE DAME TRACK & FIELD
14TH ANNUAL MEYO INVITATIONAL
FRIDAY @ 6:00 PM
SATURDAY @ 10:30 AM

LOFTUS SPORTS COMPLEX

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KENTUCKY * MIAMI * MICHIGAN *
MICH. ST. * MISSOURI * TENNESSEE *
WAKE FOREST

NOTRE DAME FIGHTIN' IRISH
NOTRE DAME ATHLETICS

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**SPORTS**

**WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD**

**Saint Mary’s eliminates track and field program**

By KATIE McVOY
Assistant Sports Editor

At a meeting late Tuesday evening, Saint Mary’s athletic director Lynne Kachmarik announced that the track and field team will discontinue following the 2001 season.

"Some may feel that this is a step backward," Kachmarik said. "But it truly will give us the opportunity to improve our department as we continue to move forward."

Kachmarik called a special meeting of the varsity team Tuesday at Angela Athletic Facility to announce the decision and then publicly released information Wednesday morning.

The decision to eliminate the program was a presidential decision made by President MariLou Eldred upon Kachmarik’s recommendation. The decision was a difficult one for the administration.

"We wish that we had been informed of the decision before [Tuesday]. We were caught totally unaware."

Kara Bergeman
team captain

"It was a hard decision," Eldred said. "You never want to have to discontinue a sport."

Senior, team-captain Kara Bergeman spoke for the team early Wednesday.

"We got to go home right there," Kachmarik said. "I really hope there's not just talent on their side but a lot of swagger. If that announcer said 'your No. 1 team in the country' one more time, I think I was going to choke him."

The swearer was replaced by shock for the first 20 minutes.

In the half, the Irish shot 9-for-28 (32.1 percent), committed 12 turnovers, had 4 assists and played the final eight minutes without Ruth Riley. With 6:16 left, Notre Dame trailed 18-11, its largest deficit of the season.

"I wanted to go home right there," Jabir said. "Time couldn't go fast enough."

Notre Dame went on a 17-2 run to close the half but led only by six with 8:10 remaining before scoring 16 straight points. The Irish turned to Riley in the second stanza. The senior center scored 17 of her game-high 19 points.

**WOMEN'S BASKETBALL**

**No. 1 Notre Dame gets brief scare from Providence**

By TIM CASEY
Assistant Sports Editor

Niele Ivey extended her hand, deflected the ball from Providence’s Brooke Freeburg, gained possession, dribbled over half-court and threw a one-hop bounce pass to Ericka Haney for an easy right-handed lay-up.

The steal, with 2:58 remaining in the first half, broke current assistant coach Coquese Washington’s career record. But more importantly, it led to a 21-20 Notre Dame’s first lead of the night.

That’s not a misprint.

For over 17 minutes on Wednesday, Providence (7-11 overall, 1-7 in the Big East) ultimately rebounded for a 64-44 win over the Irish. The swagger was replaced by shock for the final half but led by only six with 8:10 remaining before scoring 16 straight points. The Irish turned to Riley in the second stanza. The senior center scored 17 of her game-high 19 points.

**SPORTS AT A GLANCE**

- National Roles Singles and Doubles Indoor Championships
  - Thursday-Sunday
- Men’s Swimming
  - vs. Cleveland State
  - Friday, 2 p.m.
  - at Ohio State
  - Friday, 7:35 p.m.
- Track and Field
  - Maccabi Invitational
  - at Pittsburgh
  - Saturday, 7 p.m.