By JASON McFarley
News Editor

"The Real World" is nice, but Matt Smith would just as soon use live appearances — not television — to convey his message.

Not that television hasn’t been good to Smith, a former star of MTV’s “Real World” New Orleans cast. It’s just that a stand-up chat like his talk Friday in Notre Dame’s Hesburgh Library Auditorium allow him to communicate the ... well, real story.

The inside scoop. It’s a self-confessed in-your-face punk who, since leaving the MTV-initiated fame to parlay his way into lecture circuits and guest spots across the country.

Don’t misunderstand. He’s no sell-out; his faith is his topic of choice.

"I’m just the most obnoxious, irritating punk," Smith, a Georgia native, said Friday to an audience that filled the library auditorium to overflowing. "I’m so cocky about my faith because it’s so real to me."

Smith’s appearance was part of the No Greater Love project sponsored by Campus Ministries. The self-proclaimed national "spokes-pimp" for Life Teen, a U.S. Catholic youth organization. Smith told a rapt crowd Friday that his Catholic values have been a fundamental part of his life — pre- and post-"Real World."

"There is no greater love than when you are giving everything you have to God," he said, alluding to the appearance’s theme. "It took me 21 years to realize that, and ever since I have my life has never been the same."

In a quasi-stand-up comedy routine that saw Smith inhale allergy medication with his mouth wide open, his talk Friday that his MTV-initiated fame to parlay his way into lecture circuits and guest spots across the country.
ONWRITING

It's interesting to see what people do in their free time. It's what you do for fun. That thing that brings out the best in you. Some people sit on the sofa watching reruns of Seinfeld. Others run around the lakes or play three on three.

Some talk with friends, play video games or read a good book. I happen to love reading, and consequently, love to write. Over break, I read "On Writing" by Stephen King. I've always loved to write, especially poetry. My teachers back in 8th grade started us writing in kindergarden. By fifth grade, we tried writing novellas and had a novel writing kit with exercises to help us with characters, scenes and plots. We thought we could come up with stellar stories. We thought we could write.

But not hardly, at least for me. I can't speak for my classmates at Spreckels, Standley and UCISH, but I know how to write. I wrote what I knew. It was hard to write with poetry. Little that rhymed regularly, writing as it came.

I had my free time. I read through my four pages and just started writing. It started the same, but instead of ruling, he recused himself from — or declared himself not an appropriate choice to judge — the case. After Baker's release, it was automatically passed to Chief Judge Joe Billy McBride of Prince who will assign the case.

Baker, an adjunct professor in the University College of Law, recused himself because of his association with the University. Baker said he did not receive Aiken's email.

The e-mail stated that NCAA coaches have strict guidelines on recruiting regarding "the nature and frequency of contacts" with athletic recruits. The e-mail said the University could be punished severely for breaking the rules and guidelines of the NCAA and that faculty, staff and students were not permitted to contact prospective student athletes without the authorization of the athletic director.

The e-mail was an attempt to prevent several anti-Chief University faculty members and students from dissuading potential athletes from attending the University. Some faculty members and students announced in February that they considered contacting recruits.

DOE examines Microsoft dispute

Champaign, Ill.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois filed a lawsuit Thursday in U.S. District Court for the Central District of Illinois, Champaign, alleging that the communications regarding e-mailing of students prohibiting any contact geared toward encouraging prospective athletes from attending the University of Illinois because of the Chief Illiniwek controversy.

United States Federal Judge Harold Baker was assigned the case, but instead of ruling, he recused himself from — or declared himself not an appropriate choice to judge — the case. After Baker's release, it was automatically passed to Chief Judge Joe Billy McBride of Prince who will assign the case.

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KENT STATE UNIVERSITY

William Hall is lighting a fire under Kent State University's Trumbull campus regarding how financial aid was obtained for Microsoft courses. But Hall, in a march in hand, is under fire himself as questions arise about his motivations. The U.S. Department of Education is now looking into exactly how the financial aid applications were filled out concerning students enrolled in Microsoft certification courses.

Hall, a Kent State student, said students were advised to write down that they were seeking an exploratory degree so that they would qualify for financial aid. Federal law states that student must be a degree-seeking student in order to receive financial aid, writing that certificate programs do not qualify. Hall said that many of the students who were advised to put down an exploratory degree were actually enrolling in the Microsoft classes just to become certified, not to seek a bachelor's degree.

A m e r i c a n W e a t h e r S e r v i c e

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

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Local Weather

5 Day South Bend Forecast

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College welcomes admitted students for Accepted Day

By DANIELLE GREER
Now Winter

The Saint Mary's community welcomed all accepted students for Accepted Day Sunday. Accepted Day provides prospective students with an opportunity to get a view of campus in order to help them make a decision regarding which college or university to attend.

Accepted applicants interacted with staff, faculty and current students at Saint Mary's College. Prospective students also had the opportunity to socialize with future classmates.

Activities gave the prospective students a sense of the Saint Mary's community. A Mass, reception and tours of the campus allowed the admitted students to interact with the faculty, said Jennifer Freeze, assistant director and campus visit coordinator.

"Accepted Day went well overall. I enjoyed meeting and interacting with the faculty. I'm also interested in sports, so I got a chance to talk to coaches about what I'm interested in, which is cross-country. I think this was beneficial because it gave me a chance to familiarize myself with the campus and will make it easier to affirm my decision," said Kristen Zaiserger, prospective student for class of 2005.

Accepted Day continues to promote Saint Mary's pride. "Here they [prospective students] get a chance to bond and form friendships. Saint Mary's community becomes like a family," said Mary Pat Nolan.

The admissions office hopes that more diversity will be represented on Accepted Day — a number indicative of the College's ability to recruit a more diverse class.

"Here at Saint Mary's our goal is to enrich the experience for all. Usually we have 10 percent or less [diverse students] apply, but this year we had 13 percent apply. That's really good," said Mary Pat Nolan, director of the admissions office.

This increase is an accomplishment for the admissions office because Saint Mary's is becoming more known throughout the United States and abroad. There were applicants from 30 different states and countries.

Mona Bowe, associate director of the admissions office, is also hoping for an increase within the diversity on the Saint Mary's campus.

"What people have to understand is that ethnically diverse students look for the same things white students look for in a college. The College has to feel right to them," said Bowe.

In addition to helping convince students to attend the College with Accepted Day, the admissions office is also offering live online chats every other Tuesday until the end of the year.

Prospective students can go to a college online website and enter chat rooms for specific topics about the Saint Mary's community. The online chats may help the students finalize their decision to attend Saint Mary's. This will be an easy, convenient way for the applicants to interact with each other as well as faculty, staff and current Saint Mary's students.

The admissions office will also offer travel grants to help bring students from distant locations who would like to visit. Saint Mary's feels it is important to extend their reputation throughout the U.S. and across the world.

"We have a list of about 12 states that apply for the travel grants. We offer this travel stipend because there is no substitute for a campus visit," said Bowe.

CAMPUS NEWS

Slide Show/Lecture
Monday, March 26 4:00 PM
Jordan Auditorium
Free and open to the public

Papel Picado Workshop*
Tuesday, March 27 4:00 PM
Snite Museum
Ashbaugh Educational Center
Open to families with small children, student teachers and art teachers

“Business of Art”
Student Lecture*
Wednesday, March 28 3:30 PM
119 O'Shaughnessy
Open to undergraduate and graduate students interested in pursuing artistic career

*Limited availability; must sign up in advance.

For more information or to sign up, please contact:
Diana Lenza, Program and Public Relations Coordinator
Institute for Latino Studies
Phone: 631-3747
E-mail: Lenza.j@nd.edu
said Paul Huber, a Notre Dame professor and undergraduate advisor for biochemistry.

"Science journalism and science public policy are two examples. I had a student who did not have the grades for medical school, but she took a great science public policy internship in Washington instead," said Huber.

"Many of the companies and organizations attending the fair are well-known nationally or internationally. These include General Electric, Johnson & Johnson, Pfizer and the CIA.

"It's a fine line getting the companies to come because Notre Dame is a little smaller than some other schools," said Kopec. "So, it is a wonderful tribute to the outstanding science students here at Notre Dame that so many top-notch companies from various industries are participating in our first fair.

GE, for example, only focuses its recruiting activities at 36 key schools and Notre Dame is one of them, according to Steve Canale of GE's Manager, Recruiting and Staffing Services.

"ND has an excellent reputation for producing students with strong technical and professional skills," said Marc Garbiras, a 1998 Notre Dame alumnus and computer scientist for General Electric's Corporate Research and Development department. "We find the academic curriculum at the university to be extremely strong and well aligned with the skills and qualifications we are looking for in our employees. The same fundamental principles of integrity, commitment to quality and excellence, and community spirit that the university strives for from its students, are the same as our own GE Values."

Garbiras is just one of the Notre Dame alumni that will be returning to their alma maters for a recruiting trip. Garrett Moraski, a 1997 Notre Dame alumnus and laboratory assistant scientist for the Pfizer Global Research Division, is another. According to him, Pfizer chooses to recruit at Notre Dame because its current assistants from Notre Dame are doing well, showing it is an attractive place to hire.

GE and Pfizer are not alone in choosing to recruit directly at universities because employers like them value the skills and enthusiasm of new grads.

"The recruitment of good candidates in job markets is difficult today. By recruiting and hiring university undergraduates, we have the opportunity to develop them into the future management leaders of tomorrow within our company," said Lisa Huston, a sales recruiting manager for Johnson & Johnson.

New grads also offer other advantages for companies involved with science and technology. "They are aligned with the current technologies, and in many cases have knowledge and experience with applications that have not yet made it, or are just making it, into mainstream corporate America," said Garbiras.

"College graduates are apt to learn new skills and generally have a shorter learning curve than people who have been away from academia for a while. They also have a strong work ethic, and the enthusiasm and energy of recent graduates is unmatched," said Garbiras.

Companies at the career fair will be looking for candidates for summer internships, not just full-time positions. Even though some companies, like Johnson & Johnson, are not directly looking for interns, they will accept resumes on Tuesday for internship consideration. Other companies attending have structured internship programs and are specifically targeting undergraduates.

"Our internship programs are designed to support the development needs of university undergraduates and it is our hope that undergraduates who participate in internship programs will be interested in being considered for full-time opportunities upon graduation," said Carrie Edginton Manner, a 1996 Notre Dame alumna and Sales Quality Leader for GE Medical Systems.

"Students from all colleges, majors and years are invited to participate in the fair. "It is our hope that many students will take advantage of this unique opportunity and attend the fair with their resume in hand," said Kopec. "Hopefully with a good turnout the fair will be even bigger next year.

Twelve of the companies attending Tuesday's event will also be staying for Wednesday's Arts and Letters Career Fair.

Club celebrates Asian month with campus activities

By NICOLE HADDAD
Saint Mary's News Editor

The Asian Club of Saint Mary's College celebrates Asian month with various activities on campus throughout the month.

Proud of their success in raising awareness and enthusiasm among students of all backgrounds on Saint Mary's campus, the club is in its second year.

Co-sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Affairs and the Student Diversity Board, the club began after students expressed concern to Maria Orpiza, director of Multicultural Affairs, that there wasn't an Asian organization on campus, said Aera Ashraf, president of the Asian Club.

Current events include lectures, an Asian Film Fest and a fundraiser for the Purple Rose Campaign, an organization that tries to stop sexual trafficking in third world countries.

"Next year, the club hopes to include the current events, as well as the addition of an Asian Festival, where students run various booths and tents with activities that raise enthusiasm and appreciation for the Asian culture," said Ashraf.

One of the main goals of the club is to raise awareness of all Asian cultures.

"Not many people are aware of the diversity of the Asian culture. There's not one common language or culture from one part of the country to another. It's hard to relate to one another," said Ashraf. "The club allows us to get together and appreciate one another.

Not all members of the club are Asian. In fact, most are caucasian, including the vice president, junior Erin Schenz, and the treasurer, senior Karla Flores.

"Normally it seems culture clubs, except for language clubs, have one cultural background, but we have a lot of people of diverse backgrounds," said Schenz. "We're a welcoming group, and that's why we've been doing a great job of raising awareness."
JAPAN

6.4 quake kills 2, injures dozens

Associated Press

HIROSHIMA

A powerful earthquake convulsed southwestern Japan on Saturday, buckling roads, snapping power lines, damaging houses and killing two people with falling debris.

The magnitude-6.4 tremor caused damage in five Japanese states and was felt as far away as South Korea, more than 150 miles northwest of the epicenter.

Authorities reported 123 injuries, 12 of them serious, in the Japanese state of Hiroshima, and scores more in surrounding states. News reports Sunday said more than 160 people were hurt, but it wasn’t possible to immediately confirm them.

Broken roof tiles and window shards littered streets in the city of Hiroshima, which has about 1 million people, and thousands of households were left without running water.

“Plates fell off shelves and watermen screamed in panic,” said Koji Akimoto, who was sitting in a Hiroshima coffee shop when the mid-afternoon quake hit. “I rushed outside because I was scared to be in a crowded area. It seemed like an eternity but it only lasted a minute or so.”

An 80-year-old woman died in Kure, a city about 12 miles south of Hiroshima, when she was buried under the rubble of a collapsed wall. In nearby Ehime state, a 50-year-old woman fleeing her home in the city of Matsuyama was killed by roof tiles that fell on her head.

The quake, centered some 38 miles below ground, struck at 3:28 p.m. near Hiroshima, about 430 miles southwest of Tokyo, the Meteorological Agency said.

Water lines were cut in islands near the quake’s epicenter, affecting 10,000 households. It was unclear when water would be restored, said local official Masazuki Fujikara. About 33,000 homes were without water in Kure.

In Hiroshima city, the quake set off a fire that burned down one home. Across the state, three houses were completely destroyed and several hundred were damaged.

MACEDONIA

Forces invade rebel-held village

Associated Press

GAJRE

Using armored cars for cover, government troops punched through rebel lines and moved into a hillside village on Sunday, spraying houses with bullets as they spearheaded an offensive to push ethnic Albanian insurgents back from Macedonia’s second-largest city.

While not claiming all-out victory, Prime Minister Ljubco Georgievski said government forces were doing well, asserting that the thrust to “clear the terrain of terrorists ... is being carried out successfully, and already key positions have been taken.

The fighting has brought combatants into their closest quarters yet in the six-week conflict near the Kosovo border that NATO wants defused to prevent a wider Balkan war.

Macedonian troops led by seven armored personnel carriers and two tanks moved into the village of Gajre, in the hills just northwest of Tetovo, Sunday afternoon, breaking through a rebel roadblock and forcing the insurgents to pull back.

Houses and cars were burning in the village, and bullets sent roof tiles flying as troops blasted houses suspected of harboring rebels. Two helicopters strafed the hillside.

A lone man ran to free his cows from a burning barn. He then shot a thin stream of water from a garden hose on his barn and house, in a vain attempt to staunch the flames.

After the fighting ended, dozens of terrified people who had been hiding in a cellar surfaced and rushed into the thick forest around the village.

After taking Gajre, the troops regrouped and set up positions overlooking Llive, another rebel-held village just north of Gajre.
Cannabis cooperative pushes for medical marijuana use

Smith continued from page 1

microphone in sounding distance and distorting voices, Smith, a former Georgia Tech University student mixed his antics with serious reflection on his faith. One of six children in a Catholic family, Smith said he only became involved in Christianity when he was a college student, following his break-up with his long-time girlfriend.

Religion, especially Sunday Mass, uplifted Smith. Life Teen, provided him solace and gave Smith a different perspective on life.

"I began to realize that it was only when you're in sync with God's plan things really start to happen," he said.

And things did begin to happen for Smith. Really.

Soon after his spiritual revival, Smith submitted an audition tape and was selected for "The Real World" — an experience he believed brought new strengths to his faith daily. Faced not only with temptation, Smith said he learned to live with faith and "to find happiness," he said. "But that's where Alcalay used to live, and he's had to look elsewhere since the federal government shut down the cooperative and five other California pot clubs in 1998 to prevent them from distributing the drug. A federal judge sided with the government. But last year, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that "medical necessity" is a legal defense.

California officials, including Attorney General Bill Lockyer, argue that the state has the right to control marijuana, outside of grow-
Researchers find puberty-inducing gene in young girls

NEW ORLEANS
Scientists attempting to figure out why some girls go through puberty at unusually young ages have found a surprising culprit — a gene that speeds up the body’s breakdown of the male sex hormone. Many believe that the age of puberty — the time when girls develop breasts and other sexual characteristics — is creeping downward. The most widely held explanation for this is growing childhood obesity, along with rich diets and lack of physical activity.

However, genes almost certainly play a role in the age of puberty, and many assumed that the most likely players in this scenario would be ones that control the body’s production and use of estrogen. Research released Sunday at a meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research suggests a more complicated interplay of hormones, since the body’s supply of testosterone, the male hormone, seems to be a key influence on the timing of puberty.

Dr. Fred F. Kadlubar and colleagues from the Food and Drug Administration’s National Center for Toxicological Research discovered the link in a study of 192 girls ages nine and 10. A study published four years ago found that about half of all black girls and 15 percent of whites begin to develop sexually by age eight. The average age of puberty is about 13 for whites and a year younger for blacks.

Typically, girls begin breast development about a year before their first period. Kadlubar’s team looked for a link between genes and this change in the randomly chosen group of girls.

They examined several genes that control the body’s use of estrogen but found no association with early puberty. To their surprise, though, they found a strong link when they tested the girls for a gene that controls the body’s breakdown of testosterone.

They looked for a particular variation, called CYP1B1, in a gene that produces a liver enzyme. They found that 90 percent of the girls with two copies of this genetic variation had already begun breast development by age 9 1/2, compared with 56 percent of those with one copy and 40 percent with no copies.

“It tells us what goes on hormonally during the early stage of breast development,” said Kadlubar. “Now we have to put testosterone into the equation.”

It has long been known that estrogen production increases and testosterone falls during this developmental landmark. Kadlubar said the CYP1B1 gene, by reducing testosterone levels, may trigger the cascade of hormones involved in the start of breast development.

Early puberty is a concern, because it increases the risk of breast cancer later in life. Experts speculate that, among other things, early breast development may increase lifelong exposure to estrogen, which increases the chances of this malignancy.

Kadlubar said the enzyme he studied is critically important to the body’s well being, so doctors are unlikely ever to try tinkering with it in an attempt to slow puberty.

However, Dr. Christine B. Ambrosone of Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York City said someday may be useful to screen girls for the genetic variation. Those who have the gene could be targets for special effort to delay puberty by slowing their weight gain and increasing exercise.

“These are groundbreaking studies,” she said. “We will need to see where this goes, but there is a lot of exciting research for the future.”

Kadlubar said the next step will be to see if the gene influences sexual development in boys. In theory, at least, those with the CYP1B1 gene should develop later than usual, since they are exposed to lower levels of testosterone.
WHAT REALLY MATTERS IS HOW YOU PLAY THE GAME

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Roberts, Crowe win acting honors at 73rd annual Oscars

Associated Press

List of 73rd annual Academy Awards presented Sunday evening at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles:

Picture: "Gladiator." Director: Steven Soderbergh, "Traffic." 
Supporting Actor: Benicio Del Toro, "Traffic." 
Supporting Actress: Marcia Gay Harden, "Pollock." 

Screenplay Adaptation: Stephen Gaghan, "Traffic." 
Original Screenplay: Cameron Crowe, "Almost Famous." 
Foreign Language Film: "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon." 
Original Score: "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon." 
Original Song: "Things Have Changed" from "Wonder Boys," Bob Dylan. 

Art Direction: "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon." 
Film Editing: "Traffic." 

Live Action Short Subject: "Quiero Ser (I want to be)." 
Animated Short Subject: "Father and Daughter." 

Costume Design: "Gladiator." 
Sound: "Gladiator." Sound Editing: "U-571." 

Cinematography: "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon." 
Make-up: "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas." 
Documentary Short: "Big Mama." 
Documentary Feature: "Into the Arms of Strangers: Stories of the Kindertransport." 
Visual Effects: "Gladiator." 

Academy Award winners previously announced this year:

Honorary Oscar: cinematographer Jack Cardiff. 
Honorary Oscar: screenwriter-producer-director Ernest Lehman. 
Technical Achievement: Rob Cook, Loren Carpenter and Ed Catmull of Pixar for the "Reindeerman" software. 
Gordon E. Sawyer Award: producer Irwin W. Young. 
Irving G. Thalberg Memorial Award: producer Dino De Laurentiis.

Julia Roberts (above left) won Best Actress honors for "Erin Brockovich," while Russell Crowe (above right) was awarded the Oscar for his work in "Gladiator." Below (left) Steven Soderbergh holds his statue for Best Direction for his "Traffic," a film which included Best Supporting Actor Benicio Del Toro (below right).

This rates as our biggest home improvement ever.
Travel great for Americans

Anna Barbour

Traveling abroad is always an eye-opening, an eye-popping, an eye-call-it-what-you-will experience, and it’s never more true than when it refers to the experience of the American, or more specifically, the North American University of United States heritage dating back at least two years of three generations. This person is a good man or a good woman who simply believes himself or herself as the “U.S.-of-A” is the best life and the only life. If one has a nationalistic bone in his or her body, it is difficult to argue with this man or woman about the quality of one’s American life. We U.S. Americans should like what we see, what we do, how we live, we may even be so bold as to call ourselves a superpower and then smile about that aspect of our American ways.

Yet, many Americans rarely know what is going on; we can’t help but stick out like the big thumb, and why? Not only is it because we have moved away from a love of 90’s fashion and because we’re usually taller and bigger than everybody else, but also because we’re confused most of the time when traveling abroad. Then, in compensation for our lack of understanding, we get freaking loud. We have loud conversations with lots of loud expressions in hopes of figuring things out.

I was with a fellow American once who was looking for a T-shirt in Greece. The lucky Greek woman who was attempting to communicate with wasn’t that clear about what she desired. She got louder, of course, using a variety of hand motions so that he figured she wanted a blouse, but no, she wanted a T-shirt. At this point, I interjected, stating that perhaps the blouse and the T-shirt were one and the same. Both my fellow American and the Greek looked at me with contempt and continued not dialoguing well.

I am not advocating that one knows beforehand how the entire rest of the world lives in order to travel anywhere. Yet, I, for one, would rather people thought I was more similar to them than different as Americans have a tendency of being ripped off when paying for hotels, taxis, food, etc., in other countries. Like, for instance, the French way of life. First of all, somehow the French have gotten the bad rap of being against the U.S. way of doing things, but this is not so, the French just like doing things their way better. You have got to respect that. Perhaps their elevators are the size of their showers and both are smaller than anything ever seen in the United States, perhaps no one feels the sting of injustice when someone cuts in front of him or her and perhaps they use the metric system. Everybody but us, though, uses the metric system. And it’s actually quite conducive of intimacy when you are smashed up against a good-looking individual in a four person (big enough for two people) elevator. Also, it is kind of liberating when you get in front of a long line, saving tons of time and nobody gives you the evil eye. And, ahh “Parle”, it’s truly a city of love — where is the equivalent U.S. city? Where in the U.S. can you even give up pain at chocolate block after block? This pastry is good.

How many Americans know French? Sure, it’s important to be multi-lingual for a variety of reasons. The best reason of all, though, is that knowing a country’s language means you know what is going on or can find out what’s going on in that country. Knowing the low-down, having the lingo, in my humble opinion, is a key ingredient to any good living experience.

Anna Barbour

Get a Life

DILBERT

Quote of the Day

"We all grumble about the weather, but nothing is done about it."

Mark Twain

Author
Fix meal plans

I used to think that our meal plans were pretty nice. No waiting in checkout lines. All you can eat buffet, no daily specials, and a combo meal if you order the salad bar. Convenient location. However, now I realize what a rip off these meal plans really are, and I am tired of being bilked.

This year's meal plan is $1,765.

If you are on the 21-meal plan and eat out every meal, you are paying $5.25 per meal. If instead you only make it to 16 of those meals, you are paying $6.90 for a meal that you expected you will just use this up to $6.90. For those of us choosing to be ripped off by Flex, we forfeit one-third of our meals in return for one-eighth of our money back, but that can only go to purchases that we are getting gouged that $6. This is the final straw. Now I'll admit that there are good meals available on campus, but that can only go to purchases that we are getting gouged that $6. In these very pages, much ink has been printed concerning "Yo Mama's Last Supper" and Flex's tax cut plan has been drawn up, predictably, Senator Edward Kennedy. Tedly, from the moment Kennedy was here two days ago, he would vigorously oppose President Bush's irresponsible tax cut plan.

Kennedy believes IMC is practicing political grave robbing by using the Kennedy name to try to cash in for George W. Bush. Sounds like a reasonable consideration, but it's a ruse to cover up the dirty little secret. JFK's tax plan was much more generous to the wealthy! Kennedy's tax cut plan makes the wealthy richer than the already rich Americans from an outrageous 91 percent to an only-slightly lower 33 percent, for a 58 percent cut. By comparison, the Bush plan drops the top rate from 39.6 to 33 percent, just a 17 percent reduction. It is true that President Bush's plan is devoted to the wealthy than Kennedy's; however, there are many more rich people than 40 years ago. In addition, the numbers for the Bush plan are skewed since it wants to cut the confiscatory estate tax. But even today, we're looking at budget surpluses — since Kennedy proposed his bold plan in the midst of a federal deficit, wouldn't be the most "irresponsible scheme" by Ted's 2000?

The plain and simple truth that Tedly Kennedy doesn't want you to know is that his brother was a good, old-fashioned, jolly-rocker, supply-side tax slasher. His speech means the fact that he was more in the vein of Ronald Reagan than George W. Bush than his own brother is today. It wasn't always that way. It was Lyndon Johnson who, in a 1964 speech, set the stage for a steep decrease in dining hall food that you already paid for your room rent.

I am writing in response to Scott Brodfuehrer's column of March 23 entitled, "Violence hurts." While I commend Mr. Brodfuehrer for taking the time to discuss this extremely important issue, I have to question his logic when it comes to the topic of school violence. We should question the validity of Mr. Brodfuehrer's claim that "these shootings continue to be especially disturbing because they do not occur in a violence-ridden area." While he seems to overlook the fact that these crimes take place even in small Catholic schools, his analysis of the situation as a whole is perfunctory and lacks any real depth.

I would like to ask the big question. Why do school shootings continue to happen in America? Regardless of where these shootings occur, the perpetrators of these acts of violence make the same claims: They feel alone, rejected, mocked or unloved. Whether the motive behind the shooting is anger, revenge, bigotry or an attempt to regain a feeling of control in their lives, the young Americans who are picking up guns and threatening their fellow students feel left behind. The angst associated with being a teenager is not new — even seen "Heathers?" — but something in our society has created this evolution in how young adults express their frustrations. Perhaps it's the individualistic nature of America, which encourages these young gun owners from feeling that they can turn to another person to express their emotions. Perhaps it's the same characteristic that allows us to some how justify permitting private citizens' owner- ship of guns. Perhaps it's despite the fact that nearly every other civilization in the world condemns this.

However, blaming the schools is not the answer. When children and teens plan to commit murder, it's because they tell someone. A recent article in Time noted that 75 percent of the perpetrators of school shootings told someone what they were planning before they took action. Schools have to rely on their students to come forward with this information. It is logical to assume that an unhappy, lonely, angry 15-year-old is going to walk up to his high school principal and announce that he's planning on bringing a gun to school tomorrow. That is not.

Massive administrative ineptitude is not the cause of these shootings. As the daughter of a high school administrator, I have seen my mother worry every day about her students, who we're looking at budget surpluses — it is still silencing of people who desire to make their point. But if you don't hear these views, you can't believe them.

That's what the censors are betting on.

Legitimized guns enable school violence

Letters to the Editor

We don't want you to hear
Here's the deal. You are in love with a girl, who coincidentally is in love with your brother. Luckily (for you), you are the king of Persia and your brother - albeit much more handsome, glib and intelligent - is not. So now, you have to win the consent to marry her both from her and from her father, a man who also happens to be the commander of your army, which is poised to invade Europe.

Good thing you have your love interest's jealous and scheming sister, tragically in love with your brother as his girlfriend to marry you. Everything to aid you in your treachery.

You're poised to invade Europe. In the fifth century c.e. Persia was, in fact, the younger of the two sons of Darius I and named heir apparent, much to his brother's chagrin. He was also not a spoiled and tyrannical despot as most accounts, a more charismatic leader.

The historical Xerxes and Handel's depiction of the Persian king have little to do with each other. The real Xerxes I of Persia was, in fact, the younger of the two sons of Darius I and named heir apparent, much to his brother's chagrin. He was also not a spoiled and tyrannical despot as Handel's opera depicts him, but, by most accounts, a more charismatic leader.

Marc Verzatt, the director of the show being performed at Notre Dame, is not as concerned with the history of "Xerxes" as he is with the show itself. In fact, in his production, the show has been taken out of Persia in the fifth century c.e. and brought into the 1820s.

Verzatt wants to give the audience a new look at the opera. "The whole idea of the stereotypical opera performance and been what my whole life has been about breaking," Verzatt said. Instead of the stiff, padded costumes that mark too many modern opera performances, Verzatt wanted to do something a little more fashionable.

"We decided that we wanted the costumes to have a very sexy feel to them," he said.

The music Handel wrote is very sexual in nature and the production staff wanted the look of the show to reflect that. "It was a very sexy era," Verzatt says of the new time period.

Stylish costumes are not the only changes Verzatt has brought to the classic.

This particular story lends itself to a highly theatrical presentation. There is not a time (period) precisely, nor does it have anything to do with history, it has everything to do with people and their relationships with each other," he said.

Verzatt sees Xerxes' story of lust and jealousy as a part of the teenage experience. "I chose to make [the characters] teenagers because they're highly volatile, passionate people caught up in affairs of the heart," Verzatt said. "When you're 15, 16, 17 years old and you start to date, you don't know the difference between sex drive and love, you just want to be with somebody... The opera's about all these very complicated teenage emotions."

The theatrical aspect of the music is what draws Verzatt to the opera. "I don't want our audience to come in and expect it to be just any old opera. I think opera audience are entitled to the same type of theater that they get when the R o y a l Shakespeare Company tours here," he said.

In particular, he feels that he can draw on his own experience as a teenager to help direct the show. "I was a highly romantic teenager who loved the idea of being in love..." Verzatt said.

As Verzatt and the cast explored new ways to present the emotion contained in the music they were surprised to find how naturally the libretto seemed to already contain the very themes they wanted to stress.

The Notre Dame Opera's production of "Xerxes" focuses on the natural theatrical nature of the show. "If I am going to ask people to spend two, or two and a half hours sitting in a show that I direct, then my responsibility to the audience becomes enormous," says the director.

And Verzatt plans to give the audience their money's worth.

Verzatt is an Adjunct Professor in Opera at Notre Dame. He began his career as a dancer with the Metropolitan Opera. Later, he joined the Cincinnati and Pittsburgh Opera companies as a stage manager and subsequently served as assistant stage director for the Lyric...
Die Händel?

Dame Opera present a modern production of "Xerxes"

Info Box
- The Notre Dame Department of Music and the Notre Dame Opera present Händel's "Xerxes."
- Washington Hall Theater
- March 30 and 31 at 7:30 p.m.
- Tickets are available at LaFortune Student Center Box Office or by calling (219) 631-8128.
- $5 for general admission, $3 for students and senior citizens.

"Working on the show has been challenging. In the end it has made me a better singer and a better actor."

Michael Holderer
actor/singer

Apetios plans to conduct a Celebrity Opera Gala with the Philharmonic Orchestra of London. However, the show needs not rest on the laurels of its director and conductor to win the interest of an audience. As the cast and crew will attest, the score and story itself gives the show plenty of depth. With about 50 musical numbers, the opera begins tranquilly and continues to build into a twisted web of love triangles, schemes and perfidy.

The show begins with Xerxes (played by graduate student Matthew Coffman), sitting beneath a tree and becoming enchanted with the lovely voice of Romilda (voiced by the talented Paula Kearney, also a graduate student).

Although, traditionally ignored for the rest of the show, the director decided to use the tree as a part of the set for the rest of the opera. It serves as the meeting place for the various pairings of lovers, hiding places for spies and even as a dueling field during impassioned challenges.

Xerxes, infatuated by Romilda, attempts to woo her but finds out that she is in love with his brother Arsames (played by graduate student Michelle Holden). Enraged, Xerxes banishes his brother, Romilda's envious sister, Atalanta (played by junior Anney Gillote), tragedy Xerxes into believing that Arsames is actually in love with her and encourages Xerxes into his plot of Romilda. Foiled by Atalanta's treachery, Xerxes forces Romilda to agree to marry him with her father's consent. The king then goes to Ariodates (performed by junior Jeff Palenik), Ramilda and Atalanta's father as well as the commander of his army, and asks that Romilda be allowed to marry a nobleman.

Of course, Ariodates gives his consent thinking that the "nobleman" would be Arsames. When Xerxes leaves he promptly marries the two lovers.

When Xerxes returns and discovers his brother in matrimony with the object of his affections, he demands that Ramilda kill herself for being unfaithful. All seems lost until the young man that Ariodates has been traveling with reveals himself, or rather herself, as Amastris (played by the versatile Hannah Neufeld, a graduate student). Xerxes is betracted princess from a foreign country. Xerxes realizes his infatuation, forgives his brother and apologizes to Amastris.

The performance and not for credit. During fall semesters, the group puts on a show of pieces from selected operas with special emphasis on techniques learned in class. Each spring, the group performs a full-length opera with a full orchestra. Last year they performed Humperdinck's "Hänsel and Gretel." Other performances have included Poulenc's "Dialogues of the Carmelites" in 1999 and Mozart's "Così fan tutte," a close musical relative of "Xerxes," in 1996.

"Xerxes" will be performed in Washington Hall Theater March 30 and 31 at 7:30 p.m. General admission is $5, or $3 for students and senior citizens. Tickets are available at the LaFortune Student Center Box Office or by calling (219) 631-8128.
March Madness doesn’t stop with Notre Dame loss

The Notre Dame men's basketball team's experience in the NCAA tournament this year kind of resembled my recent foray into stand-up comedy through big-time college hoops fans. The future is the home of many young basketball fans, the madness that is college hoops fans. That future starts next season.

For the fans, that future starts next season. For a program that for many years only experienced the madness of mediocrity, back-to-hack moments that make this month the most exciting time of the year, there's no other program that's been able to get to the Final Four.

The future is home to many possibilities for the ND men's basketball program.

The Irish marked their return to the Big Dance after 11 years of not being asked by getting down all over the Xavier Musketeers. With a perfect 7-7 from the floor, Matt Caroll an iteration of what Notre Dame led by 14 at the break made then like Kathy Lee and Carnival cruise at an 83-71 win. But the hot shooting that played such a huge role in the first round win vanished in Notre Dame's second-round loss to Ole Miss. Martin Ingelsby was the only Notre Dame starter to shoot above 36 percent from the floor, going 3-6. The Irish as a team only shot 29 percent from the field but battled by just two with the Rebels going over on their last offensive set of the game.

However, David Sanders got a hand on Carroll's effort to draw the Irish even, and the Rebels went on to win 59-56, grabbing the last-second shot that put them in the Final Four. For the Notre Dame players, first and foremost, and then for all their fans, both those who date back to the days of Digger M.O.B, and then for all their fans, both those who date back to the days of Digger M.O.B, but still trailed by just two when they took the win, the madness of mediocrity, experienced the madness of mediocrity, the madness that is college hoops fans. The future starts next season. For many years only the madness of mediocrity, college hoops fans. The future starts next season.

For the fans, that future starts next season. For a program that for many years only experienced the madness of mediocrity, back-to-hack moments that make this month the most exciting time of the year, there's no other program that's been able to get to the Final Four. For the fans, that future starts next season.

The future is home to many possibilities for the ND men's basketball program. For the fans, that future starts next season. For the players, that future starts today. In the meantime, and luckily for all of us college hoops fans, the madness that is March Madness doesn’t stop with Notre Dame loss.

Like every year, I sat down on the first Thursday of the tournament, first enjoying the wall-to-wall basketball, and second, waiting to see if I had correctly picked the winner of all 63 games. That second thing about picking all 63 games? Well, last until the end of game one on day one, when Ohio State lost to Utah State in overtime.

Every year, I think because I’ve been watching basketball for even longer than before and now I try to write about it, I’m somehow going to pick in games right. Unfortunately, if picking games was calculus, my derivative would be negative, because the more I watch, the fewer games I get right.

But the best part about being a fan of the NCAA tournament is that being right or wrong doesn't really matter. Sure, most of us, and 99.2 percent of those who date back to the days of Digger M.O.B, but still trailed by just two when they took the win, the madness of mediocrity, the madness that is college hoops fans. The future starts next season.

For the fans, that future starts next season. For a program that for many years only experienced the madness of mediocrity, back-to-hack moments that make this month the most exciting time of the year, there's no other program that's been able to get to the Final Four. For the fans, that future starts next season. For the players, that future starts today. In the meantime, and luckily for all of us college hoops fans, the madness that is March Madness doesn’t stop with Notre Dame loss.
Irish recruit Thomas leads Pike to state championship

By KATHLEEN O'BRIEN
Sports Writer

INDIANAPOLIS

For the second time in four seasons at Indianapolis Pike High School, Irish men's basketball recruit Chris Thomas went out with a win.

On Saturday, Pike captured the Class 4A State Championship by beating Penn St. John, and Thomas completed the circle he began as a freshman when Pike snagged its first state title.

"It's more special," Thomas said of this year's state title. "I played more of a decisive role on the team." In 1998, Thomas was the first player off the bench on Coach Alan Darner's championship team. In the 2001 title game, the future Notre Dame player led all scorers with 20 points, captured the Trester Award for the outstanding senior athlete in the finals and moved into 11th place on the all-time Indiana scoring list with 2,156 career points.

"Chris has meant a great deal to our program," said Darner, who is retiring after 30 years of coaching. "He's won two state championships. I think we've been ranked in the top five in the state all four years that Chris has been here."

Thomas scored all eight of Pike's first-quarter points as the Red Devils took an 8-5 lead, yet his defense was perhaps as impressive as his ability to score at will.

Thomas held Penn's Marques Husband, who averages 15 points per game, scoreless in the first period. He recorded four steals in the game, getting his first points of the game by picking a Kingsman's pocket at halfcourt then breaking away for a layup.

A favorite to win Indiana's Mr. Basketball award, Thomas and his teammates stifled Penn until they took a 48-21 lead in the fourth quarter and began celebrating the victory. Before Husband, Jim Modlin and Brady Biancardi let off a stream of 3s, Pike was on pace to hold Penn to the lowest output in a state finals game since 1942, when Muncie Central's Bob Perry scored just 18 points.

"Our defense, hands down, won us the game," Thomas said.

Adding Thomas's defense to the next season should better Notre Dame's ability to hold its own in man-to-man matchups with opponents. Penn couldn't get by Thomas, and many college opponents will likely fail in the same attempt.

Not that Thomas only stands out in preventing opponents from scoring. He and teammate David Teague were a lethal combination on offense. The two seniors, who were matching red wristbands pulled up around their elbows, scored 22 of Pike's 26 first-half points as the Red Devils entered halftime ahead by 10.

"He's very unexpected honor to win the award," Thomas said, whoaped praise on Teague and Keith Burgan after the game. "I think anybody on the team could win the award. It's just a great feeling to win the Trester Award and win the State Championship."

He had no time to rest following Saturday's title game. He was set to leave his house at 5:30 a.m. Sunday to prepare for the McDonald's All-American game in North Carolina. He was also selected for the upcoming Capital Classic in early April. Once Thomas finishes the upcoming round of All-Star games, he'll turn his attention to joining the ranks of the Irish, where Coach Mike Brey has him penciled in to replace graduating Martin Ingelsby at the point.

"I'm hoping to be the starting point guard," Thomas said. "I've got to work for that," Thomas said. "I talked to a couple of the guys (on the Notre Dame team). I told the guys that their next game is my first game."

Notre Dame got a verbal commitment from Thomas last April when Matt Doherty was at the helm. The off-season change in coaches couldn't deter Thomas from signing with Notre Dame, especially with both his parents on the Irish hardwired.

"Chris chose Notre Dame first," said Frank Thomas, Chris's dad. "He liked Coach Doherty as well. I think Chris will be able to make an immediate impact at Notre Dame."

As a high school senior this season, Thomas made the 2 1/2 hour trip from Indianapolis to South Bend several times to watch his future teammates in action and get to know the squad.

"I think as a freshman, you'll see he has great ideas," Brey said. "He watches our games and he brings stuff up. Like Martin, he thinks the game and he watches. We know he's skilled, but he also has the psyche of a quarterback."

THE READER'S CHOICE

RECOMMENDS

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McGraw, Foster meet again with Final Four at stake

DENVER

For the past few days, the two coaches have been in the limelight as the two teams have lived across the hall from one another at a local hotel. Tonight, Vanderbilt's Jim Foster and Notre Dame's Muffet McGraw, the mentor and mentee, aim for the Final Four. So will the longtime friends, each other before the 9 p.m. tip Monday.

That's almost as dumb as asking if the Bookstore will someday lower prices on textbooks. "We're going to spend time together," Foster said. "I'm going to learn from one of the best."

McGraw's Lehigh team faced Foster's St. Joseph's during the regular season. Although they have similar philosophies and personalities, McGraw and Foster differ in their public demeanor. While McGraw is more serious, Foster takes a cue from Auriemma. Foster believes in his team having fun, McGraw's entire staff meets with his before this season at a bed and breakfast in Parachut Park, Tenn., just outside Nashville.

"We'll get up on the board and diagram," Foster said of the annual meeting. "We'll talk about any kind of conversation you can have, relative to the sport."

Foster McGraw. "It's a great time to exchange ideas. Although they have similar philosophies and personalities, McGraw and Foster differ in their public demeanor. While McGraw is more serious, Foster is more casual. Foster remembers giving Auriemma a car when both were at St. Joseph's. "That doesn't mean anything," Foster said. "It was my $100 Volkswagen and I got a $150 Volkswagen."

Before this weekend, I assumed the Connecticut head coach had no competition for delivering memorable quotes. Now, it seems Foster may rank a close second. Consider:

Foster on his advice to McGraw when she was named the Irish coach: "I told her to recruit Ruth Riley."

Foster on the difference between McGraw now and in the early 1980s: "McGraw's teams take care of the ball a lot better than she did."

Foster on how his players can endure playing 40 minutes per game — "Why do young people go to war and old people sit home? They are of the age where you don't feel fatigue. If I went skiing today, I would have to be brought in a wheelchair tomorrow to coach the basketball game."

Foster on his first year as St. Joseph's coach in 1978: "I ran a group home for dependent, neglected boys. I lived there. I bartended twice a week. I was a full-time student at Temple University and I coached basketball at St. Joseph's. And oh yeah, I was married."

Foster on his prediction for tonight's game — "If I was a clairvoyant, I'd probably be doing something else for a living. And making a lot more money." Foster has very few other close friends in the coaching ranks besides McGraw and Auriemma. McGraw says the same thing. The competitiveness of the profession, it is rare to have meaningful relationships with fellow coaches.

"This is an interesting business we're in," Foster said. "And because it's an interesting business you value very closely the friendships that you have and you cherish those, as a matter of fact."

In the middle of the 1980s, McGraw's Lehigh team faced Foster's St. Joseph's squad. Since then, McGraw, Auriemma and Foster have chosen not to schedule games against each other during the regular season.

"After the game you're just not very happy," McGraw said. "You're not happy if you lose and if you beat somebody you like, you're not very happy.

But McGraw will be excited if the Irish win tonight.

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
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The Rockefeller University
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WOMEN'S TRACK & FIELD

Burket leads Belles at Dick Small Invite

By KATIE McVOY
Associate Sports Editor

Junior Erica Burket led the charge as the Belles of Saint Mary's ran, threw and jumped their way into a seventh place finish at the Dick Small Invitational.

Burket alone scored 13 points for the team as she claimed a second-place finish, a fourth-place finish and an eighth-place finish.

Burket took second in the triple jump, tying with Goshen College's Katie App at 9.740 meters. The junior also took home a fourth place finish in high jump, clearing 1.474 meters and eighth place in the 100-meter hurdles with a time of 18.39 seconds.

During the team's first outdoor meet of the year, the Saint Mary's track team took seventh place out of 12 teams with 35 points in a meet that may set the stage for this year's MIAA track runoff. Saint Mary's placed second out of four MIAA teams, ranking higher than Adrian College (34) and Olivet College (16). Only Albion College finished higher with 47 points in the meet.

'I was very excited,' team co-captain Kara Bergeman said. 'Especially that we finished above the two MIAA teams. Albion, Adrian and Alma will be our big rivals this season.'

Bergeman credits the team's competitiveness to increased numbers from years past.

'We've always been competitive and been able to place,' she said. 'We just haven't had the numbers we needed. Now we do.'

Despite the harsh Saturday weather, teammates Jaclyn Thompson, Becky Shepkowski and Laura Graf, joined Burket in adding points for the Belles. Thompson took home a fourth place finish in the pole vault clearing 2.450 meters. Shepkowski made her way to the winner's circle twice, with a fourth place finish in the triple jump with a jump of 9.540 meters and an eighth place finish in the long jump, landing 4.120 meters away from the starting line.

Graf claimed the Belles' only first place victory with an 800-meter run time of 2:25.16, beating out Albion's Amy Corrigan by less than a second.

The Saint Mary's 400-meter relay team also earned some points for the Belles, finishing in eighth place with a time of 57.96.

The meet, which took place at Defiance College, saw the home team take the victory. Defiance claimed 156 points, beating Burket by a narrow margin with a jump of 9.810. She also claimed victory in the 100-meter and 200-meter dashes.

Angie Wittenmeyer led the Yellow Jackets with three first place finishes and a second place finish. Wittenmeyer took home the win in the triple jump, beating Burket by a narrow margin with a jump of 9.810. She also claimed victory in the 100-meter and 200-meter dashes.

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Fourth with one out. That opportunity ended on a force out at home and a pop fly.

'They just picked and picked to get the runs,' Kovach said. 'We just need to hit more consistently and we need to have a stronger mental game.'

Aside from the errors in the first game, Kovach has been pleased with the pitching and fielding of Saint Mary's so far.

'By and large, I've been pleased with our fielding and pitching,' Kovach said. 'With two of three working, I think the third [hitting] will fall into place.'

Recycle The Observer.
By ANDREW SOUKUP  
Associate Sports Editor

Bob Davie is certainly in a better mood now than one year ago. At the start of spring practice last season, rumors circulated concerning the future of the Irish football coach's job. Davie was Dame's worst in nearly two decades. But this time around, the euphoria of earning their first-ever Bowl Championship Series bid still hasn't worn off and Davie wants to keep the good dynamics in place.

"As we start right now, we're farther along, in my opinion, than we've been since I've been head coach at Notre Dame," Davie said. "I feel more comfortable right now with the things that are in place than I have at any time."

The spring football season is set to begin on Tuesday. The team will practice three days a week for five weeks, culminating in the annual Blue-Gold game on April 29. Davie knows what he wants to do during the spring — keep the things in place that led the Irish to a 9-3 record last season.

His first priority is to maintain the strong team chemistry and find new leaders to step up and lead the Irish.

"The chemistry has been an absolute positive. What we need to do is make sure that continues to be a positive," he said.

A crucial part of maintaining that chemistry begins with the senior leadership, especially the captains. In the past, the captains have been named during the summer. However, Davie said that he might announce the captains in time for the Blue-Gold game.

"I think it's a little bit different than last year," he said. "I think maybe this year we're a little farther along."

Davie knows that the Irish need more strong team dynamics to duplicate the success of last year's team.

"We have to follow that plan that allowed us to win nine games," he said. "I'm talking about special teams. We won all year because we didn't turn the ball over. We won because we could run the ball. We didn't give up big plays on defense."

The spring football season will be an excellent chance for Terrance Howard to earn more playing time at tailback. With Julius Jones and Tony Fisher both out for spring practice, the door is wide open for Howard to earn the starting spot in the fall.

"T errance Howard is someone who has a chance to be our starting tailback," Davie said. "He's going to get a lot of work."

Utah continued from page 24

Alicia Ratay also made three 3-pointers, finishing with 11 points. Forward Ericka Haney added 10 points to go along with eight rebounds in 19 minutes.

Utah, the nation's best defensive team coming in to the game, allowed the Irish to shoot 47.3 percent from the field for the game. Notre Dame was only the fourth team this year to score more than 60 points on Elaine Elliott's team.

Utah's defensive game struggled with team leader Amy Everitt off the court at various times in the second half. Everitt played the last 16:44 with four fouls.

"She's the heart of our team in so many ways," Elliott said. "We didn't have her available. Her presence is sort of the glue that we all have learned to rely on and look for a lot of things."

The Irish led only 24-23 coming out of the final media timeout in the first half. Three-pointers by Ratay and Ivey extended the margin to 30-23 with 3:35 remaining.

After Utah's Erin Gibbons bounced a 10-footer off the top of the rim to beat the shot clock, Riley saw through three swarming Utah defenders to find an open Siemon under the basket. Siemon laid the ball in to give the Irish a 32-25 halftime lead.

Coming in to the game, pun- dits expressed concern about Notre Dame's ability to adjust to Denver's thin air. The Irish, who play a regular rotation of only six or seven players, answered early criticisms.

"I don't think it was really a major factor today," Riley said. "It's more of a mental state of mind than it is a very physical thing."

In the end, it was the team from Salt Lake City that was huffing and puffing, despite playing eight players more than 12 minutes.

"The game needed to be a lit- tle bit shorter for us," Elliott said. "They wore us down."

Notre Dame takes on Vanderbilt Monday at 9 p.m.
Viviani avenges loss, defeats Royblat to place third

By MIKE CONNOLLY
Sports Writer

Jan Viviani will never forget his semifinal bout against St. John's Arie Royblat at the 2000 NCAA Fencing Championships. The then-Irish freshman and the St. John's junior battled to an 8-8 tie in regulation before Royblat won on a controversial touch in overtime.

Viviani insisted Royblat touched the floor instead of Viviani and that the touch shouldn't have counted.

"I knew it had to be done and Anna knew it had to be done," Viviani said. "So we just went out there and fought like hell."

And then she got sick. Just days before travel to Paris for the Junior World Championships to repre­sent the United States, Viviani knew her chances of winning were slim.

"It was really nervous and really shaky," Viviani said. "I am not sure to my best shot and she is doing just weeks, I am sure I will feel better about it."

Sophomore Jan Viviani celebrates a victory at this weekend's NCAA Championships.

Sophomore Meagan Call takes out some of her frustration with assistant coaches Brian Banas (back) and James Gaither (right), Call won 15 bouts to place fifth at the championships.

Sophomore eepist answers the Call

By MIKE CONNOLLY
Sports Writer

Meagan Call was not supposed to be the highest ranking Notre Dame woman at the NCAA Fencing Championships. In fact, the 2001 second team All-American wasn't even sup­posed to be at the Championships.

When head coach Yves Auriol recruit­ed Kerry Walton for the 2001 season, many expected Walton, one of the top junior epeists in the country, to replace Call as one of Notre Dame's two epee qualifiers. Call posted a respectable 11-12 record at the 2000 United States National Championships and earned third team honors but most expected Walton and Anna Carnick, who finished ninth at the 2000 United States National Championships and had considerably more experience than Call to qualify for this year's championship.

Call was too short and too inexperi­enced to be helped the Irish fight for a national title in 2001. But then Walton's grades for the first semester came back and she was ineligible. The Irish turned to the 5-foot-2 epeist from Oregon to carry the load.

Mike Connolly

Outside Looking In

"I knew it had to be done and Anna knew it had to be done," Viviani said. "So we just went out there and fought like hell."

And then she got sick. Just days before she was supposed to fence in the opening round of women's epee, Call wasn't even sure if she was going to fence. But the woman who wasn't even expected to qualify for nationals beat her illness and battled her way to a fifth place finish — by far the strongest show­ing of any Irish woman.

"Two days ago we didn't even know if she would fence or not," head coach Yves Auriol said. "The girl is amazing. She is so smart and such a tough com­petitor."

What Call lacks in size and reach, she makes up for in determination and confi­dence. Others may have doubted her ability but Call never did. She expected to not only fence well but challenge for the individual foil title. Only fencers who fin­ish in the top four qualify for the fence off for the national title so Call is a little disappointed at her fifth place showing — especially since she was in second after six rounds but lost three straight bouts in the final round.

"I am disappointed but in a couple of

days, I am sure I will feel better about it," Call said. "I knew I needed to win the bouts (in round seven) so I started fenc­ing for myself and not my team and I just lost it."

The little ball of heart and determina­tion just couldn't find the same drive for herself that she had for her team. Without the challenge of adding a greater cause, Call couldn't find the same energy and focus.

"I am really proud of her and really, really happy for her," Carnick said. "She is a little upset now but tonight or morrow, whenever it hits her, she is going to be really pleased with herself. That is just an example of someone having lots more confidence in herself this year."

Although she stumbled at bit at the very end, throughout the tournament, when her ever team needed her, Meagan answered the Call and fenced like a champion.

"I have no idea what the criteria was but it was certainly one athlete that improved way more than anyone I have ever seen before," men's full captain Ozren Debic said. "She is beating people who have World Cup experience and that's great. She probably felt her responsibility was to get better and give it her best shot and she is doing just that."

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

on the spot. On the first day, I was really nervous and really shaky."

Nerves also got to sophomore foilist Lisa Boutsikaris. The 2001 second team All-American struggled over both days of competition and finished 16th with only eight wins.

"That wasn't Liza fencing out there," Auriol said. "She was nervous and she couldn't take the pressure."

Boutsikaris said knowing how much every bit matters at the NCAAs made this year's competition even tougher.

"I was just talking myself into thinking I wasn't going to win and then not trying my best," the foil cap­tain said.

Although sabrewoman Carri McCullough did not earn All-American honors for the first time in her career in a row, the senior did improve on her record from last year. She won 10 bouts this year compared to last year when she won nine.

McCullough was still disappointed in her perfor­mance.

"I think I got frustrated with myself and some of the calls and I let it effect my fencing," she said. "I shouldn't have let that happen.

The two women's epeists, how­ever, earned All-American honors for second consecutive year. Carnick repeated as a third team All-American while Meagan Call took home second team All-American honors.

Although only two women were named All-Americans, all six men won All-American honors for the first time in Notre Dame history.

Sophomore Jan Viviani led the men with a third place finish in epee for the second straight year. Viviani became the 14th Irish male fencer to be named a first team All-American twice.

Ozren Debic, Brian Casas and Andre Crompton took home second team honors in full, epee and sabre, respectively. Sabreman Andre Bednarski and foilist Forest Wollan were each named third team All­American. It was the third time Bednarski has won All-American honors while Walton won for the first time after just missing out in 2000.

It feels great. It's what I wanted to do for quite some time," Walton said. "My family is proud. My team is proud. I think I was like the only one who missed last year so it feels great this year."
Casas, Walton rally to earn All-American honors

By MIKE CONNOLLY
Sports Writer

KENOSHA, Wis.—Thursday was unkind to Brian Casas and Forest Walton. Both Casas and Walton finished the first day of competition at the 2001 NCAA Fencing Championships in 17th place with just six wins each.

But on Friday, Casas and Walton both turned their fortunes around and rallied for All-American finishes. Casas won eight out of nine bouts on Friday while Walton won seven.

"I'd say the first day I was still a little nervous," Walton said. The second day you get a feel for the competition and get all your jitters out. I'd say that's why I had a better second day.

Walton's second day rally boosted him into ninth place and earned him his first All-American honors. His desire to make the All-American team helped him overcome his first day struggles.

"I regretted not getting All-American status last year," Walton said. "I kind of channeled that and used it to my advantage. It gave me the drive and pushed me to fence my best this year."

Casas' turnaround was even more dramatic than Walton's. After the first three rounds of competition Casas won only three out of 11 bouts to place him 21st out of 24 fencers. Casas seemed destined for another poor showing at the NCAAs. In 2000, Casas finished 18th after winning only nine bouts.

But then the junior, who was named second team All-American as a freshman in 1999, returned to his top form. He won all three bouts in round four, including one against eventual champion Soren Thompson of Princeton.

He carried this momentum into the Friday where he lost only one bout and rallied for a seventh place finish — one position better than 1999.

"I guess you get tired of screwing up the first day," Casas said. "You get mad. You just felt that you know you can do better. Something happens to you."

While Walton's Friday rally was aided by an easier schedule, Casas' second day heroics were nearly impossible to predict.

Before the fourth round, two of Casas' first three victories came against some of the top fencers in the pool. He opened the tournament with a win against teammate Jan Viviani who eventually finished third overall and also defeated Penn State's Adam Wiercioch, who finished second.

He dropped most of his bouts to the lesser fencers in his pool.

On the second day, he not only defeated top fencers like Seth Kelsey of Air Force but he also picked up the easier wins against lesser opponents.

Irish coach Yves Auriol believes Casas' style makes it easier to defeat highly skilled fencers rather than fencers who rely more on talent than technique.

"It's amazing," Auriol said. "Throughout the season you could sense that he likes the style of guys who have a little more clean, classical style. Brian is not good fencing a fighter — someone who is going to rush into him. He is better against someone who is cleaner because his technique is better."

All the Irish agreed that the biggest change from the first day to the second day is mental.

Although an easier second day schedule can sometimes help a fencer turn his tournament around, a more relaxed attitude is the key to improvement.

"On the second day of the tournament, you relax a little bit," Auriol said. "You realize what you have to do. I think it is a psychological thing. Even women's foil (which won only 12 total bouts). They didn't do great but they fenced better the second day."

Brian Casas celebrates a win against Adam Wiercioch of Penn State Friday. Casas earned second team All-American honors.
Midnight Madness 2001

Intramural season closes on a night filled with Madness

By KATIE McVOY
Assistant Sports Editor

The Madness swept through Angela Athletic facility and left spectators with a sense of excitement and a sense of community.

Midnight Madness, the Saint Mary's athletic department's spring extravaganza, attracted students, friends and visitors as the event wrapped up the intramural season. But the event wasn't just about athletics.

"The focus of the night wasn't about athletics, it was about Saint Mary's," athletic director Lynn Kachmarik said. "It's all about Saint Mary's to me. It is about self-esteem and self-awareness and confidence."

Last year's attendance of 500 was nearly doubled this year, with attendance coming in between 800 and 1,000, according to Kachmarik.

"On the whole, I was totally pleased," she said. "But there were a lot of people there who could have been there but weren't."

With that in mind, Kachmarik is already looking ahead to next year.

"Last year there were 500, this year there were more," she said. "What is the future going to hold?"

Kachmarik may be looking toward the future, but this year's intramural champions are still reveling in the glory of the present.

Volleyball

The Prom Queens were crowned on the volleyball court as they defeated the Senior Spikers 2-1. The Regina Hall royalty entered the tournament ranked No. 1 and took the LeMans Hall team in a very close game.

The first match belonged to the Queens, 15-4. But the Senior Spikers, who were ranked fifth coming into the tournament took control in the second match claiming a 15-11 victory.

A third game, played only to 11 points, cemented the Queens reign, as the Spikers fell 11-7.

Basketball

The No. 1 ranked Team o’ Teachers was upset by the No. 2 ranked Badazzes in Friday night’s basketball final.

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Soccer

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SPORTS

FENCING

Irish stumble to third at National Championships

By MIKE CONNOLLY
Sports Writer

KENOSHA, Wis. - For the seventh straight year, the Notre Dame fencers left the NCAA Championships disappointed at what might have been and hoping to redeem themselves next year. The 2001 Championships added a bit of a twist the story, however. Rather than taking home a second place trophy for the sixth consecutive year, the Irish walked away with bronze as St. John's won the national title and Penn State slipped to second after winning the last six titles.

"As a team, I know we could have done better," sophomore Anna Garteck said. "The confidence and lack thereof play a key role in how we did. I was disappointed but if you can be in the top three, that's pretty good."

The Irish stood in second place after the men's competition on the first two days but slipped to third behind Penn State after a weak showing by the women's team.

"I think the men did up to their potential," foil captain Ozren Debić said. "We were 12 behind St. John's which was expected but the first day of the women's even was tough for the girls. They lacked confidence and aggression. I guess there was pressure being here for the first time or knowing that it was up to them and that made it tough for them."

The men's sabre and epee squads finished second overall while the men's foil squad tied for third. On the women's side the epee squad finished second but sabre took fifth and foil finished tied for eighth.

"I am a little disappointed with women's sabre and foil," head coach Yves Auriol said. "They did not perform as well as I hoped."

The women's foil and sabre squads were the only squads with freshmen fencing for the Irish. Destanie Milo and Maggie Jordan both struggled in their first NCAA Championships. Each won only eight out of 23 bouts and each finished 17th. Milo said she wasn't prepared for the extra pressure that team fencing creates.

"I am not used to having a team," the sabrewoman said. "Just doing individual national competitions, it was just me and my coach but here there are 20 or 40 people cheering for you and against you."

Jordan said she wasn't ready to fence every bout hard from the very beginning.

"I learned it was really tough from the get-go," the foilist said. "You don't have any practices bouts to warm you up. You have to be ready"

The Irish stumbled to third at National Championships. The Notre Dame fencers added a bit of a twist the story, however. Rather than taking home a second place trophy for the sixth consecutive year, the Irish walked away with bronze as St. John's won the national title and Penn State slipped to second after winning the last six titles. The 2001 Championships added a bit of a twist the story, however. Rather than taking home a second place trophy for the sixth consecutive year, the Irish walked away with bronze as St. John's won the national title and Penn State slipped to second after winning the last six titles.

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