Senator addresses social issues at SMC

By SHANNON NELLI\NAN News Writer

Senator John Broden, D-Ind., addresses students at Saint Mary's Community last night about his role as an ally and advocate of social workers. Broden represents the interests of most of the South Bend and half of Mishawaka constituency.

Broden's most recent action to aid social workers in their efforts to help Indiana's elderly is his work on the passage of Senate Bill 493. The bill intends to expand Indiana's in-home care system, and half of the funds, according to the senator, is headed to South Bend's Joseph's High School and Notre Dame's law school.

Contact Shannon Nelligan at nelli284@stmarys.edu

Students depart for spring break destinations

By NATASHA GRANT News Writer

With spring break beginning today, many students are already on their way to a week of fun. According to Kayleen Carr, assistant manager at Anthony Travel, cruises are the most popular travel means, particularly among the senior class. Carr said that over three hundred people booked cruises headed to exotic locations like Jamaica and Grand Cayman Island. She also noted a great improvement over the less than 300 people who booked cruises last year.

Carr said that she believes that the rise in cruise passengers is due in part to the cost. She said that cruises were a better deal this year.

"It seems that the market is saturated. There are so many slots to fill and prices are down," Carr said. She believes that more and more companies enter the market, prices will continue to improve.

"As a company, we're out here and there are so many slots to fill and prices are down," Carr said. She believes that more and more companies enter the market, prices will continue to improve.

Students like Kristine Hosario said that a trip to Cancun, Mexico had also been a consideration.

Flights to various cities in Mexico, and to Jamaica were other popular trips that Carr booked. She said that the price of flights has been down, so there hasn't been much of a slow-down in the amount of students booking flights in the United States and abroad.

"We book a lot of students with friends internationally," Carr said. Although, she says that fewer people chose that option this year.

Lena Caligiuri is not among the group who chose to stay stateside. Caligiuri is headed to Italy and London to visit family. Caligiuri said the discounted price of tickets was an added incentive for booking her flight.

"Flights are a lot cheaper if you get an international card while you're under 21," she said. "For a small fee, the card is a good bargain for frequent fliers planning to do much travel abroad."

Caligiuri said that she is not concerned about airport security strong

By MATT CHAMBLISS News Writer

Students departing this weekend to their spring break destination from South Bend Regional Airport have no reason to be concerned about a terrorist attack because airport security in South Bend has been updated to follow federal procedures.

On Feb. 27, the nation's terror alert status was lowered from orange (elevated risk) to yellow (elevated risk) in response to a decreased terrorist activity threat level.

At South Bend Airport, an orange alert status meant that every car had to be searched before being allowed to drive up to the front of the terminal. This policy was enacted in compliance with the federal regulation that all cars entering within 300 feet of an airport during an orange alert status must be searched.

Students departing this weekend to their spring break destination from South Bend Regional Airport have no reason to be concerned about a terrorist attack because airport security in South Bend has been updated to follow federal procedures.
**Inside Column**

**Men, put your shirts on**

As a cast member of "The Vagina Monologues," I attended a forum that took place Thursday night, in order to promote a discussion between those who protest the Monologues and members of the cast. All interested students were given the opportunity to express their opinion on the show — whether they were to attend as guests or as well. Several of the issues posed against the Monologues were great points that motivated conversation between different members of the cast and the opposing students through which misperceptions were cleared and constructive criticism was taken into consideration for later performances of "The Vagina Monologues."

However, I am deeply concerned about the criticism raised about the monologue "My short skirt." The background of this monologue is based on several stories about women who had high convictions were not convicted solely because the female victim had been wearing provocative clothing (thankfully such kind of claims do not hold up in today's courts).

"My short skirt" piece promotes does not only refer to the unfairness of such kind of legislation, but it also deals with women's self-image and their freedom to wear whatever they please because they want to. Women should not have to think about who is going to look at them, and should not have to worry about receiving glances or arousing provocation in men.

One male student talked about having gone to Saint Mary's that day and finding all the girls in the classroom wearing pajama bottoms "probably because the men were not going to be there."

I bet you are already tired of all the letters and articles about the dress code of the women of Notre Dame, but I just want to state for the record that I choose to wear pajama bottoms when I want to, fully aware that men are walking all over the campus. Women should be able to dress in the manner they want to express themselves, their style and their traditions — regardless of how men will look at them.

What is even worse is when women themselves criticize other women's clothing (and I must claim I've been guilty of this, too), promoting judgments against people who are exercising their freedom to wear what they wish to wear.

"I feel like wearing mesh shorts to class that have "thin" printed across the back. It's probably because of the warm South Bend summertime (far, far ago) and that I like to sport my ND gear, not because I want to entice men to look at me from behind. I believe I would have to go on a diet to wear what they please without having to worry if my "thin" shorts are being or are doing around them because just as one girl with a short skirt is criticized for looking "shifty," the girl who wears a hoodie and sweatsuit is just as criticized for looking "soccer mom.""

Now here's were I get to the purpose of my title. Just think of how socially acceptable it is for men to wear whatever they please. Sweatpants — they're athletes, Suits — they're SBC candidates, Shorts and no top is standard. It seems men have the ability to sport my ND gear, not because I want to entice men to look at me from behind. I believe I would have to go on a diet to wear what they please without having to worry if my "thin" shorts are being or are doing around them because just as one girl with a short skirt is criticized for looking "shifty," the girl who wears a hoodie and sweatsuit is just as criticized for looking "soccer mom."

WHAT'S COOKING

North Dining Hall

Today's Lunch: Al prosciutto pizza, cheese lasagna, grilled chicken breast, boulangere potatoes, brown sauce, chicken gravy, whipped potatoes, mixed vegetables, cherry crip, ozo with portobello and cream, broccoli quich, cat corn, sliced carrots, baked potato, BBQ beef sandwich, fried potato skins, onion rings

Today's Dinner: Honey-glazed ham, baked beans, brown sauce, pork gravy, whipped potatoes, mixed vegetables, cherry crip, vegetables rabat, cous cous, baked potato, broccoli slaw, cornflower, scrambled eggs with cheese, french toast sticks, Lyonnaise potatoes

South Dining Hall

Today's Lunch: Beef ravioli, spinach fettuccine, pesto sauce, tomato pizza, apple turnover, BBQ beef sandwich, shrimp spaghetti, risotto chicken, oriental vegetables, roasted rosemary potatoes, red beans and rice, corn dogs, fishwich, crinkle fries, soft pretzels, stir-fry beef and southwestern pasta sauce, basil-garlic linguine

Today's Dinner: Buffalo chicken lasagna, spinach fettuccine, pesto sauce, tomato pizza, apple turnover, vegetables marinara, capri-blend veg, baked potato, broccoli slaw, cornflower, scrambled eggs with cheese, french toast sticks, Lyonnaise potatoes

WHAT'S HAPPENING @ ND

- Lecture with Derek Neal "Effects of the Decline in employment and earnings among African-American Parents" 1:30 p.m. at DeBartolo Hall, room 213
- Mens and womens track, Alex Wilson Invitational. 7 p.m. at Lottus Sports Center
- Theatre "The Stuff of Dreams" by Billy Corbett Guthrie Theater tour production 7:30 p.m. at Washington Hall

WHAT'S HAPPENING @ SMC

- Art Exhibition "Women in holography" 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Moreau Art Galleries
- Hartman-Stickey Piano Competition 1:30 p.m. at Moreau

WHAT'S going Down

Student pick-pocketed

A student reported the theft of money from her coat pocket in LaFortune. There are no suspects.

Abandoned bike found

Wednesday, an abandoned bike was found in the B1 faculty and staff south lot and is being kept by NDSP for safekeeping.

Student finds license

Wednesday, a student found a driver's license in the Cl student lot and turned it into NDSP for safekeeping.

NDSP issues speeding ticket

Thursday, a NDSP officer issued a state citation for exceeding the posted speed limit on Juniper road.

Car towed for parking violations

Two student vehicles were towed for parking violations on Wednesday at the Hesburgh Center for International studies.

Student reports missing bike

A student reported that her locked freestyling bicycle was taken from the east side of LaFortune Student Center. There are no suspects.

---Compiled from the NDSP crime blotter

**Local Weather**

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**Sports**

**Mens Basketball**

The Irish are struggling through the end of their season, losing three straight games, with NCAA tournament starting soon.

**Business News**

Vivendi Universal loses $25.6 billion in 2002

Chairman and CEO of Vivendi Universal Jean-Rene Fortou reports losses large in French corporate history.

**What's the Fight for Gay Marriage**

Columnist Richard Friedman reflects on landmark decision to ban gay marriage rights.
Saint Mary's revamps e-mail server

By SHANNON NELIGAN
News Writer

Saint Mary's campus e-mail has undergone a facelift. A new interface and upgrade of the Webmail system currently used by the College. This is a transition phase between the old system and the planned upgrades due to begin this summer. The update to the new e-mail format requires no systems upgrades. Access to the new Webmail interface is available to students to log on to via the SMC@Home Web site. However, the SMC@ Home site is only accessible to Saint Mary's campus undergraduates, but students who sign up for off campus housing can obtain the new URL from SMC@Home while on campus. Students are encouraged to add it to their own computers. According to the Director of Information Technology, Keith Fowlkes, student response to the upgrade has been overwhelmingly positive. "We do recognize that the new Webmail interface is still very slow. The new overall e-mail system will be much faster and feature an even better Webmail interface."

Keith Fowlkes
director of Information Technology

Senior Ann Marie Mahay is very pleased with the new Webmail. She explained that the system is much clearer and user-friendly compared to the old system she used. "I like how the system saves your password and how it color-codes your e-mail," Mahay said. However, the implementation of the upgraded e-mail system has not reached the attention of every student on campus. First-year student Megan Lynch has yet to try the new system and was not aware of the changes the IT department has made. "I have not yet heard about the new e-mail system," Lynch said.

Contact Shannon Nelligan
shnelli@smc.edu

Microsoft hands out dividends

Associated Press

SEATTLE

It's payday for Microsoft investors. Microsoft Corp. is issuing its first dividend Friday, shelling out more than $850 million to share with shareholders. From the smallest investor right up to co-founder Bill Gates.

At 8 cents a share, the annual payout won't be huge to the average investor, analysts say. But it still marks a significant change for the Redmond, Wash., software company that went public in 1986 and has long hoarded its cash - now $43.4 billion - for research acquisitions and legal claims. Of course, there are the not-so-average investors. Gates, who directly owns more than 1.2 billion shares of stock in the company he helped found in 1975, will receive a dividend of about $96.5 million. Microsoft chief executive Steve Balmer will receive about $37.7 million.

Another 27 executive officers and directors will receive a total of about $9.5 million, based on shares reported in the company's proxy statement.

Microsoft announced the dividend in January, and issued a two-for-one stock split in February. The company has about 10.7 billion shares outstanding.

When announcing the dividend, chief financial officer John Connors noted that Microsoft was the only company of the Dow Jones industrial average not to issue a dividend. With many of Microsoft's legal troubles nearing conclusion, Connors said the company felt it could afford the dividend.

The payment, though modest compared to other companies in the S&P 500, is still a monumental change for Microsoft, said Howard Silverblatt, an analyst in Standard & Poor's quantitative services division.
President Fox says room for compromise on Iraq

**United Nations**

**Britain to offer Iraq weapons deadline**

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**MEXICO CITY** President Vicente Fox said he sensed there is still room for compromise in the United Nations during a telephone call with President Bush Thursday, and called on the "other extreme" precisely France and Germany to try and reach an agreement on Iraq.

Fox's comments reflected Mexico's desire to avoid an open split with its major trading partner, the United States, and indicated that a compromise solution could win support from other Security Council countries who, like Mexico, won't back an openly pro-war resolution.

"The American position, as I was informed of it today by President Bush, seems to be door to changes in what was previously a hard-line stance, as well as probable modifications of the U.N. resolution they are planning to present to us," Fox said.

"All I am asking is to dialogue, and seek a compromise," Fox said. Mexico has joined with fellow Security Council member Chile, as well as Canada, in seeking such a compromise.

"We still have a few weeks to reach this compromise," Fox said.

Fox said he told Bush Mexico could support a temporary resolution against Iraq, but said Bush had never sought to present a resolution that could allow Saddam Hussein to "flee, face sometimes of even of our media coverage," Fox said.

But, Caligiuri added that the threat posed by Saddam must be dealt with now and a significant number of people die when his "horrible weapons of mass destruction" get into the hands of others.

Powell and other foreign ministers met in Security Council meeting on Friday where chief weapons inspector Mohammad ElBaradei, will brief members about the operation of examining its banned weapons.

For many council members, Friday's reports will be key in deciding whether to vote for the U.S.-backed resolution. ElBaradei, the chief nuclear weapons inspector in Iraq, said Thursday he would tell the council that abandoning the weapons inspections makes little sense so long as the frays are actively cooperating.

"That's clearly the gist of my presentation. In my area, inspection is working. We are making progress. There's no reason to scuttle the process," he said Wednesday in the International Atomic Energy Agency, told The Associated Press.

"a firecracker in the first place, whether the fuse is lit or not is immaterial."
Bush: We can invade Iraq without U.N. approval

**Associated Press**

WASHINGTON President Bush on Thursday warned the nation for the possibility of an invasion of Iraq if the United Nations does not authorize the use of force in Iraq. Saddam Hussein, Bush said, would lose his grip on power if the world does not agree on a resolution and the U.S. is prepared to use force without the approval of the U.N. Security Council.

"Our mission is clear in Iraq," the president said. "We will go to war. He's the person that can make the choice of war or peace. Thus far he's made the wrong choice."

President Bush addressed the nation Thursday evening. Bush, in a rare prime-time news conference, said that the United States would be justified in attacking Iraq without the approval of the U.N. Security Council.

**National News Briefs**

Ex-NASA official cites safety faults: A former NASA official who led a study three years ago that faulted the way the agency dealt with safety risks told the Columbia investigation board that the same problem appears to have played a role in the shuttle disaster. Energy Dept. predicts more gas hikes: Energy officials at the scene said 102 passengers, six crew and airline officials at the scene said 102 had been killed. But an official at the airline's office in Algiers said the airline's official state-run news agency said one of the survivors. The remaining passengers and six crew members were Algerians, he said. An airline spokesman, insisted that the downed plane had been well-maintained.

**World News Briefs**

Arafat said to appoint prime minister: Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat told aides Thursday that he will appoint his deputy, Mahmoud Abbas, as prime minister, and not a Palestinian cabinet, as is usual. "It's his choice to make whether or not we go to war. He's the person that can make the choice of war or peace. Thus far he's made the wrong choice." The president's news conference came on the eve of a crucial Security Council meeting. The week of Feb. 27, the president said he knew of six Europeans aboard. More than 230,000 troops are now arrayed around Iraq and more are on the way, awaiting a final go-ahead from the president.

"If we have to use force, I think a lot of nations will be struck with us," Bush said.

**Algeria**

Airline crash in Sahara kills 102; lone survivor soldiers

**Associated Press**

An Air Algerie passenger jet, one of its two jet engines caught fire as it was taking off deep in the Sahara Desert on Thursday, and 102 people were killed, officials said. A young soldier survived. The Boeing 737, flight 6289, crashed after taking off from Tamanrasset bound for the Algerian capital, Algiers, some 400 miles to the north.

Terrorism was not suspected, said an airline spokesman, Hamdi Hamdi. "There was a mechanical problem on takeoff," he said. "There is no element that leads us to think there was a terrorist attack." Witnesses at the Tamanrasset airport and airline officials said one of the plane's two jet engines caught fire as it was taking off.

A passenger jet was recently sent to Europe for the possibility of a war that could be just days away. Bush said he had not decided whether to invade Iraq but that it was only a matter of days before a U.N. Security Council vote on a U.S.-backed resolution authorizing force.

"Our mission is clear in Iraq," the president said. "We will go to war. He's the person that can make the choice of war or peace. Thus far he's made the wrong choice." The president's news conference came on the eve of a crucial Security Council meeting. The week of Feb. 27, the president said he knew of six Europeans aboard. More than 230,000 troops are now arrayed around Iraq and more are on the way, awaiting a final go-ahead from the president.

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"If we have to use force, I think a lot of nations will be struck with us," Bush said.
Prime minister lectures at Texas University

By RASHA MADKOUR
Daily Texan

Kim Campbell holds many "firsts," including being the first female president of her high school's student council, and the first female attorney general of Canada. Campbell was also the first woman to earn a Doctor of Philosophy degree in political science at the University of British Columbia.

"Sex is the single most important characteristic that determines how people treat us," she said.

Campbell spoke on the University of Texas-Austin campus Wednesday about social gender constructs and how they affect people's perceptions. She said that understanding how gender constructs work can help people challenge their own biases and prejudices.

"We can become more literate in recognizing the dynamics when they occur," she said.

Campbell also discussed how women have come a long way, but there is still work to be done.

"We still have a long way to go," she said.

Campbell encouraged people to continue to challenge gender stereotypes and to support women who are fighting for equality.

"It's time for us to stop thinking of women in terms of our own discomfort," she said. "We need to think about how we can create a world where everyone can thrive.

"The Father Sheedy Award

College of Arts and Letters Invites Nominations for the Father Sheedy Award

Each year, the Sheedy Award, named for a former dean of the College of Arts and Letters, honors one member of the Arts and Letters faculty for outstanding teaching.

Both students and faculty are invited to submit nomination letters for this year's award to:

Hugh R. Page, Jr.
Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies
105 O'Shaughnessy Hall

Deadline Thursday, March 20, 2003
March 7, 2003

**THE BUSINESS**

**MARKET RECAP**

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**TOP VOLUME LEADERS**

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**IN BRIEF**

**Microsoft to pay first-ever dividend**

It's payday for Microsoft investors. Microsoft Corp. is issuing its first dividend Friday, shelling out more than $850 million to shareholders, from the smallest investor right up to co-founder Bill Gates. At 8 cents a share, the annual payout won't be huge to the average investor, analysts said. But it still marks a significant change for the Redmond, Wash., software company that went public in 1986 and has long hoarded its cash — now $43.4 billion — for research, acquisitions and legal claims.

Microsoft announced the dividend in January, and will make a two-for-one stock split in February. The company has about 10.7 billion shares outstanding.

**Visa fights fraud by hiding numbers**

Visa will begin limiting the display of credit card account numbers on receipts to combat identity theft. While many merchants already truncate the 16-digit card numbers on receipts, Visa will require, beginning July 1, that new credit-card machines display only the last four digits, company chief executive officer Carl Pascarella said Thursday.

All machines that accept Visa cards must comply with the change by mid-2006, Pascarella said.

**Consumers to keep Tyco in Bermuda**

A proposal to have Tyco International move its headquarters from Bermuda to the United States failed to win enough shareholder support at the troubled conglomerate's annual meeting Thursday.

However, shareholders unhappy with scans involving top management scored a very rare victory with approval of a resolution to subject executive severance packages to a direct shareholder vote.

The non-binding resolution won 58 percent against the motion, which took place in Hamilton, Bermuda.

**February retail sales disappoint**

Winter storms dealt a major blow to February sales at the nation's retailers, where business has already suffered from the weak economy and worries about a possible war with Iraq, according to a report released Thursday by the National Retail Federation.

**Vivendi loses $25.6B in 2002**

Chairman and CEO of Vivendi Universal, Jean-Rene Fourtou, attends a news conference Thursday in Paris, the French media concern posted a loss of $25.6 billion, or 23.3 billion euros for 2002, the largest loss in French corporate history.

Fourtou confirmed that he met with Sumner M. Redstone, the head of U.S. media conglomerate Viacom, in Los Angeles to discuss the possible consol­idation. But he refused to provide details, saying he was consider­ing all options.

"I do not want to answer your questions about what I plan to do," Fourtou said. "I am talking to everybody.

Vivendi barely stayed off bankruptcy last year as it struggled to cope with billions of euros of high share price, boardroom infighting and no clear strategy.

The company's 2002 earnings were weighed by a hefty charge of 18.4 billion euros ($20.2 billion) that reflected the sharp decline in the value of its media assets. A year earli­er, the company posted a loss of 13.6 billion euros. Revenue totaled 28.1 billion euros ($30.8 billion), compared to 57.4 billion euros ($63 billion) in 2001. "The results are bad, but encouraging," Fourtou said. "Our main problem was confidence, which we have to restore," he said, chief financial officer Jacques Espinasse.

Walt Disney has made a $20 billion bid for all the entertainment assets, Vivendi was able to reduce its debt last year by 25.8 billion euros ($28.3 billion) to 12.3 billion euros ($13.50 billion) as of Dec. 31, the company said. This compares with net debt of 37.1 billion euros a year earlier.

Fourtou vowed to press ahead with his 7 billion euro ($7.7 billion) asset dis­posal program over the course of this year to return Vivendi to solid foot­ing.

To accomplish that goal, Vivendi will almost certain­ly have to sell all or part of its entertainment empire, which was acquired just two years ago by then-chairman Jean-Marie Messier as part of a mas­sive spending spree that almost sunk the company.

The potential sale of the assets, which include the record label of pop band U2 and the studios behind "The Grinch" could turn into one of the largest entertainment auctions in years. Vivendi's board met Thursday, with the entertain­ment assets' future believed to top the agenda.

While Vivendi executives refused to discuss the outcome.

"We don't want to negotiate under the media spot­light," Espinasse said.

While Viacom appears to be leading the field, other contenders include General Electric Co.'s NBC and Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer.

Former oil tycoon Marvin Davis has made a $20 bil­lion bid for all the enter­tainment assets. But Davis appears to be interested in acquiring all the entertain­ment assets, not various pieces.
N.J. man tortures hamsters

SOMERVILLE, N.J. A man caught torturing hamsters had just bought from a pet store has been sentenced to three years probation. Richard Mattia was also ordered Wednesday to undergo substance abuse and psychiatric counseling as part of the plea bargain he reached with Somerset County authorities.

He initially was charged with animal cruelty and then faced drug possession after police found 18 packets of heroin on him when he was arrested. Mattia, 28, was charged last October after a watching pet store employee saw him squeezing the hamster. Authorities said Mattia also clipped the hamsters' teeth so it wouldn't bite him.

Mattia also faces animal cruelty charges in Mountainside and is scheduled to appear in municipal court the next week. Those charges were filed by the New Jersey Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals after two dwarf hamsters were found at Mattia's home last year.

Officials said one of the hamsters died after it was bruised and its teeth were damaged by nail clippers. The second hamster survived and, along with the hamster from the pet store case, was adopted.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Calif. man pleads for marijuana

A former California gubernatorial candidate is seeking political asylum in Canada because he says he'll be prosecuted for marijuana possession if he returns to the state.

Steve Kubby, 56, claims he needs to smoke marijuana at least once an hour in order to control symptoms of a rare adrenal cancer.

Canadian federal prosecutors, however, are charging Kubby's refugee claim and say he's just trying to avoid jail in California on a prior conviction.

In December 2000, Kubby was convicted in California of two drug possession charges and was sentenced to four years in prison. He and his family fled to Canada after the sentence was handed down.

Last month the former Liberated Web candidate was arrested in Canada on an immigration warrant. He faces charges of operating a business involving the promotion of a controlled substance and possession for the purpose of trafficking.

Clinton, Dole to debate on '60 Minutes'

NEW YORK Former President Clinton and his 1996 election opponent Bob Dole are joining the CBS newsmagazine "60 Minutes" for weekly debates on national issues in the show's old "Point-Counter-point" style.

The two agreed to 10 segments, starting Sunday night, but CBS executives say the network will consider extending the debates into next season.

Clinton said he often watches some of the political shows on cable television that degenerate into screaming matches. "There may be a market for people who want light instead of heat," the former president said.

He said the retired politicians taped their first segment Friday morning, declining to identify the topic. Asked who won, Clinton said, "He did."

"I got a 'B,' said Dole, the former Senate majority leader. "He got a B- minus."

Clinton said that given their old jobs, both men want to be careful about what they say regarding any potential war with Iraq. All citizens want to be supportive of the armed forces, he said.

Clinton, who has reportedly been offered several television opportunities, said the CBS idea appealed to him because "60 Minutes" is a "serious show. It's just once a week and not too long, so we won't be in anybody's way."

CBS would not say how much he and Dole will be paid.

The segments will revive the "Point-Counter-point" segments popular until they stopped airing in 1979, but will instead be called "Clinton-Dole." One segment each week and "Dole/Clinton" the next week.

Executive producer Don Hewitt said the planned format calls for one debater to pick a topic and write a 45-second script that would be faxed to his opponent. The response would also be 45 seconds. After the initial arguments, the first debater would get 15 seconds to rebut, followed by a final 15 seconds from the opponent.

"It is going to be provocative but not mean or nasty. That would be a first for us," quipped Dole, whose sharp tongue occasionally got him in trouble during his political career.

Clinton said their wives - Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y., and Sen. Elizabeth Dole, R-N.C. - were "both terrified" about what they may say. "They should be," Dole added.

"All I can do is make a blanket plea that neither of them be held responsible for what we say," Dole said.

Producers of "60 Minutes" hope the Clinton-Dole debates will boost ratings. The show has been in the top 10 for the past 20 years, but its popularity dropped recently, with the loss of about a million viewers in the last year.

CUBA

Castro wins sixth term as president

HAVANA President Fidel Castro was elected to a sixth term Thursday and he wanted no time in criticizing the United States, warning that Cuba doesn't need its foreign office.

Castro, the world's longest ruling head of government, acknowledged he won't be around forever after being elected for yet another term that would have him governing until he's 81. "I promise that I will be with you, if you so wish, for as long as I feel that I can be useful - and if it is not decided by nature before," the 76-year-old Castro said in a rare reference to his advancing age and mortality. "Not a minute less and not a second more.

Now I understand that it was not my destiny to rest at the end of my life," added Castro.

Castro, now in power for 44 years, holds the title of President of the Council of State, this communist-run island's supreme governing body. The sole presidential candidate in Thursday's vote, Castro wore a dark suit and tie rather than his typical olive green military uniform.

Deputies later re-elected Ricardo Alarcon to his third five-year term as speaker of the parliament. Alarcon is Castro's point man on Cuba-U.S. relations.

Castro was elected by National Assembly deputies to his fifth presidential term five years ago.

Castro has been Cuba's unchallenged leader since 1959, though he was elected president only in 1976. The second-longest ruling head of government is President Goussinghe Dynasty of Egypt, who has been in power since 1967.

More than 97 percent of Cuba's voters in January elected Castro and the rest of the 669 candidates who ran uncontested for parliament, including Juan Miguel Gonzalez, the boy at the center of the 2000 international child custody battle.

A handful of international reporters who were invited to the Feb. 24 meeting by dissidents were among the last to find Castro there. The diplomat, who arrived in Havana about six months ago, gave reporters a brief interview, reading from prepared notes.

REMINDER

Board applications are due by FRIDAY outside the SUB office, 201 LaFortune.

It's not to late to apply!
9th circuit puts Pledge of Allegience ban on hold

By CHRISTINE PATTERSON
The Daily Universe

PROVO, Utah
The Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled Wednesday that it may stay in effect an banning the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance in public schools, thereby enabling a California school district to appeal a decision to the Supreme Court.

For at least the next three months, students in California and the eight other states in the Ninth Circuit area can continue to say the pledge in class.

"Our Board of Education believes strongly that our students should be allowed to recite the pledge," a statement from Elk Grove Unified School District said.

"We are proud to defend the Pledge of Allegiance, and we anticipate that we will prevail in this case."

The Elk Grove, Calif., district was the target of a lawsuit filed by Michael Newdow, a Sacramento, Calif., atheist who alleged that his daughter shouldn't be forced to take part in reciting the pledge, according to the University.

Newdow argued that the recitation of the pledge in public schools violates the establishment clause of the constitution and the separation of church and state.

A decision by the Supreme Court would override recent rulings in Utah making the pledge mandatory in public schools.

Frederick Gedicks, a professor of law at Brigham Young University, said there's a large church-state interaction that refer generally to God in a doctrinal sense are violations of the establishment clause and the principle of separation.

"We're talking about things like 'God save this fine land,' people swearing on the Bible and 'In God we trust,'" Gedicks said. "These are generic acknowledgments of religion that are commonplace.

"It's almost like there's a de minimis exception. If you're below a certain level, the courts are just not so sure about that particular case."

Gedicks said there's a "good premise for" allowing Pledge of Allegiance in schools, but thinks the public recitation of the pledge is a modest impol­sion on those who would not be obliged to say it.

"In a technical sense it draws attention to some students and causes them to differentiate themselves from their classmates who may not be obliged to say Gedicks said. "But, I don't think this is a battle they should fight."

No decision has been issued yet on whether the Supreme Court will hear the case.

"We're talking about things like 'God save this fine land,' people swearing on the Bible and 'In God we trust' printed on coins."

Frederick Gedicks
professor of law

Sudents cope with troop departures

By HOLDER SHANNON
North Carolina State U.

RALEIGH, N.C.
The deployment of 200,000 U.S. troops to the Middle East has left many students at North Carolina State University dealing with daily transitions.

Mark McLawhorn, a senior in civil engineering, said he found out two weeks ago that his younger brother, Philip, is possibly going to Turkey. Philip has been in the Air Force for about four years. Though McLawhorn is not directly affected by his brother's deployment, he admits it is having a difficult time.

"The biggest impact of him leaving was on my mother ... just because whenever some­one's children [are] in the military, there's a threat that they may never make it back to America alive," McLawhorn said.

Even though he seems to be dealing with Philip's departure fairly calmly, he still seems American pride.

"It still is the great­est country on the earth at the moment. There are things you are able to do here that you can't do anywhere else, McLawhorn said.

Despite the war, he is not sure of the Iraq situation, he still feels American pride.

"Something is going to happen, there's too much politics and bravado wrapped up in it now, and we'll never know if missles Hussein destroys or claims to destroy," Mark McLawhorn student

"I would be for a war if it were imminent, the Iraqi regime posed an imminent threat to the United States and its interests. I haven't been convinced of that yet, and so I don't think that it is necessary right now."

Joshua Smith
student

"They're trying to explain to the Iraqi people that the United States will be there as a protector to the Iraqi people. This will not help. It will escalate to that level. So, I won't feel like he is in any danger," Smith said.

Having made my own judg­ments on these sorts of things Smith said.

Man faces trial for attempt to buy child

By NATE TABAK
Daily Californian

OAKLAND, Calif.
An infam­ous child predator must stand trial for allegedly try­ing to buy a 4-year-old boy for $500 in Berkeley, Calif., a judge ruled Wednesday.

Keason Eugene Parnell, 71, sat st­tock­stool­in­a wheelchair in Alameda County Superior Court as a prosecutor played recordings of him arranging to make the purchase.

Parnell gained infamy for kid­napping 7-year-old Steven McCauley in 1972 and keeping him as a slave for seven years. Sta­ney told police Parnell had molested him.

Parnell was arrested at his West Berkeley home on Mal­n­es­e­s­­e­­ 3 after the alleged investigation, the informant, Diane Stevens, $100 for a birth certifi­cate of a child that she claimed was waiting outside in a car.

In his arraignment, Parnell accused of purchasing a person, attempt­ed child theft and solicitation to commit felony.

Stevens described in testimony Wednesday how she met Parnell, who went by the name "Gene" in 2001, through her brother who was in the book trading business.

Stevens said her brother told her about Parnell's past during that time.

After Stevens' brother died in December, Parnell called her to buy a case of the nutritional bev­erage Ensure because he thought her contact over the next year stuck to drink transactions until Dec. 12, when he offered $500 for her to "get him a child" between 4 and 6 years old that "would come to his own.

I was stunned," Stevens said.

The Reverend Paul J. Folk Award Committee invites nominees for the award, which is given annually to a library faculty member who has contributed significantly to library service to the Notre Dame community or to the library profession through personal scholarship or involve­ment in professional associations. The award is named for the Holy Cross priest who served as director of Notre Dame's library from 1912 to 1924 and was a leading fig­ure in the library profession in the first quarter of the 20th century. It is among those announced at the President's faculty dinner in May. Previous winners include Ronald G. Feathers, 1991, included Maureen Gleason, Robert Rich, Joseph Hueber, Rarragpe, John Jensen, Charlotte Ames, Dwight King, Jr., Stephen Hayes, Katharine Blackstead, Margaret Porter, Lucy S. Pendant, and Laura Baryard.
Homework paid off with reading day.

Our study-abroad advisor from Notre Dame visited Cairo today, and she mentioned that there have been numerous letters in the Observer about worries for students studying abroad. Also, the office in Hurley has had many phone calls from parents concerned about their kids in the different programs.

I always appreciate it when friends ask me how I am holding up and how safe I feel, but I wish I could bring all those people here to see what it’s really like. My friend and fellow dormer, Katie McKenna, also visited Cairo. I am sure others abroad (and their families) have been to Iraq.

On the streets, when people ask me where I am from, I refuse to hide and say I am from Canada. I always say proudly that I am an American. I hope, too, in several months time to have that same pride. Usually this leads into a discussion about Iraq. Yesterday, outside the mosque of Amr ibn al-As, I chatted in chippy Arabic with three old Egyptian men about the grave situation in the Middle East. They told me how they loved American people, and I told them how I loved Egyptian people. I am sure others abroad (and their families) have been to Iraq.

We decided that next week we ought to gather again outside the mosque and invite Saddam Hussein and President Bush to take adequate steps in the area and for Americans. My biggest fear is that he doesn’t do anything.

- Tim Kacmar

Policies

The Observer is independent, daily newspaper published in print and online by the students of the University of Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s College.

Our Editor in Chief, Managing Editor, and all other members of the editorial staff have been delegated responsibilities to Board of Government commissions, Student Academic Council representatives and even to class councils. Working together, they researched 130 different institutions, looked not only at whether or not these colleges and universities had study days, but how many days they had each semester and how many credit hours they required for graduation.

And that is just the beginning of the amount of data collected. Jensen and Jablonski-Diehl also conducted a student survey to gauge reaction to different scenarios of how a study could be implemented by using the percentages and input to draft their written proposal.

More impressively, instead of restricting the reading day proposal to what Jensen and Jablonski-Diehl could accomplish, the university students, faculty, and administrative faculty and staff members took the effort, fulfilling their campaign promise to add a study day to the academic calendar. Adding study days to the calendar has been a promise student government representatives have been making to the student body for the past 10 years, but give Jensen and Jablonski-Diehl credit for finally succeeding.

Previous student government administrations did not completely undertake the study day endeavor. No other administration in the past 10 years took the time to thoroughly research or put together a comprehensive proposal, therefore making it difficult for faculty and administrators to take the need for study day seriously.

Today, the student body can be proud of what its student government representatives have accomplished and how they accomplished their goal. By being prepared and acting in a professional manner, student government gained the attention and respect of the College’s faculty and staff.

It really does make a difference when you do your homework.

Today's Staff

- News: Heather Payne, Sarah Nestor
- Sports: Katie McCoy, Bryan Kronk, Lauren Dasso
- Viewpoint: Kuri Bogard, Sarah Vabulas, Lauren Forbes
- Graphics: Pat McElwee

NDToday/Observer Poll Question

- Do you feel that local bars take adequate steps to ensure the safety of their customers?

Yes: 52%
No: 48%

*N Poll appears courtesy of NDToday.com and is based on 64 responses.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"You can live to be a hundred if you give up all the things that make you want to live to be a hundred."

- Woody Allen

Comedian

March 7, 2003

Teenie J. Fitzgibbon

senior

Cairo, Egypt

March 6
You're welcome, Father Poorman

The fight for gay marriage

This past Tuesday a landmark event happened in Massachusetts. After almost two years of preparation, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court heard the case of Goodridge v. Department of Public Health. Justices seven and same-sex couples are arguing against the unequal marriage laws of Massachusetts. If the justices rule in favor of the plaintiffs, it would pave the way to legalize Massachusetts the second state to legally recognize a union between same-sex partners. The debate over same-sex unions has been raging in various state and federal courts since 1993 when a male couple first challenged the marriage laws in Hawaii. The largest victory for gay rights activists came in December of 1999 when the Vermont Supreme Court ruled that the state’s marriage laws were unequal and ordered the state legislature to correct the inequalities. What resulted was the Vermont civil union which allowed the same state benefits, civil rights and protections to same-sex couples as to married couples. Recently, New Jersey has also been very much involved in court battles, as a case was filed seeking to legalize gay and lesbian couples in June of 2002. Directly opposing these three states, 32 states have not legalized same-sex marriage, thus making same-sex marriage rights a nonissue for most gay and lesbian couples in the United States.

The idea of banning civil unions from being extended to same-sex partners is based purely on belief. Civil unions protect as heterosexual couples is considered unacceptable. As most recently illustrated on a large scale by the tragic events of Sept. 11, not allowing for law protection as homosexual couples would not only dispel this incorrect idea, it would help prevent the couple with increased commitment to each other from its public nature. However, it is clear that same-sex couples should be denied the rights to any marriage, let alone a legally-recognized commitment to each other. No one proposing that we ban marriages of this sort. If it is only when it comes to homosexual couples that the idea of controlling who receives these benefits comes up. If two men love each other and plan to spend their whole lives together, they should be afforded the same sort of legal rights that any heterosexual couple receives.

Another often used reason was that same-sex couples should not be legally sanctioned is that by doing so we will be effectively undermining the whole idea of family as a unit and the State. This is a rather outdated view, however, as the special demands of the children and their uses to change. It also falls apart when you consider that there are many married couples that have never had any intention of having children, let alone homosexual couples that have never even lived together. A third argument is that homosexual couples lack lasting commitment to each other. Not only is this idea completely contradictory as well. How can you use an argument that homosexual couples show no real commitment to each other to argue that those same people should be denied the rights to any marriage, let alone a legally recognized commitment to each other. It is a fallacy that has never had any connection to any other argument put forth by the author and is simply a way to distort the arguments against gay marriage.

The arguments against civil unions have often been hollow or religiously based. By doing so we will be effectively undermining the whole idea of progression and equal rights for all citizens. It is rather hypocritical for a country that Marginalizing and denying equal rights to some while allowing heterosexual people to have identical rights. It is only when it come to homosexual couples that this occurs. There should be no reason why they cannot be recognized commitment to who they have been married one year, whereas a homosexual person who has been together with his or her partner for over 20 years has no input? The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
THE STUFF OF DREAMS

A mysterious host conjures up four famous characters as if dreaming

By COLLEEN BARRETT
Scene Writer

Tonight at 7:30, five of Western theater's most famous characters will meet on the main stage of Washington Hall.

In the Guthrie Theater's premier production tour of "The Stuff of Dreams," an original play by Bill Corbett, Notre Dame students and members of the surrounding community will experience an exchange between five recognizable dramatic figures.

On an empty stage, the characters appear as if in a waking dream. The audience is led to believe that the dream has been conjured by the mysterious cloaked figure who acts as a host. The other four figures are the title characters from Sophocles's "Antigone," Edmund Rostand's "Cyrano de Bergerac," Nora from Henrik Ibsen's "A Doll's House" and Willy Loman from Arthur Miller's "Death of a Salesman."

The host challenges the four characters to tell their individual stories in hopes of finding the most compelling, play-worthy life among them.

"Antigone is a headstrong teenager, uncompromising in her view of herself as history's most tragic figure. In his turn, Cyrano laments his unrequited love and his personal appearance, which has resulted in a life of indignity. Ibsen's Nora, who appears not as the woman in "A Doll's House," but the woman she became after she walked out on her life, claims no unusual power. However, the experts from the play and her own words reveal the strength it took this 19th century woman to walk away from her life and start over. Willy Loman approaches the mysterious host as he would a sales client, and throughout the evolution of his own tale, Loman realizes the consequences of spending his life chasing unrealistic expectations and unreasonable dreams.

After the four characters have finished telling their stories, the host reveals himself to be Shakespeare's Hamlet, and tells of his own tragic life. He claims that he has suffered as much as the other four, but the complications of his own situation make his story the most compelling.

Throughout the play, the audience is under the impression that it is witnessing the host's dream, but at the end of the play, one of the characters turns to the audiences and asks the others, "Who are they?"

Suddenly, the audience realizes — the dream is its own. "We're approaching the production very simply," said director Jeff Hall-Flavin. "Since theatre is a very human art form, the emphasis is on the actors - they're featured by stripping away everything except the essentials. The hope is that this will engage the audience as active participants."

The Guthrie Theater's hope to have an active audience isn't simply a dream, said by Summer Shakespeare's founder and Artistic Director Paul Rathburn, the men and women of the Guthrie Theater attended classes yesterday to provide insight about the stage to students.

Summer Shakespeare is a sponsor of Notre Dame and Saint Mary's students. From a director's advice to elaborate costumes to a tip about theatre performance, the Guthrie Theater will provide a new way for students to uncover the difficult and various facets of live theatre.

But on the eve of spring break it may be difficult to get the student body to trudge through the biting wind and brave the icy sidewalks on a trek to Washington Hall. Rathburn knows, however, that there will still be a number of students on campus tonight. "Our challenge is, how can we make sure every student takes advantage of this world class theatre?" he said.

One way is to offer the tickets for only $7 to students and $18 for the general public. Another is to offer them a chance to see theatre's classic dramatic figures trade quips.

"The Stuff of Dreams" will be performed tonight and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. in Washington Hall. Tickets are on sale at the LaFortune Box Office.

Contact Colleen Barrett at cbarrett@nd.edu

Brian A. Grandison as Hamlet and Jon Andrew Hegge as Cyrano de Bergerac engage in a sword fight.

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Contact Colleen Barrett at cbarrett@nd.edu

Brian A. Grandison as Hamlet breaks up a disagreement between Jon Andrew Hegge as Cyrano de Bergerac and Mark Rosenwinkel as Willy Loman.

Contact Colleen Barrett at cbarrett@nd.edu

Ann Kim as Antigone and Laura Esping as Nora Helmer embrace.
By ANDREW SOUKUP
Sports Writer

The premise behind Brian Curtis' "The Men of March" is simple: spend a full year following four college basketball coaches around the country and chronicle every aspect of their lives from recruiting to dealing with the media. And if Curtis' book only provided unique perspectives gleaned from a behind-the-scenes look at major basketball programs, it would still be a good read.

But the fact that Notre Dame coach Mike Brey is one of the four coaches Curtis observes makes "The Men of March" that much more entertaining for Notre Dame basketball fans. A former sportscaster for Fox Sports Net in Los Angeles, Brey spent the 2001-02 season from Midnight Madness through the Final Four and the NBA Draft following Brey, UCLA's Steve Lavin, Illinois' Bill Self and Iowa's Steve Alford.

Curtis' comprehensive look at the life of a college basketball coach from the perspectives of these four men covers the college basketball season from Midnight Madness through the Final Four and the NBA Draft.

Virtually every aspect of coaching is covered in "The Men of March", but Curtis analyzes each aspect of coaching by placing it in the larger context of a team's season. For example, instead of merely explaining Notre Dame's pre-game ritual, Curtis follows the team on a road trip to Chicago, where his portrayal of the team's pre-game Mass sheds light on an event few get to see. At another point, Curtis discusses the unique relationship between coaches and officials by highlighting a Notre Dame game where Brey drew a technical foul.

One of the most interesting aspects of Curtis' book is how he provides an inside perspective of events that drew national attention. When Alford's team hit a December slump and the Iowa coach contacted former Indiana coach Bobby Knight, Curtis provides a unique glimpse into how Alford and Knight rebuilt their once-rocky relationship.

But there are dozens of little nuggets Curtis includes from memorable points in the four team's seasons. Brey, for example, likes to sit by himself in virtual uninterrupted silence before games. If upset at halftime, he'll yell at his team for a few minutes, leave to discuss adjustments with coaches while his players sort things out and then return to calmly deliver the new game plan. Curtis' explanation of Brey's interaction with a struggling David Graves last season only makes one wonder how he responds in other situations. And how Brey dealt with Harold Swanagan's frustration over his brother's arrest shows the importance of helping players through a basketball season.

Notre Dame fans, however, will be disappointed that Brey is the least represented of the four coaches. While Curtis does an excellent job showing the complicated process through which Brey arrived at Notre Dame, how the Irish coach deals with media and what he is like off the court, he spends less time talking about Notre Dame games than he does with other teams. That isn't necessarily a bad thing, as the perspective provided by other teams helps makes the story one about college basketball and not just life in South Bend, but fans who buy the book because Brey is in it might find themselves flipping through a lot of pages.

That still doesn't detract from what is an excellent insider view of a college basketball season. Curtis covers such a broad spectrum of topics that it sheds new light on the difficulty of coaching college basketball. "The Men of March" only appeals to a narrow audience, but the crazed basketball fanatic who buys Curtis' book won't be let down.

Contact Andrew Soukup at asoukup@nd.edu
TUCSON, Ariz.

Channing Frye scored 24 points, one shy of his career high, and grabbed 12 rebounds in an otherwise uninspired Arizona performance Thursday night as the No. 1-ranked Wildcats beat Oregon State 72-60.

The Beavers (13-13, 6-11 Pac-10) had 12 steals and two blocked shots.

The Wildcats' Salim Stoudamire was 0-for-4 shooting and scored in 12 minutes in the first half. He didn't play in the second. Coach Lute Olson said he benched Stoudamire because of the one-on-one style he was playing in the first half.

Beavers senior forward Andrew Jones scored 16 for Oregon State, including 3-of-6 3-pointers. However, he was only 2-for-8 inside the 3-point line.

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21 is the lucky number in Spurs victory

Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO
The San Antonio Spurs had a high roller’s dream night Thursday against the New Jersey Nets.

Tim Duncan, who scores No. 21, scored 21 points and grabbed 21 rebounds, and Tony Parker added 21 points. In the fourth quarter, as the Spurs fended off a too-little, too-late charge by the Nets en route to a 92-78 win.

The win was San Antonio’s 17th in its last 21 games.

The Spurs, who lost their fifth in six games, cut the Spurs’ margin to 83-77 with 1:41 left on consecutive jumpers by Jason Collins and Kenyon Martin. But San Antonio finished with a 9-1 run capped by a 3-pointer by Duncan at the final buzzer after New Jersey, the outcome assured, stopped playing defense.

The Spurs, who allowed Phoenix to shoot 59 percent in a loss Tuesday, limited the Nets to 36.6 percent from the floor.

Jason Kidd, guarded mostly by the 20-year-old Parker, shot 4-for-15 for 11 points, about half his season average, but he exceeded his norm with 13 assists.

"If the ball is not going in, you have to find another aspect of your game," said Kidd, whose name tops the list of potential free agents.

Spurs manager Greg Popovich said the team was counting on Kidd to get them in the playoffs.

"You guys have kind of taken over," Kidd said at the time, "and at the same time teased reporters, saying "you guys have kind of taken it overboard, but we’ll see what happens come July,” the date his current contract expires.

Reserve Mane Ginobili scored 18 points for the Spurs, and he energized his team with seven assists and five steals.

"He has really been a spark for us and just is fun to watch," Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said of the rookie from Argentina.

"Sometimes he scares me out there, because I don’t know what is coming, but he is so creative and we have to give him that freedom to just make things happen."

Ginobili, who has scored in double figures in four of the past five games, said, "Tonight just felt very easy out there."

Bruce Bowen had 11 points and Stephen Jackson 10 for San Antonio. David Robinson left in the third quarter with a strained lower back, an injury that has plagued him all season. He scored eight points and had five rebounds in 24 minutes.

San Antonio jumped to a 13-4 lead, making five of its first eight shots while the Nets managed only a pair of baskets in their 11 attempts from the floor.

Kidd hit a corner jumper and then a 3-pointer to start the Spurs’ 29-17 run.

Kidd made only two of his 13 shots in the half, while Martin went 3-for-9. Duncan scored 14 of his 21 points in the second half.

The teams stayed close through most of the second period before an 11-foother by Duncan began a 10-3 burst that put San Antonio up 40-32 about a minute before the break.

Aaron Williams made a layup with 7.3 seconds left in the half, and then Kidd stole the inbounds pass and got the ball to Kittles for a 17-foot jumper at the buzzer, drawing the Nets to 40-36.

Kidd made only two of his 11 shots in the half, while Martin went 3-for-9. Duncan secured his double-double early by scoring 10 points and grabbing 14 rebounds in the first two quarters.

San Antonio got its lead over 10 points late in the third period and kept it there most of the way.

Bulls 119, Warriors 105

Eddy Curry had 24 points and 10 rebounds as the Chicago Bulls beat Golden State and snapped the Warriors’ six-game winning streak.

The Bulls’ victory was just their fifth in the last 19 games, but gave them 22 wins — one more than last season.

Curry’s fellow prep-to-pro teammate Tyrone Chandler added 23 points and 14 rebounds as the Bulls scored their most points this season following controversial statements by rookie guard Jason Williams.

Williams said Monday the team needed to shake things up, suggested there was a rift between players and coaches and hinted maybe it was time some players move on — maybe even him. He started the game on the bench.

Jamal Crawford was in the starting lineup in his place, although Chicago coach Bill Cartwright said before the game Williams was not being punished for airing his gripes.

Crawford had 15 points and a career-high 10 assists in 31 minutes, while Williams scored nine points with three assists in 17 minutes. John Rose scored all 21 of his points in the second half.

Gilbert Arenas scored 28 to lead Golden State and Antawn Jamison added 22.

Leading by five at the half, the Bulls ran out to 16-point lead after three quarters, getting a pair of 3-pointers from Dannyell Marshall and one each from Crawford and Rose.

But the Warriors turned to their bench and scored the first seven points of the fourth quarter to make it 88-79 with just under 10 minutes remaining.

Then Williams and Rose hit jumpers as the Bulls regained control and pulled away to break a three-game losing streak.

With Golden State center Erick Dampier in early foul trouble, Curry and Chandler went to work. Curry scored 19 points and Chandler had 12 points and 12 rebounds in the first half.

Write Observer sports.
1-4543
ATHENS, Ga. — Before each practice, Jim Harrick scrawls a message to his players on a white board next to the court.

On Thursday, the words seemed especially relevant: "Today is the first day of the rest of your life. Forget the past and start thinking about the future."

If only it were that easy for the Georgia coach.

Harrick has had so many problems in his past that it might be tough for him to survive the latest scandal.

He was fired at UCLA for lying on an expense report. Rhode Island is looking into alleged transgressions that occurred on Harrick's watch. And now, he faces the most serious challenge of his career at Georgia.

A former Bulldogs player, Tony Cole, accused Jim Harrick Jr. of paying off bills, doing schoolwork and teaching a sham class on coaching. Harrick Jr., an assistant on his father's staff, was fired Wednesday.

A day earlier, the elder Harrick had to do is play, play the way he has his whole life," he said. "I'd like to come out with more thrust."
Brown's 2 goals help Sabres defeat Maple Leafs

Associated Press

TORONTO Curist Brown had two goals, and Mike Ricci scored, as Buffalo extended its points-scoring streak to seven games as the Buffalo Sabres defeated the Toronto Maple Leafs 4-2 Thursday night.

Taylor Pyatt had the other goal for Buffalo, which handed Toronto its third straight loss. Sharye Corson and Robert Svehla scored for the Maple Leafs.

Satan also had an assist, giving him 10 points in his streak. Brown has four goals in his last five games and 15 overall.

Buffalo scored on a power play at 4:36 of the third period when he took a pass from Mats Sundin and beat Ed Belfour over his left shoulder.

With less than two minutes left in the game, Svehla took a pass from Dmitri Kalinin in the left faceoff circle, skated in and beat Belfour between the legs for his eighth goal of the season. It was Pyatt's first goal since Jan. 24 - also against Toronto.

The Maple Leafs nearly tied it with less than a minute left, but Biron gloved Gary Roberts' shot. Then Brown hit an empty net with 1:06 seconds remaining.

Pyatt gave the Sabres a 2-1 lead in the second period when he took a pass from Mats Sundin and fired it past Martin Biron to pull Toronto within a goal. The Maple Leafs nearly tied it with less than a minute left, but Biron finished with 31 saves.

Brown made his 10th of the season on a shot that deflected off Ron Francis' skate and rolled into the net with 2:58 remaining in the extra period. Columbus was just 1-2-7 beyond regulation.

Vancouver, which had leads of 2-0 and 3-2, was 5-0-0 in overtime before Naslund scored with 2:58 remaining in the extra period. Columbus was just 1-2-7 beyond regulation.

The Sabres lost for the second time in three games against the Canucks, who have five points ahead of the Sabres in the Northwest Division and two points behind Dallas for best record in the West.

"I think we invited them back into the game," Naslund said. "We had a lead. If we had scored, we would have been all right. It's more just preparing mentally for the game and trying to make some many plays -- not grind it out and play our game plan."

Hurricanes 4, Penguins 0

Jeff O'Neill scored Carolina's first two goals and the Hurricanes ended a two-month road winless streak by beating the reeling Pittsburgh Penguins.

The Hurricanes came into the game with an NHL-low 51 points, but had an easy time with a Penguins team that has tumbled into the league's bottom five even with Hall of Famer Jaromir Jagr leading the lineup.

The Penguins lost their seventh straight, and fourth in a row at home, during a streak that has them reeling and trying to make too many plays -- not grind it out and play their game plan.

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Florida continued from page 24

losing streak three other times.
However, unlike last weekend, the Irish faced two top-20 teams in three days, in very
none of Notre Dame's six oppo
ents that they will face during
including a heart-breaking 93-92
double overtime loss to the Hoyas (14-12, 7-5 Big East, Georgetown endured
last spring, has been an
impor­

its regular season
game, and there is just something about
you start the game. Notre Dame senior captain Matt Carroll said after the loss to Syracuse. "It's our own fault. We
couldn't come out with a sense of urgency like we do in the second half."
But with one game left on the regular sea­son sched­ule, the Irish have one last chance to fix whatever has been breaking down before kicking off post-season play at the Big East six Championships in New York's Madison Square Garden.
"It's disappointing that we've lost the last two games at home, and that we lost on Senior Night. But there's a lot of basketball left ..." - Dan Miller, Irish forward

The Irish have historically lost the last two games at home, and that we lost on Senior Night. But there's a lot of basketball left ...

Dan Miller, Irish forward

Contact Chris Federico at cfederico@nd.edu

Contact Joe Lindsay at jlindsay@nd.edu

in Round Rock, Tex. In addition, Crockett is the only team out of the six Irish opponents to have a winning record against Notre Dame (2-1). The Irish have historically been known to get off to slow starts. Notre Dame opened the 2002 campaign with a 9-10 record before earning a trip to the College World Series. In order for the Irish to break out of their slump, they will need to improve on their defense and find a more effec­tive firepower that was severely lacking at the Metrodome last weekend. After averaging over six runs per game in the opening four-game series in Arizona, the Irish scored only five runs in three games against some stellar pitching. In addition, the Irish pitching corps must step up. They will need to improve on their ERA of 7.73 and to lower their opponents' batting average, which is currently .317.

Contact Bryan Kronk at bkrkonk@nd.edu

The two teams split the two games in the 2002 series, held at the Express College Classic in Round Rock, Tex. In addition, Crockett is the only team out of the six Irish opponents to have a winning record against Notre Dame (2-1). The Irish have historically been known to get off to slow starts. Notre Dame opened the 2002 campaign with a 9-10 record before earning a trip to the College World Series. In order for the Irish to break out of their slump, they will need to improve on their defense and find a more effec­tive firepower that was severely lacking at the Metrodome last weekend. After averaging over six runs per game in the opening four-game series in Arizona, the Irish scored only five runs in three games against some stellar pitching. In addition, the Irish pitching corps must step up. They will need to improve on their ERA of 7.73 and to lower their opponents' batting average, which is currently .317.

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Florida continued from page 24

Although sophomore Brent D'Amico and junior Matt Scott lost at the No. 1 flight before he was comforted by the fact that the other duos were able to come through on a day when the best were not at their best. "That's a great sign," Scott said. "I'm really proud of [McNaughton] and [Lopez-Acevedo]. They fought hard. They came up big when they needed to. It's a big confidence booster when you can't bring your 'A' game and you have your two other teams to back you up. They saw that they were capable of playing well and playing with big teams, and I think that gave them some con­fidence."
The Irish believe that their participation in the Pacific Coast doubles tournament last week­end gave the doubles lineup some valuable experience and practice time, which seems to have served as a confidence booster. In singles play, D'Amico reached his first victory in almost a month with a 6-2, 6-1 win over Shaya. D'Amico began his spring season 6-0 before losing his last two consecutive matches and missed a third due to injury. Overall, D'Amico, who was 1-3 last spring, has been an impor­tant asset to the young Irish squad.

Other key assets are the No. 3 doubles and the No. 4 doubles. Lopez-Acevedo, a transfer from Creighton, earned his first victory in almost a month with a 6-2, 6-1 win in straight sets over Gossain. Lopez-Acevedo, a transfer from Creighton, earned his first victory in almost a month with a 6-2, 6-1 win in straight sets over Gossain. The junior has won four of his past six singles matches.

A freshman clinched the day's win for Notre Dame. Patrick Buchanan, who has won five of his past six matches, topped Michigan's Fischer 7-5, 6-3. Haddock, ranked 89th nation­ally, was upset by No. 101 Michael Rubi­no, 7-6 (7-4), 6-1, as the Wolverines solved a futile point. The Irish junior cap­tain was injured during the match, but the condition is not seri­ous. Haddock's doubles partner Farrell also lost, 7-5, 6-3. The team's third captain, Scott, won the final match on the court, and showed his excitement with a little celebra­tion stone to finally triumphed over Michigan's Anthony Jackson, 6-1, 4-6, 1-0 (6-4) Jackson defeated Scott last fall, and the Irish player was eager for revenge.

Over spring break, Notre Dame will compete for the presi­dential green blazers awarded to the victors of the BlueEye National Tennis Classic in Montgomery, Ala. Two years ago the Irish won the green, and last year they advanced to the finals.

Overall, the team is looking forward to playing outdoors, and with trips to Miami and Dallas approaching at the break, they won't have to count on South Bend weather to get a chance to leave the indoor courts.

"Definitely I think we'll have a little better outdoor team," Haddock said.

Scott thinks the Irish are already a little better, though. "I think we're adjusting outdoors," Scott said. "I think [Thursday's win] is a good step for us in turning our season around today.

Contact Joe Lindsay at jlindsay@nd.edu

What a great break!
Thank you Jackie Clark and Steve Miller and the Freshman Class for sponsoring a St. Patrick's Day Parents' Night Out Signed, Your favorite kids on campus and their parents at University Village

MENS TENNIS
Irish grab first home win
By JOE LINDSEY
Spruce Wires

The Irish finally won their first home match of this season after going undefeated at the Eak­Pavilion last year.
No. 46 Notre Dame defeated No. 57 Michigan 5-2 Thursday, Feb. 1st. Irish senior captain Matt Carroll was comforted by the fact that the other duos were able to come through on a day when the best were not at their best. "That's a great sign," Scott said. "I'm really proud of [McNaughton] and [Lopez-Acevedo]. They fought hard. They came up big when they needed to. It's a big confidence booster when you can't bring your 'A' game and you have your two other teams to back you up. They saw that they were capable of playing well and playing with big teams, and I think that gave them some con­fidence."
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Irish hope to sparkle in the southern sun

By JOE LINDSEY
Sports Writer

The Irish will be spending spring break in Tempe, but before that they will travel to Provo, Utah, where they will take on No. 49 Brigham Young.

After a week of practicing under the Tempe sun, Notre Dame will then take on No. 7 Arizona State. The Irish hope a tough fight this Saturday.

"Brigham Young is a team that always fights to the very end in every single spot of their lineup," Irish senior Katie Connelly said. "I think they have a little bit of the home-court advantage being in the (high) altitude."

The fall 19 freshmen earned their first upset victory of the season last weekend when they defeated No. 13 Texas A&M and the team is planning on carrying the momentum from that win into Saturday's match.

"If we play like we did last weekend, we should win," Connelly said. After Brigham Young, Notre Dame will spend the rest of break in Arizona.

"We're just going to get down there to Tempe and practice hard all week, just get used to the out-of-door courts and the weather and then play some ball on Friday," Connelly said.

The fall season had an auspicious start for the Irish. At the Inverness Intercollegiate Invitational, the team finished 14th out of 15 teams and 46 strokes behind tournament champion Florida. But freshman Eric Gustafson, Scott Smith, and Tommy Balderson have been strong. Gustafson and Deutsch turned in a positive performance, entering the third day in fifth place before fading late.

Deutsch's performance was a microcosm of the fall season. The Irish have been starting strong and then tailing off. In four of its five fall meets, the team has posted its best overall score in the opening round. By the end of the fall season the squad had finished in the top half of tournaments three times, peaking at 5th of 14 teams at the SMU Stonebridge Invitational.

"I think we've got some hard-fought matches," Connelly said. "I really think that our doubles are coming together. All the girls played solid last weekend. I think everything is starting to come together for us."

Although the team is relatively young, the Irish are slowly gaining importance experience.

"The freshmen are starting to get used to the individual match-play," Connelly said. "We're getting a little more comfortable with our lineup. I think we're getting pretty good right now."

Contact Joe Lindsey at jlindsey@nd.edu

Sophomore Sarah Jane Connelly hits a backhand. The Irish will be spending spring break in Tempe after traveling to Utah.

Irish still green as spring season gets under way

By ERIK POWERS
Sports Writer

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Tomorrow marks the dawn of the spring season for the Irish. Like the fall, the team will be especially green. Freshmen Scott Gustafson, Tommy Balderson and Deutsch have competed in all five tournaments this year and appear to be the core of the team for the remainder of the season. Fellow freshman Mark Baldwin, who battled mononucleosis last semester, was in four tournaments and his 11th place finish with a 211 was the fourth-lowest 54-hole score ever by a Notre Dame golfer. Senior captain Brandon Lunke anchors the squad with a team-best 73.33 average.

Because of improved schedule-making at the request of coach John Jasinski, the Irish participate in two different tournaments over spring break than last year. This Saturday and Sunday, the Irish invade Ocala, Fla. with eyes set on a championship against a wide-open field. Lamar won the championship by three strokes over Michigan State last year, but while the Spartans return to the Big Red Classic, the Cardinals will not.

No ranked teams from the Precept fall season coaches poll will compete at the Lake Diamond Golf and Country Club either. The Irish will face No. 7 Minnesota and No. 18 Purdue at the Conrad Herlong Invitational in Brookwood, Ala. Minnesota, last year's champion, heads a stiff class of competition. The meet runs from March 13 to March 16.

The next two weeks afford the Irish an opportunity to shed the rust from four months away from competition. While the team has been far from dormant, the South Bend winter has deprived the Irish the luxury of daily course play above freezing temperatures.

Contact Erik Powers at epowers@nd.edu

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By AARON RONSENHEIM

The Notre Dame softball team (6-6) has a chance this weekend to exorcise some of last year's demons when they face No. 3 Nebraska at the Kia Classic during spring break. Last year the Cornhuskers ended Notre Dame's season with a 5-0 victory over the Irish in the regional final. A win would have given Notre Dame its first ever berth in the College Softball World Series.

"They know how much it hurt to lose that game at regionals last year," Irish coach Deanna Gumpf said. "I think that the girls' emotion will take care of itself in this game."

Besides the past team history or the Rebels' current [team] status, Notre Dame victory at Nebraska last season, Gumpf has a personal relationship with the Cornhuskers. Gumpf played for Nebraska from 1989-1992 and would want nothing more than a win against her alma mater.

"I don't think I need to say much about this game," Gumpf said. "The girls know that Nebraska is a tough team and they know how I feel about them."

The Cornhuskers are 12-1 this season, with their only loss coming against No. 1 UCLA. They've also defeated seven ranked teams.

The Cornhuskers have an explosive offense, boosting a .337 team batting average. Leading the explosive attack is senior outfielder Lisa Wangler, who is batting .432 with five home runs and 20 runs batted in.

In order to shut down the Cornhusker offense, the Irish will need their young pitching staff to step up. Inconsistency has been the biggest worry for Gumpf and her coaching staff, but she is hoping that will improve soon.

"Our pitching needs to be more consistent," said Gumpf. "I think we are ready in every other area, and I think we are very close to where we need to be."

To keep pace with the Nebraska offense, Notre Dame will have to continue their offensive tear they were on last weekend in Louisiana. The Irish hit 10 homers and pounded out 45 hits in their last five games.

With the offense back in gear, some of the pressure is taken off the pitching staff.

"It relieves you," pitcher St e f f a n y Stenglein said. "It also allows you to throw your own game and you don't have to be perfect."

One of the offensive stars for the Irish last weekend was senior third baseman Andrea Loman.

Loman was named Big East Player of the Week for her performance in Louisiana. Loman went 4-for-16 at the plate, which included three doubles, one homerun and two stolen bases.

Another encouraging sign for the Irish this past season has been the hitting of second baseman Andria Bledsoe. Bledsoe broke out of an early slump by blasting three homeruns and has raised her average from .111 to .306 over the last few games.

As a team, the Irish are batting .270 and have five players hitting over .300.

The Irish will begin their California trip with a doubleheader Sunday against Cal State Northridge (11-9). Even though the Matadors are only two games over .500, they have played a tough schedule, which includes a victory over No. 12 Alabama and losses against No. 22 Alabama and No. 1 UCLA.

Junior outfielder Christi Bedwell leads the Matador offense, hitting .419 with eight RBI and two homeruns. Besides Bedwell, the Irish will have to worry about sophomore pitcher Amy Fennell, both when she is on the mound and at the plate. Fennell is 6-2 in the young season and has an impressive 2.10 ERA. At the plate, Fennell is equally effective with a team leading 14 RBI and a .413 batting average.

Besides facing Nebraska at the Kia Classic the Irish will take the field against Fresno State and DePaul in round robin play before starting tournament play.

Against Fresno State (4-8), the Irish will likely face Bulldog pitcher Jamie Southern. Even though Southern is 3-5 this season, she boosts an excellent 0.61 ERA and has struck out 79 batters in 59 innings.

The DePaul Blue Demons (6-2) are ranked No. 13 in the country because of a good pitching staff that has a great one-two punch with senior Lindsay Chouinard (3-2, 0.75 ERA) and junior Sarah Martin (3-0, 0.90 ERA).

"Against DePaul I have to play solid and hit the ball well," Gumpf said. "They have two good pitchers. We can't make mistakes against a team like DePaul. They are very aggressive and will capitalize on our mistakes."

Contact Aaron Ronshem at aronshef@nd.edu

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Belles looking for fresh start with new coach

By PAT LEONARD

The Saint Mary's softball team will travel to Fort Myers, Fla. this week to play 11 games in four days beginning Sunday, March 9. Remaining first-year coach Anna Welsh, the Belles will open the season away in hopes of growing accustomed to each other and to the new staff.

Last year, the Belles went 4-4 on the trip, defeating Drew University, 4-0, Salve Regina University, 4-2 and Bentley University, 4-0 and 8-2, respectively.

"Fly Salve Regina and Transylvania University return to the Belles' schedule from last year," Welsh, a two-sport athlete at Olivet Nazarene University in Illinois and an NCAA All-American in softball, joins Saint Mary's with a unique coaching style and a confident attitude.

Welsh will not have much help from upperclassmen, either. Only one senior returns to the Belles' squad, catcher Susan Kutz. Libby Wilhelm, Kate Sajewich, Katie Amick and Bridgett Graal will anchor the Belles pitching staff.

Amick will be a key team member, as she is the only player for the Belles who has left-handed. Welsh could use her in key hitting situations.

The roster includes nine freshmen, no sophomores, five juniors and Kutz. Freshman third baseman Meghan Marenkowic will probably start for the Belles and numerous other freshmen will start or split time with juniors.

Welsh, who also first got into coaching by becoming the student assistant coach her senior year at Olivet Nazarene, has since coached at Nazarene, Notre Dame and Bethel College summer softball camps. Assistants Don Miller and John Antonucci hope to help Welsh develop a young but solid core of softball players into a competitive MIAA program.

Contact Pat Leonard at pleonard@nd.edu

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Recycle The Observer
**MENS LACROSSE**

**Irish must face test in early season game**

By PAT LEONARD
Sports Writer

The last time the mens lacrosse team opened a season 5-0, the squad advanced to the 2001 NCAA Final Four.

To reach that goal this season, the Irish must win at No. 12 North Carolina Saturday. The No. 11 Irish (2-0) will then face two top 15 teams in a seven-day span.

While Notre Dame knows it will have to work for a win in every cut­test, the team is testing itself early in what head coach Kevin Corrigan hopes to be a repeat of two seasons ago.

"I don't think we're going to see any teams this type of game on the same level," Corrigan said. "In almost all our games we will find out a lot about ourselves."

Notre Dame will face No. 12 North Carolina and No. 1 Virginia on the road and No. 8 Loyola at home. Last season, the Irish dropped a close 7-5 contest to Virginia and a 7-6 nail-biter to Loyola.

The Irish have started with two solid wins and are testing themselves early in the season. They have to work for a win against a team that has emerged early on.

"We'll have three or four days out of the week that the tempo get away from us and see how we can control those games," Corrigan said. "We have to be careful not to let the tempo get away from us and see if we can play with enough discipline to do that."

Notre Dame's match against Virginia, originally scheduled to be played at either Klécker Stadium or the U-Hall Turf Field in Virginia, has been moved to Charlottesville, Va., and will be played on Tuesday at 3:30 p.m.

Notre Dame will be in action in North Carolina Saturday at 1 p.m.

Contact Pat Leonard atpleonard@nd.edu

**TRACK**

**Irish looking at last chance**

By HEATHER VAN HOEGERDA
Sports Writer

In what some may deem as one of the "last chance" meets in the nation, hundreds of the nation's best track and field athletes will compete this Friday and Saturday at the Alex Wilson Invitational at Loftus Sports Center.

With the Big East conference meet over after a second-place finish, the Notre Dame team looks to qualify more athletes for the NCAA Championship.

Senior pole vaulter Jaime Volkmer has already qualified for a Big East individual championship, and is currently listed at 4.05 meters, a spot in the NCAA field.

Teammates Laura Huarte and Jilly VanWeeldeh join her, as they look to clear 4.05 meters to secure spots. Volkmer would be the first Irish pole vaulter to earn a spot in the NCAA Championship.

In the high jump, All-Big East middle distance player Emily Loomis looks to qualify for her second straight NCAA Championship, as she is currently 19th on the NCAA list.

In what promises to be a competitive race, the women's mile includes Lauren King, who has already qualified in the mile, with a time of 4:54.90, and freshmen Dana Dunn, Love and Boyd have the experience necessary, as all three earned All-America honors in this race just a year ago.

Notre Dame also has a few athletes who have already secured spots in the field. Huddle and King both have qualified for the 4,400 relay, while Huddle holds the experience necessary, as she is 12th in the mile.

The Irish as a team look to send as many athletes to Fayetteville as possible, despite the stiff competition the Alex Wilson Invitational proves to provide. The meet starts at 7 p.m. on Friday and carries over to 1 p.m. Saturday at Loftus Sports Center.

Contact Heather Van Hogeard at hvhogan@nd.edu

**CONCERTS**

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**A Men hope to add more qualifiers to NCAA**

By LISA REJHLAR
Sports Writer

With this season's conference meets completed, college track and field teams across the nation now have the NCAA Championship as their next goal. Notre Dame will host the Alex Wilson Invitational this Friday and Saturday in Loftus Fieldhouse. The Invitational is unique, a "last chance" meet for athletes looking to qualify for the NCAA Championships, held in Fayetteville, Ark., on March 14 and 15.

Teams will be sending between one and 10 members to the Invitational to either improve their qualification times or post their first qualification. The Loftus track is considered fast, so many teams are hoping their athletes will achieve an automatic time and qualify.

The meet this weekend should prove to be more exciting than any other race the team has seen so far this season. Races will be close, with the top athletes from across the country vying for a qualifying time.

For the Irish, some athletes have already qualified for the Championship, while others are looking to make their mark this weekend.

Sophomore distance runner Selim Nurudeen will be in the hunt for a qualifying time in the 60-meter dash.Ranked 24th on the NCAA descending list, his best time this season is 7.83. At this year's conference meet, Nurudeen placed second and was awarded all-Big East honors.

On Friday evening, the men's distance medley relay team will seek an NCAA qualifying time in their event. The automatic time of 9:36.05 is within the reach of the team, made up of Eric Morrison, Ryan Postle, Thomas and the average Watson.

Women already qualified for the NCAA Championship.

For the Irish, some athletes who have already qualified in the mile, with Huddle holding the status that ranks him 24th in the nation. He has not yet been determined which event Watson will run at the NCAA meet. This weekend Watson will run the anchor leg of the DMR with the goal of earning a spot in the NCAA field.

Irish teammate Morrison will look to join Watson in the mile event. The sophomore posted a strong time of 4:40.91 in the mile, a performance that ranks him 19th in the country.

Contact Lisa Rejula atlrejula@nd.edu

**MENS LACROSSE**

**Irish must face test in early season game**

Now, the Irish will face a North Carolina squad that has played in just as many games but has a few more big battles to show for it. The Tar Heels lost in quadruple overtime to Navy in its season opener, and then defeated Bucknell to move to 1-1. North Carolina has been tested, as have Virginia (2-0) and Loyola (3-0). Virginia beat Syracuse 16-15 last weekend and all died atop the rankings with Johns Hopkins. A team that defeated then-second ranked Princeton, 10-8. Loyola took care of Hobart, 10-4.

"Anytime you play teams that are as talented as them, you have got to establish what you are and aren't going to do and try to impose the style and tempo that is most com­fortable to your team," Corrigan said. "We'll see if we're ready to do that."

Notre Dame hopes to continue to get scoring from all over, particularly from the impressive freshman class that has emerged early on.

"We're going to have a little bit of a style we've been playing," Corrigan said. "We have to be careful not to let the tempo get away from us and see if we can play with enough discipline to do that."

Notre Dame's match against Virginia, originally scheduled to be played at either Klécker Stadium or the U-Hall Turf Field in Virginia, has been moved to Charlottesville, Va., and will be played on Tuesday at 3:30 p.m.

Notre Dame will be in action in North Carolina Saturday at 1 p.m.

Contact Pat Leonard atpleonard@nd.edu

**WOMEN GLAD FOR ONE MORE LOOK AT NCAA COMPETITION**

By HEATHER VAN HOEGERDA
Sports Writer

In some way or another, all of the "last chance" meets in the nation, hundreds of the nation's best track and field athletes will compete this Friday and Saturday at the Alex Wilson Invitational at Loftus Sports Center.

With the Big East conference meet over after a second-place finish, the Notre Dame team looks to qualify more athletes for the NCAA Championship.

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Contact Heather Van Hogeard at hvhogan@nd.edu

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Hockey

Irish keeping playoff hopes alive this weekend

By JUSTIN SCHUVER Spor Writer

Assuming everything goes according to plan, the Irish hope to return to something more than books and tests when spring break teams end.

They hope to return home for a playoff game.

With a good showing against Northern Michigan on the road this weekend, that hope could change into a reality.

Currently, the Irish sit tied for fifth place in the CCHA along with three other teams, one of which is Northern Michigan.

If the Irish (14-14-6, 12-13-1 CCHA) can collect at least three points against the Wildcats, they will be in a good position to secure home ice for the first round of the playoffs. The top six finishers in the league receive home ice.

A month ago, an Irish bid for home ice appeared almost impossible, with Notre Dame, at one point, standing as low as ninth place in the 12-team conference. Since the start of February, a surge has seen the Irish win five of their six games and collect at least three points against their opponents in the league. With the strength of the area, With the strength of the region, a fencer must finish in the top five in the national championships, to qualify.

Four berths at each weapon are allotted to the region. Each school can qualify a maximum of two fencers at a weapon on the mens and womens side.

“Destanie Majo and Maggie Jordan have to give every­thing, have a little luck to qualify for the national championships,” Bednarski said. “If they do it, that’s going to be a great day, but we are trying hard.”

The Irish got good news during the Men’s Big East Championship, March 12-15, at the Harbour Club in Forest Walton and second-seeded sophomore Derek Snyder.

Walton qualified for the national championships as a freshman and earned All-American honors as a sophomore before spending last season studying abroad. As a freshman, Snyder finished seventh and was a second team All-American.

Despite dropping the conference championship last weekend and the Paddys Day Parade, the Irish feel confident heading into this weekend’s important regional competition.

“According to the current seeding, we have a chance,” Bednarski said. “If we have strong results, that should elevate us to qualify 12.”

Contact Justin Schuver at jschuver@nd.edu

Join the ND club of New York City for fun and festivities during the Men’s Big East Championship, March 12-15, 2003!

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If you’re in town, or want to be, check out our “to do” list. Be there to take it all in. Go Irish!

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WWW.NDNDC.com

Fencing

Irish hope to qualify for tourney

By MATT LOZAR Sports Editor

If they want a chance at their first national title since 1994, then Saturday is a very important day for the Irish.

Notre Dame looks to qualify 12 fencers for the NCAA Championships at Saturday’s Midwest Regional Championship at Ohio State University.

“Our goal is to qualify as many as we can,” Bednarski said. “Our goal is to qualify 12 which will be hard and not easy.” Notre Dame coach Janusz Bednarski said. “For us it is easier to get the better results if we have a full 12-fencer team.”

To automatically qualify for the national championships, a fencer must finish in the top four at the regional competition in his or her respective weapon. A formula is used to determine the final standings by combining regular season performance with the finish at the regionals.

Each school can qualify a maximum of two fencers at a weapon on the men’s and women’s side.

Four berths at each weapon are allotted to the Midwest Regional competition. Each school can qualify a maximum of two fencers at a weapon on the men’s and women’s side.

“Destanie Majo and Maggie Jordan have to give everything, have a good day and have a little luck to qualify for nationals,” Bednarski said. “Notre Dame will be the key for us, but we are trying hard.”

The Irish got good news during the Men’s Big East Championship, March 12-15, at the Harbour Club in Forest Walton and second-seeded sophomore Derek Snyder.

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Contact Matt Lozar at mlozar@nd.edu

Big East pre/post game happy hours will be at Triple Crown (7th b/twn 28th and 29th) for all the ND games.

PRE-parade party-at Connollys on 47th Street between 5th and 6th Ave. 12:30 on March 17th come for lunch, drinks or both.

PARADE party- the ND club of NYC will be marching at the Big East semi-finals on Saturday. If you would like to march, please email the club at ndclubnyc@yahoo.com for specific information.

POST parade party will be upstairs at Bar Harbour (1st Ave b/twn 76th and 77th Ave) beginning at 5pm- come quench your thirst, be it from marching, watching or working.

For info email; ndclubnyc@yahoo.com
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WOMENS BASKETBALL

Streaking Irish look to make waves

By JOE HETTLER
Sports Editor

Sixth-seeded Notre Dame is playing their best basketball at the right time of the season as they head into the their first round Big East Tournament game against No. 11 seed Pittsburgh Saturday at 8 p.m.

The Irish, winners of seven of their last nine, are looking forward to the challenges awaiting them in Piscataway, N.J.

"We’re playing well right now and we’ve just been waiting for everyone to have a good game at the same time," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said. "7-2 in our last nine, there are a lot of positives that come from that.

Notre Dame has had at least one player step up her game in all seven wins.

"I think everyone has had a good game for us when we needed it," McGraw said. "Now we’re just waiting for everyone to have a good game at the same time."

Senior guard Alicia Ratay has been the spark plug for Notre Dame’s recent run. The Lake Zurich, Ill., product has made big shots when the Irish have needed it the most.

"She has really taken the load off of everybody else," McGraw said. "She’s done a great job. We’ve done a good job of getting her the ball, too. She’s always been there when we’ve needed a bucket."

Now the Irish hope to delve deep into the conference tournament. Awaiting them is a familiar foe in Pittsburgh.

Contact Joe Hettler at jhettler@nd.edu

MENS BASKETBALL

Irish try to shake slump

By CHRIS FEDERICO
Sports Writer

If we haven’t learned our lesson after three losses, I don’t know what it will take," Irish coach Mike Brey said of his team’s recent struggles.

But No. 16 Notre Dame (21-8, 9-6 in the Big East) has lost four of its last six games, with its only two wins in that stretch coming over conference dwellers West Virginia and Virginia Tech. But after a hot start that saw Notre Dame knock off such college basketball powers as then No. 2 Texas, No. 9 Maryland and No. 10 Marquette and reach the coveted 20-win plateau in just 25 games, the Irish are still all but assured a spot in the NCAA Tournament bracket.

"After everything this team has done throughout season, they are not going to hang their hat on that," Brey said. "We have to be ready for whatever fate will bring us."

Irish center Teresa Women shoots a layup in Notre Dame’s most recent matchup with Pittsburgh. The Irish and Panthers face off tomorrow night.

BASEBALL

Trip to Florida should ease recent struggles

By BRYAN KRONK
Sports Writer

"We need to focus on beating Pittsburgh," McGraw said. However, McGraw did admit that it’s a no-lose situation if Notre Dame ends up playing Villanova.

"If you beat Villanova that’s great, but if you lose you don’t lose all that much," McGraw said.

In their last meeting against Pittsburgh at the Joyce Center, McGraw was very displeased with her team’s play. After starting the game on a 15-3 run, Notre Dame found themselves at 19 midway through the first half. The Irish allowed the Villanova center Mandy Wittenmyer to score 23 points in that contest.

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