Campus prepares for Junior Parents Weekend

Committee chair outlines activities for 3-day event

By CLAIRE HEININGER
Assistant News Editor

When 2004 Junior Parents Weekend chairperson Meg Harry’s father was a junior at Notre Dame in 1961, JPW was nothing like the extravaganza it is today — in fact, he “barely remembers it,” Harry said.

That didn’t stop him, though, from telling his daughter about the 52-year-old tradition. Since her freshman year, Harry and her parents have been planning and thinking about their own JPW experience. But the more they talked, the more they realized how much they had in common with rice bowls with University president Edward Lemon. co-chairs of the program.

Employees at Catering by Design finalize last-minute plans for Junior Parents Weekend.

ND students launch Operation Rice Bowl

By ANNA GELHAUS
News Writer

Operation Rice Bowl is coming to Notre Dame this Lent, giving students a chance to donate to the work of Catholic Relief Services.

Sponsored primarily by the Sophomore Class Council, it is the first time in recent memory that the program will be held on campus, according to Brin Anderson and Julia Miller-Lemon, co-chairs of the program.

Operation Rice Bowl is a program of donation throughout Lent. Participants receive a small box and are encouraged to donate change to the bowl throughout the season.

“It is so easy.” Miller-Lemon said. “At this campus, especially, we don’t realize how much we have. With the rice bowls, students can make an impact every day.”

Seventy-five percent of the donations will go to Catholic Relief Services projects in

see BOWL/page 4

ND students study education

Education majors make trek to SMC for classes

By STEPHANIE YAHN
News Writer

Riding his bike over snow-covered train tracks wasn’t exactly what Nick Kheriaty had in mind when he envisioned traveling to class. But in order to get his teaching credentials, the Notre Dame senior had to take his exams across the street to study in the Education Program at Saint Mary’s College.

It has been over 40 years since Notre Dame dissolved its own education school, but few remember a time before students studied education at Saint Mary’s. In order to continue serving undergraduate students who wanted to obtain teacher certification, the University worked with Saint Mary’s to allow students to participate in the College’s program.

At that time, Notre Dame was an all-male university and students mainly went into second-career education. A handful focus on elementary education. Notre Dame students are quick

see TEACHERS/page 6

Trustees finish campus visit

By NATALIE BAILEY
News Writer

With a new president and several new buildings, change is the buzz for the Board of Trustees on the Saint Mary’s campus through Friday.

As part of the Board’s visit, student trustee Sarah Mahoney sat in on the Facilities and Grounds and Student Life committee meetings Thursday.

“Faculty and Grounds focused on updating the trustees on the several construction projects.”

“All projects are looking great, and the student apartments are becoming a reality,” Mahoney said. “After witnessing the visible progress of the student center and apartments, the trustees are excited to see students enjoy them, she said.

“I think the students are going to love the new buildings, and they will be a great recruiting tool for prospective students.” Mahoney said. “These buildings represent the Board of Trustees’ commitment to student life and success.”

ND students launch Operation Rice Bowl

Brian Anderson, second from left, and Julia Miller-Lemon pose with rice bowls with University president Edward Malloy, far right, and University vice president Mark Poorman.

ND students study education

Education majors make trek to SMC for classes

The committee was also glad to hear that all the apartments are filled for next year and that the selection process went so smoothly, she said. The Student Life Committee joint­ly met with the Mission commit­tee to explore the topic of pro­moting and ex­periencing diversity while main­taining community and staying true to the Mission Statement. Twelve students shared

see PLAN/page 6

Non-juniors consider limited options for campus activities

By MATT BRAMANTI
News Writer

Junior Parents Weekend begins today, launching three days of events aimed at Notre Dame’s juniors and their par­ents.

But what about the other 6,000 undergraduates? Although she’s a senior, Ana Farach can’t escape the weekend, which draws thousands of parents from around the country.

“My boyfriend is a junior, so I’ll be eating dinner with his parents at some point,” Farach said.

see TRUSTEES/page 6
Identity crisis

It's only normal for the college student to be caught in some sort of identity crisis. But I wonder, is the same degree of self uncertainty permissible for the administration of a university? Initially, you may ask, "Can an institution even have an identity crisis?" I propose two key words that will clear the matter up immensely: "academic freedom." "Academic freedom" is a 50 cent phrase that will buy you a better ranking in U.S. News. Want to compete with Ivy League schools? You had better be hosting sexually explicit theatre presentations, selling the most controversial books written by pro-abortion activists in your bookstore and denying any accommodation with Catholicism other than some unfortunate traditions due the circumstances of the University's founding.

Given these criteria, our administration seems caught in a very tight spot. To be clear, I honestly believe that our great administrators want to maintain the uniquely Catholic atmosphere that generally permeates the grounds of this beautiful campus. However, the question now becomes, "Why are we so determined to sell ourselves short?" Trying to conform to the mold of a secular society only diminishes what Notre Dame stands for, leading to a self-contradictory atmosphere.

Let me provide some concrete examples.

In one breath, we are told that certain politically charged events — I don't believe I have to name the two most recent — will be allowed on campus in the name of "academic freedom." Shortly before one of the productions, however, the administration was forced to remove a provocative "advertising" display for the production from LaFortune. I suppose if we can't have Notre Dame women parading around in bikinis tops in a public forum, we should just put them on as soon as we sell tickets. (I think you get my point.) Likewise, the Queen Film Festival slipped in under the guise of "academic freedom," as well. Never mind the fact that these films presented propaganda explicitly contrary to Catholic teaching. So what is my point? Am I advocating that we should neither be "academic" nor "free" at this University? Not in the least.

In fact, by denying conformity to the commonly accepted relativist secularism, I suggest that we could be free to embrace our true identity through a sincere, non-cynical perspective look at our definitively Catholic heritage. Let us discuss homosexual issues during this current wave of unrest in our nation? Attend the symposium sponsored by RecSports, Notre Dame Security/Police, and Notre Dame Medical Foundation. Reserve a spot by calling 631-6100.

The Thomas Aquinas Symposium will take place today from 4-8 p.m. at the Moreau Center's Little Theatre at Saint Mary's. Attend presentations by Calhoun Kenyon, a Notre Dame professor, and Father David Hollenbach, a professor from Boston College.

FlipSide presents Movie Night. The fun starts at 6:15 p.m. tonight with pickups at various campus locations.

ND Express will host open billiards. Take on your friends from 9 p.m. to midnight.

Bryan McCree, a comedian from Mad TV and Comedy Central, will perform tonight at Legends at 10 p.m.

Station One will perform tonight in Heidrick 1 p.m.

Enjoy night club dancing at Legends. The fun starts at midnight and continues until 4 a.m.

The class of 2004 is sponsoring a trip to Chicago for seniors. Enjoy sightseeing and a Bulls game in the windy city. The bus departs Saturday at noon and returns at 1 a.m. Tickets are $25 and can be purchased at LaFortune Box Office.

To submit information to be included in this section of The Observer, e-mail it to observer@nd.edu.
Students attend conference

SMC RHA wins school of the year award

By TERESA NOWAKOWSKI
News Writer

Saint Mary's students traveled to the University of Indianapolis to participate in the Indiana Residency Hall Organization Conference with 12 other schools from the state.

Twelve of 13 women went to learn about campus venues offered at other colleges and universities, and hopefully implement them at Saint Mary's in the future. Francis Bruder, a national communicator coordinator for the Residence Hall Association and a Saint Mary's student, sat on a board and judged presentations or bids that reflect each school's accomplishments.

"It gives us a chance to network with other RHAs, to form bonds and connections of the conference. Many topics were discussed including tutoring, reading day, layout of student government, the newly made flight song, classes being offered, new apartments and programming for campus clubs and events. The bid was presented to the representatives from the schools that attended the conference. The title of school of the year could not have been earned without every single person's help," Shay Jolly said.

This year, Saint Mary's won third in the spirit bid and third for the banner bid. Jackie Wright, the new assistant director of the Indiana Residency Hall Organization also received this position through presenting her bid. She will be in charge of taking roll and minutes and relaying information to and from delegates in each college and university to Indiana. Wright hopes to establish an effective system of communication and implement programs from other colleges.

Through these awards, Jolly hopes that the student body will recognize the organization's hard work.

"We've jumped over so many bounds this past year, it's amazing," she said. "We are doing things to better the school."

Contact Teresa Nowakowski at nowa9294@saintmarys.edu

SMC gears up for winter benefit walk

By TERESA NOWAKOWSKI
News Writer

Students from Saint Mary's and members of the South Bend community will join together for a walk-a-thon Sunday in support of a local day center.

The Winter Walk will raise funds for Saint Margaret's House, which aims to foster a safe environment for women and children. The center helps female victims of addiction, homelessness and domestic abuse to find jobs and create more stable lives for themselves. It also provides education for these women and their children.

"This will be a fun way to support Saint Margaret's House, which I know is a good cause," said Jacqueline Cuisinier, spirituality chair of the junior board at Saint Mary's.

The walk covers 1.5 miles and begins at St. James Cathedral at 2:30 p.m. Saint Mary's students will meet at 1:30 p.m. in LeMans circle in order to carpool to the cathedral together, Cuisinier said.

After the walk, there will be a reception offering refreshments to celebrate the accomplishment of the walk's completion.

Contact Teresa Nowakowski at nowa9294@saintmarys.edu

Write for News. Call 1-5323
Bowl 

continued from page 1

countries across the globe. The remaining 25 percent go to the local diocese. Students are encouraged to place their bowls somewhere that will create a daily reminder to give. The money will be collected from April 5 to April 7.

"Having boxes on the students' desks during Lent serves as a daily reminder that we have so much during this reflective season," Anderson said. "We have so much and so much to give."

Five thousand bowls will be distributed this Monday from 8 to 11 a.m. outside of DeBartolo and O'Shaughnessy and Tuesday from 9 a.m. to noon. They will also be passed out both days at the dining halls during lunch and dinner, and at the LaFortune Student Center from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. There will also be free Krispy Kreme donuts for the first 500 students at DeBartolo and O'Shaughnessy who participate. "My hope would be to get the entire campus to make an impact," Miller-Lemon said.

Contact Anna Gelhaus at agelhaus@nd.edu

**FBI logo appears on CDs**

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The FBI said Thursday it is giving Hollywood film studios, music companies and software makers permission to use its name and logo on their DVDs, CDs and other digital media in hopes the labels will deter consumers from making illegal copies.

FBI officials said the idea was conceived jointly by the agency's cybercrime division and representatives of the entertainment and software industries, who claim they've lost billions of dollars due to digital piracy.

"This anti-piracy seal should serve as a warning to those who contemplate the theft of intellectual property, that the FBI will actively investigate cyber crimes and will bring the perpetrators of these criminal acts to justice," said Jana Monroe, assistant director of the FBI's cyber division.

Like the warning messages that have appeared on VHS tapes and DVDs for years, the new labels spell out that unauthorized copying and distribution of digital content is punishable by up to five years in prison and a fine of $250,000.

"It will be up to the individual entertainment companies and software manufacturers to decide whether to display the new FBI warnings."

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**INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

Two suspects arrested in murder
DOHA, Qatar — Qatar said Thursday it has arrested two suspects in the assassination of former Chechen President Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev. Yandarbiyev, 51, was killed Feb. 13 when a bomb ripped through his car. His teenage son was wounded.

The Interior Ministry said two suspects are being questioned in his death. No further details were available in the ministry statement, carried by the Gulf state's national news agency, QNA.

Yandarbiyev, Chechnya's acting president in 1996-1997, had lived in Qatar since 2000. Authorities said he was wanted for terrorist activities for suspected terrorism and links to al-Qaida. Moscow had been seeking his extradition.

His assassination occurred one week after a bombing in a Moscow subway killed 41 people and wounded more than 100. President Vladimir Putin blamed Chechen rebels and foiled a mass terrorist strike.

**RUSSIA boasts of future weapons**

MOSCOW — Russia successfully tested a space vehicle that could lead to weapons capable of destroying American satellite defenses, a senior general said Thursday. He insisted the device was not meant to counter U.S. efforts to develop an anti-missile shield.

Analysts said the device may be part of a campaign to challenge the global clout and burnish President Vladimir Putin's image ahead of March elections he is expected to win. It could also be an effort to restore prestige to the country's military, which has suffered near collapse since the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991.

Gen. Yuri Baluyevsky, first deputy chief of the General Staff of the Russian armed forces, spoke briefly about the test device tested Wednesday, but said it was a hypersonic vehicle — one that moves at more than five times the speed of sound — that could maneuver in orbit.

**NATIONAL NEWS**

Astronauts spy solar system
Los Angeles — Astronomers said Thursday they have found a frozen object 4.4 billion miles from Earth that appears to be more than half the size of the planet's moon. The group was sent south and burned up communications net­work-based 32nd Signal Battalion hit the ground in Iraq, Luna said. Now, Luna said, going to an expected departure from the country are many of those who joined the March invasion. Some have seen combat and lost members. All faced tough living condi­tions.

The Darmstadt, Germany-based 32nd Signal Battalion is the unit that accompanied the invasion force rolled into Iraq, Luna said. The group was sent south when mortar fire killed a soldier.

It was rough. It seemed like a race to get Baghdad, then we ended up going backward," Luna said as his unit piled green duf­fe bags near a tent at the Army's Camp Anaconda, near Balad, Iraq. Now, Luna said, going backward — to home base in Germany — sounds just fine. It's been a long wait.

Soldiers spoke of the frus­tration of counting the days to an expected departure only to be told they would have to stay on. All said they wanted to hug parents and children, sleep without being woken by explosions, or stroll without a rifle.

"I want to get drunk," blurted out 25-year-old Spc. Yvette Inocencio of Miami, adding: "We're so glad to be home."

Arriving troops descend the jetway to a terminal full of greeters welcoming them back from Operation Iraq Freedom, July 30. The Bangor, Maine airport is the gateway to the U.S. for servicemen and women returning from Operation Iraq Freedom.

**LOCAL NEWS**

Kernan's proposals blasted
Indianapolis — Republicans blasted Gov. Joe Kernan's proposals to increase security for the Bureau of Motor Vehicles Thursday, saying the investigation Kernan ordered into the death of a 17-year-old was a whitewash.

"They really didn't look to expose the wrongs that are occurring," said Rep. Jeff Espach of Uniondale, the fiscal leader for House Republicans. "It essentially becomes a whitewash."

**San Francisco to sue over gay marriage**

San Francisco to sue over gay marriage
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — After sanctions more than 2,000 gay mar­riages in the past week, the city sued the state of California on Thursday, seeking to ban on same-sex marriages on constitution­al grounds.

Two judges already are consider­ing challenges from conservative groups seeking to halt the marriages. The state Supreme Court is scheduled for Friday.

"I think what we have done is affirm marriage here in San Francisco," Newsum said. "We are absolutely convinced it is the way it was meant to be in this state when the voters approved it."
Teachers
continued from page 1

to point out there are common misperceptions about studying at Saint Mary’s. Kheriaty admitted it was intimidating to be the only male in his classes.

“The stereotypical perception of the program is that it is easier in comparison, but the courses are still very demanding,” said senior Brian South, pointing out that 11 courses are required for the concentration—one course more than his English major.

Both Kheriaty and South’s focus is in secondary education. The requirements are even more rigorous for elementary education students. In addition to taking required education courses, these students must also balance their course load with requirements for their majors.

Such demands put pressure on a student’s class load and could hinder opportunities to study abroad.

“It is completely viable as long as you’re able to schedule your courses around the major,” said South, who studied in Australia during his junior year.

Despite the demands, there is a large network of support and advisors meant to help students. In addition to advisors in their majors and through the Saint Mary’s program, Turner advises the Arts & Letters education student, and Sister Kathleen Cannon assists students in the College of Science.

In spite of the levels of interest in the Education Program, Turner said she does not believe Notre Dame will implement its own education program anytime soon.

“I feel that we are well served by the program at Saint Mary’s,” she said. “To have our own program would be somewhat of a duplication...The faculty and staff are very easy to work with, very cooperative and supportive of our students.”

In spite of the inconveniences, students spoke highly of the benefits and rewards that they have experienced.

“Trev enjoyed the classes,” South said. “They are taught by very capable professors.”

Kheriaty likewise praised the program.

“Student teaching has been a great opportunity,” he said. “In a lot of other schools you have to go a fifth year to student teach. I am glad that I will be certified when I graduate.”

Both students are also busy student teaching at local high schools to fulfill their final requirements. South is a 10th grade English teacher, while Kheriaty teaches physics and physical science. Following a successful completion of the semester, each will need to take two tests before receiving their Indiana teaching credentials, which Kheriaty said are also applicable in 37 states.

While occasionally the road has been bumpy, they said, advisers such as Cannon and Turner work to help make the transition smoother. Turner said she has spent a lot of time talking with the First Year of Studies and the College of Arts & Letters to facilitate the transition.

“I hope that I can help provide information and support to the students and be an advocate for them,” she said.

—Contact Stephanie Yahn at syahn@nd.edu

Plans
continued from page 1

Other students’ plans weren’t so concrete. For freshman Jeremy Klein, it’s going to be just another weekend.

“We usually make plans at the last minute,” Klein said. “We’re probably going out to dinner or dinner and a movie.”

Entertainment options in the dorms will be even more limited than usual, as many rectors are keeping a lid on dorm parties. Knott Hall rector Brother Jerome Meyer sent an e-mail to residents Tuesday asking them to treat visitors “with the customary Knott friendliness and courtesy.”

The e-mail also asked residents to refrain from large social gatherings, especially those involving alcohol, over the weekend.

Some students, like senior Lauren Fowler, were downright pessimistic about the weekend.

“Other than studying and playing in the band concert, I’m a sad loser who’s not doing anything else,” Fowler said.

However, there are still options.

Saturday night, the sophomore Class Council will sponsor a free Casino Night in the LaFortune Ballroom. Class president James Leito said prizes will include about $1,000 in electronics from Best Buy, including a DVD player, a MP3 player, a television and more.

The Class of 2004 will sponsor a trip to Chicago on Saturday to watch the Bulls take on the Memphis Grizzlies at United Center. Buses will leave around noon and return to campus at about 1 a.m. Sunday morning, leaving time for the game and sightseeing in Chicago said senior class president Jazmin Garcia.

Garcia said the trip will give seniors an entertaining getaway this weekend.

“It’s a good opportunity for seniors to get out of town, go to Chicago and see the Bulls,” Garcia said. “It’s also a chance to see Brian Humphrey, a Notre Dame graduate.”

The Orlando Magic drafted Humphrey, a 6-foot-8 forward, in the first round of the 2002 NBA draft, but he was traded later in that season to Memphis. Tickets for the trip are available in the LaFortune box office for $25.

—Contact Matt Bramanti at mbramanti@nd.edu

Trustees
continued from page 1

their thoughts in a round table discussion with the trustees.

"Students did a great job in articulating their honest experiences relating to diversity, mission and community," Mahoney said.

Mahoney will serve as the student trustee through the final meeting of the year in April.

“I am very grateful for this opportunity to serve the Saint Mary’s women as their student trustee, and this has been a very enjoyable experience for me,” Mahoney said. “It has allowed me to see how policies are made within the College as well as to understand the complexity of providing for the entire student’s well being. We have great role models on the Board, and it has been my pleasure to work with them and serve the students at the same time.”

—Contact Natalie Bailey at ball1407@notre dame.edu

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MARKET Recap

Stocks

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In Brief

Stocks mixed on bad report

NEW YORK — A drop in housing starts and a rally in the U.S. dollar on currency markets sent stocks lower Wednesday as the news gave investors an incentive to collect profits.

Dough winter weather was to blame for the 7.9 percent drop in residential building construction last month from December levels, the largest tumble in a year. However, the pace of residential construction in January was up 2.1 percent from the same month a year ago, giving investors a little good news to go with the bad.

In addition, gains by the dollar, coming off a recent slump, continued to pressure prices of countless other corporate executives. But this sparked the selling you’re seeing on the Dow Jones average.

Friday, February 20, 2004

Bank CEO lectures on corporate fraud

By MATT BRAMANTI
News Writer

Few executives would envy Steve Watts. He’s the president and CEO of Sobieski Bank, which became embroiled in a fraudulent-loan scandal when a former loan officer distributed nearly $10 million in unauthorized loans in 2001 and 2002.

Watts gave the final lecture Thursday in the Mendoza College of Business annual Ethics Week series. Scores of students and professors joined the Giovannini Commons to hear the executive discuss how to work to repair serious ethical problems at one of South Bend’s oldest companies.

The fraud apparently took place when Andrew Udak, then director of loans for Sobieski, approved about $2.5 million in fraudulent loans, crippling the South Bend-based bank and drawing the attention of federal regulators.

Until his guilty plea in August 2002, he was a member of the South Bend Common Council, the governing body of the city.

Watts said Udak’s amicable personality and charm made him well-liked at the bank.

“...he was welcomed into our group of employees,” he said.

However, that welcome helped Udak carry out a fraud that had a tremendous impact on the 30-person bank.

Much of the unauthorized money went to John Nekvasil, Jr., who has a considerable criminal history. Nekvasil was involved in convictions for arson, car theft and a previous instance of bank fraud in the 1990s. Nekvasil allegedly used some of the looted money to buy land and start building houses. However, the construction business was just a front, prosecutors said. They alleged Nekvasil left unfinished homes unainted and skimmed money from the project to finance a lavish gambling and drug excess, including gambling jaunts to Las Vegas, sports cars and a $300,000 speedboat.

Watts started at the 111-year-old bank in January 2003, and immediately began to clean up the mess. He was faced with nervous employees, picketing examiners and furious shareholders, all demanding answers.

Watts said the fraud case exposed procedural weak-nesses at the bank.

“...things that were lacking (including dual control and internal control practices),” Watts said. “There would appear to be a need for a lot of close dual control.”

In addition, Watts said the bank’s longstanding culture was not conducive to whistleblowers.

“The culture there was very autocratic, ...top-down,” he said. “If an employee observed a prac-...tice that was against procedural...unethical practice, they were not encouraged to report it.”

However, he said when the fraud began to surface, employees were cooperative. “Once it was discovered, a lot of information was bro-ken down and a lot of people came forward,” he said. “Some of them, I expect, will testify in the upcoming tri-als.”

Watts said one of his key duties upon joining the bank was to rebuild morale among the remaining employees.

“They were embarrassed for themselves and for the organization,” Watts said. “They were faced with the realization that someone they were friends with, worked with and had worked with had done something wrong.”

That trust is breached, it’s difficult to get back.”

Furthermore, employees considered the bank’s mission to not survive the ordeal.

“All employees are share-holders; a part of their retirement is based on the year-end value of the stock,” Watts said.

In order to improve flag-ging spirits among employ-ees, Watts invited their input when making high-level decisions.

“...we had a much larger group in our strategic plan-nings session,” he said. “We brought it down to the lowest entry-level positions in the company and asked them what their opinions were.”

The executive also worked to establish new procedures to ensure such a devastating lapse in integrity would not happen again.

“We had to re-evaluate...what our own expectations were for ethical behaviors. He said. “We also needed to reinforce what we said our expectations were.”

Those expectations came down to a commitment to honest customer service, backed up by effective con-trols behind the scenes.

“The primary aspect of our business is service,” he said. “People expect their bankers to act in a certain way.”

Watts borrowed a line from former president Ronald Reagan used in dis-cussing arms control negoti-ations with the Soviet Union — “truth, but verify.”

“...we always wanted to trust the employees that we worked with, but we also had to verify that (their) work,” Watts said.

Not all employees bought into the new ethical stan-dards at Sobieski. Watts said he heard about six employees who didn’t support the new ethics practices.

“If you find your value sys-tem and ethical standards are different from your employers, you won’t be very happy there,” Watts said.

Watts said he held rebuilding con-fi-dence among his employees, Watts had to cooperate with federal bank regulators, who were sent in to investigate the financial controls at the bank.

He said before the scandal broke, regulatory routines gave Sobieski a clean bill of health, but that changed after an internal audit dis-covered the fraud.

“If things are going along just fine on the surface, (reg-u-lators) don’t spend a lot of time,” he said. “Once a prob-lem is discovered, they dig down really deep.”

That digging led to signifi-cant restrictions on the bank’s operations. In May, the Office of Thrift Supervision, a Treasury Department agency that reg-u-lates savings and loan institu-tions, issued a supervisory agreement effectively banning the bank from making commercial loans. In addi-tion, the bank had to sell off select assets in order to boost its capital, including the houses left unfinished by Nekvasil.

“I’ve got a couple of nice homes for sale, and I’d be happy to take offers,” Watts joked.

Watts said that since the OTS agreement, Sobieski has put more emphasis on lend-ing to individuals.

“There was a perception that we were out of the loan business entirely,” Watts said. “We’ve had to focus on mortgages and consumer loans.”

However, the consumer business might not be enough to save the strug-gling bank. Sobieski released its earnings Tuesday for the last quarter of 2003, posting a $2.8 million net loss, com-pared to a $7.38 million profit for the same period of 2002.

“The news got worse Thursday, when the OTS imposed further regulations on the company and down-graded its condition to “undercapitalized.”

Watts remained guarded optimistically about the future of the company. The bank will open a new facility Monday, replacing an older branch.

Watts said many cus-tomers have stayed with the bank, despite negative media attention.

Contact Matt Bramanti at mbramanti@nd.edu
**CYPRIUS**

**Cyprus leaders meet in airport**

Associated Press

**EU** Expansion Commissioner Guenter Verheugen said, adding that the EU was ready to spend $330 million to help integrate Cyprus if it is unified.

Denkash and Papadopoulos earlier agreed upon a March 22 deadline to reach an accord. If they fail to do so, Greek and Turkish officials will join the talks. If their involvement fails to bring about progress, U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan will fill in the blanks.

The arrangement has raised hopes of a settlement, which would be put to a referendum on each side of the island on April 21.

U.S. State Department spokesman Richard Boucher praised both sides “for the political will they have demonstrated in returning to the talks, and we encourage them to continue their work in a positive vein.”

“The historic process is beginning today,” was the headline of the Turkish daily newspaper Kibris, the largest newspaper on the Turkish side.

Greek Cypriot housewife Mari Georgiou said she is “praying for a settlement so that the people of Cyprus can live in peace and harmony in a reunited Cyprus again.”

Greek Foreign Minister Tassos Glaniotis said: “I think we are close to a solution no matter how difficult the road is.”

**ENGLAND**

**Five prisoners will return from Cuba**

Associated Press

**LONDON** — Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said Tuesday that five Britons jailed at the U.S. military prison in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, will be returned home in several weeks. But they could be arrested again upon arrival.

Straw told reporters at a news conference that discussion were continuing on the fate of the remaining four British citizens being held.

“Once the detainees are back in the U.K., I understand that the police will consider whether to arrest them under the Terrorism Act 2000 for questions in connection with possible terrorist activity,” he said.

Earlier Thursday, Danish Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen told his parliament that a Dane held at Guantanamo Bay will soon be released.

Danish media have identified him as Slimane Hadj Mederarrane. He was transferred to the U.S. Naval base in Cuba in February 2001 after being captured in Afghanistan.

“Under Danish law it is not possible for us to put him on trial. He will come to Denmark as a free man,” Foreign Minister Per Stig Moeller said during a debate in parliament.

State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said the detainee would be released soon. He did not provide a more specific time frame.

He said Secretary of State Colin Powell had spoken with the Danish Foreign Minister Per Stig Moeller about the situation.

At the White House, spokesman Scott McClellan said the United States has received assurances from Denmark and Britain that the detainees being released will not pose "any future threat to America or our friends and allies."
First lady defends education plan

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Laura Bush on Thursday defended "No Child Left Behind," the centerpiece of her husband's education policy, from critics who say it's underfunded and overemphasizes the importance of testing.

"The testing that a lot of people object to is not punitive," the first lady said while visiting a magnet school that mixes academic studies with technology coursework to prepare students for jobs in the 21st century.

"You are giving a test so you'll know what you need to do. You can't solve the problem unless you can diagnose it."

Leading Democratic presidential candidates have criticized the education plan for holding schools accountable for big improvements without giving them enough money to succeed.

"I know that there are some states that are not happy with it, but I will say that critics say that there's not enough money appropriated with it but there's more money in the No Child Left Behind Act than there's been in any previous federal law ever before," Mrs. Bush said.

In a brief news conference Thursday, Mrs. Bush also said she's confident the president will be re-elected but hopes it's not a dirty campaign.

Mrs. Bush also said the Democrats' claims that Bush did not report for National Guard duty in Alabama are an attempt to "divert attention" from her husband's successes.

"We've just been through a Democratic primary where the candidates themselves have spent more than $100 million running against the president," she said.

Mrs. Bush, a former librarian, said she thought the Patriot Act should be renewed, despite opposition from civil rights groups that argue it violates privacy rights and constitutional free speech.

"I think it's very important in the fight against terrorism," she said, adding that she understands the concerns of librarians who have rallied against the act as an infringement on First Amendment rights. "I also know that no part of that act has been acted upon in a library."

Las Vegas was the last stop on a three-day trip by the first lady, which included education and fundraising events in Arkansas, California and Nevada. President Bush won Nevada in 2000 with 49.5 percent of the vote. The Las Vegas area was the only part of the state that he lost to Al Gore.

The first lady went to Advanced Technologies Academy, a school in the Clark County School District where students have regular coursework, including advanced placement classes.

The school also offers programs in graphic design, computer science, business, information technology and other fast-growing fields.

Remains found buried at fake doctor’s house

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Police believe the same day a Manhattan financial analyst vanished last year, a plastic surgeon treated her for a growth on her tongue — with deadly results.

Authorities were awaiting the outcome of an autopsy Thursday to confirm that a decomposed body discovered entombed in cement at the medical impostor's Newark, N.J., mansion was that of the analyst, Maria Cruz. The fake doctor, Dean Faiella, remains a fugitive.

Detectives were "working on the hypothesis" that she may have received treatment for a condition called black tongue, from which she may not have survived," said police spokesman Paul Browne. He offered no information on the type of treatment.

The decomposing body, found Wednesday inside a suitcase buried in a floor slab in the Newark house, matched a description of the 35-year-old Cruz, including the fact she had breast implants, police said.

Faiella, 44, was arrested in 2002 for producing without a license and illegally possessing medical drugs that were stolen from patients at a Manhattan apartment, authorities said. He pleaded guilty in June 2003 but alleged that he fled to Costa Rica before his scheduled December sentencing.

Cruz was last seen April 13, 2003. Using automatic teller and credit card records, investigators determined that Cruz left her own apartment during the day, traveling to a department store near Faiella's apartment, where she may have died.

The woman's family reported her missing April 18 after she failed to pick up relatives at the airport.

Around the time of the disappearance, Faiella had several bags of cement delivered to his Newark mansion, authorities said. The cement was used to build a raised cement floor at Faiella's New Jersey home, built the month in May and fled the country in September, they said.

Nasa to prepare rescue shuttle

Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — NASA said Thursday that the shuttle that lifts off on the first post-Columbia launch as early as next fall, but Administrator Sean O'Keefe said it would not be earlier than January 2005. Because of a new safety requirement, the spacecraft is limited to the number of days it can send a shuttle to the space station.

O'Keefe said five or six potential launch dates are available in early 2005. He said it would now be no earlier than March because of the launch dates are available in early 2005. He said it would now be no earlier than March 2005 because of the new safety requirement.

"I don't believe that there's an awful lot of extra training or extra things that we have to do for a rescue mission," Parsons said. "It would just be going to the international space station, picking up crew, making sure that we had the appropriate supplies, and then return safely."

In the case of Columbia, such a rescue would have been impossible. The shuttle did not visit the space station, it was in an entirely different orbit than the station and the rocket needed to get there. Any shuttle sent to Columbia's site would have had to fly in for rescue, and spacewalks would have been needed to transfer Columbia's seven astronauts over to the rescue ship.

The shuttle that is off on the first flight since Columbia will incorporate numerous changes, including improvements to the external fuel tank and the leading edges of the wings. The changes were prompted by the Columbia accident, in which a piece of foam broke off from the external tank during launch and damaged the wing, causing the spacecraft to re-enter.

Press Conference this week in Washington, D.C. - ORLANDO, Fla. - NASA will prepare rescue shuttle for a mission that the space agency has had a rescue mission that it is ready to be on standby for success. NASA was aiming for its first post-Columbia launch as early as next fall, but

One shuttle sent to Columbia's site would have had to fly in for rescue, and spacewalks would have been needed to transfer Columbia's seven astronauts over to the rescue ship. The shuttle that is off on the first flight since Columbia will incorporate numerous changes, including improvements to the external fuel tank and the leading edges of the wings. The changes were prompted by the Columbia accident, in which a piece of foam broke off from the external tank during launch and damaged the wing, causing the spacecraft to re-enter.
Welcome Parents

Junior parents, welcome to campus. For many of you, this is the second time in your life that you will pay over $30,000 a year for your child's education. But let us look at this in a different way. At Notre Dame and the occasional football weekend, this is the only time that you will spend time on campus that you pay over $30,000 a year for your child's education.

The seniors have been shipped off to Chicago and the underclassmen have gone to Wisconsin. But while it is true that we have trained hard to avoid the wrath of rascals who have moved past the bars, the University has dispatched front loaders to move piles of snow. The janitors have been hard at work to make sure that every bathroom runs smoothly. And your sons and daughters are hard at work, too. They have done their laundry for the first time in weeks and washed their sheets for the first time all year.

Most of the food I eat is organic. Despite this fact, contrary to what many might think, I am far from chic. I would also like to say that it is not for the penny pinching that I eat organic food. The New York Times columnist David Brooks would classify me as a "bobo." I make too little money, I dress too poorly, and the car I drive may not even be able to claim the distinction of a buyer of used vehicles. And while I honestly feel most of this food tastes better, I do not necessarily feel any healthier - a statement most people would expect in the wake of President Lincoln's death.

Infranca

Dissecting Poverty

While a "bobo" I place myself among those simple-living quasi-hippies from the Pacific Northwest who eschew giant corporate grocers and prefer small "natural food stores" or local coops owned by a collective of people. Perhaps we are the communists of the food chain, but our numbers are growing. It was not always this way. I grew up on a subtle combination of home cooked Italian-American meals and Stouffer's TV dinners, packed with the preservatives which without which any American childhood would seem incomplete. I thought nothing of this.

Then I started to learn about the genetically modified organisms placed in most non-organic food, about the unsavory nature of the low-wage labor involved in the food industry. As a computer science major, it is in my nature to try to find a way to produce such food and about the chemical residues left on the produce I ate. I found I often in supermarkets simply did not seem like food anymore, more a product of science than a product of the Earth.

Making the switch to organic food was easy when I was living in Portland, Ore., a place where old Volkswagen vans are resurrected and where more people probably know where to find a good veggie burger near you than you in the direction of a decent hamburger. I found an organic diet much more difficult when I arrived in South Bend. That is, until I happened upon a tiny place known as the Garden Patch, tucked away a few blocks off Grape Road. Its nonscript sign is unlikely to attract attention from anyone not intending to find it.

When you walk in the door, it might feel like you have stepped back in time. The doors do not open automatically, nor do you greet anyone at the door. The Garden Patch is a small store that attracts the sort of person who does not want to be disturbed by someone trying to sell them something they really don't need.

The prices might seem high first time you step into such a store, but the fact is that Americans pay far less for their food, as a percentage of income, than citizens of any other industrial nation. This perspective reveals places like the Garden Patch provide wholesome food at a reasonable price. And frankly, the taste can't be beat.

John Infranca is a theology graduate student. His column appears every other Friday. He can be reached at johninf@nd.edu. The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

Robert Frost

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Don't ever take a fence down until you know why it was put up."
The other minority

Every day the Viewpoint articles seem to be about how someone on campus is offended or underrepresented. Here is a little about the most underrepresented group on campus—an "alternate lifestyle" group that seeks to be offended. Although a larger group than any racial minority, no popular presidential candidate ever adopts a plank in their favor. No Notre Dame media writes about them and no one seems to acknowledge their existence.

They are a minority of a different kind—a minority by choice, no doubt. In fact, they are an interesting bunch because they have the ability to disappear on weekends, or so it seems to those who are a part of the "popular" social scene. You guessed it—I am talking about the alcohol-free student.

The first question you must be thinking is, "Why?" Undoubtedly there are many reasons a person may choose not to drink. I could fill the rest of this column with reasons by my own. Instead, I will summarize some of them in one paragraph.

Have you ever eaten at a homeless shelter? Talk to the people there. See what they tell you. Have you ever read the Bible or even read about the philosophy of Socrates? Examine what they say about drunkenness—stating that it is frowned upon is a gross understatement. Have you ever considered what drinking says about yourself? I will tell you—it says that you are not good enough as you are, so take this substance to change you—to make you do things that, if you were thinking straight, you would never do. And where does the fun part come in between the getting fat, puking, poor decision making and increased chance of physical or sexual assault? I tend to think I can have a much better time while sober. And, personally, I realize that once I decide to do something, I do it all-out and never halfway, so I would be especially at risk if I started. Perhaps others use rationale similar to mine.

Now, if you were not convinced before you read that, I will bet my No. 1 dime that you still are not. My goal is not to convert you—it is to demonstrate from where nondrinkers may be coming. With that in mind, consider this is in my viewpoint.

This school encourages drinking, while doing little to offer opportunities for those who wish to abstain from it. As a university supposedly adamantine in its Christian fervor, I think this is a bold statement, yet true.

Even regarding the transportation of alcohol, du Lac says, "Students must ensure that the containers are closed and in suitable packaging such that the contents of the package are not readily identifiable as alcoholic beverages." In other words, "Go ahead and bring beer in, but please do not hurt the school's precious image by showing that side to any chance visitor." In addition, do not forget Fresh-O, which in men's halls, anyway, mainly consists of upperclassmen telling the new students how to avoid getting in trouble when they drink. Lastly, even the gym and Tuddle close earlier on weekends—heck, what are kids doing here? Go out and drink off your week.

Worth further proof? Eighty-five percent of students here are regular drinkers as compared to only 80 percent of students nationally. In addition, 27 percent of last year's freshmen were nondrinkers as compared to only 17 percent of the entire student body. Students are subtly pressured and, by and large, they give in over time.

The students themselves are more ridiculous than the administration. I am convinced that the average student spends 50 hours a week studying and none thinking. Students cheered when smoking was banned from buildings, and many now support banning it at entrance ways, and perhaps entirely from campus. Nevertheless, when it comes to alcohol—which is at least as large an annoyance to the inoffensive—drunken students do not hesitate to fill dorm hallways, puke in the sinks or invade rooms. You call yourselves my Notre Dame family, but I can tell you this—no one in my family has ever acted like that.

So what is my point? To students who drink, stop acting like non-drinkers have some sort of social defect. To students who have chosen not to drink, be proud and unafraid to let people know that yours is the high ground, and it shows character and integrity.

As for the administration, I have a special request. Please consider bringing Notre Dame's dorm system up to date with the rest of the country. Of course, I do not mean with respect to partisanship, but rather by giving housing options to those who do not want to drink. Nearly every major school in the nation offers the option of signing up for a designated substance-free hall or floor—or at least asks questions about it when assigning freshmen roommates. This place currently does nothing and ignores the problem. The two new residence halls proposed in the master plan offer the perfect opportunity, and randomly selected dry hallways would be sufficient until then.

Although I expect to hear quite a bit of negative responses about this article, both in the newspaper and personally, realize that my requests do not in any way prevent current drinkers from continuing; so calm down. As for fellow nondrinkers, I would love to receive letters of support and to hear your thoughts because, contrary to popular belief, we do not hang out with each other in the library every Saturday night.

Ryan Lafigliola is a freshman engineering major. He can be reached at niasfigli@nd.edu.
The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

Letter to the Editor

Request for apology is reverse discrimination

While scanning The Observer for grammatical errors to mock with my friends as usual, I came across yesterday's story about The Observer's editors defending the paper at the Student Senate.

Shocked that The Observer did, in fact, have editors, I read the article with bemusement, and I was rewarded with the latest nugget of absurdity from the Politically Correct Police.

In a frighteningly Orwellian twist of language, the Diversity Council, enraged by the multiple perspectives being expressed in the recent Viewpoint debate on affirmative action, asked the offending editors for an apology. Apparently, tolerance for the views of others applies only when those beliefs fall within the officially sanctioned orthodoxy of multiculturalism.

This incident highlights the contradictions behind the diversity craze that has swept across America's campuses. Advocates of diversity presumably support the free exchange of ideas among students with varying beliefs and backgrounds. Proponents of affirmative action and the Supreme Court's decision upholding preferential policies at universities specifically invoke this educational benefit of a classroom charged with multiple viewpoints as a rationale for the pursuit of a diverse student population.

Unfortunately, diversity as it is currently enacted in higher education rarely means actual, spirited debate among competing beliefs and arguments. Instead, a superficial diversity is practiced, where ethnicity is seen as the predominant influence on a person's belief system. The faces of such a diversified classroom may accurately reflect the ethnic composition of the country, but the entire goal of such diversity is defeated when every- one is forced to suppress ('"tolerate") his beliefs in order to fit in.

The Diversity Council fails to realize that its hypersensitivity and/or eagerness to condemn and dismiss opposing perspectives undermines its ostensible purpose, and its request for an apology dilutes and perverts the true meanings of the terms diversity and tolerance. I, for one, intend to continue to protest from your Great Hall of Diversity while threatening excommunication to those heretics who dare to disagree.

Patrick Carney
Editor
Feb. 19
The Singles

One of Detroit’s garage rock bands comes to Legends on Saturday night

By PATRICK VASSEL
Scene Writer

Just a few years ago, MTV and a variety of rock critics hailed the return of “garage rock” bands. With little studio assistance and relying mainly on scratchy voices and crunching guitars, bands such as The White Stripes, The Strokes and The Hives found their niche and fame. The Detroit-based genre was quickly spun into a popular phenomenon allowing hundreds of bands to come out of the garages and onto radio stations.

The Singles is a band from the suburbs of Detroit that has managed to rise above the hype and emerge as a group with a distinct sound and catchy songs. Formed in 2001, behind lead vocalist and guitarist Vince Frederick, the band is comprised of Wink Carley on lead guitar, Dave Lawson on bass and Dave Knepp on drums.

Frederick, who doubles as the lead singer and songwriter, describes the band’s sound as “Just straightforward rock ‘n roll, obviously with the influence of the old school bands but with the energy of today.” Frederick became lost in the music of the ‘50s and ‘60s in high school after being introduced to his parents’ Beatles and Chuck Berry records at an early age. The influence is obvious listening to any track off their debut album, “Better Than Before.”

Songs such as the single “He Can Go, You Can’t Stay” open with catchy riffs and a driving sound reminiscent of the early days of rock, but The Singles blend their energy perfectly with this sound to create music that are both pop and powerful. This sound is so different from any other band out there that it is difficult to draw comparisons. Though often grouped with bands like The White Stripes, The Singles is a genre by themselves.

The band will collaborate with producer Tony Hoffer, whose credits include Beck albums and most recently the new Supergrass disc. The Singles are a young band with a new sound and explosive energy, and they aren’t wasting any time. Frederick said one of the band’s most important goals is to make sure their sound doesn’t ever become stale. Their album “Better Than Before” has received solid reviews and still sounds great after a few listens, but The Singles want to keep moving and keep progressing as a band.

“Right now, success is being able to keep making records, and just to have people listen to it,” Frederick said. “We have a lot of acts out there, but everyone wouldn’t be able to do it if people didn’t listen. When we’re all done, we want to be able to look back and see a natural progression of our music. We don’t want to just keep making records out of habit.”

And The Singles are already progressing toward success beyond Detroit — and beyond the garage. The Singles perform Saturday at Legends at 8:45 p.m.

Contact Patrick Vassell at pvassel@nd.edu
Station One

After four years, the band continues to play together

By MARIA SMITH
Scene Editor

Plenty of people talk about starting college bands. But when twins Pete and David Miller met Lawrence Santiago during a spring visitation before their freshman year and said they should start a band if they all ended up at Notre Dame, they meant it.

The next fall the trio found themselves in school together, and true to their word began playing with Pete Miller on drums, David Miller on guitar and Santiago as lead singer.

Keyboard player Mike Maimone joined the band after meeting Santiago in Zahm Hall.

At first, the musicians played under the name The Island Boys and were later known as Housebound. During their sophomore year, Santiago came up with the name Station One, and they stuck with it. The group has also switched bassists a few times, recruiting sophomore Bobby Seus to play with the group at the beginning of this year.

The group may have gone through a few changes, but four years later the Millers, Santiago and Maimone are still playing together.

Tonight from 11 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Reckers, fans of the Notre Dame music scene will have a chance to hear the band debut several new songs and play their old favorites.

Classifying Station One into a genre is difficult. The musicians come from a wide variety of musical tastes and backgrounds, and everyone has their say in what they play. The Millers played in a punk band in high school, while Maimone played classical piano.

Santiago, not limited to band vocals, also played Bernardo in the Pasquerilla East Musical Company's production of West Side Story last weekend.

"We have a very diverse style. We're sometimes described as a hybrid between Sublime and Maroon 5." Pete Miller drummer

"It was very different playing in a band than in piano recitals, and it was a difficult transition," Maimone said. "But it's a lot of fun and a lot more rewarding."

Pete Miller said the band has a "very diverse style" and has been described as a "hybrid between Sublime and Maroon 5."

The band covers a lot of current hits but also enjoys writing its own music. Sometimes they work alone, but most of the compositions are a collaborative effort.

"Lawrence brought us covering Sefiorita by Justin Timberlake, but we also play a lot of Nirvana type stuff," Maimone said. "At first we weren't sure about covering Timberlake, but it's fun."

Over the past four years the band has played at many bars, parties and competitions in the area. During their freshman year, the group won third place in NAZZ, the SUB-sponsored battle of the bands, and the following year they won first place.

The band tapered off during their junior year when the lead singer and keyboard players both went abroad, though the Miller twins and a new set of musicians still took third place in the competition.

While the group enjoys performing on campus, they have found the Notre Dame music scene to be somewhat constraining.

"There are a few really good bands. It's just people don't know about them, and there's not enough places to play," Maimone said. "We've been trying to play at Legends this semester, but there aren't enough slots for all the bands, so we're starting to look at bars."

"The music scene could be good. There are a lot of talented musicians here, but it also doesn't seem like people are incredibly interested in campus bands."

While the group members probably parting ways after graduation, tonight's show at Reckers could be the beginning of the end for the band.

"Obviously we don't want to give it up, but everybody wants to be a rock star," Maimone said. "We're going to do the best we can to get a demo recorded and send it to labels."

"We all have pretty set plans, but we'd all prefer to do a tour or something this summer if we could."

Station One is currently working on their website, www.stationonenation.com, where the group will soon have posted biographies of the band members and pictures of the band.

Tonight's show will also feature Layden, a local band including the Millers' younger brother James. The younger Miller plans to attend Notre Dame next year and hopes to continue to play with his band after starting school.

The chance to hear one of Notre Dame's few but proud campus bands will be free and open to all students.

Contact Maria Smith at msmith4@nd.edu

Station One has performed at competitions, parties and bars, including Notre Dame's former Senior Bar (now renamed Legends).
Fresh off a 4-1 start to their season, Notre Dame stays on the road to visit the warm climates of Palm Springs, Calif., for the Palm Springs Classic this weekend.

The Irish kick off tournament play against Utah and Pacific today and then face No. 8 Stanford on Saturday. Notre Dame completes play Saturday with an exhibition against the U.S. Olympic Team.

The team then faces their fourth ranked opponent in 10 games when it completes tournament play against No. 12 Tennessee Sunday morning.

Notre Dame's 4-1 start, which includes a win over then-No. 8 Nebraska, is the best start for the Irish since 2001 when the team won its first-eight games.

The Irish played well in last weekend's UNLV Classic, defeating every team they played at the tournament except for No. 2 California. Notre Dame played the Bruins tough, outfitting their opponent 7-4, but still lost 2-1.

The Irish face their second ranked team from California this weekend in Stanford, who is a near-flawless 8-0 so far this year. The Cardinal's only loss was to then-No. 6 Alabama in extra innings Feb. 7.

Tennessee, like Notre Dame, has been a bit of a surprise so far this season. Left out of the USA Today/Coaches Association preseason poll, the Lady Vols have gone 11-1 to move to No. 12 in the national rankings.

The Lady Vols' lone loss this year came at the hands of then-No. 23 Oregon State, who defeated Tennessee 2-0 on Feb. 7.

The Irish were carried offensively last weekend by juniors Liz Hartmann and Megan Ciolli. Hartmann hit .500 at the UNLV Classic with seven RBI and three home runs, including a game-winning shot against Nebraska.

Ciolli, one of 40 players selected to USA Softball's player of the year watch list, hit .625 in the tournament.

Notre Dame's pitching, a strength last season, has continued to be impressive this year. Despite allowing 15 runs combined in the tournament, only seven of those were earned runs.

Junior Carrie Wiben picked up two wins in relief, and sophomore Heather Booth and junior Steffany Stengelein each collected wins. The team's ERA for the tournament was 1.44 and Irish pitchers struck out 29 batters in 34 innings.

This weekend's tournament will be a bit of a homecoming for that pitching trio, as all three players are from California. In addition, Notre Dame has four-position players (Hartmann, Carissa Janush, Mallorie Lenn and Meghann Ruthrauff) who hail from the Golden State.

Contact Justin Schuver at jschuver@nd.edu

Attention: Students ONLY, Do You Have Plans for Spring Break?

Attention! Students ONLY!
Do You Have Plans for Spring Break?

Coca-Cola can help.

Look for the scratch of sticker on 20oz Coke products in your dorms

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ND SOFTBALL

Irish travel to Palm Springs

By JUSTIN SCHUVER
Assistant Sports Editor

NCAA BASKETBALL

Stanford remains unbeaten with win

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Stanford survived another threat to its perfect season.

Josh Childress scored a career-high 36 points and the top-ranked Cardinal rallied from a 13-point first-half deficit to beat Southern California 76-67 Thursday night for its school-record 22nd consecutive victory.

Stanford (13-0) clinched a share of its fourth Pac-10 title in six years with three weeks remaining in the regular season.

But perfection has been harder to maintain recently. The Cardinal came from 19 points down and won at Oregon on Jan. 31, then Nick Robinson hit a buzzer-beating 3-pointer to hold off Arizona on Feb. 7.

USC (10-13, 5-9) threatened during the final minutes after Stanford blew an 11-point lead in the second half. The Trojans tied it for the final time at 65 on a basket by Jeff McMillan.

But Childress hit a 3-pointer and scored another basket for a 70-65 lead. The Trojans, who had been solid from the free-throw line earlier in the game, made just 2-of-5 in the final 1:15 when they trailed by three.
Belles make presence felt at Championships

By DAN TAPETILLO
Sports Writer

What a difference a year makes.

After the first day of competition and only five races, the Saint Mary's swimming team is already making its presence known at the MIAA Championships.

Despite finishing the first day of the meet in sixth place, Saint Mary's has already swum away from the season's expectations, turning on the energy and getting out there and swimming.

The Belles responded to his call Thursday night.

Mary's swimming coach Gregg Petcoff wanted an energy-charged beginning to the meet, and the Belles delivered. For the first time in six years, Saint Mary's has already swum away from the season's expectations.

Petcoff said.

"She is truly individualized, but she handled it like a pro," Petcoff said. "Like Sarah, people are going out there and swimming."

One way to gauge a team's performance is by comparing them to the best.

The Notre Dame women's swimming team will do just that as they continue their pre-season play by traveling to New Jersey this weekend.

The team will participate in the Princeton Invitational, the No. 17 Irish will meet the pre-season No. 1 and two-time defending champions Hope with a 17-9 victory over Team Canada. Against the Tigers, the Irish will face one of the biggest swimming meets of the fall.

Team members have a lot to prove individually.

"We have a lot of older players who haven't been given the opportunity to really contribute and they've waited a long time for that," said. "A couple juniors have been in the program for three years and their time has finally come.

Some of the newcomers also have steps to take.

"We do have a couple freshmen who will have to look to have contribution, mostly (midfielder) Megan Murphy, she's been playing very well," Bowers said.

Notre Dame will kick off their regular season a week later on Feb. 27 when they battle California.

Contact Matt Mooney at mmooney@nd.edu

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Irish finish pre-season play

By MATT MOONEY
Sports Writer

One day to go to a team heading into a new season is by comparing them to the best.

This is her first conference meet and it can be a little intimidating, but she handled it like a pro," Petcoff said. "Like Sarah, people are going out there and swimming."

The team also placed fourth in the 200-yard freestyle relay in 1:44.31.

Saint Mary's is now looking towards the second day of competition, hoping to perform as well as they did in the first five events.

The early leaders at the championships are Hope with a team score of 185 points and Calvin with 55 points in sixth place, Saint Mary's is now looking towards the second day of competition, hoping to perform as well as they did in the first five events.

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The match against Princeton follows Notre Dame's 17-9 exhibition victory over Team Canada last weekend.

The match against Princeton follows Notre Dame's 17-9 exhibition victory over Team Canada last weekend. Notre Dame dominated the team's first pre-season match of the spring, jumping out to a 12-4 halftime lead and never looking back.

Princeton, however, will be a much different team than Team Canada. Against the Tigers, the Irish will face one of the lacrosse giants of the northeast.

However, junior attack Jackie Bowers feels that experience against the nation's premier lacrosse school will serve as a measuring stick for her team.

"Like Sarah, people are going out there and swimming."

"They're the champions the past two years and that's the level we want to be at. If we don't do as well, that will show what we have to work on to reach that level."

The lacrosse team can expect a similar caliber opponent once the regular season begins.

If you don't do as well, that will show what we have to work on to reach that level.

"Our expectations are to prove to other top 10 teams that we are a force to reckon with," Bowers said.

"A couple juniors have been in the program for three years and their time has finally come to show what they have."

"A lot of people don't know how good we are with most of the top teams being out on the East Coast," Bowers said. "Our expectations are to prove to other top 10 teams that we are a force to reckon with."

Bowers feels that some team-mates have a lot to prove individually.

"We have a lot of older players who haven't been given the opportunity to really contribute and they've waited a long time for that," said. "A couple juniors have been in the program for three years and their time has finally come to show what they have."

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Notre Dame will kick off their regular season a week later on Feb. 27 when they battle California.

Contact Matt Mooney at mmooney@nd.edu

Junior Parents Weekend Events

Junior League of South Bend
A Tasting of sweets prepared by League members from their cookbooks Nutbread and Nostalgia and Great Beginnings
Grand Finale
Saturday, February 21
10:00AM-1:00PM

Sr. Jean Lenz, O.S.F. offers a glimpse of what life was like for the first class of women at the University of Notre Dame in 1972
Book Signing
Loyal Sons & DAUGHTERS
Saturday, February 21
2:00PM-3:00PM

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Event Name
Saturday, February 21
2:00PM-3:00PM

GREAT GIFT IDEAS

Senior Class of 1972 Book Signing
Sr. Jean Lenz, O.S.F. offers a glimpse of what life was like for the first class of women at the University of Notre Dame in 1972
Book Signing
Loyal Sons & DAUGHTERS
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Club 23's Friday Night Bands

presents KITSCH

Live, Friday, Feb. 20 @ 10:30 pm

$2 at the door

If in a band and interested in playing at Club, e-mail playclub23@hotmail.com


A Contemporary Women's Boutique Specializing in Designer Clothing and Gifts
312 W. Cleveland Ave.
Granger, IN 46530
(574) 277-6693
528 E. Colfax Ave.
South Bend, IN 46617
(574) 232-1822

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Irish travel to Chicago to face No. 37 Northwestern

By KATE GALES
Sports Writer

The No. 50 men’s tennis team joins the JWU-induced exodus from campus this weekend, traveling to Chicago for a match at No. 37 Northwestern before returning to host No. 40 Southern Methodist University.

“All we’ve done is to hold serve,” head coach Bobby Bayliss said, reflecting on his team’s performance through the dual-match season. “We haven’t done anything exceptional, but we haven’t stumbled, either.”

This weekend and the coming weeks will be telling for the Irish and their postseason destiny.

“The No. 50 team is a better tennis team than its ranking indicates,” Wildcats head coach Paul Torricelli said in a Northwestern press release.

“The only thing happening is we’re playing close to 200 percent the day we play and the day we don’t play,” Bayliss said.

The Irish face a quick turnaround, playing at Northwestern at 4 p.m. and returning to face SMU here at noon the next day.

“Our guys will have a limited social life that evening, hopefully,” Bayliss said, but he remained optimistic despite the tight schedule.

“Sometimes you play your best tennis when you’re in a screwy situation,” he said.

The 8-3 Wildcats are 5-1 at home, with four of those wins against ranked opponents.

Junior Chuck Perrin has been a key factor for Northwestern this year as they claw their way up in the region. I think we bring out the best in each other every year.,”

The Southern Methodist Mustangs are 2-3 this season after dropping a close match last weekend to No. 20 Texas. Led by senior Gwinyai Chingoka, a 2003 All-WAC selection, the Mustangs will be a challenge for the Irish. The noon match on Saturday comes only hours after the team returns from Chicago.

“At No. 2. In last weekend's match against Wisconsin, Bayliss switched Keckley and Scott, giving the team a quick win at No. 2 but losing close matches at Nos. 1 and 3 with the duo of Eric Langenkamp and Paul Hidaka.

“SMU hasn’t played as extensive of a schedule yet,” Bayliss said.

Both teams beat us 4-3 last year, both matches were close, and we’d like to reverse those scores this year.”

A key point of the match will be doubles, an area that has plagued the Irish through the dual-match season.

Freshman Ryan Keckley and senior Luis Haddock have comprised the No. 1 doubles team ranked No. 18 nationally, and senior Matthew Scott and junior Brandon D’Amico have played consistent ly at No. 2.

In their first league win of the season, the Belles defeated Olivet College.

Freshman Ryan Keckley and senior Luis Haddock have comprised the No. 1 doubles team ranked No. 18 nationally, and senior Matthew Scott and junior Brandon D’Amico have played consistently.

The two teams have alternated wins and losses, the critical win against Kalamaoo and the loss to the Belles renewed confidence as they look towards the playoffs. In their first league win of the season, the Belles decisively defeated Olivet 77-69 in a game where the bench accounted for 33 of Saint Mary’s points.

Since then, the Belles have relied less on their bench and more on forward Emily Creachbaum, who scored 18 points in Wednesday’s victory and 26 points in a loss last Saturday to Alma.

Creachbaum, who received a nomination for MIAA player of the week, only managed 10 points in a previous matchup against Olivet due to foul trouble.

In the shootout against Tri-State, Olivet had five players score in double figures and the team shot 12-25 from 3-point range.

Every year from the 1999 to 2003 seasons, either Mary’s or Olivet has held last place in the MIAA.

The two teams have alternated years of last place finishes. Last year Saint Mary’s was in last, so if the pattern holds Olivet will take last this year.

The Belles play their final of the regular season Saturday at 3 p.m. at Olivet.

Contact Kate Gales at kgales@nd.edu

SMC BASKETBALL

Belles look to end season positively

By STEVE COYER
Sports Writer

After a long regular season, the Belles hope to end on a high note.

Saint Mary’s (7-17) has fallen short of its high expectations set at the beginning of the year, but the team has the chance to accomplish one of its goals on Saturday against Olivet College.

Olivet (9-15) currently shares last place in the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association (MIAA) with the Belles, as both teams have a 2-11 conference record. With a victory, the Belles would avoid a last place finish and gain momentum going into the league tournament.

On Wednesday, the Belles prevailed 64-59 over Kalamazoo (13-11) to record their first victory of the season against a team with a winning record.

After a string of disappointing losses, the critical win against Kalamazoo has given the Belles renewed confidence as they look towards the playoffs.

In their first league win of the season, the Belles decisively defeated Olivet College.

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Irish anxious to start season today in the USC Classic

By CHRIS FEDERICO
Sports Writer

The Notre Dame Athletic Department could save some money by canceling the baseball team’s flight to Los Angeles this weekend.

After all, Irish head coach Paul Mainieri says his team is so ready for its season opening matchup with San Diego State today in the Public Storage Classic that it could fly to the West Coast without the aid of a jet.

“We’re chomping at the bit. We’re anxious to get our season started,” Mainieri said.

Mainieri even went so far as to say he knows if we’ll need an airplane to fly out to Los Angeles this weekend.

After being cooped up indoors all winter, the Irish — who are ranked as high as No. 10 by Collegiate Baseball Magazine — are finally ready to hit the field and kick off the 2004 season starting with three games this weekend against San Diego State, Southern California and Louisville.

“Afer preparing all fall, then the weather turns bad and you’re locked indoors, you’re seeing everyone around the country start to play games before you, you just get real anxious to play,” Mainieri said. “It’s just a natural excitement, but also with the fact that we’ve been indoors for so long. We’re just anxious to get out there and get after it and see what we’ve got.”

Notre Dame’s first test of the season comes today against San Diego State, a team coached by Major League Baseball great and 15-time National League All-Star Tony Gwynn.

“If they haven’t [Gwynn’s] skill, then I’ll be worried,” said Mainieri of the Aztec skipper, who won eight National League batting titles in his 20 seasons and retired with a .338 career average.

“Certainly their players are further advanced into the season, but that’s just the way it is, and we’ve been dealing with this every year. I think that having a day of practice outdoors when we [go] to Los Angeles Thursday before our first game will help us immensely, and I think we will make up for it in a real hurry.”

Niesel, who was 9-1 last season with a 2.65 ERA, will likely start for the Irish against senior right-hander Scott Shoemaker, who is 1-2 this year with a 6.23 ERA.

Saturday, the Irish will face the host team USC (1-3), who has gotten off to an unusually slow start this year.

Notre Dame sophomore left-hander Tom Thornton, who went 5-1 last season with a 1.81 ERA, will likely face off against sophomore lefty Bobby Paschal, who owns the Trojans’ only win this season (6-23 ERA).

Sunday, a pair of freshmen will square off on the mound, as Notre Dame’s Derek Obey will face Louisville right-hander Justin Valdes.

Obey will likely be one of many Irish freshmen to see action in the three games over the weekend. Center fielder Danny Dressman will probably be in the starting lineup against the right-hander Shoemaker today, and Mainieri said that fellow freshman, first baseman Mike Dury and catcher Sean Gaston, could see time in the field along with pitchers Dan Kapala, Jess Stewart and Jeff Samardzija, who saw playing time on the football field in the fall as a wide receiver for the Irish.

“We’ve always had a lot of guys when it comes to playing freshmen,” Mainieri said. “Sometimes they make mistakes, and sometimes they can be a little inconsistent. My feeling is that if they deserve to play, and they are going to be the best guys to help the team, they are going to be the better ones out there.”

The Irish begin their 2004 season at 5 p.m. today against the Aztecs.

Contact Chris Federico at cfederico@nd.edu

The Irish travel to California for the USC Classic where they face San Diego State to start the season.
Doubles key for Irish today against BYU

By ANN LOUGHERY

Inconsistent doubles matches may be No. 20 Brigham Young University's Achilles heel as they face Notre Dame today at 4 p.m.

"They had some impressive wins against William and Mary and Southern California, but they've been up and down in doubles," coach Jay Louderback said.

The Cougars (7-2) hosted Kansas State 7-0 and are fresh off a 5-2 win over Denver last weekend.

No. 26 Notre Dame (5-1) collected a trio of wins last weekend against Virginia Commonwealth 4-3, Boston College 6-1 and Virginia Tech 5-2. Doubles matches were Notre Dame's forte this weekend, as they swept doubles in each meet.

"Those three matches on the road really boosted the kids' confidence, especially since we did so well in doubles," Louderback said. "We've been concentrating on doubles in practice, so it was good for the kids to see their hard work pay off."

The primary difficulty the Irish must cope with this weekend will be the speed at which the Cougars serve and return the ball. Louderback said that preparing the team to overcome this obstacle has been of utmost importance this week.

"We've been getting the kids ready for balls to come at them hard," Louderback said. "We see this meet as a good opportunity to play someone ranked ahead of us."

At BYU last year, the Cougars fell to the Irish in a close 4-3 decision. Notre Dame posted four wins in singles, but failed to capture the doubles point. "We'll go in wanting to win, but every match is going to be tough," Louderback said. "But the more matches we play, the better we'll play."

Contact Ann Lougbery at alougber@nd.edu

The Observer • SPORTEs

Big East Championships await Irish

By MIKE GILLOON

The Notre Dame indoor track and field teams go into this weekend's Big East Championships looking to add to their trophy cases. The men are the defending champions and a repeat title is on their minds. The women won two years ago and, after a second place finish last year, they are in position to reclaim their title.

However, winning the meet, to be held in the Carrier Dome in Syracuse, N.Y., will be no easy task for either squad.

The women, currently ranked No. 17 by Trackwire.com, will see their main competition come from No. 12 and defending conference champion Miami Hurricanes.

Sprinter Ayesha Boyd expects the Irish to give Miami a run for their money this weekend.

"They are dominant in every event, and we would love to go out and beat them," Boyd said.

Among the favorites expected to contend for an individual title is sophomore distance runner Molly Huddle. Her 3,000-meter time of 9:08.6 is second in the conference to Providence's Kim Smith.

Huddle is also a member of the women's distance medley relay team along with Lauren King, Kristen Dodd and Kerry Meagher. Huddle and King were members of last year's team that won the conference title. They are poised to repeat this year if they can knock off Georgetown. The Hoyas defeated the Irish at the Meyo Invitational two weeks ago by 0.67 seconds. King, a junior, is the defending conference champ in the mile and is expected to contend again this year.

Senior Boyd and junior Tiffany Gunn lead a strong pack of Irish sprinters set to score big team points. Gunn, out of Little Rock, Ark., has qualified for the meet in the 60-meter hurdles as well as the 200, 400 and 500 meters.

Boyd is ranked fourth in the 60-meter dash along with the 200 and 400 meters. She took third place in the 60-meter dash in last year's conference meet.

The men's team should see its stiffest competition from Connecticut and Georgetown. Those squads finished second and third respectively in last year's meet and both return numerous placers.

The men will use the experience of veterans like senior Gadget Mbagwu and juniors Trevor McClain-Duer and Trevor McClain-Duer to keep their hold on the conference championship. Mbagwu, a junior, is expected to contend for an individual title. McClain-Duer is fourth in the 60-meter hurdles at last year's Big East meet. Presently he has the top time in the Big East in that event at 7.79 seconds.

Mbagwu is the defending conference outdoor champ in the long jump. Presently he is fourth in the Big East in that category while he is ranked first in the triple jump with a distance of 15.31 meters.

McClain-Duer will join sophomore Ryan Postel as the favorites to win the 600-meters. Postel ranks third in the conference with a time of 1:17.33 seconds while McClain-Duer is in eighth place at 1:18.00 seconds.

The Irish men have won every conference indoor 5,000-meter championship since Notre Dame joined the Big East in 1996. Senior Todd Carr is in fourth place in that category while he is ranked first in the triple jump with a distance of 15.31 meters.

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Contact Mike Gilloon at mgillon@nd.edu
NHL

Eastern Conference, Atlantic Division

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Pts.</th>
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<td>Philadelphia</td>
<td>31-14-11-5</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Jersey</td>
<td>36-16-11-4</td>
<td>87</td>
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<tr>
<td>Washington</td>
<td>29-16-6-7</td>
<td>83</td>
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<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>31-27-7-4</td>
<td>83</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pittsburgh</td>
<td>11-40-8-3</td>
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Eastern Conference, Northeast Division

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<td>Boston</td>
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<td>Montreal</td>
<td>26-28-6-2</td>
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Eastern Conference, Southeast Division

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<td>Atlanta</td>
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<td>Carolina</td>
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Western Conference, Central Division

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<td>Columbus</td>
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<td>Chicago</td>
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Western Conference, Northwest Division

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Western Conference, Pacific Division

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<td>Portland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phoenix</td>
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NBA

Detroit — Rasheed Wallace is headed to the Detroit Pistons, who only had to give up reserves and draft picks to land the frontcourt scorer they coveted.

Wallace was moved to Detroit in a three-team trade Thursday after playing only one game for the Atlanta Hawks, who acquired the temperamental player from Portland last week.

The two-time All-Star has averaged 16.1 points and 6.7 rebounds during nine NBA years and 17.1 points and 6.6 rebounds this season.

It gives us a real shot to compete at the highest level in the NBA right now," Dumas said.

In a deal put together shortly before the NBA trading deadline, the Pistons sent center Zeljko Rebraca, guard Bob Suria and a first-round draft pick to the Hawks. That pick will come from Milwaukee this year if the Bucks make the playoffs.

Rebraca also sent guards Lindsey Hunter, Chucky Atkins, its first round pick this year and cash to the Hawks.

"That's a no-brainer move for us," Dumas said. "It created cap space and we didn't mess with our core, so it was a great deal for us."

Besides adding Wallace, the deal will put Detroit about $10 million under the salary cap this summer.

Atlanta acquired Wallace from Portland to clear cap space and will now could be about $20 million under the salary cap after the season.

Sura has averaged 8.1 points and 3.5 assists during his nine-year career and Rebraca has averaged 6.2 points and 3.4 rebounds in three NBA seasons.

"This is what's best for the Hawks," general manager Billy Knight said. "I'm trying to build a team for the long haul in the best way possible. Rasheed's a heck of a player, but I think this is best for us and best for him."

Cleveland coach Paul Silas said he couldn't understand why the Hawks made the deal.

"That's going to make the Pistons awfully tough," Silas said. "I just don't know what some people are thinking about.

Associated Press

Pacers' Artest injured

INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana Pacers forward Ron Artest was out indefinitely after having surgery Thursday to repair torn ligaments in his left thumb.

The Pac had no immediate timetable for his return, but seemed to be bracing for an extended stint without their best perimeter defender and second-leading scorer.

"The good news is it's not his shooting hand, the bad news is it's a surgery," Pacers coach Rick Carlisle said. "Surgery takes a while to recover from."

The All-Star first injured the thumb when he got caught in the jersey of New Jersey forward Richard Jefferson during a game against the Nets on Jan. 17. He aggravated it Tuesday night against the New Orleans Hornets when he fell in the third quarter.

Artest clutched his thumb for several possessions, but played the rest of the game. He missed practice to have the thumb examined Wednesday, when it was determined he has a torn ligament. He had surgery for a similar injury when he was a sophomore at St. John's.

Artest will start in Artest's place.

LSU secures Saban

Baton Rouge, La. — LSU's Nick Saban has signed a seven-year contract that guarantees at least $2.3 million this year, making him the highest paid college football coach.

The deal was approved Thursday by a panel of the LSU governing board and was expected to easily receive final approval from the full board Friday.

Saban can earn an extra $400,000 based on postseason game appearances and team graduation rates.

In Brief

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Artest will start in Artest's place.

"He could make up to $2.7 million this year and up to $3.4 million in 2010, the final year of the contract."

The coach signed his new contract a few weeks after ending speculation that he would leave for an NFL team after leading the Tigers to the Bowl Championship Series title, their first national championship in more than four decades.

"Nick Saban is the finest coach in America, and we were committed to paying him accordingly," LSU athletic director Skip Bertman said. "He has brought unprecedented success to this university and has built a program of championship caliber both on and off the field."

The new contract grows from the $1.6 million he earned in 2003, which was a stipulation that required him to make at least $1 million more than the highest-paid coach.

around the dial

Collegiate Basketball

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Big East Conference

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Conf.</th>
<th>Overall</th>
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<td>Pittsburgh</td>
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<tr>
<td>Providence</td>
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<td>17-15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cincinnati</td>
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<tr>
<td>Notre Dame</td>
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<td>Syracuse</td>
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<td>Seton Hall</td>
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<td>Virginia Tech</td>
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Women's College Basketball

BIG EAST CONFERENCE

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| Villanova at St. John's Hall, Noon, NBC NOTRE DAME at Connecticut, 2 p.m., CBS Ohio State at Indiana, 8 p.m., WHME

NBA

Rasheed Wallace, left, of the Atlanta Hawks and Kenyon Martin of the New Jersey Nets battle for a loose ball. Wallace was traded to Detroit Thursday in a multi-team deal.

Pistons get Rasheed Wallace in 3-team deal

"It gives us a real shot to compete at the highest level in the NBA right now," Dumas said.

"It's going to make the Pistons awfully tough," Silas said. "I just don't know what some people are thinking about."
Women's Basketball

Irish to face sold-out arena crowd against 6-17 Pittsburgh

By JOE HETTLER
Sports Editor

Muffett McGraw has 12,000 reasons to be concerned about Saturday's game against Pittsburgh, and one of them include the actual Panthers basketball team.

As part of its "Pack the Peterson" promotion, Pittsburgh sold tickets to the game against Notre Dame for $1. The tickets are sold out.

"You're always concerned when you go into a setting like that," McGraw said. "We haven't played that many games this year in that type of environment. Purdue and Tennessee were about as close as we could get to simulating that. Hopefully, some of those people at the game will be Irish fans."

Notre Dame (16-8, 9-3 in the Big East) looks to win its second straight road game for only the second time this season against a Big East opponent. The Panthers (6-17, 2-11 Big East) have strung together six straight Big East wins.

"We still have four tough games to go, starting with Pittsburgh on Saturday," McGraw said. "We've got back up to the No. 2 seed, but now we have to protect it by doing our part and winning these last four games."

The Irish beat St. John's on the road Tuesday 69-56 behind a double-double from Le'Nasia Severe and 15 points from Jeneka Logan. The Irish are 13-4 in their last 17 games and continue to build an impressive NCAA Tournament resume. Six of Notre Dame's wins have come against top-25 opponents.

LaToya Kincaid and her 14.5 points and 7.6 rebounds per game lead Pittsburgh. Besides Kincaid, no other Panther player averages more than eight points per game. Pittsburgh's offense has struggled all season, tallying just 57.2 points per game.

"Pittsburgh is led by first-year head coach Ben enterno who joined the Panthers in 2003 after 15 seasons as an assistant coach at Georgia Tech. She was 223-209 for the Yellow Jackets during her tenure as coach. Her first season at Pittsburgh has been a difficult one, as the Panthers have struggled in Big East play.

Contact Joe Hettler at jhettler@nd.edu

Offense

continued from page 24

perimeter players to carry the bulk of the Irish offensive load. When Francis was in the game, his presence in the post made it difficult for guards Chris Thomas, Torrian Jones and Chris Quinn to penetrate the lane.

That changed just two days later against Connecticut. Although the Irish had shown signs of using big men to screen perimeter players, Notre Dame unleashed a full-fledged attack called "five-out," where all five starters move around the perimeter setting. That left lanes in the paint for guards to drive and shoot easy lay-ups or pass the ball to the perimeter (he had a team-high 12 rebounds).

That's tough to guard, especially when everyone is hitting their shots," Cornette said. The player who has arguably benefited the most from the open-floor approach is Jones, who is nearly averaging a double-double in the last three Irish wins. As the team's best penetrator, Jones has taken advantage of the open lanes his found when driving to the basket. He's also benefited from the Irish's three-point shooting lately - Notre Dame has made 43 percent of its 3-point attempts over the past three games.

"For someone who slashes as much as me," Jones said, "this has opened up a lot of opportunities."

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Thomas continued from page 24

After struggling early in the year, Thomas is playing arguably his best basketball in a Notre Dame uniform. Over the last four games, Notre Dame has gone 2-2 and the Irish have scored 20 points in four straight games, while shooting an astonishing 50 percent from the field.

"The kid has been fearless for us," Brey said. "I want him to play daring because he has to play daring. Brey believes whom the head coach called the team's best player in January, faced an unwarranted amount of criticism because he struggled early in the season. Much of those struggles came because Thomas was drawing the opposing team's top defender. In practice, he has had to worry about shutting down prolific threats like Matt Carroll, David Graves and Dan Miller.

This year, however, teams ran body after body at Thomas, who in turn shouldered more of the responsibility for carrying Notre Dame. The result was a wave of criticism directed at a hardworking player. NBA scouts said was more mature but had yet to demonstrate it in a game.

"I think people were unfair," classroom Jordan Cornette said. "I think the fans here have been unfair and too hard on him. We've got great fans, and the one thing I never understood is why they are so hard on Chris. He pours his heart out there every day, on the floor and in the locker room."

Brey made several adjustments to take some of the pressure off Thomas, who at one point in the season was shooting career lows in terms of percentages from the field and from 3-point range. He increasingly split point guard responsibilities with Chris Quinn, enabling him to rest more while on the court. And the Irish starting driving to the basket more, which freed up the rest of the Irish offense to get rolling just as Thomas was poised to explode.

"He comes off a screen and he has two or three guys following him trying to make sure he doesn't get an open shot. Because if he knocks it down, Torrian Jones said.

"That opens up opportunities for all of us," Brey continued.

With the way Thomas is playing now, Brey just dismisses the criticism his point guard received early in the season.

Thomas, who tested the NBA Draft waters last summer, will face a similar choice this year. However, if he declares for the draft, Brey said he doesn't want to discuss Thomas' NBA prospects during the season because he has an inkling as to what the Irish guard might do.

"I'm fully expecting," Brey said, "to coach Chris Thomas again next year."

Mike Brey Irish coach

Defense continued from page 24

Notre Dame has a three-game win streak heading into Saturday's rematch against the Huskies.

During a spurt in which Notre Dame lost six of eight games, the Irish had difficulty preventing opposing teams from going on big runs that always seemed to steal the momentum away from the Irish.

"It's an awareness thing," Cornette said. "We weren't very attentive and teams were getting easy layups. Those are momentum plays. But I think we've been very aware and getting back on defense and haven't been given up those plays.

So after a heartbreak loss against Pittsburgh, Brey wanted the Irish to focus more on preventing the speedy Huskies from running circles around the Irish. The formula Notre Dame employed two weeks ago was effective Monday once again against Syracuse.

The Irish defense starts with guards Chris Thomas and Chris Quinn, whom Brey had to encourage not to cheat toward the basket to get rebounds. When they cheated toward the basket, other teams ran their fast break more effectively.

"We'd have one or two guys out of position, and that was making all the difference," Cornette said.

It continued with Torrian Jones finding a balance between knowing when to crash the boards and to get back on defense. And finally, taking better shots meant the difference between having rebounders around the basket.

In general, the longer the shot attempt, the more likely the Irish were to fall back on defense because unpredictable caroms off the backboard on long shots gave teams opportunities to score in transition.

And while this approach may work for the Irish, it might be counterproductive for offensive rebounds, that hasn't been the case. The Irish are averaging just over 11 offensive rebounds in their last six games but less than their season average.

Brey believes this Notre Dame team is the most defensive-minded team in his four years at the helm of the Irish. But Notre Dame's recent success comes in part because of the improvement of transition defense.

And Brey plans to run the drill at the start of every practice.

"It's the first thing we do when we're done with prepractice shooting," Brey said. "It gets us in the right frame of mind. We have a high basketball IQ, we just had to put in something more to work on it."

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Award continued from page 24

One of the hardest working players he has coached.

"You coach so long, and you have a few players that stand out through your program, you always remember the best student for your program and (Pruzinsky) is one of those kids," Waldrum said. "Her work ethic is tremendous."

Before her senior year she was named preseason Big East Defender of the Year. She was named to the Big East first-team as a junior, Big East second-team as a sophomore and Big Bookie of the Year during the basketball season.

Waldrum said watching Pruzinsky develop over the past five years has been a pleasure. "I always reached her to what I think of as a true professional athlete," Waldrum said. "Her work ethic is tremendous."

Before her senior year she was named preseason Big East Defender of the Year. She was awarded to one male and one female athlete each year.

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The Observer

Published Monday through Friday, The Observer is a vital source of information on people and events in the Notre Dame and Saint Mary's Community.

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DILBERT

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Crossword

Horoscope

Eugenia Last

Celebrities born on this day: Gloria Vanderbilt, Cindy Crawford, Ivana Trump, Robert Altman, Sidney Poitier, Patricia Hearst, Jennifer O'Neill, Andrew Shear, Buddy Hackett

Happy Birthday: You are changing so fast that even you are having trouble keeping up to the pace you've set. Gauge yourself carefully and write down all those great ideas you have. This is an exciting period in your life, so get up and get ready. If you are quick to put your plans in motion, you will find yourself moving in a positive direction that will ensure success, prosperity and good will. Your numbers: 18, 21, 27, 32, 39, 47

Aries (March 21-April 19): Out with the old and in with the new. You can make career changes today if you so desire. Believe in yourself, and you will convince others to believe in you as well. Go after your goals.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): Don't disengage with loved ones if you want to keep the peace. It is best to focus on your hobbies or children and avoid the trivial differences you may be experiencing with your mate.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21): Your financial situation will be profitable. Your management skills will result in beneficial changes. You can make residential moves comfortably. Money-making opportunities are present.

Cancer (June 22-July 22): You can expand your circle of friends if you are willing to join clubs or groups of interest. Your sensitive nature will charm potential mates. Avoid overindulgences.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): Expect friction from your mate if you have been overindulging. Your financial situation needs trimming.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sep. 22): You will have a greater interest in travel and foreign cultures. Time taken to look into the possibilities of taking a trip or exploring knowledge about different cultural backgrounds will be well invested.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Money-making ventures will be profitable. Setbacks may occur, but they won't put a damper on the deal.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Love connections may develop quite quickly. Your financial situation will bring the peace.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You'll have problems getting those you live with to pitch in and help. Your ideas may be good, but talking others into helping you pay for the changes will be another story.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Look into philosophy courses. You want to change your direction in life. You can make alterations to your appearance that will make you feel more as you are.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You'll have problems getting those you live with to pitch in and help. Your ideas may be good, but talking others into helping you pay for the changes will be another story.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): You'll impress others with your insight and empathy. You can help friends and relatives with personal problems that they can expand your circle of friends if you are

Birthday Baby: You will be able to influence those you encounter throughout your life. Your ability to make sense out of whatever you are confronted with will enable you to make the changes necessary in order to continue down a positive path. You were born with an ability to land on your feet.
What saved the season

The Irish carry a 3-game win streak into Saturday's rematch at Connecticut

STORIES BY ANDREW SOUKUP

Loss of Francis opened up the floor for hot-shooting Irish offense

Torin Francis lay behind the Notre Dame bench two weeks ago as trainers worked feverishly on his back to alleviate the back spasms, and teammates tried to knock off Pittsburgh. It would be another several days before an MRI revealed Francis was sidelined indefinitely with a bulging disc.

But when Francis didn't return in the loss to Pittsburgh, the Irish were staring at a tough February schedule without their most reliable low-post presence. The road to the NCAA Tournament appeared to run off a cliff.

Then, the Irish got rolling.

"That's what so great about sports," Irish coach Mike Brey said. "You're always trying to work it as an exact science, when sometimes, things just happen.

With Francis out of the lineup, Notre Dame turned to its tighter defense has keyed a trio of high-profile Irish victories

The drill was simple in its execution, yet its results were spectacular.

Irish coach Mike Brey devised a way to open practice two Sundays ago where the five Irish starters would take the ball down the court without any defense and score. As soon as the ball went through the hoop, Notre Dame's five backups took off down the court to simulate a fast-break situation. The idea was for the starters to get used to getting down the court quickly to prevent quick baskets.

"You have to get back and communicate right away," Jordan Cornette said.

The day after Brey had the Irish run the drill for the first time, Notre Dame beat Connecticut. Since then, they Irish haven't stopped running it — and Thomas's potent play helped the Irish fight back into the spotlight

A giddy Mike Brey stood next to a smiling Chris Thomas while waiting for ESPN's camera crew to get set up for a post-game interview after Notre Dame beat Connecticut 80-74 Feb. 9.

And as a mass of students swarmed behind the pair — many of whom boosed Thomas when he struggled in a home win against Miami — Brey looked at Thomas and boldly told a national television audience, "He is our program."

The way Thomas has been playing lately, Brey's statement seems fairly obvious.

Sure, Notre Dame has a plethora of other talent that can generate points. But when Thomas plays well, so do the Irish. When he struggles, Notre Dame struggles.

The Irish carry a 3-game win streak into Saturday's rematch at Connecticut

ND SWIMMING AND DIVING

Men and women start solid in Big East meet

By MATT PUGLISI

Men's and women's swimming and diving teams are neck-and-neck in in New York, the women's swimming and diving team is neck and neck with Rutgers in an effort to claim its eighth consecutive Big East title. The men's squad finds itself locked in a four-way race for the title.

Led by event victories from the 200-yard freestyle relay team (freshmen Katie Carroll and Rebecca Grove, junior Katie Eckelt and senior Danielle Huilick), senior Meghan Perry Eaton (1-meter diving) and Carroll (200-yard individual medley), the No. 20 Irish recorded 199 points on Thursday, good for second behind Rutgers (199.5) and in front of third-place Virginia Tech (180.5).

Including Carroll, the Irish took four of the top eight spots in the 200-yard individual medley as senior Lisa Garcia took second, freshman Ann Barton placed fifth and senior Marie Labisky finished eighth.

Huilick and Grove clipped in second- and third-place finishes, respectively, in the 50-yard freestyle and the 400-yard medley relay (Huilick, Carroll and sophomores Christel Bouron and Courtney Choura) placed fifth.

BASEBALL

Pruzinsky wins Big East honor

By JOE HETTLER

Vanessa Pruzinsky's reaction told the story.

Asked how she felt about being named the 2003-04 Big East Female Scholar-Athlete of the Year, Pruzinsky simply said, "I had no idea I won that."

Anyone that knows Pruzinsky shouldn't be surprised she was too busy to notice her recent award. During her time at Notre Dame, Pruzinsky stayed very active, playing defender on the women's soccer team and graduating as one of the best to ever play under coach Randy Waldrum. In her "free time," she managed to earn a perfect 4.0 grade point average as a chemical engineering major.

After graduating in May with an undergraduate degree, Pruzinsky took graduate classes last fall. She recently accepted a job in New Jersey, both academically and on the soccer field," Pruzinsky said. "I had to manage my time well and any free time I did have, I had to make sure I was studying and putting in the work off the field."

Pruzinsky returned for a fifth-year after injuring her ankle and missing her senior season. She helped lead the Irish to a 20-3-1 record and a No. 2 national ranking before the Irish fell to Michigan in the NCAA tournament 1-0.

Waldrum said Pruzinsky was the pitch perfect to carry the ball in the NCAA tournament.
Diversity is a catch-all word administrators, faculty and students use to describe something that many believe doesn’t exist on Notre Dame’s predominantly white, upper-middle class, Catholic, heterosexual campus. The present landscape is the most diverse in history, and Notre Dame has reached a crucial point in evolution as an academic institution.

Too frequently, discussion about diversity-related issues revolves around numbers and quotas, stereotypes and doctrines. Often ignored are the tangible examples of those who try to carve a niche in Notre Dame’s largely homogeneous culture.

In this three-part series, which began Wednesday and continues today, The Observer illuminates the experiences of a few who struggle daily to assert themselves in the face of actual and theoretical obstacles.

Today, The Observer profiles the administrators responsible for charting the course of Notre Dame’s future and the students who could symbolize the future of Notre Dame.
Dan Saracino

STORY BY MEGHANNE DOWNES

H e wants to make Notre Dame a better Notre Dame. As a student in the '60s and a father in the '90s, he believed Notre Dame lacked something key to making it better. Now, as an administrator in 2004, he is committed to filling this void by making Notre Dame more diverse.

Dan Saracino, associate provost and the director of admissions, graduated from the University in 1969 able to count on one hand the number of blacks in his class.

Through enhanced recruiting, the University once known as a haven for white European Catholics is a far cry from the dire situation it was in during the pre-civil rights era. Today, it boasts a freshman class of which 21 percent are minorities, the most diverse in history.

However, Saracino believes more can be done.

"The primary goal I have is to improve diversity," Saracino said. "I want to make Notre Dame a better Notre Dame, and diversity, in its broadest sense, will make Notre Dame better."

For Saracino, improving diversity is not a narrow endeavor. It expands beyond the typical defining such as race to more personal characteristics, such as whether the applicant's parents are educators or whether the applicant would be a first-generation college student.

The man who makes diversifying Notre Dame his mission took an indirect route into the field of higher-education admissions. Upon graduating from Notre Dame, he had planned to attend law school but opted to defer for a year to work in the admissions office. A year later, his request for another deferment was denied, and he remained an admissions counselor.

"It was the first time I thought I was in a profession," Saracino said. "I just thought I was doing service for Notre Dame.

Saracino's service focused on building minority recruitment, and Notre Dame implemented a program designed to increase this. Today, that program boasts its own department within the Office of Admissions, with individual counselors who specifically recruit black, Asian and Hispanic minorities. The program also relies on its minority alumni board to recruit area students who would be a good fit at Notre Dame.

"What we are doing is still the same as back then — trying to reach those young men and women who should be hearing the story of Notre Dame and are not," Saracino said.

In 1977, he left Notre Dame to become the director of admissions at Santa Clara University in California. During his 20-year absence from Notre Dame, the University saw its minority numbers steadily rise coupled with the closing gap between the percentage of men and women who were admitted. Though Notre Dame's numbers might have increased relative to diversity, there was still something missing.

His daughters, who attended Notre Dame in the '90s, often returned home telling him that Notre Dame provided a quality education but was lacking something due to the absence of diversity.

"My daughters didn't realize they had diversity [in California] until it was taken away from them," Saracino said.

In 1997, Saracino returned to Notre Dame as director of admissions with a mission to continue to improve Notre Dame and to make it more diverse.

But that word is not limited to race for Saracino. He believes that Notre Dame needs to construct its incoming classes so they are more ethnically, socio-economically and geographically diverse.

Saracino denies claims that the University's desire to become more diverse is an attempt to become more like Stanford or institutions in the Ivy League.

"We are not trying to be something we are not," Saracino said. "We respect them but we don't want to emulate them. If it means it does get more comparable, so be it."

He said he frequently hears from alumni who complain that their children have not been accepted at Notre Dame. His response is that Notre Dame has become more difficult and the admissions office will uphold this standard and not sacrifice the overall quality of the class.

Preferential aid packages are offered to ethnic minorities, Notre Dame Scholars, children of educators, first-generation college students and other students who are desirable for Notre Dame.

Though Notre Dame usually can recruit these desirable students from elite college prep schools, Saracino believes this limits the dynamic of the class.

The University needs to reach out to the smaller schools that are scattered across the country, he said, to create a more diverse applicant pool that is still committed to academics, service and faith. This includes reaching out to first-generation college students to increase the socio-economic diversity of Notre Dame's undergraduates. The admissions office originally believed that it would find first-generation students through its minority recruitment program, but Saracino said they soon discovered that many parents of minorities had attended college due to changes in the civil rights era.

To even further diversify the applicant pool, Saracino said, Notre Dame is now a gender- and religious-blind institution.

He linked the religious and ethnic diversity to the expansion of the varsity athletics program and said recruiters are after the best student-athlete — not the best Catholics.

"Though the percentage of Catholics in recent incoming classes usually hovers around 83 percent, Saracino said religious affiliation does not affect an applicant's chances and that the percentage of non-Catholic admitted students reflects the applicant pool. "I'd rather have a Jewish or Methodist student who believes strongly in his faith than just an applicant who checks the Catholic box," Saracino said.

Saracino believes Notre Dame would not have been a top-20 academic institution when he attended as a student because it was too limited as only a white, Catholic university. He said this is not necessarily a bad thing, as a passion for Notre Dame and community service existed but the University needed to evolve.

Since his early days in the admissions office Saracino said his mission has been the same — to make Notre Dame a better Notre Dame by diversifying it. Though he would never trade his '60s education, he said the best thing he saw a decade after graduation was co-education. Since the '70s, he said he has whole-heartedly believed that Notre Dame is a better institution because of its commitment to increase the amount of ethnically diverse and international students.

Saracino returned to Notre Dame to help diversity evolve even further and believes that the future Notre Dame student will have a face that is a mosaic.

"The future is a student who is a mosaic in the truest sense," he said. "You couldn't say it was male or female or white, black, brown or Asian. It would be a true mosaic with a hundred different experiences."

— The Observer 3 February 20, 2004
The Coordinator of Spring Visitation

"The reality is the form might be special and unique, but the students that these prospectives are meeting ... that is what Notre Dame is about."

When Gil Martinez hears people criticize Spring Visitation Weekend, he laughs.

"I always kind of chuckle a little bit when I hear criticism — people saying, 'You know, this isn’t really what Notre Dame is about,'" said Martinez, the coordinator of Spring Visitation Weekend. "The reality is the form might be special and unique, but the students that these prospectives are meeting ... that is what Notre Dame is about."

Martinez, a 1984 Notre Dame graduate, worked for University admissions from 1988 to 1993. He returned in the summer of 2003 and now specializes in Hispanic recruitment. When the former Spring Visitation Weekend coordinator took another job, Martinez was asked to replace him.

"It’s something that I feel, personally, very committed to," Martinez said of the diversity recruitment event. "This place is so special in terms of opportunities that it grants people.

He knows firsthand. When Martinez entered Notre Dame in the fall of 1980, he was the first person in his entire family to attend college — much less to leave his hometown or home state of New Mexico.

"It was just great — a great experience, in terms of the support, not only from friends, but from the University, as well — especially making the transition from basically a non-college family background," Martinez said. "I found that it was really helpful in just helping me to maneuver through the bureaucracy, through the administrative tasks that I needed to do in order to graduate."

It is his own experience and subsequent confidence in the welcoming atmosphere of Notre Dame, Martinez said, that he carries with him when he speaks to Hispanic and other minority students.

“They want to be in a place where they are going to feel supported, whether it be by peers, administration or faculty, and I believe that this place does it,” Martinez said. “There is a stability here, and it’s a stability based on a very good philosophy."

The point of Spring Visitation is to show students this stability and environment, Martinez said. The University flies in approximately 160 competitive minority students — black, Asian, Hispanic and Native American — who have never visited campus before. They are hosted by current Notre Dame students, and the weekend, at the end of March, includes presentations by speakers — football head coach Tyrone Willingham, for example, spoke last year — and sessions with faculty and administrators. The various cultural events concentrated during the weekend are celebratory and entertaining for prospectives, he said, but they are not the sole focus of the visit.

“Our students, just in being who they are ... those seniors in high school are really observant about that,” Martinez said. "They get a sense the tone of the student body is one that’s caring — a group that cares for each other, a group that is success-oriented, a group that is not so much going to be stealing your biology notes before a major exam."

Martinez said that, every year, the visiting students comment most on their time in the dorms, in the dining halls and with Notre Dame students, in general. He said they realize the presentations and ethnic events are not typical of everyday life at the University; while they appreciate the entertainment, Martinez said the prospectives are more concerned about what their personal experiences will be like.

"It is a special weekend and, in a way, it is unique relative to what a student will experience every other weekend, but it’s not different, say, than a student that would come on a football weekend, where there impression of Notre Dame is that football weekend," Martinez said.

Martinez said he hopes this year’s Spring Visitation Weekend will prove as successful as those in previous years. Last year, approximately 74 percent of the visiting students chose to attend Notre Dame, he said.

"The Spring Visitation Weekend is a key component, though not the only one, for the increase of the number of [diverse] students willing to bring themselves here," Martinez said.

"People are, more and more, coming to an understanding that this is who we are, this is what we’re about, in terms of helping all students that are academically competitive."
MINORITY ADMINISTRATOR

"By the experiences that I've had and that I've done and what I've brought, I think it adds to that puzzle, if you will, of creating that total picture of a diverse campus and a diverse community."

Roberto Gutierrez

Immediately after picking up his 93-year-old mother from the airport last year, Roberto Gutierrez decided against giving her a South Bend tour or even a tour of her new room in the family's recently-purchased home. Instead, he brought her to campus.

"She, of all people, always had a good sense of the pulse of a community," Gutierrez said. "She said, 'You know, this feels like home.'"

Gutierrez agreed. It was that same sense of family and home that led him to leave South Texas for South Bend and accept the position of vice president for public affairs and communication at the University.

Gutierrez has dedicated his life to serving the Latino community through media and communications. He helped promote the first national Latino newspaper for Catholics in the United States, co-founded the Hispanic Telecommunications Network in 1982 (which produced the only national Catholic evangelization series televised for U.S. Latinos) and received an honorary doctorate from Notre Dame in 1999.

"That has really been a hallmark, if you will, of my career, my life and the aspirations that I've had over the years," he said. "To help promote the values — the best values — that the Latino community brings to the table in this country."

"We do bring values of family, values of faith, values of language," he said.

A first-generation Mexican-American, Gutierrez grew up, attended college and established his career in San Antonio. But he left that city to respond "to a call to be of service."

"Being able to do storytelling on television is probably the best job that any person could have in the world," Gutierrez said. "When I had done that for 20 years, I realized that God is calling me in a direction at this time in my life." Gutierrez said he feels that University President Father Edward Malloy has set Notre Dame in the right direction, and this belief led him to enthusiastically accept the post.

"I think he saw the need to try to diversify the campus and continues to do so in many ways, adding faculty and staff that represent, really, what the Church is in America," Gutierrez said.

"Do we have a long way to go? Absolutely. But I think my coming here was really a response to an invitation and ... by the experiences that I've had and that I've done and what I've brought, I think it adds to that puzzle, if you will, of creating that total picture of a diverse campus and a diverse community."

THE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT

"People are a lot more comfortable with each other [in Nicaragua]. Back home there is no difference if you're white or black."

Elena Lacayo

Elena Lacayo may blend easily into the Notre Dame landscape, may have been born in the United States and may appear to be white. But this sophomore from Managua, Nicaragua surprises many when they discover she is both a minority and international student.

"People don't know anything about me and they automatically assume I'm white," said Lacayo. "I consider myself bicultural."

Because of her background, however, Lacayo's perspective on minorities, diversity and student life at Notre Dame remains unique.

Though childhood experiences prepared her in some sense for student life at an American university, Lacayo said she found it difficult to understand the social atmosphere at Notre Dame, where gender relations often seemed strained and barriers appeared to exist between campus minority groups and the general student body.

"People are a lot more comfortable with each other [in Nicaragua]," she said. "Back home there is no difference if you're white or black."

Compared to Central American culture, Lacayo said specific terms used in the United States to describe race and ethnicity didn't make sense either.

"I asked these girls in my dorm if it bothered them if I described them as black. ... Both were African-American and I started talking to them about the term African-American," said Lacayo.

In this small group, discussing whether "African-American" or "black" accurately described some minority groups in the United States feels safe, Lacayo said.

"I asked them if they spoke with me because I was asking or because I wasn't white ... but they admitted that they were open with me because I was a minority," she said.

But Lacayo said she enjoys talking with other minority and international students about race and culture, and feels like she can fit in well with a wide range of ethnic groups on campus. Among white students however, she finds this willingness to talk sometimes lacking at Notre Dame.

"A person has to be forced to step out of their bubble and the minorities are the ones that concede. They're the ones that have to adjust," Lacayo said. "They have to live in a foreign world. I understand why [this] happens — I just wish people were more aware of it."
THE MAJORITY MINORITY

“I guess I was nervous because it was different and I was white. Looking back it seems kind of silly.”

Will Herbert

STORY BY MEGHANNE DOWNES

Will Herbert loves to dance and so does the first friend he made at Notre Dame, Mark Tupas. Through their mutual love of dancing and friendship, Herbert discovered a new culture and formed a group of friends in which he found himself — a white male — to be ironically a minority.

Though Herbert was used to only dancing at parties, Tupas drew upon his heritage and took his dancing to the stage. After much convincing, Herbert joined the Filipino American Student Organization and soon found himself performing traditional Filipino dances for the club’s spring show, Fiestang. Herbert said going to dance practices was easy because he was there to dance; yet he was still nervous. “I guess I was nervous because it was different and I was white,” Herbert said. “Looking back it seems kind of silly.”

Herbert said he did not want to be the “big dumb white kid” who looked out of place during performances. He learned to overlook the bewildered glances and became more involved in the organization. He helped plan In Focus and danced traditional dances such as the Tinikling at Asian Allure, Fiestang and various other MSPS events. Though Herbert may not be Asian, he does have qualities of an Asian ethnic club would not be Asian.

However, people outside of FASO have questioned his presence. Herbert thinks these are rather natural questions as it is unusual on this campus for students to do what is not expected of them.

“I think sometimes I get that resistance,” Herbert said. “It will be a real anonymous thing like Spring [Visitation]. I have always been a host and well the prospectives seem a little surprised. Though they are my peers, they are younger, so they don’t say anything.”

However, not everyone conceals their suspicions or suppresses their opinions.

At activities fair night and other programming events he participates in, he said there are always students, including Asian students, who give him puzzled looks and are reluctant to listen to his pitches to become involved in FASO because it seems awkward to them that the face of an Asian ethnic club would not be Asian.

Herbert learned to overlook the bewildered glances and became more involved in the organization. He helped plan in Focus and danced to his pitches to become involved in FASO because of whom he became friends with.

He admitted that every once in a while he and his friends will joke about how he, a white student, is in an active participant in an ethnic club, but he said he always feels welcome and his presence has never been an issue.

Herbert said this is the mentality he tries to have in a diverse environment, which creates much solidarity amongst minority ethnic groups as opposed to larger state schools, which are more culturally diverse, where ethnic clubs are not as predominant or strong.

“In terms of diversity here, Notre Dame isn’t the place to go if you want to walk around and see a rainbow of faces,” Herbert said.

“If you are really into something, you can find people of similar interests who are of different color.”

For Herbert, his interest in dancing acted as the bridge.

Herbert said this is the mentality he tries to spread amongst his white friends. Though his white friends, who do attend events, usually do not take an active interest in joining FASO, Herbert said he believes the socializing aspect between his two groups of friends is beneficial because it at least brings them together so they can start to see life from a different perspective and to begin to talk about issues.

“My opinion is [diversity] is something that has got to be worked on. People shouldn’t avoid the school. I think it’s a contribution we can make. I didn’t come here because of the football but because it was a good school. A lot of people come here looking for a specific type of environment — I expected to come here finding good academics and to find myself — something that I have done.”

The Observer 7 February 20, 2004
THE QUEER STUDENT ATHLETE

"I'm tired of being a marginalized voice. I'm tired of being alienated. I'm a part of the community too."

Jeneka Joyce

STORY BY CLAIRE HEININGER

As a scholarship athlete, Jeneka Joyce is already part of a select crowd on campus. But it's another group that she belongs to that truly sets her apart — students who don't hesitate to talk about their homosexuality.

"It's not a big deal, it's not some crisis," Joyce said simply, confident that her own choices and her own life are resolutely balanced. "I speak up. If people are mute about it, there is no way that change can come about."

Speaking up wasn't always that easy. When Joyce began questioning her sexuality during her first two years at Notre Dame, she felt as if she was the only one who didn't fit the straight-laced image the University's identity precribes. It didn't help that all homosexual students seemed to be classified under the same don't-ask-don't-tell heading, since Joyce firmly disagrees that sexuality can fit into a neat little continuum.

A clear-cut sexuality, she said, "is not necessarily the case — I think it's more on some kind of continuum." But while the senior now openly describes herself as "queer," a term she said is "pretty much all-encompassing of sexualities that are different from heterosexuality," memories of confusion and isolation still linger.

"Now it's different because I'm involved in the gay/lesbian/bisexual community," she said. "I know a lot of people. But when I wasn't involved and I didn't know any other gays on campus, I didn't think anyone else was — it definitely seems like there are no gays at Notre Dame."

However, several conversations at the end of Joyce's sophomore year revealed just the opposite. Talking with her close friends, she realized that although gays on campus were still a mostly silent minority, she was anything but alone.

"In college, you're growing, your self-identity is becoming more solidified, you're going through lots of changes and coming into yourself," she said, recalling the talks that opened her eyes and strengthened her resolve. "It turned out that some people I was already friends with were bi, and when we started talking about things, I kind of opened up."

It was this support system that gave her the confidence to seek out other students facing the same struggle. Now the co-chair of OutreachND, Joyce helps provide a forum for what she calls a "tight-knit circle" of about 40 non-heterosexual students to relax, socialize and voice their frustrations about everyday life on a conservative campus. Strength in numbers, she said, has become a powerful asset.

"When it comes to personal things, I keep some things to myself," she said. "I go about my business and go to school like everyone else ... sexuality is not an issue."

Mindful of these separate spheres, Joyce believes there is a time and a place for vocally pushing acceptance to the forefront. "Publicity is very good," she said, addressing the controversy that arose when Notre Dame chose to host the Queer Film Festival this month. "These are issues Notre Dame needs to recognize — we're everywhere. A little acknowledgment would be nice so we don't feel like outcasts in the community here."

She characterized the acknowledgment earned on campus thus far as minimal, but still highly significant. Although she called steps like the Festival "baby steps" toward recognizing and accepting alternative lifestyles, she said that the strength of voices like her own is still a vast improvement from years past.

"I think it's good to have voices of dissent that are not in line," Joyce said, adding realistically. "And any step forward at Notre Dame is tremendous."
THE QUEER STUDENT ATHLETE
AN ATHEIST

"I no longer needed a god or needed the faith in my life, so it just kind of fell out of its traditional place."

When Adam Loverro’s friends and family visit Notre Dame, he brings them to Mass at the Basilica. He takes them on the usual campus tour, highlighting the University’s trademark spots, such as the Grotto. But to him, personally, the religious locations hold no special meaning. At one of the most vocally religious institutions in the country, Loverro is an atheist.

“I know it means something to them, and so if they’re visiting or if they’d like to go, then I have no problem going,” Loverro said of Basilica Mass.

“The Grotto’s a really nice place, and it’s one of the places people come to see,” he said. “If I’m giving someone a tour, I’ll bring them down there if there’s time. I won’t avoid it.”

But the senior has only been to the Grotto on about four or five occasions, mostly when giving such tours. He feels no need to go there and pray, because, after he began high school, he decided there was no need for God in his life.

“He’s no longer enticed by the whole idea,” Loverro said, also explaining that he believes “the Bible is wrought with inconsistencies.”

“I no longer needed a god or needed the faith in my life, so it just kind of fell out of its traditional place,” Loverro said.

Loverro was baptized a Roman Catholic, and he attended church regularly until about fifth grade, when his family moved and their routine became disrupted.

“I didn’t go for the next three or four years,” Loverro said.

And then he entered high school and rethought his religion, and his entire Catholic identity fell by the wayside. He expressed no interest in being confirmed, and his family did not pressure him.

“I don’t think that my belief is a reaction to the Church’s failure, but more of a [view that] there’s nothing in God, himself or herself or itself, that is strictly what I need to determine my own set of moral values and ethics,” Loverro said. “I didn’t see the purpose of devoting myself to one or any of the faiths.

“I took what I agreed with and what I believe in morally and ethically from the teachings, but … I don’t use God as a basis for those practices.”

Despite his disregard for faith and religion, however, Loverro chose to attend college at Notre Dame. After visiting campus during his senior year of high school, Loverro said he was struck by “the way I was welcomed and the beauty of the campus.”

“I just really liked the feeling of the place,” he said. “It’s the community here and not the faith … that was attracted to.”

And it is that same “community aspect” which occasionally draws him to Sunday Mass in his dorm, Zahm Hall, Loverro said.

“I really enjoy Mass at Zahm,” he said.

“During the homily, I’d say I always listen to what the priest says, and usually it’s a message that can be taken without the context of faith,” Loverro said.

He said while the priest “usually refers to examples of Jesus, I can associate the examples without needing to believe that Jesus is God’s son.”

And Loverro said that, regardless of Notre Dame’s strong commitment to religion and the overwhelmingly Catholic identity of the student body, he has never encountered hostility or negative responses to his atheistic principles.

“I haven’t gotten any negative response at all,” Loverro said. “I’ve gotten curious looks, but nothing more than that.”

But the subject of his atheism has always been dropped or accepted “once those questions were answered.”

Loverro attributed that acceptance and tolerance to learning and knowledge, citing a friend in high school who, uneducated about his own faith and the beliefs of others, had difficulties discussing his atheism.

With his closest of friends, when it just happens to come up, they’re like, ‘Oh,’” Loverro said, or, “Wow, I didn’t know that—that’s interesting.

“The typical questions follow,” he said, but the subject of his atheism has always been dropped or accepted “once those questions were answered.”

Loverro attributed that acceptance and tolerance to learning and knowledge, citing a friend in high school who, uneducated about his own faith and the beliefs of others, had difficulties discussing his atheism.

“Shes had more of a problem talking about it, not dealing with it,” he said.

At Notre Dame, though, where students are living and studying in a highly exploratory University environment, he has found everyone more open to discussion and acceptance.

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The Observer 11 February 20, 2004
THE FIRST BLACK HEAD COACH

...I run a program that none of those things matter. The color of a guy's skin makes no difference. His religion makes no difference. Only his ability to perform and help the team matters.

Tyrone Willingham

STORY BY ANDREW SOUKUP

The phrase remains Tyrone Willingham's most basic mantra. He says it so often that the words are clichéd when they pour out of his mouth, and the writers who spend day after day around the football coach smirk and discard the quote.

But if they knew where it came from, what Willingham endured both as a child and a professional, then they would know the 50-year-old's favorite expression, "the best player will play," isn't just a trite sports phrase.

Willingham says it because he believes he was once the best player. And he didn't play.

That day has long passed, and Notre Dame's first black head coach in any sport refuses to discuss specific instances of the racial battles of his past. But the sting on his face is evident when he talks about segregation in his hometown, when he talks about watching coaches start white players over black players and when he talks about the sorry fact that only five of the 117 Division I-A football coaches are black.

"You know there's a better way," Willingham said. "You know life doesn't have to exist that way.

But for the longest time, it did.

Willingham grew up in Jacksonville, N.C., a city filled with hostile race relations and segregated schools. Every morning, he rode the bus to the majority school, more than a mile past the white school that was within walking distance of his house.

His family lived in a mostly black neighborhood, and in the early years of his life, Willingham rarely felt segregation's effects. But as he grew older, he began to ask questions. Why are there their books better? Why do we have to go into separate bathrooms? Why are their color of a guy's skin makes no difference. His religion makes no difference. Only his ability to perform and help the team matters. To create a world where there is true equality based solely on your playing, that is the future.

That mentality is classic Willingham — a forward-looking coach who refuses to dwell on the past. But the very fact that Willingham refers to his hopes for a future quality and not his analysis of a present one implies that the Irish coach believes society still has much to accomplish.

Willingham points to the fact that nobody brought up race when he decided to replace black quarterback Carlyle Holiday with white quarterback Brady Quinn midway through Notre Dame's 2003 season — a situation that shows remarkable progress to Willingham's own high school experiences. And while Willingham generally avoids discussing specific instances of racial problems, he's not afraid to criticize the fact that only four percent of all Division I-A football coaches are minorities. To that, he attributes a mentality against hiring minority coaches that exists in some athletic offices around the country. He felt that mindset when he was an assistant coach and his opinions were ignored — he won't say at which school — and believes that attitude still persists.

"You have to look at the numbers, and that's what I've said for years and years," Willingham said. "It's an easy thing to adjust. You gotta hire the best people. That's how simple it is. Whether they are Asian, African-American, it doesn't matter.

Willingham disagrees with those who claim that Notre Dame's decision to hire a black coach was largely a public-relations move in the wake of the George O'Leary fiasco. On the contrary, the third-year Irish coach said, Notre Dame took a risk in hiring a minority when hiring a white coach would have been the safer move.

"I think it might worked the other way, that [race] was more of a detriment," Willingham said. "It creates more of a split among those who might have an interest in the issue. If there is a decision to be made, it's easier to go with the safe decision than one that involves a diversity of interests."

But as to why it took 162 years for Notre Dame to hire its first black head coach, Willingham declines to answer. "Only the people who have been here and been in a position to hire are able to speak on that issue," he said.

The black Methodist is grateful for the warm reception he has received from the white Catholic Notre Dame community. But as one of just five minority coaches at UCLA's Karl Dorrell, San Jose State's Fitz Hill, New Mexico State's Tony Samuel and Mississippi State's Sylvester Croom are the others — Willingham argues that he is in a group of coaches who are held to a higher level of scrutiny. Where the pressure comes from — other hopeful minority candidates, high-level administrators, fans — he doesn't say. He only says the pressure exists.

"As a minority, you're held to a much higher standard than anyone else in terms of your transition," Willingham said. "Even though, in many situations, you may be as qualified as other coaches. Everybody would say that's not fair."

But what would Willingham say?

"I would say that's not fair."

Then again, few things in life have been fair for Willingham. Faced with racial oppression his entire life, the Irish coach simply met the challenges directly. And instead of trying to get others to change via speeches and pontificating about the state of race in college athletics, Willingham prefers to show his beliefs in the way he runs his football program.

"There's a saying on our football team that a man with a backbone is more valuable than a thousand with a backbone," the coach said.

"You don't convince anybody. It's not a matter of who follows, it's how you value yourself. Do you really stand up for what is right?"

The Observer 12 February 20, 2004
THE FIRST BLACK HEAD COACH
THE UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT

The Observer 14 February 2004
Edward Malloy

STORY BY ANDREW THAGARD

When Father Edward Malloy reflects on Notre Dame and his time here, he does so through a variety of perspectives — as a former undergraduate student in the 1960’s, as a professor in the Department of Theology since 1974 and as the University president since 1986.

Malloy’s years at Notre Dame have allowed him to become intimately familiar with many aspects of the University, including the concept of diversity at Notre Dame — a central tenet of his administration. Since Malloy took the helm of the University 17 years ago, the percentage of underrepresented minorities at Notre Dame has increased from 7.5 to more than 20 percent.

“That’s a big change,” he says with an obvious sense of pride. “In that span of time, that’s a big change.” It’s also a change that hasn’t come easily, according to Malloy, who must balance Notre Dame’s unique identity as a Catholic institution with a rapidly evolving concept of diversity.

Indeed, when he was an undergraduate student, the number of underrepresented minorities in attendance was “miniscule” and diversity existed mainly in the socioeconomic sense as applicants were lured to the University by lower tuition rates and its Catholic identity.

Today, the University continues to attract a unique blend of students from different economic classes, including minority students. These efforts, Malloy said, have been facilitated in part by an increased commitment to financial aid.

“We’ve been able to say in recent years, ‘If you get into Notre Dame, we can put together a financial aid package that will allow you to attend,’” he said.

In addition to an increased presence of minority students, Notre Dame also boasts diversity on the intellectual and political levels and increasingly in representation of students who choose to study here from international locales, he said.

In other areas including the religious and philosophical sense, Malloy said, the Notre Dame is less diverse — something that the University president doesn’t necessarily believe is bad.

In this regard, Notre Dame must also honor the commitment to its Catholic identity — and in doing so, Malloy said, it contributes to the diversity among institutions of higher learning in the United States.

“What I like is that we’re remaining faithful to our mission and sense of purpose,” he said. “We believe that we have put a huge amount of effort into exploring what it means to be a Catholic university and looking at dimensions of that and trying to foster it over time.”

While Malloy is pleased with the progress in promoting diversity that has occurred during his tenure, he’s quick to point out that Notre Dame still has a lot of work to do in this regard, especially in hiring minority administrators and faculty members — an effort that must begin at the departmental level, he said.

“We still have a long way to go,” he said. “It takes a University-wide effort to diversify the faculty.”

Malloy said that he believes that his work in making increased diversity a “team” effort and emphasis on opportunities to learn about different perspectives outside the classroom, has simultaneously eased the adjustment that minority students face and increased the promotion of diversity among the general student body.

“I encourage people with common backgrounds to get together socially in an informal way,” he said. “I think the social networks of support are really helpful for diversity here.”

In the future, Malloy said that he wants Notre Dame to reflect the different aspects of diversity he highlighted in its undergraduate student population. While his future goals do not include specific quotas, he believes that the University’s direction should be shaped in part by the changing demographics of the nation and the U.S. Catholic Church.

“We don’t project precise numbers but we set targets and goals for ourselves, and we try to get as close as we can,” he said. “We will continue to try to closely monitor the demographics of the United States.”

Malloy doesn’t know what exactly the country or Catholic Church will look like in the future from a demographic perspective, but he believes that it will be shaped by an increased Latino presence, particularly Mexican-Americans. This and other national trends should be reflected in Notre Dame’s student population, he said.

At the same time, however, he believes that certain University traditions — including priority given to children of alumni — should be maintained and will serve as an asset in increasing minority recruitment as alumni choose to send their children here.

“That’s a variable that I expect to be kept up and that will have an influence as well,” he said.

Diversity, Malloy said, isn’t a definitive goal to be reached but a never-ending process that requires a degree of flexibility and adaptability. He’s confident, however, that the University is up to the challenge.

“We want to consistently re-evaluate ourselves on the basis of factoring information to achieve a combination making the most sense as a Catholic institution and as a national institution,” he said. “We’ve been very fortunate because the people connected to Notre Dame… pride Notre’s distinctive mission and identity.”

The Observer 15 February 20, 2004
STORY BY CLAIRE HEININGER

When Father Edward Sorin founded the University in 1842, diversity at Notre Dame was not yet a catchphrase, a controversy or an aspiration — it was an oxymoron. The students of the early years were male. They were white. They were straight. They were Catholic. And there was no question about it.

Questions, as we all know, arrived. Questions persist. Questions arose about who belongs here and to what extent. Questions now arise about diversity itself. One thing is certain — diversity means more than these categories. Narrowing its definition to sex, race, religion and sexual preference, though clearly the most glaring sources of discrimination, is only a starting point. While this series has largely focused on these four areas, diversity as a term and as a goal is more far-reaching.

Unlike the uniformity that characterized our campus at the beginning, it cannot be nailed down. The University's mission dictated a specific reputation, and attracted a specific kind of student. But while its foundation — and much of its formation — was characterized by homogeneity, several individuals along the way provided ripples of change.

President Emeritus Father Theodore Hesburgh was one of those individuals, as he became a vocal supporter of both civil rights legislation and coeducation during his tenure. Deeply aware of the difference between the appearance of diversity on the surface and true interaction, he encouraged students and faculty, then and now, to ground their beliefs about equal rights in Catholic values.

Influential figures were not all as visible as Hesburgh, but often they needed to share in his resolve. Wayne Edmonds, the first minority to broach another sphere inseparable from the Notre Dame name — football — endured racial epithets from fans and segregation during Southern road trips. Josephine Ford, the first woman faculty member to receive tenure, watched priests get promoted and eventually filed a sexual discrimination suit against the University. David Garrick, the most well-known priest to publicize his homosexuality at Notre Dame, felt so ostracized that he resigned in protest.

As lines began to blur and barriers began to topple, standing up for diversity became less about standing alone. Current University President Edward Malloy and Director of Admissions Dan Saracino are united in their emphasis of economic diversity, as evidenced by an increased emphasis on financial aid. Both also insist that minority recruitment does not have an adverse effect on Notre Dame traditions — and that the future mosaic of students will reflect both the University's consistent character and the United States' changing demographics.

The stories of unique students of today reflect a similar theme of solidarity and strength. Nahyan Fancy can afford to speak out for Muslims because of the United Muslim Association standing behind him. Rick Friedman can feel comfortable discussing his sexuality because of the OutreachND support system that offers him refuge. The Notre Dame community of today is the most diverse in University history — not only in its breadth, but also, tellingly, in its depth.

Despite these strides, cynicism and disillusionment remain — often because the University has not done enough to diminish them. It is easy to identify clusters in the dining hall that are grouped by race. The University's anti-discrimination clause still does not explicitly include homosexuals. We cannot narrow diversity to four areas, yet the "norms," as we perceive them, are still firmly entrenched. In large part, Notre Dame admits that it still has a long way to go to accomplish its goals.

However, to dismiss the exceptional individuals showcased in this series as blips on the uniformity radar would be selling them short. Just like in 1842, diversity at Notre Dame is not a catchphrase. It has been, is now and will be about tangible experiences, authentic stories, and above all, real people.