Spring Visitation draws minorities to campus

By SHEILA FLYNN
Senior Staff Writer

Nearly 160 students arrived on campus Thursday for this year's Spring Visitation weekend, hosted annually by the University in an attempt to recruit the most qualified and talented minority students in the country.

"It brings students that Notre Dame would normally lose to other schools that I think benefit the campus as a whole," said student coordinator Alex Santana, who oversaw Latino recruitment this year. Santana attended Spring Visitation himself in 2000 and said the weekend played a compelling role in his choice to leave the Los Angeles area and attend Notre Dame.

See Also
"Panel discusses blacks in education" page 3

The Thursday evening event offered insight into Disability Awareness Week at Notre Dame.

Author discusses autism

Presentation marked conclusion of Disability Awareness Week

By STEPHANIE YAHN
News Writer

Patricia Stacey, author of "The Boy who Loved Windows: Opening the Heart and Mind of a Child Threatened with Autism," offered insight into the challenges she faces as a mother raising an autistic son.

Stacey read several excerpts from her book, an account of how her family's life changed forever, when their youngest child Walker was diagnosed with autism, at the early age of six months.

Following a traumatic birth, Walker's parents were immediately aware that their son was different. As the first months with autism, at the early age of six months.

The Thursday evening event marked the conclusion of Disability Awareness Week at Notre Dame.

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see AUTISM/page 6

IRAQ: ONE YEAR LATER

President Bush greets a crowd during a campaign rally in Orlando on March 20. Election 2004 has already been and will continue to be strongly influenced by the politics of the Iraq War.

Editor's Note: This is the fifth part in a five-part series examining issues in the Iraq War.

By CLAIRE HEININGER
News Editor

Rarely does a presidential election turn contentious before Labor Day — not to mention before Memorial Day — but with the Iraq War still fresh in voters' minds, both the George W. Bush and John Kerry campaigns have already begun to escalate their claims about what has occurred in the broken country and what should happen next.

Bush standing firm

Eight months before Americans go to the polls, and on the first anniversary of the United States' declaration of war on Iraq, the Bush administration's stance remains essentially the same as it was.

see IRAQ/page 6

Students host peace conference

By ANDREW THAGARD
Associate News Editor

The annual Kroc Institute-sponsored Student Peace Conference, which organizers say will be the biggest and best attended in the event's ten-year history, kicks off this afternoon at the Hesburgh Center.

The two day event — completely organized and run by undergraduate students — draws national and international participants to campus for lectures, roundtable discussions and workshops aimed at promoting a more just society.

"I'm just elated about this," said Nadia Stelfo, a senior English major who is co-chairing the conference along with sophomore Monica Zacir and a committee of 25 students. "It's going to be a great group of people, it's going to be (awesome) to see them all get together and talk about something they're passionate about.

The conference opens with dinner at Greensfields Cafe in the Hesburgh Center, followed by a keynote address by Marilaine Acosta, an internationally renowned human rights activist from Mexico.

She's done some phenomenal work with human rights in Mexico," Stelfo said. "We thought she'd be ideal in terms of the mix of personal stories and scholarly (approach).

The conference continues Saturday with five sessions in which participants can choose between moderated discussions and debates focusing on war and peace, reconciliation, social justice and updates on service projects carried out.

see PEACE/page 4

Donation makes SMC building reality

By ANGELA SAOUDEnt
Saint Mary's Editor

Plans are in the works to build a new $15 million academic building at Saint Mary's, thanks to the generosity of one alumna and her parents.

Jennifer Mathile Prikel, a 1995 graduate and member of the board of trustees, has agreed to match up to $3 million in additional funds to be raised by Saint Mary's.

"The faculty are thrilled with the generosity of one young alumna," said Vice President and Dean of Faculty Patrick White. "She is a profound example to all parents Clayton and MaryAnn Mathile, former owners of Jams Company, have agreed to match up to $3 million in additional funds to be raised by Saint Mary's.

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The conference continues Saturday with five sessions in which participants can choose between moderated discussions and debates focusing on war and peace, reconciliation, social justice and updates on service projects carried out.

see BUILDING/page 8
How proud?

One of my favorite South Bend establishments, The Linebacker, closes down each night with the song "Proud to be an American." It's something I assume the bar chose as a show of support for U.S. soldiers serving in Iraq, but regardless of my support for the men and women in the Armed Forces, regardless of my utmost grief for the victims of terrorism, it's something that bothers me every time 3 a.m. rolls around at the "Backer." To me, this song epitomizes the unquestioning, so-called "patriotism" that seems to be all too popular these days. This week, people around the world have remembered the one-year anniversary of the U.S.-led war in Iraq. While I do not doubt appreciate the opportunities and freedom afforded me on the street. They shoved a newspaper bearing photographs of the devastation in Iraq at me, taunting, "I'm all for interhall O'Neill athletes." "Either one that I pick makes me look like a jerk." "I prefer engineers over athletes.

Notre Dame junior Molly Savage smiles for the camera on Wednesday. Savage posed for a photo for the senior section of the 2005 yearbook, which Lauren Studios is planning throughout the week.

IN BRIEF

Latin Expressions 2004, a showcase of diversity and talent, will take place tonight at 7 p.m. at the Saint Mary's O'Laughlin Auditorium. Free transportation to the auditorium will be provided by Library Circle starting at 6 p.m. The event is sponsored by LaAlanza.

The Human Rights International Film Festival will present the film "Welcome to Hadasah Hospital" tonight at 7 p.m. The film takes a close-up look at people who work and stay in this Jerusalem Hospital. A discussion will follow.

A Night on Broadway: The 2004 Pemco Musical Review will take place tonight at 7:30 p.m. The event is directed by Shawn Morson and Cheryl Turski and features musical director Tom Mucchetti. Tickets are $5 for students and $6 for the general public and can be purchased at the LaFortune box office.

The Clayton Miller Blues Band will perform tonight at 10 p.m. at Legends. ND Opera will perform a fully staged production of Giao-Carlo Menotti's opera "The Consul" tonight at 7:30 p.m. in Washington Hall. The opera features Notre Dame and Saint Mary's students and will be performed in English.

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

To submit information to be included in this section of The Observer, e-mail detailed information to obnews@nd.edu.
Panel discusses blacks in education

By KATIE LAIRD
News Writer

Members of the Erskine Peters Fellowship Symposium met Thursday night in the Eck Visitors' Center to discuss the role of blacks in higher education and the nature of the relationship to bridge a stronger connection between black academia and the community surrounding it.

The discussion consisted of seven panelists from a variety of fields and universities. Participants from Notre Dame included Richard Pierce, assistant professor of history and associate director of African and African-American studies, Rhonda Brown, director of the Office of Institutional Equality and Donald Pope-Davis, professor of psychology and associate vice president. Also included were the 2003-04 Erskine Peters Fellows, Jessica Wormley of Fordham University, Brandi Brimmer of the University of California at Los Angeles, Sherwin Bryan of Ohio State University, Paul Minifie of the University of Texas, Austin and Dorian Warren of Yale University.

Mindful that only 6.1 percent of blacks making up the faculty at universities nationwide, panel members discussed how to build bridges between the field of learning and the community that many black lives are embedded in.

"We have to form a collaboration between what we do in the academy and what we do in the community," Pope-Davis said. "Panelists discussed personal experiences and hardships that they faced to climb the academic ladder due to their race and other personal obstacles. "Wormley gave advice for high school students on graduate life.

"Read broadly ... reading broadly is the key," she said. Brown said that children of color need to also be aware of the other important things in life besides studying and academics.

"These are things we have to do better. Be clear on who you are ... know yourself and know your value. When you question worth, you lose the game," Brown said.

Pope-Davis urged the engagement of both students and faculty into the community, and discussed the importance of mentoring. Blacks need to have mentors and role models that they can turn to for advice, assistance and guidance, she said.

"It is very natural for students of color to seek out faculty of color," Pope-Davis said. "This is more than a professional commitment, it's a personal commitment."

Panelists also discussed the extra burden that is placed on black faculty members to reach certain goals and perform a certain amount of service and research in order to reach tenure or full-time professor.

"African-American students want to be taken seriously, to be engaged, to be motivated in some way," Bryant said, adding that mentors have helped them to make those type of connections.

Wormley also emphasized the importance of black representation in facilities.

"I have never had a black teacher of a black professor ... I would have liked to see myself represented. I think black students need black mentors because there are issues that are really relevant," Wormley said.

The discussion was also opened up for the audience, in which two people presented their experiences and opinions. Paulinus Odozor, a theology professor at Notre Dame from Nigeria, explained that professors sometimes concentrate too much on publishing books and journals when in reality they should be aiding students.

"The greatest commitment you can make is in human beings ... push aside whatever you're doing. That is the greatest book you can write," Odozor said.

Johnnie Griffin, Ph.D., a sociology professor at Indiana University in South Bend, said that she hears certain themes over and over again from students, whether they be black or not. These themes include the attitude that "college is not for everybody."

"We talk as though this is a black problem," Griffin said. "This is a people problem. There is something universal."

With Notre Dame's desire to commit to diversity, Pope-Davis said that it can be very difficult.

"When institutions talk about diversifying, they don't always get it. They invite you to the table without knowing what you like to eat... it's not ignorance, it's just they don't have experience," Pope-Davis said. "We are all engaged in a process of renewal ... I think this is a good place to have this kind of dialogue."

The Erskine Peters Dissertation Year Fellowship was established in 1999 to enable outstanding black doctoral candidates in the humanities, social sciences and theological disciplines to experience life at Notre Dame while devoting their full energies to the completion of their dissertations.

Contact Katie Laird at klaird@nd.edu

No Greater Love:
A Notre Dame day of prayer, music, & renewal.

This year, No Greater Love will explore prayer through:

Taize Lectio Divina Ignation Meditation

Saturday, March 27th 1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Coleman-Morse Lounge  No sign-up necessary!

For more information contact Keara Coughlin at 631-3389 or kcoughlin@nd.edu


Pray.

Expert to lecture on industry

Michael O'Sullivan, senior vice president for development for PPL Energy, LLC, will present a public lecture at 12:50 p.m. Monday in the DeBartolo Hall auditorium at Notre Dame. His talk, "Engineering Careers and the Energy Industry," is the second installment in the 2003-04 Distinguished Engineering Lecture Series presented by Notre Dame's College of Engineering. During his lecture, O'Sullivan will address the importance of energy in a global economy; wind energy, one of the most exciting developments in power generation today; and the benefits of engineering education. O'Sullivan, who was appointed to his current position in July 2001, is responsible for PPL Energy's business development and asset acquisition activities. He previously held management positions at Commonwealth Edison, NRG Energy and AES Corporation.

O'Sullivan earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Notre Dame in 1982 and a master's of business administration degree from the University of Chicago in 1987. He is a registered professional engineer.
WHW names Snow ‘woman of the year’

By LISA GALLAGHER
News Writer

The second annual Women-Honoring Women dinner, held in Staglin Lounge at Notre Dame’s College Wednesday, announced chemistry professor Joanne Snow as “woman of the year.”

Fourteen women were nominated to receive the 2004 Women Honoring Women award. Nomination forms were completed by members of the student body who responded to a letter requesting nominations of women meeting the Women Honoring Women Award description, according to Sarah Brown, student body vice president.

“The original fourteen nominations were carefully reviewed by the Writing Women planning committee and three [contenders] were chosen to be presented to the Student Academic Council as this year’s nominees,” Brown said.

Mary Pat Nolan, director of admissions; Joanne Snow, math professor; and Dorothy Feigl, chemistry professor, were announced last week as the final three nominees.

The women were chosen based on how well they met the mission statement of the award, which recognizes women who encourage students to grow intellectually, spiritually and personally. According to Jackie Zins, who was on this year’s planning committee, the three women were chosen based on the number of nominations by students and how they best represent the mission statement of the award. SAC then selected Snow.

“I can tell you that I am extremely grateful to belong to a community where students take the time to write good nominations,” she said. “I appreciate and cherish the different members of the community. I am also grateful that the students have invited me into their intellectual lives as well as their hearts and their entire lives.”

Contact Lisa Gallagher at lgallag@nd.edu

SMC students submit advanced W

“Sophomore year, in math courses, expository papers are written,” said Connolly. “They are then submitted to a writing committee where specific feedback is given. The student chooses one paper to polish and submit to her portfolio.”

Junior year, the same process is executed except with an analytic paper in the student’s senior year, a 20-page formal paper is submitted as a result of independent research for her senior composition.

“A Business major must demonstrate her writing proficiency through three papers to receive her advanced W. These papers are reviewed by the student’s academic advisor and a professor.”

By submitting these papers, a student demonstrates that she can communicate with precision and style, said Jill Vihtelic, chair of the Business Administration and Economics Department.

“The advanced W at Saint Mary’s College is a step above the senior comprehensive,” said junior communications major Kara Flynn. “It is a fantastic way to improve your knowledge of your major through intense writing and understanding. Although some say it is tedious, it is the final step before you are handed the diploma.”

Other Saint Mary’s students, however, said that they believe the project should be deemphasized.

“The advanced W should be one paper instead of three, and your graduation shouldn’t depend on papers,” said junior Linney Marklin.

Despite complaints voiced about the advanced W, many professors say it is a positive exercise.

“It is critical that you learn how to write in the discipline you plan on working in,” said Connolly.

Contact Claire Valley at val2144@stmarys.edu

Peace
continued from page 1

within the South Bend commu-

The events are predominately
led by graduate and under­
graduate students from Notre
Dame but also include presen­
ters from other colleges and
universities. Participants will
have the opportunity to hear a presentation by Elvia
Alvarado, a peasant leader in
Honduras, focusing on human
rights issues and land reform
struggles. Conference organiz­ers collaborated with the
Progressive Student Alliance,
nd the Latin American Studies
nd Kellogg Institute, among oth­er
spon­ors, to make Alvarado’s visit
campus possible.

“She does a lot of work with
human rights and land reform,”
Stefko said. “Her speech will be in Spanish ... but there will be a translator there.”

The conference concludes Saturday at the Grotto with a vigil against hate crimes. Afterward, those interested will have an opportunity to take salsa dance lessons back at the Hesburgh Library.

“The conference has been

dauing to organize and pub­licize, particularly for under­graduate students, said sopho­more Mary Beth Welch, a
member of the event’s publiciti­

committee. Nevertheless, organizers said that they are confident the event will increase awareness of impor­
tant issues among the Notre
Dame community and beyond.

“I hope this will happen in a
spirit of scholarly activism. Ev­eryone coming here is inter­
ested in peacemaking and peace building,” Stefko said.

“The world is sitting around
the world is sitting around
the world is sitting around
the world is sitting around

The 2004 NOTRE DAME
BALLROOM INVITATIONAL

Saturday, March 27
9:30am – 8:00pm
South Dining Hall (East Wing)

FREE ADMISSION!
Fetus rights bill passes in Senate

Proponents call legislation a precedent for future abortion rights cases

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Senate voted Thursday to make it a separate crime to harm a fetus during commission of a violent federal crime, a victory for those seeking to expand the legal rights of the unborn.

The 61-38 vote on the Unborn Victims of Violence Act sends the legislation, after a five-year battle in Congress, to President Bush for his signature. The White House said in a statement that it "strongly supports protection for unborn children," The House passed the bill last month.

Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., said the bill was "powerful because this act is about simple humanity, about simple reality."

But abortion rights law-makers contend that giving a fetus, from the point of conception, the same legal rights as its mother sets a precedent that could be used in future legal challenges to abortion rights.

It was the second big win for social conservatives, who last year pushed through protections for the unborn with enactment of the so-called partial birth abortion ban. That ban is now tied up in the courts.

The Senate cleared the way for passage with a 50-49 vote Tuesday amendment, backed by opponents of the bill, that would have increased penalties for harm to a pregnant woman but did not attempt to define when human life begins.

Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., President Bush's opponent this fall, interrupted his campaign schedule to vote yes on the amendment. He voted no on final passage.

The bill states that an assailant who attacks a pregnant woman while committing a violent federal crime can be prosecuted for separate offenses, against both the woman and her unborn child. The legislation defines an "unborn child" as a child in utero, which it says "means a member of the species homo sapiens, at any stage of development, who is carried in the womb."

"This bill recognizes that there are two victims," said Sen. Mike DeWine, R-Ohio, a chief sponsor. "Intuitively know that there is a victim besides the mother. The key obstacle was an amendment by Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., that would have imposed the same tougher penalties for attacks on pregnant women as outlined in the DeWine bill but made no attempt to define the beginning of life.

Feinstein said that by defining when life begins, the bill was "the first step in removing a woman's right to choose, particularly in the early months of a pregnancy before viability." She said it could also chill embryonic stem cell research.

The Senate also defeated an amendment by Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., that would require employers to give unpaid leave, and states to pay, unemployment benefits, to women when they or family members are victims of domestic or sexual violence.

Supporters of the bill have named it after Laci Peterson and her unborn child. Conner, victims in the highly publicized murder case in California. California, one of 29 states with an unborn victims law, is trying Peterson's husband, Scott, on double murder charges.

Laci Peterson's stepfather, Ron Grantly, said at a Capitol Hill news conference that he and Laci's mother had received several hundred thousand sympathy cards and "they all mourned our loss of Laci and Conner — not Laci and the fetus."


In Washington, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said he heard the news "with great relief" about the tape and said if it was authentic, the speaker "is clearly an individual who is very high-ranking and is capable of, and has in the past killed innocent men, women and children. And so one has to recognize that."

The tape comes as Pakistan's efforts to crack down on al-Qaida and their Afghan allies have reached a critical point. The talks between the two countries have failed to produce any concrete results, and both sides remain skeptical of each other's intentions.

President Musharraf has faced pressure from the United States to do more to fight al-Qaida, but he has been cautious about taking any steps that could undermine Pakistan's nuclear program or its relations with Iran.

The speaker also called for a military uprising in Pakistan. "Musharraf seeks to stab the army in the back," the speaker said.

"Every Muslim in Pakistan should work hard to get rid of this client government, which will continue to submit to America until it destroys Pakistan," the speaker added.

Pakistan's Foreign Ministry spokesman Mansoor Khan said the government has no immediate comment on the purported al-Zawahri tape. "We are in the process of verifying the authenticity of the tape," he said.

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**Autism**

continued from page 1

went by, they found themselves questioning their son's perpetu­al cold, his discomfort breathing, and his constant cries of Exema covering every inch of his body. Even more so, they questioned his inability to look at or engage with them, especially with his parents, or his older sister Elizabeth. They were worried that he wouldn't cry when he felt pain. Was he in pain? How could they tell? The time when a rattle was put in his hand? By four months old, Stacey noticed that Walker was showing signs of interest in windows, in the pattern of the sunlight outside. He would say, "I searched the windows obsessively, compulsively," she said, "as if knowing that was its purpose." When asked why, he said, "I was looking for comfort in the windows?"

And yet, he experienced boundless joy and energy over a squeaking bath toy, at four and a half months, he continually took, she said. He had been unable to find before. Within a few days, they found a joyousness in his eyes, which they had been unable to engage with him, which they had not noticed. Walker was communicating and his family. However, they were told that in order to increase Walker's chances of increasing his chances of expanding his definition in the autism spectrum, he would need to spend more time with therapists, including Dawn Smith, a student who was there for their son.

"Kerry is in a tough spot, because criticism of the Kerry camp has been coming from all sides, but also as Democrats' chief weakness." And with a candidate whose policies are identified with an identity ingrained in voters' minds, the result is one that would be decisive for the Kerry camp.

**International Student Services & Activities Present:**

**INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL WEEK**

March 27-April 2

Look for international menu items this week in the dining halls!

SATURDAY, MARCH 27

2-pm PAKISTAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION PRESENTS A mehndi FEST, SMALL FEE FOR EACH TATTOO. Fairley Hall, Basement Lounge

SUNDAY, MARCH 28

12PM CHINESE CULTURAL SOCIETY PRESENTS THE film "Infernal Affairs," "TAKING A STAND" at the Montgomery Theatre

2PM IRISH HURLING DEMONSTRATION, SOUTH COURT

MONDAY, MARCH 29

7:30PM INDIAN CULTURAL SOCIETY FILM "FIRE" WITH DISCUSSION, AND INDIAN FOOD. MONTGOMERY THEATRE

TUESDAY, MARCH 30

6:30pm: Professor Michael Nwanze, Howard University, Department of Political Science, speaks about africa, Debarto 119

7:30pm: A film from New Zealand, "WHALE RIDER." Debarto 110

The schedule continues for Friday, April 2. For the complete schedule, see Wednesday's OBSERVER, the ISSA Web site: www.nd.edu/~issa, or phone: 631-3825


**EXECUTIVE FRAUD**

Olis sentenced to 24-plus years

*Synecdoche executive’s punishment dwarfs those of former Enron executives*

**MARKET RECAP**

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Olis sentenced to 24-plus years

*Synecdoche executive’s punishment dwarfs those of former Enron executives*
Building

continued from page 1

Our alumnae as to how they can affect their own institution.”

Prior to Prikkel’s pledge, the college had already raised $7.5 million for the facility through a $2 million grant from Center for Women’s Intercultural Leadership, a large donation from an anonymous donor and through a variety of other sources. The grand total of $16.5 million would not only cover construction costs, but would also leave a $1.5 million endowment for future expenses the building may have.

“Saint Mary’s faculty and students deserve a state-of-the-art facility in which to teach and learn,” said Prikkel, in a written statement to the College. “Saint Mary’s professors changed my life by challenging me to be my best intellectually and spiritually. I can’t think of a better way to express my gratitude than by helping to create an environment that meets their modern-day needs.”

The proposal calls for an 82,000 square foot building — 12,000 square feet bigger than the current academic building — Madaleva Hall. It will house mid-size and small classrooms, conference rooms and office space.

“A lot of powerful teaching on this campus goes on outside the classroom, and we wanted to give everyone places to facilitate that learning,” said White. “Some of the most important learning takes place after a class when a few students continue a topic with a professor. We wanted to have offices and classrooms together so we can have seamless learning, instead of having to make a student follow a professor back to his or her office, which might be across campus.”

Many current offices on campus will reside in the building upon its completion including CWWL, the Center for Spirituality and the Center for Academic Innovation.

The building will include wireless technology and additional laboratory space for various disciplines in order to allow for changing educational needs.

“The new building will house classrooms with what we call collaboratories, where computers are integrated right into the classroom,” said White. “We need to be able to adapt to the growing and changing technological advancements on this campus, and this building will allow for that.”

Before Prikkel’s donation, the college had discussed renovations to Madaleva Hall, but felt bringing technology into the building would make any renovation too costly. At this time, the college does not have concrete plans for what will happen to Madaleva, which has served as the main academic building since 1968.

“We have many ideas for Madaleva, but the issue is not yet resolved,” said White. “We’re thinking about using parts of it, possibly keeping Carroll auditorium, but nothing has been decided yet.”

With the construction of the on-campus apartments coming to a close and the building of the state-of-the-art student center, which is scheduled to be completed in February 2005, White said he hopes to start the construction on the academic building next year. However, building will not begin until 100 percent of the project costs are committed through contributions.

Saint Mary’s has hired MPA Architects to assist with the design of the new building. White said he is excited for the new building and for the future of Saint Mary’s.

“At Saint Mary’s, we want to continue to attract a vibrant, rich and excellent student body,” said White. “In order to do that, we need to have good facilities, and thanks to Prikkel, now we will.”

Contact Angela Saoud at
saoud303@stmarys.edu

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Write for News. Call 1-5323.
Visitation continued from page 1

have had without the University-organized weekend, real student interaction and a physical introduction to the school are "critical" Martinez said.

The high school seniors are paired with current students — some minority and some white — who have been instructed to "be honest about their experience at Notre Dame" and "talk to them about not only the great things about it but also things that they find difficult," Martinez said.

Throughout the weekend, the prospective students will live in dorms with their hosts, attend classes, eat in the dining halls, meet faculty and take part in a variety of special events designed to introduce them to all aspects of the University. In addition to educational and logistical forums or meetings about topics such as financial aid and academic life, the prospective students will also enjoy cultural events such as Latin Expressions and the BCAC Fashion Show.

Such a concentration of cultural events on Spring Visitation weekend, however, has occasionally been criticized, and student coordinator Arleen Thompson said students sometimes complain of "deceptive diversity."

"We've had problems with some prospective and current students saying that," Thompson said. "Clearly, the demography of the people that we invite for Spring Visitation is not totally reflective of the majority of the student body."

Thompson said, adding, however, that the authentic experience of everyday life provided by the weekend gives students a good glimpse of what the reality is.

"If you go to the dining hall or go to class with your host or anything, it's not possible for you to be deceived," Thompson said.

Santana agreed. "The white students on campus don't disappear for three days," he said.

He said that Notre Dame, very often, is different from the prospective student's home communities, with differences ranging from demographics to the weather. And when the high school seniors come for Spring Visitation, he said, hosts and organizers "give them the real deal."

"There's some great pluses, and there are some negatives that may affect some more than others," Santana said. "It's up to each individual person to assess whether or not they can handle it. Notre Dame's not for everyone."

And those students who do decide that Notre Dame is for them usually end up staying, Thompson said.

"We have great retention rates," she said. "People make friends for a lifetime through the program." Organizers said the weekend is mutually beneficial for students and the University, showing targeted students that Notre Dame is the best institution for them while helping to facilitate increased diversity on campus.

"I'm making Notre Dame a better place by recruiting these bright young individuals, but I really do feel that, for a lot of these kids, I'm showing them a better way," Santana said. "A lot of them would not have a better chance at success in life coming to Notre Dame."

Contact Shica Flynn at dflynn2@nd.edu

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Beauty queen's ex held liable for topless photos

Associated Press

LUMBERTON, N.C. — A jury Thursday found a former beauty queen's ex-boyfriend liable for the e-mail he sent about topless photos that forced the Miss North Carolina to give up her crown.

Jurors determined that Tosh Welch's anonymous e-mail, sent a month after Rebekah Revels won the state pageant, interfered with Welch's contract with the pageant and interfered with a potential contract with the Miss America Organization.

They found that Welch did not intentionally inflict emotional distress on Revels. She also had accused Welch of invasion of privacy, but the judge threw out that claim.

"This is a very happy day for me," Revels said after the verdict. "I'm just elated right now."

Welch and his attorney, John Began, declined to comment.

In testimony Wednesday, the 25-year-old Revels denied she violated the morals clauses in her contract with the Miss North Carolina pageant, which prohibits indecent and immoral behavior.

Revels has denied posing for photos, saying Welch snapped one picture while she was dressing in her dormitory room when the two were a couple in college.

She said she did not realize until later he had taken a second photo of her topless at his family's house.

In October 2002, Welch turned over a computer disk that contained images of Revels to her former boyfriend, who retains custody of the disk.

GUSTO, SURGERY, AND SERVICE!!!

Operation Smile needs your help. Present this token at Hacienda (5836 Grape Road) on Monday, March 29th all day, and a portion of your bill will be donated to support an indigent child in need of corrective facial surgery. Applies to all food and drinks.

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GLUTTONY, SURGERY, AND SERVICE!!!

Operation Smile needs your help. Present this token at Hacienda (5836 Grape Road) on Monday, March 29th all day, and a portion of your bill will be donated to support an indigent child in need of corrective facial surgery. Applies to all food and drinks.

www.operationsmile.org
Scholarly Identities in Transition:
Digital/Memory/Archive

How are archives constitutive of scholarly identities?
How are digital and biological transformations of archives posing
questions to scholars about the intersections of their academic
practices and digital art?

The Center for Creative Computing,
in partnership with the
Identities in Transition Study Group
is pleased to host a morning workshop
devoted to the changing experience
of the archive and the intersections
of scholarship in the humanities
with multimedia art.

Saturday, March 27, 2004
9:30-12:00 Noon
242 Coleman-Morse

Our guests Dr. Tal Halpern (NYU-Multimedia) and
Orit Halpern (History of Science-Harvard University)
explore the experience of the archive and the possibilities for the
transformation of memory in between the analog and the digital.

Sponsored by The Nanovic Institute
for European Studies  www.nd.edu/~nanovic
Ivory Coast
Rebels withdraw from government

President Laurent Gbagbo was not fully implementing the accord. The same complaints were behind Thursday's march.

The United Nations is preparing to deploy 6,240 U.N. peacekeepers early next month to back about 4,000 French and 1,400 West African troops already deployed.

Opposition militants gathered early in Abidjan's outlying, poor suburbs and planned to converge on the city center's barricaded Plateau district, where the presidential palace is guarded with tanks and armored cars. They never got close.

Security forces fired tear gas to disperse them. Then, according to witnesses, paramilitary police opened fire with assault rifles, killing several in the crowd.

As tires were set ablaze in the streets, two fighter jets and several helicopter gunships flew overhead.

Much of the violence subsided by dusk, and one opposition spokesman, Djedje Mady of the Democratic Party of Ivory Coast, urged protesters to go home.

“Faced with the barbarity of the soldiers, I have asked our militants to withdraw and to keep themselves safe,” Mady said. “We are asking them to go back home.”

Most streets were deserted — except for patrolling security forces. The government declared Thursday a public holiday and ordered all schools closed.

Thousands of rebel supporters launched anti-Gbagbo demonstrations in the rebel-held towns of Bouake, Korhogo and Bouna, said French army spokesman Lt. Col. Bruno Missel. Protesters also took to the streets in the capital, Yamoussoukro, Kouassi said.

Abidjan — Rebels and the main opposition party pulled out of Ivory Coast's power-sharing government Thursday after 25 people died in deadly clashes between security forces and opposition supporters, who marched in defiance of a government ban.

The street skirmishes were the bloodiest to hit this West African nation's commercial capital since a failed September 4, saying they would suspend its participation in the government.

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The street skirmishes were the bloodiest to hit this West African nation's commercial capital since a failed September
Confusion on the home front

Notre Dame's policies on homosexual issues are a paradigm of incoherence. Our leaders act sincerely in what they see as the best interest of Notre Dame and in students. But in their pursuit of political correctness, they have misled students, especially those with homosexual inclinations, and they have redefined the exploitation of Notre Dame by activist movements hostile to the Catholic Church.

Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, the 1990 Apostolic Constitution on Catholic Universities requires that the "essential characteristics" of every Catholic university must include: "Fidelity to the Christian message as it comes to us through the Church." That message on the homosexual issues is clear.

1. Persons with "homosexual tendencies...must be accepted with respect, compassion and sensitivity. Every sign of unjust discrimination in its origin and practice should be avoided." Catechism, No. 2358.

2. Homosexual acts are "intrinsically disordered. They are contrary to the natural law. They close the sexual act to the gift of life. "Scripture...presents them as acts of grave depravity."

The University, however, refuses to acknowledge that the inclination toward such acts is disordered. But how can an inclination toward a disorderly act be itself anything but disordered? And if an inclination is not disordered why may it not be acted upon? This is important because our leaders wrongly imply that the prohibition of homosexual acts is not rooted in the natural law and the law of God but rather that it is an arbitrary edict of an insensate church.

This misdirection is compounded by the University's readiness to combat other disordered inclinations. Students inclined to eating disorders, smoking, excessive drinking are objects of elaborate programs to control those inclinations. Smokers, especially, have achieved the status of virtual pariahs. Not for them the welcome solace extended to students inclined toward sodomy rather than tobacco.

To alumni, donors and the public our leaders present an image of fidelity to their refusal to recognize student groups condoning homosexual acts. To the students, however, they offer cognitive confusion. If they are so adamant about refusing to approve homosexual acts, why have they allowed, for three years, University sponsorship of The Vagina Monologues, a play which commends the lesbian exploitation of a teenager by an adult as a "salvation" for the victim and why did our leaders allow University sponsorship of the Queer Film Festival which exalted homosexual and transgendered lifestyles so as to hijack the reputation of Notre Dame in support of a politicized agenda hostile to the Catholic Church? Only a liberal academic could imagine that those events were neutral academic exercises.

Despite their denial of formal recognition to activist homosexual groups, our leaders convey by their actions the message that the legitimacy of the active homosexual lifestyle is at least an open question. While that message accords with political correctness, the de facto official religion of Notre Dame, it poorly serves the members of the University community. The Letter on the Pastoral Care of Homosexual Persons, issued with the approval of John Paul II, states: "(Departure from the Church's...teaching or silence about it, in an effort to provide pastoral care, is neither caring nor pastoral. Only what is true can ultimately be pastoral. The neglect of the Church's position prevents homosexual men and women from receiving the care they need and deserve."

The singing of the Church in this area, rooted in the natural law as well as Scripture, is a hopeful and constructive testimony to the dignity of the person. Notre Dame students are entitled to a coherent affirmation by our leaders of the fullness of that teaching. Here, in other areas, they are shortchanged.

Professor Emeritus Charles E. Rice is on the Law School faculty. His column normally appears every other Wednesday. He can be contacted at pluecker.189@nd.edu.

"It is error alone which needs the support of government. Truth can stand by itself."

Thomas Jefferson president
While surfing through my cable channels, I happened upon an Animal Planet program featuring magicians with animals. It was a fascinating show that revealed how the masters of illusion utilize the natural characteristics of their animal companions. For example, one magician used the advantage of a pigeon's sensitivity to sound waves to make it appear that the bird was turning away from him as though to ignore his conversation.

This year's unprecedented early presidential television attack advertisements between the two major parties might have been classified as politics as usual if the commission investigating the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks had not suspected anything affiliated with the White House to now publicly reverse that assertion by questioning its statement to the 9/11 Commission that the White House attack sneaks and cheats with the terrorism war. It gives all of the Bush administration's policies a bad name, particularly with the late Sen. Bob Dole, a Republican, who declared he had lost his appetite for the presidency.

It is not unusual for an incoming administration to suspect everyone of being a security threat, especially when the new president is of a different political party. When Bill Clinton entered office, retail vendors who sold items like shirts and coffee cups were deemed "Republicans" even though some had become vendors during Jimmy Carter's term. It is understandable and forgivable to think the current Bush team, many of whom served under the first Bush presidency, to suspect holdover employees. The problem is that Clarke originally was a Reagan and Bush employee. It speaks volumes on how the current White House staff suspected anything affiliated with Clinton ranging from staff to serious Middle East policy to terror threats.

It is good that Clarke's book and testimony surfaced now in the election cycle. It gives the voting public time to digest whether or not the conquest of Iraq was a grave "sinful" act. The "direct threat," the "immediate" and "background" threats, all of which these political activists and politicians are cleverly exploiting, were not considered a breach of professional ethics.

The recent debate on homosexuality and its place at this University would have made me physically ill if anything substantial had actually been said thus far. Instead, I find myself merely annoyed at the arrogance, rhetoric and avoidance that have characterized these letters thus far. Everybody thinks they know the answers, but nobody really wants to talk about the question that drives the whole affair.

Let's look first to the "facts" both sides throw around. What, exactly, is being discussed? Nobody wants to say. Is homosexuality, homosexual individuals, accepting them, supporting them, changing them, blah blah blah nobody wants to take a stand on that. People will dance around the issue of tolerance and acceptance and speak euphemistically about the "homosexual lifestyle." It's sex, people. You can disagree with it, but you can't say anything about it, sex, activity, but sexual orientation, say that. But either way, it ties to sex or the potentiality of sex. Any other euphemisms and fancy terms just dance around the issue and make everyone feel somewhat comfortable. This is an important topic, we can call things what they are -- or should be able to.

Now, we're told people have to understand that this is a Catholic institution, and that Catholics are going to disagree on this topic even when they're wrong. If they didn't believe the Catholic doctrines were correct, they wouldn't be Catholic, and likewise if the school didn't enforce Catholic policies. It wouldn't be either. But let's be serious here. The problem here is sex. The Catholic Church can't even fathom the idea that unmarried heterosexuals could, would or should be able to.

The point is that some people here are saying the Catholic Church is wrong. They're saying that the will of God has been arrogantly assumed by this being and that the will of the Church just might not be God's will after all. It's fine to say the Catholic Church is right, but that doesn't justify your argument. You're going to have to make more reasoned, intelligent and referenced arguments. Tell us why Pope Pius says this or that. Tell us why Saint Paul introduced this heretofore-unmentioned edict back in Corinthians. Hopefully, they'll be countered by similarly intelligent ones from the other side. I think we're mature enough to go through this openly, without veiling what we are supporting or object to.

Examine your faith first

Despite the belief of many on this campus, the Catholic Church has made many significant mistakes in the past. I mean, selling indulgences? Give me a break. Now while I realize this situation is not quite the same, I'd like those in the Notre Dame community to take a look at themselves before condemning a group of people.

No one is asking you to become a homosexual. No one is even asking that you agree with them. It's up to each individual to examine his faith first and to make his own decision on sexual orientation.

The point is that some people here are saying the Catholic Church is wrong. They're saying that the will of God has been arrogantly assumed by this being and that the will of the Church just might not be God's will after all. It's fine to say the Catholic Church is right, but that doesn't justify your argument. You're going to have to make more reasoned, intelligent and referenced arguments. Tell us why Pope Pius says this or that. Tell us why Saint Paul introduced this heretofore-unmentioned edict back in Corinthians. Hopefully, they'll be countered by similarly intelligent ones from the other side. I think we're mature enough to go through this openly, without veiling what we are supporting or object to.

Examine your faith first
New stars shine in the Pasquilla Musical Company's 'A Night on Broadway'

By MARIA SMITH
Scene Editor

If you want to see West Side Story in February, you already know it's worth coming to see some of the show's stars from the Pasquilla East Musical Company take the stage again this weekend. In their yearly musical review entitled "A Night on Broadway," Natalie Martinez is as adorable and Jenny Radelet is as magnetic in the Revue as they were on the stage of Washington Hall. Matt Curtain and KC Kenney have just as much character.

But the best thing about the Revue is its variety of acts and talents. Singers and dancers who haven't performed in a lead role on campus shine in individual performances of Broadway show tunes. Some of the Company's newest members steal the spotlight this year in their musical theatre debuts. Keough resident assistant Luke Slokosky is confident and charming performing "Sixteen Going on Seventeen" with senior Katie Welch in his first vocal performance on stage.

Slokosky has been excited about the chance to sing onstage, practicing his number in his spare time - including in the car while driving to and from Ohio - to get ready for the show despite a busy schedule.

"I've always loved watching musical theatre... Some of the cast members encouraged me to audition," Slokosky said. "I'm surprised how much more confidence it takes to sing than act (on stage).

Sophomore Eric Buell is quirky and entertaining in his slightly ironic performance of "I've Been Working on the Ole Mill Race." Buell said he hopes to rattie some traditional theatrical cages.

Junior Dave Moisan chose a striking number for his debut, performing a slightly raucous rendition of "Going on 30" from Fiddler on the Roof with senior Tim Gibeau. Moisan is used to performing with the campus band currently known as the campus band, so he thought it would be more comfortable than acting. Gibeau heard his fellow performer propose the idea and jumped on the bandwagon.

"I did a big depressing number last year about my father who gambled away all the family's money and left us," Gibeau said. "So I wanted to do something more fun.

The show is also a great way for freshmen to continue to perform past high school and find a crowd.

Kate VanDamme, the only Saint Mary's College student in the show, read about PEMCO The Observer following a fall performances and decided to try out. VanDamme is a strong addition to the group number "My Strongest Suit" and to the tap dance trio of "Go into Your Dance" from 42nd Street.

"It's been wonderful, mainly because of the people," VanDamme said.

Freshman Allison Giovinazzo, a strong singer who has been dancing as long as she can remember, played a small part in West Side Story but shines in the musical's title number "Fiddler on the Roof." Giovinazzo said, "I've definitely been able to learn a lot from the upperclassmen. It's like a lot of big brothers and sisters."

"They get ready themselves. We just take them up to the next level," Shawna Monson said.

"And I'm confident and charming," Natalie Martinez said. "I've definitely been able to learn a lot from the upperclassmen. It's like a lot of big brothers and sisters."

"I've been working on the show as long as I remember," Martinez said. "It's been wonderful, mainly because of the people." VanDamme said. "Freshman Allison Giovinazzo, a strong singer who has been dancing as long as she can remember, played a small part in West Side Story but shines in the musical's title number "Fiddler on the Roof." Giovinazzo said, "I've definitely been able to learn a lot from the upperclassmen."

"A Night on Broadway" brings veteran performers and first-time singers together for the show in late February.

"The show has gone amazingly," Monson said. "That is because of the people in the show working so hard on their individual acts."

"They get ready themselves, We just take them up to the next level," VanDamme said. "We're old hands or new performers, the singers, dancers and actors in 'A Night on Broadway' are talented, full of life and full of character. Most importantly, the show is fun for the cast, crew and audience alike.

Contact Maria Smith at msmith4@nd.edu
Latin Expressions promises diverse show with over 100 student performers

By MEEG CONROY
Scene Writer

Although La Alianza, the Latino group of Notre Dame, can't control the weather, it can heat up your weekend with Sabrousa: Latin Expressions. Latin Expressions has been 'spicing' up Notre Dame and Saint Mary's since its 'older' premiere in 1990. However this year, as the title suggests, will be exceptionally tasty, or a 'Saborusa.'

In its 15th year, Latin Expressions will bring together talents, ideas and creativity of over 100 students. This year is special because Notre Dame and Saint Mary's students will perform all of the acts. In previous years, outside and Nicole Obregon performers had filled open spaces.

This year's executive director is April Garcia. "We have about a dozen acts that showcase freshmen through seniors, Latino and non-Latino students, and a wide range of artistic expression," April Garcia, executive director of the program.

The show's performances will include poetry, dancing, singing, artwork, bands and even a political act.

As Latin Expressions has gained acclaim and support through the University, the audition standards have also risen. This year the executive board found themselves turning students away. "There are a lot of quality acts, but we just couldn't fit them all because of time," Garcia said.

As a result, a very unique, and diverse group of students was selected to represent the artistic and Latino diversity on campus.

Guests will enjoy Latin expressions from 'Station One,' Troop ND, the Irish Dance team and various other groups. Some of the show's highlights include Ballet Folklorico, Sazon, a spoken word piece and Flamenco act.

Ballet Folklorico will perform two pieces. The first comes from the state of Jalisco, and is all female. In the second piece, six couples will perform a traditional wedding dance from the state of Vera Cruz. This dance is a symbolic representation of unity. Dancers will gracefully tie a ribbon with their feet, imitating the bond tied through marriage. Another dance act, although quite different, is Sazon, Sazin culture. Sazon is composed of four females who will perform a medley of Latino dance styles. This act is the first of its kind in the show's history, and is sure to please guests.

Melody Gonzalez's act, a spoken word piece, may bring back the tone of the show from its first run in 1990. Her piece is a poetic commentary on the tomato wages of Taco Bell. Although not the typical act in Latin Expressions, it will still offer an important perspective of Latino culture and issues.

Gonzalez's piece will reveal some economic and political issues of Latino culture, helping to emphasize the show's overall presentation of Latino culture.

There is one act returning after a few years absence: Gabby Obregon will perform a traditional Flamenco dance. Although Latin Expressions has offered Flamenco dance before, this will be the first time in many years.

"Until now we just haven't had anyone with the experience," Garcia said.

Obregon has been practicing Flamenco dance for many years and will display her talents in a solo act. "There are all of these acts that showcase Latino culture they're comfortable with," Garcia said. "Instead of a celebratory mood, a more harsh and political tone is preserved."

The event sought more to profess political and social concerns of Latino culture rather than share the rich diversity.

In years following the 1990 debut, many changes were made to the event. After a few years at Hesburgh, the show moved to Stepan center. This was done to support the growing demand for audience and performance space. While at Stepan, many of the shows were composed of "outside" acts. Latino performers and musicians from surrounding areas would come in to showcase their talents. Although some students participated in the acts, a majority was comprised of alternative sources.

In its 15th year, Latin Expressions finds itself at St. Mary's O'Laughlin Auditorium. The new location allows for bigger audiences and a more formal atmosphere.

Garcia hopes the show will expand viewer's ideas of Latino culture.

"A lot of people only have one view of Latino culture they're comfortable with. It's important to expand upon this view and get a better understanding of the culture's diversity."

April Garcia, executive director

Contact Meeg Conroy at mconroyl@nd.edu
The Observer

Scene

Friday, March 26, 2004

'The Consul' brings unique musical experience to Notre Dame

Opera provides students opportunity to test out techniques learned in the fall

By JON RETARTHA
Scene Writer

The sounds of death, love, and politics fill Washington Hall this weekend as the ND Opera presents Menotti's "The Consul." The story (song in English) focuses around the Sorel family. John, his wife Magda, his mother, and the couple's infant son all live together in a small apartment and John regularly takes part in secret meetings against the government.

One night, the meeting is raided and John is wounded. Magda and John's mother become very upset, and hide him when the secret police come to interrogate Magda. She keeps quiet, but when John emerges from hiding, he decides that he must seek refuge outside the country in order to protect his family. The family shares a tearful parting, and John warns Magda to watch for news of him from the local glasscutter. John also tells Magda to go to the local consulate to gain visas to leave the country.

Magda travels to the consulate's office, but the waiting room is full of people experiencing problems with gaining visas. Some do not have proper identification, others do not have the correct forms filled out, and others like Magda cannot wait months for a visa. The period the consulate waits the authorities. The ND Opera was started in 1991 as a way for students to learn opera techniques and then perform in front of an audience. The fall semester, the students learn about opera and the methods by which opera is performed. In the spring, they put together a full production that puts to use the skills the students have learned.

John Sorel, the fugitive freedom fighter. His voice is incredibly powerful, and it carries extremely well over the orchestra. He also does an excellent job of displaying the emotion needed to further the plot, while delivering the notes perfectly. He draws very near to actually overpowering the other people he is on stage with, but this helps the other actors to be the best they can be to keep up.

Rebecca Paul plays Magda, John's wife. She has a beautiful voice, and perhaps has the toughest role to play because of the extreme emotions and pain she must deliver. Paul does an excellent job and blends with Appleby very well.

John Bley-Schofield from Yorkshire, England directs this year's production. He has performed at the Huddersfield School of Music, along with the Royal Academy of Music in London. He has also been involved with productions with the English National Opera and the Netherlands Opera. Along with teaching, he is an accomplished opera singer, classical singer, and pianist.

John Apelios conducts "The Consul." A native Australian, he has conducted the National Radio Symphony of Athens, Greece, as well as other productions in Italy, Australia, and the Czech Republic. Paul Appleby plays John Sorel, the fugitive freedom fighter. His voice is incredibly powerful, and it carries extremely well over the orchestra. He also does an excellent job of displaying the emotion needed to further the story. While the cast does an excellent job in their own individual performances, the ensemble really shines in their combined deliveries. The performance of John, Magda, and John's mother before John leaves is incredibly powerful as the three sing together in rounds. Another similarly impressive performance belongs to the people waiting in the consulate's office.

The set design is very plain with white walls, an armchair, crib, and shelf for the apartment, and a desk and chairs for the consulate. The period for the costumes is somewhere in the mid 1950s, with trench coats, suits, and fedoras for the men. Magda and her mother wear middle class clothing befitting homemakers of the decade.

"The Consul" is a very entertaining and unique musical experience. It would certainly provide a fun evening for those who are long time opera fans, and for first time viewers. The English lyrics are for the most part very understandable, and it is not hard at all to keep up with the action. It provides an excellent introduction into the world of opera.

"The Consul" plays at Washington Hall Friday and Saturday at 7:30 pm. Tickets are $5 for students and senior citizens, and $10 for general public. Tickets are available at the LaFortune Box Office.

Contact John Retartha at jretartha@nd.edu

Two women sit at the busy consulate office. The office is one of two settings in "The Consul."

Magda pleads for a visa at the consulate office so she can be with her husband who has taken refuge outside of the country.
**NBA**

Blake, Hughes lead Wizards to victory over L.A.

**Associated Press**

LOS ANGELES — A strong first half by Larry Hughes and two spurs of instant offense by Utah's Mike Bibby could not stop the Lakers, who were too much for the Clippers to overcome.

Hughes scored 24 of his 30 points before halftime, and Blake had seven of his 17 points in the first 4:42 as the Washington Wizards ended a five-game losing streak with a 103-94 victory over Los Angeles on Thursday night.

Hughes, playing his third game since coming off the injured list, shot 11-for-21 and tied a career high with 12 rebounds for his 33rd double-figure game.

NBA

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**FOR RENT**

**WANTED**

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**CLASSIFIEDS**

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A strong first half by Larry Hughes and two spurs of instant offense by Utah's Mike Bibby could not stop the Lakers, who were too much for the Clippers to overcome.

Hughes scored 24 of his 30 points before halftime, and Blake had seven of his 17 points in the first 4:42 as the Washington Wizards ended a five-game losing streak with a 103-94 victory over Los Angeles on Thursday night.

Hughes, playing his third game since coming off the injured list, shot 11-for-21 and tied a career high with 12 rebounds for his 33rd double-figure game.
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Saint Joe's Jameer Nelson dribbles up court as Wake Forest's Trent Strickland defends during the first half of their NCAA men's basketball championship regional game. Saint Joe's defeated Wake Forest 84-80.

Associated Press

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The Players Championship, 12 p.m., ESPN

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Saint Joe's Jameer Nelson打败了Wake Forest 84-80.
**WOMEN’S TENNIS**

No. 21 Irish travel south to face two top ACC teams

By ANN LOUGHERY
Sports Writer

This weekend will be anything but boring for the No. 21 Irish as they face No. 33 Wake Forest and No. 9 North Carolina.

Wake Forest (8-7) upset North Carolina 4-3 Wednesday to end its three-match losing streak. The Tar Heels (13-5) claimed the doubles point, but dropped four of the six singles matches in the loss.

"Wake Forest was really beat up last year because of injuries," Irish coach Jay Louderback said. "They lost a lot of close matches and had a tough schedule. They have better depth this year."

North Carolina is prepared for a quick win after Wednesday’s loss, Louderback said.

"They’re after everyone at every position; they won’t overlook anyone. After losing to Wake Forest, they’ll be in a bad mood," Louderback said.

Wake Forest brings a tough lineup to Saturday’s match. Several team members have returned after nursing injuries in previous meets. In addition, Wake Forest brings the No. 22 player in singles, Karin Coetzee, and the No. 40 doubles team of Coetzee and Aimee Smith to the match. Coetzee won her match Wednesday 6-2, 6-2 against North Carolina’s Lee Bairs, while the duo of Coetzee and Smith lost 6-6.

North Carolina’s young team includes No. 29 singles Annelie Mojzis and the No. 23 doubles team of Mojzis and Kendall Cline. Wake Forest’s Ashlee Davis defeated Mojzis 6-1, 6-0. Mojzis had an earlier win in doubles against Wake Forest’s Coetzee and Smith 8-6.

Last weekend the Irish collected a win against No. 47 Iowa 6-1, securing the doubles point and neatly sweeping singles with four wins. They look to garner their ninth and 10th wins of the season after this weekend’s matches.

"If we compete hard, we’ll have a shot," Louderback said. "They’d better be ready. We’re coming."

Playing on outdoor courts will only play outdoors once. Weather plays an integral role in outdoor competitions, as the sun and wind factor into the ball’s speed and direction, Louderback said.

The Irish hit the courts at Wake Forest on Saturday at 1 p.m. and at North Carolina on Sunday at 1 p.m.

Contact Ann Lougher at alougher@nd.edu

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**Irish travel to Ball State for match on Sunday**

By KATE GALES
Sports Writer

As the weather improves, so have the Irish.

After moving to 11-7 with a win over Michigan Tuesday, the No. 36 Irish look to establish a winning streak as they travel to Ball State Sunday.

Notre Dame is 4-2 since the beginning of March. A win this weekend could begin a win streak similar to the four-game stint the Irish went on in mid-February.

Ball State is 5-10, winning none of their ten matches against ranked opponents. They are 0-1 this season in the Mid-American conference in a tight race with Western Michigan.

“We feel we have a reasonably good chance to beat them,” coach Bobby Bayliss said. “Our team is guarded optimism. We know that the Northernwestern [coaching staff] warned me that they could be happy.

The match is scheduled for the outdoor courts, a first for the Irish in the regular dual-match season. Bayliss has used the spring weather to help transition the Irish from playing indoors.

“If we get outside tomorrow, it will help us,” he said. “I actually hope we play outside because we need the outdoor play to prepare for (upcoming matches at) Florida State and Virginia Tech.”

The Irish beat the Wolverines 5-2 on Tuesday in a match that was closer than the score indicated, despite the illness of three top players battling illnesses and the difficulty of a big Ten opponent.

However, the health of the team should not be a concern this weekend.

“I expect everyone to be at 100 percent,” Bayliss said. Matthew Scott, Luis Haddock and Ryan Keckley practiced Thursday and are expected to be at full strength by the Sunday match.

After the trip to Michigan, the Irish spent two practices honing each player’s personal techniques.

“We’ve been focusing on some of the things that have shown up in matches that we really need to stress individually,” Bayliss said.

Contact Kate Gales at kgales@nd.edu

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Location is available on the SAG web site.
SMC Golf

Belles to play in Northern Kentucky Invitational

By ANN LOUGHERY
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's hopes to capture a fifth-place finish this weekend at Northern Kentucky's Invitational. Teams from Division I, Division II and Division III are included in the 18 schools competing in the Invitational. Coach Mark Hamilton said the Belles look forward to the meet, describing it as an opportunity to compete against deeper teams.

"Some of the teams we'll be competing head-to-head with, and other teams we'll be playing just for pride," Hamilton said. "We're looking to shoot 320 each day, and we'll see where that score falls amongst the fray." Hamilton said the team looks forward to facing stiffer competition.

"We're like amateurs playing pro's, but the amateurs still have a really good chance," Hamilton said, referring to the large, talented Division I and II teams the Belles are set to meet. Included in the tournament are seven teams the Belles have faced in previous meets, five of which they have defeated. This weekend's invitational should be approached like a chess match, Hamilton said, with the Belles aiming to stay one step ahead of the game.

"Mentally, this will require Saint Mary's to remain focused on the course and calm in pressured situations. "We're a couple of players short, so we'll need the underclassmen to step up this weekend, especially if things get tight," Hamilton said.

"Belles are set to play in the invitational should be considered another chance," Hamilton said, referring to the opportunity to compete against deeper teams.

"It's a fun atmosphere, and the Belles are looking forward to facing stiffer competition," Hamilton said.

Contact Ann Lougherby at slougher@smu.edu

UPCOMING MOVIES

April 1-3
April 15-17
April 22-24

Happy 21st, Jacqui!!!
Love, Your Girls

By CHRISTINE ARMSTRONG
Jennie Staff Writer

This Saturday the Irish face another Top-20 team when they take on No. 2 Michigan and Clemson in Ann Arbor. The Wolverines, who took second place in the 2003 NCAA varsity eight race, will provide stiff competition, but the rowers hope to build off of their solid Spring Break performances against No. 8 Michigan State, No. 13 Tennessee and No. 18 Duke.

During the 2002-2003 season, the Irish had a difficult schedule, which concluded with a frustrating two-point loss to nationally ranked Syracuse in the Big East title race. This year's competition promises to be equally difficult, as the Irish will face at least one Top-20 team each weekend. The Irish are not discouraged, though, and with returnees such as team captains Natalie Ladine and Katie Welsh, Alice Bartek — who holds the Notre Dame erg score record — and Danielle Protasewich, the team is working to improve each week.

"Challenging ourselves all season will hopefully put us in a good position as we go into Central Regionals, our most crucial race of the year," said Welsh. "Our ultimate goal is to earn a team bid to the NCAA championships, and as invitations are extended only to the top twelve teams, it is essential that we face some of the best competition throughout the season."

"Our team is working hard and making significant improvements each week," said Irish head coach Christine Armstrong.

"We're playing good golf right now," Hamilton said.

"It's going to take 3-1/2's all weekend to beat them. We're a couple of players short, so we'll need the underclassmen to step up this weekend, especially if things get tight," Hamilton said.

"Belles are set to play in the invitational should be considered another chance," Hamilton said, referring to the opportunity to compete against deeper teams.

Contact Ann Lougherby at slougher@smu.edu
SMC SOFTBALL

Belles to open home schedule with Alma

By STEVE COYER
Sports Writer

Struggling team hopes to end a six-game losing streak with a win over tough Alma

"We don't want to play catch-up anymore."

Anna Welsh
couch

After a tough stretch of games on the road, the Belles will begin league play at home Saturday.

Saint Mary's (5-8) has lost six straight games and will get little rest as they meet defending MIAA champions Alma College in a doubleheader.

Alma (18-2) has been dominant with seven shutout victories so far, and the team looks to be on course for another league championship. Against a strong team like Alma, the Belles realize they cannot fall behind early in the game as has happened previously this season.

"We don't want to play catch-up anymore," coach Anna Welsh said. "Once we begin to start playing aggressively from inning one, there we will be "a much more successful team."

In a doubleheader last year against Alma, the Belles were shutout in both games losing 8-0 and 9-0. In each game, Saint Mary's fell behind in the first inning and failed to get anything going on offense. The Belles had two hits the entire doubleheader.

This season Saint Mary's has more experience against Alma and will look towards returning starters Libby Wilhelmy, Erin Sullivan, Jackie Zurcher and Marnie Walsh.

While the Belles have nearly every starter returning from last year, Alma likewise has their key players back this season. Alma boasts three players from last year's All MIAA-first team, including Erin Carson — who received the league MVP award.

"In order to reach our goals on the season we are going to make adjustments to help us get prepared to have a better start in the first inning," Welsh said.

Saint Mary's will play at home this Saturday at 1 p.m.

Some additional details:

The Belles had two hits the entire doubleheader.

While the Belles have nearly every starter returning from last year, Alma likewise has their key players back this season. Alma boasts three players from last year's All MIAA-first team, including Erin Carson — who received the league MVP award.

"In order to reach our goals on the season we are going to make adjustments to help us get prepared to have a better start in the first inning," Welsh said.

Contact Steve Coye at scoyer@nd.edu

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The End

continued from page 28

praise for its resilience finally poured in. "We," the Irish coach smiled half-heartedly after his team lost 65-61, "owed these guys hard."

How else can you explain what happened in the final minute of Notre Dame's season-ending loss? You know, where the Irish pulled to within two with 48.8 seconds left but placed the game in the hands of their defense by deciding not to foul? And when Oregon's all-everything guard Luke Jackson started driving toward the basket with 18 seconds left, it was easy to start wondering if Brey made the right call by trusting his defense.

But Jackson's layup rolled off the rim, and Torrian Jones gave the Irish new life by quickly grabbing the rebound — then just as quickly kicked them back into the grave by throwing the pass out of bounds.

But the Irish weren't done yet. Jackson went to the line needing to make two free-throws to clinch the game. The first one whizzed through the net, The second one caromed off the rim, past Colin Falls' outstretched hands and right back into Jackson's hands.

The Irish season was finally dead. There could be no more late comebacks, no more second-chance tournaments; just time for jerseys to be pulled over heads (like Chris Thomas did), staring at the ceiling (like Jordan Cornette did), or sitting stone-faced on the bench (like Rick Cornett did), stunned them more — that Notre Dame's season was over, or that the Irish were out of chances.

"The NIT set it up for us to go to the Final Four. To lose ...." said Thomas as his voice trailed off.

The lack of depth finally caught up to the Irish. When Torin Francis played his last minutes of the year in a win against Connecticut, the Irish were stuck with only seven players the rest of the way. And if one was off, the Irish were in deep trouble.

Few could have expected that the player who sparked so much of the Irish success — Thomas — played the final games of the year with knees so bad he went days without being able to practice.

Fewer could have imagined that Rick Cornett would emerge to replace Francis in the low post, giving the Irish hope of winning their first NIT title.

Brey loved to say throughout the season that the Irish had read their last rites time after time. But no matter how resilient the Irish may have been, the priest always stood by to read them again.

So when a controversial charge call against Thomas went in Oregon's favor, and when Oregon went 8-for-10 from the field in a crucial second-half explosion, the Irish couldn't help but wonder if their time was finally up.

"You get to ride a wave of a game, and you look for signs," Brey said.

"Those weren't great signs. Those were tough. We just couldn't bounce back. We had all those opportunities."

In the end, Notre Dame's lack of depth along the bench finally caught up with them. And in a game that seemed to be a microcosm of Notre Dame's season, the Irish rallied from a nine-point deficit, only to lose so much energy trying to come back that they could never take the lead.

So the Irish trudged off their court for the final time this year, left to ponder what could have been.

"We did have that extra level to push it to," Thomas said. "Maybe some extra rest would have helped that. "Now, we get a lot of rest."

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

Contact Andrew Soukup at asoukup@nd.edu.

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And NBA rules prohibit players Thomas, who would return for his senior season.

"I was just careless with the ball. I should have held on to the ball a little longer and make sure he was open before I passed it," Jones fouled Jackson, who made the first free throw and missed the second. But Oregon grabbed the rebound and iced the game — and Notre Dame's season — by making an additional free throw.

"We kind of folded there at the end," Thomas said. "We had our chances, but if I would have taken a couple less crazy shots, maybe that would have made up for the points." Besides ending Notre Dame's season, the loss also kept the Irish from getting 20 wins for the first time since the 1998-99 campaign.

"It would have been nice to get that 20th win so we could have four in a row, but it's unfortunate," Thomas said. "I think that would have been a really great achievement for our team to get that 20th win for what we've been through," he said.

Contact Matt Lozar at mlozar@nd.edu

Chris Thomas scored 18 points on 7-of-25 shooting Thursday.

Thomas announces he will return next year

By ANDREW SOUKUP
Senior Staff Writer

He made his decision nearly six weeks ago, but Chris Thomas didn't want many people to know about it. So the junior point guard who flirted with the NBA Draft as a sophomore waited until the eve of Notre Dame's final game of the season to tell the media that he decided to return to Notre Dame for his senior season.

"My teammates knew, my coach knew. I just wanted to get it out so people wouldn't be wondering about it," Thomas said after Notre Dame's season-ending 68-61 loss to Oregon Wednesday. "I knew a long time ago and I didn't want to do some formal thing."

It was widely speculated that Thomas, who had been plagued by knee problems for most of the year, would return for his senior season. And NBA rules prohibit players from declaring for the draft to test their status and then withdrawing more than once.

Brey said he thought Thomas wanted to help make an NCAA Tournament run next year as a major figure of a team that would include Chris Quinn, Torin Francis, Jordan Cornette and Dennis Latimore. And the chance to chase the Irish from getting their first NCAA Tournament bid since 1999 campaign.

"He thought he was getting his knee examined, and the Irish coach didn't rule out the possibility of off-season surgery," Brey said. "I thought he was getting some wisdom, and then withdrawing wasn't favorable. And I thought he made a great decision this year."
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Mountaineers present first league challenge

By CHRIS FEDERICO
Senior Staff Writer

Now it's really time for the Irish to do the talking.

This weekend No. 6 Notre Dame (14-3) travels to Morgantown, W. Va., to kick off Big East Conference play and take on West Virginia (18-10). As perennial conference front-runners and favorites to win the Big East title in 2004 as selected by the conference coaches, the Irish often present opponents a chance to make a big statement in the league.

Irish coach Paul Mainieri welcomes the early season expectations and the challenges his squad will likely receive in making a title run.

"I hope everybody is shooting at us, to be honest," Mainieri said. "That's the plan. The plan this year is to go out and win this thing."

The Irish will get a real test to open the conference schedule this weekend with the ever-dangerous Mountaineers. Last year, West Virginia came into South Bend in early May and took two of three games. The Mountaineers proceeded to finish the Big East regular season 18-6 and claim second place in the standings — one spot ahead of the Irish who finished third with a 16-7 conference record.

"There are going to be some good teams we'll have to beat this year, starting with [West Virginia this weekend," Mainieri said. "It doesn't take a long memory to remember them coming in here a week before beating us in two out of three last year."

The Irish got some revenge in the conference tournament, as they smoked the Mountaineers in the first round on their way to the Big East Tournament title.

But Mainieri wants to be sure his players remember what happened in their first meeting with the Mountaineers.

"I think we have a team that can challenge for the title, but these Big East schools are never going to hand it to us," Mainieri said.

Paul Mainieri Irish coach

The Mountaineers, led this weekend by former Irish fencer to have a sub-par form that earned her the right to challenge the talented Thompson twins of Ohio State, will enter the weekend series with a 16-7 conference record and a 16-6 win over Detroit, but problems still exist. Senior tri-captain Steve Sollmann is only batting .227 thusfar, and power-hitting first baseman Matt Edwards enters the weekend series with West Virginia mired in an 0-for-16 slump over the last four games.

"A couple of the guys are really struggling," Mainieri said. "Steve Sollmann and Matt Edwards — those are our guys, and our offense is going to go as they go. Both of them have not been swinging the bats the way I know they are capable of." But Mainieri still has the utmost confidence in the abilities of his big hitters and believes they will turn it around very soon.

"But I'm not concerned at all about the offensive struggles. Everybody goes through these things," he said.

Contact Matt Mooney at mmooney@nd.edu

Champs continued from page 28

half of the rookie saber duo was not nearly as dynamic. Angela Vincent, who posted the most wins at saber during the regular season, struggled most of the day. She mustered only five wins and lost all six of her bouts against Ohio State, Penn State and Penn. Vincent, though, was the only Irish fencer to have a sub-par performance. The Irish received the usual sparkling efforts from seasoned veterans Allicia Kryczalo and Kerry Walton. Kryczalo, in search of her third NCAA foil title in as many years, matched Providenza's 13-1 mark, tying for the best among all weapons. Walton made many of her bouts exciting as three of them went into the one minute, sudden-death overtime. But she calmly won all three bouts, appearing to regain the winning form that earned her the 2002 epee championship. She finished right behind Providenza and Kryczalo with a 12-2 mark. Kryczalo and fellow foilist Andrea Amemi — dubbed the "A-Team" — fought in one of the more intense pairings of the day, facing off against the talented Thompson twins of Ohio State, Hanna and Metta. The twins gave the A-Team all it could handle. Kryczalo and Metta fenced in an epic duel that went into overtime tied at four. Kryczalo had numerous off-target touches before finally connecting for the touch and the win.

Amemi won the next bout against Hanna (5-2) before subsequently losing to her sister by a 5-3 margin. Kryczalo then faced Hanna, scored the first touch and opened the BodISTS as she scored four more in twenty seconds to secure a 5-2 victory.

"With Andrea, I think we had similar strategies against Hanna," Kryczalo said. "We didn't attack so much because she is a very good defender.

From a team standpoint, Bednarlski feels the women need to open up a much bigger lead today before the short-handed men's team begins its half of the competition on Saturday. "If the lead maintains like this, it will be very hard to get to the top," he said. "The object of Friday is to build up the lead."

Contact Chris Federico at cfederic@nd.edu

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Friday, March 26, 2004

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42 Nonsense

43 "Mother Goose Blue" composer

44 Part of a guffaw

45 Super power

46 WWII, it bombed designation

47 Canada’s island National Park

48 Thingum

49 Laid-off

50 Hurdl

51 Hasenpfeffer, c.1960

52 Ancient Greek state

53 Zip

54 Kumbaya

55 Was appealing

56 Jumbo

57 Thingum

58 Grant-

59 Animal shelters

60 Hand...

61 Darkens

62 Lab offering?

63 They're intriguing

64 Rainy display

65 Clip

66 Debris

67 Person at a baptism

68 Attunes

69 Is on a station locale

60 Put away

61 Typical for light

62 "Congratulations!

63 Soprano’s note

64 Two-edged sword

65 Passed illegally, maybe

66 Dr.

67 Conn

68 Trees in a forest

69 Tallysh

70 "Now!

71 Numpa

72 Volunteer’s confi
dent declaration

73 They’re intriguing

74 Site of a 1000

DOWN

1 Complications

2 Cover made of silk

3 Ancient Greek state

4 Where pine are made

5 Really smart

6 Bird whose male hatches the eggs

7 Memorial Day solo

8 Grant-

9 Animal shelters

10 Hand...

11 Sick

12 Player

13 Animal shelters

14 Gentle under-

15 Vitality is down.

16 Animal shelters

17 Male hatches in the dark

18 Animal shelters

19 Animal shelters

20 Animal shelters

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72 Animal shelters

73 Animal shelters

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Abbreviations:

ACROSS = A Word or Phrase

DOWN = A Word or Phrase

ADDICTED = A Phrase

CIRCUITOUS = A Phrase

CROSSWORD = A Word or Phrase

ZIGZAG = A Word or Phrase

DIAGRAM = A Word or Phrase

Answer key:

1 Phony

21 Endowment

22 Fairy Crescendo’s place

23 Fused

24 "me"

25 6th performance

26 Depression

27 Unoccupied

28 Passed

29 Volunteer’s

30 Colorful

31 Unoccupied

32 Pack animal

33 Attunes

34 6th Performance

35 Honky-tonk

36 Old World duck

37 Gossip’s question

38 W. W.

39 Job setting

40 Carrier to

41 Time before

42 Nonsense

43 "Mother Goose Blue" composer

44 Part of a guffaw

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26 Animal shelters

27 Animal shelters
**Irish duck out of NIT**

Oregon's Luke Jackson seals Notre Dame's fate with late free throws

By MATT LOZAR  
Sports Writer

Watching Oregon shoot better on 3-pointers than from the free throw line may surprise some people, but not Irish coach Mike Brey. Brey knew coming into the game the Ducks were deadly from behind the arc, their 10-of-20 performance Thursday night wasn't unexpected.

The Irish couldn't overcome that long distance shooting and lost 65-61 in the third round of the National Invitation Tournament. "They really made some big 3-point shots," Brey said. "A big concern was guarding the 3-point line. (Oregon) making 10 of them was too much to absorb. It's not a fluke. They are a great offensive team and got in a rhythm to get us down nine."

Oregon made the game look 5-of-7 3-pointers in one stretch, including three from DUCKS/page 24

See Also

Thomas announces he will return next year*  page 24


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**FOOTBALL**

Baker waits months and chooses Purdue

Indianapolis player renews on verbal commitment to ND

By PAT LEONARD  
Associate Sports Editor

After deliberating for almost two months, Ryan Baker of Bishop Chatard High School in Indianapolis chose the Purdue Boilermakers over Notre Dame Tuesday night.

The 6-4, 235 pound tight end/defensive end verbally committed to the Irish on Jan. 25 but did not appear on the official list for national signing day, sparking inquiries of coach Tyrone Willingham. Willingham did not comment specifically on Baker's situation, though he mentioned there was one player who still had not made a definite decision.

Baker's father, Jerry, said Thursday his son felt "really conflicted." "He made a verbal commitment to Notre Dame and when it came time to make the decision and the national letter of intent came, he didn't honor his commitment," he said.

Baker took an unusual amount of time to make the decision, though the commitment of defensive end Ronald Talley and the presence of defensive ends Justin Turk and Victor Abiamiri on the field for the Irish next season could have something to do with Baker's choice to head to West Lafayette, Ind.

Baker's father said his son withstood a "long and tedious struggle" in making his decision. He also said Notre Dame did all it could in recruiting Ryan.

"Notre Dame did an excellent job," he said. "I consider it an honor that Notre Dame would recruit my son. They have a lot of great people there, and they have an incredible coaching staff."

Notre Dame recruited a class of seventeen players this winter. In Baker, Purdue gains a USA Today second team All-American.

Contact Pat Leonard at pleonard@nd.edu

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**FENCING**

Women fencers take lead

Irish look to expand lead before men begin competition Sunday

By MATT MOONEY  
Sports Writer

As etiquette is a big part of fencing, it is appropriate that the NCAA Championships begin with the ladies first.

The top-ranked Notre Dame women took to the strip on Thursday as they opened the defense of their national title in the Gorman Center at Brandeis University in Waltham, Mass.

After the first four of seven round-robin rotations, the Irish are at the top of the team standings with 63 victories. Ohio State is right on their heels with only four points behind. Penn State lurks at third with 48 and Pennsylvania is fourth with 43 points. Penn State could face the deciding point with a 4-3 deficit. But she showed poise and persevered to three 5-4 wins. Her only loss came at the hands of Penn State's Sophia Hiss.

Head coach Janusz Bednarski was impressed. "She was very good," he said. "She had some problems at the beginning where she was very nervous. But bout by bout when she gets the confidence she started fencing extremely well." The Irish needed Providence to have a big day because the other

see THE END/page 25

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**SMC SOFTBALL**

Alma at Saint Mary's  
Saturday, 1 p.m.  
The Belles open their home schedule.

page 22

**SMC GOLF**

Northern Kentucky Invitational  
Saturday-Sunday  
The Belles will face stiff competition.

page 21

**ROWING**

Notre Dame races Saturday  
The Irish travel to Ann Arbor to face No. 2 Michigan and Clemson.

page 21

**BASEBALL**

Notre Dame at West Virginia  
Saturday-Sunday  
The Irish open Big East play against the Mountaineers.

page 26

**HOCKEY**

NCAA Championships  
The Irish travel to the NCAA championships to face defending champion Minnesota.

Insider

**WOMEN'S BBALL**

Irish in Sweet 16  
The team faces Penn State on Saturday in the Sweet 16.
Rob Globke and Aaron Gill lead the Irish in their first NCAA Tournament appearance

Photo illustration by SOFIA BALLON and MIKE HARKINS
Irish prepare to face defending-champion Minnesota

By JUSTIN SCHUVER
Associate Sports Editor

Talk about your baptisms by fire.

No. 4 seed Notre Dame (20-14-4) will face No. 1 seed Minnesota (26-13-3) in the first round of the NCAA Midwest Regional Saturday at noon in Van Andel Arena in Grand Rapids, Mich.

The Golden Gophers are two-time defending national champions and are making their fifth straight NCAA appearance.

This is Notre Dame's first appearance.

"What better way to start," Irish coach Dave Poulin said. "We've been working all year to earn your first berth than by playing the two-time defending national champions?"

Dave Poulin
 Irish coach

"What better way to earn your first berth than by playing the two-time defending national champions?"

I talked a lot to [Irish baseball coach] [Paul] Mainieri about the first time they went to the College World Series and how they had to go through Florida State, who was No. 1 at the time, to get to that point.

"He talked a lot about the respect they earned doing [it] that way, so I see it there's no better way to go right into this. We'd have to get through Minnesota at some point, so why not just do it here in the first game?"

Notre Dame earned its first NCAA tournament bid by virtue of a difficult non-conference schedule that included wins over then-No. 1 Boston College, then-No. 3 Maine and then-No. 4 Wisconsin — Maine and Boston College are No. 1 seeds in other regions this year. Poulin sees nothing different in his team's next opponent.

"When we are conscious of it, we plan on the defensive side and play smart, we can really play with anybody in the country," he said. "I think we've definitely proven that this year."

This weekend's matchup is a reunion for two former Notre Dame teammates. Poulin and Minnesota coach Don Lucia were teammates on the Irish from 1978-81, playing under head coach Lefty Smith.

Poulin, a forward, scored 10 points in his 135-game career and Lucia, a defense­man, scored 30 points in 124 games.

"It's pretty neat for Lefty Smith to have two former players coaching against each other in the NCAA's," Poulin said. "Donny and I have kept in touch over the years and obviously he's done a wonderful job in Minnesota."

Notre Dame's last game was a 6-5 loss in overtime to Ohio State March 18 in the first round of the CCIIA's Super Six Championships.

Senior forwards Aaron Gill and Rob Globock each had four-point nights in the loss, with Gill scoring three goals and one assist and Globock chipping in one goal and three assists.

"I think they have been and will be the leaders of this tournament," Poulin said. "We need other people obviously to help out, but those two wanted to be and have been the leaders for us all season."" Obviously we felt a little short, but now we have a new sense of urgency."

Minnesota is off coming off the Western Collegiate Hockey Association championship, defeating Minnesota-Duluth 7-4 in the semifinals and North Dakota 5-4 in the championship game.

Lucia's roster is laden with talent. Minnesota boasts two of the best players in college hockey in forward Thomas Vanek and defenseman Keith Hallam, who are both nomi­nees for this year's Hobey Baker Award.

The Golden Gophers have five players with 30 or more points, with Vanek and forward Troy Bridge leading the team with 48 points each. Vanek also leads the team with 24 goals.

Minnesota is led in net by freshman Kellen Briggs, who has a 2.63 goals-against average and a .905 save per­centage while compiling a 24-10-3 record. Briggs has four shutouts this season.

The winner of Saturday's game will go on to face the winner of the game between No. 2 seed Minnesota-Duluth and No. 3 seed Michigan State.

That game will be played at 1 p.m. Sunday. The winner of that game then advances to the Frozen Four in Boston April 8-10.

Contact Justin Schuver at jschuver@nd.edu

COACHING

Dave Poulin has done a fantastic job of coaching the Irish to a competitive level in the CCIIA. His teams have made it to the Super Six three of the past four years, and this is their first NCAA appearance.

Don Lucia has coached the Golden Gophers to two consec­utive national championships. Before coming to Minnesota, he helped to rebuild the Colorado College pro­gram.

OFFENSE

Notre Dame's offense has come primarily from senior forwards Rob Globock and Aaron Gill. Sophomore Mike Walsh and freshman Jason Paige have contributed as well, but the Irish are prone to dry spells.

The Golden Gophers have 16 players with 10 or more points. Minnesota has more of that depth that Minnesota has.

DEFENSE

Notre Dame's penalty killing this season has come from three seniors. Rob Globock and Aaron Gill, and sophomore Mike Walsh. They have shown an ability to shut down offensive-talented teams several times this season.

The Golden Gophers have a Hobey Baker candidate in Keith Ballard, but they're not quite as focused on defense as the Irish are. They allowed 2.9 goals per game to their oppo­nents, compared to Notre Dame's 3.2 goals against average.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Minnesota has one of the best power plays in the nation, connecting at a rate of 26.2 per­cent. Vanek and the rest of the Golden Gophers make a living scoring goals on the man­advantage. Their killing rate of 85.0 percent is average.

GOAL TENDING

The Golden Gophers start freshman Kellen Briggs in net, and it is his job to allow fewer goals than the Golden Gophers scored. Whether it's a 2-1 win or a 6-5 win, Briggs is a just able to do just enough to help Minnesota win.

INTANGIBLES

This is the first time in the history of Notre Dame hockey that the Irish have advanced to the NCAA's. This year's seniors are hungry to show that the Irish belong in the same league as the Minnesotas of the world.

Minnesota is the two­time defending national champions, and they're used to the different kind of hockey needed to win at this time of the year. Lucia will have the Golden Gophers focused, and they won't be looking past the Irish.

The Irish have the "nothing to lose" mentali­ty on their side, while Minnesota has to deal with the pressure of try­ing to three-peat. When it's all said and done, though, the Golden Gophers' experience in the NCAA's gives them the edge here.

Neil Komadoski, right, and Mike Walsh celebrate Walsh's game-winning goal in Notre Dame's 3-0 win over Boston College Oct. 24. The Irish face Minnesota in the NCAA tournament Saturday.

The Observer / Tim Kacmar

NOTRE DAME

MINNESOTA

ANALYSIS
Lords of the rink

Irish senior forwards Rob Globke and Aaron Gill pace the Notre Dame offense and provide veteran leadership

By JUSTIN SCHUVER
Assistant Sports Editor

The date was Oct. 7, 2000. Notre Dame was playing its opening game against the University of Minnesota, in the Hall of Fame Classic at the brand-new Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul, Minn.

Aaron Gill and Rob Globke were two young freshmen on that team, whose first experience of Notre Dame hockey was to see their team fall to the Golden Gophers by a score of 7-3.

Fast forward four years, where Gill and Globke are senior leaders on this year’s Irish and have a chance to do something that no Notre Dame has ever done — win an NCAA tournament game. It just so happens that opponent is the very same Minnesota Golden Gophers.

“I think it will be pretty neat to go up against Minnesota,” Globke said. “It would be good to end their season after they gave us that loss the first time.”

The No. 4 seed Irish travel to Grand Rapids, Mich., Saturday to face the No. 1 seed Golden Gophers in the first round of the NCAA Midwest Regional. Minnesota is the two-time Midwest Regional winners and currently has a 15-game postseason winning streak.

It’s unlikely those numbers scare either Globke or Gill, who have no desire to test their Irish hockey careers in the same way one experienced.

The captain

The captain is supposed to be the team’s leader, both on and off the ice. He’s supposed to help the team through the hard times, and to be the guy everyone looks at to inspire the team when they’re down.

Nowhere was that more obvious for Gill than in the CCHA Super Six game against Ohio State March 18. Although Notre Dame lost that game, 5-5 in overtime, it certainly wasn’t because of any lack of hustle from Gill.

Gill scored a hat trick, just the second of his career, and also notched an assist on a five-on-four goal for the Irish.

“Definitely have to be playing well at this time of the year,” Gill said. “Going into the tournament, you’re not going to see much scoring. This time of the year you go into every game thinking that it could be your last game and I think that’s the approach we want to have.

“You just want to go out there and give everything you have anytime you get that chance.”

It’s not very often that the Rochester, Minn., native doesn’t give everything he has on the ice. Irish coach Dave Poulin uses Gill in nearly all situations, even-strength, shorthandled and on the power play.

Poulin doesn’t worry about playing Gill too often, because the forward is ranked second on the team in plus-minus with a plus-14. “Our team’s strength is defense, and that’s including the forwards as well,” Poulin said. “We need everyone on the ice to do their part if we’re going to be successful.”

Gill has been doing his part on the ice for a long time. He began playing hockey with the Rochester Youth Hockey Program when he was just five years old, and went on to become a star with the United States Hockey League’s Rochester Mustangs for three seasons before coming to Notre Dame.

“Part of me wanting to come here was the school and the great traditions at Notre Dame,” he said. “The other part was wanting to come to a younger hockey club and really help to build a program.”

“One of my goals has always been to try and help the team achieve something that they hadn’t done before and we finally did this year, which is great especially me and the older seniors.”

As a freshman, Gill stepped in and was able to contribute to the Irish offense instantly. He ended up tied for third on that team in scoring along with Globke and current senior defenceman Brett Lebeda.

Both Gill and Globke earned honorable-mention CCHA honors as a result of their performances in the 1999-2000 season.

Gill continued to be a model of consistency in his sophomore year, scoring a scoring punch while also being a responsible player both on and off the ice. Those qualities impressed Poulin, who named Gill the team’s captain for this season.

“I just try to help the guys achieve what we want to achieve,” Gill said of his captain’s duties. “Sometimes we get tired mentally and hopefully I can help push some of those guys through those hard times.”

“We’ve always said that whatever we have to give, it’s worth it in the end, and I think this is the proof here going to the NCAAs.”

The superstar

Whereas Gill is asked to help the team in all aspects of the game, Globke is one of eight players on the Notre Dame roster who can take over a game and really provide a spark when the team needs one.

Globke is the kind of player who can score goals like the one he scored against Western Michigan on March 14, to send the Irish to the CCHA’s second round against Ohio State. He scored his 5-3 in favor of Notre Dame, Globke picked up a free puck and skated down the left side toward Western Michigan goalie Eric Marow.

With one defender to beat, Globke made just a simple little hesitation move, which allowed him to quickly slide the puck over to the right side with his stick and whip it past both Marvin and the Bronco defenceman who was covering him. It was a simple move, yet a remarkable offensive play.

Globke has made a living of making the remarkable plays, and he has done so numerous times this season as well, leading the team in both scoring with 19 points and goals with 12. He has seemed to especially rise to the occasion at clutch times this season, scoring a team-high five game-winning goals.

Those skills allowed Globke to achieve a piece of Irish history, becoming Notre Dame’s highest-ever draft pick when he was selected by the Florida Panthers in the second round of the 2002 NHL Entry League Draft.

“It was awesome being able to go up there and get that [Florida] jersey on the podium,” Globke said of his draft day experience. “Of all the great players that have come from here, to be the highest drafted player ever really is just a great honor.”

Globke’s trip to Notre Dame followed a familiar course, as the West Bloomfield, Mich., native made a name for himself on the U.S. Under-18 National Team. The Irish have used the U.S. National Team as a pipeline in recent years, and Globke is one of eight players currently on the Notre Dame roster who came through the U.S. National Team program.

“There’s more to life than just hockey, and this place has so much to offer besides athletics, so that was one big draw,” said Globke of his decision to attend Notre Dame. “I also knew the coaches before I really verbalized my decision to go so I felt really comfortable around them and felt that it was a real good fit for me here.”

Contact Justin Schuver at jschuver@nd.edu
Irish have proven naysayers wrong all season

If you've ever seen the movie "Major League II," then you know about Randy Quaid's minor uncredited role as a heckler named Johnny in the stands. It doesn't matter what the Cleveland Indians do on the field, Johnny insists they will eventually blow it later in the season.

"We just won the pennant," an excited Indians fan screams. "Who cares," Johnny says. "They'll just blow it in the playoffs."

No matter what the Indians do, it's never enough for Johnny, who seems to enjoy heckling his team more than cheering for them. So what if Johnny were a Notre Dame hockey fan this season?

"So we beat Western Ontario in a meaningless exhibition game," Johnny says. "So what? Let's see this team beat No. 1 Ohio State to go the road in front of a crowd of screaming Buckeyes fans."

The Irish did just that, upsetting Ohio State in its home opener on Oct. 10 by a score of 5-2, giving Rory Walsh his first win as a Notre Dame goalie. Unfortunately, the Irish then lost their next game to the Buckeyes by a score of 3-1.

"Ha, I told you so," Johnny says. "This team does nothing but choke. Just watch when they play Boston College. Then you'll see just how far these Irish have to go to play with the big boys."

Notre Dame not only showed they can compete with the big boys, but they showed they can win against them as well, knocking off then-No. 1 Boston College 1-0 in the Golden Eagles' home opener. Goalie David Brown made 27 saves in the win.

"So what," Johnny says after that game. "Boston College had a few key players injured, and the Irish aren't going to get that kind of goaltending in every big game. Wait until they play Maine over the Christmas break. Then you'll see. They've got the best goalie in the country in Jim Howard and Frank Doyle; there's no way the Irish can win that one."

The Irish showed that they've got a pretty good pair of goalies themselves, using Morgan Cog in net as Notre Dame collected a 1-0 win over Maine on Dec. 28 at the Everblades College Hockey Classic in Estero, Fla.

"Fine, I guess even a blind squirrel finds a couple of acorns," Johnny says. "But just wait until they go on the road to Wisconsin later this January. The Badgers have one of the toughest environments in the whole country to play in at the Kohl Center in Madison. The Fighting Irish will be the Crying Irish when it's all over there."

Against then-No. 4 Wisconsin, Notre Dame came away with a 2-2 tie and a 3-1 win. At this point, Johnny's getting a little frustrated.

"Ha," he says. "It was a meaningless non-conference game for Wisconsin. They just didn't want to get any players hurt for the Western Collegiate Hockey Association season. Just wait until Notre Dame's last home series against Michigan. Those Wolverines will show the Irish how CCHA hockey is played!"

After all, Michigan was ranked No. 4 in the nation at the time, and was fighting with Miami of Ohio for that coveted first-place position in the CCHA. It would make sense to believe that the Irish would be lucky to come away with a tie against the mighty Wolverines that weekend of Feb. 27 and 28.

The result? — Friday, Notre Dame 4, Michigan 1; Saturday, Notre Dame 5, Michigan 2.

"Yeah, well Michigan was just looking ahead to Michigan State, their big in-state rival," Johnny says. "But just wait until the Irish have a few games on the ice. Just wait until the CCHA Super Six — they'll lose like they always do!"

Unfortunately, Johnny was right for once, as Notre Dame lost 6-5 in overtime against eventual CCHA champion Ohio State. The Irish controlled the flow of the game and had two separate two-goal leads, but simply were unable to hold off the charging Buckeyes.

"Ha," Johnny says, in a rather good mood. "That over­time goal probably cost the Irish their chance at the NCAA's. Too bad, guess they'll just have to get their golfing equipment ready. And there's always next year."

What Johnny didn't realize, though, is that all those times he was wrong earlier in the season allowed Notre Dame to just squeeze into the NCAA tournament bracket, earning a chance to take on No. 1 seed and two-time defending national champion Minnesota this Saturday in Grand Rapids, Mich.

"Ha, you see," Johnny says. "Minnesota's the class of college hockey. Notre Dame's the little kid from whom bullies like Minnesota take lunch money. This one will be a blowout. I guarantee it. And believe me, even if they do get past the Golden Gophers, there's no way these Irish could ever win a national championship. No chance at all!"

To be continued ... Saturday.

The ideas and opinions expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Justin Schueer at jschuver@nd.edu.
IRISH INSIDER
Friday, March 26, 2004

THE JOURNEY CONTINUES...

NCAA WOMEN'S 2004 FINAL FOUR
New Orleans

Notre Dame
**Penn State poses numerous challenges for Irish**

By JOE HETTLER

In Penn State’s second-round game against No. 8 seed Virginia Tech, Nittany Lion All-American Kelly Mazzante struggled, going just 4-of-16 from the field for nine points. 

So All-American and two-time Big Ten Defensive Player of the Year Tanisha Wright and guard Jess Strom picked up the slack, combining for 45 points in the team’s 61-48 victory.

That game showed what kind of challenge Notre Dame faces tomorrow when it faces No. 1 seed Penn State for a championship appearance in the Blue Light. The Nittany Lions have a core of talented players, so stopping just one or two is not enough to beat them.

“That’s the thing, you can’t just key on (Mazzante), even though she’s averaging 20 points a game,” Notre Dame coach Muffet McGraw said. “All four of their starters are capable of having a big night, so you can’t just concentrate on one player.”

Besides being an All-American, Mazzante is the back-to-back Big Ten Player of the Year and is the conference’s all-time leading scorer. She leads the team in scoring and is second in minutes played.

Wright and Strom both have more than 20 points on the season and average in double figures in scoring to complement Mazzante. Joss Bruno adds 9.9 points a game and the Nittany Lions will play just six players throughout the game, not going deep into the bench.

Notre Dame needs to continue playing aggressively on both ends of the floor to have any success Saturday.

“You have to be aggressive, especially at this time of year because the referees are letting the players decide the game,” McGraw said. “So it’s going to be a little more physical, so I think the team that comes out with more aggressiveness is going to get the momentum quicker and things are going to go their way a little bit better.”

“Whatever our game plan is, we’ve really got to attack the basket. We’ve had a lot of guys in the post game,” McGraw said. “We feel like we overdid it last year after Kansas State we figure this is where we get one step forward.”

Contact Joe Hettler at jhettler@nd.edu

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**Penn State**

**Notre Dame**

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<td>McGraw has now taken six of her last eight teams to the Sweet 16. Her team reached the Final Four twice, including in 2001 when the Irish won the title.</td>
<td>Notre Dame relies on defense and ball movement to keep opponents off balance and totally shut down the paint. Youth is a key as the interior defense continues to improve.</td>
<td>Duffy and Severe have the offense in the middle of the game, while Joyce is the key to the team effort.</td>
<td>Erwin played 25 minutes last game and though she had six points, she was able to log solid minutes and produce in spite of being in foul trouble.</td>
<td>Notre Dame has the most experience and depth with seven of its players having played at least two years in college.</td>
<td>Notre Dame has the most experience and depth with seven of its players having played at least two years in college. The Plummett Family has been a leader in college basketball for over 50 years.</td>
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**Portland**

Notre Dame is in her 20th season as head coach and is one of just seven coaches to have led a team to the NCAA tournament. She has led her team to six conference championships and 20 tournament appearances.

**Penn State**

Notre Dame only plays six players consistently. Those six just happen to be really really good. The Nittany Lions have still succumbed using that limit- ed rotation all season.

**Penn State State**

McGraw has the championship ring and Portland has the longest winning streak in the nation with 17 games. These are the top teams in the nation and they will have their teams prepared for Saturday.

**Penn State**

Notre Dame must keep Mazzante in check or it will continue its impressive defensive streak. While she has averaged 20 points a game, Notre Dame’s defense is second in points allowed this season.

**Penn State State**

The Irish need LaVere to not only score but continue its impressive defensive streak. While she has averaged 20 points a game, Notre Dame’s defense is second in points allowed this season.

**Penn State**

The Irish must utilize its depth to win. They will need big contributions from its bench. Lynne Roberts played great defense and had a key shot to win the game. The Irish will need to find a way to wear down Penn State.

**Penn State State**

The Irish may be playing well but can be unfairly criticized for the lack of respect they are receiving. The Irish are looking to make a run and are ready to take on the challenge.

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Michelle OttilThe Observer

Jacqueline Batteast dribbles against Middle Tennessee State Tuesday night. Batteast and the Irish face a tough Penn State team tomorrow afternoon.
Stepping up
Jacqueline Batteast and Megan Duffy have lead the way for Notre Dame en route to its second straight Sweet 16.

By HEATHER VAN HOEGARDEN
Sports Editor

The dynamic duo, the tag team, the 1-2 punch, call them Thelma and Louise; it doesn't matter what you call Jacqueline Batteast and Megan Duffy, when they're playing well, the Irish are tough to beat. Batteast is a dominating force on the offensive end, and Duffy runs the show.

The two have led the Irish to the Sweet 16 for the second straight season, and their emergence as leaders on a team that returned all its starters from last year.

"Jackie and I work well together," Duffy said. "She leads so much by example, and it's my job to be loud. We have become leaders, even though we're not seniors, but we do it by our play.

Batteast and Duffy have lead loudly through their play this year. When Batteast gets the ball, she has the confidence to do whatever she wants with it, and when Duffy handles the ball, there are very few that can take it away. With the dominating offensive presence of Batteast and the savvy court presence of Duffy, the Irish have found themselves two unique players.

Handling the pressure
Batteast wanted to get out of South Bend. When the Washington High School product was being recruited, the one thing she said she wanted was to go away from home. But when her parents thought otherwise, Batteast reconsidered and chose the Irish.

"They were really pushing me to go to Notre Dame during the recruiting process," Batteast said. "I was traumatized about going away, but I decided that I really liked having my family around, I decided to stay here.

For both Irish and Batteast, the decision, made without an official visit to campus, seems to be the right one so far.

When she came in as a freshman, Batteast was named the U.S. Basketball Writers' Association National Freshman of the Year. But Batteast wanted to go away from home, and she was frustrated with her averages to 13.9 points per game, and she was frustrated with her season.

The pressures of trying to win were overwhelming at times, Batteast said. "I think I hit the wall last year.

Batteast struggled the most in the NCAA Tournament, when she went 0-for-43 from the field in three games, good for just 13 points. But the Irish still went to the Sweet 16 as a No. 11 seed, upsetting Arizona and Kansas before losing to Purdue. This was a turning point for Batteast, who realized that she didn't have to do it all by herself to win.

"Last year we got to the Sweet 16 without me being a big offensive power," Batteast said. "I saw that my teammates were really helping me to help and I didn't have to do everything by myself. That was a huge relief for me.

So the season ended as somewhat of a disappointment for Batteast, and she had to focus on her junior season.

And what a different season it has been.

Batteast has been unstoppable in her junior year. She's been consistent scoring, and she has always been able to do the things I was one of the things I was lacking last year," Batteast said.

With her confidence, Batteast has led the Irish over then-No. 4 Connecticut posting 23 points while missing just three shots. This week, she scored 27 points on 10-of-17 shooting and 8 rebounds per game.

"I came in with confidence this year and I knew it was one of the things I was lacking last year," Batteast said.

"I can just let the game come to me," Batteast said.

"Sticking to the game plan," she was named Associated Press honorable mention All-American, and didn't hesitate in accepting the offer. "I went back to square one and started over for sophomore year. I think I'm just finally ready to just do myself, the way I was always in my mind that I wanted to go to school before basketball came in."

"I think I got a little bit more free-agent mentality, the way I was always in. I wasn't thinking too much about going to college."

"It's always like I did last year, I just came in relaxed, and it speaks for itself.

Making a point
Duffy arrived at Notre Dame, there was no other place she wanted to go.

"No one else has always been my dream before," Duffy said. "I was always in my mind that I wanted to go to school here, really before basketball came in."

"I wanted to get out of this town," Duffy said.

"The first few days, I thought my world had crashed in," Duffy said.

But a prompt call from McGraw and the realization that she would be okay motivated Duffy to work hard to come back strong.

After she was finally cleared by her doctors at home, Duffy came to McGraw's office and told her she had finally found out that her doctors and she needed to go and get rehab. Finally, after six weeks, she was ready to play again.

"I was playing longer than I thought I would be able to," Duffy said.

Duffy was ready to go for her time off, but the highly-touted newcomer seemed to prove him wrong.

As a true freshman, Duffy saw significant playing time, averaging 7.2 points and 3.9 assists per game, and is shooting 46.7 percent from the arc in 33.6 minutes per contest.

But Duffy's play goes beyond the stats sheet. She is one of the toughest players on the Irish squad.

"That's always how I have been able to survive by hustling," Duffy said. "I'm not the most athletic kid you've ever seen, I have to be able to get on the floor, get loose balls.

But for Duffy, this season was—

Megan Duffy looks to drive against Boston College Jan. 31. Duffy has stepped up this season to lead the Irish.

Contact Heather Van Hoegarden
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Irish hit the road again for one last chance

Notre Dame enters entirely new territory this weekend. Gone are the friendly confines of the Joyce Center and a boisterous home crowd. Say goodbye to playing smaller conference foes like Southwest Missouri State and Middle Tennessee State. Adios to being the favorite in any game.

Fancy things happen when you advance in the NCAA Tournament — the competition gets tougher. A lot tougher.

Notre Dame will experience the first two rounds at home. The Irish have been impressive in the tournament so far. They defeated a pesky and determined Southwest Missouri State team in overtime, before handling defeating Middle Tennessee State in the second round.

But those teams aren't even close to the same caliber as the Nittany Lions or Huskies. Penn State is 27-5 this season and has a veteran group of talented players that won 20 of their last 22 games. The Nittany Lions are the Big Ten champs and have all-time conference scoring leader Kelly Mazzante. And all five of Penn State's losses were against stiff competition.

It's safe to say Penn State will give Notre Dame many more problems than SUNY-Buffalo conference champ Middle Tennessee State did in the second round.

Perhaps the greatest advantage Notre Dame has heading into its next game is the tough schedule it played this year. Irish coach Muffet McGraw has said all season that facing difficult competition in the non-conference and conference schedule was meant to prepare the team for March. So playing an outstanding team like Penn State shouldn't put the Irish into shock because they've faced teams with this much talent before.

Confidence is the other advantage the Irish have. After losing to Rutgers in the Big East tourney, Notre Dame has picked up its intensity in the last two games and is playing its best basketball of the season.

The team is as confident as ever, and is getting contributions from just about everyone.

They'll need to keep that confidence level high for Penn State, who will present as many, if not more, challenges than any game thus far this season.

A year ago, Notre Dame surprised the country by knocking off No. 6 seed Arizona and No. 2 seed Purdue in that game and were outmatched, losing by double digits.

But this season has been different. After a slow 7-6 start, the Irish turned the season around by finishing the regular season 19-10 and earning a No. 5 seed in the tournament. The team isn't content just reaching the Sweet 16 — they want to advance. Notre Dame gets that chance tomorrow. A very dangerous Penn State team waits, with an array of ability and experience.

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THE SWEET SIXTEEN

EAST REGIONAL

No. 1 Penn State
Penn State Advances after a tough game against No. 8 seed Virginia Tech.

Saturday 12 P.M.

No. 5 Notre Dame
The Irish go on the road after hosting the first two rounds at home.

Monday 2:30 P.M.

No. 11 UC Santa Barbara
The Gauchos upset Colorado and Houston behind 6-foot-8 Lindsey Taylor.

Saturday 2:30 P.M.

No. 2 Connecticut
Connecticut has yet to play on the road in the tournament and remains in Hartford.

MIDWEST REGIONAL

No. 1 Duke
The Blue Devils return to make a run at their third national title today.

Sunday 12 P.M.

No. 5 Louisiana Tech
After losing in last year's Sweet 16, the Lady Techsters are looking to advance.

Tuesday 2:30 P.M.

No. 2 Minnesota
Lindsey Whalen has returned from a broken hand to give the Gophers a boost.

Sunday 1:30 P.M.

No. 4 Baylor
Baylor dominated inside against Florida to reach the Sweet 16.

Sunday 9:30 P.M.

No. 8 Stanford
The Cardinal survived against Oklahoma with a second half defense.

Tuesday 7 P.M.

WEST REGIONAL

No. 1 Texas
Texas knocked off Michigan State to get here behind Jamie Carey's five 3s.

Sunday 9 P.M.

No. 3 Georgia
The Bulldogs knocked off their first two opponents by double digits.

Tuesday 2:30 P.M.

No. 2 Purdue
Purdue convinced Kentucky's Armacost Villanueva to earn a Sweet 16 berth.

Sunday 11:30 P.M.

The opinions expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Joe Hettler at jhettler@nd.edu.