Majors show some gender imbalance

College of Science, architecture school are exceptions

Editor's note: This is the first in a two-part series on gender representation in Notre Dame's colleges.

By KATE GALES News Writer

How often does a professor look over his or her 100 students and see 47 women and 53 men? Not often. Instead, many immediately notice a striking difference in the number of men and women enrolled in a particular class.

None of the University's five undergraduate divisions - the College of Arts and Letters, the College of Science, the College of Engineering, the Mendoza College of Business and the School of Architecture - can claim a gender breakdown exactly proportional to the 4,358 men and 3,813 women making up Notre Dame's undergraduate population, according to the Office of Institutional Research. However, some areas see a more significant sex discrepancy than others. A closer examination of the people behind the statistics generated each semester reveals changing trends in education.

Deans, professors and advisors at Notre Dame have worked to combat stereotypes of a single sex dominating a college or major. Although some generalizations have held true, two areas at Notre Dame have worked to change trends in education.

A closer examination of the people behind the statistics generated each semester reveals changing trends in education.

By KATE GALES News Writer

It's a man's world, and that's exactly what Cathy Pieronk is trying to change.

At Notre Dame, nearly four out of five students enrolled in the College of Engineering are male. Women are a visible and significant minority, comprising only 21.5 percent of the undergraduates enrolled in the college.

"Our biggest goal is keeping the women who already go here interested and making sure the program meets their needs," Pieronk, director of the Women's Engineering Program, said.

The WEP was created in 2002 to better serve the needs of females in the College of Engineering.

Only 21.5 percent of engineers are female

By KATE GALES News Writer

"Some of the best experiences of my life were at Saint Mary's, and I'm so looking forward to coming and meeting everyone," Susan Damper, executive assistant to College President Marilou Eldred, said.

"She has a wonderful life story," Damper said. "When she was a student here, she was what we called a staff student worker. She worked everyday at the dining hall, in addition to having two part-time jobs, [as a] gas station attendant and [as a] student worker."

"We've got a lot of great things for you."

The FTX is intended to prepare students for the Leader Development and Assessment Course, taken during the summer after the cadets' junior year. The LDAC, held at Ft. Lewis, near Tacoma, Wash., is a 32-day course that prepares cadets for careers as Army officers. Cadets - who are commissioned as second lieutenants before graduation from Notre Dame - receive full scholarships in return for a four-year commitment to active duty.

"For you [seniors], this is your time to pass on your knowledge," Jordan said. "Let's go out there with fire in our eyes and warrior ethos in our hearts."

Following the ceremony, the cadets returned to their barracks.
INSIDE COLUMN

Of age

"Score!" The catcher's face lit up as he held up seven-dollar cup of Bud Light. "They said they'd give you free beer for a man in uniform!" He treated proudly back up the bleacher steps, showing off his alcoholic badge of appreciation to the 60-old sol­diers who had accompanied him to this Detroit Tigers-Cleveland Indians spring training game in Lakeland, Fla., and urging them to go cash in on the deal for them­selves.

"That is," he added with a smirk, "if you're of age." Sitting three rows down at Joger Merchant Stadium, savoring peanuts with the shells still on and avoiding the swatting arms of would-be foul ball snatchers, his comment snapped me out of my lazy Sunday haze.

Of age. Here were soldiers dotting the third base line grandstand with their black hats, lace-up combat boots and full­length camouflage, worn proudly if dimly remembered from the Ord­er's sun. Here were soldiers taking a day off from training, from preparing to fight for their lives, so that they could watch career minor leaguers take a swing at clearing the advertisements - from "Stella B. Reuben," a Hot, Steamy Love Affair" to "CBS Fantasy Baseball: We built it, we come," - that covered the out­field fences. Here were soldiers shrugging the weight of the most pow­erful country in the free world off their shoulders, if only for an ugly three-hour, five-error slugfest.

And here was that country telling them they couldn't handle a beer. These were not indulgent 17 year olds begging for booze, nor were they decisive 20 year olds wielding shoddy fake ID's to enter an even shoddier bar. These were men and women who woke up before the crack of dawn to train for a war that major politicians don't believe in. These were dedic­ated, sacrificing professionals, "of age" to join in heated combat on the battle­field - but underaged to take a sip while watching the action on the in­field.

Though it didn't seem to concern the service men - "If you know I could play third base better than that!" and "ball! ball! ball!" reverberated in the stands above me - the contradiction of the situa­tion hit me hard.

I was bound for five nights of break in Miami Beach, but the peanuts sud­denly made me feel sick to my stom­ach, and I let the bag crunch under my feet. I doubt the men in uniform knew where they were headed, but for the at least half of them who were clearly under 21 - hell, they didn't even need to shave - it sure isn't the con­cession stand.

"Game time," read the final sign, a curious "Budweiser" scrawled across someone's arm, faded and for­get. Who, exactly, is responsible enough to play?

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

QUESTION OF THE DAY:

SHOULD NOTRE DAME DESIGNATE MORE WEEKENDS FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS TO VISIT?

Kevin Walsh
Sophomore

"Can we just have more weekends?"

Megan Lee
Sophomore

"Only if they're hot."

Tom Schreck
Sophomore

"Why? Is Notre Dame hurting for students?"

Emily Sladek
Freshman

"Aren't they xited every weekend?"

OFFBEAT

Police investigate nearly 200 Hooters videos

WEST COVINA, Calif. - Nearly 200 women who applied for jobs at a Hooters restaurant were secretly videotaped in a trailer while they undressed to put on a Hooters uniform, police said.

Authorities raided the trailer last month and seized a computer that held 180 digital videos of the women, ages 17-25, Lt. Mark Detter said.

"None of us suspected we would find that many videos, and we are dealing with victims who are shocked and feel betrayed," he said.

Hooters is a national chain known for its scant­i­ly clad waitresses, who wear low-cut tank tops and shorts. The restaurant in West Covina, about 18 miles outside of Los Angeles, was scheduled to open in April.

Officials worry as goat farmer's herd grows

CORINTH, Vt. - State officials are investigate­ing a man whose goats and his religious convictions against killing them have colli­ded in a possibly inhu­mane and definitely slinky way.

There were three goats on the farm Chris Weatherbees's mother bought seven years ago. Now there are 300- including 70 living in his house, much of which is covered with a mix of goat droppings and hay.

Authorities last month raided the farm in Corinth, about 20 miles southeast of Montpelier, and seized 44 deemed unhealthy by a veterinarian. State police and the Central Vermont Humane Society are weigh­ing whether to pursue animal cruelty or neglect charges.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.
Students gather for peace

By KATIE MOUNTS
New Writer

Speakers from the Notre Dame community, across the nation and from abroad gathered to speak at the two-day Notre Dame Peace Conference Friday and Saturday, which organizers called a success even though fewer students than desired attended the event.

One of the most prominent speakers, Juan Mendez, Notre Dame's director of the Center for Civil and Human Rights at the Notre Dame Law School and adopted "Prisoner of Conscience" of Amnesty International, spoke about the importance of combining conscience and human rights with the establishment of peace for those with human rights.

"Peace, along with the absence of violence and killings, means a redress of human rights violations," he said. He questioned the often lesser priority given to consequences of human rights violations as a part of amnesty agreements.

"The point is to insist on a better peace.

Some of the most popular presentations were a debate on just war, a moderated discussion. They spoke passionately for the case studies presented to the establishment of peace.

Notre Dame seniors Kate Rogers and Maureen Fitzpatrick presented a debate on peace and another on the absence of violence and killings, which had the largest turnout.

Fitzpatrick said, "It was a lot more work than I thought it would be," said Fitzpatrick. "We put in a lot of work by the students, including our own, to try to make sure the event was a success, producing great and high quality speakers, including more international applicants, from different fields.

Faculty sponsor Daniel Belden said, "It was a success, the speakers were able to come together, a wide variety of speaker, including more international applicants, from different fields.

"We had a lot of work to do," said Belden. "We had to work a lot of hours to make sure the schedule was followed carefully to ensure that all events were not delayed.

JacirZablah also commented on the lack of political activism and student enthusiasm for peace studies, given the low attendance by Notre Dame students.

"We were happy to see the number of people who attended the conference, more than in past years, organizers were still disappointed that less than two percent of the Notre Dame community attended the widely publicized event.

Contact Katie Mounts at kmounts@nd.edu

Organizers are pleased with Spring Visitation

By AMANDA SHROPSHIRE
News Writer

The excitement of Spring Visitation weekend has come to an end, with the departure of 160 visiting minority students.

This annual event introduces minority students to life at Notre Dame. In hopes that they will choose to attend the University, Spring Visitation weekend began over 20 years and is filled with events that try to relate to the students on many different levels.

Many current Notre Dame students, like juniors Stephanie Marshall and Nicole Rogers, served as hosts.

"The first night my recruit and I toured campus because she wanted to walk around and take pictures," Marshall said. "My recruit went to the BCAC Fashion Show and Latin Expressions without me because I had to work. She seemed to enjoy herself and to be having a lot of fun.

Latin Expressions and the BCAC Fashion Show are the major events that take place during the weekend. To most, these events serve as an introduction to what can happen at Notre Dame.

"I think she was pretty close to making a decision to come to Notre Dame," Rogers said of her prospect.

Contact Amanda Shropshire at ashrop@1@stmarys.edu
Gender
continued from page 1
nder balance are the College of Science and the School of Architecture.
Joseph Marino, dean of the College of Science, is optimistic about the fact women are actu-
ally the majority in the college. In science, women hold a slight majority, 51.2 per-
cent of the undergraduates are females.
"You have to believe that if you're seeing high numbers of women in the college, it's a more balanced view of professions and genders."
Joseph Marino
College of Science
Dean

Craft Pioneronek
Women's Engineering
Program Director

"We're limited by choices girls make in junior high ... [Many] girls aren't exposed to careers in engineering early enough to become interested."

"Sometimes you need to talk to someone who's more experienced than you to help make decisions."
Michelle Hamrah
Freshman engineering student

"You need to talk to the faculty members in the aero-
mechanical engineering departments. None of the faculty members in space and mechanical engineer-
ing or electrical engineering are women.
Dealing with a predominantly male major is a challenge for many female under-
graduates."
"Sometimes I think guys in programs really don't realize that the young women have differ-
ent experiences and bring different strengths to proj-
ects," Pioneronek said.
She notes that men tend to have more experience in computer program-
manship and that women often demonstrate sharp-
er communication skills—perhaps due to choices made in high school curricula.
First-year advisers also pay special attention to women who have expressed an interest in engineering, realizing that the environment can be challenging. "You've created an environment, though challenging, is not impossible."
"Engineering isn't harder than pre-professional programs," said Holly Martin, an adviser to first-year students. "It's hard, yes, but not harder than the other sciences. ... Half of pre-profes-
sionals are women. Why are they not in engineer-
ing?"
To make this goal a reality at Notre Dame, the college has set high goals with regard to recruiting female students and faculty members, as announced in the college's Engineering Insights newsletter.
"Once you get enough people together, others see success, and you've created an environment to reach more people," Pioneronek said. "Keeping students here is very important."
Commissions press for testimony

Rice says she wants to testify but is constitutionally barred and Bush won't budge

Associated Press
CRAWFORD, Texas
White House allies and Republicans investigating the Sept. 11 attacks pressed Sunday to hear open testimony from national security adviser Condoleezza Rice, with one commissioner calling her refusal a "political blunder of the first order."

Rice said in a TV interview that she wants to testify publicly, but is constitutionally barred from doing so, a senior administration official said Sunday afternoon, before the program aired.

Rice also said in the "60 Minutes" interview that she wants to meet with family members of some of the Sept. 11 victims, to hear their concerns, the official said.

President Bush, spending a long weekend on his Texas ranch, gave no ground, and several analysts said he will not change his mind on letting Rice testify.

But Bush sent her and other top administration officials out for television interviews to rebut fresh attacks on the way his administration has handled the threat of terrorism.

Sharpening his criticism, former counterterrorism chief Richard Clarke, said President Clinton was more aggressive than Bush in trying to confront al-Qaida, and the directive Bush administration officials gave him was "the worst threat assessment in the nine months of terrorism in the United States."

Clarke said he also wanted Bush's previous interview before the independent Sept. 11 commission declassified, along with e-mails between him and Rice, and other documents, including a memo he sent on Jan. 25, 2001 offering a road map to the new Bush administration on how to confront al-Qaida and the directive that a National Security Council adopted on Sept. 4, 2001.

The material will prove that Bush was "lackluster" about terrorism before the attacks, Clarke said, because "they're basically the same thing. And they wanted months when we could have had some action."

Asked about Clarke's request for the declassification, Secretary of State Colin Powell on CBS' "Face the Nation," said, "My bias will be to provide this information in an unclassified manner not only to the commission, but to the American people."

White House spokesman Jim Morrell said decisions on declassification "will be made in discussion with the 9/11 commission." One senior administration official said the White House and intelligence community would never agree to release the Sept. 4 national security directive, because it contains sensitive information on sources and methods.

Members of the Sept. 11 commissioner made clear they will not relent in their pursuit of public testimony from Rice, but said they were not inclined to sub poena her.

The White House has declined to let her appear at the commission's televised hearings, citing the constitutional principle of separation of powers, the panel was created by Congress.

IRAQ

Minister escapes attack, two killed

Associated Press
BAGHDAD — Gunmen opened fire Sunday on a convoy carrying Iraq's minister of public works, killing a driver and injuring two bodyguards, officials said. The attack occurred when her convoy was attacked, said Kristi Clemens, a spokeswoman for the American military.

Sara Gader, an official with the Kurdistan Democratic Party, described the attack as an "assassination attempt." Berwari is a member of the Kurdistan party.

Iraqi police said the attack occurred around 11 a.m. in the al-Karama neighborhood of Mosul. They said the two men who were killed were both bodyguards, and that Berwari was in another car that was not hit by gunfire.

Berwari, who earned a degree at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government in 1999, is one of five Kurdish ministers in the coalition-appointed interim government. There are 20 other ministers.

Previously, Berwari was development minister in the Kurdish regional government, and she also served with United Nations organizations in Iraq.

Another female political leader, Aqila al-Hashimi, was assassinated in September.

NATIONAL NEWS

1-95 lanes reopen in Connecticut

BRIDGEPORT, Conn. — Northbound lanes on a stretch of one of the nation's busiest highways reopened Sunday, well ahead of schedule and three days after a fire partially melted an overpass.

Construction workers cheered as a parade of cars, escorted by police, traveled on Interstate 95 for the first time since last month.

Officials had said it would take about two weeks to complete repairs to the bridge, which was closed Sept. 11.

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Two daughters of President Bush gave no ground Monday in their refusal to testify before a state court is not in a position to set

LOCAL NEWS

Judge frees identity thief despite plea

LAFAYETTE — A judge freed a Mexican national who admitted he used another person's Social Security number to get a job, saying the justice system is not equipped to deal with the large number of such cases.

In ordering unsupervised probation for Proctor, Judge John Johnson rejected the probation officer's recommendation that the woman serve four years in prison.

"I don't think it's in a position to settle this national social problem," said Johnson, who let Garcia walk out of his courtroom without handcuffs.

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rots continued from page 1

racks to unpack and review infantry tactics and procedures. During the pause, they tucked their bunks for some much needed rest. They would need it.

Outside, Bravo Company, 3rd Platoon assembled in formation.

"B-Three, party with me!" the cadets yelled as they snapped to attention.

Platoon leader and junior Shawn Kotsko ordered his troops to don their Kevarl helmets for the march to breakfast.

"This is a combat situation, people," Kotsko joked. "The food will be bad."

The student-soldiers then marched to the mess hall by unit, again sounding off with pride.

"Anchors aweigh, here we come!" Bravo Company shouted in unison on the pre-dawn chill, a reference to the Army's nickname for LDC.

Cadets then filed into the mess hall for breakfast, which was served in about five minutes to wolf down a hearty breakfast of eggs and sausage, liberally doused with what one cadet called the "Army's favorite condiment" - hot sauce.

Sergeant Major Mortimer said military food isn't exactly great.

"It's edible," Mortimer laughed. "It keeps you going."

And the cadets certainly kept going. Following breakfast, they traveled to a training area for a land navigation course. Cadets used maps, compasses, and protractors to find seven designated points — trees marked by orange signs — scattered throughout the heavily wooded two-square-mile area.

Some cadets, like junior Richard Hudson chided the difficult course in the allotted three hours.

"It wasn't too tough," an out-of-breath Moss said, arriving at the scorer's table with only seconds remaining on the clock.

"It was a tough weekend, though, was occupied by cadets practicing situational tactical exercises — known as "sticks land." These 90-minute drills test cadets' command of tactical armen in a simulated combat environment. Squads of about 10-12 cadets standing in an order, detailing their objectives and other facets of the mission.

The lanes are meant to accurately simulate combat conditions. The exercise is specifically adapted to fire loud, but harmless, blanks. They carried 5.56 rifle blanks, packed with enough gear to simulate a real combat platoon. They applied camouflage face paint to Army specifications — black on the high areas, green on the low. The frequent change of the cadets' environment added to the realism.

The exer...
**MARKET RECAP**

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- **AMEX** 1,237.60 +5.05
- **NASDAQ** 7,621.22 +7.15
- **NYSE** 6,469.57 +5.15
- **S&P 500** 1,108.06 -1.13
- **NIKKEI(Tokyoo)** 11,770.65 +0.00
- **FTSE (100/London)** 4,357.30 -16.10

**IN BRIEF**

Strong consumer data continues rally

NEW YORK — Investors, largely pleased with reports on consumer sentiment and spending, sent stocks higher Friday to continue the previous session’s rally, at least temporarily finding off the temptation to gather profits.

The University of Michigan’s consumer sentiment index rose to 95.8 in March, up from 95.4 in February, according to media reports on the index, which is released to subscribers only. The hike could mean consumers may be willing to spend more, boosting the economy.

Should better economic reports continue to come out regularly, they could spark the rally Wall Street has been without the end in sight. According to Brian Belski, market strategist at Piper Jaffray. “The market looks like it wants to rally into market looks like it wants to rally into the third quarter, the third quarter, the third quarter, the third quarter,” he said.

Crude gains slightly on gasoline

NEW YORK — Crude oil futures rose modestly Friday in New York as bargain hunting and short-covering stemmed a two-day price drop, sparked by growing fear of a potential glut of world crude oil supplies during the second quarter.

- Gasoline futures helped lift crude futures, rising as traders who had bet prices would continue lower found themselves having to cover those bets. A lack of evidence so far that gasoline stocks are going to be successfully replenished ahead of the peak-demand summer driving season added to gasoline’s gains after Thursday’s sharp drop, traders said.
- Crude, sweet crude oil futures settled up 22 cents to 56.06 percent at $35.73 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange after touching a high of $35.82. Earlier in the session, the contract hit an intraday low of $34.75, dropping below $35 for the first time since late February.
- Crude oil futures fell 4 percent Thursday after White House Chief of Staff Andrew Card said on MSNBC that the White House is trying to convince the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries to release more oil to ease price pressures.

**Bankruptcy**

Top Conseco executives rewarded

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Eli Lilly and Co., already under federal investigation for the way it promoted an antidepressant drug, said it faces a new federal probe of its marketing practices.

The Indianapolis-based company said it believes the new probe likely focuses on the osteoporosis drug Evista, as well as Lilly’s current top-seller, the antidepressant Prozac.

Lilly, one of several drug makers to come under federal scrutiny over marketing issues, said the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania has begun a civil investigation.

Rich Manieri, a spokesman for the U.S. Attorney in Philadelphia, declined to comment.

Lilly spokesman Terra Fox said the investigation is separate from an ongoing probe of Evista by the Department of Justice’s Office of Consumer Litigation.

Lilly had previously disclosed that it received grand jury subpoenas in July 2002 and July 2003 over Evista promotions to consumers and doctors.

Lilly said the outcome of the investigation could hurt the company’s financial position. Zyprexa had $4.3 billion in sales last year, while Prozac realized sales of $6.45 billion — a sharp decline since the introduction of cheaper generic versions in 2001. Zyprexa sales last year totaled $922 million.

Lilly shares closed down 1.5 percent to $65.50 on the New York Stock Exchange.

The company said in a regulatory filing earlier this month that some of its drugs including Zyprexa could come under investigation.

Lilly noted that several other drug makers had been subpoenaed for records on drugs including neurological medications. Those companies include Wyeth, Forest Laboratories, GlaxoSmithKline and Janssen.

Lilly learned about the new investigation since that filing, Fox said.

“Last September, the U.S. Attorney in Philadelphia sued Medco Health Solutions Inc., alleging that the nation’s biggest pharmacy benefit-management company violated federal false-claims laws,” an article on Lilly said.

**BANKRUPTCY**

Top Conseco executives rewarded

Associated Press

CARMEL, Ind. — Top Conseco Inc. executives who helped the insurer emerge from the third-largest bankruptcy in U.S. history were rewarded with nearly $34 million in compensation last year.

However, they won’t realize much of their gains for years because about two-thirds of the compensation is in the form of restricted stock awards that vest over time.

Papers filed last week with the Securities and Exchange Commission show that nearly half of last year’s compensation — $1.7 million — went to William Shea, who took over as Conseco’s chief executive following the company’s Chapter 11 filing in December 2002.

Shea received $13.6 million in restricted stock on top of $1 million in base salary and $2 million in bonuses for in total compensation, the company’s annual report stated. Shea also got $68,739 in other compensation.

Most of the compensation for Shea and other top officers in the company’s top 10 compensation teams in 2002 was in stock options.

Conseco enters bankruptcy protection in December 2002 and emerged from Chapter 11 in December 2003.

Conseco on Thursday filed for bankruptcy on December 2002 and emerged from Chapter 11 in December 2003. The company’s chief executive officer, William Shea, took over as Conseco’s Executive Chairman following the company’s bankruptcy filing in December 2002.

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you were out late with your friends, you sleep through your alarm, your boss asks why you are late, what do you say? answer the question, compare your opinions with others, explore what matters at pwc.com/lookhere.
IRELAND

Smoking ban enforcement begins

Associated Press

DUBLIN — Ireland outlawed smoking in workplaces Monday, imposing the strictest anti-tobacco law in the European Union and banning it anywhere on the country's land — and one certain place in the country's national institution, the pub.

"I'll be staying home a lot more. I'll be the only place I can smoke," the 47-year-old said, Sean Hogan, a 46-year-old construction worker, said he would stop smoking. "I've had a cigarette as the barman at the Brian Boru pub in north Dublin called for last orders Sunday night.

The ban took effect at midnight, shortly after the nation's 10,000 pubs closed.

As of Monday morning, smoking sections in offices, hospitals, universities and restaurants were all closed down. By government order, "no smoking" signs were erected in pubs on their front doors, between the bars and outside the restrooms — along with warnings that violators in Ireland face fines of $100 to $1,000.

The only workplaces exempt from the ban are those that double as residences: hotel rooms, prison cells and hospital wards and nursing homes. Home-offices, country homes and truckers' cabs are also supposed to become no-smoking zones, although the government has conceded that the law won't be enforceable in such private areas.

Prime Minister Bertie Ahern, a nonsmoker, said he envisioned an Ireland where "future generations, thanks largely to what we've done, will be able to work in an environment, tobacco-free environment."

Health Minister Micheal Martin, who spearheaded the initiative, said he expected it would work well and that the ban would cut smoking in Ireland by 20 percent in the next two years.

Several opinion polls in the past two weeks indicate about a third of Irish adults — about 30 percent of women and about 40 percent of men — will support the government crusade against tobacco.

"It will be marvelous to have a night out, then not wake up in the morning with your hair and clothes stinking of smoke," said homemaker Eileen Kennedy, who generally smokes a few cigarettes a week — when she goes out for a drink with her husband.

Martin's anti-smoking campaign — which includes graphic billboards and TV ads showing the damage cigarettes can do to the lungs, heart and brain — has inspired thousands to try to break the habit, seeking advice on nicotine-replacement therapy through a government-run telephone service.

"I think, at the end of the day, a person can't argue with the logic of it because we all know cigarettes are bad for us," saidriad Shacey Kearney, a smoker who's thinking of quitting now.

"And if it actually encourages people to give up, in the long term, maybe it's a good thing — obviously it's a good thing."

Owners of pubs and hotels and the workers at many European tourists and force away loyal customers. One pro-smoking pressure group predicts up to 65,000 job losses as pubs and hotels in rural areas are forced to close.

But the two major publicans' associations welcomed the ban.

"It is a move," said Oliver Hughes, who owns a pub in Dublin's Temple Bar touristic quarter, said he expected European visitors "may find it hard to understand that they can't have a cigarette in Dublin, but if they go to Amsterdam they can have a joint."

But the government's Office of Tobacco Control cites its own polls indicating twice as many people think they will go to the pub more often after the ban than will stay away because of the ban.

Some pubs plan are developing chic new smoking areas outdoor, using canopies and outdoor door gas fires to keep smoking more comfortable and within the law. Others, particularly in poorly policed rural areas, say they will try to let their smoking regulars keep going and hope that the handful of Dublin-based inspectors enforcing the ban will pass them by.

But most pubs say they simply will order smokers outside onto the sidewalk if they want to light up.

Smokers on Sunday soberly pondered a chilly, windy, wet future trying to keep their cigarettes lit long enough to smoke them.

"The cancer rate might be going up, but if death by death by heart attack is the same," said Jonathan Clarke, a retired plumber. "I'll have to wear my long johns and two pairs of socks if I want a pint from now on."

Seamus Copeland from Wicklow Town lights his last cigarette In the Mariner Bar in Wicklow, Sunday. Smokers in their local pubs enjoyed final pubs Sunday as Ireland readied to impose the world's most comprehensive ban on tobacco.

This is outrageous that this guy fell through the cracks of the military justice system, and went on to do such harm to other victims," said Cynthia Stone of the Colorado Coalition Against Sexual Assault.

Seawell's alleged victim's family and friends who have accused the academi­an to prostate sex offenders — claims that helped lead to sweeping changes in the academy and Defense Department investigations of sexual assault cases.

An investigation determined that there had been 142 reports of sexual assault at the academy in the past decade, and some of the vic­tims said they were punished for reporting the results.

Seawell, a senior cadet flight instructor and academy boxer, was expelled in October 2002 and a court-martial sentenced him to two years imprisonment for the attack on the civilian woman.

The cancer rate might be going up, but if death by death by heart attack is the same," said Jonathan Clarke, a retired plumber. "I'll have to wear my long johns and two pairs of socks if I want a pint from now on."

AFA cadet remained after rape allegation

Associated Press

DENVER — An Air Force Academy cadet who had been accused of rape and threat­ened to crash a glider into a classroom building was allowed to remain at the school for several more months, during which he was arrested for sodomizing a woman in a wheelchair and accused of raping another cadet, according to files obtained by The Associated Press.

Even after his arrest in Los Angeles for sodomy, the Air Force got cadet Duncosta Seawell released from custody and took him back to the academy, according to the files. He was accused of rape by a fellow cadet three months earlier.

This is outrageous that this guy fell through the cracks of the military justice system, and went on to do such harm to other victims," said Cynthia Stone of the Colorado Coalition Against Sexual Assault.

Seawell's alleged victim's family and friends who have accused the academi­an to prostate sex offenders — claims that helped lead to sweeping changes in the academy and Defense Department investigations of sexual assault cases.

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Seawell remained at the school for six more months, and allegedly approached freshman cadet Kira Mountjoy-Pepka by way of Internet instant messaging.

It was then that Air Force agents reviewed Seawell's records and found the report of the glider threat, according to the OSI report.

But Seawell remained at the school for six more months, and allegedly approached freshman cadet Kira Mountjoy-Pepka by way of Internet instant messaging.

Seawell, meanwhile, is back in the brig on the sodomy charge. He had been released last week, in an interview with The Gazette of Colorado Springs from a military prison in California, Seawell denied having sexual intercourse with Mountjoy-Pepka, but said they had engaged in sexual activity on several occasions.

Gas prices hit record high with no end in sight

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Gasoline prices across the country climbed to the highest levels in past two weeks to a record-high average of $1.80 per gallon for all grades, according to a study released Sunday.

There is little chance that prices will falling significantly in the near future, because increased demand will result from an import embargo, Memorial Day travel, and even the extra hour of light from daylight savings time, said Trilby Lundberg of the Lundberg Survey of 8,000 sta­tions nationwide.

"The demand push this time of year is adding to supply costs and driving prices," Lundberg said. "I don't see any recipe for significant gasoline price cuts anytime soon."

Friday's average price sur­passed the record of $1.77 set in the last Lundberg Survey, conducted March 12. But the increase was adjusted for inflation, and pump prices remain well below levels reached in the early 1980s.

Even if the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries decides at its meeting Wednesday to cancel plans to reduce oil produc­tion April 1, growing demand makes it unlikely prices will fall much, Lundberg said.

Worldwide demand for crude oil and gasoline along with U.S. demand for gasoline, she said.

Gasoline prices are up 29 cents per gallon nationwide since Lundberg said. The national weighted average price of gasoline, including taxes, at self-service pumps Friday was about $1.77 per gallon, $1.87 for a gallon with credit card premium.

Gasoline prices usually rise between March and May as refineries temporarily shut down their plants to prepare for the peak summer driving season, when special clean-burning blends of fuel are required.

Adjusted for inflation, the current price fell short of the record set in March 1981, when a gallon of gas cost the equivalent of $2.85 in today's dollars. Lundberg said.

"The domestic market is not ready to allow the oil market to be as tight as possible," said Paul Hackett of the Energy Department.

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Jolmie Nacole of Waimanalo, Hawaii, watches the price ring up to $10.00 at a pump at a gas station in Kaneohe, Hawaii, Sunday, as he filled up his brother's car. Gas prices have reached record highs nationwide, including $1.98 a gallon for Naucol.
Students suffer the effects of Bush's educational policies

The stately Ionic north portico of the White House is like a broken floodgate. All of President Bush's lies, perhaps, couldn't fit in that one building. And so the deluges of mendacity have cascaded down Pennsylvania Avenue. Nothing has been spared. No issue has gone unseized by the administration's deceit and sophistry — not the environment, labor, Medicare, WMD, nothing. Overlooked and unglamorous, education is without doubt among the most vital of these issues.

Education, after all, is a basic social good. Bush might even concede this much. What he cannot concede on his next "Meet the Press" is that his policies acknowledged this — education is vital importance. Fealty to the market, or the party line, or God knows what, trumps education for Bush. But where Prime Minister Tony Blair faced a firewall of resistance to university tuition hikes in England, Bush gets a free pass. Tellingly, one charge leveled against Bush is that it will reshape the British system in the image of the American — as costly and inaccessible.

Let's begin with one of the Bush's proudest accomplishments: the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) law. "Ironic" just doesn't quite convey the scale of inaccuracy of the law's name. This year, the administration is giving $9.4 billion less than what is needed to fully fund NCLB. Both Education Week and Harvard's Civil Rights Project testify that Bush's chief education officer, Margaret Spellings, is "inconsistent" — not showing the degree of "flexibility" that will help students of lesser means afford college. He added to Bush's record, with Pell Grants, that last year's maximum grant, adjusted for inflation, was worth $500 less than the benefit in 1975. And he wondered why nothing has come of Bush's promise to help struggling communities.

In a March 17 Washington Post article, Miller quoted a line that nicely captures the GOP agenda: "House Republicans are considering legislation aimed at reducing government subsidies for a federally supported student loan program, a step that critics say could lead to sharp increases in the long-term cost of going to college." Finally he drew attention to Republican support for a banking-industry-backed plan to eliminate students' ability to "lock in low interest rates over the life of their loans. This plan would force the average student borrower to pay more than $6,600 in extra interest, doubling the cost of loans for millions." There's no room for interpretation here.

Vigilant compilers of the Harper's Index add two worrying stats: America's total private-loan debt for college tuition has increased by a factor of seven states will raise tuition by 20 per cent or more at least one public university. You needn't be one of the eggheads in sweater vests at the Brookings Institute to spy a trend here. It's all kinds of wrong. It's in-your-face wrong. Barbara Ehrenreich in "Class Struggle 101" broke down university financing into a two-pronged approach — raising tuition and lowering staff pay. Notre Dame doesn't stray too far from this approach. The latest tuition hike here at Notre Dame was 6 per cent. In Latin America, according to a comparative politics professor, students would take to the streets in protest, railing against a patent injustice. Here we've accepted extortion as the norm. And Notre Dame's record with its staff isn't exactly pretty — sending workers home early, not hiring replacements for entering workers and vigorously fighting unionization.

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Dissenting Alumnus

Mike Marchand, class of 2001. laughed his butt off last night at one of Professor Richard Clarke's (counterterrorism guy, not the 5,000 lb. guy that Bush fired as a choice as the threat from al-Qaeda and then, after Sept. 11, focused too much on Iraq at the expense of destroying al-Qaeda.)

Indeed, perhaps Clarke's "Rockin' New Year" calendar differs from mine, but I could have sworn we invaded Afghanistan to attack al-Qaeda near-the-wrists-just-few-hours-before-entering-Iraq to topple Saddam Hussein. And Clarke feels that the administration "ignored" al-Qaeda during 2001 because there was no time for him to hold a meeting on the subject, or for him to order his national security advisor to hold a Cabinet-level meeting on the subject. But even though the administration's first Cabinet-level meeting concerning al-Qaeda happened just one week before the Sept. 11 attacks, Bush did not order National Security Advisor Condolezza Rice to compose a strategy to confront al-Qaeda and Osama bin Laden in April of that year, saying he was tired of "swatting flies." Clarke even admits this in his book.

But that belies the major point — Does Clarke really think that just holding a meeting is an effective counterterrorism strategy? According to Clarke's 9/11 Commission testimony (but not his book, in which he blatantly contradicts this statement), there was "no high-level meeting in my office in the Cabinet Room. ..." And during those two terms, the World Trade Center, two American embassies and the U.S.S. Cole were bombed. Clinton's Cabinet must have met, didn't they? Yet the only crimes were missile attacks at some empty tents and an aspirin factory. The Bush administration might have done nothing to stop al-Qaeda in eight months. But the Clinton administration did practically nothing in eight years, and Clarke was the nation's top counterterrorism official during that time. Perhaps Clarke's "Huckin' the Ball" and taking the heat from al-Qaeda and then, after Sept. 11, focused too much on Iraq at the expense of destroying al-Qaeda.

I am not going to seek to blame the Clinton administration for Sept. 11 because they stood pat during al-Qaeda's formative years. As I noted above, the fault lies not with any individual politician, but with the entire bureaucratic process, where inertia is king, and nobody acts to change anything without sufficient impetus. Everyone mismanaged during the period before Sept. 11, and Clarke admitted as much when he apologized to the victims of Sept. 11 for failing them. But that was not sufficient enough to start pointing fingers. Partisan hacks want to undo the president's record following 9/11. And if I'm someone who sincerely wishes to uncover God's truth, to be consistent they should also apply this technique to the issue of homosexuality.

The critical distinction is that the sinful natures of alcoholism, adultery and other behaviors cannot be said to break a commandment from God, as understood by Christians, to act counter to one's natural, God-given orientation rather than a disease. With this evidence, we see the biblical authors were incorrect to classify homosexual behavior as unnatural. As such, homosexual behavior cannot be said to break a commandment from God, as understood by scripture. This understanding of homosexuality, as a choice, stood until the 19th and 20th centuries. Now, a growing body of scientific evidence strongly suggests that sexual orientation, including homosexuality, is an orientation, part of the natural, God-given design of each human. Just recently, in 1973, the American Psychiatric Association changed its classification of homosexuality to categorize it as an orientation rather than a disorder.

With this evidence, we see the biblical authors were incorrect to classify homosexual behavior as unnatural. As such, homosexual behavior cannot be said to break a commandment from God, as understood by scripture. This argument cannot be considered authoritative by itself, but may act as one voice in a much-needed debate. Throughout the debate, remember this — in the hallowed halls of Jesus' teachings, only one Book contains homosexuality, not one. Therefore, any position on homosexuality, whether for or against, cannot rightfully be elevated to the level of dogma as many Christians churches currently hold. The one Book, the Bible, contains homosexuality, not once. Therefore, any position on homosexuality, whether for or against, cannot rightfully be elevated to the level of dogma as many Christian churches currently hold.

 Lucas Sayre senior
 Corsicana, TX
 March 25

Lettos to the Editor

September 11 attacks out of Sept. 11

The Observer

The Observer

Monday, March 29, 2004

Leave partisan finger-pointing out of Sept. 11

The question "How did the Sept. 11 attacks happen?" is a noble question that makes us as an educational institution "feel we're ever to stand against attacks.

Sadly, the process was muddled when partisan finger-pointing, on both sides, entered into the equation. However, nobody performed more blame-casting than Richard Clarke, former National Security Advisor. He who completely incidentally and not in any way involved with his testimony before the 9/11 Commission, has a new book out, in stores now.

It's far too reductive to dismiss Clarke as merely a disgruntled ex-employee who's seeking vengeance against the administration that dismissed him out of the decision-making process, or a partisan hack out to sell copies of his books. He is both, of course, but he's not merely both. When it comes to counterterrorism, the man does know what he's talking about — he's served under four administrations in positions that are normally cycled out when a new president takes office. Clarke and nobody acts to change anything without sufficient impetus.

But instead of blasting the code of bureaucracy, which is as reductive to dismiss as the other comment to the new guy in town, is the administration. According to Clarke (the counterterrorism guy, not the 5,000 lb. guy that Bush fired as a choice as the threat from al-Qaeda and then, after Sept. 11, focused too much on Iraq at the expense of destroying al-Qaeda.)

As I noted above, the fault lies not with any'individual politician, but with the entire bureaucratic process, where inertia is king, and nobody acts to change anything without sufficient impetus. Everyone mismanaged during the period before Sept. 11, and Clarke admitted as much when he apologized to the victims of Sept. 11 for failing them. And if I'm someone who sincerely wishes to uncover God's truth, to be consistent they should also apply this technique to the issue of homosexuality.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Does the Bible really condemn homosexuality?

Many Christians unquestioningly accept the claims of their respective churches that homosexual behavior is morally wrong. Many of the major denominations hold such a position. As for example, the Southern Baptist Convention proclaims it at different dogmatic levels. Upon closer inspection, however, this condemnation of homosexual behavior falls away, once we consider clear Scriptural language.

A faithful Christian must examine his or her position on this issue with scrutiny and honesty, rather than reflexive agreement with his or her church's stance.

Sure, Clarke, I believe, does not lead to the conclusion that the Bible condemns homosexual behavior. I will not condemn others who reach a different conclusion, as it is ultimately a matter of faith, but I offer this analysis with the sincere hope it be received with an open heart and mind.

Biblical arguments against homosexual behavior are usually based on passages such as Romans 1:26, which condemns "men for whom [God] gave them up to filthiness" and 1 Thessalonians 4:3-7, which list "sexual immorality." However, these passages are sometimes translated with caution, with modern translators prefacing them with "alleged homosexual behavior" such as sodomy, but this translation is not always correct.

In all these passages, the biblical reader needs to consider the underlying theological assumptions that are part of the cultural context. Put simply, does the Bible condemn all reason same-sex behavior was condemned? This was the society's understanding of homosexuality at the time of the writing of these passages?

A broader examination of the Bible answers to these questions. Namely, Scripture condemns actions that are inconsistent with God's order of creation. Unsurprisingly, the authors applied this principle to homosexual behavior, for homosex­ual behavior is not natural; it occurs after new believers have risen beyond mere friendship. Note 1 Samuel 20:41: "David rose up, and stone heap and prostrated himself with his face to the ground. He bowed three times, and they [he and Jonathan] kissed each other, and wept the more" and 2 Samuel 1:25-26: "How the mighty have fallen in the midst of the battle! Jonathan lies slain upon your high places. I am distressed for you, my brother Jonathan; greatly beloved were you to me; your love to me was wonderful, passing the love of women." The above argument cannot be considered authoritative by itself, but may act as one voice in a much-needed debate. Throughout the debate, remember this — in the hallowed halls of Jesus' teachings, only one Book contains homosexuality, not once. Therefore, any position on homosexuality, whether for or against, cannot rightfully be elevated to the level of dogma as many Christian churches currently hold. The one Book, the Bible, contains homosexuality, not once. Therefore, any position on homosexuality, whether for or against, cannot rightfully be elevated to the level of dogma as many Christian churches currently hold.

The critical distinction is that the sinful natures of alcoholism, adultery and other behaviors cannot be said to break a commandment from God, as understood by scripture. This argument cannot be considered authoritative by itself, but may act as one voice in a much-needed debate. Throughout the debate, remember this — in the hallowed halls of Jesus' teachings, only one Book contains homosexuality, not once. Therefore, any position on homosexuality, whether for or against, cannot rightfully be elevated to the level of dogma as many Christian churches currently hold.

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International Festival Week brings two acclaimed foreign films to campus

Films in English increase accessibility of foreign cinema for students

By MOLLY GRIFFIN

The phrase "foreign film" has the ability to conjure up images of bored, weepy peasants suffering in some unknown ex-Soviet satellite nation until every one of them dies. Fortunately, these stigmas are beginning to die ofT as subtitles or dubbing.

American movies and the types of movies until every one of them dies. Fortunately, these stigmas are beginning to die ofT as subtitles or dubbing.

Two foreign films made in English that received international acclaim. Such films could help to gradually ease a foreign-film-phobic into the world of international cinema. Both films are being shown at Notre Dame this week as part of the International Festival Week, which runs from March 27 to April 2 and is sponsored by the International Student Services and Activities Office.

"Fire" and "Whale Rider" both offer glimpses into cultures that are vastly different than our own, but the fact that they are in English makes them a little more palatable to the average movie goer. Each of the films is an interesting departure from both your typical American movies and the types of movies that you might expect to come out of India or New Zealand.

"Fire"
The Indian film "Fire" follows a newly-married couple, Sitai (Neha Dhak), a naive and child-like woman who is forced to live with the family of her new bridegroom, Jatin (Jaaved Jaffery). His family displays little regard for Sita, and she is forced to work long, unacknowledged hours at the family's kombab shop and movie rental store. The contempt that the family shows for Sita is not helped by the fact that her husband essentially ignores her, as he is far more interested in his mistress, with whom he spends almost every night. Sita's sister-in-law, Radha (Shahnaz Armi), is equally ignored by the family. The two forge a bond while taking care of a demanding and ancient grandmother who rings a bell every time that she wants anything. Radha's husband Ashok (Kulbhushan Kharbanda) has taken a vow of celibacy, found a swami and is frequently gone as he seeks spirituality. In the midst of the empty marriages in which the women find themselves, they fall in love with one another and forge a deeper relationship than that which they experienced with their husbands. Deepa Mehta's film depicting lesbian love created a firestorm of controversy in India, with conservative groups like the Shiv Sena protesting its release and vandalizing theaters that showed the film. Indian censors are known for being tough — cutting things that Americans would consider innocuous, such as kisses — but this movie presented different and more difficult challenges. Many critics believed that this was an inappropriate and inaccurate display of Indian culture, and one critic even responded that the movie should have been about Muslims instead of Hindus, because Hindus did not have lesbians in their culture. The fact that the two women are named after prominent Hindu goddesses only fueled the controversy.

"Whale Rider"
The New Zealand film "Whale Rider" tells the story of Pai, an 11-year-old girl born into the Maori tribe that traces its ancestry back to Polynesia, the Whale Rider, who according to legend escaped death by riding to shore on a whale. Leadership is passed down through the males in the tribe, in concurrence with the legend. This standard of passing on power comes into contention when twins are born into the leader's family, and the tribe must fall in love with one another and forge a deeper relationship than that which they experienced with their husbands. Deepa Mehta's film depicting lesbian love created a firestorm of controversy in India, with conservative groups like the Shiv Sena protesting its release and vandalizing theaters that showed the film. Indian censors are known for being tough — cutting things that Americans would consider innocuous, such as kisses — but this movie presented different and more difficult challenges. Many critics believed that this was an inappropriate and inaccurate display of Indian culture, and one critic even responded that the movie should have been about Muslims instead of Hindus, because Hindus did not have lesbians in their culture. The fact that the two women are named after prominent Hindu goddesses only fueled the controversy.

"Fire" plays Monday at 7:30 p.m. in the Montgomery Theatre, LaFortune, with a discussion and Indian food to follow the showing.

"Whale Rider"
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Despite the conflicted reception in the Mehta's homeland, the film went on to win the praise of critics internationally. The movie calls attention to the tension between the traditional lives of Indians clashing with a more liberal, westernized view of culture. The controversy surrounding the release of "Fire" in India is living proof of the very dichotomy between East and West. old and new and conservative and liberal that the film itself deals with. "Fire" plays Monday at 7:30 p.m. in the Montgomery Theatre, LaFortune, with a discussion and Indian food to follow the showing.

"Whale Rider" plays Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. in room 117 DeBartolo.

Contact Molly Griffin at mollyg@nd.edu

International Festival Week

Monday "Fire" film presentation
Montgomery Theatre
7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Tuesday "Whale Rider" film presentation
DeBartolo Hall Room 117
7:00 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Wednesday Samba and Forro Dancing
Pasquerilla West
7 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Thursday International Children's Festival
University Village Community Center
3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Friday African Cultural Night
Hesburgh Library Auditorium
6:00 p.m. - 9 p.m.
AI Franken became famous as a Saturday Night Live cast member and Emmy-winning writer, playing characters like Stuart Smalley. Since leaving the show, however, he has turned his attention towards politics. He officially came out as a liberal with "Bush Limbaugh is a Big Fat Idiot" in 1999, and has again used his satirical wit to criticize conservatives and the Republican Party with "Lies, and the Lying Liars Who Tell Them."

Harvard's Kennedy School of Government offered Franken a fellowship in their Shorenstein Center on the Press, Politics, and Public Policy. Using a Harvard research team, Franken wrote this book. This Harvard fellowship and research team lend credit to the book's accuracy, especially as Franken constantly reveals the lies of conservative writers. Franken also points out that only one mistake was found in Bush Limbaugh, and Franken found that mistake himself.

According to Franken, God told him to write "Lies" in response to individuals who claim the media has a liberal bias. Franken works to prove otherwise, attacking conservative media, especially characters like Ann Coulter and Bill O'Reilly, though Franken prefers to call them "Nutcase" and "Bill O'Laugh." By pointing out their blatant lies and conservative propaganda, Franken broadens his criticism to the entire Bush administration.

For example, in his chapter entitled "Operation Ignore," Franken addresses both the conservative media's claims that President Bill Clinton was partly to blame for Sept. 11 and that the Bush administration worked to prevent any terrorist attacks. In refuting these claims, Franken first addresses how Clinton's administration had actively fought terrorism, especially from Al Qaeda, and had successfully subverted several attacks. Franken then traces the George W. Bush administration's action from inauguration through September 11, emphasizing not only how little attention the administration paid to terrorism, but also how little Bush worked.

Franken also often adds a creative spark to his satire. To point out the flaws of the "No Child Left Behind Act," Franken writes his own standardized test, which calculates what percentage of children actually have been left behind because of Bush's reluctance to financially support the program. Franken also attacks general conservative ideology with a cartoon about "Supply-Side Jesus," showing how the Lord's teachings would have differed had He been a profit-hungry capitalist.

The book is consistent in its informative and funny, as Franken takes the reader through his own personal search for weapons of mass destruction, tells about his less-than-friendly encounter with former First Lady Barbara Bush, recounts a trip he took to the ultra-conservative Bob Jones University and freely attacks the long career of Karl Rove, a Bush strategist. Readers learn a lot about politics and the players who currently dominate it, but the book is never dull. Franken's sharp humor keeps the book light and the reader laughing.

"Lies" has received great reviews by liberals since its publication. However, conservatives probably want to avoid this book, as it bluntly mocks their ideology and leadership throughout. Franken attacks basically every member of the Bush administration and of Fox News. While he does make a point to be accurate and not resort to "lies," as he claims his opposition does, Franken's liberal agenda is clear and pronounced — ultimately limiting his audience.

Overall, the book stands out because Franken blends his researched political statements with his dry humor, making "Lies" a great read, especially in the election year. Luckily, those interested in hearing more of Franken's witty political observations can catch his upcoming show "The O'Franken Factor" (a spin-off show of the ultra-conservative "The O'Reilly Factor") on the new Air America Radio, which will begining March 31. Franken's show will run Monday through Friday from 3 to 6 p.m., and promises to point out and criticize more lies in conservative media and political platforms.

Contact Claire Hagan at chagan@imds.edu

Franken's latest book takes an in-depth look at the "semi-truths" of different political figures and how they influence the public's views.
NBA

Rockets collect third overtime victory in 4 games

Associated Press

MIAMI — The Houston Rockets collected their third overtime victory in four games.

Houston guard Steve Francis celebrates after making a basket with 1:14 to go in overtime. The Rockets went on to defeat the Miami Heat 104-101. Francis made one free throw for the Heat, which had their seven-game winning streak end.

The 76ers were 3-1 in their heartbreaker in overtime in Miami. They beat the Heat 104-101. The Heat's score was 104-101.

Houston guard Steve Francis celebrates after making a basket to send the game into overtime in the Rockets' 111-110 win.

Rockets collect third overtime victory in 4 games
MLB
Matsui homers for Yankees in return to Japan

Associated Press

TOKYO — Over and over, Hideki Matsui kept saying this was just another night. But, of course, it wasn’t. It was his first game back in Japan since leaving after the 2002 season.

And when he deposited a hanging curveball into the right-center field seats in the second inning Sunday, the enormously popular player they call Godzilla couldn’t reign in his emotions.

He cracked a wide smile after he crossed the plate and returned to the New York Yankees’ dugout.

Matsui homered in his first at-bat back in Japan, starting an evening when the Yankees showed why they’re called the Bronx Bombers back home.

Jorge Posada added a tiebreaking three-run homer and Derek Jeter hit a solo shot, giving the Yankees back home.

returned to the New York bat back in Japan, starting an

he crossed the plate and

popular player they call Godzilla

hanging curveball into the

game back in Japan since leav­

ing.

Matsui sure did, on the very next pitch. He took a 63 mph

he hits a home run

fouled off a 2-2 pitch, the chant

into the batter’s box leading off

the second inning to cheers of

“Go Matsui!” Then, just after he

allowed to be bigger

see him depart Yomiuri 15

Japanese fans,” said Matsui.

Matsui, leaned into it and

right-center field.

Matsui hit a solo shot,

leading the Yankees over the

Yomiuri Giants 6-2 in New

York’s first game in Japan in 49

years.

And after it was over, Matsui walked to a microphone at home plate and addressed the admirers who were so sad to see him depart Yomiuri 15 months ago to sign with the Yankees.

“What I did out there was to show my deepest appreciation for the fans,” he explained later through a translator. “Most importantly, however, at the same time I didn’t feel melancholy about it. I didn’t have any special attachment toward it, looking back at my Yomiuri Giants days. No, that didn’t happen. I just wanted to show them my gratitude.”

He wants to behave like a “Star Trek” Vulcan, be robotic and emotionless, focusing deeply on the tasks at hand. Yankees manager Joe Torre calls it “Ice water.”

“He knows how to rise to the occasion. I really feel that way,” Torre said.

While Matsui plays left field

for the Yankees and his spot in the batting order changes con­

stantly, with Yomiuri he received Japan’s positions of honor —

center field and cleanup in the batting order. That’s where he played on Sunday night, the next-to-last exhibition for New York before Tuesday’s opener against Tampa Bay.

“You’re allowed to be bigger than the game tonight,” Torre told him.

Matsui already had a clue.

thanks to Kenji Kobayashi, who gave him the heads-up during batting practice. Ever the per­

fectionist, Matsui shagged fly balls in center field.

“I hadn’t played center field in some time now,” Matsui said. “I needed to practice, I needed to get a feel for the position again.”

With flashbulbs popping and small orange flags with his num­

ber “55” waving, Matsui stepped into the batter’s box leading off

the second inning to cheers of

“Go Matsui!” Then, just after he

fouled off a 2-2 pitch, the chant

changed to, “Home run, home

run, Matsui!”

In the dugout, Torre said: “Wouldn’t this be something if he hits a home run here?”

Matsui sure did, on the very next pitch. He took a 63 mph hanging curveball from Hisanori Takahashi, leaned into it and sent it about three-quarters of the way up the bleachers in right-center field.

AP Photo
**NCAA Basketball**

**Duke, Georgia Tech earn Final Four bids**

**Associated Press**

ATLANTA — Too much history. Too much Duke.

The Blue Devils ended Xavier’s remarkable run in the NCAA tournament and headed to their 14th Final Four, holding off the Musketeers 66-63 Saturday to win the Atlanta Regional.

Xavier (26-11) had already chopped down the second- and third-seeded teams in the region, but couldn’t make it 1-2-3 against post-season-hardened Duke.

With the score tied at 56, Chris DuHoun drove to the basket and missed, but Luol Deng grabbed the offensive rebound and passed out to J.J. Redick, who swished the 3-pointer that put the Blue Devils ahead for good with 2:55 remaining.

Xavier couldn’t overcome the loss of Anthony Mylnol, who is the team’s only player taller than 6-foot, who fouled out with 12:12 minutes remaining after scoring 16 points and grabbing 10 rebounds.

His absence was especially telling at the end.

After Redick’s trey, 6-foot-1 Derick Ewing flew the lone, having to be his shot away by 6-foot-9 Shelden Williams. DuHoun sniped the other way and missed again, but Deng tapped in the rebound to give the Blue Devils a five-point lead with 1:55 to go.

Justin Doellman finally scored for the Musketeers, their first basket in nearly 4 1/2 minutes, but Duke closed it out at the free throw line. Redick hit a pair. So did DuHoun, the only prominent holdover from nameless last national championship team in 2001.

The Blue Devils lost the last two years in the regional semifinals. They didn’t slip up this time.

Deng had 19 points and was named MVP of the regional. Williams also came up big, scoring 12 points to go along with 13 rebounds.

Lionel Chalmers led Xavier with 17 points.

**Georgia Tech 79, Kansas 71**

When the final buzzer sounded, the entire Georgia Tech team rushed together to pile into a group hug on the floor.

**How it flows.**

With top scorer B.J. Elder disabled by a badly sprained ankle, someone else had to step up. Jarrett Jack and Derick Ewing had to step up. Jarrett Jack and Dedrick Ewing.

Without Elder, was no big deal. Even when the game went to overtime.

But Georgia Tech (27-9) has been unflappable all season, beating Connecticut when the Huskies were ranked No. 1 and winning at Duke and Wake Forest. So facing the favored Jayhawks, even without Elder, was no big deal. Even when the game went to overtime.

After the win, Brannum hit a big 3-pointer to break a 71-71 tie, Jack went 4-for-4 from the line in the last 47 seconds to seal the win.

Jack finished 8-of-12 from the floor, and had nine rebounds and six assists. Luke Schenscher added 15 points and Clarence Moore matched his season-high with 14 for the Yellow Jackets.

As the final seconds ticked off the clock, coach Paul Hewitt threw his hands in the air in triumph.

**In Brief**

**Adam Scott wins Player’s Championship**

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Fla. — The guy who swings like Tiger Woods nearly finished like Greg Norman.

Ultimately, all that mattered to Adam Scott Sunday was making a 10-foot bogey putt on the final hole to win. The Players Championship, making the 23-year-old Australian the youngest champion of golf’s richest tournament.

Scott turned a command performance into a comedy on the treacherous 18th hole at Sawgrass. From the middle of the fairway, with a two-shot lead, he stumbled his approach into the water and looked as if he had thrown it away.

Needing to make bogey to avoid a playoff with Padraig Harrington, Scott finished with a putt that was true from the time it left his blade. Scott thrust his fist into the air twice, and threw his cap down in relief.

He closed with a 2-under 70, winning $1.44 million from the record $8 million purse.

**Angels’ pitcher hospitalized**

Anaheim Angels reliever Brendan Donnelly has been hospitalized because of severe nosebleeds while recovering from being hit in the face by a fly ball.

Donnelly returned to a Scottsdale hospital late Saturday and underwent a third surgery on his fractured nose, which was broken in 20 places on March 9 while he shagged flies during batting practice.

“They told me I lost half the blood in my body,” Donnelly said Saturday, adding that he’d lost seven pints of blood. “I didn’t realize how serious it was.”

Said Angels stopstop David Eckstein: “We’re concerned with his safety. It’s dangerous to lose that much blood.”

Donnelly will start the season on the disabled list, the team said Sunday. He will remain in the hospital three or four days.

**O’Neal returns to Pacers’ lineup**

INDIANAPOLIS — Jermaine O’Neal returned to the Indiana Pacers starting lineup Sunday after missing two games with a bruised left knee.

O’Neal is averaging a team-leading 20.3 points, 10.1 rebounds and 2.6 blocks a game for the Pacers (15-19), who were playing Miami (35-37).

The All-Star forward injured his knee in win over the Chicago Bulls last Monday. He collided with Bulls guard Ronny Turiaf while trying to set a pick on the baseline and immediately crumpled to the floor.

Al Harrington, who is averaging a career-best 13.1 points and 6.4 rebounds, had started in place of O’Neal. The Pacers are 4-0 this season without O’Neal.

**Photo**

Duke’s Shelden Williams puts up a shot against Xavier’s Anthony Miles as Duke outlasted Xavier 66-63 Sunday in Atlanta.
Federer knocked off by Spanish teenager

Associated Press

KEY BISCAYNE, Fla. — Under siege from a 17-year-old Spaniard, Roger Federer waited for his opponent to show some nerves and make a few mistakes. It never happened.

Federer, the reigning Wimbledon and Australian Open champion, lost for only the second time since undergoing knee surgery last ed. Never faced a break point. He hit 48 points on his serve and hit winners from both sides.

Nadal, from Mallorca won 36 of the top-ranked Federer 6-3, 7-6 (4). Nadal upset but no fluke: Nadal has 1 Open champion, lost for only 1.

In women’s play, top-seed Serena Williams and showed shot-making skills worthy of the hype.

The big-swinging left-han­ der from Key Biscayne each of the past three years, losing in the final to Williams each year.

TENNIS

New York’s Mark Parrish tries to get out of the way of the in front of Devils goalie Martin Brodeur in the first period Sunday.

“just the second time since Albert

undergoing knee surgery last ed

41x2224

TENNIS

I got negative after

Pistolesi

The big-swinging left-ban­ der from Key Biscayne each of the past three years, losing in the final to Williams each year.

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The big-swinging left-ban­ der from Key Biscayne each of the past three years, losing in the final to Williams each year.
The Irish had a strong showing in Ann Arbor, Mich., Saturday, 7:23.7. It was Notre Dame's varsity four win and a varsity eight second-place finish behind rowing powerhouse Michigan.

In addition to racing the No. 2 varsity eight, Notre Dame rowed against Clemson, No. 8 rowing powerhouse Michigan. Though the Irish were unranked in pre-season polls, they demonstrated that they have the talent and drive to compete with the best.

In Notre Dame's first varsity four race, a dominant showing from Carolyn Long, Katie O'Hara, Daniello Stealy, Pam Jefson and Kristen Mizi to triumph over their highly-ranked competitors. The Irish finished in 7 minutes 14.9 seconds — three seconds ahead of the Spartan boat.

"We really struck first to open the second half as the Hokies' Kate Bayliss said. "Just an incredible race. We're really excited about our season." We didn't play a very good doubles point, Bayliss said. "I wasn't very excited about our level...I felt we could win the doubles point and I still think we probably should have.""
Irish capture Hoosier Classic with 3 wins at IU

By HEATHER VAN HOEGARDEN
Sports Editor

When Irish coach Deanna Gumpf and Western Kentucky coach Leslie Phelan decided not to play the championship game of the Hoosier Classic, no one was too upset.

"We were definitely happy to come home," Irish left fielder Nicole deFau said.

Notre Dame (23-9) came home after winning the Hoosier Classic with 3 wins at Notre Dame Stadium (23-8) and less through the first three innings.

"We played a great second game differently is being more aggressive at the plate, not being so patient," deFau said.

Over the weekend, Saint Mary's threatened in the seventh inning when Marnie Walsh doubled and scored on a single by Laura Heline. The Belles were able to collect six hits in the contest, and in the 10th inning, the Scots reached first on an error, helping Alma score.

In the second inning when Sullivan started, the Scots reached first on a Butler single. A ground ball to Schoonaert scored on an Eileen Rochon of Alma error giving Alma a 2-0 lead.

In the fourth inning, however, the Scots reached first on an error and doubled up the Belles again when she singled to shortstop and later stole second. The next batter doubled and both runners scored putting Alma up 2-0.

In the fifth, the Scots scored their third and final run, which began with a Lindsay Sajewich and Kate Lathrop. Booth stepped up and struck out, but that was all 'Western could do.

But in the top of the seventh, the Irish broke it open. Sara Schoonaert earned a leadoff walk and Nicole Wicks bunted her to second. Brown then struck out, but reached on a dropped third strike, on which Schoonaert moved to third. DeFau drew a walk, and Megan Cioli singled a single, scoring both runners, to put the Irish up 4-0.

After two games Saturday, the Irish were back in action bright and early Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m. when they faced the Western Kentucky Hilltoppers.

This game proved to be a duel between Bost and Western Kentucky's Adrienne Lathrop. Bost struck out 10 in her fourth time on the mound in double digit strikeout totals this season. Notre Dame took the lead in the fourth inning with Cioli solo home run. The Irish added to the lead in the sixth when deFau hit a double to the right-centerfield gap and scored on a Rauthrauff double.

But Western Kentucky came up big in the bottom of the seventh with a rally that almost tied the game. After a one-out double and a walk, the tying run was at first. A ground ball to Schoonaert allowed one run to score as her throw was wide, but that was all 'Western would get.

Booth stepped up and struck out the last batter to end the game.

The win catapulted the Irish into the championship game. However, since they would have to play Western Kentucky again, and because the game was moved to midnight around 4:30 p.m., the teams decided not to play the game. However, one thing is for sure: We've been through the tests, and now we're focused on scoring first."

"Our pitchers really did a good job shutting the teams down," Nicole deFau Irish left fielder

"Our pitchers really did a good job shutting the teams down."
Third

continued from page 24
points.

After catching the Irish Friday, Ohio State used the start of the men's season Saturday to open the floodgates. The combination of a struggling Irish men's team — too few star performances and too — much talent from Ohio State and Notre Dame efforts from the start.

"I said that there could be ups and downs, and we were in Iowa," Bednarski said. "With a young team, with fifth emotions, with pressure, it happens, and unfortunately it was really hard to stop that trend." By the end of the day, the Irish, with one short of the top 12 participants, could not compensate for the loss of top foilist Derek Snyder to injuries. Snyder last week in practice and did not compete in the national championships. Frankie Bontempo, who replaced Snyder as an alternate, finished with a disappointing 7-16 record against either Ohio State or Penn State.

Bednarski knew his team would be fighting an uphill battle for the first time.

"It's very hard with one less fence and one less man class (38.9 average wins) regarding "next week," he said. "But if they learn from this, and letters-of-intent are yet to be signed.

Seven new faces.

"If we take this, and letters-of-intent are yet to be signed.

NF TRACK AND FIELD

Irish perform strong at weekend meets

By MIKE GILLOON
Sports Writer

Two separate meets yielded two strong performances for the Notre Dame track and field team competed in its first full weekend of outdoor competition.

Most of the distance runners and sprinters traveled to Baltimore, Calif., to participate in the Stanford Invitational, while the remainder of the team stayed closer to home and took part in the Purdue Invitational.

Sylor Nedurdeen and Kristen Snyder set the pace for the Irish at wander; they were in among eight team members to qualify for the Big East Championships. Nedurdeen ran the 110-meter hurdles in 14.0 seconds to finish in fifth place. His time also qualified him for the NCAA regional meet later in the season. Boddo ran a 12.14 second-100-meter dash to finish in 10th place. He, along with Ayesha Boyd finished just behind Dodd with a time of 12.35.

With his 22.01 in the 200-meter dash, Ryan Poster finished seventh in his section. Poster's sprinter teammate Trevor McClain-Dieter finished in second place in his section of the 400-meter dash in a time of 48.21.

In the women's 400-meter hurdles, Tianna Collier was successful as she took fifth place overall with a time of 1:52. The other Big East female runner from the Stanford Invitational were Jean Martingello, Sarah Cooper and Kaleb Van Ort. Martingello took 29th place in the women's 10,000 meters with a time of 33:14.66 while Van Ort placed 33rd in the men's 10,000 meters with a time of 29:40.85. O'Donnell was a 13th place finisher in the women's 400-meter hurdles at 53.38 while his teammate Roberto Garcia finished 21st in 55.58.

Bednarski triple-jumped a distance of 12.02 meters while Goquen tossed the javelin 51.09 meters. The men's 400-meter relay team, led by Barber, ran a first place time of 42.59.

A handful of Irish field athletes qualified for the Big East Championships with discus and weight throwers Chip Roberts and Juan Alan leading the way. Roberts finished second in the discus event as well as sixth in the hammer throw. Van Ort also posted a third place and the discus and seventh in the hammer throw. Jason Davis also qualified for the conference meet in the hammer throw by a toss of 49.00 meters.

The Irish still need to remember what this past weekend felt like. They need to remember the pain of watching another team celebrate a national title. They need to look up and see the bright light of 2000. They need the benefit of having a senior who has walked this path before to be there for them.

The freshmen need to understand not to take their victory for granted. They need to remember the pain of watching another team celebrate a national title. They need to look up and see the bright light of 2000. They need the benefit of having a senior who has walked this path before to be there for them.

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FENCING

Irish are ready for next title run

WALTHAM, Mass. — Former Ohio State football coach Woody Hayes once said about his once-battered team: "We don't rebuild. We reload." When the Notre Dame fencing team returned to historic national stage, it was in a similar vein.

"It was a unbelievable week for us," Bednarski said. "It was an unbelievable. We are loaded with a disappointing 8-15 record in the round-robin event and won the individual national title. However, unlike Ghattas and Stearns, fellow freshman saber Valerie Provenza who finished with an 18-5 record in the round-robin event and the unstoppable Vincent.

If we take this, and letters-of-intent are yet to be signed.

"It's very hard with one less fence and one less man class (38.9 average wins) regarding "next week," he said. "But if they learn from this, and letters-of-intent are yet to be signed.

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**NCAA’S continued from page 24**

...their family fed them what they needed to eat, including huge meals at local restaurants, and while his Minnesota counterpart Keilen Briggs needed to make only 20 saves. They’re definitely a little deeper team than we were,” Cey said. “We tried to weather the storm there for a while, but we still gave them all we could handle, and I think we’re going to be better team for it, next year.”

Minnesota’s stay in the NCAA tournament only lasted one more game, though, as the Gophers were crushed 4-1 by Notre Dame Saturday. The Irish senior class was that we had three very good defensemen in Neil Kemadoski, Brett Lebed and Troy Riddle and there’s a lot of games that make you look at what a season you had,” said Gill. “I thought there were a couple significant turning points in the game,” Poulin said. “2-2, I felt that we were in pretty good shape. Then, Matt Amado gets a breakaway and there’s a scramble play in our own end and Vanek is able to put it home.”

That was potentially a two-goal swing.”

The Golden Gophers scored an insurance goal in the third period, as Vanek beat Cey with a wraparound goal just inside the left post at 11:52 of the period. Troy Riddle iced the game with an empty net goal with 35 seconds remaining, after Notre Dame had pulled Cey out of the net for an extra attacker.

**Minnesota 5, Notre Dame 2 at the VAN ANDEL ARENA**

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**SCOREC SUMMARY**

**First Period**

UM - Matt Koistila (Thomas Vanek, Don Harrington), 11:08. UND - Justin Schuver (Aaron Gill, Mike Wideman), 19:19 (PP).

**Second Period**


**Third Period**

UM - Vanek (Koistila, Kevin Ballard), 11:52. UND - Troy Riddle (Juni Mathieu), 13:49. UND - Don Harrington (Greg brown), 18:44.

**Shots on Goal**


**Contact Justin Schuver at jeschuver@nd.edu**

**The Spring Run**

A Benefit for "Rebuilding Together with Christmas in April!" 3K & 10K Runs PLUS 2 MILE WALK Saturday, April 3, 2004 11:00 A.M. Stepan Center

**Men’s Hockey**

2004 Irish reset bar for future ND programs

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Looking at Notre Dame coach Dave Poulin’s face after his team’s 5-2 loss against Minnesota Saturday in the first round of the NCAA Championships, you didn’t see any regret or worry on his face.

Even though the Irish are losing five seniors who played key roles on the team this season, you could almost imagine that Poulin was humming Frank Sinatra’s “The Best Is Yet to Come” in the back of his head.

“Obviously we’ve got a great senior class,” Poulin said. “We have three very good defensemen in Neil Kemadoski, Brett Lebed and Troy Riddle and there’s a lot of games that make you look at what a season you had.”

But I think we’re also bringing three or four freshmen in [as freshmen] next year. You don’t look at freshmen to replace seniors. We also need our underclassmen to step up in the next year. Some of our guys in-house are going to have to play a bigger role next year.”

Several members of Notre Dame’s returning freshman class were recruited by other big-name programs such as Boston College and Michigan, and Kemadoski and Brown, and the head coaching staff are continuing to fight recruiting battles over other big-name prospects in hopes of taking Notre Dame’s program to an even higher level.

Last year, the Irish signed the No. 2 recruiting class in the country according to RedLine Report, an independent scouting service. Under Coach Lucia’s opinion. The guy that makes hockey seem underappreciated, it would be too surprising to consider if a lot of big-name recruits, which looks at Notre Dame and decide that the school also has a hockey program,” thought.

New-fronts facilities at schools such as North Dakota and Ohio State have helped to bring those programs to new heights. Ralph Engelstad, who is famous for his casino business, helped finance North Dakota’s new arena, which opened in 2001 and includes an eight-screen video scoreboard, adjacent Olympic-sized practice rink and a padded leather seat for every black jack player.

The Irish certainly have the alumni and administration who could help finance a new arena — even if it’s not one as fancy as North Dakota’s. There’s little doubt that such a construction project could only help the school and his staff bring in even more talented. But that could eventually help Notre Dame match the depth and skill of the Blue Jays programs today such as Minnesota.

After all, it’s hard to discount Lucia’s opinion. The guy has won two consecutive national championships.

The ideas and opinions expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Justin Schuver at jeschuver@nd.edu.
McGraw continued from page 24

The game went back and forth, with the lead switching hands 10 times. With just 51 seconds remaining and the game tied at 49, the Irish had their chance. But honorable mention All-American forward Jacqueline Batteast missed a jump shot, and Courneya LaVerne missed a jumper of her own.

Penn State All-American Kelly Mazzante hit a baseline jumper with 46 seconds to play, and Penn State was on their way to the Elite Eight.

Batteast finished with 32 points (8-for-22 from the field) and 12 rebounds for the Irish, who doused green jerseys for the first, and last, time this season.

And the Irish responded to the change in uniform by playing outstanding basketball the entire way. They turned the ball over just four times in the first half, and 10 times in the game—a season-low. But when Notre Dame did turn it over, Penn State made them pay—cashing in 17 points off turnovers.

"It seemed like all of our turnovers really hurt us," McGraw said. "We really had some bad ones, but when you look at the number 10, that's really great for us."

After starting slow, the Irish settled down to go ahead 14-13 on a Katy Flecky 4-pointer with 8:45 to play in the first half. The game was back and forth until halftime, with Notre Dame holding as much as a five-point lead, before the Nittany Lions hit a pair of threes to go up 23-22 at the break.

In the second half, it was much of the same, as the Irish played outstanding defense, forcing the Nittany Lions out of their comfort zone, forcing 14 turnovers by keeping the guards well behind the three-point line.

"(The defense) certainly did what we wanted it to do," McGraw said. "They're a very good team, and one of the best teams in the country that she is as good as she is.

Severe finished with nine points, five rebounds and six steals. She had more steals than the entire Penn State team.

"Aside from the ball not going in the basket for us, I think we played about as well as we can play, and I'm proud of our effort to finish on that note," McGraw said.

Mazzante was held to 17 points on just 6-for-16 shooting. "We played pretty good defense since the Big East season began, so that was a great effort, and it's pretty much what we've been doing," the Notre Dame defense gave the Penn State team.

"I can only sit here and say positive things about the way the University of Notre Dame's team played," Penn State coach Rene Portland said. "They came in here with a great game plan to stop us. They gave us a hard time defensively.

The Irish set themselves up for the win, but with 32 seconds left and down 51-49, senior La'Tania Severe tried to enter the ball into Notre Dame's team, but was blocked. The Irish then fouled Rebecca Russell, who missed the front end of a one-
Puzzle by Charles Breslow

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11 country
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21 Spooned
51 Lemon
12 Shad product
25 Fruit
20 land of the
25 free...
56 Kuwaiti
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91 Land between
42 Infused
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On the horizon:
ND WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

It’s time for Irish to move on after tough second round loss

HARTFORD, Conn. — The "ifs, ands and buts" are meaningless now. No matter what could have happened in Notre Dame’s regional final game against top-seeded Penn State, the Irish still lost 55-49, and their season is still over for good.

But instead of dwelling on the fact the team has chances, the Irish must look forward, proud of the way they took one of the best all-around teams in the nation to the last minute and nearly pulled off the upset.

Irish coach Muffet McGraw couldn’t have asked for a better scenario — the game tied with less than a minute left and the ball resting in the hands of Notre Dame’s player, forward Jacqueline Batteast.

The Irish had worked their way through 39-plus grueling minutes of basketball to reach this pivotal point. Penn State’s boisterous student section, which had harassed Notre Dame all afternoon, stood in concerned silence as Batteast took the ball and began her shot.

But the shot wouldn’t fall. Batteast, the Irish couldn’t stop the No. 1 seed Golden Gophers by a score of 5-2.

“I’m proud of the way our guys played," Irish coach Dave Poulin said. “We played hard, but came up a little bit short. Obviously, it’s a great step for our program.

“For the seniors, I appreciate the path that they have taken to get us here. For the underclassmen, it’s a new level now that they have the chance to improve upon.

The score might have been much worse if Notre Dame didn’t receive great goals...

FENCING

Fencers fall to 3rd at NCAAs

Kryczalo wins third consecutive national title in women’s foil

By MATT MOONEY
Sports Writer

WALTHAM, Mass. — The Notre Dame fencing team could hear the footsteps growing closer all season long. And at the NCAA Championships at Brandeis University in Waltham, Mass., they were finally passed.

The upset Ohio State Buckeyes ran away with the 2004 national title, dethroning the defending national champion Irish Sunday with a total team score of 194 points. And in the end, the Irish were passed again, falling to hold off a late-charging Penn State team (166 points) to finish third overall with 153 points. St. John’s finished fourth, with a 149 score.

Feistly Forest Walton, who hails from nearby Londonderry, N.H., said the third place result was not something the team expected.

“We’re all kind of surprised,” he said.

The four-day event did not go according to Notre Dame’s plan. After the first day of competition Thursday, Irish coach Janusz Bednarski wanted his fencers to extend their four-point lead to provide a cushion for the attrition-plagued men’s team. But the women could not hold on to the lead, much less maintain it.

The slim 63-59 lead the Irish held over Ohio State slowly evaporated throughout the day, and when the last point was scored Friday, the Irish trailed the Buckeyes by one, 97-96.

The Irish men would only contribute a paltry 57 additional points.

By JUSTIN SCHUWER
Associate Sports Editor

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The Golden Gophers showed the Irish they still have a lot of growing up to do before they can compete with hockey’s big boys in the NCAA championships.

The No. 4 seed Irish took an early 2-0 lead into the intermission of the first period, but could not stave off Minnesota’s powerful offensive in the next 40 minutes, eventually falling to the No. 1 seed Golden Gophers by a score of 5-2.

“I’m proud of the way our guys played,” Irish coach Dave Poulin said. “We played hard, but came up a little bit short, obviously. It’s a great step for our program.

“For the seniors, I appreciate the path that they have taken to get us here. For the underclassmen, it’s a new level now that they have the chance to improve upon.

The score might have been much worse if Notre Dame didn’t receive great goals...