Domers defend dorm life at Notre Dame

Students offer praise for residence hall system, but admit drawbacks to all-inclusive living

Changes to CWIL funding policy spark student reaction

Are Students Satisfied with ND’s Residence Hall System?

Nearly one-fifth of all undergraduate students opt to live in off-campus apartments or houses—a percentage that has risen slowly over time. Despite a 2 percent increase, numbers have remained more or less constant in recent years.

By KATIE PERRY
Assistant News Editor

Editor’s Note: This is the last of a three-part series examining the absence of fraternities and sororities at Notre Dame.

At a Nov. 16 Student Senate meeting, Zahm Hall’s representative proposed a resolution that would formally recognize the dorm and Zahm House—a move that invoked laughter before its failure to garner enough support among voters.

Zahm senator Pat Knapp alluded to other dorms—like Morrissey Manor and North College—that have dropped the "Hall" in their names, asserting that "such names and cultures build community among the student body.”

Student body president Dave Baron supported the resolution. Praising Zahm’s uniqueness on campus, he said he had no problem with the proposal because it "fostered dorm identity.”

But Dillon senator Dan Bowen opposed the resolution and said Zahm was "trying to leave the impression they’re a fraternity." Such a claim would be "very contrary" to Notre Dame tradition and policy, he said.

A chance for change?

Zahn residents may or may not have intended to blur the lines of distinction between residence hall and fraternity, but their motion demonstrated the desire some students have for an officially recognized Greek system at Notre Dame.

Kough freshman E.J. Alston expressed dissatisfaction with the current residence hall system and said he wished University policy permitted fraternities and sororities.

"I think having a Greek life would boost the social scene on campus and make it more fun,” Alston said. "If there was a Greek system, I would have applied for an officially recognized fraternity.”

Students who I hold so dear to my heart.” Merryman said.

While promoting an appreciation for residence hall system, she was given the impression that almost 75 percent of the funding for dorms would be covered by the organization.

"I don’t know how [CWIL] analyzes the numbers, but it is pret­ty much impossible for me or my family to magically come up with multiple thousands of dollars to spare," Kachurek said. "We thought that CWIL would help make this double for us.”

The dispute, however, has left both students and CWIL adminis­trators confused. CWIL coordina­tor Elaine Meyer-Lee expressed concern for the dissatisfaction of the students receiving the money. She said she was surprised by their disappointment.

"CWIL at Saint Mary’s donates more money than another other school,” she said. "CWIL bends over backwards to be fair with the funds.”

Students on the receiving end of the funding expressed their
**Inside Column**

**Beast of burden**

What would happen if nothing mattered? What if, like Peter Gibbons from Office Space, we all just stopped caring? Let me put it this way. Imagine life without work—days gone just lying on the beach, or watching television, or simply doing nothing. How beautiful would that be, just to relax all the time, eating when hungry and sleeping whenever you feel like it. Well, I've been thinking about this for a while now, and I've decided I wouldn't really like that. Like the satisfied feeling you get after a good workout, relaxation is made better by all the effort we put into everyday life, be it homework, jobs, activities—anything really.

So imagine it was true: nothing matters. That test you're worried about or homework you're doing—no worries. It won't matter in the long run. We all end up the same, so why care? I realized that if I start thinking that way now, all that I have done with my life up to this point will mean nothing as well. And I've spent a lot of energy throughout my life to get to where I am now, it would be a shame to think none of it was ever worth anything. It's as if I've carried a huge rock down a road so far that if I were to put it down before I get to where I'm going, then why did I pick it up in the first place? All I have now when I reach my destination is a sore back and no rock to show for it. Why I wanted a rock in the first place is a whole other issue... Maybe I was going to see a geologist, who knows? We got me started thinking about this topic was a passage from a strange philosophy book I have, describing a fictional conversation God has with himself. In the passage, God wonders the fact that he sent a message to free human beings, yet they chose to ignore this message and continue shirthing their burdens. My reaction was to wonder what message could God be sending about the worth of this universal or burden. And also, how did burdens get such a bad reputation in the first place? The adoption of a burden is one of the greatest abilities of human beings, and without hardship, we wouldn't have anything to adapt to.

The rocks we carry around make life interesting—without any troubles, there can be no victories. An old swim coach of mine often said, "Winners are only as great as the competitors they defeat," and the same applies to burdens. A person's greatness is measured by the magnitude of the burdens they overcome.

Contact Dusty Mennella at dmn@nd.edu

**Corrections**

The Observer regrets itself as a professional publication and serves for the highest standards of journalism at all times. We do, however, recognize that we will make mistakes. If you have made a mistake, please contact us at dmn@nd.edu so we can correct our error.

**Question of the Day:** How do you feel about getting engaged while still in college?

Juan Carlos Rivera

freshman

Zahn

"All I have to say is Ichiro!"

John Park

senior

Zahn

"I'm engaged on the Facebook. Does that count?"

Megan LaDriere

freshman

Caravanh

"Only if it's not her!"

Sarah Van Mill

freshman

Caravanh

"Only if it's one of these two!"

Catherine Martinez

freshman

Caravanh

"Only if it's not her!"

Mark Langhans

freshman

Bilton

"Engagement is a pretty serious commitment. I'd probably wait until I was more certain of what I wanted to do with my life."

**Offbeat**

Alligator knocks on Fla. woman's door

BONITA SPRINGS, Fla. — So now all the alligators are going door to door. When Lori Pachelli heard someone knocking at the door of her home in a gated community in this southwest Florida community earlier this week, she looked out to see an unwelcome visitor on her front stoop: an 8-foot alligator.

The bull gator, which had wandered up from the pond behind the house, had a bloody lip from banging its head against the door.

"He was pretty big, pretty aggressive," Pachelli said, adding that the gator may have followed her home from visiting her water system, police reported. A man catches train, forgets baby in car

WASHINGTON— Commuters racing to catch the train typically forget things in the car—keys, wallets, briefcases. But a baby daughter? That's what happened Thursday just north of Washington, police said.

"I don't know exactly when he got the memory flash, but he was in D.C. when it was the horrible defining moment. 'Oh my goodness, I think I've left my child back in my car,'" Baur said.

At that point, she said, Jonathan Sander got off the southbound train and onto a northbound one, returning to the Shady Grove Metrorail station about 12 miles north of Washington.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

**In Brief**

Dinner at both North Dining Hall and South Dining Hall will be "lights out" tonight from 4:30-7 p.m. to raise awareness of energy usage issues. The candlelit dinners are hosted by students for Environmental Action.

The Glee Club will present its annual spring concert tonight at 8 p.m. at the Leviton Concert Hall in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. Tickets are $1 for students.

The Chicago-based country band Strait Southern will perform tonight at 10 p.m. in Legends. Admission is free with a NLG, SMC or HIC student ID.

The Northern Indiana Regional Science and Engineering Fair will take place Saturday at Stepan Center. The event is open to the public at 1:30 p.m. and parking is available in the O-2 lot on the north side of campus.

An Irish band Flook will perform tonight at 9 p.m. at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center.

The Notre Dame Ultimate Club will host its annual tournament this Saturday and Sunday. Games on both days start at 9 a.m. Saturday games will be played on McGlinn and Stepan fields. Sunday games will be held at Stepan fields.

The No. 11 Irish men's lacrosse team will face off with Dartmouth 12 p.m. Sunday at Moose Krause Stadium at Notre Dame.

To submit information to be included in this section of The Observer, e-mail detailed information about an event to obnews@nd.edu

**Class of 2009 LIAITY**

At the entrance of North Dining Hall, freshman Lauren Wickel sells a ticket Thursday to the Class of 2009 Charity Ball, sponsored by Freshman Class Council.

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College to be possessed with ‘Midnight Madness’

By COLLEEN KIELTY
News Writer

One night each year, the Angela Athletic Facility becomes a madhouse. In 2006, that night is tonight.

Saint Mary’s will host its annual Midnight Madness event — themed “Oh, What a Mid-Night Madness!” — tonight with winter intramurals championship games kicking off at 8 p.m. with the main event scheduled from 10 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.

The event, which is organized by the athletic department and a committee of students, will feature Vice President of Student Affairs Linda Timms as its host.

There will also be performances by the Saint Mary’s cheerleading squad and the senior class band. Free food will be served throughout the night thanks to donations from Panera Bread, Jimmy John’s and Dominos Pizzza.

Participating students can win prizes donated from Saint Mary’s and the local community, including an Apple iPod, the number one room pick on campus, Saint Mary’s rings from Jones and Rafter and many others.

The grand prize is a one-night stay at the Millennium Knickerbocker hotel in downtown Chicago, with complimentary breakfast and a $1,000 shopping spree.

According to Athletic Director Lynn Kachmarik — who started the annual event six years ago — Midnight Madness is held to help bring members of the Saint Mary’s community together in a fun way.

“I wanted to start something here that would be all about Saint Mary’s spirit and pride ... an event that would keep our women on our campus on a weekend night, not involving alcohol,” Kachmarik said.

The Midnight Madness committee is expecting about 1,000 students to attend the event open to all Saint Mary’s, Notre Dame and Holy Cross students.

“The students are ready and excited, especially the first years. Looking up the event among their classmates as well as organizing and preparing decorations in their designated class color,” student committee coordinator Ashley Enright said.

Students are anticipating a night of fun with friends and classmates.

“I didn’t go last year, but I heard from a lot of people that it’s a good experience to bond with your class and have fun,” sophomore Mary Euler said.

Class bonding through competitions is an important part of the night. Students compete in class competitions and receive points for decorations, spirit and participation in games. Each class is assigned a different color for competition. This year, freshmen are orange, sophomores are red and juniors are purple. The senior class always wears Saint Mary’s blue. The first 50 students who arrive from each class will receive a free shirt in their class color.

The plan for the night is full of fun, spirit and surprises, Kachmarik said.

“There is even going to be a great surprise that the planning committee does not know about,” she said. “Just come, have a blast and share in your love for Saint Mary.”

Contact Colleen Kielty at ckielty@ saintmarys.edu

ND symposium examines problem of white privilege

By MARCELA BERRIOS
News Writer

Discussions about white privilege as a form of racism in the Catholic Church will draw theologians, psychologists and sociologists to Notre Dame for a three-day conference starting Sunday.

The interdisciplinary symposium “White Privilege: Implications for the Catholic University, the Church, and Theology” will feature speakers from Duke University, Loyola University-Chicago, Marquette University, Wellesley College, Boston College, Xavier College and the University of Hawaii, among others.

Bishop Dale Melezez from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Gary, Ind., will also speak at the symposium.

Conference speaker Peggy McIntosh from the Wellesley College Center for Research on Women described the subtle effects of this socially-ingrained discrimination in her article “White Privilege and Male Privilege: A Personal Account of Coming to See Correspondences through Work in Women’s Studies,” published in the book Critical White Studies.

“As a white person, I realized I had been taught about racism as something that puts others at disadvantage, but had been taught not to see one of its corollary aspects, white privilege, which puts me at an advantage,” she wrote.

The conference speakers have backgrounds in theology, women’s studies, black studies, peace studies, psychology, sociology and law.

“By organizing the symposium in an interdisciplinary fashion, we hope to generate more theological discourse through the process of exchange across disciplines,” conference organizer and theologian professor Margaret Pfeil said.

Pfeil said she hopes this large pool of opinions will contribute to the unmasking of the elusive white privilege phenomenon.

“As a discipline, theology lags far behind the social sciences in addressing white privilege as a form of racism,” Pfeil said.

While most other social sciences and disciplines have challenged for decades their own embedded stereotypes and power structures of race, Catholic theologians have remained quiet about their approaches to diversifying the frameworks of their research and academia.

Nothing about the world’s Catholics are non-white, Pfeil stressed the need for the symposium.

“As the nation’s preeminent Catholic university, Notre Dame is in a powerful position to make a substantial contribution to critical thought and transformative action with regard to white privilege,” she said.

In an effort to confront white supremacy within the Church, in theological journals and in society, the Symposium will provide an intellectual forum where scholars and students may discuss the causes of the insidiousness of white privilege, the phenomenon’s shaping of the context in which prominent theologians approach Catholicism, and the indirect effects of these events on the Catholic population, Pfeil said.

The symposium is sponsored by the department of theology, in conjunction with other University departments and organizations.

Contact Marcela Berrios at aberrios@nd.edu

ND’s first ever INTERHALL SWIMMING event

Come join the celebration of Farley Hall’s 60th Anniversary
A fundraiser for St. Luke’s Tutoring Program

7:00pm – 10:30pm
NDH Gold Room

$2 at the door for food and performance

Irish food, Irish dance, & Irish music

Performances include
Big Yellow Taxi, the ND Bagpipe Band, and other student groups

This event is brought to you by Farley Hall

Contact Marcela Berrios at aberrios@nd.edu
Award
continued from page 1

"Women Honoring Women" award ceremony and dinner. Communications disorders professor Susan Latham and biology professor and pre-professional studies advisor Nancy Nekvasil were also nominated.

This year, students nominated more than 70 faculty members to be the next recipient of the award. From those submissions, a selection committee then chose the top three nominees. The winner was chosen by the Student Academic Council (SAC), which includes student representatives from each academic major.

With only one vote difference between each nominee, Merryman was named the winner of this year’s award.

"Professor Merryman is truly an example of what faculty should be," SAC business and economics representative Anna Gilkinger said. "She goes the extra mile to see her students succeed and takes a personal interest in each student she teaches."

Merryman won the award for her devoted care she provides for her students outside of the classroom by attending their extracurricular events and incorporating real life concepts into the classroom, Gilkinger said.

Meldulf said the nominees are just a sampling of the many faculty members who contribute so much of themselves to the betterment of the students.

"The nominees here tonight inspire students, faculty and staff to expand upon their gifts in ways they thought possible," Meldulf said.

Both Nekvasil and Latham have helped students accomplish their post-graduation dreams by serving as support beams within the graduate and school testing and application process. Latham, a Saint Mary’s graduate, has overseen the extensive growth of a communication disorders minor at the College, a program that has led to a 100 percent graduate school acceptance rate of seniors who wish to pursue a career in the field, SAC communications disorders representative Dana Christianso said.

Nekvasil has also gone above and beyond to support students, SAC biology representative Amy Oliva said. During the past two years, 100 percent of College graduates who applied to medical school were accepted.

Students from each academic department, Board of Governance members, College faculty and top administrators — including College President Carol Ann Mooney — were in attendance to honor the work of Merryman and the other nominees.

The annual award ceremony is an important yearly event that allows the College to come together to honor a faculty member for their dedication to the Saint Mary’s community, Meldulf said.

"The passion of these nominees is definitely to be admired," she said.

Contact Kelly Mecham at kncheu10@smn.edu

InFocus
continued from page 1

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InFocus
continued from page 1

The Observer • CAMPUS NEWS
Friday, March 24, 2006

Siegfried Hall proudly presents:

2006 RAMBLER SCRAMBLER

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*Win a video iPod, digital camera, iPod Shuffle, and more!
**JAMAICA**

**Deadly fire strikes cruise ship**

Cigarette starts tragedy in the Caribbean, leaves one dead and eleven injured

Associated Press

**MONTEGO BAY — A fire apparently started by a cigarette spread smoke through a cruise ship in the Caribbean on Thursday, killing an American, injuring 11 other people and damaging about 150 cabins, officials said.**

The Star Princess was en route from Grand Cayman to Jamaica when the blaze started at about 3 a.m., according to a statement from Princess Cruises, which is owned by Miami-based Carnival Corp.

Richard Llifidge, 75, of Georgia, collapsed and died on deck, said Karl Angell, director for the Jamaica Constabulary Force. The victim's wife was taken to a hospital in Montego Bay. Two passengers suffered "significant smoke inhalation injuries" and nine others had "minor contusions," the cruise company said in a statement.

Two people were hospitalized in Montego Bay and two others were being treated in the ship's clinic, Jamaica's disaster office said.

Horace Peterkin, president of the Jamaica Hotel and Tourist Association, toured the scorched ship after it docked in Jamaica and said crew members told him the fire reportedly started on a cabin balcony. A cigarette was suspected of causing the fire, which damaged about 150 cabins, Peterkin told The Associated Press.

The ship was carrying 2,690 passengers and 1,123 crew members, according to Princess Cruises Web site said the Star Princess has more than 700 balcony staterooms and four pools.

Peterkin said 550 passengers whose cabins were damaged will be moved to two hotels in nearby Negril and Ocho Rios. The cruise ship company was arranging to fly other passengers home, he said.

The ship was not seriously damaged and will sail back to Fort Lauderdale on Friday, Peterkin said. There was no immediate confirmation from cruise line officials.

The Star Princess sailed from Fort Lauderdale on March 19.

"The ship is seaworthy," Peterkin said. "They'll sail out tomorrow."

The fire-blackened Star Princess docked in Montego Bay just before noon. No smoke was seen coming from the vessel as rescue personnel boarded. All passengers remained on the ship and some were seen milking on the decks.

The starboard side of the ship, which faced dockside, showed no damage. But dozens of cabins on the other side appeared to be charred.

The U.S. Coast Guard dispatched investigators and fire fighting help in the probe. Coast Guard Petty Officer James Judge said in Miami.

"Our No. 1 concern right now is safety," Judge said. Because the Star Princess carries a Bermuda flag, the lead investigative agency will be Britain's Marine Accident Investigation Branch, but the Coast Guard will "participate as a substantially interested state," Judge said.

The Coast Guard regularly inspects all cruise ships that embark U.S. passengers. The Star Princess was last inspected on Oct. 25, 2005, in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and had "no outstanding discrepancies," Judge said. That included a successful fire drill and abandon-ship drill.

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**U.S. seeks help in scanning nukes**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In the aftermath of the September 11 terrorist attacks, the administration is hiring a Hong Kong conglomerate to help detect nuclear materials inside cargo passing through the Bahamas to the United States.

The administration acknowledges the no-bid contract with Hutchison Whampoa Ltd. represents the first no-bid contract with a Philippine conglomerate to help detect nuclear materials. It is an early adopter of U.S. anti-terror measures. But its billionaire chairman, Li Ka-Shing, also has substantial business ties to China's government that have raised U.S. officials' concerns about the arrangement.

"Li Ka-Shing is pretty close to a lot of senior leaders of the Chinese government and the Chinese Communist Party," said Larry M. Wortzel, head of a U.S. government commission that studies China security and economic issues.

Gary mayor resigning after 11 years

GARY — Scott King, who left the Democratic Party in April 2005 and declared himself an independent today, is resigning as mayor of Gary after 11 years in office.

King's resignation comes three days after he appointed former Calumet Township Trustee Duret Allen Jr. as deputy mayor, spurring speculation that King would resign.

The move leaves Allen, who ran for mayor in the Democratic primary in 2005 against Richard Hatcher, as interim mayor.

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**INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

U.S. and British forces free hostages

BAGHDAD — U.S. and British forces stormed a house and freed three Christian peace activists Tuesday without firing a shot, ending a four-month hostage ordeal that saw an American in the group killed and a U.S. ambassador wounded.

The U.S. ambassador and the top American military spokesman said they did not hope the operation on the outskirts of Baghdad could lead to a break in the captivity of another U.S. reporter, Jill Carroll, a freelance writer for The Christian Science Monitor who was abducted Jan. 7.

"We were able to get them out safely," said Obeidallah, the top military spokesman. "We didn't have any violence."

Baghdad could lead to a break in the captivity of another American, injuring 11 other people and damaging about 150 cabins, officials said.

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FREE 20 oz. Bottle of VAULT™ or VAULT Zero™

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CONSUMER OFFER: Use this coupon to receive a free 20 oz. bottle of VAULT™ or VAULT Zero™.
Companies refuse to split CEO posts

NEW YORK — Apportioning someone other than the CEO to chair a board of directors is hardly a cure for corporate mismanagement, but it's dis­appoointing to see companies' stubborn resistance to a logical improvement in checks and balances. The latest big name to reject a practice that's commonplace in other countries is Citigroup Inc., whose board has chosen chief executive Charlie Prince to succeed the retiring Sanford I. Weill as chairman of the financial services conglomerate.

While Prince is well-regarded for his steady stewardship of the past two years, such qualities have not been enough to add the needed buyoff of a truly independent voice who can ask tough questions of the CEO from a vantage point that's not so intertwined with operations. This is particularly true for Citigroup, a vast organization that's working to move beyond a series of costly ethical fumbles during Weill's tenure as CEO and chairman. These have included billions of dollars in settlements regarding Citigroup's connections to the Enron and WorldCom scandals, as well as revelations of biased stock recommendations favoring investment banking clients.

Home sales post unexpected gain

WASHINGTON — Sales of existing homes had fallen for five straight months before an unexpected increase in February, helped by unusually warm weather. But slack demand in some formerly red-hot housing markets produced what one analyst called a "tale of two markets." The National Association of Realtors reported Thursday that sales of existing single-family homes rose by 5.2 percent last month. Home sales are often regarded as a key barometer of the economy's outlook.

New home sales post unexpected gain

WASHINGTON — Sales of existing homes eased worries about a slowdown in the housing market but fed fears that the Federal Reserve will continue boosting interest rates to stave off price inflation.

The Fed's Open Market Committee meets next week.

Investors also fretted about a Labor Department report Wednesday that shows jobless claims applied for jobless benefits last week, down 11,000 from the week before and marking the first decline in a month. The implied job growth added to Wall Street's inflation and interest rate concerns.

The unemployment numbers "increase the probability the Fed will make its way back to 5 percent," said Robert Tipp, chief investment strategist for Prudential Fixed Income. The nation's benchmark interest rate currently stands at 4.5 percent.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 47.14, or 0.42 percent, to 11,270.29. On Wednesday, the Dow added 81.96 to reach 11,352.15, as high as seen since May 21, 2001.

The Fed is expected to keep its new consumer focus on another, as-yet-unannounced group that includes the Windows operating system. Nash will lead the division.

The Redmond-based software maker said the overall restructuring is aimed at helping Microsoft improve its online strategy, make quicker decisions without going through layers of executive approval and respond more nimbly to growing threats from online competitors. Companies such as Google Inc. and Yahoo Inc. are fast developing Internet-based products for things like sending e-mail or storing photos, and these free services threaten Microsoft's desktop-bound Windows and other products. Microsoft has responded with a beefed-up online effort of its own, dubbed "Windows Live," which is being given even more prominence in the shake-up.

SEAATTLE — Microsoft Corp. announced a shake-up Thursday of the unit that includes its flagship Windows operating system, two days after the company admitted it won't have its new consumer version ready in time for the holiday season as planned.

Under the changes, Microsoft said Steve Sinofsky, a high-ranking executive currently in charge of developing many of the company's Office business products, will be tasked with leading a new group that includes the Windows operating system and Windows Live, a key effort to provide more Web-based offerings.

Microsoft said Sinofsky will focus on planning future versions of Windows, while outgoing Windows executive Jim Allchin will work closely with another Microsoft executive, Brian Valentine, to finish the long-delayed Windows Vista.

Microsoft also said Ben Fathi, a Windows executive currently working on storage and file systems, will replace Mike Nash as head of its Security Technology Unit. Nash will take on another, as-yet-unnamed role.

Security issues were among the reasons for the delay in Windows Vista. But Kevin Johnson, co-presi­dent of the unit that is being reorga­nized, said Nash's planned departure is unrelated.

The Redmond-based software maker said the overall restructuring is aimed at helping Microsoft improve its online strategy, make quicker decisions without going through layers of executive approval and respond more nimbly to growing threats from online competitors. Companies such as Google Inc. and Yahoo Inc. are fast developing Internet-based products for things like sending e-mail or storing photos, and these free services threaten Microsoft's desktop-bound Windows and other products. Microsoft has responded with a beefed-up online effort of its own, dubbed "Windows Live," which is being given even more prominence in the shake-up. The reorganization also will create a new group to focus on the engineering of new online products, and one tasked with building business functions such as marketing and advertising sales for those products.

Other groups will work on the core operating system and the business for servers and software tools. As previously announced, Allchin, co-president of the Platforms and Services division, will retire next year. Until then, he and Johnson, formerly a Microsoft sales and marketing executive, will continue to lead the division.

Windows delay causes shake-up

The latest big name to reject a practice that's commonplace in other countries is Citigroup Inc., whose board has chosen chief executive Charlie Prince to succeed the retiring Sanford I. Weill as chairman of the financial services conglomerate.
Dorms
continued from page 1

life, I would pledge for the experience because I have heard good things about the Greek system!

Director of Admissions Dan Saracino said the University’s housing system “definitely” attracts prospective students and that students interested in attending Notre Dame never express concern over the absence of a Greek life on campus.

“The lack of frats and sororities makes Notre Dame a special place and — instead of being a drawback — gives the University an edge over other top colleges,” Saracino said.

Community and character
Alston said halls are like fraternalities and sororities in that there is a strong bond between residents. But there are “obvious” differences between the two systems, he said, such as the presence of RA’s and the enforcement of dorm rules. “I don’t think the University will ever include a Greek system because of one thing — they haven’t yet,” Alston said.

Also, they have yet to get rid of parietals or institute multi-sex dorms, which would have to come first and appear to be difficult to have changed.

Keenan junior Brendan Hanehan said he “can’t envision a scenario” in which Notre Dame would ever implement a Greek system placed into residence halls at the beginning of freshman year. You never have to worry about entering dorm communities, he said.

“Hazing is much less of a problem in Notre Dame’s dorms,” Hanehan said. “Our dorm system keeps the best aspects of Greek life — community feeling, athletic competition [and] spirituality — and eliminates the worst aspects, [like] elitism and excessive hazing as a requirement for membership.”

Many students cited the socially unifying nature of Notre Dame’s residence hall system as a positive aspect that parallels Greek social societies at other institutions of higher learning.

“Notre Dame’s dorms promote a feeling of community among residents that I think is very similar to what I’ve observed in the Greek system,” Hanehan said.

“I also think that each dorm develops a unique character, much like frats and sororities do,” Angulo said. “I think dorms at the University have a ‘very strong communal feel.’”

“The lack of frats and sororities makes Notre Dame a special place and — instead of being a drawback — gives the University an edge over other top colleges.”

Dan Saracino
director of admissions
CWIL continued from page 1

concerns over CWIL's method of monetary distribution. To Kachurek, it seemed as though CWIL awarded grants to more students in smaller monetary amounts, rather than more completely fulfilling the requests of just a few student requests.

Meyer-Lee emphasized that no project could be funded 100 percent.

"With more applicants, there is less money to go around," she said. "This year there had to be over 50 applicants."

Linda Biggins, the CWIL administrative assistant, agreed with Meyer-Lee that it is better to make the money go further.

"I think it is better that CWIL help more students have a study abroad experience by awarding even a partial amount of the program cost, than to help fewer students by awarding larger grant amounts," Biggins said.

Kachurek and Fricano opted to abort their project, despite the extensive research and hard work they contributed to it.

"After laboring over the proposal, making contacts here in town and internationally, getting recommendations and setting up and independent study, I know there is no way we can do it next year," said Kachurek.

Kachurek, however, did not dis-credit CWIL as an organization.

"I don't want to sound ungrateful, but I would have rather seen CWIL approve a smaller amount of projects and make them possible for students financially," she said.

Other students have had much more positive experiences with CWIL.

Junior Sara Otto received a CWIL Study Abroad Grant last year and was able to travel to Lourdes, France for three weeks this past summer, where she studied French in the morning and volunteered at the Lourdes Sanctuary in the afternoon to help sick grotto pilgrims. Otto was awarded roughly 65 percent of the money she needed to complete her project ($2,308 of $3,551) — unlike the year's applicants.

CWIL left the logistics of housing, transportation and the school system up to Otto but gave her a strong financial foundation for her trip.

"This was not a school-related program, so CWIL just sent the check," Otto said. "I did the rest."

Upon her return, Otto was responsible to educate this year's applicants on the process and her experience.

"My trip wouldn't have been possible without CWIL," she said. "As a nursing major, I would not have had the opportunity to go abroad if it was not over the summer. It was an amazing experience and I envy the girls who get to go this year."

Otto's experience, however, has not been a common trend among this year's applicants.

Senior Katie Kelly, student representative to the Advisory Committee for International Intercultural Living, was also able to take advantage of the abroad program through CWIL. While Kelly said she, like other applicants, always hoped for the most money, she said sometimes CWIL cannot accommodate everyone.

"I know how frustrating the lack of funding can be, but CWIL is just trying to ensure that every­

one can have this opportunity," she said.

Kelly was happy with her chance to go abroad, but said she only received about 25 percent of the funding needed for her trip to Honduras.

Prepared to pay a large amount of her own money to finance the trip, Kelly took a second job to do so.

"It takes sacrifice," she said. "It is a hard process, but the grants aren't meant to fully fund trips. They are meant to be awards."

Kelly had been involved with CWIL prior to applying for a grant and now helps the abroad committee with approving student proposals for grants. She said the amount of money awarded depends on the merit of the applicants and the effort they put into their proposals.

Saint Mary's Study Abroad Advisor Sarah DeMott supervises the CWIL grants. She explained that the purpose of the CWIL organization is to acknowledge what learning and skills are necessary for Saint Mary's women to be leaders in today's world.

DeMott emphasized the importance of intercultural leadership skills in the everyday world.

"Intercultural competency has been identified as a distinct and essential dimension for leadership," she said.

DeMott also said she has seen unparalleled success with the grant program over the past few years.

"I see the CWIL, Student Travel Grants as fostering the mission of CWIL in two ways," she said. "First, as a basic utilitarian tool to financially encourage students to take advantage of this opportunity abroad and second, as a brilliant signpost in students' portfolios and resumes to indicate intercultural awareness."

Tracy Robinson, Director of Intercultural Living at Saint Mary's, has been involved in the grant program for the past three years and said that each year, the quality of the grant proposals improve.

"The student proposals are innovative and are good examples of students taking the knowledge they have gained at Saint Mary's one step further," Robinson said.

Robinson stressed that grants are based on the merit of the proposal as well as financial need. She also said that, despite the accusations, there is not truth behind spending the money over more proposals.

"The efforts of Dr. Meyer-Lee and Sarah DeMott increased the number of Saint Mary's students studying abroad by increasing the knowledge and advantage of the student travel grants," she said.

Meyer-Lee said she is very proud of the students who are able to go abroad through CWIL.

"The students who have taken advantage of this opportunity have found their additional investment well-rewarded by life-changing learning," she said.

Although there have been recent discrepancies over the amount of money given in the grants, DeMott said she hopes that CWIL will still be considered a positive asset for students wanting to study abroad.

"I would hope that all recipients appreciate the recognition and prestige of being awarded grant funding for intercultural pursuits," DeMott said.

Contact Katie Kohler at kkohler@ saintmarys.edu

Take a Break!

It's never too early for a vacation to warmer weather. Enjoy a bit of sunshine, take in a late spring or early summer concert, or take a break from the daily stress of college, as visitors to offices are making ready to take a break. To make their break the more pleasant, they're drinking coffee at odd hours but in a characteristic of the day.

Lyle Sonm, Morrisey Performing Arts Center (574)-235-1414

Chicory Cafe

4 South Main St. (574)-233-9821

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Pacific Coast Concerts

George Thorogood & The Destroyers

Country Nightclub

Summit County Blues Band

Stay "The Coast isn't always far away."

Your dream's not too distant, if you're poetry to achieving what you want."

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Dorm life helps define Notre Dame

Notre Dame's residence life system is much more than a way to house students. A University trademark, dorm life is steeped in years of tradition and is a defining characteristic of the Notre Dame lifestyle.

Not all that unlike fraternities and sororities — in the eyes of the Office of Administrations, at least. Prospective students on campus tours are often told that dorm placements are automatic inclusion in a fraternity or sorority, only without the hassles of a lengthy and involved pledge-and-rush process.

After glancing through an Administrations guide, the statement seems valid. From semi-formals to survival tips to intershop sports, each residence hall has its own customs and activities that encourage unity and foster pride among its residents.

But are residence halls really substitutes for fraternities and sororities? While "Jahan "House" might leave visitors with that impression, the answer is clearly no.

It's true that dorm spirit does create a sense of belonging, something that freshmen struggle to find in a place far from the heart of the Notre Dame community. However, it's not parallel to being offered admission to a fraternity. Admission to Greek life is often based on one's physical appearance, race and income level — creating a community that encourages exclusivity and distances itself from the main campus.

With South's all-inclusive mentality is the refreshing opposite of Greek life's exclusivity. Students in all of Notre Dame's residence halls feel a connection to the University as a whole — a sentiment that will likely weaken if fraternities were allowed.

Inclusion in a fraternity or sorority connects students to members of their chapters across the country, and some Notre Dame students argue bonds between fraternity and sorority members are stronger than those between dorm-mates. But these are different. Devotion to a fraternity or sorority can often come at the expense of something greater — love for each school. Notre Dame's Greek life system keeps chapter connections across the country, but Notre Dame's alumni network is indisputably national.

The positives to not having fraternities and sororities are extensive — and the fact that approximately 80 percent of undergraduates live on campus is a telling statistic. For incoming freshmen, it's certainly a relief to have housing arrangements. But worry about rushing a fraternity just days after arriving on campus. And that spirit of inclusion is exactly what's needed at a school so often criticized for a lack of diversity and intolerance of alternative lifestyles.

The current system of "the family" may have lost some of its force after being so heavily marketed as a slogan. But that family does exist and is stronger without students piling absolute allegiance to a Greek house, forming more of an organization than to a university.

The fine line between stupid and clever

The fine line between stupid and clever

Submit a Letter to the Editor at www.ndobserver.com

"Life is like playing a violin in public and learning the instrument as one goes on."

Samuel Butler
English writer
Examining the decline of support for President Bush

This week marked the third anniversary of the Iraqi invasion and accompanied the Bush administration's announcement of a decrease in US troops. While this announcement is partly due to the scheduled drawdown of US forces and in response to the growing anti-war sentiment in the US, it also reflects a growing view among Americans that the war in Iraq is not as bad as anticipated. The Iraqi quality of life belies the rhetoric of the Bush administration, who claimed that the invasion would bring democracy and freedom to Iraq. However, the reality on the ground shows that this has not been the case.

In a recent poll, only 31 percent of Americans approve of the president's handling of the war, a significant drop from the 40 percent approval rating he had just a year ago. This decline in support is due to a variety of factors, including the high number of casualties and the continued violence in Iraq. The US military has been forced to maintain a large and significant military presence in Iraq, which has led to increased costs and a strain on the American people.

The president's approval rating has declined as the public becomes more critical of his handling of the war. This is evident in the recent public opinion polls, which show a decrease in support for the war. The public is increasingly concerned about the cost of the war, the impact on the economy, and the long-term consequences of continued military engagement in Iraq.

The decline in support for President Bush is a significant development, as it suggests that the American people are becoming increasingly disillusioned with the war and the administration's handling of it. This is a significant shift, as the president has traditionally enjoyed high levels of support from the American people.

Despite the decline in support, the president remains determined to continue his efforts in Iraq. However, the growing public disillusionment with the war suggests that this may not be sustainable. The president will need to address the concerns of the American people and work to build support for his policies if he hopes to continue to lead the country.

The situation in Iraq is complex, and there are no easy solutions. However, the president's administration needs to be more responsive to the concerns of the American people and work to build support for their policies if they hope to continue to lead the country. The public's growing disillusionment with the war is a significant development, and it will be interesting to see how the president responds to these challenges in the coming months.

Gary Caruso

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Defending Greek life

I am atransfer student who was very active in Chi Omega at my previous school. Let me say it was extremely difficult to transfer, but we've managed to remain in contact thanks to the strong bonds we formed through our sorority. It's true that Greek life promotes social participation; however, it's demeaning to equate this to academic indifference. Most Greek organizations weren't even able to offer their pledges to initiate unless they have at least a B average. That's one of the only requirements of pledges. The others are more along the lines of being trustworthy and considerate than being alcoholic and promiscuous.

Instead of portraying this truth, the media makes every incident involving a fraternity or sorority member into an attack on the entire Greek system. Because a small percentage make a bad decision, the entire system must be flawed? The Greek system has become a place of social behavior, and any offender is subject to immediate expulsion from their organization and the school. In many cases, students affiliated with Greek life are prone to harsher punishments and held to higher standards because of their choice to join Greek. We do not accept discrimination. In my opinion that Greek life actually promotes diversity. Every ethnicity was largely represented in the Greek life on my old campus. Not only were the organizations diverse in ethnicity, but every fraternity and sorority has a variety of majors that I would have never met without Greek life. Every person involved in Greek life has gone through the "hazing" that everyone is so afraid of, so how bad can you believe is? If anything, initiation is a reflection of the type of person at the university. With that in mind, I have no doubt that here, the greatest university in the world, the greatest Greeks in the world.

Dr. Susan Lipkins
Professor
Port Washington, New York
March 22

Correction

In a recent essay I entitled "Absent at ND, Greek system thrives" (March 22), I minimized the role of fraternities on campus and to underline the fact that Notre Dame has none of these kind of groups. However, hazing which is often associated with Greek life, exists on athletic teams, in the band and in all kinds of other clubs. Therefore, I challenge you to investigate hazing in Notre Dame, despite the lack of Greeks.

Fr. Christopher Steck, S.J.
Fellow Texas Lyndon Johnson

EDITORIAL CARTOON

"It's not until I finish..."

Alicia Burton

Georgetown University

March 23
Disney disaster 'Chicken Little' lays an egg

By MARY SQUILLACE

Some Critic

Back in the day, Disney movies meant classic tales punctuated with catchy songs that every student in a classroom could hum by heart. The film 'Chicken Little' won't be one of those movies.

While it has hired audience members in with its seemingly cute and cuddly 3-D visuals, the film falls flat in terms of a lasting legacy.

"Chicken Little" takes place in a bizarre contemporary animal world, where Chicken Little has been ostracized for claiming that the sky is falling when a piece of the sky appears to land on his head. Feeling rejected by his community, Chicken Little vows to prove himself by joining the baseball team. Miraculously, after not having been allowed to play in any prior games, he manages to score the winning run in the championship.

Although his victory on the baseball field earns Chicken Little the approval he desires from his father, he is instantly faced with a new challenge when aliens invade his town. Alongside his wacky friends, Chicken Little must take it upon himself to protect his town and the very freedom that he provides.

Disney's "Chicken Little" is a feature-length film about a socially unacceptable character. The movie features the voices of Joan Cusack and Zach Braff.

"Chicken Little" is its song selection. Sitting through the over dramatic tunes is enough to make anyone pity the soccer moms and dads who will endure playing the film on repeat to entertain four-year-olds. The film is released on DVD today and fails to do justice to the cartoon books and games, as well as a variety of other bonus features. But not even a Disney disaster DVD case could make it worthwhile investment.

Instead of wasting money on Chicken Little, the $19.99 would be better spent on a whole lot of poultry.

Contact Mary Squillace at msquiJia@nd.edu

PLAY REVIEW

'A Few Good Men' clashes with contemporary issues

By MARTY SCHROEDER

Scene Critic

Guantánamo Bay, Cuba has become one of the most controversial topics of modern times. It is the only American military installation on the soil of a Communist country and has come to represent certain aspects of the "war on terror" that some find absolutely necessary and others absolutely reprehensible.

This naval base is at the focus of "A Few Good Men," a play written by Aaron Sorkin and presented by the St. Edward's Hall Players. Performed in Washington Hall and directed by Patrick Vassel, the production takes on a unique perspective due to the events surrounding the current U.S. foreign policy.

The play centers around two Marines, Lance Corporal Harold Dawson and Private First Class (PFC) Louden Downey, who are stationed at Guantánamo Bay Naval Base. The pair are charged with the murder of PFC William Santiago and brought to Washington, D.C. for trial. The lawyers assigned to the case are Lieutenants Daniel Kaffee and Sam Weinberg and Lieutenant Commander JoAnne Gaffney.

They begin an investigation that starts with the Private First Class on trial and rises up the ranks to Lieutenant General Nathaniel Jessop, the commanding officer of Guantánamo Bay.

One of the issues in performing this play is that it will inevitably draw comparisons to the well-known 1992 film directed by Rob Reiner. This particular production was based on the stage play, written by Sorkin before he penned the screenplay. However, the performance was able to stand on its own and brought its own flavor and unique characteristics, separating it from the film.

Drew McElligott put on an excellent performance as the deadly serious Jessop. In a role that garnered Jack Nicholson an Oscar nomination for the film, McElligott brought his own style and feel to the character, one that is much more than a rehash of the performance.

Equally intimidating is the role of Lieutenant Jonathan James Kendrick, played by Jeff Eyerman. Eyerman effectively brings out the religious fervor and devotion to the Marines of this character. Matt Goodrich was also very memorable in the role of the character constructed on the Empire State Building replica and mimicking King Kong.

Another way the filmmakers try to tap into an older audience is with one of the characters, the overweight Runt of the Litter, a role that garnered Jack Nicholson an Oscar nomination for the film. McElligott brought his own style and feel to the character, one that is much more than a rehash of the performance.

"A Few Good Men," put on by the St. Edward's Hall Players, was written by Aaron Sorkin. The play focuses on the trial of two soldiers accused of murder.

A message from the government is that it is not an anti-military play, or is it a pro-military. It is a play that raises very important questions about the nature of the law and what is permissible to provide national security. Vassel directs a very effective version of this play that showcases some of the best talent that Notre Dame has to offer in student-theater.

While the film is very good, this play provides a new medium for which to enjoy this story and does a noteworthy job providing quality theater at Notre Dame.

Contact Marty Schroeder at mschroe@nd.edu
Video games and Hollywood are often closely intertwined. Blockbuster releases frequently have a corresponding game release, such as “King Kong” and “Narnia.” Other games draw obvious influences from Hollywood, such as the “Resident Evil” franchise.

“Pursuit Force,” released for the PSP, draws heavily from the Hollywood action film genre. Filled with literal high-octane action, “Pursuit Force” features all the car, boat and helicopter chases audiences expect from a summer blockbuster.

The premise is simple. Crime has skyrocketed, so a new branch of the police has been formed to combat this growing menace. This new branch is referred to as the Pursuit Force. Designed to chase the criminals down using highly reckless actions, the formation of this branch sets the stage for the rest of the game.

Many games feature all of the aforementioned Hollywood elements. But the unique part of “Pursuit Force” is the ability to leap from vehicle to vehicle while traveling at incredible speeds.

The unique part of “Pursuit Force” is the ability to leap from vehicle to vehicle while traveling at incredible speeds.

Pursuit Force, released only for the Sony Playstation Portable, or PSP, focuses on a team of tactical enforcers defined by their lack of fear and discretion.

**Video Game Review**

‘Pursuit’ chases perfection

By MARK REMENDERDER

Video games and Hollywood are often closely intertwined. Blockbuster releases frequently have a corresponding game release, such as “King Kong” and “Narnia.” Other games draw obvious influences from Hollywood, such as the “Resident Evil” franchise.

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Many games feature all of the aforementioned Hollywood elements. But the unique part of “Pursuit Force” is the ability to leap from vehicle to vehicle while traveling at incredible speeds.

Not content to simply follow the suspects, the hero will leap from his car to the criminals at the touch of a button, all while traveling in speeds of excess of 100 miles per hour.

This leads to some truly interesting scenarios, as players will find themselves leapfrogging down a highway, jumping from car to car after the bad guys. There are also moments where the player will leap from a car to a boat, and then back again, all without interruption in the game play.

Surprisingly, the combat helicopter moments are not as seamless or smooth when compared to their motor vehicle counterparts. Instead, a short cinematic shows the player leaping into the helicopter’s cockpit. These segments are some of the worst in the game, as player control is reduced to merely manning a gun. Aiming is difficult as small targets appear in the form of cars. Adding to this annoyance, the helicopter and the cars continuously move.

Rounding out the action segments are some on-foot scenes where the game turns into a simple third-person shooter. Control is simplified for these parts, and they are by far some of the easiest parts of the game.

However, all of the different game modules wouldn’t mean much if they were not backed by solid game play. Fortunately, the controls are sufficient, with the driving sections reminiscent of “Burnout.”

Gamers will find plenty of reasons to play “Pursuit Force,” even after completing the missions.

Every mission is given a letter grade, which is the higher grades being particularly difficult to obtain. The higher grades reward players with cheats, movies and new modes of play, providing added motivation to jump back in and replay the missions.

It should be noted, however, that this game is difficult. It’s not as hard as the initial European release, which lacked checkpoints, but it is still an ordeal for the casual gamer. None of the missions are impossible, but they can seem that way at first. Easily daunted gamers might be better off looking for their action fix elsewhere.

“Pursuit Force” is one of the definitive action experiences for Sony’s portable system.

Featuring a variety of modes, furious action and even a little humor, this game should provide plenty of hours of entertainment.

Contact Mark Remenderder at mremender@nd.edu

**For next week:** What are the best doors on campus?
Send your suggestions to obsphoto@nd.edu.

Oh, what joy! There’s nothing better than a bicycle built for two, they say!

The uses of bikes are numerous — one being to make that class you are about to be late for. But it appears the owner of this bike is going nowhere fast today.

THE OBSERVER

**NOTRE DAME’S BEST... Bikes**

BY OBSERVER PHOTO STAFF

Photo courtesy of playfrance.com

Perhaps the only thing better than two people on two wheels is one person on one wheel — if you can keep the wheel beneath you, that is!
**UCLA rallies to edge Morrison, Gonzaga**

Paulin's shot saved Texas from an overtime period after Kevin Pittsinger's fifth 3-pointer for West Virginia tied it with 5 seconds left. Paulin took a pass from A.J. Abrams before launching his winner just before time expired. Officials quickly bumbled to confirm Paulin's shot was good.

"The whole thing was to get it down the floor and see what hap­pened," Paulin said, adding he had "specific instructions from coach Mick Hurley.

"Coach said if they take the screen, which they did, got out quick and just run it down the floor. So that's what I did. I ran down the floor. A.J. got the ball to me and I was ready to shoot," Paulin said.

The senior said he had never made a similar shot, though he has made 40.9 percent of his career 3-pointers. He led the team by making 41.6 of 63 percent of the shots this season, but in Thursday night's game, Texas was the team depending on 3-pointers.

West Virginia, second in the country in 3-pointers made this season, made 15 of 33 3-point shots in the game. Texas was 4-for-19 from 3-point range.

"We thought we had a pretty good shot to win it tonight," Pittsinger said. (Paulin) just teed it up and it went in." LaMarcus Aldridge scored 26 points for second-seeded Texas (30-6), and Pittsinger led the sixth-seeded Mountaineers (22-11) with 19.

Texas beat West Virginia 76-75 on Nov. 21 and couldn't avoid another close finish, even after leading 39-27 at halftime.

"I was worried coming in off the bench because I was a team we knew," Barnes said. "I am not sure what happened on that last play because we were switching everything. It was a great day. Wow!"

Memphis 80, Bradley 64

OAKLAND, Calif. — Rodney Carney contributed big points on his first dunk of a game igniting his teammates' intensity. He dunked all right, he jumped, he knocked the ball out of our hands and he dunked it again and hugging Morrison and third-seeded Gonzaga Thursday night to advance to the regional final.

Morrison, Gonzaga's slightly battered star, made two free throws with 26.4 seconds left, giving him 24 on 9-for-19 shooting to lead UCLA 71-68. But the Bruins (30-6) didn't wilt.

Mbh a Moute scored six of the final 11 points and got key steal in the final seconds to seal the win and send UCLA to its first regional final since 1997. The Bruins will play Saturday against Memphis (33-3), which beat Bradley 80-64 in the first semifinal of the Oakland regional. The Tigers beat the Bruins 88-80 in November.

After Mbah a Moute stole the ball from DerekRaivio with 2.6 seconds left, Morrison put his hands on his head and bent down, overcome with emotion, fighting tears in what was probably his final game in a Gonzaga uniform. He is expected to return after the season.

"It was a special experience," Morrison said. J.P. Batista missed a desperation 15-footer at the buzzer and fell into the Zags' bench, where coach Mark Few helped him up. When the buzzer sounded, UCLA senior Cedric Boourney ran around the court with the ball in his hands — Ryan Hollis right with him. Hollins and Affalco went to help up Morrison, who was sprawled on the floor at midcourt. Few then came to hug Ryan's brother Morrison.

UCLA never led until the final seconds, staging a thrilling late-game rally that will be remembered for years at the tradition-rich school with 11 national titles. Mbah a Moute started the comeback with two free throws and then scored on a pull-up with 2:09 to go to make it 71-66. Morrison, who shot 10-for-17 but missed his last four from the field, missed a jumper with about a minute left and Jordan Farmar scored quickly on the other end to make it a three-point game. Morrison raised again the next time down and Batista fouled Hollins going for the rebound. Hollins made both free throws to make it 71-68 and the Bruins then stole the ball from the backcourt, setting up Mbah a Moute's go-ahead score.

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**TICKETS**

Duke star J.J. Redick lies on his back as Louisiana State’s Tasmin Mitchell drails a shot in LSU’s 62-54 victory over No. 1-seed Duke in the NCAA Tournament Thursday.

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**CLASSIFIEDS**

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**The Observer accepts classifieds every business day from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Notre Dame office. 204 South Dining Hall. Deadline for next classifieds is 3 pm. The charge is 50 cents per character per day, including all spaces. The Observer reserves the right to edit all classifieds for content without incurring fees.**
**Giants’ Bonds to sue authors of book**

**San Francisco** — Barry Bonds plans to sue the authors and publisher of a book that alleges the San Francisco Giants’ slug­ger used steroids and other performance-enhancing drugs.

Bonds’ attorneys sent a letter Thursday to an agent for the authors of “Game of Shadows,” alerting them of plans to sue the writers, publisher Gotham Books, the San Francisco Chronicle and Sports Illustrated, which published excerpts this month.

The letter, signed by Alison Berry Wilkinson, an associate of Bonds’ lead attorney, Michael Rains, was posted on the Chronicle’s Web site. A hearing was tentatively scheduled for Friday in San Francisco Superior Court. The book by Chronicle reporters Mark Fainaru-Wada and Lance Williams was released Thursday. It claims Bonds used steroids, human growth hormone, insulin and other banned substances for at least five seasons beginning in 1998.

“We certainly stand by our reporters and the reporting they did for us,” Chronicle executive vice president and editor Phil Bronstein said. “Nothing that’s happened will change that.”

**MLB**

Giants left fielder Barry Bonds singles during a spring training game against the Cubs last Friday. Bonds says he plans to sue the authors of “Game of Shadows,” the new book which accuses Bonds of using performance enhancing drugs.

**Associated Press**

**Two Cincinnati players ruled ineligible for NIT**

CINCINNATI — Two Cincinnati starters were ruled ineligible hours before the Bearcats’ NIT quarterfinal Thursday night, the latest setback for a team that lost its coach before the season began and has been plagued with injuries.

The university cited an NCAA ruling in the case but did not say why seniors James White and Jahlil Muhammad were ineligible.

“Have we suspended the players indefinitely for failure to meet the standards set forth by the NCAA and the men’s basketball program at the University of Cincinnati,” interim head coach Andy Kennedy said in a statement released by the university.

“Tirr project will continue in its attempt to represent this university in the manner with which it deserves to be represented.”

**IN BRIEF**

**Vanderjagt signs with Dallas**

DALLAS — Mike Vanderjagt, the NFL’s most accurate kicker who was no longer needed in Indianapolis, signed Thursday with the Dallas Cowboys.

Vanderjagt became dispensable in Indianapolis after the Colts signed Adam Vinatieri this week. Vinatieri twice hit winning kicks in the Super Bowl for New England, but the Patriots allowed him to test free agency.

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**TRACK**

Irish travel to compete in two Arizona meets

**By JASON GALVAN**
Sports Writer

Notre Dame travels to Tucson, Ariz., to take part in the Wildcat Combined Events meet today and the Jim Click Shootout on Saturday.

Both meets are sponsored by the University of Arizona, with the first meet taking place on campus and the Saturday meet slated to occur at Drachman Stadium in Tucson.

The Irish will be taking a limited number of athletes to Tucson.

The competition, much like other early meets, is designed to let several athletes attempt to get qualifying times out of the way early in the season for the Big East Conference meet and the NCAA Mideast Regional meet.

This allows the Irish to focus on more intense training during the early part of the outdoor season and build strength for the later meets.

"You really want to get qualifications early," senior sprinter Ryan Postel said. "It can be a struggle to miss qualifications early on and try to get it late. I want to get qualifications out of the way to focus on training."

The Irish men and women will have an excellent opportunity to meet their qualifying standards for the conference and NCAA meets this weekend if the weather conditions prove to be as favorable as predicted.

The Irish are expected to be competing in 80-temperature temperatures with no signs of bad weather.

The situation is unlike last week at the Cal Poly Invitational, where the Irish faced colder temperatures and a 25-mph head wind that slowed down times for many of the athletes who may have otherwise gotten their qualifiers out of the way.

"To go to an outdoor meet with great weather, I'm just excited and feeling good," Postel said. "This weekend in Arizona will be 82 and sunny. You should see some good marks from us."

While the unpredictability of the weather adds a degree of difficulty to the outdoor season, many of the athletes are still enthusiastic.

There are a number of other small differences, such as a longer track length and an increased number of events that can potentially have a sizeable impact on meets.

"The thing with outdoor meets is you always have to adjust for the weather conditions," junior sprinter Uchechi Ogbukiri said. "You have to adjust for when it'll be cold or windy, whether you have the wind at your back or not, if it’s raining, that sort of thing.

"With the transition into the outdoor season, you generally see people's times improve," Ogbukiri said. "The track is longer, so you have bigger turns and a longer straightaway, which makes people with longer strides more comfortable."

While Postel (200-, 400-meter runs) and Ogbukiri (200-, 400-meter runs) look to meet their qualifying times, several other members at the Irish meet heading to Tucson are looking to meet their qualifying marks or improve their times, including junior sprinter Maryann Erigha in the 100-meter run, Lauren Harte in the pole vault and Austin Wechter in the 400-meter hurdles.

Contact Jason Galvan at jgalvan@nd.edu

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**SMC GOLF**

Belles to challenge Northern Kentucky in first dual meet

**By BECKI DORNER**
Sports Writer

The Belles look to build on their 13th-place finish at the Shamrock Invitational when they host Norteen Kentucky in a dual meet this coming weekend at the Perry Park Golf Course, a long par-72.

Their scores evenly matched with Northern Kentucky, the Belles will need to be on top of their game.

In their most recent contest at the Lady Moc golf classic at the Cades Cove Golf Club in Lakefield, Fla., Northern Kentucky tallied a final round total of 323 on the 5,997-yard, par-72 course to finish in 11th place.

Their top performer was Alicia Lawrence, who tied for 18th with a final round score of 76, while their next top performer was Kelsey Gauthier, who tied for 39th with her final round score of 81.

The Belles, on the other hand, recorded a 339 in their last round at the Cal Poly Invitational at the Tega Cay Country Club (par-72, 5,842 yards) hosted by the International University in North Carolina.

The Belles were led by Megan Mattia’s 20th-place finish and low score of 74, while senior captain Nicole Bellino delivered an 81 to earn 50th place.

"We have a great team this year with four graduating seniors who all want to end the season on a high note..." said Megan Mattia.

Megan Mattia
Belles golfer

"We have a great team this year with four graduating seniors who all want to end the season on a high note by getting a bid to the national tournament in May for the fourth year in a row," she said.

Bellino and fellow senior captain Kirsten Fawson will fight alongside Mattia and senior Erin McQueen to try to help the team reach its potential.

According to Golfstat.com, that potential places the Belles No. 4 nationally among the top Division III teams in their annual ranking. The National Golf Coaches Association places them a lower, but still competitive, No. 13 rank.

But Belles coach Mark Hamilton said the Belles must sharpen their short game after a long winter season that made practicing those skills difficult.

Although the winter might have made practice difficult, Mattia stressed that improvements made over break were obvious during last week’s Shamrock Invitational.

Contact Becki Dorner at rdorner1@nd.edu

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Please recycle
The Observer.
Belles host a pair of conference foes Saturday

Team looks to extend four-game win streak

By GREG ARBOGAST
Sports Writer

Coming off its 6-3 victory over Olivet College, Saint Mary's looks to extend its winning streak against Aquinas College and Adrian College at home this Saturday.

Last Tuesday's win over Olivet was the fourth in a row for the Belles, who have also defeated Minnesota State-Olivet College and Adrian College at Moorhead, Bentley and Miasaps during their current winning streak. All three of those victories occurred during the team's annual trip to Orlando over spring break.

After losing three of four matches to open the season, Saint Mary's recent win streak has come at a good time. "We had some sick players and some injured players who got better towards the end of our time in Florida," Belles coach Dee Stevenson said. "That played in a big role starting our winning streak."

"One of our biggest goals every year is winning the conference, so keeping the girls focused won't be a big problem," Dee Stevenson
Belles coach

After losing over spring break. "We have some injured things and we're really going to have to keep our concentration levels up," Stevenson said.

Contact Greg Arborgast at garborgas@nd.edu

Irish journey to Michigan for Lubbers Cup Rowing Regatta

By TIM KAISER
Sports Writer

The Notre Dame women's rowing team is set to compete in this Saturday's Lubbers Cup Rowing Regatta held at Grand Valley State in Grand Rapids, Mich.

The Irish will take on a number of club teams as well as the University of Michigan and Eastern Michigan, the only other varsity squad competing in the event.

Schools sending club teams include the University of Dayton, Michigan State, Northern Michigan, Grand Valley State, Michigan and the University of Western Ontario.

Notre Dame will compete in both the four- and eight-person races and will enter three varsity boats in the four-person races, two varsity boats in the eight-person races and two novice boats in the eight-person races.

"We spent our spring training very hard in terms of volume and intensity," coach Martin Stone said after last weekend's races. "We were very productive and efficient and got a lot of things accomplished."

The teams will score points for finishing in the top three in each race, with the team finishing first winning the "Don" Lubbers Cup, named after our coach lightly. The teams will compete in both the four- and eight-person boat races. Belles coach Dee Stevenson said. "That played in a big role starting our winning streak."

"One of our biggest goals every year is winning the conference, so keeping the girls focused won't be a big problem," Dee Stevenson
Belles coach

Before the Belles take on Aquinas Saturday evening, they will play conference foe Adrian earlier in the afternoon.

Adrian is coming off a 9-0 loss to last year's conference champion, Albion. The loss drops the Bulldogs to 0-4 on the season, but Stevenson doesn't expect his players to take their conference rival lightly.

"One of our biggest goals every year is winning the conference, so keeping the girls focused won't be a big problem," he said.

Contact Tim Kaiser at tkaiser@nd.edu
Texas round-up: Squad to play Horns, Aggies

By KATE GALES
Associate Sports Editor

Some say everything's bigger in Texas — and that includes challenges on the tennis court this weekend. After their travels to Austin to face No. 5 Texas on Saturday and then to College Station to take on No. 22 Texas A&M, "I think I know them both very well," coach Bobby Bayliss said. "Texas beat us 4-3 here last year, and they have pretty much the same team back. They added one new player who's playing in the lower half of the lineup, and they're very talented." In addition, Texas' Travis Helgeson, ranked No. 20 nationally, is the older brother of Irish freshman Brett Helgeson, who stands at No. 106 in the country.

Both the Longhorns and the Aggies beat No. 3 Illinois, which defeated the Irish 7-0 on Feb. 4.

The Irish are ranked No. 15 nationally and take a 15-4 record into Texas. They most recently played five matches over six days, which included an appearance in the finals of the Blue-Gray National Tennis Classic.

First on this week's agenda was an exhibition game from their greening spring break. After taking Monday off, the team focused on fundamentals and doubles.

"Tuesday we actually focused really on just fundamentals off the ground, really driving the ball with our legs, hitting a lot of drop courts, getting back into a groove," Bayliss said. "When you compete that much, little cracks and fissures start to show up in your game ... you need that solid time to get the fundamentals back."

The Irish will be forced to adjust to playing outdoors. Although spring break matches were all played outside, the team was unable to practice outdoors in South Bend.

"Hopefully, we'll get to hit tomorrow morning in Austin when we get in and a little bit Saturday morning before the match, so it won't be a difficult adjustment outdoors," Bayliss said. "At least, I hope it won't be.

Irish players have been gaining recognition in singles. In addition to Helgeson, Stephen Blos, No. 14, Sheeva Parbhu is No. 34 and Ryan Keckley is No. 115.

In doubles, Keckley is ranked with Eric Laugengkamp at No. 36 and at No. 44 with Barry King. He is now paired with Parbhu, but the duo is unranked.

"He and Sheeva give us a good chance to win at No. 1," said Bayliss, noting that it is unusual — but not unheard of — for one team to have multiple doubles rankings.

This weekend's matches will be a good test for the Irish as they begin to close out their season. The Irish has three matches remaining before the Big East Tournament begins on April 20.

However, no one is overlooking the pair of Texas matches. "Texas is for real — they're a legit team," Bayliss said. "They beat Virginia and Duke. They're very good, and they beat Illinois, and A&M beat us.

The Irish take on the Longhorns at 1 p.m. in Austin and face the Aggies at 1:30 p.m. in College Station.

Contact Kate Galles at kgales@nd.edu

MEN'S LACROSSE

Irish hit road to face Pride

Team ready to battle No. 5 Hofstra group

By TIM DOUGHERTY
Sports Writer

The No. 11 Irish, tournament hungry and standing 4-1 on the season, are always playing for more than pride. This weekend, Notre Dame will take that mentality to Hempstead, NY, where the team will face the No. 5 Hofstra Pride Saturday at 1:30 p.m.

Notre Dame enters the contest carrying a three-game winning streak, including a 9-7 victory over then-No. 20 North Carolina. During that span, the Irish have lost the groundball battle in all three games, but their defense has out-cleared their opponents — a fact they have achieved in every game this year, with an .820 clear percentage compared to the .654 mark to which they have held their opponents.

This is also their third straight game away from home.

"It's always tough going on the road," senior co-captain and midfielder Drew Peters said. "Going on the road to Hofstra to play a top-five team will be a challenge.

Peters has had one of the best weeks of his career, scoring a career-high of four goals on the game of a four-goal game, most recently defeating then-No. 6 Princeton last Saturday to vault the Pride from No. 9 to their current spot in the top 10. They also beat defending NCAA champions and current No. 9 Johns Hopkins 11-6 earlier in the year.

The Irish have narrowly missed a tournament invitation each of the past three years. In order to make it back to the tournament for the first time since 2001, the team realizes that a win against Hofstra is crucial.

"We need to win a big game," Peters said. "If we get a big win over them, that'll get some momentum and set things up for the rest of the season. Everyone realizes how big of a game this is."

Last year, Notre Dame went on the road and defeated Hofstra 9-8 in double overtime.

Senior attackman Pat Walsh was the hero of last season's game, assisting one goal and scoring six of his own, including the decisive tally with 1:55 left in the second overtime. If the Tewaaraton Trophy "Watch List" attackman is to post similar numbers Saturday, he must get past first-team All-American senior defenseman Brett Moyer, a fellow Tewaaraton nominee.

Walsh and Hubschmann are two of 11 Irish players returning for the only time this year to play in their home state and lacrosse hotbed of New York.

After playing at Hofstra last year, Peters expects an ideal environment for lacrosse fans.

"A lot of the guys have a lot of family that shows up," he said. "Hofstra is always a great place to play. They have their stadium that draws 8,000 people for a big game. The whole place erupts when you score a goal."

Though the Irish controlled most of last year's contest, they almost let it slip away, allowing a late three-goal Pride run to send the game into its first overtime. Similar late-game let-up last week ended North Carolina and Villanova to make 4-6 and 4-1 runs, respectively, to allow them back into those games.

Hofstra's only common opponent with the Irish this year has been North Carolina.

The Pride erased a 5-1 deficit against the TarHeels to win 6-5 in the last two minutes of the game. The Irish entered last year's game in a similar position with Notre Dame 3-1, but following the win, they tumbled to the .654 mark.

"We had a good week at practice," Peters said. "Everyone is feeling confident. We're going to play our game of lacrosse, and hopefully, it will take care of itself."

Contact Tim Dougherty at ldoughber@nd.edu
SMC SOFTBALL

Belles set for season opener vs. Engineers

By DEIRDRE KRASULA
Sports Writer

The cold weather has kept the Belles inside for many practices this week, but it has not deterred them in preparing for their regular season opener Saturday at Rose-Hulman. Saint Mary's coach Elizabeth Sullivan, along with leading seniors Audrey Gajor and Bridget Grall, have kept the team working hard in the gym. "We have been trying to keep up with everything, continuing what we have been preparing all season," Gajor said.

The Belles have focused on forming a strong all-around squad. "We are looking to build off how we did in Florida," Grall said. "A strong defense, a strong offense — both sides."

Proving that they are a force to be reckoned with both at the plate and on the mound, the Belles will turn to offensive and defensive stalwarts like Laura Hellne and Kristin Amram to better their odds against the Engineers. Hellne went 3-3, hitting two home runs and driving in five runs during the Belles' 7-1 victory over Edgewood on March 13. Amram hurled a no-hitter against Defiance on March 15.

Saint Mary's will have to turn in strong performances on both offense and defense at Rose-Hulman, located in Terre Haute, Ind. The Engineers are 6-6 and currently No. 1 in fielding percentage at .976 in the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference (SCAC). Rose-Hulman's sophomore trio of Katie Frey, Katie Yizmisky and Katie Muggard head the Engineers on both fronts. Frey is hitting .400 with 17 RBIs, Yizmisky is batting .410 with 12 RBIs and pitcher Muggard has 45 strikeouts in 63.2 innings.

The Belles last met the Engineers in 2004 for a doubleheader. They dropped both games, 4-1 and 4-3. However, the Belles are not concerned with their past performances. "That was two years ago," said Gajor of the 2004 meeting. "We have a completely different team. We are prepared this time."

Contact Deirdre Krasula at dkrasula@nd.edu

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Coffee and Conversation

For Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Questioning Students at Notre Dame

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The Core Council for Gay and Lesbian Students invites gay, lesbian, and bisexual members of the Notre Dame family, their friends, and supporters to an informal coffee at the Co-Mo.

Everyone is welcome and confidentiality is assured.

Coffee and refreshments will be served.
Junior midfielder Kaki Orr patrols the field during an 18-6 win over Ohio University on Mar. 2.

Iowa
continued from page 24

mean anything if you’re not playing great tennis. If you’re having an off day, any team you play will take advantage.”

Although the Hawkeyes currently stand at 9-2 for the season, Iowa is coming off a pair of 4-3 wins against Kansas March 11 and Kansas State the following day.

Leading the Hoosiers this season are the No. 40 doubles pair of junior Meg Racette and sophomore Jacqueline Lee.

In addition to being ranked in doubles, Racette is currently No. 33 in singles. Following Racette is Mill Veselinovic, No. 104.

“They are capable of giving us difficult matches,” junior Catrina Thompson said. “So we know that we just have to focus on the match and not worry about rankings or winning streaks.”

Thompson has led the Irish this season in both singles and doubles.

She is currently No. 30 in singles and No. 3 in doubles with her teammate and sister Christian. Thompson Christian Thompson is the only other player from Notre Dame to be ranked in singles at No. 74.

“We have done pretty well in doubles this season,” Catrina Thompson said. “But we are focusing on every match and hope to continue to do well.”

In addition to the Thompson sisters, the pairing of sophomore Brooke Buck and freshman Keiley Tefft is nationally ranked No. 64.

“Brook and Keiley have played really well for us this season,” Catrina Thompson said. “If we’re having an off day, we can always count on (Buck and Tefft) to pull through and help our team win the doubles point.”

Following the match against Iowa, Notre Dame will head to Nashville, Tenn. to face Vanderbilt on March 29.

Contact Dan Tapeilto at jtapetil@nd.edu

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Hoyas continued from page 24

Thornton, a senior left-hander, was named the Big East pitcher of the week on Monday for his complete game, five-hit shutout of Southern Illinois in the championship of the Irish baseball Classic last week in San Antonio. It was the fifth time — the second this season — that Thornton has received the award, placing him second all-time in most Big East pitcher of the week honors.

Thornton threw only 84 pitches — 64 of them for strikes — and didn't walk a batter in the nine-inning blanking against the Salukis on Mar. 18. "I'd take a few more of Tom Thornton's 84-pitch shutouts," Mainieri said of his hopes for his starters' work load this weekend. "If any of them want to give us one of those, I'd be happy to accept it.

Georgetown first baseman and designated hitter Ryan Craft brings the big stick off the bench in the Hoyas' lineup. Craft has three home runs and 15 RBIs with a .453 batting average on the season and was named to the preseason all-Big East team. Mainieri said, "I'd take a few more of Tom Thornton's 84-pitch shutouts."

Paul Mainieri
Irish head coach

"First of all, anytime you go on the road, it is tough in-conference." Paul Mainieri
Irish head coach

There was a junior righthander, Samardzija, a junior left-hander, and Thornton must also deal with junior catcher Brandon Davis, who has been a strong plate presence for the Hoyas this season. He is batting .403 with one home run and 17 RBIs. "First of all, anytime you go on the road, it is tough in-conference," Mainieri said. "Second of all, Georgetown got our attention last year by beating us here. I think they're going to be tough games, and hopefully we'll play well in all our phases and get off to a good start." Getting off to a good start against the Hoyas is only the beginning of a tough 27-game Big East schedule. Mainieri and his Irish nine have plans not only to make the newly-expanded eight-team Big East tournament, but to win the regular season.

"If you win the regular season championship, it gives you an inside track to a NCAA bid," Mainieri said. A fifth straight Big East title and seventh straight NCAA tournament bid are Notre Dame's long term goals, but for this weekend, only the Hoyas are in the sights ofマンシップ.

Thornton and the rest of the Irish bats...

Contact Kay Cassity at kcassity@nd.edu

### Broncos continued from page 24

Tricia VandenbergSilk, another Bronco starter, has also been making headlines with her MAC West Pitcher of the Week award earlier this month.

The Irish offense will have to try to find a way to produce runs against these tough pitchers. Five of the team's 10 losses have come when held to fewer than three runs.

"You have to go into every game with confidence thinking that you will hit each pitcher hard," said Linda Kohan, who leads Notre Dame in home runs with four. "We are going to be just fine and do well this weekend.

The team will look to its own powerful pitching staff to combat the Broncos and hold them in check as long as possible.

Both Heather Booth and freshmans Brittany Bargan were at the top of their games in the Judi Garman Classic.

Booth allowed only one earned run in last week's 4-3 loss to No. 6 Alabama.

The Irish hope that they can turn those close losses from last week into wins in the regional and conference schedule that they start this weekend by playing close to home against weaker competition.

At this point in the season, Notre Dame is only 3-8 in contests decided by one run, including 0-3 in extra innings.

"We are going to get down to business just like in any other game, and we should come away with the win," Kohan said. After its trip to Kalamazoo, the team will head home to open up Big East play next week at Ivy Field.

Contact Dan Murphy at dmurphy6@nd.edu

### The Observer • SPORTS

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Broncos continued from page 24

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Linda Kohan
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Sophomore Infielder Katie Laing fields a groundball on April 22, 2005 against St. John's. The Irish won both games of the doubleheader 8-0 in five innings.
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ALEC WHITE & ERIK POWERS

JULY

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TODAY

Tell him to go back to work.

HENRI ARNOLD MIKE ARGIRION

WHAT THE KUNG EXPERIENCED WHEN HE WAS A KUNG FU PROTESTER:

Saturday's Jumble:

答案为：SCARY BRINY PAUPER TRASH

(The answers tomorrow)

ADAM FAIRHOLM

CROISSANTWORLD

Hey, kids! We don't have plans. Don't hear me out on some changes we could make to make no kind of seem like a Greek system.

AND ON FROM O' CONNELL, YOU CAN PLEASING TO THE DORM AND GET DRUNK INSTEAD OF SPRAYING EVERY OTHER WITH SILLY STRINGS FOR AN ENTIRE WEEKEND. ME!

We are brothers.

2 MONTHS LATER....

NOW arrange the crossed letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

MARY'S

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EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Keri Russell, 30; Chaka Khan, 55; Roger Bar春夏, 77; Rach E. Stevens, 23

Happy Birthday! If you act too fast this year, you may lose ground. Make sure everything is in place before you present your idea. Money is also in the picture but don't worry if it comes slowly. Even if you have new abilities and your finances will improve. A business idea you have considered in the past can now be implemented. Your numbers are 11, 13, 16, 24, 31

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't get emotional about something that might happen. Focus on the here and now. If you are professional and do your job to the best of your ability, you will get ahead. Persistence will pay off. **

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Position yourself so that you can get what concerns you to move off your plate. You will impress everyone around you but expect someone to feel threatened or jealous of your strong controlling efforts. *****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You'll be able to achieve your goal. Look at all your options and prepare to make a change that will satisfy you professionally and financially. An opportunity will arise through someone you impressed in the past.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You may have trouble with personal judgment. There is a good chance you may take things the wrong way or give the wrong impression. Keep things out of the open. You'll feel so much better once you start opening up. Your numbers are 2, 7, 12, 19, 30

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Be honest with yourself if you want to get anything accomplished today. Someone who is anxious-minded will be comforting and will spark some ideas you never considered before. Add your opinions to the mix and make it happen. **

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): If you get out and socialize, you will make a connection with someone who interests you personally and professionally. A pleasure you should be in the works. This is an excellent time for love and romance. *****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You feel ready about your worries and get out with friends. You can't change the dynamics of the relationship at home right now, so avoid getting into deep discussions. Do something that will make you feel good about yourself and the way you look. **

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You should be considering what you can do to put your creative ideas into practice. A relationship or creative partnership you have been considering should be discussed in detail. Show up an agreement. ****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't be so hard on yourself. Work if you feel like doing so and, if someone doesn't like your decision, that is his or her problem. ****

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't be too hard on yourself. You feel like doing so and, if someone doesn't like your decision, that is his or her problem. Not only that, you should be considering what you can do to put your creative ideas into practice. A relationship or creative partnership you have been considering should be discussed in detail. Show up an agreement. ****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You will be too discreet to get what you want to avoid trouble. Nothing serious will make you feel good about yourself and the way you look. **

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Get moving if you want to take advantage of a financial opportunity. A great idea may not pan out because the timing is wrong. You will have more than one choice and one will lead in a different direction. **

Happy Birthday! You are a big thinker, diligent in all you pursue. You are progressive, open-minded and willing to pay yourself on the line for your beliefs. You are resourceful, willing to make sacrifices and determined to win.

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THE OBSERVER

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THE OBSERVER

SPORTS

Friday, March 24, 2006

BASEBALL

Capitol cuts

Manship, Thornton and Samardzija set to pitch in three-game series against Georgetown

By KYLE CASSILY
Sports Writer

The big three in the Notre Dame pitching rotation — Jeff Manship, Jeff Samardzija and Tom Thornton — will host the resin bag in a three-game series with Georgetown this weekend in Bethesda, Md. The weekend series marks the opening of 2006 Big East conference play for the Irish, who boast a 10-7 record on the year, all in non-conference games. Georgetown holds a 10-12 record and will host the series — as well as all of its home games — at Povich Field. Povich Field is the home of the Bethesda Big Train, a Cal Ripken, Sr. Collegiate Baseball League team.

Irish head coach Paul Mainieri said he will not limit the workload of any of his three starters, other than the 110-pitch ceiling he rarely allows any of his pitchers to exceed.

“They’re in midseason form, and their endurance is good,” he said. “Within reason, we’re going to let them go. We would watch pitcher’s counts closely, anyway.”

Freshman righthander David Phelps delivers a pitch in his first home start on Wednesday against Central Michigan. Phelps lasted three and two-thirds innings, and the Irish won 13-9.

see HOYAS/page 21

WOMEN’S LACROSSE

Laxers enter home stretch

No. 10 Irish ready to take on Canisius after loss to No. 1 Northwestern

By JAY FITZPATRICK
Sports Writer

With the season half over, No. 10 Notre Dame (7-1) hopes to stay successful against Canisius (5-3) at home Saturday. The team played the biggest game of the season over spring break, a 21-12 loss to nationals No. 1 Northwestern (6-0). Although the Irish lost the game by a wide margin, they still showed promise against a strong team, holding a 9-8 lead going into halftime. But poor performances in the second half — in which the Wildcats outscored Notre Dame 13-3 — cost the game for the Irish.

Irish coach Tracy Coyne said, “They aren’t too worried about the game — we just need to play the way we can.”

Senior midfielder Crysti Foote cradles the ball and moves upfield in a March 2 game against Ohio.

see COYNE/page 20

WOMEN’S TENNIS

Irish host Hawkeyes at the Eck

By DAN TAPETILLO
Sports Writer

The undefeated No. 2 Irish return to the Eck Tennis Pavilion today to face the No. 39 Hawkeyes at 3 p.m. Notre Dame is heading back to the courts a week after going 4-0 over top 50 teams during spring break, including a win over No. 11 Texas on March 20.

Last week, the Irish toppled the Longhorns 7-0 and extended their winning streak against the top teams to nine. The Longhorns were runners-up in last year’s NCAA Championship and the highest-ranked team ever to lose 7-0 to the Irish.

However, despite its successful week against top competition and a 1-0 record to match the program’s best start, Notre Dame is not looking past any teams.

“We have gotten off to an incredible start this season. Everyone has been playing great tennis, especially against the top teams in the country like Duke and Texas,” Irish No. 1 singles player Kristie Nunn said. “But rankings don’t matter for us. We just want to compete against the top teams.”

The Irish travel to Notre Dame journeys to Arizona to take part in the Wildcat Combined Events today and the Jim Click Shootout on Saturday.

see HAWA/page 20

ND SOFTBALL

Irish try to buck the Broncos in away game

By BY JAY FITZPATRICK
Sports Writer

The Broncos, although not quite the caliber of team Notre Dame has been playing the past few weeks, will certainly force the team to play at its best if the Irish want to win. Western Michigan comes into Saturday’s contests with a record of 10-5 after a pair of shutout victories over Loyola Chicago (6-0) and Illinois-Chicago (10-0).

The Ramblers managed only three hits against Western Michigan in the two games, thanks to pitcher Krysten Shumaker’s no-hitter in the second game. Shumaker (5-1) has been lights out all season on the mound, holding her opponents to a batting average of .133.

see BRONCOS/page 21

SMC SOFTBALL

Belles at Engineers

Saturday, 1 p.m.
Laura Heline leads Saint Mary’s against Rose-Hulman.

page 19

MEN’S LACROSSE

Irish at Pride

Saturday, 1:30 p.m.
The Irish look for fourth win in a row.

page 19

MEN’S TENNIS

Irish at Longhorns

Saturday, 1 p.m.
Notre Dame also set to play Texas A&M.

page 19

SMC TENNIS

Adrian at Saint Mary’s

Saturday, 9 p.m.
The Belles look to build on four straight conference wins.

page 19

ROWING

The Irish travel to Grand Rapids, Mich. to compete in the Lubbers’ Cup Regatta on Saturday at Grand Valley State.

page 17

TRACK AND FIELD

Notre Dame journeys to Arizona to take part in the Wildcat Combined Events today and the Jim Click Shootout on Saturday.