Jenkins steers course for University's future

By MADDIE HANNA
News Writer

When University President Father John Jenkins in January questioned the presence of "The Vagina Monologues" at Notre Dame, he opened the floodgates to 10 weeks of emotional accusations, cries of censorship and national media coverage reporting that freedom of speech could soon be cut short at the nation's most prominent Catholic university.

But on Wednesday, Jenkins largely silenced the clamor when he released a closing statement on academic freedom and Catholic character that surprised many faculty members — he found no reason to ban the "Monologues" and was determined "not to suppress speech on this campus."

"What I care about is that we understand our mission to be a truly great university, in scholarship, in teaching, in all aspects of our academic work, that we are a Catholic university and we take that seriously, it gives us a broad moral framework, it gives us a sense of spirituality in what we do," Jenkins told The Observer Wednesday. "Both of those are part of our identity at Notre Dame, and they allow us to move forward and make decisions.

"I think if we can be true to that, and just explain that, I frankly don't worry too much about image or perceptions, as long as we're true to who we are and we state that clearly and act accordingly."

In minimizing the importance of image, Jenkins refutes what many critics have insinuated since the January addresses — that a decision to ban the "Monologues" and other controversial performances would be made to appease the Church and conservative alumni.

Students reported for illegal file sharing

By MARCELA BERRIOS
News Writer

Two freshmen use a laptop in the Coleman Morse Center Sept. 2. ResLife is now publishing some students who share files illegally.

At Notre Dame, computer usage violations were the fourth most frequent incident reported to the Office of Residence Life and Housing during the 2004-05 academic year, accounting for 11 percent of disciplinary violations handled by the Office.

DuLaC's Responsible Use of Information Technologies policy stipulates that any unauthorized copying or transmission of copyright-protected material might result in the termination of the user's access to the Notre Dame networks.

Seniors win NCSA honors with projects

By LAURA BAUMGARTNER
News Writer

Five Saint Mary's seniors presented their senior comprehensive projects at a sociology conference last week after receiving honors in a nationwide sociology paper competition.

Sociology majors Katie Dingeman, Stephanie Lutz, Sam Medina, Stephanie Roth and Jackie Savinon submitted their projects in the annual North Central Sociological Association (NCSA) student paper competition March 23 to March 25. All five papers were selected for presentation in research sessions at the conference, sociology department chair Susan Alexander said.

Presenting their papers and accompanying PowerPoint presentations alongside graduate students and sociology professionals, Alexander said, was a "great honor and experience."

Moms to visit SMC daughters

Annual event brings juniors, mothers closer

By EMMA DRISCOLL
News Writer

Memories will be made and tradition supported this weekend as junior students' mothers arrive in South Bend for Saint Mary's annual Junior Moms' Weekend.

"The weekend is a really great opportunity to spend time with our moms and have some girl time," junior class president Heidi Goepfinger said.

Activities will begin Friday with a wine and cheese reception accompanied by a silent auction. Juniors, families and businesses were asked to donate items for the silent auction, said Laura Corke, the Junior Moms' Committee chair.

The committee has been planning the event for about a year, she said.

On Saturday, campus tours will be offered, as well as a free movie. Event coordinators have scheduled appointments at Emerald Spa for many juniors and their moms.

A Mass will be held later in the evening, followed by a semi-formal dinner downtown at the Century Center, where another silent auction will take place.
**INSIDE COLUMN**

SpooNy GoONs

Forgot the flowers, Forget the birds, Forget the verbal joust... For me, spring starts when baseball starts. Read, Major League Baseball, mind you, not the World Baseball Classic, because as Zeenie Gallen would have you know, I was the first champion Japanese team would not win this year. It's the Major Leaguers. I'm a big supporter of the Goon. I'm watching tape delays of contests from Puerto Rico is not just the same as seeing your favorite team take the field. I'm filled with magnificently grisly images in the chilly, early days of April in the Big Apple. As a long-winner of watching the Jews' pathetic rebuilding efforts and the horror that is Isaiah Thomas running the Knicks, it gets to have a team in the American League. I always have some new purchase talent and a shot at a championship. Hope spring- eternal in April, not only for a 27th World Series again in New York, but for the bragging rights and possible cash payout that come from winning your fantasy league. My hope are high, as I've won four years straight. Four years ago I began my first season of fantasy baseball, another. It was nothing but reinstatement and a skit by scouting report from some website. I missed the draft, which was probably a good thing, as the first decisions I had to make were regarding which autographed players I should keep, and which I should replace with free agents whom I know nothing about. Through the general merriment of it all, my first pick-up was an Atlanta Braves pitcher named Timothy Floyd Spoonwybarger, in part because he had a chance to compete for the closer role, but mostly because his name is Spoonwybarger. He soon injured himself and spent most of the season on the disabled list. It was a joke around the league, that I had this guy on my team. But it worked. I squeaked into the playoffs and managed to pull off upset after upset in the playoffs, and I ended up winning the championship. Somehow, my uniquely success continued, despite my eccentric managerial practices. I never showed up to a draft, cut or traded any but the Fool who ended up on my team, and routinely made trades that seemed nonsensical. The whole time, I had Spoonwybarger, always my first pick-up, standing on the Hill, I stuck with him through hard times, through two surgeries and a fight that got him shipped to the Miami Heat. Spoonwybarger was running around the league that my improbable run was either because of Spoonwybarger or the Miami Heat. But Spoonwybarger went as far as to name my squad "Spoon's Goons" in his honor. The whole baseball season rolled around. With everyone in college, the draft wasn't held until the day before the season began. I found myself with time to spurt on a Saturday afternoon, and I decided tradition and decided to actually draft players this time. But when it came time for my first round pick, which I was too prepared to see on Spoonwybarger, they were hurting to take him from me, he was nowhere to be found. Though he has more stints on the DL than career innings pitched, I was shocked to find that Spoonwybarger is out of baseball. The cruel reality of a Spoonwybarger so long without a team was something to sink in. I face a season devoid of my good luck charm, my constant companion, every summer, his career cut short by arm troubles and just generally being a locker room c-wrapper. Rundlings around the league are that it's a sign, that a new champion will be crowned this year, but I'm determined to win this one in his honor, to go for the five-peat, because I know that's what he would have waned. Tim Floyd Spoonwybarger, we hardly knew ye.

Contact Tim Kaiser at tkaiser@nd.edu

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

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**QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE ADVISING SYSTEM AT NOTRE DAME?**

**VinCe Nieu**
Junior Keenan

"I got no problem with it. Always been real helpful to me."

**Adeola Giwa**
Freshman O'Neill

"Aside from getting my DART and registration number, I do not see hide nor head of my advisor."

**Angelo Gacac**
Junior O'Neil

"I think they're great. When my friend's SR fish died, they totally helped him through it."

**Johanna Slope**
Junior JS

"They're actually really helpful and are really patient considering how many people they have to work with."

**Audrey Jarred**
Sophomore Lewis

"They seem pretty knowledgeable."

**Jessica Lau**
Sophomore Lewis

"Yeah, I am pretty knowledgeable."

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**OFFBEAT**

Jesus may have walked on ice?

MIAMI — The New Testament says that Jesus walked on water. But a Florida University professor believes there could be a less miraculous explanation — he walked on a floating piece of ice.

Professor Doron Nof also theorized in the early 1990s that Moses' parting of the Red Sea had solid science behind it.

Nof, a professor of oceanography at Florida State University, said on Tuesday that his study found an unusual combination of water and atmospheric conditions in what is now northern Israel could have led to ice formation on the Sea of Galilee.

Nof used records of the Mediterranean Sea's surface temperatures and statistical models to examine the dynamics of the Sea of Galilee.

The study found that a period of cooler temperatures in the area between 1,500 and 2,600 years ago could have included the decades in which Jesus lived.

'Brokeback Mountain' banned by Bahamas

NASSAU, Bahamas — The Bahamas has banned the gay cowboy movie "Brokeback Mountain," triggering a new controversy over the island's church's reputation for homophobia.

Gay rights groups and other critics called on the Films and Films Control Board to think again, so far to no avail.

"I cannot understand denying people the right to make their own choices," said theater director Phillip Burrows.

The award-winning 2005 film got the thumbs-down from the control board after a request for it to be banned from the Bahamas Christian Council.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

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**Hawaii Club members, from left, Andrew Knutson, Eric Saito, Kenneth Negro and Christina Marzo practiced Thursday for the club's Hawaiian Luau, which will be held Saturday at 6 p.m. in the LaFortune Ballroom. Tickets are $57.**

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**IN BRIEF**

The lecture "National Sovereignty and the Right to Self-Determination in Africa" will be held today at 1 p.m. in DeBartolo 116 as part of Africa Week.

Country singer Pat Green will perform tonight at 8 p.m. at the Siegan Center. Sponsored by the Texas Club, the concert is open to NLI, SMC and HCC students only. Tickets cost $10.

COUNCIL presents Caribbean Festival, featuring food and music, tonight at 8 p.m. in the LaFortune Ballroom.

Oscar Wilde's "Salome" will be performed today and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 2:30 p.m. at the DPAC. Tickets are $5 for students and $12 for the public.

Saturday from 3-7 p.m. O'Neill and Lyons Halls will host recs on South Quad. Bring back your childhood days with free food, inflatables and schoolyard games all afternoon.

The Hawaiian Club will pres- ent the Hawaiian Luau Saturday at 6 p.m. in the LaFortune Ballroom. Tickets are $27 for students.

Runners will race in the Holy Half Marathon Sunday beginning at 10 a.m. between South Dining Hall and Welsh Family Hall. Students can still enter by e-mailing holyhalf@gmail.com or registering at 8:30 a.m. on race day. Proceeds will benefit Catholic Charities' Operation Helping Hands.

To submit information to be included in this section of The Observer, e-mail detailed information about an event to obnews@nd.edu.
In a lecture entitled "Can a Rich Man Go to Heaven?" Sirico spoke about economic responsibility and social justice to approximately 100 students, faculty and community members. Sirico is the co-founder and president of the Acton Institute, an organization whose mission is to promote a free and virtuous society.

The relationship between economics and society is a precarious balance, Sirico said. He emphasized that money is not "intrinsically evil" and can be used to promote good.

"The economy can be likened to a very powerful automobile," Sirico said. "It can be used as an ambulance to drive people to safety, or it can be used to drive drunk and to hurt people."

The responsibility lies not only in the hands of the rich to lessen suffering in poverty but also in the hands of the poor to work to secure what they need, Sirico said.

"Too often in these [economic] discussions, what we do too simplistically is to revere the poor and condemn the rich without considering personal characteristics," he said.

Sirico said while economic justice is supremely important, there is not one particular system that can unequivocally provide both prosperity and fairness.

"The Church does not have its own economic model," Sirico said. "It has an insight into human dignity and into the human person. We have to look at prudential economic proposals and see how they best respect the human person."

He also advised current and future business leaders to be aware of how their businesses affect society. "Ask not what kind of capital is [you] will be, but ask what kind of person you will be," Sirico said.

"The lecture's title comes from a passage in the Gospel in which Christ and his disciples discuss the rich man's ability to get into heaven. The rich man is often criticized in the Gospels, and in the story, Christ says a man who lives such a life of selfish depravity may not enter heaven.

"Everybody always remembers that story," Sirico said. "Jesus says the man won't get into heaven because he's rich or poor, but because he has grace."

Before he became a priest, Sirico said he "spent several years being involved in leftist social change." Both political and spiritual conversions, he said, led him to become a priest and eventually to found the Acton Institute.

The Institute's goal is to educate business leaders to form a more just society. Each year it sponsors programs such as Acton University, a summer symposium of classes and seminars. Sirico lectures at businesses and schools across the country. His writings have been published in many major newspapers and magazines, and he has provided commentary for television and radio programming.
Analysis

continued from page 1

The decision to push for an end to violence against women carries Jenkins in the opposite direction from what many anticipated Notre Dame's new president would be—squirmish about sexuality and reserved in discussion on sensitive subjects.

W. David Solomon, associate professor of philosophy and director of the Center for Ethics and Culture who taught Jenkins when the president was a Notre Dame undergraduate, told The Observer in January that people tend to make false assumptions about Jenkins.

"Many faculty members have misjudged Father Jenkins because he's a nice man and a gentle man—I've heard many faculty members talk about him like he's a weak man," Solomon said. "Those of us who've known Father Jenkins for many years—and I've known him since he was a sophomore—know he's very tough, he doesn't lack for courage.

Jenkins' method in making his decision, history professor Galg Reder said, was surprising as its content.

"I can't remember the last time I saw a public figure say, 'Here's a problem, this is what I think, let me know what you think and I'll pay attention,'" Reder said Wednesday.

While Jenkins' mild demeanor has masked an inner assertiveness, one quality it highlights is his ability—and willingness—to listen, to analyze, to contemplate.

This rational deliberation that played so heavily into Jenkins' decision should have been expected, said University President Emeritus Theodore Hesburgh.

"I think he approaches everything from an intelligent philosophical and theological point of view." Hesburgh said Wednesday. "I believe that's a very good way to approach things at a Catholic university... We're not out in a desert somewhere."

Hesburgh described the decision as "a measured statement."

"It should be well respected by everybody," he said. "It doesn't forceclose any questions."

Despite initial perceptions that Jenkins would take a hard line and suppress anti-Catholic views, he has done the polar opposite, stressing the importance of openness and promoting a campus-wide exchange of opinions—opinions he has responded to with sincerity and personal conviction.

And what that came down to, Director of Admissions Daniel Saracino said, was a relatively moderate statement—a decision reached in a "forthright" manner.

"I made the best decision I could in line with the character of the University and its mission."

University President Father John Jenkins

I made the best decision I could in line with the character of the University and its mission.

University President Father John Jenkins

The President's decision not only met expectations, said University President Emeritus Theodore Hesburgh, but also exemplified a moral standard for a Catholic university.

"There are some people who want Notre Dame to be more like a seminary," Dean of the College of Arts of Letters Mark Roche said. "I don't worry about that. Some faculty members were concerned that we might have been perceived as being less than a university and that will no longer be a perception that is possible and that is good." English professor Glenn Hendler said Jenkins' decision "would reassure a lot of people" and could provide a strong model for fellow Catholic universities grappling with similar issues.

"The implication is really important for recruiting students and faculty in the future," he said. "It's essential that Notre Dame take the lead. I hope that other Catholic universi ties looking at this can say 'Oh, there's a way to work it out so that neither academic freedom nor Catholic character need to be compromised.'

Daniel Saracino

director of admissions

Contact Maddie Hanna at mhanna1@nd.edu

The Observer • CAMPUS NEWS
Friday, April 7, 2006

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Nothern Ireland receives ultimatum

ARMagh, Northern Ireland — The British and Irish prime ministers, Tony Blair and Bertie Ahern, issued an ultimatum Thursday to Northern Ireland’s divided politicians: Elect a power-sharing administration by November or your legislature will be disbanded.

Their declaration followed 3 1/2 years of Diplomatic talks that failed to break Protestant administration, the intended centerpiece of the Good Friday peace accord that both the main parties over. Eight years ago.

A previous coalition collapsed in October 2002 over differences between Blair and Ahern.

The end result, they said, must be a vote by members to form an administration led by the province’s election of a joint Unionist—Democratic Unionists, who represent most of the British Protestant majority, and Gerry Adams’ Sinn Fein, the IRA-linked party that represents most Irish Catholics.

Swan confirmed to have bird flu

LONDON — Britain confirmed its first case of the deadly H5N1 strain of bird flu in a wild swan on Thursday, raising the stage for concerns for the disease could spread across the Atlantic.

The swan was found in the Scottish town of Cellardyke, more than 450 miles north of London, according to Scotland’s chief veterinary officer, Charles Milne. Health officials said the case poses no serious risks to public health but the government is warning poultry movement and implementing a 965-square-mile “wild bird risk area” around the site where the infected swan was found.

The deadly virus has not been found in domestic poultry sales but authorities have closed a market in southwest London, according to the British government.

NATIONAL NEWS

Giuliani testifies in Moussaoui case

Giuliani, the former New York mayor, said Thursday that he was “thrilled to have their dog returned.”

He also talked about the investigation into the death of his dog, which was found shot to death in a field near his home.

“I hope that the police find the person responsible and that justice is served,” he said.

The dog was found with the collar and tags she had on when she disappeared. The dog was found tied to animal control’s front door, the Webbs were told.

At a congressional hearing, Attorney General Alberto Gonzales said the president has the “inherent authority to decide who should have classified information.”

Libby is asking for voluminous amounts of classified information from the government in order to defend himself against five counts of perjury, obstruction and lying to the FBI in the Plame affair.

He is accused of making false statements about how he learned of Plame’s CIA employment and what he told reporters about it.

Libby’s political foes focused on the revelation about Libby’s testimony.

“The fact that the president was willing to reveal classified information for political gain and put the interests of his political party ahead of America’s security shows that he can no longer be trusted to keep America safe,” Democratic National Committee Chairman Howard Dean said.

Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., said, “The more we hear, the more it is clear this goes way beyond Scooter Libby. At the very least, President Bush and Vice President Cheney should fully inform the American people of any role in allowing classified information to be leaked.”

Libby’s testimony indicates both the president and the vice president authorized leaks. Bush and Cheney have both said they have not said that practice, so much, so much that the administration has put in motion criminal investigations to hunt down leakers.

The most recent instance is the administration’s launching of a probe into who disclosed to The Washington Times the existence of the warrantless domestic surveillance program.

The authorization involving intelligence information came as the Bush administration faced mounting criticism about its failure to find weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, the main reason the president and his aides had given for going to war.

IRAQ

Top Shiite acts as hope in Iraqi deal

BAGHDAD — Iraq’s most respected Shiite cleric, Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, has emerged in virtual seclusion in its most sacred Shiite city, Najaf.

Unlike its counterpart in neighboring Iran, al-Sistani has long maintained that clerics should remain in politics and instead offer moral guidance.

But with a standoff blocking the formation of a crucial national unity government in Baghdad, Shiite politicians say they may turn to al-Sistani, the sole figure with the authority to make a decision that risks alienating his fellow Shiites.

That decision involves the fate of Iraq’s embattled Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari, who vowed Thursday to pursue his bid for a second term despite pressure from home and abroad to step down.

Al-Jaafari told reporters he would relinquish his mandate only if parliament refuses to approve him or if the seven groups within the Shiite alliance withdraw their nomination, which he won by a single vote in a caucus in February.

The Shiite bloc controls 130 of the 275 parliament seats, enough for first crack at the prime minister’s job but not enough to govern without Sunni and Kurdish partners. But the minority Sunnis and Kurds demand that al-Jaafari be replaced, blaming him for the sharp rise in sectarian tensions that threatens to plunge the country into civil war.

Al-Jaafari has refused to stand down despite pressure from Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw, who personally urged the Iraqis to break the logjam in a two-day visit this week.
Moms continued from page 1

Harmonia, the Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s female a cappella group will be performing at the dinner, and a slide show will be shown.

The juniors were also asked to write an essay, poem or letter about their mothers. These were compiled into a book that will be given to all of the mothers, Corke said.

“We like to leave free time so the juniors and their mothers have time to do whatever they want along with the activities,” Corke said.

The wine and cheese reception is held earlier so that juniors are able to make other plans with their mothers after the event. Like many other students, Corke plans to go out to dinner with a group of friends and their mothers after the wine and cheese reception.

“A lot of moms go out,” Corke said. “It depends on the girls and their moms.”

Junior Jordan’s mother will be traveling from Pennsylvania to attend the events.

“I might take [my mother] out with some of my education major friends,” Jordan said.

She also plans to go shopping and to brunch with other mothers and daughters.

“The mother[s] get to see how your life is on the weekends here at Saint Mary’s,” junior Sarah Doshun said. “It’s a lot of fun to spend time with your mom and hang out for the weekend.”

Though she is looking forward to spending time with her mother and friends, Doshun said the events timing was not ideal, calling it “probably one of the worst weekends” because of the pileup of assignments due before Easter Break.

“Hopefully it will be a good time,” she said.

Jordan said the weekend may be hectic but will remain worthwhile.

“It’s always busy, but it’s a good weekend,” she said.

Corke said juniors will enjoy the events and quality time.

“[It is] really just a relaxing weekend and kind of a nice break from all work and stuff like that,” she said.

Almost 90 percent of the class sent out invitations to their mothers, and there are about 500 students and mothers not to attend the dinner, Corke said.

Lodging close to campus may be hard to find this weekend, Goepfinger said the Saint Mary’s Inn has been booked for months.

Contact Emma Driscoll at edirick@nd.edu

Awards continued from page 1

Two of the students received additional honors when Dingeman’s paper was awarded first place in the competition and Medina’s placed third.

Alexander said that while this is the third consecutive year Saint Mary’s students have placed in the competition, this year was particularly significant.

“There was a national call to the United States and Canada, so the number of papers that came in was much larger this year,” she said. “Normally, the call has just gone out in this region.”

For her project, Dingeman performed an ethnomethodology, a sociological study that deals with the codes and conventions that underlie everyday social interactions. She analyzed a group of recently resettled Liberian refugees in South Bend.

“I specifically analyzed the strength of their community and potential integration patterns,” she said.

Dingeman was inspired to investigate the topic by her volunteer and intern work at the Refugee and Immigration Services of South Bend. She said she felt compelled to study the topic in depth because of the recent sociological attention to issues of immigration and the incorporation of cultural groups into American society.

“I wanted to show the humanity behind the debates while paying particular attention to the Liberians, a community that is largely overlooked despite their historical ties to the United States,” she said.

Spending time with refugees for her project enriched her understanding of humanity, Dingeman said.

“I learned that I could become involved in aiding [Liberians’] transition into American society,” she said.

“However, in many ways they also taught me how to live my life as selflessly as possible, with lots of love and compassion.”

Medina approached her project by creating and distributing a survey investigating issues of minorities—specifically racial, ethnic, class and sexual minorities—to randomly selected Saint Mary’s students.

“It was so interesting to see how students responded, and to piece together different opinions and try to picture how Saint Mary’s as a whole felt about these issues,” she said.

Medina said that researching GLBTQ (gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, quee r and questioning.) issues became important to her after she attended a conference in October 2005 with Student Diversity Board. After she learned about the environment of other colleges and universities and how they were approaching these issues, Medina said she thought it would be interesting to compare those climates to that at Saint Mary’s.

“I think that it is a very important topic because Saint Mary’s is working on making the campus and community more diverse,” Medina said. “Without doing studies similar to this project, there is no way the College will know how it can improve itself.”

Medina and Medina said they learned from their experiences and felt flattered by the success of their projects.

“I think this project was a good starting point for me,” Medina said. “I am so happy that I had the opportunity and the support from my professors and other students to follow through with it.”

Contact Laura Baumgartner at

The Notre Dame Law School
Natural Law Institute presents
An Olin Distinguished Lecture

The Arts: Decadent and Sinful, Or Are They Worth Saving?

The Observer • CAMPUS NEWS Friday, April 7, 2006

The Notre Dame Law School Natural Law Institute presents
An Olin Distinguished Lecture

The Arts: Decadent and Sinful, Or Are They Worth Saving?

Hayden Ramsay
Professor of Philosophy and Ethics
University of Notre Dame
AUSTRALIA

Monday, April 10, 2006
12 Noon
Notre Dame Law School Room 120
Pizza Lunch Provided
NEW YORK — Inflation concerns dominated Wall Street Thursday, with stocks mostly lower as crude oil prices marched toward $68 per barrel and jobless claims fell for third straight week.

Traders on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange observe the falling stocks caused by higher oil prices Thursday.

Stocks suffer as oil hits $68

Inflation concerns dominate Wall Street; jobless claims fall for third straight week

Negotiators work to extend tax cuts

WASHINGTON — House and Senate Republicans worked toward agreement Thursday on a bill to keep tax cuts for capital gains and dividends in place for two years. The legislation under discussion also would prevent more families from being hit by the alternative minimum tax this tax year. Intended to prevent the wealthy from reaping tax benefits, the alternative minimum tax now threatens less wealthy families with higher taxes.

House Majority Leader John Boehner, R-Ohio, said there is "some hope" that the House will pass a bill containing these two changes on Friday, before lawmakers depart for a two-week break.

"As we approach April 15, assuring Americans that their taxes will be kept low is a big goal of this Congress," Boehner said.

Treasury Secretary John Snow postponed a planned Friday trip to Ohio and Kentucky to stay in Washington for consultations on the tax legislation.

Tony Fratto, Snow's chief spokesman, told reporters the administration believes that extending the tax cuts on dividends and capital gains for two years is "critical for this economy" because it would send the right signal to financial markets.

"Secretary Snow can be more effective in helping to achieve this priority for the president by remaining in Washington," Fratto said.

The tax cuts that reduced the top rate for capital gains and dividends to 15 percent — a centerpiece of President Bush's tax policy — are set to expire at the end of 2008. The bill under discussion would keep them in place through 2010. If they expire, the top tax rate for capital gains would increase to 20 percent, and dividends would be taxed at marginal tax rates as high as 39.6 percent.

The alternative minimum tax threatens to hit nearly 19 million taxpayers this year. That could shrink to less than 4 million under the tax changes being negotiated.

Lawmakers started work on the bill last year, when their budget made room for a tax cut worth up to $70 billion over five years.

Negotiators expect that the tax cuts they want to include in the bill will surpass that limit, requiring some provisions raising revenue to offset the extra cost.

Items they want in the bill include expanding the amount of investment that small businesses can write off and lifting income restrictions on contributions to certain retirement accounts, congressional aides said, speaking on condition of anonymity while negotiations remained ongoing.
Illegal
continued from page 1
But the people who pose the greatest threat to Ares users are the musicians, organizations and companies who fail to make a profit every time an album or movie is downloaded free of charge. Companies such as HBO, Columbia Pictures and Universal Music Group have previously monitored Notre Dame students downloading movies, television shows, music files and other software, and have directly contacted the University, said Kathy Branumek, Assistant Director of the Office of Residence Life and Housing.
Branumek said Notre Dame does not actively monitor which students download “The Supranos” or Bon Jovi hits to their computers, but when external organizations detect these activities, they file reports with the University’s legal department and expect it to address the issue with the students.
Junior Mike Bogacz said he was contacted by the Office of Residence Life and Housing after downloading a few songs.
“I got an e-mail from Rostel life telling me to cease and desist and to call them up to schedule a meeting,” he said. “I had downloaded maybe three dozen songs using LimeWire, and I wasn’t even aware that I was sharing them with other users.”
For first time offenders such as Bogacz, Branumek says the University will only issue verbal warnings, and then the student to delete the files in question from his computer.
However, Branumek said she could not guarantee the company that detected the illegal file sharing would not press charges.
“We have been receiving more and more violation notices from companies, as they are becoming increasingly vigilant of their copyright-protected material,” Branumek said.
This semester alone, the Office of Residence Life and Housing has met with more than 30 students who were specifically reported by external organizations that witnessed them engaging in illegal file sharing, thus making this offense one of the most common ones among students.
“Every time you download a song for free, you’re running the risk of being watched by these companies and these musicians,” Branumek said. “They really are looking out for violators of copyright laws, and if you happen to download that one song at the wrong time, you might just get into trouble.”
The Office of Residence Life and Housing says it has received violation notices from outside companies against both students who may have downloaded more than 100 songs and movies and students who downloaded a mere handful.
“While students are aware of the practical risks of downloading, not all consider it a serious offense,” Branumek said.
“My RA at the time who was basically the student of the year, head of HRT, etc., heard of my plight, and said something like, ‘That’s illegal!’” Bogacz said.
Contact Marcela Berrios at berrios@nd.edu

Detectives could get life in prison
Former NYPD cops convicted of moonlighting as mob hitmen

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Two highly decorated former detectives were convicted Thursday of moonlighting as hitmen for the mob in one of the most sensational cases of police corruption in New York history.

Frank Eppolito, 57, and Steven Caracappa, 64, could get life in prison for their roles in eight murders committed between 1986 and 1990 while they were simultaneously on the payroll of both the NYPD and Lucchese crime family underboss Anthony “Gaspipe” Casso.

Federal prosecutor Daniel Wenser described the case as “the bloodiest, most violent betrayal of the badge this city has ever seen.”

Prosecutors said the two men carried out two hit jobs themselves — after pulling the victims over in traffic stops — and delivered up some of the other victims to the Mafia to be killed.

Neither defendant showed any emotion during the 10 minutes it took the jury forewoman to reply “prima” 70 times to the racketeering acts they were accused of. The verdict was reached after two days of deliberations.

The defendants’ $5 million bail was revoked and they were led off to jail to await sentencing May 22. The men’s lawyers said they will appeal.

“It’s an appearance of justice, but it’s not justice,” said Bruce Cutler, who once represented John Gotti and put on a thunder­ defense for Eppolito, claiming the government’s mob witnesses were lying to save their necks.

Prosecutors said the two used their law enforcement positions to help the Mafia at a price of $4,000 per month — more if they personally handled a killing. They earned $65,000 for one of those slayings, prosecutors said.

The two officers also supplied Casso with inside information on law enforce­ ment interests in the mob, prosecutors said. Casso was said to have referred to the two men as his “crystal ball.”

They were convicted of charges that included racketeering con­ spiracy, witness tampering, wit­ ness retaliation and obstruction of justice.

“There has never been, in the history of the NYPD, an officer convicted of being a hit man for the mob,” said Tom Reppetto, co­author of “American Mafia” and “NYPD,” a department history. “There’s cases of police miscon­ duct, but going to work for organ­ ized crime? Wow.”

Caracappa, who retired in 1992, helped establish the city police department’s unit for Mafiaender investigations. Eppolito, the son of a Gambino crime family member, was a much-praised street cop, although there were suggestions that some of his arrests resulted from tips from mobsters.

In his autobiography, “Mafia Cop,” he portrayed himself as a honest cop from a crooked family.

Eppolito also played a bit part in the mob movie “GoodFellas.” After retiring in 1990, he unsuccess­ fully tried his hand at Hollywood screenwriting.

The former detectives, who retired to homes on the same block in Las Vegas, insisted on their innocence from the time of their arrests in March 2005. But never took the stand at their trial.

The key prosecution witness was Burton Kaplan, a drug dealer who spent four days on the stand linking the pair to an assortment of murders. Kaplan testified that he served as middleman between Casso and hitmen. Casso, known as one of the most brutal mobsters in the city, is suspected of involvement in 36 murders himself. Both sides con­ sidered calling him as a witness but ultimately decided Casso came with too much baggage.
The newly translated ancient Coptic document is fascinating for its presentation of the Gospel of Judas. It portrays Judas Iscariot as a favored disciple who was given special knowledge by Jesus and instructed to carry out an act of betrayal. The text, one of several ancient Gospels, did not think they were sacred and translated by a team of scholars. It is a copy of an early Greek version.

The text begins: "You will be cursed by the other generations — and you will come to rule over them," Jesus tells Judas in the document made public Thursday. The text ends with Judas saying, "You have been told every- thing. Lift up your eyes and look at the cloud and the light within it: the material will be donated to the Coptic museum in Cairo, Egypt, so it can be available to all scholars said Ted Waitt of the Waitt Institute for Historical Discovery, which helped finance the restoration. The material will be donated to the Coptic museum in Cairo, Egypt, so it can be available to all scholars said Ted Waitt of the Waitt Institute for Historical Discovery, which helped finance the restoration.

In a key passage Jesus tells Judas, "You will exceed all of them. For you will sacrifice the man that clothes me." This indicates that Judas would help liberate the spiritual self by helping Jesus get rid of his physical flesh, the scholars said. "Step away from the others and I shall tell you the mysteries of the kingdom," Jesus says to Judas, singling him out for special status.

"Look, you have been told everything. Lift up your eyes and look at the cloud and the light within it and the stars surrounding it. The star that leads the way is your star." The text ends with Judas turning Jesus over to the high priests, not for money, but because Jesus asked him to do so, according to a newly translated ancient Coptic document.

The "Gospel of Judas" tells a very different tale from the four gospels in the New Testament. It portrays Judas as a favored disciple who was given special knowledge by Jesus and instructed to carry out an act of betrayal. The text was made public Thursday.

The Gospel of Judas" was first discovered in 1970, the material will be donated to the Coptic museum in Cairo, Egypt, so it can be available to all scholars. It is now France. The bishop said, "This offers a perspective that Judas turned Jesus over to the main body because it differed from mainstream Christianity. The text was made public Thursday.

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Clarifying Catholic character at ND

This week marked a great and courageous day for Notre Dame president Theodore Hesburgh, a University leader established a balanced, inclusive and well-thought-out definition of Notre Dame. It is a moment every friend and family member of Notre Dame should remember.

Nearly a quarter of America's Christians consider themselves Catholic, but many seldom attend mass regularly. For them, the character of the Roman Catholic Church is lacking — perhaps not as much for its dogmas as for the Church's inability to effectively connect on an individual level. They are not convinced that the message of the gospel matches the actions of Church leaders. A similar disconnect between University actions and rhetoric has certainly disenfranchised a significant portion of Notre Dame alumni for many years.

Father Jenkins' attempt to confront a contentious issue now on campus, has set a fair policy for generations to come. It was an honest claim that as Catholics, and Notre Dame specifically, adhered to the life and mission of Jesus' service to others while not even recognizing that gay students existed in the university, let alone creating a campus. Somewhere the fear of bad publicity perpetuated a series of similarly negative impressions of Notre Dame. In his first campus leader who truly directs King Solomon's biblical sensibilities and wisdom.

In this era of hourly news cycles, religion is ridiculed — but many times for good reason. When the spokesperson for the Catholic American Church for several decades has exposed only to this biased opinion? We claimed that gays are parasites,” proposed that, instead of presenting these negative and illogical reversal of the definitions of values and morality. Religion is a personal defining Notre Dame. It is a great day on campus. Notre Dame. It is a great day on campus. It was a great day on campus.

The word parasite insinuates that the relationship between students as a leading American Catholic observer must be space and not necessarily available. As a moment every constituent. For a newspaper that serves both schools, you present a definition for that reason, a non-Christian Catholic may seem, are a matter of interpretation. In particular we are attempting to attack their followers' wallets.

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We are disappointed in the Jockular comic strip run on April 6 and the fact that it was even published. We feel that the portrayal of Saint Mary's students is not only inaccurate, but insulting. Why would you approve a comic strip that indirectly destroys the relationship between the students of Saint Mary's and Notre Dame? For a newspaper that serves both schools, you present a rather slanted perspective of Saint Mary's students.

In particular we are offended by the reference of Saint Mary's students as "parasites," as Jockular so eloquently dubbed us. The word parasite insinuates that the relationship between Saint Mary's and Notre Dame is unhealthy and harmful to Notre Dame. We do not feel this is the case because, although Saint Mary's students may make use of available opportunities, this does not undermine Saint Mary's leadership. In addition, Saint Mary's offers events and programs of which Notre Dame students may take advantage.

We propose that, instead of presenting these negative and false views of the relationship between the institutions, The Observer encourage greater community service projects and student interactions. Rather than put into question the integrity of the views portrayed by Jockular.

Felicia Lipari and Megan Werokamp

THE OBSERVER

www.ndsmcobserver.com

THE OBSERVER

The Observer is the independent, daily newspaper published in print and online by the students of the University of Notre Dame of La Belle and Saint Mary's College. Editorial content, including advertisements, is not governed by policies of the administration of either institution. The Observer reserves the right to refuse advertisements based on content. The news is reported as accurately and objectively as possible. Unethical advertisers represent the opinion of the majority of the Editor in Chief, Managing Editor, Associate Managing Editors and editors department. Comments, questions and suggestions are welcomed from the audience, and no one will be threaten.

The Observer Online

 LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Jockular misleading and offensive

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Felicia Lipari and Megan Werokamp
Student Senate not ignoring MAC

As one who served on the 2005-06 Student Senate for the University of Notre Dame, I would like to respond to statements issued in Karen Langley's Wednesday article concerning the amendment to make permanent the ad hoc Senate Committee on Minority Affairs. On Wednesday, March 29, senators voted down an amendment to make permanent the Minority Affairs Committee (MAC), chaired by Lhexa Boyd. By no means was this a move to deny minorities on campus an avenue through which their voices can be heard more clearly. This has been a major focus throughout the course of the administrative year — hence the creation of the committee. It is not something that should be treated like a sheet of notebook paper. Amendments should be written in a fashion that will make them solid as a rock, thus not needing to be edited in the future.

Yes, something does need to be done. Yes, the two committees need to be distinct. But, first and foremost, the line between the committees needs to be clearly drawn, and the amendment presented on March 29 did not adequately do this. Diversity can be extended to many walks of life — social, economic, spiritual, sexual and of course racial, among others. MAC, naturally, should speak to racial and ethnic diversity issues, while Diversity Affairs should address issues of difference based on religion, sexual orientation, the expression of the mind, economic status and the like. Now, I do not know many of the members of the 2006-2007 Student Senate, but I do know Lizzie Shappell and Bill Andrichik. They will see to it that this issue is resolved in the proper fashion. Once this is done, MAC, I believe, will receive its permanent status in the Student Union Constitution. Until this point is reached, no other amendments should go through. The Constitution is not something that should be treated like a sheet of notebook paper. Amendments should be written in a fashion that will make them solid as a rock, thus not needing to be edited in the future.

Lastly, I will speak to a comment made by Minority Affairs Committee member Jason Laws concerning the past senators.

In Langley's article, Laws is quoted as saying, "At the meeting, I just don't know if people had their eyes open," and that "senators would have done well to consider the significance of MAC ... before rejecting it." Personally, I consider this a slap in the face to all who served the entire student body of Notre Dame as senators the past administrative year. Of course, the significance of the committees on campus are important; no one can deny this. MAC has been an invaluable asset to Student Senate, and its importance was duly noted. If its significance were not considered, do you honestly believe the senators would have spent over an hour discussing the amendment? This issue needs to be addressed in the clearest and best way possible to serve the needs of all minorities here at Notre Dame. And it certainly will be as soon as the distinction is made by those in office for the 2006-2007 administrative year. But I find these statements to be both offensive and insulting toward those of us who have worked tirelessly through Student Senate for the student body.

I have the utmost confidence in the new administration to resolve this issue in a fashion that best serves all involved. It may take a week, it may take months, but it will happen. An issue this big will not go by the wayside unnoticed. I hope that Student government will do otherwise in just outrageous ways.

Rob Lindsey, Jr.
Sophomore
Keough Hall
April 6

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Impact appreciated

Concerning the Friday, March 3rd edition of The Observer, "Notre Dame benefactors to be recognized," it provided a wonderful opportunity for those invited to hear the experiences of several students and to consider the significance of the students who have come forward to support our school in our own fashion — however small — and in the realization that we are helping to carry the image of our Lady's school out to the world through the talent and brightest young people in our country. A week has gone by and the memories are vivid in my mind. I was able on Sunday morning to visit with two of the scholars from my hometown. — both from my hometown area of Moline and Davenport. I hope to follow their progress as they go on to life. You students will also have this opportunity to pay back our school. Few things, if anything at all, can be as satisfying.

Bob Eckland
alumnus
Class of 1957
March 10

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U-WIRE

The French: masters of protest

I'm currently studying abroad in Aix-en-Provence, and this brought me in touch with the French public transportation works better than in the United States. The French have a working social democracy, and are in the enviable position of having a 35-hour workweek, not to mention the generous vacation time. The CPE is seen as the first step in dismantling their beloved system.

The system may be on the verge of rupture anyway. Unemployment is high, and many young people believe their generation are going to be poorer than their parents. The big, happy, socialist pie is being stretched too thin, but instead of seeking reform, French students are clinging fearfully to their old ways. The turmoil in France that I've witnessed right now is not just about one law hastily rushed through Parliament. The national dialogue is really about whether France is once again going to be the exception to the rule, or if the Fifth Republic will simply become another cog in the globalized economy.

Of course, this is also a parisan battle at heart. The left wants to undermine the power of de Villepin before the '07 elections. As it stands, both sides are so enraged that I seriously question whether I'll ever go back to the classes I enrolled in the meantime. I can only marvel at how French public transportation works better than ours even when it's on strike and drink pastis.

This column originally appeared in the April 6 edition of the Michigan Daily, the daily publication at the University of Michigan. The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
By SEAN SWEANY

The 2006 Opera Notre Dame production of "Orpheus Goes to Hell" is definitely not your grandmother's opera. Hilarious and irreverent, this satirical romp by 19th century composer Jacques Offenbach pokes fun at Greek mythology, imperial French politics and modern society while entertaining the audience with lively song and dance numbers.

The opera, a yearly event sponsored by the Notre Dame Department of Music and Opera Notre Dame, will take place this weekend 7:30 p.m. both Friday and Saturday night in Washington Hall.

Director and Notre Dame Opera professor Mark Beudert believes the show simultaneously entertain and educate.

"This art form is a collaboration of all the other art forms," Beudert said, who hopes that the opera can provide an experience belittling the liberal arts atmosphere that permeates Notre Dame.

"Orpheus Goes to Hell" retells the classic Greek myth of the legendary singer Orpheus who pursues his wife Eurydice to Hades after she has been taken by Pluto, much to the dismay of Jupiter, king of the gods. Along the journey from Thebes to Mt. Olympus, Hades, many characters from Greek mythology show up to add their own lampoons and satiric comments during the rousing romp.

Offenbach's original version has been rereved several times, which adds many types of humor to the opera that stem from various historical periods. Offenbach himself seems to generate most of the humor, poking fun at the establishments of 19th century France. But there is also more modern humor clearly introduced by the Notre Dame production team.

"We've tried to incorporate a lot of Notre Dame humor, while also making the relationship between Offenbach and Eurydice a "Brad Pitt-Jennifer Aniston thing," Emily Sladok (Eurydice) said.

Modern references like these, along with other humorous allusions to Starbuck's, "Desperate Housewives" and a surprise operatic debut by Notre Dame legend Diggie Phelps help make the opera appealing and entertaining to a wider audience. Eric Petrucci (Orpheus) describes the play as "basically one big ridiculous joke" that audiences should not take as a serious opera. Steven Soebbing (Jupiter) employs these sentiments, describing the opera as a "politi­cal commentary." While his char­acter originally symbolized the derisory Napoleon III, it can also apply to several more contempo­rary political figures.

Sladok, Petrucci and Soebbing are all music majors, a group that makes up the bulk of the large cast and crew. The production of "Orpheus Goes to Hell" gives the music majors a chance to showcase their skills in singing, acting and dancing - a laudable goal which must be promoted and encour­aged as part of the Notre Dame tradition, according to Phelps.

Contact Sean Sweany at sweany@nd.edu

Kurosawa's "Samurai" masterpiece comes to DPAC

By BRIAN DOXTADER

Though it sounds like the stuff of hyperbole, in 1954 Akira Kurosawa made "Shichinin no samurai" ("The Seven Samurai") and cinema was never the same. The undeniably influential film has a great influence on the story, setting and effectiveness, Japanese and Western society because of the size and acoustics of Washington Hall - a full orchestra would drown out the voices of the singers in the small space. In spite of its small size, the orchestra in "Orpheus" has a great influence on the show, Petrucci said at the press conference.

Contact Brian Doxtader at bdootdake@nd.edu
'Narnia' DVDs offer choice

By ERIN MCGINN
Scene Critic

As with all technology, DVDs have managed to both simplify and complicate buying a movie. With the ease and flexibility of producing DVDs, there are numerous possibilities for just a single movie. Take "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe," for example. Two versions — the single disc and the two-disc editions — currently exist, and a third "extended version" will be released later in the year. Which one, if any, should a fan — casual or otherwise — buy?

"The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" is about the four Pevensie children: Peter (William Moseley), Susan (Anna Popplewell), Edmund (Skander Keynes) and Lucy (Georgie Henley). After evacuating London during WWII, they live with an eccentric professor in the country where Lucy discovers a wardrobe which leads to the fantastical world of Narnia. Eventually, they engage in battle with the White Witch (Tilda Swenson), a tyrannical queen who keeps a dark pall over Narnia — it's always winter but never Christmas.

The film is excellent, staying very true to C.S. Lewis' original work. The acting of the four children, especially Henley, is quite endearing and they are all believable in their roles. Neeson's Aslan is a solid performance, and easily steals all of the scenes he's in. Andrew Adamson, best known for helming the two animated "Shrek" films, directed the movie very well, although he clearly suffers from "Lord of the Rings" envy. In an attempt to be epic, Adamson has inadvertently made the battle scenes too disjointed from the narrative, something that Peter Jackson achieved far more fluidly in the "Lord of the Rings" trilogy.

The single-disc version of the DVD contains the theatrical release — the "extra" and deleted scenes will be released only in the future extended version of the film. Its bonus features include two commentaries, one with the director, producer and production designer (very dry, and very technical) and one with Adamson and the four children (highly entertaining). It also has a very short yet entertaining blooper reel. The best feature, however, is the "Discover Narnia Fun Facts," which functions much like VH1's "Pop-Up Video" — while watching the movie, bubbles will appear with short anecdotes, production info, trivia, etc.

The two-disc version has the same first disc as the single-disc release, plus a second disc of exclusive bonus features. There are nine features in total on the disc, ranging from 20 minutes to an hour in length. "Chronicles of a Director" is a look at Andrew Adamson and his making of the movie. "The Children's Magical Journey" contains interviews and background information on the four children. "One Man's Mind" is a biography on C.S. Lewis — sadly, it is quite short and altogether not that informative. "Cinematic Storyboards" goes into the intense detail required to create an entire world. "Creating Creatures" is another fun feature that further details different character designs. "Anatomy of a Scene: Melting River" breaks down the melting river scene from the middle of the movie. "Creatures of the World" is something of a sister feature to "Creating Creatures." This feature is a bit more character-oriented and provides background on how the creatures were detailed within the books. "Explore Narnia" and "Legends in Time" are both interactive features. This version also comes with two pieces of concept art and a foldout map detailing the features on the set.

So which version of "The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe" should fans buy? The single-disc is recommended for casual fans who might not really care about the bonus features. The two-disc is recommended for big fans of the movie who are really interested in the making-of and background information. The truly die-hard might be best suited waiting for the extended edition, but probably can't wait that long, either. The easiest solution for Narnia addicts is to buy the two-disc now and re-gift/re-sell it later when the extended version is released.

Contact Erin McGinn at emcgin@nd.edu
Irish head to Indianapolis for three races against top foes

By FRAN TOLAN
Sports Writer

After an impressive showing at the San Diego Classic last weekend, the Irish will travel to Indianapolis for the Indiana Classic this Saturday and Sunday.

The event, sponsored by Indiana United Airlines, is a battle against one of three tough opponents on Saturday morning, Saturday afternoon, and Sunday morning. Notre Dame will now against Indiana, California and Wisconsin, respectively.

Notre Dame head coach Martin Stone called the Hoosiers an "up-and-coming program." He specified clearly the strength of the Hoosiers' movie tonight.

The Irish also have the opportunity to take on the Golden Bears, a deficit in their first two possessions.

"It was a tough draw for the Celtics, a quick victory in order to finish before a class, "Stone said of the Brown Bears' 6-2 lead.

After falling behind 3-0, the Celtics made three straight before Team 501 was able to answer. Using its superior height and athleticism, the Celtics went on an 8-2 run to end the half.

"We were just out there to have some fun, said Jaredisjake guard Shane Duba, who scored one point.

Duba said his teammates enjoyed themselves during the whole game, despite trailing throughout.

"We aren't in very good condition. We also didn't rebound, pass, or shoot well," Jaredisjake forward Mark Seiler said.

With those ingredients missing, Jaredisjake found it tough to hang around the game. The Maoon team ran out through the half.

Mason, made up of two freshman, two sophomores and a junior, passed throughout the whole game. All five players scored.

"They are a tough group and we were gasping for air by the end of the game," Stone said.

"They are a fast-paced team and we had to fast break to hurt them," Stone said.

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Masters opens with plenty of surprises

Associated Press

AUGUSTA, GA — Vijay Singh was at the top of the Masters leaderboard. No surprise there.

Phil Mickelson was right in the mix. That's to be expected.

Tiger Woods got off to a sluggish start against National Holiday. Sounds about right.

Still, there were plenty of surprises on Day 1: Bocco Mediate and Arron Oberholser were Singh's closest challengers, and Ben Crenshaw — who was talking retirement a day earlier — put himself in contention with a stunning round. Showing no regard for the longer, tougher course, Singh put up a bogey-free, 5-under 67. That gave him a one-shot lead over Mediate on Thursday. Oberholser, a Masters rookie, was another shot back.

"I played pretty decent," Singh said. "I didn't make too many mistakes. I had a lot of chances early on and I putted very well."

Mickelson shot 70, part of a group three strokes off the lead that included two-time U.S. Open champion, Retief Goosen.

Levy said it's much easier to play the Masters now that he's a past champion, having won in 2004 when he captured his first major title. He added the PGA Championship last year.

"It's a different feel. I'm in the head of it off in this tournament. Knowing you've won it," Mickelson said. "I always wanted to win it so bad ... that it was harder to let my swings go, relax and enjoy the game. I feel I can do that now."

Singh and Mediate had something in common. They were the first two players to make birdies on the 11th hole, a tough test that became even harder when Augusta National decided to supersize its course to 7,455 yards — the second-longest in major championship history behind Whistling Straits.

That's where the similarities end.

Singh is a three-time major champion who won the Masters in 2000. Mediate qualified for Augusta based on a sixth-place finish at the U.S. Open last summer. Otherwise, he's been mired in one of the worst slumps of his career, finishing 114th in the money list a year ago — an improvement on his 176th-place showing in 2004.

"I haven't been here in a while," Mediate quipped as he walked into the interview room. "Still the same, though."

In Brief

BC advances to Frozen Four title game

MILWAUKEE — Chris Collins made North Dakota pay for its mistakes, and Boston College's unfazed play helped the Eagles advance to the NCAA Frozen Four title game for the first time since 2001.

Streaking in alone in the second period, Collins got a pass from teammate Beno Ferriero and buried the puck in the back of the net to lead Boston College to a 6-5 victory over North Dakota on Thursday in the semifinals.

"They weren't ready for that," Collins said. "To be skating out across the blue line and Beno Ferriero putting it right on my stick was pretty nice."

Collins scored three goals and the Eagles didn't let North Dakota bully them out of the NCAA tournament like they did last season.

Freshman Anthony Aiello, and Brett Motherwell added goals and Cory Schneider made 36 saves.

Mannings to face off in Sunday opener

INDIANAPOLIS — The Indianapolis Colts will open the season on the road for the seventh straight year, this time against the New York Giants in what is expected to be the first NHL matchup between brothers Peyton and Eli Manning.

"We thought that was coming, and the unfortunate thing is for the other 30 guys that are involved in the game, it'll almost be like they're not there," Colts coach Tony Dungy said Thursday. "That is unfortunate, because there are a lot of other good players on those two teams, but we pretty much know how that one is going to be promoted."

The league released its 2006 schedule on Thursday, and the Sept. 10 opener at the Meadowlands is part of NBC's new Sunday night package.

Indianapolis also is scheduled to play a Sunday night game at New England on Nov. 5 and a Monday night game at home against Cincinnati.

Blake ready to take on Gonzalez in Davis Cup

RANCHO MIRAGE, CA — James Blake gets to go first for the United States and, if the Davis Cup quarterfinals against Chile go the limit, he'll also go last.

Blake, No. 2 on the U.S. team behind Andy Roddick, will face Chile's No. 1 player, Fernando Gonzalez, on Friday in the opening singles match. Roddick will play Nicolas Massu in the second match of the day.

The order of play was determined during Thursday's draw.

"I think this is the first time I've been picked," Blake said of the opening assignment. "It should be fun, and hopefully I'll start us off on a good note."

Blake said he doesn't worry much about anything but his own game, and will stick with that approach for his first match — and if the match is even and he faces Massu in the deciding match Sunday — the finale of the round.

around the dial

PGA

The Masters, 4 p.m., USA

NBA

Dallas Mavericks vs. San Antonio Spurs, 8 p.m., ESPN

LA Lakers at Phoenix, 10:30 p.m., ESPN

USA TODAY/ESPN College Baseball Top 25

No. team record points

1 CS Fullerton 24-7 846
2 South Carolina 26-3 845
3 Florida State 27-4 1770
4 Rice 24-2 1042
5 Missouri State 22-3 741
6 North Carolina 23-0 481
7 Clemson 20-7 690
8 Nebraska 19-5 677
9 Georgia Tech 22-6 500
10 Texas 21-11 546
11 Arkansas 25-6 516
12 Arizona State 22-9 513
13 NC State 25-8 446
14 Oregon St. 19-6 442
15 Alabama 22-9 370
16 Oklahoma 27-3 344
17 Miami (Fla.) 23-10 297
18 Virginia 24-8 285
19 Ohio State 19-13 282
20 Old Dominion 20-3 113
21 Oregon 20-10 102
22 Baylor 19-10 101
23 Vanderbilt 19-9 95
24 Cal St. Fullerton 23-6 84
25 Wake Forest 23-7 82
ND WOMEN’S GOLF

ND starts drive to NCAAs with stop in Virginia

By FRAN TOLAN

Sports Writer

Notre Dame will travel to Harrisonburg, Virginia this weekend to compete in a home-and-home match against James Madison, Saturday and Sunday. "Two of the teams we'll face in the regionals will be James Madison and Virginia," said Notre Dame head coach Debby King said of the event, which will be held at the Lakeview Golf Course in Harrisonburg.

But the Irish will not face any teams from the NCAA Central Region this weekend and are therefore more focused on maintaining a low scoring average than on competing with the field at the James Madison. "We don't get to face any more NCAA Central Region teams so we can't improve our head-to-head ranking," King said after the Dr. Dennis Thompson Invitational in Hawaii March 21-22.

Head-to-head record and overall team scoring average are the two criteria that are used to determine if a team is worthy of an NCAA tournament bid. Notre Dame will begin first round play Saturday without the benefit of a practice round. The team's flight will arrive in Harrisonburg Friday evening, after the other teams have already finished their practice rounds and seen the course.

King said that she has printed out pictures of each hole of the course and distributed them to her players, although she realizes that her team will still be entering the tournament at a disadvantage. "The first round of play will essentially be our practice round," King said.

However, the coach remains confident that her players are well-prepared. "We've been getting good scores in practice all week," she said.

King specifically cited the impressive play of senior co-captain Suzie Hayes, who had shot a 73 during Wednesday's practice. This weekend, as the team enters their final tournament before the Big East Championship, the Irish know that they have little margin for error if they want to attain their third NCAA berth in as many years.

"The NCAA tournament is so prestigious so it would definitely be huge honor to be chosen again," senior co-captain Katie Bregby said. "Hopefully, we can finish strong and get rewarded for it."

Contact Fran Tolan at ftolan@nd.edu

ND SOFTBALL

Team to play four road contests

Squad will travel to Syracuse, Pittsburgh for conference games

By DAN MURPHY

Sports Writer

The Irish will put their undefeated conference record to the test this weekend as they travel to Syracuse and Pittsburgh for a pair of doubleheaders.

The Orange and the Panthers are tied for third in the Big East with an identical 7-1 record.

Notre Dame and South Florida are the only two teams without a loss — both at 4-0 — and remain tied for first. Although it is early in the season, the matchup may have a major impact on where each team ends up in the conference standings.

"They are both on fire right now," Irish coach Deanna Gumpf said. "To have a good week we have to be able to control their hitters."

Both teams have said, "crushing the ball right now." The Orange are poised to continue their rise with two big games this Saturday. On Thursday, the team tied a program record by winning nine of its last 10 games. The one loss was a 7-4 set at the hands of St. John's in the second of two games on March 26.

Syracuse pitcher Alexis Swolko currently leads the Big East with 11 home runs and has a .365 batting average. She was also 2-0 on the mound last weekend, striking out 10 in an 8-1 complete game win over Villanova.

"Swolko was hitting the snout out of the ball," Gumpf said. "She can single-handedly change a game, and we need to give her the respect that she has earned."

The trend will not ease up on Sunday. Pittsburgh (10-1) is also riding an impressive streak, with 10 wins in 11 contests. A victory over Kent State Wednesday gave the Panthers the most wins in the school's history.

Consistent and powerful hitting have helped the team find its way into the record books. Leading the way are leadoff batter Jessica Biggin (1,350 BA) and the power-hitter Lisa Mcgregor, who has homered six times this season.

"We just need to focus on each other and keep ourselves enthusiastic — that's all we can do," designated hitter Jessica Hufnagle said.

Notre Dame, currently 20-11, has also been tearing through its schedule recently. Wednesday's loss to Akron was the first since dropping a 7-4 upset at Illinois on March 19.

"We know we are a good team," Hufnagle said. "We just have to take the Akron game and learn from it, then go out there and get the job done."

Gumpf said the team will get back to basics this weekend and concentrate both on getting good pitches to hit and driving runners home once they get on base. Notre Dame has left 181 runners on base so far this season, averaging just under six per game.

The Syracuse games are scheduled for noon and 2 p.m. Saturday. The Pittsburgh games will take place at noon and 2 p.m. Sunday.

Contact Dan Murphy at dmurphy@nd.edu

TRACK AND FIELD

Twelve Irish runners travel to Miami Invite

By CHRIS HINE

Sports Writer

A dozen members of the Irish track team will trek to the Miami Invitational in Oxford, Ohio this weekend in the hopes of qualifying for, or improving their seeds, in the May 5-7 Big East Championship meet.

"This meet is not a major meet by any means," senior sprinter Ryan Postel said. "But it represents a chance to hit Big East qualifiers for those who haven't done so."

Among those competing are freshman Alyssa Hasan. Already a Big East qualifier in the long jump, she will be competing in that event, plus the shot-put and 100-meter hurdles.

"Hopefully, I'll be able to set some good marks," Hasan said. "I'm hoping for a Big East qualifying time in the 100-meter hurdles."

Other Big East hopefuls include Antonio Rodbel in the 400-meter hurdles on the women's side and Charlie Hilding, whose best time in the men's 200-meter event is only one-hundredth of a second behind the qualifying mark.

Sophomore Bob Kueny has already qualified for the Big East meet. He will compete in the 400-meter hurdles.

"I'm just trying to get a good seed going into the Big East championships," Kueny said.

So far this season, Irish have 29 Big East qualifying scores and five Mideast Regional qualifying marks.

On the schedule next week is the four-day SAC relays starting Wednesday in Walnut, Calif. It is one of the biggest meets in the country, with dozens of high school and universities around the countries sending their top competitors.

As of now, Irish coach Joe Plano said he has not decided who will represent the Irish. Possibilities include Postel for his individual events and the Irish 4 x 400-meter relay team comprised of Postel, Kueny, Jordan Powell and Anjelica Peck.

Contact Chris Hine at chine@nd.edu

WE DON'T DO TRAFFIC REPORTS.

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Squad splits doubleheader with Flying Dutch

By DEIRDRE KRASULA
Sports Writer

The Belles redeemed themselves in the second game of their doubleheader against No. 24 Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association (MIAA) win. The game remained scoreless until the bottom of the third inning when Sarah Meisler singled to drive in the only run of the game. Kristin Amram secured the Belles on the mound, striking out 11.

Saint Mary's coach Erin Sullivan said that after losing the first game, the Belles wanted to turn things around. "We realized that we had the opportunity to win," Sullivan said. "We kept our intensity up."

The Belles (14-6, 3-1 in the MIAA) took the lead in the first game in the top of the third when Bridget Grill scored off an error. The Flying Dutch answered back in the bottom of the third with three runs and never looked back. Jessica Regnerus singled to drive in a run and both Laura Tanouye and Emily Adams tallied sacrifice flies.

Sullivan was pleased with her team's performance in the split. "Even against a really great team, we are just as good," Sullivan said.

The Belles hope they can continue their success when they face defending MIAA champion Alma Saturday. Alma enters the game coming off a split against Defiance. Alma won the first game 4-0 but lost the second 6-5. "Alma has always had strong hitters and a very deep line up," Grill said.

Grill also said that the Belles will look to get ahead early and hold on against Alma. They expect sluggers like Meisler to step up at the plate.

Grill said that everyone will come into Saturday's game with high intensity. "Our players are going to be playing with everything they have," Grill said.

Saint Mary's coach Erin Sullivan was pleased with her team's performance in the split. "We kept our intensity up."

Contact Deirdre Krasula at dkrasula@nd.edu

SMC GOLF

Belles travel to Illinois Wesleyan

Saint Mary's placed second at Normal, Ill. tournament last year

By BECKI DORNER
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's placed second at Normal, Ill. tournament last year. This fall's MIAA League MVP Megan Mattia of Saint Mary's placed seventh individually last year, recording two five over par 77's on the 5842 yard par 72 Ironwood Golf Club course.

The team will look to her for leadership as the highest placing Belles returning to the tournament this year. The Belles will compete without their number three finisher Stefanie Sinneman and sixth place finisher Julia Adams, both of whom graduated from the team last year.

Nonetheless, many of the current Belles are very familiar with success at the Normal, Illinois course. At last year's Spring Fling, Captain Kirsten Fantom carded a final round 85 and earned fifty-second place overall, and Katie O'Brien had a top round.

"We have a positive outlook going into the upcoming tournament; we're familiar with the course and we've played well there in the past," Fantom said.

Mattia agreed. "We have high expectations for this tournament," she said.

The Belles will face a very talented field in Normal. DePauw will return to defend their title and is ranked No. 2 nationally in Division III by the National Golf Coaches Association, and No. 3, just above Saint Mary's, in the Golfstat.com rankings.

Wisconsin Eau-Claire is on the upswing as well, only recording five losses in their fall season that totaled over thirty contests, and Illinois Wesleyan will look to avenge their defeat by the Belles on their home course last year.

Contact Becki Dorner at edorner@nd.edu

SMC SOFTBALL

Friday, April 7, 2006

Second game to win doubleheader against No. 24 Hope after losing the first game 5-2 Wednesday in Holland, Mich.

The Belles redeemed themselves in the second game of their doubleheader against No. 24 Hope after losing the first game 5-2 Wednesday in Holland, Mich. Saint Mary's came back in the second game to win 1-0, capturing its third Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association (MIAA) win. The Belles hope they can continue their success when they face defending MIAA champion Alma Saturday. Alma enters the game coming off a split against Defiance. Alma won the first game 4-0 but lost the second 6-5. "Alma has always had strong hitters and a very deep line up," Grill said.

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Upset

continued from page 24

rules do not allow for a team to replace an injured player, so Craig Fencing played the remainder of the game a man down.

The two teams went back and forth in the first half. Brandon Beck scored inside baskets to give Rule No. 76 a 19-17 lead.

"It was obviously a setback," Craig Fencing captain Gresham Kay said. "There was really nothing we could do about it. We were outscored in the first half and did the best we could."

Martin said Craig Fencing had several players on defense and prevented Rule No. 76 from running away with the game.

"They didn't let us take full advantage of the injury break they played hard," Martin said. "We pushed the ball inside... and it worked out all right."

Kay was proud of the way his team played in the first half, as the two squots went back and forth in first-half play:

"I thought we were playing good basketball," he said. "The main thing was that we played well together and pushed the ball inside."

Martin was proud of his team for knocking off a ranked opponent, no matter the circumstances.

"It's a good feeling," he said. "We weren't intimidated, but we didn't have high hopes coming in here. We had nothing to lose."

Team 265 21, We Got a Bad Draw 13

Team 265 defeated We Got a Bad Draw with physical play in the paint and a height advantage.

"I think that was our plan from the get-go -- to use our height," Team 265 center Phil Rosloniec said. "I was blessed with a physical match-up and I had to use it."

Rosloniec dominated in the paint, scoring four second-half points in the second half.

"I know I couldn't get it done by shooting," he said. "In the paint is where I feel at home. It's my home away from home."

Underseizes, Bad Draw kept the game close early. Joe "Mad Dog" Schenhoff used the game at three on a layup thanks to his own offensive rebound. But Rosloniec continued to dominate the paint, and Team 265 took an 11-6 lead at the half.

"They used their height -- we used our hearts," Bad Draw's Nick "Nicky Z." Zarazua said. "Even when we boxed out, they were able to reach over our heads and get the rebound."

Team 265 took a 15-6 lead after the squads switched ends and Joe "Jay Murphy" Murphy hit a jumper to cut the lead to 12-7. But Rosloniec and his teammates rattled off a 6-3 run to take an 18-10 advantage.

Three minutes later, Bad Draw guard Jimmy "Herbie" Huffin passed to Zarazua and Murphy made a layup to cut the Bad Draw deficit to 18-13, but those were the final baskets the team would score.

"We accept responsibility," Zarazua said. "We could have played better. We gave them credit — they were very athletic."

Rosloniec ended the game with a jumper from the left side.

"We got to play better to win in the next round," he said.

Team 265 next plays April 18 against No. 8-seeded Mean Girls.

Captain Geech and the Shrimp Shack Shooters 21, Team 43 18

Team 43, an all-female team, scored the first point against the Shooters, a mixed squad, but couldn't hold the lead and fell behind 4-1.

Team 43 rallied to be down by just one at the half on the strength of a strong defensive performance, but the Shooters' post offense proved too much for them to handle. The Shooters took over the second half, showing impressive ball movement and securing the win.

"It was a hard-fought battle," the Shooters' Peter Johnson said. "It was looking bleak for a little bit there, but we persevered. It took dedication and years of practice."

Shoot, Don't Dribble 21, Lewis 35W... and Mikey 1

Shoot, Don't Dribble advanced to the third round with a upset-sided victory over Lewis 35W... and Mikey. Shoot, Don't Dribble jumped out to a large lead early, scoring 19 points before 3SW was able to get on the board.

The game became a defensive struggle late, but was ended decisively on a thunderous dunk from Shoot forward Mic Bulser.

"We thrive when there's a struggle," the Shooters' Tim Johnson said. "That was looking bleak for a little bit there, but we persevered. It took dedication and years of practice."

Bruce Flowers All-Stars 21, Moving Staircase 10

This marathon match-up at Mertzian courts featured two teams with unique names.

The All-Stars took their name from team member Thomas Flowers' father, Bruce, who played with Bill Laibnzer on the 1978 Notre Dame varsity basketball team that reached the Final Four and is Notre Dame's career leader in personal fouls with 378.

Moving Staircase took its name from an escalator mishap that caused guard Carrie Orr to miss out on part of her spring break in an emergency room getting stitches.

The two teams battled back and forth in a defensive struggle that lasted for over an hour before the All-Stars came away with a victory. The All-Stars used their height advantage and post presence to pull away at the end.

"We gave it a great effort," Orr said of her team's performance.

The All-Stars were happy to come away with a win after the grueling contest.

"It was a tough battle, but sheer determination brought us to victory," All-Star guard Kevin Johnson said.

The All-Stars also had a message for their next opponent.

"Insurance Waivers better watch their back," they said in a joint statement after the game.

Globo Gym Purple Cobras 21, Drop It Like It's Hoff 0

Drop It Like It's Hoff arrived at the Bookstore courts confident Thursday night. Dressed in white t-shirts and Cobras 21 jerseys, it outscored Globo Gym from across the court during the Purple Cobras warm-up.

Unfortunately for Hoff, Globo Gym let its playing do the talking, en route to a 21-0 victory.

The game started out with both teams missing their first four shots before the Purple Cobras were finally able to find their mark. Globo Gym used its height and athleticism to make an 11-0 run before half time.

Hoff's defense, which consisted of yelling "No man!" at random intervals in addition to keeping and punching the other team, could not slow down Globo Gym's offense.

"We knew we were in for a battle when the abuse started," Purple Cobras forward Ben Kaplan said.

Going into the game, that's what team Hoff wanted to do.

"All I got is defense," Hoff said. "We wanted to keep the other team from doing anything."

In the second half, it was more of the same, as Globo Gym could not be stopped. It used a series of breakaway lay-ups to increase its lead to 17-0 just minutes into the half.

Afer a few more shots by Hoff missed their mark, Globo Gym went on a quick 4-0 run to close out the game.

"It was a learning experience," Hoff forward Jim Riley said. "I just couldn't hit anything today. I think I spend too much time benching in Hoff. We'll be back next year though."

Contact Ken Fowler, Tim Kaiser and Joe Quinn.

The Notre Dame Department of Music and Opera Notre Dame present Jacques Offenbach's operetta work:

La fille deHad stopped her into the arms of BACCHUS!

The Notre Dame Hall presents a scandal of epic proporshon...

"We'll be back next year though."

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The Observer • SPORTS

Friday, April 7, 2006

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Men's Golf

Boilermaker Invite to welcome Irish golfers

By GREG ARBOGAST
Sports Writer

Augusta State, it contains some teams that will force Notre Dame to play very well.

The two-week hiatus was unusual for the team, which has always been ready for that. We'll expect a very close match.

Notre Dame last played in Texas March 25 and 26, losing a 6-1 match at Texas and a 5-1 decision at Texas A&M.

Before the road trip, the Irish had played in the finals of the Blue-Gray National Classic, losing 4-2 to Virginia Commonwealth University to take first runner-up in the tournament and ending an 11-match winning streak.

The two-week hiatus was unusual for the team, which has played multiple matches most weeks since the season started.

However, the time off was good for resting up and regaining long-term focus.

At the beginning of the season we had a tough set of matches — we had trouble closing out matches," Buchanan said. "I think that's really made us a bit tougher.

The Irish is particularly deep in singles, with junior Stephen Bass, sophomore Sheena Parbhoo, freshman Brett Helgeson and junior Ryan Keckley in the top four in the singles lineup.

"I hope there's a sense of urgency that we have to max our matches at the end of the year," Bayliss said. "Certainly the seniors want to go out on a strong note and we want that for them.

Contact Kate Gales at kgales@nd.edu

Contact Greg Arbogast at garbogas@nd.edu

Irish sophomore Andrew Roth returns a shot during a Feb. 15 match against Michigan State.

Men's Golf

Boilermaker Invite to welcome Irish golfers

By GREG ARBOGAST
Sports Writer

After finishing 11th in the Augustana State Invitational in Augusta, Ga., Notre Dame will return to the Midwest to take part in the Boilermaker Invitational Saturday and Sunday in West Lafayette, Ind.

The Irish will look to improve upon their performance last week at the Invitational. Although that tournament had a particularly strong field — featuring seven top-30 teams — Notre Dame is not using that as an excuse for last weekend’s result.

“We weren’t happy at all with our performance last weekend,” Josh Sandman, Irish golfer

“We weren’t happy at all with our performance last weekend,” freshmen Josh Sandman said. “We went in with a game plan, but we didn’t execute it.”

Despite failing to put together a complete performance so far this spring, the Irish head into this weekend’s match with high expectations.

“We’re looking for things to turn around this weekend,” Sandman said. “Anything less than a first or second-place finish will be a disappointment for us.”

While the field at the Boilermaker Invitational may not be as strong as the one at Alzheimer's Day: Is your state ready?

Alzheimer's Day: Is your state ready?

Recycle the Observer.

2005-06 MAINSTAGE SEASON

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Informational Session

Monday, April 10

7:00 PM

Recker’s Hospitality Room

South Dining Hall

Refreshments Served.
Butler continued from page 24

Notre Dame finished its non-conference slate with a 6-2 mark — including losses to No. 2 Hofstra and No. 3 Cornell and victories over then-No. 14 Penn State and then-No. 20 North Carolina. They now stare down the Bulldogs in the first test of a four-game road trip of conference foes that will shape their postseason future.

If the Irish emerge unblemished they will be playing for an automatic NCAA tournament berth in the field of 16 when they return home to finish their season against Ohio State and Quinnipiac.

“ar the beginning of the season we were really concerned about this point in the season when we start league play,” Peters said. “We’ve taken our league for granted a little bit the past couple of years. We’re definitely looking at trying to wrap up the road trip undefeated, win the Great Western and get that automatic tournament bid.”

The Irish dominated Butler 22-6 at Moose Krause Stadium last year, outshooting them 68-24 and picking up twice as many groundballs as the Bulldogs.

“ar’s season is different than last year’s edition, as Irish coach Kevin Corrigan throughout the year has criticized the team’s inability to capitalize on scoring opportunities — including last Sunday’s 8-7 win over Dartmouth.

The 2006 Irish hold a .525 shooting percentage and an 8.12 scoring average compared to .390 and 11.91 a year ago. Though Notre Dame has also held opponents to 6.75 goals per game (down one and a half goals from a year ago), against Butler they hope to regain the offensive form of last season — during which they were out opposing nets with the fourth highest scoring offense in the country.

Senior attack Matt Karweck had a monster day against the Bulldogs last year, tallying five goals and three assists. He enters Saturday’s game with 11 goals on the year — second on the team behind senior attack Brian Heeschnmann, who has 16.

Senior All-American Pat Walsh collected three scores and distributed three assists in last year’s win. Walsh comes into Saturday’s game after being named GWLL Player of the Week — the second such distinction of his career — for his two goals and six assists in last week’s wins over Brown (11-5) and Dartmouth.

Peters said the team’s chief concern this Saturday against Butler is to be the best team in the GWLL.

“It’s our first game in league play,” Peters said. “Every game in the league is very hard, so we expect them to come out very hard. We’re ready to play a tough team.”

Contact Tim Dougherty at
timothy.mdougherty@nd.edu

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Applications will be accepted through May 19.

Finale continued from page 24

some now stands at 18-1 in
dual action this season.

The only loss in doubles came from the No. 39 duo of sophomore Brook Buck and freshman Keiley Tefft at No. 2. The pairing was upset by Alexis Conill and Georgia Rose 8-5.

“Doubles has really best one of our strengths (all season),” junior Catrina Thompson said. “We are hoping it’ll take us far as we finish out the season at the Big East (Tournament) and the NCAA (Tournament).”

In singles, the Irish found wins in the middle of their lineup to capture the victory early on.

The most impressive win came from Buck, who upset No. 24 Alexis Pronuts 6-3, 6-3 at No. 3. Her win was followed by Tefft at No. 4 over Jamie Peisel 6-1, 6-1. Tefft now holds a 14-4 record in duals matches. The final win came from Stasny at No. 5 who downed Esseghir 6-2, 6-0.

“It was definitely a hard fought win,” Tefft said. “We are hoping that we can take the momentum (from this win) to close out the season.”

Although Notre Dame has demonstrated their full potential this season, the Irish will encounter a DePaul program that has made an impressive debut in the Big East Conference this season. The Blue Demons are coming off a 3-4 victory over Syracuse last Saturday.

Their team is led by Beatrix Conill at No. 1 and Gergana Genove at No. 2.

Attention Men:
Yes, Saint Mary’s is a
women’s college.
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session is open
to you, too!

Freshman Katie Potts returns the ball with a backhand during a 6-1 victory over Wisconsin Feb. 26.

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South Florida right-hander Casey Hudson squares off against Samardzija in the opener at 7 p.m. Friday. Hudson is 3-3 in eight appearances with a 3.99 ERA this season. He has 57 strikeouts in 49.2 innings while holding opposing hitters to a .250 batting average.

"He's got a good arm and a good curve ball," Mainieri said. "We've got a great challenge against him."

Samardzija enters the weekend with a 3-1 record and a 3.36 ERA in six starts.

Notre Dame 11-8, 5-1 Big East topped Ball State 6-4 Wednesday to extend its winning streak to nine. Irish second baseman Russ Bresovsky hit a two-run homer in the seventh to give Notre Dame the lead for good.

"If our guys pitch as we can, I think we're looking at three real good pitching matchups," he said in a telephone interview with The Observer on Thursday. "I shudder when I look at the numbers.

Thornton, Samardzija and Manship have.

South Florida's season has been marked by streakiness. After winning just four of their first 13 games, the Bulls went 10-3 to climb to 14-12 on the season before facing Florida March 20. USF lost 6-5 in Gainesville, Fla., and then was swept by Cincinnati the next weekend. With a 13-14 loss to Central Florida Wednesday, the Bulls extended their losing streak to five.

"We just kind of hit the skids a little bit, ran into some tough luck," Cardieri said. "We just hope that we can turn it around.

Despite South Florida's recent troubles, Mainieri said he is not taking the Bulls lightly.

"We're not really concerning ourselves that much with how South Florida is playing," he said. "We need to be clicking on all cylinders. This will be as challenging a series as we have all year.

Notre Dame outfielder Danny Dressman leads the Irish attack at the plate with a .483 batting average and .491 slugging percentage. Mainieri said Dressman began the season as Notre Dame's No. 4 or No. 5 outfielder, but acknowledged that Dressman "keeps forcing me to play him with how well he's been playing."

First baseman Craig Cooper will most likely bat first for Notre Dame in all three games. He has reached base to lead off the first 14 of his 18 starts in the No. 3 hole.

South Florida sophomore righty Daniel Thomas will start game two against Thornton. Thomas is only 1.2 on the season but owns a 3.77 ERA. Thornton is 4-1 in six starts with a 3.02 ERA in 41.2 innings.

Cardieri will send sophomore left-hander Davis Bilardello to the mound Sunday to oppose Manship for game three. Bilardello has started in seven of his nine appearances and has a 1.31 record. He has struck out 31 batters in 44.2 innings with a 3.83 ERA.

Manship enters as Notre Dame's top starter on the season with a 2.12 ERA. He has fanned 30 in 38 innings, holding opposing hitters to a .199 batting average.

"We know and respect Notre Dame's program and what they've done," Cardieri said. "But this league has so much parity, anybody can beat anybody.

The games will begin at 7 p.m. Friday, 1 p.m. Saturday and noon Sunday.

Contact Ken Fowler at kfowler1@nd.edu

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**A concert of Indian Classical Music featuring Tejendra Narayan Majumdar-Sarod**

Vogesh Shamsi-Tabla

Auditorium, Newbury Center for International Studies

University of Notre Dame

Friday, April 7, 2006

7:00 p.m.

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DSMMS Faculty: $5

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ISL 1910 09 07 Beginning Irish I TR 9:30-10:45 Prof. O'Conchubhair

ISL 1910 01 Intermediate Irish I TR 9:30-10:45 Prof. O'Conchubhair

ISL 1910 07 Intermediate Irish I TR 9:30-10:45 Prof. O'Conchubhair

ISL 1910 05 01 Advanced Readings in Irish Culture TR 9:30-10:45 Prof. O'Conchubhair

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**Literature Courses, Fall 2006**

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**For further information, contact 422 Hesner Hall 610-237-9040**

**A special concert by Irish country music singer/songwriter Joe McQuillan**

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The Observer apologizes for Jockular’s absence from today’s edition.

The Observer

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The Observer • TODAY

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HOROSCOPE

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Candida Cameron Butt, 30; Ari Meyers, 37; Markie Post, 56; Maria Haggard, 49.

Happy Birthday: It’s time to size down and rid yourself of what doesn’t fit. The same goes for acquaintances, hangups and people who are just too much work. Once you clear yourself of all these, it will be time to flex. A new direction or something of what you’re doing should be your next move. Your numbers are 12, 17, 22, 37, 42.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You’ll know how to please others today. Any investments you have with younger people will be rewarding. Suddenly changes will be to your benefit and not: click the right inevitable. Money matters can be resolved.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You may find yourself in a tight spot if you disagree with people you have a loyalty to. Changes may be required to satisfy everyone involved. Don’t be stubborn if someone has a good suggestion.★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You will be interactive and open to getting to the bottom of things. Traveling about and visiting friends or relatives will give you a better understanding of your options. Expect to receive something special from someone you respect.★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You are likely to misplace something you value today if you aren’t careful. Don’t believe everything you hear. A romantic encounter is apparent, so be sure to make plans for two.★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You’re dramatic in your personal actions today. Try to cash in too much of a drama or you may end up with the short end of the stick. Taking on too much or overeating it may be any way only end up complicating your life even more.★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Get any dealings with institutions out of the way as quickly as possible. Avoid making a big deal out of something that really isn’t that important. Visit someone who has not been well. Do not overemphasize, even if someone is presently feeling low.★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Your life is changing, so roll with the punches. A new understanding may be questioned about your past and your plans for the future. You may be questioned about your past and your plans for the future.★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Your life is changing, so roll with the punches. A new understanding may be questioned about your past and your plans for the future.★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You may be pulled in several different directions. Money can be made if you invest wisely but aren’t automatically own money to a side that you are responsible for will want your help. Do your best to deal with both.★★★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You can make some career moves today that will satisfy your needs. Don’t be afraid to step out on a limb. Much can be accomplished if you are straightforward in your dealings.★★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Emotional matters may be your focus. Asmering emotions about your future. You may be questioned about your past and your plans for the future. Even if you don’t know the answers, go through the process. It will help you get your facts straight.★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Ideas will develop if you get out and socialize with colleagues. Don’t let problems at home stop you from networking. A networking deal is present. You may want to get involved.★★★★

Birthday Baby: You are clever and quick to change your mind. You are a visionary, open-minded person and one of the first to try new things. You gravitate toward the unusual, are unique and very entertaining.

ND WOMEN’S TENNIS

Blue and gold foes

No. 2 Notre Dame to challenge DePaul and Marquette in last two regular-season matches

By DAN TAPETILLO
Sports Writer

This weekend, the No. 2 Irish face two challenges at home beginning with No. 73 regional rival DePaul today at 3:30 p.m. and Marquette Sunday at noon at the Courtney Tennis Center.

Notre Dame enters the matches after narrowly defeating No. 9 Northwestern 4-3 last Wednesday. In doubles, the Irish trailed early but won two of the three matches to get out to an early 1-0 lead against the Wildcats. The No. 4 duo of juniors Christian and Carina Thompson downed Northwestern’s Freisel Essighoff and Alexis Prousis 8-4 at No. 1.

The second win came from seniors Lauren Connelly and Kiki Stasly who topped Nazlie Ghazal and Jamie Peisel 8-5 at No. 3. The two-

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BOOKSTORE BASKETBALL XXXV

Rule No. 76 exploits injury, upsets No. 26

By KATE GALES
Associate Sports Editor

Notre Dame returns to action after a two-week layoff and hopes to preserve its flawless home record against Southern Methodist Sunday at 1 p.m. The No. 18 Irish are 6-0 at home this spring and host No. 60 SMU in their penultimate match of the season.

"We lost last year at SMU so we’re just looking to take it one match at a time and win out the rest of the season," Irish senior captain Patrick Buchanan said. Southern Methodist has been a close match for Notre Dame in the past.

"The tradition in this series — we’ve lost at SMU and beaten them here," Notre Dame coach Bobby Bayliss said. "The matches have all been good. Two years ago we beat them here but we won every three-set match and I think that’s what it’s going to take this year."

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BASEBALL

Big three to invade Florida

By KEN FOWLER
Sports Editor

Notre Dame will bring its nine-game winning streak to Tampa this weekend for a three-game series against Big East newcomer South Florida.

Irish head coach Paul Mainieri will send his "big three" to the mound for the set, with junior right-hander Jeff Samardzija starting Saturday, senior southpaw Tom Prowis and frosh Tommy Thornton throwing Saturday.

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MEN’S LACROSSE

No. 8 Irish prepare to face Butler

By TIM DOUGHERTY
Sports Writer

The No. 8 Notre Dame men will take their highest ranking of the year to Indianapolis to face off against Butler in the Great Western Lacrosse League opener for both teams.

The Bulldogs (3-6) have struggled, but they host the Irish carrying their strongest momentum of the season after two straight 8-7 wins against Robert Morris and Bellarmine.

Butler’s defense has improved after allowing 20 goals against No. 12 Duke Feb. 18 and 16 goals against No. 14 Towson March 15. The Bulldogs limited No. 6 Princeton to nine goals and No. 16 Delaware to seven goals in two closely contested losses, winning both straight for the first time this year.

"When we watch film on them they look very good," Irish midfielder Drew Peters said. "Both offensively and defensively, they’re a solid team. We want to get this win to get a jump start going into league play."

The Irish are 12-1 all-time against Butler and 11-1 in GWLL openers. Overall, Notre Dame is 44-7 in 12 GWLL seasons, including nine league titles.

Last season the Irish went 3-2 against Butler in the only year in which they lost more than one game and missed the NCAA tournament by one spot.