Play faces constant changes at ND

By EILEEN DUFFY
Assistant News Editor

As this year's production of "The Vagina Monologues" - which is being staged off campus for the first time in the event's six-year history at Notre Dame - draws to a close, it's unclear how the performance will play out next year.

This year marked the second year the College V-Day Campaign made an exception for Notre Dame.

For the more than 600 American colleges and universities performing Eva Ensler's "The Vagina Monologues" as part of the Campaign, two requirements are asked: that the play be performed on campus, and that proceeds from ticket sales go to local charities. Notre Dame's production had followed these two guidelines and was even one of the leading schools in its fundraising efforts, according to V-Day's Media and Communications Director, Susan Swan - until last year.

Following last spring's controversial academic freedom and Catholic character at Notre Dame, University President Father John Jenkins determined the "Monologues" deserved a place on campus, but solely as an academic event. He said the play could be performed in an academic setting - for example, a classroom - if it is refrained from selling tickets.

Swan said V-Day made an exception last year and allowed students to perform the play without charging the admission because the organizers

see PLAY/page 6

Saint Mary's chooses 2007-08 class boards

By MANDI STRIONE
News Writer

After the Saint Mary's class elections experienced multiple delays due to technical difficulties, the votes were cast Wednesday and Thursday as announced Thursday.

Sophomore Jenny Antonelli, Taryn Palst, Jessica Kuasak and Katie Putz will lead the Class of 2009, the only class with more than one ticket running. Antonelli and Palst picked up 58.6 percent of the votes.

The Schmidt-Lakusta ticket, led by sophomore Sarah Oass, received 40.5 percent of votes.

The Class of 2010 will be led by freshmen Camille Gebert, Emily Young, Jennie Haist and Caitlin O'Brien, who received 72 percent of their peers' votes. Juniors Colleen Kielty, Erin Hogan, Elizabeth Bush and Shawn Reddington, who received 68.2 percent of the vote, will lead the senior class next year.

A full 31.8 percent of juniors voted "abstain," however. Among freshmen, 28 percent of students voted abstain. However, the two-ticket sophomore race saw just 9.9 percent of the class choose the abstain option.

All the winning tickets expressed their happiness with the high degree of student participation in this year's elections as well as their anticipation for the coming year.

"We are very excited to be able to represent and serve our junior class," said Antonelli, the new junior class president. "We're looking forward to planning events and activities that will only benefit the junior class but also the rest of the students."

Putz, the new junior class secretary, echoed Antonelli's words and said the technical difficulties that delayed the elections two days weren't as discouraging as Saint Mary's students may have initially thought.

"I'm really excited about it," Putz said. "It's going to be a lot of fun year next year. Even though there were delays in voting it allowed us to work together as an executive board and showed us that we can work with the Class of 2009 when unexpected situations arise."

The rest of Antonelli's cabinet also shared this enthusiasm and confidence as they prepared to settle into their new roles.

"We're looking forward to working hard again," said Antonelli.

The rest of Antonelli's cabinet are very excited to be able to work with the junior class, junior class vice president and 2008-09 class president.

"I think that our entire ticket was very excited to get the opportunity to work for our class," said Palst, the new junior class vice president. "I'm very happy that all hard work paid off."

We'd like to bring our class closer together and create more class unity next year."

Even the other ticket running for junior board said they enjoyed the race.

see ELECTIONS/page 4

Class council elections decided

Schmidt-Lakusta ticket to lead Class of 2010 in sophomore year

By EVA BINDA
News Writer

The Class of 2010 voted Thursday in a run-off election between two tickets competing for the class council and elected freshman Grant Schmidt to be the next sophomore class president.

The Schmidt-Lakusta-Kyrourac-Huang ticket won 576 - or 56.3 percent - of the electorate's votes. The competing ticket, Mathews-Adult-McDonald-Rose, fell short with 385 votes, or 37.6 percent of the votes. The remaining six percent of the voters abstained.

Judicial Council president Liz Kozlow was pleased with voter turnout among the freshman class, which was "comparable to the primary election."

see SCHMIDT/page 6

Mooney kicks off SMC diversity conference

By MAGGIE DUNN
News Writer

College President Carol Ann Mooney helped kick off the Student Diversity Board's (SDB) second annual Diverse Students' Leadership Conference (DSLC) Thursday night with an address outlining her vision for diversity at Saint Mary's and the challenges students will have to face before it becomes a reality.

"When I became president three years ago," Mooney said, "I knew that diversity was one of the areas I wanted to address immediately."

She said she wanted to tackle the theme for four basic reasons, including the fact that diversity is absolutely necessary to the academic excellence which Saint Mary's is committed to.

Mooney said diversity is academically important because it gives way to a variety of viewpoints in the classroom and everyday discussions, and it helps each of us grow to a better understanding of ourselves and of our world.

Her second reason for trying to lead Saint Mary's in the direction of ethnic diversity, she said, is that it's the right thing to do.

"Saint Mary's as a Catholic institution is committed to social justice.

see MOONEY/page 4

Students question new rule

College defends on campus requirement

By KELLY MEEHAN and KATIE KOHLER
News Writers

Last week's announcement that Saint Mary's would institute a six-semester residency requirement for all students beginning with the Class of 2011 has left the campus community questioning the College's decision.

Vice President of Student Affairs Karen Johnson told the Board of Governance on February 20 the decision was made after several meetings of the President's cabinet - an advisory council of high-ranking members of the administration, including College President Carol Ann Mooney and Acting Vice President Bill White.

Johnson told The Observer Thursday the decision is "a clarification of the residency requirement and led consistent with the mission statement of the College."

While according to the Saint Mary's Web site, 81 percent of the College's 1,500 students currently live on campus, Johnson said the new requirement would further enhance the "residential" objectives outlined in the College's mission statement, which says "Saint Mary's College is a Catholic, residential, women's college in the liberal arts tradition."

Johnson also pointed to "a large body of national research that shows that those who live on campus are more engaged in academic..."
**INSIDE COLUMN**

I'll miss it

I'll miss college. Whether or not I am next year, I won't have season football tickets, I won't spend Friday nights at The Backer and I won't get away with sleeping until 11 a.m. on a Wednesday. But of everything about my four years at Notre Dame, the thing I'll miss most ends today, when I turn over the reins of The Observer.

For me, college was this paper. It's where I learned to write, where I learned to ask questions and where I learned that spending hours in the office is all worth it when you see the finished product.

It's gratifying to walk through Stanford Hall and see an interhall story I wrote taped on someone's door, or see a kid reading my football predictions on a sunny autumn Friday.

It's exciting to have your work — good or bad — distributed to thousands of people every week. It's amazing when dozens of people sacrifice to get that story — and so many others — into print.

From our secretaries office mailroom to the cash register in the courteous, to our driver Jack, to the students who work every night, nothing could have happened over the last 12 months without their dedication.

I never thought I'd be in charge of these 200 or so kids that work at The Observer when I came to Notre Dame. The reason I walked over to South Dining Hall and laid out a few pages during the spring of 1994 was simple — I wanted to get in the press box. I didn't care about the paper itself. I just wanted to weasele my way onto the Notre Dame football beat and follow the team whose logo peppered the margins of my seventh grade math notebook.

But after four years at The Observer, I leave with much more than memories of Michigan Stadium's press box and its unceremonious half-time spread. I've stayed up all night listening to the Swordfishtuna, my best friends, all the while editing articles about student government, business lectures, and Board of Trustees meetings. I've walked into the office at 10 a.m. and heard angry woamnals about a comic strip. I've spent Sunday afternoons critiquing story budgets.

And I don't regret one thing. One of the most satisfying parts of my job was being able to read the occasional e-mail from some guy from the Class of '79 who wants to know how The Observer has changed since he was there. I have no idea if the Big Red will be any good, but I do know that The Observer connects Notre Dame, Saint Mary's and everyone who cares about our school.

It's the medium where our opinions are voiced, our thoughts are heard and our stories are told. That's why it matters. And that's why I'll miss it.

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Mike Gilloon at mgilloon@nd.edu

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**QUESTION OF THE DAY:** What T.V. show do you watch every week?

Jonathan Lee  
freshman  
Keenan

Jean Nguyen  
junior  
McGillin

Claire Maulit  
junior  
Welsh Family

Sharon Lam  
sophomore  
Pasquerella East

Addick Anderson  
freshman  
Stanford

*My own secret T.V. show.*

"College Gameday — how that count as a T.V. show? Because it should."

"Naruto."

"Everyday Italian on the Food Network."

"If only the Spectre were more straight up T.V., I'd never come to class."

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**OFFBEAT**

Italian teacher allegedly cuts boy’s tongue

ROME — A novice teacher in Milan is under criminal investigation for allegedly using scissors to cut the tongue of a second-grader for talking in class, Italian news agencies said Thursday. The 7-year-old boy, who has not been publicly identified, needed six stitches in his tongue from the Feb. 20 incident, a lawyer for the child’s parents, a Tunisian couple.

The teacher, 22, was being investigated for suspected voluntary harm of the boy, the ANSA news agency said.

The office of Milan prosecutor Marco Ghezzi said he wasn’t there and couldn’t give any information about the investigation.

Porriani told The Associated Press by telephone from Milan that the teacher has been suspended from his state school while the incident is investigated.

U-Haul full of dogs and cats seized

GARIBALDI, Calif. — A woman found driving a U-Haul truck with 33 cats and three dogs inside claimed she was rescuing the animals.

The Humboldt County Sheriff’s Department found the animals living in an inhumane environment after serving a warrant Wednesday to search the truck following complaints about the condition the pets were living in.

A veterinarian determined the overall health of the animals was good, but most needed some sort of medical treatment. Four of the cats were in late-term pregnancy.

Charges against the woman, who was not immediately identified, were being sought through the district attorney’s office.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

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**IN BRIEF**

The Mendoza School of Business will host the lecture "Climate Change, an Uncertain Future" today at 10:40 a.m. in the Jordan Auditorium. Patrick Minnis from the NASA Langley Research Center will speak about global warming as part of the Ten Years Hence Lecture Series.

Stations of the Cross will be held at 7:15 tonight in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart. Stations will continue every Friday evening during Lent.

The Department of Film, Television and Theatre presents Agatha Christie’s "The Mousetrap" on the Decio Mainstage Theatre at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center at 7:30 tonight. The show will continue until Sunday. Evening performances are at 7:30 and the Sunday matinee is at 2:30 p.m. Ticket prices are $12 for the general public, $9 for senior citizens, ND faculty and staff and $8 for students.

The Notre Dame Symphony Orchestra will perform tonight at 8 p.m. in the Leighton Concert, DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. Ticket are $8 for the general public, $5 for faculty and staff, $4 for seniors and $3 for students.

Finals for Bengal Bouts will be held Saturday at 8 p.m. in the Joyce Center Arena. Proceeds will go to the Holy Cross Missions in Bangladesh.

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

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**CORRECTIONS**

The article mentioned that The Observer inaccurately reported on a T.V. show that was not a T.V. show. The Observer regrets the error.

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**LOCAL WEATHER**

**TODAY**

HIGH 35
LOW 23

**TONIGHT**

HIGH 30
LOW 18

**SATURDAY**

HIGH 22
LOW 20

**SUNDAY**

HIGH 40
LOW 30

**MONDAY**

HIGH 40
LOW 35

**TUESDAY**

HIGH 40
LOW 40

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**TODAY**

McIntosh to speak at diversity conference

By MANDI STRIONE
News Writer

Peggy McIntosh, associate director of Wellesley College's Center for Women, will deliver two different lectures Saturday before the Diverse Students' Leadership Conference at Saint Mary's drawings in an end, tackling questions of racial dialogue and white supremacy.

Kim Hodges, student body president-elect, vice president of the Student Diversity Board and chair of the Diverse Students' Leadership Conference, said organizers chose McIntosh because she "really exemplifies what it means to be culturally competent."

McIntosh is very personable and willing to work with students, Hodges said, and her talks will help propel the conference toward its goal of "trying to supply people with the tools to operate in the real world after college."

McIntosh has taught at colleges and universities across the country, as well as at Durham University in England, according to Wellesley's Web site. She is the co-director and founder of the Identity, National Equity and Diversity (SEED) Project, an initiative that strives to help teachers provide their students with a more culturally balanced curriculum.

McIntosh is also the co-founder of the Rocky Mountain Woman's Institute, a consulting editor to Sage: A Scholarly Journal on Black Women and has received the Klingenstein Award for Distinguished Educational Leadership from Columbia Teacher's College, according to the SEED Web site.

Hodges said she hoped McIntosh would instill some of her expertise and social consciousness in the minds of Saint Mary's students.

"It's really important to notice the skin you live in and the difference between you and someone who is nothing like you," Hodges said. "I have a dream about the way campus should be, how it should look, and how students should be educated. I'm proud to be a Saint Mary's woman."

McIntosh will speak at the Carroll Auditorium Saturday. She will start at 1:30 p.m. with a talk entitled "Deriving Racial Understanding From Our Own Experiences," and then she will deliver the conference's keynote address, "How I Came to See I Had White Privilege Until What I'm Learning I Can Do With It," at 4:15 p.m.

Contact Mandi Strione at astiro1@smain.edu

Rens to participate in city summit

By KATHLEEN MCDONELL
News Writer

Members of Notre Dame's student government will drive to downtown South Bend today to discuss community relations with student representatives from four other institutions, Hodges said.

The conference is the first of its kind, bringing together more than 40 confirmed participants who have never had an opportunity to meet in a single venue, student body president Lizzi Shappell said.

Shappell said she hopes the event will lead to more positive discussions and strikes that could change the reactive relationship between students and community members to a proactive one.

"Coming in the last month of my administration, I'm pleased to leave this," Shappell said. "I'm hoping it builds momentum for the future of community relations. It is to see less of a relationship of tension and focus more on building and strengthening ties."

Like Shappell, Senate Community Relations committee chair and event coordinator Josh Pasquesi said he hopes today's summit spurrs changes in the University's approach toward the community — which is currently focuses solely on protection of student interests, he said.

The creation of the Community Relations committee two years ago, Pasquesi said, stemmed from student leaders' concerns regarding the effects of the city's amended dis­orderly house ordinance on students residing off campus.

This year, he said, the Notre Dame representatives were seeking dialogue unselfishly. "We have more with no issue or agenda," Pasquesi said. "That is just to build relationships — it's not because of a law we don't like."

The Notre Dame delegation will include a few members from the current administration, including Shappell, vice president Bill Andruchik and Pasquesi — and members from the recently elected administration, including next year's student body president Liz Brown and chief executive assistant Sheena Plamootil. Representatives from student governments at Saint Mary's, Holy Cross, Indiana University South Bend and Bethel College will also attend the summit.

The dialogue — which will include small break out sessions, a large group discussion and a networking lunch — is scheduled to address four areas of discussion, Shappell said.

Building on last fall's successful freshman tour of South Bend, one subject for brainstorming will be how to better present the city to newly arrived freshmen, as well as ways in which this initial introduction could potentially improve student attitudes toward the community.

The conference will also continue to develop the concept of a good neighbor and member of the community, instead of a temporary resident. It will also try to generate ideas to improve general communication between local communities and universities.

The focus will deal with increasing student involvement in the community beyond the traditional community service aspects to show students what else South Bend has to offer.

"We're here with no issue or agenda," Pasquesi said, "that South Bend is just a good place to go tutor kids in impoverished schools."

Instead, the spotlight will be on the possibilities of increasing student involvement in internships and professional opportunities.

The response from the community has been "very positive," Pasquesi said. The number of people slated to attend is higher than he initially anticipated.

Representatives from the mayor's office in South Bend and Mishawaka, the community development office of the city of Mishawaka, the South Bend Common Council and the South Bend Legal Department will be present.

Miki Dobki Shiffrin, director of communications and special projects for the mayor's office of South Bend, said she wants to show students that there is more to the area than Grape Bowl.

Her goals for the discussion include promoting better community relations and asking college students about actions they can take to help become engaged in the community more easily.

A number of representatives from Young People Against Poverty — a group of professionals in South Bend who will add the perspective of socially conscious business professionals to the table — will also attend.

"We think they'll make a bridge between the college students and more traditional leaders," Shappell said.

Contact Kathleen McDonnell at kmcdonn@nd.edu

Attention Seniors!

Notre Dame's Office of Undergraduate Admissions anticipates hiring Admissions Counselors this spring!

As part of the Undergraduate Admissions staff, the counselor is expected to make an important contribution to the recruitment and selection of the first-year class by managing relations with the prospective applicants, their parents, high school personnel and alumni in an assigned geographic area.

Responsibilities include extensive planning, travel and communication within the geographic area, assessment and evaluation of applications and conducting group/individual information sessions on campus.

Among our candidates, we will seek a Latino Recruitment Coordinator (Fluency in Spanish will be strongly preferred) and the Asian Recruitment Coordinator (Fluency in Mandarin will be strongly preferred).

We will also seek an Additional responsibilities will be assigned by the Assistant Provost for Enrollment.

Candidates should possess a bachelor's degree and strong familiarity with all aspects of student life at Notre Dame.

Essential qualities include strong communication and organizational skills, enthusiasm, diplomacy and the willingness to work long hours, including many evenings and Saturday mornings.

Please Note: Interviews will not be held until late March.

Preferred start date is July 1, 2007.

Please complete the on-line application at http://jobs.nd.edu to be considered. Requisition # 020070065
Elections
continued from page 1

"I think that the other ticket worked extremely hard and they did a great job and they really deserve it," said Voos, who was running for junior class president. Her running mate, sophomore Sarah Dalton, declined to comment Thursday.

The freshman ticket, however, openly celebrated its victory. Gebert, next year's sophomore class president, said she looked forward to collaborating with her running mate and peers.

"I'm really excited to be leading our class next year," Gebert said. "We have a bunch of new ideas to bring the Class of 2010 closer together and a bunch of new things to bring to campus, and I'm just looking forward to starting the year off with getting everyone involved."

The rising sophomores said they will work to increase student involvement in campus activities.

"What I'm looking forward to most is more class participation from everyone and more exciting events and stuff like that," said Gebert, Hirsh's running mate. Similarly, the new senior class officers said they were ready for a fun year to end their time at Saint Mary's.

The elections went smoothly and the four of us are excited for another year, for plans we are putting together plans for Senior Days Weekend, Senior Week and several other events to take place next year," said Bush, the next senior class secretary.

Contact Mandi Siroene at astiro01@stmarys.edu

Mooney
continued from page 1

"It's a good way for us to be more involved and help advance the diversity at Saint Mary's."

Mooney said the College is always looking for a coordinator for multicultural recruitment, whose job "will be the coordination of our various efforts, bringing greater diversity to our student body, making sure we are working as effectively and efficiently as possible."

In line with Mooney's goals for diversity on campus, the Board of Trustees met last week and gave the College approval to move forward with its attempt to become a Posse Partner school.

She said the Posse Partner Foundation, which was founded in 1989, recruits students from inner city public high schools who exhibit great leadership skills.

Out of thousands of students, the foundation uses a dynamic assessment process to determine the top 20 "leaders." The partner school and foundation then collaborate to select 10 students to attend as a group, or a "team," to one of the partner schools. Mooney said the high schools these students come from have graduation rates above 90 percent.

"It would be yet another effort to help advance the diversity at Saint Mary's and a culture that recognizes how important and valuable every member in this community is, the multiple contributions that everyone has to make to the education of everyone else," she said.

Contact Maggie Dunn at mdunn01@stmarys.edu
INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Bomb targets Shiite cleric in Baghdad
BAGHDAD — A roadside bomb exploded Thursday alongside the convoy of a prominent Shiite cleric whose high-level political ties have made him the target of past assassination attempts but who was not among the dead.

U.S. and Iraqi forces also reached agreement to expand the Baghdad security sweep into the Shiite stronghold of Sadr City. Such a move would test the willingness of the powerful Mahdi Army militia to grant access to all parts of Baghdad under its control.

National News

Tornadoes in Alabama kill 18
TORNADOES. Alabama and Mississippi were ripped through Alabama and killed at least 18 people Thursday, including 15 at a high school where students are believed to have perished in a building that collapsed.

National News

Army fires Walter Reed general
WASHINGTON — The Army on Thursday fired the general in charge of Walter Reed Army Medical Center, saying he was the wrong person to fix embarrassing failures in the treatment of war-injured soldiers that have soiled the institution’s reputation as a first-class hospital.

LOCAL NEWS

McRobbie named IU president
INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana University’s trustees turned to trusted administrator Michael McRobbie to succeed, after all, the man they had expected to lead the school, President Jesse Rogers, who resigned in January. The Trustees were looking for someone they could trust and who was uncontentious.

CHINA

Farmer contracts bird flu in Fujian
WHO says Indonesia vaccine dispute unresolved; UN to help in Myanmar outbreak

BEIJING — China reported a new human case of bird flu on Thursday, the World Health Organization disputed Indonesia’s claim that the two were close to resolving a dispute over sharing virus samples that could be used to develop a commercial vaccine.

Also Thursday, officials in Myanmar said the United Nations had pledged assistance in coping with an outbreak discovered on a poultry farm on the outskirts of its largest city, Yangon.

The human infection in China occurred in the coastal province of Fujian, where a 44-year-old farmer named Li was diagnosed on Feb. 18 after he developed a fever and began coughing, the official Xinhua News Agency said.

It was the mainland’s first human case of bird flu since Jan. 10, when the government said a 37-year-old farmer in Anhui province in eastern China had contracted bird flu but had recovered.

Xinhua said tests by the provincial disease control and prevention center showed that Li had been infected with the H5N1 virus strain, and that the Chinese Centers for Disease Control and Prevention had confirmed the result.

The report did not say whether the farmer worked on a poultry farm, or whether infected birds were found, but said he had “made contact with dead fowl.”

The virus remains essentially an animal disease, for now, but may mutate into a form more easily spreadable between humans, triggering a pandemic.

In Indonesia, Health Minister Siti Fadillah Supari said a guarantee letter was sent to WHO Director-General Margaret Chan was expected to arrive Thursday, after which Indonesia will recommend sending as soon as possible” samples of the bird flu virus to the World Health Organization.

The Associated Press that no such deal had been cemented. He said that the latter was still under discussion.

It was hoped that such a deal would resolve a standoff between WHO and Indonesia, which triggered a storm of criticism last month by withholding virus samples because it worried that large drug companies would use its H5N1 strain to make vaccines too expensive for developing nations.

Several countries are developing vaccines to protect against H5N1, which has been responsible for at least 167 human deaths worldwide, more than one-third of them in Indonesia.

Meanwhile, Tang Zang Ping, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization representative in Myanmar, said the agency was assisting in isolation of poultry farms, disinfection and culling of birds after H5N1 was detected in a western suburb of Yangon.

Myanmar officials say the latest outbreak has affected chickens, ducks and pullets, killing 68 birds. Another 1,292 birds were deemed susceptible to the disease and destroyed.

In Vietnam, officials said the avian flu has resurfaced in the southern Mekong Delta province of Vinh Long, just days after an outbreak was reported in the northern part of the country.

About 50 unvaccinated ducks died at a farm in Tra On District on February 25, and test results released Thursday showed they were infected with the H5N1 strain of bird flu.

According to the World Health Organization, as of February 25, the H5N1 strain of bird flu had been confirmed in 33 countries: Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Switzerland, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, France, Germany, Guatemala, Iceland, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, the Netherlands, Nepal, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Taiwan, and Thailand.

Tornadoes in Alabama kill 18

TORNADOES. Alabama and Mississippi were ripped through Alabama and killed at least 18 people Thursday, including 15 at a high school where students are believed to have perished in a building that collapsed.

The United States has said the planned defenses would not be aimed at Russia, and are intended to defend against missile attacks from countries such as Iran.

The US plans anti-missile radar base

U.S.-RUSSIA — The drive to install a missile defense system in Europe would not be aimed at Russia, and are intended to defend against missile attacks from countries such as Iran.

NATIONAL NEWS

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U.S.-RUSSIA — The drive to install a missile defense system in Europe would not be aimed at Russia, and are intended to defend against missile attacks from countries such as Iran.
promoting the V-Day officials to grant them an exception. But off campus is just where the Cardinal Newman Society (CNS), a non-profit group dedicated to preserving the Catholic identity in Catholic institutions of higher education, says "The Vagina Monologues" belongs. Each fall, the CNS targets Catholic schools where the play is scheduled to be performed, and sends them packages - complete with scripts of the play, excerpts from Catholic catechisms, Pope John Paul II's encyclical on "Love and Responsibility," statements from Fort Wayne-South Bend Bishop John D'Arcy and other Catholic documents to bring to light the contrasting nature of the play and the Catholic readings. "Academic freedom, the way it was taught to me, is the freedom to teach what you want," said Marc Perrington, CNS outreach director. "And, academic freedom only realistically applies to the academic part of life, not the social part of life. If you bring academic freedom into the social part of life, what's to stop Catholic schools from having pro-abort­ion groups on campus, that may be antithetical to Catholic teaching?" Perrington was quick to note that of the about 12,000 lines of text in the copy of "The Vagina Monologues" he owns, only approximately 150 deal with violence against women. "The base nature of the play, of the acts described in the play, really don't have any kind of academic basis. They're not improving academic life on campus," he said. "You hear from the V-Day organization and from the people that put it on, 'We're bringing awareness about violence against women ... but it's not.' This year's "Monologues" director, junior Sarah Mescarella, still believes the play educates the community — and in a way "Loyal Daughters" could not address. "The Vagina Monologues" tackle issues that people at Notre Dame have never experi­enced," said Mescarella, who plays a Bosnian victim of gang rape in this year's production. "It's just another perspec­tive," she said. "I think it's important for Notre Dame kids to look at experiences of people that aren't like them. We're all so similar on this campus and have very similar experi­ences. ... I think it's important to explore other things." But for the play to stick in the V-Day Campaign's objec­tives and two stipulations — execution in a venue on cam­pus and the donation of ticket proceeds to charitable institutions. — Assistant Vice President for News and Information Dennis Brown said Jenkins would have to be involved. "I would think that if organ­izers presented a case to Father Jenkins — he's obviously a reasonable man who demonstrated last year that he can listen — he would certainly listen," Brown said. "Whether that would change his position, I can't say." While rumors have suggested Notre Dame was opposed to contributing to the local YWCA because the national YWCA identifies itself as pro-choice, Brown said those claims are absolutely false. Ticket sales are prohibited, Brown said, as a result of the administrators' decision to change the status of "Monologues" from a theatrical production to an academic event. "When something is present­ed in an academic setting," he said, "there is not an admis­sion charge, or pass-the-hat, however funds might be collector." Gender Studies and history professor Gail Bederman agreed and said while she person­ally supports the YWCA, she would never bring in "so­and-so from Yale University" to raise funds. "That's not what we do," she said. "It's not my job to raise money; it's my job to teach his­tory." The University's policy dis­tressed Mescarella, however. "It just confuses me," she said, "because I feel like giving charity is the one thing Notre Dame knows how to do." Contact Eileen Duffy at eduffy1@nd.edu

Schmidt continued from page 1

Approximately 1,024 freshmen voted Thursday in the runoff, while 1,053 participated in the original election. Schmidt, who won 44.6 percent of votes in the first round of the elections, said he planned his involvement in Notre Dame's student government while he was still in high school. "Before coming to Notre Dame, there were several areas that I really looked at — spiritual, aca­demic, tradition, athletics," he said. "My high school counselor and I talked about the extracur­ricular activities I wanted to par­ticipate in — student government was one of them."

In order to give his classmates what they want from a class pres­ident, Schmidt said he plans to collect more feedback from his constituents and improve student involvement in the council's deci­sion-making processes. "Everyone here was a leader in high school," Schmidt said. "It's important to me to not make every single decision alone as president, but to make decisions together with the rest of the coun­cil and the class." Schmidt also said he and his cabinet were developing an appli­cation and a system to better involve any students interested in formal council participation. "The first thing we have to get going is getting people involved," he said. "There's a formal way doing it. We're excited to get more specific feedback."

Schmidt thanked his peers for participating in the election and said he believes "it is an honor to represent all the people here at Notre Dame from such diverse backgrounds." Contact Eva Binda at jbinda@nd.edu

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Craigslist
Baltimore man arrested for fraud

Baltimore - A man who already served prison time for mail fraud has been indicted in a scheme that bilked more than 900 investors, including former state Sen. Kiah Morris, out $8 million, the U.S. attorney's office said Thursday.

David Mcdowell Robinson, 56, of Baltimore was arrested Thursday, a day after a federal grand jury indicted him on wire and mail fraud.

Robinson served nearly nine years in federal prison for mail fraud arising from three different schemes and was released in April 2003. Prosecutors allege that he launched a new company, Liberty Trade International Inc., the next year and began scamming investors again.

The company solicited investments of up to $10,000 and promised returns of up to 10 percent, more in line with historical norms.

The agency said that in the second half of 2006, continued strength in the economy and declining interest rates for borrowers prevented a more severe fall in the housing market. In the fourth quarter, though, home prices continued to ease some worries about a flagging economy.

The weakness in construction was led by a 1.8 percent plunge in spending on home building - the 10th consecutive fall in residential construction.

Sales of new homes slumped by 14.6 percent in January from the previous month, the steepest decline since January 1994. As sales cooled, so did home prices. The median sales price of a new home - where half sell for more and half for less - dropped to $239,800 in January, down 2.1 percent from January 2006, the Commerce Department said Wednesday.

The OFHEO fourth-quarter report, based on data from Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac on repeat sales and refinancings of single-family homes, also found that:

- Home prices increased by the strongest rates from 2004's fourth quarter in Utah (17.6 percent), Idaho (14 percent), Washington (13.7 percent) and Oregon (13.5 percent).
- The states with the lowest rates were Michigan (0.4 percent), Massachusetts (0.5 percent), Ohio (1 percent), Indiana (2.3 percent) and Minnesota (2.5 percent).
- The metropolitan areas with the highest year-to-year rates of increase were Bend, Ore. (21.4 percent), Wenatchee, Wash. (20.9 percent) and Prineville, Ore. (19.9 percent). Those with the lowest were Kokomo, Ind. (0.3 percent), Santa Barbara-Santa Maria-Goleta, Calif. (4.2 percent) and rural areas would not have any access to the managed care program.
New housing policy problematic

No one likes being told how to live his or her life — especially during the four fleeting collegiate years geared largely toward self-discovery.

So the Saint Mary’s administration’s recent decision to require incoming students to live on campus for six semesters will undoubtedly create problems for the entire College community.

For an institution that boasts 81 percent of its 1,500 students living on campus, the need to implement such restrictions has confused much of the community.

Administrators said the requirement will help fulfill the College’s mission statement as well as increase students’ academic engagement.

But that logic is faulty. While students on campus are physically closer to academic resources, the decision to be motivated belongs to the student alone. There are pressures to procrastinate, party and skip class both in LeMans Hall and at Lafayette Apartments.

Furthermore, the College’s decision to implement the requirement without student input threatens the relationship between students and administrators.

The Saint Mary’s Board of Trustees includes a student member and places students on faculty hiring committees, but has failed to include valuable student input where it counts.

College President Carol Ann Mooney said she wants to increase enrollment by 15 percent with the incoming Class of 2011. While Saint Mary’s officials said this six-semester residency requirement will not affect the admissions yield, they might be in for a surprise.

When current students care enough to protest a decision that does not directly affect them, the uproar is a strong indication of problems on the horizon, and students are the strongest opponents or advocates of campus policy.

Most Saint Mary’s students are highly satisfied with campus life, but that appreciation will dwindle when the new requirement becomes practical. Mandatory on-campus student residency may further fulfill Saint Mary’s mission statement, but forcing housing choices will frustrate students and scare off some top applicants. The reasoning behind the requirement does not take into account the needs and wants of the student body, but erases one of the few elements of choice that remains in the College’s already conservative residency rules.

Saint Mary’s must further examine the potential implications of the residency requirement and consider who will really benefit from the change — students, or administrators.
"For those who hate, that they may learn to love." What a perfect prayer that should be said not only at every Catholic Mass but also at every prayer service throughout the world. It judges not by how much a sinner may hate — from outright jihad rage to the subtle bigotry of low expectations — but rather demands a dialogue from all humanity through the purest unconditional tolerance embodied by an even tempered. It simply instructs all of us to allow our Karma to run over dogma. Temperament walks hand-in-hand with tolerance and humor. Only the scientist can truly be expected to listen to outlandish or even personally insulting propositions without automatically dismissing them. Only the purest unconditional tolerance without automatically dismissing them can step back to listen to outlandish propositions without automatically dismissing them. There has been a lot of one-sided political rhetoric sequences of withdrawal. This Sunday evening, at the height of Lent, the next Christian outrage will begin. The Discovery Channel presents a controversial documentary entitled, "The Lost Tomb of Jesus." It purports to examine a tomb, originally found 27 years ago but dismissed by mainstream scholars, that contains the remains of several people thought to be an extended family named Scham, archeologist at the Catholic University of America, admitted recently that mainstream archeologists discounted the tomb's relationship to Jesus almost immediately after it was found decades ago. Produced by Titanic filmmaker James Cameron and Simcha Jacobovici, the documentary examines one of nearly 900 tomb sites in the Talpiot district of Jerusalem. In 1980, children playing in construction debris of their basement, found an opening andiggled down into the space beneath where they found 10 ossuaries with bones in them. Six had inscriptions on them. In 1st century Palestine it was customary to bury people of means in wrapped linen and spices, let the flesh decay, and eventually place the bones in a stone ossuary, which literally means "bone-box." Afterarchaeologists examined these 10 boxes, the debate began about the meaning of the find. The bones were subsequently buried, but today remaining fragments of the bones in the unwashed boxes have been reexamined using DNA testing. The producers of the documentary present the totality of the artifacts and inscriptions in a compelling way. Their theory rests on statistics to argue the likelihood that this exact set of names compared with the New Testament would coincide with more than 50,000 possibilities and eliminating name combinations until only one remained. It ties names like Jesus son of Joseph, Mary, Yose, Yohar, Yeshua and Mariamne e mara — "Miriam the master" whom some say was Mary of Magdalina’s real name (Miriamne, the same term as Marianna “Come, oh Lord [maras]” in 1 Corinthians 16:22). Lent certainly resurrects personal lessons for Catholics. Does it matter if Jesus was married if we can stop past that and live the spirit of his teachings? Does it matter if this tomb still contains the remains of Jesus of Nazareth if Christians loved rather than hated others? This writer would gladly tuck dogmas in a back pocket to grant the reader that now far are you willing to go? Now that is a Lenten meditation for the ages.

Gary Caruso, Notre Dame ’73, is a producer of documentaries. He is a legislative and public affairs director in President Clinton’s administration. His column appears every other Friday. He can be contacted at hot­line@nd.edu. The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

**Withdrawing troops not solution**

An immediate or rapid withdrawal of American troops from Iraq is not the answer to our nation's problems, contrary to the beliefs held by many politicians. Removing our troops from the embattled country would leave Iraq's fragile government and its people in chaos, empower our terrorist enemies, and ultimately compromise our national security. There has been a lot of one-sided political rhetoric about the immediate benefits of removing our troops from harms way. Yet, there has been little discussion about the consequences of withdrawal. It is not the insurgents that will defeat our soldiers overseas; it is the degradation of our political will that endangers our chances for success. Losing the political willpower to continue the fight against terrorism absolutely endangers our security worldwide and domestically. By removing our troops, we endanger the fragile, two-year-old democratic government of Iraq, almost ensuring its eventual overthrow in the future. The terror­ists will then have accomplished the one thing that has always eluded them, the cre­ation of an Islamic state. This state would become the new terrorist safe haven. Iraq would be used as an instrument to recruit and train terrorist fighters for global opera­tions. From there, terrorism would grow until we were no longer fighting it in foreign countries against a few, but rather in our own backyards against many. Upon addressing our nations own insurgency almost 170 years ago, President Lincoln said, "If destruction be our lot, we must be its author and finisher." This threat from within extends far today as it was in those days as the costs of defeat are just as severe. We must acknowledge the consequences of defeat in Iraq, not run away from them in lieu of immediate, short term political gain. Atrocity is the principle truth. As Americans, we must let it be clear that we will stand and fight for what is right. If we truly believe in the values our founding fathers died to give us, then we must fight against the repressive nature of terrorism no matter where it chooses to hide. Our principles are strong and if we can find an ounce of the conviction that our founding fathers had, we will win in Iraq.

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**Writing for religious temperance and peace**

To the Editors:

What a perfect prayer (Feb. 28) is outrageous. The idea that dinosaurs would value the option of getting "a dorm pet" over that of removing allergens is appall­ing but against the very nature of the dorm system that Notre Dame promotes. "The Notre Dame family" of dorms is supposed to be an answer to the fraternities and sororities common to campuses nationwide. This system is intended to nurture relationships between residents. By allowing students to live together for three or more years, dorm resi­dents learn to live independent of their families while developing new lifelong bonds, expanding their extended family to include the Notre Dame community. However, it appears that when choosing between a pet and a son or daughter, the Notre Dame community is putting the option of get­ting all the ramps from around the dorm and replacing them with stairs on the basis of aesthetic appeal. When a wheelchair-bound resi­dent comes to the new stair and asks why he can't get in, he is turned away because the rector/rectress and the rest of the dorm like the stairs more than they like the handicapped person.

I am sad to admit that this happened on our campus and outraged that more hasn’t done to help Catherine Wettin, Lauren Carr and Jacqueline Curran. Pet allergies are a significant issue, and while not neces­sarily as debilitating as a physical handicap, they have no cure and can make you miserable on a daily basis. The fact that this occurs in dorms specifically targeted for allergy sufferers is even worse. If hav­ing a dog is as large a benefit of the Pasquerella East rect­ness suggests it is, is not the answer. The theory used dorms with pets in which animal loving students can elect to live in. In my mind, there is no question that the dog should be removed from Pasquerella East immediately. Pasquerella East and Housing and Life does not act (which it should), the rectress and residents of Pasquerella East should do so as soon as possible. Any volatile. Any faculty or student who feels differently is validating the prejudice and animosity toward our student over that of a brother or sister in the Notre Dame family. That this is an issue at the heart of a residence hall to the "Notre Dame Family" needs to be seriously reexamined.

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**Symphony for allergy sufferers**

The article "Conflict arises over pets in dormitories" (Feb. 28) is outrageous. The idea that dinosaurs would value the option of get­ting "a dorm pet" over that of removing allergens is appall­ing but against the very nature of the dorm system that Notre Dame promotes.

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James Matthew Hughey

O'Neill Hall

March 1

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**Submit a Letter to the Editor at www.ndsmcobserver.com**
Perseverance is the key to campus courtship

Young love really can’t be predicted. It might be a look, a word or even a touch that sets it off. Whatever it is, the love bug can strike at any time. I call it the aftermath following Valentine’s Day.

I’ve noticed that there seems to be a greater frequency of hand holding, awkwardly shared dining, ball meals and a rise in long-distance phone bills for those of us nursing a long-distance relationship.

Indeed, the Cupid-heavy holiday strikes us in very different ways. The recent love phenomenon has got me thinking about the different styles of courtship around campus and their effectiveness. This will be told as if the object of your desire is female, because that’s where my “expertise” lies (word to the wise: take the term “expertise” very, very lightly).

Method 1: The “Stare Down”

Ordinarily this method is employed during classes or meetings, but it can also work in the dining hall or any other setting promoting prolonged periods of close proximity. First, find the object of your desire and sit within “stirking distance” (a.k.a., line of sight). Then, begin the stare down. Focus your gaze directly on her eyes. Imagine dates, wedding bells, even marriage.

She’s also hard not to love the famed “expertise” within courtship around campus and their effectiveness. This will be told as if the object of your desire is female, because that’s where my “expertise” lies (word to the wise: take the term “expertise” very, very lightly).

Method 2: The “Endearingly Awkward”

Usually, this takes a certain kind of person to pull off, but with the right practice, anyone can use this method effectively. Whenever you talk to the girl you are interested in, stumble on your words. Spill milk on your shirt. Walk with her to her dorm and trip while talking with her. If you are fortunate enough to be invited to her room, quickly scan the surroundings for something to break that won’t be too expensive — a cheap desk lamp or a wall hook — and break it. This does two things — one, it will be nearly impossible for her to be uncomfortable because you are apparently such a klutz; and two, it will give you the opportunity to show her nice presents, like a new lamp. Double points!

Method 3: The “Sit Back and Wait”

This route is the most time consuming, with average return rates seen in approximately a year. If you meet a girl you like, do nice things for her. Bring her coffee at work, help her with anything you can, and just generally try to be a nice guy. Write sappy, appreciation letters and send her gifts that ask who’s they’re for, tell her, “Uhm...no one in particular.” Never tell her that whenever she walks into a room, you break out and start sweating. Try to think about her as much as possible without ever telling her how you feel, and under no circumstances should you tell her you like her. Over time, you’ll like her so much you won’t be able to stand it, and if and when she realizes you’re crazy about her and reciprocates the feelings, it’ll simply be awesome. If she doesn’t like you, you can keep doing what you’re doing and recoup your friendship so you don’t feel so pathetic.

Some people may find the above methods effective, and others may not. The truth is, there really isn’t one tried and true way to attract a lady-friend, so it’s best to just forget the Valentine’s Day fallout and let things go naturally.

And just so you know, Home Depot has a sale on desk lamps this week...but no pressure.

Contact Chris McGrady at mcgrandy@nd.edu

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

DVD REVIEW

He-Man, She-Ra shine in latest DVD releases

By ERIN MCGINN Assistant Scene Editor

Everyone has their favorite 80s cartoon hero — whether it was the Ninja Turtles, the Thundercats, or even Voltron. It was also hard not to love the famed brother-sister team of He-Man and She-Ra.

Airing from 1983-86 (and for several years afterward in syndication), “He-Man and the Masters of the Universe” and “She-Ra: Princess of Power” were popular with kids due to their likable characters and action sequences, and parents liked the morals at each episode’s end. There were also toy lines developed for each show.

“He-Man and the Masters of the Universe” follows the adventures of Prince Adam on the planet Eternia. Adam is able to turn into the superhero He-Man because of the magical powers of his sword, a legendary gift from the Sorceress. His rival is the villainous Skeletor, who repeatedly attempts to defeat He-Man and take control of the kingdom. He-Man is aided by his tiger, Battlecat, as well as a select group of others, like Man-At-Arms, who are aware of his dual identity.

“She-Ra: Princess of Power” is essentially a female version of “He-Man.” Princess Adora in Adam’s twin sister who was stolen at birth by the evil Hordak and taken to the planet Etheria. Adam/He-Man found her at the request of the Sorceress and she was given her magical sword, which allows her to turn into She-Ra, the Princess of Power.

She fights on the side of the Rebellion that is trying to overthrow Hordak and his Horde forces that retain control of Etheria.

Currently, all but one season of the shows are out on DVD. All the DVD sets are in gorgeous packaging, and it is obvious that a great deal of time and care went into putting the sets together. Wion all of the sets are positioned next to each other on a shelf, the packaging depicts He-Man and She-Ra scenes. Each box set includes over 30 episodes, and each is loaded with special features.

Each individual “He-Man” box set comes with two documentaries created especially for each set, collectible “art cards,” several episode commentary tracks and episode-length documentaries, as well as various smaller features like character profiles or trivia facts that differ with each set. They also each include full scripts accessible by computer. The documentaries bring back many of the writers, actors and creators, and it is interesting, both for fans of the series as well as fans of cartoons in general, to see how everything is brought together.

The “She-Ra” sets each include much of the same as the “He-Man” sets, just with less in terms of numbers (for example, one documentary on each instead of two). Where the “She-Ra” sets have the most content is the DVD-ROM section, which includes items like editions of the original comic books, scripts and coloring books.

Both “She-Ra” and “He-Man” also each have a “Best of” title that gathers their top five to 10 episodes. This is great for casual fans, or even for those just introduced to the series. The “Best of She-Ra” title even contains the full-length movie, “The Secret of the Sword,” which details the origin of She-Ra.

Fans of the series will love the quality of the DVD sets, as they certainly do justice to any and all nostalgic memories. The cartoon shows have that sort of corny quality that most 80s shows had, but they are still enjoyable and often times quite funny. If anything, the transformation sequences above are worth the purchase. What little kid growing up in the late 80s didn’t run around holding up a plastic sword, yelling, “I have the power!”

Contact Erin McGinn at emcginn@nd.edu

Photos courtesy of mattinsider.com

Popular cartoon characters He-Man, left, and his sister She-Ra find new life in an impressive new DVD collection. The two shows were popular in the 1980s.
THE SILENT ASSASSIN

IRISH GUARD CHARLEL ALLEN'S QUIET PERSONALITY ON AND OFF THE COURT HAS LED NOTRE DAME TO A 19-10 RECORD. THE IRISH WILL TRY TO MAKE A RUN IN THE BIG EAST TOURNAMENT THIS WEEKEND.
ND will face its Demons in Big East tourney

Irish have to improve three-point defense

With a week left in the regular season, the Irish controlled their own destiny. They were securely set in second place in the conference, with a two-game lead and two games to play. With contests against No. 23 Rutgers Feb. 24 and two days later at DePaul—a team the Irish had already beaten—it seemed like they would be a lock for one of four first-round byes in the Big East tournament. So what happened? The Irish couldn’t defend. At least, they had a hard time of it. In the two losses, Notre Dame suffered back-to-back double-digit losses for the first time this season. More importantly, the Irish gave up an inordinate amount of three-pointers during the season-ending skid.

“I think we lost the last two games because of our inability to guard the three-point line,” Notre Dame coach Muffet McGraw said. “And the percentage that they’re shooting is good because they’re so open.”

In their 76-60 loss to Rutgers, the Irish’s three-point defense was completely ineffective, with the Scarlet Knights sinking more than half their attempts from long distance. The Irish were even worse in the second half against the Rutgers, which made 4-of-5 three-pointers.

The Irish were just as bad against DePaul, which made half of its three-pointers against Notre Dame’s porous three-point defense.

“We have to get our posts comfortable on the perimeter and that’s our biggest problem right now,” McGraw said.

So tomorrow when the Irish begin their tournament, they will face none other than DePaul. With a season split already, a neutral court will decide the series between the two teams. The Irish have been able to be successful in spite of their defense throughout the season because of their potent offense. The Irish averaged 71 points per game in the regular season and 74.4 against conference foes. The main reason Notre Dame has remained successful throughout the season has been the play of the team’s leading scorer—Charel Allen. Allen has been crucial to the team’s success this season, registering 17 points and 6.4 rebounds per game to keep the team competitive throughout Big East play.

But Notre Dame’s late-season struggles proved that when Charel struggles, the Irish fall. Against the Blue Demons, Allen became desperate from the floor, shooting only 33 percent with a paltry 10 points. She also struggled during Notre Dame’s only other multi-game losing streak, a three-game span from Jan. 23 to Jan. 31, in which the Irish shot a combined 15-of-55 with just 14 points per game during the skid.

In order to win this weekend, the Irish must improve their defense. All season McGraw has recognized the problem the three-point defense faces, and she has spent this week at practice trying to correct it.

“We’re kind of hoping to give up even more three-pointers,” McGraw said. “I would rather have more two than threes. DePaul has scored eleven threes and if they were all twos it’s a whole different game. But even if the Irish do manage to stop their defense and shut down the Blue Demons, they’ll still have to face second-seed Rutgers Sunday.

“I don’t think we’ll be any better than Saturday for the Irish to confront their demons.”

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

Contact Jay Fitzpatrick at jfitzpa3@nd.edu

First round is rematch between Notre Dame DePaul

Blue Demons won in final game Monday

By BILL BRINK

Heading into the conference tournament, it was not at all like the Irish wanted to lose two straight games by double figures. But the 7-seed Irish have a chance to make amends in the first round of the Big East, where they face 10-seed DePaul again this Monday. In its last game against DePaul this past Monday, Notre Dame was out-rebounded, got itself in early foul trouble and consistently gave up open looks from beyond the arc. In order to effectively counter the Blue Demon offensive attack, Notre Dame is looking to find a way to slow DePaul’s outside shooting.

“We’re going to fix your three-point defense today,” Irish coach Muffet McGraw said before practice Wednesday. DePaul had success shooting over Notre Dame’s defense, sinking 11-of-22 from three-point land. In response, Notre Dame hopes to find a way to put better pressure on DePaul’s perimeter players. Forward Caprice Smith and guards Jeanne Rubino and Missy Mitidiero had success from three-point range against Notre Dame. Smith hit 2-of-5, Rubino was 3-of-5, and Mitidiero had success from behind the arc, making 3-of-7.

McGraw said the inside-outside versatility of Smith threw the biggest wrench into the Irish defense during their last meeting.

“She was a problem whether she was screening or stepping back,” McGraw said. “Whenever she guarded her couldn’t guard her on the perimeter.”

Irish freshman center Erica Williamson, one of the players charged with guarding Smith, agreed with McGraw’s assessment.

“If she’s a post player, our guards get to base on the baseline and see it at vital if the Irish are going to slow DePaul’s outside shooting. She can be very effective on the perimeter and that’s what our biggest problem right now.”

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Contact Bill Brink at wbrink@nd.edu

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“If she’s a post player, our guards get to base on the baseline and see it at vital if the Irish are going to slow DePaul’s outside shooting. She can be very effective on the perimeter and that’s what our biggest problem right now.”

So tomorrow when the Irish begin their tournament, they will face none other than DePaul. With a season split already, a neutral court will decide the series between the two teams. The Irish have been able to be successful in spite of their defense throughout the season because of their potent offense. The Irish averaged 71 points per game in the regular season and 74.4 against conference foes. The main reason Notre Dame has remained successful throughout the season has been the play of the team’s leading scorer—Charel Allen. Allen has been crucial to the team’s success this season, registering 17 points and 6.4 rebounds per game to keep the team competitive throughout Big East play.

But Notre Dame’s late-season struggles proved that when Charel struggles, the Irish fall. Against the Blue Demons, Allen became desperate from the floor, shooting only 33 percent with a paltry 10 points. She also struggled during Notre Dame’s only other multi-game losing streak, a three-game span from Jan. 23 to Jan. 31, in which the Irish shot a combined 15-of-55 with just 14 points per game during the skid.

In order to win this weekend, the Irish must improve their defense. All season McGraw has recognized the problem the three-point defense faces, and she has spent this week at practice trying to correct it.

“We’re kind of hoping to give up even more three-pointers,” McGraw said. “I would rather have more two than threes. DePaul has scored eleven threes and if they were all twos it’s a whole different game. But even if the Irish do manage to stop their defense and shut down the Blue Demons, they’ll still have to face second-seed Rutgers Sunday.

“I don’t think we’ll be any better than Saturday for the Irish to confront their demons.”

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

Contact Bill Brink at wbrink@nd.edu
Freshman contributions crucial to Irish success

By BILL BRINK
Sports Writer

Still in their practice gear, guard Melissa Lechlitner and center Erica Williamson left a film session and headed to lift. "It was lovely," Lechlitner said, laughing. "Very informative.

The loss of that popular past-time isn’t the only change. Lechlitner, Williamson and guard Ashley Barlow gave the Irish a significant jump-start this season and played with a great deal of maturity. Playing against top competition in the athletic Big East, all three adjusted well to the collegiate level of play.

"It’s a lot what I expected," Lechlitner said. "The game is faster, people are stronger, and coming in as a point guard means specifically there’s a lot to learn.

Williamson agreed that the pace of play increased. "In high school you walk it up the court every time," she said. "I didn’t get challenged as much in a lot of regular-season games. It’s hard going in an out every day every single game there’s someone who’s either as tall as you or bigger than you or probably stronger than you."

Irish coach Muffet McGraw made no secret of the fact that the three would see a lot of playing time this season. The players were made aware of their roles early, as well as the high expectations they needed to live up to.

"You don’t get better sitting on the bench," McGraw said. "So they got a lot of valuable playing time right off the bat."

The freshmen have made great use of their time. Barlow is second on the team in scoring. Williamson had the aid of an upperclassmen center, junior Melissa D’Amico, to tutor her in collegiate post play.

"Our coaches have been really great at just pulling us aside," Williamson said. "When we’re running something on offense and we do it wrong, they pull us aside and instead of saying, ‘OK, you’re wrong,’ they say, ‘This is what you did wrong, this is what you’ve needed to do.’ It’s so much more of a learning process.”

Even with the strong start, the freshmen have consistently improved in both their physical play and sense of the game as the season wore on. Barlow made a knack for finding the ball, be it on a rebound, loose ball or steal. Lechlitner has grown into the point guard position well and understands the schemes that the team employs.

Lechlitner said the most improved aspect of her play is her mental awareness — "running the offense, knowing where all your teammates are supposed to be, knowing every position.”

Williamson had the aid of an upperclassmen center, junior Melissa D’Amico, to tutor her in collegiate post play.

"Our coaches have really built me up, Lechlitner said. "They played me under the wing at the beginning of the season.回 she’s definitely been a big guidance,” Williamson said. "She tells me what to do, and how to help out my game.”

"Very much a learning process.”

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After Williamson said she could not pinpoint her most improved feature, she turned to bystanders for help. After some second opinions from teammates, she settled on her conditioning.

"Over the summer, it wasn’t where it needed to be,” she said. "Then Tony [Holins], our strength and conditioning coach, really bust me into shape."

Barlow, Williamson and Lechlitner will face another new experience in the form of the Big East tournament, which starts for the Irish on Saturday. McGraw and the rest of the team hope the young guns can continue their productivity and help drive the Irish deep into the postseason.

Contact Bill Brink at wbrink@nd.edu

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**2007 BIG EAST WOMEN’S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP**

**First Round**

**SAT. MARCH 3**

**No. 5 Louisville**

**noon**

**No. 12 St. John’s**

**No. 8 USF**

**2:00 pm**

**No. 9 Seton Hall**

**No. 1 Connecticut**

**Quarterfinals**

**SUN. MARCH 4**

No. 4 West Virginia

**noon**

No. 7 NOTRE DAME

**6:00 pm**

No. 10 DePaul

**8:00 pm**

No. 11 Cincinnati

**Semifinals**

**MON. MARCH 5**

No. 2 Rutgers

**6:00 pm**

No. 6 Pittsburgh

**8:00 pm**

No. 3 Marquette

**Championship**

**TUES. MARCH 6**

No. 1 Connecticut

**7:00 pm**

ESPN2
Allen leads Notre Dame with focused demeanor

By JAY FITZPATRICK
Sports Writer

Whenver Irish guard Charlel Allen steps on the court, she's always focused.

She calmly exudes confidence, and she is never rattled by the score, the fans or any other aspect of the game.

But that's just because of how she was brought up.

"I was always taught to be humble," Allen said. "I never thought of myself as being a star."

Allen was a point guard.

"It was a hard way to teach young athletes in basketball," Notre Dame coach Muffet McGraw said.

But Allen has been able to keep the team aloft on route to a 19-win season.

But Allen's clutch basketball play began long before her junior campaign with the Irish.

She's been playing this way her entire life.

Home grown talent

Allen grew up in Monessen, a small town in western Pennsylvania, where she began playing basketball during the third grade in the Monessen mittagade.

The midget league was a way to teach young athletes in the town about basketball, preparing them for playing in the competitive middle school and eventually high school teams.

Allen didn't get much experience before entering the league.

"I never learned how to shoot basketball at the time," she said. "I'm from a small town, so we all know each other." Growing up without any real basketball idols at home, Allen said that her first basketball role models were the older players in the league and her team's coaches.

Despite her humble beginnings in Monessen, she soon began to thrive in high school basketball. She finished with 3,110 points in her high school career - the fifth highest in Pennsylvania women's basketball history.

Allen also averaged 6.1 points, 10.5 rebounds, 5.0 assists and 6.4 steals per game during her four seasons at Monessen High School.

"I loved high school," she said. "I was a point guard. I did a lot. I did jump balls. My senior year, we only lost three games total. We won the section and the regional."

But Allen was not the only one who loved her high school career.

Allen was consistently rewarded for her abilities throughout her career, and was named Associated Press Player of the Year twice (2003, 2004) and was three-time Associated Press first team All-state from 2003-04.

With Allen leading the team, Monessen had an incredibly successful four-year stretch, compiling a 100-19 record during her four years. But the most important win for Allen during high school was in her freshman season when her team won the state championship - a game in which she sat a freshman postseason record with 39 points in the final game.

"The game that tipped off, the constant presence on the court," Allen said.

Muffet McGraw began recruiting Allen.

"I liked that she was crafty - she could do things with the ball, just really read the defense well."

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"But Allen was not the only one who loved her high school career.

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So far this season Allen's calm personality has been an integral part of the team's unexpected success. On a team that was picked to finish 11th in the conference and lost one of its top returning players - guard Lindsay Schrader - Allen has been able to keep the team aloft on route to a 19-win season.

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The Oscars are over and the red carpet has been rolled up. The stars have gone home to polish the statuettes they’ve won, or possibly to drown their sorrows.

To many people, Oscar night is the only night that matters when it comes to awards for film. Sure, TNT may show the Screen Actors Guild (or SAG) awards — actors voting for actors — and it’s a quaint practice, but it doesn’t offer the grandeur or the splendor of Oscar night and thus doesn’t really matter.

What about the Golden Globes, for that matter? Many have heard of them, but who votes on them? And what makes them different than the Oscars? Do they even matter?

Hollywood may only have one night with Oscar, but it sure gets around somewhat different. While similar to the Oscars in terms of nomenclature, these groups include film professionals, journalists who vote on the various awards. The granddaddy of them all is arguably the Oscars, the ceremony organized by AMPAS. However, other awards tend to get overlooked in the face of such stiff competition for attention.

This year’s British Academy Film Awards, presented by BAFTA, looked similar to the Oscars in terms of nominees. However, the winners were somewhat different. While “The Departed” — an American film not only in financing but also in theme — won the Oscar for Best Picture, “The Queen” found such success at the BAFTAs.

BAFTAs, Césars question Oscar omissions

By MARTY SCHROEDER
Assistant Scene Editor

The ceremonies have their place, but more international recognition would be a welcome change in the Oscar race.

The national academy mentioned that of the EU as well. The Best Picture winner this year was the film “The Queen,” directed by Stephen Frears and based on a D.H. Lawrence novel. I doubt that many people have heard of this film in the U.S., but it is garnering recognition of the national cinema academy in a country that takes its cinema is so used to dominating the Oscar race.

But all in all, while a broader audience might watch the Oscars, the other national academies and film festivals still take pride in the films that they both award and represent.

It may be quite some time before a film in a non-English language will be awarded the Best Picture Oscar and, in a way, this is fair — the Oscars represent an American Academy. If, however, the AMPAS holds itself up as the gold standard in film awards, it should recognize that perhaps the best film if the year may not be in English.

The largest film festival in Africa just opened Sunday in the capital of Burkina Faso, Ouagadougou. Called the PanAfrican Film and Television Festival of Ouagadougou, this festival promises to bring many African films to the fore — but only in Africa. In the winners in this festival may find some recognition in the French world, many of the films are in French; however, they garner little support even in the American art-house circuits.

Notably, last year’s Foreign Language Oscar winner was from South Africa — it’s about time that America and Europe took their stranglehold off of cinema. Until audiences and critics alike can sit down, watch movies together and realize that cinema has a place in other artistic medium, the awards ceremony will mean little more than industry self-congratulation.

The ceremonies have their place, but more international recognition would be a welcome change in the Oscars race.

American movies, as an American film has taken this award for the last six years — the most recent being this year’s “Little Miss Sunshine,” which beat the Mexican film “Babel,” the Spanish “Volver,” the British “The Queen,” and, due to its late release in Europe, “Brokeback Mountain.” I think American and French audiences might get along better if they simply sat down and watched some movies together.

Director Pascale Ferran’s little-known “Lady Chatterley,” an adaptation of the D. H. Lawrence novel, claimed the grand prize at France’s 2007 César awards.
Crosby nets only shootout goal to beat Rangers

Upshall scores with 9.9 seconds left in overtime to lift Flyers to victory, dampen playoff prospects for Bruins

NHL

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The New York Rangers' potent power play is suddenly producing goals for and against the desperate team.

Philadelphia erased a two-goal deficit with back-to-back short-handed goals by NHL leader Jordan Staal and Colby Armstrong, and forced overtime with defenseman Sergi Gonch's goal with six minutes left in regulation.

That set the stage for Sidney Crosby to give the Penguins a 4-3 shootout victory over the Rangers on Thursday night.

"We got some big goals, especially in the penalty kills," Crosby said of the Penguins, who killed three of four power plays and netted two goals of their own.

Crosby won it with just his second shootout goal in 10 tries. The 19-year-old phenomenon was the last of six shooters and he squeezed a drive between Henrik Lundqvist's pads.

Lundqvist was sharp for the first two periods, making 18 saves after a shutout in his last outing. But he was touched for 4-3.

Armstrong said. "I didn't feel very comfortable doing that... I knew other guys were better than me. Now I had no choice to go. I knew I was going to go.

Blair Betts scored his first power-play goal since Oct. 14, 2003, to give the Rangers a 2-1 lead, but Lundqvist, who made 30 saves, couldn't protect it.

"I made a key error when I left the crease to block a dump-in by Pittsburgh. Armstrong got to the loose puck and banked it off Lundqvist. "Mine was just lucky," Armstrong said.

Betts appeared to bail out the Rangers after they blew the lead. He pinballed a shot through traffic past Fleury at 4:43, 58 seconds after Armstrong tied it during team captain was roundly criticized for declining to take part in the team's 4-3 victory over the Avalanche in the season's first game.

"I'm not feeling very comfortable doing that... I knew other guys were better than me. Now I had no choice to go. I knew I was going to go," Betts said.

"It's a really good win for the team to wind down the season," Betts said. "It's a really good win for the team to wind down the season.

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Bears give Smith contract extension

Associated Press

LAKE FOREST, Ill. — Lovie Smith walked into the conference room and took a seat at the center of the dais, which seemed fitting, considering he was in the middle of a storm a few weeks ago.

To his left was team president Ted Phillips. To his right, general manager Jerry Angelo. And in front of Smith was the security he craved.

Less than a month after arriving in Chicago through the Chicago Bears, a major issue Wednesday night when they agreed on an extension with Smith that runs through 2011.

They also looked in Angelo through 2013.

Smith said Thursday he had no doubts the Chicago Bears would give him the contract extension he wanted, so he never envisioned himself coaching elsewhere despite numerous reports in the contrary, including one from his agent.

“As late as the deadline,” Smith said Thursday, “I thought I made it clear that I thought it would get done, that I hoped it would get done.”

The lowest paid coach in the NFL last season at $1.35 million, Smith would have earned $1.45 million in the final season of a four-year contract. Instead, he’ll earn $23.45 million over the next five years. An average of about $4.7 million per season, the Chicago Tribune reported.

“The process wasn’t easy,” Smith said. “We had a team president and a general manager who are very strong. We had an owner who came in and was positive about the San Diego Padres and Major League Baseball.”

The Padres moved to Petco Park in 2004, three seasons after Gwynn retired. His No. 19 was retired in 2004 and is displayed atop the batter’s eye in center field.

Los Angeles makes bid for 2016 Olympics

LOS ANGELES — A sunny winter day and a slickly produced film welcomed the U.S. Olympic Committee’s evaluation committee Thursday during a two-day visit to decide whether Los Angeles will be the U.S. candidate to host the 2016 Summer Games.

The group spent its first day crisscrossing the city’s landmarks. They included a walking tour of the campus, which would be home to the athletes’ village, and watched a 3 1/2-minute Disney-produced film promoting Los Angeles’ virtues that featured Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, Hollywood celebrities and the city’s landmarks.

“I ordered another sunny day in the middle of winter,” Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa boasted to reporters before previewing the film.

Ex-Dallas Cowboy helps out San Diego

San Diego head coach Lovie Smith, right, speaks with the media after his contract agreement was announced Thursday. Smith, who led the Bears to the Super Bowl, received a four-year extension on his contract that had one year remaining.

NCAA Tennis

Tennis analysts rate the top 16 teams in each of the men’s and women’s divisions of Division I.

NBA

Chargers at 5 p.m., ESPN

Around the Dial

NHL

Blackhawks at Redwings 7:30 p.m., CSN

NBA Pistons at Heat 8 p.m., ESPN
Virginia moves into first in ACC with victory

Drake tops Evansville 101-96 in opening round of MVC tourney; Ingram scores 20 as Toledo beats Ball State

**Associated Press**

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. — Revenge was sweet for Virginia in its rematch against No. 21 Virginia Tech, and the weekend goes well, it could lead to a championship, too.

Sean Singletary scored 17 points and the Cavaliers beat the Hokies 69-56 on Thursday night to move into first place in the Atlantic Coast Conference with one game left in the regular season.

The Cavaliers (20-8, 11-4), picked to finish eighth in the preseason, finished 8-0 in league play at their new John Paul Jones Arena and moved a half-game ahead of No. 8 North Carolina.

The Tar Heels played later at Georgia Tech, and four teams could go into the weekend with a chance to emerge the champion. The Hokies and Virginia could achieve.

"It means we've come a long way," Singletary said of the opportunity few thought Virginia could achieve. "If we can get this win Saturday, it will just be icing on the cake." 

Virginia led one might have been the cake, coming just 18 days after the Hokies manhandled Virginia for 40 minutes in Blacksburg, winning 84-57 behind stout defense and exceptional shooting.

The Hokies (20-9, 10-5), who host Clemson on Sunday, "just didn't play well, plain and simple," an angry coach Seth Greenberg said. Even though it was a 13-0 run gave them a brief first-half lead, they let Virginia answer with a 16-3 run and never got closer than five again.

"They didn't compete at the level you need to compete at," Greenberg said of his team. "We had eight points and nine rebounds and helped on one of the Hokies' best defensive games this year.

"Today the key was just playing hard and playing defense more than anything," said Diane, who had managed just 10 points total in his last three games. "The offense just came."

Coach Dave Leitao said he shied away from the revenge in talking to his team and anyone else that would listen to that talk, but "if you're going to live in your mindset, it lived in their spirit and they brought it in a very workmanlike atmosphere today," he said.

Zhabia Dowdell scored 17 points, while Deon Washington and A.D. Vassallo, who each had 22 in Blacksburg, finished with 9 and 3, respectively. The Hokies shot 36 percent.

Virginia Tech got as close as 59-52 with 4:25 to play, but Diane hit an 18-footer and Singletary added two free throws with 3:51 to play, rebuilding the Cavaliers' comfortable 14-point lead.

The Hokies had scored seven straight early in the second half to close to within 43-38, but Singletary scored on a drive and Diane hit the first of his two three-pointers in a span of 55 seconds. The second helped offset four quick points by the Hokies, and when Singletary followed it with his own 3-pointer and two free throws, Virginia led 56-44 with 11 minutes remaining.

The Hokies got no closer than seven thereafter.

Greenberg bristled when it was suggested the contributions from Diane and others were a surprise, even though Singletary and Reynolds are always the focus of other teams on defense.

"Those guys are ACC players. You want guys to trash them all the time like it's a two-headed monster. It's not a two-headed monster. Those guys contribute and put them in position to win game. We wanted to guard those guys, we didn't do a good job. That's just the way it is," Greenberg said. Virginia led 36-28 after a first half that was essentially three runs.

The Cavaliers led 19-8 after hitting four three-pointers in the first seven minutes, then made only 2 of their next 13 shots. Dowdell scored six in a 13-0 run that gave the Hokies a 21-19 lead with 6:48 left. Virginia then got it back together and used a 16-3 burst to regain control.

Drake 101, Evansville 96

Klayment Korver hit a 3-pointer with 47 seconds left in overtime to lead Drake past Evansville in the opening round of the Missouri Valley Conference Tournament on Thursday.

Sixth-seeded Drake (17-14) advances to face top-seeded Southern Illinois (25-5) in a quarterfinal-round game Friday at noon.

The Bulldogs led a 61-47 lead with 1:40 left. Evansville rallied from an eight-point second-half deficit and had a chance to win the game in regulation.

Drake, in the middle of its first winning season since the 1986-87 team went 17-11, lost twice to Southern Illinois, 59-54 and 72-62, during the regular season.

Drake 71, Ball State 61

Justin Ingram scored 20 points to lead hot-shooting Toledo to a win over Ball State Thursday night.

The Rockets (12-11, 13-2 Mid-American Conference) shot 22-for-40 — 55 percent — from the floor, but only 62 percent on free throws, hitting 18 of 28 attempts.

Anthony Newell's jumper pulled the Cardinals' 19-20, 5-10 to 48-45 with 11:33 to play, but Ingram responded with two 3-pointers to start a 13-2 run that gave the Rockets a 61-47 lead with 6:03 to play. Ball State got no closer than eight points in the final 3:30.

Skip Miller had 21 points for Ball State and Newell added 17 points and 10 rebounds.

Kasif Paye and Florentine Valencia each scored 12 points for Toledo and Keonsta Howell had 10.
**ND WOMEN'S TENNIS**

Irish take on two top-25 opponents

By CHRIS HINE

Sports Writer

No. 2 Notre Dame will face two more top-25 teams this weekend as the Irish take on No. 23 Texas A&M and No. 19 Texas at the Ecker Tennis Center.

No. 10 (1-0) enters the weekend riding a five-match winning streak and has a chance to extend its 25-match home winning streak today against the Aggies. Texas A&M (10-1) rolls into South Bend playing its best tennis in recent memory.

The Aggies broke into the top-25 for the first time in two years this week and carry an eight-match winning streak into today's match. Last season, the Aggies barely nipped Texas A&M, 4-3, in College Station, Texas.

"They're a group that competes really well," No. 10 head coach Jay Louderback said. "They have a strong team. It'll be a tough match."

Louderback said he expects to see some familiar faces from last year's close game.

"They have mostly everyone back from last year, plus they have a freshman [No. 35 Elre Potgieter] that's playing in their third, he said. "They're a little better than they were last year."

The Aggies also feature senior Ana Lubinski and senior Sarah Foster, who owns a 10-1 dual match record to lead Texas A&M.

The Longhorns will try their luck against the Irish Saturday. Last week, Texas dropped two tight matches against No. 9 Miami (4-3) and No. 3 Florida (5-2).

"They're a talented team," Louderback said. "They have very good doubles teams, too. I think winning doubles is going to be really important."

Since Notre Dame lost the doubles point against No. 4 North Carolina last weekend, Louderback shifted the emphasis in practice from singles to doubles work.

"We've been working on the kids doing a little more poaching, crossing, and being a little more aggressive than we have been the past couple of weeks," he said.

No. 5 Christian and Caritina Thompson lead the Irish on the doubles side, while No. 16 Carolina Thompson and freshman Cosmina Gobaru lead the Irish in singles. Gobaru will try to keep her perfect 11-0 dual match record alive. Sophomore Keiley Toth, who is 7-1 in dual match play, has won her last six match.

"I've been really happy," Louderback said. "We've played great singles all year long. I think we'll keep it up because we've been competing really well."

Contact Chris Hine at chine@nd.edu

**ND SOFTBALL**

ND looks to bounce back in Jacksonville

By MICHAEL BRYAN

Sports Writer

Defending Big East champion Notre Dame will look to return to its winning form in Florida this weekend, playing five games in the Jacksonville Tournament after a tough start to the season.

The Irish (4-6) will begin the tournament today with a matchup against Virginia. The Cavaliers have a 7-9 record after going 2-4 in the Palm Springs Classic last weekend.

No. 24 Notre Dame has never lost to Virginia in four all-time meetings.

On Saturday the Irish will face off against host Jacksonville (3-12) in a doubleheader. The Dolphins enter the tournament with losses in 10 of their last 11 games.

Notre Dame will end the tournament Sunday with a doubleheader against No. 13 Michigan. The Wolverines (14-11) have put together a 12-game winning streak, the last of those wins giving coach Carol Hutchins her 1,000th career victory.

The Irish will have a way to hit Michigan pitchers Loryl Wilson and Nikki Nemitz. Wilson enters the tournament with an 8-1 record and 0.70 ERA, and Nemitz is 6-0 this season with a 1.51 ERA.

The Irish played in the Palm Beach Classic last weekend, going 2-3. The team played two very competitive games early, but lost 7-3 to No. 9 Oklahoma and 7-5 to No. 19 California. The loss to California was Notre Dame's fourth in a row to the Golden Bears.

Against UNLV, the Irish rallied with two outs in the seventh to tie the game on a single from Linda Kohan. Junior Katie Laiing singled home Carissa Janiszki in extra innings to give Notre Dame a much needed 4-3 win.

In the next game against Cal-State Fullerton, the Irish fell 2-0 despite a complete game four-hitter by senior Kenya Fuemmeler. Titans' pitcher Candice Baker threw a three-hit shutout for the win.

The Irish wrapped up the tournament with a 3-1 win over Ole Miss. Kohan had another stellar performance in the game, hitting two RBI singles in the fifth for the decisive runs.

Senior Stephanie Brown has led the Irish offensively this season, hitting .456 and leading the Big East in hits. The captain went 11-14-18 with five runs scored and three stolen bases in the Palm Springs tournament.

The other Irish standout so far has been sophomore pitcher Brittney Bargar. Bargar picked up the win in both Notre Dame wins in Palm Springs.

Contact Michael Bryan at mbryan@nd.edu
Squad looks to qualify for NCAAs at Loftus

By JAY FITZPATRICK
Sports Writer

After delivering one of the top performances in the country during the Big East conference meets, the Irish still have work left to do to this season as they head into the Alex Wilson Invitational today at the Loftus Center.

The tournament, which begins tonight at 5 and resumes Saturday at 10 a.m., will feature some of the best competition the country has to offer.

"You have to be approved by the NCAA, so there's only about four or five meets worth their salt," Irish coach Joe Planj said. "It's going to be a fantastic meet and we have people coming in from across the globe."

Planj said the ultimate goal of the Alex Wilson Invitational is to qualify as many people as possible in the NCAA Championships in Fayetteville, Ark., March 9 and 10. In order to qualify for the NCAA Tournament, a competitor must be in the top-15 finishers in his event.

"But just to get someone to the NCAAs is amazing," Planj said. "We're in the top one percent of your event in the country."

After the Big East tournament Notre Dame has six athletes qualified for the NCAA Tournament — all of whom run in distance events. Currently, Notre Dame has two qualifiers in the men's mile, one in the men's half-mile, one in the men's 5,000-meter and two in the women's 5,000.

But even with six runners qualified, Planj wants more.

"The purpose of this meet is a last chance opportunity to get people qualified for the NCAAs," Planj said. "So we're not running a lot of people. We're running people we feel that they have an opportuni-

Notre Dame will be running more distance runners on the men's side, including senior Adam Currie in the 800-meter and sophomore Patrick Smyth in the 3,000-meter. The Irish men will also run a distance medley, a race done in four parts with a 1,200-meter portion followed by 400 meters, 800 meters, and then 1,600 meters.

Senior sprinters Maryann Eligha and Okachi Igbohiri highlight the women's side. Sophomore Molly Huddle and senior Amy Kohlmeier will also run this weekend in the 5,000-meter race.

Despite the emphasis on the distance events for Notre Dame this season, Planj still feels that his team is well bal-

FENCING

After finishing second in 2006, Irish want win

By KEN FOWLER
Sports Editor

Even though Notre Dame isn't in a fencing conference, the Irish will host the prestigious Midwest Fencing Conference Championships Saturdays and Sunday.

The annual event is a team and individual competition, with the varsity fencers com-

peting in five-touch bouts in the team competition and preliminary rounds of the individual action, and 15-

touch bouts as they approach the finals.

Though there is no Midwest Conference, the event is open to varsity teams, club teams and top private schools and fencers in the region.

"It's prestigious and it's a little bit different because it's open not only to collegiate fencers," Irish coach Janusz Bednarski said. "This is tougher, a little bit, because we are competing against those who we have never met."

For the varsity teams, there will be a nine-bout title match in each weapon for each gender. In 2006, Ohio State took first in every category except women's foil, which Northwestern won.

Notre Dame finished second in all six disciplines. On the individual side, then-freshman Emilie Prot captured the women's foil title, while current senior sabreists Valerie Providenza and Patrick Ghiatix and ju-

ior epeeist Greg Howard took second in their events.

Prot's victory was just the sixth Irish championship at the annual event for a freshman.

A new face is hoping to earn Notre Dame its seventh victory for newcomers at the event.

Irish freshman epeeist Kelley Hurley brings her 51-4 record and extremely com-

petitive nature into the competition.

"I really, really don't want to lose a bout," Hurley said. "And I don't want any of my teammates to lose a bout."

The action starts at 5 a.m. Saturday and Sunday in the Joyce Center Fieldhouse.

Contact Ken Fowler at kfowler@nd.edu
Top Ten
continued from page 20
and a 16-6 victory over
Colgate. The Irish dropped
the last two matches to the Big
Red by an 11-10 tally in 2005
and a 9-6 score last season.
Irish junior goaltender Joey
Kemp is particularly excited
about his third playing
the Big Red.
"It has been close the last
couple of years," Kemp said.
"[Cornell] is a really good
team. They are good all
over
field — they have a great
offense, defense and goalie.
This year we hope to finally
close the gap and come out
on
top."
Cornell attack David
Mitchell is one of the return-
ing senior stars that Notre
Dame needs to guard well
when he is trying to score.
"He is a great crease guy
and finisher," Kemp said of
Mitchell. "He is one guy that
is hard to stop, but our defense
is doing well. We have played
well altogether the last couple
games."
Along with Mitchell, the Big
Red also return three other
All-America honorees from
last season — goaltender Matt
McMonagle, midfielder Max
Seibald and defenseman Mitch
Belliss.

The Big Red scoring this
year has been led by two play-
ers who have an impressive
11 points each after two
games. Cornell's Eric Piturto
has netted seven goals to go
along with four assists while
John Glynn has six goals and
a team-high five assists.
Notre Dame senior midfield-
er Lucius Polk said the Irish
wasted no time in preparing
for their opponent.
"We watched film of
Cornell on the bus ride back
from the Penn State game," Polk said. "A lot of top teams
that were above Cornell lost
last week, so that will place
the Big Red at a higher rank-
ing."
Senior attack Brian
Hibschmann and junior mid-
fielder Michael Podgajny
lead Notre Dame with five goals
apiece. Freshman attack Will
Yeatsman leads the Irish in
assists; he has three feeds to
compliment his three goals for
the season.
Contact Pat O'Brien
at pobrien2@nd.edu

Wildcats
continued from page 20
Northwestern senior Kristen
Kjellman, last year's
Tewaaraton Trophy winner
as the best player in
women's lacrosse, notched a
game-high six goals.
Sophomore Hilary Bowen
also added three goals and
two assists in the win.
The Irish were led by soph-
omore Jillian Byers, who
notched three goals. Irish jun-
ier Caitlin McKinney and
senior Lena Zentgraf also
contributed two goals each.
The Wildcats out-shot the
Irish 21-11 in the first half,
34-21 for the game.
"When we play a team like
Northwestern you have to
bring it for sixty minutes," Coyne said. "Especially
defensively, we weren't
ready to go, and we didn't
have twelve people bringing
it for sixty minutes."

The Irish will look to
rebound Sunday with a
match on the road against
No. 16 Cornell (1-1). The Big
Red will be looking for
revenge from last year's
NCAA Tournament, when
Notre Dame eliminated the
Irish in the first round with
a 16-8 thumping.
Cornell started its season
with a tough 11-10 overtime
loss to Rutgers, and quickly
recovered with a 19-7 win
over Colgate.
"We just have to go into
the Cornell game putting this
loss behind us," Coyne said. "We know they're coming off
a loss as well and looking
to beat a highly ranked team."

The Irish will look to
stop Cornell junior Courtney
Farrell, an All-Ivy League
player who led the Big Red
in points last year with 52.
Contact Michael Bryan
at mbryan@nd.edu

The Office of Student Affairs is now accepting
nominations for the
Denny Moore
Award
For Excellence in
Journalism

Candidates must be seniors who exemplify the
qualities for which Denny Moore was known,
including personal integrity and character,
commitment to Notre Dame, and writing ability.

Candidates may be nominated by faculty, staff,
or fellow students.

For a nomination form, please visit our website at:
http://osa.nd.edu

Nominations are due by Friday, March 2, 2007.
Rutgers

continued from page 20

Saturday's outcome, the game represents their final shot at a big victory.

"Their fans always support them whether they're up or down," Notre Dame coach Mike Brey said. "I'm surprised that their record is their record given their personnel. They can guard you -- they've just had trouble getting the ball in the basket.

"This is their Big East tournament, NCAA Tournament all in one. It's a traditionally televised game, senior day. We're certain­ly going to get a great effort out of them." Brey said he will not shield his players from the score of the Syracuse game, which begins two hours before Notre Dame's.

"I think I'd let them know. They're going to announce it probably at the arena anyway," he said. "But for us, it's going to be: Continue to play well and show some Big East tournament habits before it starts. Rutgers dropped its last three games to St. John's, Connecticut and Villanova. The Irish own a four-game winning streak and have held their opponents to 67.3 points per game during the stretch.

"We've changed up and played a little bit of man, little bit of zone. We've been really good in our half-court man-to-man, especially at keeping people out the lane the last couple of games and I think that's important against Rutgers," Brey said.

They are a driving, slashing, get to the offensive board team. They're not the best shooting team. So if we can make them take jump shots over us that would be good." Offensively, Notre Dame is clicking on all cylinders. The Irish shot a combined .58 per­cent from three-point range in their wins over Cincinnati (Feb. 18) and DePaul (Feb. 20), respectively. Senior guard Luke Harangody netted 22 points against Marquette last Saturday.

"Certainly always want to involve Luke Harangody and get him low-post touches, that's good for us," Brey said. "We want to run and just have that attack frame of mind we've had the last four games."

Despite its recent performanc­es, Notre Dame still wears the albatross of a 2-5 road confer­ence record.

"You can't sleep on them. We're going to treat them like they're the No. 1 team in the conference. It's a road game. We're going to go at them hard. It's a big game for them, so it's going to be tough," Irish guard Tory Jackson said. "They call [the Louis Brown Hutgers Athletic Center] 'The RAC.' A lot of upperclassmen talk about it being a tough place to play."

Offense

continued from page 20

The Hawkseyes, who face Notre Dame Saturday, are 1-1-1 in the season. They are led by shortstop Jason White, who is hitting .389 and has three home runs and 10 RBIs.

That won't be the case this weekend as Notre Dame takes on Iowa and Nebraska, two northern schools facing similar limitations on their outdoor practice time.

The Cornhuskers, who face Notre Dame Saturday, are 5-2 this season. They are led by shortstop Thad Weber, who is hitting .389 this year.

The Hawkeyes, who the Irish play Sunday, are 1-1 after splitting a pair of games with Arkansas- Pine Bluff to open their season last Friday and Saturday. Iowa was led by shortstop Jason White, who won 3-3 for 6 at the plate and scored two runs in the series.

But before the Irish can play their northern brethren, they have a final tough southern game to play today -- against Stonestreet, the host of this weekend's round-robin.

The Hatters are 9-3, including two wins over former Notre Dame

Diving

continued from page 20


Forward J.R. Imman leads Rutgers with 12.1 points and 7.3 rebounds per game. Guard Marquis Webb (10 points per game) is the only other Scarlet Knight averaging double figures.

Tip-off is scheduled for 4:30. ESPN will televise the game.

Contact Greg Arbogast at
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The Observer • SPORTS

Irish left-hander Wade Kordi delivers to the plate during Notre Dame's 2-1 win over Purdue on April 26, 2006.

Both Ilyer and Stitt are coming off of all-Big East performances at the confer­ence championships. Ilyer finished third in the three­meter diving with 247.80 points, and Stitt also picked up his third-place finish with 246.50 points in one-meter diving. Robak just missed achieving All-Big East status as she placed fourth and seventh, respectively, in three and one-meter diving.

Of the three Irish divers, only Ilyer enters this week­end's meet with any prior experience. In 2006, Ilyer was the only Notre Dame diver to compete in the Zone C diving meet, failing to qualify for the NCAA Championships in any event. "Zone C is a very strong zone," Nixon said. "The Big Ten teams are very talented, and the upper-tier divers are phenomenal. Still, if our divers do their best and have a magical moment, they have a shot at making it." The number of NCAA spots up for grabs is based upon each team's performances at the 2006 NCAA Championships.

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**CROSSWORD**

ADAM FAIRHOLM

**THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING TO THE THIRD ANNUAL "LET'S GET THIS OVER WITH SO WE CAN GO HOME" FORUM AT NO. ALLOW ME TO INTRO- DUCE OUR SPEAKER, SO WE CAN GET OUT OF HERE - JOHN.**

**ALRIGHT, HI, I DON'T WANT TO TAKE UP A LOT OF YOUR TIME SO WE CAN ALL FLOWER LEAVE ALREADY SO MY SPEECH IS ALL BLAH BLAH BLAH, UNINTERESTING, NO ONE CARES.**

**ARE THERE ANY QUICK QUESTIONS? YEAH - YOU CAN WEAR THIS? I HAVE A LOT OF CRAP TO DO.**

**ALRIGHT, THANKS EVERYONE FOR COMING LET'S GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE.**

**WHERE'S YOUR MESSIANIC JEW?**

**CROSSWORD**

LIA M Moran

**Hey dude, who do you make fun of at the Watering Hole?**

1. Plat device in some science fiction fiction
2. Expedient
3. Saint born in Newark, N.J.
4. Modern site of an ancient Egyptian capital
5. Fictional character who says "I have measured out my life with coffee spoons"
6. "I was just a child... They came in their fancy box with their fancy appron..."
7. They made it like "I hope it didn't smell like Charles Bronson."
8. Then they crashed through my home.
9. It was destroyed.

**ACROSS**

1. Patent device in some science fiction fiction
2. Expedient
3. Saint born in Newark, N.J.
4. Modern site of an ancient Egyptian capital
5. Fictional character who says "I have measured out my life with coffee spoons"
6. "I was just a child... They came in their fancy box with their fancy appron..."
7. They made it like "I hope it didn't smell like Charles Bronson."
8. Then they crashed through my home.
9. It was destroyed.

**DOWN**

1. Music style that often includes an accordion
2. "Terrible" car
3. Longtime TV role for Danson
5. Part of all
6. Specialty
7. National car care chain
8. Electric letter

**ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE**

**CROSSWORD**

Hayden Will Shoritz

**Thank you all for coming to the annual "Let's get this over with so we can go home" forum at no. Allow me to introduce our speaker, so we can get out of here - John.**

**Alright, hi, I don't want to take up a lot of your time so we can all flower leave already so my speech is all blah blah blah, uninteresting, no one cares.**

**Are there any quick questions? Yeah - you can wear this? I have a lot of crap to do.**

**Alright, thanks everyone for coming let's get the hell out of here.**

**Where's your messianic jew?**

**CROSSWORD**

Hayden Will Shoritz

**I definitely have to thank God. Thank you and keep the faith.**

**Did she say god...Cue the music.**

**Where's your messianic Jew?**

**WHAT IS A CROSSWORD?**

**THE OBSERVER**

Published Monday through Friday, The Observer is a vital source of information on people and events in the Notre Dame and Saint Mary's Community. Join the more than 13,000 readers who have found The Observer an indispensable link to the two campuses. Please go to www.ndsobserver.com/subscriptions and sign up to receive The Observer in your home.
MEN'S BASKETBALL

Playing for a day off
Irish seek to end road troubles, secure first-round bye in Big East

By CHRIS HINE
Sports Writer

No. 17/21 Notre Dame can clinch a bye in the first round of the Big East tournament with a win in its final regular season game at Rutgers Saturday.

The Irish (22-6, 18-5 Big East) own the tiebreaker over Syracuse (21-8, 18-5) thanks to their 103-91 victory over the Orange Jan. 30. A Notre Dame win or a Syracuse loss to Villanova Saturday ensures the Irish a Thursday tip-off at Madison Square Garden.

For the Scarlet Knights (10-18, 3-12), who will miss the 12-team cutoff for the Big East tournament regardless of

ND SWIMMING

NCAA Championship slots at stake for ND

By GREG ARBOGAST
Sports Writer

With the NCAA spots for swimming events already filled, Notre Dame will send both its men and women divers to Ann Arbor this weekend to compete in the Zone C Diving Championships with a chance to qualify for the national meet.

The Zone C meet will span the course of the weekend with the one-meter competition on Friday, the three-meter on Saturday and platform diving on Sunday.

On the men's side, 41 divers will compete for seven available NCAA slots — the top three finishers in the one-meter diving, the top three finishers in the three-meter diving, and the first-place finisher in platform diving. If a single diver occupies more than one of these spots, then the next-place finisher will qualify for the NCAA Championships.

Vying for one of the seven available slots will be sophomore Michael Bultin, junior Sam Stoner and junior Steven Crouse.

In 2006, both Bultin and Stoner competed in the Zone C diving meet with successful results. Stoner finished 10th in the one-meter diving, while Bultin placed ninth and fourth in the one and three-meter diving, respectively.

Bultin's fourth-place finish in the three-meter dive qualified him for the NCAA Championships. At the championships, Bultin finished 18th and 27th in the three and one-meter diving, respectively, and he became only the third member of the Irish program to partici-

Irish guard Tony Jackson drives around Providence guard Brian McKenzie during Notre Dame's 83-78 win on Feb. 15. The Irish will look for their fifth consecutive win Saturday at Rutgers.

Irish return to Florida for Stetson Invitational

Schrage and Co. look to improve struggling offense this weekend

By CHRIS KHOREY
Sports Writer

After starting 2-4 against a slate of purely southern opponents, Notre Dame will face two northern schools, Nebraska and Iowa, as the gate this season, winning just one of purely southern opponents, as the gate this season, winning just one in the season opener against Texas State.

"We're going through some growing pains, but we're trying to keep the guys positive," Irish coach Dave Schrage said. "We're just going to keep teaching and trying not to let them get discouraged."

Notre Dame is hitting just .228 as a team this season and has stranded 48 runners on base. One of the few bright spots this season is the plate has been pinch-hitter left-handed second baseman Mike Dury. Dury is hitting .364 so far this season and is yet to allow a run in three innings on the mound.

But Schrage said he feels that success like Dury's will get the Irish back on track as the season progresses.

"I've always believed hitting in contingencies," he said. "Once a few

Irish attack Will Yeatman sprouts up the field during Notre Dame's 9-7 win over Loyola (Md.) Feb. 17.

Top-10 teams to clash in NY

Cornell and its 35-10 goal differential await Notre Dame

By PAT O'BRIEN
Sports Writer

No. 8 Notre Dame takes on its toughest challenge of the year when it travels to Hewlett, N.Y., to play pow'erhouse No. 4 Cornell Saturday.

The Irish (2-0) are fresh off of an 11-8 victory against Penn State and look to start 3-0 for the first time since 2003. Cornell (2-0) dominated its first two matches of the year with a 19-4 win over Binghamton.

see OFFENSE/page 18

see TOP TEN/page 17