Students protest commencement speaker

Saint Mary's College Democrats create petition against conservative justice Alito

By KELLY MEEHAN
Saint Mary's Editor

When Saint Mary's senior Meaghan Herbst sat down to have lunch Monday, she nearly choked when she saw the "Alito to address SMC grads" headline in The Observer. Her initial shock soon turned to anger as she shared her discontent with fellow students. Herbst, the president of College Democrats, quickly e-mailed the group's members and soon found support from others ready to stand up against the administration's commencement speaker selection of Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito — a jurist who Herbst said has made many court rulings against women's rights in the areas of family and medical leave, violence and sexual harassment.

"I was emotionally shocked and angered," she said. "I couldn't believe we would have someone so polarizing and misrepresenting of our mission at Saint Mary's as our commencement speaker." Herbst, along with senior

see SMC/page 4

Ticket office avoids promoting tournament

University: Class conflicts, lack of interest reasons to not publicize Big East tickets

By JOHN TIERNEY
News Writer

The World's Most Famous Basketball Tourney)

The Notre Dame Ticket Office avoids promoting the Big East basketball tournament this weekend, at least partially because neither the ticket office nor the athletic department promoted the availability of tickets for students.

While the lack of publicity contrasts greatly with the high-profile nature of the December lottery system for Sugar Bowl tickets, the University made a conscious decision not to promote tickets.

"As a general rule, the University does not promote off-campus athletic events that occur on class days," Notre Dame Ticket Office Director Josh Berlo said.

Berlo also cited the lack of student interest in Big East tournament tickets over the past few years as a reason for not promoting the event. He said the ticket office has received fewer than 10 ticket requests in the past two years, when the tournament has conflicted with class days. All of those requests, Berlo said, have been accommodated.

While Berlo said student interest has never been high, senior and Leprechaun Legion president Johnny McDermott said he's gone to the tournament's earlier rounds, including the championship game, and to the championship game if the Irish make it.

"In the past, when the Big East tourney and spring break coincided, I have gone to Notre Dame's games in the earlier rounds, including freshman and sophomore year," he said.

But McDermott did not attend the tournament's quarterfinal and will not make the semifinal because of "midterms and other assignments I have due Wednesday and Thursday," he said. He said he will only go to Madison Square Garden if the Irish make it to the championship game.

see TICKETS/page 6

Campus clears as spring break approaches

Students head to beaches, fly overseas to relax for week

By EVA BINDA
News Writer

After a week of midterms and deadlines, students on spring break will leave campus to tan in sunnier locations, visit their homes or simply relax on campus to catch up on lost hours of sleep.

For students who choose to go to the beach, popular destinations in previous years have included Mexico and the Bahamas. Junior John Cavanaugh plans to fly south of the border to Mexico with his family and girlfriend, a fellow Notre Dame student.

"I'm looking forward to relaxing — nothing too big or crazy," Cavanaugh said.

While students like Cavanaugh are in search of repose at the beach, other students will seek adventures in foreign countries.

see RELAX/page 4

Service projects in Appalachia, Louisiana attract hundreds

By MEGHAN WONS
News Writer

While some Notre Dame and Saint Mary's students will spend spring break cruising the Caribbean or catching up on sleep, others will use their vacation to plunge into service seminars — one-credit experiential and service-learning opportunities led by the Center for Social Concerns (CSC) and focused on national and international immersion experiences.

CSC seminar assistant Ilise Nelson Burrow said 283 students will participate in seminars this spring break in locations across the country.

Appalachia is a popular destination for students every year, and courses introducing students to cultural and social issues in the region are headed by a team of student volunteers. Students board a Coach bus on route to O'Hare at the Bookstore Thursday afternoon.
INSIDE COLUMN

Spring toil

If you're reading this column it means you're not on campus for the Friday before spring break. For this, you deserve much congratulations, for you are fulfilling one of the primary purposes of your time here at Notre Dame, being a student. I personally am not on campus today because I am fulfilling one of the primary purposes of senior year: finding a job.

Many of you still on campus may have stuck around to finish up an exam or paper to wait for a ride to your spring break destination. Yet some of you are lingering on campus to do something revolutionary, something radical, whether you realize it or not. You're willingly throwing in your lot for the week of your spring break with a group of mostly, if not all, strangers to go on a road trip to a place that you don't know much about except that its not too warm or sunny. You do have any tangible connection the people that you're going to be meeting and working with all week and can only presume good will.

You're ignoring the idea in popular culture that spring break is the time to worry about good ole number one and satisfying your pent up, snowed in, Office Space desires of sitting on the beach doing a whole lot of nothing.

That's right, you're going to Appalachia next week as part of the Center for Concerns' service seminars. While in Appalachia, be aware of and open to the different culture of the place and the pace of life at Notre Dame and at your service site.

Don't resist the strange notion of "taking it easy," but instead embrace it and the chance to stop and smell the roses. When given the chance, throw yourself into that opportunity to learn a new dance step.

Don't go in with the attitude that you are there to help out others in need—remember that you're on a service-learning trip. Even though the people of Appalachia are economically impoverished, they have much wisdom to offer us about how to live.

I don't have much room to preach this week, but you passed on this, you deserve much congratulations, for you are fulfilling one of the primary purposes of senior year: finding a job.

The Basilica of the Sacred Heart will be having Stations of the Cross at 7:15 p.m. This will take place every Friday during the Season of Lent.

The second round CCHA Hockey Playoffs will be held in the Joyce Center Fieldhouse tonight at 7:35 p.m. Notre Dame will play Alaska. Tickets are available from the athletic department ticket office.

The men's and women's fencing NCAA Midwest regionals will be held in the Joyce Center at 8 a.m. Saturday. Admission is free.

The Notre Dame hockey team will play Alaska in the CCHA playoffs Saturday at 7:05 p.m. in the Joyce Center Fieldhouse. Tickets are available from the athletie department ticket office.

The Basilica of the Sacred Heart will be having a Solemn Mass at 10 a.m. featuring the music of the Liturgical Choir.

The Notre Dame hockey team will play Alaska in the CCHA playoffs Sunday at 7:05 p.m. in the Joyce Center Fieldhouse. Tickets are available from the athletic department ticket office.

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

Corrections

The Observer regards itself as a professional publication and strives for the highest standards of journalism at all times. We do, however, recognize that we will make mistakes. If you have made a mistake, please contact us at 631-4541 so we can correct our error.

TODAY TONIGHT SATURDAY SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY

LOCAL WEATHER

Atlanta 69 / 42 Boston 27 / 19 Chicago 38 / 14 Denver 63 / 36 Houston 72 / 50 Los Angeles 77 / 56 Minneapolis 31 / 11 New York 31 / 19 Philadelphia 35 / 17 Phoenix 80 / 53 Seattle 50 / 41 St. Louis 59 / 31 Tampa 72 / 57 Washington 41 / 22

IN BRIEF

The film "Pan's Labyrinth" will be shown tonight at 7 and 10 in the Browning Cinema in the Buehler Performing Arts Center.

Nancy Evensole Flanagan plays traditional Appalachian folk music Tuesday for students traveling to Appalachia next week as part of the Center for Social Concerns' service seminars.

OFFBEAT

Teacher allegedly whacks child with bow

BOULDER, Colo. — A substitute music teacher has been arrested after allegedly whacking a 10-year-old student on the head with a viola bow after telling the class they were "the worst players I've ever heard."

Newspaper and television reports said the trouble began when Tarla Shimmer, 63, a teacher for more than 30 years in the district, was interrupted by a call on her own cell phone. She allegedly began swearing Feb. 12 at the Wheeler Elementary School, where she had earned the nickname "Mrs. Grumpy Lady."

Principal Karen Daly said parents and students complained. The 10-year-old said Shimmer also pulled her hair.

Lassie saves family from fire, dies

ANDERSON, Ind. — A collie named Lassie roused her owners and enabled them to escape their burning home but died in the fire, relatives said. "The dog saved their life," said Judith Thompson after her parents' home burned Wednesday morning. "It gave me goose bumps."

Thompson said her parents, Robert and Elsie Whitson, were asleep in their bedroom at the rear of their home in the city about 30 miles northeast of Indianapolis when the fire broke out. The dog, which slept at the foot of the couple's bed, licked and nibbled at their hands until 81-year-old Robert awoke and the couple got out, she said.

Anderson Fire Department Battalion Chief Larry Towne said firefighters found the dog's remains underneath some collapsed roofing.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

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

Contact Tim Sullivan at tssullivan@nd.edu

Alejandro Pellias
freshman Alumni

Kaitlin Devine
junior Walsh

Elizabeth Adams
junior Walsh

Colleen Beeler
junior Walsh

Ryan Crane
senior Alumni

Kristy Schluter
junior McGlinn

"Hmm..." "A 10-hour road trip with Elizabeth Adams."

"Kaitlin singing on our road trip."

"Flying and not driving to my destination."

"Not snowblowing my driveway like I did last spring break."

"Going home so I can hang out with my sisters."

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Saint Mary's students to participate in Out of Darkness

Two women to raise money, walk 20 miles overnight for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

By KATIE KOHLER Assistant News Editor

Friday, March 9, 2007

Out of Darkness is just the motivation
funds for the American
Foundation for Suicide
Prevention and to create
awareness and sympathy for
people affected by suicide
and depression.

Though each participant is
required to raise a minimum
of $1,000. In donations,~
Gatziolis has extended her
goal to $10,000 in her second
year participating in the
walk. She has raised $2,710
so far. Lazaroff has raised
$535 to date.

While suicide is not often
discussed on the Saint
Mary's and Notre Dame campuses as
much at other colleges,
Gatziolis and Lazaroff said
they hope to spread aware­
ess through their personal
stories.

Two years ago, Gatziolis
was diagnosed with severe
depression, anxiety and post­
traumatic stress disorder.
During her freshman year at
Saint Mary's, her depression
relapsed and she was forced
to take a semester of medical
leave after a suicide attempt. She
did not return to school for
six months.

"All of a sudden, this illness
crept it's way into my body
and became an active part of
my identity," she said.

"During my freshman year, I
changed from the peppy,
bubbly, outgoing, fun girl I
once was into someone who
felt unworthy of happiness."

After returning to Saint
Mary's to complete her sophomore
year, Gatziolis hopes to help
other students who
may be going through
the same experi­
ence."I have
turned this experience
into something posi­
tive," she said.

"My vocation has never been
more clear. Being personally
intimate with depression has
given me a deep compassion
and understanding for those
who are suffering from the
same thing," Lazaroff said.

Gatziolis has battled
depression as well. She was
hospitalized her senior year
of high school for anorexia
and depression. She
disclosed her illness.

"I have finally come to the
realization of how serious
this illness is," she said.

"Over just a year and a half,
I have discovered how com­
mon depression and suicidal
feelings are. It was very
disheartening to come to
terms with this.

While Lazaroff said she
recognizes how deeply per­
sonal these illnesses are, she
hopes by participating in the
walk in June, she will be able
to inspire others suffering
from depression.

"I think that
many people,
in this con­
ed environment
of Notre Dame
and Saint
Mary's, may
have experi­
enced depres­
sion," she said.

"In the
attempt of helping other
victims and their families,
I have truly helped myself." She
said she wants to continue raising
money for research and educational
projects for people who are in the
same situation.

Lazaroff has battled
anxiety and depression.

"I heard about the walk
a couple of years ago and knew
it was something I needed to
be a part of," Gatziolis said.

This will be Gatziolis' sec­
ond year participating in the
walk. Last year, she walked
with her mother, a friend
who lost a brother to suicide
and a friend whose father
suffered the same condi­tion.

"I've experienced this
extreme event, but it is filled
with so much compassion," she said.

"I think that there are
students who are suffering
from depression and who
don't realize the help they
can get."

Throughout the night,
participants are
planning to organize a
series of events to raise
money for the walk.

"The walk is to educate
students to help others
and to live another day," she said.

"The walk is an extremely
intense event, but it is filled
with so much compassion," she said.

"Everyone is there to
support each other.

"The walk takes place
from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. Throughout
the night, participants are
encouraged to share their
stories and the stories of
members in their commu­
unities, Gatziolis said.

While both students
already began fundraising
drives at home, they are not
limiting their efforts to those
at home.

Mary's and Lazaroff has sent out
letters to family and friends
and sold T-shirts to spread
the word.

"My goal is $1,000 as a
first-time walker," she said.

"The money we raise
will go to the families
of victims and the
people themselves.

"After finals are over, I am
planning to organize a
garage sale, carwash, speak­
ing at churches in my area
and contacting local busi­
nesses," she said.

"Over the past few months,
I have also sent letters to
friends and family.

"Any help and any donation
is greatly appreciated and
will make a difference," she said.

"The American Foundation
for Suicide Prevention (AFSP)
and the National Suicide
Prevention Lifeline, are
non-profit, non-profit
organizations that provide
services and to families
that have dealt with suicide.

"The suicide rate increased
last year from one victim
every 18 minutes to one vic­
tim every 16 minutes.

Gatziolis and Lazaroff plan
to continue their fundraising
efforts until June to bring in
as much revenue to the
AFSP as possible.

"I just think that based on
mine and Dana's personal
experiences, that it is inte­
gral to our Notre Dame/Saint
Mary's community to recog­
nize how common this is," Lazaroff said.

"I feel passionate about this
cause. They have seen some
of our friends and
family members and
want to help others who
are going through it."

"I am so happy she will be
participating with me this
year," she said. "It will be
very great to have each other's
support."

Contact Katie Kohler at
kkohl1@stmarys.edu.

GETS THE ADRENALINE GOING.
YOURS AND WHOEVER READS ABOUT IT ON YOUR RESUME.

The Army ROTC Leader's Training Course is a paid 4-week summer experience that marks the beginning of your career as an Officer, a leader of the U.S. Army.

Did you know that Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors and entering Grad students can join Army ROTC and receive a full scholarship? Did you know that Army ROTC only requires about 5 hours of your time per week? Did you know that ROTC scholarships cover full tuition, fees, $900 per year for books and pays a monthly stipend? Get the facts; contact Captain Kelley Osborne at (574) 631-4656 or eosborne@nd.edu.

ENROLL IN ARMY ROTC
BECOME AN ARMY OFFICER
U.S. ARMY


### Service

unters — The Appalachian Task Force throughout the semester.

Nelson Burrow said members of the Task Force are students who have participated in at least one seminar and developed an interest in promoting education about, and action within, the Appalachian region. Students traveling to various sites in Appalachia next week will have a diverse array of experiences, Nelson Burrow said. They may live on farms and work on home repairs, visit strip mines, patrols, work in schools or thrift stores, attend local religious services, learn to two-step to blue grass music, visit centers for the elderly or disabled communities and work on outdoor beautification projects.

Senior Katie Rose Hoover will participate in her fifth Appalachian seminar next week in McDo敷ton, West Virginia.

"My interest in the region has, because of the seminar, developed into quite a deep and complex interest that's needful, especially in rural economic and community development," Hoover said. "I went on my first trip because I had nothing better to do for a week. Now, five Appalachian seminars later, I will hopefully be moving to West Virginia next year to vol­unteer and learn more about the sites that are really important to people living there.

She said she never knew how much the Appalachian seminar would change her perspective about the U.S., her faith and her vocation. "I am really excited to get back to the beautiful moun­tains, have the chance to re­connect with some old friends from the county, have a lot of fun with other Notre Dame kids, and continue to learn more about the region," Hoover said, preparing for her final seminar.

Other student volunteers will spend the week in various urban environments. That group of students includes the Urban Environment and Poverty Seminar, which is being led by Harrison and the Jesus Justice and student education. Student participants will spend the week visiting "both children and poverty pro­grams in a number of different sites that are really important to people living there," the CSC Web site said.

Besides Appalachia, other CSC service options include the Environmental Justice and Human Rights in the Aftermath of Katrina seminar, which will expose students to the environ­mental issues minority commu­nities in Louisiana face in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Angela Miller McGraw, direc­tor of the CSC, said the immersions at the CSC, the Center is committed to address­ing the social justice issues that affect many American children, including Alito and healthcenter.

The program's goal is to edu­cate students in issues that affect many American children, including Alito and healthcare, the juvenile justice system and education. Student participants will spend the week visiting "both children and poverty pro­grams in a number of different sites that are really important to people living there," the CSC Web site said.

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### Relax

tries, including freshman James Petricelli. He will be spending the weekend vaca­tioning with his family in. Petricelli said. "I'm looking forward to learning more about the Flanagan nightlife."

Freshman Connor Troy will experience the city on the night­time when he visits his older brother. Troy said. "We're also going to Dublin for St. Patrick's Day. It should be pretty cool. Hopefully I make it back." The University is aware that drinkers risks students may face if they travel abroad, especially to countries where people are allowed to drink alcohol before they are 21 years old — a privilege some worry spring breakers may abuse.

Notice to Dime Security/Police sent an e­mail to students on Sunday with spring break safety tips and links to Web sites for more travel advice. The list of tips encouraged students to stay alert at all times if they are traveling abroad and use the buddy system. The list also provided students to limit their alcohol consumption.

Freshman alcohol-related advice has been dispensed this week in a series of campaigns centered around the theme of responsible drinking.

### Awareness Week

The event's organizers — which includes Notre Dame's Office of Drug and Alcohol Education, the Office of Counseling and Learning And Responsible Socializing (PILLARS) and the Notre Dame College Department of Social Work — organized a blood-alcohol level test and a free t-shirt giveaway, among other activities to promote drinking in moderation.

All students, however, will be partying in remote locations with lenient drink­ing laws.

For students who choose not to spend the long spring break holiday in the usual party scene, there are alternative activities to enjoy.

"We're also going to Dublin for St. Patrick's Day. It should be pretty cool. Hopefully I make it back."

### Safety

Connor Troy 
freshman

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"We're also going to Dublin for St. Patrick's Day. It should be pretty cool. Hopefully I make it back."
House Democratic leaders and showed suspension of nearly Thursday with students, environmentalists and Bush visit incites protest in Brazil

energy alliance with Latin America's largest left-leaning Brazilians protesting a visit by the president. The city just hours before Bush was scheduled to arrive.

Clashes between police and anti-Bush protestors were also reported in Colombia, where Bush is scheduled to visit on Sunday as part of his five-nation tour to Latin America.

Nazi war records to be released

THERE, Netherlands - Moving more quickly than expected, the 11-ton body over­ seeing a long-secret archive of Nazi war records set procedures in motion Thursday to open mil­ lions of pages on Nazi war records to be released.

The governing commission of the International Tracing Service, the custodian of an estimated 30 million to 50 million pages doc­ umenting the Holocaust, concluded a two-day meeting and set a recommendation for copying and transferring files to Holocaust insti­ tutions for use.

Democrats vow troop withdrawal

WASHINGTON - House Democrats vowed Thursday to pass legislation setting a deadline of Sept. 1, 2008, for the withdrawal of U.S. combat troops from Iraq, a challenge to President Bush's policy that drew a blunt veto threat in return.

Little more than two months after Democrats took control of the House and Senate, Speaker Nancy Pelosi of California said the bill would set "dates certain for the first time in the Congress for the redeployment of our troops out of Iraq."

Officials said the deadline would be acceler­ ated — possibly to the end of 2007 — if the government of Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al­ Maliki failed to make commitments for taking over security operations, distributing oil rev­ enue and opening his nation's constitution to amendments.

Demns create global warming panel

WASHINGTON — House Democrats, intent on making climate change a marquee issue, created a special panel Thursday to study and offer recommendations on how to deal with global warming.

The Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming, advanced by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, was approved on a vote of 209-150. A majority of Republicans voted against it, arguing the committee was unnecessary or that its budget could better be used by the ethics committee.

Local News

Man claims mascot caused injuries

INDIANAPOLIS — Tall performer tackled him during a free-throw shooting contest, leaving him with permanent injuries. After taking part in the free-throw contest, the lawsuit states that Jackson began to leave the court but was tackled from behind by the team's mascot, "Boomer," a 6-foot-tall blue cat with gold whiskers. Jackson's lawsuit seeks compensation for his medical bills, lost income, pain, suffering and "permanent injuries" which are not detailed.

Feds halt flights carrying detainees

Associated Press

BOSTON — Deval Patrick urged federal authorities Thursday not to move any more factory workers detained in an immigration raid out of state until their children are found and appropriate arrangements are made for their care.

More than 300 people were detained following an immigration raid in a labor raid Tuesday at a leather factory that makes equipment for the U.S. mil­ litary. About 150 have been flown from the plant at the former Fort Devens military base to a detention center in Texas, the governor said.

"I urged the federal government to stop all flights out of Fort Devens immediately until we can be assured that all parents have been identified and appropriate arrangements made for their children and dependents," Patrick said.

Federal authorities postponed a third flight that was to depart at noon Thursday after Patrick twice called Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff seeking better coop­ eration from Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials.

Homeland Security Assistant Secretary Julie Myers said ICE agents asked each of the those arrested if they were sole caregivers to children, and 60 people were released because they were. An agency spokesman has said ICE notified social workers about the raids ahead of time, and that no children were stranded.

At least 361 people were detained in Tuesday's raid at Michael Bianco Inc. in New Bedford, 47 miles south of Boston. Owner Francesca Insolia, 50, and three top managers were arrested, and a fifth person was charged with helping workers obtain fake identification.

Authorities allege Insolia oversaw sweatshop conditions so he could meet the demands of $91 million in military contracts to make products including safety vests and lightweight backpacks.

UN security officials lead away a Kurdish demonstrator at the International Center in Vienna following the International Atomic Energy Agency's meeting on Monday.

Austria

Iran continues nuclear defiance

International Atomic Energy Agency resolves to suspend aid projects

Associated Press

VIENNA — Iran on Thursday shrugged off the latest punitive sanctions — suspension of nearly two dozen nuclear aid projects — and showed no signs it was bowed by the pressure to accept tougher penalties in the form of new Security Council measures.

The decision by the 35 board nations of the International Atomic Energy Agency to deprive Tehran of 22 technical aid projects was symbolically important. Only North Korea and Saddam Hussein's Iraq had been subject to such action pre­ viously.

Still, none of the programs are as important to the Islamic republic's development of a nuclear enrichment program — which Tehran refuses to multilateralize — as the nearly three months of Security Council sanctions and the possibility that these punitive measures may be tightened.

Ali Ashgar Solianib, Iran's chief delegate to the IAEA, said as much after the board agreed by con­ sensus to suspend the pro­ grams.

"None of these projects are related to enrichment," he said of the sus­ pension. "The enrichment program will contin­ ue as planned."

IAEA technical aid proj­ ects are meant to bolster the peaceful use of nuclear energy in medi­ cine, agriculture, waste management, manage­ ment training or power generation. The technical aid is provided to developing countries, most of them developing nations — but none suspected of possibly trying to develop nuclear weapons, like Iran.

Enrichment, by contrast, has both peaceful and milit­ ary applications. Iran says it wants to develop its enrichment program only to generate nuclear power, and enrichment is not prohibited under the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. But Tehran's secretive nuclear technologies — it had sen­ sitive activities from the world for nearly two decades until revelations four years ago of a covert enrichment project — led the Security Council to impose sanctions Dec. 23 because of fears its nuclear activities were a cover for a weapons pro­ gram.

Still, there is little evi­ dence the sanctions are working, beyond generat­ ing some domestic criti­ cism of hard-line Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, who last month compared Tehran's enrichment program to an unstoppable train without brakes. And the sanctions themselves are milder than what their chief pro­ ponent, Washington, would like.

Instead of closing off Iran economically and politically, they only com­ mit all U.N. member coun­ tries to stop supplying Iran with materials and technology that could con­ tribute to its nuclear and missile programs and to freeze assets of 10 key Iranian companies and 12 individuals related to those programs.

Russian and Chinese opposition to tougher action blunted Washington's sanctions drive — and there was evidence of the same in attempts to keep Security Council unity on new sanctions meant to punish Iran for ignoring last month's deadline on sus­ pending enrichment. Council diplomats on Wednesday said the five permanent Council mem­ bers were again strug­ gling, with U.S., Britain and France pushing for tougher measures than Russia and China will accept. The impasse led to Security Council ambassa­ dors sending the problem back to high level discus­ sions among their capi­ tals.
TAKOTNA, Alaska — A 61-year-old IdahoIditarod musher won the 1997 race after his iditarod racers turned the wrong way on the trail Thursday, hours after race officials started a search for him.

Deborah Bicknell, 45, was spotted from the air driving a route formerly used in 1990, and was declared dead just after 6 a.m. Friday, March 9.

"It was a hurtful [message] that we were silenced," said Delfin Bautista, another Soulforce rider. "We are trying to simply engage students in dialogue."

Pacha said the Soulforce riders hope to bring Notre Dame's attention to two issues: the University's failure to recognize AllianceND — a gay and lesbian support group on campus — as an official student organization and its refusal to allow the group to meet on campus.

"If there are 200 students on campus that support AllianceND, then it should be recognized, and they should be allowed to use University facilities and meet on campus," Pacha said.

Also, Pacha said the group is speaking out about the LGBTQ film series.

"We will offer a wreath to honor those who are gay, bisexual, transgender and queer from the production's title," she said. "We are going to call the University to make the word 'queer' from the production's title."
Retailers report disappointing sales
Merchandising, economy, cold weather blamed for weak sales in February

Apparel retailers experienced a slow start to spring sales in February, blaming the cold weather and fashions that failed to appeal to most customers.

The fashions aren't the only issue retailers are contending with. Analysts worry that stores catering to the middle- to lower-income shopper could suffer as low-quality competitors continue to grow. And if gasoline prices shoot back up nationwide as the summer approaches, says Marshal Cohen, chief analyst at NPD Group Inc., a Port Washington, N.Y.-based market research company, "The one area...is apparel. As merchants report their sales results Thursday, the weakness went beyond the usual strugglers like Gap Inc. and included stores like town-stalwart Abercrombie & Fitch Co. High-flying Bebe Stores Inc. reported its first monthly decline in 46 months, and Wall-Mart Stores Inc., which...has had apparel merchandising problems of its own, had sales below analysts' estimates.

The result was a disappointing February sales performance for many of the nation's retailers, especially those who sell apparel. Analysts report that their sales results Thursday, the weakness went beyond the usual strugglers like Gap Inc. and included stores like town-stalwart Abercrombie & Fitch Co. High-flying Bebe Stores Inc. reported its first monthly decline in 46 months, and Wall-Mart Stores Inc., which has had apparel merchandising problems of its own, had sales below analysts' estimates.

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In Brief
Wall Street recovers after plunge
NEW YORK — Wall Street expanded its recovery from last week's big plunge, rising Thursday after several stable sessions helped buttress investment sentiment and allay some concerns about the economy. The Dow Jones industrials were up more than 100 points in afternoon trading before pulling back amid rumors a subprime lender would declare bankruptcy. According to preliminary calculations, the Dow closed up 68.25, or 0.56 percent, at 12,560.70.

Thursday's advance helped investors speed past just the snow on the ground that kept consumers from buying last month — it was close to 7 percent, known as same-store sales and considered a good gauge of a retailer's health. While February is one of the least important months of a retailer's calendar, merchants do hope to get some idea of which spring fashions will be big, how best to hire more temporary help, and what products to keep in stock.

The economy is one of the least important months of a retailer's calendar, merchants do hope to get some idea of which spring fashions will be big, how best to hire more temporary help, and what products to keep in stock.

China
Paulson urges more open markets
Paulson said the limited investment options open to Chinese citizens. The worldwide jolt to financial markets last week triggered by a 9 percent tumble in Shanghai shares reflected China's growing sway in international financial markets — as well as rising volatility in markets bloated with funds chasing too few investment opportunities.

Such volatility could be blunted by greater openness to international institutional investors and wider use of a variety of financial products including financial futures and corporate bonds, Paulson said. "China's markets lack these important elements," he said. "Without a meaningful institutional investor base, the market relies too much on retail investors. The result can be a more speculative environment and more volatile equity market.

Paulson, a former head of investment powerhouse Goldman Sachs, chastised China for capping foreign investment in local banks, insurers and other industries, saying its markets are in many ways less open than those of smaller, countries in Asia. "Nations that want robust, sustainable, harmonious growth do not impose caps," Paulson said. "China is a large and powerful country, and you should not limit your own potential by restricting your access to world-class financial expertise that can enhance your capital markets."
An impeachment with two bad sides

Notre Dame student government has lost sight of its objectives. While the Student Senate did not remove Morrissy senator Greg Dworjan from office, his impeachment a week ago for campaign violations had little to do with improving student life or presenting a professional representation of the student body to the community and administration. Dworjan’s behavior, however, was equally ill-directed.

The senator was impeached both for using a student government copy machine to make postcards urging students to abstain and for approving the flyers without approval from Student Activities. But it’s unlikely the impeachment was the result of reasoned concern for the exact better of the 59-page student government constitution. Imagine Dworjan had printed out and posted flyers reminding students to vote and imagine these flyers were unstamped and copied in the student government offices. And now imagine an ethics committee voting to impeach Dworjan if turmoil was higher.

This lofty sense of internal importance in the face of student apathy is also highlighted in Dworjan’s defense of his actions, where he cites both Alexis de Tocqueville and “basic freedoms we enjoy as Americans” (“Impeached senator speaks out.” Letters to the Editor, March 7). Dworjan told senators Wednesday he made the posters to exercise his “highest ethic.” However, student government is not a national government, nor is it fighting to preserve democracy — and it needs to stop pretending to be more than what students want it to be.

Students don’t want procedural tie-ups and undergraduate red tape. Students want peer representation and a professional, unified voice.

The case of Dworjan and the Senate illustrates a larger problem: Student government should be about students, not about impeachment and ethics committees and convoluted run-off procedures. There is a side to student government that works for positive change while keeping student interests in mind, and there is a side that pads 59-page constitutions and impeaches when insulted by technicalities. Dworjan’s impeachment is only the most visible manifestation of this second side to student government. It should come as no surprise that only 3,492 votes were cast a few weeks ago in the first election for student body president.

In its history at Notre Dame, the Student Senate has been abolished for nine years, reinstated, and again threatened with disbandment only four years later. In its perpetual quest for relevancy, it all too often ignores its constituencies. If anything positive comes from the actions of Dworjan and the Senate, it will be the push for an external governmental focus, away from meaningless infighting and toward the concerns of the student body it should strive to represent.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Remembering Rex

Before I covered a slain police offi­

ce’s funeral, before I rode along in a

quadracopter during overnight DDU

patrol before I was hung up on by more desk

officers than I can count, meet Rex

Rakow.

It was sophomore year, the sun­

soaked Blue & Gold Game weekend of

2004, and Notre Dame Security/Police

had just dropped a bombshell: the

University was firing its security moni­

tors. The monitors, who had been

analyzing and reporting suspicious behavior to the University's security officers. To

beparalels-breakers, it was cause to

create. To the rangers and girls who

counted on those monitors to feel safe

in their dorms at night, it was deeply

turbing. So to NESP, it was a very
dedicable predicament.

That’s why Rakow e-mailed me that Friday, remembering the Observer

reporter who had spent January snooping

around the dorms late at night and publishing monitors’ anonymous fears of losing their jobs. He had said then

that no final decisions had been made. Now that a big one had, he wanted to

explain.

When not outside Notre Dame Stadium, walked up to the box seats and sat in an

unoccupied room near the president’s chair. As the Irish passed and tucked

below — the crowd roared nearly
drowned out Rakow when I played back

my tape recorder later — the NESP

director didn’t watch the game. Instead, he looked in the eye and told me

about how the University had changed, how security monitors hadn’t, and how even though he thought they made

the right choice, it stung to dismiss the dedi­
cated women. “We’re hoping to have
done this as compassionately as we
can,” he said.

That conversation still resonates in

my relationships with police. As I

moved forward in my reporting career,

covering cops in South Bend, Chicago

and New Jersey, I’ve run into plenty of

journalists who believe police officers are paranoid, uncooperative, unneces­

sarily harsh. I’ve encountered police

officers who believe journalists are insensitive, untrustworthy and way too

suspicious. But while I realize reporters and cops have some interests that just

don’t intersect, I also know that we have enough humanity in common to

often bridge the divide.

I remember that when I call a police

spokesman whose colleague has just

been shot. I learned it from Rex Rakow.

I don’t know if he had that effect on

other student reporters, if he knew, what that interview meant to me. I sure
didn’t know him. But when I read today about his death, I immediately thought

back to that afternoon, when he took

the time to treat a young reporter like

a human being.

As long as I’m talking to police, I

won’t forget it. I hope Notre Dame

won’t forget him.

The writer worked for The Observer

from 2002-06 and was the 2005-06

trube reporter with the Star-Ledger in

New Jersey.

Claire Heininger

March 8

Submit a Letter to the Editor or Guest Column to viewpoint.1@nd.edu or online at www.ndsmobserver.com. Letters to the Editor should be no more than 350 words in length. Guest Columns should be no longer than 800 words and must include a byline with name, year, and major. All submissions must include the author’s name and contact phone number.

OBSERVER POLL

What are you doing for spring break?

% of votes # of votes

a. Staying on campus 12% 36

b. Service project 6% 19

c. Going home 20% 59

d. Traveling 44% 148

This poll is based on the result of 324 votes.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Conversation should be pleasant without ending, with no apparent afflicting, free

without indecency, learned without conceitlessness, novel without fulness." -

William Shakespeare

English dramatist
The death of Catholic culture

We are now well into the second generation of Catholics growing up almost entirely ignorant of the faith their Church proclaims. The precipitous decline of Catholic school attendance is an indicator that fewer nominal Catholics are receiving catechesis necessary to help them go on at Mass, or Who it is we worship through their sacramental velleities, hearing nothing consciously and absorbing a catechesis necessary for our sins?” most Catholics could not provide an answer. Indeed, many of the Catholics who knew, practicing or not, would stare blankly at such questioning. It would never occur to them that there might be an answer to such queries. Moreover, they would be bored and in disbelief that any one would bother to ask them.

Ignorance of the Church’s faith, however, is just a symptom of an even greater grave condition. It is one thing not to know the doctrine with particular truths; it is another thing — and a more serious thing — to live one’s life with a worldview blind to and uninformed by those truths. The great achievement of the Church is that it pulls together the startling forces of modernism that have been in reshaping the way in which we live in and perceive the world. Plenty of young people they desire can be bought somewhere. And they escape their childhood with at best a few years of weekly semesters of theology and perhaps a couple of years of weekly Confession, Communion and traditions of the Church. Most Catholics, however, float through their sacramental veils, bearing nothing consciously and absorbing a little bit of前提与习惯.

The greater numbers of young Catholics get their only exposure to the life of the Church from their Facebook or Twitter feeds. They attend public schools, where they are told everything they need to know is taught in their classrooms. They watch their daily guilt of television, where they see that everything they desire can be bought somewhere. And they escape their childhood with at best a few years of weekly semesters of theology and perhaps a couple of years of weekly Confession, Communion and traditions of the Church. Most Catholics, however, float through their sacramental veils, bearing nothing consciously and absorbing a little bit of前提与习惯.

Those who go to a Catholic university are likely to receive a couple of semesters of theology and perhaps a couple of years of weekly Confession, Communion and traditions of the Church. Most Catholics, however, float through their sacramental veils, bearing nothing consciously and absorbing a little bit of前提与习惯.

In his Letter to the Editor, ("Eradicate pornography, March 8") an old Catholic defines pornography as "images which cause males to lust over the female body." Does this mean that the women’s underwear section in the Sears catalog is porno­graphic? If so, I’m in trouble. Slaney also states with "clear and resounding" affirmation that the Sports Illustrated swimsuit ed­i­tion, the reason we subscribe to our mailboxes like a Christmas tree every February, is greasy pornograph­ic. If this is the case, then yours truly is to be charged with my son’s worth. In fact, perhaps the great­est perk of living off campus is the ready access to porn sites without fear of losing my Internet privileges. Hey, if all those middle school health videos say its normal, then by golly it must be.

Furthermore, we do fully realize that some women are the innocent "innocent victim" to pornography. However, this perspective cannot be considered so barbarian as an example of destroying those who have no photos of guys? I heard that long-haired dude from last year’s Abercrombie & Fitch is still around, last month, and that certainly would fall under my own boundaries.

Still, Slaney does make a clear split between us hedonistic hea­there’s no such thing as an individual, but only persons in one spiritual body (an ana­

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

Letters to the Editor

Pornography views unrealistic, dated

In his Letter to the Editor, ("Eradicate pornography, March 8") an old Catholic defines pornography as "images which cause males to lust over the female body." Does this mean that the women’s underwear section in the Sears catalog is pornograph­ic? If so, I’m in trouble. Slaney also states with "clear and resounding" affirmation that the Sports Illustrated swimsuit ed­i­tion, the reason we subscribe to our mailboxes like a Christmas tree every February, is greasy pornograph­ic. If this is the case, then yours truly is to be charged with my son’s worth. In fact, perhaps the great­est perk of living off campus is the ready access to porn sites without fear of losing my Internet privileges. Hey, if all those middle school health videos say its normal, then by golly it must be.

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One way to stop lusting

I think that Ryan Slaney made many excel­lent points in his recent Letter to the Editor, ("Eradicate pornography, March 8") but I feel that even he felt short of doing the lord’s work to its full extent. He argues that “pornographic images are those which cause males to lust over the female body.” He also says that the acceptable acceptance of porn “leads to the cultural acceptance of objectification of women." These men, and I agree, pornography should be stopped. But Slaney’s fault lies in his view that porn is only naked or nearly naked pictures. I find that all pictures of attractive women are pornographic, since they can cause lust in men, even if fully clothed. And what about women not in picture form, but in person? Seeing an attractive woman on the quad can cause lust as well, and this must be put to a stop.

I think that the only solution is to prohibit any woman, in picture or human form, from entering the line of sight of any man unless she is covered from head to toe in a burka and veil. I would also suggest that men should not be allowed to see other men, in picture or human form, for the event that one of the men may be gay, but I’m sure there are no gay people at our Catholic university. If there were, I’m sure they’d have an official club or something.

Free sacrifice is worth it

Dan Hicks’ Viewpoint, ("Sacrifice is Worth It," March 8) drew attention to our responsi­bilities with “minor sacrifices for the sake of very dear goods.” During the Lenten season, it is particularly important to contemplate our responsibilities to those who are in need, and I applaud Hicks for doing so. Absolutely, heフレームにまとめると、すべてのものの追加がすべてのものの追加がすべてのものの追加がすべてのものの追加がすべてのものの追加がすべてのものの追加がすべてのものの追加がすべてのものの追加がすべてのものの追加がすべてのものの追加がすべてのものの追加がすべてのものの追加がすべてのものの追加がすべてのものの追加がすべてのものの追加がすべてのものの追加がすべてのものの追加がすべてのものの追加がすべてのものの追加がすべてのものの追加がすべてのものの追加がすべてのものの追加がすべてのものの追加がすべてのものの追加がすべてのものの追加がすべてのものの追加がすべてのものの追加がすべてのものの追加がすべてのものの追加がすべてのものの追加がすべてのものの追加がすべてのものの追加がすべてのものの追加がすべてのものの追加がすべてのものの追加がすべてのものの追加がすべてのものの追加がすべてのものの追加がすべてのものの追加がすべてのものの追加がすべてのものの追加がすべてのものの追加がすべてのものの追加がすべてのものの追加がすべてのもの
Celebrity shearings garner praise, scare fans

Maybe it's colder from being stuck inside during South Bend winters, or spring fever arising from the prospect of spring break and warmer weather. Or maybe it's just the onset of insanity. Regardless, we all feel that temptation come springtime. The urge to grab some scissors and shear off our winter locks in favor of shorter, cooler styles. This is an equal opportunity phenomenon: after Britney Spears, anyone is fair game for lawn mower jokes.

However, shunning our customary coifures in lieu of shorter, more streamlined looks is a precarious undertaking, and there are some significant questions that must asked before going under the blade. Fortunately, our obsession with celebrity gives us significant fodder to point out good and bad examples of shearing. For some, shaving locks can be a sign of mental instability. So without further ado, here's the good, the bad and the just plain ugly of celebrity head shavings and near-shavings.

Demi Moore
Paring her close-cropped hair with a killer body, Moore proved that the only thing sexier than a man in uniform is a woman in uniform. As a tomboy with sex appeal, not only does she have the female fanatical fascination to kick butt, she's possibly the sexiest 40-year-old on the planet who's robbing the cradle with Ashton Kutcher. Consider it a double "Punk'd." Clearly, less was Moore.

John McClane
This John McTiernan film starring Alan Rickman and Bruce Willis as the lead singer of 'N Sync turned his stint as the lead singer of "N Sync turned out to be hair-don't. However, after saying "bye bye" to his curls and growing some chin stubble, JT has brought sexy back, landed a No. 1 album and even had a memorably hilarious hosting stint on Saturday Night Live.

Natalie Portman
After being forced to split out George Lucas-written low lines opposite Hayden Christensen in the Star Wars prequels, Natalie Portman needed a change. Said change came while shaving her head on screen during one intense scene in the film "V for Vendetta," which got her career back on track. Sometimes you need to crack a few eggs to make an omelet, even if it means exposing some eggbshells.

Britney Spears
The former wife of Kevin "Fistro" Federline became something of a head case in more ways than one after an impromptu "Britney shaves" session left her looking like a deranged Teletubby or Nick Stahl's character from "Sin City." Spears has left both fans and the public scratching their heads as they read about her latest exploits in the tabloids. Perhaps the old saying needs to be changed — "Hell hath no fury like a woman short.

Jack Nicholson
It's uncertain whether or not Nicholson was ever sane to begin with, but the star of "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" looked like he needed to be institutionalized after sporting his new "do" at this year's Oscars. The sight of Nicholson cucking away with his sunnlasses and splinty bald head was genuinely disturbing.

So as you sit there, either with blade in hand or anxiously twiddling your thumbs in the backseat, think long and hard about your choice of haircut. It's not like the stuff won't grow back, but you'll want to go for the Justin "do," as opposed to Britney's "don't." After all, what's hair today may be gone tomorrow.

Contact Tae Andrews at tandrews@nd.edu
The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

DVD REVIEW

Jack Ryan fights terrorists in new DVD release

By SEAN SWEANY
Associated Scene Editor

With the proliferation of superheroes in the movies today, plain old action heroes can sometimes be overlooked. John McClane ("Die Hard") and Jason Bourne come to mind for occasionally being overshadowed by their mutated counterparts.


The Hunt for Red October (1990)
This John McTiernan film ("Die Hard") follows the early career of Ryan — played here by a young Alec Baldwin — as he tries to rise through the ranks of the CIA. When a new Russian submarine captained by Captain Marko Ramius (Sean Connery)...
CONCERT REVIEWS

Merrimans' Playhouse invites new audiences

By MICHELLE FORDICE  Scene Writer

Hidden in the back corner of South Bend’s Century Center is an event that might strike some of Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s students as unfortunately missing. Once a month, the Merrimans’ Playhouse Jazz Performance Series exhibits jazz talent from around the area in a setting that provides a relaxed, intimate first time listeners. The Merrimian Trio features a new musician to fill their third spot for each performance, which both allows long time listeners and those less familiar with the genre experience the essentials of jazz music.

Going to Merrimans’ Playhouse is less like a concert and more like a special invitation to a relaxed jam session. The music is entirely improvisational. One of the integral components of the playhouse is the series of guest artists featured in each performance. Regularly, the “trio” is actually a duo, consisting of upright bassist Mary Merriman and pianist Jim Steele. Every session, a new guest artist from around the area is invited to complete the trio, assuring a new sound. For Mary Merriman, this provides a great opportunity to work with a variety of artists.

"Each musician brings their own way of interpreting a piece. This format is beneficial for the audience as well, the listening becomes more active than passive. Audiences get to watch a conversation between the artists that is often, especially for more formal concerts, done on paper. The musicians, who have not played together regularly, listen and watch to stay together and share the musical moments. Furthermore, the artists joke and talk with each other and with the audience throughout the evening, breaking the boundaries of the stage. The audience gets the chance to sacrifice some of the customary polish in order to see more of the creative process that the music often undergoes.

March’s concert featured pianist Eric Clancy from Fort Wayne, Ind. The show covered a wide range of pieces from pieces composed by Thelonius Monk, to Cole Porter and Miles Davis. While many of the songs were classics, the artists provided their own interpretation of each and, not surprisingly, many of them original selections around the piano in an effort to display Clancy’s artistry. This year’s series will eventually feature other artists such as saxophonist Rich Cohen and pianist Jim Steele.

Co-founder and drummer of the Merrimian Trio, Mary Merriman, described the aim of the playhouse as working to provide a "neutral zone." The Merrimian Trio endeavors to break down as many barriers as possible, including those of gender, socioeconomic class, age and race, and to unite people in a common love of the ever familiar but ever changing sounds of jazz. The location of the series, in downtown South Bend, was chosen to allow for greater access to the public.

"[At Merrimans’ Playhouse] you’re not going to get preached to," he said.

The relatively new Merrimans’ Playhouse still has a lot of room to grow as it slowly gathers a following, but the essence of the series is a wonderful opportunity to share music with the community. Attending concerts such as this one is an easy way for Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s students to get out and appreciate some of the talent to be found in South Bend.

Tickets to Merrimans’ Playhouse are $5 in advance and $8 at the door. The next performance, featuring saxophonist Rich Cohen, will be held on April 19 at the Century Center in South Bend. More information about other upcoming performances can be found at merrimansplayhouse.com.

Contact Michelle Fordice at mfordice@nd.edu

Schola Musicorum showcases talent with chants

By ANALISE LIPARI  Scene Writer

Dressed entirely in simplistic black, Notre Dame’s Schola Musicorum performed a powerful selection of Gregorian chants Wednesday night in their latest “Abend-Musique” concert at the University’s Glee Club and Drummer Hall. The Reyes Organ and Choral Hall, housing the University’s impressively sized pipe organ, was a lovely venue for their concert, which featured a variety of pieces sung in their original Latin.

The aesthetic of the Reyes Organ Hall calls to mind images of medieval monasticism and high church services, and the music, taken from the 15th and 16th centuries, fit that theme perfectly.

The Schola Musicorum is led by Alexander Blatchley, director of the University’s Choral and Daniel Stowe, director of the University’s Glee Club and Symphony. The Schola also features a number of undergraduate ensemble originally formed by the University’s Department of Music in 1993 with the intent of drawing together original medieval manuscripts for their pieces. The “Abend-Musique” concert follows an annual tradition for the group, which takes its name from similarly-named concerts by 17th century German composer Dietrich Buxtehude’s “Abend-Musique” literally means “Evening Music” in German and French, respectively.

The history of the Gregorian chant alone makes the Schola’s repertoire interesting for the average audience member. As the “Abend-Musique” program indicated, Gregorian chants make up the most extensive body of liturgical or ritual music in world history. In the years since Vatican II, however, they are less commonly heard, as the use of Latin has decreased in Catholic practice worldwide. Sung without musical accompaniment, the chants highlight the vocal talents of those performing with them, simplicity.

The first piece performed was a selection from Psalm 90, “Introitus: Domine, non labora­re me.” Featuring a solo by Blatchley, the impressive vocals, ethereal sound of the piece both made for a strong opening to the evening’s concert. The phenomenal acoustics of the Reyes Organ Hall added to the overall strength of the vocal performances, with the full-bodied and phenom­enal music emanating from the group towards the audience.

Thankfully for audience members without an extensive background in either Gregorian chants or Latin, the concert’s program included both the Latin words and modern English translations of each piece. Following along with the Latin was a small booklet containing a study task, and having each piece’s words, which were inspirational scripture passages and prayers, in English translation was much appreciated.

The concert continued with further passages from Psalms and phrases from the “Graduale: Angelis suis mandavit” was particularly memorable for its impressive height and range.

Other highlights included Orlande de Lassus’ joyful Psalmus: Insta exstirbavit during the Ad Vesperas, and the concert’s final piece, “Hymnus: Te lucis ante ter­minus,” during the Ad Completorium, ending the evening on a rich, uplifting note.

Unfortunately for the high caliber of the performance, the Organ Hall was notably not at less than full audience capacity. The idea of an evening of 15th century music might seem incomprehensible or uninter­esting to the average college student, but the sheer beauty, elegance and full depth of the Gregorian chants made Wednesday’s Schola Musicorum concert something not to be missed.

The music’s evocative power leaves the audience with a rash of images and feel­ings. Thoughts of the opulence of pre­Reformation masses or the strict simplici­ty of the creative life centuries ago are inevitable when listening to such rarely­heard pieces, making concerts like the “Abend-Musique” both Historical and excitingly new experiences.

Contact Analise Lipari at alipari@nd.edu
Duke falls in first round of tourney

By GREG ARBOGAST
Sports Writer

They already made history this season by winning a conference-record 11th consecutive ACC title and will try to rewrite the record book soon this weekend at the NCAA Championships in Minneapolis.

The loss was the third straight for the Blue Devils. "I don't know if our team's gotten tired, gotten worn down," coach Mike Krzyzewski said later, "they're still working hard, but that can happen at the end of the year. We've tried to take care of that over the last couple of days, but what we attempted to do obviously didn't translate into doing a better job."

North Carolina State rallied from a 60-54 deficit in regulation and had four shots to stall in the final 10 seconds. Butler missed a short jumper in the lane, then free throws, and Courtney Fells missed 3-point attempts in Asuor's transition tip over the rim at the buzzer.

Coach got the Wolfpack off to a quick start in the extra period. Featuring seven points with 4:34 seconds to go, the Wolfpack fell 72-70 in overtime and never fully recovered.

Martynas Pocius converted a 3-point play to give Duke hope, but the closest the Blue Devils got after that was 83-80. Butler converted a pair of free throws with 43.4 seconds remaining to extend the lead to 85-80.

The Wolfpack advanced to Friday's regional finals against No. 2 seed Virginia.

Greg Paulus led Duke with 18 points. Ed Davis had 14 and DeMarcus Nelson both scored 13. The Blue Devils, which fell 73-70 on Coach's three-point record in the opening minute of overtime and never fully recovered.

"It really hurts a lot I've been there, done that," said Nelson, who fouled out late in overtime. "Not being able to have that opportunity this year really hurts. But we have to move on from this and make this a growing opportunity for our team."

ND SWIMMING

Eight swimmers race in NCAAAs

By GENE NOONE
News Writer

While many college students will travel to Florida to work on their tans this spring break, the members of the ND women's swimming and diving squad looks poised to regain the league's signature event as their conference record 11th consecutive win over the Sunshine State to begin the 2007 season.

The Belles will then face Orlando Sunday to take on several challenging opponents. The pool of teams in Orlando will include Franklin and Marshall, Williams, Tufts, Rhode Island, and the University of Puerto Rico.

Coming off a solid 2006 season, the Belles will look to regain the momentum they had a few years ago in winning three straight conference tournament titles from 2004-2006. Allocation of the squad looks poised to reign over the title with a combination of strong returning swimmers and new freshman talent.

Senior captain Kelly McDavitt, who claimed a four-flush finish in No. 2 singles at last year's NCAA championship, will lead the team. The senior is already well versed in the breaststroke and is looking forward to being a captain this year. The Belles will look to McDavid's senior experience as well.

Other top returnees include freshman Mary Elizabeth Campbell, who posted 11 singles wins last season, senior Tara O'Brien, who also posted an 11-win campaign, and senior Grace Gordon, who produced eight victories as a member of last season's No. 2 doubles team.

"The team that works best will be the team that works to have an immediate impact on this year's team," Mary's coach hopes. "We will have some of these freshman players looking to show their stuff and make this a growing opportunity for our team."

Today in history:

1987: The Joshua Tree album was released by the band U2.
1999: Kentucky modified the NCAA tournament rules to disallow teams that were below .500 from appearing in the Big Tournament.

The Observer accepts classifieds every business day from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Notre Dame observer, 204 South Dining Hall. Deadline for classifieds is 5 p.m. All classifieds must be prepaid. The charge is 5 cents per character per day, including all spaces. The Observer reserves the right to edit some classifications prior to printing. The Observer does not accept ads for the following: apartments, real estate, employment, pet services, legal notices, and services. Send your personal, classified ads to the Classifieds Editor at the Observer, 204 South Dining Hall, Notre Dame, IN 46556. Send your personal, classified ads to the Classifieds Editor at the Observer, 204 South Dining Hall, Notre Dame, IN 46556.
The Ravens and Bills agreed to a trade Thursday that will send running back Willis McGahee to Baltimore in exchange for the team's third and seventh-round picks in this year's draft, along with the Ravens' third-round pick in 2008.

Even without the option years at the end of the contract, the deal is worth $26.42 million over five years.

Buffalo dealt McGahee in anticipation of difficulty re-signing him.

For the Ravens, it's the second year in a row they pulled off a trade for a marquee veteran. Last year they dealt for Tennessee Titans quarterback Steve McNair, who led the Ravens to the AFC North title. "This is a runner who can make people miss and has the explosion and speed to take it the distance," Ravens general manager Ozzie Newsome said. "He also has the power and size to run inside. He's a viable receiver out of the backfield and is a good pass blocker, not something every back can do.

"He also plays physical and with toughness, which are things we pride ourselves on here."

The Titans were also reportedly interested in dealing for McGahee. The Bills, whose remaining running backs are Daimon-Shebold and Shaun Williams, are now in the market for multiple backs.

They have shown interest in the Colts' Dominic Rhodes and the Titans' Chris Brown, and both have visited the team. Former Patriots running back Corey Dillon has not visited Orchard Park, but the Bills are said to be interested.

Buffalo's first-round pick out of Miami in 2003, McGahee is coming off a down season in which he finished with a career-low 990 yards rushing, but led the team with six rushing touchdowns in 14 starts.

In 2005, he had 1,247 yards rushing and five touchdowns in 15 starts. He established himself as the Bills starter in 2004 with 1,128 yards rushing and 13 touchdowns in 11 starts. That performance led the team to trade former starter Travis Henry to Tennessee the following summer.

McGahee sat out his rookie season recovering from major knee surgery.

The Bills have been dis-appointed in McGahee for conducting most of his off-season workouts in his native Miami, rather than traveling to the team's Orchard Park headquarters.

Associated Press

The former Miami star was traded to Baltimore Thursday for three draft picks, two this year and one in 2008.

Ravens' third-round pick in years at the end of the year's draft, along with the Ravens' third-round pick in 2008.

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Ex-Buffalo running back Willis McGahee runs through the Jaguars defense in the first half of a game last season. The former Miami star was traded to Baltimore Thursday for three draft picks, two this year and one in 2008.

Bills trade RB McGahee to Baltimore
SMC GOLF

Sophos lead Belles in Myrtle Beach

By BILL BRINK
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's will be led by four sophomores as it travels to Myrtle Beach, S.C., March 17-18 to open the spring season.

Sophomores Meredith O'Brien, Perri Hamma, Meaghan Fontein and Molly Goldsmith are joined by junior Katie O'Brien and freshman Theresa Tonyan in the 10-team event at Fairfield University. Belles coach Mark Hamilton says the team will travel to Myrtle Beach with an 87.3 squad in the fall with an 87.3 overall average. The Belles have in their swings.

"There are five Division I teams, three Division II teams, one NAIA team and us," he said. "It will be pretty stiff competition." Unable to practice outdoors in the winter, the Belles have made good use of indoor facilities. The team practices hitting and putting on Notre Dame's campus and takes full swings at Bobik's golf shop.

Hamilton said the winter provided the coaches and golfers with time to study videos of their swings and correct any problems. Both Hamilton and O'Brien have said that the tough cuts around the greens will be crucial.

"We worked pretty hard on the short game this winter," Hamilton said. "We work on the short game and then we work on any mechanical issues that the ladies have in those swings. That's when we try to get that taken care of.'" O'Brien agrees that emphasizing the team's short game is important because of the long winter months. She said the Belles have spent a lot of time chipping and putting. And, so far, her coach has seen it pay dividends.

"To the person, I've seen improvement in talent," he said. "It's been a good off-season for working on the swings and short game." O'Brien said the winter has been a chance to recharge and get a fresh start to the spring season.

"I think that the gap between seasons was a well needed break for our team," she said. "We are all refreshed and ready to start play again." Hamilton said he expects O'Brien to lead the team. O'Brien, who was second on the squad in the fall with an 87.3 round scoring average, missed a portion of the season with mononucleosis.

"She would have been All-conference, but she didn't have the required number of rounds," Hamilton said. "So we're expecting her to lead the way." Hamilton acknowledges that the lack of real competition will have an effect on the golfers.

"Getting out on the golf course, we're definitely going to be a little rusty," he said.

To counteract that lack of playing time on the course, the team will travel to Pinehurst, N.C., to prepare for the tournament.

"Our team is looking forward to spring break in Pinehurst," O'Brien said. "This should be a great opener for our spring season." Contact Bill Brink at wbrink@nd.edu.

A DRIVEN LIFE

Irish try to avenge loss versus UNC

By PAT O'BRIEN
Sports Writer

Notre Dame looks to rebound from its loss to Cornell last weekend when the No. 12 Irish (2-1) face No. 13 North Carolina (4-1) Saturday at 1 p.m. in Chapel Hill, N.C.

Last season, the Irish beat the Tar Heels 9-7 in South Bend. The all-time series between the teams is even at three wins apiece.

"This is another test to prove how good we are," Irish junior goaltender Joey Kemp said. "It is very important to bounce back from a loss."

Freshman attack Will Yeatman and junior midfielder Michael Podgajny lead the Irish with nine points each. Senior attack BrianHubschmann has also been productive on offense, already netting seven goals to go along with one assist.

North Carolina played well in its first three games but the Tar Heels received a rude awakening when they lost 19-8 to No. 7 Navy. North Carolina got back on the right track, though, by beating Bellarmine Wednesday 10-6 for its fourth win of the season.

Now, for the Irish, it's a matter of following in their footsteps.

"It is never good to lose two games in a row in a short, 14-game season," Irish senior midfielder Lucas Polk said. "[Both teams] are both coming off recent big losses. We need a big start to these four games that we have in a 10-day span."

The Tar Heels have underclassmen leaders of their own in freshman attacker Gavin Petracek, sophomore midfielder Ben Hant and sophomore goaltender Grant Zimmerman. Petracek leads North Carolina with 14 points, while Hant and Petracek both top the squad with nine goals each.

Zimmerman has started all five games in goal with a .515 save percentage.

Notes

• North Carolina has already tied last season's victory total. It finished 4-10 in 2006 and failed to make the NCAA Tournament.

• Notre Dame is 1-1 away from home. North Carolina is undefeated at 3-0 in Chapel Hill.

Contact Pat O'Brien at pobrien@nd.edu.

Irish defender Ross Zimmerman cardinal the ball upfield during Notre Dame's 9-7 win over Loyola (Md.) Feb. 17.

 contact Bill Brink at wbrink@nd.edu

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*Local blackout rules will limit availability to 37 games for most people. This product will not include the Opening Round game on March 13, 2007.
Six to compete at NCAs

ND distance runners will race at nationals

By BILL BRINK
Sports Writer

With a men's conference title already under its belt, Notre Dame will compete in three events as the Fighting Irish head for the NCAA Indoor Championships today and Saturday in Fayetteville, Ark.

Irish senior Jake Watson will compete in the mile. In the愉悦us Sun Feb. 3, he ran a 4:00.71 mile at the Loftus Center — good for ninth overall in the nation and third fastest in school history.

The Irish distance medley relay composed of Watson, junior John Cavanaugh, senior Ryan Postel and senior Todd Plane will round out the Irish representation in Fayetteville. The Ayala Wilson Invitational last weekend, the group posted a season-best time of 9:35.71 — third-best in school history.

The Irish distance medley relay composed of Watson, junior John Cavanaugh, senior Ryan Postel and senior Todd Plane will round out the Irish representation in Fayetteville. The Ayala Wilson Invitational last weekend, the group posted a season-best time of 9:35.71 — third-best in school history.

If the Irish have the medley relay qualified, they will also alternate as an alternate for the distance medley relay. If the Irish team hit five dingers, inducting Plane, Pflaum believes that they all have a chance to score.

"We've got kids that are very good, and quite frankly, I think Watson can get into the finals and possibly win," he said. "I think we can get some points out of our distance medley, and hopefully some points out of Charlie's — the kids that are going to run the 1,500," he said.

"There are teams, like Alabama, that have one all-American, and they're happy. It's hard to get in."

Senior Thomas Chamney

Nakazaki to drive team during break invites

By LORENZO REYES
Sports Writer

Three underclassmen will round out Notre Dame's top-four as the Irish head into their spring break tournaments. The Irish will travel to Boulder, Colo., for the three-day, 17-team NCAA Indoor Invitational.

The team will look to improve on its 10th-place finish at the Central District Classic last February.

"If the team will travel south to Austin, Texas, following the event for the Betsy Ross Lawn Bowling Invitational, Notre Dame will be one of 15 teams to compete for the title. The team will play its second game March 16 and will be played at the University of Texas Golf Club.

Notre Dame will compete with the Janie in both tournaments. Senior co-captain Shyenne Ptacek will tee off from the No. 1 spot for the Irish. Nakazaki is coming off a 1-under par 70 with rounds of 75-75-80 — putting her in a tie for 30th place in the field. It was her first hole-in-one and a career-best performance in the six tournaments of the 2006-07 season.

Sophomore Lisa Mauau will play from the No. 2 position in both tournaments. Mauau shot a 74-71-74 — putting her in a tie for 73rd several weeks ago.

Senior Kristen Wetzel will represent the Irish at the third spot next week. Wetzel was tied in 46th place with an overall score of 234 (79-76-79). Fellow freshman Angie Ziller will teed off from the fourth spot with Birdie entering the tournament after shooting a season-best round of 75-70-76-76, which was enough for a 36th place finish.

Finishing off the list is freshman Julie Kim, who is golfing perhaps the best of her career as traveling. Pflaum believes that they all have a chance to score.

"We've got kids that are very good, and quite frankly, I think Watson can get into the finals and possibly win," he said. "I think we can get some points out of our distance medley, and hopefully some points out of Charlie's — the kids that are going to run the 1,500," he said.

"There are teams, like Alabama, that have one all-American, and they're happy. It's hard to get in."

Senior Thomas Chamney

Irish season starts with races at Tennessee, UM

By GREG ARBOGAST
Sports Writer

Spring break will exist in name only for Notre Dame, as the Irish are only a week away from beginning their spring season with a schedule that includes some of the top rowing teams in the country.

Notre Dame is coming off the most successful season in its history after winning the Big East team title in addition to achieving an NCAA team bid. The Irish will be looking to garner their tenth consecutive NCAA team bid this season.

But in order to reach those goals, Notre Dame will have to overcome a very challenging schedule.

"We've once again put together a schedule that will be very challenging and will help us gauge our improvement throughout the season," Irish coach Martin Stone said in February. "Every year we've tried to upgrade our schedule. I believe that this year's schedule is tough and one that will test us throughout the spring."

Notre Dame will open its season next Saturday in Knoxville, Tenn., which it takes on Tennessee and Minnesota. The Volunteers finished last season as the No. 2 team in the South region while the Golden Gophers were No. 3 to the Central region at the end of 2006. The Irish were No. 6 in the Central region last year.

The schedule does not get any easier the following weekend when Notre Dame travels to Anz Arbor, Mich., for a regatta against Michigan and Michigan State. The Wolverines finished 2006 ranked No. 2 in the Central region, and the Spartans were No. 4 in the region in the final poll.

The other notable meet on the Irish schedule is a trip to Redwood Shores, Calif., for the Windermere Real Estate Regatta — widely considered one of the season's top meets — on April 14-15.

Among the participants will be Stanford, Washington, Washington State, California, and UCLA, who together account for five of the top six teams in the final poll of 2006, for the West region.

The Irish will open with two-time defending national champion California Saturday morning before racing Stanford that afternoon and UCLA Sunday morning.

Contact Greg Arboagast at garbogas@nd.edu

Contact Bill Brink at bbrink@nd.edu

Nakazaki to drive team during break invites

By DAN MURPHY
Sports Writer

Notre Dame heads west to Cal State Fullerton to play in two tournaments over spring break. The Irish will bring their tough early schedule next week with three ranked teams, including the Wolf Pack.

The Sun Devils (22-2) have held opponents to two or less runs per game so far this season, including seven shutouts. The Irish will face Notre Dame to open up the Judy Garman Classic March 15 at 9 a.m.

The Irish will square off with Nevada of Laholm in the same tournament and No. 12 UCLA Sunday in the second game of the Long Beach Invitational.

The Irish are 0-3 so far this season, but have yet to face any opponents, most recently losing a 1-0 pitcher's duel to No. 9 Michigan March 4.

The Fresno State Bulldogs and Eastern Kentucky University round out the rest of Notre Dame's opponents over break. The Irish will also play two more games that will provide the team with tough early competition.

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First up for the Irish is Eastern Kentucky, who has been inconsistent so far this season. The Colonels still pose a quick scoring threat, with Freshman Shyenne Ptacek leading the offense. Hussey has 12 RBIs and four home runs with a .368 batting average in her first 12 collegiate games. The rookie was named the Ohio Valley Conference player of the week Feb. 26.

Sophomore pitcher Brittany Bargar will have the task of shutting down her team. Bargar is 6-3 so far on the season, tying her for the most wins of any pitcher in the Big East. She also leads the conference in strikeouts with 56, averaging slightly more than one per game.

Senior Kelly Kuykendall (1-4, 4.25 ERA) will get the ball for the second game of the afternoon against the Bruins. UCLA is projected to be one of the top teams in the region, as coach Kelly Inouye-Perez after long sked spent five Pac Ten years at the end of last season. Enquist defeated Notre Dame three times most recently in 2005 — while coaching the Bruins.

Inouye-Perez has her team off to a solid start so far this season with a 15-4 record. So far, UCLA has been getting it done with the long ball. As a team, the Bruins hit 21 home runs in their first 21 games. In Wednesday's 8-1 win over Cal State Fullerton, the Bruins hit four rounds, including one in the very fast bat at junior outfielder Krista Colburn.

After Sunday, the Irish will have four days off before making the short 25-mile trip to Fullerton to play the rest of their games.

The Observer could not reach team members Thursday.

Contact Dan Murphy at dmurphy6@nd.edu

Irish second baseman Katie Lang bats against Michigan during Notre Dame's 3-1 win Oct. 16 at Ivy Field.

Irish second baseman Katie Lang bats against Michigan during Notre Dame's 3-1 win Oct. 16 at Ivy Field.
Regional continued from page 20

in the individual competition and overall of the week before at the Northwestern Duals, said that she had some issues. She’s not spoor on her recent run. And
now, with similar competition on a daily basis, she needs to improve just two spots to secure a place at the national competition, which would be more than just an accolade on her growing resume.

"We are fighting for the spots — it’s already the national championships," Janusz Bednarski Irish coach

"I’m feeling so much better," she said. "I’m definitely tired, but I feel like I’m getting a lot stronger." She said her cough is almost gone, but she can still count on being able to go home and take part in a practice before heading indoors.

Serrette’s evaluation of her abilities and results this year is a testament to her determination. "I think it’s been a pretty good year," she said. "I’ve had a lot of ups and downs, but overall I’m satisfied with my progress."

Despite the challenges, Serrette remains positive and focused on improving. "I’m really looking forward to the national championships," she said. "It’s going to be a great opportunity to show what I’m capable of."

Notre Dame coach Bobby Bayliss said that in past years the team has made the transition to playing outdoors as fast as possible. "It’s important to get used to the outside court as quickly as we can," he said. "But we also need to make sure we’re physically ready for the competition."
Shot
continued from page 20
But Notre Dame’s scoring in the second half would not have been possible without a big three-point play to pull the Irish to 13-14 with 11:57 remaining. It was the first time in the game that the Irish had connected on a three-point play.

Notre Dame scored in each of the next two minutes, but the Orange had an answer. Freshman forward Sam Iullesland came in for the second half and added 10 points, including two free throws, to give Syracuse a 52-44 lead with 11:20 remaining.

The Orange continued to build their lead and were able to pull away from the Irish with 6:11 left in the game. They held off a last-second attempt by Notre Dame to make the final score 65-59.

Notes
- The Irish started the game off with a 12-8 lead, but Syracuse responded with a 9-0 run to take the lead. Notre Dame was able to hold on to a 26-20 lead at the end of the first half.
- Irish guard Russell Carter, who finished with 20 points, said of the teams’ previous meeting: “I think we did a better job of getting shots off and not taking bad shots. We also played better defense and held them to fewer points.”
- The Orange had 11 turnovers in the first half, but only six in the second half.
- Irish forward Luke Harangody, who finished with 21 points, said: “We really want to get back on the court and prove ourselves. We have a lot of talent and we need to put it all together.”
- Syracuse’s Mike Carter said of his team’s performance: “We did a good job of rebounding and getting the ball into the paint. We also made some key shots from the outside.”

Florida
continued from page 20
The Irish will be looking to improve on their performance against Florida, where they lost 85-70. Notre Dame will need to play better defense and find ways to get the ball into the paint.

Contact Chris Khorey at
ckhorey@nd.edu
**Crossword World**

**Kaleidoscope McDaniels**

Who was the name of John Jacob Janish in the novel "A Brother's Keeper"?

**Crossword**

**ACROSS**

28 Broadcaster from 1955 to 2006
29 Hardly windy
30 Ship
31 Exclamation in a locker room talk
32 River of Troy
33 "Phoeey!"
34 Through
40 Single or predecessor, double, say
41 Tenor Bostridge
43 " Possibly"
48 Company
50 You or touch
51 Spreadsheet
52 Landing site
56 Derby wear
58 Heretofore
59 Olympics event
60 Olympics event
61 Have no matching
62 Emerge
63 May be protected
65 Derby wear
66 They've been on the creation of the
67 Formerly
70 "Phoeey!"

**DOWN**

1 Display some interest in
2 Frequent USA Today features
3 Like people in the front row of a group photo, often
4 Get further Details?
5 Company
6 Suit request
7 Stop or touch follower
8 Flanker of cosmetics
9 Cannonball Adderley's specialty
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**Answer to Previous Puzzle**

**Riddle**

**Who is the current owner of the New York Times?**

**Secret**

**What is the country where New York City is located?**

**Hidden Message**

"COBALT" - Cobalt is a chemical element with the symbol Co and atomic number 27. It is a hard, dense, corrosion-resistant metal used in various applications.

**Riddle Answer**

"The current owner of the New York Times is the New York Times Company, which is a subsidiary of the media conglomerate Meredith Corporation."
**BASEBALL**

Irish to test southern weather in tournaments

By FRAN TOLAN
Sports Writer

Notre Dame coach Dave Schrager said his team will welcome the opportunity next week in Florida to play eight games outside after traveling back and forth between southern states and frigid Indiana for the first four weeks of the season.

"The main thing that excites me is that we are going to get some continuity outside and be able to stay outside for eight to 10 days, which is something that this team needs right now," Schrager said.

The Irish have yet to find their rhythm this season, defeating then-No.12 TCU and No. 7 Nebraska while posting a 3-6 overall record.

Schrager noted the team's need for consistency. He said Notre Dame's 16-1 win over Nebraska last Sunday might give the Irish confidence heading into this prolonged southern swing.

"We played probably the best game that we have against Nebraska, and you just hope as a coach that that carries over — the momentum carries over — and we go down there and start winning some games and get on a little bit of a winning streak," Schrager said. "We are trying to build up our self esteem a little bit and build off that success."

This weekend in the Clearwater Invitational in Jack Russell Stadium, the Irish will face Sacred Heart on Saturday before playing a doubleheader against Duquesne and Harvard Sunday. The squad will wrap up its stay in Clearwater Monday with a rematch against Harvard, which was added to the official schedule because there's a possibility that the home opener will not be able to stay outside for eight to 10 days, which is something that this team needs right now, Schrager said.

"Everybody ranked opponents, the Irish

**MEN'S BASKETBALL**

**Off their backs**

Irish reverse Big East fortunes with victory

By CHRIS KHOREY
Associate Sports Editor

NEW YORK — The situation was tense.

No. 16/22 Notre Dame had been leading for most of the second half of Thursday's contest with Syracuse, but the Orange had just switched to a full court press and were threatening to come back, down just 76-70 with two minutes remaining.

It was then that Irish senior captain Colin Falls calmly spotted up and knocked down his seventh three of the afternoon, hitting four from beyond the arc in the second half — a sign of significant improvement from 6-of-15 shooting.

The Irish have yet to find their rhythm this season, defeating then-No.12 TCU and No. 7 Nebraska while posting a 3-6 overall record.

Schrager noted the team's need for consistency. He said Notre Dame's 16-1 win over Nebraska last Sunday might give the Irish confidence heading into this prolonged southern swing.

"We played probably the best game that we have against Nebraska, and you just hope as a coach that that carries over — the momentum carries over — and we go down there and start winning some games and get on a little bit of a winning streak," Schrager said. "We are trying to build up our self esteem a little bit and build off that success."

This weekend in the Clearwater Invitational in Jack Russell Stadium, the Irish will face Sacred Heart on Saturday before playing a doubleheader against Duquesne and Harvard Sunday. The squad will wrap up its stay in Clearwater Monday with a rematch against Harvard, which was added to the official schedule because there's a possibility that the home opener will not be able to stay outside for eight to 10 days, which is something that this team needs right now, Schrager said.

"Everybody ranked opponents, the Irish

**FENCING**

Bouts for title start Saturday

By KEN FOWLER
Sports Editor

The NCAA Championships are two weeks away, but the quest for the title starts Saturday as Notre Dame hosts the Midwest Regional at the Joyce Center Fieldhouse Saturday, beginning at 8 a.m.

The top five men and women in each weapon — except for men's foil — will earn automatic berths into the national competition at Drew University in Madison, N.J., March 22-25.

Four men's fencers will earn automatic bids.

Four fencers in each gender and weapon per team can compete at the regional competition, but only two in each discipline can advance to the NCAA Championships.

A season ago, the Irish qualified seven of their 12 fencers.

"Usually we oscillate between 10 and 12," Irish coach Janusz Bednarski said of the team's expectations. "Everybody [is] working hard. I don't think we have people who are slowing down."

Notre Dame enters the competition a week after hosting the Midwest Fencing Conference Championships, an event with a nearly identical field at St. John's location.

"To me, it's the exact same tournament," Irish senior sabreist Valerie Provendola said. "There's the same people, the same seedings."
ONE STRIDE AT A TIME

Alaska is the first step in Notre Dame's journey toward Joe Louis Arena and beyond
Brown named to All-Conference first team

Senior alternate captain Jason Paige also recognized as Notre Dame's team scholar-athlete award winner

By KYLE CASSILY
Sports Writer

Notre Dame goalie Dave Brown said he was "a little surprised" waiting for him when he got off the ice after practice Wednesday — the news that only minutes before he had been named to the CCHA all-conference first-team.

The senior Hobey Baker candidate became the first Irish goalie to be named to an all-conference first team — defensemen Benoit Costtoit was awarded the honor in 1983.

"It's a great honor, and I'm very excited and very proud to be honored," Brown said. "I wouldn't be able to be on an all-conference team without my great guys on my team, especially my defensemen who are battling for me every night."

Irish sophomore right wing Erik Condra and freshman center Mark Van Guilder and the entire defense unit, other than starter Jack Johnson who was named to the all-conference first team.

"It's important to have the best penalty killing unit in the country this year," said. "When you get injured right now on our team — like Danny Sciba's — it's important to have the best penalty killing unit in the country."

Sciba returns

Irish forward Josh Sciba will play at least one game this weekend for the first time since the senior was lost to an arm injury over five weeks ago.

Sciba and Jackson both said that he is healthy enough to play against Alaska, but the Irish coach is reluctant to remove players from the lineup that have played well in Sciba's absence.

"We've got some kids that are playing really well right now, so it just a decision to take them out of the lineup isn't necessarily the right thing to do," Jackson said. "(Sciba) has worked extremely hard to get himself to play this weekend."

Sophomore Justin White proved to be a capable replacement for Sciba, scoring a game-winning goal in the third period of a Feb. 9 win against Nebraska-Omaha. White joined with freshman Dan Kisel and junior Evan Rankin during several games to create Notre Dame's fastest line.

Junior defenseman Dan VoNard was faced with a situation similar to Sciba's when he returned from a leg injury several weeks ago. In his place, freshman Brett Blastchford had become a key component of the Irish blue line while paired up with fellow freshmen Kyle Pearce and junior Evan Rankin during several games to create Notre Dame's fastest line.

"When you get injured right now on our team — like Danny Sciba's — it's important to have the best penalty killing unit in the country."

Pearce ready in backup role

In the third and deciding game of last year's playoffs against Alaska, Brown was inserted out of a纳米波兰 player diving to make a play at the puck at the top of the wing. The Irish goalie was forced to leave the game with nobody playing well, Jackson said. "It's the same thing with Sciba."

Sciba was the leading goal scorer for the Irish last season and has seven goals and 10 assists in 27 games this year.

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"I've been named to the all-conference first team and have won a Scholar-Athlete Award in 1991," Jackson said. "It's up to him to be ready emotionally. Jackson has the ability to do it. It's just a matter of him being mentally prepared to play — ready for the challenge."

Paige named scholar-athlete

Irish alternate captain Jason Paige was named Tuesday as the team's scholar-athlete of the year — the second straight year in which the senior finance major has earned the honor.

Paige, who has been selected to the Dean's List two times, will now be up for the CCHA's scholar-athlete of the year award to be announced March 15 at the Awards Banquet in Detroit. Paige was given the Notre Dame Rockne Student-Athlete Award in 2006 and has a 3.612 cumulative grade-point average.

"It's something that is definitely important to me," Paige said. "I want to excel in the classroom because as far as my future, I want to have all the options I can. One thing I will say, over half the guys on this team are definitely deserving of that award."

After his hockey career is finished, Paige said he might like to pursue a career in private wealth management or real estate.

Contact Kyle Cassilly at kcassily@nd.edu

CCHA predictions

Both teams will come out of the gates hard in game one, with each side having something to prove. However, Notre Dame will use its advantage in team speed to grab the early advantage. The Nanooks have struggled to come back after all year, Davis Brown and the Irish defense will have no problem holding them off.

Alaska will start game two with a bit more desperation but once again the more talented, more disciplined Irish club will outlast the Nanooks and advance to the semifinal round.

FINAL SCORE: ND 4, Alaska 2

ND 3, Alaska 2

(Dan Murphy) (Kyle Cassilly)
Sports Writer

If this series goes three games and the Irish are forced to play a steamrolling Nanooks team in a dead, half-empty Joyce Center, the series will be over.

The Lakers were given too much time off, lacked discipline and did not take Clarkson seriously, he said.

This time, however, Jackson has said he is healthy enough to play against Alaska, but the Irish coach is reluctant to remove players from the lineup that have played well in Sciba's absence.

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Contact Kyle Cassilly at kcassily@nd.edu
Balance of experience and youth is key to Irish victory

No. 1 Notre Dame needs to stay focused on task at hand in order to beat Alaska and advance to Joe Louis Arena.

By KYLE CASSILY

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Big brothers help freshmen adjust to college

Deeth, Thang, Lawson headline first-year players by claiming three of six spots on the CCHA All-rookie team

By DAN MURPHY
Sports Writer

There was never a doubt that the Irish hockey class of 2010 were a talented bunch. They key for Irish coach Jeff Jackson was providing them with a smooth transition into college, on both hockey and life.

So Jackson designated a senior as the big brother for each of the 10 freshmen. The senior brother was responsible for making sure his freshman was comfortable and as possible in his first year at Notre Dame.

"I've always tried to have an upperclassmen make sure our young guys get a feel for the campus, get a feel for the community," Jackson said. "Also, I want them to become a part of the family, that is a big part of building the team."

Jackson's methods have gone a long way in building what has become, the No. 1 team in the country. A lot of that has to do with the major contributions the freshmen have made in almost every aspect of the team.

"My guy was senior forward Josh Deeth," Irish forward Kevin Deeth said. "If I had any questions or needed any advice, it was nice to be able to go to him."

Deeth was recently named to the CCHA All-rookie along with linemates Ryan Thang and defensemen Kyle Lawson. Notre Dame became only the seventh team to place three or more players on the All-rookie team in CCHA history.

"We all like to create stuff offensively, and we all think the game very well," Deeth said.

Out of those six teams with several rookies, four have gone on to the NCAA championship and three have made it to the Frozen Four. Those two numbers have set a good precedent for what the No. 1 Irish hope to accomplish in the next month with help from their diaper brothers.

"I want them to become a part of the family, that is a big part of building the team," Jeff Jackson Irish coach

Deeth and Thang are joined by All-rookie selection Erik Condra to create a lethal scoring trio known by teammates as "the little-guy line." The little guys have put up some big numbers all year for the Irish with a combined 46 goals on the season.

"We all like to create stuff offensively, and we all think the game very well," Deeth said. "It's been nice to have guys like that to play with."

The two freshmen forwards were friends for a few years before college and decided together that Notre Dame was a good opportunity for both of them. The pair was almost immediately matched up with a like-minded playmaker in Condra. Since then, they have formed a chemistry that is evident both on and off the ice.

While Deeth and Thang have given the Irish forwards a spark, Lawson has also made some serious contributions from the blue line, leading all freshmen with three goals on the season.

Michigan native has played in 32 of the team's 36 games this year and has been solid defensively in all of them.

Lawson joined the Irish after spending a year with the USHL's Tri-City Storm and has flourished under the tutelage of his "big brother," senior alternate captain Wes O'Neill.

"I don't know if I should have had a better one to be honest," Lawson said. "He's a great player, and he showed me the ropes, so it went really well.

This weekend the freshmen will once again turn to their senior brothers for advice as they enter uncharted waters.

The seniors will try to repeat their performance from their own rookie season, when the team advanced to the CCHA Super Six in December.

Contact Dan Murphy at dmurphy6@nd.edu

HEA HEAD TO HEAD

COACHING

There are barely a handful of coaches with the pedigree of Jeff Jackson. His 24-4 CCHA playoff record is unmatched by any other coach in the conference. There is no equivalent.

GOALTEENDING

First team All-conference selection Dave Brown leads the nation in wins and goals-against. Brown has been solid in big games all year for the Irish and is no stranger to the spotlight he will find himself in the next month.

DEFENSE

It's hard to argue against the top-ranked Irish defense. The senior-laden unit has shut down the CCHA's top offenses all season and helped Brown gain the recognition he has this year.

FORWARDS

The "little-guy line" has combined for 46 goals and has jumped started an Irish offense that is now ranked eighth in the NCAA in scoring. All four ND lines are threats to score and open up tight games.

SPECIAL TEAMS

The Irish penalty kill is the best in the country, having allowed only 17 goals this season. The power play has been hot and cold all season, but Jackson continues to tweak the unit in order to create some opportunities for his goal scorers.

INTANGIBLES

No. 1 Notre Dame comes in heavily favored but with little room to spare. The spring break exodus will leave the Joyce Center quieter than usual for the season goes to Sunday.

MacMilan, in his third year at Fairbanks, has crafted a strong defensive team that only allowed 2.82 goals per game this season. His Nanooks have bought up teams like Michigan and Miami to a standstill all season.

ALASKA

Despite MacMilan's success, Jackson's experience is decisive. His 10 national titles in three appearances with Lake Superior State don't lie. He has what it takes to lead the Irish to the national elite.

ANALYSIS

No. 1 Notre Dame

MacMilan, in his third year at Fairbanks, has crafted a strong defensive team that only allowed 2.82 goals per game this season. His Nanooks have bought up teams like Michigan and Miami to a standstill all season.

Rogers has been solid against the Irish all season as well as in the playoffs last year. But with a Hobey Baker candidate between the pipes, it would be tough to bet against the Irish in this category.

After being pushed around last season the Irish blueliners bulked up this year and have been a key to the Irish defense, ranking fourth in the CCHA with just 14.9 goals per game.

With Paige's line matching up with Greenstreet, expect to see Condra and Co. get loose against Alaska's No. 2 unit and wreak havoc.

Once again, the Irish hold an edge over Alaska due to their defensive prowess. The power play could only be a big role for Notre Dame if Alaska is successful with their trap prevailing strength.

Both teams have plenty to play for, but Alaska carries the edge in momentum over the Irish, who have been idle for the past week.

The video-game matchup is sure to be filled with emotions.