Activist receives written admonition

By MARCELA BERRIOS

A Notre Dame freshman was threatened with immediate suspension for participating in unauthorized student protests, but received only a written admonition, he said.

Freshman Eddie Velazquez joined a tour of civil rights advocates during the Soulforce Equality Ride March 8 and 9, leading to a run-in with Notre Dame Security/Police (NDSP) officers and the Office of Residence Life and Housing.

"On the second day of the demonstration, all we did was walk in procession and carry wreaths in silence, but we were immediately stopped by NDSP officers," Velazquez said. "They arrested everyone there and they would've arrested me too, but they realized I was a student, so they told me to go away if I didn't want to be suspended immediately."

Velazquez said he received a warning from the NDSP the first day he visited Notre Dame, after he and many Soulforce Riders staged a demonstration in LaFortune Student Center to encourage LGBTQ dialogue.

"I was just offering an anecdote about my personal experience on campus dealing with LGBTQ acceptance when I was interrupted by an officer who told me to stop because I was bothering the Huddle customers and harming the business," Velazquez said.

Bill Kirk, associate vice president of Residence Life, said in a Feb. 27 Observer article that many applicants indicate they wish to be considered for other halls.

While some of these transfers may have to do with lack of space, Bill Kirk, associate vice president of Residence Life, said in the article, "We are not going to move seniors from their rooms."

Juniors Ashley Weiss and Cassie Saucedo are two of a number of juniors who will transfer to new residence halls next year in order to accept positions as resident assistants (RAs) next year. - a move that Weiss and Saucedo said they are both looking forward to, despite the fact that they will be leaving their current residence halls.

According to Sister Mary Langan, residence life director, the number of RA transfers usually are due to the numbers of applicants.

"For the most part, it has to do with how many apply and how many are needed," Langan said.

Applicants can choose on their application whether or not they are willing to transfer to another hall to become an RA.

Kirk said creating a cohesive hall is also a factor.

Juniors Ashley Weiss and Cassie Saucedo are looking forward to getting section assignments and meeting their residents as they prepare to become resident assistants next year. - to mention that they must fill dorms to their maximum capacities - and beyond into next year, even as a growing number of seniors move off campus, said Scott Kuchmarch, assistant director of Residence Life and Housing.

While his office has seen large numbers of seniors move off campus in recent years, Kuchmarch said the number of seniors staying on campus has grown as well. He clarified that the proportion of seniors moving off campus to those who stay in dorms has remained stable at around 50 percent.

The increase in the number of seniors can be explained by enrollment figures, which have increased over recent years. More students have decided to attend Notre Dame after they were accepted, and a relatively large number of transfer students are admitted regularly, Kuchmarch said.

With tradition and community playing an important role in the lives of Notre Dame students, the high amount of seniors that have moved off campus has been a

Anti-war activist to speak

Sheehan will discuss experiences on Iraq

By KATIE KOHLER

Sandy Sheehan, the anti-war activist who lost her son in Iraq and generated international attention by protesting outside President Bush's ranch in Crawford, Texas, will speak about the war today at 10:30 a.m. in Carroll Auditorium at Saint Mary's.

Sheehan's visit serves to remind of the events of the war and that we can effect change, even four years after the war, said Bridget Hahn, president of Peacemakers - a social justice group on campus.

Following the death of her son, Casey, in Iraq, Sheehan demonstrated at a peace camp outside Bush's Texas ranch during his five-week vacation there in August 2005. She created Camp Casey by pitching a tent at the ranch and demanding an audience with the president - a demand ultimately not granted.

She is also one of the nine founding members of Gold Star Families for Peace, an organization that seeks to end the U.S. occupation in Iraq and provide support for the families of fallen soldiers.

Sheehan is presently on a speaking tour of Indiana colleges and universities. The College Democrats, the main sponsors of Sheehan's visit, will hold a forum with her on March 12.

Students move off campus to Dismas House

By EMMA DRISCOLL

When fifth-year senior Emily Pike was looking for an apartment the summer after studying abroad, she chose an unlikely place, away from any residence hall or Turtle Creek. She decided to live at Dismas House - a non-profit organization that provides transitional housing and support services to men and women who have been recently released from prison or jail, according to the organization's Web site.

Pike's summer-long stay at Dismas became a two-year residency, where she lived and worked in the house as a kitchen manager throughout her last two semesters at Notre Dame.

"I absolutely love living in Dismas House," Pike said. "It has become such an important part of my life here at Notre Dame. Basically it's like living anywhere else in a house of fifteen people. It's a little chaotic, and it's a lot of fun."

The people who live with Pike at Dismas, with the exception of two other students, have either served time in prison or have been sent to the house by a court order in place of prison time. They range from 19 years-old to approximately 25 or 60-years-old, she said.

"We're a re-entry program, and we like to provide a community environment for former offenders in which they can take some time to figure out what it will mean for them to live a stable and productive life," Bautista said.
**INSIDE COLUMN**

**Paintball aggression**

At Notre Dame, being the Catholic institution that it is, we are taught to seek non-violent ways to solve our problems. But every once in a while you are confronted with a person that all you want to do is be violent. Erin McGinn, Assistant Scene Editor.

Sometimes worse than getting punched by a younger brother. Although if you get hit in your face-mask, you quickly learn that the paint tastes horribly.

The basic premise of the game is simple: shoot others, and don’t get shot yourself. If you end up with paint on you, you’re out of the game. There are variations of different speeds and types of paintball games to play, including elimination and speedball fields, which also allow for unusual sport, it is a great experience that is hard to replicate through any other activity. Although it might seem like an unusual sport, it is a great experience that is hard to replicate through any other activity. So if you’ve bored on the weekend or just looking to release some anger, grab some friends and head down to Action Park. After all, nothing brings people together quite like taking shots at each other.

**CORRECTIONS**

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

**QUESTION OF THE DAY:** If you could sum up the weather in one word, what would it be?

**Jimenah Dilerio**

*Freshman Breen-Phillips*

"Maneater. It’s so bad, it eats you from the inside out."

**Greg Robinson**

*Freshman Stanford*

"Paraguay, because that’s where she wants to be."

**Michelle Weissenhofer**

*Freshman Walsh*

"Wet."

**Ryan Smith**

*Freshman Knot*

"Abomination, because it keeps teasing you... going from warm to cold."

**Susan Bigelow**

*Sophomore Badin*

"Gorgeous. Think happy thoughts.

**IN BRIEF**

**Journalist Judy Woodruff** will give the Red Smith lecture, entitled "Are Journalists Obsolete?" She will speak tonight at 7:30 p.m. in the Hesburgh Library Auditorium.

The Student Union Board (SUB) will hold AcoustiCafe tonight from 10 to 12 in the basement of LaFortune. This is a free event.

Erin McGinn, a 1995 Notre Dame graduate, will perform her comedy act Friday at Legends at 10 p.m. Admission is free.

The Spring Run will take place Saturday. Participants can run either 5-K, 10-K or do the 2-mile walk. The races will start from Legends at 11 a.m. Runners and walkers can sign up at RecSports for $10 prior to the race and for $15 the day of the race.

**Opera Notre Dame** will present "A Midsummer Night's Dream" Saturday at 7:30 at Washington Hall. Tickets are $5 for students and $10 adults. For tickets call the LaFortune Box Office at 631-8128.

Notre Dame men's baseball will play Georgetown Sunday at 1:05 p.m. at Frank Eck Stadium. Admission is free.

To submit information to be included in this section of The Observer, e-mail detailed information about an event to observer@nd.edu.
Career Center offers summer internship opportunities

By JENN METZ
News Writer

As the academic year draws to a close, many students have their summer plans for jobs and internships set. But for those without permanent jobs, the Notre Dame Career Center provides services and resources to make the search easier.

Lee Svete, director of the Career Center, said there is still "a strong market" for seniors. The Indiana Career Fair was held before Easter break, and the Chicago Career Fair will be held Friday at the University of Chicago for students from the University of Chicago, Notre Dame, Northwestern, and other top schools in the Midwest. This fair will feature representatives from 50 to 70 employers.

Another, more easily accessible option for students is the virtual Big East career fair. Students will have access to 180 employers offering up to 600 permanent jobs with the Big East online system.

"Even though companies have stopped coming to campus to recruit, there are still a lot of options out there," Svete said.

Seniors also have access to Irish Online, a protected networking database that provides contact with 10,000 alumni. Svete encouraged networking with alumni to get contacts and necessary information to secure good jobs.

For first-year students, sophomores and juniors, access to the alumni network is also available, but only in terms of looking for volunteer internships.

"It is not too late to find an internship," Svete said. Internet databases like Intern Exchange through Career Services and the Career Center's Web site are protected, providing access to only a few schools. As of Wednesday, about 7,000 internships were still available through this database.

Svete also recommended jobcentral.com for its keyword search option, which can help students narrow down their search to their specific area of interest and preferred location. This Web site is updated regularly.

"After their first year, students should start looking for internships. High school internships are great options," Svetе said.

He said students should use their first and second summers for experimenting and exploring different types of fields, but the seniors after junior and senior years should be dedicated to career growth internships.

"The challenge is not finding an internship, but is finding a paid internship," Svetе said. Currently, the University participates in the Indiana Career Program Fund, which pays for 50 to 60 Notre Dame students' internships in Indiana.

The Career Center has proposed to take this program nationally and work on endowments for the project.

Another option for students is an internship program at Tumbleweed, for example, anthropology students can get credit for interning at the Field Museum in Chicago. According to Svetе, for-credit internships are available in the film and television areas.

Svetе recommended students start rough drafts of resumes and that they "just come in and get started — the earlier the better." Freshman Eleanor Huntington visited the Career Center Tuesday because she "felt the need for a strong look and establishing relationship.

She said her career counselor was very helpful in explaining the market and offering advice for constructing her resume.

"I received concrete, direct advice about what I should be doing now, and what I should do next," Huntington said.

Svetе advises students to be aware of deadlines for some internship programs, which depend on the desired desired.

"An early start is a sage start, but there are still tons of opportunities out there for this summer," he said.

Contact Jenn Metz at jmetz@nd.edu

RA

continued from page 1

students from other dorms does not tend to affect the dorm environment, something she credits to the application and interview process.

For Weiss and Saucedo, moving to a new dorm won’t be a drawback. In fact, they’re excited about the opportunity to meet new people and experience life in a different dorm.

"It’s great because you get to observe everything going on with hall staff, residents, traditions," Weiss said, stating that she’s looking forward to "the change in pace.

Weiss also said her desire to become an RA "definitely superceded my desire to stay as they did," and she knew when she applied she would take a position outside of Breen-Phillips Hall if one was offered.

Saucedo also said she "mindlessly" checked the box on the application stating she would be willing to transfer to another dorm, and didn’t think it would be an issue.

"At first I didn’t think I would have to move out of McGlinn," Saucedo said. But since accepting the position at Pangborn Hall, she is pleased to be going there and is happy she made the decision to do so.

"I’ve been to dorm Mass and dorm council, and it’s very welcoming and open," Saucedo said. She doesn’t foresee any problems with the transfer.

Weiss also said they will bring new perspectives to the dorm, as well as an unbalanced view of all aspects of life in Pangborn Hall.

"We have a lot of knowledge about the dorm, or about any of the residents," she said.

Both are excited to receive their dorm assignments and meet the other residents.

Yoneske said they will hold a new perspective for credit. For example, Weiss anticipates being able to meet new hall staff, which will be an opportunity for the transferred RA to meet some of the residents.

Contact Aaron Steinzer at asteinze@nd.edu
Dismas continued from page 1

Dismas was once free life," Pike said. Most residents of the Dismas House were drug offenders and could easily become reengaged in their addictive habits, Pike said. "Drug offenders" have the highest probability of relapsing, she said. She attributed this primarily to "environmental factors" in the offenders' circles. When drug users are around people who use drugs, most people they know are also users, she said.

"It's very hard not to fall back into that lifestyle," Pike said.

It is "very disorienting, especially at first," Pike said. When Pike sees Dismas House residents occasionally fall back into these habits. But she said living in the house for three months to a year, or longer, helps them appreciate the residents that complete a full recovery.

Students can live at Dismas House for $320 per month — although Pike said this amount can often be reduced or waived through work-study. Currently, three students are living at the house, and Pike said this number varies throughout the year. Pike claims that students can apply to live there for a semester, a year, or even longer.

At first, arriving at Dismas House can be frightening for students who don't know what to expect from the house dynamics. "It can be a little bit intimidating at first," Pike said. "You sort of walk in and don't know what to expect, but the truth is that these people are just like anybody else you know."

Like other residents, students living at Dismas House are expected to help run the house. "Everybody has a chore that they have to do," Pike said. "Everybody sort of fights over who gets the last bagel and that sort of thing. For the most part, we all get along really well and have a really good time together."

All of the people living at Dismas House are also expected to eat dinner together at 6:30 p.m., although the houseguests could be bent for students. She described these meals as "family time."

If the houseguests consider each other family, the volunteers who say they run the house could be the extended family. Fischer Hall, Konan Hall, Brown-Phillips Hall and Fischer Graduate volunteers come to dinner regularly, Pike said.

To Pike, the responsibilities and expectations at Dismas are similar to the ones she would expect to find in any other living situation.

"Basically you are responsible for things that you would be responsible for at other places," Pike said.

As far rules, Pike said there is no drug use in the house and to commit such an offense is "not serious."

"You cannot use any kind of drugs, you cannot drink, but you cannot come home if you have been drinking," Pike said.

Pike said most of the residents have curfews, which means that almost everybody is home during the daytime and spends time together playing cards or watching movies. While some students may be reluctant to live off-campus without their friends, Pike said she believes her off-campus experience and said she has been one of her favorite parts of life at Dismas House because it has kept her connected to the world outside the Notre Dame community.

"When you're a Notre Dame student, it becomes so wrapped up in campus life that you forget that there's something else out there," she said.

Activist continued from page 1

Residence Life, spoke on behalf of his officer and NISP Wednesday, declining to comment about any exchange that may have occurred between Velazquez and NISP officers, as the University maintains a policy of not commenting on students' disciplinary records.

He said student academic sus­ pensions fall under the jurisdiction of Residence Life as outlined in the student handbook. "I don't think our policies have changed," Pike said.

Once classes resumed after spring break, Residence Life direc­ tor Jeff Shoup contacted Velazquez for two disciplinary hearings. The freshman eventually received a written admonition for violating the University's demonstration policy.

Velazquez said he did not know with certainty which section of the policy he violated, but he suspected it was his failure to notify Residence Life in writing about his intentions to participate in a demonstration. Shoup declined to comment on Velazquez's case. Wednesday.

Velazquez said he joined partici­ pants of the Soulforce Equality Ride in their two-day stop at Notre Dame and was "Banked by NISP offers the whole time."

The Soulforce Equality Ride is a 30-day nationwide bus tour to different Christian colleges to pro­ mote tolerance and acceptance of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) students run by Soulforce Equality, a non­ profit organization against homo­ phobia, according to the Soulforce Web site. The dallas guidelines for demon­ strations on campus say "only members of the University commu­ nity may organize or lead a demonstration" if they register in writing their intentions at Residence Life.

Moreover, "demonstrators may not impede the freedom of the University community," the rule­ book says.

Under the umbrella of the above regulations, NISP officers handed out trespass notices to six of the Soulforce riders that were leading discussions in the LaFortune lounges and wrote down Velazquez's contact information for interfering with the student cen­ ter's operations and participating in an unauthorized demonstration, Velazquez said. He said he was also cautioned to stay away from any further demonstrations the Soulforce riders may attempt to organize. The next day, however, Velazquez said he rejoined the riders outside the University gate to participate in a procession that would end at the foot of the statue of celebrated Notre Dame missionary Tom Dooley, who was gay.

Velazquez said he and graduate student Efrin Enrique were pulled aside by NISP officers during the silent procession and were told to leave in order to avoid an immediate sus­ pension from the University.

Velazquez said he did not under­ stand why he was not arrested alongside the other riders as he had already received a warning the previous day to cease any efforts to organize more demonstrations with Soulforce Equality on campus.

"I think the University wanted to spare itself the trouble and the fall­ out that would've been caused of one of its own students who just stood up for his own rights on his own campus," Velazquez said. "It saddens me to see the administra­ tion act so apprehensively toward LGBTQ students and their efforts to initiate dialogue among the student body. This type of behavior only makes Notre Dame even more non­ conducive to students who may be gay and want to come out and say it but are scared they won't be accepted."
INTERNATIONAL NEWS

U.S. requests help in Afghanistan

WASHINGTON—The United States is pressing its allies to commit additional forces, equipment and other resources to Afghanistan for a NATO-led spring offensive against the Taliban, Defense Secretary Robert Gates said Thursday.

Gates met with a number of military leaders late Wednesday and Thursday. He was not expected to offer any additional U.S. troops, according to a senior U.S. defense official.

About a half-dozen defense ministers from countries participating in the volatile southern sector of Afghanistan will discuss how to "fill those last critical pieces that are missing," the defense official said. They also want to ensure that they get at least 12 months at home between deployments.

President Karzai on Thursday called for a "fraternal" defense conference in the middle of April, to be attended by about 6,000 troops from NATO countries, working together in the volatile southern sector of Afghanistan."We must drive him out," said Abdulsalqy Sattalibayev, 47, complaining about unemployment and poverty in the northern Talas region where he lives.

The protestor carried banners reading "No to Bakiyev!" and chanting "Bakiyev must go!" Many protesters were armed with large sticks and stones.

"We want a government that would be honest and open ... and not divide the nation into the south and the north," Kulov told the opposition rally. However, Kulov has failed to rally any support in the south, where opposition activists have been subject to several attacks, and most protesters on Wednesday were from the north.

"We are disgusted by Bakiyev's policy," said Sulaiman Dzhumaev, a 20-year-old from the northern Bakty-Kul region. "He only puts the southerners in official jobs." Michael Hall, Central Asia project director of the International Crisis Group think tank, said that given the opposition's rejection of the concessions made by Bakiyev in recent weeks, it is unlikely to settle for anything less than Bakiyev stepping down.

"They want only one thing: his resignation," he said.

The crisis started in December with Kulov's resignation in a complex political maneuver that backfired. The move essentially was meant to get Bakiyev out of a bind. The president had been forced under opposition pressure to sign constitutional amendments giving parliament the power to fire a government.

LOCAL NEWS

Nerve agent stockpile to be destroyed

India has been hailed as "world's best" in a French company's attempt to dispose of chemical waste from the destruction of chemical weapons.

"This is a very important development," said environment Minister Basavaraj Horne.

"We are taking a huge step forward," he said.

The French company, however, was among several that had been asked to submit bids for the destruction of VX nerve agent stockpile in the United States.

"We are pleased with the French company's offer," said Dr. Ramesh, director of the Newport Chemical Depot in Weymouth, Massachusetts.

"We are encouraged by the French company's offer," he said.

"We are very pleased with the French company's offer," he said.

The company's offer was among several that had been asked to submit bids for the destruction of VX nerve agent stockpile in the United States.

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Seniors

continued from page 1

for us to reflect on what we've learned from the event, hopes Sheehan's visit changes the opinions of many students about the war.

"It's really an asset to have upper-class students involved in the hall community," she said. Not only does the hall depend on upperclassmen to serve in the hall staff, but those students also serve as mentors, he said.

For former Fisher Hall vice president and junior Drew Whiting, who plans to live off campus next year, seniors do provide stability in the dorm and help carry on the traditions. Losing some upperclassmen could create a sense of absence in the hall environment and tradition, Whiting said, although he said he hasn't felt that loss in his dorm.

"As long as the underclassmen can understand what a place is all about and embrace it, you don't lose those things," Whiting said.

Kachmarik said that maintaining a proactive representation of each class in the residence halls is a priority.

"We're committed to making sure there's a balance and good mix," Kachmarik said. "It tends to naturally balance itself out," he said.

The annual migration of students off campus is a concern for some members of the community, like Whiting, who worry about the safety of students. "They are venturing off into a community which is dangerous and unfamiliar," Whiting said. "I hear about muggings and robberies in downtown South Bend."

While there is little room for more seniors on campus now, Whiting said more seniors would stay in the dorms if they were given some of the privileges off-campus students enjoy. Whiting cited the contract dorm residents must sign to host social gatherings and parties and the restrictions placed on alcohol consumption as primary reasons for moving off campus, in addition to the financial savings associated with the off-campus life.

"A big incentive to move off campus is that it is cheaper," Whiting said. "Room and board costs far more than living off campus.

Whiting said he has seen a decrease in interest in dorm leadership during his three years in Fisher. New rules and restrictions and the rising costs of room and board are enough to lure some students off campus, and when some go, their friends follow, he said.

"The snowball effect of others moving off campus has led many, including myself, to see (moving off campus) as the best option for my last year at this school," Whiting said. "If it made sense, I would live in Fisher for senior year in a heartbeat. It's convenient to live on campus."

In the meantime, Kachmarik said that while Residence Life and Housing cannot do anything immediately to reduce the numbers of seniors moving off campus — due to the lack of space — construction of new dorms like Duncan Hall, scheduled for completion in the fall of 2008, will address this problem.

Kachmarik said the additional space would allow more seniors to live on campus senior year if they wanted to stay and would offer more comfortable living conditions to all students.

Contact Aaron Steiner at asteiner@nd.edu

Sheehan's visit changes the opinions of many students about the war.

"I really encourage activism for peace as part of any group that is fighting for the same cause — to end this useless and senseless war," she said. Cunningham also linked Sheehan's visit to the overall mission of the College.

"We, as women of Saint Mary's College, are here to train women who can make a difference in the world," she said. "When we fight for a cause that changes the world, we are making a difference." Hahn said Sheehan's actions are personal, yet admirable.

"I feel that she did what she felt called to do, and there is nothing wrong with that," she said. "I commend her on turning the devastating event of her son's death into something positive, and I support her anti-war efforts."

Contact Katie Kohler at kkohle01@saintmarys.edu

Explore the Program of Liberal Studies Applications Due April 17 (available on-line)

For Further Information See: www.nd.edu/~pls

Join the 2008 Dome yearbook staff

The Dome is a great way to get involved with Notre Dame student media. Staff members are given the opportunity to write stories, take pictures, learn about the publication process and meet new students.

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Anyone with or without yearbook experience is welcome to apply. Please contact us (domed@nd.edu) to receive an application. Interviews will be held between April 12th and April 20th. Also, please contact us if you are interested in being a writer or photographer.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Kathleen Martinez
2008 Editor-in-Chief
NEW YORK — Under pressure from investors to contain burgeoning costs, Citigroup Inc., the nation’s largest financial institution, announced that it will eliminate about 17,000 jobs, shift 9,500 positions to “lower cost locations” and consolidate some corporate operations.

The steps — which are expected to save more than $2 billion from the bank’s operating costs this year alone — also should result in faster service for consumers and businesses, Citi’s chief operating officer, Robert Druskis, said Wednesday.

“A lot of the initiatives undertaken in the name of expense reductions were designed to unplug our corporate system,” he told The Associated Press. “We want to make Citigroup a more nimble, entrepreneurial place. We want decision-making to be quicker. We want things to move through the pipelines faster.”

The 17,000 job cuts amount to about 5 percent of the bank’s 327,000-strong work force.

Druskis led the structural expense review, which was aimed at reducing costs at the New York-headquartered bank and improving profit.

Citigroup executives have been under pressure from analysts and a number of investors who were worried that Arahans Prince Alwaleed bin Talal, Citigroup’s second-largest individual shareholder, to improve performance. The bank’s stock has not done as well as its peers, including Bank of America and JPMorgan Chase & Co., which have been more profitable.

The elimination of the jobs won’t reduce the bank’s work force for its growth, Citi executives said.

Druskis told a conference call with Wall Street analysts that they should expect Citi’s headcount to grow this year because of acquisitions and plans to open new branches, especially overseas.

"But that rate of growth will be at a significantly diminished rate," Druskis said.

Goldman Sachs analysts William F. Taetona and Daniel Harris predicted "a tepid reaction" by investors they said had expected deep cuts.

In afternoon trading, the bank’s shares dropped 89 cents, or 1.7 percent, to $51.51 on the New York Stock Exchange.

Carter Burgess, managing director of the Brokerage Search Group, a recruiting firm based in Greenwich, Conn., said that "[the] question is, if all these areas for cutting expenses exist, why wasn’t it done sooner?"

He noted that Citigroup, like many of the giant money center banks, was built through a series of mergers and acquisitions and that "it's not totally clear you can make all of this work effectively together."

Charles Prince, the bank’s chairman and chief executive officer, said that implementation of Druskis’ recommendations "will improve business integration as well as our ability to move quick­ly and seize new growth opportunities."

Prince also emphasized that more expense cuts were possible, saying that Citi was adopting "a continu­ous approach to improving our efficiency — this is not a one-time effort."

The changes announced Wednesday include eliminat­ing unnecessary layers of management, reducing staff at corporate headquarters and other locations.

Judge tries to keep kids out of debt

NEW YORK — A bankruptcy judge who has tried of seeing people burdened with credit card debt in his courtroom has decided to do more than help them untangle their finances.

Judge John C. Ninof founded Credit Abuse Resistance Education, or CARE. It sends volunteers from the bankruptcy system — including judges, attorneys and law students — to talk to young people around the country about developing good money skills and avoiding debt.

CARE is among the 180 organiza­tions nationwide that make up the JumpStart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy. Each April, the Washington, D.C.-based JumpStart marks finan­cial literacy for youth month with conferences aimed at sharing pro­gram ideas and visits to congression­al offices to urge support for school programs.

Laura Levine, JumpStart’s execu­tive director, said CARE and other groups "do an amazing job, often with few resources," in trying to bring basic financial skills to the nation’s youth.

"But that coalition an A for effort, but acknowledges it has a way to go to deal with a "big problem that’s not going to be solved overnight," Judge Ninof said.

Ninof uses real stories from his bankruptcy courtroom in Rochester, N.Y., to educate students about the potential dangers of misus­ing credit cards.

He tells of a couple who didn’t even earn $50,000 a year but ran up more than $50,000 in credit card debt by taking repeated trips to Disney World "to keep the kids happy." And of an accountant who raked up $80,000 in credit card debt "keeping up with the Joneses and everybody else."

The man who accumulated $100,000 in card debt but wasn’t worried because he intended to pay it off when he won a lottery.

Ninof believes stories like these prove his point that the lack of finan­cial literacy has moved beyond the problem stage to the crisis stage.

"We truly have a national epidemic of financial illiteracy in this country," Ninof said in an interview. "We in the trenches of the bankruptcy system see it every day."

The idea behind the bankruptcy professionals’ participation in CARE, he said, was "to be proactive to get the word out to people ... instead of being the ones who have to clean up the mess all of the time."
LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Fighting stereotype with stereotype

After reading the April 11 Letter to the Editor, "McDaniels goes too far," by Katherine Khroy, I could not help but think to myself, "What is she trying to say?" That superior intelligence is the primary attribute I am looking for in a future wife. She begins her article by stating that she is part of a class with the highest acceptance standards of any Notre Dame class and announcing her GPA to the school. The problem with these two statements is that every year the standards increase, so next year's class will be "smarter" than hers and, frankly, nobody cares what her GPA is. Also, in her attempt to fight one stereotype, she creates another. She then begins to attack any girl who may be considered "pretty" by society standards. Although I would rather my future wife be sweet, loving and someone I can talk about the ability to do integrals, write thesis statements and boil eggs as if these skills should be Liam Moran's main criteria in seeking his future wife. Although I consider intelligence to be important, the ability to compute integrals does not turn me on to a woman. I would rather my future wife be sweet, loving and someone I can always have fun with — not someone who I can sit down with for an exciting Saturday night of Calculus. The point is that everyone introduces you to someone he thinks you've never met — you will undoubtedly remember that he sat across the aisle from you in your Introduction to Philosophy discussion section that met on Fridays during the fall semester of freshman year. You can learn a lot in a 20 minute class.

Liz Coffey is a senior American Studies major and Journalism, Ethics and Democracy minor. Her columns appears every other Thursday. She can be reached at lcofey@nd.edu.

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Dear St. Matthew College Hideout,

I am writing to share my experience as a member of the Class of 2007. As we approach the end of our time here, I wanted to reflect on my own journey and the lessons I have learned.

Firstly, I must say that my time at St. Matthew College has been full of challenges and triumphs. I have encountered situations that tested my limits, but also allowed me to grow and expand my horizons. One particular moment that comes to mind is when I was faced with a difficult decision. I had to choose between two equally valid options, and it was a tough choice. However, I learned that making choices and taking risks is a part of life, and it is through these experiences that we learn and grow.

Another aspect of my time here that I would like to mention is the importance of community. St. Matthew College is a place where people come together to support each other, and this sense of belonging has been crucial in making my time here memorable.

I also want to express my gratitude to the faculty and staff who have been so instrumental in my development. Their guidance and mentorship have been invaluable, and I am forever grateful for their support.

As we prepare to leave St. Matthew College, I am filled with a mixture of emotions. On one hand, there is a sense of sadness at leaving behind a place that has become a second home, but on the other hand, there is excitement for what the future holds.

Thank you for being a part of my journey. I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

Sincerely,
[Your Name]
Jones ‘Not Too Late’ with another great album

By MICHELLE FORDICE
Senior Critic

Norah Jones' latest album, “Not Too Late,” preserves her beautiful and soulful sound even as she moved into new territory and composed or helped to compose all the songs on her album for the first time.

Jones doesn’t take too many musical chances — choosing instead to embellish and build upon what she has already established — but many of her lyrics are appealing and more personal than before.

Jones already has an impressive pedigree. Her debut album “Come Away With Me” won five awards at the 2003 Grammy’s, including “Record of the Year,” “Album of the Year” and “Song of the Year.” The song “Sunrise” on Jones’ second album, “Feels Like Home,” won the Grammy’s “Best Female Pop Vocal Performance” in 2005. The same year she won “Record of the Year” and “Best Collaboration with Vocals” for her work with Ray Charles on the song “Here We Go Again.”

“Not Too Late” stands apart from previous albums because every included song was either written or co-written by Jones herself. While most of the songs maintain a similar feel and sound to those on her previous records, they all contain a little extra personality that is inspired from her own experiences.

As always, the character of Jones’ music is increased by her use of piano, electric guitar, organ, acoustic guitar and keyboard in addition to her singing. These touches make “Not Too Late” a strong next step in the continuing evolution of her music.

There are several stand-out songs on the album. “Wish I Could,” while light and smooth, is a reflective ballad full of longing and bittersweet memory. “Sinkin’ Soon” is a swinging, brassy tune that features an excellent trombone part by J. Walter Hawkins.

The most energetic song on the album, “Sinkin’ Soon” has a refreshingly different sound. “Little Room” has a sweet sound and cheekily romantic lyrics that make it a fun addition. The titular song, “Not Too Late,” epitomizes Jones’ sound and theme here. The songs are beautifully written, sweet and strong, with a touch of melancholy and hope.

Backed by cello, bass and light electric guitar, Jones’ vocals on “Broken” are appropriately soft and slightly melancholy for the lyrics. “My Dear Country” is Jones’ first politically oriented song.

She delivers her point simply — a lifting parallel of piano and voice move into a short but beautiful instrumental solo before returning to the ivory keys. The message itself is a bit simplistic, but the appeal of the music makes up for it.

The strong and persistent flow of “Rosie’s Lullaby” reflects both the waves it illustrates and the yearning it describes. “Thinking About You” is a cheerful, if sedate, song that is pleasant to listen to.

Not every artist can make the transition from performing what they have been handed to what they have composed. But “Not Too Late” effectively blends what has made Norah Jones successful in the first place, her beautiful voice and playing, with her new creative attitude.

There are a few new sounds on “Not Too Late.” But most of Jones’ new expression comes from the use of songs she has composed — an innovation that is something to look forward to from her.

Contact Michelle Fordice at mfordice@nd.edu

Photo courtesy of wholenight.com

Norah Jones has won eight Grammy awards since her debut in 2003, and her most recent album, “Not Too Late,” should continue to keep her in the award spotlight.

Recommended tracks: ‘Sinkin’ Soon,’ ‘Wish I Could’

Poetry readings can be both inspiring and exciting

Sliding skillfully below the radar of most Notre Dame students, the Notre Dame Creative Writing Program is a department that doesn’t scream for attention. The program quietly holds gatherings and readings in locations, and for the lucky and attentive listeners, those who attend know they have found something special.

In fact, the literary output of the program is one of hidden gems of this campus.

Wednesday night, two of Notre Dame’s finest student writers — Rachel Lee and Silpa Swarnapuri — joined forces to create a coffee shop reading session of poetry and prose that was truly amazing. Lee read poetry, Swarnapuri worked with prose, and both proved to be extremely skilled.

The thing is, I didn’t really even want to go to the reading. My roommate was going as a student of one of Lee’s classes, and he asked if I wanted to tag along. Reluctantly — and with the image of off-campus Chipotle hurriths dancing in my head — I agreed to go. I figured, I’m an English major. I like writing and reading poetry. I like Chipotle. A lot.

I had never been to a poetry reading, and figured outside of the cultural hubs of major cities, I should keep my expectations low. I couldn’t have been more wrong.

Lee’s poetry screamed of talent, polished, unpretentious and profound, the poems brought ink and paper to life. I had never met Lee before, but like all good writers, Lee’s work seemed to contain her. It made me wonder what I had been missing out on.

Swarnapuri, originally from India, was equally adept. She wrote stories with undertones, whether overt or more hidden, of her Indian background. Her skillful prose leapt off the page with action and emotion. She went second in her reading, and I was truly disappointed when her last story ended.

These readings struck me on several levels, but one thing it made me realize was the lack of attention some of these fine programs get from the general student body. I know poetry isn’t for everyone, but this marginalization goes for so many cultural events on campus. Outside of those with some direct connection to the people putting on the event, it seems attention is minimal.

Poor attendance at academic and socially-aware movies, small crowds of the student body at art exhibits and ultimately the lack of recognition for outstanding events like the readings at Lula’s café, which sits just off Edison Road, right across from the Linebacker.

As fine as an institution as the ‘Backer is, I promise you Lula’s is equally amazing, albeit in a different way.

Trust me, I’m not chastising anyone for not attending some of these cultural events. They really aren’t for everyone. But as a guy who didn’t really want to go this reading in the first place, I’m sure glad that I did.

I want to encourage people to maybe step outside of their bubble a little bit and attend some of these events around campus. They are happening all the time.

Of course, there’s the possibility that you might hate it, but then again, you might not. And there’s only one way to find out.

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

Contact Chris McGrady at cmcgrady10@nd.edu

Most people lack exposure to poetry outside of a classroom setting, like that in "Dead Poets Society," which makes attending a poetry reading a new experience.

Photo courtesy of whatdvd.net

Photo courtesy of mfordice@nd.edu

Photo courtesy of wholenight.com

THE OBSERVER

CD REVIEW

SCENE

Friday, April 12, 2007

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Annual room picks can cause drama in dorms

Each spring, there comes a series of notable signs that the seasons are changing, including the first appearance of snow (usually), the first frosts, and the Deit.ac-protected tulips emerge from their earthen beds, fresh and ready to grace the populace.

The weeks tend to congregate in one area, the lakes to an overzipped puddle. Even the students, with their now-ugly, pale complexes and winter-induced light sensitivity, show off their former states of hibernation and burst out onto the sunlit quads.

One not-so-natural sign of spring, however, lurks ominously behind these cheerful reminders of seasonal shifting on campus. It's not the reappearance of meat on Fridays at the dining halls, nor is it the proliferation of cornhole, Frisbee and other outdoor games. No, this demon is more terrifying than anything that either man or beast could dream up.

Two words: room picks.

For those of you who might be freshmen and have yet to experience this lovely phenomenon, let me enlighten you. Or, rather, let me give you a well-intentioned warning, so as to make sure you avoid surviving something during this process. Because it will, undoubtedly, make you want to shoot, strangulation/poison/other-variation-of-maim your friends and neighbors, especially if they take the sweet, sweet room that you desire.

Dormitory room picks often end up playing out like a scene from "Mean Girls," with drama and controversy aplenty rising between both friends and rivals.

Across the country, hearts are breaking and tears are flowing. Fans of "American Idol," regardless of who their favorite contestant might be, are united by deep-seated anguish and confusion caused by a single person: Sanjaya Malakar.

He seemed innocent and harmless — at first. The audience got their first taste of Sanjaya during the Seattle auditions. He quickly won over fans when he tried out with his sister, Shyamali, and they congregate in any week to vote.

My own beloved home, Howard Hall, gives the process an interesting twist. Having received their lottery numbers, each Duck has the opportunity to place a magnet to denote each dorm's available rooms to denote each resident's desired room. During the course of the 24-hour room pick period, however, anyone with a better number has the option of literally removing your magnet from its resting place and replacing it with her own. Again, it's an awkwardly personal process.

Some students choose to avoid the process entirely by moving off campus for their junior or senior year. A house or apartment is inevitably much bigger than a dorm room, plus, you get to cook for yourself. However, you also have to clean, pay bills and find transportation to and from campus.

And who wants to act like a real live adult before it's absolutely necessary? Not me.

Personally, I prefer the room pick drama. Not while it's actually happening, of course — especially if my lottery number isn't exactly ideal.

But afterward, once my room is secure, I can sit back with a bowl of popcorn to watch the underclassmen go through the same thing. It's just another sign that spring has sprung again.

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Contact Analise Lipari at alipari@nd.edu

Sanjaya Malakar, pictured here with his "pom-py-hawk," is the current bane of "American Idol." From last night's results, it seems he isn't leaving anytime soon.

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MLB

White Sox get help from Erstad, Dye in win

Pirates blow 2-run lead in ninth inning to Cardinals; Brewers need two days and 13 innings to beat Marlins

Mike Piazza, who is getting this IF thing down, hit a two-run double in the first to stake Joe Kennedy to an early lead. Eric Chavez added and RBI double after Piazza's hit, but that was it for the AS.

The 38-year-old Piazza, playing in the American League for the first time after a 13-year catching career that will likely land him in the Hall of Fame, has eight home runs hitting streak and is 14-for-33 (.424) during that span.

White Sox left-hander Mark Buehrle allowed three runs and six hits in seven innings against his former team. Buehrle allowed three runs and six hits in seven innings against the Mariners.

Cardinals 3, Pirates 2

Gary Bennett successfully gambled by running on a short fly ball to score the winning run in the 12th inning, and the St. Louis Cardinals rallied from two runs down in the ninth to beat the Pittsburgh Pirates on Tuesday night.

Bennett singled and Aaron Miles doubled with one out in the 12th against John Wasdin (0-1), the fifth Pirates pitcher. Yudier Molina was intentionally walked to load the bases and set up the double-play opportunity. But Skip Schumaker lifted a fly ball to left fielder Jason Bay, whose throw to the plate beat Bennett only to have catcher Ronny Paulino drop the ball.

Schumaker was credited with the game-winning sacrifice fly, even though it appeared Bennett would have been out if Paulino held onto the ball.

Brad Thompson (1-0) pitched two scoreless innings for the victory before Jason Isringhausen came on for his third save in as many opportunities and second in as many days in Pittsburgh.

The Cardinals did nothing against Tom Gorzelanny, who pitched seven shutout innings in his second effective start in a row, or reliever Matt Capps in the eighth. But the Pirates couldn't hold a 2-0 lead in the ninth as Salmon Torres blew his first save opportunity in five chances.

After David Eckstein singled and Chris Duncan walked, Albert Pujols missed a home run by several feet on a long fly ball that Bay tracked down several feet from the wall. The drive was deep enough that both runners tagged up, allowing last-minute lineup replacement Scott Spiezio to tie it with a two-run single to right.

Pirates, who didn't play Monday because of an apparent case of food poisoning, started only because Scott Olsen was held out with back spasms.

Buelie allowed five hits in his first major league start since returning from a 2-3 innings with five strikeout outs and three walks.

White Sox right fielder Jermaine Dye celebrates with teammate Jim Thome after his two-run home run Wednesday. For more offensive help in the ninth, the Sox won 6-3.

The Observer accepts classifieds every business day from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Notre Dame office, 204 South Dining Hall. Deadline for next-day classifieds is 3 p.m. All classifieds must be prepaid. The charge is $5 per run per character, per day, including spaces. The Observer reserves the right to edit all classifieds for content without issuing refunds.

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Radio personality Don Imus, shown during an appearance on Al Sharpton's radio show earlier this week, will no longer appear on MSNBC as a result of remarks he made about the Rutgers women's basketball team.

Slur costs Imus MSNBC simulcast

Associated Press

MSNBC said Wednesday it will drop its simulcast of the "Imus in the Morning" radio program, responding to growing outrage about the radio host's racial slur against the Rutgers women's basketball team.

"This decision comes as a result of an ongoing review process, which initially included the announcement of a suspension. It also takes into account the appropriate banter, and it needs to stop," NBC news said in a statement.

Talk-show host Don Imus triggered the uproar on his April 4 show, when he referred to the mostly black Rutgers women's basketball team as "nappy-headed hos.

His comments have been widely denounced by civil rights and women's groups. The decision does not affect Imus' nationally syndicated radio show, and the ultimate decision on the fate of that program will rest with executives at CBS Corp. In a statement, CBS reiterated that Imus will be suspended without pay for two weeks beginning on Monday, and that CBS Radio "will continue to speak with all concerned parties and monitor the situation closely."

MSNBC's action came after a growing list of sponsors - including American Express, Procter & Gamble Co., and General Motors Corp. - said they were pulling ads from Imus' show for the indefinite future.

NBC News President Steve Capa said he made the decision after reading thousands of e-mails and having countless discussions with NBC workers and the public, but he denied the potential loss of advertising dollars had anything to do with it.

"I take no joy in this. It's not a particularly happy moment, but it needed to happen," he said. "I can't ignore the fact that there is a very long list of inappropriate comments, of inappropriate banter, and it has to stop."

NBC's decision came at a time when Imus' program on MSNBC was doing better competitively than it ever has been. For the first three months of the year, its audience was nearly identical to CNN's, leading CNN to replace its morning news team last week.

Calls for Imus' firing from the radio portion of the program have intensified during the past week, and remained strong even after MSNBC's announcement. The show originates from WFAN-AM in New York City and is syndicated nationally by Westwood One, both of which are managed by CBS Corp. MSNBC, which had been simulcasting the show, is a unit of General Electric Co.'s NBC Universal.

In Brief

Robinson remembered at funeral services

BRAMBLETON, Va. - They began arriving soon after the sun came up over the piney woods. Football greats, government figures and everyday people - all of them there to say goodbye to former Grambling football coach Eddie Robinson.

"Most coaches are rated by the players they recruit," the Rev. Jesse Jackson said as he waited for Robinson's funeral to start in the school's new assembly center. "But Coach was known for how many players he graduated and sent on to successful lives."

About 5,000 people attended Wednesday's funeral - just across the street from where Robinson and his players made history.

"It's like coming to your father's funeral," said Robert "Big Bird" Smith, who played for Robinson and was an assistant coach during Robinson's final four years at Grambling. "He was like a father to everyone that ever played for him."

NASCAR's Waltrip found in overturned vehicle in ditch

CHARLOTTE, N.C. - The witness who discovered Michael Waltrip's overturned car initially thought no one survived the accident until the NASCAR driver wiggled out the back window.

The witness, an 18-year-old college student at the University of North Carolina Charlotte, requested anonymity during a phone interview Wednesday with The Associated Press for fear of reprisal from Waltrip's fan base.

But she said she lives near the two-time Daytona 500 winner in Sherrill's Ford, and stumbled upon the accident when she was returning home around 2 a.m. Saturday.

She said she discovered Toyota Land Cruiser in a ditch and rushed over to check on the occupants. She did not see anyone in the car and no one answered her shouts, so she called 911 for help.

Chancellor to take over LSU women's basketball

BATON ROUGE, La. - Van Chancellor has won WNBA championship and Olympic gold medals. By taking over an LSU program that's been to four consecutive Final Fours, Chancellor will have as good a chance as he's ever had before to win his first NCAA title next season.

Chancellor was hired as the women's basketball coach at LSU on Wednesday, succeeding Pokey Chatman.

He intends to keep the coaching staff left behind when Chatman abruptly resigned last month just before the NCAA tournament. Chancellor singled out former assistant coach Bob Starkey, who took over the team and guided the squad to another Final Four appearance.

"I wouldn't have taken this job if Bob Starkey wasn't wanting to stay here," Chancellor said at a news conference. "Why would I want to change a Final Four team four years in a row?"
Charges dropped in Duke rape case

Associated Press

The Duke lacrosse rape case finally collapsed Wednesday, with North Carolina's top prosecutor saying the three athletes were railroaded by a district attorney who ignored increasingly flimsy evidence in a "tragic rush to accuse."

In a blistering assessment of the case, Attorney General Roy Cooper dropped all charges against the players, all but ensuring that only one person in the whole scandal will be held to account: Durham County District Attorney Mike Nifong.

"This case shows the enormous consequences of overreaching by a prosecutor," Cooper said.

"In the rush to condemn, a community and a state lost the ability to see clearly."

Later, at an often-bitter, I-told-you-so news conference, the three young men and their lawyers accused the news media and the public of disregarding the presumption of innocence and portraying them as thugs.

"We're just as innocent today as we were back then. Nothing has changed. The facts don't change." Defense attorney Joe Cheshire said: "We're angry, very angry. But we're very relieved."

Nifong was out of town and could not immediately be reached for comment. But his lawyer, David Freedman, said: "If further investigation showed the boys were innocent, he would be in agreement with what the attorney general's office decided to do."

Fikes, Roade Seligmann and Collin Flinnery were indicted last spring on charges of rape, kidnapping and sexual offense after the woman told police she was assaulted in the bathroom of an off-campus house during a team party where she had been hired to perform. The rape charges were dropped months ago; the other charges remained until Wednesday.

The case stirred furious debate over race, class and the privileged status of college athletes, and heightened longstanding tensions in Durham between its large working-class black population and the mostly white, mostly affluent students at the private, elite university.

The woman is black and attended nearby North Carolina Central University, a historically black school; all three Duke players are white.

The attorney general said the eyewitness identification procedures were unreliable, no DNA supported the stripper's story, no other witness corroborated it, and the woman contradicted herself.

"Based on the significant inconsistencies between the evidence and the various accounts given by the accuser, we believe these three individuals are innocent of these charges," Cooper said. He said the charges resulted from a "tragic rush to accuse and a failure to verify serious allegations."

"I think a lot of people owe a lot of apologies to a lot of people," Cooper said.

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**NHL**

Gretzky to return as Coyotes coach

Associated Press

The Phoenix Coyotes cleaned out their front office Wednesday, firing general manager Mike Barnett and two other executives after the franchise's worst season since it moved from Winnipeg in 1996.

Wayne Gretzky, who owns a share of the team and is its managing partner, will return for a third season as coach next fall.

But the front office fell foul from the team's third consecutive last-place finish in the Pacific Division. Also dismissed were director of hockey operations Cliff Fletcher and assistant general manager Laurence Gilman.

"The bottom line was how would we best be served going forward," Coyotes chief executive officer Jeff Shumway said at a news conference. "We believe we need a general manager that can help us build from the inside out."

The Coyotes finished last in the Western Conference for the first time since the franchise came to Arizona and their 67 points were the team's fewest since that move. Phoenix hasn't made the playoffs since 2002.

Barnett, Gretzky's close friend and his agent for 21 years, had a falling out from the team's third season as coach next fall.

"We need a general manager who has experience building a franchise from the inside out. The franchises that you see now that are successful start off with their own talent that they can develop in their minor leagues," said Shumway, who took the Coyotes job after Jerry Moyes took over controlling ownership a year ago.

"We need Barnett and the others were best suited for developing a young team after failed attempts to build a contender via free agency."

"The future of this team is young, talented players," said Shumway. "We look for talent, we look for players who are ready to go and we look for players who can help us get a franchise to the point where we need to be."
SMC TENNIS

Belles take on Hope after snowed-out match

By ELLYN MICHALAK
Sports Writer

Saint Mary’s contest with Tri-State Wednesday was postponed due to snow, but the Belles return to action tonight at 5 against Hope at the Eck Tennis Pavilion.

Today’s competition will be Saint Mary’s second home conference match of the season. Saint Mary’s and Hope last faced off in March 2006 when the Flying Dutch defeated the Belles 6-3.

Belles coach Dee Stevenson hopes to avenge last season’s loss.

“We lost to Hope last year, and we’re very excited to have the chance to face them today,” said Dee Stevenson.

Anneliese Fox, the 2006 MIAA most valuable player, leads Hope in victory against the Irish. Returning this season without Fox, Hope boasts three returning letter winners.

The Flying Dutch will turn to sophomore Samantha Stille, junior Christina Garcia, and senior Ashley Leary to pick up where Fox left off. Though Hope College boasts a 9-7 record overall, the Belles are seeded ninth in league play. Hope maintains a 2-1 record, with a 2-4 loss to Kalamazoo. During last season’s match, McDavitt fell to Stille at the No. 2 singles spot. This year McDavitt will compete in the No. 1 spot, hoping to avenge last year’s loss to the regular duo of McDavitt and freshman Camille Gebert.

Saint Mary’s match, McDavitt fell to Garcia, and senior Ashley Leary to pick up where Fox left off. Though Hope College boasts a 9-7 record overall, the Belles are seeded ninth in league play. Hope maintains a 2-1 record, with a 2-4 loss to Kalamazoo. During last season’s match, McDavitt fell to Stille.

The Belles enter today’s competition after a two-week break from play. Saint Mary’s last faced an opponent March 25 at the Northern Kentucky Invitationals, in which the team placed 18th.

Junior Katie O’Brien led the Belles in Kentucky as she shot back-to-back rounds of 83 and 84. Meredith Fantom followed in O’Brien’s footsteps with rounds of 91 and 87.

Saint Mary’s coach Mark Hamilton said the long wait between competitive play will not have a positive effect on the team.

The Belles not only enter the tournament after two weeks without facing an opponent but also after a three-day break from practice. Hamilton gave the team days off to travel over the Easter weekend. But, he said, every school has faced similar circumstances and no one team will enter the tournament with a significant advantage.

This course will be the easiest the Belles have played all year, and Hamilton is confident that the Belles will place well.

The only teams we are concerned about are the conference teams,” Hamilton said. “We were not able to beat Olivet in the fall, but we feel we are well prepared and can beat them if we play our best in all five spots.”

Saint Mary’s placed fourth in the MIAA Championships in October. Olivet took the title with 248 points.

Hamilton said that today’s match will be won on the greens. Saint Mary’s has been working especially hard to eliminate wasted strokes and near the putting surface in preparation for the course it will face today.

Contact Kare Arnold at karold2@nd.edu

SMC GOLF

Golfers set for MIAA play

By KATE ARNOLD
Sports Writer

Saint Mary’s will have its plate full today as members of the team travel to Angola, Ind., to compete in the first round of the MIAA qualifying tournament. The tournament will be combined with the Tri-State Invitational tournament, which was postponed earlier this month due to weather conditions.

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Contact Kare Arnold at karold2@nd.edu
Kentucky was next of the court as he was clinched the win-for the Irish during his 6-3, Marcus the win secured, No. 51 Parbhu up before the match was retired. No. 114 Brett Helgeson defeated Irish with a 7-5, Hodge at the No. 5 spot. With “I
6-4.
Sundh 7-6
3-1 over Peter Bjork
(2), 6-2. No. 9
2007 victory over
20
win over
No. 57 Louisville, looking to
venge their loss to the
Cardinals in last year’s Big East Championship match. First serve is scheduled for 3:30 p.m.

Contact Jay Wade at jwade@nd.edu

Thursday, April 12, 2007
The Observer • SPORTS

Irish senior Ryan Keckley returns a serve against Kentucky Wednesday. Notre Dame defeated Kentucky 7-0 at the Eck Tennis Pavilion to finish its home season undefeated.

NHL

Ducks win opening contest

Minnesota defenseman Brent Burns, left, fights Anaheim defenseman Scott Niedermayer for the puck Wednesday. Anaheim defeated Minnesota 2-1 in the opening playoff game.

Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Dustin Penner’s patience — and positioning — paid off.

Penner scored with 5:20 remaining to lift the Anaheim Ducks to a 2-1 victory over the Minnesota Wild on Wednesday night in the opening game of their first-round playoff series.

Penner poked the puck in after Minnesota defensemen Kim Johnsson crashed into Wild goalie Niklas Backstrom, sending him sprawling backward into the net.

The puck was sitting in the crease, and Corey Perry swept it toward the goal. Penner took a couple of swipes at it and forced it in.

“I saw it coming. That’s why I moved over to the side,” Penner said. “If the puck didn’t go in after the initial shot I wanted to be able to pick up any loose change.

“I was looking for the puck, the ref was right there and he made a great call. Obviously the puck was free. You could see it on the replay. Perry and I just whacked away and it went in.”

Backstrom thought the goal should have been disallowed.

“I watched the replay and I was sure it was under me and nobody saw the puck,” he said. “Of course, you’re going to get the puck out from a goalie if you slash at it with your sticks.

“That’s a bad goal and we lose a game on that,” added Backstrom, who stopped 32 shots.

Minnesota coach Jacques Lemaire wasn’t so sure it should’ve counted, either.

“I don’t know if he stopped the puck or whether he was right on top of it or if it was under the pad,” Lemaire said. “He waited a bit and they whacked the puck right in.”

Teemu Selanne tied it for Anaheim with a second-period goal, just 3:51 after Pavol Demitra scored for Minnesota.

Ilya Bryzgalov started in place of Jean-Sebastien Giguere and made 24 saves for Anaheim.

“It’s the playoffs and all the marbles are on the floor,” Bryzgalov said. “It’s very important. It was a very difficult game. Every game is so close.

Giguere has been taking time off to be with his wife and newborn son. Maxime was born April 4 with a condition that could leave him blind in his right eye. Giguere and his wife, Kristen, were worried about the vision in the baby’s left eye as well, but a specialist told them on Tuesday that their son will have sight in that one.

Anaheim coach Randy Carlyle explained his decision to keep Giguere on the bench: “We felt that the emotional roller coaster Giguere has been on, it was more beneficial to let him get his feet underneath him.

“With the good news that he received yesterday about his son, we felt it would be best if he backed up tonight. Now we have both goaltenders available.

Giguere was the MVP of the 2003 Stanley Cup playoffs, when the Ducks were beaten in Game 7 of the Stanley Cup finals by New Jersey.

Bryzgalov played well during the postseason last year when Giguere was injured, helping Anaheim advance to the Western Conference finals, where the Ducks lost in five games to Edmonton.

The 36-year-old Selanne, rejuvenated since his return to Anaheim before the 2005-06 season, took a long pass from Francois Beauchemin, broke behind the defense and into the slot, where he slid the puck between Backstrom’s pads at 9:52 of the second period.

Demitra beat Bryzgalov with a 15-foot slap shot down the slot, with the puck sailing into the net high on the goalie’s glove side at 14:51 of the second period.
Defense

continued from page 20

in Brown's new scheme.

"He thought it would be a struggle for him, but I think he's starting to adjust and like it now, especially because we're starting to do some different things," defensive line coach Jappy Oliver said.

One of the main reasons for Laws' move to the end was to free him up to be more effective in the trenches.

"He's got a good punch, you're not going to move him off the line of scrimmage, and I think he's starting to enjoy it a little more because we're going to do some things with him," Oliver said. "We're going to do some things to free him up."

Although the full playbook will include plays designed to give Laws room to maneuver at defensive end, Oliver said practices so far have been "vanilla" just to get the players acclimated to the new system.

"But now we put some stuff in today and over the next couple of weeks. When we get back, we'll put some more stuff in, and we'll put some stuff in for him also," Oliver said in an April 4 interview.

One difficulty rebuilding the defensive line this year for Oliver is that so many of his players are young or inexperienced.

Two of the main competitors for the nose guard position — sophomore Chris Stewart and junior Pat Kuntz — have little playing experience at the college level.

Kuntz appeared in 12 games last season, but only recorded seven tackles. But with a better chance of cracking into the starting lineup this season, Kuntz has stepped up his game this spring.

"Kuntz is doing a nice job. He's a fighter. He's got the temperament to play down inside," Oliver said. "I like him. He's another kid that could put another ten or twenty pounds on him if he could and just anchor it."

Stewart has a harder transition to make because he is switching to the other side of the line from the offside line.

Stewart suffered an additional setback earlier this spring after he sprained an ankle.

"Any time a player, no matter who you are, whenever you miss, you don't want guys to miss because inevitably there's going to be something that you have to catch up on," defensive coordinator Corwin Brown said. "When you miss days, it's going to affect you. So he's just going to learn as much as he can and get healthy and come back."

Overall, Brown has been pleased with the performance of his defensive line this spring — especially the more experienced players.

"They're taking to the coaching, and that's encouraging because if you can't hold up there, you are going to have a lot of trouble," he said. "They're taking to the technique. They're understanding things better. There's a lot we still don't have in, but what we're doing, I will say that with the d-line I have been relatively pleased with the older guys."
CROSSWORD

KALEIDOSCOPE McDANIELS

BLACK DOG

CROISSANTWORLD

JUMBLE

ADAM FAIRHOLM

WILL SHORTZ

LIAM MORAN

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EUGENIA LAST

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Irish finish perfect home season with win at Eck

By JAY WADE
Sports Writer

The Irish cemented a perfect home record of 9-0 on the season with a 7-0 win over Kentucky Wednesday. The win over the Wildcats was the second straight match in which the Irish have shut out a team, and the eighth time over-all this season. The 9-0 home record marks the first time Notre Dame has had back-to-back perfect home records in school history, and it is only the fourth time in history that an Irish team has finished undefeated at home. Notre Dame was 8-0 a season ago. The Irish are 13-4 this season when winning the doubles point. Notre Dame continued that streak against Kentucky as third doubles Barry King and Andrew Roth defeated Will Ward and Shane Collins 8-6. The duo of Ryan Keckley and Stephen Bass clinched the doubles point for the Irish with an 8-5 win over Bruno Agostinelli and Kenny Hodge at the No. 1 position. Sheeva Parbhoo and Brett Helgeson, who did not get to finish their match at No. 2 doubles, were paired together by Irish coach Bobby Bayliss for the second time this season in as many matches. Bayliss said the decision to switch up the doubles combinations was due to the struggles of Parbhoo and Keckley were having at No. 1 doubles.

"We were struggling at one doubles and we had plateaued out at two with the combinations we had," Bayliss said. "We felt that it was important enough to the overall picture to make the change and we couldn't do it at one doubles without involving the other combinations so we decided on that.

The singles players paired the same as the doubles, as Notre Dame defeated Kentucky with

see KENTUCKY/page 18

Moving in the trenches

Adjusted defensive line crucial to success in Brown's scheme

By JAY FITZPATRICK
Associate Sports Editor

After graduating three starters on the defensive line this season, Notre Dame has to start building its new 3-4 defense by first rebuilding its defensive line. The Irish graduate defensive ends Victor Ahiamiri and Chris Freme and defensive tackle Derek Landri, and lost defensive end Ronald Talley — the only Irish backup with experience in the trenches. "I'm a little disappointed we didn't have a real end," Irish coach Dave Schrage said.

Notre Dame's game with Bowling Green, scheduled for Wednesday night, was cancelled due to inclement weather. No make-up date has been set.

"I'm a little disappointed we couldn't play today because I wanted to continue our momentum," Irish coach Dave Schrage said.

Notre Dame (15-16, 2-6 Big East) dropped twin 4-3 decisions in the first two games of its conference series with Cincinnati Thursday and Friday, but rebounded to beat the Bearcats 9-5 Saturday.

The Irish then built their Big East cellar-dwelling Georgetown in a three-game series Thursday, Friday, Saturday at Frank Eck Stadium.

Contact Chris Khorey at ckhorey@nd.edu

see DEFENSE/page 18

Matchup against Bowling Green rained out

By CHRIS KHOREY
Sports Editor

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Contact Chris Khorey at ckhorey@nd.edu

ND SOFTBALL

DePaul to test squad in Big East

Strong pitching from Adix and Hetienniak to lead Blue Demons

By MICHAEL BRYAN
Sports Writer

Notre Dame will look to stay undefeated in Big East play today, facing off in a doubleheader against No. 19 DePaul.

The Irish (24-7) are currently tied for first in the conference with the Blue Demons (24-7) with identical 8-0 conference records. The doubleheader is scheduled to start at 4 p.m. in Chicago, weather permitting.

Notre Dame will have to work hard to score runs against DePaul pitchers Tracy McCleer, Daniele Hetienniak. The senior Adix has dominated so far this season, posting a 10-1 record with a .57 ERA. Hetienniak, a freshman, has an ERA of 1.13 and 10 wins on the season.

The Blue Demons are led offensively by junior Sandy Vogel, who has seven homers and 17 RBIs on the year. Junior Marcy Wilus leads the team with 18 RBIs, and Kate Sheaks has 23 runs scored and a .344 batting average on the season.

Although the Irish had their 10-game winning streak snapped at home Tuesday against Eastern Michigan, the Notre Dame players enter Thursday's matchup with confidence in their play of late.

Senior Stephanie Brown earned her first start of Big East player of the week honors for her performance in the last four games. Brown boasting a .722 batting average (13-for-18) with two doubles, a triple, four RBIs and five runs scored.