Classes determine new officers

Low voter turnout continues to plague elections
By HEATHER MACKENZIE
News Writer

The tension finally ended last night for this year's off-campus and class officer candidates when election results were announced around 10 p.m. The only election requiring a run-off is for the class of 1999 positions. The ticket consisting of Beth Nolan, Connie Dougherty, Bob Flannery and Brian McCarthny, receiving the majority of the votes cast, will face off in run-off with the ticket made up of Colin O'Reilly, Jon Steele, Catherine Monahan and Erik Burns in the elections on Wednesday. With 44 percent of the votes cast, the Nolan ticket had an edge over the O'Reilly ticket, who received 20 percent.

"We are excited, but we are not taking anything for granted," said Beth Nolan. "I think we have a great deal of experience that should really be bene-

Truck ignites en route to SMC

By MATTHEW LOUGHAN
Assistant News Editor

Shortly after 8 p.m. last night a student's pickup truck caught on fire at the intersection of Saint Mary's Drive and U.S. route 31. Jason Hooks, a sophomore at Notre Dame who lives in Granger, was driving to Saint Mary's when loose wires under his dashboard joined and set the carpeting in his truck on fire.

"I was driving along and the fire just came up from under my seat," said Hooks. "So I pulled over to the side of the road to avoid blocking traffic, jumped out, and tried to put it out with my hands." Hooks said that he then tried to jog into the Saint Mary's security office to report the fire.
Coffee with Clinton to raise $400,000

WASHINGTON

Democratic fund-raisers projected that meetings over coffee with President Clinton would each bring in $400,000 from big donors, according to White House records turned over to Congress.

Legends of political events, including coffee klatches, dinners and other appearances by Clinton and Vice President Al Gore, contain projections of how much money party fund-raisers hoped each event would yield. The legrets were made available by a congressional source. The spreadsheets, turned over to Congress by former White House deputy chief of staff Harold Ickes, show that each coffee klatch was generally expected to raise $500,000. In the first 17 months of 1996, the legrets show six coffees hosted by "TUTUS"—White House speak for president of the United States. All but one of the coffees hit their fund-raising target while the fifth yielded $340,000 in donations. Total take: $2.34 million.

To the degree such public estimates existed, it wasn't part of the public record. Tax records turned over to Congress by the Democratic National Committee showed no income from the events, which had been arranged by the Clinton campaign.

What makes this situation really disappointing is that students still complain about "nothing to do in South Bend" when spring sports like softball, baseball and track draw a total of 1,000 fans in a weekend. Lacrosse does a little better but most of those in attendance are high school students in their varsity letter jackets.

Why feel the need to watch another insufferable game like Rikki Lake show rather than spending free time in the spring sunshine basking? If you're going to be sitting on your butt, you might as well get out of the house to do it.

My only complaint about America's Game will probably have no influence on most of those who read this column. So I'll spew out useless but convincing facts. Last year, the Irish Nine finished with a 44-18 record. A total of, oh, 82 fans in a weekend. No, it's not enough. It's not nearly enough.

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Logan Center faces depleted funds this year

By ALLISON KOENIG
Notre Dame News Editor

Last week’s Disability Awareness program at Notre Dame focused on the Logan Center, the community facility that sponsors activities and programs for mentally and physically handicapped people. The Center is located on the southeastern perimeter of campus, drawing many Notre Dame community members as service volunteers.

Over the course of the last year, the center has experienced “some challenging budget problems,” according to chief executive officer Dan Harshman.

He was quick to add that possible solutions to the problem “are in the process of discussion,” and that an official recommendation is not to be expected soon.

Eighty percent of the funds for the non-profit Logan Center originate from various government sources. The other 20 percent is fulfilled by local efforts: through Logan Industries, fund raising, and other areas.

“As the government funds do not continue to grow, we must try to raise more funds privately,” Harshman explained.

“Since the mid 1970’s, there has been a growing list of programs that help fund Logan. A bi-product of that growth is our lot needing to charge clients for services,” he added.

A potential solution includes charging Logan center clients for use of the facility, and requiring family members to volunteer a number of hours at the center. Currently, clients access the facility and its services without any familial volunteer commitment or financial obligation.

This possibility of requiring clients to pay fees does not sit well with community volunteer Elena Economakis, who feels that families of disabled people encounter enough emotionally and economically draining problems without being required to pay for services.

“It can be a vicious cycle of poverty,” said Economakis of life as or with a disabled person.

Harshman maintains that although a larger time or monetary commitment may be required of clients and their families in the future, nothing has been decided yet.

“We don’t wish to add extra burdens to (clients and families). We need to communicate to them what the needs (of the center are). Some don’t understand what the real costs are,” Harshman said.

The Logan Center has an annual $8 million budget. According to Harshman, the high percentage of government contributions cannot be expected forever.

Harshman indicated “a lot more general communication” with Logan Center clients and families as the current objective.

“At the heart of it all, we need to talk about expectations,” he said. “We need to explain to patrons why we need their investment of time and money, and how they can do that. We need the community support; the government cannot do it all.”

CANCELLATION

The April 4th concert at Saint Mary’s College featuring the “String Trio of New York” has been cancelled due to an injury suffered by one of the musicians in a recent automobile accident. Those who purchased tickets for the performance may return them to the Saint Mary’s Box Office for a refund.

Box Office hours are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. for further information, contact the Saint Mary’s Box Office at 284-4626.

IN MEMORIAM

On behalf of the student body, The Observer extends its condolences to the family of Michael and Cindy Parseghian, both members of Notre Dame’s Class of 1972, whose son Michael passed away Saturday.

Michael, 9, the grand- son of former Notre Dame head football coach Ara Parseghian, died of Niemann-Pick Type C disease, a rare genetic disorder.

SECURITY BEAT

FRI, MARCH 21
8:35 a.m. A University employee reported six broken windows at the Law School.
8:11 p.m. A visitor reported his car was broken into while parked in the O’Shaughnessy Student Center.

SAT, MARCH 22
1:19 a.m. A man was reported injured after a fight in the Law School.
8:12 a.m. A student reported his bike was stolen from the library.
10:14 p.m. An off-campus student reported the theft of his portable CD player from his dorm. The items were left unattended at the time of the theft.

SUN, MARCH 23
2:16 p.m. A three-year-old reported missing after briefly leaving her father at the Children’s Playland.
2:58 p.m. Security responded to a two-car accident on Jumper Road.

The Logan Center may be forced to charge clients higher amounts for its services during this year in order to stay financially secure.

A long time ago, but in a galaxy not so far away...

YOU were just a little tyke in a outdated grade school that was lucky to have lined paper at the end of the year, and hand-written report cards, left alone a computer system.

With your help, we can change that.

THE Irish Connection is a small group of Notre Dame students who decided that it was time to bring one local Pittsburgh school into the 21st century by connecting them to the Internet. Our services include fundraising, publicity, planning, purchasing, installation and curriculum development, and are limited only by the imaginations of our volunteers.

BUT, we cannot do it alone. We need dedicated imaginative people from all backgrounds to help in whatever way they can. If you or your organization would be interested in donating funds or services, or would like more information please contact Bryan Meyer, the project coordinator preferably via e-mail.

And may the force be with you, always.
Bourgeois continued from page 1

ture and execution. "We know more than enough about this school to call for its closure," he said. Bourgeois himself has been arrested twice for trespassing on the grounds of Fort Benning while protesting.

"This school is our way of keeping Latin America's military entrenched. Shutting down the school could help bring about peace and justice, and save lives," Bourgeois asserted.

Two weeks ago, a bill to close the SOA was introduced by congressman Joe Kennedy of Mass. This bill will soon come up for a vote in the U.S. House of Representatives, and according to Bourgeois, now is the time to act and show support for the bill.

"Letters to your members of Congress make a difference this time," he said, adding that he was widely circulating a petition in support of the bill.

This marks the third time such a bill has been presented. Similar bills have been rejected, but as more information about SOA has been revealed, more and more support has been found in Congress to close it.

"Can we do it?" Bourgeois asked. "We think so. We know so... it will close, I have no doubt about that."

Bourgeois also took a moment to show how fundamental this issue really is by defining his involvement in the SOA Watch.

"People often say that priests should not be involved in politics. But we're not talking about politics here. We're talking about moral issues. We're talking about people being killed."

Bourgeois called on the students and faculty of Notre Dame to share in the task of human rights activism. But, "how important it is to integrate our activism with that solitude, with time for prayer?"

Fire continued from page 1

"Four cars passed me by on the way," he said. "I didn't even ask for a ride. I just asked that they get a hold of someone. But one girl even rolled up her window and locked her doors. Makes you feel good to be a student here."

"The wires in Hooks' truck were house because his car stereo and amplifier had been stolen on Sunday. "A couple of days ago, someone broke into my car," Hooks said. "I left the wires alone so that the insurance company could take a look at it."

"The wires were left under the seat and not protected. By driving around, probably connected with the springs of the seat and set the carpet on fire," said Lieutenant Jim Hummel of Clay Township Fire Department who arrived first at the scene. "This area is really a toss-up, it is really Portage Township, but we get all our calls through county 911."

By 9 p.m. the Fire Department had extinguished the blaze, and what remained of Hooks' truck was towed away by the nearby Amoco station.
Racial attack injures Chicago boy

By HILLARY CHURA
CHICAGO

Three white teen-agers have been accused of pulling a 13-year-old black boy off his bicycle, beating him unconscious and then bragging to their friends they had taken care of blacks in the neighborhood.

Lenard Clark, found in an alley Friday night near the Chicago White Sox's Comiskey Park, remained hospitalized Monday in a coma state with massive head injuries.

Police said race was the only motive for the attack in the neighborhood.

Lenard is from the mostly white Bridgeport neighborhood. Lenard is from the black housing projects from the neighborhood.

Lenard's father, who did not give his name, "He was riding his bike and wasn't bothering anybody. It was a senseless act that should not have happened," said the child's father, who did not give his name.


Sgt. Marshall Andrews said the suspects, using a racial epithet, "bragged to their friends that they had taken care" of the blacks in the neighborhood.

None of the suspects had criminal records and two — Caruso and Jasas — are students at De La Salle Institute, a Catholic school that graduated students at De La Salle Institute, a Catholic school that graduated Caruso and Jasas — are students at De La Salle Institute, a Catholic school that graduated Caruso and Jasas — are students at De La Salle Institute, a Catholic school that graduated Caruso and Jasas — are students at De La Salle Institute, a Catholic school that graduated Caruso and Jasas — are students at De La Salle Institute, a Catholic school that graduated Caruso and Jasas — are students at De La Salle Institute, a Catholic school that graduated Caruso and Jasas — are students at De La Salle Institute, a Catholic school that graduated Caruso and Jasas — are students at De La Salle Institute, a Catholic school that graduated.

Five years ago the government threw away the rule book to allow cities to experiment with ways to revitalize their crime and poverty ridden public housing projects. Now the first results are coming in.

"The old way was to just stamp out these buildings, jam people in there and move on," said Kevin Marchman, assistant secretary for public housing at the Department of Housing and Urban Development. "We have to be more thoughtful and creative."

As part of the program, the agency provided $2 billion in one-time grants to more than 50 local housing agencies to try to revitalize housing programs that have been declared by most a failure.

The new approach envisions fewer public housing units and a relaxation of counterproductive, bureaucratic rules. As many as 40,000 public apartments are to be torn down with 20,000 units rebuilt.

Income limits and other restrictions on who can live in the projects are being eased, or waived altogether so people with jobs and improving earning power are able to move in and become neighborhood role models.

HUD also has let cities use up to 20 percent of their grants to improve community resources such as private, non-profit day care, job training and health care facilities.

Finally, the agency has relaxed rules that previously prevented local housing officials from taking management responsibility with private developers.

"We've been in housing authorities, communities, and residents the opportunity to participate in the planning of public housing," said Marchman.

Affordable housing advocates, however, are withholding judgment. They say the results of some projects look suspiciously like gentrification. And they worry that even fewer homes will be available for those most in need.

"I haven't met anyone who would suggest concentrating poor people is good ... but if we have to make the strategic choice, our concern is that we serve the maximum number of low-income households," said Helen Dunlap director of the Washington-based National Law Income Housing Coalition.

Cities have promised to make up for low-income homes lost to the renovation efforts, but not necessarily by building more affordable housing. Instead, poor families will get vouchers so they can afford market rate rents in regular neighborhoods.

Marchman says a shortage of money prevents replacing all of the housing units that are being destroyed, but he adds that "many of the units coming down you would not want up" because of their renovation and other problems.

Atlanta has pushed the experiment the furthest. There, the upwardly mobile are moving into new, $1,500-a-month apartments at Techwood, formerly a crime-ridden neighborhood of last resort.

HUD got up $42 million to rescue 1,100 apartments.

By ALICE ANN LOVE
CHICAGO

ATTENTION! ATTENTION!

ALL INTERESTED MEN

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS IS LOOKING FOR POSITIVE ROLE MODELS

COME AND JOIN US FOR AN INFORMATION SESSION AND LEARN HOW YOU CAN BECOME A MENTOR!

WHERE: O'NEILL HALL (FIRST FLOOR LOUNGE)

WHEN: TONIGHT, MARCH 25, 1997
TIME: 6:00-7:00 P.M.

FOOD WILL BE PROVIDED
PIZZA AND POP

DON'T MISS THIS GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO HELP OUT A LITTLE BROTHER AND BE A POSITIVE INFLUENCE

COOKS

Now hiring servers and bartenders!

Must be available for senior week and graduation '97!

Must be 21

Stop in after 4:00 on weekdays and after noon on weekends to apply, ask for Donna

Graduating seniors need not apply!
Clinton visits African women

By SONYA ROSS
Associated Press Writer

DAR ES SALAAM
First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton says the triumphs and pains of women the world over are a natural starting point for forming a new relationship between the United States and Africa.

Today she was exploring both tragedy and triumph in Arusha, Tanzania, where an international tribunal is looking into crimes committed against women during the 1994 ethnic slaughter in Rwanda — and where 25 school girls are celebrating their conquest of Africa's highest mountain.

"Many times I have a better appreciation for the Christian community when I engage in conversation with my friends and participate in social functions and volunteer at homeless shelters than when I sit in mass listening to the liturgy," said freshman Jonah Indrilo.

In his pursuit to define a Christian community, Baxter also noted the word "community" itself is so overused that it has lost meaning.

"To define community, one has to participate and engage in conversation with others," Baxter said. "I've realized one opens up into the world of conversation with those that identify and is able to pay attention and pay more attention to those that are closed off in the world."

In questioning whether a Christian community is possible, Baxter noted that he has no definite answer himself. He does, however, find notions of community within daily interactions with people.

"We do not find community in prayer, but in liturgy being performed," he said.

Father Michael Baxter emphasizes the need for communication in a Christian community.

"As I spend time in traveling abroad to El Salvador with two other Notre Dame friends, Baxter witnessed community in a small village in the mountains where Archbishop Oscar Romero was murdered while saying mass.

"Seeing the people's commitment to their faith by coming to mass in a poverty-stricken area, and helping each other out in any way possible, the people's ability, is a true testimony to the way liturgy and community are one," Baxter said.

Questions? Comments? E-mail the News Department at Observer.obsnews.1@nd.edu
### Nation's TB cases hit historic low

**By MALCOLM RITTER**  
Associated Press Writer

**NEW YORK**  
The number of new tuberculosis cases in the United States dropped last year to the lowest level since record-keeping began in the 1950s, the federal government announced Monday.

It was the fourth straight year of decline, suggesting the nation is entering a new era of control after a long decline, and making the United States one of the few countries where drug-resistant TB continues to be a major problem.

Associated Press Writer Mike Fingrose said the nation is entering a new era of control after a long decline, and making the United States one of the few countries where drug-resistant TB continues to be a major problem.

**Tuberculosis in the U.S.**

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### Leadership for Social Responsibility

The Center for Social Concerns is sponsoring a series of four seminars this semester focusing on Leadership. Anyone interested in developing leadership skills is welcome.

**Seminar III**

**Ethics in Leadership**  
**Wednesday, March 26**

**COBA 162**  
6-8 p.m.

**Professor Jim Davis of Management Notre Dame**

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**Trade agreement opens Gore visit**

**By JOHN KING**  
Associated Press Writer

Just inside the Great Hall of the People on the edge of Tiananmen Square, Li greeted Gore with a handshake and a smile. They stood stiffly on a platform with a microphone, the Chinese and U.S. national anthems, two young school children presented Gore and his wife, Tipper, with bouquets.

Li said he expected Gore's visit to enhance "the friendly relations and cooperation between China and the United States."

"The improvement of our relations serves the interests of both peoples," he said.

Gore's agenda was crowded with areas of friction — disputes over human rights and access to US. and American defense equipment, and China's sales of missile and other technologies to nations the United States considers unfriendly.

"The nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction is a crucial goal of the United States," Gore told reporters after an hour meeting with Li.

He told reporters he was not sure with China's sales of missiles and other technologies.

"The desire a grander sight, then glows, the Yellow River time to take the relationship to a new level, Gore cited a Chinese poem from the Tang Dynasty, which ended, 1,100 years ago.

"The sun beyond the mountains, the Yellow River seaward flows, but if you desire a grander sight, then scale a greater height.

Gore also sought China's help in two issues: preventing North Korea to join South Korea in joining the World Trade Organization, and in working to lower emissions of so-called greenhouse gases even as China relies on coal to meet energy needs soars to match economic growth

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**Santiago, Chile**

Information Meeting

With Professor Silvia Rojas-Anadon

Tuesday, March 25, 1997  
4:30 PM  
Room 201 O'Shaunessy
After having been delayed a week past its initial re-release date, "Return of the Jedi," the third and final installment of the "Star Wars" trilogy, hit the movie theaters at the Ides of March. Although its initial re-release date, "Return of the Jedi," drew nation-wide sell-out crowds, fewer movie-goers. Generally considered the weakest of the three in terms of character and plot, the third movie in particular educes complaints about the renouncement of the dark side by Darth Vader and the chaotic nature of the primitive Ewoks. Perhaps more audiences feel attracted to the first movie because of its straight-forward plot and potent heroic image. In "Star Wars," the men in black have their way for a while, a mentor passes his wisdom on, and the clash of clear-cut good guys and bad guys results in a decisive victory for the young hero. Darth Vader in the first movie has no relation to Luke Skywalker; he is merely another bad guy in need of fighting. The only major female character is a princess, a surprisingly laconic figure for only a major female character is a princess, a surprisingly laconic figure for only a major female character. Leia shows some resourcefulness during her rescue but afterward does not get into fighter craft with the men, instead remaining behind as support staff as befits her status. Luke overcomes pride in Han Solo, who claims he only flies solo, and the selfish swashbuckler turns out to be not such a bad guy after all as he decides he needs a cause, besides himself, in which to believe.

But when the "great enemy" reveals himself as the hero's father in "The Empire Strikes Back," things become complicated. The movie raises the specter of generational conflict to add to the previous dualisms of man against machine, mysticism against pragmatism; the hero must not simply battle "evil," he also has to battle the father he never knew and did not have to satisfy or to emulate while growing up as child. Over the course of the last two movies, Luke must undergo the stages of denial, anger, resentment, hopefulness and acceptance as he battles for the souls of his father and his own — a battle which takes precedence over the surface battles of good versus evil.

In this light, what is the true conflict in the "Star Wars" trilogy? Light vs. dark, "good" vs. "evil," harsh artificial black-and-white order vs. joyous brown and-green natural chaos? Or is the conflict less concerned with the external world and more with the internal?

In the first movie, Luke is thrust into the role of hero by circumstance, by necessity, by what some call fate, and he finds that this role suits him well. In the second, he tries too hard to become that which he is not ready to be and, in paying the price, learns from his mistakes but becomes tainted by machines and loses his innocence. And in the third movie, Luke confronts not only the older generation which insists its descendants must follow in its hal­lowed footsteps, but he also must face the possibility of the darkness of fear and desire within himself drowning out his will to be an individual. Though he masters his own anger, even the brief eruption of these self-destructive impulses allows Luke to recognize this part of himself and to accept it, fully integrating his light and dark halves into the enlightened sense of 1. And yet, he wants his father to survive. He refuses to abandon Vader to the dark, even though he knows he has come too late and has already lost the father he never knew.

What is the audience to make of all this? Don't think it is too far fetched to see an extended meaning embedded within the trilogy. The story implicates us to undergo ourselves the challenges of Awakening, Trial and Triumph. It is a story which demands personal interpretation and application, as all good stories do, rather than a simple dismissal with a wave of the hand as we turn off our temporary suspension of disbelief once we re-enter the "real" world out­side the movie theatre.

"Star Wars" is, of course, a highly ideal­ized trilogy of movies, which only makes it all the more appealing to the private imagination and sense of self. Everyone at some point has dreamed of being a hero, a princess, a warrior, a wizard or a savior. During the hour-long series of televised interviews of "The Making of Star Wars," to a person each of the actors and directors professing the influence of George Lucas' vision described the movie as somehow larger than life. It is this sense of overwhelm­ing power and grandeur that gave "Star Wars" the cultural impact it continues to world two decades after it first hit the big screen. Its universal appeal lies in its ability for subjective perception, the personal recognition of aspects of the individual as it relates to society and the willingness and the need to strive for the ideals which make living worth­while. The "Star Wars" trilogy is not so much about the hackneyed adventure tales of "good" vs. "evil" as it is about the vindic­tion of the construction of a healthy personality and of the triumph of the will. In these space operatic movies, we can see the triumph of the divided self over its own doubts, fears, worries and insecurities: the successful overcoming of the human soul.

Matthew Apple is a graduate student in the English department. He can be con­tacted via email at mapple@skyenet.net or http://www.skyenet.net/-mapple/.

"I you pick up a starving dog and make him prosperous, he will not bite you. This is the principal difference between a dog and a man."

—Mark Twain
Alfons and destruction: For your viewing pleasure

Watch tonight as cities are destroyed in fiery, gory, and graphic detail. The footage of mangled bodies amid burning wreckage! See hundreds of people falling to their deaths from collapsing buildings! Feast your eyes on a lack of falling to their deaths from collapsing wreckage! See hundreds of people screaming stands at airshows and drag footage of mangled bodies amid burning is growing out of control. Films about meteors raining down on roaring shape to the north of the Joyce Center athletic carrel, or waiting hours to dial-in to the campus network seems that the priorities of those in charge of space in which to work or meet with students. The provision of office space to adjunct professors would have thought that there already existed exercise the body, and that a new place to play er "recreational facility." I wonder at the priorities of those in charge of comprehensive peace (land for peace). The U.S., in agreement with Israel, interprets Resolution 242 as saying “occupied territories to disputed territories.” In other words, the U.S. would agree with Israel’s partial (in the future) assassination of some occupied territories and that Israel is an equal “claimant” to said occupied territories in future negotiations. Jerusalem is no longer occupied East Jerusalem but “politically Arab East Jerusalem.” “Not long for,” if the current Israeli government has anything to do with it. There are moves in Congress to recognize “Jerusalem” as the unified capital of Israel. The U.S. is saying that anything acceptable to the parties is acceptable to the U.S. No previous agreements or resolutions are binding. This session of policy claims that the U.S. is no longer calling for a binding peace based on Resolution 242 but rather on a negotiated settlement where the Israelis are favored and where the U.S. is not demanding the implementation of any prior agreement or UN resolutions, including the Oslo Peace Accords. Binding resolutions and agreements are the only safe step for people who do not trust each other to start trusting each other. The U.S. stands is windy-windy and certainly not prepared as conclusive to parity. Casting the only vote against a UN Security Council resolution does not build confidence in the world; it makes world public opinion in a negative way and certainly hurts the long term U.S. strategic interest in the area.

D. GREGORY MACISAAC
5th year Graduate Student
Department of Philosophy

JOSEPH ALRASHAN
Captain, Notre Dame Security Police
American of Palestinian descent
Money Talks

Money management tips for travelers

By JUSTYN HARKIN
Money Talks Correspondent

This week's column is specifically directed to those brave students who will be studying abroad next semester. Although your date of departure may be a few months away, it is never too soon to start planning ahead. Fortunately, the international studies programs at Saint Mary's and Notre Dame are very good about making sure their students are well-informed about the customs and conventions of the countries in which they will be studying.

Expect the unexpected. If you haven't already, several packets of information regarding the country to which you are planning to go. One thing that these packets are not so good about at least they weren't when I went abroad) is advice concerning the management of your overseas finances. Although you can expect to hear the conventional wisdom regarding foreign currency, checks and money belts, the information packets generally leave you to decide which method of money management is best for you.

First and foremost, plan on leaving your checkpoints at home. It is hard enough to find a place in South Bend that will take out-of-town checks, so don't think it will be any easier in Ireland or Chile. Another thing that you should avoid is bringing all of your money over as United States currency. Even if the money you have saved over the summer is all you will have for the year, do not bring all of it with you.

Although the chances of getting robbed are slim, it can and does happen. Starting out on day one of your overseas adventure will be no fun without any money at all. If you insist on bringing all of your money over at once, at least buy travelers' checks, which are protected against theft, and do not change all of your American dollars over to foreign currency in the airport. The airport money changers charge a higher rate than most banks or other agencies.

Another reason why you might not want to change all your money over at once is that doing so might cost you a lot of money if you plan to travel, particularly if you will be studying in Europe. If you plan on traveling to other countries during your stay, you will have to change currency each time you enter a new country. Money changers either charge a flat fee or a percentage of the exchange rate when you change money; either way the service fees you pay are not for free. The more times you change money, the more you pay. For example, if you change all of your American dollars to French francs when you first arrive, you will end up paying even more when you change those francs for Italian lira as opposed to changing dollars to lira.

Perhaps one of the most important questions you will have to ask yourself before you go abroad is "What kind of spender am I?" — the way you handle your money will greatly depend upon the answer. Are you, for example, the kind of person that can make $50 last for six months or do you better fit the description of a person who has Daddy's gold card and his advice to experience everything new? The amounts that you plan on spending and even who's going to be paying the bills are, of course, extremely important questions to ask before you go.

Another thing to consider is that you or your semester abroad will be unlike any other of your college career, and you may find yourself doing things you would never do at home. While you may be fairly conservative as far as money goes, you may never get a chance to go back to the place you will be studying; so when somebody suggests a last minute trip to Oktoberfest or a wild weekend in Buenos Aires, you might actually wear your basketball uniform and head for Chicago or the Great Depression. The Huddle became The Huddle not

The Legacy of L

From hydrogen to HuddleMobiles, our L

By MARY BETH ELLIS
Acceptance Copy

"And will rumors of a Student Union materialize into some­thing concrete? The plans have been completed...." — The Scholastic

April 24, 1963

It is errand center, office tower, a shortcut from God Quad to the Library. It is an air hockey arena, laundromat, and coffee house. You know it. You love it. LaFortune.

Dedicated in 1953, "the living room of the Notre Dame community" is a schizophrenic catch-all building that is at once the virtual second home to a host of student leaders, a big-screen TV center, and a hand-warming why don't we stop in for hot chocolate? The plans have been completed...."

As in the Morris Inn — was placed in charge of planning the weekend pilgrims.

More than quarter dogs used to ferment in the structure that now serves as the new "student center." In October 1953, then-University President Father Theodore leeburg announced that... the "science" plaque slugged to the brick just over the doorway. Yep, this was where Knute took his chem classes.

So how did LaFun go from chlorine to Copy Shop? Alumni.

Notre Dame abandoned the current LaFortune as a science hall in the early-1950s, and the building was emptied of all but the rumors that swirled about it as the future home of the new "student center." In October 1953, then-University President Father Theodore leeburg announced that... the cabinets and dividers to the LaFortune family.

The Alumnae had already donated the wood from the LaFortune family.

Alumni. Although the chances of getting robbed are slim, it can and does happen, and starting out on day one of your overseas adventure will be no fun without any money at all.

Money management tips for travelers

By JUSTYN HARKIN
Money Talks Correspondent

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Fun has seen it all

AFun was founded in 1918 after armistice was called. The army was moving out of South Bend. The Ann Hajek, L. A., a snack business. AFun was completed in 1918. After armistice was called, the army was moving out of South Bend. The Ann Hajek, L. A., a snack business. AFun was completed in 1918. After armistice was called, the army was moving out of South Bend. The Ann Hajek, L. A., a snack business. AFun was completed in 1918. After armistice was called, the army was moving out of South Bend. The Ann Hajek, L. A., a snack business. AFun was completed in 1918. After armistice was called, the army was moving out of South Bend. The Ann Hajek, L. A., a snack business. AFun was completed in 1918. After armistice was called, the army was moving out of South Bend. The Ann Hajek, L. A., a snack business. AFun was completed in 1918. After armistice was called, the army was moving out of South Bend. The Ann Hajek, L. A., a snack business.
Volunteers ruin Connecticut’s unbeaten season

By CHUCK SCHOFFNER

The Observer
Tuesday, March 25, 1997

IOWA CITY, Iowa—Connecticut’s dream of an unbeaten season is over. Tennessee’s recovery will continue for the Final Four.

Tennessee, the defending national champion, weathered a second-half rally after building a 15-point lead and beat No. 1-ranked Connecticut 91-81 Monday night in the regional final.

In the latest installment of a rivalry that has become one of the most intense in women’s basketball, Connecticut (127-103) avenged a 72-57 loss to Connecticut on Jan. 30 to win the national champion on Notre Dame in Cincinnati on Friday night.

The Irish defeated Connecticut with 26 points and Kara Wolters scored 17. Kelli Jo Jo, who did not play in the first game, started in this Connecticut this season because she recovered from a knee injury, added 19, and Tennessee and Pashon Thompson had 15.

The Tennessee-Notre Dame game will be a rematch of the semifinals in the presa- SUN TTN. Tennessee won that game 72-79.

Wolters sat out the final 7:33 of the half.

A Tennessee-Notre Dame win for the first time this season and down 47-32 early in the second half.

Paige Bueckers, a sophomore, was named the regional’s most outstanding player. She stretched the lead to 62-52.

It was the sixth meeting between Connecticut and Tennessee since January 1995. Tennessee had beaten the Huskies only once before, 72-79, in the national semifinal last year.

Tennessee dominated the first half with strong rebounding and solid defense that forced Connecticut to take outside shots the Huskies couldn’t hit.

Both Connecticut and Tennessee lost their first games this season, and down 47-32 early in the second half.

Tennessee scored three baskets after offensive rebounds during an 18-7 run that broke a 6-6 tie and put the Lady Vols, who will make their third straight Final Four appearance and 10th overall,

They still have a chance to become just the second team to win two national championships on Notre Dame in Cincinnati on Friday night. A Connecticut victory would make the Huskies the first to win three straight championship games.

They also could become just the fourth team to win three straight championship games.


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Trio makes strong showing at Championships

Brooks, Newell, Suddarth put Irish on map

By BILL HART
Sports Writer

The Notre Dame women's swimming team finished its season this weekend in the NCAA Championships at the Indiana University Natatorium in Indianapolis. The Irish were represented by three swimmers, the largest contingent in Notre Dame history.

On the first day, senior All-American Erin Brooks placed 23rd in the preliminaries of the 100-meter backstroke with a time of 56.08.

A pair of freshmen rounded out the Irish contingent. Shannon Suddarth placed 22nd in the preliminaries of the 100 backstroke with a time of 1:03.37, which broke her previous record set at the Big East Championships. Alison Newell swam the 100 butterfly in 55.98 to place 32nd in the preliminaries.

"Overall, we thought that they had done a good job on the first day," head coach Bailey Weathers commented. "It would have been nice to get someone into the final heat on the first day, but we know that the events on Sunday were our stronger ones."

"Even though we all had good swims on the first day, we were all a little disappointed," Suddarth remarked. "However, our times made us want to try even harder on the second day, and I think the results show for themselves."

On the second day, Brooks led the Irish as she placed eighth in the 200 backstroke with a time of 1:58.55 to earn All-America honors for the second consecutive year.

Earlier in the day, Brooks swam 1:58.14 to claim the seventh fastest time in the preliminaries. Brooks placed 10th in the same event in the 1996 Championships.

"On the first day, I wasn't all that pleased with how I did," Brooks commented. "I was hoping to get into the consolation heat, but things didn't work out. Even though I did better on the second day, I still feel some disappointment."

"Erin has helped us out a lot over these past few years," Weathers remarked. "She's brought a lot of notoriety to our program, especially through being an All-American two years in a row. She's one of the best swimmers in the country, and she proved it this weekend."

The two freshmen continued to impress, both taking high marks in their respective events. Newell swam 2:01.72 in the evening finals to place 13th. She placed 10th in the preliminaries with a time of 2:00.53 to break her own school record which she set in the Big East Championships.

"I was really nervous, this being my first trip to the NCAA Tournament," Newell said. "But that went away after my first event. On Sunday, I redoubled my efforts and it paid off."

Suddarth broke her school record in the 200 backstroke for the second time on Saturday. In the preliminaries, she placed 15th with a time of 2:16.31 to break the school record which she set in the Big East Championships.

Later in the day, Suddarth improved with a time of 2:15.41 in the finals, placing 13th overall. The time averaged a loss earlier in the year against Miami's Kristine Tellinger in the 200 breaststroke at the Big East Championships. Tellinger placed 14th, behind Suddarth by only a quarter of a second.

"We were happy with how both Shannon and Alison did this weekend," Weathers said. "I think there were a lot of people on the team who could have competed this weekend, and we got the consideration times they needed, but they were just short of the cut that the committee makes."

Overall, the Irish placed 25th with 19 points. USC claimed the women's title with 406 points. The end of the NCAA Championships brings to a close one of the most successful seasons in Notre Dame history.

"When I thought we really accomplished a lot this season," Weathers commented. "We made a lot of big improvements, and we had a lot of fun doing it. We would have liked to have more people compete this weekend, but we were happy with how we did, and we think it shows promise for the future of the program."

Attention all students, both on and off-campus:

RUN-OFF ELECTIONS ARE TOMORROW!

Vote for your class officers and off-campus reps from 11 a.m.–1 p.m. and 5–7 p.m.

Vote in hall lobbies or in the Huddle

April 8, 1997
Joyce Center 7:30pm
Doors open at 6:45pm
Tickets available at LaFortune & the Joyce Center ticket office
Arena Seating
$10.00 • $5.00 Students
www.RoastTheCoach.com
219.674.0900, ext 1212
WMU invades Eck as team's five game losing streak today against Western Michigan

Sophomore Paul Turco is one of many Irish players hoping to end the team's five game losing streak today against Western Michigan.

The Irish will be looking to build a five game slide as they officially open their 1997 home schedule this evening against the Broncos of Western Michigan. The 5 p.m. matchup will be the first of three home contests this week.

WMU returns 13 of 21 letterman from a 1996 squad that finished 17-34 and placed ninth in the Mid-American conference. The returnees include senior rightfielder Brent Sachs and junior hurler Billy Coleman.

In his junior year, Sachs hit .397 with four home runs and 21 RBIs. The right-handed Coleman went 5-6 in 1996 and struck out 66 batters in just 28 innings in the Golf Shop. Call 1-6425 for more information.

Cross Country Skiing — Rentals are available Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. The rentals are located in the Golf Shop.

Climbing Wall Orientations are available at the Rockne Memorial Sundays at 1 p.m. and Wednesday at 6 p.m. Sign up outside the wall.

Advanced Scuba — RecSports will be sponsoring Advanced Scuba Classes. Participants must be certified divers. For more info, call 1-6100.

Weekend Scuba/Toucanball Tournament will take place on April 12 and 13. There will be men's and women's divisions, with t-shirts awarded to all participants. Bring your own racquet. Racquetballs will be provided. Refreshments will be served. Participants must register by April 10. There is a $5 fee.

Christmas in April Benefit Run — April 12 is the date for this 5K or 10K run and 2-mile walk. All registrants will be awarded a t-shirt. The cost of the run is $5 in advance and $6 the day of the event. Call 1-6100 for more information.

Drop-In Volleyball — RecSports will offer Drop-In Volleyball on Tuesday’s from 7-10 p.m. in the Joyce Center.

Casting and Augling Clinic — Clinic includes three sessions which meet on April 8, 15 and 17 from 6-115 p.m. Classes are held in the Joyce Center, Rolls and campus lakes. Equipment is provided, but participants are encouraged to bring their own. The fee is $5 for the class and is open to students, staff and faculty. Advance registration in the RecSports office is required.

Notre Dame Love Squad — An informational meeting will be held for the 1997-98 school year on April 13 at 9 p.m. in the Notre Dame Room in Lafortune. The meeting is not mandatory for next year’s try-outs.

Campus Ministry Internship

Are you a graduating senior?

Are you considering a career in ministry?

Does the graduate school you are considering require hands on experience?

Campus Ministry will be providing two graduate internships beginning in August, 1997.

Applications are now available in the Badin Hall Campus Ministry office.

Please contact Darrell Paulsen at 631-5242 or e-mail: Darrell.R.Paulsen.1@nd.edu

SIGNUPS ARE FADING AWAY! 

LA FORTUNE 

$15
Newest varsity squad continues to make noise

By FRED CHEW and WRANGLER WHITMAN
Sports Writers

On a cold afternoon yesterday at Moose Krause Stadium, the women’s lacrosse team turned up the heat and beat Stanford 19-13. With their second victory in three days, the Irish improved their record to 4-1, and are undefeated at home.

Sophomore Kerry Callahan cashed in five goals, including three in a row at one point in the game, and added three assists in the first 23 minutes of play to spark the Irish to a 12-2 lead. Callahan was even in on the play of the day as the recipient and converter of a great Eileen Regan assist. This stretched the Irish lead to 9-2.

A quick start is becoming the norm for this high-powered offense. "It is easy to score when the transition game is working as well as it was today. I was open and my teammates made some great plays to pass the ball to me on the move," said Callahan.

For the most part, the Irish dominated the Cardinal in the first 30 minutes of the game, but a mental lapse in the last three minutes of the first half kept Stanford within striking distance. They scored three quick goals and cut the Notre Dame margin to seven.

Coach Tracy Coyne was visibly upset with the Irish effort in the last two minutes of the half, and called a timeout with only 47 seconds left before intermission. "Coach Coyne got us back on track during the timeout," said defender Megan Schmitt.

The timeout ebbed the Stanford flow, and the Irish led 12-5 at the break.

After a quick Stanford goal following the break, Notre Dame returned to their dominating form with crisp passing, which led to a Tara Pierce goal off of a great feed from Stephanie Fox.

"Our passing and transition game got Stanford off-balanced. Their team was very good, but our combinations were working and we pressured them very well," said Coyne.

Leading 14-8 with 21 minutes left in the game, Callahan, Regan, and Fox again came up big, scoring three consecutive goals and wiping out any chance of a Cardinal rally.

Holding an apparently commanding 19-9 lead, the Irish again let up like they had at the end of the first half. The Cardinal took advantage, scoring four more quick goals, led by their star Alexis Patrizio, who ended up with six goals on the day. However, this was not enough as Notre Dame just had too big of a lead for Stanford to overcome.

"We played really well except the last three minutes," said senior captain Mara Grace, who scored three goals for the Irish. "When you get up a lot, you tend to lose focus. We need to learn to stay intense the whole game."

Notwithstanding a few quick Cardinal scoring spurts, the Irish excelled in their home victory over Stanford.

"I am not saying that we do not like to win on the road, but winning at home is great because we can share our success with our fans," said Schmitt.

After a successful homestand with victories over Denver and Stanford, the Irish hope to improve their 4-1 mark this weekend with games against Duquesne and Davidson.

Global Banking in the Year 2000

Sponsored by:
Center for Research in Banking

Guest Speaker:
Michael J. Murray
Vice Chairman and Group Executive Vice President
Bank of America

Wednesday
March 26, 1997
Jordan Auditorium
(COBA)
1:00 p.m.
Big Dance
continued from page 20

she had 14 first half points and seven rebounds on her way to a 25-point, 16 rebound perfor­
mance. Gaither's strong play in the paint helped the Irish push their lead to as many as 10 points in the first half, but strong play from George Washington University's Tajagna Abraham and Novella Gomez kept their squad in the game as they each had 15 in the first half.

In the second half, George Washington University's long-range bomber Lisa Cermingano came alive after being shut down by the Irish in the first. She had nine points, all coming in the second stanza. One of her three treys put her squad ahead for the only lead of the game at 39-38. Their lead did not last as the Irish responded with a 16-4 run. The Colonial post players couldn't keep Gaither off the glass as her persistence on the boards paid off on a bucket to give Notre Dame the lead for good at 40-39.

On the defensive end of the court, McGuff switched from their traditional match-up zone to a man-to-man. The switch slowed the Colonial's attack which gave the Irish a chance to pull away.

"When they took the lead, we switched to a man-to-man," McGuff said. "That was really the turning point, we started to stick them and were able to build on the lead."

McGuff recorded solid contributions from all of her role play­ers as Morgan was held to just ten shots on the evening. Senior point guard Joanne Augustin drained a much needed trey and finished with seven points, six rebounds and four assists. Her backcourt mate, Mother Patrick also got involved under the basket as she added nine rebounds to her five assists. Sheila McMillen came off the bench to chip in seven points, six rebounds and four assists.

Reanne Bohon complimented Gaither in the post with eight points and six rebounds. Freshman Julie Henderson and junior Kari Hutchinson, who was hampered with a broken hand several weeks ago, also gave McGuff solid minutes. "The kids just found a way to win," McGuff said.

"Katyba and Beth did their jobs. I can't say enough about them," McGuff said, "but also our All-Americans who were also named to the East Regional all­tournament team. They continued to work really hard and everyone else did their jobs also. We're never looked ahead and we've just taken it one step at a time."

"This is unbelievable, it's the stuff dreams are made of," said an elated McGuff. "We've proved that we're better than a six seed and we definitely want to go to Cincinnati and give it our best." Gaither echoed her team­mate's sentiments.

"We go want to go there and we believe we can do some dam­nage. We're just going to go there and play hard. We believe we'll win and we just need to keep on believing."

"We want another shot at UC," McGuff said. "Hopefully they'll win tonight. We feel like anything can hap­pen."
Ivy Field awaits as squad returns from trip

Irish aim to exceed .500 mark versus IU

By ALLISON KRILLA

Ivy Field awaits as squad returns from trip outside on our field for the past month-long road trip, the Notre Dame softball team finally heads home to the friendly confines of Ivy Field, after a month-long road trip, Notre Dame will look to turn things around in their home-opener, though. "We've made major steps since our first games, especially in terms of our consistence defensively. We know that we have to be ready for every play, every ball," Miller said. Improved defensive play has given the Irish confidence, which has translated into an offensive outburst as well.

"We're now hitting over .300 as a team, much improved from the beginning of the season," said Miller. Senior Katie Marten leads the team in batting average and slugging percentage, while fellow captain Meghan Murray has found her stroke again, contributing to the potent Irish offense of late.

The rest of the team has taken the pressure off of the seniors with powerful bats of their own. "Kara McMahon has been getting key hits, and Jenn Giampaolo's bat is coming around," Miller said.

Aside from the veterans' contributions, freshman Sara Mathison's offensive display during the recent road trip has panned the Irish. She flexed her muscles, pounding out two homers during the campaign. Sara has been hitting the ball very well for us," said Miller. Burtlers Kelly Nichols and Angela Bessin will take the mound for the Irish today, with the first game scheduled to begin at 2 p.m. at Ivy Field. As they look to average the early season five-inning loss to Indiana, the one thing they are sure of is that it feels good to be home.
Who will follow in the path of Dave Kellett and Ed Leader as the next cartoonist for The Observer? Each of these candidates has his eyes set on being the next. And the decision is up to you.

That’s right: your vote will determine which comic strip appears in The Observer.

In each issue this week and next week, a selection from each of the four comic strips will appear here. Next week, a ballot will be provided at the bottom of this page so that you can submit your vote for your favorite comic strip.

A LONG WAY FROM SOMEWHERE

A Long Way from Somewhere looks at the chaos and comedy of undergraduate life at Notre Dame. The strip centers around the life of A.J., a shy but friendly undergrad, and his outgoing roommate (currently unnamed). A.J. is always finding himself caught up in some wacky misadventure (often during his work-study position at the South Dining Hall) and tends to bring his unwitting roommate along for the ride. Whereas A.J.’s love life is generally cursed, his suave roommate has no problem with the opposite sex. These two soon develop a strong friendship with Amy, a charismatic biochem major, and her boyfriend, Willam, the nerd across the hall. Other characters include: the ROTC guy, the Stadium Usher, Skippy the Squirrel, the DART machine, and the Talking Ethanol Cloud.

The main characters of N.D.C.D. Blues are a nameless koala bear and a penguin, and the strip’s setting will vary. In general, I will mock food, the sports teams, etc., have been done ad nauseam. I hope to want to focus solely on Notre Dame. These first seven strips demonstrate that Notre Dame events will play a role in the strip’s theme. I will also explore all aspects of my life here, which means I don’t put a slightly fresher perspective in this strip.

Kevin Trovini

MEN ABOUT CAMPUS

Men About Campus is essentially a comic strip about that—an actor’s perspective about Notre Dame. It covers everything, including ND “dating,” the dining hall, SYRs, football games, the leprechaun and the weather. Of course, the strip will contain women—as for the moment the guys are just moving into their new place. And like the dorms, all campus comics have to contend with parietals, too.

The comic strip also will address some of the politics of ND, such as the stance on gay and lesbian students, the ever-increasing number of sports contests on campus, along with the basic humor which a group of four unique men eventually come up with.

Dan Sullivan

THE LILYPAD

The Lilypad is a web comic about Ron, Pete, and everyone else’s crazy lives here at ND. The stars of the show: Ron is pretty delusional, and Pete tends to be more sane, as does Lisa who compared to her roommate, Jen. Lisa is an engineer, and Jen is an architecture major, although that may change. Crazy Bill is the demented next-door neighbor of Ron and Pete, he’s pretty messed up. The Two Giant Squirrels are friends of Crazy Bill on the Bookstore Basketball team. Lenny, a chupacabra, lives in Pete’s pillow.

Jeremiah Conway

SUBWAY

Home Openers!

TUESDAY!

SsSUBWAY

vs. Western Michigan 5:00pm
Eck Stadium
Notre Dame Softball
vs. Indiana (2) 2:00pm
Ivy Field

Students Free with ID
**HAPPY BIRTHDAY IN THE NEXT YEAR OF YOUR LIFE**

Keep your formal, official, and other attentions to the stars in mind this week. Too many hours behind a desk or in the cockpit will cause you a lot of trouble. Set aside too much effort. Remember you can cut the work down if you appear indolent or meditative. Even small tasks can overload the brain. This week you could be on top of your game.

**AURORA**
(March 21-April 19)

Little by little or all at once.

When you're feeling off center this week, try to pull it together. Keep your circle restricted to friends you can trust, and don't let yourself be swayed by others' opinions.

**TAURUS**
(April 20-May 20)

Get up and go, even if you feel it's too much work.

You're feeling the pressures of life this week, but don't let them get the better of you. Make a plan and stick to it, and you'll find the strength to carry on.

**GEMINI**
(May 21-June 21)

You're feeling the pressures of life this week, but don't let them get the better of you. Make a plan and stick to it, and you'll find the strength to carry on.

**CANCER**
(June 22-July 22)

You're feeling the pressures of life this week, but don't let them get the better of you. Make a plan and stick to it, and you'll find the strength to carry on.

**LEO**
(July 23-Aug. 22)

Look for an opportunity to improve your position at work. Symbolic is meeting with higher-ups or in their earlier concoction. Authority and peace will be increased by your voice.

**VIRGO**
(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Seeking out solutions first may be the key. Catching up on detail work will let you complete an important assignment. Love, money and social events all enjoy good vibrations. When choosing between two solutions, take the intuitive one.

**LIBRA**
(Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

Post it and try to let it pass. Plan on the ball. New ideas will bring good fortune your way. You are a scoring writer whose personal responsibilities are even more important now. (Nov. 21) A good day for people in education, arts and science. When your special talents are recognized, share the glory with your team. Inability even if your friends are sympathetic.

**SCORPIO**
(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

Be careful with young owned resources. You cannot afford to suffer from your pride. An evening out will be a hit if you choose the right companions.

**SAGITTARIUS**
(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Be careful with young owned resources. You cannot afford to suffer from your pride. An evening out will be a hit if you choose the right companions.

**CAPRICORN**
(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Be careful with young owned resources. You cannot afford to suffer from your pride. An evening out will be a hit if you choose the right companions.

**AQUARIUS**
(Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Your income or prices could rise this week. A long-cherished goal moves within reach. Expand your intellectual horizons by reading a thought-provoking book.

**PISCES**
(Feb. 19-March 20)

Your income or prices could rise this week. A long-cherished goal moves within reach. Expand your intellectual horizons by reading a thought-provoking book.

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**INTERHALL TEAM TENNIS**

**ONE DAY TOURNAMENT**
**SINGLE ELIMINATION**

**MEN'S AND WOMEN'S DIVISION**

Teams will be notified of the date and time of tournament

Sign up in the RecSports Office.
SPORTS

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

Lady Irish handle Colonials, dance to Cincinnati

Gaither boosts ND to third tourney upset

By JOE CAVATO
Assistant Sports Editor

It wasn’t as dramatic as their second-round win over Texas. It didn’t involve three-point shot heroics and a 22-0 run like their comeback win over Alabama. But it was the win that put the Notre Dame women’s basketball team into the Final Four for the first time ever.

After upset victories over the third-seeded Texas Longhorns and the second-seeded Alabama Crimson Tide, the Irish added fifth-seeded George Washington to their list with a blue-collar 62-52 victory in Columbia, South Carolina. The win clinched the East Regional championship and sent the Irish to Cincinnati this Friday for the Final Four where they will play the third-seeded Texas Longhorns and the second-seeded Alabama Crimson Tide, the third sixth-seeded team in the women’s NCAA tournament history to travel all the way down the road to the Final Four.

"What a great team," head coach Muffet McGraw raved. "You can never count them out. Everybody has played so well together.

"This is really exciting," assistant coach Kevin McGuff said. "Plenty of times we could have been knocked out, but our kids have just kept battling and battling. They have been so resilient and now we’re going to Cincinnati to take our shot."

Morgan got things going right from the opening tip. After Gaither won the jump ball, Morgan took a pass from Rosanne Bohman and canned a three before five seconds had run off the clock.

The Blue and Gold crashed the boards and used a 29-19 first half edge in that category to overcome 12 first half turnovers. The squad went into the locker room with a 32-25 lead.

Gaither, who was named the East Regional tournament MVP, was simply too much for the Colonials as they are the first Irish basketball team in the Final Four since Digger Phelps took the men’s squad to St. Louis in 1978.

"We worked really hard and definitely earned it tonight," Irish high-point player Katryna Gaither said. "We finally get a trip to the Final Four. It’s unbelievable."

Notre Dame is just the third sixth-seeded team in the women’s NCAA tournament history to travel all the way down the road to the Final Four.

Irish Insight

Final Four a reality despite bumpy journey

It has not always been an easy road for the Notre Dame women’s basketball team.

Although its 31-6 record might not reflect too many roadblocks, there have been some potholes.

You know, those obstacles in the road that might go unnoticed but can be equally as damaging.

Take, for instance, the example of the 1995 Irish squad. Head coach Muffet McGraw said to ESPN yesterday, that they were as talented as the team she will lead to the Final Four on Friday, but because they did not have a conference like the Big East behind them, they did not receive the same recognition.

Or how about the fact that now that they have finally made it into a big-name conference, they have constantly been forced to sit in second place because of the seemingly unbeatable Connecticut Huskies.

Or that despite the talent-laden team the Irish boast, they have been plagued with injuries, even to the point at which the Irish had to play team manager Christy Grady during the Big East tournament.

Head fencing coach Yves Auriol had nothing but praise for his squad following their impressive comeback at the NCAA Championships.

FENCING

Krol, women lead fencers to second at NCAAs

By DAVID FRICK
Sports Writer

Four months ago, the fencing team made a promise that they would compete for a national title. Though they fell short by a small margin, the squad can hold no shame in finishing as runners-up in the 1997 NCAA championships, the second consecutive year to three-time champion Penn State.

By the third day of competition, the team found itself in fourth place, trailing by 180 points. But the will of a champion found itself determined to make up the deficit.

"We were down, but never gave up," said head coach Yves Auriol. "I’m very proud of this team. They gave their all."

The team battled on the third day in order to pull itself within 130 points and place itself in a position to win. The third place finish by senior foil captain Jeremy Nick, a third place by Lester, a fifth place by sophomore sabreist Luke LaValle, a second place by sophomore foilist Sara Walsh, and a fifth place by sophomore foilist Myriah Brown.

Nevertheless, the day belonged to Krol. A native of Vancouver, Canada, Krol has competed internationally, and won the title of Junior Canadian Champion. Krol stressed the experience and immense talent to capture the individual title over 1996 champion Nicole Dygert of St. Johns.

The match came down to the final touch, with Krol winning 15-14. Krol was unavailable for comment as she will be competing in Spain in an international tournament this week.

Though the final team score did not turn out as wished, there was much the team could be proud of. A touch here and another there, and the Irish would have had their first crown since the 1994 campaign. Only through the enormous talent of Penn State would the team be denied.

"We would’ve liked to win the championships, but you can’t make mistakes when you’re up against Penn State," said Auriol.

Due to travel difficulties, the team members were unavailable for comment when the story went to press. More coverage and players reactions will be included in tomorrow’s edition.

Krol, women lead fencers to second at NCAAs

Notable individual performances included a sixth place finish by senior foil captain Jeremy Nick, a third place by Lester, a fifth place by sophomore sabreist Luke LaValle, a second place by sophomore foilist Sara Walsh, and a fifth place by sophomore foilist Myriah Brown.

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