By JASON McFARLEY

The inside scoop: Lie’s a self-confessed inner-punk to the MTV reality-based show, as well as personal secrets of the MTV reality-based show, as well as personal thoughts on faith and life Friday.

The “Real World’s” Matt Smith offers behind-the-scenes secrets of the MTV reality-based show, as well as personal thoughts on faith and life Friday.

Making beautiful music
Check out a look at the upcoming Notre Dame Opera presentation of Röntgen's Aces.
Scene page 12-13

And the winner is...
"Gladiator" run away with Best Picture. Find out who else stole the show at the 73rd annual Oscars.
News page 9

Monday
MARCH 26, 2001

ND’s first science job fair Tuesday

By HILARY BURN

The Carreyer Center and College of Science will hold their first Science Career Fair Tuesday in the Joyce Center Heritage Hall.

For the last year, Erin Majder, a Notre Dame senior science-business major and the student committee chair/coordinator of the Science Career Fair, has helped the Career Center plan the event.

Of the 250 or so companies that were invited in the fall, 35 companies from across the United States will be participating in the fair and 12 will have resume/screenetter drops.

Companies will represent various types of jobs and internships of many disciplines. Unlike previous career fairs however, the companies attending are particularly interested in people with a science background.

"I have attended most of the other career fairs at one time or another in my time here at ND, and my experience has been that it is very difficult for a science major to get a job at one of those fairs," said Majder. "There have not been many opportunities for science majors at the other job fairs on campus. The ree look at you and say, 'we are only looking for (blank) majors, not science majors. You don't have any experience in this field.'

This was very frustrating, I wanted to be able to go to a job fair and have people be interested in me, and I am sure other students feel the same way. This was what gave us the idea to have the Science Career Fair."

Professors in the science department were told to inform their classes of the event and to encourage attendance in order to explore all of their options and begin networking, even if they already have summer or post-graduation plans.

"Science majors put too much pressure on themselves because they don't see all the options open to them beyond medical school, law school and lab work."

see FAIR/page 4

RHA elects new leadership

By KATIE KELLEHER

Junior Kathleen Nickson and Katrina Weibel were elected president and vice president of the Resident Hall Association for the 2001-2002 school year by the Saint Mary's Student Body.

The ticket was uncontested, and only 10 students voted Thursday in elections held on campus.

"It was disappointing that no one else was interested in running," said Nickson. "But we were relieved, because we think we'll do a good job."

Nickson and Weibel have many ideas for new activities. Plans include a dance marathon to raise money for charity, a ride board to assist students who need help with transportation and a campus wide service project each semester.

"We want to make changes," said Nickson, "like more participation in hall councils, which we think can be achieved."

Both women will enter office with much experience and background knowledge in RHA.

Nickson has been on RHA in the past when she served as vice president of LeMans Hall last year and vice president of LeMans Hall this year.

Weibel joined RHA this year as secretary, which involved taking minutes at the meetings and overseeing RHA committees.

Current RHA president, senior Mindy Remaker, has a lot of confidence in the women who will take over in April.

"RHA is important because we unite the residence halls and bring people together."

Kathleen Nickson
RHA president-elect

"RHA is important because we unite the residence halls and bring people together."

KICK STARTING A TRADITION

Dancers from Troop ND perform at the first annual urban groove, The History of Hip Hop event Saturday. The program was sponsored by Troop ND and First Class Steppers.
INSIDE COLUMN

On Writing

It’s interesting to see what people do in their free time. It’s what you do for fun. That thing that brings out the best in you. Some people sit on the sofa watching reruns of Seinfeld. Others run around the lakes or play three on three. Some talk with friends, play video games or read a good book. I happen to love reading, and consequently, love to write. Over break, I read “On Writing” by Stephen King. I’ve always loved to write, especially poetry. My teacher’s back in San Diego started us writing in kindergarten. By fifth grade, we tried writing. I had a novel starting kit with exercises to help us with characters, scenes and plots. We thought we could come up with stellar stories. We thought we could write.

The crazy thing is, we could. But most of us would go to the library and read our favorite books, then thinking we couldn’t. Most of us never tried, because we were told it was talent. Oh, well... our loss!

Not hardly, at least for me. I can’t speak for my classmates at Spreckels, Standley and UCIS, but I know how to write. I wrote what I knew. I wrote my inner thoughts. Little that rhymed regularly, writing as it came.

I have a free time, I’ll spend my hand in writing a novel. Jeez! So, two summers ago, after freshman year, I started writing a story — my own story. Little that rhymed regularly, writing as it came.

It was a lot of fun. After class was over, I would go to the library and read our favorite stories. We thought we could write.

What I found out over break, was that I had a lot of fun. After class was over, I would go to the library and read our favorite stories. We thought we could write.

CHAMPAIGN, Ill.
The American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois filed a lawsuit Thursday in federal district court, in an attempt to stop the University of Illinois from allowing the Chief Illiniwek controversy.

The lawsuit, filed in federal district court, was in regard to an e-mail Chancellor Michael Aiken sent March 2 to all faculty, staff and students, offering any contact geared toward encouraging prospective athletes from attending the University of Illinois because of the Chief Illiniwek controversey.

United States Federal Judge Harold Baker was assigned to the case, but instead of ruling, he recused himself from — or declared himself not an appropriate choice to judge the case. After Baker's recusal, it was automatically passed on to Chief Judge Joe Billy McDade.

The lawsuit stated that NCAA coaches have strict guidelines on recruitment regarding the "timing, nature and frequency of contacts" with athletes. The e-mail said the University could be punished severely for breaking the rules and guidelines of the NCAA contact and that faculty, staff and students were not permitted to contact prospective student athletes without the authorization of the athletic director.

The e-mail was an attempt to prevent several anti-Chief University faculty members and students from dissuading potential athletes from attending the University. Some faculty members and students announced in February that they considered contacting recruits.

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

TODAY'S STAFF

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Finni Sally
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LOCAL WEATHER

5 Day South Bend Forecast

The AccuWeather forecast for South Bend, March 26.

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College welcomes admitted students for Accepted Day

By DANIELLE GREER
News Writer

The Saint Mary’s community welcomed all accepted 2001 applicants to campus for Accepted Day Sunday.

Accepted Day provides prospective students with an opportunity to get a view of campus in order to help them make a decision regarding which college or university to attend.

Accepted applicants interacted with staff, faculty and current students at Saint Mary's College. Prospective students also had the opportunity to socialize with future classmates.

Activities gave the prospective students a sense of the Saint Mary’s community. A Mass, reception and tours of the campus allowed the women and men to talk to their parents and interact with the faculty, said Jennifer Freene, assistant director and campus visit coordinator.

"Accepted Day went well overall. I enjoyed meeting and interacting with the faculty. I'm also interested in sports, so I got a chance to talk to coaches about what I'm interested in, which is cross-country. I think this was beneficial because it gave me a chance to familiarize myself with the campus and make it easier to affirm my decision," said Kristin Zuninger, prospective student for class of 2005.

Accepted Day continues to promote Saint Mary’s pride. "Here they [prospective students] get a chance to bond and form friendships. Saint Mary’s community becomes like a family," said Mary Pat Nolan, director of the admissions office.

The admissions office hopes that more diversity will be represented on Accepted Day — a number indicative of the College’s ability to recruit a more diverse class.

"Here at Saint Mary's our goal is to enrich the experience for all. Usually we have 10 percent or less [diverse students] apply, but this year we had 13 percent apply. That's really good," said Mary Pat Nolan, director of the admissions office.

This increase is an accomplishment for the admissions office because Saint Mary’s is becoming more known throughout the United States and abroad.

There were applicants from 30 different states and countries.

Sarah Gower, associate director of the admissions office, is also hoping for an increase within the diversity on the Saint Mary's campus.

"What people have to understand is that ethnically diverse students look for the same things white students look for in a college. " said Gower.

The admissions office hopes to affirm the prospective students' decision to attend Saint Mary’s. This will be an easy, convenient way for the applicants to interact with each other as well as faculty, staff and current Saint Mary’s students.

The admissions office will also offer travel grants to help bring students from distant locations who would like to visit Saint Mary’s feel it is important to extend their reputation throughout the U.S. and across the world.

"We have a list of about 12 states that apply for the travel grants. We offer this travel stipend because there is no substitute for a campus visit," said Gower.

MONDAY, MARCH 26, 2001

Slide Show/Lecture
Monday, March 26 4:00 PM
Jordan Auditorium
Free and open to the public

Papel Picado
Workshop*
Tuesday, March 27 4:00 PM
Snite Museum
Ashbaugh Educational Center
Open to families with small children, student teachers and art teachers

"Business of Art"
Student Lecture*
Wednesday, March 28 3:30 PM
119 O'Shaughnessy
Open to undergraduate and graduate students interested in pursuing an artistic career
said Paul Huber, a Notre Dame professor and undergraduate advis­er for biochemistry. "Science journalism and science public policy are two examples. I had a student who did not have the grades for medical school, but she took a great science public policy internship in Washington instead," said Huber.

Many of the companies and orga­nizations attending the fair are well-known nationally or interna­tionally. These include General Electric, Johnson & Johnson, Pfizer and the CIA.

"It's a fine line getting the com­panies to come because Notre Dame is a little smaller than some other schools," said Kope. "So, it is a wonderful tribute to the out­standing science students here at Notre Dame that so many top-notch companies from various industries are participating in our first fair."

GE, for example, only focuses its recruiting activities at 36 key schools and Notre Dame is one of them, according to Steve Canale of GE's Manager, Recruiting and Staffing Services.

"ND has an excellent reputation for producing students with strong qualifica­tions and the university stands out for attracting the best students," said Canale.

Kopec estimates that 10 percent of the students who participate in the fair will be considering GE's undergraduate en­rollment programs.

GE also has a unique recruitment program called "The Recruiter's Roundtable," which is designed to support the develop­ment needs of university under­graduates. Through this program, GE provides an opportunity for students to learn about GE's corporate culture and to develop their professional skills.

"Our internship programs are designed to support the develop­ment needs of university under­graduates and it is our hope that many of our interns will participate in our internship programs in the future," said Kopec.

"Our internship programs are de­signed to support the develop­ment needs of university under­graduates and it is our hope that many of our interns will participate in our internship programs in the future," said Kopec. "It is our hope that many students will take advantage of this unique opportunity and attend the fair with their resume in hand."
**World News Briefs**

Plane crash kills 20: Emergency workers removed bodies Sunday from the charred wreckage of a twin-engine plane that slammed into a house on the Caribbean island of St. Barths. 19 passengers and one on the ground, authorities said. The Air Caraibes Flight 5815 from nearby Dutch St. Maarten crashed Saturday afternoon as it approached the runway at St. Jean Airport, authorities said.

New Zealand opens ties with North Korea: New Zealand will establish diplomatic relations Monday with communist North Korea, officials said Sunday. New Zealand hopes the move will enable it to discuss security and humanitarian issues with Pyongyang and to help defuse tension on the Korean peninsula, an official statement said.

**National News Briefs**

Pilots continue negotiation: Comair Inc., the nation's second-largest regional carrier, and its pilots continued their contract negotiations Friday as a midnight strike deadline loomed. The airline did not immediately announce whether it would cancel any of Monday's 815 daily departures in a system that serves about 25,000 passengers daily.

Smokers protest proposed ban: Butt out! The smokers were joined by restaurant owners, waiters and bartenders in protesting the bill -- the Smoke Free Air Act.

**Indiana News Briefs**

TB cases at an all-time low: Statistics to be released Monday show that instances of tuberculosis in Indiana are at an all-time low. State health officials reported 145 new cases in 2000, 22 of which were fatal. "It's a tragedy. It's a totally preventable disease," said Dr. Stephen Jay, chairman of the department of public health at the Indiana University School of Medicine. Tuberculosis, also called TB, is caused by bacteria and exposure results in illness within weeks, as the lungs are destroyed.

**Japan**

A powerful earthquake convulsed southwestern Japan on Saturday, buckling roads, snapping power lines, damaging houses and killing two people with falling debris. The magnitude-6.4 tremor caused damage in five Japanese states and was felt as far away as South Korea, more than 150 miles northwest of the epicenter.

**Associated Press**

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**Hiroshima**

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**Associated Press**

News reports Sunday said more than 160 people were hurt, but it wasn't possible to immediately confirm them.

**Broken roof tiles and window shutters littered streets in the city of Hiroshima, which has about 1 million people, and thousands of households were left without running water.** "Plates fell off shelves and waitresses screamed in panic," said Koji Akimoto, who was sitting in a Hiroshima coffee shop when the mid-afternoon quake hit. "I rushed outside because I was scared to be in a crowded area. It seemed like an eternity but it only lasted a minute or so."

A 80-year-old woman died in Kure, a city about 12 miles south of Hiroshima, when she was buried under the rubble of a collapsed wall. In nearby Shime state, a 50-year-old woman fleeing her home in the city of Matsuyama was killed by roof tiles that fell on her head.

The quake, centered some 38 miles below ground, struck at 3:28 p.m. near Hiroshima, about 430 miles southwest of Tokyo, the Meteorological Agency said.

Water lines were cut in islands near the quake's epicenter, affecting 10,000 households. It was unclear when water would be restored, said local official Masanaki Fukahara. About 33,000 homes were without water in Kure. In Hiroshima city, the quake set off a fire that burned down one home. Across the state, three houses were completely destroyed and several burned were damaged.

**Macedonia**

Forces invade rebel-held village

Associated Press

Using armored cars for cover, government troops pushed through rebel lines and moved into a hillside village on Sunday, spraying houses with bullets as they spearheaded an offensive to push ethnic Albanian insurgents back from Macedonia's second-largest city.

While not claiming all-out victory, Prime Minister Ljubco Georgievski said government forces were doing well, asserting that the thrust to "clear the terrain of terrorists ... is being carried out successfully, and already key positions have been taken.

The fighting has brought combatants into their closest quarters yet in the six-week conflict near the Kosovo border that NATO wants defused to prevent a wider Balkan war.

Macedonian troops led by seven armored personnel carriers and two tanks moved into the village of Gajre, in the hills just northwest of Tetovo, Sunday afternoon, breaking through a rebel roadblock and forcing the insurgents to pull back.

Houses and cars were burning in the village, and bullets sent roof tiles flying as troops blasted houses suspected of harboring rebels. Two helicopters strafed the hillsides.

A lone man ran to free his cows from a burning barn. He then shot a thin stream of water from a garden hose on his barn and house, in a vain attempt to staunch the flames.

After the fighting ended, dozens of terrified people who had been hiding in a cellar surfaced and rushed into the thick forest around the village.

After taking Gajre, the troops regrouped and set up positions overlooking Llavec, another rebel-held village just north of Gajre.
Cannabis cooperative pushes for medical marijuana use

Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — A few years ago, an author writing about death asked ailing AIDS patient Michael Alcalay how he was accepting dying.

"I'm not accepting it," Alcalay retorted.

Alcalay is alive today thanks in part, he believes, to doses of marijuana that help him keep his medicines down and appetite up. Today, he at least has a clue from Smith's habit of sipping a glass of water.

"It wasn't an indication, then audio­visual cues, maybe," Smith said of Alcalay, his former Georgia Tech University student who had been diagnosed with cancer. "But he's had to look elsewhere since the fed­eral government banned the coopera­tive and five other California pot clubs in 1998 to prevent them from distributing the drug."

A federal judge sided with the government. But last year, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that "medical necessity" is a legal defense. California officials, including Attorney General Bill Lockyer, argue that the state has the right to enforce its medical marijuana law, which was approved by voter­s in 1996. Distribution clubs sprang up because Proposition 215 is silent on how patients will get marijuana, outside of grow­ers in 1998 to prevent serious reflection on his faith.

Religion, especially Sunday Masses sponsored by Life Teen, brought new struggles to his faith. Smith became passionate about his Catholic character last summer, when Alcalay was having his break-up with his long­term girlfriend, Smith said he only attended Masses sponsored by Life Teen, where he urged his listeners Friday to re-experience your faith and explore new territory across the country.

"You can all just re-experience that in some cases is the only way to make it through," Smith said in reality. He described a scene involving a kiss between co-stars Jamie and Julie at the foot of a staircase. Smith said in reality the two were only talking with their faces close to each other, but through various camera angles and dubbed-in kissing sounds, MTV aired an allusion of a smooch between them.

"They [the crew and editors] can do anything. I've seen a sentence chopped up from three differ­ent scenes and spliced together," Smith said, who stays in contact with the cast through fre­quent appearances and promo­tions together.

While many same-sex "Real Worlders" have used the show to kick starts their careers, Smith's Catholic character last summer, when Alcalay was having his break-up with his long­term girlfriend, Smith said he only attended Masses sponsored by Life Teen, where he urged his listeners Friday to re-experience your faith and explore new territory across the country.

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Researchers find puberty-inducing gene in young girls

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS

Scientists attempting to figure out why some girls go through puberty at unusually young ages have found a surprising culprit — a gene that speeds up the body's breakdown of the male sex hormone.

Many believe that the age of puberty — the time when girls develop breasts and other sexual characteristics — is creeping downward. The most widely held explanation for this is growing childhood obesity, along with rich diets and lack of physical activity.

However, genes almost certainly play a role in the age of puberty, and many assumed that the most likely players in this scenario would be ones that control the body's production and use of estrogen.

Researchers released Sunday at a meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research suggested a more complicated interplay of hormones, since the body's supply of testosterone, the male hormone, seems to be a key influence on the timing of puberty.

Dr. Fred F. Kadlubar and colleagues from the Food and Drug Administration's National Center for Toxicological Research discovered the link in a study of 192 girls ages nine and 10.

A study published four years ago found that about half of all black girls and 15 percent of whites begin to develop sexual characteristics by age eight. The average age of puberty is about 13 for whites and a year younger for blacks.

Typically, girls begin breast development about a year before their first period. Kadlubar's team looked for a link between genes and this change in the randomly chosen group of girls.

They examined several genes that control the body's use of estrogen but found no association with early puberty. To their surprise, though, they found a strong link when they tested the girls for a gene that controls the body's breakdown of testosterone.

Kadlubar said the CYP1B1 gene, by reducing testosterone levels, may trigger the cascade of hormones involved in the start of breast development.

Early puberty is a concern, because it increases the risk of breast cancer later in life. Experts speculate that, among other things, early breast development may increase lifelong exposure to estrogen, which increases the chances of this malignancy.

However, Dr. Christine B. Ambrosone of Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York City said it someday may be useful to screen girls for the genetic variation. Those who have the gene could be targets for special effort to delay puberty by slowing their weight gain and increasing exercise.

"These are groundbreaking studies," she said. "We will need to see where this goes, but there is a lot of exciting research for the future."

Kadlubar said the next step will be to see if the gene influences sexual development in boys. In theory, at least, those with the CYP1B1 gene should develop later than usual, since they are exposed to lower levels of testosterone.
WHAT REALLY MATTERS IS HOW YOU PLAY THE GAME

A lifetime opportunity for graduating seniors:

www.nd.edu/~vocation
Roberts, Crowe win acting honors at 73rd annual Oscars

Associated Press

List of 73rd annual Academy Awards presented Sunday evening at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles:


Honorary Oscar: cinematographer Jack Cardiff.
Honorary Oscar: screenwriter-producer-director Ernest Lehman.
Technical Achievement: Rob Cook, Loren Carpenter and Ed Catmull of Pixar for the "Brazilian" software.
Gordon E. Sawyer Award: producer Irwin W. Young.
Irving G. Thalberg Memorial Award: producer Dino De Laurentiis.

Julia Roberts (above left) won Best Actress honors for "Erin Brockovich," while Russell Crowe (above right) was awarded the Oscar for his work in "Gladiator." Below (left) Steven Soderbergh holds his statue for Best Direction for his "Traffic," a film which included Best Supporting Actor Benicio Del Toro (below right).
Traveling abroad is always an eye-opening, an eye-popping, an eye-call-it-what-you-will experience, and it is never more true than when returning to the experience of the American, or more specifically, the North American of United States heritage dating back at least two maybe three generations. This person is a good man or a good woman who simply believes life in the "U-S-of-A" is the best life and the only life.

If one has a nationalistic bone in his or her body, it is difficult to argue with this man or woman about the quality of one's American life. We U.S. Americans should like what we see, what we do, how we live, we may even be so bold as to call ourselves a superpower and then smile about that aspect of our lives too.

We, however, do not live only the life worth living; there are people in other lands, across vast seas, living quite nice lives themselves. And if one does not want to be an idiot, if one desires to maintain the quality of his or her own great North American life, it may behoove one to know other forms of living.

Take, for instance, the French way of life. First of all, somehow the French have gotten the bad rap of being against the U.S. way of doing things, but this is not so, the French just like doing things their way better. You have got to respect that. Perhaps their elevators are the size of their showers and both are smaller than anything ever seen in the United States, perhaps no one feels the sting of injustice when someone cuts in front of him or her and perhaps they use the metric system.

Everybody but us, though, uses the metric system. And it's actually quite conducive of intimacy when you are walking down the street and somebody gives you the evil eye. And, ahh "Parte", it's truly a city of love — where is the equivalent U.S. city? Where is the U.S. town where you get pain au chocolat block after block? This pastry is good.

How many Americans know French? Sure, it's important to be multi-lingual for a variety of reasons. The best reason of all, though, is that knowing a country's language means you know what is going on or can find out what's going on in that country. Knowing the low-down, having the hango, in my humble opinion, is a key ingredient to any good living experience.

Yet, sadly, many Americans rarely know what is going on; we can't help but stick out like the big thumb, and why? Not only is it because we have moved away from a love of '50s fashion and because we're usually taller and bigger than everybody else, but also because we're confused most of the time when traveling abroad. Then, in compensation for our lack of understanding, we get freaking loud. We have loud conversations with lots of loud expressions in hopes of figuring things out.

I was with a fellow American once who was looking for a T-shirt in Greece. The lucky Greek she was attempting to communicate with wasn't quite clear about what she desired. She got louder, of course, using a variety of hand motions so that he figured she wanted a blouse, but, no, she wanted a T-shirt. At this point, I interjected, stating that perhaps the blouse and the T-shirt were one and the same. Both my fellow American and the Greek looked at me with contempt and continued not understanding well.

I am not advocating that one knows beforehand how the entire rest of the world lives in order to travel anywhere. Yet I for one, would rather people thought I was more similar to them than different as Americans have a tendency of being ripped off when paying for hotels, taxis, food, etc., in other countries. Like Kenny Rogers once said, "You've got to know when to hold them, know when to fold them, know when to walk away, know when to run," and, of course, "you never count your money when you're sittin' at the table" because there will be time enough for counting later. In fact, it helps the reputation of all Americans when you are travel savvy. So if not for yourself, do it for your country.

For certain, one will encounter obstacles and perils galore when traveling abroad, yet it is surely worth every over-priced, misinterpreted difficulty, if for nothing more than the sense of satisfaction when arriving back in the kindly "U-S-of-A." Moreover, when you have been awake for a multitude of hours and you have looked at pictures with you of the Swiss Alps on a train bound for other lands, you will find that the ways of handling stress in other countries can be just as good as American ways.

You might find grabbing a haggis and some fine wine (incidentally, French wine is much cheaper in France), stopping in a pastry shop or buying a crepe; then sitting and pondering something beautiful is very therapeutic. Little can remain tragic after it has been pondered, especially if it has been pondered while sipping lots of fine wine. But, see, if you never travel abroad you would never know how this stuff.

You also would not give too much thought to foot-and-mouth disease, which, by the way, has the potential for recontaminating the entire system of eating in many parts of Europe and perhaps the entire world. This information I learned from a German who was none-too-happy the French port-authorities had let some tainted sheep onto mainland Europe. It is always important to know where your meat is coming from — another fine reason to experience other cultures, experiencing them in a quiet way, of course.

Anna Barbour is a junior theology and pre-med major. Her column appears every other Monday. The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

Travel great for Americans

Anna Barbour

Get a Life

Monday, March 26, 2001
In these very pages, much ink has been printed concerning "Yo Mama’s Last Supper," the painting displayed in New York which portrays Jesus as a naked hooker, and the controversy that surrounded it. Mayor Rudolph Giuliani attacked the piece as anti-Catholic. Just as predictably, critics, including some in The Observer, have accused Giuliani for attempting censure. Those anti-censorship hawks may want to examine a couple of recent events.

A private group that has borrowed audio excerpts from a 1964 speech by President Lyndon B. Johnson for use in radio ads in support of President Bush’s tax cut plan has drawn ire from, predictably, Senator Edward Kennedy. Teddy lambasted the group, Issues Management Center (IMC), for appearing to put words in JFK’s mouth. However, the senator’s advice to President Bush’s critics was this group’s tax cut plan is a monopoly on what we eat and how much we pay for it. There are neither adequate facilities in dormitories for residents to cook for themselves nor sufficient privately owned establishments nearby.

If you are on the 21-meal plan and choose to go out, you are paying $5.25 per meal. If instead you only make it 16 of those meals in a week, you will end up paying $7.65 per meal. For those of us choosing to be ripped off by Flex, we forfeit the difference. If the card swipe system in place at Notre Dame is anything like I do, when you are 10 minutes late and the card swiper misses the $6.90 breakfast you missed will cover the cost of the meal, but I wager we would see a steep decrease in dining hall patronage and an increase in trips to Martin’s. The expense to the top rate from 91 to 70 per cent in 1964, Senator Kennedy voted for it.

Times haven’t changed too much, however, at the University of California. Berkeley, the venerable institution that has trained young minds to be top-notch protesters for decades. Most recently, Kennedy has risen to the top of the most recent list of newspapers, the Daily Californian. He has spread our across campus and swiped any issues of the Daily Cal they could find.

What provoked such a drastic response? The Daily Cal and a handful of other college newspapers printed an ad attacking the left-wing-radical David Horowitz called "The Anti-Censorship Hawks". The essay, clearly demarcated as a political advertisement and not an editorial, was provocative, but remarkably civil and surprisingly cerebral.

What is worse is that all residents feel that their constitutional rights are being violated by invoking the Kennedy name to try to cash in for George W. Bush. Sounds like a reasonable consideration, but it’s a ruse to cover up the dirty little secret: JFK’s tax plan was more generous to the wealthy! Kennedyians denounced the plan on the wealthiest Americans from an outrageous 70 percent to an only slightly less outrageous 65 percent, for a near 30 percent cut. By comparison, the Bush plan drops the top rate from 39.6 to 33 percent, a 17 percent reduction. It is true more of Bush’s plan is devoted to the wealthy than Kennedy’s; however, there are more than 40 years ago. In addition, the numbers for the Bush plan are skewed since Kennedy wants to eliminate the confiscatory estate tax. But even today, even we’re looking at budget surpluses — since Kennedy proposed his bold plan in the midst of a federal deficit, wouldn’t that be the more “irresponsible scheme” by Teddy’s terms?

The plain and simple truth that Teddy Kennedy doesn’t want you to know is that his brother was a good, old-fashioned, ‘jelly-rocketin’, supply-side’ tax slasher. His speech bears out the fact that he was more in the vein of Ronald Reagan and George W. Bush than his own brother is today. It wasn’t always that way. In our recent history, when Lyndon Johnson proposed a modified version of the Kennedy plan which reduced the top rate from 91 to 70 per cent in 1964, Senator Kennedy voted for it. He would not have been changed.

The difference between now and the hey day protests of the ‘60s is that now the fight is to destroy free speech and open discourse. These people would probably support something as blatant as “Yo Mama’s Last Supper" as worthy of destruction. Like it or not, democracia doesn’t give guarantees that it is unworthy to treat that same in the treatment of the arts. Instead, they group us together and destroy a viewpoint they didn’t like. And, unbelievably, Mr. Daily Cal capitalized, not only selling an apology, but berating itself as “an inadvertent vehicle for bigotry.” By summarizing the ad as “bigotry,” The

Mike Marchand
Questionable Freedoms 2000

Mike Marchand is an off-campus senior English major majoring in English who is interested in Bookstore basketball team named “Our Points Are Bent To The Right.” Interested players who don’t mind public embarrassment can a e-mail him at mmarchand@nd.edu.

Marchand.3@nd.edu .

Points Are Bent To The Bight. “Interested English major who wants to create a hip-hop band” has joined the traditional anti-political correctness crowd in defending the American Civil Liberties Union (hardly a popular organization) by summarizing the ad as “bigotry,” The

Ask the big question. Why do school shootings continue to happen in America? Regardless of where they take place, the perpetrators of these acts of violence make the same claims: They feel alone, rejected, mocked or unloved. Whether the motive behind the shooting is anger, revenge, bigotry or an attempt to regain a feeling of control in their lives, the young Americans who are picking up guns and threatening their fellow students feel left behind. The angst associated with being a teenager is not new — ever seen “Heathers!” — but something in our society has created this evolution in how young men express their frustrations.

Perhaps it’s the individualistic nature of American society that keeps these young gun owners from feeling that they can turn to another person to express their emotions. Perhaps it’s also this same characteristic that allows us to somehow justify permitting private citizens’ owner- ship of weapons. We must keep the fact that the young are a part of every other civilization in the world con- trary.

However, blaming the schools is not the answer. When children and teen plans to commit this crime, they tend to tell someone. One recent article in Time noted that 75 percent of the perpetrators of school shootings told someone what they were planning before they took action. Schools have to rely on their students to come forward with this information. It is logical to assume that an unhappy, lonely, angry 15-year-old is going to walk up to his high school principal and say the only thing he wants to leave behind is a gun. Of course not.

Massive administrative ineptitude is not the cause of these shootings. As the daughter of a high school administrator, I have seen my mother worry about the entire student body and personal lives of students in her high school. I have seen her and her staff try to take measures that would prevent a school shooting from happening. Believe me, Mr. Brodfluehrer, when I say that the students are most definitely not the only line of defense! There is no large gun control in the country that has the luxury of thinking that it couldn’t happen in its halls. But if the adults who are in contact with a child I respect his threats of violence, even the most “proactive” school can’t be chastised for not picking up on the signals.

And please, don’t think that the fact that these shootings are happening in white suburban schools makes them more worthy of consideration than any other form of gun-related violence that is going on in our country today. “Violence hurts!” no matter where it is perpetrated. No matter by whom it is perpetrated. The young people who I know that are on the streets and school violence were tragically lost, but their parents’ pain is shared by the parents of a 6-year-old child who was killed playing with her father’s gun, the parents of a young woman who was accidentally shot in a drive-by, and the parents of a 17-year-old boy who committed suicide after watching the counter of the wrong convenient store on the wrong day. And yes, even in our country, I guarantee you, Mr. Brodfluehrer, the violence will continue.

Legitimized guns enable school violence

I am writing in response to Scott Brodfluehrer’s column of March 23 entitled, “Violence is not my issue. While I commend Mr. Brodfluehrer for taking the time to discuss this extremely important issue, I have to question his basic approach to the topic of school violence. We should question the validity of Mr. Brodfluehrer’s claim that “these shootings continue to be especially disturbing because they do not occur in a violence-ridden area.” While I see a certain irony in the fact that these crimes are occurring in “small Catholic schools,” his analysis of the situation as a whole is per­functory and lacks an adequate depth.

Ask the big question. Why do school shootings continue to happen in America? Regardless of where they take place, the perpetrators of these acts of violence make the same claims: They feel alone, rejected, mocked or unloved. Whether the motive behind the shooting is anger, revenge, bigotry or an attempt to regain a feeling of control in their lives, the young Americans who are picking up guns and threatening their fellow students feel left behind. The angst associated with being a teenager is not new — ever seen “Heathers!” — but something in our society has created this evolution in how young men express their frustrations.

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By C. SPENCER BEGGS

The Notre Dame Department of Music and the Notre Dame Opera will be performing a show called "Xerxes," which translates into English as "Xerxes." (Pronounced like Zerksees)

Written in 1738, "Xerxes" is one of more than 40 operas Händel composed between 1711 and his death in 1759. The original opera was sung in Italian, but Nicholas Hytner created an English version of the show in 1985, which the Notre Dame Opera will use for this production.

Händel wrote "Xerxes" during the Baroque period in the Western Arts. The Baroque style is generally denoted by grandeur, explicit sensuality and emotional tension. Any given five minutes of "Xerxes" is absolutely smooth-erated with such stylistic markers.

The historical Xerxes and Händel's depiction of the Persian king have little to do with each other. The real Xerxes I of Persia was, in fact, the younger of the two sons of Darius I and named heir apparent, much to his brother's chagrin. He was also not a spoiled and tyrannical despot as Händel's opera depicts him, but, by most accounts, a more charismatic leader.

Marc Verzatt, the director of the show being performed at Notre Dame, is not as concerned with the history of "Xerxes" as he is with the show itself. In fact, in his production, the show has been taken out of Persia in the fifth century B.C. and brought into the 1820s.

Verzatt wants to give the audience a new look at the opera. "The whole idea of the stereotypical opera performance has been what my whole life has been about breaking," Verzatt said.

Instead of the stiff, padded costumes that mark too many modern opera performances, Verzatt wanted to do something a little more fashionable.

"We decided that we wanted the costumes to have a very sexy feel to them," he said.

The music Händel wrote is very sexual in nature and the production staff wanted the look of the show to reflect that. "It was a very sexy era," Verzatt says of the new time period.

Stylish costumes are not the only changes Verzatt has brought to the classic. This particular story lends itself to a highly theatrical presentation. There is not a time (period) precisely, nor does it have anything to do with history; it has everything to do with people and their relationships with each other," he said.

Verzatt sees Xerxes' story of lust and jealousy as a part of the teenage experience.

"I chose to make [the characters] teenagers because they're highly volatile, passionate people caught up in affairs of the heart," Verzatt said. "When you're 15, 16, 17 years old and you start to date, you don't know the difference between sex-drive and love, you just want to be with somebody... The opera's about all these very complicated teenage emotions."

The theatrical aspect of the music is what draws Verzatt to the opera.

"I don't want our audience to come in and expect it to be just any old opera. I think opera audience are entitled to the same type of theatre that they get when they go to a Shakespeare Company tour," he said.

In particular, he feels that he can draw on his own experiences as a teenager to help direct the show.

"I was a highly romantic teenager who loved the idea of being in love," Verzatt said. As Verzatt and the cast explored new ways to present the emotion contained in the music they were surprised to find how naturally the libretto seemed to already contain the very themes they wanted to stress.

The Notre Dame Opera's production of "Xerxes" focuses on the natural theatrical nature of the show.

"If I am going to ask people to spend two, or two and a half hours sitting in a show that I direct, then my responsibility to the audience becomes enormous," says the director.

And Verzatt plans to give the audience their money's worth.

Verzatt is an Adjunct Professor in Opera at Notre Dame. He began his career as a dancer with the Metropolitan Opera. Later, he joined the Cincinnati and Pittsburgh Opera companies as a stage manager and subsequently served as assistant stage director for the Lyric Opera of Chicago. He began working with the Lyric in the mid-1980s, and became a regular member of the company. Verzatt's work with the Lyric Opera includes directing productions of "La Traviata," "Don Giovanni," and "Rigoletto." Verzatt's work at the Lyric Opera has been praised for its creativity and innovative staging. He has also directed opera productions at other major opera companies around the world, including the Metropolitan Opera, the Royal Opera House in London, and the Deutsche Oper Berlin.

The Notre Dame Opera director Marc Verzatt containing one of her solo pieces. Verzatt is an Adjunct appointed a co-artistic director of the Lyric Opera.
Idle Händel?

Dame Opera present a modern production of "Xerxes"

Orchestra of London. However, the show needs not rest on the laurels of its director and conductor to win the interest of an audience. As the cast and crew will attest, the score and story itself gives the show plenty of depth. With about 50 musical numbers, the opera begins tranquilly and continues to build into a twisted web of love triangles, schemes and treachery.

The show begins with Xerxes (played by graduate student Matthew Coffman), sitting beneath a tree and becoming enchanted by the lovely voice of Romilda (voiced by the talented Paula Kearney, also a graduate student). Although, traditionally ignored for the rest of the show, the director decided to use the tree as a part of the set for the rest of the opera. It serves as the meeting place for the various pairings of lovers, hiding places for spies and even as a fueling field during impassioned challenges.

Xerxes, infatuated by Romilda, accepts her but finds out that she is in love with his brother Arsames (played by graduate student Michelle Holden). Enraged, Xerxes banishes his brother. Romilda's envious sister, Atalanta (played by junior Anney Gillotis), tricks Xerxes into believing that Arsames is actually in love with her and encourages Xerxes in his suspicions of Romilda. Fooled by Atalanta's treachery, Xerxes forces Romilda to agree to marry him with her father's consent. The king then goes to Ariodates (performed by graduate student Jeff Palenik), Romilda and Atalanta's father as well as the commander of his army, and asks that Romilda be allowed to marry a nobleman. Of course, Ariodates (performed by junior Jeff Palenik), Romilda and Atalanta's father as well as the commander of his army, and asks that Romilda be allowed to marry a nobleman.

"Working on the show has been challenging. In the end it has made me a better singer and a better actor," Michael Holderer, says. Michael Holderer plays Elviro, the buffo servant who presents comic relief and performs the real "dirty work" in the show. Holderer enjoys the staging of "Xerxes." He likes it better than the unintelligible modern abstract style or "Xerxes." He likes it better than the classic temperamental director. The cast reports learning a lot from his directorial style. Working on the show has been challenging. In the end it has made me a better singer and a better actor, "Michael Holderer says. Michael Holderer plays Elviro, the buffo servant who presents comic relief and performs the real "dirty work" in the show. Holderer enjoys the staging of "Xerxes." He likes it better than the unintelligible modern abstract style or "Xerxes." He likes it better than the classic temperamental director. The cast reports learning a lot from his directorial style.

Info Box

- The Notre Dame Department of Music and the Notre Dame Opera present Händel's "Xerxes."
- Washington Hall Theater
- March 30 and 31 at 7:30 p.m.
- Tickets are available at LaFortune Student Center Box Office or by calling (219) 631-8128.
- $6 for general admission, $3 for students and senior citizens.

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"Working on the show has been challenging. In the end it has made me a better singer and a better actor." Michael Holderer, actor/singer
March Madness doesn’t stop with Notre Dame loss

The Notre Dame men’s basketball team’s experience in the NCAA tournament this year kind of resembled my recent foray into the back-up comedy circuit.

The final round went really well, but the second round was... well, both hit some snags.

The Irish marked their return to the Big Ten after 11 years of not being asked by getting down all over the Xavier Musketeers. It was a perfect 7-7 from the floor, Matt Carroll an incredible 24 points for Notre Dame before 14 at the break and then made like Kathy Lee and Carnival cruising into the tournament at an 83-71 win.

But the hot shooting that played such a huge role in the first-round win vanished in Notre Dame’s second-round loss to Ole Miss. Martin Ingelsby was the only Notre Dame starter to shoot above 36 percent from the floor, going 3-6. The Irish as a team only shot 29 percent from the field but managed to still hit by just two with at least one of the on their last offensive set of the game.

Fortunately, Notre Dame assistant coach Pete McElhenny got a hand on Carroll’s effort to draw the Irish even, and the Rebels went on to win 59-56, grabbing the school’s first ever Sweet 16 berth.

For the Notre Dame players, first and foremost, was getting down all over for all their fans those two who date back to the days of bigger and those who are members of the M.O.B. Getting down all over loss wasn’t the way the story should have ended.

Fortunately, it did. For me, as a fan, that means for that many years only experienced the meddliness of mediocrity, but for those of you who win seasons, a division title, and a trip first to the NIT Final and then the NCAA’s have again made Notre Dame a team that people will have to take seriously after a season of basking in the road to the Final Four.

The future is the home of all the possibilities for the ND men’s basketball program.

For the fans, that future starts next season. For the players, that future starts today. In the meantime, and luckily for all of us, we both hit some snags.

Like every year, I sat down on the first Thursday of the tournament, first enjoying the walk-to-wall basketball, and second, waiting to see that I had correctly picked the winner of all 63 games.

That second thing about picking all 63 games? Well, that lasted until the end of game one on day one, when Ohio State lost to Utah State in overtime.

Every year, I think because I’ve been watching basketball for even longer than before and now I try to write about it, I’m somehow going to pick more right games. Unfortunately, if picking games was calculus, my derivative would be negative, because the more I watch, the fewer games I get right.

But the best part about being an fan of the NCAA tournament is that being right or wrong doesn’t matter. Sure, most of us, and 99.2 percent of people picking at espn.com, said the two teams in the West, Iowa State, would blow by the No. 15 seeded Hampton, in the first round.

But late Thursday night, when Hampton went on that improbable run to take a one point lead with lead with six seconds left, I felt they were still rooting for the Cyclones’ Jammal Tinsley to hit that layup as the game ran out.

All of us have our March moments, memories that make this month the most engrossing time of year to be a sports fan. But maybe you sat there with your dad, a Kentucky fan, and you thought of the Golden Flashes would find a way to topple Indiana and then jumped around your family room with him when they actually did.

Maybe you picked Wake Forest to make a run in the Midwest, starting with a win over Butler, only to watch that little scoreboard in the upper-left-hand corner of the screen read Butler 43, Wake 10 at halftime. Perhaps you then colorfully asked how a seven seed in the Big Dance scores 10 points in 20 minutes of basketball.

Maybe you loved every moment of it. Now, with a Notre Dame program that has once again discovered what it takes to be a tournament contenter, there’s no telling where March can go.

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

Vandy continued from page 24

great players,” Foster said. “Bill Russell/With Chamberlain, Larry Bird/Magic Johnson... You need someone to challenge you, to take you to another dimension to see if your greatness can surface.”

The game also features an intriguing duel of two tiny leaders at point. Vanderbilt’s 5-6 sophomore Ashley McElhenny averages 7.2 points and 6.1 assists per game, Notre Dame’s fifth-year senior Niele Ivey, an inch taller at 5-7, averages 12 points and seven assists per game.

“Definitely she’s the heart and soul of Vanderbilt,” Ivey said of McElhenny. “She’s a flashy player. She’s also a great floor leader. I definitely have a great match-up against her.”

McElhenny sustained a stress fracture in her left foot just three minutes into Vanderbilt’s Jan. 27, loss at Georgia. The point guard missed the next three games and the Commodores lost.

While both teams have premier point guards and centers, McGraw predicts that, barring foul trouble by one of the stars, the game will be determined by the teams’ other players.

“Ruth is going to have a great game. Chantelle is going to have a great game,” McGraw said. “The difference is going to come down to the other three players on the floor.”

While the Commodores finished fourth in the SEC behind Tennessee, Florida and Georgia, Vanderbilt is the only conference team still competing. Late-season victories over Tennessee and George proved that Foster’s team is a force to be reckoned with.

“Sometimes Vanderbilt teams are seen as being soft and not able to handle a lot of the physical play thrown at us,” Anderson said. “I think we’ve proven a lot of the people saying that wrong this year.”

Notes:

• Vanderbilt assistant coach Pete Gaedt was an assistant men’s coach under Mike Krzyzewski from 1983-84 through 1994-95, serving on the same bench as current Irish head coach Mike Brey. Gaedt served as interim head coach when Krzyzewski battled back problems in 1994-95. Under Gaedt’s direction, Duke went 4-15, finishing with its only losing season in the last 18 years.

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Continued from page 24

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The Observer
Irish recruit Thomas leads Pike to state championship

By KATHLEEN O'BRIEN
Sports Writer

INDIANAPOLIS

For the second time in four seasons at Indianapolis Pike High School, Irish men's basketball recruit Chris Thomas went out with a win.

On Saturday, Pike captured the Class 4A State Championship by beating Penn 56-42, and Thomas completed the circle he began as a freshman when Pike snagged its first state title.

"It's more special," Thomas said of this year's state title, "I played more of a decisive role on the team.

In 1998, Thomas was the first player off the bench on Coach Alan Darner's championship team. In the 2001 title game, the future Notre Dame player led all scorers with 20 points, captured the Trester Award for the outstanding senior athlete in the finals and moved into 11th place on the all-time Indiana scoring list with 2,156 career points.

"Chris has meant a great deal to our program," said Darner, who is retiring after 30 years of coaching. "It's won two state championships. I think we've been ranked in the top five in the state all four years that Chris has been here."

Thomas scored all eight of Pike's first-quarter points as the Red Devils took an 8-5 lead, yet his defense was perhaps as impressive as his ability to score at will.

Thomas held Penn's Marques Husband, who averages 15 points per game, scoreless in the first period. He recorded four steals in the game, getting his first points of the game by picking a Kingman's pocket at halfcourt then breaking away for a layup.

A favorite to win Indiana's Mr. Basketball award, Thomas and his teammates stifled Penn until they took a 48-21 lead in the fourth quarter and began celebrating the victory. Before Husband, Jim Modlin and Brady Biancardi let off a stream of 3s, Pike was on pace to hold Penn to the lowest output in a state finals game since 1942, when Muncie Central's Bill Glass scored just 18 points.

"Our defense, hands down, won the game," Thomas said.

Adding Thomas' defense to the Irish next season should better Notre Dame's ability to hold its own in man-to-man matchups with opponents. Penn couldn't get by Thomas, and many college opponents will likely fall in the same attempt.

Not that Thomas only stands out in preventing opponents from scoring. He and teammate David Teague were a lethal combination on offense. The two seniors, who were matching red wristbands pulled up around their elbows, scored 22 of Pike's 26 first-half points as the Red Devils entered halftime ahead by 10.

Teague, a 6-foot-4 forward who was not even good enough to make the freshman team nor the junior varsity team as a sophomore, finally made the JV cut as a junior, when he averaged 30 points per game.

"I think we've been ranked in the top 15," Thomas said. "He watches our games and hopes to hear more from this perceptive observer of our continuing cultural transformation."

Notre Dame's ability to hold its own against Purdue, Central Michigan, Bowling Green and Drake's Chris' s best-known player, Pike's, went 9-for-20 as he played all but the final one minute, 37 seconds. The 6-7 point guard managed two slam-dunks. The second was spectacular, as Thomas swiped the ball dribbled coast-to-coast and spun around midair to jam in the reverse dunk.

Despite his acrobatics, Thomas seemed surprised to win the Trester Award. "It's a very unexpected honor to win the award," Thomas said who heaped praise on Teague and Keith Borgen after the game. "I think anybody on the team could win the award. It's just a great feeling to win the Trester Award and win the State Championship."

He had no time to rest following Saturday's title game. He was set to leave his house at 5:30 a.m. Sunday to prepare for the McDonald's All-American game in North Carolina. He was also selected for the upcoming Capital Classic in early April.

Once Thomas finishes the upcoming round of All-Star games, he'll turn his attention to joining the ranks of the Irish, where Coach Mike Brey has him penciled in to replace graduating Martin Ingelsby at the point.

"I'm hoping to be the starting point guard. I've got to work for that," Thomas said. "I talked to a couple of the guys (on the Notre Dame team). I told the guys that their next game is my first game".

Notre Dame got a verbal commitment from Thomas last April when Matt Doherty was at the helm. The off-season change in coaches couldn't deter Thomas from signing with Notre Dame, especially with both his parents on the Irish bandwagon.

"Chris chose Notre Dame first," said Frank Thomas, Chris' s dad. "He liked Coach Doherty as well. I think Chris will be able to make an immediate impact at Notre Dame."

As a high school senior this season, Thomas made the 2.5-hour trip from Indianapolis to South Bend several times to watch his future teammates in action and get to know the players.

"I think as a freshman, you'll see he has great ideas," Brey said. "He watches our games and he brings stuff up. Like Martin, he thinks the game and he watches. We know he's skilled, but he also has the psyche of a quarterback."

"It will leave readers feeling as though they're finishing a continuing cultural transformation."

—Martha Beck, New York Times

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—Martha Beck, New York Times
McGraw, Foster meet again with Final Four at stake

DENVER

For the past few days, the two coaches, close friends and former rivals have lived across the hall from one another at a local hotel. Tonight, Vanderbilt’s Jim Foster and Notre Dame’s Pat McGraw, the mentor and mentee, aim for the Final Four.

So will the longtime friends ignore each other before the 9 p.m. tip-off?

That’s almost as dumb as asking if the Bookstore will someday lower prices on textbooks.

“We’re going to spend time together,” Foster said after Vanderbilt’s win over Iowa State on Saturday night. “And I’m sure McGraw’s kids (his husband) will be in my room tonight. He predicts what’s in my room as early as his son’s free time.”

Crafting the game on the One-Liners versus the Queen of the Front-Liners.

The Irish Commodores tilt features the best two centers in the country, two of the best Front-Liners.

Foster versus the Queen of the Front-Liners.

Notre Dame’s Muffet McGraw, the mentor and mentee, aim for the Final Four.

I’m pretty sure McGraw and Foster differ in about any kind of conversation other than basketball.

I’m pretty sure Foster will fill his room with business books.

Fosters are clairvoyant, I’d probably be more happy.”

McGraw is more serious, Foster

It is Foster who McGraw’s Lehigh team faced last time, “It was my就像 going to a normal basketball game.”

Foster said. “I told her to do something else for a living. And making a lot more money.”

Bet McGraw will be excited if the Irish win tonight.

For years Corky has been a part of McGraw’s life, “I thought I was ready to be a mentor, I’d probably be doing something else for a living. And making a lot more money.”

Foster has very few other close friends in the coaching ranks besides McGraw and Auriemma. McGraw says the same thing. The competitiveness of the profession is rare to have meaningful relationships with fellow coaches.

“This is an interesting business we’re in,” Foster said. “And because it’s an interesting business you value very closely the friendships that you have and you cherish those, as a matter of fact.”

In the middle of the 1980’s, McGraw’s Lehigh team faced Foster’s St. Joseph’s squad. Since then, McGraw and Auriemma and Foster have chosen not to schedule games against each other during the regular season.

“After the game you’re not just not very happy,” McGraw said. “You’re not happy if you lose and if you beat somebody you like, you’re not very happy.”

Get McGraw will be excited if the Irish win tonight.

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

Senior point guard Niele Ivey drives to the hoop against Utah. Ivey will play a big role in tonight’s regional final with Yankee.

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**Women's Track & Field**

**Burket leads Belles at Dick Small Invite**

By KATIE McVOY  
Associate Sports Editor

Junior Erica Burket led the charge as the Belles of Saint Mary's ran, threw and jumped their way into a seventh place finish at the Dick Small Invitational.

Burket alone scored 13 points for her team as she claimed a second-place finish, a fourth-place finish and an eighth-place finish.

Burket took second in the triple jump, tying with Goshen College's Katie App at 9.740 meters. The junior also took home a fourth place finish in high jump, clearing 1.474 meters and eighth place in the 100-meter hurdles with a time of 18.39 seconds.

During the team's first outdoor meet of the year, the Saint Mary's track team took seventh place out of 12 teams with 35 points in a meet that may set the stage for this year's MIAA track runoff. Saint Mary's placed second out of four MIAA teams, ranking higher than Adrian College (34) and Olivet College (16). Only Albion College finished higher with 47 points in the meet.

The Belles' only first place finish came in the 800-meter run time of 2:25.16, beating out Albion's Amy Corrigan by less than a second.

The Saint Mary's 400-meter relay team also earned some points for the Belles, finishing in eighth place with a time of 4:19.76.

“Any meet before Tuesday. The bus will depart at 10 a.m. and sign up in Angela Athletic facility. The bus will return at 1 p.m. The team's first outdoor meet of the year, the Saint Mary's track team took seventh place out of 12 teams with 35 points in a meet that may set the stage for this year's MIAA track runoff. Saint Mary's placed second out of four MIAA teams, ranking higher than Adrian College (34) and Olivet College (16). Only Albion College finished higher with 47 points in the meet.

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Irish prepare for spring practice with high expectations

By ANDREW SOUKUP
Associate Sports Editor

Bob Davie is certainly in a better mood now than one year ago. At the start of spring practice last season, rumors circulated concerning the future of the Irish football coach's job. Davie was fresh on a 5-7 season — Notre Dame's worst in nearly two decades.

But this time around, the euphoria of earning their first-ever Bowl Championship Series bid still hasn't worn off and Davie wants to keep the good dynamics in place.

"As we start right now, we're farther along, in my opinion, than we've been since I've been head coach at Notre Dame," Davie said. "I feel more comfortable right now with the things that are in place than I have at any time."

The spring football season is set to begin on Tuesday. The team will practice three days a week for five weeks, culminating in the annual Blue-Gold game on April 29.

Davie knows what he wants to do during the spring — keep the Irish to a 9-3 record last season. His first priority is to maintain the strong team chemistry and find new leaders to step up and lead the Irish.

"The chemistry has been an absolute positive. What we need to do is to make sure that continues to be a positive," he said.

Irish players have been named during the winter. Captain candidates focused on getting her the ball in the post. The senior center, will be an excellent chance for Terrance Howard to earn more playing time at tailback with Tula Jones and Tony Fisher both out for spring practice. The door is wide open for Howard to earn the starting spot in the fall.

"Terrance Howard is someone who has a chance to be our starting tailback," Davie said. "He's going to get a lot of work."

A crucial part of maintaining that chemistry begins with the senior leadership, especially the captains. In the past, the captains have been named during the summer. However, Davie said that he might announce the captains in time for the Blue-Gold game.

"I think it's a little bit different than last year," he said. "I think maybe this year we're a little farther along."

Davie said that the Irish need more than strong team dynamics to duplicate the success of last year's team.

"We have to follow that plan that allowed us to win nine games," he said. "I'm talking about special teams. We won all year because we didn't turn the ball over. We won because we could run the ball. We didn't give up big plays on defense."

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One of the biggest questions surrounding the Irish is the quarterback situation. Although Davie said that Matt LeOrcelio, who went 7-1 as a freshman last season, would enter the spring as the starting quarterback, he also said that the possibility was open for either Carlyle Holliday or Jared Clark to earn the starting position.

"It's going to have to be a lot better to overtake the experience factor that the Irish have," Davie said. "But it's a long season, and all three of them have long careers here, so that can change. It all depends on performance." Davie also announced that the coaching staff was considering sophomore-to-be Vonzie Duff as a kick returner. Duff, the fastest member of the Irish squad, will also play cornerback.

It's clear the Davie is excited heading into spring practice season. He has a team with considerable big-game experience and a talented nucleus of players.

"I think it will be our most talented team," he said. "But Davie knows what the bottom line is. And he's not going to shy away from it."

"The expectations don't change," he said. "We're expect- ed to win."

Utah continued from page 24

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Alicia Ratay also made three 3-pointers, finishing with 11 points.

Forward Ericka Haney added 10 points to go along with eight rebounds in 19 minutes. Utah, the nation's best defensive team coming in to the game, allowed the Irish to shoot 47.3 percent from the field for the game. Notre Dame was only the fourth team this year to score more than 60 points on Elaine Elliot's team.

Utah's defensive game struggled with team leader Amy Ewert off the court at various points in the second half. Ewert played the last 16-44 with four fouls.

"She's the heart of our team in so many ways," Elliott said. "We didn't have her available. Her presence is sort of the glue that we all have leaned to rely on and look for a lot of things."

The Irish led only 24-23 coming out of the final media timeout in the first half. Three-pointers by Ratay and Ivey extended the margin to 30-23 with 1:35 remaining.

After Utah's Erin Gibbons bounced a 10-footer off the top of the rim to beat the shot clock, Riley saw through three swarm ing Utah defenders to find an open Siemon under the basket. Siemon layed the ball in to give the Irish a 32-25 halftime lead.

Coming in to the game, pundits expressed concern about Notre Dame's ability to adjust to Denver's thin air. The Irish, who play a regular rotation of only six or seven players, appeared especially susceptible to Denver's thin air.

"I don't think it was really a major factor today," Riley said. "It's more of a mental state of mind than it is a very physical thing."

In the end, the Irish were able to adjust and win three in a row, maintaining their lead in the annual Blue-Gold game. The Irish are on this year's schedule and will play the final three at 9 p.m. on Monday, March 26, 2001.
Sophomore Meagan Call takes out some of her frustration with assistant coaches Brian Banas (back) and James Gaither (right), Call won 15 bouts to place fifth at the championships.

Sophomore epeeist answers the Call

KENOSHA, Wis.

Meagan Call was not supposed to be the highest-finishing Notre Dame woman at the NCAA Fencing Championships. In fact, the 2001 second team All-American wasn't even supposed to be at the Championships.

When head coach Yves Auriol recruited Kerry Walton for the 2001 season, many expected Walton, one of the top junior epeeists in the country, to replace Call as one of Notre Dame's two epee qualifiers. Call posted a respectable 11-12 record at the 2000 Championships and earned third team honors but most expected Walton and Anna Carnick, who finished ninth at the 2000 Championships and had considerably more experience than Call to qualify for this year's championship.

Call was too short and too inexperienced to be the Irish fight for a national title in 2001.

But then Walton's grades for the first semester came back and she was ineligible. The Irish turned to the 5-foot-2 epeeist from Oregon to carry the load again in 2001. And Call not only met the challenges but exceeded them. The woman who was too short and too inexperienced led the Irish in epee wins during the regular season.

"I knew it had to be done and Anna knew it had to be done," said Call. "So we just went out there and fought like hell.

And then she got sick. Just days before she was supposed to fence in the opening round of women's epee, Call wasn't even sure if she was going to fence. But the woman who wasn't even expected to qualify for nationals beat her illness and battled her way to a fifth-place finish -- by far the strongest showing of any Irish woman.

"Two days ago we didn't even know if she would fence or not," head coach Yves Auriol said. "The girl is amazing. She is so smart and such a tough competitor."

What Call lacks in size and reach, she makes up for in determination and confidence. Others may have doubted her ability but Call never did. She expected not only fence well but challenge for the individual foil title. Only fencers who finish in the top four qualify for the fence off for the national title so Call is a little disappointed at her fifth-place showing -- especially since she was in second after six rounds but lost three straight bouts in the final round.

"I am disappointed but in a couple of weeks, I am sure I will feel better about it," said Call. "I knew I needed to win the bouts (in round seven) so I started fencing for myself and not my team and I just lost it."

The little bit of heart and determination just couldn't find the same drive for herself that she had for her team. Without the challenge of adding a greater cause, Call couldn't find the same energy and focus.

"I am really proud of her and really, really happy for her," Carnick said. "She is a little upset over but tonight or tomorrow, whenever it hits her, she is going to be really pleased with herself. That is in just an example of someone having lots more confidence in herself this year."

Although she stumbled at bit at the very end, throughout the season, whenever her team needed her, Meagan answered the Call and fenced like a champion.

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Fencing

continued from page 24

on the spot. On the first day, I was really nervous and really shaky." Nerves also got to sophomore foilist Lisa Boutsikaris. The 2000 All-American struggled over both days of competition and finished 16th with only eight wins.

"That wasn't liza fencing out there," Auriol said. "She got nervous and she couldn't take the pressure."

Boutsikaris said knowing how much every but matters at the NCAAs made this year's competition even tougher.

"I was just talking myself into thinking I wasn't going to win and then not trying my best," the foil captain said.

Although sabrewoman Carri McCullough did not earn All-American honors for the second straight year in a row, the senior did improve on her record from last year. She won 10 bouts this year compared to last year when she won nine. McCullough was still disappointed in her performance.

"I think I got frustrated with myself and some of the calls and I let it effect my fencing," she said. "I shouldn't have let that happen."

The two women's epeeists, however, earned All-American honors for second consecutive year. Carnick repeated as a third team All-American while Meagan Call took home second team All-American honors.

Although only two women were named All-Americans, all six men won All-American honors for the first time in Notre Dame history.

Sophomore Jan Viviani led the men with a third place finish in epee for the second straight year. Viviani became the 14th Irish male fencer to do for quite some time," Walton said. "Two days ago we didn't even know if she was going to fence. But the woman who wasn't even expected to qualify for nationals beat her illness and battled her way to a fifth-place finish -- by far the strongest showing of any Irish woman.

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Casas, Walton rally to earn All-American honors

By MIKE CONNOLLY
Sports Writer

KENOSHA, Wis. — Thursday was unkind to Brian Casas and Forest Walton. Both Casas and Walton finished the first day of competition at the 2001 NCAA Fencing Championships in 17th place with just six wins each.

But on Friday, Casas and Walton both turned their fortunes around and rallied for All-American finishes. Casas won eight out of nine bouts on Friday while Walton won seven.

"I'd say the first day I was still a little nervous," Walton said. "The second day you get a feel for the competition and get all your jitters out. I'd say that's why I had a better second day."

Walton's second day rally boosted him into ninth place and earned him his first All-American honors. His desire to make the All-American team helped him overcome his first day struggles.

"I regretted not getting All-American status last year," Walton said. "I kind of channeled that and used it to my advantage. It gave me the drive and pushed me to fence my best this year."

"It's amazing," Auriol said. "Throughout the season you could sense that he likes the style of guys who have a little more clean, classical style. Brian is not good fencing a fighter — someone who is going to rush into him. He is better against someone who is cleaner because his technique is better."

All the Irish agreed that the biggest change from the first day to the second day is mental.

"On the second day of the tournament, you relax a little bit," Auriol said. "You just feel that you know you can do better. Something happens to you."

While Walton's Friday rally was aided by an easier schedule, Casas second day heroics were nearly impossible to predict.

Before the fourth round, two of Casas' first three victories came against some of the top fencers in the pool. He opened the tournament with a win against teammate Jan Viviani who eventually finished third overall and also defeated Penn State's Adam Wiercioch, who finished second. He dropped most of his bouts to the lesser fencers in his pool.

On the second day, he not only defeated top fencers like Seth Kelsey of Air Force but he also picked up the easier wins against lesser opponents.

Irish coach Yves Auriol believes Casas' style makes it easier to defeat highly skilled fencers rather than fencers who rely more on talent than technique.

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All the Irish agreed that the biggest change from the first day to the second day is mental.

"On the second day of the tournament, you relax a little bit," Auriol said. "You realize what you have to do. I think it is a psychological thing. Even women's foil [which won only 12 total bouts]. They didn't do great but they fenced better the second day."

"I guess you get tired of screwing up the first day," Casas said. "You get mad. You just felt that you know you can do better. Something happens to you."

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The Department of English Presents an Informal Talk for Undergraduates by

VALERIE SAYERS
Professor of English
University of Notre Dame

FICTION INTERPRETS FICTION: "MY FIRST GOOSE" AND "MY FIRST EXECUTION"

Tuesday, March 27th, 7:30 pm
Hospitality Room, Reckers

Refreshments Will Be Served
Midnight Madness 2001

Intramural season closes on a night filled with Madness

By KATIE McVOY
Associate Sports Editor

The Madness swept through Angela Athletic facility and left spectators with a sense of excitement and a sense of community. Midnight Madness, the Saint Mary's athletic department’s spring extravaganza, attracted students, friends and visitors as the event wrapped up the intramural season. But the event wasn’t just about athletics.

"The focus of the night wasn’t about athletics, it was about Saint Mary’s," athletic director Lynn Kachmarik said. "It's all about Saint Mary’s to me. It is about self-esteem and self-awareness and confidence."

Last year's attendance of 500 was nearly doubled this year, with attendance coming in between 800 and 1,000, according to Kachmarik. "On the whole, I was totally pleased," she said. "But there were a lot of people there who could have been there but weren’t."

With that in mind, Kachmarik is already looking ahead to next year. "Last year there were 500, this year there were more," she said. "What is the future going to hold?"

"Kachmarik may be looking toward the future, but this year’s intramural champions are still reveling in the glory of the present.

Volleyball
The Prom Queens were crowned on the volleyball court as they defeated the Senior Spikers 2-1. The Regina Hall royalty entered the tournament ranked No. 1 and took the LeMans Hall team in a very close game. The first match belonged to the Queens, 15-4. But the Senior Spikers, who were ranked fifth coming into the tournament took control in the second match claiming a 15-11 victory. A third game, played only to 11 points, cemented the Queens reign, as the Spikers fell 11-7.

Soccer
They say history doesn’t repeat itself. Well, it did this year for the Ghetto Fabulous as they defeated the Chaos 3-1.

These two teams met in the championship game last year as well. The Ghetto Fabulous were victorious last March as well. Friday's game left the Ghetto Fabulous and the Chaos in a 0-0 tie when regulation time ended. The two teams had to face-off for a shoot-out to see who would claim victory. Each team had five chances to kick. The Ghetto Fabulous landed three, while the Chaos only landed one.

With both teams graduating most of its members, this match may go down in the history books.

Basketball
The No. 1 ranked Team o' Teachers was upset by the No. 2 ranked Badazzes in Friday night's basketball final. The Badazzes fell to the Teachers the last time these two teams met, so they were looking for revenge. A very close 7-6 game offered the sweet taste of victory with a touch of spiced revenge.
**SPORTS**

**FENCING**

Irish stumble to third at National Championships

By MIKE CONNOLLY
Sports Writer

KENOSHA, Wis.

For the seventh straight year, the Notre Dame fencers left the NCAA Championships disappointed at what might have been and hoping to redeem themselves next year. The 2001 Championships added a bit of a twist to the story, however. Rather then taking home a second place trophy for the sixth consecutive year, the Irish walked away with bronze as St. John's won the national title and Penn State slipped to second after winning the last six titles.

"As a team, I know we could have done better," sophomore Anna Carnick said. "The confidence and lack thereof play a key role in how we did. I was disappointed but if you can be in the top three, that's pretty good."

The Irish stood in second place after the men's competition on the first two days but slipped to third behind Penn State after a weak showing by the women's team.

"I think the men did up to their potential," fall captain Ozren Debic said. "We were 12 behind St. John's which was expected but the first day of the women's even was tough for the girls. They lacked confidence and aggression. I guess there was pressure being here for the first time or knowing that it was up to them and that made it tough for them."

The men's sabre and epee squad finished second overall while the men's foil squad tied for third. On the women's side, the epee squad finished second but sabre took fifth and foil finished tied for eighth.

"I am a little disappointed with women's sabre and foil," head coach Yves Auriol said. "They did not perform as well as I hoped."

The women's foil and sabre squads were the only squads with freshmen fencing for the Irish. Destanie Milo and Maggie Jordan both struggled in their first NCAA Championships. Each won only eight out of 23 bouts and each finished 17th.

Milo said she wasn't prepared for the extra pressure that team fencing creates.

"I am not used to having a team," the sabrewoman said. "Just doing individual national competitions, it was just me and my coach but here there are 20 or 40 people cheering for you and against you."

Jordan said she wasn't ready to fence every bout hard from the very beginning.

"I learned it was really tough from the get-go," the foilist said. "You don't have any practice bouts to warm you up. You have to be ready from the very beginning."

**WOMEN'S BASKETBALL NCAA TOURNAMENT**

Notre Dame defeats Utah, faces Vandy in Elite 8

By NOAH AMSTADTER
Sports Editor

DENVER

Among a sea of red, this Notre Dame team finished strongly at the end.

Utah fans packed the Pepsi Center stands Saturday night in Denver, many wearing bright red to create an atmosphere similar to Notre Dame stadium this fall when the Irish hosted Nebraska.

But this time, the "home" team came out on top, as Notre Dame (31-2) topped Utah (28-4) 69-54 Friday to advance to the NCAA regional championships. The Irish take on Vanderbilt tonight, the winner traveling to St. Louis for the Final Four.

Ruth Riley, the 2000-01 Naismith Award winner, scored 24 points, grabbed 14 rebounds and passed out a career-high six assists for the Irish.

The Utes defended Riley well in the opening half, limiting her to only six points on four field goal attempts. Despite Utah's ability to stop Riley from scoring in the past, the Utes were unable to prevent her from passing off to open teammates as Riley recorded four of her assists in the opening half.

"I figured they would probably double team me like a lot of teams have," Riley said. "I was fortunate to have teammates that were able to knock down those shots, whether they be three-pointers or layups to Kelley (Dimeson)."

In the second half, Riley's team-

**SPORTS AT A GLANCE**

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<td>Today, 9 p.m.</td>
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<td><strong>Women's Lacrosse at Ohio</strong></td>
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**Top seeded Irish one win away from trip to Final Four**

By NOAH AMSTADTER
Sports Editor

DENVER

From day one this season, head coach Muffet McGraw and the Irish women's basketball team have stressed one final destination — the Final Four.

Completing that mission comes down to tonight, when Notre Dame (31-2) takes on the Vanderbilt Commodores (24-9) in the Midwest Regional Championship game. Both teams boast exciting players in the middle and at the point.

The pivotal match-up tonight will be in the post. Notre Dame's Ruth Riley averages 17.8 points per game, while her counterpart, Chantelle Anderson, averages 17.8 points per game.

"I am not used to having a team," the sabrewoman said. "Just doing individual national competitions, it was just me and my coach but here there are 20 or 40 people cheering for you and against you."

Jordan said she wasn't ready to fence every bout hard from the very beginning.

"I learned it was really tough from the get-go," the foilist said. "You don't have any practice bouts to warm you up. You have to be ready from the very beginning."