Campus water quality concerns some members

By ERIN LaRUFFA
Assistant News Editor

Upon hearing fellow students express concern over the quality of the University's water, the Student Senate decided to look into the issue. Based on his research, Morrissey senator Padraic McDermott presented information to the Senate at its meeting Wednesday night.

"A lot of people in Morrissey and around campus have been complaining about water quality — foul smells, bad taste," McDermott said.

However, McDermott explained that he learned that the water in the area is just naturally hard.

"It's really safe," he said. "We've just got some of the hardest water in the country." This problem is particularly pronounced in old dorms, which have iron pipes.

"The University is addressing water quality issues, but it requires new pipes," McDermott added. In older dorms with iron pipes, that means waiting until dorms are renovated to replace pipes.

Also during the Senate's meeting Wednesday night, student body vice president Brian Moscona suggested that the Senate look into holding its meetings in a different residence hall each week. He said it would be another way to reach out to the student body.

"We've been trying to get people to come speak on podium and get more interested in Senate, but that hasn't been too successful," Moscona said. He added that going directly to where students live might increase student involvement.

However, some senators expressed concern about logistical arrangements for moving meetings out of the Notre Dame Room of LaFortune. One senator questioned whether all dorms had enough space to host a meeting with 25 senators.

"I think it's great that we're trying to reach out to students, but I'm wondering about accommodations in some of the dorms," said Moscona.
INSIDE COLUMN

Don’t let up on tailgate pressure

So the tailgate talk on campus has died down a bit since the Notre Dame football season ended. Well, I for one, don’t plan on letting it go that easily. The administration has yet to issue a statement on their new policy, and they will continue to act in the same manner as if they don’t think they’re doing anything wrong.

NU and South Bend Police continued their ticket writing at the last home game against Navy, a parent’s weekend, during a weekend that is supposed to be a family reunion and get-together. Would it really hurt Notre Dame to set up a parents’ lot for tailgates? After all, they do pay an enormous amount of money for us to go here. And that money is used to pay the salaries of the same administrators turning around and punishing us and even threatening our parents.

I have another idea! Instead of the whole “Parents Day for Tailgating” how about everyone on campus that doesn’t have a fake ID gets one. So then we can all head out to the bars on Saturday mornings? Then we can all get in one and then we can all head out to the bars on our parents.

Some people may get the impression that I don’t respect the authority of the police because of this article. But, I grew up respecting those that put their lives for the public; those who fight in wars; those who arrest murderers or criminals. But my respect for those who, in general, look and treat people in trouble isn’t so high.

Let me give you a “For Instance.” You’re at a family tailgate drinking out of a red cup. Notice I didn’t say if there was alcohol in that red cup. Are you breaking the law? YES! This happens if they’re “caught” on campus again?

I want another tailgate forum RIGHT NOW. I would just like to say thank you to all the others of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

Matt Lutz
Advertising Executive

THIS WEEK AT NOTRE DAME/SAIN T MARY’S

Thursday

- Lecture: “Causality and Normality,” Joseph House, Hayes-Healy room, 12:45-1:45 p.m.
- Conference: “A Culture of Life,” McKenna Hall, All Day.

Friday

- Dinner: “The 29th Annual Madrigal Dinner,” Saint Mary’s Department of Music, Regina Hall, 7 p.m.
- Concert: “Abend-Musique,” Moreau Seminary Chapel, 8 p.m.

Saturday

- Play: “Antigone” by Mainstage Season Theatre, Washington Hall, 7:30 p.m.
- Karaoke: Huddle, LaFortune Student Center, 10 p.m.

Sunday

- Play: “Christopher’s Christmas,” Patchwork Dance Company, O’Laughlin Auditorium, 2 p.m.

BEYOND CAMPUS

Iowa State backs anthrax sample destruction

AMES, Iowa — More than a month after the anthrax samples at Iowa State University were destroyed, veterinary medicine officials remain confident about their decision.

The Veterinary Medicine Labs at Iowa State destroyed its entire collection of anthrax samples Oct. 11-12 in response to bioterrorism scares and security concerns. The decision was made following a false connection of Iowa labs to the anthrax outbreaks in Florida and the posting of guards at vet med labs.

“On Oct. 9, a media report out of Florida stated that the anthrax that killed a man in Florida was stolen from a lab in Iowa,” said James Roth, professor of veterinary microbiology and preventative medicine.

Roth said the FBI reported the connection was false several days later. However, Gov. Tom Vilsack already had responded to the situation by posting guards at the U.S. Department of Agriculture National Veterinary Services Laboratory and the Veterinary Medicine Labs in Ames. Guards also were posted at the University of Iowa Hygienic Lab.

The Iowa Highway Patrol stood guard outside of our laboratory 24 hours a day because (Vilsack) wanted to make sure that no one could come in and take any of our anthrax samples,” Coran said. “They stayed until we destroyed the samples.”

The decision to destroy vet med’s collection of anthrax cultures was made by Vet Med Dean Norman Cheville, Associate Dean Don Reynolds and Roth.

Vet med personnel asked the state department of environmental health to contact the FBI and Centers for Disease Control about the relevance of their samples, Cheville said.

LOCAL WEATHER

5 Day South Bend Forecast

The AccuWeather.com Forecast for干燥 conditions and hot temperatures

Friday

Saturday

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

127, 4:15 p.m.

ADVANCE FOR SATURDAY, NOV. 24

via Associated Press GraphicsNet

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M AY A N T

The AccuWeather.com forecast for noon Thursday, Nov. 29.

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

CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

The Observer regards itself as a professional publication and strives for the highest standards of accuracy and fairness. When we make an error, we recognize that we will make mistakes. If we have made a mistake, please contact us at 631-441 or as we can correct our error.

The Observer (USPS 599 24000) is published Monday through Friday except during vacations and academic periods. The Observer is a member of the South Bend Newspaper Association. All information subject to change or error.

NATIONAL WEATHER

The AccuWeather.com Forecast for dryer conditions and hot temperatures

The AccuWeather.com forecast for noon Thursday, Nov. 29.

The AccuWeather.com Forecast for dryer conditions and hot temperatures

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127, 4:15 p.m.
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Former GE chief to speak at University

Special to The Observer

Jack Welch, one of America's most respected business leaders and the recently retired chairman of the board and chief executive officer of General Electric Company, will speak at Notre Dame at 5 p.m. Tuesday in Jordan Auditorium of the Mendoza College of Business.

Because the seating capacity of the auditorium is limited, those wishing to attend the lecture are encouraged to arrive early. For those unable to find seating in the auditorium, the speech will be broadcast simultaneously in 101 DeBartolo Hall and in designated classrooms within the Mendoza College of Business.

Following the speech, Welch will sign copies of his best-selling autobiography, "Jack, Straight From The Gut," in the atrium of the college.

Welch, GE’s chair and CEO from 1981-2001, increased the company’s market value from $16 billion to more than $280 billion during his tenure. He consolidated 150 business units into 12 basic businesses in an informal, "boundaryless" organization to meet his goal of creating "a big company body and a small company soul."

Under Welch, GE spent more than $20 billion on new acquisitions, including the NBC television network and the Kidder Peabody & Co. brokerage firm, and sold any business that did not rank first or second in its field.

For four consecutive years GE was named "Most Admired Company in America" by Fortune magazine and "Most Admired Company in the World" by Financial Times.

In September, Welch published his autobiography, "Jack, Straight From The Gut," which quickly became a New York Times No. 1 best seller.

Born into an Irish-Catholic family in Salem, Mass., in 1936, Welch received his bachelor’s degree in chemical engineering from the University of Massachusetts and his master’s and doctoral degrees from the University of Illinois. He was awarded an honorary doctor of laws degree from Notre Dame in 1994.

Visit The Observer Online.
http://www.nd.edu/~observer

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MEAR 501/503

Directed Readings
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Literature and Civilization

Revelation to Revolution: Jews, Christians, and Muslims up to 1000 AD
MELC 242 (Crosslist: HIST 242, MRIT 356)

Intro. to Islamic Civilization (in English)
MELC 244 (Crosslist: HIST 244, ANTH 344, SOC 244)

WHO SAID THIS?

No, not Aristotle, Plato, or Cicero.
It was the Arab philosopher, Ibn Khaldun.
(14TH CENTURY)

“INDIVIDUALS SHOULD FREE THEMSELVES FROM EVERY FORM OF SLAVERY—SLAVERY TO PEOPLE, SLAVERY TO OPINION, SLAVERY TO THE ADMIRATION OF OTHERS. BUT AFTER HAVING FREED THEMSELVES, THEY SHOULD BE CAREFUL NOT TO BECOME SLAVES TO FREEDOM.”

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT Classics Dept 1-7195
or e-mail: Joseph.P.Araar@nd.edu
Wings
continued from page 1
when he died.
After the performance, Chapmyn said that this was her favorite piece thus far since it is about staying strong and not letting a tough event in life bring you down.
Almon and Chapmyn also sang a prayer to the blessed mother, and changed the words to "Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death" to include new lyrics, "I will fear no evil, but I will sleep with the alarm set," and "If I lay down in your green pastures I will have a Doberman with me."
The play featured "I am ahor­ ing story," a skit about women on welfare.
Almons said this skit is her favorite as she can identify with it. She used to look down on single mothers on welfare until one day she found herself needing public assistance.
Women should not be afraid to admit when they need help, since "America was built on the foundation that if we need help we can ask our neighbor," said Almon.
The play ended with a skit

Senate
continued from page 1
Pasquerilla East senator Nikki Moscona told senators that he would like to discuss the Office of Information Technologies and Computing.

The Former Laser Storm on US 23, Next to Coach's

JUMP TO IT!

Wednesday's Notre Dame-Army men's basketball game in the Joyce Center was dedicated to prostate cancer awareness. A high-flying dog was among the half-time acts that performed.

Tired of weak parties and South Bend Bars?

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**World News Briefs**

**War on terror enters 2nd phase:** The war on terrorism will enter a "deliberative and considered" new phase that will take it beyond the current campaign in Afghanistan. Prime Minister Tony Blair said Wednesday that war was being shifted from a military campaign against Taliban to a political one aimed at winning over "moderate" Afghans. The United Nations-on Wednesday authorized the deployment of 13,000 peacekeeping troops to the region.

**Pope condemns embryo cloning:** The pope condemned "cloning" human embryos for research. His remarks followed the publication of scientific experiments that raise the prospect of human cloning. The pope said that creating life was "a mystery" that must be protected. The statement is sure to spark debate around the world, especially in the United States where experiments on human embryos have been financed by the U.S. government.

**Storms strike Plains and Midwest:** Motorists slid on ice-coated highways in Texas and Oklahoma on Wednesday and homeless shelters were packed up with demand for warm clothing as the southern Plains got its first major snowstorm of the season. The storm was blamed for hundreds of traffic accidents, with one fatality in Oklahoma. One day earlier, the upper Midwest was surprised by a separate storm that produced up to 29 inches of snow and was blamed for five deaths.

**Arsenal found in Maine home:** Sheriff's deputies found a cache of weapons, including machine guns and bazookas, in a booby-trapped basement when they went to serve a restraining order at an upscale home in the oceanfront town of Baldwin, a rural Maine town. Authorities on Wednesday continued to search for the man who lived there, a 43-year-old William Bloomquist. They said they did not know what he intended to do with the weapons.

**Obscenity trial jurors view sex tapes:** Jury members began watching 11 hours of sexually explicit background music filled a courtroom as jurors in the Little Denmark bookstore in South Bend, Ind., considered seven counts of distributing obscene material. Robert Henderson, 56, owner of the store, who lived there, 43-year-old William Bloomquist. They said they did not know what he intended to do with the weapons.

**U.S. creates quick-reaction force**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON

Infantry from the Army's 101st Mountain Division have crossed from Uzbekistan into northern Afghanistan to serve as a quick-reaction force in case of renewed Taliban resistance. The rapid-reaction force apparently was not in the area when Taliban prisoners staged a bloody prison revolt Sunday. The C.I.A. confirmed Wednesday that one of its officers, Johnny "Mike" Spann of Winfield, Ala., was killed in the riot. He was the first American known to be killed in Afghanistan since U.S. bombing began Oct. 7.

**Egypt denounces U.S. force on Iraq**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON

Egypt urged the United States on Wednesday not to use military force against Iraq or any other Arab country in its campaign against terrorism. Foreign Minister Ahmed Maher said any punishment for defying the United Nations and not permitting the inspection of suspect weapons sites should be meted out in other ways. "Iraq should respect U.N. resolutions, but the resolutions do not authorize a military attack as punishment," the Egyptian minister said.

"And using force against Iraq, he said, "would have a negative impact" in the Arab world and in the United States itself. Maher was in Washington for meetings on Thursday with Secretary of State Colin Powell and members of Congress. He said President Hosni Mubarak had sent him to register Egypt's solidarity with the United States against terrorism.

"While Afghanistan may require the use of force, it should not become the rule," Maher said in a question-and-answer session at the Brookings Institution, a private research group.

President Bush on Monday told the Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to allow U.N. weapons inspectors back and warned "he'll find out" the consequences if he does not yield.
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sponsored by the class of 2003
Mitchell Daniels was one of the gloomiest assessments yet of the government's fiscal health. And it was the first time an administration official has publicly acknowledged that deficits — banished since surpluses first appeared in 1998 — are likely now for several years.

"It is regrettably my conclusion that we are unlikely to return to balance in the federal accounts before possibly fiscal 2005," Daniels said in a speech at the National Press Club. He added, "Things will have to break right for us to do that."

Daniels' comments further underlined what has been a turn-around in the government's budget picture of unprecedented abruptness. The record $237 billion surplus of fiscal 2000 shrank to a $127 billion surplus in fiscal 2001, which ended on Oct. 1.

Though Daniels provided no figures, private analysts and many congressional aides have long expected a 2002 deficit that will be well into the tens of billions of dollars.

"This has profound effects, when compounded over time, on the amount of money that we can expect to have available in the federal treasury."

Mitchell Daniels
budget chief

Daniels acknowledged that as a result, the administration would propose a fiscal year 2003 budget early next year that is generous toward defense, anti-terrorism and other high-priority programs, but seeks to trim other programs that seem less necessary.

He cited the National Science Foundation and food aid for women, infants and children as important and effective programs. He said the government has too many job-training programs and seemed to suggest that border protection programs could be made more efficient.

He also said the budget would propose taking some automatically paid benefits and changing their status so they must be renewed by lawmakers eager to protect constituents who currently receive such aid. Two-thirds of the $2 trillion annual federal budget — including Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, welfare, farm aid — are currently for programs in which benefits are paid automatically, without annual congressional approval.

Associated Press

WASHINGTON

The recession and the costs of war and battling terrorism have made annual federal deficits likely for at least the next three years, the White House budget director said Wednesday.

The prediction by budget chief
When the death of a disabled infant will lead to the birth of another infant with better prospects of a happy life, the total amount of happiness will be greater if the disabled infant is killed.

Therefore, if killing the hemophiliac infant has no adverse effects on others, it would, according to the total view, be right to kill him. The main point is clear: killing a disabled infant is not morally equivalent to killing a person. Very often it is not wrong at all.

A sixth grade student at Benjamin Franklin School in Teaneck, New Jersey was asked to comment on this statement in three paragraphs. The statement can be attributed to the illustrious Peter Singer, professor of bioethics at Princeton University’s Center for Human Values.

Not only has this detritus infiltrated one of our nation’s universities, it has found its way into the hands of public school teachers. Isn't it nice to know, despite the large number of disabled people who find his views repugnant and affirm the dignity of their own lives, if the facts work against you, denial always does the trick.

While Princeton faculty considered Singer’s appointment, the group Princeton Students Against Infanticide published an open statement protesting his hiring. National as well as international organizations for disability rights also wrote in to object. The university virtually ignored them. Harold Shapiro, president of Princeton, defended the school’s choice by listing the degrees and awards proving Singer must, after all, have something important to say.

In addition, philosophy professors like Peter Unger of New York University backed up Singer’s reputation by calling him "one of the most influential ethicists alive." This statement, of course, says exactly nothing.

But what if it turned out that he numbered among the millions of disabled who do in fact love their lives as fiercely as the rest of us? One thing is evident: Singer does not speak for them.

There is something to the statement, made by one modern thinker, that it would be better to be governed by the first 200 names in the Boston phone-book than by all the faculty at Harvard and Yale. Let me also add, Princeton.

Our elite academics are so enlightened they make laymen look like cretins, with our outdated notions that human dignity is unique among creations, and our ideas that each life, no matter the physical or intellectual endowments, bears the same innate worth — and claim to life — as the next.

Christine Niles is a student at the Notre Dame Law School. Her column appears every other Thursday. The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
Drug policy: single approach insufficient

In his letter that appeared Wednesday, Bryan Cooper opposes legislation on drugs for three reasons: 1. the financial benefit to the individual taxpayer is minimal. 2. legislation does not prevent the crime and 3. the government should not shirk the responsibility of protecting its youth.

Where to begin?

First of all, most members Mr. Cooper throws out make no sense whatsoever. He says that if the $1 billion budget of the DEA were used to pay taxes on American taxpayers, each person would receive about a dollar.

That puts the number of taxpayers Americans at 1 billion, well over three times the current census, which counts American citizens, not taxpayers. At the same time he states that he would gladly accept a $290 increase in tuition to "take a drug dealer off the streets, try to sell drugs to his children. If $290 would keep a drug dealer off the streets, here's a $290, put me down for two-and-a-half. A close resemblance to the crime goes, America's war on drugs pays little or no attention to the drug dealers themselves.

The preferred method is to prevent the drug itself from entering the country and punish those in possession.

Instead of overcrowding our prisons with these drug dealers, the money would be better spent on providing kids with alternative to drugs, like after school sports or extracurricular activities.

As a side note, if one looks back to the beginning of the 20th century, one would notice that alcohol use actually rose during prohibition and significantly dropped off after it was repealed.

NID: hypocrtic in support group policy

Not to bring up the whole sex issue again, but it seems that our wonderful University has worked itself into a bit of a contradiction. While reading my daily copy of The Observer, I noticed a promotion for the 6th annual retreat for gay, lesbian and bisexual students at Notre Dame. Not only advertised in the school's paper, but it's also sponsored by Campus Ministry.

But if the University doesn't allow sex is that it does not promote a "Catholic environment" also supported by these same governing bodies? If the reason for not allowing sex? Imagine the uprising if a student were to go before the disciplinary board for being gay. Take the easy way out much?

Most of these rules which ResLife seems so adamant about upholding. So why allow sex is that it does not promote a "Catholic environment" also supported by these same governing bodies? If the reason for not allowing sex is that it does not promote a "Catholic environment"

However much illicit sex goes on at Notre Dame, whether condoned by the University or not, they are far from recognizing it as an accept-able practice.

Still, there is a grain of truth in the idea. Yet, marijuana and its much less potent and much more useful relative hemp is still treated as if it were the "devil's weed." While across- the-board legalization would not solve America's drug problem, there is a grain of truth in the idea. No one can make the blanket statement that "all drugs are bad" or "all drugs are good" because each drug is different and will elicit different responses based on the circumstances around the person using it.

Smoking pot is not the same as smoking marijuana and being chased by a pack of rabid pit bulls. The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

Letters to the Editor

Joe Muto
Livin' on a Prayer

Joe Muto is a sophomore Film, Television and Theatre major who hopes to single-handedly usher the phrase "sex is good" back into the mainstream. His column appears every other Thursday. He can be reached at joemuto@nd.edu.
By MEG RYAN
Scene Movie Critic

Harry Potter' fans rejoice in film

By JUDE SEYMOUR
Scene Movie Critic

‘Harry Potter' fans rejoice in film

By MEG RYAN
Scene Movie Critic

Redford and Pitt make it more than

By JUDE SEYMOUR
Scene Movie Critic

‘Spy Game'—the new Tony Scott film—is

'Harry Potter' and the Sorcerer's Stone

their son rotten while Harry hardly has clothes on his back. But Harry's luck suddenly changes when he natural and Hogwarts School of Wizardry and Witchcraft. The tale follows Harry takes a new look at the world of magic and the world of wizardry, and discovers the truth about his parents. Avid Potter fans couldn't wait to see. Through a friendly contact, Redford and Pitt make it more than a talent few others have. His performances have always excelled at making the audience feel like Redford, has mastered the art of making a character seem real. The audience should have explored this plot angle as an excellent complement to the story's action: the CIA is going to abandon its sheer escapism, in a plot that encapsulates several mini-climax situations and creations. Regardless of whether or not they've read the book, viewers will not be disappointed with "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone." The movie tells the book's

"Spy Game"—the new Tony Scott film—is largely comprised of fabrication. The movie instantly appears on the tables before them (if only to be the open sky. As all of the kids sit down, food and the Sorcerer's Stone.' The movie tells the book's first priority as making the movie was fidelity to Rowling's book. In fact, the author was involved in much of the filming. Even so, many doubted the movie would match up to the book. The movie is never as good as the book. Rowling gave an immense amount of detail about all of the scenes and creations. Going into the theater, each reader had his own vision of Hogwarts and its characters. Not many viewers were left disappointed.

"Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone" out of five shamrocks

Photos of Universal Pictures

"Spy Game" out of five shamrocks

"Spy Game" is a vehicle for an older, legendary actor to "pass the torch" to a newer talent. Pitt is the well deserving recipient in this instance, whose solid acting is demonstrated by one of the more subtle moments in "Spy Game." In a heated confrontation between Muir and Bishop on a rooftop in Beirut, the Bishop character shows that he, like Redford, has mastered the art of making a character seem human. Pitt's talent not only mirrors Redford's, but it could also lead to both success and respect similar to that possessed by the legendary actor. When not slowing down to capture moments with the two star actors, the movie runs at a breakneck pace, with a flow similar to Scott's earlier film, "Enemy of the State." His cuts in "Spy Game" are just as frantic, never holding a shot long enough for significance. Instead, the audience is meant to feel the looming time constraint. This situation as Scott obsequiously notes the elapsed time of the day, showing the narrative time amidst giant freeze-frames. François Truffaut, a habitual employer of the freeze-frame himself, would have nodded at Scott's overuse of the technique. Except for a couple important scenes with Redford and Pitt, Scott breeze through the material and even manages to trivialize the film's other essential relationship—between Bishop and Elizabeth.
adaptation

t adaptation

tale thoroughly even though many parts were edited out it's already two and a half hours long. And while Hogwarts is a far-off place, the magic comes to life through the story, characters and sets. Viewers can’t help but wish they had gone to Hogwarts, belonged to one of four houses and taken flying lessons in gym class.

"Harry Potter" has made a record-breaking $188 million dollars in its first 10 days of release (and that doesn't count all the people that snuck in using their invisibility cloaks), and may go on to break "Episode One"s" 13-day record of $200 million. It seems that Harry Potter fans, young and old, are proving to be just as devoted as "Star Wars" fanatics.

Contact Meg Ryan at mryan@nd.edu.

"Sorcerer's Stone" is the first in a planned series of "Harry Potter" films set to be released in the years to come.

MOVIE REVIEW

Coens release an invisible Man

By MATT NANIA

Scene Movie Editor

The Coen brothers are two of Hollywood's most versatile filmmakers, and in the 17 years since their debut feature, 1984's "Blood Simple," they have both exemplified and defied their roles as contemporary auteurs. This has never been more apparent than with the release of "The Man Who Wasn't There." "Man" comes on the heels of their Oscar-nominated comedy "O Brother, Where Art Thou?" and showcases the filmmakers' familiar taste for irony, but it does so in a far darker and more stylistically stimulating context.

The most obvious element of this context is the black-and-white film noir genre in which it inhabits. While this choice may have some Hitchcock fans up in arms, it is relatively new ground for the Coens. Regardless, director Joel Coen and cinematographer Roger Deakins show no lack of skill in the medium, manipulating light and shadow to give the film a depth it would have easily lost in color.

Now, for those adverse to the non-color format, it should be noted that it's easier to stomach the black-and-white frames because the story takes place in 1949, and, given the low-key nature of the production, the audience might be easily fooled into thinking they're watching a restored print of some long-forgotten noir suspense flick. That is, if not for the dominating presence of Billy Bob Thornton ("Sling Blade"), whose weathered, weathered face fills every frame with a powerful, stoic silence.

Thornton is Ed Crane, a barber in the quiet town of Santa Rosa, California content to live his life as the number two man at his brother-in-law's barber shop and as the husband to his wife, Doris (Frances McDormand, "Almost Famous"). The two live a little marriage and Ed suspects Doris is having an affair with her boss (Jesse Gaskill, "The Sopranos") at the local department store. But he doesn't mind much ("It's a free country," he says). Nevertheless, looking for a change of pace, he agrees to finance a dry-cleaning venture run by a seedy, traveling salesman. He then blackmails Doris' boss to get the necessary $10,000. What follows is a series of twists and complications familiar to the genre: betrayal, blackmail, some extra eyes and prying mouth calling the viewer's suspicion.

Director Coen and cinematographer Deakins effectively weave light and shadow together for a priceless "Sorama" of a renew- al. The specifics of Ed's renewal are best captured on black-and-white film. He seems to become a part of the inky, opaque shadows which, characteristic of the genre, comprise the majority of the frame. Intangibly, though, he is always present, his worried some eyes and precise mouth calling the viewer's attention. Director Coen and cinematographer Deakins effectively weave light and shadow together for a priceless noir feel that adorns the story and setting to the point of beauty.

Fans of the Coen brothers' previous efforts won't be disappointed because amidst all this artistry expertise is a healthy sampling of the filmmaker's '70s ironic wit. Although less pronounced than it was in "0 Brother" and "The Big Lebowski," it is more at home here, in the same way it was in 1996's "Fargo." "Man," however, doesn’t offer side-splitting laughter like its predecessors: the jokes are often as low-key as the entire production.

In contrast, the plot itself is occasionally over-complicated, with too many subplots for its own good. Hitchcock, the man to which this film will be credited with incomparable homage, knew that the secret to suspense was to squeeze as much as possible out of the barest setup. With all of its elements stuffed into every frame (this is a cinematography-lover's dream - cinematography-lover's dream - cinematography-lover's dream), the Coens have essentially one-and-a-half films: the gem that is "The Man Who Wasn't There" and some extras that might have made for their debut feature, 1984's "Blood Simple," they have both exemplified and defied their roles as contemporary auteurs. This has never been more apparent than with the release of "The Man Who Wasn't There." "Man" comes on the heels of their Oscar-nominated comedy "O Brother, Where Art Thou?" and showcases the filmmakers' familiar taste for irony, but it does so in a far darker and more stylistically stimulating context.

The most obvious element of this context is the black-and-white film noir genre in which it inhabits. While this choice may have some Hitchcock fans up in arms, it is relatively new ground for the Coens. Regardless, director Joel Coen and cinematographer Roger Deakins show no lack of skill in the medium, manipulating light and shadow to give the film a depth it would have easily lost in color.

Now, for those adverse to the non-color format, it should be noted that it's easier to stomach the black-and-white frames because the story takes place in 1949, and, given the low-key nature of the production, the audience might be easily fooled into thinking they're watching a restored print of some long-forgotten noir suspense flick. That is, if not for the dominating presence of Billy Bob Thornton ("Sling Blade"), whose weathered, weathered face fills every frame with a powerful, stoic silence.

Thornton is Ed Crane, a barber in the quiet town of Santa Rosa, California content to live his life as the number two man at his brother-in-law's barber shop and as the husband to his wife, Doris (Frances McDormand, "Almost Famous"). The two live a little marriage and Ed suspects Doris is having an affair with her boss (Jesse Gaskill, "The Sopranos") at the local department store. But he doesn't mind much ("It's a free country," he says). Nevertheless, looking for a change of pace, he agrees to finance a dry-cleaning venture run by a seedy, traveling salesman. He then blackmails Doris' boss to get the necessary $10,000. What follows is a series of twists and complications familiar to the genre: betrayal, blackmail, some extra eyes and prying mouth calling the viewer's suspicion.

Director Coen and cinematographer Deakins effectively weave light and shadow together for a priceless "Sorama" of a renew- al. The specifics of Ed's renewal are best captured on black-and-white film. He seems to become a part of the inky, opaque shadows which, characteristic of the genre, comprise the majority of the frame. Intangibly, though, he is always present, his worried some eyes and precise mouth calling the viewer's attention. Director Coen and cinematographer Deakins effectively weave light and shadow together for a priceless noir feel that adorns the story and setting to the point of beauty.

Fans of the Coen brothers' previous efforts won’t be disappointed because amidst all this artistry expertise is a healthy sampling of the filmmaker's '70s ironic wit. Although less pronounced than it was in "0 Brother" and "The Big Lebowski," it is more at home here, in the same way it was in 1996's "Fargo." "Man," however, doesn’t offer side-splitting laughter like its predecessors: the jokes are often as low-key as the entire production.

In contrast, the plot itself is occasionally over-complicated, with too many subplots for its own good. Hitchcock, the man to which this film will be credited with incomparable homage, knew that the secret to suspense was to squeeze as much as possible out of the barest setup. With all of its elements stuffed into every frame (this is a cinematography-lover's dream - cinematography-lover's dream - cinematography-lover's dream), the Coens have essentially one-and-a-half films: the gem that is "The Man Who Wasn't There" and some extras that might have made for their next venture.

Simply put, "The Man Who Wasn't There" is Coen-lite, but in a good way. It contains sprinklings of the brothers' trademark weirdness, but it's also meticulously controlled.

The film is so sure of itself that it comes off as effortlessly entertaining. It engages its audience in competent suspense and, if not that, in the amount of visual complexity stuffed into every frame this is a cinematography-lover's dream-come-true.

Joel and Ethan Coen have been called acquired tastes, and those who have managed to do so will be suitably equipped to deal with the brothers' trademark wit. Like Ed Crane, the Coens are content to quietly ply their trade, to the inevitable delight of American movie audiences.

Contacts: Contact Matt Nania at mnania@nd.edu.

Photo courtesy of USA Films
5 early season questions

November is a great time of year to be a college basketball fan. With so many huge non-conference matchups up over the past few weeks, we’ve already been treated to some excellent hoops. The early season games are an excellent chance for teams to see where they stack up against other quality opponents, while it gives coaches the opportunity to evaluate their personnel and make adjustments. As we head into the beginning of conference play next month, there are five questions that have already arisen this season:

1. What does all the parity in college basketball this season mean?
Within just the first three weeks of the season, we’ve already seen four top 15 teams lose to unranked opponents Western Kentucky stunned pre-season No. 4 Kentucky at home while Eastern Washington dismantled No. 15 St. Joe’s. The greatest upset occurred at last week’s Madison Invitational when Ball State reached the finals of the tournament after defeating No. 5 Kansas and No. 6 UCLA on consecutive nights.

The Cardinals could not keep the magic rolling as they lost to No. 1 Duke Blue Devils in the finals, but they showed that they are a team to be reckoned with. The Blue Devils are still looking for a big win in the season, but they have set the bar high with their early season success.

2. Can anyone beat Duke?
At this point in the season, the answer to this question is probably no. Since the loss to No. 15 Boston College last week, the Blue Devils have been on a tear, winning their last four games including a blowout 80-20 victory over No. 13 Iowa in the ACC/Big Ten Challenge. While last year’s team had proven once again why he’s the best point guard in college basketball, this year’s Blue Devils are unstoppable.

Dunleavy leads the Blue Devils in scoring with just under 19 points per game. His versatility and his hustle on the floor are an absolute nightmare for opposing teams. If Dunleavy continues to drop the ball in the basket the way he has in his first five games, he will complete thecvictims of the NIT tournament.

3. What is the best conference?
For the second straight year, the answer to this question is the ACC. The ACC boasts three top-10 teams this year with No. 1 Duke, No. 4 Maryland, and No. 5 Virginia.

Maryland may be the only team who can challenge Duke this year, while the Cavaliers have the talent to go toe-to-toe with anyone in the country.

4. How good is Notre Dame?
Remember two years ago when the Tar Heels hired Matt Doherty away from Notre Dame? Well, two years later the Irish under Mike Brey may have the better team. The Tar Heels have started off this season without a hiccup, and not even a visit from former Tar Heel Troy Murphy to score a point has altered the team’s chemistry.

Doherty has picked up right where he left off from his MVP performance in last year’s ACC tournament championship game against Arizona.

Dunleavy leads the Blue Devils in scoring with just under 18 points per game. His versatility and his hustle on the floor are an absolute nightmare for opposing teams. If Dunleavy continues to drop the ball in the basket the way he has in his first five games, he will complete thecvictims of the NIT tournament.

5. How good is Notre Dame?
The jury is still out on this one. But so far Doherty’s Notre Dame has looked very impressive on its way to a 5-0 record. Of course, the Irish are deeper this year, and they have more options offensively no longer being able to rely on the 30-point game from former Tar Heel Troy Murphy to score a point.

Freshman point guard Chris Thomas has been outstanding for the Irish, and he has helped the team to an unblemished home record.

His assists to 1 turnover ratio is unbelievable for a freshman point guard. Ryan Hamrick and his big brother, Pat, have stepped up in his return from a suspension last year in winning the battle for playing time. Pacific Hawaii Thanksgiving tournament is giving the Irish an intimidating presence in the paint.

The Irish’s schedule will get tougher in the next few weeks as they face some of the nation’s top teams. The Irish will face the toughest conference in America, and the Heels will have to face their biggest challenge yet.

If Doherty does not lead the Heels back to a record 29th straight NCAA tournament appearance at the end of the season, don’t be surprised to see a lot of demanding for a coaching change.

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Hearings address team elimination

Thursday, November 29, 2001
The Observer • SPORTS
page 13

MLB

Hearings to address team elimination

NEW YORK

Hearings will start Tuesday on the players union grievance to stop baseball owners from eliminating two teams before next season.

Lawyers for players and owners met with arbitrator Shyam Das on Wednesday, and the sides agreed to two days of hearings next week in Irving, Texas, where the executive board of the players' association is scheduled to hold its annual meeting.

The hearing shifts to New York for four consecutive days of testimony starting Dec. 10.

Union lawyer Michael Weiner said the sides agreed to additional hearing dates in December if they are needed.

Players claim the Nov. 6 vote by owners to eliminate two teams violated their labor contract, which expired the follow­ing day but remains in effect.

Owners have not picked the teams, but the Montreal Expos and the Minnesota Twins are the leading candidates.

Owners took no additional steps on contraction when they met Tuesday because a Minnesota judge issued a temporary injunction Nov. 16 that forces the Twins to play home games at the Metrodome next season.

Baseball and the Twins have asked the Minnesota Supreme Court for an accelerated review, hoping the injunction will be lifted.

It is unclear how long the grievance hearings will go on when Das will rule.

Baseball commissioner Bud Selig said the elimination of teams will happen, but acknowledged the timetable was out of his control.

ST. LOUIS

Kurt Warner isn't used to missing his target.

The St. Louis Rams' quarterback — who's connected on 69 percent of his attempts this season — is coming off the first game in his 37 career starts in which he completed fewer than half his passes.

Against Tampa Bay on Monday night, Warner was 19-of-39 for 291 yards and one touchdown, with two interceptions.

"I don't look at the numbers," Warner said Wednesday, "but the Rams (8-2) returned to form and played well." He completed seven consecutive passes the last four weeks.

"When you're playing a good defense, you'd better be on," Warner said. "You have to be on top of your game and we obviously weren't, and it showed."

Warner credited the Buccaneers' defense for much of his problems.

"When you're playing a good defense, you'd better be on," Warner said. "I didn't make enough plays, bottom line."

Before Monday, he had 13 straight games with a completion rate of 60 percent or better.

But the Buccaneers aren't the first team to give the 1999 NFL MVP trouble this year — Warner has thrown 11 interceptions the last four weeks.

On Wednesday, Rams coach Mike Martz faulted his play selection.

"I think I could have called a much better game for him, to be honest with you," Martz said. "I could have given him better opportunities in the passing game."

Warner said he felt like he was throwing the ball where he wanted to but he was odds against him.

"I was pleased when I looked at the tape — I didn't realize he played as well as he did," Warner said.

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Ohio quarterback pleads no contest

Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio Ohio State quarterback Steve Bellisari pleaded no contest Wednesday to a drunken driving charge and will serve three days in jail after the Buckeyes play in the Outback Bowl on Jan. 1. The 21-year-old senior co-captain also was sentenced to three days in an alcohol diversion program.

"It was his call because he wanted to get it over with," said defense attorney Sam Weiner.

A second, less-severe drunken driving charge and two traffic misdemeanors were dismissed by Judge H. William Pollitt Jr.

Bellisari, a three-year starter, was arrested Nov. 16 by campus police. They said he failed three roadside sobriety tests and tested 0.22 on the blood-alcohol scale, more than twice the 0.10 level to be considered legally drunk in Ohio.

Coach Jim Tressel suspended Bellisari for one game, against Illinois. Bellisari was reinstated Wednesday to play against archrival Michigan but did not play. Ohio State won 26-20.

Pollitt suspended Bellisari's driving license for six months, fined him $350, put him on probation for two years and sentenced him to 180 days in jail, then suspended all but six of those days.

"If you violate your probation, you have 174 days on the shelf that you must serve," Pollitt said.

Bellisari, who barely spoke during the hearing, said as he left court that he would now focus on his football career.

Weiner told the judge that Bellisari did "one stupid, unthinkable thing and it has cost him dearly."

Bellisari, of Boca Raton, Fla., will serve his jail time Jan. 11-13.

He struggled early in the season, but played at his best in the two games before the arrest, wins over Minnesota and Purdue. In nine games, Bellisari went 98-of-185 passing for 1,599 yards with eight touchdowns and six interceptions.

There's still time to apply for a summer 2002 LASP/Kellogg internship. Exciting positions are available in:

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Better Hurry! The deadline is **DECEMBER 31**

Details at www.nd.edu/~kellogg/laasp/internsh/index.html
Happy New Year!

By Frank Santoni, Assistant Director, Special Projects

5...4...3...2...1...Happy New Year! Happy New Year? But it’s still November! That’s right, but on Saturday when we turn our calendars to December we will be on the eve of entering into a new year. Sunday is the first day of Advent making it the first day of the Church’s new liturgical year. Advent, a lot like Lent, is a special time of preparation as we get ready to celebrate the birth of Jesus at Christmas.

It used to be that the day after Thanksgiving marked the official beginning of the “Christmas season.” Each year it seems, however, that Christmas decorations appear earlier and earlier. Pre Christmas and Pre-Pre-Christmas sales fill the stores by early November. But Advent is its own unique time on the Church calendar that unfortunately often gets lost amidst the rush toward Christmas.

As a community of faith, it is important that we set aside this time in anticipation of Christmas, when Christ’s first coming to us is remembered.

Advent signals that the Lord is coming. Advent comes from the Latin word for an “arrival” or a “coming.” How can we use this time to set our minds and hearts to take in the Christmas miracle more fully and deeply? Being deliberate about the way we prepare for Christmas helps to keep us focused on the true meaning of God’s gift to us in the miracle of Jesus. It helps keep us buffered from the inevitable crush of commercialism that marks this time of year. Advent carves out some time for us to properly think about and pray about the celebration we are about to enjoy on December 25th.

Advent also calls us to think ahead to Christ’s second coming at the end of time. In fact, the Scripture readings for Mass this Sunday kick off Advent with a challenge to be aware of that second coming. The Scriptures call us to live honorably as we await his return. The Advent season challenges all of us to ask ourselves, “Are we ready to receive Christ again?”

One way to respond to the challenge Advent poses is to consider all of the ways Christ comes to us each day. During Mass we encounter Christ in the Eucharist and in the Word of God proclaimed. We see Christ in the face of the person with no home, no food, no freedom. We embrace Christ in a broken loved one. How is each one of these encounters an invitation to welcome Emmanuel, God with us, in new and meaningful ways?

Like all seasons in the Church, Advent has its own traditions and symbols to help evoke reflection on the coming Christ. You may notice Advent wreaths with three purple candles and one rose-colored one up near the altar or at the back of the church. The circle shape of the wreath represents God’s eternal nature and that of the love He has given us in Jesus, the Alpha and Omega. The evergreen expresses God’s unchangeableness and the eternal life we find in Christ. The purple candles, like the purple associated with Lent, remind us that Advent is a time of preparation and longing, while the rose candle symbolizes joy and hope. Red ribbons stand for the blood Christ shed for us on the cross.

The Advent wreath is only one of the traditional elements that Advent brings. Who doesn’t remember waiting eagerly as a kid to flip open the tiny little doors on an Advent calendar to get to the piece of chocolate hidden behind it. Making and decorating a Jesse Tree is also a creative way to conjure thoughts of Christ’s arrival. Each ornament on a Jesse Tree is a symbol of someone in Jesus’ family tree, like Noah, David, Jacob or Mary. This Friday after 807 Mass at the Coleman-Morse, we will be making our own Jesse Tree and everyone is welcomed to join in. Cookies and cider will be provided. Mass starts at 8:00 p.m. and the ornament-making should start around 9:30 p.m.

So, celebrate the new year that begins this weekend. Think about how you might approach Christmas differently this year, keeping in mind that Advent offers us a perfect way to do just that.
Irish
continued from page 20
"We didn't come out on fire. They wanted it more than we did."

Despite many opportunities, the Black Knights struggled to put points on the board, as only two players logged double-digit figures.

Senior guard and captain Chris Spatola scored a team-high 19 points, while forward Matt Collins added 11. No other Army team member scored more than four.

Notre Dame's sluggish start is of some concern to a team that is set to face a tough week ahead when it takes on DePaul, Indiana and Miami (Ohio) on the road.

"If we come out like that again we're going to get our hats handed to us," Graves said.

The Irish travel to Chicago's United Center Saturday for what the Irish see as their toughest test yet when they take on DePaul at 1:30 p.m.

Contact Kerry Smith at smith.387@nd.edu.

Thursday, November 29, 2001

IRISH LANGUAGE

Intermediate Irish (IRST 103:01) 10:40-11:30 Eamonn O Ciardha Prerequisites: IRST 101 or IRST 102

A continuation of IRST 101 & 102, increased emphasis on the ability to read 20th century literary works in Irish

Undergraduate Courses, Spring 2002

IRISH AND LITERATURE MINOR

The Religion and Literature Interdisciplinary Minor would like to announce the fascinating breadth of courses being offered in the Spring semester. These include courses which address religion and literature's role in courses on the art of mythology, the Romans and their gods, revelation and revolution, and Chinese ways of thought, to name only a few.

If your intellectual curiosity includes a cross-disciplinary interest in religion and literature's historical and contemporary interconnections and you would like to enroll in the Minor, or if you are already a participant, please visit our web site for further information or contact either of the following:

Joseph Buttigieg, TEL: 631-7781, EMAIL: BUTTIGIEG.1@ND.EDU
Collin Meissner, TEL: 631-3654, EMAIL: MEISSNER.1@ND.EDU
WEB ADDRESS: WWW.ND.EDU/RELLIT

Keough Institute for Irish Studies

Undergraduate Courses, Spring 2002

Irish Language

Beginning Irish (IRST 105:01) 2:00-3:00 Breandan Mac Suibhne

A continuation of Irish 101 & 102, increased emphasis on the ability to read 20th century literary works in Irish

Late Medieval/Early Modern Ireland

IRST 3276:01 MWF 9:30-10:25 Jim Smyth

This course consists of lectures and readings examining Irish political history and its windows alt alight. And all my friends were there and made me welcome too: But I woke in an old ruin that the winds howled through.

The Irish Military Tradition

IRST 232:01 MW 9:35-10:25 Eamonn O Ciardha

An examination of the dominant images of Ireland in film and literature and places their development in wider cultural and historical contexts. The courses analyzes key stereotypes relating to gender, class and nation, particularly as they base on images of romanticised inland and modernity, landscapes, the city, religion, violence, family and community.

Film Studies

Notional Context: Irish Cinema and Culture (IRST 234A/234B) T Th 12:30-1:45 Michael Hume

An examination of the dominant images and tropes of Irish film and literature and places their development in wider cultural and historical contexts.

And the other Celtic peoples from the pre-Christian era to approximately AD 1500. It explores both the main documentary sources in translation-writing, religious exhortations, ballads, engravings, and maps which late sixteenth century English people used to comprehend and control their changing world. Professor Ciaran Brady of Trinity College Dublin will teach the course; Professor Brady is here as the Visiting Naughton Fellow.

T H 9:30-10:45 Ciaran Brady

Focusing on 1470-1660, this course offers new perspectives on the struggle for mastery in Ireland. Investigating a range of primary sources, students will analyze the multi-layered English concept of hollow and its diverse responses of the native peoples to accommodation and assimilation to outright rebellion and national war. The Irish Military Tradition: Tutorial (IRST 232:01) T Th 9:30-10:25 Eamonn O Ciardha

The Irish military tradition is this course's central concern. Texts include John Mitchel's Jail O'Brien and Pat McCabe will be supplemented by screenings of film and television versions of their work. The Irish Literature Interdisciplinary Minor (RELLIT) would like to announce the fascinating breadth of courses being offered in the Spring semester. These include courses which address religion and literature's role in courses on the art of mythology, the Romans and their gods, revelation and revolution, and Chinese ways of thought, to name only a few.

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WEB ADDRESS: WWW.ND.EDU/RELLIT

KEOUGH INSTITUTE FOR IRISH STUDIES

The Observer • SPORTS

Saturday, November 29, 2001

NBA

Hill’s bone spurs unrelated to ankle injury

Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. Orlando Magic forward Grant Hill has a bone spur on his surgically repaired left ankle and is advised to rest.

The spurs are not related to the ankle injury that sidelined Hill for all but four games last season, Dr. Mark Myerson said from his office in Baltimore.

Myerson performed bone-graft surgery on Hill’s ankle in January.

"If we continue to have these spur issues, then these rules, these spurs will not respond to a short period of rest and therapy, and do not require surgery," Myerson said.

Orlando spokesman Joel Glenn said that Myerson and the team’s medical staff will continue to evaluate, monitor and treat the soreness in Hill’s left ankle.

Myerson said it was premature to speculate on the timetable for Hill to return to action.

"It’s unrealistic to set a target on that yet, at least until later in the week," Myerson said. "We’re a little concerned. Grant was worried. We’re cautiously opti­

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OLYMPICS
Bush says no
to IOC request

President refuses to support truce during Olympics

WASHINGTON
President George W. Bush on Tuesday turned aside an IOC request for a military truce during the Salt Lake City Olympics and will propose a U.S. resolution calling for athletes to travel safely to and from the games.

After a meeting, International Olympic Committee president Jacques Rogge said Bush assured him he would submit the resolution — a tradition for Olympic host nations — to the United Nations on Dec. 11. It will advocate safe passage of Olympic athletes and their nations to compete peacefully, Rogge said.

"We did not go into specific issues. He just assured me of the support of the government for the resolution," Rogge said.

"The word 'truce' doesn't enter it," said national security spokesman Sean McFaul. The resolution seeks safe transport of participants in keeping with U.N. resolutions submitted by Olympic host countries since 1993, White House spokesman Scott McClellan said.

The notion of an Olympic truce began in ancient Greece, when warring parties suspend­ed their conflicts during the games. Secretary of State Colin Powell said this month that the U.S. military campaign in Afghanistan would continue during the games.

The U.N. General Assembly approved a resolution calling for a global cease-fire during the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta. Earlier this month, Rogge asked the Bush adminis­tration for a truce — which he defined as a cease-fire — during the Feb. 24-Salt Lake City Games.

On Tuesday, Rogge said the idea of a truce was not tied to the situation in Afghanistan, or any other region or country. "It's a world concept," he said.

Afghanistan is the only nation barred from participating in the Winter Games. The country was suspended two years ago after the ruling Taliban would not allow female athletes to compete.

"We would love to see an Afghan team at the next Olympic Games, but that will only be possible when there is a stable government in place, and when all the conditions that are put by the IOC are fulfilled," Rogge said.

Romney briefed Bush on the involvement of federal agencies providing security for the games. The federal government will contribute $240 million of the more than $300 million for security.

That's in addition to the $1.3 billion it will take to put on the games — money raised chiefly from corporate sponsorships and ticket sales. The federal government contributed $93.5 million of that to transport Olympic athletes and visitors.

Bush, according to Romney, seemed satisfied with the Olympic security plan.

"There's a resolution after Sept. 11, our view of security in the United States and, I would suggest, in the world is different," Ward said. "We have taken every effort to pro­vide a secure, competitive envi­ronment for all participants and spectators and sponsors, and we feel we have a very solid plan.

Romney gave Bush an Olympic torch and 2002 ski jackets for the president and first lady. Bush also was given a blue blazer with the USOC crest on it and an honorary president of the games, Baldwin said.

Bush has been invited to the Feb. 8 opening ceremony and told Romney he would like to attend the games or have family members there but couldn't make a commitment this early.
We're nearing the end of November, and in the world of college football, that can only mean one thing.

That's right, it's time for the obligatory whining and moaning about the inequities of the Bowl Championship Series -- or, as it is more disdainfully known, the BCS.

For those of you who have been living in a cave for the past three years, the BCS essentially tries to provide college football with a true national championship game. Factoring in a combination of rankings, win-loss records, strength of schedules and other various statistics, the computer spits out the top two teams and pits them against one another in a BCS bowl game for all the marbles.

It's a fine idea to be sure, but over the last couple of years the BCS and its creators have been the targets of a level of contempt and scorn usually reserved for criminals, sociopaths, and Bob Davie.

Just ask former Miami head coach Butch Davis, whose 10-1 Hurricanes team was forced to watch 10-1 Florida State play for the national championship last year, despite the fact that Miami beat the Seminoles in a regular season game. The Hurricanes seemed so offended by the slight that one got the sense that BCS officials had asked them to play in the Motor City Bowl.

The situation got even worse when television commentators and journalists jumped on the bandwagon and started taking up Miami's cause.

To put it simply, the system just didn't seem fair.

With all the criticisms that plagued the BCS last year, it's easy to classify the system as an inadequate means of crowning a national champion. But I'm here to tell you one thing: in a college football world previously dominated by random bowl selections, ranking uncertainty and split national titles, the BCS has been a godsend.

Think about it. Has there ever been a more definite and final way to end the college football season? One final showdown between the two best regular season teams is a perfect conclusion to a fortnight of exciting bowl games.

Some have argued that a logical alternative is a March-Madness style tournament, probably consisting of about eight teams, in which the competitors battle it out on the playing field for the right to earn a national title.

While this suggestion does offer some merit, it falls woefully short in the applicability department. Aside from the obvious problem of forcing players to compete well into the month of January and perhaps February, there are other drawbacks as well.

In essence, a tournament would only be widening the rift, not eliminating it.

Rather than including all tournament-caliber teams, officials would be forced to make arbitrary cutoffs to include some and exclude others. Who draws that line? Who determines what teams should be invited? How do you objectively separate teams?

The BCS is clearly the fairest and most unbiased means to distinguish the top teams in the nation. Indeed, what other system adjusts its industry?

This year, in response to the Miami debacle, the BCS implemented a head to head component in the rankings to ensure that teams will have an advantage over opponents who they have beaten.

The BCS is perfect. In fact, nothing is going to be more painful for me than to watch two Florida teams clash for the title on my beloved Rose Bowl turf.

But that's alright. I'll still be eagerly awaiting a fantastic game between two quality opponents.

And something tells me that Miami won't be complaining this year.

The opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Colin Boylan at cboylan@nd.edu.

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Thursday, November 29, 2001
The Observer • SPORTS
Irish start slow, finish strong in 86-49 win

By KERRY SMITH
Sports Writer

Three teams showed up to play Wednesday in Notre Dame’s 86-49 romp against Army. A Black Knight squad that plodded through 40 minutes of tough basketball, a Jackluster first-half Irish team and a second-half Irish squad that delivered what Army coach Pat Harris deemed a “Good old-fashioned Irish Whoppin’.”

Notre Dame, which came out flat from the opening tip-off, emerged from halftime with Ryan Humphrey at the helm and a more focused mind set.

There could have been several reasons for Notre Dame’s attitude adjustment. According to Humphrey, the spark was sophomore reserve Chris Markwood’s halftime observation that the Irish “weren’t playing grimy.” We were playing pretty,” Humphrey said. “And I took offense to it and wanted to come out better.”

According to freshman starter Chris Thomas, the jump-start in the second half came after an altercation among a few players diving for a loose ball.

“What got it going was that squabble,” Thomas said. “It gave us some energy to hand it to them.”

According to Irish head coach Mike Brey, the senior captains got the job done in the locker room.

“I said a little bit, but I left it to the captains,” Brey said. “I think they did a great job of setting the tone.”

Whatever motivation the Irish lacked in the first half, they found in the second half with a 19-0 run that spurred the 6-0 squad to a commanding 27-point win.

Once again, Humphrey led the charge with 27 points. The senior forward was hot all over the court, tapping in easy lay-ups, rolling short jumpers, pounding crowd-pleasing dunks and even nailing a deep shot from behind the arc midway through the second half.

“With Humphrey they really have a different look,” Harris said. “When he hit the 3 I knew the game was over.” Humphrey’s presence on the court was too much for an undersized Army defense to handle. The Black Knight defense struggled all night to close the inside lane.

“We have to establish our inside game first with Humphrey and Harold Swangan,” Thomas said. “They had great players and great guards, but what they lacked was quickness inside. Humphrey is shooting great from the field. If he can do that, it continues to open up the perimeter.”

Perimeter shooting came just as easy as the inside game for the Irish in the second half, as forward David Graves hit four 3s and notched 20 points while Thomas and Matt Carroll combined for 25.

Yet despite the lopsided scoring at the game’s final buzzer, it took the Irish a while to put the Black Knights away.

Trading baskets for the first 10 minutes, the Irish couldn’t find a rhythm as the Army squad played persistently.

Sparked by a three-point play by Humphrey and eight-straight Thomas points, the Irish went on a 12-0 run midway through the half to pull ahead with a 12-point lead.

The Army squad responded with five unanswered points before both teams hit a three-minute dry spell. The Irish led by only 12 at the half.

“They know how to play. They bother you and get into you,” Graves said.

Irish win, 86-49

SMC Basketball

Blair grabs MIAA honor, leads Belles to victory

By JOE HETTLER
Sports Writer

Last week a Saint Mary’s basketball team that started off 0-2 desperately needed a victory. The Belles looked to their senior captain, Anne Blair, for leadership.

The veteran forward responded with a dominating week of basketball that not only led Saint Mary’s to its first victory of the season, but also to her being named MIAA Player of the Week.

Blair recorded a double-double with 26 points and 16 rebounds in a 68-62 win over Manchester College on Nov. 20 and followed that performance with 17 points and seven rebounds in an 80-67 loss to Louisiana Tech University South Bend on Nov. 21.

The senior also played 38 of 40 minutes during the victory and shot 6-14 from field on a g a i n s t USB.

Despite her outstanding play over the holidays, the South Bend native wasn’t expecting to see her name on the MIAA honor role.

“Being named Player of the Week is a great honor,” Blair said. “I never expected it and I think it’s a good thing for our team, too.”

Blair became only the second player in Saint Mary’s basketball history to gain such an award.

Junior teammate Kyno Matha received the honor early last season.

Head coach Susan Smith believes that Blair’s work ethic has gotten her to this point in her career and set her up for the honor.

“She’s just been that one player since the beginning that’s been really working hard and pushing people,” Smith said. “She encourages every single person on the team, including the coaches. We’ve kind of stressed to the other players to watch how hard Anne sprints up and down the court because we need everyone to work that hard.”

Like Smith, Blair attributes her achievements to long hours of practice and the support of her teammates.

“I worked really hard this summer,” Blair said. “The team’s been great and we’re starting to work together and everything’s just come together and it’s given me a great opportunity. But I really owe a lot to my teammates.”

Blair will look to continue her solid play this weekend when the Belles host their own Saint Mary’s Roundball classic tournament.

The women will face Marian College at 8 p.m. on Friday, hoping to advance to Saturday’s 3 p.m. championship game.

As long as Blair continues to play like she has been, Smith thinks the Belles will keep improving as a team.

“She just brings a lot of intensity and leadership and positive feelings to our team,” said Smith.