Alumni donates to writing program

By GEREMY CARNES
News Writer

After a 1.5 million-dollar donation by best-selling author and Notre Dame alumnus, Nicholas Sparks, Creative Writing Program students will have the opportunity to participate in publishing and internship programs. "It's the first major gift to the program, so it's a tremendous boost," said Valerie Sayers, director of the program. The University created the Creative Writing Program in 1990 as a two-year course leading to a Masters of Fine Arts degree. The program admits five fiction and five poetry students each year. The Sparks gift will give several of those students the opportunity to gain experience in the publishing field. "Sparks not only gave us the money, but [he] made the phone calls to get the internships," Sayers said. The internships are part of the Sparks Summer Fellows Program. Each year, two students will serve as interns in New York literary agencies and publishing houses. This year, the award recipients will work at the Sanford Greenburger Associate's literary agency and Warner Books. "There was tremendous interest," Sayers said about the internships. All the students in the program are eligible. The agency and publishing house will select the interns based on the student's letters of application, resumes and telephone interviews. Another program made possible by Sparks's gift is the Nicholas Sparks Fellowship in Creative Writing, which will annually grant two students assistantships on the Notre Dame Review, the University's national literary journal. Finally, the Sparks prize will see WRITING/page 6

Chandra Johnson, assistant to University President Edward Mallow, presents a quilt before a crowd of students in Coleman Morse Center. The quilt honors the legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr. in one of several events of "Operation Love," which intends to celebrate King's life and death.

SONIA WALLACE/The Observer

Progress reports
The Observer staff grades the Notre Dame student government of the 2001-2002 school year in a special section.
In Focus

Out with the old, in with a new LaFortune

University plans to renovate student center

By MEGHANNE DOWNES
News Writer

In recent years students have been asked to fill out surveys regarding their levels of satisfaction with the food services that are provided on campus, and finally the suggestions for improvement are being answered as there are plans to offer new restaurants in LaFortune.

"I am really excited about this addition because students can say their input led directly to these improvements. It was their responses on student government and food services surveys that led to this decision," said Brooke Norton, student body president.

Since last spring, the Office of Food Services in conjunction with the Offices of Student Activities and Affairs have been talking with and searching for restaurants to replace Allegro and Tomassito's. Work is already in progress to transform the former Alumni Room into a Starbucks.

"I think if the new restaurants are well advertised it will work," said junior Lindsey Horvath. "I don't think Allegro and Tomassito's are well advertised. Anyone can go to Burger King at any time, but Allegro has funky hours which I was never sure of."

According to Dave Prentkowski, director of food services, the initiative behind making the changes in the restaurant services at LaFortune was driven by a survey that analyzed student dissatisfaction.

"Working with student affairs we were looking at LaFortune and we wanted to know what kind of things can we do in LaFortune to enhance the service," said Prentkowski.

In the spring of 2001, faculty, staff and student focus groups to discuss how service could be improved were held. According to Prentkowski, there was an overwhelming interest in Starbucks.

"We wanted to attract customers from all walks of life to interact and we made the decision to bring in an operation that would be attractive beyond the typical meal periods," he said. "Starbucks' name percolated to the top."

Over Christmas break, remodeling began in order to accommodate Starbucks and it is anticipated that it will open in April. Operating hours are still to be determined, but Prentkowski said that it will most likely be open until the early hours of the morning.

"I liked studying in the Alumni room and I am disappointed that they are replacing it with Starbucks because of the location and there are already coffee shops on campus," said fresh man Katie Kurowski. While Kurowski opposes the addition of Starbucks to campus, not all students feel the

see LAFORTUNE/page 4

Students could have expanded dining options after LaFortune changes to welcome new restaurants, which could include Starbucks, and says goodbye to the old businesses.

"Allegro has funky hours which I was never sure of."

SONIA WALLACE/The Observer

The independent newspaper serving Notre Dame and Saint Mary's

February 17, 2002

http://observer.nd.edu
Real women show respect

Something has been bothering me for quite some time and I want to finally get it off my chest.

It's about respect. It's about respecting women. It's about women respecting women.

It all started at one of my last football games as a Notre Dame student. As we all quickly learn as freshmen, most students don't actually sit in their designated seats. Rather, you sit wherever you can whenever you get to the stadium. Such was the status quo for four seasons and no one ever hassled me about it.

Until halfway through the first quarter of the USC game when my friends and I were approached by a very unhappy looking group of girls. They came from the same hometown as one of my best friends, insisted that we move out of their seats and into the seats we were given. Initially, I didn't know how to respond because never before had I been presented with such a claim. Looking behind me, I could see that there weren't any seats left in the section. Looking ahead, toward my rightful seats, I could see my fellow seniors. If I were to move closer to the field to my rightful seats and push those students out, they would have to go to their seats and push others out. It would be impossible for everyone to iron the problem out.

I tried explaining this to these women, but they didn't care. They wanted us gone. So, I tried explaining it again. My friends and I even offered to move over and make room for them, but they weren't interested in compromise. Instead of taking us up on the offer, the woman leading this crowd looked at my friend — the one who comes from the same hometown as she — and called us a very, very bad name.

This woman called us a derogatory word referring to a part of the female anatomy — a part of her female anatomy. Without any concern for the years of oppression women have faced and the shame many women still have to overcome about their own bodies, this angry woman showed us that she has a lot to learn about being a woman.

Real women don't knock themselves down in an attempt to smoking down other women.

Real women don't take advantage of negative attitudes about women.

Real women don't further society's ignorance about what it means to be a woman.

Real women don't use a bad word about a beautiful part of their bodies to hurt their fellow women.

Real women learn to find comfort in who they are and what their bodies look like.

By using such a tasteless, classless and incorrect name.

Contact Maureen Smith at MSmith.1@nd.edu

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

CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

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

The Observer (USPS 599 2-4000) is published Monday through Friday covering news and events pertinent to the student body of the University of Notre Dame. The Observer is a member of the Associated Press. All reproduction rights are reserved.
By JOE ACKERMAN
News Writer

September 11 has come and gone, yet the aftermath of the attacks on America still live on in many and effect their lives on a daily basis.

Originally scheduled to lecture on the topic of "Science and God," Shirley Williams geared her Tuesday night lecture on "War and Peace," as part seven of her eight lectures comprising the Erasmus lecture series.

To her audience in the Hesburgh Center Auditorium, the British House of Lords member discussed what she thinks in regard to the nature of terrorism itself and also what can and should be done to counteract its potential effects.

"Terrorism, as argued, has as its basis the dual problems of resentment and unmet expectations. It evolves from historical wrongdoings, that have long lasting ramifications among those affected which lead to strong views and even stronger convictions.

"Terrorism is parasitical on civilization and society and will destroy it if it is not contained," said Williams.

In order to correct these historical wrongs, Williams said, heavily symbolic actions can go a long way to repairing damage, such as the pope's apology for slavery and former German chancellor Brandt's apology to the Jews at the Warsaw ghetto.

In regards to the current U.S. war on terrorism, Williams said that, "Politically, by describing the attacks as an act of war was attractive." This she argued was due to the fact that it gave the President "great freedom of action.

However, Williams expressed concern over how the United States could go about a war on terrorism without addressing groups such as the IRA and Spain's ETA and labeling them with enemy status.

"Defining terrorists as the enemy is treacherous territory," she stated.

"Defining terrorists as the enemy is treacherous territory."

Shirley Williams
member, British House of Lords

Shirley Williams, a British foreign policy expert and member of the British House of Lords, talked to students and others about the implications of the U.S.'s current war on terrorism.

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it reaches 608 on the grounds that it could take U.S. citizens under its jurisdiction.

Williams stressed the importance of the international court system that it could take U.S. citizens under its jurisdiction.

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ultimately, Williams argued, it is necessary for the nations of the world to realize these ideas in order to work toward the goals of containing terrorism and realizing world peace.

International cooperation, through support of organizations such as the United Nations and the recognition of instability and inequity in the world is an essential step toward achieving these goals.

Contact Joe Ackerman at ackerman.4@nd.edu.

THE OBSERVER is currently accepting applications for the 2002-03 term of EDITOR IN CHIEF

Any undergraduate or graduate student at Notre Dame, Saint Mary's or Holy Cross is eligible to apply. Applicants should have a strong foundation in print journalism and skills in Microsoft Word, Quark XPress and Photoshop.

Applicants should submit an eight or more page statement detailing what he or she wishes to accomplish in the term. Applications are due to Mike Connolly by Thursday, Jan. 24 at 5 p.m. Any questions about the application or application procedure should be directed to Mike Connolly at 631-4542.
LaFortune continued from page 1


"Burgers greasy. Pizza greasy. Mexican food greasy. We need healthy food," said freshman Andrea Braund.

Another possible addition that Notre Dame is currently in conversation with is Sbarro. Together they are developing a program and budget to see if it is feasible for Sbarro to open a restaurant on campus. Sbarro offers pizza and Italian dishes.

With the like-mindedness of an Italian restaurant opening in the basement, a Mexican restaurant will probably replace Tomassito's. Prentkowski has been in contact with a handful of Mexican restaurants and has conducted taste tests. The most favorable results were the food selections from Eddie Peppers.

"I have never heard of Eddie Peppers, and I think that Taco Bell would be fair superior. If there were a Taco Bell on campus, my life would be complete. From an economic standpoint it is my belief that a Mexican restaurant would produce far more revenue than Tomassito's," said freshman Greg Kuhl.

However, freshman Bianca Cardiel had a different opinion and said, "It's going to be fake Mexican food. I love Allegro because subs are a healthy alternative.

The processes of bringing in and searching for these new restaurants has been complicated because of business issues regarding whether it is possible for the restaurant to develop on campus because of preexisting franchise relationships. All of the restaurants would accept both flex point and dumer dollars and be owned and operated by Notre Dame, similar to a franchise agreement.

In addition to expanding and modifying the food services at LaFortune, students can purchase smoothies and pizza in the Coleman Morse Center on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights. Campus Ministry proposed this idea to the office of Food Services last spring in order to provide students with another opportunity for socialization. The snack bar opened last Thursday and after its first weekend of operation.

"Returns were respectable but it has a long way to go. But we didn't do any promotion on purpose because we wanted to see how it would work. It has the opportunity to grow significantly," Prentkowski said.

Contact Meghanne Downes at downes40@nd.edu.

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World News Briefs

Jordanian police deter rioters:
Police in a southern city in Jordan used tear gas Tuesday to disperse more than 1,400 rioters who accused police of torturing a 17-year-old to death, witnesses said. Nine officers were injured, including one shot in the head and another in the chest, and 10 villagers were injured, residents of Maan, 140 miles south of the Jordanian capital, told The Associated Press.

British freed of foot and mouth: The World Organization for Animal Health has declared Britain free of foot-and-mouth disease, paving the way for the full resumption of meat exports. The ruling by the Paris-based body could soon see British meat, meat products and dairy products back on the tables of many foreign countries.

National News Briefs

Ore. school chief faces charges:
Oregon's top education official was accused Monday for allegedly using government cars and telephones for personal business. The Commission said its initial investigation found that School Superintendent Stan Bunn repeatedly violated a state law prohibiting the use of public office for private financial gain.

Mo. families hope for buyout:
Families whose homes in Herculaneum, Mo., have been contaminated by the nation's largest Superfund site are hoping for a buyout of their homes. They would move hundreds of residents — most of them in families with young children or pregnant women. The ruling by the Paris-based body could soon see British meat, meat products and dairy products back on the tables of many foreign countries.

Kmart became the largest retailer to seek court protection from creditors Tuesday when it filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy after plunges in profits and poor fourth quarter performance.

Associated Press

When Sebastian S. Krogge opened his first store here in 1899, he sold everything for 5 and 10 cents, a marketing strategy that caught on and helped turn his company into a million-dollar discount chain. What Kmart needs, retail analysts say, is a plan. Conor Reilly, senior partner with Gibson, Dunn and Crutcher, said Kmart needs to ascertain "what their sort of retailing rationale is, what's going to bring customers to them as opposed to other competitors."

They have let things get in such a downward spiral," he said. As part of its reorganization, Troy-based Kmart said it will evaluate the performance of every store and terms of every lease by the end of the first quarter of 2002, and will close unprofitable or underperforming stores. Some analysts said Kmart would close up to 700 of its stores.

The No. 3 discount retailer known for the Blue Light Special and Martha Stewart fashions has struggled against No. 1 Wal-Mart Stores Inc. and No. 2 Target Corp. What Kmart needs, retail analysts say, is a plan. Conor Reilly, senior partner with Gibson, Dunn and Crutcher, said Kmart needs to ascertain "what their sort of retailing rationale is, what's going to bring customers to them as opposed to other competitors."

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Kmart has about 275,000 employees and stores in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Guam.

Kmart, which filed its petition in U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Illinois in Chicago, said it had secured $2 billion in financing from Credit Suisse First Boston, Fleet Retail Finance Inc., General Electric Capital Corp. and J.P. Morgan Chase Bank. The financing, approved late Tuesday by Bankruptcy Court Judge Susan Piersen Sonders, will help the company's cash flow while it restructures.

It has targeted emergence from Chapter 11 in 2003.

"We are determined to complete our reorganization as quickly and smoothly as possible, while taking full advantage of this chance to make a fresh start and reposition Kmart for the future," CEO Chuck Conaway said in a statement.

Kmart also named Ronald B. Hutchison executive vice president and chief restructuring officer. Hutchison, 51, was most recently chief financial officer of Advantica Restaurant Group Inc., where he and now Kmart Chairman James B. Adamson were instrumental in the company's successful reorganization.

 Associated Press

DETROIT

Kmart became the largest retailer to seek court protection from creditors Tuesday when it filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy after plunges in profits and poor fourth quarter performance.

Settlers migrate to Tibetan region

China is moving 17,000 mostly traditional Chinese and Muslim settlers to a traditionally Tibetan region in its remote west, reviving a plan abandoned by the World Bank after protests by critics of China's Tibetan policies.

The settlers are to occupy a former labor camp in Dulan county, an arid stretch of the Tibetan plateau in Qinghai province, some 1,000 miles west of Beijing, according to provincial officials. Irrigation works are being built and improvements made to existing farmland, Zou Hanbin, a spokesman for the Dulan county government, said in a telephone interview.

The project's revival fulfills a pledge by China to go it alone following a bitter pitting the Tibetan government in exile and its supporters against Chinese leaders, who say resettlement is an effective way to develop western China. The World Bank got involved in the Dulan project in the late 1990s, saying it would give 60,000 people a better life. It agreed to lend China $40 million to cover half the cost.

Tibetan activists condemned the plan, contending it would dilute Qinghla's Tibetan character and ravage the local environment by increasing demands for water and farmland. They lobbied the bank to order new inspections and a second approval vote.
Lectures brings pros to dorms

By ERIN LARUFFA
Assistant News Editor

When staff members in the office of the student body president were searching through their archives, they decided to bring back a lecture series that was popular during the 1970s and 1980s, according to Brendan Harris, a staff member in the Office of the President.

Last spring, student government held the first lecture in the Last Lecture Series. By fall semester of this year, the series' popularity grew to the point that the lecture series' recipient would be among the most cooperative graduate students at the University. Past graduates include Michael Collins, whose novel, "The Keepers of Truth," was on the short list for a Booker Prize, according to Harris.

"He was a remarkable success," said Harris. "It was really packed."

The first lecture in the series for this semester will take place tonight at 7 p.m. in St. Edward's Hall. Economics professor David Ruccio will present a talk entitled, "Teaching at the Margins." The purpose is to give Notre Dame students a chance to hear the best professors at this University," Harris said.

Indeed, the title of the lecture series reflects the fact that professors are encouraged to give a lecture as if it were the last one of their career. Often that turns into some really inspiring words from our professors," Harris said. Harris selected the lecturers based on a list of professors that students nominated, he explained. He added that he tries to select professors from a variety of academic disciplines. Admission is free, and refreshments are also provided, according to Harris.

Contact Erin LaRuffa at laruffa.1@nd.edu.

Writing

Writing continued from page 1

...go to a single Creative Writing Program graduate each year. The prize grants the student a year's residency at Notre Dame to work on his or her writing. The award recipient will also be expected to teach a class at the University and give a public reading during the year.

Despite the Creative Writing Program's small size and short history, it has had numerous successes. "We put it down to the support of the students," said Harris. "It's the first major gift to the program, so it's a tremendous boost."

Valerie Sayers
director, Creative Writing Program

"It's the first major gift to the program, so it's a tremendous boost."

Contact Jeremy Caines at caines.4@nd.edu.

Bush team looks at Enron

Associated Press

President Bush on Tuesday used his re-election campaign power to put an official from a major accounting firm on the Securities and Exchange Commission, which is investigating the auditing work done for troubled energy trader Enron Corp.

Bush appointed Cynthia A. Glassman, a principal at the Big Five accounting firm Ernst & Young. She worked at the Federal Reserve Board from 1977 to 1986 as economist and senior economist and in other positions.

The accounting profession has come under heightened public scrutiny as a result of the collapse of Enron, and the SEC is investigating the auditing work done for the company by major accountant Arthur Andersen LLP.

Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., objected to Bush's bypassing the Senate approval process to appoint Glassman.

"To make a re-election...
Military relaxes 
strict dress policy

Associated Press  
WASHINGTON

The U.S. military, in a policy reversal, will no longer require servicewomen in Saudi Arabia to wear Muslim-style head-to-toe robes when venturing off base.

Instead, wearing the robe, known as an abaya, "is not mandatory but is strongly encouraged," according to an order by Gen. Tommy Franks, head of the U.S. Central Command, e-mailed to commanders in the region Saturday.

The Air Force's highest-ranking female fighter pilot is challenging the rule in court. Lt. Col. Martha McSally's lawsuit calls the policy unconstitutional and says it improperly forces American women to conform to others' religious and social customs.

McSally's lawsuit did not inspire the policy change, Central Command spokesman Col. Rick Thomas said Tuesday. "The policy was under review before the lawsuit was filed, so the change was not a direct result of that," Thomas said.

McSally's lawsuit, filed in federal court in Washington, also challenges policies requiring servicewomen to be accompanied by a man whenever they leave their base and to ride in the back seat of a car. Women are not allowed to drive in Saudi Arabia.

McSally will not drop her case, said John Whitehead, a lawyer with the Rutherford Institute, a religious freedom group representing her. The new policy is a step in the right direction but does not go far enough, Whitehead said. "What it says to us is that it's not been rescinded," Whitehead said. "It's like saying, 'You're equal to us but you can't eat in the same restaurant because you're strongly encouraged to eat at one more fitting with your lower class.'"

Whitehead said he has told McSally, who is now stationed at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Tucson, Ariz., not to comment. Thomas said those policies remain in effect.

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Whitehead said he has told McSally, who is now stationed at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Tucson, Ariz., not to comment. Officials at the Air Force base referred calls to the Rutherford Institute.

Central Command, which oversees the military in Saudi Arabia and other countries in the region, had defended the policy, put into place after the 1991 Gulf War. Central Command officials had said the requirements for servicewomen made them less likely to face harassment or attack.

McSally and other critics said the policy was ironic, since U.S. forces in Afghanistan have fought to remove the Taliban regime, which required all women to wear an even more restrictive covering called a burkha.

The change in policy "sends a strong signal that we recognize that military women in Saudi Arabia should be treated as their male compatriots are treated and be allowed to pick their civilian clothing," said Nancy Duff Campbell, co-president of the National Women's Law Center. Campbell's group is not a part of the lawsuit but has lobbied members of Congress to oppose the abaya rule.

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Service offers unique perspective

As a first year student at Notre Dame, I decided to get involved with our school and local community. Not feeling that I could commit a great deal of time, I decided to volunteer two afternoons a week with a creative writing program at Lincoln Elementary School. That was four years ago, and now as a senior, I run a tutoring program at Lincoln.

Nicholeen DePersis is a senior government and computer science major and a writer for The Observer. She is heavily involved in the Catholic Student Community, the Center for Social Concerns, and the Student Government Association. She serves as the Speaker of Student Body and the President of the Catholic Student Community. DePersis is also a member of the Student Government Association and the Center for Social Concerns. She is committed to promoting social justice and engaging in meaningful conversations on issues of injustice.

For

I strongly urge you to get involved, to take advantage of the opportunities to be a part of the local community, to learn and to grow. There are plenty of different service opportunities offered through the CSC to meet any of your interests and time constraints, all with varying levels of commitment. You don't need to commit an excessive amount of time; any time and love you can give will help and you will be surprised how much it will enhance your life as well.

I invite you to attend this year's Social Concerns Festival held at the CSC on Thursday, Jan. 24 from 7-9 p.m. The Festival is a great opportunity to learn of the many ways to become involved in South Bend. You will be amazed how much your involvement in the local community will better your life.

"For a More Just and Humane World" is the Center for Social Concerns’s bi-weekly column in The Observer. Nicholeen DePersis is a senior government and computer applications major with a concentration in journalism. She plans on obtaining law school upon graduation. Contact the CSC at ray.110@nd.edu.

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

After participating in an international study program, returning students often express a basic dissatisfaction that their best semester at Notre Dame was the one spent in a foreign country. The experience is priceless. One learns a great deal about the culture, language, people and lifestyle of another land. I spent a year and a half of my life in Monterrey, Mexico at the Tecnologico where I made lifelong friends, became fluent in Spanish and learned a great deal about Mexico and myself. I do not regret a day.

There is only one thing that I, and many other students that I’ve changed — paying full Notre Dame tuition my first semester there. Let’s do a little math. The tuition for one semester at the Tecnologico of Monterrey is $3,500. Add a university stipend of $500 a month, a dorm room for $1,000, one roundtrip ticket to Monterrey for $500 and one trip to spring break to Oaxaca for $500. The sum amounts to $8,000, which is just less than half of the cost of a semester at Notre Dame. My question is where the heck did the other $8,000 dollars go?

The only explanation that occurs to me is that this is the cost of making your grades earned abroad help your GPA. You see, if one were to study independent of the University programs, he or she would only earn the credits with no grades. But that logic makes no sense for anyone taking difficult courses that count towards their major.

So what I did for the following two semesters in Monterrey was to go as an independent student. Not only did I have around $16 thousand over those two semesters, I still received transfer credits for my Monterrey classes. I recommend to anyone considering any of Notre Dame’s smaller international programs that he or she do independently of the University. However, if one opts for a program in Europe like England or France, that may well be worth the high prices. Still anyone interesting in going abroad should investigate beforehand.

And if you are worried about orientation before going, I found that the mailings, information and orientation session given by the mail in Mexico were much more helpful and well organized than Notre Dame’s international study offices. Though I must recognize the excellent job that the Notre Dame program is doing in making students aware of study abroad opportunities and setting up numerous locations around the world.

Whatever you decide, get informed and continue to study abroad. I know that you will find that a semester spent in foreign land is indeed priceless. But why pay Notre Dame prices for it?

John Lauterbach
Senior
Alumni Hall
Jan. 21, 2002

RAISE EDUCATION STANDARDS BY LOWERING COSTS

CHICAGO, Illinois

Fifteen thousand dollars — that’s how much I figure I’ll have to pay back to the federal government when I leave college. And that’s not including the loans I’ll have to take out for law school.

For the last two and half years, I’ve been able to convince myself that I was actually doing a good thing, that I was putting forth this extra money so that I could get a quality education at a school that was devoted to serving every individual’s needs.

I chose DePaul University rather than any of the state schools because of its apparent commitment to the individual and for that, I was willing to live in debt for a few years after graduation.

But, as I read the news items this week touting University of Illinois of Urbana-Champaign increases, I realized that it did not matter whether I went to a state school or not. College has gotten way too expensive.

According to a Credit World article, the average college student upon graduation has $21,000 in student loan debt. In this day and age, when it is required to have not only a bachelor’s, but also a master’s degree, how can a college graduate with $12,000 in debt convince himself or herself that it is a good idea to go to graduate school where they are going to be immersed in further debt?

These days, when someone goes to graduate school, can you honestly tell me that every college graduate is going to get a job where they will be able to pay off their loans? No, of course not. Now, some will argue that there are programs like Bright Start and U-Promise that allow parents to put away money when their child is born as or they are growing up, and then use that money to send them to a state school free of charge or get the tuition equivalent at a private college or university.

While I agree that these are fantastic programs and that more parents should get involved with them, they were not around when I was young. So while I keep seeing commercials about them, I’m still stuck with a looming thought that in a few years I will have to pay off my $15,000 in undergraduate debt (and still more in law school debt).

The problem is that as the cost of higher education continues to rise, less and less people will be able to afford college.

At the same time, this trend will continue to grow and the need for multiple degrees will rise, thereby increasing the number of people who will be left with no other option but to finish high school and find a job, a job that will provide little to no benefits and will most likely barely minimum wage.

So, I propose this idea. Let us look to our neighbors in Europe who do not have this dilemma because education, even in the form of colleges or universities, is free to all citizens.

Can you imagine what would happen if we were to significantly lower the cost of college in the United States?

More people from a variety of different backgrounds, not only economically advantaged, would be able to attend college. Then, because more people would want to attend and because colleges and universities would not be so obsessed with profits, the level of education would improve because colleges and universities would not be so obsessed with profits and universities would not be so obsessed with profits and universities would not be so obsessed with profits and universities would not be so obsessed with profits.

That way, rather than finding the majority of your classmates from the same middle class area, you would find your classmates from a variety of different locations, classes and backgrounds. What an amazing thought that would be: to go to a college or university that would remain competitive and to go to classes with a wide variety of students, all of whom you would learn from. Not to mention, you wouldn’t have to worry about selling your blood and or organs and paying back those massive loans.

Oh, but I’ve often been called an idealist and I think that this is one of our opinions to agree with my skepticism. Since I don’t see the United States deciding to give us free (or even cheap) higher education anytime in the near future, I suppose I’ll have to go with other alternatives.

Today, I’ve decided to start playing the lottery. I hear there’s a big jackpot this time around. See you in line!

This column first appeared in DePaul University’s campus newspaper, The DePaulian, on Jan. 18, and is reprinted here courtesy of U-WIRE.

The opinions expressed in this article are those of the student and not necessarily those of The Observer.
By EMILY HOWALD
Senior Writer

As any college student knows, life is full of choices, some more important than others. While the problem of choosing a cell phone that works within the South Bend area may not be the most pressing issue for Notre Dame and Saint Mary's students, choosing between the different companies can still be confusing, unless you do your research.

Two of the most frequently used cell phone services in the area are Verizon Wireless and Sprint PCS. Both companies operate on a wireless system that strives to create a clear sound, private conversations and time-saving features.

### Battle of the networks

Verizon Wireless is composed of numerous smaller companies that joined together when wireless cellular communication first became popular. Sprint PCS, on the other hand, built a digital network — a network of services that uses 1900MHz frequencies — from the ground up and began buying up the largest percentage of the frequency markets offered by the government.

Seven years ago Sprint spent $5 billion to buy networks with 1900MHz frequencies, as opposed to the 800MHz analog channels that have both 800MHz and 1900MHz towers. Verizon works on a domestic calling program, offering separate plans that allow the owner to choose the best deal for their lifestyle. The three main options are the Local Digital Choice plan, which covers the South Bend and northern Indiana area; the Regional Single Rate plan, which includes all of the Midwest; and the National Single Rate, which incorporates all of the country.

The Local Digital Choice plan is designed for customers who plan to call close to home, while the Regional Single Rate is geared toward those who are within driving distance of the home area where the phone is purchased. The National Single Rate is best if the customer plans to talk to people around the country or if they desire domestic roaming in their plan.

Each plan correlates with the domestic area that is chosen. Once outside of the domestic area, the owner must pay the roaming fee for $.65 per minute. The Verizon Wireless Free Up Network rates are also offered, which include areas that are selected to be in the United States. However, Sprint PCS works only through its own 1900MHz networks.

### Verizon Wireless

Verizon Wireless is a combination of all networks that have both 800MHz and 1900MHz towers. Verizon has more towers because it owns both the analog and digital towers that date from the older generation of cell phones; nevertheless, the connection is not always as strong since it works from an 800MHz network.

Both companies own towers throughout the country, creating the unified nationwide network that allows for wireless service nearly anywhere where competitive service is available.

### Sprint Wireless

Combining old technology with new, Verizon Wireless is programming the phones to work solely on the digital networks. Verizon uses many towers to decrease the odds that the roaming rate will apply, but because the company offers one flat rate, the additional roaming cost is already included into the plan.

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### Sprint PCS

Sprint PCS offers two plans that accommodate either a local cellular service or a nationwide cellular service. Long distance is included in the Real Nationwide Long Distance plan for no additional charge. In the local plan, the overall price is cheaper but the long distance costs an added $2.00 per minute.

Because Sprint PCS works through its own networks, the roaming rate only applies when a Sprint tower cannot be found and Sprint must pay for the use of a different company's tower. Sprint PCS's roaming rate is $3.99 per minute when calls are made off the network.

Sprint PCS also offers a great deal of night and weekend minutes to accommodate for calls that are not needed to order pizza on the way to class? Itching to call home from the quad? Sprint PCS can help.

### Sprint vs Verizon

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<th>Feature</th>
<th>Sprint PCS</th>
<th>Verizon Wireless</th>
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<tr>
<td>Frequency</td>
<td>1900 MHz</td>
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<td>Activation Fee</td>
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<td>Real Nationwide</td>
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<td>Roaming Rate</td>
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<td>Look for promotional plans</td>
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<td>Plans that decrease the initial startup cost and look for promotions that are offered simultaneously.</td>
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<td>Works outside near windows, but not enclosed in dorm rooms.</td>
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<td>Very clear; best if used outside.</td>
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### Contact Information

Sprint PCS
(888) 956-7275

With phones like the Kyocera 2135 and accessories like voice mail, caller ID and a wireless web connection, Verizon Wireless aims to provide its customers with a clear connection on its digital network.
made during the quieter hours. Sprint has to pay for the towers' power at all times, and since they are used less when it is not prime business hours, the additional minutes are included to increase interest in the nights and weekends. Notre Dame's Sprint PCS network site is always close to capacity during the weekend hours. Although the Sprint PCS pricing plans appear to be more appealing to the average bargain-minded college student, the South Bend service area must also be considered. Because Sprint does not own the older towers that Verizon has, local reception is not as good indoors and in more remote locations.

Sprint does have a better reception when outside buildings, but due to the lack of power, the reception cannot penetrate through walls, making it difficult to call from dorm rooms and classroom buildings. Also, as Sprint works only off of 1900MHz frequencies, it cannot pass as easily through metal and concrete. Higher frequencies do not move through walls and concrete as easily as the lower analog frequencies that Verizon uses.

Putting the sales pitch to the test

The Verizon Kyocera 2135 cell phone works not only in dorm rooms such as Howard Hall, but also in DeBartolo Hall and in the basement of the Huddle. Reception is clear from the Joyce Center, Carroll Hall, South Dining Hall and the library. Essentially, the Verizon cell phone works everywhere on campus with little difficulty or disturbance in the conversation. Although the Sprint SPH-N200 phone creates a clearer conversation when it is in use outside of any buildings, it would not work from any indoor locations on campus. The Sprint PCS phone can work from a dorm room when its antenna is out the window, but the service is unpredictable and often goes out before the end of a conversation.

Looking to the future

According to Orcutt, Sprint is working to build a tower just north of Notre Dame that would enable better reception in buildings on campus. "It takes time and money to do anything, and northern Indiana has only been on air for a year, so with time this system will be unbelievable," Orcutt said.

Although Sprint does not appear to be the more beneficial service in the South Bend area, the company is looking toward the future.

"Sprint is building new networks with new technologies," said salesman John Kadletz. "It is the only wireless company that has one network with one technology across the nation.

Verizon is trying aggressively to make the transition to all digital service, but it is a timely process that will eventually lead them to greater capacity and higher frequencies.

Until then, however, Sprint PCS is the only all-digital company. In an effort to accommodate even more customers than their current 230 million, the company plans to grow and develop a broader spectrum of services.

Sprint's coverage area may not currently be as extensive as Verizon's, but both are working towards a more futuristic network that can appease all customers inexpensively.

Accessorize, accessorize

Both phone companies have their own perks that entice the customer to choose their plans over another. Sprint and Verizon both offer voice mail, caller ID and the wireless web connection that enables e-mail systems and Internet connections.

Verizon is also the first company to promote safer driving with cell phones by including ear pieces that enable the driver to talk on their cell phone hands-free. In light of recent laws that have been passed in select states prohibiting the use of handsfree while driving, Verizon offers a practical and easy solution.

Making a smart decision

Sprint and Verizon both offer accessories that can enhance the cell phone, and both have features that are appealing to the average college student.

Though Verizon Wireless and Sprint PCS each have their own positives and negative points, the decision to choose a cell phone comes down to the individual. Verizon Wireless does provide a better connection from the Notre Dame campus, but Sprint PCS is continuing to grow in network in an effort to reduce roaming rates.

At the moment, the Verizon service appears to best accommodate the needs of a Notre Dame or Saint Mary's student, but if quality and service are desired for a long term plan, Sprint PCS seems to be the best route to take.

The bottom line in this "digital decision" is that consumers have to do their homework before buying a cell phone.

"You need to know where you are when you call, where you are calling and what time you hope to use your phone," said Kadletz. "If you research these three aspects before buying a cell phone, you should be able to find the network that works best for you and only you."

Contact Emily Howald at Howald.2@nd.edu.

The Sprint SPH-N200 phone is one of several models offered by the company for use on its digital network, which provides service to over 230 million customers across the country.
Agent: Gruden will not renew contract

Associated Press

ALAMEDA, Calif.
Coach Jon Gruden will not sign a new contract with the Oakland Raiders and plans to leave the team after next season at the latest, his agent told several San Francisco Bay area newspapers.
Gruden won’t coach the team after his five-year contract expires at the end of the 2002 season, agent Bob LaMonte said Monday.
Gruden, a top candidate for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers’ job, is in the lower half of the NFL coaching pay scale, with an annual salary of $1.2 million. His parents live in Tampa.
"This isn’t about leverage," LaMonte said. "There’s a zero percent chance of Jon Gruden coaching the Raiders in 2003."
Earlier Monday during a season-ending news conference, Gruden refused to discuss his future in detail.
"There’s been a lot of speculation since I’ve been here," Gruden said, two days after an overtime playoff loss to New England. "I only deal with facts. I signed a five-year contract and I have one year left. The most important thing for me is to make sure this football team is going in the right direction."
Quarterback Rich Gannon credited Gruden and his staff with returning the Raiders to prominence. Oakland was 4-12 in 1997, the year before Gruden took over. Gruden has a 38-26 record in four years with the Raiders.
"I only deal with facts. I signed a five-year contract and I have one year left. The most important thing for me is to make sure this football team is going in the right direction."
John Gruden
Raiders head coach

Tom Brady’s apparent fumble with 1:43 left in regulation in the Patriots’ 16-13 victory on Saturday.
New England trailed 13-10 when Brady was hit by corner-
back Charles Woodson and lost the ball. Biekert pounced on it, and referee Walt Coleman initially ruled it a fumble. But, after reviewing re plays, Coleman changed his mind and ruled it an incom plete pass.
The Patriots then tied the game on Adam Vinatieri’s 45-
yard field goal with 27 seconds left in the fourth quarter, and won it on his 23-yarder 8:29 into over-
time.
"I believe it was a fumble and I’ll go to my grave thinking it was a fumble," Gruden said. "Pictures speak volumes of what that play was truly about. But the Patriots move on and we don’t. We’re still sick to our stomachs and disappointed to be out of the playoffs."
As for film of the game?
"I’m pretty much done with it forever," he said.

Breen-Phillips MEAL AUCTION

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Carl Ackerman
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Ava Preacher
Father Tim Scully
Gail Walton &
Andrew McShane
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The Minnesota Court of Appeals upheld an injunction requiring the Twins to play the 2002 season in the Metrodome.

The unanimous decision Tuesday makes it even more unlikely major league baseball will follow through on its plan to eliminate two teams before this season. The Twins and Montreal Expos are the likely targets, although no decision has been made, and commissioner Bud Selig said last week he still intended to push ahead with contraction for this season.

"While we disagreed with the decision of the appeals court, we are not surprised," said Bob DuPuy, baseball's chief legal officer. "We will seek a final determination in the Minnesota Supreme Court as soon as possible."

A three-judge panel affirmed a November decision by a Hennepin County judge, saying he did not abuse his discretion in holding the Twins cannot simply buy out the final year of their lease but must field a team for the season's 81 scheduled home games.

"Since it appears from the record that money could not compensate the commission for the intangible losses that would result if the Twins breached this promise to play, the district court did not abuse its discretion in considering harm to the public when deciding whether to grant temporary injunctive relief," Chief Judge Edward Toussaint Jr. said in his opinion.

The court didn't rule on the merits of the case but said five times in the 27-page opinion that the lower court "did not abuse its discretion."

"Of course we're disappointed," said Roger Magnuson, a lawyer for the Twins and Selig. "We think there were fundamental errors in the injunction."

The Metropolitan Sports Facilities Commission, which obtained the injunction on the Twins' landlord, planned a news conference later Tuesday.

Senate Majority Leader Roger Moe said the ruling allows time for the Legislature to convene in a week, to consider proposals to fund a new ballpark, which would ensure the Twins' long-term survival.

Twins outfielder Tori Hunter took the ruling as another sign that the Twins would play this season. ``It's getting close,'' he said.

"All you can do is get ready, and prepare like you're going to have a season, or it's just going to come back and bite you."

Spring training opens in mid-February and the Minnesota Supreme Court would have to move with extraordinary speed to rule before then.

The high court typically takes five to seven months to decide cases after hearing arguments, though it has moved more quickly in some cases where time was an issue. At least three of the court's seven members must agree that an appeal is merited.

Toussaint and Judges Robert Schumacher and Roger Kephahn upheld the decision by District Judge Harry Seymour Crump, who ruled the team's lease, which expires after this season, requires the Twins to field a team for the season's 81 scheduled home games.

Baseball's lawyers have argued that the injunction went against past lease disputes in Minnesota and was based more on emotion than law.

The court declined to consider several of the issues raised by baseball and the Twins in their appeal because they weren't present-ed to the district court.

The judges also cited congressional testimony by Selig in 1992 and 1993, quoting him as telling a Senate subcommittee that leagues "should vigilantly enforce strong policies prohibiting clubs from abandoning communi-ties which have supported them."

In addition to the legal moves in Minnesota, the players' association filed a grievance claiming the Nov. 6 vote by owners to eliminate teams violated the rules of its labor contract, which expired the following day and remains in force.

After the appeals court ruled, union head Donald Fehr said "hopefully, things will get resolved." Asked if baseball should drop its attempt to elimi-nate teams this year, Fehr said: "I'll leave that response for baseball and its lawyers after they've studied the opinion."

Crump issued the temporary injunction on Nov. 16, ruling that the state and fans would suffer irreparable harm if the Twins do not play this season.

On Nov. 30, the Minnesota Supreme Court refused to take a direct appeal, but ordered the Court of Appeals to hear the case on an expedited basis to leave time for a possible appeal to the high court.
Pat Summerall and John Madden are parting ways after 21 years in which they became the standard by which NFL announcing teams are judged.

Summerall announced Tuesday that he will leave his 21 years in which they became the longest-paired NFL TV duo ever. Madden's color analysis have complemented each other since they were paired at CBS in 1981. They moved together to Fox in 1994 after that network bought NFL rights.

Their Feb. 3 swan song will be Summerall's 17th Super Bowl broadcast.

"I'll miss standing next to John during the course of a broadcast and watching his antics and enjoying his commentary and trying to react to his commentary," Summerall said.

"That I can never replace." Joe Buck, Fox's lead play-by-play announcer for baseball and has called NFL games for the network, could be a replacement as Madden's partner.

"No decisions have been made about who will work with John next year," Fox spokesman Lou D'Erminio said.

Summerall, whose Fox contract expires at the end of this season, said he decided two weeks ago to move on. He wanted to make the announcement now so as not to be a distraction during the buildup to the NFL's championship game.

"I don't get caught up in some way. I'd love to get back involved in golf in some way. I'd love to do tennis again," Summerall said. "Absolutely not. I still want to do games. I still want to work with the NFL."

But the 71-year-old former New York Giants star kicker, who's been associated with the NFL for 50 years as a player or announcer, said he won't rule out doing more TV work.

"I'm definitely not done yet doing more TV work.

"My relationship with Pat has been more than just a broadcast partnership and my respect for him goes beyond football. There are some things in your life that can never be replaced."
Seles snaps Williams’ win streak

Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia—Venus Williams, supreme at Wimbledon and at Flushing Meadows, stumbled at the Australian Open. Monica Seles snapped Williams’ 24-match winning streak and her bid for a third consecutive Grand Slam title with a 6-7 (4), 6-2, 6-3 quarterfinal upset Tuesday and moved into the Australian Open semifinals against Martina Hingis.

Seles lost her previous six matches against Williams, who has won the last two U.S. Opens and the previous two Wimbledon titles.

The second-seeded Williams injured her hamstring in the first set and limped for the rest of the match. She’d gone into the quarterfinal with an injured knee.

In her previous trips to Melbourne Park, she’d never gone beyond the quarterfinals.

Seles, seeded eighth, has won four Australian Opens, but the last one was six years ago. Hingis is a three-time Australian Open champion, but has not won since 1999, her last title in a major tournament.

Williams won the first set in a tiebreaker despite her injury.

“Venus is such a great champion. I just got lucky there on a couple of points at the end,” said Seles, who complained of a sore throat and fever going into the match.

“We were both fighting a lot of problems with ourselves.

“It was such a tough match, really weird circumstances for both of us,” said Seles, who had 25 unforced errors and five double faults.

“More than anything [Seles] had the gameplan today,” Williams said. “Who knows, maybe she’ll take the whole Slam home — that would be an exciting story. She deserves it.”

Williams said she’d get some medical advice before deciding where to play next. Although she’s now targeting the French Open “to end my nightmare there.” She’s never gone beyond the quarterfinals at Roland Garros.

Hingis has reached the final at Melbourne Park every year since 1997, when she picked up the first of her three consecutive titles. She was runner-up to Lindsay Davenport in 2000 and again to Jennifer Capriati last year.

“Martina is a very tough player, she’s playing some of her best tennis. It’s going to be a tough battle, we always play tough ones,” Seles said.

In her 6-2, 6-3 win Tuesday over Adriana Serra Zanetti, Hingis looked composed and confident even though it was her hardest match so far. She only conceded nine games in her previous four matches.

Seles, the 1999 U.S. Open winner, withdrew before her first-round match due to an ankle injury. She picked up the previous week in Sydney. Serena and Hingis had been drawn to meet in a quarterfinal rematch.

“I had to face Serena in the quarterfinals here at this point last year, but it’s kind of nice having someone you don’t know that well,” Hingis said of Serra Zanetti. “It’s nice to get through it easier than last year.”

Her road to the semifinals this year hasn’t been taxing. So far, she’s had wins over Virginie Razzano (6-2, 6-2), Greta Arn (6-1, 6-2), Barbara Bittner (6-1, 6-0), and Amanda Coetzer (6-1, 6-0).

She leads Seles 12-4 in head-to-head meetings.

Hingis, who holds the No. 1 ranking for a record 73 consecutive weeks until injuring her ankle last October and undergoing surgery, says the unscheduled break did her some good. It took her mind off the grind of touring and helped her concentrate on improving her game.

“I think I’ve reached some stage that I haven’t been before,” Hingis said.
For the Belles to do that, they must force the Hornets to play their bench players. Kalamazoo starts only one senior, one junior and three freshmen. Much of the bench also consists of freshmen. If Kalamazoo is forced to play its reserves, Saint Mary's has also been adjusting to the loss of four players — three to injury and one who left the team. Despite this setback, Blair believes the Belles have responded in a positive way.

"We need everyone to step up and stay out of foul trouble which has been a big problem," said Belles co-captain Anne Blair. "We need everyone to feel confident about its reserves, forced to play its bench can play."

We do have depth and everyone feels confident about its reserves, forced to play its bench can play. Much of the fresh men. We need everyone to step up and stay out of foul trouble which has been a big problem. We do have depth and everyone on our bench can play."

Anne Blair

Belles co-captain

Guard Katie Miller makes a break during a recent win against Olivet. The Belles will face the Hornets today.

Bettis is ready to return

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH

Jerome Bettis said Monday he is certain he'll return from a seven-week layoff to play in the AFC championship game. He's also sure about something else. No more needles.

Bettis, the Pittsburgh Steelers' Pro Bowl running back, said he realizes it was a mistake to get a painkilling shot just before Sunday's AFC playoff game against Baltimore. The injection apparently struck a nerve and caused one of Bettis' legs to go numb, preventing him from playing.

The Steelers went on to beat the defending Super Bowl champion Ravens 27-10 without him, and they would be favored to beat New England in the AFC championship game even if he doesn't play.

However, Bettis insists he will play, saying, "I could have played about five or six o'clock [Sunday] after the shot wore off."

Amos Zereoue ran for 63 yards and two short touchdowns as Bettis' replacement, but Bettis presence would give the Steelers a difficult-to-defend asset that perfectly accompanies their dramatically improved passing offense.

Before he was hurt Dec. 2 against Minnesota, Bettis was averaging nearly 100 yards per game through 11 games.

"He'll definitely be the freshest man in the playoffs when he comes back," offensive tackle Wayne Gandy said. "For a man like him who is driven, who already is a hard runner, if he gets a chance to play Sunday, he'll be running 100 miles per hour."

The Steelers will take Bettis' customary 100 yards.

Bettis said he's taken painkilling shots before without a reaction, and he has no idea why Sunday's injection went so wrong. He insisted he didn't need the shot because he reinjured himself.

"I knew there would be a lot of pain associated with the injury and I just wanted it to feel better," he said. "The scar tissue still has to tear, and it is nowhere near as strong as regular tissue, so there's going to be pain."

It's nothing that will keep you from playing, it's just something you have to deal with."}

Gandy estimated about half the Steelers' Pro Bowl running back, said he realizes it was a mistake to get a painkilling shot just before Sunday's AFC playoff game against Baltimore. The injection apparently struck a nerve and caused one of Bettis' legs to go numb, preventing him from playing.

The Steelers went on to beat the defending Super Bowl champion Ravens 27-10 without him, and they would be favored to beat New England in the AFC championship game even if he doesn't play.

However, Bettis insists he will play, saying, "I could have played about five or six o'clock [Sunday] after the shot wore off."

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Irish

continued from page 20

dent their perimeter shooters will deliver as the season pro-
gresses. "I've been around Matt and Dave for three years now, and they're the best shooters I've

seen," said senior Ryan Humphrey. "There's times in practice when they hit five, six in a row. I have confidence in them, and when they start knocking down shots, then it'll be exciting to see us play."

Note: Harold Swanagan, who re-

ND Soccer

Teams earn academic honors

Special to the Observer

The University of Notre Dame men's and women's soccer teams each were recognized by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America with the NSCAA/adidas College Team Academic Award for exceptional performance as a team during the 2000-01 academic year. Notre Dame was one of 36 institutions whose men's and women's teams earned that distinction. The men's soccer team earns the award for the third consecutive year as the Irish had 12 players earn Dean's List distinction during both the 2000-01 spring and fall semesters after a compiling cumulative 3.205 in the 2000 fall semester and 3.192 in the spring of 2001. The women's soccer team was recognized with the award for the first time in the history of its program. Twelve players earned Dean's List distinction in the fall as the team compiled a 3.205 cumulative grade point average during that semester.
Irish shooting woes continue to cause problems

By ANDREW SOUKUP
Associate Sports Editor

When a shooter’s mind wanders, his shot often wanders with it. And based on Notre Dame’s recent shooting, it appears their minds have been wandering quite a bit.

“When you start missing, your confidence changes,” guard Matt Carroll said. “You have to start worrying about going out there and making them rather than just going out there and shooting with a clear head.”

Notre Dame’s success is directly tied to their 3-point shooting. In their 12 wins, the Irish have shot over 44 percent from behind the arc. But in their six losses, the Irish hit just 30 percent of their 3-point shots.

“Pretty jump shot, those shots are over in league play,” Notre Dame head coach Mike Brey said. “Shooting a jump shot and looking at your form, that’s not going to happen. Not in this league.”

Life on the court has been particulary rough for Irish point guard Chris Thomas recently. Before Big East play started, a red-hot Thomas made 45 percent of all his shots. But since Jan. 6, the freshman has shot just 27 percent over all. And in the last three games, he is just 4-of-23 from 3-point range.

David Graves is in a similar slump. In his last five games, Graves shot 15-for-55 from the field. And after starting the Georgetown game 1-for-9, Brey pulled the senior forward out for good with 11:33 left in the game.

It’s tough to pinpoint the source of Notre Dame’s shooting woes. But it’s even tougher to figure out how to stop it. The key, Carroll said, is just keep shooting.

“Half the battle of shooting is mental,” he said. “You gotta understand it’s a long game, and when it’s not falling in the first half, you gotta keep shooting, or you’re not going to stay confident.”

Carroll understands the emotions swirling through Graves’ and Thomas’ minds. Early in the year, Carroll had trouble finding his shot, even going scoreless against Indiana. But Brey kept him on the court and in the starting lineup and Carroll broke out of his slump.

Brey would prefer to keep his shooters in the game. But he’s not afraid to make a change in the starting lineup to shake things up. Last year, after a struggling Irish team lost their fifth game of the season against Kentucky, Brey moved Harold Swanagan to the starting lineup and Graves to the bench.

The move paid off. Graves regained his confidence and the Irish reeled off and eight-game win streak.

But it’s even tougher to figure out how to stop it. The key, Carroll said, is just keep shooting.

Nevertheless, the Irish are confident they can find a cure.

see IRISH/page 18

Missing the point

Recruit says no to Irish

Wide receiver Josh Hannum chooses Penn State

Associated Press

SOUTH BEND, Ind. - Wide receiver Josh Hannum has changed his mind about attending Notre Dame next season, choosing instead to attend Penn State.

Hannum, who is from Wappinger, Pa., is the second high school player who committed to attend Notre Dame while Bob Davie was coach to change his mind since Tyrone Willingham was hired Dec. 31 to replace him.

Linebacker Jeremy Van Altayne from Greenwood, Ind., did the same thing earlier, verbally committing to Michigan. But while Van Altayne reportedly was upset about not receiving a phone call from Willingham right away, Hannum told the South Bend Tribune that his decision had nothing to do with Willingham’s hiring. He just decided he wanted to play closer to home.

“During that layover time (between the coaching searches), I had to look around,” he said. “It came down to a matter of feeling comfortable. I think you throw in a place you’re comfortable at. I feel comfortable at Penn State.”

Notre Dame now has 12 verbal commitments. National signing day is Feb. 6.

Belles face tough conference test

BY JOE HETTLER
Sports Writer

After nearly pulling off an upset win against Adrian on Saturday, the Saint Mary’s basketball team must regroup when it faces a tough Kalamazoo team tonight.

For the Belles (6-11, 2-4) a win tonight is crucial. The Saint Mary’s basketball team must regroup when it faces a tough Kalamazoo team tonight.

a

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SMC Basketball

At a glance

SMC Basketball at Kalamazoo, Tonight, 7 p.m.
ND Track vs. Michigan State, Friday, 6 p.m.
Men’s Basketball vs. Seton Hall, Saturday, Noon
Women’s Basketball vs. Virginia Tech, Saturday, 6 p.m.

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Online

http://www.nd.edu/~observer
Untangling the mysteries of ND student government

By JASON McFARLEY
New Editor

At Notre Dame, student government positions are as diverse as the constituencies and interests that student leaders represent.

For undergraduates, government is centered in the Student Union. It includes several basic arms:

Office of the President
At the head of campus government are the student body president and vice president. Elected every February by the majority vote of the undergraduate student body, they take office April 1.

"We work to bring everything together," senior Brooke Norton, the 2001-2002 president, said in an interview last semester with The Observer. "We have many focuses, but our role is to represent student opinion."

In the same interview, vice president Brian Moscona, a junior, said, "We're basically working to serve students, being their voice."

The Office of the President staff includes elected students Norton and Moscona and their appointees to the Chief of Staff position and to other posts in divisions just as academics, diversity and service.

Student Senate
This body includes one elected student from each undergraduate residence hall as well as one senator who represents off-campus students. Senators are elected during the spring semester and take office in April.

The group meets weekly, and members must sit on at least two of the senate's standing committees that target such issues as residence life, gender concerns and University affairs.

The policy-oriented senate considers resolutions, which, if approved, are forwarded directly to administrators or the Campus Life Council.

"The senate can reach every student on campus," said Moscona, who chairs the body. "Ideally, students will take their concerns to their individual senators."

Campus Life Council
The council's membership reflects all sides of Notre Dame residence life and includes administrator, faculty, rector and student representatives.

The CLC's members are elected to the body from other groups, such as the Faculty and Student senate and the Hall Presidents and Club Coordination councils.

CLC members consider resolutions forwarded to them by other groups, generally the Student Senate. In the past, the CLC has been the only body with student membership to make policy recommendations directly to the Office of Student Affairs.

It's hard to say what areas we'll focus on in any year, because, by nature, we have to look at a lot of different campus issues," said CLC chair Norton.

Student Union Board
Think concerts, movies, and other forms of entertainment. SUB is responsible for organizing and bringing these events to campus.

Headed this year by Paul Krivickas, the programming board in the past has brought actor James Earl Jones and singer Ani DiFranco to the University's Stepan Center. Last spring former Indiana University head basketball coach Bob Knight spoke at Stepan.

Annual SUB events include the Collegiate Jazz Festival, Sophomore Literary Festival and Antostal, the weekend spring carnival.

Other student government
Notre Dame student government isn't so neatly summed up as a collection of councils and boards. The Student Union includes other outlets.

Participation on class councils often is a springboard to higher executive posts. Traditionally, student body presidents and vice presidents held class offices before heading the Student Union.

Each fall, 27 first-year students are elected to their class council through their residence halls. The freshman representatives then elect from among themselves the council's four executive officers — a president, vice president, secretary and treasurer.

In the spring semester, rising sophomores, juniors and seniors are elected on a four-person class council ticket. The officers then appoint other students from their class to committee membership positions on the council.

Individual dorms, too, are hubs for leadership positions. Residence halls essentially are the basic units for campus government.

There are many dorm commissioner jobs available to students as well as hall presidents posts. Hall presidents also serve on the campus-wide Hall Presidents Council.

Contact Jason McFarley at McFarley.1@nd.edu.
One Person’s View

On the outside, looking back

Not surprisingly, under our very own Dome, students seem to be polarized along the sides of either student government fanatics or those who could care less. After all, how many class diners can a person take? Furthermore, all with the Notre Dame T-shirts, aren’t our toddler-sized wardrobes full? Although I’ve recently been pondering these questions, I will get to the point. The truth is that student government does have a significant and necessary function. I say this as a former insidior current outsider to student government. My little government stint lasted for three semesters starting as a freshman council officer and then as our toddler-sized wardrobes

Assistant News Editor

Helena Payne

Make promises you can keep

As students trickle out of dorms at 12:55 a.m. on Thursday nights after watching the latest HBO movie premier with their friends and return to their dorms as partiers expire, they have nothing but contented smiles on their faces as they contemplate the up-and-coming hip-hop and rap artist conferences as well as the all-school formal. On Fridays, students can be over-heard chattering about the lower prices at the bookstore, the bowling alley at Alumni Senior Club over their “Grab ‘n’ Go” lunches, or the Terris program, which brings students from war-torn countries to get their education at Notre Dame. Of course, this scenario is more like a dream than an average day on campus, but that’s not what student government hopefuls would have the student body believe. Each year the student population is subjected to ridiculous platform ideas from the candidates for student body president and vice president. While some platforms are better researched and more feasible than others, the story is the same year after year. Little more than recycled pipe dreams.

The Observer

Wednesday, January 23, 2002

Editorial

Domers give Student Union mixed reviews

By ELIZABETH LEE

Win Editor

Students have different opinions about how effective student govern­ment is. Some students feel that the student government has the students’ interests at heart, but others feel that it does not make enough of an effort to reach the student body. However, other students expressed concern that student government does not communicate well with the student body.

“I don’t think that our student government communicates with the student body very well at all in terms of the changes that students would like to see,” said sophomore Megan Horner. “I rarely seem to know what they’re working on, discussing or trying to change.”

Some students, like sophomore Leslie Schmid, see value in stu­dent government. “It seems like the student government is more of a formality than a driving force,” she said.

Other students know very little about what student government does. “I don’t know anything about student government,” said freshman Dwight Ellicot. “I don’t know what they do or who they are.”

Student government holds office hours and opens up Student Senate meetings to the public, but students feel that these opportunities are not advertised well enough.

“Voice-mails, e-mails, or signs in the dorms letting students know when representatives are available to discuss issues would be a big help,” said Horner. “I get e-mails occasionally from my class council about social events, but that’s about it.”

Despite complaints about a lack of campus presence, many students feel that student government does try to keep the students’ interests at heart. “I give them an A+ and credit,” said senior Eric Carpenter. “Even if changes come slowly, student government still helps improve student life.”

Students also believe that student government’s apparent lack of campus presence has to do with the constraints placed on the administration. “I used to see student government take on issues such as parietals, the bookstore prices and football ticket distribution. Other suggestions were a bit more creative.”

“I’d like to see [Student Government] start a dating service,” said sophomore Michael Sanchez. “I usually don’t put a lot of stock in student governments, so it was nice to see that they do have some sort of influence.”

Moreover, students generally appreciate the work the officers put in. “I think the student government has very limited power, but they work hard to accomplish some things,” said Schmidt. “I appreciate their hard work even if changes come slowly.”

Many students say they would like to see student government take on issues such as parietals, the bookstore prices and football ticket distribution. Other suggestions were a bit more creative. “I’d like to see [Student Government] start a dating service,” said sophomore Laura Sech.

Contact Elizabeth Lee at alex2@nd.edu.

NOTRE DAME STUDENTS

Do you think student government is effective?

No 34%

Yes 66%

Do you think student government represents your concerns?

Can you name your student body senator?

No 51%

Yes 49%

Can you name your student body president?

No 53%

Yes 67%

*Results based on random telephone survey of 100 Notre Dame students
Striving to serve

By ERIN LAUFFA
Assistant News Editor

Whether it is 2 o'clock in the afternoon or 2 o'clock in the morning, one can probably find student body president Brooke Norton working hard to fulfill her responsibilities to the Notre Dame student body. Norton has been seen on the first floor of LaFortune or the second floor of the Student Union at any hour of the day.

Most likely, Norton will not be working alone, but instead will be joined by student body vice president Brian Moscona and chief of staff Jonathan Jorissen. Despite their long hours, each of them believe the service they provide to fellow students is "definitely worth it," as Jorissen puts it.

"The service itself is a reward," agreed Moscona.

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The first floor of LaFortune

CHEERS

Concern for the student body: In every aspect of their administration, Norton and Moscona have shown their dedication to the Notre Dame student body. Concentrating on issues that have become priorities for students, such as alcohol policy and a more student-friendly administration, the team has already accomplished a great deal in their first semester.

As part of their communications plan, Norton and Moscona have organized town hall meetings and all-school open hours to keep the student body informed and involved. Norton has also made an effort to foster an open dialogue between the University and the student body.

Another area of concern for Norton and Moscona has been the University's alcohol policy. The two leaders have been involved in initiatives to reduce the amount of alcohol on campus, including a student referendum which would have required students to purchase alcohol in blocks of 24 bottles. However, the referendum was defeated by a vote of 11,421 to 5,861.

In addition, Norton and Moscona have worked to improve communication with the student body. They have held town hall meetings and all-school open hours to keep the student body informed and involved. Norton has also made an effort to foster an open dialogue between the University and the student body.

Despite the challenges they have faced, Norton and Moscona have shown their commitment to the Notre Dame student body. Their dedication to improving communication, reducing alcohol on campus, and fostering an open dialogue between the University and the student body is a testament to their leadership.

CHEERS AND JEERS

Norton and Moscona have faced criticism from some students, who have accused them of being too focused on communication and not doing enough to address other issues on campus. However, the two leaders have shown their dedication to the Notre Dame student body and their commitment to improving communication and reducing alcohol on campus.

In conclusion, Norton and Moscona have shown their dedication to the Notre Dame student body and their commitment to improving communication and reducing alcohol on campus. Their leadership is an example of what it means to be a student leader at Notre Dame.
Senators work to improve quality of student life

Although committee members have talked about student life at Notre Dame, there are currently 12 non-senators serving on committees, according to Moscona.

Academic committee
The senate's academic committee has dedicated most of its time to curriculum review. According to committee chair Pat Hallahan, the University has established a nine-person committee, led by Father John Jenkins and consisting of administrators and faculty members, to look into Notre Dame's curriculum and possible changes to it.

"There are a lot of changes that can happen," said Hallahan. "We've been trying to give students a voice in that.

To get a sense of student opinion on the current state of curriculum in each college, Hallahan and his committee surveyed students in the dining halls. The surveys also asked student ideas on the direction changes to the curriculum should take.

The committee also conducted focus groups to get in-depth information from students. At the end of fall semester, the senate sent a letter to Jenkins describing what the academic committee had learned from the student surveys. "The academic committee put in a countless number of hours doing that research, and I think it will lead to the enhancement of academic life at Notre Dame," said Moscona. He explained that to the curriculum review committee, the information from the senate represents the opinion of the student body.

Some people think it's lacking," Hallahan said, adding that his committee is looking into ways it can improve intellectual life at Notre Dame through increased student interaction.

"Notre Dame is a top-notch university, but it might not have that edge that Harvard or Yale have," he said.

The committee will also try to get more student representation on the Academic Council, which currently has three students out of 30 members.

Diversity Committee
One of the diversity committee's goals for last fall semester was to network with other entities on campus that address similar issues, according to committee co-chair Elizabeth Lenn. The committee started by meeting with groups including the diversity division within the office of the student body president, as well as Multicultural Student Programs and Services (MSPS).

Part of the committee's work last semester also involved creating a resolution, which the full senate passed, requiring that the Celebrating Diversity Workshop be held twice a year, instead of just once. All senators are required to attend the workshop at least once.

"The workshop opens your eyes, and you become aware of a lot as a student leader," said diversity committee co-chair Nikki McCord. "We think diversity is very important, both for students and for the senate in particular.

This semester, the diversity committee is holding a workshop for dorm multicultural commissioners.

"A lot of times, the multicultural commissioners have a hard time following the hardline commissioner position you can have on campus," said McCord. She explained that most dorm commissioner positions, such as dance commissioner, have specific goals. However, multicultural commissioners have a more diffuse range of determining what direction to take their position, she said.

To address that challenge, according to McCord, the workshop will make these commissioners aware of resources available on campus.

Gender Relations
Much like the diversity committee, members of the gender relations committee started by talking to several people who deal with gender issues on campus, according to committee chair Mary Mullen. The priorities that the committee developed out of those conversations have guided the committee's work throughout the school year.

At the end of last semester, the senate passed a resolution from the gender relations committee calling for more lighting in certain areas around campus, including along the paths around the lakes. The committee created the resolution after meeting with campus administrators to discuss the possibility of additional lights.

"I think that resolution and their work with Security will benefit students now and in the future," Moscona said.

Another committee project is to create a list of steps a person should take if he or she has been the victim of sexual assault. The committee plans to put the list in every dorm every month this semester, said Mullen, who became committee chair in January when former chair Jennifer Valles left the senate to study abroad.

The committee is also working on the issue of parietals. Last semester, a resolution to extend parietals failed to pass the Campus Life Council (CLC). Several CLC members who voted against the resolution claimed that "BTOC students and athletes were not interested in extending parietals," Mullen said.

Prompted by that claim, senators on the gender relations committee are conducting a survey of student athletes and BTOC participants to gauge how both groups feel about extending parietals.

"We want to make sure people aren't misrepresenting what students want just to vote a certain way," said Mullen.

In addition, committee members are currently working with

Committee Report Card

Academic
A
Diversity
C+
Gender Relations
A-
Residence Life
A-
Oversight
B
University Affairs
A-

Overall
B+

As a whole, the senate has grown into a strong organization since the beginning of its term in April, although the various committees have differed in their productivity and effectiveness. Moscona at first seemed uncomfortable and unprepared to chair the group, but he has adjusted well to the role. His capable leadership is complemented by several dedicated senators who have made possible many small but significant improvements to student life at Notre Dame.
Council changes produce few tangible results

By JASON MCFARLEY

Last year when a Campus Life Council meeting cut into dinnertime, it meant one of two things: Either members had gotten a late start or, more likely, they were tied up in contentious debate and name-calling.

During the spring 2001 semester alone, the group twice tabled discussions and adjourned its bi-weekly meetings after members' bickering over such issues as academic freedom and parital extensions stretched past the council's self-imposed 90-minute time limit. At its height, the CLC's squabbling led student members to draft a letter to rectors, faculty and the administration stating that the body was not serving them in the interests of the student body.

That — and some personnel changes — seemed to work. Feuding isn't on the group's agenda this year.

In fact, the campus leaders who comprise the body this year hardly look — or sound — like their counterparts from the 2000-2001 council.

Since September, members' tone has been amicable. Meetings have run efficiently; several sessions lasted between 20 and 30 minutes.

On the one hand, the changes speak to a re-committed CLC that wants to take advantage of its unique powers. The 15-member group can form task forces at its own discretion to examine various areas of campus life. Most resolutions passed in the Student Senate require a stamp of approval from the CLC before Student Affairs officials will even consider them. And whenever it wishes, the council may draft its own resolutions and forward them to the vice president for student affairs, who is required to at least send back a formal response to the measure.

But if CLC members this year are in high spirits or are getting out of meetings earlier, that's also a matter of what they're considering in the conference room.

However, sometimes rendered the CLC ineffective last year, but the disputes are still centered on significant campus issues. Consider: Debate in the CLC's last spring about ending parital extensions at 9 a.m. instead of at 10 a.m.

Still, the most effective measure at the meeting table but resulted in a resolution approving the policy. The backtrack of members of the opposite sex are banned from visiting each other in residence halls. University officials, in turn, signed off on the proposal and implemented the provision.

Current members — however, have done little in the way of considering other groups' resolutions or drafting their own. Only the Student Senate has asked for the CLC's approval of a resolution, a measure in November that would allow students to miss three class days or more a semester to attend job or graduate school interviews. The council passed the resolution and sent it to the Academic Council, where it awaits consideration.

A single resolution doesn't represent the sum total of the CLC's work this year. Fact is, the group exists as more than a resolution-making body with veto power over other organizations' policy initiatives.

When they weren't considering resolutions, members this year were focusing on task force work. Thoughtful discussion at the beginning of the fall semester led the group to create task forces focusing on three areas of Notre Dame student life: alcohol use, off-campus living and social space.

Traditionally, CLC task forces have had short lives, lasting only until task force members arrived at conclusive findings or dropped the issue. In the present, the council has five task forces — the three formed in September and two formed this week — that deal with community life and student development administration communication.

At this point, the task forces are essentially tools for collecting information and passing it along to University officials. Significant policy-changing resolutions aren't likely to come out of the task forces.

And that seems to pose a dilemma for the council.

From one standpoint, the CLC's unique make-up affords it the advantage of bringing together representatives from each campus constituency to discuss student life issues.

From another, CLC members are in an enviable position — and not just talk about it. This year's council has taken both tasks and produced relatively few tangible results.

Contact Jason McFarley at McFarley.1@nd.edu

Senate

continued from page 4

the office of the president on its winter Board of Trustees report, which focuses on freshmen orientation. As a final project for this senate term, the gender relations committee is also planning a retreat for female Notre Dame and Saint Mary's students in March.

Over sight

The oversight committee is currently reviewing the senate's constitution, said chair John Flores. The review involves primarily organizational changes, the committee is also considering adding an important clarificatory clause about fiscal responsibility.

That clause would address the fact that campus clubs currently draw money from the same account which is subject to oversight, which is not the case with student organizations, according to Ryan.

"As of right now, there's nothing to say. You owe money," he said. His committee is trying to hold clubs accountable.

Residence Life

"We put a lot of effort into initialing a dialogue with the dining hall," said residence life committee co-chair Aldo Tenzi.

In addition to talking to dining hall managers, the committee has also conducted student surveys to find out what students change in the dining halls to make.

According to the committee's work has been responsible for several changes, including an increased amount of food served a new location for the meals in the South Dining Hall.

The committee was also able to get the dining halls to sell special guest meals for holidays, according to Tenzi. The passes, which are sold through a kiosk located in the South Dining Hall, allow students to purchase a book of five meal passes for $60 which, according to Tenzi, the people who make the meals purchases separately.

Macer's residence life committee have also been meeting with campus life to discuss the issues.

"It looks like the University is doing it in a way that gets the minimal amount of people wet," said Teni.

"Our projects will be more on a project basis," he added. "We're satisfied with what we've had."

"I think we could do more on a project basis," he said. "A lot of our actions so far have been finding out what we could do."

Similarly, the committee researched the University's lawn in hopes of finding a way to avoid walking paths being in the way of soccer and baseball players. However, as with water quality, committee members realized that there was nothing they could do to address the issue.

Contact Eric LaRuffa at LaRuffa.1@nd.edu

Members of the Campus Life Council discuss diversity at Notre Dame during the council's meeting on Monday.

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Board works for visibility, small changes

By SHANNON NELLIGAN AND NORREIN GILLESPIE

News Writers

Every Monday, members of Saint Mary's student government walk around campus in coordinated T-shirts and sweaters, worn to identify themselves as members of the student government association. Started as an initiative to "bring student government back to the students," Student Body President Michelle Nagle said the shirts were supposed to make student government more visible.

Visibility was one of the main goals Student Body President Michelle Nagle and Student Body Vice President Kristen Matha set for the Board shortly after their election. Developing the T-shirt days, enhancing a newsletter, adding to the board's Web page and developing office hours were all parts of the initiative.

"One of my largest objectives for this semester was to educate the student body about who we [student leaders] are," Nagle said.

The Board had a moderately successful year, bringing change to small, everyday student life issues. In absence of big proposals, BOG can be commended for its little changes, and making the effort to better publicize itself.

Stepping Mass Enrolling

Most student governing organizations face the challenge of fighting through brick walls and red tape to accomplish initiatives. This year's Board of Governance leaders found themselves fighting through firewalls and gateways instead.

Fed up with the loads of frivolous e-mails that flooded the Saint Mary's network, Board of Governance decided this fall to put a stop to the excessive abuse of the network.

"This plan of action was by far the board's greatest success of the year.

Refunding

BOG's fall revamping of funding grants for campus clubs and organizations should be commended. By changing co-ownership funding to a grant process, BOG has become more financially accountable. The board recognized that past boards had thrown around money too haphazardly and rectified the problem.

It's been a year of silence, she says, and there haven't been that many "major issues" that have demanded her attention — or the board's.

Board of Governance had a breakfast; they wore coordinated T-shirts on Mondays to increase visibility. Officials held office hours. The main emphasis of their term was exactly what Nagle and Matha wanted — to bring student government to the students.

But it wasn't utilized. Students rarely came to office hours and at Monday's Board of Governance meeting, the Board deliberated if it was necessary to continue them. Some members suggested having them in a more prominent place, like the dining hall or Haggar. Still, the lonely office in Haggar symbolizes the silence that has characterized Nagle and Matha's administration.

"It is a little disappointing," she said. "I think to have a lot of students participate in something you really have to get them angry. There haven't been any small victories.
BOG serves as center for Saint Mary's student government

By JUSTIN KRIVICKAS

The Student Government Association resembled a wheel. The Board of Governors' members, each wearing their badges and acting as a communications hub and distributing money to the other four divisions of SGA — the Diversity Board, the Student Activities Board, the Student Academic Board and the Residence Hall Association.

The student body president and vice president at Saint Mary's chair the Board of Governance.

The Board of Governors provides a forum for discussion of issues and policies that concern and effect students as well as the entire campus community and contains 23 executive staff positions.

"Having a specific board or person to represent every possible interest allows us to make well-rounded decisions with as much representation of the student body as possible," said student body president Michelle Nagle.

The Board's most important function is allocating funds to various campus organizations to finance budget and separate grants and co-sponsorships for clubs and individuals involved in interesting activities.

The voting members of BOG include the student body vice president, student activities board coordinator, residence hall association president, executive secretary, executive treasurer, student trustee, class presidents and the various commissioners according to the Student Government Association Constitution.

The Diversity Board was created in 2000 to increase awareness of multicultural students and activities at Saint Mary's. The president is appointed according to the Student government president at Saint Mary's chair the Board.

The Student Activities Board organizes campus events such as Pride Week, campus movies, Twilight Tailgate and other social events for graduate students this semester.

During the summer, the organization led a tour of their facility under the direction of Burgos and Suzanne Gallagher, elections, credentials and procedures secretary. The results led to the formation of the healthcare and publicity and promotions committees. The GSU has continued to make changes to its constitution throughout the year, including the role of each committee and to increase the board's productivity, according to Deshpande.

"The constitution was too concerned with process," Burgos added. "We wanted to get stuff done."

The board is also brainstorming about ways to increase the productivity of their monthly meetings. Burgos says that strategies to make meetings more interactive and improve communication between the different committees. One consideration is splitting each committee into a portion of one meeting to highlight their recent work.

Reforming health care

GSCU's most notable progress has occurred in reforming the University's health care policy for graduate students, an issue that has been discussed since 1995.

When Burgos and Deshpande took over in April, results from a healthcare survey commissioned by Buckle were flowing back to the GSU. The results indicated the need for a more comprehensive University subsidized policy.

"When I was elected, the graduate student's first suggestion was for health care," Burgos said.

"There was a definite discontent among graduate students," Deshpande added.

Once the GSU created the health care committee to address this discontent, committee chairperson Adrienne Deshpande considered herself a vic­tim of the current policy's shortcomings.

"The investigation has shown that the policy has been instrumental in offering short-term solutions and working towards the establishment of a long-term solution," Burgos said. "With Ingrid Vila-Real, publicity and promotions chairman, Minteric was involved in the process of helping graduate students to navigate the healthcare system and established a discount eye program with Optical One.

In October, Minteric researched and published a report on the health care issues that Burgos and Deshpande. The 100-page report assessed the current situation, compared the University's policy with other schools and contained faculty surveys and student testimonials.

The group presented their findings to Notre Dame's Board of Trustees that month.

"We spent a lot of time — two weeks straight — working on the report and doing the research," Minteric said. "We thought we would be convincing them (the Board of Trustees) that they ought to be doing this (adapting the new subsidized policy) and they were already using us the specifics."

The GSU plans to make a similar presentation to the University's Board of Trustees in March. They are confident that the idea will be approved and that the new policy will be available within a year and a half, depending on the logistics are worked out, according to Minteric.

Career networking

The GSU has also taken steps to assist graduate students find jobs after earning their degrees.

The organization is working with the Career Center to add students in the job search. As a result, the Career Center has sponsored a series of workshops geared towards helping graduate students in the corporate and academic worlds. Workshops organized this year educated students on corporate etiquette, resume preparation, job search strategies and provided information for international students.

"The fact that we established communication with the Career Services is really productive," Deshpande said.

"It's a strong organization," James Deshpande do not intend to seek reelection in April, citing a need to devote more time to graduate research. Minteric will also move on to spend more time on research after her term ends. All three, however, expressed satisfac­tion in the direction the organization has taken:

"Traditionally the Graduate Student Union has been involved primarily in social activities," Burgos said. "Not just social — it's healthcare, its about career services, it's about quality of life and professional life."

The three, however, expressed concern for the direction of the GSU once new officers are elected.

"It's frustrating because this is a one year appointment," Minteric said. "What if people next year aren't as productive? What happens if all our work falls apart?"

Despite this concern, the current leaders are poised to aid in a smooth transition and plan to volunteer with GSU next year. Donna Franz, the organization's administrative assistant, will also be available to help, according to Minteric.

For all the positive publicity the more productive GSU has received, it seems unlikely the University community will allow it to retain its former reputation.

"It's a strong organization," James Deshpande said. "They represent the collective voice for it's much easier to work with an organization that can articulate and accomplish their goals well."

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In Focus: Leaders of the Graduate Student Union discuss possible changes to the University's health care policy.
big controversial issues this year. I like to think if students are quiet, they’re happy with the way things are.”

But, she says, the silence makes it hard for her to know where her administration stands.

“It’s hard to gauge how effective student government is when it’s quiet,” she said.

Nagle’s leadership roles in Board of Governance have been characterized by her stand-in-the-middle position. Almost every issue, her relentless determination to understand her constituents before making a decision, and her praised statements of love for the College and the student body. BOG tends not to take a cause unless it’s brought to them first — by their constituents.

“We want to make huge stands on issues that students bring to us,” she said. “We will make a stand on things we believe are possible that we know how the student body feels.”

But while Nagle and Matha’s administration has remained quiet, there were controversial issues facing campus during her administration. The Department of Education conducted an on-site and off-site investigation of Saint Mary’s crime statistic reporting procedures. For a report alleged the College improperly reported them. Board of Governance never issued an official statement on the investigation, or took any other action than handing out whistles to door.

Nagle and Matha backed away from the issue after discussing it in executive board, giving the campus no decisive statement. The DOE investigation, which concluded in May, found nearly 4,000 in fines, loss of student scholarships, prove negligence of security to properly handle rape reports and severely tarnish the school’s reputation.

“We met with [Dr. Timp] and she told us it was taking time to do the investigation,” Nagle said. The team also left the campus fundfeuering for a position in a heated debate about academic freedom. Ignited by lack of good performances, a forum organized a forum to debate the extent of academic freedom on campus in early fall, and asked Nagle to present students’ views on the topic to a panel.

Nagle sent out an e-mail to the student body to gather opinions, but got minimal response — and was left fundfeuering on a podium.

“Don’t tell me that academic freedom means, I searched for meaning and not one student could answer what academic freedom meant to them,” Nagle said to the panel, and in front of an audience of students and administrators.

“I asked students what the BOG administration can be faulted — and should be — for remaining quiet on these issues, their decision to do so is reflective of the organization’s governing philosophy. It firmly believes it should address issues that students bring to them — not the other way around.

The one issue the administration did fight for — the addition of a study day to the academic calendar — met with opposition from Faculty Assembly. A compromise proposal, which suggested the College eliminate the registration day to have one more day off at the end of the year, was not submitted in time to be seriously considered for spring semester.

It was a frustration for both Nagle and Matha, who felt they had moved the proposal to a point of success. Especially when they knew it was a proposal their constituents wanted. In an e-mail survey, they were overwhelmed with student responses in favor of it.

“They were saying, ‘Please, we need an extra day,’” Matha said, who feared the proposal from her position as chair of Student Academic Council. “I got five e-mails a minute for a day.”

When Faculty Assembly rejected the proposal, it was yet another roadblock for the three-year old BOG effort.

“It was a disappointment, that’s for sure,” Matha said. “But if it had gotten shut down right away, I think we would have been disappointed.”

While they are both optimistic the live the proposal has been the extent of their offices, each are skeptical about its practicality.

“We’d have to get an entire new faculty,” Matha said.

Their administration can be measured in small successes — revamping how Board of Governance allocates funds to clubs and for co-sponsorship; leading the Board in the restriction of e-mail privileges and increasing the amount given to students for Munch Money. It was practical, small changes rather than the large ambitious steps that leave this administration with much to be remembered by.

“BOG — a place for graduate and plans to pursue a career in politics — and Matha, who is not seeking re-election, will be remembered as leaders who tried, with the best interests, to represent the students.

“We’ll keep plugging away every day,” Nagle said about the upcoming end to their administration. “I don’t want it to be done.”

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chose to present the topic of students living off-campus. To prepare the fall report, according to Moscona, the office included several students who had not previously been involved with student government. He said the experience was a chance for them to learn so that they can improve for future presentations.

Norton added that the fall report served as a learning opportunity for her staff which will help make upcoming reports better.

“The problem was that there were so many issues to cover. We could have done a better job than we did, but I think we made some major points,” said Norton.

The winter report, which will be presented at the board’s next meeting in February, will cover freshman orientation. The spring report will focus on women’s issues.

With many different projects to oversee, Norton, Moscona and Jorissen all admit that their jobs are challenging.

“We have so much going on in the office — so many divisions — that sometimes it’s been hard to keep it all straight and going forward,” said Jorissen. He explained that to help with that challenge, the three have weekly meetings and one of the three meets each day to attend each division meetings.

“There are days when you wonder what would you do next — to have any meetings,” said Jorissen.

All three admitted that sleep is often hard to get.

“These jobs, there is no end of the days, the hours,” Nagle said. “We leave LaFortune at two in the morning and then we have to start homework or continue responding to e-mails from students.”

“There’s always something else you can be doing. You have to give up a lot,” Norton student body president

“With these jobs, there is no end of the day,” Matha said. “It’s a non-stop job.”

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Can’t get enough student government?

Look for the

Saint Mary’s Student Body Election Poster Guide in tomorrow’s Observer