**Bishop edges Moscona in election**

By ERIN LaRUFFA
Associate News Editor

In a race that was almost as close as Monday's primary, Notre Dame elected its second female student body president in history on Thursday.

Libby Bishop and running mate Trip Foley received 52.7 percent of the vote, just enough to give them a 211-vote victory over Brian Moscona and Keri Oxley, who received 46.6 percent.

"You really realize how good the other candidates are. It could have gone either way," said Bishop.

The fact that Bishop is a female will shape her administration, she said, especially with the 30th anniversary of women being admitted to the University coming up in the fall.

"I think it will add to the gender relations viewpoint," said Bishop, whose mother was in the second class of females to attend Notre Dame.

"It's so funny that her experience was so different," Bishop said.

Both she and Foley said they plan to start work on their platform goals immediately.

"There's a lot of things I can do before April 1," Bishop said. In particular, she mentioned bringing new head football coach Tyrone Willingham to the dorms, as well as expanding Flex Point meal plan options.

"I'm just ready to get to work," Foley said. "I think Libby will do a great job.

Foley was out to dinner with his parents when election results.

**Charting new paths**

Cancer Center continues research with $2.1 million grant

By ANDREW THAGARD
Assistant News Editor

For an organization pioneering new methods to diagnose and treat cancer, the Walther Cancer Research Center calls little attention to itself within the Notre Dame community. The organization is spread out throughout campus, and because the Center has no central building, faculty members use their own laboratories for research.

"I don't think if you think of Notre Dame and the College of Science you think cancer research," said Rudolph Navari, current head of the Center for Transgene Research, the organization was established "in a small way" in 1995 with a 50,000-60,000 dollar grant from the Walther Cancer Institute of Indianapolis.

The Institute's grant was designed to establish a basis for an organization that would effectively seek research grants, like the one given by the Department of Defense.

"It's a bigger thing than I expected it to be," said Navari, who added that all preparations are essentially complete. "It's been a lot of fun, and I have a great group of people that I've been working with.

What does it mean for the Walther Cancer Research Center, according to Navari, is the close relationship researchers enjoy from the different academic departments.

**Parents arrive for 50th JPW**

By JOHN FANNING
News Writer

The 50th annual Junior Parents' Weekend officially begins at 9 p.m. tonight in the Joyce Center, and continues through Sunday afternoon. However, the weekend's upcoming events have been in planning with various campus groups since last April.

The group leading the effort is the JPW committee, which was formed last April when students applied for positions through Student Activities.

Chuck Lamphier was appointed chair of the group and has worked with a vice-chair and a committee of 17 other students since last spring, to facilitate the planning of all of the weekend's events.

"It's a bigger thing than I expected it to be," said Lamphier, who added that all preparations are essentially complete. "It's been a lot of fun, and I have a great group of people that I've been working with.

What does it mean for the Walther Cancer Research Center, according to Navari, is the close relationship researchers enjoy from the different academic departments.

**Welcome Junior Parents**

The Observer extends a warm welcome to all parents here for Junior Parents' Weekend. We hope you enjoy this weekend's events.

**Friday**

FEBRUARY 15, 2002

http://observer.nd.edu

The Independent Newspaper Serving Notre Dame and Saint Mary's

 VOL XXX NO. 90
**Journeys**

It all started on a chilly February weekend in 1977 in the Knoll Village of State College, Pennsylvania. Braving snow drifts several feet high, hundreds of guests witnessed an important event in my life that had to begin. Yes, on February 12, 1977, my parents, Walter and Kathie Kronk, were married. The coupling of my mother and father could not have been more coincidental. Introduced by mutual friends — my father co-worker to the husband, my mother co-worker to the wife —Mom and Dad hit it half off, and were married not far from my mother's hometown of Kutztown, Pa., within a year of being introduced.

Looking back, my parents are the definition of the term, "opposites attract." My mother, a rural girl, went to school at Penn State. My dad, a city boy, was born in New York City, and went to a rival Big Ten school in Ohio State. Somehow, someway, they made it work back then... South Bend?!

That's right, you heard me correctly. In hindsight, I truly believe that since they were married, my parents felt it was a greater priority to make their marriage strong, rather than the Notre Dame tradition known as Junior Parents Weekend, than to immediately jet off to some tropical paradise and sip exotic beverages with parasites in them.

While I think their priorities might have been a little misaligned, I appreciate the fact that my parents have at the very least postponed their anniversary voyage in order to first spend time with their son who has been along for 84 percent of their married journey. This, to me, is what makes JPW such a unique weekend. Each junior parent that visits campus this weekend has made some sort of journey in order to be able to make it here. My roommate's parents, for example, were visiting from the western end of South Bend from the polar climate of North Dakota. I'm sure I will hear some interesting stories about snow and hockey and all the things I've never experienced.

Everyone has made a unique journey to make it to South Bend here and now. And while none of these stories might be more meaningful than another, that does not render them any less personal. Each of our parents — as well as each of us — has a very personal, very special, very unique story to tell. And JPW is one of those few times our lives when these stories will be shared.

To all junior parents: welcome to Notre Dame, and welcome to Junior Parents' Weekend. I hope you enjoy your weekend here, and I hope the weather holds out this weekend. It's a little like it has for most of the winter. I also hope you get a chance to share your stories, as you all are the lifeblood of the Notre Dame family.

And, in closing, I would like to wish my parents a very happy 25th anniversary. I truly appreciate all you have done for me for the past 21 years. If anyone sees them on campus, with them a happy anniversary as well. I'm sure they will appreciate it... seeing as how I forgot about their anniversary and, consequently, this serves as their only gift. I hope you like it.

Contact Bryan Kronk at bkronk@nd.edu

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**This Week in Notre Dame/Saint Mary's History**

Non-voting halls postpone election results

Thurs., Feb. 13, 1997

Officials unexpectedly rendered student body election results incomplete after discovering that Keough and O'Neill hall residents hadn't voted. Presidential candidate Matt Griffin and running mate Erek Naas won the close, belated election the next day, capturing about 52 percent of the vote.

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**BECOME COLLEGE**

Syracuse graduate student TAs to establish union

Syracuse, N.Y.

A group of Syracuse University graduate student teaching assistants hopes to establish a union to bargaining collectively with the administration for improved compensation and working conditions, according to the TA organizing group said.

The students' goal is to form a union — United Graduate Employees — to give graduate assistants a collective voice that must be recognized in discussions with the university, said Butts. Students who are working as graduate assistants were given the option to join the United Graduate Employees, the group that formed the working committee.

The communications were about 20 graduate students in mid-January.

"People want to find ways to represent themselves collectively and come to be able to have discussions with the university about their conditions," Butts said. "As a union, you are legally able to sit down and bargain as partners in the arrangement."

UGE, which is affiliated with Service Employees International Union, hopes to distribute surveys to as many of the university's 3,600 graduate assistants as possible within the next month to understand the issues important to them and to gauge interest in unionization, said Menno Welling, a member of the UGE working committee and a second-year Anthropology doctoral student and TA.

The results of the survey will clarify what issues TAs are concerned about, but stipends, health care and working conditions are issues UGE is concerned about.

UGE has not yet contacted SU's administration, said Richard Drucker, an organizer with SEIU who is working with the TAs.

"We're hopeful that we can work cooperatively with the SU administration in moving this process along as quickly as we can," Drucker said.

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**Harvard University**

Faculty members tackle grade inflation

Cambridge, Mass.

Harvard University is about to enter a new phase in its battle against grade inflation. By Friday, all of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences' departments must report on their grading practices to the Educational Policy Committee, the body that advises the Faculty on most curricular matters. The department's reports will inform the EPC's discussion this spring of how to best bring grades down from their lofty heights. By the end of the spring, the committee hopes to present the faculty with concrete proposals for addressing the problem.

The reports are the result of a recommendation made by the Undergraduate Council in June. The council asked the EPC, a chip off the old block, to address the issue as quickly as possible.

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**George Washington University**

INS delays possible GWU student

Washington

A man identified as a possible George Washington University University student was arrested Monday night at the Pentagon for falsely identifying himself and is being held for immigration violations, according to court records.

The man, whose United Arab Emirates passport identifies him as 23-year-old Sultan Rashed Sultan Alzababi, was arrested Monday night at the Pentagon on Monday night, according to a court affidavit. The driver of the truck, identified as Iman Abul-Fattah Hamed, was also arrested and is being held without bond. Alzababi and Hamed carried several forms of false identification and were taken into custody after Virginia state troopers arrested them for driving on Route 110, which runs east of the Pentagon. Trucks have been prohibited there since Sept. 11, according to the affidavit.

The affidavit reads: "Hamed said he was the passenger at the Northern Virginia Community College, although the passenger was now at George Washington University."

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**Local Weather**

5 Day South Bend Forecast

ACE/WEATHER forecast for spring conditions and high temperatures

- Saturday 40° 27°
- Sunday 37° 21°
- Monday 40° 29°
- Tuesday 41° 29°
- Wednesday 42° 25°

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**NATIONAL WEATHER**

The Accuweather.com forecast for noon, Friday, Feb. 15

- Chicago 42° 29°
- Atlanta 50° 36°
- Las Vegas 60° 37°
- Philadelphia 50° 38°
- New York 44° 33°
- Portland 44° 24°
- Washington, D.C. 48° 34°
- Los Angeles 64° 39°
- Boston 52° 40°
- Minneapolis 51° 34°
- Charlotte 54° 41°
- Miami 84° 71°
- Honolulu 78° 61°
- St. Louis 52° 39°
- San Antonio 63° 47°
- Sacramento 61° 43°

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- Indianapolis 40° 27°
- Des Moines 38° 24°
- Charleston 56° 41°
- Cleveland 49° 36°
- Phoenix 73° 56°
- Dallas 60° 43°
- Detroit 45° 30°
- Denver 42° 29°
- Miami 85° 73°
- Kansas City 46° 32°
- Seattle 52° 41°
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**HCA celebrates 25 years of service**

By LIZ KAHLING

News Writer

This fall's Holy Cross Associates will be the 25th group of post-graduate students to embark on the year-long service program. It began with five volunteers in Portland, Ore., and one in Chile. The program now has expanded to six more domestic sites in Phoenix, Ariz.; Coachella, Calif.; Colorado Springs, Colo.; South Bend; Brockton, Mass.; and Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

The anniversary celebration begins in August with reunions in Portland, Chicago, New York and Washington with the program's more than 700 alumni. The administration is also hoping to compile a book of letters and correspondences as a written history of the program and its people.

The planning is still in the works, but this year's accepted associates should expect even more excitement in anticipation of their future experience as well as the celebration of the tradition of this post-graduate service program.

The tradition of HCA strikes a timely national chord in light of President Bush's State of the Union Address, calling for more volunteer corps to rebuild communities, mentor children and teach in troubled schools — much of what the associates have been doing for years. HCA continues to be a model for other faith-based volunteer services, providing training and development.

"We are focused on how we can connect with other programs that will benefit all service programs," said Rebecca Go, South Bend assistant director.

John Pinter, the South Bend director, said, "The anniversary celebration is kind of an indirect form of recruiting by example of what people have gone on to do.

Pinter explained that HCA provides recently graduated students a chance to discern how to use their talents as students in service and a way to test their skills.

"Some people say it's a year off, but it's really a 'year-on,' focusing on your God-given strengths and applying yourself," he said.

Alumni, according to the director, continue to draw from their experiences and find different ways of reconnecting with the program's four pillars: commitment to service, community, living a simple lifestyle, and spirituality.

Although additional sites have been added, officials do not foresee any future sites in the immediate future. The idea is to be big enough for plenty of options in sites and jobs but not so big that the associates would not get to know the other 40 associates, according to administrators.

The process of establishing another site can be slow. "It takes money and the local community has to be ready for it, as opposed to us saying 'we'd like to send some people to you,'" Pinter said. "There needs to be some pull from the community."

Contact Liz Kahling at ekahling@nd.edu.

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**Love, the Flat 17 girls**

**Happy Birthday, Jamie!**

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-Jana, Steph and Kim

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**NOMATON**

**HABITAT**

**JEBER JOHNSON**

**THEORY**

**LILY FLATTER**

**FRANKE B**

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**CAMPUS NEWS**

**By LIZ KAHLING**

News Writer

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Contact Liz Kahling at ekahling@nd.edu.
Bob Jones U. seeks minorities

Associated Press

GREENVILLE, S.C. Bob Jones University, the fundamentalist Christian school that banned interracial dating ban up until two years ago, is recruiting minorities in hopes of shaking its racist image.

More than 40 minority students have applied for aid through two new funds that are sponsored by private donations, and nine have won scholarships so far, school spokesman Jonathan Pait said Thursday.

The university first admitted black students after the IRS moved to revoke its tax-exempt status in 1970, citing discrimination. The school said that is has few blacks but no precise figures on its racial makeup.

Pait said the scholarships reflect a growing interest by blacks in the 4,200-student school.

"Another reason is that we're so often pointed out as being so racist," he said. "We wanted to take a stab, at least, to overcome that stereotype."

That task will be tough, said Bill Whitney, president of the Urban League of the Upstate.

"This is an institution that hasn't been friendly to blacks," he said.

The school was thrust into the national spotlight when George W. Bush stopped there during his presidential campaign two years ago.

Bush was criticized for not addressing the school's ban on interracial dating and statements by Jones that were perceived as anti-Catholic and anti-Mormon.

In the wake of the criticism, Bob Jones III, president of the university founded by his grandfather 75 years ago, announced that the school would drop its ban on interracial dating.

University President Father Edward Malloy poses with senior Robert LeBlanc and second year law student Susan Prchal earlier this week. LeBlanc and Prchal were recipients of the University of Notre Dame Alumni Association Distinguished Student/Graduate Student awards.

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Recycle The Observer.
Thursday. Mark Yagalla, 24, was given nearly sentenced to more than five years behind bars when a bomb went off next to a tank in the Gaza Strip, Israeli military officials said. Palestinians opened fire on a civilian convoy guarded by soldiers and set off a bomb, the officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity. The Israelis sent a tank into the area and a huge bomb exploded under it.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Pointdexter returns to Pentagon: Retired Adm. John Poindexter, who was President Reagan's national security adviser during the Iran-Contra affair, is directing a new Pentagon office that will focus on new kinds of military threats, including terrorist organizations. Poindexter became head of the Information Awareness Office last month. The office is one of two created recently by the Pentagon's Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency.

Prison for investment adviser: An investment adviser who stole $50 million of his clients' money and lavished it on car, oil wells and a Playboy-centerfold girlfriend was sentenced to more than five years behind bars Thursday. Mark Yagalla, 24, was given nearly sentenced to more than five years behind bars when a bomb went off next to a tank in the Gaza Strip, Israeli military officials said. Palestinians opened fire on a civilian convoy guarded by soldiers and set off a bomb, the officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity. The Israelis sent a tank into the area and a huge bomb exploded under it.

INDIANA NEWS BRIEFS

LCEOC under investigation: A U.S. attorney has begun a preliminary investigation into a nonprofit Hamilton agency that handles millions of dollars a year in state and federal funds, to assist disabled, elderly and low-income residents in six northwest Indiana counties. "We're just looking at the thing to see if there is any basis to believe there's any criminal conduct," U.S. Attorney Joseph Van Bokkelen said Wednesday: "At this point we have no position on that." They are investigating LCEOC Inc., formerly the Lake County Economic Opportunity Council Inc.

Bahrain King sets up election: Bahraini's ruler declared his tiny Persian Gulf state a constitutional monarchy on Thursday and set legislative elections this year in bold steps toward bringing more democracy to the oil-rich region. Sheikh Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, 49, gave his royal assent to constitutional amendments that create a bicameral legislature.

3 Israelis killed in Gaza bombing: Three Israelis were killed and two wounded Thursday when a bomb went off next to a tank in the Gaza Strip, Israeli military officials said. Palestinians opened fire on a civilian convoy guarded by soldiers and set off a bomb, the officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity. The Israelis sent a tank into the area and a huge bomb exploded under it.

Teams search plane crash site

Associated Press

KEY-MIRZAVAN

Helped by clear weather, search teams began the grim task of retrieving the bodies of the more than 100 people killed when their Iranian airliner crashed into a snow-covered mountain.

An army helicopter carrying five or six bodies in a metal box hanging from a rope landed at Lorestan army base on Thursday. Many of the bodies were dismembered or mutilated.

The helicopter made two trips before darkness set in, each time being greeted on arrival by waiting relatives who beat their heads in grief.

Some were allowed inside the base to identify the victims.

"I couldn't identify anyone. All the bodies are figured beyond recognition," said an emotional Moseud Hashemi, whose brother, sister-in-law and their child were among the passengers.

Up to 12 bodies were brought to the base from the crash site.

The official Islamic Republic News Agency revised the number of people aboard the Russian-made Tu-154 airliner that crashed Tuesday to 107 passengers and 12 crew. Earlier reports had put the number of people to 117. All were presumed dead.

Ali-Reza Towhidli, head of state-run Iran Air Tours, which operated the plane, said the company was taking all 12 Tupolev aircraft in its fleet out of service, IRNA reported.

As the weather cleared for the first time since the plane crashed early Tuesday outside Khorraramabad, about 230 miles southwest of the Iranian capital of Tehran, a few helicopters took off for the foggy reaches of the Sefid Khou mountain where dozens of bodies have been spotted in the snow.

At a makeshift base at the foot of the mountain, trucks rolled in with dozens of coffins to transport the victim's remains.

Col. Heydar Paknejad, one of the helicopter pilots, cautioned that strong winds would make more flights impossible, IRNA quoted him as saying. "We have tried to reach the site several times by air, only to be forced to return by bad weather. Climbers trying to reach the site suffered broken bones."
Cancer
continued from page 1

Researchers from the University's departments of Chemistry, Biochemistry and Biology collaborate on research focusing on four main programs. These programs include a transgene group led by Castellino, a cell biology group and a drug design group led by Paul Helquist. The groups include faculty from the three departments and may work on different aspects of the same research project. Even the laboratories used for the Center's research are spread out around campus. "Many times people will work in their own labs independently," Navari said. "We think that for cancer research (if people) work together, more progress will be made in a shorter period of time."

This spirit of collaboration, however, doesn't stop within University departments. The Center also works with Purdue's school of pharmacy in drug development and with Indiana University and Michigan University on product testing. In addition, IU medical students studying at the Notre Dame branch have the option of earning a dual M.D./Ph.D. through both schools and research opportunities through the Center.

The organization also selects a limited number of Notre Dame undergraduate researchers and the Center for Transgene Research recruits students from German and Canadian universities for undergraduate assistant positions.

The road to drug development

Researchers from the Drug Design Group are busy studying compounds that affect cancer cells and may be used in diagnosis and treatment.

Currently, the group is working with antigens that are capable of binding to the outer membrane of prostate cancer cells. The antigen binds to a specific protein present only in the prostate cancer cell—then just sits there. The research team used software to create models of the molecules in computational chemistry. Then, these molecules were created in the lab and tested on tissue cultures. Soon, the team hopes to begin testing on animals.

The antigen acts as what Helquist calls a "biological scaffold," and could lead to earlier cancer detection or prevent existing cancerous cells from spreading to other parts of the body.

The group is also looking into ways in which the antigens could serve as a target for cancer drugs, localizing treatment and minimizing damage to healthy parts of the body.

"One of the problems with conventional cancer treatment is that the drugs involved are very toxic. The drugs are not selective—they affect cancer cells and normal cells," Helquist said. "One can use these molecules to deliver a drug specifically to the site of cancer."

This antigen is just one of many compounds the Drug Design Group is investigating. Researchers also check scientific journals in search of newly discovered compounds that may affect cancer. If one of the compounds appears promising, Notre Dame researchers may take it on as a project.

For example, Richard Taylor, a chemistry and biochemistry professor, is working with a compound that is capable of inducing apoptosis—programmed cell death—in cancer cells. The compound may eventually be converted into a drug capable of suppressing cancer growth.

Drug development is a slow process, however. It takes on average 12 to 15 years for the evolution of new drugs, according to Helquist.

A cellular approach

Across campus, researchers in the cell biology group are using cell cultures to look at movement of cancer cells. According to Crislyn D’Souza-Schorey, a Walther Cancer Institute assistant professor, the team is studying how cells detach from a tumor and spread. The group is also looking at how cellular movement is regulated.

"We’re looking at not just the invasive process but also what leads to it," D’Souza-Schorey said.

It’s all in the genes

M e a n w h i l e, researchers from the transgene group are taking a genetic perspective, studying how removing, changing or adding genes in a mouse chromosome will affect cancer.

The group is especially interested in genes involving blood clotting and anticoagulation because of their association with cancer.

"We want to find out what genes are up regulated or down regulated when you proceed from a benign state to a cancer state," Castellino said.

Approximately 50 people work in the transgene group—including a support staff of veterinary technicians and animal surgeons who watch over the Center's 5,000 experimental mice. The group conducts experiments with the special transgenic mice and detects the effects of gene alterations using 500 chips. An average experiment requires six different animal strains used for the Center's research project. Even the laboratory used for the Center's research are spread out around campus.

The big advances in cancer research (in the next five years) are going to come from the laboratory," the researcher and practicing oncologist said.

Contact Andrew Thagard at athagard@nd.edu
When the Student Senate voted down a proposal Wednesday to increase student activity fees, it made the wrong decision. The senate should have granted the $10 increase for the upcoming school year, but have been cautious about subsequent biannual $5 increases.

The resolution called for a $10 increase this year and $5 every two years after that. A $10 jump now is very reasonable; however, that is where it needs to end for the time being. By paying more attention to where the money is going, additional fees may not be necessary for the Student Activities Office.

The way the student activities budget functions now, large amounts of money are put into activities sponsored by the Student Union Board and office of the student body president that very few students attend. An evaluative process would prove to be more beneficial to students and members of the university. A vote based on student present and money spent is in order.

Letters to the Editor

"Monologues" promote freedom

Embrace femininity

My letter is in response to Sean Dudley's letter on Feb. 14. I guess it has to happen every so often that someone decides he or she must change the University with a letter to The Observer.

Yesterday, Mr. Dudley chose to do this with an attack on the "Vagina Monologues." My letter is not intended to oppose views, even embraced the arguments that they presented, or to judge whether what Mr. Dudley would do.

See, in order for one to truly understand one's own views he must also understand those of this "opponent." Mr. Dudley does not seem to realize that "academic freedom" and "open-mindedness" I already understand his issues with the "Monologues," but I am really confused with what is wrong with academic freedom and open-mindedness. I guess we could make this University a sheltered heaven in which we can all share identical views of Christianity. We could, but we won't.

Mr. Dudley does not seem to understand that without various views, one does not learn, but rather just regurgitates a single person's thoughts.

I have recently read Chesterton's novel, "The Ball and the Cross," I suspect we may even be in the same class, and I have to say that I believe my worthy opponent is in error. He really does not qualify the quotation and I am also left wondering if he wishes to challenge the writers and performers of the "Monologues" to a mortal duel. Chesterton was an avid proponent of Catholicism, but he listened to opposing views, even embraced the arguments that they presented, or to judge whether what Mr. Dudley would do.

In order for one to truly understand one's own views he must also understand those of this "opponent." Mr. Dudley does not seem to realize that "academic freedom" and "open-mindedness" is what make Notre Dame a great place. All philosophies should be welcomed here, including atheism and lesbianism as well as other philosophies with which he does not agree. Understanding is listening, and apparently some do not value the latter as others do. I do not even wish to challenge his views on the offensive nature, as Mr. Dudley just does not seem open to anything. He is obviously an avid Catholic and cannot bear to hear anything said against Catholic doctrine. On that note, I would appeal to the University to continue its approach towards a diverse education and to even take greater strides to diversify Our Lady's University.

Dan Tyuya superviso Scion Hall Feb. 14, 2002

Molly McShane

The Observer Online

Visit our Web site at observer.nd.edu for daily updates of campus news, features and opinion columns, as well as comics, reviews and breaking news from the Associated Press.

POLICIES

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SUNDAY☆14☆PM

Editorial

Letters to the Editor

"Monologues" promote freedom

Embrace femininity

I would like to respond to Sean Dudley's letter concerning the vulgarity of the "Vagina Monologues." First, a small disclaimer. As luck would have it I know the author of said letter and therefore do not wish to condemn his intentions because I believe they were good. I must, however, strongly disagree.

If I had to pick one word to describe Eve Ensler's play, which I have read and read many times it would be "empowering." Women discussing their vaginas, learning about their vaginas, loving their vaginas and so on, is not disgusting or rude. On the contrary, it is extremely important.

I'm not a psychology major, but I think one can make a connection between the epidemic of low self-esteem among females and the taboo surrounding their genitalia. Why is it that words like "cunt" and "pussy" are designated as vulgarity, while "wang" and "schlong" are accepted and common? Why are girls raised to be quiet and embarrassed about a part of their body while the other half of the population copulates the sizes of theirs? It's not fair. No one asked for their vaginas. The least they can do is be proud of it.

As for religion, there is no reference to it in the Monologues. The play cannot be compared to dung on a statue of the Virgin Mary when there is nothing similar to dung or the Virgin Mary in the play. Where the story of the young girl and the 24-year-old woman is concerned, there is no question that it is a little scandalous. However, nothing about it is "violent," and after one hears the story from the girl's first hand through the monologue, the age difference question is lost in the beauty of her own self-realization.

I'm a Catholic. I'm in the "Monologues," and I would be lying if I said that some parts didn't make me a little uncomfortable. But I embrace those feelings and consider them a challenge. I push myself not to be ashamed of how God made me.
JPW continued from page 1

hard work and preparation involving not only the JPW committee, but also the staff of the Joyce Center, Catering by Design and the Center for Continuing Education, among many others.

According to Lamphier, all three groups have been extremely helpful. The CCE was hired to handle all of the registration for the event. The staff members of the Joyce Center will be doing all of the setting up and taking down of the approximately 475 tables that will be used to seat the almost 4,000 participants.

Moreover, as a result of the high attendance for this year’s event, Catering by Design, a campus department responsible for providing all of the food for the upcoming weekend, has been extremely busy. According to Lisa Wenzel of Catering by Design, the group has been preparing since September, using both dining halls and the food service reserve space to get ready for the weekend. In fact, even the Morris Inn has been involved, hosting a lottery through the JPW committee in order to fairly distribute its much desired rooms to the parents coming in for the weekend.

Overall, the weekend, which is themed “Love Thee Notre Dame,” should be a great time for everyone involved. All the events take their name from the Alma Mater, with the gala on Friday entitled “Gleams Thy Gold and Blue” celebrating Notre Dame’s past. The biggest event is the “Golden is Thy Fame” dinner on Saturday night, which focuses on Notre Dame’s present, and the accomplishments of its current students. Finally, the “Our Hearts Forever” brunch on Sunday is a kind of send-off for the parents, and features speakers looking forward to the future of Notre Dame.

As a result of the work of so many members of the Notre Dame community, it seems almost inevitable that JPW will be a huge success, as it has been for the last fifty years. Or in the words of Junior Class President Matt Smith, it will continue to be, “One of those traditions that just makes sense.”

Contact John Fanning at John.R.Fanning.11@nd.edu.

Election continued from page 1

said he will work with them to ensure a smooth transition.

“We’ll do everything we can to help Libby and Trip transition into office,” he said. Moscona added that he and Oxley, sophomore class president, are grateful to their supporters and the effort they gave to the campaign.

Although neither Moscona nor Oxley have plans for when their terms end, each said they remain committed to working for students.

“Our love for this University and our working to serve the student body will in no way end,” Oxley said. “We’ll continue until we graduate.”

Contact Erin LaRuffa at elaruffa@nd.edu.

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By C. SPENCER BEGGS

The campus spotlight doesn’t always illuminate the real show that goes into a show. Actors are not the only people who produce a show. Some of the hardest work in any production is completed before a show even starts. Writers and directors must decide how the show will be presented and what it will say long before the first line crosses an actor’s lips. Unfortunately, students are often removed from this creative process; most campus shows involve a complete professional script or director.

But the seven-one-act plays presented in the Department of Film, Television and Theatre’s “New Playwrights Workshop 2002” are all written, directed, produced and performed by students. The authors of the shows participated in the FTT 321: Playwriting and Screenwriting class last semester, but the directors, stage managers and actors come from other campus performing arts groups. In fact, the show will be the Notre Dame premiere of some of the actors. Although each show is credited with a writer and a director, the two positions collaborated on the shows.

“In the New Playwrights Workshop 2002,” the playwrights would be at the rehearsal. There was a lot of changing and reworking of the scripts,” Meg Ryan, one of the directors, said.

Ryan, who directed senior Kelly Hart’s play “Love Hurts,” often had Hart attend rehearsal to help shape the show. Ryan found the process to be productive, especially for a show that was partially based on Hart’s real life.

“Love Hurts” is a romantic comedy about college students dealing with a long distance relationship (or breakup as the case may be). The dialogue-heavy show was particularly difficult for the group to get a handle on because both Ryan and Hart were involved in the theatre process during the two-week rehearsal process.

But Ryan thinks that the entire process was worth it because of the benefits it gives to the theatre community at Notre Dame, especially because of the “New Playwrights Workshop 2002” highlights some more unknown aspects of theatre production.

“The New Playwrights Workshop 2002” is important because it gets to showcase some of the talents of the theatre majors here other than acting and design.”

Meg Ryan
Workshop director

Two of Williams’ actors have never been in a play at Notre Dame before; in fact, one has never done any theatre at all. “Lindrive to Right,” a commentary on the teachings of organized religion on justice and forgiveness, is certainly a large undertaking for a first play.

The short rehearsal process made the groups producing each show develop their characters and concepts quickly. With the rewriting that the directors and writers did, a polished product didn’t develop until the night before opening. Williams and Horner actually went back and choose a different draft of the script than the one that had been submitted to the class to better convey the meaning.

“It’s definitely different directing a student-written show because you can work directly with the writer … if you find something that doesn’t work you can rewrite it, but there’s a lot you can play with,” Williams said.

The plays in the “New Playwrights Workshop 2002” run from serious pieces like senior Bab Smith’s play "So Far Gone" to irreverent satire like sophomore Chris Sandrock’s “The Moral Tale of Everyvstudent.”

Smith’s play, directed by junior Bill Kalman, deals with the effects of alcoholism on a family. She feels that the psychoanalytic show reflects aspects of both the Notre Dame campus and many students’ family lives.

“I think the issue of alcoholism is a really important issue on this campus especially for children of alcoholics or people with alcoholism in their family. And it’s not really dealt with on this campus,” Smith said.

“So Far Gone” features familiar campus theatre faces like junior Monica Kershner and sophomores Sean Nelson and Cheryl Turski. The piece features a flashback convention in which the play takes place in two time periods at once for dramatic effect.

Another drama, senior Suzanne Dietman’s “Dance is Life,” delves into the thought process of perfectionism: a theme reminiscent of over-achieving and over-stressed Notre Dame students’ personal dramas.

On the other hand, “The Moral Tale of Everyvstudent” satirizes the Notre Dame campus and its traditions. The show is the story of Everyvstudent (played by freshmen Steve Hoepfinger), the student hero, and his battle against the nemesis of Phil Smirk (played by sophomore Mike Roman), a daemon sent by God (played by sophomore Adel Hanash) to order the campus.

Overall, the shows have been a learning experience for the group.

“Especially for theatre majors considering a career in writing, it’s important to see your work expressed on stage because it looks so different on paper … it can get so manipulated going from the paper to the stage,” Williams said.

The “New Playwrights Workshop 2002” will be presented in two sections. The first section with the plays “Solitaire,” “Dance is Life,” “Love Hurts” and “So Far Gone” were presented yesterday and last Wednesday. The second set of shows that is comprised of “Going Away,” “Lindrive to Right” and “The Moral Tale of Everyvstudent” will be presented in the Lab Theatre in Washington Hall at 7:00 p.m. tonight and tomorrow night. Admission is free.
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A tale of two Notre Dame parents

For last year’s Junior Parents’ Weekend, I urged students to appreciate the weekend since they are about to share with their parents and classmates. I recalled how I, as the coordinator of my JPP, had little time for my family.

I let slip away an opportunity to share my family with my classmates and their parents. All of those are the title of my study, family on campus.

Our Church and our nation are strongest when we empower our diversity. The coexistence of Bible-thumping fundamentalists with “Californian Catholics” enriches our faith. Until the Sept. 11 attacks, Democrats and Republicans were last congruent “loyal opponents” prior to 1994. In light of Sept. 11, those of us in middle-aged people who are set in our ways should reflect on how we can learn to better tolerate and appreciate the diversity that makes us the renowned American or the failed Notre Dame family.

This parent’s weekend, I tell a tale of two Notre Dame parents — a father whose son graduated from Notre Dame and a mother whose two children currently attend the University. Each has read this column and communicated with me regarding it.

In, at last, turn any word to the nite and nitey comments. Below are excerpts from each that are as opportune in tone as can be charted.

Having seen that I worked for President Clinton, the man replied like a “freep-er,” saying I was not aware of the Internet or the so-called free lib. sites to respond on mass like the old “moral majority” did with their letter writing campaigns. My Dec. 7, 2001, column cited the horrors of war from my father’s World War II service and the manner in which we set forth. I was trying to bring some reality to the students on campus who have no idea what war and suffering and death is... unlike my generation that faced going to Vietnam.

"Why not re-read my column without your emotion and see if the lines between which you have read are not exactly the same ones I intended for the readers?"

He then e-mailed me, “I re-read your column without emotion, and you’re even further off-base than I originally thought. What really frightens me, almost more than bin Laden, is that you have access to some very intelligent, fertile minds. Carsus, he, his sermons, and his writings had on me for the past 20 years.

"When I read of his passing, I was quite upset over the loss of him for the fall generation’s past. I had let a moment slip away that could never be recaptured.”

When my sister, also a Notre Dame graduate, and I cited Web sites that offered counsel on not joining the view, “Don’t say anything about your column or your professor or two. I did not have the courage to tell him what an influence he had had over me... I had often thought about him and considered him one of the people at Notre Dame who had the most impact on me as a person, along with my roommates, a few friends and a professor or two. I did not have the courage to tell him what an influence he had on me, his sermons, and his writings had on me for the past 20 years.

"When I read of his passing, I was quite upset over the loss of him for the fall generation’s past. I had let a moment slip away that could never be recaptured.”

"You can’t legislate a president and overjoyed I am that my children are attending Notre Dame and loving every minute of their experiences. I feel I should still be a student. I do not have clear, sharp memories. I know I enjoyed myself, studied hard, made great friendships that have endured, but my mind is fuzzy on real recollections. I am trying to instill in my children to treasure each and every day, the good and the bad. The beautiful moments and the low and fee, for they’ll be moving on before they know it.

"She concluded, “All in all, I have been blessed and I certainly attribute a lot of my blessings to Notre Dame and what it gave me — intellectually, personally, emotionally and spiritually.”

We can attribute that to diversity and tolerance.

Gary J. Caruso, a 1973 graduate of Notre Dame, served in President Clinton’s administration as a Congressional and Public Affairs Director. His column appears every other Friday, and his e-mail address is Hotline@aol.com.

The referenced comments in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

Increase in activity fees would benefit students

Wednesday night we attended the Student Activity Fee Budget Forum, and his e-mail address is Hottline@aol.com.

I would like to use this forum to present our case. Simply put, we deal with limited resources and increased expenses. As we all know, a dollar doesn’t buy much these days, much as a dollar did four years ago, the last time the Student Activity Fee was increased. Maintaining the same level of programming and student services year to year has become increasingly more difficult.

For example, the cost of bringing a speaker or musician to campus has increased dramatically over the past several years. Additionally, general operating costs have increased each year, while the amount of money available has remained relatively stable. Only $600,000 was available for allocation, however, to the Student Union is comprised of the Senate, Executive Cabinet, Office of the Treasurer, nd, Judicial Council, Office of the Treasurer, Financial Management Board, Hall Presidents Council, Club Coordination Council, all four Class Councils, off-Campus Clubs and clubs and organizations. This money must come from Student Fee and some administrative salaries. Even a slight increase in the Student Activity Fee would result in more programming and better services for students. The limited resources of the Student Union also have a direct effect on the 75 percent of undergraduates who participate in a club during their four years. As costs rise, clubs are forced to either cut activities or require their members to pay for expenses out of their own pockets.

For instance, theExperimental Learning Council has been forced to cancel some of its popular seminar service trips and several clubs charge annual dues of over $100. An increase in Student Activity Fees would help clubs maintain their current levels of activity and would encourage future growth.

In comparison to our current $65 fee, students at St. Mary’s pay a $150 student activity fee. Even with the tuition paid by Notre Dame students would pay twice the fee. We firmly believe that the student activity fee should be increased to account for inflation — permitting the Student Union to maintain the status quo and benefit all students.

One of the hallmarks of the Notre Dame family is its exceptional commitment to active community involvement. Our hopes in writing this letter are to bring light to this issue as well as to foster dialogues between students and their senators on this issue. We are committed to providing high quality services for students. From... and with our knowledge of the Student Union finances, we feel that only with adequate funding will the Student Union be able to continue its current level of activities.

Audra Hagan
Controller, Office of the Student Body President
John Hagan
Senior
Amy O’Connor
Club Coordinator - Electronics
Jennifer Wolfe
Student Union Treasurer
Chairperson, Financial Management Board

Feb. 13, 2002

ATTACKING THE STATE OF THE UNION

This letter is in response to Mike Marshand’s Feb. 11 column. President Bush did not shine with his State of the Union Address. He basked in the glow of a nation eager to rally behind his leader. There was no "plain-spoken eloquence." The nation has not heard rhetoric like his since Reagan. He is not “more of a lightweight” who makes that point clear every time he opens his mouth.

President Bush repeatedly returned to his patriotic rallying cry throughout the speech, not going into detail about domestic policy. His policies do not work for “America’s hardworking families.” There was no “bold, visionary changes for both the immediate and the long-term future of the country.” There was no “plain-spoken eloquence.” There was no “bold, visionary changes for both the immediate and the long-term future of the country.”

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Gina Cara
senior
off-campus
Feb. 13, 2002
One Final Shot
Title: Irish look to rebound in crucial Big East games

By ANDREW SOUKUP  
Associate Sports Editor

Call it a tale of two teams heading in very different directions.

When Notre Dame lost to Syracuse a month ago, the Irish couldn't find their shot and the Orangemen were ranked No. 7 in the nation. The loss propelled the Irish to a three-game losing streak.

Then Notre Dame's fortune changed and the Irish reeled off five consecutive wins before losing Thursday night to the Orangemen. The Irish, on the other hand, lost five of their next seven and tumbled out of the Top 25.

On Sunday, these two teams will meet in a game that has tremendous implications on Big East play.

"We've been a group who's had to work for everything," coach Mike Brey said. "It worked last year and so far it's working this year.

The Irish have the ability to control their own destiny in the Big East. At 7-4 in Big East play, Notre Dame is tied for second place in the West Division with the Orangemen. It is the best record the Irish have played last year and so far it's played the Irish, lost four of their last five after a 5-0 record the last time they played the Orangemen.

Boeheim changed the style of play in the West Division before the Irish would win the conference because they beat the Panthers twice this year.

Meanwhile, the Orangemen, who led the West Division with a 5-0 record the last time they played the Irish, lost four of their last five in the West Division before tying the Irish 56-51 in their last game.

But just because Syracuse is on a three-game losing streak doesn't mean the team is any less dangerous. The Orangemen edged the Irish 56-51 back in Jan.

14, their 2-3 zone defense caused major problems for Notre Dame's perimeter shooting trio of David Graves, Matt Carroll and Chris Thomas. The three only scored a combined 19 points in that game and shot just 5-for-24 from 3-point range.

A few weeks ago, Brey told Thomas that in order for Notre Dame to be more successful on offense, the freshman point guard needed to drive the ball to the basket more. Whether Thomas can penetrate into the lane against the Orangemen will be an important factor in breaking Syracuse's zone defense.

"Brey told me to push the ball more," said Thomas, who was named Sports Illustrated's Big East Player of the Week this week. "We have to get our speed up and going because he knows we have fun when we run and he knows that we have a great offense when we run.

Notre Dame will also have to shut down Syracuse's offense, which relies on Preston Shumpert, DeShaun Williams and Kueth Duany. The trio typically score two-thirds of Syracuse's points in any given game.

The only reason the Irish stayed close to Syracuse last game was because the Irish were able to get the ball to Ryan Humphrey. The senior forward was the only player to score in double figures against the Orangemen, finishing with 28 points.

With the NCAA Tournament looming, Brey doesn't believe his team will change its focus, even though they are considered a virtual lock for the NCAA Tournament.

"We've been a group who's had to work for everything," Brey said. "We started out the season not ranked as a team and fourth in the division. We've really had to earn everything we've gotten so far.

Contact Andrew Soukup at asoukup@nd.edu.

COACHING

When the Irish fall behind, they don't lose their poise. That testament to Brey's style of coaching. Helets his players play and doesn't worry about controlling small things. If the Irish struggle early, he won't call a time out.

When Notre Dame played much more aggressively during its five-game winning streak, Rebounding and defense have been the keys to the Irish. When their defense is rolling, they can't be beat.

Syracuse uses the 2-3 zone defense almost exclusively. The Orangemen also have the ability to stretch their defense out to the perimeter to cut down on long-range shots. They usually score from the perimeter.

Syracuse must stop Humphrey by forcing him to shoot from around jumpers. If he can get his hand on the floor and drive to the basket, he'll dominate the game. Unlike these two teams meet, Humphrey had 28 points.

A month ago, the Irish powered Williams closely, but Duany hurt them big time. The Irish also played well against the zone — no player other than Humphrey scored more than eight points. They can't allow that to happen again.

The Observer • IRISH INSIDER

Friday, February 15, 2002

David Graves, leaping, and Matt Carroll watch the ball fly out of bounds during the first half of Notre Dame's win against Pittsburgh last year. Notre Dame had a five-game winning streak snapped Thursday night at Rutgers.

David Graves, leaping, and Matt Carroll watch the ball fly out of bounds during the first half of Notre Dame's win against Pittsburgh last year. Notre Dame had a five-game winning streak snapped Thursday night at Rutgers.

The game won't be decided by the players on the bench. The top four players for each team are averaging over 30 minutes a game, essentially a gut-it-out contest for both teams.
Senior captain Humphrey has no problem filling the big shoes of a vocal leader

By KERRY SMITH

The white adidas sneakers Ryan Humphrey wears on the basketball court tell much about where the senior captain comes from and where he wants to go.

This dedication on the court shows his love for the sport he has played most of his life, his shoes show that his personality runs much deeper.

Inked in royal blue on the outside of his left high-top, read the initials “MAH” and Bible citation Romans 8:28.

Humphrey wrote the initials, a reference to his mother Melodi Ann Humphrey, on his sneakers to remind him of the person she has become.

“My mom is very important to me,” Humphrey said. “She is the person I get who I am from. It also serves as a reminder to me to forever remember her.”

That reminder is just as important as the maxim Humphrey has chosen to model himself on. Romans 8:28 reads, “But we know that in everything God works for good, with those who love him, who are called according to his purpose.”

“Romans 8:28 is something I always take with me,” he said. “It’s something I want to live my life by.”

The references on Humphrey’s sneakers form the bedrock of his character: family and faith.

“Being that my father is a minister, that is very important to him,” Humphrey’s twin sister Robyn said. “Being close and committed to God has always been important.”

Family and faith have provided the senior forward during his college career—a five-year journey that has taken Humphrey from Indiana to Oklahoma, through three coaching regimes and many role changes on and off the court.

The Tulsa native began his career at Oral Roberts, making an immediate impact for the Pioneer squad in his freshman season, the McDonald’s and Parade-All-American still earned a spot on the 1997-1998 Big 12 All-Freshman roster.

During his sophomore season, Humphrey continued to make strides, helping his team to a Sweet 16 berth in the NCAA tournament.

But despite his early successes, Humphrey needed a change after he decided to transfer to Oklahoma.

“Transferring was tough, but I made that choice and took that on myself,” Humphrey said, who transferred being a vocal leader in Oklahoma. It was nothing personal with my coach or the team at ORU.”

Humphrey had been recruited out of high school by Oral Roberts assistant coach Matt Doherty, so when Doherty took over the Oral Roberts program, Humphrey decided to make the transfer to Oklahoma.

While his dedication on the court shows his love for the sport he has played most of his life, his shoes show that his personality runs much deeper.

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The references on Humphrey’s sneakers form the bedrock of his character: family and faith.

“Being that my father is a minister, that is very important to him,” Humphrey’s twin sister Robyn said. “Being close and committed to God has always been important.”

Family and faith have provided the senior forward during his college career—a five-year journey that has taken Humphrey from Indiana to Oklahoma, through three coaching regimes and many role changes on and off the court.

The Tulsa native began his career at Oral Roberts, making an immediate impact for the Pioneer squad in his freshman season, the McDonald’s and Parade-All-American still earned a spot on the 1997-1998 Big 12 All-Freshman roster.

During his sophomore season, Humphrey continued to make strides, helping his team to a Sweet 16 berth in the NCAA tournament.

But despite his early successes, Humphrey needed a change after he decided to transfer to Oklahoma.

“Transferring was tough, but I made that choice and took that on myself,” Humphrey said, who transferred being a vocal leader in Oklahoma. It was nothing personal with my coach or the team at ORU.”

Humphrey had been recruited out of high school by Oral Roberts assistant coach Matt Doherty, so when Doherty took over the Oral Roberts program, Humphrey decided to make the transfer to Oklahoma.

Humphrey’s father, Michael, is a member of the NCAA Men’s Basketball Committee, a role Humphrey considers his closest friend on the team, rebounded.

Humphrey’s dedication to improving his free-throw shooting, a facet of the game he has taken much slack for this season, is an indication to his team of how great his work ethic is.

“He spends a lot of time off the court. He is a teacher to his teammates in practice. He is a powerful voice in the locker room. And he is an example of hard work and determination for his squad members.”

Humphrey’s maturity and leadership has elevated him to a virtual coach on the team.

“Being a great athlete but he’s made himself a better basketball player.”

Humphrey’s work ethic and dedication is so great that despite spending upwards of 20 hours a week tuning his game outside of practice, his biggest regret is that he did not start working harder sooner.

“I wish I had worked harder as a younger age,” he said. “I think my work ethic is good now, but that’s separate. I didn’t have that work ethic at a younger age.”

It is that maturity that has allowed Humphrey to teach the younger members of the Irish squad.

“His maturity and leadership has elevated him to a virtual coach on the team.”

Humphrey’s attitude toward his team and its performance has turned in big numbers for the Irish this season.

The senior leads the team, averaging 18.7 points and 9.8 rebounds a game.

With a core set of upperclassmen and a talented class of underclassmen who have quickly matured under senior leadership as the season has progressed, Humphrey has high hopes for his final season in a collegiate uniform.

“My goal is to make it to the NCAA tournament four years straight. The farthest I went was the Sweet 16 and this year as senior I’d like this team to go farther,” Humphrey said. “Everyone on the team knows what we’re capable of.”
Breaking down the Big East Conference

The only guarantee in the Big East Conference this season is that there are no guarantees. No other conference in America has experienced the same degree of parity as the Big East. With two weeks left to go in the regular season, both the East and West Divisions of the Big East are still up for grabs. Upsets and surprises have painted a cloudy picture at the top of both conferences.

As we head down the final stretch, nine teams still have legitimate shots to win their respective divisions and compete for a coveted dance ticket to March Madness. No single team has been able to separate itself from the rest of the pack.

There is an old sports adage that beautifully describes Big East basketball — "Any given team can beat any other team on any given night." Case in point, Boston College lost to lowly Virginia Tech last week, only to turn around and defeat No. 11 Miami three days later.

Enough of the confusion already. It's time to break down the Big East.

Who's hot
Notre Dame is simply on fire right now, running its record to (17-6, 7-4). With five straight victories before their loss last night, the Irish have put themselves in prime position to repeat as champions of the West Division. Notre Dame sits in second place in the West Division.

Who's not
Syracuse is fading and fading fast. Last Sunday's second-half meltdown against Pittsburgh has left the Orangemen (18-7, 7-4) tied for second with Notre Dame and a full game behind Pittsburgh in the West Division. Even worse, the Orangemen are no longer a sure bet to make the NCAA tournament. This Sunday's game against Notre Dame has huge implications for both teams. The winner will likely have assured itself of a bid to the Big Dance.

Biggest surprise
Pittsburgh has shocked the entire nation this year en route to a (21-4, 9-3) record. With a favorable remaining schedule, the Panthers should lock up a bid to the NCAA tournament.

Perennial doormat Rutgers (15-8, 5-5) has also been strong this season, posting two huge upset victories over Connecticut and Georgetown.

Miami (18-6, 7-4) has also been surprising during their rise to the No. 11 ranking in the country.

Biggest disappointment
This dubious honor goes to Boston College (16-7, 7-5). After last year's East Division championship, big things were expected of the Eagles. The Eagles have struggled to find any consistency all season with a huge loss at the hands of Virginia Tech.

Despite the veteran leadership of Kevin Braswell and the strong inside play of Michael Sweetney, Georgetown (15-8, 6-5) has been mediocre this season.

As lousy as Boston College and Georgetown have looked at times this season, they still have outside shots to compete for Big East regular season crowns and improve their March Madness prospects.

What it all means
Right now, Pittsburgh is tied for the lead with Notre Dame in the West Division, while Connecticut (18-6, 8-3) is a game ahead of Miami in the East Division.

The Panthers, Irish, Huskies, and Hurricanes all seem to have the inside track to NCAA tournament bids, but there is still a lot of basketball left to be played.

Notre Dame still has three critical showdowns left with Syracuse, Miami, and St. John's. The division leaders have a very small margin for error. Syracuse, St. John's, Boston College, Georgetown, and Rutgers all currently sit within two games of the division leaders. All of these teams have the potential to win the Big East Tournament in a few weeks.

If the regular season is any indication, the tournament promises to be filled with even more close games and surprising upsets.

After all, anything can happen in the Big East.

Contact Joe Licandro at jlicandr@nd.edu. The views of this column are those of the author and are not necessarily those of The Observer.

Joe Licandro
Sports Writer
Those who are children of the "80s grew up mesmerized by dance-encrusted films like "Fame" and "Flashdance." Even some dared to don leg warmers and sweatbands to emulate the ability that those movies showcased. They hurried excitedly into their first dance classes, eager to learn and even more eager to perform. However, those who failed to even walk to the correct beat resigned themselves to the idea that dance was left only to those who possessed coordination. Dance became something that could only be appreciated by the elite: the dancers themselves. This misconception of dance as being only for the able, that it's not so amazing on a big, artless element of dance as being only for the dancers themselves. This misconception of dance as being only for the able, that it's not so amazing on a big, artless element of dance as being only for the able, that it's not so amazing.

The "2002 Dance Spectrum" aims to move aside.

With a wide variety of dances ranging from ballet and modern to jazz, the audience is promised a flood of movement it will appreciate. The mission of the "2002 Dance Spectrum" is to bring dance to the entire community.

"If you can make dance more accessible, that it's not something on a big, high pedestal, but something that they can see and want to see more frequently, they can incorporate it and say, 'Oh, that was so neat, I want to see some more.' And there's such a variety that hopefully each will have a little sampler," Indi Dieckgrafe, artistic director and choreographer, said.

The dancers also want the audience to capture the versatility of the concert. Otis Cortez-Hill, a senior Film, Television and Theatre major at Notre Dame and the company's only male member, believes that everyone will find a piece that appeals to them.

"I want the audience to gather the sense of eclecticism, a sense of universal dance. There's something for everybody and no matter what you like, if you like ballet you have the ["Silver Variation"]. If you like pseudo-impro modern dance, there will be something for everyone," Cortez-Hill said.

Cortez-Hill is a vehicle of the eclectic nature of the concert, appearing in "At the River," "What to Do" and "References New." Stikeleather said.

Saint Mary's has always kept its dance performances from being restricted to just one genre of dance. The idea of the concert, "2002 Dance Spectrum," reflects its wide span of movement styles.

"It seems like we have always been known for presenting an eclectic array of dances. We do have all those different techniques and styles that we teach. I don't know if I can really say thematically except that it will give you a range because there is a certain thing we're focusing on, that we're letting everyone have their individual expression," Dieckgrafe said.

With nearly 10 pieces being performed, an idea of what Dieckgrafe calls openness and acceptance arises. This concept has given Saint Mary's the opportunity to showcase diverse works and the diverse dancers of the Repertory/Performance Workshop. Otis Cortez-Hill, Theresa Cullen, Katie DeCoste, Adrienne DeGraff, Emily Desjardins, Emily Fagan, Erin Flynn, Emily Ford, Caitlin Gillen, Courtenay Cortez-Hill, Amy Lazzarotto, Emily Ford, Erin Flynn, Emily Desjardins, Emily Fagan, Erin Flynn, Emily Ford, and Shahmir and Lissa Walton, with guest dancers Kathy Ornish and Justin Smith. The unseen, but necessary contributors to the concert are lighting designer Tom Boelman and costume designer Ginger Moritz.

The concert utilizes the creations of various choreographers from various disciplines. The show opens with a traditional piece entitled "Silver Variation" and Coda from "The Sleeping Beauty," choreographed by faculty member Jill Tulrichinsky and performed by soloist Emily Fagan.

Ballet is taken into another direction by Laurie Lowry, an adjunct professor of ballet and Pilates at Saint Mary's. She has danced professionally with multiple companies, including the California Ballet and Ballet Hawaii. She has taken her vast experience in dance to create "Vivaldi," a ballet that possesses both upbeat moments and serenely sophisticated ones.

"The beginning and ending are light and the middle section is quiet and elegant," Lowry said.

The piece exhibits a Spanish style, meant to be executed with both grace and precision.

"Collection/Essence" is a piece that not only utilizes dancers, but art as well. Donald Stikeleather, a professor in dance at Saint Mary's and Notre Dame and an experienced modern dancer, collaborated with artist Kathy Ornish for this work. Ornish was fascinated with the idea of boxes both constraining and protecting; she constructed movable sculpture to explore this concept. This piece is unique because it possesses qualities that are not typically associated with dance.

"It has sculpture that moves, dancers that stand still instead of moving, it has silence with no dancing," Stikeleather said.

Unlike dances that are a blur of constant motion, "Collection/Essence" has moments when nothing kinetic is happening.

"We have tried to make a balance so that it's not too much all the time," Stikeleather said.

The collaboration of the two art forms was a positive experience with a positive result for the artists.

"What we created was different than what the two of us could have created alone," Stikeleather said.

The second act opens with "At the River," by guest choreographer Kevin Magee. Magee is a renowned choreographer and currently dances with the Ellen Sinopoli Dance Company in New York. He has devised a theme meant to captivate the audience while the dancers attempt an escape.

"His piece is a compelling work for nine dancers with an intriguing movement vocabulary that supports a ritualistic and tribal atmosphere," Dieckgrafe said.

"Psalm" is a piece of personal importance to Dieckgrafe.

"Psalm" is 10 years old and it's kind of special that it's being done at this concert because my husband gave me the music for that ten years ago on Valentine's Day," Dieckgrafe said.

The religious content of the music and choreography is meant to convey an experience of spiritual elevation. Though this piece has been performed many different times, Dieckgrafe continues to innovate with the modern piece, "Emevese." Though most traditional modern pieces are danced barefoot, "Emevese" is performed in pointe shoes. Dieckgrafe's dancers addressed this by putting on their own pointe shoes.

"Just in working with them, I knew they weren't going to be happy to the modern genre. So I decided if these girls want to dance on pointes, they'll just do it on pointes," the piece became about them, about the three dancers that I had, and that's why I did "Emevese," a section of each of their names," Dieckgrafe said.

The concert continues with the presence of choreographic flexibility in "What to Do." It is a piece that is not dictated by strict choreography, but by vocal cues in the music.

"What to Do" is my own question of what to do and so I didn't know where to go with that, and that led me to the fact that I kind of wanted to be told what to do and that became the substance for the piece. I'm really happy with the way it turned out with the input of the dancers and the fun idea that actually brought this piece to life," Dieckgrafe said.

The final piece, "References New" employed the input of another artist, sculptor Lanny Bergner. It has been performed previously this year at the installation of Bergner's sculpture at the South Bend Regional Museum of Art. To recreate the setting created by Bergner, screens similar to his will be hung, providing the collaboration with Bergner and sound designer Cloud Tiger will culminate into a work encompassing visual and auditory art forms.

The final piece, "Diamonds," was choreographed by Courtenay Lauer, a student company member. The piece showcases a contemporary jazz style with intended sadness and essence. Its music, from a blockbuster movie soundtrack, strives for mass appeal as well as sex appeal.

The "2002 Dance Spectrum" will provide the audience with grand vision of the shades of dance. Dieckgrafe believes that the audience will want to see more. Perhaps they'll want to do more: perhaps they'll want to dig out those leg warmers and finish.

The "2002 Dance Spectrum" opens tonight and runs to Sunday. Tonight and tomorrow nights shows begin at 7 p.m. and Sunday's show begins at 2:00 p.m. "2002 Dance Spectrum" will be presented in the O'Laughlin Auditorium in the Moreau Center for the Arts. Ticket are $4.50 for adults, $3.50 for senior citizens and Saint Mary's and Notre Dame community members and $2.50 for students.
Tennis Pavilion. The Irish and Badgers will play for the 57th time and for the 17th season in a row. Notre Dame won the series 40-16 and has taken each of the past 10.

Purdue is 1-2 this season and ranked 53rd. The Boilermakers beat Butler and have taken losses to Pepperdine, Northwestern and Western Michigan. Purdue will face Western Michigan on Saturday morning as an elimination match before coming to Notre Dame. The Boilermakers have a singles player and one doubles team ranked. Andrew Wakefield is 101st in singles, while Scott Mayer and Dan Swan are 23rd in doubles. Last season, Purdue was 14-9 and finished 55th in the nation.

Friday night could be a key one to one on top of their game against Tennessee, who is ranked eighth nationally after being listed sixth in the preseason rankings.

The Lady Irish are 4-3 in conference play heading into the match at Michigan on Thursday. Tennessee’s losses have all come to teams currently ranked in the top six in the nation.

The team boasts an impressive nine turnovers in the series. Against such a formidable group, the Irish will need to focus on keeping the ball 6-2, with every second and minute of time before that happens.

"Everyone on this team is so good that they can play with anyone else," said Green. "It’s only a matter of having everyone in a position where they feel comfortable."

The Irish and Lady Vols will meet for the 13th time and the ninth time in the past 10 seasons. Tennessee leads the series 8-4 and has won three of the past four at home.

The Irish are 3-5 against the Lady Vols, including a 1-0 loss at Tennessee in 1999. The Lady Vols’ only point on the season came at No. 6 singles as Kimberly Guy gained a victory.

We're going to play together." We gave them a very confident team tonight. We gave ourselves a chance, but we just came up a little short.

Rickey Shields chipped in 16. "We were very confident team tonight. We gave ourselves a chance, but we just came up a little short."

Rickey Shields led the way for the Irish, registering the 23rd double-duty performance of his career. Humprey finished with 18 points and 19 rebounds. Rickey Shields chipped in 16.

The Irish will look to their next position and quickly turn the game over. With 14 seconds left, Rutgers freshman Ricky Sherwood missed two free throws, giving the Irish one final hope to tie the game. With three seconds left to play, Chris Thomas attempted a 3-point shot from the corner rimmed out, giving the Scarlet Knights the 65-62 victory.

"We put ourselves in a position to win at the end of the game," said Brey. "They really went after us tonight. I think our experience told.

"They shut us down for a long time in the second half," said Brey. "They really went after Chris Thomas tonight. I think the law of averages caught up to Chris. He’s not going to have a big bounce back."

For the second straight game, Notre Dame had to contend with another strong physical post presence. Last Saturday, Georgetown’s Michael Sweetney scored 25 against the Irish.

When Rashod Kent fouled out on a technical foul, Rutgers’ David Graves to the free-throw line, the Irish seemed poised to make another comeback. But Graves hit just a little short in the end. Graves hit both of his free throws, cutting the Rutgers lead to two.

Over the next minute and a half, the Irish would whittle the Scarlet Knights lead down to one after Chris Thomas sank two timely free throws. The Irish then caught fire for 20 points. Mike Sherrod with 26 seconds left, giving the Irish a 62-57 lead.

The Irish looked confused on their next possession and quickly turned the ball over. With 14 seconds left, Rutgers freshman Ricky Sherwood missed two free throws, giving the Irish one final hope to tie the game. With three seconds left to play, Chris Thomas attempted a 3-point shot from the corner rimmed out, giving the Scarlet Knights the 65-62 victory.

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Women's
continued from page 20
and triple jump. After struggling a little at the beginning of the season, Volkmer took first place in both events at the Meyo Invitational.

"I am a little nervous because the first two meets were a little rough. But it's all looking up right now," said Volkmer.

The women's sprinting corps will be sending seven runners, under the senior leadership of Liz Grow, who currently holds the 11th best time in the country in the 400-meter dash. This is the fourth year in a row Grow has made it to the conference meet, where she took second in the 400 her first two years and won it last year. Grow is also a member of the nationally ranked mile relay team that will also be competing this weekend.

Joining Grow in the sprinting events are Amanda Alvarez, Ayesha Boyd, Kristen Dodd, Tiffany Gunn, Kymia Love and Latasha Steele.

As a sophomore, Boyd in particular has had considerable success this year going into the conference meet. She took first in the 60-meter dash at the Notre Dame Room.

"I am a little nervous because the first two meets were a little rough. But it's all looking up right now," said Volkmer.

Rounding out the women's squad are the seven women of the field events.

Joining Volkmer and Tameiha King will be Natalie Hallett, Jennifer Kearney, Betsy Lazzere, Emily Loomis, and Kaaline Meiser. Emily Loomis is less than two inches from nationally qualifying in the high jump. Kearney, Lazzere, and Meiser join Loomis in the high jump, Notre Dame's deepest event.

Contact David Cook at dcook2@nd.edu.

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MEN'S
continued from page 20
features the deepest contingent of all-time traveling to New York this weekend. Of the 32 athletes that have qualified for the conference meet, 13 of them are in the distance events.

Behind Shay and Watson, sophomore Kevin Somok looks to get a victory at the conference meet this weekend.

"Last year as a freshman I wasn't really sure what to expect, and I was kind of thrown off. And this year I know what it's all about and I hope to make some more noise. Certainly qualify for the final and score some points," said Somok.

Somok is also part of the distance medley relay that is currently ranked third in the country, but will not race this weekend. Joining Somok on the medley team are freshman Eric Morrison, Watson and sophomore James Bracken.

Seniors Sean Zanderson, Tom Lennon, and Pat Conway add depth to the long distance corps. Zanderson, who has run a personal best 4:49 mile this year, will be running in the mile, and Lennon and Conway will most likely be running in the mile.

Also strengthening the distance team are Morrison and sophomore Todd Mohley. Morrison ran a stellar 1:51.500-meter run against Michigan State earlier in the year, and Mohley ran a fourth-place 4:01 mile in the Meyo Mile at the Meyo Invitational.

The sprinters are led by a contingent of underclassmen this year. Freshmen Dwight Erick, Trevor McClain-Duer and Bracken look to score points for the sprinters. Erick will be running in the 50- and 200-meter dashes, McClain-Duer will run in the 400, and Bracken will compete in the 800.

McClain-Duer won the 500-meter run at the Windsor Team Challenge last week and looks to improve on that this weekend.

"I was really happy to get my first [collegiate] win. I've been getting better and better as the weeks go on. I'm hoping that I get all Big-East, that's my goal," said McClain-Duer. McClain-Duer also feels confident his team can win.

"We have a really good chance of winning the team competition. And we have a pretty balanced distance and sprint corps. So if everyone wins like they can, we can win it," said McClain-Duer.

In the field events, seniors Josh Heck and Quill Redwine lead the team. Heck is currently ranked 10th in the Big East in the pole vault. He took second in the pole vault last year.

Redwine has been discouraged with injuries the past two years, but he still looks to get points for the team. Last year he was having trouble with his right knee, and this year he has been having problems with his left ankle.

The Irish will need strong performances in all events if they want to beat defending champion Georgetown. The Hoyas have kept the Irish from winning the conference meet three times, winning the conference meet the last four years.

The Big East conference meet begins Friday night and concludes Saturday night.

Contact David Cook at dcook2@nd.edu.
Le May Doan skates to second gold medal

Associated Press

Olympic Figure Skating

IOC may consider awarding two gold medals

Salt Lake City

Two gold medals?

The International Olympic Committee wouldn't rule out the possibility that a second gold medal could be awarded to the Canadian pairs skaters as a way to resolve the controversy that has marred the sport and dominated the Winter Olympics. The IOC will consider any recommendations made by an independent committee, but officials said Saturday night they had not even chosen a team to act as a mediator.

"The IOC will consider any recommendation from the independent committee, but we haven't even chosen a team to represent the world," IOC member Kevan Gosper said.

The head of the skating federation said an immediate vote would be "impossible because no decision has yet been made," and added, "I'm not saying it can't happen."
Belles look to send seniors out with win

By JOE HETTLER
Sports Writer

Saint Mary’s does not want to remember the last time they faced Kalamazoo. In late January the Belles traveled to Kalamazoo and came back with a 74-51 conference loss. This time the game is at Saint Mary’s, it’s the seniors’ last regular season home game and the Belles want revenge.

But, for the Belles to get their revenge, they need to accomplish a few goals, one of which is trying to contain Kalamazoo’s Nikki Grubb.

“They have a transfer that came in, she’s a fifth year senior, Nikki Grubb, who just had a really good game against us,” said head coach Suzanne Smith. “They just put on the defensive pressure a little bit, and we just weren’t ready to handle it. We just have to be stronger with the ball and more confident.”

The Belles will also need to rebound better which they have struggled with for most of the season. Heading into this weekend’s final game, the Belles are dead last in the conference in rebounding.

“What should help is that we have a lot more height than they do,” said Smith. “They are a little bit quicker, which is what hurt us last time. So we should have some height, so I can hopefully work the ball inside and be able to get the rebound.”

Kalamazoo presents another problem in that they lead the conference in 3-point shooting and field goal percentage.

Saint Mary’s will try to neutralize Kalamazoo’s outside shooting by getting the ball to their two top scorers, senior co-captain Anne Blair and freshman forward Emily Creachbaum. Blair is coming off of a 22 point, 10-for-16 shooting performance Wednesday versus Albion.

For seniors Blair, Jamie Dineen and Elizabeth Linkous, it will be their last home game as Saint Mary’s basketball players. Everyone on the team wants to send the girls out as winners.

Contact Joe Hettler at jhettle@nd.edu.
Wildcats.
Tucson, Arizona the their season in bother the Notre champions and preseason No. 1.

But that scenario doesn't bother the Notre Dame softball team.
This weekend, the Irish start their season in Tucson, Arizona at the Arizona Pepsi Classic.

Despite a school-best preseason ranking of No. 14, the Irish do not feel intimidated by the Wildcats.

"We look at it as a challenge, but it's just not another game for us," said captain Jarrah Myers. "We are just as good as us," said captain Jarrah Myers. "We feel as if we are on the same level as them."

The Irish return almost their entire infield, headlined by Myers. The captain catcher committed just four errors last year while batting a team-leading .380. She was recently named the 2001-02 Big East Aeropostale Female Scholar-Athlete of the Year.

Junior Andrea Wisen, both from California, bring the Irish total from the state to seven.

When former coach Liz Miller retired after the 2001 campaign, top assistant Deanna Gumpf took over the team. Since Gumpf has been with the team during the past four seasons, the transition for the team was easier than most coaching changes.

"It hasn't been that different from last season," Myers said. "(Coach Gumpf) has been great."

Last season, the Irish had their best season in school history. They compiled a 54-7 record that included a 33-game winning streak. In the national polls, the team peaked at No. 8.

In last year's opening tournament in Florida, Notre Dame started off 5-0 with two upset victories. They look to continue that early season success in Arizona.

We feel it is very important to get off to a strong start," said Myers. "Getting experience and being prepared for the Big East season is the main purpose for these preseason tournaments."

The Irish will face Auburn, Louisville, New Mexico State, and No. 25 South Florida this weekend. But first, the Irish have their big test against No. 1 Arizona on Friday.

Contact Matt Lozar at mlozar@nd.edu.

**Irish start season against top-ranked Wildcats**

**By MATT LOZAR**
Sports Writer

Not many teams would look forward to starting the season with a new coach, a heavy reliance on freshman pitching and playing its first game against the defending national champions and preseason No. 1.

But that scenario doesn’t bother the Notre Dame softball team.

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Junior Andrea Wisen, both from California, bring the Irish total from the state to seven.

When former coach Liz Miller retired after the 2001 campaign, top assistant Deanna Gumpf took over the team. Since Gumpf has been with the team during the past four seasons, the transition for the team was easier than most coaching changes.

"It hasn’t been that different from last season," Myers said. "(Coach Gumpf) has been great."

Last season, the Irish had their best season in school history. They compiled a 54-7 record that included a 33-game winning streak. In the national polls, the team peaked at No. 8.

In last year’s opening tournament in Florida, Notre Dame started off 5-0 with two upset victories. They look to continue that early season success in Arizona.

"We feel it is very important to get off to a strong start," said Myers. "Getting experience and being prepared for the Big East season is the main purpose for these preseason tournaments."

The Irish will face Auburn, Louisville, New Mexico State, and No. 25 South Florida this weekend. But first, the Irish have their big test against No. 1 Arizona on Friday.

Contact Matt Lozar at mlozar@nd.edu.

**Irish start season against top-ranked Wildcats**

**By MATT LOZAR**
Sports Writer

Not many teams would look forward to starting the season with a new coach, a heavy reliance on freshman pitching and playing its first game against the defending national champions and preseason No. 1.

But that scenario doesn’t bother the Notre Dame softball team.

This weekend, the Irish start their season in Tucson, Arizona at the Arizona Pepsi Classic.

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THAN PERCEPTION,
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FEBRUARY 21, 2002
CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: June Seymour, Brandon Boyd, Renee Zellweger, Matt Gugino.

Happy Birthday! Greater interaction with other family members will ameliorate a close bond this year. You will become emotional if you have a concern with family finances but if you put your mind to it you can turn your financial situation around. You have the know-how, so after a little change, you have the means to make it happen. Your numbers are 1, 2, 5, 7, 30, 35.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): Get involved in investments that you know will pay off. Real estate will be profitable. Your involvement in groups will bring you added popularity due to your energetic nature and enormous contributions.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Take an early look at your taxes and find ways to invest wisely and save yourself some money. Don't let anyone get the better of you. And overreact to comments made if you aren't careful.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Relationships will be going in the right direction. Acceptance will be the key to moving forward in a positive manner. You may find yourself involved in a worthy cause that will raise your esteem and your popularity.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You have a good heart but that doesn't mean you get the better of others. You must be emotionally and spiritually prepared to move on the spot if you aren't careful.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You've got the goods, so go after your goals. It's time to reverse your financial situation. Your popularity will grow if you are generous and sincere in your gestures of friendliness.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Be careful: The emotional wellbeing of those you have to deal with may be close to the edge. Proceed with caution instead of hasting. You may end up reshaping the peace that you should be maintaining. Take the initiative and step into a leadership position.

LIBRA (Sept. 22-Oct. 21): Take your time and refrain from acting on impulses. Others enjoy the praise that you bring their way.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You have so much to offer it's hard to stop acting back and being everyone's favorite son. You should be mindful. Take the initiative and step into a leadership position.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You've been so much involved in your responsibilities that you may ignore your concerns. You have a good heart but that doesn't mean you should let others take advantage of you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You're in a social mood, so make sure that you have lots of entertaining things to do in advance. You will dazzle those around you with your wit, charm and worldly knowledge.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You've got to learn to stop taking things personally. Changing your attitude will bring about the changes that you desire.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Take your time and refrain from letting anything put too many responsibilities on your shoulders. You have a good heart but that doesn't mean you should let others take advantage of you. Once you're done, you can celebrate.

Happy Birthday! You have no problem dealing with others. You intuitively know what others need and therefore should achieve tremendous success throughout your life.

Visit The Observer on the web at http://observer.nd.edu/
Irish men, women ready for conference meet

◆ Young but experienced Irish squad hope to improve on last year's seventh place finish

By DAVID COOK
Sports Writer

When the women's track and field team travels to Syracuse this weekend for the Big East conference meet, it will be going with a squad that is both young and experienced.

Of the 23 qualifiers for this weekend's conference meet, 15 are returning qualifiers from last year's conference team, and only three of the 23 women are seniors.

Last year's team finished seventh at the meet, and they hope they can improve on that this year.

"Last year around this time, I went into the conference meet trying to qualify [for nationals], when now I've already qualified. And now I just want to perform well," said junior Tameisha King. King has qualified for nationals in the long jump, and she will be competing in both the long jump and the 60-meter hurdles at the conference meet. Last year, she was in the 60-meter hurdles, the long jump, and the 60-meter dash at the Big East meet.

"I'm not doing as many events this year. I feel I'm going to do better because of that. My goals this weekend is not only to win, but to qualify [for nationals] automatically," said King.

Junior Jamie Volkmer will be joining King in the field events. For Volkmer, this will be the third time she will travel to the conference meet.

"This year I know more about my competition, and being an upperclassman I feel more comfortable and more confident this year," said Volkmer. Volkmer will compete in both pole vault and triple jump. After struggling a little at the third time she will travel to the conference meet.

◆ Irish look to win their first Big East Indoor conference meet

By DAVID COOK
Sports Writer

The men's track and field team has always been right at the front.

Since the Irish joined the Big East conference in 1996, they have finished in the top three in 11 of the 12 indoor and outdoor track meets. In 2000, they won the conference meet during the outdoor season.

But the Irish are still looking for a victory at the indoor conference meet where they have taken second place four times, and third place once. This year won't be any easier.

"When we won by 50 points in outdoor [in 2000], I still wasn't confident. You have to look at the competition and realize that UConn is tremendous, so is Georgetown and Villanova. Rutgers is the team that is the most up and coming in the conference. It's one of the better conferences in the country," said head coach Joe Piane.

Against the high level of competition that they will see at the conference meet, the Irish will feature a team that is one of the best they have had yet.

Leading the team is Ryan Shay and Luke Watson: two seniors who have had spectacular indoor seasons so far. Shay is currently third in the country in the 5000-meter run with a time of 13:18.60. Watson holds the second best time in the country in the 3,000-meter with a time of 7:54.02.

The Notre Dame distance squad

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