By NOREEN GILLESPIE

News Writer

It's Monday in the gym, and after four weeks of practice, Notre Dame junior Brigid McHugh is getting the chance to do what she's been training for two seasons to do: enter the ring.

In the thunderstorm of pounding gloves, the air that hangs heavy with smells of musty leather and sweat, she warms up normally, counting out loud doing jumping jacks with the other 69 members of the boxing army. You can't tell she's nervous.

She probably should be. It's week five in the fall instructional novice season for women's boxing team veteran season. After boxing with a captain, coaches are evaluating what they've learned in the ring to prepare fights in the coming week.

McHugh was matched with a teammate during week three, when captains evaluate boxers for the first time this kind of conference on globalization and media in Asia. The conference is not only a first to Notre Dame, but it could also be a first in the United States as well.

"This is also, we believe, the first time this kind of conference is held in North America," said Mike Wan, conference organizer and an assistant professor of the department of film, television and theater.

"It's different than any other conference — we have a combination of leading figures of the entertainment world and also scholarship," said Wan.

What distinguishes this conference from most others is the presence of speakers other than those belonging to the scholarly community. Michelle Yeoh, acclaimed Asian actress and star of "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" adds another dimension to the conference by bringing insider perspectives to the discussion.

"It is a conference which is unlike any other that it provides for a gathering of figures from entertainment and media and scholars working in film and television," said Linnel Jensen, department chair of the East Asian languages and literatures department.

"It is really rare to have conferences in which there are anything more than just simple scholars — normally it's just scholars debating any number of issues relating to a field of focus for them," said Jensen.

Other panelists include senior Hollywood executives and major filmmakers from Asian and media scholars, including Notre Dame alumnus William Pfeiffer, CEO of Hong Kong-based Celestial Pictures. Pfeiffer will give the keynote address today in McKenna Hall at 4 pm. Pfeiffer has become the most influential Hollywood executive in Asia.

The search committee, chaired by provost Nathan Hatch, includes associate provost Maura Ryan and architecture professors Norman Crevane, Michael Lykoudis and John Stanger. According to executive assistant to the provost Mary Pagel, the committee formed at the beginning of the current academic year as the first step toward the selection process of a new chair.

"The committee has really just begun to identify candidates," said Pagel.

Westfall said he would continue working in the architecture school in some capacity, but he wants to spend more time on his research and writing.

"I told [those in the provost's office], 'Start looking now and I'll step aside whenever you find somebody,'" said Westfall.

The search committee has already contacted the architecture

Asian media hits campus

By KIFLIN TURNER
Assistant News Editor

This weekend Notre Dame will host its first International Conference on Globalization and Media in Asia. The conference is not only a first to Notre Dame, but it could also be a first in the United States as well.

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School seeks new architecture chair

By HELENA PAYNE
Assistant News Editor

Since School of Architecture chair Carroll Westfall announced his plans to step down, the Office of the Provost has established a group to conduct a national search for a replacement.

The search committee, chaired by provost Nathan Hatch, includes associate provost Maura Ryan and architecture professors Norman Crevane, Michael Lykoudis and John Stanger. According to executive assistant to the provost Mary Pagel, the committee formed at the beginning of the current academic year as the first step toward the selection process of a new chair.

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A Friendship Lost

I remember several songs from when I was younger and in the Girl Scouts. One that sticks out in my memory the most is entitled “Make New Friends.” It goes:

Make new friends but keep the old
One is silver and the other’s gold.
A circle’s round, it has no end.

That’s how long I want to be your friend.

I remember learning this song in the second grade, just after I had joined Brownie Troop 3278 in San Diego, California. This song made me feel like I belonged, like I was wanted and accepted by the other girls as one of them.

That song taught me the value of friendship, that as long as our friends we can accomplish anything and we will always have our friends, and that other friends can never and will never replace the ones we already have. I have kept that as one of my ways of thinking over the years. I have always been open to meeting new people and making new friends. And every new person that I meet can bring a whole new aspect of friendship with them that I have. There are so many stories I could tell from all of the experiences that I have had from all of my friends. A friend of mine from high school, Dixie, was one of the things. I’m not going to do anything without someone, nobody, type of people. As far as I can tell, I was the only one she let mess with her.

Maybe that was because I carried a long metal stick with me for half of the school year — but I digress. When we email each other new or talk to each other on the phone, she always asks, “Who ever thought a blog would turn out so good” and it has become a kind of joke between us as we discuss how life has changed us.

I have several other friends like this from high school. I am that girl here at Notre Dame. It has been joking, “Who don’t you know on campus?” Of all of the people I know, I have a core set of people who I consider to be my close friends. You all know who you are — helping me out when my life and me was in a mess, shattering, helping me piece the broken fragments of my life.

But, as far as I am able to believe, I have found people — whom I thought were my friends — turn and step away from me when I needed the extra support. How can this be?

This isn’t in my model for how friendship works. Is there a problem with the friendship that can exist between two people? If something comes between them, can it not be worked out. Did someone make a wrong attempt to remain cordial? Why should a disagreement keep friends apart?

True friends, are people who are there to support you when things go wrong or when you made a wrong. It doesn’t mean that they have to agree with you, but it means that differences of opinion are there to foster understanding and better friendship. Friendship means as much to me as my life does. I put my heart and soul into it. I would hate to see that throw away because of a difference of opinion or a misunderstanding.

Contact Angela Campos at angela.campos.2@nd.edu

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

INSIDE COLUMN

THIS WEEK IN NOTRE DAME/SAIN'T MARY'S HISTORY

Undergrads replaced as card-swipers
Wednesday, October 9, 1985

In an effort to tighten control over students entering and exiting the dining halls, undergraduate student checkers had been replaced by graduate students and help from outside the University. Director of University Food Services, Bill Hickey, said the policy was necessary because of “many, many incidents” which occurred over the past year.

BEYOND CAMPUS

U. Wisconsin bonders use race in admissions

Graduate Student Council blasts gay policy
Thursday, February 2, 1995

The University of Notre Dame’s Graduate Student Council, an arm of the Graduate Student Union, voted to condemn the Office of Student Affairs’ move to bar a gay and lesbian group from meeting on campus. The council passed a resolution to "strongly condemn the University’s action to expel Gays and Lesbians of Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s College from campus.”

Compiled from U-Wire reports

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LOCAL WEATHER

PHILADELPHIA

Magistrate Judge Jacob Hart and lawyers on both sides of the mail fraud case agreed in a preliminary hearing Tuesday that there would be sufficient probable cause to continue with the prosecution of Presiall Yar. The 19-year-old Temple University freshman was arrested earlier this month on three counts of mail fraud. U.S. Postal Inspectors had compiled enough evidence in early February to prove she may have violated certain federal codes. After the hearing, Yar’s lawyer, Mark Dougie, declined to comment on the case, saying only there was an "ongoing investigation." He said he was uncertain as to what penalties Yar could be facing if found responsible or partially responsible. The freshman has been referred to the University Disciplinary Committee but is not currently facing expulsion since she has not been charged or convicted, Temple officials said.

University of Central Florida

Apartment complex bans kegs

OVIEDO

As part of its efforts to discourage underage drinking, University of Central Florida-affiliated apartment complex Knight’s Crossing is now enforcing a ban on kegs, a policy that is making residents unhappy.

A group of freshmen residents at Knight’s Crossing discussed the issue. University students and apartment residents Jon Jelinek, Jodi Eller and Karen Rosenberg spoke openly about their displeasure with the previously unenforced rule. They said the rule, which stipulates kegs are not allowed in residents’ apartments, was too vague and put them among the dozens of pages that comprise their lease agreements. As college students, they feel management clearly should have spelled out and explained such a hampering restriction. The students believe the ban is unfounded since Knight’s Crossing did not crack down on kegs or keg parties in the first semester.

Central Florida Future

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Compiled from U-Wire reports
The fate of 20 ounce bottles of pop across Saint Mary's campus will be determined by the Board of Trustees the next time they meet on April 19 and 20.

The board will then decide whether to give final approval to the Student Environmental Action Coalition's proposal for administrative financing of campus-wide glass and plastic recycling.

SEAC president, Teresa Lorenz, said the proposal is a response to requests from the student body.

"Students and faculty would approach us and ask why the College didn't provide plastic and glass recycling, and what was the SEAC doing about it. When the College began switching vending machines from aluminum to plastic, people really began to question the aluminum recycling," Lorenz said.

The SEAC's proposal, originally written in April 2000, garnered support from the BOC in October 2000 and was most recently approved by the Faculty Assembly.

According to Susan Dampier, assistant to College president Marilou Eldred, administrators and faculty on the College Budget Committee are currently reviewing the proposal in order to make a recommendation to the Administrative Council. The Administrative Council, composed of Eldred and the College's vice presidents, will then make their recommendation to the Board of Trustees.

Due to support the proposal has already received from administration, Lorenz said she is optimistic about the final approval.

"We really don't anticipate the request to be turned down," she said.
Boxing

continued from page 1

Except for one thing. When the men's boxers took their skills into the public ring last winter at the start of the annual Bengal Bouts tournament, the women held off their series in private.—and still are—rare. Even stayed at about the same. Year the total rose to 100, and was what we were going to work Sudes, one except for ing program on skill development. Today one Catrow started. In 1996-97, theme and women's teams, coaches for of club sport, the University is the governing body. Malloy won the case in Seattle against the boxing coaches to informally with the team . new program, and choosing one over two hurdles: starting a program and began training informally with the team. It shows in their individual training styles. In practice, partners will stop each other to correct form, patiently demonstrating and carefully critiquing each other's execution. The women's team, Sudes said, tends to be more focused in the absence of a competitive touring environment. "They're here for a different reason," Sudes, and I don't think it's self-defense. To train two hours a day, they have to get each other going.

Coached by seven team captains and three coaches who rotate between both the men's and women's programs, the push-up program is on the individual boxers.

With a coaching system that relies heavily on personal teamwork and support, teammates self-police and help each other better. The captains are the legacy of the program, Sudes, and a powerful example for the younger boxers moving through the program.

"I didn't know what to expect when I became a captain," said Karl Karje, a captain who runs the day-to-day administration of the program. "But I didn't think anything this year fit me up as much as when I see girls loving this program, doing it voluntarily."

Three years before she convinced administrators and coaches to bless their program for a women's program, Catrow had to overcome hurdles starting a new program, and choosing one with a significant stigma around it.

After all, women didn't box. At Notre Dame, women's boxing was banned from the sport by USA Boxing until 1993, when the old idea to box joined the men's boxing program and began training informally with the team. Catrow was lured into boxing by the Los Angeles Bouts her freshman year, and like most who join the women's boxing program, she had no prior experience with the sport.

Ten years before she convinced administrators and coaches to bless their program for a women's program, Catrow had to overcome hurdles starting a new program, and choosing one with a significant stigma around it.

For a lot of the girls, it's a huge battle just to get themselves in the ring. "The interest thing about this program is that our win is getting in the ring, period," Suddes said. "I don't feel we need permission, judges, wins or losses. For a lot of the girls, it's a huge battle just to get themselves in the ring."

The Battle Within

With the men's program, McLaughlin has a square area of about 14 by 10 paces to throw punches at her opponent. Tapping her gloves against her partner's, the two walk carefully around the venue, sizing up the competition in small, square steps.

Driven by adrenaline—and maybe nerves—she starts on the offensive.

"I feel so bad, seeing someone cry right in front of me," she said. "But then I thought, whatever I'm fighting came out here to fight. She has every opportunity to have work on her defense and offense. She knows what's coming, and so do I."

Inside the Ring

It's Monday in the gym. This time it's for the final round, the last chance. Today is the last day when the athletes who have trained for six weeks, pacing and punching, jumping and jabbing, bouncing and bouting, will face off in the ring and put their skills to the test.

There's a small crowd of friends, family of women's boxers, and a little bit of an atmosphere. "I'm nervous," said Tanya, a five-year veteran, and she's the best part of our season," she says, smiling.

"It was the biggest thing I had to go through," she says, laughing as she sees her boxing gloves and spats out her mouth guard.

The athletes here know they are unique, know they are competitive in a sport most women don't ever think about. They know they compete in something that isn't even considered feminine, and something a lot of people consider violent.

But athletes like McLaughlin and Brogan are driven down here by passion, a desire for perfection and an insatiable thirst for competition. "This is also a self-described tomboy from Granger, worked all summer with her mom running and lifting weights to get in shape for the season. Now that she's survived almost two seasons, there are still days when the normal workouts aren't enough, and she runs and lifts before or after the two-hour marathon at the Joyce gymnasium.

There are moments, though, when she has a gut check. Wonders what she's doing. Once during training, she threw a punch, connected, and fell so hard she made her opponent cry. She immediately felt ugly. "If I feel bad, seeing someone cry right in front of me," she said. "But then I thought, whatever I'm fighting came out here to fight. She has every opportunity to have work on her defense and offense. She knows what's coming, and so do I."

"I can't wait for next year," she says, smiling.

Behind her, Brogan and Schwerdtmann chat quietly. It's an even fight, they promise each other. They want to show the team good fighting technique, good punches. They tell each other a good fight. Showcase what they've learned. They tap their gloves. The fight is on.

It's not an easy fight. Both throw their punches hard, much harder than most of the competitors here. Brogan shows she's the amateur of the two fighters, getting caught for most of the first round under Schwerdtmann's flurry of punches. She keeps her concentration, keeps her gaze fixed, tries to avoid the thud of a connected punch.

It doesn't work.

Round one is over.

But round two is different in a story. With two minutes behind her in this round, she learned her territory, knew her opponent's fighting style. She whispers, subtly pointing directions to herself as her punches begin connecting.

"I didn't think I could box like that last week," she laughs, hug-

"I'm not afraid to do everything," she says, smiling. "I'm not afraid to go through the ring."

Suddes, the boxers' main coach, is shown from the service academy, where learning the sport is a full-time job.

"I don't feel we need points or judges, wins or losses. For a lot of the girls, it's a huge battle just to get themselves in the ring."

Kari Jeorg, a captain who runs the six-week buildup of nerves, anxiety and confidence checks. It's over, this four minutes in the ring. It's over.

It's an accomplishment. Even though she'd trained, she wasn't prepared for the crowd of people watching her, judging her. But after fighting with a captain, surviving and connecting punches, she knows she did well.

"It was definitely shocking, seeing all of those people," she said. "It was the biggest thing I had to go through, getting in the ring."

But as she unclips her gloves, struggles her hands, and removes her gear, she knows she'll get back in. She knows she'll be back in the gym, the next season, for the ring the rush gives her.

"I can't wait for next year," she says, smiling.
Texas executes convicted killer: World Today even though most locks at Westville tonight, just hours after a federal appeals following the World Trade Center attack.

The first installment of $10 million the foundation said it was giving denizens returned Thursday to two schools near Charity help NYC schools: officials decided to end the partial lockdown. Prison warden loses master keys:

In some of the most critical areas at the state's largest prison have been changed after the warden lost two master keys, leading officials to lift a partial lockdown. Prison officials to end the partial lockdown Tuesday even though most locks at Westville Correctional Facility still need changing, assistant superintendent John Schrader said. All sensitive areas of the prison, including medical storage cabinets and fire escapes, have been equipped with new locks.

Hindu rioters kill 58 Muslims

A woman carries firewood she managed to take from burning wreckage in a street of Ahmedabad on Thursday after Hindus violently protested Wednesday's attack by a Muslim mob on a train carrying Hindu activists.

Senate delays campaign finance bill

Action on campaign finance legislation was pushed back to at least next week. Sen. Majority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., put off plans to try to bring the bill, which bans unregulated "soft money" donations to the national political parties, to the Senate floor. His office said he would await the outcome of talks between the main proponents and opponents of the bill.

The Republican contender endorses campaign contributions violate First Amendment free speech rights and is asking for what he says are minor "technical" changes. After their meeting, McCain said a separate bill may be proposed to make technical adjustments to his legislation, but most alterations McConnell wants would be opposed as "very substantive" changes.

Among those was a McConnell proposal to index for inflation limits set on amounts political action committees can give to candidates in regulated "hard money." The Senate passed the McCain-Finkengl bill last April by 59-41. On Feb. 14, the House passed a similar version 240-189, and Senate supporters want to pass the House bill without change so it can be sent directly to President Bush for his expected signature.
University of Notre Dame

BOXING

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Additional thanks to the Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts, David and Shan Bohnett, and the University of Notre Dame

BOARD OF GOVERNANCE

SURPLUS GOES TO STUDENT CENTER

By SARAH RYKOWSKI
News Writer

With a sizeable surplus from last year's budget, the Saint Mary's Board of Governance donated money toward the construction of the new student center and funded new clubs and activities to combine events, and we couldn't keep those events going otherwise.

With the higher student activity fee, Rosenbush believes, more opportunities are created for activities such as formal and parent weekends. If students had to pay all of those costs individually, many would be cut out.

"The money in the budget is used for your classes, your hall, the five boards, the parent weekends, the senior formal, and senior week," Rosenbush said.

"We also use the money to pay for buses and other transportation to events, and to pay for the events.

"The expenses vary from year to year, and it is Johnson's responsibility to see this year's expenses do not exceed the budget.

"It changes from year to year," Rosenbush said.

"The expenses vary from year to year, and it is Johnson's responsibility to see this year's expenses do not exceed the budget.

"It changes from year to year," Rosenbush said.

Contact Sarah Rykowski at ryko294@stmarys.edu.

Media experts talk about music, sex

By JOCELYN CUBBON  
News Writer

Several Notre Dame sponsors presented a panel discussion called "Sex, Music and You" to focus on music's effects on society, relationships and individuals. The three panelists shared their views on topics ranging from music videos to beauty and rap music.

Early in the discussion, the panelists reacted to clips of popular music videos featuring glamorous, scantily clad, women, and discussed whether it was beauty versus exploitaiton.

Maynell Thomas, an entertainment attorney and producer, said music videos were products of commercialization, taking the place of music tours, and that the women are "a promotional tool to use...to sell music." She also said many women chose to perform in music videos "to take the next step" in their entertainment careers.

Le Alan Jones, a college student and author of "Our America: Life and Death on the South Side of Chicago," emphasized that many of the youth watching music videos do not realize that the flashy videos don't represent real life.

"(The video) creates a vision, but I don't know how to get it," said Jones.

Ab Thompson, famous radio personality, entrepreneur, educator, author and motivational speaker, said that people are attracted to the flashiness of music videos, but that they have the choice whether or not to buy what they sell. Thompson said many people are affected by music in ways of which they are unaware.

"What you put in your mind affects you more than [what] you put in your stomach," said Thompson. "It stays there.

"You find something that is real... tangible... and do it," said Jones.

The panelists discussed the effect of image and stress the importance of the power of an individual. They encouraged students to work for their goals and to make a difference.

"Be an individual. You have the option to do what everyone else does, but it is your choice. One step at a time," said Thompson.

The discussion's sponsors were the Notre Dame NAACP, Multicultural Student Programs and Services, the Film, Television, and Theater Department, and the Junior Class.

Contact Jocelyn Cubbon at jocbon@nd.edu.
after this, the corporate ladder will be a piece of [cake].

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Chair
continued from page 1
advisory council, as well as other individuals in the architecture field for guidance in the process, said Pugel, adding that the committee hopes to find the new chair by the end of the academic year.

Because of the School of Architecture’s standing in the architecture world, Pugel said the committee has undertaken a “quite expansive” search.

“Our School of Architecture is a very distinguished place and it has a long tradition of leadership of classical and traditional architecture,” said Pugel. “It would be an appealing place to be for an architect and an academic leader who is trained in those traditions and interested in continuing to move our school forward as a leader.”

Under Westfall, the School of Architecture has maintained its status as a school of classical and traditional architecture, with an added focus on city building, also known as urbanism. Westfall was involved in the formation of the South Bend Urbanist Center on Main Street.

Media
continued from page 1
Asia in the last 20 years, said Wan.

"[Pfeiffer] pioneered the globalization of media in Asia and the slogan now adopted by Hollywood studios is 'think globally, script locally,'” said Wan. "We want to put Notre Dame on the map, in the national attention when it comes to media globalization."

The conference takes place at a momentous time in an expanding globalization trend of pan-Asian media.

"This conference focuses on media globalization, not just globalization in terms of economics, business or things like that," said Wan. "Media globalization has a huge impact on people around the world — not to mention culturally, economically and in cinematography."

Jensen pointed to the intensified interest in Asian studies and a substantial increase in student enrollment in the department of East Asian languages and literatures as factors contributing to the importance and success of the conference.

"There's been an enormous amount of growth in Asian studies at Notre Dame in the last year and a half," said Jensen.

The conference, sponsored by 20 University programs and organizations, received most support from the department of East Asian languages and literatures with Jensen’s assistance and the department of film, television and theatre with the support of department chair Donald Crawford.

The panels will take place today and Saturday in McKenna Hall, and a special screening of "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" followed by a discussion with star Michelle Yeoh at 101 DeBartolo beginning at 4 pm. Panel information and times can be found at www.nd.edu/~callconference.

Contact Kiflin Turner at knurnr@nd.edu.

Contact Helena Payne at payne.30@nd.edu.
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Students $2
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Senior Citizen $2

All Festival Pass
Students $9
Non-Student $17
Senior Citizen $5

*Tickets available at the door
If anyone is an expert on the value of student government or the impact of so-called "era candidates" who run in student government elections, I am. During my junior year, almost exactly 30 years ago, I ran for student body president at Notre Dame. I lost to a candidate who wore a Burger King crown and chose as his running mate, a cat.

The King and his cat's popularity began when the King proclaimed that he was the prime mover, thus he only campaigned from toilet stalls in each dorm. His success was sealed after he spoke behind a burning bush on one of the balconies at Walsh Hall (a burning trash can substituted for the bush). His appeal swept across campus 10 years ago because all election cycles have an ebb and flow as constituencies change.

Former Speaker of the House Thomas "Tip" O'Neill (D-Mass.) once said, "If you can't stick with what seems to be working, if you lose, for five years following my loss I attempted to understand how intelligent students at a premier university like Notre Dame voted for a King and his cat.

It is as explainable as the New England Patriots beating both the Pittsburgh Steelers and St. Louis Rams. Like the Victory Garden and Mr. Darcy who ordered the Super Bowl, the electorate gods were calling the shots. Moscona probably will make a great politician outside of Catholic Disneyland. Fate teaches you how to run against a cat or a significant campus anniversary. It is a learning experience, not the end of your life. The twists of fate are such that we can expect to see Moscona someday in the nation's capital.

Gary J. Caruso, Notre Dame '73, served in President Clinton's administration as a Congressional and Public Affairs Director. His column appears every other Friday, and his email address is Hotline@aol.com.

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

**Homosexual immorality questioned**

**Biblical evidence is an oxymoron**

How dare Becket Gremmels call another student closed-minded when he is the very antithesis of understanding and tolerance. After reading Mr. Gremmels' letter from Feb. 28, I found myself disgusted with this condescending attitude. Who are you to say that homosexuality is evil? The definition of evil is an act intentionally done to harm or injure another person. Does this really describe sexual preference? If you want to talk about acting maliciously against others, let's look at your letter when you likened homosexuals to people who murder their parents, kidnappers, pedophiles and thieves. Please! If you want a quote from the Bible, how about this. "Let the ones without sin cast the first stone." You may also need to touch up on the Bible's teachings.

This brings me to my next point. Biblical evidence is an oxymoron. When was the last time you heard Genesis being used as a source in a courtroom? When was the Gospel of Mark been cited at a congressional hearing? Never. That's because there are not facts. You can't mistake Church doctrine for irrefutable truth. In the Torah, it is written that we should not eat certain species of hooded animals. Does that make me evil? Orthodox sects of some faiths stone women for unveiling their faces in public. Do not fall into the trap of referring absolutely to the teachings of others without critically thinking for yourself. If I am not mistaken, about 20 devout Muslims took the lives of nearly 6,000 Americans all because their religion told them that they were justified. Whose book is right? Yours? Do not be so quick to answer yes.

The Pope and the Church are allowed to have their own opinion. However, it is your responsibility as a human being to question what you are told and decide for yourself what is worth believing. Right now you sound like nothing more than a mindless drone, ranting about what could have been a discussion full of relevant points and counter arguments. You, however, have completely failed to touch on any of them.

Mr. Gremmels' main point for hating homosexuals is the fact that "scripture makes it quite clear that homosexual acts are a mortal evil." He talks about how the Catholic Church should take pride in its preservation of tradition. If you ask me, the Church preaching not killing, not stealing, not cheating, etc., is about as good as the Church teaching about its apartheid. The Catholic Church has plenty of things to be proud of, but I would not think that the Pope will be writing you a letter of thanks for your contribution to canon law. It is rantings like yours that have caused so many people to leave the Church in utter disgust.

**Monologues' break a culture of silence**

I am an anonymous rape victim. You pass me on the quads, see me in the dining hall and observe me at Mass, always blending in, one of a sea of smiling Notre Dame faces. I am not a rape victim in the conventional sense. There was no brutality, no late night walk in the woods. It happened here, not far from the shelter of campus. Blurred by alcohol, the night comes back to me in frantic images and phrases. I don't remember the bar we stumbled into after the dance and the walk off-campus to his house escapes me. But it happened — and I have never again been the trusting person I once was.

Lacking the courage to confront him in person, afraid of backlash from his many friends and frightened by the emotional repercussions of pressing charges, this letter and a few select confidantes have been my only outlets. My parents don't know. After weeks of going through the motions, tears finally broke loose the other night. The University must address the culture of silence that conceals my story and the hundreds of others just like it. Producing "The Vagina Monologues," a play that simultaneously explores the stifled, everyday violence perpetrated against women, while uplifting female sexuality, is a step in the right direction. However frank and potentially shocking the language used may be, I can assure you that repression is a far worse offense. Freedom of speech is a glorious thing. This is one subject that we need to talk about.

**Scripture's words can be misconstrued**

Although I've never been compelled to write to The Observer before, I would like to question Becket Gremmels' claim that "Scripture makes it quite clear that homosexual acts are not only a moral evil, but are a mortal sin." Gremmels uses the story of Sodom and Gomorrah to argue his point. If you read the story literally, God burned the cities to punish the men for homosexuality. But if you consider the story within its context, it is clear that God was unhappy with the mob's abusive treatment of strangers and its desire to commit gang rape. Condemning homosexual rape is quite different from condemning homosexual orientation or even consensual homosexual sex. This passage should not be generalized to conclude that God hates homosexuality.

On a literal level, biblical words can be misconstrued to serve almost any purpose. Dr. Superstition takes the story of Phineas (a man rewarded by God for killing his tribal chief and the chief's foreign-born mistress) as validation for murdering interracial couples and minorities. And according to Leviticus, stoning disobedient children is okay. The examples are endless.

While some see the Bible as the word of God, I see it as a collection of writings (sometimes contradictory) put together by various authors, with each author biased towards personal belief. As a result, the Bible reflects the thoughts and opinions of the society in which these authors lived. This reflection may or may not describe God's will. For example, the Bible has several passages about the inferiority of women and the oppression of people through slavery. These passages echo cultural norms at the time, and we would not consider them representative of God's intentions.

Picking isolated passages from the Bible to justify intolerance is a dangerous practice. I find it hard to believe that Gremmels can accuse others of "not being open-minded" in my understanding. I'm surprised that with his expertise in theological doctrine, he is not familiar with the passage that begins, "He who is without sin, let him cast the first stone."
Senior Brian Barone as Giuseppe (left) and I I M archese di Trerate (junior Luke McLaurin) armed with an umbrella and a sword are dueling for the hand of La Marcolfa.
In a Class by Herself

Photo Illustration by BRIAN PUCEVICH, ANGELA CAMPOS and ANDY DEVOTO
be key for the Irish in the
tree-day tournament, especially con-
sidering Notre Dame has not
even played back-to-back this
season.

"I think mentally we need to be
able to go three days in a row," McGraw said. "We haven't
even played back-to-back so
that's a disadvantage for us ...
That's when the advantage of
having a bench will help us.

Starting forward Jackie
Budge also grabbed her third
double-double of the season in
that game.

If the Irish face Syracuse, they
will have to look out for the
Syracuse four-guard lineup that
will put freshmen Katy Flecky
and Batteste, both of whom will
play the three spot, on a permuta-
ter player.

Although the point margin
isn't quite as big against the
Mountaineers, the Irish won
by double-digits. McGraw had
13 points. While Ericka Haney
grabbed 15, these 12
timeout points were held for the
Irish during the Big East
tournament.

In order to get to that final
game, the Irish have to remain
focused on their game and deal
with some of the challenges that
face them. The first of those is
a possibility of three straight
days of play.

"I think they just have to men-
tally really be focused," McGraw
said. "We have to go expecting
to be hard and just be able to
maintain that interest.

The Irish will also have to deal
with playing away from the
Joyce. While the entire
Big East Tournament is on neu-
tral territory, Notre Dame
only
played one game in neutral ter-
ritory this season, losing to
Michigan in early December.

"It's obviously easier than
playing someone on their home
court," McGraw said. "... We're
all equal. We all have the same
advantages and disadvantages."

Finally, Notre Dame will have
to play at Lewis Brown Athletic
Center at Rutgers. When the
Irish faced the Scarlet Knights,
they had trouble finding the bas-
ket early on, led only by 50
percent from the free-throw line.

The Irish tip-off on Sunday at
6 p.m.

Notes:

♦ Freshman Jackie Batteste,
who sat out the last four games
due to a partially torn posterior
cruciate ligament is expected to
be play in Sunday's game. She
dressed for Tuesday night's
game against Villanova.

Contact Katie McVo at
mvo509@uvm.edu.

Three times a week, the Irish
look for best basketball at Big East

Sizing up the competition

Connecticut Huskies

The Huskies are undefeated
this season and are outscoring
their opponents by an average
of 20 points. Five Connecticut
players average double digits
scoring. The veteran team runs
a smooth offense and a defense
that shoots opponents down.

Boston College Eagles

The Eagles, who are 20-0
when leading at the half, are
led in scoring by sophomore
guard Ann Jacobs. Jacobs
has averaged over 16 points a
game in the last seven con-
tests. The Eagles' 21 wins is the
third-most in team history.

Villanova Wildcats

The Wildcats have won eight
of their last 10 games and are
coming off of a 48-45 victory
against the Irish. They have
hit 123-pointers in their last
12 games and are one of only
two teams to defeat the Irish this
season.

Miami Hurricanes

The Hurricanes defense
leads the Big East with 14.4
steals a game. Led by
Chanvia Brossard (14.0
points per game), Miami
pulled an upset victory over
Boston College on
Tuesday.

Virginia Tech Hokies

Sophomore center Jeva
Kubilua grabbed her
third double-double on
Tuesday and
leads the Hokies in scoring (15.2
points. The Hokies have only won
two of their last six games.

Syracuse Orangemen

The Orangemen are
enjoying their first winning
season since they went
16-13 in the 1989-90 season.
Syracuse often plays four
guards and is led by guards
Julie McBride and Jamie
James.

Providence Friars

The Friars are led by
graduate
Student Danni Trippany,
who is in her last year of eligi-
Bility. Trippany is the only
player to average more than
ten points a game. She has
led the team in rebounding
in 14 of the team's contests.

Seton Hall Pirates

The Pirates are without
junior Leslie Ardon, who tore
her ACL on Jan. 1. Prior to her
injury, Arden led the Pirates,
averaging 13 points. Cecilia
Lindqvist is now the leading
scorer with 12.5 points per
game.

West Virginia Mountaineers

The Mountaineers, who are
enjoying their first winning
season since 1996-97, are on
a three-game losing streak, cul-
minating with a loss to
Connecticut on Tuesday. Kate
Bulger leads the Mountaineers
with her outside shots.

Rutgers Scarlet Knights

The Scarlet Knights are
hosting this year's tourna-
ment, but they have only won
one of their last eight games.
Rutgers is led by junior guard
Mauri Horton.

Georgetown Hoyas

Sophomore forward
Rebekkah Brunson missed the
first nine games of the season
before returning on Jan. 23.
The Hoyas are on a three-
game losing skid heading into
the tournament.
Mark of a Champion

Photo Illustration by Lisa Velte, Angela Campos and Andy DeVoto
The Observer
SHAWN NEWBURG  JASON McMAMON
CHRIS KITALONG  MARK DE SPLINTER

125-pounds

VS.

SHAWN NEWBURG  JASON McMAMON

PICKS
BRIAN BURKE  Newburg
PAUL CAMARATA  McMahon
MIKE  KITALONG  Newburg
LISA VELTE  Newburg

Shawn Newburg is the top seed in the lightest Bengal Bouts division and will try to polish off his bracket Friday night against hard-hitting senior Jason McMahon. Newburg was impressive in the quarterfinals, using steady lateral movement for all three rounds to avoid punches and shrugging off hits his opponent was able to land. McMahon’s aggressiveness forced the referee to stop his quarterfinal match, and in the semis he again came out on the attack. With a strong right hand and speedy combinations, McMahon will be ready to slug it out Friday night. But Newburg’s strength is his movement and should make the difference. -Paul Camarata

160-pounds

VS.

CHRIS KITALONG  MARK DE SPLINTER

PICKS
BRIAN BURKE  Kitalong
PAUL CAMARATA  Kitalong
MIKE  CONNOLLY  Kitalong
LISA VELTE  Kitalong

The young and the old will tangle for the title of the 160-pound division when senior Chris Kitalong faces freshman sensation Mark De Splinter. A quick and rangy athlete, Kitalong demonstrated both his speed and an array of skilled punches to move easily past his first two opponents. De Splinter also showed his toughness in a semifinal split decision victory, going toe-to-toe against a fighter similar in style and size. He will face his toughest competition yet, where Kitalong only needs to rediscover his smooth, attacking style to bring a Bengal Bout title back to his native Palau. -Paul Camarata

190-pounds

VS.

KEVIN BRANDL  JOHN LYNK

PICKS
BRIAN BURKE  Brandl
PAUL CAMARATA  Lynk
MIKE  CONNOLLY  Brandl
LISA VELTE  Lynk

Lynk will bring an aggressive and cocky attitude to the ring when he meets Brandl in the championship. As he did against Zicic, Lynk is expected to charge at his opponent from the start, using powerful jabs to the midsection to wear his opponent down. Brandl will also look to be more conservative than Lynk and pull out his big punches when the opportunity presents itself. -Joe Hettler

HEAVYWEIGHT

VS.

STEFAN BOROVINA  CARLOS ABEYETA

PICKS
BRIAN BURKE  ABEYETA
PAUL CAMARATA  ABEYETA
MIKE  CONNOLLY  ABEYETA
LISA VELTE  ABEYETA

In what appears to be an outstanding final, Abeyeta will need to start quicker than his last fight if he hopes to win. Abeyeta also has a rather large weight advantage on the smaller and quicker Borovina. Borovina will, once again, rely on consistently landing jabs and combinations to become the champion. Abeyeta will look to defend the title he won last year by connecting with a powerful hook. -Joe Hettler

BENGAL BOUTS
-Brian Burke
Friday, March 1, 2002

BENGAL BOUTS

145-pounds

ANDREW HARMES

PICKS
BRIAN BURKE
Tisby
PAUL CAMARATA
Tisby
MIKE
CONNOLLY
Tisby
LISA VELTE
Tisby

JEMAR TISBY

Jemar Tisby has surrendered superior height to each of his first three opponents but advanced to the finals with fast hands that more than compensate for a shorter reach. A straight puncher who somehow finds every seam in the other fighter’s defense, Tisby works his combinations inside to both the body and head. In the finals, he’ll face off with junior Andrew Harms, who also knows how to deliver flurries of punches. Harms, the top seed at 145-pounds, finds success by controlling the ring space and keeping his opponent on the defensive. While he will try to use a balanced attack that includes power in both hands, Harms will be challenged by Tisby’s ability to go in, out, and up into space.

- Paul Camarata

155-pounds

JOHN NOWAK

PICKS
BRIAN BURKE
Heckmann
PAUL CAMARATA
Heckmann
MIKE
CONNOLLY
Nowak
LISA VELTE
Heckmann

BROCK HECKMANN

Top-seeded senior Brock Heckmann is only a victory away from winning both his weight class and his second consecutive Bengal Bouts championship. Heckmann takes command of his matches by fighting from the center of the ring and seemingly descending on his opponents with strong, measured punches. Sophomore John Nowak will try to disrupt Heckmann’s technique with his own strong left hand. The aggressive southpaw demonstrated his resilience by winning a narrow split decision in the semifinals. In previous rounds, Nowak has slowed his opponents with a powerful hook, but he’ll need more than that for the antidote to Heckmann, who no other boxer has yet been able to solve.

- Paul Camarata

170-pounds

DOMINGO MAYNES

PICKS
BRIAN BURKE
Hernandez
PAUL CAMARATA
Maynes
MIKE
CONNOLLY
Maynes
LISA VELTE
Maynes

RYAN HERNANDEZ

The cornermen should not even bother yelling “stick and move” for this one. Both Maynes and Hernandez make no bones about coming out and brawling from the start. Both fighters will fight in close, and it could come down to who is able to take the most shots to the face.

Maynes is an athletic fighter who came out swinging for the fences in the semifinals, throwing an endless barrage of wild punches. Hernandez will also brawl, but worked at throwing straighter punches in the semifinals, which paid off in the third round.

A close call, since it will be more a battle of will than strategy, but an entertaining match nonetheless.

- Brian Burke

180-pounds

MATT SARB

PICKS
BRIAN BURKE
Sarb
PAUL CAMARATA
Crinitti
MIKE
CONNOLLY
Crinitti
LISA VELTE
Crinitti

MARK CRINITI

When Criniti meets Sarb in the finals, it will be finesse versus power. Sarb will look to pound his opponent as he has done in his previous fights by aggressively charging at him, while Criniti hopes to avoid punches and then move inside for jabs and quick combinations.

Crinitti has experience in fighting a defensive match and that should play to his advantage. Sarb is also taller than Criniti, but this is a disadvantage Criniti has seen before. Criniti will be looking for his third straight title while Sarb hopes to grab his first championship.

- Joe Hettler

72nd ANNUAL BENGAL BOUT FINALS

- Date: Friday, March 1, 2002
- Time: 8 p.m.
- Location: Joyce Center

Defending 2001 Champions

Brock Heckman - 155-pound (2001 150-pound)
Mark Criniti - 180-pound (2001 175-pound)
Carlos Abeyeta - Heavyweight
The conquering power of humility

Mark Criniti lands an overhand right on Keith Arnold during the 180-pound semi-finals on Wednesday. Criniti will face off against Matt Sarb tonight.

By MIKE CONNOLLY
Sports Writer

Beneath the bright lights of the Notre Dame Fieldhouse boxing ring, then-freshman Mark Criniti’s head snapped back in a crimson explosion of blood. Instinctively, the fighter responded to the blow by hurling his left fist forward into his opponent’s face. His opponent’s head gushed blood as the crowd roared its approval.

When the final bell rang a few minutes later, Criniti was left with a bloody nose, a split-decision defeat and his favorite moment in the ring.

“That was the hardest I’ve been hit,” the now-senior captain said. “But it was also probably my best experience in the ring.”

When two-time champion Mark Criniti recounts his boxing career at Notre Dame, he focuses on the only time he lost. He glances over his two titles.

He admits that he’s proud to be a senior captain but he only really gets excited talking about the only loss in his Bengal Bouts career.

Ask him about his first title win sophomore year when he upset both the No. 2 and No. 1 seeds to win, and he’ll tell you he shouldn’t have won. He talks about how he was shocked and slightly ashamed to win a bout he thought he had lost.

“When the final bell rang, I honestly thought he got me,” Criniti said about his split-decision win against Joey Lenisky. “When they announced the result, I was honestly surprised. I really didn’t think I deserved to win the fight.”

Only after watching a tape of the fight later will Criniti begrudgingly admit he won the fight.

Ask him about his junior year, when he defeated another defending champion, Rob Joyce, in the finals to win his second-straight title, and Criniti will temper his joy with disappointment.

Sure, he was happy to win the fight, but he was equally sad that his victory came at the expense of one of his friends.

“When I was completely hooked... After going through that and being part of something as powerful as Bengal Bouts, you can’t let it go.”

Criniti will talk at length about the only fight he ever lost at Notre Dame. He will gush about the hours of training, the hundreds of push-ups and the camaraderie he shares with his fellow boxers. But when it comes to talking about his championships, he closes up. He’s proud of his accomplishments, but he would rather talk about other things.

“There is something about this whole experience — something about training with your team, then getting into the ring with your teammate and beating the hell out of each other and being opponents in the ring and then stepping out of the ring and being friends again,” Criniti said. “There is nothing else that comes close to what that feels like.”

Nearly every fighter in Bengal Bouts will tell you he doesn’t fight for the glory.

They will all tell you they do it for the friendships that they make and the charity money they raise.

But for some reason, when Criniti tells you that winning isn’t the most important thing to him, you believe him a little more.

“Maybe it’s because he never intended on fighting in the Bouts when he first started training with the club. The former St. Joseph High School soccer captain felt like he was getting out of shape after Christmas break his freshman year.

“Two of his roommates convinced him to join the Boxing Club — because hundreds of push-ups, sit-ups and jumping jacks would get him into better shape.

“I got an incredible workout. I just kept coming back and coming back. I really wasn’t that great at it when I started,” Criniti said. “I really felt that I wasn’t going to fight because I wasn’t good at it.”

But a funny thing happened when he stepped into the ring for his first spar with junior captain Mike Romanchek. He didn’t get crushed.

Romanchek easily scored more punches than Criniti, but the freshman held his own in the ring.

“I surprisingly did well against him which basically means I didn’t get a bloody nose and he didn’t knock me out. I felt pretty good moving around with him,” Criniti said. “Every time I stepped into the ring to spar, I felt better and better. I thought to myself, “Hey, I am not too bad at this.” I just decided to go out and give it a shot at the tournament.”

The first time Criniti stepped into the ring, he upset third-seeded Zach Allen before falling to Chen in the semifinals. After that loss, Criniti was hungry. He came back for the fall novice program as a sophomore, and won his first Bengal Bouts title in the spring.

“I was completely hooked. A lot of that had to do with the officers and the captains in my freshman year. They spotted some potential in me,” Criniti said. “After going through that and being part of something as powerful as Bengal Bouts, you can’t let it go. You want to stay in it as long as you can. Once I got myself into that situation and heard congratulations from the guys, I knew I was going to be doing it for the next three years.”

Three years and two titles after he got wallpapered by Chen, Criniti is down to his last fight.

Now, he will finally admit how important it is for him to win a third title.

He has invested too much time, effort and energy to walk out of the ring for the last time without another championship.

“I think I am feeling more pressure this year than I have in my previous three years. A lot of it doesn’t have to do with being a captain or every-thing that goes along with it,” Criniti said. “I just know it’s going to be the last fight I am going to fight in the Bengal Bouts. I want to go out on top. I want to go out as a three-time champion.”

That’s the closest Criniti gets to bragging. The closest Criniti gets to boasting. He wants to go out as a three-time champion.

But he also quickly adds an amendment to that statement.

“Regardless of what happens — and it would be disappointing to lose — I am not going to hang my head about it,” Criniti said. “I’ve experienced something that not many people have experienced.”

After sitting down with Criniti for even a few moments, something tells you that even if he walks out of the fight without a third title, he will still be a champion.

Contact Mike Connolly at connolly.28@nd.edu.
Sole senior soars early-season struggle

By NOAH AMSTADTER
Sports Editor

For any college athlete, senior year is never easy. For most, there’s the impending reality of life after sports on the distant horizon — and the pressure to find a job that goes along with that scary truth.

Seniors also have the responsibility of leadership. It’s the seniors who are generally named team captains. It’s the seniors who are the faces of selecting an athlete for younger teammates — both on and off the court.

Most teams have a few seniors. Last year’s NCAA champion Notre Dame women’s basketball team had five — including the nation’s best player, Ruth Riley, and a fifth-year All-American point guard who had already been a Final Four in Notre blue.

But when those five graduated last fall, they were replaced by six freshmen. Left with the pressure of leading this motley crew was just one senior — forward Ericka Haney. Initially it was a challenge that Haney relished.

“I thought it was a big load on my shoulders to carry this year,” Haney said in August. “But I’m actually ready for the challenge.”

But by December the load was heavier than Haney originally expected, and the burden began to affect her play. A Dec. 6 loss at Purdue dropped the defending champions’ record to 2-4. Haney, who averaged 11 points and 5.7 rebounds in 29.1 minutes per game as a junior, didn’t reach double-figures until the eighth game of the campaign.

“I was pretty unhappy because I really couldn’t adjust to everything,” Haney said. “I really didn’t talk much to anybody about the problems that I was having. It was really hard to try to be that leader and try to play and not be performing well.”

By mid-January, Haney had returned to the starting lineup after coming off the bench for four games in December but was playing sparingly, twice a Final Four in Notre blue.

The daddy’s girl

Throughout Haney’s career, from AAU games growing up to the national championship in St. Louis this spring, there’s been one constant — the presence of her father, Sidney Haney Jr., usually seated just behind the bench.

The elder Haney has attended all four of his daughter’s games during her Notre Dame career, sacrificing both 25 years worth of off days at the Jeep plant in Toledo, Ohio, and $100,000 on the other.

“I’ve probably got 150,000 miles on one of them and probably pretty close to another,” Sidney Haney said.

“I’ve probably worn out about three cars driving up and down the road. It was her family’s influence that paved the steps for Haney to move on to Notre Dame, a school Haney would likely never have considered had she stayed in public school.

“I was used to inner-city, all-black schools,” Haney said. “I had never been around any other different type of people. I wanted to see how it would be to go to a more diverse school. I think it matured me, made me able to come to Notre Dame.”

When she wasn’t starring on the basketball court or running to a national ranking in the 100-meter hurdles, Haney was spending her summers traveling the country for NCAA basketball tournaments with her father at her side.

“She always came to practice and she played hard and I think that was something that was really something that the underclassmen admire,” McGraw said. “She could have really gotten down and really just kind of given up on the season. I think that was something the freshmen really look at her with a lot of respect for that.”

With her days in blue and gold now numbered, Haney has no set plans for life after college. She will earn her degree in Film, Television and Theatre and has worked an internship at WNDU, so a broadcasting career could be in her future.

But Haney isn’t quite sure that her basketball career will end at the collegiate level.

“I’ve considered going out,” Haney said of a professional basketball career. “I guess I’ve learned over the last four years that I don’t think basketball defines me as a person. I’ve done it all my life but I think now I’ve kind of really to move on and see what else is out there. If it’s there it’s there, it’s not if I’ll be like a normal person again I guess.”

Contact Noah Amstadter at amstadter.1@nd.edu.
Learning lessons along the road to victory

The Irish are not a national championship team, but they have as much, if not more, to be proud of this season as Ruth Riley, Naatie Ivey and the rest of the 2000-2001 squad did last year.

Early this season, head coach Muffet McGraw said last year's team was one she didn't need to coach as much; this year's team would be a different story. But after looking at where this team was, where it has come and where it is now, it seems quite obvious that the road they have travelled is one with a successful destination.

When the Irish tipped off for the first time this season against the Ohio Girls' Basketball Magazine All-Stars, it was a different team that took the court. They weren't focused on shooting percentage or turnover ratios. They were looking for a place to begin.

"We're not really worried about shooting percentage. We're not really worried about shots," said assistant coach Katie McVoy. "We're not really worried about getting game-by-game growth and getting better each game."

There was growth each game, but that growth did not come without some very important lessons.

Lesson one: Practice is different from game experience, but some time off is still a good idea.

The Irish started out the season 2-4, winning just two games at home and dropping four on the road. Just prior to a 78-63 loss to the University of Michigan, McGraw stated what the freshmen on her team were struggling with.

"We're working on that every day, just trying to get them in a game situation," she said. "I think they're all very smart, and you ask them to diagram a play or tell you what's supposed to happen and they'll tell you exactly what's supposed to happen. The problem is in the heat of the game."

Despite the fact that the Irish needed some game time, they also needed some rest. Following a long road trip over the Thanksgiving holiday, they needed some time to rest. Not only that, they needed some time to practice, because young players cannot do it on their own.

"We need experience in the game, but there's a lot of things we've got to fix," McGraw said in early December. "So I think that this time it's an advantage to have some time off." Lesson two: You can expect national championship caliber play from a team that has recently been to the prom.

The media did it, the fans did, opposing teams did it — they built up the hype surrounding the defending national champions. What they failed to realize was that this team was not the defending national championship team. It was a team that was composed mostly of freshmen and had lost some of its best players.

"We keep talking about when Ruth [Riley] was a freshman, that's the season this should be compared to, not last year," McGraw said. "We're 5-3 in 1998-99 ... that's going to happen with a young team. Don't worry about the record."

"They have learned that January rolled around, things were looking bad for the Irish. On Dec. 28, during a game that was a blow-out the season before and should have been a refresher for the team following the Christmas holiday, the team fell to Rice 72-61. McGraw broke down into tears at the press conference following the game. It looked as if the Irish had hit rock bottom.

But then, things started to change.

The team picked up its first road victory with a 69-62 win against Miami to start off the Big East season on the right note, and from there things fell into place.

"I really think that since the Miami game, that win on the road, the team just seemed to come together in January in the Big East," McGraw said on Monday. "I think they saw it as a second chance, a second season."

And for the Irish, that's what it looked to be. "We feel like we're moving in the right direction," assistant coach Kevin McGuff said following a 68-56 win against Pittsburgh on Feb. 5. "We're gaining some momentum as we head into the rest of the season."

In the 15 games following the Miami victory, Notre Dame only lost three contests and the lessons continued.

Lesson three: You can't take any team for granted.

The Irish traveled to Seton Hall in February, remembering a solid victory they had against the Pirates earlier in the season. However, they learned a lesson worth remembering when Seton Hall almost pulled out a victory.

"This is a really important lesson for us to learn, that you can't take anyone lightly," McGraw said. "You need to come out and be prepared that's what we have to guard against, just being over-confident."

Lesson four: The most recent lesson for the Irish is that individuals do not control the outcome; it's teamwork that counts in the end.

It wasn't that the Irish did not have potential in the early part of the season or even that they didn't have any early successes. Freshman Jackie Battatce grabbed Big East Rookie of the Week honors six times, Teresa Burton and Allison Rustamante and Katy Flecky and Kelsey Wicks all had their share of good games. But they rarely had them at the same time. And that was frustrating.

"I think it's hard when you see the potential and you realize you're not hitting it yet," McGraw said. "... I think it was harder for me because I saw what we could be and we weren't there yet."

But then the Irish were. In three of their last four games, playing without heartbreak, the Irish have come together as a team for real. Flecky stepped into the starting position and took home a Big East honor of her own. Ericka Hazey, who had been showing marked improvement since Connecticut, began consistently scoring in double figures, and Ratay found her home making some of her own shots and scoring points up in the 20's.

Following the Rutgers game, Notre Dame's first attempt without leading scorer Battatce, Flecky summed up the team's lesson.

"We were all supposed to go out and do a little bit more, and if we all do a little bit more, then it comes together as a team as a big improvement," she said. "So I think that's what we did. We just started putting in a big loss to us but it gave a lot of people opportunities."

Now the Irish have won nine of their last 10 games, and although Tuesday night's loss to Villanova was a reality check, they're ready to face the real competition of a Big East tournament.

This team may not take home a national championship, but they have proved that with hard work, they have what it takes to be competitors.

Contact Katie McVoy at mcno5950@wannamary.edu. The opinions expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

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The Observer's 35th Anniversary Reunion

**April 20, 2002**

South Bend Marriott

e-mail obsreunion.com for more information or to RSVP
that the actors at this level could use," Colangelo said.
The student director eventually decided on "La Marcolfa," a play she had seen while studying abroad in Florence and had also studied in class at Notre Dame. Tryouts were held around p.

"We advertised in Italian classes and lots of people came out," Colangelo said.

Beyond rehearsals, the cast and crew also underwent oral interviews conducted by Ryan-Scheutz as part of the research for the study. They were given reading selections from another comparable play in order to determine their language level and ability and will go through similar final interviews after the production to assess their progress.

Colangelo ultimately hopes to publish these findings in a scholarly journal. In addition to previous acting experience and work on costume design, Colangelo directed the spring 2000 production of "A Merry Death."

"Directing is my favorite part of theatre," Colangelo said. "I love coordinating the entire artistic vision, being able to look at the finished project and to know I had a part in all of it."

With her double majors, she was able to get the project sponsored by both FTT and the department of Romance Languages and is now earning credit for her work as a FTT Special Studies Project. The 11 members of the cast and crew will also receive one credit for their involvement, but the real benefit of their work comes from the improvement in their language skills, as every aspect of the production is conducted in Italian.

"All the rehearsals, all the warm-ups, every trip off-campus with the costume and set designers to get supplies — everything is in Italian," said Colangelo.

"The goal here is an immersion experience."

"Overall, it's been tough, but it's really helped my Italian," McGrath said. "It was daunting to memorize my lines, since it's a lot harder to improvise in Italian than in English, but it was a great experience and helped me keep up my language skills."

The six cast members, three scene managers, costume designer and set designer have all reached at least an intermediate level of Italian and Colangelo thinks that the difference in their abilities has helped everyone advance.

"I have seen so much improvement from when we first started," she said. "It's amazing how everyone has caught up."

"La Marcolfa" marks the first play for the Italian Department and what Colangelo hopes will become a tradition and perhaps even a class for credit like its French counterpart.

"It's exciting to be a part of something so ground-breaking," Colangelo said. "Everyone in the department has been so encouraging, behind us every step of the way."

Support from FTT has also given the designers access to costumes and sets. Colangelo said her double major to thank for this.

"Having a foot in both doors has been really helpful," Colangelo said.

Three performances this weekend will showcase the efforts of the small but dedicated cast and crew. As director, Colangelo is eagerly awaiting to see the audience's reaction.

"The show is so hilarious," Colangelo said. "The stage managers and I are always amazed at how we laugh more and more each time we see it. And after seeing the French play, I realized how much you really can understand, even if you don't know the language."

"La Marcolfa" will be presented Sunday at 1:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. as well as Monday at 7:30 p.m. in the Washington Hall Lab Theatre. Admission is $1. Tickets are available at the door or from the Romance Languages Office or 343 O'Shaughnessy Hall. A summary of the show in English will be distributed with the program.

Contact Laura Kelly at kelly@nd.edu.

Senior Lauren Beyer as Teresa (left) and La Marcolfa fight because Teresa thinks La Marcolfa has stolen her fiance, Giuseppe. "La Marcolfa" relies heavily on physical comedy to convey its plot beyond language boundaries.

Senior Brian Barone as Giuseppe (left) and Il Marchese di Trerate (junior Luke McLaurin) trying to explain to La Marcolfa (sophomore Amanda Holland) why they are seeking her hand in marriage.
Quickly, so call today!

4-7 BDRM HOMES. WALK TO
HOUSES FOR RENT: 4 and 9-bed-

ers, and the unadulterated
sanctity of amateur competi-
tion that they maintain, the
Bengal Bouts have become the
single greatest example of a
Notre Dame event. Consider
the most prevalent attributes
of our student body and the
qualities of the activities in
which its members most fre-
quently participate.

Varying degrees of
university halls, and in every bit of grass, parc-

Paul Camarata
Sports Columnist

The Irish women's lacrosse

along the way, in the rigor-

The current juniors

and seniors have a lot of expe-

rience, if not all natural

all classifieds for content without issuing refunds.
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The Irish women’s lacrosse team, ranked 17th in the pre-

season polls, takes on Ohio University Sunday.

This season marks first time in

team history that the Irish have been ranked preseason.

 Barely missing the NCAA tour-

The Irish are not expecting

Copyright by PPS
L. E. a box, but the attack-

trio of captain Alissa

Moser, senior Natalie

Loughlin and senior

Shawer should be able to take the

back, complemented by

Meredith Simon, a sophomore.

"The first game is always a tough
game," said Elizabeth

Knight. "The Irish are not expecting

the current juniors and

srs. A few years ago, the

team had only 16 games, and

our goal is the	

W. B. 2 Duke and

The current juniors and

seniors have a lot of

experience, if not all natural

athletes, and the exercise of their bodies proves this

just slightly more than the

sharpening of their

minds.

At a university bounded by

Catholics so long ago, generosity

has become far more than
distributing Attend basket not

students. Put off their rest and recrea-
tion to tutor children and

feed the hungry daily; they

sacrifice week- and month-

long portions of holidays and

summer breaks to perform

exotic work in mundane

locales; many nurture an

altruistic spirit that lingers, if

not grows, for the rest of their

lives.

His singular vision carried

Father Edward Sorin thousand

miles of blood from Hungary

then his thin acorn of aspira-

tion and faith has outgrown

even the tallest hedges on the

continent. Notre Dame has

evolved. Once unknown, its name has

progressed to little known, well

known, and is now new,

unknown, universal, and in

the development,

has been criticized for

seeking prestige at the

expense of its foundational

principles. Perhaps its

vision has been obscured sim-

ply for our notoriety, as they

fail to see the light that remains

prevalent in our actions and

words.

A prospective faculty mem-

ber recently asked a

senior with whom he was having

lunch to characterize the pre-

dominant characteristic of her

student body. Without hesitat-

ing, she told him it was their

solidarity. "The spirit here is

amazing," she said. "It's like

nowhere else I've seen.

Visible is in so many articles of

clothing and on so many rear

windshields, the overarching

unity of Notre Dame students

and faculty, our curiosity,

geography and philosophy,

and is distracted only by an

even more devout allegiance
to resident hall residents.

Boxing's decorators sim-


tically reduce it to a release of

violence as naively as

Hollywood tries to push off

sex as a release of love. At its

core, as far away from the

name Tyrannosaurus as mathematics

allows, boxing remains a sport

and Bengal Bouts, saplings and fruit, is Notre

Dame. Not many student bodies in this nation possess the

athletes who could sustain a boxing

club and tournament; few

have the initiative to turn it into an event that raises thou-

sands of dollars for missions in Bangladesh; fewer could do

while maintaining the purity of amateurism and avoiding

the spirit of corporate sponsor-

ship. And perhaps no other

school in the nation could do all of that and compel the non-

participants to cheer so loudly and as long for their friends

who sweated in the ring.

Bout's new name comes as all the best aspects of Notre

Dame, wrapped up in four words. The Seventy-one student

bodies before this one have supported the Bouts, and in doing

so have darkened the lines and curves in the insignia of our

University's spirit. On Friday night comes the latest chance

up to all of us to contribute to the

same.

Contact Paul Camarata at

peanutallergynk346@nd.edu. The op-

inion columns published in this

issue are those of the author and

not necessarily those of The

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Our Lady is standing on top of

the dome, but the signature of Notre Dame can be found each

year at the Bengal Bouts.

Every winter for the past 72

years, the Notre

Dame

Boxing Club has

held a com-

petitive

boxing tournament to

close its season.

The Bouts have

grown in numbers

and renown

since Knute

Rockne's

first began intramural boxing, and have

come to be considered the most

highly anticipated and well

attended contest of the spring

semester.

Along the way, in the rigor-

ous world of sport that they

showcase, the faithful

commitment of their organi-

zants, participants and support-

ers, and the unadulterated

sanctity of amateur competi-
tion that they maintain, the

Bengal Bouts have become the
greatest example of a

Notre Dame event. Consider

the most prevalent attributes

of our student body and the

qualities of the activities in

which its members most fre-
quently participate.

Varying degrees of

university halls, and in every bit of grass, parc-

Rack-10x12 utility g arage excellent

remodeled in 1998 new insulated
curves in the signature of our

department. It all starts on

Sunday, added

Along with Ohio State and

Northwestern, Ohio University

is one of the few women's pro-

grams in the region as the

east coast look for the
dominance of the region again this year as well as

compete with the cream of the

country.

Notre Dame finds itself in a new

rank among a ranked team, whereas a team like Ohio is

searching for an upset to build up their own tournament

hopes. But the laxers are ready for the challenge.

"I think really mean so

much, that all really matters is

what you do on field," said

the Irish open up against a year-

Ohio University squad Sunday at 1 p.m. in Loftus.

Contact Chris Coleman at

coolma1@nd.edu.
WOMEN’S TENNIS

Irish hope to extend home winning streak

By COLIN BOYLAN
Sports Writer

The 20th-ranked Notre Dame women’s tennis team will try to extend its three-match winning streak when it concludes a six-match homestand this weekend. The Irish face Wisconsin on Friday at 4 p.m. and Ohio State Saturday at 1 p.m. in the Eck Tennis Pavilion.

The Irish hope that a pair of home matches against weaker competition will be a good confidence builder for the team, but they aren’t taking anything for granted.

“I think we can definitely build some confidence this weekend, but we know that both Wisconsin and Ohio State are tough teams. Wisconsin is having a great year and Ohio is playing really well too,” said senior captain Becky Varnum.

Indeed, both the Badgers and the Buckeyes boast better records than the Irish, weighing in at 8-2 and 9-1, respectively.

Nonetheless, confidence is running high on the Irish side, as the team is coming off a 7-0 victory against Virginia Tech, their first shutout victory of the season.

“We struggled a little bit in doubles (last week against the Hokies), but came back strong and really dominated in singles. And we’ve followed that up by having some really strong practices this week,” said Varnum.

The Irish have a good history against the Badgers, as the teams have played every year for the past 12 years — and the Irish have won each of the past four matchups. Moreover, the team has shut out Wisconsin in the past two seasons.

Meanwhile, the Ohio State squad is no slouch either. The Buckeyes are just coming off a solid 6-1 victory over Virginia Tech and have earned a respectable 2-1 record in the tough Big Ten conference.

The Irish hope to use these weekend matches as a springboard towards their overall season goals. The team’s schedule figures to get much tougher over the next several weeks and the team is attempting to gel at just the right time.

“One of our goals is to win all our regional matches this year and eventually make it to the Sweet 16,” said Varnum. “Plus we’ve got some really big matches coming up, so it’s a nice time for our team to come together.”

Contact Colin Boylan at cboylan@nd.edu.

Here Come the Irish

Big time players in action this weekend

WOMEN’S TENNIS
Friday vs. Wisconsin - 4pm
Saturday vs. Ohio State - 1pm
Eck Tennis Pavilion

MEN’S BASKETBALL
Saturday vs. Providence - 4pm
• Senior Night
• National CBS game

HOCKEY
Friday & Saturday vs. Bowling Green - 7pm
• Fri - Green Bean Bag Bears, Sat - Senior Trading Cards
• First 250 students receive Papa John’s Pizza

MEN’S & WOMEN’S TRACK
Alex Wilson Invitational
Fri - 6pm, Sat - 10:30a
Lotus Sports Center

MEN’S & WOMEN’S FENCING
Midwest Championships
Sat - 8am, Sun - 8a
Joyce Center Fieldhouse

WOMEN’S LACROSSE
Home Opener
Sun. - 1pm vs. Ohio University
Lotus Sports Center

MEN’S & WOMEN’S SWIMMING
Shamrock Invitational
Sat - 6a, Sun - 6a
Rolf’s Aquatic Center

Your ticket to all the action
FENCING

Irish, Wildcats ready for Midwest rematch

By MATT LOZAR
Sports Writer

This year, the No.3 Irish want their title back from the rival No.6 Wildcats.

Last season, the women’s fencing team conference championship came down to the final bout in the sabre portion of the match. Notre Dame was up 4-3, but Northwestern claimed the next two victories to win the first-to-five series 5-4, and the team title 425-420.

The Irish will get their chance this weekend at the Midwest Fencing Conference Championships.

So far this season, the women’s team has split their two dual matches with Northwestern. At Air Force in February, Notre Dame lost 15-12. The next weekend at Ohio State, the Irish got some revenge by crushing the Wildcats 23-4. The rubber match is this weekend and the Irish still have a bitter taste in their mouths concerning Northwestern.

“Some people on the team are still a little mad about the remarks made by Northwestern’s coach,” said sophomore epeeist Kerry Walton.

Northwestern head coach Laurie Schiller made some insulting comments about Notre Dame’s conditioning and practices before the Wildcats’ victory over the Irish in February.

Another motivational factor for the Irish is that in the Midwest conference, rankings are done by victory over other conference members throughout the season. Since the Irish focused their schedule on top competition, their conference ranking is lower than they think it should be.

“We’re not ranked as high as some of the intrastate lower-ranked teams in our conference, said Walton. “That has gotten some people angry this week. But I think everyone is laid back and (there are) no worries.”

Despite the women’s team losing their title last year, the men swept the conference title and led Notre Dame to the overall conference championship. All three squads — epee, foil and sabre — finished first in their divisions, giving the Irish the maximum 450 points.

“I think we are feeling pretty confident as a team,” said senior Andre Crompton. “We may be a little more challenged in some areas, but we should be the best in the Midwest.”

Top competition for No.1 Notre Dame should come from No.4 Ohio State and Northwestern.

“Ohio State has a pretty strong sabre team,” Crompton said. “I think, though, we are better overall as a team.”

Junior foilist Uzren Debit looks to win his third conference championship in as many years this season. Last year, he defeated teammate Forest Walton 15-8 in the final.

In epee, Brian Casas upset captain Jan Vivian in the final, 13-14. Crompton defeated the top seed from Wayne State in the semifinals before beating the second seed and teammate Andrezej Bednarski in the finals to claim the sabre title.

Being the defending champions brings some added expectations to the team. Also, with the NCAA regionals next weekend, Crompton knows this weekend is very important.

“There is always pressure as the defending champion,” said the captain. “If we don’t perform well this weekend, it can foreshadow what will happen next weekend.”

The Midwest Fencing Conference Championships will be held at the Joyce Center this weekend. The team event is on Saturday, with the individual competitions on Sunday. Both days’ events will begin at 8 a.m.

Contact Matt Lozar at mlozar@nd.edu.

SOFTBALL

Gumph, Irish head to Aggie Invite

By AARON RONSEHIM
Sports Writer

After nine years as the Irish head softball coach and a season in which she led Notre Dame to its highest ranking ever last year, Liz Miller retired after the end of the 2001 season.

This year the Irish are lead by its highest ranking ever last year, Liz Miller retired after the end of the 2001 season.

Under her first four years of coaching, the Irish have lowered their team earned run average and raised their cumulative batting average. In 2001 the Irish had a record team ERA of 0.89 (seventh in the nation) and 477 strikeouts.

Freshmen pitcher Steffany Stengelein has already felt the positive effects of working with coach Gumph.

“She’s one of my favorite coaches that I ever played for. She has already helped me so much with my pitching,” said Stengelein.

Gumph’s staff will lead the No.24 Irish (4-6) at the Texas A & M Aggie Invitational this weekend where they will play No.19 Louisiana-Lafayette and unranked Illinois-Chicago. Notre Dame will play host No.23 Texas A&M once.

The Irish will be looking for revenge after last weekend’s 2-1 loss to the Aggies. The Aggies’ Jessica Slapeter pitched a complete game with 12 strikeouts as she outdueled Stengelein who pitched six strong innings.

Notre Dame will most likely face Slapeter again this weekend and hopefully be able to generate a little more offense.

“I hope to see her again. We will know what is a coming and expect the girls to jump on her,” said Gumph.

Against Louisiana-Lafayette, the Notre Dame pitchers will have to shut down the Lady Cajuns tandem of Becky McCarty and Alana Addison, both of whom are hitting over .400 with five home runs.

When the Irish play Illinois State it will be a rematch of last year’s NCAA Region VII Tournament game, in which the Irish won 2-1. Illinois State (4-6) is coming off a loss to South Carolina. Both teams are looking for a first victory this weekend.

The Irish will hope to rebound from last weekend and post a few victories against the nation elite.

“If we come out and play like we’re capable of playing we should be fine,” said All-American captain Jarrin Mattiace.

Contact Aaron Ronshiem at aronsh@nd.edu.

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Contact Aaron Ronshiem at aronsh@nd.edu.

THE FRESH CUPS

Your alternative music source.
three minutes more than Charles Thomas has played in his entire career. Most walk-ons would moan and gripe if they only played 27 minutes in their four-year college career. Or more appropriately, they'd moan and gripe if they stayed on the team.

But Thomas isn't your typical walk-on. He's one of the most resilient players on Notre Dame's team because he refuses to quit—at anything.

"He's one of the hardest workers on the team, not just on the floor, but off," teammate and good friend Terrance Jones said. "Sometimes I go over to his room to hang out and he's there studying. If I'm not studying there, I'm sitting there silent the whole time."

Studying and basketball are Thomas' two passions. But he makes it crystal-clear which one he really loves.

"Without basketball," Thomas said, "I'd be bored out of my mind."

He came to Notre Dame with the intention of walking on to John MacLeod's team. As soon as he arrived on campus, he began scrimmaging with the team during the early fall and was invited to stay on as a walk-on. The only problem was that Thomas was one of eight walk-ons—and he was by far the smallest player.

"I was thinking there's no way I'd be able to make it. Halfway through, I stopped coming for four days, and I said, 'Forget it.'" Thomas said. "But the more I thought about it, I said, 'I've got nothing to lose, so I might as well try to see what happens.'"

Even Thomas is surprised he's made it all four years. But he admits there were times when he wanted to cave in and give it all up. Each time a new basketball coach was hired, Thomas worried that he wouldn't want to come back, or worse, that he wouldn't even be invited back.

He only played one game under MacLeod. His second college game under Doherty, initially made Thomas wonder if he'd even be on the team and then didn't give Thomas the playing time the walk-on thought he deserved.

So when Doherty left to coach at North Carolina and Mike Brey was hired two years ago, Thomas walked into the new coach's office to set the record straight.

"If you ever need me to play, just know that you've got someone that's always going to work hard, give 100 percent all the time, and never be a head case," Thomas told Brey that summer. "If you want me to play, I'll play. If not, then I know that's not my role, and I'd do whatever I have to do to help my team win.

"I don't consider you a walk-on," Brey responded. "You're our team member."

There's no division between the lone walk-on and the other 12 players on the team. He's earned the nickname "Chuck," and he and Graves make fun of each other so much that Graves jokes the two will get into a boxing match when the season is over. He's not afraid to give advice to the younger players, and Jones said the walk-on is one of the fiercest competitors he's ever played against.

He also earned a scholarship for his final semester at Notre Dame. Brey's way of rewarding Thomas' work ethic.

"Chuck's a guy who his practices are his games," Brey said. He knows that. And he plays that way."

Thomas loves the perks that come with being a member of the Notre Dame basketball team. Students across campus know who he is, even though he has no clue who they may be. And for some reason, people want to play against him in pickup games at the Rock. But he just shakes his head and proceeds to "embar­rase" his opponents, as he puts it.

"It take it all as a compliment," he said. "I know I'm doing something a lot of people want to do.

He knows he's a fan favorite, too. When he gets into games, he hears fans telling him to shoot the ball, and he's more than happy to oblige, he laughs.

He's made countless friends with little kids who idolize him, and still chats over Instant Messenger with a fifth-grader he met in basketball camp last summer.

"I didn't think—even when I made the team—I didn't think I'd still be playing as senior," Thomas said. "Especially with me not playing a lot. I didn't know if I could stick it out.

But the player who had trouble believing he would make it to Senior Day four years ago is sud­denly finding it a little difficult to realize that his college basketball days are nearly over.

He hopes to find some kind of league after he graduates so he can keep playing. He's not sure if he wants to go to graduate school to prep a re for a career in coaching ranks.

But no matter what happens to him, Thomas will probably take it all in stride—just like he's done with his life.

"I'm not a quitter," Thomas said. "Whatever happens, happens."
Ready to qualify, Irish host Invite

By DAVE COOK
Sports Writer

For the Notre Dame men and women’s track and field teams, the team indoor season is over. The women and men both had great successes at the Big East Championships, taking first place and fourth place, respectively. But now it is time for individuals to shine. This weekend’s Alex Wilson Invitational hosted by Notre Dame provides a last chance for several Irish athletes to post qualifying times to advance to the NCAA championships.

“We’ve got 77 schools represented. And there’s kids from literally all over the country coming in to get qualified. So it should be a fantastic meet,” said head coach Joe Piane.

Notre Dame’s Meyo Track is known for being one of the fastest tracks in the nation, mainly because it is one of the largest indoor tracks at 320 meters. This provides an excellent opportunity for athletes to qualify for the NCAA championships against one of the best competitive fields in the nation.

The Irish have several athletes who have had strong indoor seasons so far, and hope a strong performance this weekend will propel them into the NCAA championships. Such is the case for the women’s distance medley relay team.

The distance medley team — comprised of Jen Hardley, Megan Johnson, Lauren King and Kristen Dodd — has only raced once this year, at the Meyo Invitational, but hope they can qualify this weekend.

“We did pretty well [at the Meyo Invitational], but we didn’t go all out because there was really no other teams in it to push us along,” said Johnson, who runs the 800-meter portion of the medley. “We knew this would be our chance. If we run what we’re capable of running, then we’ll qualify for NCAAs. If we don’t qualify, it will be a disappointment to all of us.”

“The women’s distance medley really has a good chance at qualifying for the NCAAs. They’re in a great heat,” said Piane.

Also looking for qualifying times are Ryan Shay and Luke Watson, the senior distance duo that has had a spectacular indoor season. To add to their success in the 3000- and 5000-meter runs, Shay and Watson are looking for qualifying times in the mile this weekend.

Watson has the fastest mile time of any Irish runner this year, posting a 4:07.15 at the Big East championships. Shay ran a season-best 4:09.97 at a triangular meet early in the season. The NCAA provisional qualifying time is 4:05.20.

“I’m sure that [Shay and Watson] would like to try to qualify in the mile. Shay wouldn’t run the 3000, the 5000 and the mile at NCAAs, but I’m sure he would still like qualify,” said Piane.

Also looking for a strong showing for the men are Tom Gilbert in the long jump and Selim Nurudeen in the 60-meter hurdles. The long jump and the 60-meter hurdles will be two of the strongest events this weekend and should provide the momentum Gilbert and Nurudeen need to qualify.

On the women’s side, the nation’s third-ranked mile relay team consisting of Liz Grow, Ayesha Boyd, Dodd and Kymia Love will look to improve on their time this season.

“Our women’s mile relay has already qualified, but it’s a great race this weekend. At this point there are six really good teams in there,” said Piane.

Field events of the Alex Wilson Invitational begin Friday night at 6 p.m. Also Friday night are the distance medley and the men’s and women’s 3000- and 5000-meter runs, which should be some of the best races of the weekend. The meet concludes Saturday, with events beginning at 10:30 a.m. with the triple jump.

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Hockey

Irish prepare for final weekend

By CHRIS FEDERICO
Assistant Sports Editor

Heading into the final weekend of regular season play, the Notre Dame men's hockey team hopes to keep its three-game winning streak alive and build up some momentum for the upcoming CCHA playoffs.

The Irish will play host to the conference rival Bowling Green. The Falcons currently are in 11th place in the CCHA and are among the most likely to go out of postseason tournament play, as only the top 12 teams advance.

The Irish currently hold eighth place in the conference but must be leery of Ferris State, who stands only one point behind the Irish in ninth.

"One thing that appears important right now is that we have to stay ahead of everyone who is behind us," Irish head coach Dave Poulin said. "The move [in standings] doesn't really mean anything because five, six and seven [places] are still uncertain. We're on a nice little roll now, and we just want to keep it rolling.

Indeed the Irish have been playing well of late. Their current three-game winning streak matches the longest of the season and the Irish defense has held its opponents to only five goals in the last three games, including one in an empty net.

"The last four games we've really tightened up defensively," Poulin said. "Giving up only four goals in the last four games is tremendous, and we've continued that focus on the defensive side of things (in practice)."

Part of this defensive surge can be seen in the play of freshman goalie Morgan Cey, who allowed only three goals against national power Michigan State three weekends ago, and then returned strong last weekend against Lake Superior State — allowing only one goal and securing his second shutout of the season.

Bowling Green comes to Notre Dame after a strong weekend against Northern Michigan last week that included a 6-0 shutout for the Falcons. The team is lead in scoring by forward Greg Day with 31 points coming on 17 goals and 16 assists.

The Bowling Green goaltender, Tyler Masters, has surrendered 3.36 goals per game this year, but recorded 45 saves against Notre Dame in a 4-2 Bowling Green victory earlier this year. Notre Dame won the other matchup earlier this season 6-3 to earn a series split on the road last December.

With a strong series this final weekend, the Irish feel they could make a move in the postseason, entering the CCHA tournament playing as well as they have all year.

"We think we're a better hockey team now than we were a month ago, and we're going to continue that," Poulin said. "We're going to be a very difficult team to play."

The two teams will face off in the Joyce at 7:05 p.m. both Friday and Saturday.

Contact Chris Federico at cfederic@nd.edu.
Have an interesting sports story to tell? 
Call Chris or Noah at 631-4543

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MEN'S TENNIS

No. 7 Irish
travel to LaJolla

By JOE LINDSLEY
Sports Writer

The Notre Dame men's tennis team is leaving behind South Bend this weekend as they travel to sunny LaJolla, Ca. for the Pacific Coast Doubles tournament. This annual event does not actually count towards Notre Dame's record as it is not a collegiate tournament. Those invited to participate in the tournament include many of the top-ranked tennis programs in the nation, as well as ranked professional players.

The outcome of this weekend's play will not affect Notre Dame's current standing as the seventh ranked team in the nation. According to senior Javier Taborga, this tournament is an opportunity to play some of the best players in the country — collegiate and professional.

Many teams do not send their top players, though. Taborga, along with senior Casey Smith, will not be participating this year because head tennis coach Bob Bayless wants to ensure that they are ready for next week's critical dual match at Illinois. Taborga and Smith are seventh in the national doubles rankings.

"A lot of tennis professionals go [to the Pacific Coast Doubles] and just enjoy playing with their old partners. It's always really high level," said Taborga, who has participated in previous years. "I think it's a great experience because it's one of the finest clubs that I've been to in my life. It's just off the beach, and the courts are on the beach. There are a lot of people that come to watch you play."

"It's one of the best experiences I've had at Notre Dame," he added.

The tournament organizers even pay all the travel expenses of those invited, and there is prize money available for the professionals who participate.

"That's why very good players go and play, because they have all the expenses covered," Taborga said. "They just enjoy a weekend in LaJolla, and I don't think anyone would want to turn that down."

Some of the teams sending players to LaJolla include top-ranked programs such as Stanford, UCLA and USC.

The Irish are more concerned though about their indoor dual match versus Illinois next Thursday, as well as their first outdoor tournament of the spring, the Blue-Grey National Tennis Classic, which starts March 14. "Beating Illinois would be a huge step towards our goal of winning the national championship," said Taborga, who is currently ranked the 23rd best singles player in the country.

A win over Illinois could help to secure home court advantage for Notre Dame in the NCAA tournament, and that in turn could help propel the Irish towards the national championship.

"Freshman and sophomore years, we all talked about [winning the championship], but it wasn't really feasible. Last year we had our chances, but we still were a really young team. We didn't realize how close we were," Taborga said.

This year is different though, he feels.

"Now we've played against the best teams, we've been able to compete against them ... so we know that we are at that level. Right now I think that we all really believe in the possibility of winning a national championship," he said.

Additionally, Taborga believes Notre Dame, 11-3 after an indoor win over Miami on Feb. 24, will be an even more formidable force once it starts playing outside.

"This year we all have been working hard over the summer and got better outdoors. I think it's going to be a big surprise when many coaches see us play outdoors, because they are expecting us to be a little weaker than when we are indoors. From top to bottom, I think we will be a lot better outdoors," he said.

Notre Dame will be able to see how it fares outdoors this weekend before the real test begins at the Blue-Grey Classic — a tournament which will count towards Notre Dame's standing.

Contact Joe Lindsley at jlindsle@nd.edu.
Men's LACROSSE

Irish ready for Ivy League Penn

By JOE LICANDRO

As if last Saturday’s overtime loss against Penn State was not enough, the Notre Dame men’s lacrosse team received some more bad news yesterday when starting midfielder Matt Howell suffered a knee injury in practice.

The sophomore, who scored his first career goal in the Irish’s 10-9 loss to the Nittany Lions last Sunday, is expected to miss at least six weeks and could be out for the remainder of the season, depending on how long it takes him to recover from knee surgery.

“We will miss Matt Howell tremendously on offense,” said senior attackman Owen Asplundh. “Matt is a great player with a lot of talent. Everyone on offense is simply going to have to pick up their play.”

The Irish will find out if they can recover from the loss of Howell when they travel to Philadelphia to take on the Penn Quakers Saturday at 1 p.m. Notre Dame is hoping to rebound from last Sunday’s loss against Penn State and even their record at 1-1 in the Big East when they play the Friars.

“We gave Penn State four goals by turning the ball over,” said Trisch head coach Kevin Corrigan. “We looked lost on offense and we were completely out of sync.”

With Howell out of the lineup, Corrigan will be forced to juggle his starting lineup and play more younger players on offense. Freshmen Brian Giordano and Devin Ryan and sophomore Steve Claggett will start in place of Howell on the first-string midfield alongside senior captains John Flandina and Devin Ryan and sophomore Dave and Impressive debut last season, John Flandina and Devin Ryan is a great opportunity for us. We have a lot of young guys on offense this year and coach needs us to give our best and contribute to the team right now.

The Penn Quakers are a mystery team. They have yet to play a game this season so the Irish have had no game film to study this week in practice. Furthermore, Penn will have a new look this season under new coach Matt Hogan.

The Irish will have their work cut out for them as the Quakers return 22 players including six starters from last year’s squad.

Notre Dame needs a win over Penn on Saturday to get their season on the right track. With Howell out with an injury, the Irish will rely even more on their defense to defeat the Quakers. Irish players know they must play a complete game to claim their first victory of the season.

Contact Joe Licandro at licandro.10@nd.edu.

Contact Joe Licandro at licandro.10@nd.edu.
Friday, March 1, 2002

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17. Ship sunk at Pearl Harbor 18. For the near future
21. Most halting

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2. Speak well of 3. Who knew?
4. Fix, as shoes 5. Be inclined
6. Like some working groups 7. Name for Louis Vuit, with "the"

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Irish look beyond injuries, head south

By JOE HETTLER
Sports Writer

With numerous players injured during last weekend’s University of New Orleans Classic, the Notre Dame base-
ball team lost two out of three games. But instead of making excuses about their losses, head coach Paul Mainieri and the Irish are looking forward to this weekend’s Homestead Challenge held in Florida where the Irish will face Duquesne, Fairfield, Florida International and Savannah State.

"To be honest, in 20 years in coaching I’ve never seen a ration of injuries at one time like this and that’s no exaggera-
tion," said Mainieri. "Anytime you take the four quality play-
ers out of your line-up like we lost this weekend, it’s certainly going to have an effect with your team. But I was really, really proud of the way that the replacements went in there and played. We competed real hard and I choose to look at the very positive aspect of this past weekend and those guys gained some great experience."

By the end of last weekend, the Irish were without fresh-
man shortstop Matt Macri, sophomore second baseman Steve Sollman, third baseman/catcher Andrew Bushby and closer Matt Laird. All-American catcher Paul O’Toole was forced to only play third base due to a left hand injury, forcing senior Matt Bok to take over the catching duties.

"I thought Matt Bok stepped in and just did a magnificent job catching on Sunday, despite having not been back there in quite sometime," said Mainieri.

The pitching performances of freshman Chris Niesel and Grant Johnson also encouraged the Irish during this past weekend. As a starter on Sunday against Southern Illinois, Niesel went five innings, striking out 10 and allowing just one run on five hits.

The 10 strikeouts are the sec-
ond-most ever by a freshman pitcher at Notre Dame and the most in an Irish pitcher’s first career start. Johnson recorded his first collegiate victory by pitching six strong relief innings in the team’s opening game against Missouri.

"Clearly, our freshman are going to continue to pitch because they are some of our best pitchers," said Mainieri.

"The performances by Grant Johnson and Chris Niesel this past weekend were really fan-
tastic and I think they showed everybody what they’re capa-
bile of doing. They’re actually both going to start a game this weekend."

While Notre Dame awaits the return of their injured players, they will try and find a way to pick up some early season wins. Mainieri believes they can do this by staying upbeat and positive.

"It might take a little bit of time before we have the whole squad together, but, in the mean time, we’re just going to have to do it the hard way and keep battling as hard as we can and keep a positive attitude and hopefully we’ll have some success until we get everybody back," said Mainieri.

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