Congratulations
The Observer congratulates all Notre Dame and Saint Mary's students who will graduate this weekend and wishes them the best of luck in the future.
A common bond

Four weeks ago, I gathered at the South Bend Marriott with 100 other current and former Observer staff to celebrate the 35th anniversary of the founding of the paper.

Although many of us had never met before, we shared a common bond. The problems of the past 30 years ago were very similar to the problems of the paper today. The stories were all different but everyone understood them.

There was a connection between us all.

Ten days later, a smaller group of Observer editors from around the country gathered again in Sacred Heart Basilica, Ryan Ver Berkmoes, one of the managing editors from the early 1980s, had lost his mother to a stroke. Two editors and I arrived at the Basilica a little after 9:30 a.m. for the funeral. A few other members of the paper gathered again in Sacred Heart Basilica.

As I walk away from this school with my degree, many expressed sorrow for those common experiences, those shared memories.

"Father Smyth is a man who has spent the last 40 years working at Maryville Academy, a residence for orphaned and homeless children," said University spokesman Dennis Moore. "Maryville Academy has been one of the most successful institutions in the country."

Smyth, who graduated from Notre Dame in 1957, was a standout athlete. He served as baseball team captain and was recognized as an honorable mention All-American player. After graduation, Smyth was selected by the St. Louis Hawks in the third round of the NBA draft. He turned down the offer, however, to enter the priesthood. Since his ordination in 1962, Smyth has worked at Maryville Academy in the Chicago archdiocese. He entered into service at the academy in 1962 and assumed the job of executive director in 1970.

"The Notre Dame family has been proud of Father John Smyth since his days as a student here 50 years ago," said University President Edward Malloy. "This year we particularly wish to celebrate the exemplary manner in which he has served Christ in the children who are victims of neglect, prostitution, sexual abuse and family violence."

Smyth was selected to receive Catholic America’s oldest honor in March. A committee of Notre Dame staff, faculty, and administrators made the recommendation, which was approved by the Office’s Group. The medal, established in 1883, is named after Laetare Sunday, because the recipient is announced on the Sunday before Day of Lent on the Church calendar.

Contact Andrew Thagard at athagard@nd.edu.
The 1,872 members of the Notre Dame undergraduate class of 2002 will enter a new phase of their lives, leaving four years of memories filled with academics and service, along with tragedy and hope.

Since the day they stepped foot on the 1,250-acre Notre Dame campus in August 1998, prepared or unprepared to attend their freshmen orientation graffiti dance or the Sunday mass for students and families, the class of 2002 has seen many changes at the University.

"We're ready to make a big impact on the world outside of Notre Dame." 

Drew Gawrych
Senior

"I'm really glad that I decided to run for student body president," said Brooke Norton. "I think that is one of the most difficult things our class had to deal with," said Norton, referring to the deaths of Brionne Clary, Canor Murphy and Miranda Thomas.

Senior Drew Gawrych said that the class of 2002 has shown resilience as they have broken traditions, as well as coped with tragedy.

"We've dealt with the loss of three classmates," said Gawrych. "We're also the graduating class in the year of one of the greatest tragedies in our history."

"We're ready to make a big impact on the world outside of Notre Dame," said Gawrych.

Many of Notre Dame's Class of 2002's 1,872 seniors will have their final conversations during this 2002 Commencement Week, while others will remain in touch years beyond graduation.

Contact Helena Payne at payne.300@nd.edu.

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Dolezal, Furman to be honored as valedictorians

Furman achieves highest GPA while working as baseball manager

By SCOTT BRODFUEHRER
Assistant News Editor

In addition to having the highest grade point average of all her classmates, Saint Mary's valedictorian Katie Furman also serves as the head manager of Notre Dame's baseball team, the equivalent of a full-time job.

Furman has a 3.98 grade point average and is double majoring in marketing and management with a minor in mathematics, but she said she was surprised to have earned valedictorian.

"I obviously don't think about that kind of stuff because I am at the baseball field all the time, so I never really have thought about being valedictorian," said Furman.

Since her freshman year, Furman has been a manager. During her freshman and sophomore years, she worked with many sports but for the past two years she worked solely with the baseball team.

The baseball team was her main extracurricular activity, requiring her to work almost 10 hours a day during the season and travel extensively for the first part of the season, when the team is on the road for the first 22 games because South Bend weather is not conducive to baseball games.

Furman said that she spends a great deal of time studying when she is not traveling and said that being busy helps her be more productive.

"I take a computer on the road and I do a lot of work before I am on the road and I spend a lot of hours in the library. I also think that when you have your time with other activities like [baseball], I get more stuff done. I think if I am at home and didn't really do anything, I wouldn't be motivated in a way. Really, really, really busy has been a benefit to make do my work," she said.

Furman said that her speech at Saturday's commencement exercises will be a fun one.

"The main focus is on the memories that we have had over the past four years. It will be kind of light-hearted, there will be no parts, but not a whole lot."  

Katie Furman  
Saint Mary's valedictorian

Dolezal balances academics, service and spirituality

By SCOTT BRODFUEHRER
Assistant News Editor

Valedictorian Tim Dolezal has lived in Carroll all his life.

In fact, he's lived in two communities: a small Iowa town and Notre Dame's smallest residence hall. Both have helped Dolezal become the member of the senior class who will deliver Sunday's valedictory address.

Dolezal, a finance and business economics major with a 3.97 grade-point average, said his address will highlight the significance of the Notre Dame experience and discuss the responsibilities that are connected with earning a Notre Dame degree.

Dolezal said he is very humbled to be named valedictorian.

"I don't think anybody with their feet on the ground can look at the mirror and feel worthy of being the valedictorian in the class of so many wonderfully talented people, so it's a very humbling feeling," he said.

A third-generation Notre Dame student, Dolezal knew that he wanted to come to Notre Dame at a very young age. His father, Fred, graduated in 1965 and his grandfather, Robert, graduated in 1928.

"My only dream my whole life was to come to Notre Dame. It was the only school I applied to, it was the only school I wanted to go to," he said. "(Being valedictorian) is definitely a storybook ending to my dream come true."

While at Notre Dame, Dolezal served as Carroll Hall president during his sophomore year and as hall liturgical commissioner this year. He was involved with Campus Ministry, where he led a team at a Notre Dame Encounter retreat, coordinated a senior retreat and served as an element school catechist for two years. He also participated in the Appalachia Seminar this spring, helping a family in Dungannon, VA. to improve their home.

Dolezal said that he is extremely satisfied with his four years at Notre Dame and said the only thing he gave up on during the last four years was sleep.

"What we all strive for is to really just milk the Notre Dame experience for all it's worth — in every facet, starting with dorm life, socializing, spiritually and with service and student government," he said. "If you want to look at what a successful Notre Dame career is, you have to look at all those elements and all those have an equal weight."

After graduation, Dolezal will stay at Notre Dame and work in the University's Investment Office where he will help manage the University endowment and analyze the market. Dolezal was hired after applying to his applied investment management graduate program. Scott Malpass, who is also the University's chief investment officer.

"I started thinking about the idea of working for the mission of Notre Dame and using what Notre Dame has given me to help put the University in a position where it will be able to achieve its dreams and that was all I needed," Dolezal said. "I was so excited and I told Mr. Malpass that if he offered the job that I'd take it on the spot and a few weeks later I was able to talk him into hiring me."

Eventually, Dolezal said he plans to attend graduate school to obtain his master's of business administration and said one day he hopes to manage an endowment fund or a pension fund.

The selection of the Notre Dame valedictorian begins in February, when the registrar's office generates a list of the two students with the highest grade-point average in each college. These candidates then submit recommendations from the dean of their college, a peer and a draft of a 3-minute speech. The valedictory selection committee then anonymously ranks the candidates and the committee interviews the final two or three students. From these finalists, the committee selects the valedictorian and the second place candidate is asked to give the invocation at graduation.

Contact Scott Brodfuehrer at brodfuehrer.1@nd.edu.

NORTRE DAME CLUB OF MINNESOTA

Congratulations Seniors!
From the Notre Dame Club of Minnesota

Be proud! Years of hard work have finally paid off.

For those of you heading to Minnesota, the Notre Dame Club of Minnesota would like to welcome you to the area. On July 12th and 13th we will have an alumni tent at the Cities 97 Basilica Block Party in Minneapolis and you are invited.

This yearly event is a great time, with 12 bands playing during the two days. Some of this year's bands include Big Head Todd and The Monsters, Dishwalla, and Midnight Oil. Tickets are available at a discounted price for alumni.

For more information, please contact the Club's Young Alumni Coordinator, Brian Matzek, at (612) 825-1077 or checkout our website at http://www.ndmn.org.

Contact Scott Brodfuehrer at brodfuehrer.1@nd.edu.

Congratulations Past and Present Lewisites!

YOU WILL BE MISSED
Campuses react to terrorist attacks

September 11, 2002

Notre Dame and Saint Mary's responded in a dramatic fashion to the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and rural Pennsylvania.

Classes were cancelled mid-session as representatives from the registrar's office visited individual classrooms. Seven-thousand students and faculty attended a mass on South Quad at 3 p.m. on the day of the attacks, which was concelebrated by all campus priests and Auxiliary Bishop John D'Arcy. Throughout the day, students streamed to the groto and took advantage of free cab service to donate blood.

Phone lines and Internet connections at both Notre Dame and Saint Mary's were overwhelmed as students called home to check on their family and friends.

Like all athletic events nationwide, Notre Dame's football game against Purdue on the following Saturday was cancelled as the nation mourned the loss of thousands of citizens. At the Sept. 22 home football game against Michigan State, the entire stadium paused for a moment of silence. Notre Dame President Father Edward Malloy said a prayer and fans raised printed American flags into the sky in an event televised nationwide by NBC Sports.

Four alumni were killed in the attacks: Robert Ferris, class of 1962, who worked on the 102nd floor of the south tower of the World Trade Center; Army Lieutenant Colonel S. Neil Hyland Jr., class of 1977, who worked at the Pentagon; and Peter Batacan, class of 1983, and Dora Marie Menchaca, class of 1977, who were killed on American Airlines Flight 77, which crashed into the Pentagon. Suzanne Koostazedko, a 1996 Saint Mary's graduate who worked in the World Trade Center, was also killed in the attack.

New alcohol policy unveiled

Father Mark Poorman introduced sweeping changes to the alcohol policy including a ban on hard liquor, a cancellation of in-hall dances and a revision of the tailgating policy to allow of-age students to host tailgate parties in specified lots. The new policy will take effect in August.

March 18, 2002

Student alleges gang rape

A 20-year-old Notre Dame student alleged that four football players gang-raped her at an off-campus house. The University expelled the students and University President Father Edward Malloy denied their appeals. The prosecutor's office is still deciding whether to press charges.

April 11, 2002

Bush speaks at Commencement

President George W. Bush spoke at Class of 2001 Commencement, becoming the fifth President to speak at a Notre Dame commencement. House representatives and Notre Dame alumni helped to court Bush, who was generally welcomed but protested by some who objected to his policies.

May 20, 2001

Norton elected first female pres.

Last spring Brooke Norton accepted a position as female student body president before her had held — student body vice president. Norton and her vice president Brian Moscona won 58 percent of the votes

Feb. 15, 2001

Hesburgh receives medal

University officials, Congressmen and former President Bill Clinton gathered in the U.S. Capitol rotunda on May 3, 2000 to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Father Theodore Hesburgh, president emeritus of Notre Dame, for a lifetime of public service.

Aug. 23, 2000
University President Father Edward Malloy presides over the campus-wide Mass on Sept. 11, 2001, on South Quad. Over 7,000 students and faculty attended the Mass.

By KATE NAGENGAST
News Writer

Sept. 11 Attacks
By far the most shocking and memorable events of 2001, the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center towers in New York and the Pentagon in Washington canceled class schedules for one day, but traumatized Americans forever. Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s initial response to the tragedy was prayer as approximately 7,000 people gathered for Mass on South Quad and an additional 400 filled Regina Hall’s chapel that unforgettable Tuesday afternoon.

In the months that followed, as airport security tightened and White House press conferences revealed information about the hunt for Osama bin Laden in the caves of Afghanistan, the campuses continued to pray and started to act.

A series of panel discussions, prayer vigils and fundraisers filled the fall semester — including one such effort during the Notre Dame-Michigan State game that raised $270,981 for the families of firefighters and police killed when the towers crumbled. In the spring, a number of classes were created across academic departments to focus on the history and aftermath of the attacks and America’s relationship with the global community.

Now, more than eight months later, soon-to-be graduates searching for jobs continue to feel the economic effects of the attacks on the American economy.

Campus Construction
Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s also continued campus expansions and renovations this year. Notre Dame completed construction on Mulholland Hall, renovations on Hurley Hall and the Hayes-Healy Center and broke ground for the Marie P. DeBartolo Center for the Performing Arts. The University also began additions to the Hesburgh Center for International Studies and the Siebel Chemistry Building. The St. Patrick and Hesburgh centers’ renovations are scheduled to be complete in the fall. The DeBartolo Center will not be ready until summer 2004.

Saint Mary’s broke ground for the Student Center/Noble Family Dining Hall April 19.

The three-level, 80,000-square-foot, $17 million structure will be built in two phases. Phase I is construction of the new Noble Family Dining Hall, which is scheduled for completion in June 2003. Phase II, which includes demolition of the old dining hall and construction of the student center, should be finished by December 2004. Saint Mary’s student government donated $12,000 to the project.

U2 Elevation Tour
After months of anticipation and another chaotic ticket distribution, U2 kicked off the third leg of their Elevation Tour on Oct. 10 at Notre Dame’s Joyce Center. The crowd of 11,000 with the most fortunate packed inside a heart-shaped catwalk that lead singer Bono and guitarist The Edge strutted across throughout the show, was awed by hits from U2’s most recent album All That You Can’t Leave Behind as well as their classics.

In their typically politically sensitive manner, the band paid tribute to the heroes of Sept. 11 by bringing New York police and firefighters on stage when they performed a verse of “Peace on Earth” as an introduction to the closing number, “Walk On.” Bono also honored students who participate in service programs such as the Alliance for Catholic Education and “change the world” with their dedication to teaching.

Senior Tim Collins was reunited with Bono after first meeting the legend while visiting his girlfriend who studied abroad in Dublin during the spring of 2000. In Dublin with Collins Bono had said of Notre Dame, “It’s a place with a lot of soul.”

Coach Fiasco
If any chapter in Notre Dame history could be erased, the athletic department would probably pick the coaching search that rocked the University in December.

The torrid month began when Bob Davie was fired less than 12 hours after coaching the final game of his five-year career at Notre Dame. Davie had led the Irish to a BCS berth in the Fiesta Bowl a year before, but after a 5-6 season last fall — the second losing season in three years — fans clamored for his head.

After Athletic Director Kevin White fired Davie, he launched a
Vagina Monologues performed. Officials introduce new alcohol policy. Campus deals with sexual assault.

By Kate Nagengast

Jan. 1: ND hires Willingham

This year's performance, too, was not without controversy. Representatives from the Pro-Life Action League of Chicago distrib-
uted fliers to play-goers as they entered the theater, describing their belief that the "Monologues" is steeped in vile sexual language, denigrates heterosexual love and marriage and is verbal pornography that donates its proceeds to pro-abortion groups. Members of the Knights of Columbus also wrote letters to The Observer's reader's forum decrying "hard" liquor in residence halls, eliminating in-hall dances and proposals to permit students of legal age to drink in designated parking lots on football weekends.

More than 600 students marched to the Main Building chanting, "We need a voice" March 21 and 22. A third rally was held March 25. The new policy targets drinking among undergraduate students by banning "hard" liquor in residence halls, eliminating in-hall dances and proposals to permit students of legal age to drink in designated parking lots on football weekends.

Monologues strike back

When Saint Mary's banned the performance of Eve Ensler's controversial play "The Vagina Monologues" on campus in winter 2001, students protested with a sit-out, a sign and a petition. Although 20 women eventually gathered to read the play before approximately 150 students in the lobby of Regina Hall, the show never received any official recognition from the College.

In February, however, Notre Dame welcomed to its campus the show sponsored by the department of Film, Television and Theatre Department and Gender Studies as part of a nationwide initiative also being offered by other schools called, "V-Day. Until the Violence Stops."

Directed by senior Kerry Walsh, 35 women performed Ensler's work in DeBartolo's upstairs performance space.

Sexual assault

Alcohol policy

For a student body typically criticized for its apathy, Notre Dame students responded vigorously to alcohol policy changes. Father Mark Poorman, vice president for Student Affairs, announced March 19. The new policy targets drinking among undergraduate students by banning "hard" liquor in residence halls, eliminating in-hall dances and proposals to permit students of legal age to drink in designated parking lots on football weekends.

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Notable ND seniors will tie the knot

By MAUREEN SMITHE
Senior Staff Writer

At least count, graduating seniors Alison Lauster and Jess Donnelly have announced 52 couples from the Class of 2002 are engaged. Like many Notre Dame women, they’ve been keeping the count since the first day of senior year. 

“We were talking about it one night over a few drinks, and we realized that there were a lot of people getting engaged,” Lauster said.

Their unofficial grapevine calculation provides insight into this unsurprising trend.

Each spring, Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s students await to hear which couples will be among a different rank—engaged. Popular estimates among the student body suggest that up to 60 percent of Domers marry a fellow Domer, although exact figures remain elusive.

According to a study published by Notre Dame Magazine, however, co-education at Notre Dame caused a drop from 1 in 4 Saint Mary’s students marrying a Notre Dame man to 1 in 10 by the late 1980s. Without a doubt, the sacrament of marriage is an important one in the lives of the Notre Dame community. Campus Ministry offers five retreats a year for both married and engaged couples. Most of the retreats fill up quickly.

The student body president

When former student body presi­dent Brooke Norton met her fiancé Andrew Lais during the millennium celebration with her family, Notre Dame was a perfect fit for them for marriage. Religion has become such a part of our relationship and that is due to the role it plays here on campus. It has definitely brought us closer together.’

The two have planned a wedding for Aug. 10 at Notre Dame’s Basilica of the Sacred Heart. A reception at the South Dining Hall will follow.

“Again, I didn’t get enough of the SDH on campus,” Affleck-Greaves joked.

The Double Domers

When Chad Silker met Beth Sheehan in a history class sophomore year, he knew she was "the one" immediately.

He's from South Dakota, I'm from Missouri, Silker said. "I was only 6 months old and not going to keep him. Since he was going to keep him, but he also knew he'd have to drive to her hometown of St. Louis to see her. We got home to St. Louis in time for dinner and left early the next morning, but after dinner my mom and I went to check on the cat and while we were gone Chad asked my dad."

The two have planned a wedding for March of their junior year.

A year later, Silker knew he wanted to ask Sheehan to marry him, but he also knew he'd have to ask her father first. An opportunity to drive to her hometown of St. Louis seemed unlikely— until a stray cat came into the picture.

"No one had claimed the cat so I was going to keep him. Since he was only 6 months old and not declared he couldn't really stay at my house here," Sheehan said. "We got home to St. Louis in time for dinner and left early the next morning, but after dinner my mom and I went to check on the cat and while we were gone Chad asked my dad."

A week after that fateful trip to Missouri, Silker popped the question at Sheehan’s favorite place on campus, the Grotto. "It had always been a special place for them, so after his last time as a campus tour guide, they walked down together, sat on her regular bench and began talking about their relationship. Before she knew it, Silker was down on one knee with a ring in his hand.

Sheehan and Silker agree that the Notre Dame experience prepared them for marriage.

"One to I came to ND and grew to love it and everything special about it, I hoped that I would marry someone who also had the Notre Dame experience," Sheehan said.

In fact, Notre Dame’s impact on the couple will continue this fall when they both start law school. Notre Dame was a perfect fit— just like them.

Contact Maureen Smith at msmith@nd.edu.

From sundown to sunrise...
Senior Army cadet earns national distinction

By JUSTIN KRIVICKAS
News Writer

Graduating Notre Dame senior Nathaniel Hicks has been ranked nationwide as the No. 1 cadet entering the Army's Transportation Corps. Nathaniel Hicks senior's military studies Ll. Col. David W. Mosinski contacted Hicks and told him about the award.

"I was really surprised," said Hicks. "My parents were very proud of me, and they are really excited for me both for the award and for my opportunities with the Army."

The Office of the Chief of the Transportation Corps, in Fort Eustis, Va., will present the award to Hicks at the Association of the United States Army Logistics Transposition Symposium, held May 20-22 in Richmond, Va.

Hicks has also received other awards through the ROTC program this year. "At our own Army ROTC awards ceremony, Nate received the Society of American Military Engineers Award, and he received the Distinguished Military Graduate Certificate," said Mosinski.

"I feel like Notre Dame's ROTC program prepared me extremely well for the Army," said Hicks. "One of the many good things about the program here at Notre Dame is that the combined academic rigors and demands of ROTC force cadets to develop time management skills and grow to be very balanced individuals."

Hicks will be graduating from Notre Dame with a chemical engineering degree, and although his position in the Army will not make use of this education directly, Hicks plans to use the degree after he leaves the service.

"The management training I will receive in the army will help me with job opportunities in the future," said Hicks. On July 17, Hicks will begin training at Ft. Eustis and afterwards will be stationed in Germany as a Second Lieutenant.

The Army transportation officer works with logistics and is in charge of the management and movement of people and goods with air, rail and truck. This officer procures, stores, arranges or transfers assets required to support and sustain the armed forces in peace and war.

Branch assignments in the military are determined during the cadets' senior year of college after they have completed Advanced Camp. This exercise is the culmination of ROTC training and takes place at Ft. Lewis in Washington the summer after each cadet's junior year of college. These cadets are evaluated numerous times while at Advanced Camp on various leadership roles and training exercises, and these scores are then added to all the other evaluations that each cadet receives throughout their four years of ROTC.

All these evaluations, physical fitness test scores, ROTC class performance, ROTC activities and academic performance are included in a packet that is sent to Cadet Command in Washington, D.C. Included in the packet is each senior's requests for branch assignments and duty locations. Cadet Command then ranks all the cadets nationwide into an Order of Merit List. There are 16 different branches in the Army, and based on this order of merit list, cadets are branched into their choices until the needs of the Army are satisfied.

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The University of Notre Dame's The John J. Reilly Center for Science, Technology and Values

Is pleased to announce that the following students have been awarded the distinction of John J. Reilly Scholar

In The Five Year Double Degree Program in Arts and Letters/Engineering

Class of 2003

Mellissa A. Geppert
David P. Saracino
Jennifer S. Spanbauer

Contact Justin Krivickas at krivickas.3@nd.edu.
Hesburgh to receive his 150th honorary degree

By HELENA PAYNE
News Editor

Just one day before his 85th birthday, University President Emeritus Father Theodore Hesburgh will receive his 150th honorary degree from the University of San Diego during Commencement exercises.

Hesburgh, who received an honorary doctor of laws degree from the school in 1960, will receive a doctor of humane letters degree and deliver the principal address during graduation.

Hesburgh currently holds the record for having the most honorary degrees, according to the Guinness Book of World Records.

"I think the reason he's received so many honorary degrees is he's had a distinguished career in public service as well as education," said Richard Conklin, former associate vice president for University Relations.

"I think the reason he's received so many honorary degrees is he's a distinguished career in public service as well as education." said Richard Conklin, former associate vice president for University Relations.

Hesburgh's national and academic work as reasons why he has stood out among other university leaders.

"There is hardly a university president, and certainly none alive, who can match that double career of higher education as well as public service," said Conklin.

Hesburgh, who still works for Notre Dame in several capacities, spends many of his days presiding over Masses, writing or autographing books and traveling for various international and national committee meetings.

Although Hesburgh sits high in his campus office on the 13th floor of the library named for him, he said he tries to remain humble. With 16 presidential appointments under his belt, and soon, 150 honorary degrees, he even commented sarcastically, "I think it's time to quit."

But Hesburgh was referring to receiving honorary degrees, not to the work he has done to earn the distinctions. He said he was most proud of his role in the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

"I think that legislation changed the face of this country," he said.

Through that act, a civil rights commission was established. Hesburgh, who chaired the commission, said most of the credit goes to President Lyndon Johnson's leadership during the process of passing the act.

"I think no president before or after him could have done it," Hesburgh said.

In addition to contributing to the civil rights legislation of the 1960s, Hesburgh has also helped reduce the number of nuclear arms in the world as well as reduce world hunger.

"It's an optimistic person at heart," said Conklin. "No matter what the issue, be it a civil rights issue or whether it be the proliferation of nuclear weapons, he's always been a person who would believe that you can make things better."

At the University level, Hesburgh was an instrumental force in elevating the national status of Notre Dame and overseeing its many changes. Under his 35-year tenure from 1953 to 1987, the University went from an all-male undergraduate liberal arts college governed by the Congregation of Holy Cross to a major co-educational research university governed by a lay board of trustees.

"His presidency saw the transition of Notre Dame from an undergraduate school to a university in the proper sense with a graduate and research component, and he's managed to do that without losing the Catholic character of the place," said Conklin.

He added that Hesburgh has garnered respect because of his willingness to take a public stance on moral issues.

"He was unable to speak out on moral issues," said Conklin.

Hesburgh's involvement in public issues has received much attention. In addition to his honorary degrees, Hesburgh was also awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in July 2000 and the Medal of Freedom in 1964.

Contact Helena Payne at payne.309@nd.edu.

To Katie, Justtini, Kat, Jana, Paul, Nathan, Jenn and Raul

Thanks for everything. You are amazing managers, co-workers, but most of all, wonderful friends. We'll keep your legacy alive. Congratulations, and best of luck in all your future endeavors.

Love, Adrienne, Sisco, Bianca, Lucy, Jen, Christine, Travis, John, Cole, Megham, Marlayna, Anna, and Bronx

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ND, SMC seniors respond to call to serve

By ANDREW THAGARD
Assistant News Editor

Not long after Nick Fonte received his diploma, the upcoming Notre Dame graduate will pack his bags and head to Honduras to work 27 months in an orphanage that serves 60 children.

Fonte is just one of many Notre Dame seniors who are choosing to pursue service after their graduation. Nearly 10 percent of the graduating class, have committed to do so in the coming months, according to Andrea Smith Shappell, director of Senior Transition Programs at the Center for Social Concerns.

"I feel like this experience will give me a deeper motivation," Fonte said of his experience in California. "I kind of knew I wanted to go back, but I wanted to do something different." Fonte attended an Appalachia service program in Oklahoma City. "I looked at Peace Corps and Holy Cross Associates. They do great work, but I wanted to do something domestic."

Although a slow economy is keeping some graduates from finding a job, Shappell dismissed the idea that leaner times are forcing more students into service.

"There is no increase due to the economy," she said. "We're holding right at 10 percent. One young woman had three job offers and is turning them down for service. It's a deeper motivation." Indeed, many seniors cite their experiences volunteering at Notre Dame and Saint Mary's as a reason for considering post-graduate service.

"I feel like this experience will shape who I am and give me a deeper commitment," Fonte said of his experience in California. "There were over 40 people who lived in this house and yard. I've grown up in a fairly affluent family and this was right in my back yard."

Saint Mary's senior Katrina Weibel agreed that times are changing. "I was doing service through the College in August to teach English with the Maryknoll Mission. The psychology and MS double major attended an Appalachian service trip one summer and worked at Pet Refuge, a no-kill animal shelter in South Bend. Students were also motivated to pursue post-graduate service for social and religious reasons.

Elizabeth Wilkom is participating in a 2 1/2-year service program through the Holy Cross Associates in Chile. Wilkom will be working with children in orphanages and grade schools built and run by the Congregation of the Holy Cross.

"I kind of knew I wanted to go back to Chile and work with people. They have a strong sense of faith, and I really wanted a faith-based program." The most popular service program for this year's graduating class was ACE. Forty-five outgoing Notre Dame seniors are enrolled in the teaching program in addition to students from Saint Mary's. The program places young adults in schools across the nation and awards a master's degree in education at its completion.

"It's a great opportunity," said Jared Marx, who is participating in the program in Oklahoma City. "I looked at Peace Corps and Holy Cross Associates. They do great work, but I wanted to do something domestic."

"I feel like this experience will shape who I am and give me a new outlook," Wilkom said.

Contact Andrew Thagard at athagard@nd.edu.
The Alliance for Catholic Education is proud to welcome its ninth class of Catholic school teachers. We give thanks for their gift of service to America’s Catholic schools. Please join us in congratulating the following graduates of Saint Mary’s College and the University of Notre Dame.

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Fox cancels Commencement speech

By SCOTT BRODFUEHRER
Assistant News Editor

Two months after Notre Dame announced Mexican President Vicente Fox would be the principal speaker at Sunday’s Commencement exercises, Fox became the first speaker in recent history to cancel his speaking appointment. In late April, Mexican embassy officials told the University Fox would be unable to speak due to political circumstances in Mexico.

“Fox told the University Fox would be speaking appointment. In late April, Fox would be the first speaker in recent history to cancel his speaking appointment. In late April, Mexican embassy officials told the University Fox would be unable to speak due to political circumstances in Mexico.

According to Joan Bradley, an assistant to University President Father Edward Malloy, the Chicago Consul General and the Mexican Ambassador to the United States informed Malloy that Fox would be unable to speak. Fox also called Malloy personally to apologize for being unable to speak and said he hoped that he would be able to speak in the future.

Fox, a candidate from the National Action Party (PAN), took office Dec. 1, 2000, to end the 71-year rule of the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), which still has a small majority in Mexico’s Congress. On April 9, the Mexican Senate prohibited Fox from making a scheduled visit to the United States and Canada, using for the first time its power to control the President’s travel in a 71-41 vote along party lines. PRI senators have said that Fox is spending more time on trips to seek foreign investment than working on domestic issues.

Officials have speculated that Fox canceled his speech at Notre Dame because he would not be granted permission to travel to the United States.

"We don’t know what made the United States leg of this trip untenable." Dennis Moore

University spokesman

"Albert LeMay, a Kellogg Institute Fellow, outlined three reasons for the Congress’ frustration with both the United States and Fox.

LeMay said Mexicans are frustrated with the United States because President Bush made Mexico and Latin America a high priority before the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. Now that U.S. attention has been diverted to the war on terrorism, Afghanistan and the Middle East, Mexicans feel neglected.

A great deal was promised but has not been delivered. The Mexicans feel slighted by the fact that the United States has not paid too much attention to them," said LeMay.

LeMay also said that there are increasing tensions between Cuba and Mexico. Cuba and Mexico have traditionally been strong allies, but two events have strained that relationship. On Feb. 27, during a visit to Cuba, Mexico’s Foreign Minister Jorge Castaneda, who is backed by Fox, reportedly said that the gates of the Mexican embassy were “open to all Cuban citizens.” Following that comment, a number of Cubans stormed the embassy, seeking political asylum in an action that angered the Cuban government and members of the PRI.

In March, a United Nations meeting was held in Monterrey, Mexico, and LeMay said prior to the conference Fox held a private phone call with Cuban leader Fidel Castro. During that conversation, Fox said Castro should not spend too much time in Mexico and told him not to complain about Bush. After one day at the conference, Castro left, saying that the Mexicans were not very welcoming. In late April, Castro released a tape of the conversation, embarrassing Fox.

LeMay said these incidents, combined with problems with Uruguay, have added to the conflict between Fox and the rival PRI congress, which is using the country’s domestic problems to ensure Fox does not travel to other North American nations.

"There is no question that Mexico has domestic problems. What the Congress is saying is that we need you here to deal with these problems. While the President’s travel in a 71-41 vote along party lines. PRI senators have said that Fox is spending more time on trips to seek foreign investment than working on domestic issues.

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"There is no question that Mexico has domestic problems. What the Congress is saying is that we need you here to deal with these problems. While the United States leg of that trip untenable,” said Moore.

Officials from the Mexican Embassy in Washington, D.C., did not return phone calls seeking comment on Fox’s cancellation.

Contact Scott Brodfuehrer at brodfuehrer.1@nd.edu.

Congratulations to the following Citation of Merit winners:

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Kathleen Gleason
Kathleen O’Connor
Dominic Angiollo
Anne McGrath
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Stanford Hall
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Welsh Family Hall
Zahm Hall
Have You Had a Professor Who Has Changed Your Life?

For many students at this university, Laura Crago is this professor. She accepts nothing less than the best from her students and works tirelessly to bring out their excellence.

“I fully credit Professor Crago with making me the student I am today.” - Andrejz Bednarski

“In a university with many impressive teachers who have taught and touched me in so many ways, I have never had a professor with as much brilliance, dedication, and concern fro her undergraduate students.” - Christopher Rupar

“Professor Crogo embodies the ideals for which all Notre Dame professors should strive.” - Bridget G. O’Brien

Professor Crago has written 73 letters of recommendation for her students in this year alone, she has helped 6 students win Fulbrights in the past six years, 19 of her students have received various grants and research awards in the past eight years, and more than half of the senior history award recipients in the past nine years have been students of Professor Crago.

Despite all of this, Professor Laura Crago was denied tenure. To be denied tenure is to be essentially fired; Professor Crago must leave Notre Dame after next year.

Notre Dame has prided itself and often boasts that it is committed to undergraduate teaching. In fact, the May 2002 Provost’s newsletter remarks, “a distinguished team of external reviewers - including faculty members from Harvard, Princeton, Yale, and Berkeley - emphasized that...Notre Dame...must not neglect the crown jewel, the University’s traditional strength in undergraduate education.”

The present situation leaves us with the following questions for the Dean, the Provost, and the President:

• Do you truly care about undergraduate education, “the crown jewel” of Notre Dame?
• Do you seek to recognize and reward the selfless dedication of this University’s faculty?
• Do you want the University’s students to achieve success beyond the classroom through the acquisition of grants and fellowships and admission to prestigious post-undergraduate institutions?
• Do you believe in the Catholic character of this university, one that is committed to service, concern, and generosity of spirit?

If your answer to the above questions is “yes,” why did you deny tenure to Professor Laura Crago?

As students, parents, alumni, and faculty members, please voice your concern that the university has compromised its commitment to its undergraduates and proved false its rhetoric with this decision to the administration.

For Further Information, Please Contact:
Katharine Ortega and Phil Tedesco
Kortega@nd.edu and ptedesco@nd.edu

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Class of 2002
Nanni to assume new VP position

*Current vice president of Public Affairs replaces retiring William Sexton*

By HELENA PAYNE  
News Editor

Lou Nanni, vice president for Public Affairs and communication, will replace retiring Vice President for University Relations William Sexton July 1.

"I am both excited and humbled by the new responsibilities," said Nanni, who was recently elected by the Board of Trustees. After 19 years in the position, Sexton will return to teaching full-time as a management professor in the Mendoza College of Business.

"It's an understatement to say that [Sexton] leaves a big pair of shoes to fill," Nanni said. Nanni's position will involve the direction of four general areas in University relations: Development, Alumni Relations, Internal Advancement and Special Events.

"Change is never as smooth or easy as you'd like it, but I believe it's in the University's best interest. I think that in the long run that we're going to be much stronger."  

Lou Nanni  
vice president for Public Affairs

ND expels alleged rapists

By HELENA PAYNE  
News Editor

Notre Dame expelled four former football players allegedly involved in a March 28 rape, University spokesman Dennis Moore confirmed Wednesday.

Senior Donald Dykes, sophomores Lorenzo Crawford and Abram Elam, and Justin Smith, who was taking graduate-level classes while finishing a fifth year of athletic eligibility, were all teammates at one point on the Notre Dame football team.

The University's latest decision is final and came one week after University President Father Edward Malloy reviewed the appeals submitted by the four students after Notre Dame initially expelled the men following an April 25 closed disciplinary hearing with Notre Dame's Office of Residence Life and Housing.

According to Smith's lawyer, Tony Zappia, the University reported the decision to his client Tuesday night.

"I confirmed with him last night that he did receive a telephone call from the University that his appeal has been denied," said Zappia Wednesday.

Smith, who already received a bachelor's degree from the University in 2001, said the decision will affect him the least because he had planned to leave Notre Dame at the end of the year.

"Notre Dame has to do what it has to do," Smith said, adding that he would "still support Notre Dame and encourage people to come to school here." Responding to the rumor about offers made in his team mates from other schools, Smith said that the other three students still have options to attend other schools despite the expulsion from Notre Dame.

"They can go anywhere in the country. They have their choice," Smith said. Still pending, however, is the county decision of whether or not to file charges in response to a 20-year-old female student's claim that the four students gang raped her March 28 at a house on Warrick Street. The case has been under investigation in the prosecutor's office since April 19.

"We're going to take every option that we can go," said Toth's spokesman Randy Dowling.

"Chris Toth is still interviewing people related to the case, which could delay his decision another week," said Toth's attorney Randy Dowling.

"Chris Toth is not going to make a decision on whether or not to charge the individuals until all his questions are answered," DeCleene said. Crawford's attorney, Ken Cotter, said Crawford returned home immediately after he took his final exams, which will now longer count due to the expulsion. Cotter added that Crawford's mother received a phone call from the University notifying Crawford that his appeal was rejected.

Dykes, who did not return phone calls made by The Observer.

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"STILL THE BEST"
Linebacker bouncer to launch new Web site

By V. VAN GILES
News Writer

Jaime Grayson is a fixture at the Linebacker Lounge, the famous Notre Dame bar that sports the best Long Island iced teas and plays the fight song at the end of every night. Grayson is 37 years old and stands at a towering 6 feet, 7 3/4 inches tall. He has lived in South Bend his whole life and is known throughout the Notre Dame community as having worked as a bouncer at the Linebacker for the past 11 years. Grayson graduated from La Salle high school, and much to the disbelief of his many friends and co-workers, he has never played sports.

"People always ask me if I played football, and I tell them, No. They can't get over this," he said. "My friends and family are used to it by now, but people who frequent the bar always feel a need to hit me on the shoulder and tell me about their glory days on the football field.

Grayson has three children and has had the same girl-friend for the past 18 years. "I like being characterized as a family man," he said. "I feel like I see my big brother, but I am very much the same way at work as I am with my kids, Rachel, Jaime and Taylor."

Grayson has many other interests besides his night-time security work. He not only works at the Linebacker, but also as a short-order cook at the Olive Garden restaurant on Grape Road. He has worked there for 16 years.

The main joy in his life is writing and trying to get his publishing company off the ground. "I wrote a few things as a young child, plays, scripts and so on," Grayson said. "I would never show it to anyone, but now I feel need to get my work out there as well as advance the work of anyone who might need help."

The name of his company is Writing Unlimited Publications. His Web site will be launched in the near future.

"I am really excited about this project. It has been a long time in the making and I expect it to be a great success," said Grayson.

Grayson only employs serious writers who want to produce quality work and make money. "Much like the name of the company, the writing is unlimited. I only want to publish quality and interesting work," he said.

Grayson has enjoyed his time at the Linebacker. He views it as a learning experience. He admits that he has met many interesting and intelligent people along with a great many loudmouths and drunks.

"It has been a hassle dealing with inebriated students as well as older bar patrons. I enjoy the students who come in, they are curious about me, and though I am a private person, I am more than willing to share myself with those who are willing to listen with an open mind," Grayson said.

The Linebacker Lounge is one of — if not the most — popular public house in South Bend. "I love the Backer, no weekend is complete without a late night visit. My friends and I always see Jaime there. Walking over and saying hello is part of the experience just like buying a beer and sweating on the dance floor," said senior Patrick Coan.

"Living at Turtle Creek, the Linebacker is so close, so my friends and I always walk over immediately, and 'Hi' to Jaime upon entering. There is definitely a great deal more to him than just the immense figure standing in the back with the flash-light. He has many intelligent views on philosophy, politics and social issues," said senior Ryan Keegan.

Though Grayson works at a loud and crowded bar that often hosts many supportive and encouraged Notre Dame fans, he deems violence, "I have never thrown a punch at anyone while working here. I don't want people to be afraid of me. I want them to know I'm cool, but I don't like being referred to as a friendly giant. A lot of people know me as 'The chief,' or 'The Big Samoan Dude.' I would like to be known simply as Jaime."

Grayson plans to continue working at the Linebacker until he can support himself completely on his writing enterprise.

Contact V. Van Giles at vvan Giles@nd.edu.
Jump in, dance and be yourself

Sometimes you just have to dance to the music. You have to take what you've been given and roll with it. You have to let loose, forget people are looking at you and just have fun.

Those who frequent the Linebacker Lounge more than once a semester when their exams are done know that. But it was a lesson that took me a long time to learn.

The 'Backer creates no atmosphere; either you love it or you don't. If you love it, you're addicted. If you're addicted, chances are you've got things pretty well figured out, even if you haven't realized it yet.

Unlike other student-favorite hangouts, the 'Backer doesn't call for women to dress up in their tightest jeans and skimpiest tops; it doesn't ask men to tuck their shirts into their freshly-ironed khakis and comb their hair. It simply asks them to come and have a good time.

There is no viewing deck and there is no music; people don't come to watch, they come to live.

I spent half of my college experience watching.

My best friends were the ones geographically closest to me, not the ones I had the most in common with or those who challenged or intrigued me the most. I had friendships of convenience, not of substance.

I did what Notre Dame and Saint Mary's students were supposed to do. I did what everyone else did.

I put on my cutest outfit and hit the dance floor on Friday night, looking for the ice-cold trash can of Natty Light.

I wore my pajamas to the dining hall and turned a meal into a social event, gossiping with section mates and chatting with the random guy I met during freshman orientation.

I studied with friends on the second floor of the library, not because I was worried about passing the sophomore English 101 exam, but because the spot served dually as a place to read over my notes and whisper about the girl at the next table or the guy that kept walking past, glancing in our general direction.

My roommate taught me how to use Instant Messenger and all of a sudden I had 38 Buddies, 17 of whom I wouldn't dare call on the telephone.

I bought too much dorm-colored shirts and attended hall events like it was my duty, not my choice.

I had so many friends, but so few who were as close as I would have liked or was used to.

College was fun, but it left something to be desired.

Then I learned how to live.

I didn't even notice it occurring. I'm not even sure its catalyst; maybe I just grew tired of the unconscious acting, the dancing out of sync with the music in my head.

The inevitable process of growing apart with my instant freshman friends occurred during my sophomore year, leaving me with two choices: I could continue to be the person I had thought I should be, or I could be the person I wanted to be. I chose to be myself. And in that choice, it happened.

I realized true friends were the ones who liked me in jeans and a sweatshirt, not those who thought black pants and high heels should be typical Monday night attire. They weren't the ones who I hung out with because I was looking for someone to talk to, but the ones who I couldn't stop talking to — the ones who call for a second and stay on the line for hours.

I learned I didn't need my roommates' approval of or participation in the activities I took part in or the groups I joined; real friends needn't be attached at the hip.

I found studying didn't have to be a social event. In fact, I wasn't a lot faster. I accepted that pleasing everyone was impossible and the only people worth pleasing were those who cared about me the most.

I discarded everyone else's expectations and tried to live up to my own.

The change was gradual. I didn't even think about it or fully realize it had occurred until I started going to the 'Backer.

I went once and it was fun. I went again and I was hooked.

At first, I couldn't figure out what the bar offered that was so captivating; there were tens of places around campus to drink and dance.

But after a few weeks I realized it was the atmosphere that set it apart from the rest.

The 'Backer is the perfect place for individuals. Women in formal dress, men in cowboy hats, couples in jeans and sneakers, girls with boas and guys in shorts mix together having fun without worrying what the man across the room thinks. The dance floor is usually so packed, you can't see beyond the person in front of you, even if you tried. There are no expectations, no stares, no judgments. People come to be themselves and be with their friends. They don't come to show off or put on an act. And that's how life should be.

The things I have learned in college have been priceless.

My academic pursuits have been many, the rewarding and my degree is invaluable.

But the one lesson I will walk away with in my heart is that living doesn't occur in the quest to be accepted. It doesn't happen by trying to do things the way others would. And it doesn't happen when you think about it too much.

Living is being yourself, jumping into the crowd and letting loose. It is having the courage to seek out or happen upon true friends.

And it is dancing no matter who is looking.

Kerry Smith is a graduating senior and former Assistant Managing Editor.

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

Friday, May 17, 2002

Today's Staff

News
Helena Payne
Madeline Bradley
Andrew Thagard
Justin Krivickas
Sports
Chris Federico
Katie McVoy
Viewpoint
Lauren Beck
C. Spencer Beggs
Laura Kelly
Andrea Devoto
Tech
Brian Pucevich

ND Today/Observer Poll Results

Seniors: What are your post-graduation plans?

- Military 16%
- Grad School 24%
- Career 39%
- Travel 6%

*Poll courtesy of NDToday.com and based on 26 voters.

Quote of the Day

"What lies behind us and what lies before us are but tiny matters compared to what lies within us."

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Writer
Saying the hardest goodbye

Wrapped in a dark gray hooded sweatshirt, chin-length brown hair swinging back and forth around my face, I held my stepbrother tightly when I said goodbye to him four years ago. I wouldn't let go as I began to sob harder and harder, not wanting to leave home.

"Don't leave," he said to me, trying to get me to stop my tears. My vision was becoming blurry puddles of tears, impossible to see through. I didn't want to cry, I was the girl who was leaving home and never coming back, who was going places no one had ever been and no one would dare to go. That girl, I myself, never cried. But right then, in the pre-dawn hours of my first day of college, with bags packed and waiting downstairs, I would dare to go. That girl, I wouldn't let go as I began to cry either hang on or hang back, lamenting the phase I'd left, or grabbing the new one head on. I went to classes and parties, met friends and boyfriends and dedicated my time to writing stories in a basement with an obsessed passion for the newspaper. And one day, I woke up and realized that I was in the next step, that I had completely left the last one and I loved where I was.

Saturday, I will walk away from college with a degree under one arm and a car packed full of dorm remnants. I will leave with volumes of photo albums and CD mixes, books from classes and a supply of college T-shirts to last the rest of my life. I may arrive to accept my degree at Saint Mary's College, but I may leave at Notre Dame, the administration sets the price of college to last the rest of my life. I am terrified, even more terrified, because it's over, not because I want to stay.

Noreen Gillespie is a graduating senior at Saint Mary's College and former Managing Editor. She will return to Connecticut to work for The Associated Press following graduation, and plans to attend law school on the best time of your life. I'm going to do it. But if I can stop by the time I pull my car onto the 710 East to begin the car ride to the next phase in my life, I'll know I've cried because it's over, not because I want to stay.

Letter to the Editor

Graduation brings freedom to choose

I think I slipped through the cracks. I transferred into Notre Dame as a confirmed, believing Catholic. I expected challenges that encourage intellectual growth and academic maturation. What I found proved to be disheartening.

Coming from the University of Michigan, I looked for conservatism, Catholicism and intelligence. Before thinking of the Wolverines as your mortal enemy, consider the idea that the student who unapologetically gunned and driven as Notre Dame students, despite a conflict that involves football of all useless scenarios for comparison. In spite of U.S. News and World Report rankings that judge Notre Dame among the top-20 universities in the country (above Michigan), I will submit to you that Notre Dame is losing in its pursuit of becoming more academically challenging. Ever heard that while the hardest grade to achieve at Notre Dame is an A, an F ranks as the second-hardest? Believe it. Why do we bother to fill out CEST? Look at NDToday.com and see how many incompetent professors remain available for classes next semester. Why would it be necessary for students to have their own options for class evaluations if the administration were concerned with student input on teacher performance and educational standards? I argue that our school has recently introduced an increased dedication toward research while employing those without experience. By filling in the actual learning and feedback of the students is overlooked.

"You had better come to class, Mike, or you will face the penalty of losing 3 points for missing class," said my high school history teacher. "I am not sure about you, but I consider my grades a reflection of my maturity in high school. If a relative dies, I am required to get a note from the Office of Student Affairs in order to be excused while I am away at the funeral!" I was required, I guess, because it was possible that I could've been lying there hadn't I done my homework? Student Affairs was there to check on me and keep me in line. Give me a break.

Furthermore, one might imagine that Notre Dame would be an ideal place for a practicing Catholic to pursue an education, but I submit to you that this is not the case. Instead of deciding for ourselves the way in which our Catholic faith may shape our lives, we are forced from the moment we arrive to accept the Catholic teaching imposed by the administration. Deciding that non-Catholics may attend Notre Dame, the administration sets the table for discussion, but the sad fact remains that we are left hungry as a child.

Whether or not red meat makes you fat, the student body. we should have a right to eat it on any day we please, regardless of religious season. Why not offer Catholic teaching and a non-Catholic teaching? If Notre Dame wishes to offer multiple views of point by viewing admitted culturally and religiously diverse students, then Notre Dame must accept the idea that some of its students can and will choose to follow their own beliefs as far as their overpriced meal plans and faith journeys are concerned. Those of us who have received the sacrament of Confirmation are seen as adults in the eyes of the Roman Catholic Church, but are we really left to make decisions that reflect such a status?

Partial suck. They may or may continue to deprive students of the right to make sound, adult decisions. Catholics should know by the time they enter college that pre-marital sex goes against traditional teaching, so why is there a rule? Arguing that parietals increase comfort for some students by offering a single-sex living environment is ludicrous. All of the dorms do not have to be co-ed. Those students who favor parietals and a single-sex living environment should be allowed to choose their housing restrictions just as was the case, but the time, offer a choice? If the University intends to offer multiple points of view by admitting culturally and religiously diverse students, then Notre Dame must accept the idea that some of its students can and will choose to follow their own beliefs as far as their overpriced meal plans and faith journeys are concerned.

"I love you," my life, I'll know I've cried because it's over, not because I want to stay.

Nick Linstead, Alumni Hall page 19

May 14, 2002
in my swan song, (final exam here at Notre Dame,) I was asked to read an article from a magazine called “The Commonwealth.” The article was written by the outside writer named Bob Greene and to discuss how writers like Henry David Thoreau and Walt Whitman would perceive the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11.

In this article, a recap of 2001, Greene reminds us that the year 2001 in America will be marked by personal experience, not by the attacks on the Twin Towers in New York or the Pentagon in Washington.

Greene asserts that babies were born, family members passed away, career changes happened and that all these are the memories that will most likely stand out to the majority of Americans when they reminisce about the year 2001.

This by no means belittles the loss and pain that our country felt on Sept. 11, no matter if you knew someone or were far removed from anyone who experienced the attacks at all. The point is that each personal experience is different, and there will be a lot of people who will remember 2001 as the year they met their husband or wife, or bought their first house or went to their first baseball game. And these are things that will matter the most. Even in the midst of such a horrifying and harrowing disaster as Sept. 11, life continues to progress, similar to, but different from, what it did before. But, the progression ensues and people move forward.

For me, I’ll remember 2001 and subsequently the start of 2002 as my senior year at Notre Dame. I’ll remember time spent with friends accumulated over four years. I’ll remember tailgating in the rain before the West Virginia football game. I’ll remember a hodge-podge group of guys who, in no way affiliated with this University, wiped the floor with Bowling Green’s men’s club hockey team. I’ll remember driving 22 hours from South Bend to Sanibel, Fla. I’ll especially remember the 26-hour drive from the southern-most point in the United States back here one week after that.

I’ll remember walking downstairs in my apartment on Sept. 11 on my way to class and seeing my roommates huddled around the television watching one of the Twin Towers collapse. I’ll remember that same afternoon differences between the sexes exist, but I longed for. As soon as I told my dad that I didn’t think women should be priests, he questioned why. Stuck in my 5-year-old Barbie haze, I don’t think I gave him a satisfactory answer. But the fact that I still remember that brief exchange today must mean that he really got me thinking.

Once I arrived at Notre Dame, I revisited my dad’s question time and time again. Why can’t women be priests? What about our “nature” makes us unsuitable for the job? What about a man’s character makes him the only potential candidate? Even though Notre Dame is a strictly Catholic campus, I still found the opportunity to rigorously question the doctrine of my faith. In such questioning I found the solace I never knew I longed for.

I hope that someday women like me will feel fully welcome in the Catholic Church. Yes, I do believe that general differences between the sexes exist, but that doesn’t mean one is better suited for the task than the other. All people should find appropriate and fair representation and leadership in the Church. By welcoming women into the priesthood, many wandering feminists such as myself could find resolution to their questions.

I think back on my senior year of college that I dream t to attend and I hope that someday women like me will feel fully welcome in the Catholic Church. Yes, I do believe that general differences between the sexes exist, but that doesn’t mean one is better suited for the task than the other. All people should find appropriate and fair representation and leadership in the Church. By welcoming women into the priesthood, many wandering feminists such as myself could find resolution to their questions.

In my young mind at the time had never even thought of having a woman as a priest. I had never been exposed to that idea. Our weekly trips to church consisted of my sisters and I trying our best to behave ourselves while some man talked for an hour or so.

As soon as I told my dad that I didn’t think women should be priests, he questioned why. Stuck in my 5-year-old Barbie haze, I don’t think I gave him a satisfactory answer. But the fact that I still remember that brief exchange today must mean that he really got me thinking.

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When I have daughters of my own someday, I’ll be sure to ask them the same question my dad asked me when I was little. I want them to question the status quo and fight for what they know is right. And I want them to come to Notre Dame.

Maureen Smith is a graduating senior and a former Associate News Editor. She will work as a buyer for Abercrombie & Fitch after graduation. The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
EXCERPTS FROM LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Four years in review: Students comment on campus controversies

Should a Catholic university host ROTC?

ROTC students, as well as pre-med students, will most likely face decisions with life-or-death consequences someday. While moral education is important for all students, it seems clear to me that it is absolutely crucial for these students, who will hold so many lives in their hands. Any university would be negligent in not providing a moral education for ROTC students, and a Catholic university would be negligent in not providing a Catholic moral education, especially since just-war theory is so clearly defined and so tailored to ROTC students' future careers.

In our society there exist many injustices that will go unchecked without the power of a just military

That is the very reason we need ROTC at this school. We need to have people with morals who will give those orders and have the will to disobey unjust ones.

ROTC at Notre Dame is essential to ensure that the future leaders of our military will conduct war in a just manner with Christian values guiding their decisions.

Sheila Payne
junior
Cavanaugh Hall
April 28, 2002

Administration must reach out to homosexual students

When we learned of the policy implemented by the administration of systematic discrimination against any advertisements from GALA, our hearts were deeply saddened and angered...

Where is the justice in censoring an ad that congratulated gay and lesbian students upon their graduation? What is it that makes this university scared to allow free inquiry of ideas? And why can a group of gay students not assemble while non-Catholic religious groups are invited to gather? We beg to know what differentiates us from any other student group on campus.

Besides being a censorious act of questionable nature, this is a concrete example of why the administration refused to guarantee the legal protection of the rights of gay, lesbian and bisexual people here at Notre Dame. It is clear that this university is not one which is prepared to stand up for the rights of its gay people.

We, yet again, feel out of place and awkward being active in an institution which proscribes ads from the alumni club which will one day likely be our own. This is a clear violation of the Spirit of Inclusion's promises. We are excluded.

John Dues
Freshman
Dillon Hall
April 25, 2000

Tragedy confirms Notre Dame family exists

New students are bombarded with somewhat cheesy talk about the "Notre Dame family" and the "spirit of Notre Dame." To me, this talk seemed rather hollow ...

I had not yet been enveloped in the "spirit," as it was called. I would not be for almost two years, until three weeks ago, when we learned that my good friend Conor Murphy, a Zahm Hall resident, has leukemia.

Although my realization of the Notre Dame family is just one of many latent effects of this horrible news, it is an important and a comforting one. At home in Cleveland over spring break, I was able to visit Conor in the hospital and witness firsthand the strength he draws from his connection to Notre Dame.

Letters and cards, many of them from people somehow connected with Notre Dame, brighten the walls of Conor's room ...

There is a sense of community and family at our school that is hard to find elsewhere. I hope you don't have to go through hard times to appreciate it. Maybe you will never find it. But know it's out there if you ever need it.

Katie Sanders
sophomore
Foley Hall
March 29, 2000

Students beg: 'Dump Davie'

In light of the recent losses by the Notre Dame football team, I felt compelled to rewrite the lyrics to a Blink 182 song called "What's My Age Again?"

I ran 'em out, it was a Saturday, I wore headphones, so I could call the plays. We started playing well, we had almost scored, but then I called the last time out ...

And that's about the time we lost because of me. Nobody loves you when you're Bob Davie. And you still coach like it's your first year here.

Where the hell's my passing game, the crowd says I should lose my job.

Where's my job again?

And later on, on the bus home, I called Scholastic from a cell phone. I said it was Bob and we had lost again, but this time only by a yard ...

And that's about the time they all gave up on me. Nobody loves you when you're Bob Davie. You choose to punt when you have one to go. What the hell is special teams? The crowd says I should lose my job.

Where's my job again? Where's my job again?

My point is that whenever someone is hired for a job, they were hired to do a job. I am not saying that ethics, integrity and morality mean nothing; they are important for every job, especially in the accounting and medical industries, and Notre Dame football. However, no matter how ethical, moral and good of a person you are, you should not be holding those jobs if you can't add numbers, can't properly diagnose diseases and can't be eligible for and can't win bowl games.

Some have said that Notre Dame preach character and integrity are more important than wins and losses. No, they don't preach that, and no, they shouldn't preach that ideal. Rather, they should preach and do preach that character and integrity are integral, vital and fundamental parts of winning and success. By firing Mr. Davie they only supported these fundamental ideals that are foundational to this institution.

Danica Skoch
sophomore
Bona-Phillips Hall
Sept. 19, 1999

Let students choose

Allow 21-year-old students to drink alcohol while tailgating, no matter the tailgating "sponser." On the whole, the Notre Dame students are pretty responsible. Allow those of us who are legal to support our storied football program and have a good time doing it. After all, in less than a year we will be in the real world, and I think we would benefit from learning for ourselves to make wise decisions regarding alcohol.

Without our student body, what would Notre Dame be? ...

The University needs to grant us the courtesy and leniency needed for us to develop as members of society during the course of our four years here. To be ready for the real world, students make choices, and sometimes make mistakes. Above all, most schools recognize that part of college life is being free to explore who we are.

The Notre Dame traditions of family and faith will never die, but unless we make our voices heard, the independent spirit of our student body may soon fade away.

Matthew Smith
sophomore
off campus
Nov. 26, 2001

Students comment on campus controversies...
This week as Notre Dame graduates its 1,872 seniors, it will scatter a group who have shared an experience. Though each has understood, dealt, come to terms with and loved the University in a different way, for a moment, they all will share a piece of their lives with each other. And even though they will all walk different paths, they can all say that they are the class of 2002. This is who the class of 2002 was. This is who the class of 2002 will be. And this is the class of 2002.

**Devout**

This is what definitions dedicate to faith: every morning of his undergraduate career, Tom Prall rose early to attend a prayer service at 7:15 a.m. At least once each day of his college life, Prall attended Mass. His days at Notre Dame were unlike those of most students.

As a member of Old College, Notre Dame’s program for undergraduate men considering a vocation as a Holy Cross priest or brother, Prall lived his faith to the fullest.

“My college experience was very different than other undergrads,” Prall said. “I followed a different path where God was calling me at such an early age and I’m glad to have had that seriousness in my path where God was calling me at such an early age and I’m glad to have had that seriousness in my life.”

While many students filled their free time with parties and socializing, Prall spent his time helping out with various community programs and forming close bonds with other members of the seminary and the Holy Cross Congregation.

Prall helped out at the Circle K soup kitchen and frequently visited retired Brothers at the Dujarie house. Since November he has spent two evenings per week with an ailing patient as a Hospice volunteer. Two evenings per week were also devoted to dinners with other seminarians, brothers and fathers.

Not only was Prall’s undergraduate experience unique, his future plans are equally out of the ordinary. In July, Prall will leave for Hong Kong where he will spend one week at the Mary Knoll priest house attending a tutorial for teaching English. Prall will then be assigned to a post either near North Korea or in southern China where he will spend four weeks administering an intensive teaching course to grade school and high school students, before returning to the novitiate in Cascade, Co., to take his first vows.

Though Prall is aware that his life as a student varied greatly from that of most of the people he will be graduating with on Sunday, he is proud of his choice and the path he has followed.

“I’ve never had any doubts,” Prall said.

**Dedicated**

This is why Lauren Zajac doesn’t regret not spending her freshman year spring break on the beaches of Florida like so many of her classmates: she went instead to a poor rural town in eastern Kentucky and ended up falling in love with a place called the David School, where she’ll now be spending a year of service after graduation.

As one of the experiential service seminars run by the Center for Social Concerns, the Appalachian Seminar program sends hundreds of Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s students each fall and spring break to sites throughout the impoverished Appalachian region. The students volunteer in various ways, from building homes to visiting the elderly, and some like Zajac even find that the experience changes them forever.

Since her first trip to David School in 1999, Zajac has returned to the site at least once a year and even joined the Appalachian Task Force to become even more actively involved in the program. “I felt a special connection with the David School,” Zajac said. “I believed strongly in what they were doing.”

“I’ve become committed to social justice because the University has made me not only, as an activist, to justify my beliefs and my convictions and through that opposition they’ve made me more of an activist.”

**Krista Schoening senior**

What makes the David School stand out in Zajac’s eyes is its approach to education. Founded over 20 years ago, the David School provides an alternative for disadvantaged youths who have fallen through the cracks of the public education system. The private school runs on donations and volunteer labor and provides a close, home-like atmosphere for its students from grades 8 to 12.

“It’s a non-traditional approach to education, but it works,” Zajac said.

Volunteers from Notre Dame spend their time at the David School working one-on-one with the students and pitching in on maintenance projects around the school. Over her many visits Zajac has formed friendships with the students, and in the sense community that made Zajac want to give more in service to the David School.

“I always knew I wanted to do service (post-graduation). After my first time at David School, I just knew it was right,” Zajac said. “I fell in love with the place, and I kept coming back to see them make more progress.”

Eventually she decided to return to the school as a full-time volunteer. Zajac will begin as the school’s science teacher this fall and hopes to stay on for two academic years. She will also be working with the female students in a women’s studies class and supervising college volunteers groups like those from Notre Dame who come to the school throughout the year.

Volunteers like Zajac are essential to the David School, which is funded for free. “It’s important for the school to have role models and mentors close to their age, so they can see that they can succeed,” Zajac said.

Zajac will be part of one of the largest groups of full-time volunteers the school has seen in recent years. After her time at the David School, Zajac hopes to work in the field of environmental justice, drawing on what she has seen and experienced throughout her time in Appalachia.

“The Appalachia program and other CSC programs were an absolutely integral part of my time at Notre Dame,” said Zajac. “The emphasis on service is one of the best things about ND. When I talk to my friends at bigger state schools, I realize that opportunities for service just aren’t fostered there.”

Zajac is not alone in her sentiments or in her plans for next year. Each year, approximately 10 percent of Notre Dame’s graduating class commits to one or more years of full-time service in the United States or abroad. Programs like the Alliance for Catholic Education and the Jesuit Volunteer Corps attract many seniors considering service, but some like Zajac strike out on their own and find the service opportunity which is right for them.

“I can’t wait to get back to the David School this fall,” said Zajac. “It’s just such a special place.”

**Reminiscent**

This is who the class of 2003 will remember. Miranda Thomas, Brionne Clary and Conor Murphy, all members of the class of 2002, died of leukemia during their undergraduate years.

Thomas lived in Walsh Hall during her freshman year at Notre Dame, but remained at the University only one month before discovering that she was sick. She returned home to Sturgis, Ky., for treatment, but passed away during the summer of 1999. Residents of Walsh say they clearly remember her friendly nature and smile.

Clary, an "enthusiastic" mechanical engineering student from Tyler, Texas, and an active participant in interhall basketball was re-diagnosed with leukemia approximately one week before the beginning of the fall 2000 semester after going into remission during high school. She passed away Sept. 20, 2000.
After his condition inspired 610 people to join the National Marrow Donor Program in an on-campus drive during March 2000, Murphy developed pneumonia that complicated his immune system. Murphy was remembered as a "fun loving guy with strong faith" after he died on Jan. 31, 2001.

All three students are honored in an annual Clary-Murphy-Thomas Run. In 2001 the race raised more than $5,000 for leukemia research. On-campus mar­row drives and memorial masses have also contin­ued in their honor.

Creative

This is a day that is long overdue for Rachel Jones. The 24-year-old Department of Film, Television and Theatre major (theatre concentration) has completed her degree six years after matriculating at the University. The South Bend native will be joining the touring chapter of the improvis­ational comedy group Second City as an understudy.

When Jones entered the University she never dreamed she would be joining Second City. In fact, she had neither had any stage or acting experience. She originally wanted to be a pharmacist. But when a friend asked her to audition for a play, "The Colored Museum," during her sophomore year, Jones was hooked and dropped her troublesome philosophy pre-professional program.

Jones took a year and a half off from the University to regroup after troubled grades. Living close to home had made it easy for Jones to shirk her responsibilities. But the time away gave Jones the perspective she needed to return and complete her education.

"I wish I would have known that having fun all the time shouldn't have been my main goal," Jones said. "I wish I didn't have to take that year and a half off, but because of that I realize how much the education really meant to me."

Jones hopes to eventually act on "Saturday Night Live" or work behind the scenes at a movie or music production company. She is glad that FTT has given her the opportunity to express herself and feels that she is more mature leaving the University than when she came in.

"I think the whole experience at Notre Dame with the people and culture and lack of diversity sometimes is a real eye-opener," Jones said.

Committed

This is why Casey O'Neill is glad she went to Farley Hall freshman year. The 22-year-old, who would become when she stepped onto the Notre Dame campus four years ago. The 22-year-old, who would become when she stepped onto the Notre Dame campus four years ago. The 22-year-old, who would become when she stepped onto the Notre Dame campus four years ago. The 22-year-old, who would become when she stepped onto the Notre Dame campus four years ago. The 22-year-old, who would become when she stepped onto the Notre Dame campus four years ago. The 22-year-old, who would become when she stepped onto the Notre Dame campus four years ago. The 22-year-old, who would become when she stepped onto the Notre Dame campus four years ago. The 22-year-old, who would become when she stepped onto the Notre Dame campus four years ago. The 22-year-old, who would become when she stepped onto the Notre Dame campus four years ago.

When asked if she ever thought she'd end up with the typical Notre Dame romance, O'Neill laughs and says no, remembering back to that first week of freshman year when she told one of her friends that there was no way she was looking for a boyfriend. But things soon began to change after the førerful "Dis-O" party where she met Kevin Friedman, then a junior pre-med major from New Milford, Conn.

The two began hanging out and attending Mass together. O'Neill credits Father Poorman's daily Masses for her success. She said not only bring she and Kevin closer, but ultimately giving them the priest who will celebrate their wedding. The couple dated through­out Friedman's time at Notre Dame and stayed together when he headed to Harvard Medical School after graduating in 1990.

Friedman's unexpected visit to campus this November brought more than just the surprise of sharing another football weekend together. On Sunday afternoon the couple strolled around the lake, as was their habit, and eventually came to the bench in front of Carroll Hall; it was O'Neill's favorite place on campus. They sat and casually dis­cussed plans for an upcoming ski trip. Just when O'Neill got up to continue walking, Friedman told her to wait and got down on one knee.

"Are you going to answer me?" But the ring that now shits on her finger proves that the rest is his­tory.

The couple will be married in the Basilica on Oct. 19. It will be a true Dorm wedding. O'Neill's father and grandfather both attended Notre Dame, as did Friedman's twin brother Scott, his younger brother and many other relatives.

After the wedding, they will live in Boston where Friedman will finish medical school and O'Neill looks to begin graduate studies. What she won't be doing is returning home to Midland, Texas, thus fulfilling a prophecy from long ago: when O'Neill was just five, her moth­er's childhood friend admon­ished her. "No matter what you do, do not let her go to Notre Dame. She will meet a boy from Connecticut and never come back to Texas."

In the world of Notre Dame romances, things sometimes just work out that way.

Conscientious

This is not what Krista Schoening imagined she would become when she stepped onto the Notre Dame campus four years ago. The 22-year-old, who double-majoried in anthropology and Spanish, entered the University a confused freshman hoping she had made the right decision and will later come to her speechlessness eventually provoked a worried "Are you going to answer me?" But the ring that now shits on her finger proves that the rest is his­tory.

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"I followed a different path where God was calling me at such an early age and I'm glad to have had that seriousness in my life."

Tom Pratt

senior

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Kevin Friedman '00 (left) and Casey O'Neill are engaged and will be married in the Basilica on Oct. 19. The couple met at Farley Hall's freshman "Disorientation" four years ago. Friedman proposed to O'Neill by Saint Mary's Lake.
SECONDARY WEAKNESS

Malloy upheld decision

By ANDREW SOUKUP
Sports Writer

What was one of the strongest and deepest teams in Irish football history? It was the 1977 team coached by Ara Parseghian. That squad featured a national championship and three bowl games. But Ara Parseghian and the position of head coach at Notre Dame following the ever-popular Devine from 1976-79. "He was such a charismatic figure and so exciting, while Dan was more of a gentleman and as a coach - he was a great football coach," said former Irish running back Vagas Devine.

Despite Devine's less-than-stellar career, some of the people around him liked his assistant coaches and players that went on to great things," Ruettiger said. "I admire him for being a gentleman and as a coach - he was a great football coach," said former Irish running back Vagas Devine.

But he added that the forward still has a lot of work to do. Peterkin only started playing basketball five years ago, and before that, he had a knack for being at the right place at the right time. He's got the total package. Both coaches praised his size and the way he could catch and handle the ball.

By ANDREW SOUKUP
Sports Writer

"Our players who played with him felt great about him as a player. But even more importantly, they felt like he was our kind of guy," said Irish head coach Mike Brey. "He's got the total package." Brey didn't expect to land another recruit like this in the late season. But the Irish had scholarships to spare and were looking to add to a high school senior or college transfer to the team by April, in their first recruiting season.

Contact Andrew Soukup at soukj@nd.edu.

FIVE FOR FIVE

Peterkin selects Irish

By ANDREW SOUKUP
Sports Writer

Omari Peterkin was hoping to walk to Miami's basketball team. But he was until someone sensed his potential. Since to Irish return both starting cornerbacks and have six scholarship backups. Linebacker, the lowest player on the depth chart, could move to safety. Incoming recruit Jake Cerny could also fill the gap. The third player expelled, wide receiver Lorenzo Crawford, wasn't expected to make significant contributions next season, but his character hurts a woefully thin wide receiver corps. Crawford hasn't yet catch a pass and didn't have an impressive spring. But the Irish lack a quality stand-out wide receiver. Arraz Battle looked the most impressive in the spring game and Omar Jenkins and Ronnie Rodman both have some game experience. But Jenkins has the most receptions of any returning receiver — and he has just seven. In the fall, the Irish will benefit from highly touted recruits Maurice Campbell and Darius Wright who will be expected to contribute immediately.

Contact Andrew Soukup at soukj@nd.edu.

FOOTBALL

Devine remarked as the man and coach

By CHRIS FEDERICO
Sports Editor

The Notre Dame community suffered a great loss on May 9, when former football coach Dan Devine died after suffering from a prolonged illness. He was 77.

Devine spent six years with the Irish from 1975-80, winning a national championship and three bowl games. Assuming the position of head coach at Notre Dame following the ever-popular Devine from 1976-79. "He was such a charismatic figure and so exciting, while Dan was more of a gentleman and as a coach - he was a great football coach," said former Irish running back Vagas Devine.

Despite Devine's less-than-stellar career, some of the people around him liked his assistant coaches and players that went on to great things," Ruettiger said. "I admire him for being a gentleman and as a coach - he was a great football coach," said former Irish running back Vagas Devine.

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Contact Andrew Soukup at soukj@nd.edu.

Another way of looking at the position of head coach at Notre Dame following the ever-popular Devine from 1976-79. "He was such a charismatic figure and so exciting, while Dan was more of a gentleman and as a coach - he was a great football coach," said former Irish running back Vagas Devine.

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Contact Andrew Soukup at soukj@nd.edu.
Three-way tie for first leaves Irish in control

By CHRIS FEDERICO

Heading into the final Big East weekend of the regular season, the Notre Dame base-
ball team is in complete control of its own destiny regarding the postseason.

The Irish currently stand in a three-way tie for the Big East lead with Virginia Tech and this weekend's opponent, Boston College. The Irish can take care of the Eagles by win-
ing the weekend series. They also hold the tie-breaker advantage over the Hokies if the two teams finish the season with the same conference record.

"It's nice to be in that situa-
tion at the end of the year," centerfielder Steve Stanley said. "I think these will be the three biggest games of the year for us like we've said all along.

The Irish only need to win one of the three games against Boston College this weekend to be assured of a spot in the four-team conference tourna-
ment. A three-game sweep would guarantee them the reg-
ular season Big East title and the No. 1 seed in the tournamen-
t. Winning the regular season title and the Big East Tournament could be very important for Notre Dame's hopes of hosting its second consecutive NCAA Regional at Frank Eck Stadium.

For us to host a regional, we have to win the regular season Big East title," Stanley said. "That's a prerequisite — we have to do that. I think this year we even have to win the Big East Tournament, so there are some things we haven't accomplished yet. But right now we can't even think about hosting a regional because we don't even know if we're in one."

In their last Big East matchup, the Irish traveled to Villanova and came away with two wins from the three-game series. The Irish stumbled a little in the opening game Saturday, blowing a 7-5 lead in the bot-
tom of the seventh to allow the Wildcats to tie. In the next inning, pitcher J. P. Gagne gave up three straight singles to Villanova batters to allow the go-ahead run to cross the plate in the Wildcat 8-7 victory.

In the doubleheader Sunday, Irish bats exploded for five home runs, including two from sophomore first baseman Joe Thaman, as Notre Dame knocked off the Wildcats 8-1 and 9-5.

The first game saw dominant pitching performances from freshmen John Axford, who picked up the win going 4.2 innings and allowing one run, and Chris Niesel, who contributed 2.1 innings of hitless relief. Niesel made his return to the mound after a month-long absence due to mononucleosis.

"Niesel was outstanding," Irish coach Paul Mainieri said. "During the week we let him do some side work, and he looked very good and felt good. The ideal situation would have been to put him in for two innings with a nice lead. But Axford ran into a bit of trouble in the fifth inning and loaded the bases. So we had to bring in Chris with bases loaded and two outs in his first game back. But he did very well, and I think he struck out four in a row at one point."

In the concluding game, sec-
ond baseman Steve Sollmann went 3-for-5 with four RBIs and two runs scored in leading the nine-run Irish attack.

Junior Peter Ogilvie started the game and gave a solid 6.2 inning, four-run outing before yielding to relief help. After a stint by junior Brandon Vioria, Gagne was called upon from the bullpen after the difficult outing the previous day. The junior right-hander entered the game with runners on first and third and two out, but got the first batter to strike out to escape from the inning.

Gagne stayed in the game and pitched two scoreless innings with four strikeouts to earn the save.

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Tumultuous season brings coaching change

By ANDREW SOUKUP
Sports Writer

Everybody knew Bob Davie would be fired. Few people knew who would be hired.

But nobody expected what happened in December.

When Notre Dame started the season with losses to Nebraska, Michigan State and Texas A&M — the worst start in school history — Davie’s fate seemed sealed. Notre Dame athletic director Kevin White met with Davie shortly after the Irish were embarrassed by Texas A&M 24-3 and essentially told Davie his job status would be evaluated at the end of the season.

News of the impending evaluation leaked to the media, and the Davie Watch was on. Irish fans printed T-shirts with “Dump Davie” written across the back. He was booed during the 1812 Overture. Reporters grilled him at weekly press conferences. He stopped speaking at pep rallies.

But Davie didn’t quit coaching and the Irish didn’t quit playing. Notre Dame won its next three games against Pittsburgh, West Virginia and USC to even their record at 3-3 but dropped three of the final five games, beating only lowly Navy and Purdue and losing to Boston College, Tennessee and Stanford to finish the season 5-6, the second time in three years the Irish failed to break .500.

Players quickly pointed out that the losses weren’t the coaches’ fault. Quarterback Matt LoVecchio started the first two games of the season, but Carlyle Holiday took over as starter at the Texas A&M game. However, Holiday tended to win more games with his feet than his arm. By the end of the season, opposing defenses were focused on shutting down the option and daring the Irish to beat them in the air.

“Players couldn’t,” White said. “The offense couldn’t execute the most basic plays and killed themselves with turnovers. After an atrocious game at Stanford where Holiday completed just 1-of-16 passes, offensive coordinator Kevin Rogers angrily said, “The kid couldn’t throw the damn ball.”

So when Notre Dame athletic director Kevin White announced Davie’s firing less than 12 hours after the Irish beat Purdue, it was a remarkable turnaround for Davie, who’s job seemed secure after White gave him a five-year contract extension in 2000.

But the extension was a mistake, White said.

“A year ago at this time, I believed that we had turned the corner under Bob and that we were prepared to reclaim our traditional standing among the nations’ elite college programs,” White said. “Today I can no longer say that.”

White fired Davie on a Sunday, and by Monday he disappeared from view as he launched a massive coaching search. A week later, White returned to South Bend with former Georgia Tech head coach George O’Leary.

“Every Irish fan is being a bit too impatient,” White said. “I do believe that we have a quality candidate who can lead this program to the next level.”

White was referring to O’Leary, whose college football days ended at New Hampshire 20 years ago. O’Leary said he was “very, very excited” to take the job.

“I’m very happy to be at Notre Dame,” O’Leary said. “I think the two best jobs in America are the head football coach of Notre Dame and the manager of the New York Yankees.”

The search was over in five days before it started showing up on student’s backs and started showing up on eBay.

The nightmarish resignation shocked the nation and sent White scurrying around the country again. This time, the search was slower and more cautious. While it took White only a week to hire O’Leary, it took him 16 days to hire Tyrone Willingham, the former Stanford head coach.

“This is an exciting moment,” Willingham said on New Year’s Day, the day he was formally announced as Irish head coach.

“It is a moment that you often go back in your life and you try to figure out what has brought you to this moment.”

Now Willingham faces the challenge of trying to resurrect an Irish program that hasn’t won a national championship since 1988. But his straightforward, no-nonsense attitude and West Coast offense already has Irish fans excited.

However, Willingham doesn’t spend too much time thinking about what could happen. He’s too busy trying to make things happen.

“I don’t think,” he said after one spring practice. “I just go.”

Contact Andrew Soukup at asoukup@nd.edu.
Blair

continued from page 44

Although Blair was named to the all-MIAA first team for her play during the 2001-2002 basketball season, it's more than her skill on the court that has impressed coaches and teammates. Blair became a much-needed confidant for players and coaches alike.

"She's a very unselfish person, just very caring about those around her and she puts a lot of pressure on herself to do things right," said head coach Suzanne Smith, who has worked with Blair for the past two seasons. "That just makes a great example."

At the end of the 1999-2000 season, Boeder resigned and Smith stepped in. With a new coach and another young team, Blair found herself in a leadership position that she wasn't used to.

With mediocre retention rates, keeping seniors — especially seniors who could be leaders — may have been problematic for the Belles. But this year, Blair surprised everyone, including herself, and became the leader the team really needed.

I never was the strong leader or able to be outgoing; now I'm able to take care of anything," Blair said. Blair has become the go-to person on the court and off. Her openness has made her the perfect person for teammates to go to with problems and she's Smith's No. 1 choice for discussing possible problems with the team.

As one of three seniors, Blair was the one who took the leadership role. As a captain, she proved to be the missing link between players and coach.

"She's been fantastic both seasons I've been here as far as being that link between the players and myself. She's never been afraid of conveying their needs to me."

Suzanne Smith
Belles basketball head coach

I've been here as far as being that link between the players and myself," Smith said. "She's never been afraid of conveying their needs to me."

At the end of last season, Blair was a consistent contributor to the Belles, but she wasn't M I A A first-team quality. However, a summer's worth of work paid off and when Blair returned for fall camp, she was an improved player.

Blair was the Belles second-leading scorer, averaging 12.6 points-per-game and grabbing six rebounds a game. Her .464 shooting percentage was third on the team and Blair was in almost every minute of the game.

"I was blown away at the beginning of this year at how hard she had worked on her skills, around the basket and post moves," Smith said.

Although Blair has no definite plans to play or coach in the future, her love for basketball is something the Californian turned South Bend fan will never lose. "I'll always love basketball but I don't see it as the most important part of my future," Blair said. "But the love for it will go on."

Contact Katie McVoy at mcvo5695@saintmarys.edu.

Senior Anne Blair combined her love for basketball with her love for teaching by coaching a fifth grade basketball team.
The Observer • SPORTS

Friday, May 17, 2002

Men's Basketball

Tourney appearance lands Irish back on map

By ANDREW SOUKUP
Sports Writer

The year started with a question. It ended with a statement. And as a charter plane flew a basketball team that fell in the second round of the NCAA Tournament back to Notre Dame, the Irish basketball team definitively told the nation it was back on the map.

Nobody thought that after former Irish All-American Troy Murphy declared for the NBA draft, skipping his final year of college, that the Irish would return to the NCAA Tournament. And this was a team that, before head coach Mike Brey arrived two years ago, hadn’t been to the NCAA Tournament since 1990.

"I think the theme since last spring has been, ‘Is there life after Troy?’" Brey said a few days before the Irish started practice. "We really feel there is."

Brey and the Irish might have been the only ones who felt that way. National publications left the Irish out of their preseason tournament projections. Coaches picked Notre Dame to finish third in the Big East. And fans across the country thought Notre Dame was a fluke and that Murphy had been the only ones who felt that expectation on his shoulders.

Part of the reason they were so successful was the emergence of highly touted freshman Chris Thomas. Thomas arrived at Notre Dame with the highest expectations on his shoulders. At times, it seemed he wasn’t asked to replace departed point guard Martin Inglesby, but Murphy.

But if anyone buckles under pressure, it’s not Thomas. The flashy freshman easily surpassed every prediction and every expectation. In his first college game, Thomas merely recorded the first triple-double in Notre Dame history. By the end of the season, Thomas earned multiple Freshman of the Year honors.

"I think what helped Chris Thomas was those four guys up front," Brey often said during the season. "He’s playing with four men."

Thomas and the Irish started slowly. They fell nine of their first 10 games and appeared poised to break into the Top 25. Then, the Irish started struggling. They dropped five of their next eight games, including embarrassing defeats against Syracuse and Georgetown. Brey even shuffled the starting lineup around, replacing Graves with Torrian Jones.

The switch worked. Brey always keys his teams to make a strong run in February, and the Irish won eight of their final 11 games of the regular season, including a marathon four-over-time victory over Georgetown.

Thomas made the Irish flashy and quick. He energized the offense and played inspired defense. But Thomas couldn’t do it all, and Graves, Humphrey, Swanagan and Carroll helped him realize that. By the end of the year, Thomas was winning games not with his shot but with his decision-making skills.

The Irish finished second in the Big East West Division and easily handled St. John’s in the quarter-finals of the Big East Tournament. But they fell to Connecticut in the semi-finals and anxiously awaited news about whether or not they would be back in the NCAA Tournament.

Players were disappointed with the No. 8 seed in the South, meaning the Irish were matched up against the top-seeded Blue Devils — even leading by seven points late in the second half — before falling to the second-straight year in the second round of the NCAA Tournament.

One of the goals the Irish established for the season was to put themselves “back on the map.” More than anything else, Notre Dame’s strong showing against Duke laid the foundation for a surging basketball program and showed how much the Irish had improved from the day Graves and Swanagan first arrived on campus as freshmen.

“This is pride,” Graves said, pointing to the word ‘Irish’ on his uniform minutes after Notre Dame lost to Duke. “This means something now. It didn’t before.”

Contact Andrew Soukup at asoukup@nd.edu.

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CSC Center for Social Concerns

"I hope you come to find that which gives life a deep meaning for you. Something worth living for... something that energizes you, enlivens you, enables you to keep moving ahead. I can’t tell you what it might be - I can just encourage you to start (and/or continue!) looking, and support you in the search."

-Ita Ford, M.M.

The staff of the Center for Social Concerns congratulates all the members of THE 2002 SENIOR CLASS on their graduation!

Blessings to you, as you go forth from Notre Dame, to create, in your own way, "a more just and humane world."
Inexperience leads to disappointing season

By KATIE MAVOY  Assistant Sports Editor

The uniforms Notre Dame wore during their final loss of the season in round two of the NCAA tournament tell the tale of the 2001-2002 Irish.

They were green.

For the Irish, who took home a national championship last year, this season was anything but a repeat. It was a transitional year. It was a year for a young team. It was a challenge.

With six freshmen and only one returning senior, the Irish knew they would have their work cut out for them heading into the 2001 season. Head coach Muffet McGraw, who knew she could count on her veterans last year, didn't know who or what she could count on this season.

"Because nothing is expected, when something good happens everybody gets excited about it because it's not like last year where we expected to win by 20," McGraw said at the beginning of the season. "This year we just have to play hard and see what happens."

It was a whole new Irish team that took the court in November. There was no Ruth Riley, no Stacie Smolen, no Niele Ivey. Instead, there was Jackie Batteast, who was named Big East Rookie of the Year, Kelsey Wicks, Alison Busamante, Teresa Burton. It was a young group of women led by sophomore guards, a non-vocal Alisia Flayton and senior Ericka Haney who struggled with her own game in the first month of the season.

The beginning of the season was less than perfect. On Dec. 24, Notre Dame fell 72-63 to Rice, a school the 2000-2001 Irish had destroyed. The Irish were barely at .500. A game that was supposed to be a warm-up after Christmas break left the Irish cold. McGraw left the great confidence in tears. Her young team just didn’t seem to be getting the job done.

Just five days later, however, things began to turn around. With a 69-65 victory against Big East opponent Miami, the Irish had their first road win and found their groove.

If they weren't dominant in the Big East, the Irish were at least holding their own. After decisive victories against Virginia Tech, Syracuse and Boston College, the Irish managed to move past to second in the conference. Hanging behind the Huskies, the undisputed best team in the country.

By Feb. 26 the Irish clinched their first-round bye in the Big East Tournament and were riding a nine-game winning streak. They had won 51 home games in a row, the longest active home streak in the NCAA. But once they hit that peak, the young team found themselves back at the bottom again. The win streak came to an end with a three-point loss to Villanova as the regular season concluded.

Post-season play was less than the storyline of the past. Notre Dame fell in the first round of the Big East tournament to Syracuse, after working its way up to second in place in the Big East. The team fell two in round two of the NCAA tournament, losing to Tennessee by the biggest margin in McGraw's career.

The season was over, but the transition had made serious progress and even the unsettling loss to Tennessee had its place in the learning process.

"Our team is young," this is a learning experience for us," McGraw said after the game. "This is how you grow as a team, how you go through something like this. You go back, watch the film and figure out what you have to do to get better and how to get to where we want to be. That's what we're going to work on."

As the Irish look ahead to next year, they will find themselves feeling more like a team than they did at the beginning of this season. Haney graduated, and senior center Amanda Barksdale transferred, but the Irish are returning the rest of the team. Notre Dame may be returning the green uniforms in celebration of St. Patrick's Day next year, but the team won't be quite as green.

Contact Katie McCoy at mccoys569@ndmynets.edu.

!!!THANK YOU!!!

To all the students who are giving us their time to service-learning. Your dedication to compassion and social justice is evident. We hope the relationships you will form with members of your communities, children, homes, outreach centers, clinics, women's core programs and hospitals, etc., will be valuable life experiences.

Summer Service Project Internship - Hispanic/African American Leadership Intern Program - ACCION - International Summer Service Learning Program - National Youth Sports Program - Global Health Initiative

Contact Katie McCoy at mccoys569@ndmynets.edu.
By NOAH AMSTADTER
Senior Staff Writer

The Notre Dame track and field team is sending a number of athletes to Georgia Tech this weekend for a final tune-up before the NCAA Championships. But head coach Joe Piane made one thing clear when the weekend’s lineup was compiled — graduating seniors Liz Grow, Luke Watson and Ryan Shay will be staying put in Indiana.

“I tell these kids all the time, the graduation isn’t for them; it’s for their parents,” Piane said. “The parents want to be there for this and this is something the parents have been dreaming about longer than the students have. I’m not going to try to snatch that away from any parent.”

Without Grow, who has already automatically qualified for the NCAA meet in the 400 meters and is a key member of the Irish 4x100 and 4x400 teams, the other members of Notre Dame’s sprint group will concentrate on their individual events.

That includes sophomore Ayesha Boyd, a key member of the Irish 4x100 and 4x400 teams, the other members of Notre Dame’s sprint group and would normally compete on the weekend.

That includes graduate student Tameisha King, currently ranked 31st in the country heading into the Big East Championships in the 1,500 meters. King currently sits on the bubble for going down there is to try to get her March 29 time of 16:28.55, “She’s still learning how to run a little bit faster,” Connelly said.

Contact Noah Amstadter at amstadter.1@nd.edu.

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One of a kind, just like the city it’s named after.
Shay

Central Lake High School in Northern Michigan. While he placed first at the state cross-country meet all four years and won seven state titles in track, Shay — whose graduating class numbered 26 — only competed against other small Class D schools.

"I think he felt that he had a lot to prove coming in as a freshman," said Irish head coach Joe Piane.

Something to prove

The first time Lake Watson and Pat Conway saw Shay run, they didn't exactly see a runner they would expect to become a captain by his junior season.

It was the 1997 National Catholic Invitational, Shay's first home meet of his collegiate career. Shay took it out hard from the start, leading the race by a wide margin from end to end. That was the way Shay always ran in high school, so he thought nothing of doing the same in college.

But some of the older Irish runners who weren't competing that day thought Shay should have had more.

"I got upset and I just flipped them off," Shay explained. "It just ran in high school, so he thought that was the way Shay always ran. They didn't go out as hard as in practice. And some didn't seem to regard track and cross-country as priority No. 1, which I kind of shy at first but later he came to understand.

"I realized that that's not the goal of everyone out there running, especially at a school like Notre Dame where athletes are coming here to get an education and their passion is maybe in their major, to get a job or whatever," Shay said.

Shay's frustration continued into his sophomore year. By that time the senior leaders from the cross-country team had graduated, and the team performed below Shay's expectations. Whereas Shay advanced to the NCAA Championship race with his team as a freshman, he had to qualify individually as a sophomore.

"I had no leadership on the team," Shay said. "The guys who were the leaders were seniors who already graduated and the seniors that year weren't really leadership material. I was still just a sophomore. I was still in that state where I was really individually focused." By Shay's junior season, he knew that if the team was to perform at the level he expected, he had to take some of the leadership role upon himself.

"I realized that if I really want to make a difference in this program, I can't just do it by example," Shay said. "You have to motivate other people, communi­cate with them, help them out. Let's feel like this is a team, like everyone counts."

It was a decision that helped the team, which returned to the NCAA Championships with the same core of runners as the previous year. And it was a change that ultimately helped Shay.

"When you're just thinking about what you need to do individually, you can get caught up in that too much," Shay said. "It's almost like you're putting too much pressure on yourself.

When you spread that out amongst some of your teammates, it's less stress on you."

These days, Shay shares an apartment with teammates Watson, Nate Androluson and Sean Zanderon. And he regards their friendship as one of his most important memories of Notre Dame.

"We feel comfortable communi­cating with each other, letting each other know what's going in on in our lives," Shay said. "I'm always going to be there for them and they're always going to be there for me."

Leaving a legacy

When Shay started looking for a place to run in college, he looked for a mix of academics and athletics. Wake Forest, Tufts and Stanford were among the schools on his list. But Shay, who grew up with his friends and family counting for Michigan and Michigan State, never thought about Notre Dame.

"I probably wouldn't have even considered Notre Dame if Coach Piane hadn't called me because I wasn't a Notre Dame fan growing up," Shay said.

But when he arrived, Shay, who was coached by his father in high school, found that Piane's coaching philosophy differed greatly from that of his father, who had already helped four of Shay's older siblings earn college scholar­ships.

"Notre Dame should take great pride in this kid when he makes the Olympic team," Piane said.

Contact Noah Amstadder at

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Miracle season concludes in Elite Eight loss

By CHRIS COLEMAN
Sports Writer

It was a miracle season for the Notre Dame women's lacrosse team. The Irish started the season ranked 17th and finished as one of the Elite Eight teams in the country at 13-5 and second in the Big East in conference play. The team finished their season strong by winning the NCAA Tournament appearance, the seventh seed, taking down Ohio State 11-7 and then went on to face top-seeded Princeton.

First-year coach Bodie Carr won the national quarterfinal contest it did not lose in four years and the pride that the senior led squad had.

“Our seniors have been the heart and soul of this team,” head coach Trace Coyne told UND.com. “They’ve played a part in every game the last four seasons, gotten the program where it is today. They took a chance on us four years ago and along with the support the university has given us are responsible for getting us here today.”

The seven seniors on this year’s team — Maureen Henwood, Kate Scarola, Natalie Lofthus, Megan Badin, Tina Fedaracy, Kathryn Lam and Alissa Moser — came into a program that had no national success. The Irish had only won an average of 7.3 goals per game.

“It’s been a dream to see them through the entire year,” Assistant Coach Bodie Carr said. “There’s no rush in the moments and just a way to see them finish the season as we had them today.”

Carr led the Irish to a 13-5 in the regular season, a perfect 3-0 in the Big East and a perfect 3-0 in the NCAA Tournament.

The Irish defense was the team’s strength and was consistently one of the best in the country, only allowing an average of 7.3 goals per game.

The team rolled through the early part of the season, superbly regrouping after the post season weekend in Loyola. The women opened up with defeating the No. 5 and then traveled to California and beat rival Stanford 10-8. After beating Georgia Mason 10-8 the women opened up a five game homestand which started with a 14-5 stunning of Big East opponent Boston College.

Carr had come in ready for 4-0 Notre Dame and opened up with a quick lead. The Irish struggled back but time ran out in the third because the team were finished and the Irish lost by one goal.

Moser was a tri-captain and finished the season in second place with 27, moving up to fifth on the all-time scorers list. Lotus also had a career year, finishing second and third in points and goals.

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ND SOFTBALL

Irish storm through end of regular season

- Irish rally to win Big East Tournament after losing first game

By CHRIS FEDERICO
Sports Editor

After a disappointing start to its 2002 season, the Notre Dame softball team has come on strong down the stretch of Big East play.

The Irish got off to a rocky start while facing one of the toughest slates that they had ever seen. In the first 20 games, the Irish faced eight ranked opponents and went 8-12.

Since beginning Big East play, however, the Irish have been on fire, going 14-4 and pushing their season record to 24-16.

During Big East play, Notre Dame knocked off fourth-ranked Nebraska in Lincoln, Neb., and captured the Big East regular season title by going 18-2 in conference play.

Last weekend, at the Big East tournament, the Irish again answered some early troubles by dropping their first game to fourth-seeded Virginia Tech 8-3.

The usually solid Irish pitching struggled in that first game. Freshman Steffany Stenglein gave up three home runs in three innings before being replaced by classmate Carrie Wisen, who allowed another four runs over her four innings pitched.

"My pitches really weren't moving that day, so that allowed their hitters to be more effective," Stenglein said. "I don't know what my problem was that day. I just couldn't get the movement I usually do."

With the first-game loss, the Irish realized they would have to show up, relax and play. We are very capable of beating them because I think that we are a better team. We also have the revenge factor which doesn't hurt."

Other teams in that bracket included three previous Irish opponents: top-seeded and No. 7 Nebraska, second-seeded and No. 13 Oregon State, fourth-seeded and No. 22 Iowa and sixth-seeded Illinois-Chicago. Wisconsin is the fifth seed in the bracket.

The first day of play at Iowa was Thursday. The games were completed after The Observer went to press.

Notes:
- Senior catcher Jarrah Myers became the fourth Irish player to earn the Big East Player of the Year award during the Big East Tournament weekend.
- The Irish dominated the Big East first-team list, landing seven players on the squad. Myers joined teammates Bridgid T. Curry, Amy E. Heckel, Kari F. Jorge, Lillian M. Kidane and Stenglein in earning the all-Big East first team.
- First-year Irish head coach Deanna Gumpf and her staff - Charmelle Green, Kris McCleary and Bill Roggeman — claimed the second consecutive coaching staff of the year award for the Notre Dame.

The Irish rallied to win the Big East Tournament.

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Michael P. McCabe
Lisa K. Murphy
Catherine J. O'Neill
Kristina M. O'Neill
Patrick H. White
Nicole M. Wilson
Lauren M. Zajac

Contact Chris Federico at cfederic@nd.edu.

Third baseman Andrea Loman makes a throw during a recent Irish game against Oakland. After losing their first game, the Irish rallied to win the Big East Tournament.
dropped both games to Iowa and saw their chance at earning the school's first trip to the College World Series vanish.

Myers knows the team underachieved in the postseason. "There was no reason why we shouldn't have won last year," Myers said. "It's not like we shouldn't have won last season."

"It was pretty easy with the freshmen. It's been easy to lead this year since we haven't had any problems," Myers said.

"We just yea r," Myers said. "It's not something we should have won last season."

"That was pretty easy with the freshmen. It's been easy to lead this year since we haven't had any problems," Myers said.

"I think the other two senior catchers and I really tried to go out there and lead through actions and creating an intense, but fun environment," Myers said. "That was pretty easy with the freshmen. It's been easy to lead this year since we haven't had any problems."

"Smooth Transition"

Gumpf was the Irish pitching coach for four seasons before taking over as head coach on July 3, 2001. With a leader like Myers on the team, Gumpf's job was easier.

"Having Jarrah as one of my seniors is like a dream come true with this being my first year," Gumpf said. "The seniors, including Jarrah, made the transition very easy."

"I don't think it's much different from what Deanna would do since I learned the strategy from her," Myers said. "This past summer I called my own games. I think it helps out my coach to make her job easier. I still look over at her to get some suggestions."

"Myers is having the best season of her career. Starting every one of Notre Dame's 52 regular season games, Myers led the team with 45 runs scored, 15 home runs and 28 walks. She was second on the team with a .384 batting average and 14 stolen bases.

"Defensively, there is no better catcher than her. She is unbelievable," Irish pitcher Steffany Stengele said. "Defensively, there is no college player I would have rather as my catcher. I have total confidence. She'll block everything I throw up there."

"Myers has also helped make the transition to the college game much easier for Stengele. "Jarrah has helped me out tremendously," the freshman pitcher said. "Anything there is to know about pitching, Jarrah knows. She's helped me with my fundamentals, what to

Enjoy the Ride"

Playing four full seasons for the Irish, Myers has also helped her mark on the career records. Against Virginia Tech on April 20, Myers hit three home runs and broke the Notre Dame record for career home runs. After the regular season, Myers had 34 homers, but she doesn't think that mark will stand for long.

"I look at the girls younger than me and they are going to crush it, and I hope they do," Myers said. "They should be better than me when they get to my age. I think it is kind of neat to be in the record books."

"For her career, Myers is the Notre Dame all-time leader in RBIs, walks and putouts. And she will almost most assuredly break the all-time record in postseason action."

"Myers is second on the all-time list in runs scored, fourth in batting average and stolen bases, fourth in at-bats and fifth in hits. But despite all of her on-field statistical records, Myers takes the most pride in an accomplishment she earned off the field."

"I'm a fan of Jarrah's work at the (first) team Academic All-American. That just shows why I came here was for the academics," Myers said about the work she's done in 2001. "To be able to achieve a little bit in softball and achieve even greater in academics, that's really what matters. That's what I am going to remember in 20 years. I won't remember any of the other personal awards." After playing softball for four more than 15 years, Myers has enjoyed the numerous parts of her journey.

"It's been a ride. I have come in contact with many great people who have each shaped my life in a weird way that I probably don't even know," Myers said. "From being a little kid playing, going through good coaches, to having awesome coaches at the collegiate level, and then at the USA camp and the players I have come in contact with."

"Myers intends to pursue a graduate degree in forensic science and psychology in the FBI. She is looking to take a year off and do some research at Yale before hitting the books again."

"For the second consecutive summer, Myers has been selected to participate in a team camp for USA softball. However, her original dream of playing in the Olympics has changed. "It always used to be a goal to play in the Olympics, but I don't even know if I want to go back to the camp, but I probably will," Myers said. "It is an important point in my life where I am ready to have a real life — have spare time, meet new people, go off to grad school or get a job."

"Like her nearly 2000 classmates, the senior appears ready to move on. But Myers still doesn't want to pass up the opportunity for an experience of a lifetime."

"I don't need softball anymore to go where I need to go. It's something I still really love, to play. To turn down a shot to make an Olympic team, I am afraid I would regret it if I didn't do it. I will probably end up going to camp and trying."

"Contact Matt Lozar at mmlozar@nd.edu."

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"We just couldn't get it done as a team."

After former head coach Liz Miller retired after eight seasons at Notre Dame, Myers and fellow catchers Jenny Krien and Kay Hoag knew they wanted to make the transition as easy as possible for new head coach Deanna Gumpf.

"I think the other two senior

Jarranh Myers catcher

"Having Jarrah as one of my seniors is like a dream come true with this being my first year," Gumpf said. "The seniors, including Jarrah, made the transition very easy."

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Wisconsin badgers its way to a victory

By COLIN BOYLAN
Sports Writer

The Notre Dame women’s tennis team saw its turbulent season come to an end last Saturday with a 4-2 loss to the Wisconsin Badgers in the first round of the NCAA playoffs. The loss dropped the team’s final record to 14-14, and while the .500 winning percentage may have been mediocre by Irish standards, their gritty performances in most matches this season were anything but average.

"I’m really proud of how hard this team has fought this year," Irish coach Jay Louderback said prior to the NCAA tourneys. "We’ve had some key injuries this season, but we’ve always played through them."

Indeed, the season started out on a disappointing note when starter Cyelan Leslie saw herself sidelined for the year by shoulder problems. The injury robbed the team of its No. 4 singles player and forced freshman Sarah Jane Connelly into a starting role for the duration of the year. Connelly handled the move stride, and the team jumped out to a couple of early wins. Most notable among these early season performances was the team’s 5-2 victory against top-ten opponent USC in the USTA National Team Indoors Championships.

Senior Nina Varnum and sophomore Alicia Salas provided fuel for the victory by winning their doubles match and proceeding to score impressive singles wins against Luana Magnani and Tiffany Brymer. Unfortunately for the Irish, that match would stand as the high-water mark of the season rather than an indication of things to come. In their next three matches, all against top 10 opponents, the Irish were defeated convincingly by Vanderbilt, North Carolina and Tennessee. The lone bright spot during this stretch was Salas, who continued her torrid streak, winning her singles matches in all three of the contests and extending her winning streak to eleven.

At this point in the season, the Irish sat at 4-5 and were looking for a spark to turn things around. Seniors Becky Varnum, Lindsey Green and Tiffany Brymer provided that spark by stepping up their games and combining to go 13-2 in singles matches against the next five opponents. Their performances were enough to ignite a six-match winning streak and turn around a season that looked to be on the brink of collapse. However, the most difficult part of the schedule still loomed on the horizon with a three-match road stretch against top-ten teams Duke, North Carolina and Wake Forest.

At 10-5, the Irish may have found themselves looking ahead to those teams, as they dropped the ball in a couple of surprising losses to San Diego State and Purdue. "I don’t think we played very well," Louderback said at the time.

Unfortunately, increased doubles success and emotional advantages allowed the Irish to turn around losing streaks and turn the Irish. Seniors Varnum, Green and Vaughn played tough against top-ten teams Duke, North Carolina and Wake Forest.

A large home crowd and the emotional advantage allowed the Irish to score an important Big East victory against Miami only days later. The match was designated "Ace for the Cure," in honor of Cunha’s mother who has been afflicted with colon cancer for almost a year.

After briefly righting the ship with a 4-3 win against Illinois, the team traveled to North Carolina for an Easter weekend showdown against its top opponent. Louderback juggled the doubles lineups in hopes of increased doubles success and the move almost paid off. Even though the Irish lost the crucial doubles point, they stormed back in singles to tie the match 3-3 before the Demons’ Karin Coetzee topped junior Katie Cunha in the deciding singles contest.

The Irish could not translate this close call into success later in the weekend, however. Both the Tar Heels and Blue Devils handed the Irish 6-1 losses. A large home crowd and the emotional advantage allowed the Irish to score an important Big East victory against Miami only days later. The match was designated "Ace for the Cure," in honor of Cunha’s mother who has been afflicted with colon cancer for almost a year.

For the duration of the year, the Irish had attained a 13-12 record and were setting their sights on the Big East Championships. Under the intense sun in Coral Gables, Fla., the team easily disposed of Boston College before running into a brick wall against Miami. Despite winning the doubles point, the team faced a straight set loss in singles.

Louderback suggested that the low 90s heat may have had a negative impact on the Irish players, but was quick to point out that Miami was a very tough opponent.

Seniors Varnum, Green and Vaughn played tough against top-ten teams Duke, North Carolina and Wake Forest.

Moreover, the play of underclassmen gives hope for an improved showing next year. Salas’ spectacular year saw her easily top 20 wins, while Cunha and Connolly proved capable of handling the pressure in tough match situations.

And the expected return of Leslie next season combined with a solid recruiting class makes the future pretty bright for the Irish.

Contact Colin Boylan at colinbo@yahoo.com.
ST. LOUIS

The Notre Dame chapter of Phi Beta Kappa congregate its new members of the class of 2002

The Notre Dame chapter of Phi Beta Kappa congratulates and welcomes its new members of the class of 2002

The Observer • SPORTS

Friday, May 17, 2002

SMC Tennis

Serving up a new chapter in history

Belles make first trip to NCAA tournament, but fall in first round

By NOREEN GILLESPIE
Senior Staff Writer

The national stage proved harder than conference competition for the Belles tennis team, which fell in the first round of the NCAA Division III Tennis tournament last weekend.

Saint Mary's earned its bid for the national tournament after clinching its second consecutive MIAA title earlier this month. The team, which went on to win the first conference title in school history in 2001, is also the first team from Saint Mary's to qualify for any NCAA tournament.

But the national tournament wasn't as kind to the Belles as they struggled from the onset of competition, losing to Denison University 7-2.

"Obviously, I'm not pleased," said Saint Mary's head coach Dee Stevenson. "I like to win. We didn't come here to lose."

The No. 2 doubles team of Kaitlin Cutler and Elisa Ryan won the first match of the day for Saint Mary's, defeating Allison Lesnelt and Kristen Hanto deferred after the third set.

"We would have liked to walk away with a 'W,'" said senior Annie Knish, who dropped both No. 1 singles and doubles matches in the competition. "I think we all wanted to advance to the second round."

Denison, ranked 19th nationally, fell 7-2 in the second round of the tournament Saturday to Washington University, which will advance to the final round of national competition this weekend.

But while the Belles left the court without a victory, they couldn't erase the euphoria of being the first team from the school to compete in the national tournament.

For senior Knish, she remembered laughing at Stevenson three years ago when he said making it to the tournament was his goal. At his first practice, Stevenson took out a list and read to the team three goals: beat Hope, win conference, and make it to the NCAA tournament. For a team that hasn't yet beat MIAA powerhouse Hope, those goals seemed far off.

The Belles captured the nomination following the second conference title, but a berth in the tournament was never a guarantee during the season.

The Belles defeated two Division I schools at the Midwest Invitational earlier this season, butthestarted their year with a loss in the first round of the NCAA Division II Tournament.

"They've propelled them into the national spotlight," said senior Annie Knish, she hadn't yet beat MIAA powerhouses. "It's something to build on for the future."

Contact Noreen Gillespie at gg10843@stmarys.edu.

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With a new coach and one of its best incoming freshman classes in recent history, the Irish set out to reach the NCAA tournament for the first time since 1996.

And they delivered.

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"I do have to make a living in this profession," he said.

Due to financial reasons, Johnston accepted a full-time head-coaching position at the University of Tampa.

-Katie McCoy

ND Volleyball

It was a season of personal successes and conference success for the Notre Dame volleyball team before head coach Debbie Brown's team fell to Michigan in the first round of the NCAA tournament.

The Irish ended the season with an impressive 22-7 record, which included a fourth-place finish in the Big East regular season and the team's seventh straight Big East Tournament Championship. The Irish, however, struggled against ranked opponents throughout the season, falling to Florida, Northern Iowa, UCA, Nebraska and Pepperdine.

Senior middle blocker Malinda Goralski was named Big East Player of the year before the season, senior Kristy Kreher was named Preseason Big East Player of the Year.

The team's undefeated conference record earned Brown Big East Coach of the Year honors, while sophomore setter Kristen Kindred was named Big East Setter of the Year.

-Nath Amstoller

SMC Cross Country

It was a season that was promising. It was a season that offered hope for improvement. It was a season that could have been the first step on the ladder to national prominence. But ultimately, it was a season that ended in near-dispair.

In February, the Belles soccer team, a team that was hopeful that it would finally move from the bottom of the MIAC to national prominence, watched its hopes fly away on the same plane head coach Bobby Johnston to his new job in Tampa, Fla.

Johnson had led his team to the best finish in recent history, even if that finish only included six wins.

The first-year head coach led his team to a seventh-place finish in the NCAA meet.

-Joe Licandro

SMC Volleyball

Last year, the Belles managed a seventh place finish, and they finished higher than they had in 1997. But with only one victory this year, eighth place was where the Belles found themselves.

It was a tough end to a tough season for the Belles volleyball team. After a season of hard-fought, losing battles, Saint Mary's found itself in the basement of the MIAA — a place they hadn't been since they joined the MIAA in 1989. In their last game of the year — a first-round playoff game against the Alma Scots — the Belles finally came together as a team, but it was too late.

"We played better as a team than we have played probably all season," said head coach Julie Schruder-Bleik. "Alma was good competition for us and I felt like we finished the season with our heads held high."

-Katie McCoy

Men's Cross Country

After the Irish took home the Big East title on Oct. 26 by narrowly beating out Villanova, 52-49, Saint Mary's head coach Barry Sharkey offered laments to his teammates, said, "Those guys definitely knew how to step it up... and they're not going to let anything deter them from winning the season. I'm sure they'll keep their individual strength and combined depth.

In February, the Belles broke out of the national meet, the Irish had hoped the return of Brian Shay, who had suffered from a broken Achilles, and senior Pat Conway, who had battled a chest cold, would be enough to upset Colorado and Stanford.

Luke Watson and Shay's finishes in the NCAA meet earned them All-American honors. Shay marked the second straight All-America honor in cross country for Watson, who finished seventh individually in 2000. It was Shay's second All-America recognition, after he finished 12th in 1999. Watson's NCAA finish marked the highest All-American finisher Notre Dame has had in years. Shay took second in 1964.

-Katie McCoy

ND Women's Soccer

The 2001 season was a difficult one for the Notre Dame women's soccer team as the Irish failed to duplicate the success of the 2000 squad that reached the Final Four.

The underdog Cincinnati Bearcats upset this year's edition of the Irish in the second round of the NCAA Tournament.

The 2001 season was a difficult one for the Notre Dame women's soccer team as the Irish failed to duplicate the success of the 2000 squad that reached the Final Four.

The underdog Cincinnati Bearcats upset this year's edition of the Irish in the second round of the NCAA Tournament.

Head coach Bobby Johnston resigned following his first season. The Belles doubled their number of wins under him.

But the Notre Dame women's golf team has minimal regrets from its first season under head coach Debbie Brown, the program's first full-time coach.

In one particular tournament, everyone on the team seemed to be able to play well at once. The Irish finished second at the Snowbird Invitational in Florida over Spring Break, with Lotts finishing fifth after shooting rounds of 77 and 73 on the par 72, 5,940-yard Pebblecreek Golf Course. McMurry, junior Terri Talbott and Byrne each finished tied for eighth, 13th and 25th, respectively.

Notre Dame's last tournament was rained out, leaving the Irish tied for 9th place.

-Katie McCoy

SMC Golf

It was a bittersweet end to two successful seasons. At the end of their fall season, the Belles took home a disappointing third place finish on their home course at the MIAA Championship tournament. But worse than that, at the end of their spring season the Belles had to say goodbye to their coach.

"I wasn't expecting it," said freshman Stefanie Zimmerman. "I thought it would be a given that she would be here for all four years, but I realize family priorities came up."

Under Teresa Pekarek's leadership, the Belles took home a third place finish in the MIAA following a championship tournament at Brookwood golf course on Sept. 28. They began the season by taking home a first-place finish at an MIAA tournament at Hope. But at the end of the fall season, despite the disappointment, Saint Mary's had high hopes.

But they'll have to carry those threats without Pekarek, the coach who launched Saint Mary's golf program.

On March 28, Pekarek announced that she would not be returning for the fall season, citing family reasons, but that she just didn't have enough time to give to a team that was moving forward.

-Katie McCoy

ND Men's Golf

The 2001-2002 golf season was an educational one for the Notre Dame men's golf team. With an inexperienced squad consisting in part of three freshmen and first-year head coach John Jasinski, the team had low expectations and treated the spring as a learning process, preparing for future success while forsaking present glories.

"Considering we were missing three of our top seven [runners]," we did really well," head coach David Barstis said. "I think we could have had six point finishes this year."

Men's Golf

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SMC Cross Country

The Saint Mary's cross country team took home a Big East title and finished sixth at the national meet.

The Irish cross country team took home a Big East title and finished sixth at the national meet.
The Notre Dame men's swimming team rallied from sixth place on the first day of the Big East Swimming and Diving Championships to finish fourth overall.

Notre Dame, also undefeated in the dual meet season, sent seven swimmers to the NCAA Championships in Austin, Texas, in March. Senior diver Heather Mattingsly and senior sprinter Carrie Nixon earned individual All-America accolades at the meet, where the team placed 19th overall.

"We got faster and scored more points, we just stayed in the same place. It's clearly a sign of how much improvement is taking place," said Irish head coach Tim Welsh after the competition. "We are getting better and so is the meet."

Irish senior co-captain Jonathan Pierce set a Notre Dame school record in the 400-yard individual medley at the meet, lowering the mark to 3 minutes, 56.24 seconds. Pierce also placed high in the distance events at the meet, earning a fifth place finish in both the 1,650-yard freestyle and 500-yard freestyle.

"It will be hard to replace great swimmers like Jonathan Pierce, but the Big East has plenty of talent," said sophomore distance swimmer J.R. Teddy at the meet. "We really coached a promising experience for us." - Noreen Gillespie

Fencing

Despite a strong start by the women's side, the Notre Dame fencing team finished third at the NCAA Championships for the second straight year. The third-place finish marked head coach Yves Audrain's seventh and last top five finish since taking over as head coach of both the women and men in 1996. The Irish coach retired after the tournament.

Although the third-place finish marked an unexpected disappointment, Audrain knew that one year's effort set the stage for future triumphs.

"It was a great season overall and we accomplished a lot more than we thought we would," Audrain said. "We're ready to go back and get better." - Kate McVoy

Fencing

SMC Basketball

The last two games of the 2001-2002 season summed up the kind of team that the Saint Mary's basketball team had become over the year.

After losing by 23 points to rival Kalamazoo two weeks earlier, the Gaels used a 37-24 second half shooting advantage to pull off the stunning 66-53 upset in their last regular season game at home. Two days later Saint Mary's nearly spoiled another opponent, losing by 62-54 in the first round of the NCAA tournament against Adrian College.

The Belles battled through injuries to key players, players cutting the team and a tough NCAA schedule to win the Women's Basketball Championship.

Sophomore Kerry Walton also won an individual title as she won the women's 500-yard freestyle.

Senior Carianne McCullough was named a first team All-American. Junior Jan Viviani, freshman Derek Snyder and senior Andrea Copeland earned second team honors.

"Part of it is financial," said Matt Orenchuk, head coach of the Belles. "I am happy with the way it all ended." - Joe Heffter

Rowing

A strong spring season for the Notre Dame women's rowing team should provide a springboard at this weekend's Central San Diego Crew Classic at Mission Bay and end their regular season.

The meet is one of the most important of the year for Notre Dame as some of the best teams in the nation compete with the 14th-ranked Irish to earn an invitation to the NCAA Championships, held from May 31 to June 2 in Indianapolis.

The spring season began with a bang for the Irish in Knoxville, Tenn., where Notre Dame took four of five races from the Volunteers. Last season the Irish finished eighth in the San Diego Crew Classic and held their own against some of the best teams in the country.

Notre Dame ended the two-day meet in fifth place behind top-ranked Washington, California, Stanford and Cal Berkeley. The weekend included three races in Orioles, Ohio State, No. 11 California and No. 13 Stanford. The weekend included an impressive victory over No. 6 Virginia, No. 9 USC, No. 10 Cal Berkeley and No. 19 Oregon State.

In the Big East Rowing Challenge over the last weekend of April, the Irish fell just short of then 13th-ranked Syracuse to take second place in the meet. Notre Dame won one event as the varsity four crew defeated coxswain Kaitlyn Long; Sarah Keifer, Katie Sedun, Elizabeth Specht and Maureen Guerin finished fifth and a half seconds ahead of Syracuse's first boat.

The field at the Central Region Championships this weekend will be another tough competition for the Irish as it includes students from the national top 20 — No. 3 Ohio State, No. 5 Michigan, No. 11 Michigan State, No. 20 Duke and No. 14 Notre Dame. In total, 19 teams are competing this weekend including, Texas, Wisconsin, Clemson, Cincinnati, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kansas State, Miami, Minnesota, Murray State, North Carolina, SMU, Tennessee and Tulsa.

"The Belles wrapped up their season, defeating Ancilla 6-2. "The season ended really well," senior Kristin Martin said. "In the last game, we all played really well. I am happy with the way it all ended."" - Joe Licandro

Fencing

SMC Softball

Notre Dame's softball season may have looked like it was canceled. In a one-week period during which the Belles were supposed to play six games, all six were either canceled or rescheduled. Despite the cancellations, the Belles managed an 8-15 overall record, although their 3-11 MIAA record left them in seventh place in the league.

The Belles won their final game of the season, defeating Ancilla 6-2.

"The season ended really well," senior Kristin Martin said. "In the last game, we all played really well. I am happy with the way it all ended." - Joe Licandro
Humiliating coaching search follows Davie firing

On Dec. 2, 2001, following a 5-6 season, athletic director Kevin White fired football coach Bob Davie and the search began for a new coach to lead the Irish back to prominence. At a public press conference on Dec. 9, over 1,500 fans welcomed new football coach George O’Leary, a man who found his dream job at Notre Dame.

However, O’Leary’s tenure with the fighting Irish lasted just five days before he was forced to resign for lying on his resume. After over two weeks of national embarrassment, another 16-day coaching search finally led White to Stanford and Tyronne Willingham, who White announced as head coach on New Year’s Day.

Irish win national championship

With 5.8 seconds remaining and the NCAA Championship game tied at 66, Ruth Riley calmly hit two free throws that left Notre Dame the 2001 women’s basketball national champions. 1,500 fans showed up to welcome the team back and President George W. Bush honored the title.

Along with basketball, Notre Dame earned the first NCAA Championship in its history when football and baseball both reached the final four of the College World Series. Women’s soccer earned its first NCAA tournament bid.

Brey returns Irish to prominence

Since taking over as men’s basketball coach two years ago, Brey has led a resurgence in the Irish basketball program. During his tenure, the Irish recorded back-to-back 20-win seasons, two straight NCAA Tournament appearances, a Big East West Division title and a trip to the top-ranked Duke in the NCAA tournament.

Irish teams earn No. 1 rankings

When the Irish baseball squad ascended to the top of the College Baseball poll, it became the first team to reach a No. 1 ranking in the 2000-01 academic year. In mid-October, women’s soccer earned its first team. During the winter it was joined by women’s basketball and men’s fencing.

Berticelli dies of heart attack

Irish men’s soccer head coach Mike Berticelli died suddenly of a heart attack. Berticelli, 48, coached the Irish for 10 of his 23 years as a head coach and compiled a 104-80-19 overall record. Berticelli led his team to the 1996 Big East Championship title and three NCAA tournament appearances.

Wadsworth resigns as AD

When Michael Wadsworth resigned as athletic director, University President Edward Malloy announced a restructuring of the athletic department. Later that year, Malloy named Kevin White the new athletic director and said White would report directly to him.

Men’s lacrosse makes history

The Irish recorded their best finish in school history, reaching the Final Four for the first time in school history before falling to Syracuse. The feat was even more remarkable considering the Irish, who didn’t have a single scholarship athlete, defeated several powerhouse squads filled with scholarship players.

Saint Mary’s cuts track program

Under the recommendation of athletic director Lynn Kochmarik, Saint Mary’s President Marilou Eldred decided to discontinue the track and field program following the 2001 season. Kochmarik made the decision in part to keep two full-time coaches.

Irish win national championship

The Top 10 Observer sports stories from the 1998-2002 academic years
The Year in Sports 2001

Jan. 1. AD Kevin White announces former Stanford head football coach Tyone Willingham as the new Notre Dame head football coach.

Jan. 24. Irish fencers qualify for national championships, ranked No. 2 team in the country.

Feb. 3. Notre Dame women's basketball team earns the program's 300th win beating Pittsburgh 68-58.

Feb. 7. Willingham signs first recruiting class, inking 16 recruits.

Feb. 10. Men's Baseball team defeats Georgetown in marathon, quadruple overtime.

Aug. 21. NCAA rules football game on Sept. 16 is suspended due to terrorist attacks.

Aug. 22. A moving tribute to Sept. 11 victims before the Notre Dame-Michigan State football game is overshadowed by the Irish's absence from the field due to the ceremony.

Sept. 25. Women's soccer downs No. 3 Nebraska.

Sept. 28. SMC golf team finishes third in the MIAA, its best finish ever.

Sept. 29. Football drops to 0-3 after a loss to Texas A&M, the worst start in school history.

Oct. 3. Notre Dame announces Ryan Humphrey is suspended for the first two games of the basketball season after he inadvertently broke an NCAA rule by playing in two summer games.

Oct. 8. Monica Gonzalez, suspended from the women's soccer team for being involved in a marijuana incident over the summer, receives an injunction to keep playing for the Irish.

Oct. 17. The men's soccer team knocks off No. 6 Indiana for the first time since 1987.

Oct. 27. Men's cross country wins the Big East title for the third time in seven years.

Nov. 10. Women's soccer wins its seventh straight Big East title.

Nov. 14. Mike Brey signs his first men's basketball recruiting class.

Nov. 16. Chris Thomas begins his college career by recording the first triple-double in the school's history.

Nov. 17. Volleyball wins its sixth Big East title in seven years.

Nov. 18. The women's soccer team's season prematurely ends after they are upset by Cincinnati in the second round of the NCAA tournament.

Nov. 19. The men's and women's cross country teams compete in the NCAA tournament; the men finish sixth and the women 19th.

Nov. 23. The men's soccer team reaches the NCAA tournament for the first time since 1996, but falls in the first round to Maryland.

Dec. 2. Bob Davie is fired as head football coach.

Dec. 9. George O'Leary is hired to replace Bob Davie.

Dec. 14. O'Leary resigns after it is revealed he lied about having a master's degree and playing college football.
By JOE LINDSEY  
Sports Writer

After beating Michigan and Purdue last weekend, the 14th-ranked Notre Dame men's tennis team partakes in the Round of 16 at the NCAA Championships at Texas A&M this weekend in College Station, Texas.

Consequently, the Irish are making their third encounter this season with Illinois, currently ranked third nationally.

For seniors Javier Taborga, Casey Smith, Aaron Talarico and Andrew Laflin, Saturday will be the last time they take on Illinois, with the match taking place on the same day as Notre Dame's commencement.

"We're really excited," Irish coach Bob Bayliss said. "Illinois is obviously one of the two or three best teams in the country, but we feel we can win. We'd like to prove that it wasn't a fluke beating them earlier."

Notre Dame split with Illinois during the regular season, with the Irish winning an outdoor match and the Illini winning indoors.

When Notre Dame defeated Illinois on March 7, the triumph was narrow, with the Irish winning a tiebreaker for the doubles point. The singles matches were split evenly, and four of them were decided in three sets.

Just over a week later, the Irish sought revenge, striking the Irish, who were without the services of senior Talarico, with a 4-2 victory at the Blue-Gray Classic.

The Illini pose a challenge that partly stems from the momentum of their 13-match winning streak. That streak might have included their win over Notre Dame had the Irish not lost to No. 1 Georgia on March 22.

"I think we can win on Saturday," said Bayliss. "We'll have to play very well for the doubles point, [having] won it on a tie-breaker last time."

But Bayliss said losing the doubles point will not kill Notre Dame's hopes. Taborga, ranked 15th nationally, has never lost to Illinois' No. 1 player. Amer Deic, whom he will play on Saturday.

In addition, Bayliss believes Laflin, Smith, Talarico and sophomore Matt Delic, whom he will play on Saturday.

"It is fitting that Notre Dame has the opportunity to play Illinois in the NCAA tournament, given that Bayliss considered the win over the Illini the proudest moment of a season in which Notre Dame tennis achieved its highest ranking since 1994.

A win on Saturday, allowing the Irish to move one step closer towards the national title, would probably surpass that March 7 victory as Notre Dame's best memory of the season."

Bayliss is confident in his players, calling this squad one of the better teams he has ever coached.

"In most teams, by the end of the season, you will have one or two dead spots in the lineup, where you know that that guy is not going to step up," he said. "We really don't have that."

A lack of holes in the lineup, along with the leadership and tenacity of seniors, has enabled the Irish to have a championship-caliber season, with only a few setbacks, the major one being the upset loss to No. 46 Michigan.

"I think dealing with the expectations that come from high rankings was our toughest challenge," Bayliss said. "We played pretty darn well in almost all of the matches with highly ranked teams."

The answer is the people of Deloitte & Touche

We would like to congratulate each and every one of these Notre Dame students on their fulltime positions and internships with our growing organization.

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Jaclyn Banagura
Anna Costello
Katherine Deane
Zachary Dowdles
Kelly Gallagher
Brendan Gipson
Sharon Handoyo
John Hegy
Christopher Jackson
Shueo Kanie
Brian Karrmann
Jean LaBrucherie
Enrique Livingston
Steven McCullough
David Ngata
Marianne Ogren
Jordan Rasneski
Patrick Ruder
Joseph Ratcliffe
Katie Schwertmann
Nina Vaphiades
Michael Vossen
Brooke Wagner

Interns
Preston Benson
Laura Bronstein
Paul Buder
Kerrie Cleveland
Jennifer Dobash
Brett Gansen
John Gibbons
Christine Grimmer
Kelly Harms
Margot Howard
Valerie Kruse
Bryan Lickus
Brian MacCinnon
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**April 23, 2002**

**The Observer**

**FORTH AND INCHES**

**TOM KEELEY**

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**BEFUDDLED AND BEMUSED**

**RYAN CUNNINGHAM**

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**CROSSWORD**

**ACROSS**

1. 59 Historic
2. 33 Gripe
3. 54 Beverages
4. 31 Movie
title
5. 30 Survival

**DOWN**

1. 53 Sky
2. 58 Wind up
3. 39 Cost
4. 37 Unlikely to
5. 52 Engine sound

**ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE**

**HOROSCOPE**

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY**

- Dennis Hopper
- Sugar Ray Leonard
- Bob Saget

**OUR HINT**

- You will meet distinguished individuals who will be able to help you make your career dreams come true.

---

**SUGAR RAY, BROTHER**

Sugar Ray Leonard, Bob Saget

---

**EUGENIA LAST**

**BIRTHDAY BABY**

- Dennis Hopper

**VIRGO**

(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Opportunities will unfold if you get a little of your time to a work
case. You will meet distinguished individuals who will be able to help you make your career dreams come true.

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**SCORPIO**

(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

Take the day off if you can. An
start on a weekend jaunt will put you in the right frame of mind.

---

**CAPRICORN**

(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

You will be able to make amends with someone you haven't seen for a long time. Make sure you finish what you started.

---

**AQUARIUS**

(Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

You should expand your interests. You will meet distinguished individuals who will be able to help you make your career dreams come true.

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**Visit The Observer on the web at http://observer.nd.edu/**

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**Baseball**

**#17 Notre Dame vs. Boston College**

**Friday, May 17 6 pm and Saturday, May 18 12 pm (DH)**

**Free Tickets Available at Meijer, Blimpie's, and Between the Buns!!**

**Mini ND Baseball Bat (First 250)**

**South Bend Tribune**

**Irish Sports Report**

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**South Bend Tribune**

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**Visit The Observer on the web at http://observer.nd.edu/**
Having much to offer South Bend after seventh grade and found the weather in California may not seem half of the year and have much to offer. It's in transition ♦ Blair became a leader on a team in transition By KATIE McVOY

Association Sports Editor

Compared to California, South Bend doesn't seem to have much to offer. It's cold half of the year and rainy or humid the other half. On the other hand, a Californian may not seem to have much to offer South Bend. But for one West Coast resident, coming to South Bend was right on target. Anne Blair moved to South Bend after seventh grade and found the weather didn't quite agree with her. By the time she was a senior, her brother and sister had moved back to the West Coast. South Bend doesn't hold any long-term prospects for the 6-foot-1 graduating Saint Mary's senior, but it gave her something she will always be grateful for — four years of learning how to lead and live. “I think I grew a lot throughout the four years,” said Blair, The Observer's 2001-2002 Outstanding Saint Mary's Senior Athlete. “Senior year was really needed someone to be a leader. I needed to have that leadership.” Blair came to Saint Mary’s in the fall of 1998 after former head coach Dave Roeder asked the South Bend local to think about joining the Belles. Four years of playing for St. Joseph High School had indoctrinated Blair into the South Bend community and staying at Saint Mary's offered her an opportunity to keep that feeling of community alive. Not to mention that being just minutes away from free laundry service is a perk any local would list in her reasons to stay close to home. “I just wanted to stay close to home and it was kind of an easy decision,” Blair said. “The coach wanted me to play and I figured it would be good to be close to home. My parents are really big supporters and it would be good if they were close.”

In addition, staying near home Blair made the connection between the two great loves in her life — basketball and teaching. As an education major, Blair began her student teaching at McKinley grade school, helping teach the first grade. But her teaching didn't end in the classroom. She also began coaching the fifth grade basketball team. “I've student taught and I was able to bring a lot of community kids in,” Blair said. “I helped coach a team and a lot of those kids were interested in coming to support the team.”

Blair became a leader on a team in transition

Staying home and taking the lead

♦ Myers leaves name all over the Notre Dame record books

By MATT LOZAR

Sports Writer

As she prepares to leave the Irish, Jarrah Myers left her name all over the softball record book. At the end of the regular season, the senior captain's season statistics in walks, home runs and RBI were in the top 5 in Irish history and Myers was just out of the top 5 in batting average and stolen bases.

But the records mean nothing to Myers. The Observer's 2001-2002 Outstanding Notre Dame Senior Female Athlete wants her name left in Notre Dame softball history for only one reason — qualifying for the College World Series.

"World Series. That's all I want," Myers said. "I don't care if I go 0-for-the rest of the year. I just want to go to the World Series; that's fine with me. I just want to be there."

An Ending to Forget

After the most successful season in school history last season, Notre Dame, with a 51-3 regular season record, earned the top seed in the NCAA Regional. The Irish see MEYERS/page 35

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