Students depart for spring break destinations

By NATASHA GRANT
News Writer

With spring break beginning today, many students are already on their way to a week of fun. According to Kayleen Carr, assistant manager at Anthony Travel, cruises are the most popular travel means, particularly among the senior class. Carr said that over three hundred people booked cruises headed to exotic locations like Jamaica and Grand Cayman Island. She also said that it is a great improvement over the less than 200 people who booked cruises last year.

Carr said that she believes there is a real need to expand health care for the marginalized in society, including the working poor and the elderly. Her current constituency in South Bend has a large population of widowers who are in great need of care.

"Children and people on the margins are going to suffer, but no one wants to pay for it. You have to decide between raising taxes or cutting programs," he said. "Everyone wants programs but no one wants to pay for it. In order to pay for the expansion of the CHOICE program in the midst of Indiana's $800 million budget deficits, Broden supported the passage of a cigarette tax last year. This did not make up for the deficit and has lead to the possibility of large cuts of up to $263 million in Medicare.

Cuts to Medicare will be detrimental to the healthcare system because the federal government will not be able to match funds," Broden said. Broden refuses to allow the budget shortage to halt his crusade in helping the poor in his constituency. He believes that a soda tax is one way to decrease the budget deficit. The tax will be a one-cent per 20 oz. soda, but will not appear on a purchase of a 20 oz. soda. "This will not allow for a total relief of the deficit but it will lead towards a transition fee while still providing for intuitional care with its projected $168 million in revenue," Broden said.

The social workers in the audience were most concerned with how they could help in persuading their government and community to promote greater social services despite the obstructions. He encouraged civil negotiation in all contacts with the adversaries. By treating people with respect and dignity, legislation will eventually be considered and passed.

Contact Shannon Nelligan at nfl29@stmarys.edu

Airport security strong

By MATT CHAMBLLIS
News Writer

Students departing this weekend to their spring break destination from South Bend Regional Airport have no reason to be concerned about a terrorist attack. South Bend Director of Security John Schalliol said that according to Schalliol students should not be worried about falling victim to a terrorist act because airport security in South Bend has been updated to follow federal procedures.

On Feb. 27, the nation's terror alert status was lowered from orange (high risk) to yellow (elevated risk) in response to a decreased terrorist activity threat level. At South Bend Airport, an orange alert status meant that every car had to be searched before being allowed to drive up to the front of the terminal. This policy was enacted in compliance with the federal regulation that all cars entering within 300 feet of an airport during an orange alert status must be searched.

However, since the alert status has fallen back to yellow, the car searches are no longer necessary, although security personal
Men, put your shirts on
As a cast member of "The Vagina Monologue," I attended a forum that took place Thursday night, in order to promote a discussion between those who protest the Monologues and members of the cast. All interested students were encouraged to attend as well. Several of the issues posed against the Monologues were great points that motivated conversation between different members of the cast and the opposing students through which misconceptions were cleared. Students' criticism was taken into consideration for future performances of "The Vagina Monologue.
However, I am deeply concerned about the criticism raised about the monologue "My short skirt." The background of this monologue is based on several stories about stories told by women with the names printed across the back of their dresses, their style and their traditions — monologues are based on students' opinion on the Monologues and members of the cast.

I want to state for the record that I choose to wear sweats — they're athletes. Suits — that's too stuffy for my title. Just think of how socially acceptable it is for men to wear whatever they want to, fully pajama bottoms when I want to, fully. Women should not have to think twice about wearing what they want to wear what they want to wear. Women should not have to think of the reluctance of what other people are thinking or worrying about what other people are thinking or worrying or arousing provocation in men.

I was wearing provocative clothing that motivated conversation between different people who are exercising their freedom to do around them because just as one girl pajama bottoms "probably because the shirt made them not go to be there." But you are already tired of all the letters and articles about the dress code of the women of Notre Dame, but I just want to state for the record that I choose to wear pajama bottoms when I want to, fully aware that men are walking all over the campus. Women should be able to dress in the manner they want to express themselves, their style and their traditions — regardless of how much women will look at them.

What is even worse is when women themselves criticize other women's clothing (and I must claim I've been guilty of this too), promoting judgments against people who are exercising their freedom to wear what they want to wear.

The fear of wearing such shorts to class that have that "Irish" printed across the back it's probably because of the warm South Bend summer; far from just that and that I like to sport my ND gear, not because I want to entice men to look at me from behind, I believe that the issue is whether one is going to do around them because just as one girl with a short skirt is criticized for looking "slutty," the girl who wears a hoodie and sweatpants is just as criticized for looking "slutty" and this must stop.

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily that of The Observer. Contact Sofia Ballon at sballon@nd.edu.

What's Going Down
Student pick-pocketed
A student reported the theft of money from her coat pocket in LaFortune. There are no suspects.

Abandoned bike found
Wednesday, an abandoned bike was found in the BI faculty and staff south lot and is being kept by NDP for safekeeping.

Student finds license
Wednesday, a student found a driver's license in the Cl student lot and turned it into NDP for safekeeping.

NDSP issues speeding ticket
Thursday, a NDP officer issued a state citation for exceeding the posted speed limit on Juniper road.

Car towed for parking violations
Two student vehicles were towed for parking violations on Wednesday at the Hesburgh Center for international studies.

Student reports missing bike
A student reported that her locked freestanding bike was taken from the east side of LaFortune Student Center. There are no suspects.

What's Happening @ ND
- Lecture with Derek Neal "Effects of the Decline in employment and earnings among African-Americans" 1:30 p.m. at Deltartio Hall, room 213
- Mens and womens track, Alex Wilson Invitational. 7 p.m. at Loftus Sports Center
- "The Stuff of Dreams" by Billy Corbett Guthrie Theater tour production 7:30 p.m. at Washington Hall

What's Happening @ SMC
- Art Exhibition "Women in Holography" 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Moreau Art Galleries
- Hartman-Stickey Piano Competition 1:30 p.m. at Moreau

What's Cooking
North Dining Hall
Today's Lunch: Al prescuitto soda, bolognese pasta, brown sauce, chicken, grilled chicken, chopped vegetables, mixed vegetables, garlic, tomato sauce, salad, garlic bread

South Dining Hall
Today's Lunch: Beef ravioli, spinach fettuccine, pesto sauce, tomato pizza, apple turnover, BBQ beef sandwich, shredded carrots, rotisserie chicken, oriental vegetables, roasted rosemary potatoes, red beans and rice, corn dogs, hotdog, friable, balsamic vinaigrette, and pasta "battle's"

Today's Dinner: Honey-glazed ham, baked beans, brown sauce, pork gravy, ham, chopped vegetables, mixed vegetables, mixed vegetables, cherry, cherry, beets, garlic, portobello, and cheese stuffed shells, rice pilaf, sea

Today's Dinner: Buffalo chicken lasagna, spinach fettuccine, pesto sauce, tomato pizza, apple turnover, vegetables marinara, capri blend veggie, baked potato, beef goujon, kuski noodles, bourbon baked ham, sweet potatoes

Saint Mary's Dining Hall
Today's Lunch: Birjiriri rice with cashews, baked potatoes, broccoli, fettuccine pasta toss, sweet potato biscuits, tortellini, texas style brisket, lyonnaise potatoes, corn & tomatoes, chicken fajita pizza, cheese pizza, bread sticks, vegetable and cheese chimichanga, refried beans, nachos, cheese sauce

Today's Dinner: Pasta fantastica, veggie cutlet with mushroom daice, harvart beans, vegetable corn muffins, tempura vegetable bar, broccoli, zucchini, cauliflower, sauteed chicken breast, cheese stuffed shells, rice pilaf, seasoned corn, garlic tomato surpise
OIT connects Cripe Street to network

University Village will be last housing complex to connect

By NICOLA BUNICK
News Writer

The Office of Information Technologies has connected the Cripe Street Apartments, one of the last remaining student housing complexes without network access, to the University’s Internet network. Installations were finished earlier this week. The University’s Cripe Street Apartments, located north of the campus property line, provide housing for married students without children. Until now, residents of the apartments have been accessing the Internet through dial-up modem connections. With the new system, users will have faster and easier access to the Internet. The network will provide residents of the apartments with Internet capabilities similar to those found in University residence halls.

“This project has been in the plans for about two months” said Tom Kilmek, OIT manager of network engineering, who oversaw the Cripe Street installation.

“The bulk of the work took place over the last six weeks. The electrical crew had to wire in the apartments, then install the network.”

Now that the new installations are in place, the University Village, Notre Dame’s housing for students with children, remains the only student-housing complex without access to the University Internet network. The University has tentative plans to install the network at University Village, but officials currently do not have a specific time frame for when the project would take place.

“Interest in getting high-speed networks to both Cripe Street and University Village has basically been an issue of funding” said Kilmek.

“Fortunately with Cripe Street, it was less expensive because fiber optic cables to each apartment (which were necessary for the network) were already in place.”

Even with the cables already in place, the project cost the university about $25,000.

Currently, OIT is working with Telecom, the company which provides telephone services to the University Village, to coordinate plans for a possible installation of fiber optic cables in the complex.

“When [Telecom] goes in to upgrade the voice system (at University Village), that would be an opportune time for us to run fiber optics.” said Kilmek.

“It’s unclear when that installation would take place, but once the building is properly wired, it would then be possible to connect it to the network.”

Contact Nicola Bunick at nbunick@nd.edu

Microsoft hands out dividends

The Associated Press

It's payday for Microsoft investors.

Microsoft Corp. is issuing its first dividend Friday, shelling out more than $850 million to shareholders from the smallest investor right up to founder Bill Gates.

At 8 cents a share, the annual payout won't be huge to the average investor, analysts said. But it still marks a significant change for the Redmond, Wash., software company that went public in 1986 and has long hoarded its cash — now $43.4 billion — for research, acquisitions and legal claims.

Of course, there are the no-averager investors. Gates, who directly owns more than 1.2 billion shares of stock in the company he helped found in 1975, will receive a dividend of about $96.5 million. Microsoft chief executive Steve Ballmer will receive about $37.7 million.

Another 27 executive officers and directors will receive a total of about $9.5 million, based on shares reported in the company's proxy statement.

Microsoft announced the dividend in January, and issued a two-for-one stock split in February. The company has about 10.7 billion shares outstanding.

When announcing the dividend, chief financial officer John Connors noted that Microsoft was the only company in the Dow Jones industrial average not to issue a dividend. With many of Microsoft’s legal troubles nearing conclusion, Connors said the company felt it could afford the dividend.

The payment, though modest compared to other companies in the S&P 500, is still a monumental change for Microsoft, said Howard Silverblatt, an analyst at Standard & Poor's quantitative services division.

Saint Mary’s revamps e-mail server

By SHANNON NELLIGAN
News Writer

Saint Mary’s campus e-mail has undergone a facelift to interface and upgrade the Webmail system currently used in the College. This is a transition phase between the old system and the planned upgrades due to begin this summer.

The update to the new e-mail format requires no systems upgrade. Access to the new Webmail interface is available to students to log on to via the SMC@Home Web site. However, the SMC@Home site is only accessible to Saint Mary’s campus computers, but students who log off campus can obtain the new UBL from SMC@Home while on campus. Students are encouraged to add it to their own computers.

According to the Director of Information Technology Keith Fowlkes, the new overall e-mail system will be much faster and feature an even better Webmail interface.

“People are used to the system she used. The system is much clearer and user-friendly compared to the old system she used.”

“I like how the system saves your password and how it color-codes your e-mail.”

However, the implementation of the upgraded e-mail system has not reached the attention of every student on campus. First-year student Megan Lynch has yet to try the new system and was not aware of the changes the IT department has made.

“I have not yet heard about the new e-mail system,” Lynch said.
President Fox says room for compromise on Iraq

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY President Vicente Fox said be sensed there is still room for compromise in the United Nations during a telephone call with President Bush Thursday, and called on "the other extreme" presumably France and Germany to try and reach an agreement on Iraq.

Fox's comments reflected Mexico's desire to avoid an open split with its major trading partner, the United States, and indicated that a compromise solution could win support from other Security Council countries who, like Mexico, won't back an openly pre-war resolution.

"The American position, as I was informed of it today by the President Bush, opens the door to action against Iraq, but that was previously a hard-line stance, as well as any ... in the context of the U.N. resolution they are planning to present."

"That is all we talk to dialogue, and seek a compromise," Fox said.

Britain to offer Iraq weapons deadline

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS As opposition hardened against Iraq, Britain offered Thursday to compromise by stretching a disarmament deadline by giving Saddam Hussein a short deadline to prove he has expelled all banned weapons or face an attack.

With some 300,000 U.S. troops massing for battle, British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said there is clear that any compromise must still include an authorization for military action against Iraq, and his demands made a day before a crucial Security Council meeting, was unlikely to be acceptable to key council powers that favor more weapons inspections to disarm Iraq peacefully.

President Bush, in a rare prime-time news conference Thursday, said the United States will call for a Security Council vote even if it appears certain that the resolution will be defeated but he added that he isn't afraid to go to war if the council rejects the resolution.

"We're days away from resolving this issue in the Security Council," Bush said. "No matter what the white count is, we're calling for a vote. ... It's time for people to show their cards and let people know where they stand in relation to Saddam."

"As we approach ultimatums, we'll wait and see," Bush also said.

The resolution, co-sponsored by the United States, Britain and Spain, says Iraq missed its "final opportunity" to disarm peacefully and paves the way for war.

The United States faces an uphill struggle to get nine "yes" votes and avoid a veto by one of the permanent members opposed to war soon. On Thursday, Bush threw his support behind France, Germany and Russia, who have vowed to prevent the resolution's passage.

United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan appealed to council members to discuss the crisis calmly, but there were several proposals on the table.

"The positions are very hard now," he said. "I am encouraging people to strive for a compromise and seek common ground," adding, "to make concessions, you get concessions."

Secretary of State Colin Powell arrived in New York on Thursday to try to win support for the resolution from undecided council members.

Washington had "not completely signed off" on the British ideas.

British diplomats said discussions were going on among capitals and at the United Nations, but it was too early to say whether Iraq would be given such a compromise resolution.

Several council diplomats said they had not approached them to discuss their ideas.

Russia's deputy U.N. Ambassador Gennady Gatilov said his government hasn't been approached yet about the British suggestion, but he said talk of a short deadline on the existing resolution "sounds cosmetic."

"Just to add something to the existing draft in terms of posting deadlines, short deadlines, one week of course, it will not fly because it doesn't change the substance of the draft," Gatilov said.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Ruiz, 52, said he was proud to be serving as a U.N. inspector, adding that his job was to tell the truth.

However, he also said he believed the inspectors should try to avoid a war with Iraq.

Remote but she is concerned about her reception in Italy "I am concerned about anti-American attitude over there so don't try to try and blend in," she said.

But, Caliguiri added that the way Bush was in Italy would help make it worthwhile.

Carr believes that the weather might be another driving force behind students need to escalate their efforts. He has booked several trips within the last couple of snowy weeks.

"There are statements. There are opinions. There is no pressure. Recent polls have shown that a majority of Mexicans oppose war, and on Wednesday, Congress approved a resolution urging Fox to support a peaceful resolution to the conflict."

Also Thursday, Mexican university researcher Benjamin Ruiz who is scheduled to leave Friday to work as a U.N. weapons inspector in Iraq said "my objective is to stop war to save the children.""
Bush: We can invade Iraq without U.N. approval

Associated Press

WASHINGTON - President Bush said Thursday the nation for the possibility of war, said Thursday night the United States would be justified in attacking Iraq without the approval of the U.N. Security Council.

More than 230,000 troops are now arrayed around Iraq and are on the way, a Bush aide said Thursday night in the East Room.

"If we have to use force, I think a lot of nations will be with us," Bush said.

Airline crash in Sahara kills 102; lone soldier survives

Associated Press

ALGIERS - An Air Algerie passenger jet, one of its nineteen abatis, crashed shortly after takeoff deep in the Sahara Desert on Thursday, and 102 people were killed, officials said.

A young soldier survived.

ElBaradei, will report on Iraq's measure of cooperation in eliminating its banned weapons. Their assessment would weigh heavily in determining the outcome of the Security Council's vote on a resolution authorizing force.

France, Germany, Russia and China say they oppose such a resolution, Bush said, and call for a vote even if it appears certain the United States will lose.

Bush answered questions for about 40 minutes after making his case against Saddam in a 10-minute opening statement in the East Room.

Algeria, an oil- and gas-rich nation in North Africa, has been torn by a decade-long insurgency by Islamic militants that has left tens of thousands dead.

Prime Minister Ali Benflis set up a crisis unit at airports in Algiers and Tamanrasset to deal with the crash, thought to be the first in the history of Algerian commercial aviation.

Arafat said to appoint prime minister:

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat told aides Thursday that he will name prime minister, Mohamed ElBaradei, will report on Iraq's measure of cooperation in eliminating its banned weapons. Their assessment would weigh heavily in determining the outcome of the Security Council's vote on a resolution authorizing force.

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Ex-NASA official cites safety faults:

An attorney for Great White disputed claims that a NEW NASA official who led a study three years ago that faulted the way agencies worked in its Fatah movement that he will name Abbas, also known as Abu Mazen, at a session next week of the Palestinian Legislative Council, said Ahmed Queila, speaker of the council.

Armenian opposition alleges vote fraud:

President Robert Kucharian was re-elected in a second round of voting, election officials said Thursday, but the opposition charged the vote was fudged with fraud and vowed not to recognize it.

International monitors also criticized the vote and the campaign period leading up to it as falling short of recognized standards for open elections.

Lawyer claims permission for fireworks:

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U-WIRE

Thousands participate in campus anti-war protests

By RASHA MADKOUR
Daily Texan

Kim Campbell holds many "firsts" in her career, including being the first female president of her high school's student council to Canada's first female attorney general, minister of justice and national defense. Campbell became Canada's first female prime minister in 1993, where she attained the highest approval ratings in 30 years.

Campbell spoke on the University of Texas-Austin campus Wednesday about social gender constructs both from an academic and political perspective.

Currently a visiting professor at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, Campbell said the social norms and schemata shortcuts that help resolve conflict are essential in defining what is considered normal or abnormal.

"Sex is the single most important characteristic that determines how people treat us," Campbell said. "I was raised to believe girls could do anything." With regard to leadership and women, Campbell said gender schemata don't associate women with competence. As a child, Campbell said she was old enough to be smart for a girl, and in her life, she was identified as an anomaly or as having achieved success by "sleeping" her way to the top.

These characteristics shift the merit of women's achievements.

"Your success isn't luck. It's a reflection of your qualities," Campbell told audience members.

While acknowledging that women have come a long way, "We still have history to make," she said.

Campbell offered some ways to work toward progress.

"We have become gender-literate to recognize the dynamics when they occur. We can proactively use leadership to challenge the status quo," she said.

Title IX, which prohibits gender discrimination in participation in educational programs is an example of the "visionary leadership made a quantum leap," said Campbell. Female participation in sports flourished as a result of Title IX, proving that one can never tell what people can accomplish by what they actually do, she said.

The talk was the fifth in a series put on by the University's Muriel Siebert Foundation. Siebert was the first woman on the New York Stock Exchange. The objective of these lectures is to give students an image of famous role models, be they male or female, so that they may be able to glean something from their experience, said Jane Macon, a UT alumna and attorney with Fulbright & Jaworsky. Julia Wagner, a mechanical engineering and Plan II senior, said she was honored that Campbell took the time to speak to students and share her views on gender schemata and how to change them.

"Any woman that has achieved such success is an inspiration," Wagner said.

Prime minister lectures at Texas University

By DAN LAMOTHE
New England Daily

High school and college students across the country walked out of class Wednesday to protest a war the Bush administration is holding, as series of rallies and organizers predicted would be the biggest anti-war demonstrations since the Vietnam War.

Tens of thousands of students at more than 300 colleges and universities pledged to join in the protests, according to the National Youth and Student Peace Coalition. Thousands of students also rallied for peace in Britain, Sweden, Spain and Australia and other countries.

The Books Not Bombs protests were also geared to protest the war's costs on education and the economy. But the focus was the looming threat of war with Iraq.

Manon Terrell, a 19-year-old sophomore, missed three classes to take part in a rally at Stanford University, where protesters held up green and red signs that read "It's the Middle East, not the Wild West" and "The majority of us didn't vote for this war."

"This is a personal thing for me because my friends are going to fight this war," said Terrell, a civil engineer major. "It's not going to be Bush and his cronies in business suits on the front line. They're going to take the people of color and poor people.

"Dozens of Stanford professors endorsed the rally, either by telling students there would be no penalties for leaving class or by canceling class. About 1,500 students walked out of class at the University of Maryland. In Milwaukee, 40 students lined the sidewalk in front of the University student union during an hour-long protest.

"It's good to let people know students have a say in what happens in the world," said Abir Chaudhry, 19, who carried a sign that read "God Don't No Bless America Only."

Sporadic rain fell as about 1,500 protesters and a small number of Bush supporters holding a counter demonstration gathered at Penn State University.

After an hour-long rally, about half the protesters marched four blocks to the university administration building, where Mayor Bill Welch accepted petitions asking the board of trustees to oppose war on Iraq.

"It must not be a decision that is made without us," said Abir Chaudhry.

"We can become gender-specialists, learn to use gender schemata and how to prove that one can never tell what people can accomplish by what they actually do," said Abir Chaudhry.

College of Arts and Letters
University of Notre Dame

Invites
Nominations
for the Father Sheedy Award

Each year, the Sheedy Award, named for a former dean of the College of Arts and Letters, honors one member of the Arts and Letters faculty for outstanding teaching.

Both students and faculty are invited to submit nomination letters for this year's award to:

Hugh R. Page, Jr.
Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies
105 O'Shaughnessy Hall

Deadline
Thursday, 20 March, 2003
Vivendi loses $25.6B in 2002

**Media giant's loss biggest-ever in France**

Chairman and CEO of Vivendi Universal, Jean-Rene Fourtou, attends a news conference Thursday in Paris. The French media concern posted a loss of $25.6 billion, or 23.3 billion euros for 2002, the largest loss in French corporate history.

Fourtou vowed to press ahead with his 7 billion euro ($7.7 billion) asset disposal program over the course of this year to return Vivendi to solid footing.

"To accomplish that goal, Vivendi will almost certainly have to sell all or part of its entertainment empire, which was acquired just two years ago by then-chairman Jean-Marie Messier as part of a massive spending spree that almost sunk the company."

The potential sale of the assets, which include the record label of pop band U2, appears to be interested in acquiring all the entertainment assets, not various pieces.

**February retail sales sales disappoint**

Owners to keep Tyco in Bermuda

A proposal to have Tyco International move to Bermuda was defeated by shareholders at the troubled conglomerate's annual meeting Thursday.

While shareholders unhappy with scan-dals involving top management scored a very slim victory with approval of a resolution to subject executive severance packages to a direct shareholder vote.

The non-binding resolution won 58 percent to 42 percent at the meeting, which took place in Hamilton, Bermuda.

**In Brief**

Microsoft to pay first-ever dividend

It's payday for Microsoft investors.

Microsoft Corp. is issuing its first dividend Friday, shelling out more than $850 million to its largest investors right up to co-founder Bill Gates.

However, shareholders unhappy with scan-dals involving top management scored a very slim victory with approval of a resolution to subject executive severance packages to a direct shareholder vote.

As merchants reported their February results Thursday, Wal-Mart Stores Inc. announced sales at stores in the weak economy and worries about a possible war in Iraq.

"As merchants reported their February results Thursday, Wal-Mart Stores Inc. announced sales at stores open at least a year, or same-store sales, beat Wall Street expectations. Same-store sales are considered the best gauge of a retailer's health."

Overall, though, "this was a weak reading, and it is the same story line. But the only difference is that the weather complicated the issue," said Michael P. Niemira, vice president of Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi Ltd.

"Weather is a passing problem, but concern about war and the economy is a lingering issue and therein lies the problem."

Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi's same-store sales tally of 79 stores was up only 0.8 percent in February, compared with an increase of 6.2 percent a year ago, when unusually warm weather helped spur sales of springtime clothing. Niemira said it was the weakest performance since last November, when the index was unchanged.

The biggest blow in February came when a snowstorm blanketed the Northeast during the President's Day weekend, forcing many stores to close and wipe out the much-anticipated sales bonuses needed to jump-start the spring season.

Niemira estimated that the holiday storm as well as extreme cold weather and other storms in the Northeast and Midwest last month shaved about 1 to 1.5 percentage points on average from the monthly sales figures at national chains.

**Market Recap**

**Dow Jones**

NASDAQ

1,302.89  **-11.51**

S&P 500

822.10  **-7.75**

AMEX

827.02  **-1.62**

NYSE

4,622.06  **-47.73**

**Top 5 Volume Leaders**

**Company**  **% Change**  **Gain Price**

NASDAQ 100 (INDEX:OQQ)  **-0.24**  -0.06  24.49

CSSD SYSTEMS (CSSD)  **-1.89**  -0.26  13.48

TELL CORP (INTC)  **-1.65**  -0.28  16.70

SIRIUS SATELLIT (SIRI)  **-7.56**  -0.84  0.49

SUN MICROSYSTEM (SUNW)  **-2.40**  -0.08  3.25

**February retail sales sales disappoint**

**New York**

Winter storms dealt a major blow to February sales at the nation's retailers, where business has already suffered from the weak economy and worries about a possible war in Iraq.

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**Vivendi loses $25.6B in 2002**

Vivendi Universal said Thursday it was examining all options for its U.S. entertainment assets as the debt-laden media giant posted the largest loss in French corporate history.

Vivendi's net loss of $25.3 billion euros ($25.6 billion) snatched the corporate record mark set only a day earlier by Tyco France Telecom when it posted 20.7 billion euros ($22.7 billion) in losses.

Chairman Jean-Rene Fourtou called 2002 "an extremely difficult year," but vowed Vivendi would return to profitability by 2004. This year will be "a year of transition and of financial and economic progress," he said.

Fourtou also said Vivendi was in talks with various potential buyers for its U.S. television and film businesses. Those include the world's largest music company, Vivendi Universal Music, as well as the Universal film studio and theme parks and the USA and Sci-Fis cable networks.

Fourtou confirmed that he met with Sumner M. Redstone, the head of U.S. media conglomerate Viacom, in Los Angeles to discuss the possible disposal of assets. But he refused to provide details, saying he was considering all options.

"I do not want to answer your questions about what I plan to sell," Fourtou said. "I am talking to everybody." 

Vivendi barely stayed off bankruptcy last year as it struggled to cope with billions of debt, a collapsing share price, boardroom intrigue and no clear strategy.

Vivendi's board met Thursday, with the entertainment assets' future believed to top the agenda.

Vivendi officials refused to discuss the outcome.

"We don't want to negotiate under the media spotlight," Espinasse said.

While Viacom appears to be leading the field, other contenders include General Electric Co.'s NBC and Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer.

Former oil tycoon Marvin Davis has made a $20 billion bid for all the entertainment assets. But Davis appears to be interested in acquiring all the entertainment assets, not various pieces.

**February retail sales sales disappoint**

Owners to keep Tyco in Bermuda

A proposal to have Tyco International move its headquarters from Bermuda to the United States failed to win enough shareholder support at the troubled conglomerate's annual meeting Thursday.

However, shareholders unhappy with scandals involving top management scored a very rare victory with approval of a resolution to subject executive severance packages to a direct shareholder vote.

The non-binding resolution won 58 percent to 42 percent at the meeting, which took place in Hamilton, Bermuda.

**New York**

Winter storms dealt a major blow to February sales at the nation's retailers, where business has already suffered from the weak economy and worries about a possible war in Iraq.

As merchants reported their February results Thursday, Wal-Mart Stores Inc. announced sales at stores open at least a year, or same-store sales, beat Wall Street expectations. Same-store sales are considered the best gauge of a retailer's health.

Overall, though, "this was a weak reading, and it is the same story line. But the only difference is that the weather complicated the issue," said Michael P. Niemira, vice president of Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi Ltd.

"Weather is a passing problem, but concern about war and the economy is a lingering issue and therein lies the problem."

Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi's same-store sales tally of 79 stores was up only 0.8 percent in February, compared with an increase of 6.2 percent a year ago, when unusually warm weather helped spur sales of springtime clothing. Niemira said it was the weakest performance since last November, when the index was unchanged.

The biggest blow in February came when a snowstorm blanketed the Northeast during the President's Day weekend, forcing many stores to close and wipe out the much-anticipated sales bonuses needed to jump-start the spring season.

Niemira estimated that the holiday storm as well as extreme cold weather and other storms in the Northeast and Midwest last month shaved about 1 to 1.5 percentage points on average from the monthly sales figures at national chains.

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Clinton, Dole to debate on '60 Minutes'  

**NEW YORK**  
Former President Clinton and his 1996 election opponent Bob Dole are joining the CBS newsmagazine "60 Minutes" for weekly debates on national issues in the show's old "Point-Counter-point" style.  
The two agreed to 10 segments, starting Sunday night, but CBS executives say the network will consider extending the debates into next season.  
Clinton said he often watches some of the political shows on cable television that degenerate into screaming matches.  
"There may be a market for people who want light instead of heat," the former president said.  
Associated Press

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**BRITISH COLUMBIA**  
Calif. man pleads for marijuana  

**VANCOUVER**  
A former California gubernatorial candidate is seeking political asylum in Canada because he says he'll be prosecuted for marijuana possession if he returns to the state.

Steve Kubby, 56, claims he needs to smoke marijuana at least once an hour in order to control symptoms of a rare adrenal cancer.

Canadian federal prosecutors, however, are challenging Kubby's refugee claim and say he just trying to avoid jail in California on a perjury conviction.

In December 2000, Kubby was convicted in California of two drug possession charges and faced up to 30 years in prison. He and his family fled to Canada after the sentence was handed down.

Then, last April the former Liberal candidate was arrested in Canada on an immigration warrant. He faces Canadian criminal charges of possession of a controlled substance and possession for the purpose of trafficking.

Associated Press
Students cope with troop departures

By HOLDER SHANNON
North Carolina State Univ.

BAILEGIS, N.C.

With the deployment of more than 200,000 U.S. troops to the Middle East region, some residents at North Carolina State University are dealing with loved ones in harm's way.

Mark McLawhorn, a senior at the university, is stationed in the Middle East with the military. McLawhorn feels that his brother-in-law, who is stationed in the military, is in harm's way.

"It still is the greatest country on the earth at the moment. There are things you are able to do here that you can't do anywhere else. The people out in the street protesting the war wouldn't be able to do that," said McLawhorn.

McLawhorn is unsure of what will happen in the future, however, because "nothing has happened yet, but they will never back down." He added, "Something is going to happen, there's too much politics and bravado wrapped up in it now, regardless of how many missiles Hussein destroys or claims to destroy."
Homework paid off with reading day

Our study-abroad advisor from Notre Dame visited Cairo today, and she mentioned that there have been numerous letters in the Observer about worries for students studying abroad. Also, the office in Hurley Hall has received many phone calls from parents concerned about their kids in the different programs. I always appreciate it when friends ask me how I am holding up and how safe I feel, but I wish I could bring all those people here to see what it's really like. My friend and fellow donor, Aaron and I, are doing just fine in Cairo. I assume the same is true for all the students abroad elsewhere.

On the streets, when people ask me where I am from, I refuse to hide and say I am from Canada. I always say proudly that I am an American. I hope, too, in several months time to true for all the students abroad elsewhere. 

I always appreciate it when friends ask me how I am holding up and how safe I feel, but I wish I could bring all those people here to see what it's really like. My friend and fellow donor, Aaron and I, are doing just fine in Cairo. I assume the same is true for all the students abroad elsewhere. 

Jensen and Jablonski-Diehl also conducted a student survey to gauge reaction to different scenarios of how a study could be implemented by using the percentages and input to draft their final written proposal.

More impressively, instead of restricting the reading day proposal to what Jensen and Jablonski-Diehl could accomplish, the proposal included all members of student government in the effort, fulfilling their campaign promise to add a study day to the academic calendar. Adding study days to the calendar has been a promise student government representatives have been making to the student body for the past 10 years, but give Jensen and Jablonski-Diehl credit for finally succeeding.

Previous student government administrations did not completely undertake the study day endeavor. No other administration in the past 10 years took the time to thoroughly research or put together a comprehensive proposal. Therefore making it difficult for faculty and administrators to take the need for study day seriously.

Today, the student body can be proud of what its student government representatives have accomplished and how they accomplished their goal. By being prepared and acting in a professional manner, student government gained the attention and respect of the College's faculty and administration.

It really does make a difference when you do your homework.

A look at the war from Cairo

Egyptian kids, who probably are not that different from kids in Baghdad and who probably are not that different from kids in South Bend. I am impressed by the anti-war demonstrations that take place on campus, because there are hundreds of police in riot gear ready to suppress any freedom of expression. The government just renewed the "emergency laws" in order to prolong this police-state for another three months, in everybody's disappointment. The government has been a disappointment, you see, there is little freedom here - even in Lebanon and the students want freedom more than anything, but they also do not want war and they fear American intervention.

I do not buy stories that Bush is only in for the oil or to finish something his father started. Weapons of mass destruction and changing the Iraqi regime are serious, truthful matters. In trying to soak all this in, though, my only truthful conclusion is that war is not the answer in this case. I know that before I came here. This area is too complex to fully explain in this letter, so this may be an unsatisfactory answer to many: But, full-fledged diplomacy is the only way now. My hope is that Bush (and his advisors) knows what war will mean for people in this area and for Americans. My biggest fear is that he doesn't.

No matter what happens here, I appreciate my friends' and family's concern. I am sure others abroad (and their families) feel the same. I am sure others abroad (and their families) feel the same. I am sure others abroad (and their families) feel the same. I am sure others abroad (and their families) feel the same. I am sure others abroad (and their families) feel the same.

Toreen J. Fitzgerald
junior
Cairo, Egypt
March 6
The fight for gay marriage

Richard Friedman
A Skewed Perspective

The past couple weeks have been a busy time for the University of Notre Dame administration and the Notre Dame community. The University is facing a battle on the gay marriage issue that will continue to rage in the courts and the political arena. The University is also dealing with other issues such as the recent sexual abuse scandal and the ongoing investigation into academic dishonesty.

The conflict between gay rights and religious institutions is not new. There has been a long history of conflict between religious beliefs and the rights of sexual minorities. This conflict has often been characterized as a battle between progress and tradition. The University of Notre Dame is no exception to this trend. The University has a long history of supporting traditional values and a strong emphasis on religion.

The University's stance on gay marriage is not without debate. Some members of the community support the University's stance, while others believe that the University should be more open to gay rights. The University has been criticized for its stance on gay marriage, and some members of the community have called for the University to change its policy.

Regardless of one's position on the issue, it is clear that the debate is not going away anytime soon. The University will continue to face challenges as it navigates the complex landscape of religious institutions and the rights of sexual minorities. The University will have to find a way to balance its commitment to traditional values with its commitment to the rights of all members of its community.
Tonight at 7:30, five of Western theater’s most famous characters will meet on the main stage of Washington Hall. In the Guthrie Theater’s premiere production of “The Stuff of Dreams,” an original play by Bill Corbett, Notre Dame students and members of the surrounding community will experience an exchange between five recognizable dramatic figures.

On an empty stage, the characters appear as if in a waking dream. The audience is led to believe that the dream has been conjured by the mysterious cloaked figure who acts as a host. The other four figures are the title characters from Sophocles’s “Antigone,” Edmond Rostand’s “Cyrano de Bergerac,” Nora from Henrik Ibsen’s “A Doll’s House” and Willy Loman from Arthur Miller’s “Death of a Salesman.”

The host challenges the four characters to tell their individual stories in hopes of finding the most compelling, play-worthy life among them.

Antigone is a headstrong teenager, uncompromising in her view of herself as history’s most tragic figure. In his turn, Cyrano laments his unrequited love and his personal appearance, which has resulted in a life of indignity. Ibsen’s Nora, who appears not as the woman in “A Doll’s House,” but the woman she became after she walked out on her life, claims no unusual power. However, the experts from the play and her own words reveal the strength it took this 19th century woman to walk away from her life and start over. Willy Loman approaches the mysterious host as he would a sales client, and throughout the evolution of his own tale, Loman realizes the consequences of spending his life chasing unrealistic expectations and unreasonable dreams.

After the four characters have finished telling their stories, the host reveals himself to be Shakespeare’s Hamlet, and tells of his own tragic life. He claims that he has suffered as much as the other four, but the complications of his own situation make his story the most compelling.

Throughout the play, the audience is under the impression that it is witnessing the host’s dream, but at the end of the play, one of the characters turns to the audiences and asks the others, “Who are they?” Suddenly, the audience realizes — the dream is its own.

“We’re approaching the production very simply,” said director Jeff Hall-Flavin. “Since theatre is a very human art form, the emphasis is on the actors — they’re featured by stripping away everything except the essentials. The hope is that this will engage the audience as active participants.”

The Guthrie Theater’s hope to have an active audience isn’t simply a dream. Invited by Summer Shakespeare’s founder and Artistic Director Paul Rathburn, the men and women of the Guthrie Theater attended classes yesterday to provide insight about the stage to students.

Summer Shakespeare is a sponsor of the Guthrie Theater, ensuring that South Bend is a regular stop for the company’s performances. Besides offering their expertise in the classroom, the Guthrie will provide a new way for students to uncover the difficult and various facets of live theatre.

But on the eve of spring break it may be difficult to get the student body to trudge through the biting wind and brave the icy sidewalks on a trek to Washington Hall. Rathburn knows, however, that there will still be a number of students on campus tonight. “Our challenge is, how can we make sure every student takes advantage of this world class theatre?” he said.

One way is to offer the tickets for only $7 to students and $18 for the general public. Another is to offer them a chance to see theatre’s classic dramatic figures trade quips.

“The Stuff of Dreams” will be performed tonight and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. in Washington Hall. Tickets are on sale at the LaFortune Box Office.

Contact Colleen Barrett at cbarrett@nd.edu

By COLLEEN BARRETT
Scene Writer

Brian A. Grandison as Hamlet and Jon Andrew Hegge as Cyrano de Bergerac.

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Contact Colleen Barrett at cbarrett@nd.edu
'The Men of March'
A journey inside the lives of college basketball coaches and their teams

By ANDREW SOUKUP
Sports Writer

The premise behind Brian Curtis' "The Men of March" is simple: spend a full year following four college basketball coaches around the country and chronicle every aspect of their lives from recruiting to dealing with the media. And if Curtis' book only provided unique perspective gleaned from a behind-the-scenes look at major basketball programs, it would still be a good read.

But the fact that Notre Dame coach Mike Brey is one of the four coaches Curtis observes makes "The Men of March" that much more entertaining to Notre Dame basketball fans.

A former sportscaster for Fox Sports Net in Los Angeles, Curtis spent the 2001-02 season following Brey, UCLA's Steve Lavin, Illinois' Bill Self and Iowa's Steve Alford. His comprehensive look at the life of a college basketball coach from the perspectives of these four men covers the college basketball season from Midnight Madness through the Final Four and the NBA Draft.

"Brian Curtis has captured the true humanity as well as the behind-the-scenes business and professional aspects of a head coach's life at the highest levels of college basketball."

John Swofford
Atlantic Coast Conference Commissioner

One of the most interesting aspects of Curtis' book is how he provides an inside perspective of events that drew national attention. When Alford's team hit a December slump and the Iowa coach contacted former Indiana coach Bobby Knight, Curtis provides a unique glimpse into how Alford and Knight rebuilt their once-rocky relationship.

But there are dozens of little nuggets Curtis includes from memorable points in the four team's seasons. Brey, for example, likes to sit by himself in virtual uninterrupted silence before games. If upset at halftime, he'll yell at his team for a few minutes, leave to discuss adjustments with coaches while his players sort things out and then return to calmly deliver the new game plan. Curtis' explanation of Brey's interaction with a struggling David Graves last season only makes one wonder how he responds in other situations. And how Brey dealt with Harold Swanagan's frustration over his brother's arrest shows the importance of helping players through a basketball season.

Notre Dame fans, however, will be disappointed that Brey is the least represented of the four coaches. While Curtis does an excellent job showing the complicated process through which Brey arrived at Notre Dame, how the Irish coach deals with media and what he is like off the court, he spends less time talking about Notre Dame games than he does with other teams. That isn't necessarily a bad thing, as the perspective provided by other teams helps makes the story one about college basketball and not just life in South Bend, but fans who buy the book because Brey is in it might find themselves flipping through a lot of pages.

That still doesn't detract from what is an excellent insider view of a college basketball season. Curtis covers such a broad spectrum of topics that it sheds new light on the difficulty of coaching college basketball. "The Men of March" only appeals to a narrow audience, but the crazed basketball fanatic who buys Curtis' book won't be let down.

Contact Andrew Soukup at asoukup@nd.edu
Arizona performance Thursday under former Arizona assistant in an otherwise uninspired high, and grabbed 12 rebounds.

Luke Walton was the only other Arizona player in double figures with 12 points, three steals and two blocked shots.

The Wildcats' Salim Stoudamire was 0-for-4 shooting and scoreless in 12 minutes in the first half. He didn't play in the second half because of the one-on-one style he was playing against the Beavers.

Stoudamire was 0-for-4 shooting in the first half, with only two free throws and the Wildcats led 20-20 with 1:56 remaining.

Luke Walton made one of two free throws and the Wildcats led 20-20 with 1:56 remaining.

Frye's dunk with 3:10 left put the Beavers ahead. Luke Walton made one of two free throws and the Wildcats led 20-20 with 1:56 remaining.

Arizona's Stoudamire was 0-for-4 shooting and scoreless in 12 minutes in the first half.

Arizona's lead to 32-28 with 1:56 left in the first half.

The P.A. announcer at Cameron Indoor Stadium told existing Duke fans he would see them in New Orleans.

The 100th-ranked Blue Devils believe they still have a lot of work to do to even come close to the site of this year's Final Four.

Shelden Williams had 12 points and season-high 17 rebounds and Duke forced 24 turnovers in a 72-56 victory over Florida State on Thursday night.

But coach Mike Krzyzewski was angry after the win by a second-half lull and a lack of emotion from the home fans who he said have become spoiled by his program's success.

"I've never seen Cameron like it was in the second half," Krzyzewski said of the lack of emotion. "It's this attitude that's been surrounding our team all year long, you know, 'We're Duke and we should win instead of giving these kids [support].'"

"We've won too much. This has been such a good year for us. We're 21-3 and these kids have played their butts off and nobody knows how, like nobody knows — especially our fans."

Captain Chris Duhon said the Blue Devils once again failed to close out a game in open fashion.

"It's one of those inner things, it's like hunger or whatever. We had a story to tell, something that we knew we were going out every night to prove," he said. "Until we find that, it's going to be tough for us."

The Blue Devils (21-5, 1-4) in the Atlantic Coast Conference rebounded from blowing a double-digit lead late in a weekend loss at St. John's and avenged a defeat to the Seminoles a month ago in Tallahassee, Fla.

Dahntay Jones added 14 points for Duke in his last game in Cameron.

The Blue Devils, one of five teams in the Top 10 all season, moved one game behind ACC-leading Wake Forest with a victory in Cameron.

"They didn't look like the same team we beat," Pickett said.

"They were more aggressive and we didn't match their intensity. We had three hands everywhere and we didn't finish our cuts."

Florida State, last in the ACC in scoring at 65.7 points a game, had its worst first half of the season, falling to score on 24 of its first 27 possessions as the Blue Devils went up 28-7 less than 14 minutes in.

Williams was strong on the inside with 11 points and 11 rebounds in 16 first-half minutes. The freshmen player just missed in the first nine minutes with one point and no rebounds.

The Seminoles closed to 44-37 in the early stages of the second half, but Jones and Daniel Ewing scored on three-point plays and J.J. Redick added a driving layup to push the lead to 25 as Duke completed its 14th undefeated home season at Cameron.

Williams grabbed the most rebounds by a Duke player since Carlos Boozer had 16 against Wake Forest on March 9, 2002.
21 is the lucky number in Spurs victory

Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO
The San Antonio Spurs had a high roller’s dream night Thursday against the New Jersey Nets.

Tim Duncan, who wears No. 21, scored 21 points and grabbed 21 rebounds, and Tony Parker added 21 points, 10 in the fourth quarter, as the Spurs fended off a too-little, too-late charge by the Nets en route to a 92-78 win.

The win was San Antonio’s 17th in its last 21 games.

The Nets, who lost their fifth in six games, cut the Spurs’ margin to 83-77 with 1:41 left on consecutive jumpers by Jason Collins and Kenyon Martin. But San Antonio finished with a 9-1 run capped by a 3-pointer by Duncan at the final buzzer after New Jersey, the outcome assured, stopped playing defense.

The Spurs, who allowed Phoenix to shoot 59 percent in a loss Tuesday, limited the Nets to 36.6 percent from the floor.

Jason Kidd, guarded mostly by the 20-year-old Parker, shot 4-for-19 for 11 points, about half his season average, but he exceeded his norm with 13 assists.

“If the ball is not going in, you have to find another aspect of your game,” said Kidd, whose name tops the Nets’ list of potential free agents.

Antonio finished with a 9-1 run after Kidd’s jumper from Argentina. “Sometimes he scares me out there, because I don’t know what is coming, but he is so creative and we have to give him that freedom to just make things happen,” Ginobili, who has scored in double figures in four of the past five games, said.

Tonight just felt very easy out there.”

Bruce Bowen had 11 points and Stephen Jackson 10 for San Antonio.

David Robinson left in the third quarter with a strained lower back, an injury that has plagued him all season. He scored eight points and had five rebounds in 24 minutes.

San Antonio jumped to a 12-point lead, making five of its first eight shots while the Nets managed only a pair of baskets in their 11 attempts from the floor.

Kittles hit a corner jumper and then a 3-pointer to start a 10-0 New Jersey spurt that gave the Nets their first lead at 14-13 late in the first quarter.

The teams stayed close through most of the second period before an 11-footer by Duncan began a 10-3 burst that put San Antonio up 40-32 about a minute before the break.

Aaron Williams made a layup with 7.3 seconds left in the half, and then Kidd stole the inbounds pass and got the ball to Kittles for a 17-foot jumper at the buzzer, drawing the Nets to 40-36.

Kidd made his only two of his 11 shots in the half, while Martin went 3-for-9. Duncan secured his double-double early by scoring 10 points and grabbing 14 rebounds in the first two quarters.

San Antonio got its lead over 10 points late in the third period and kept it there most of the way.

Bulls 119, Warriors 105
Eddy Curry had 24 points and 10 rebounds as the Chicago Bulls beat Golden State and snapped the Warriors’ six-game winning streak.

The Bulls’ victory was just their fifth in the last 19 games, but gave them 22 wins — one more than last season.

Curry’s fellow prep-to-pro teammate Tyson Chandler added 23 points and 14 rebounds as the Bulls scored their most points this season following controversial statements by rookie guard Jason Williams.

Williams said Monday the team needed to shake things up, suggested there was a rift between players and coaches and hinted maybe it was time some players move on — maybe even him.

He started the game on the bench.

Jamil Crawford was in the starting lineup in his place, although Chicago coach Bill Cartwright said before the game Williams was not being punished for his gripes.

Crawford had 15 points and a career-high 10 assists in 31 minutes, while Williams scored nine points with three assists in 17 minutes.

Aron Williams scored 28 to lead Golden State and Antawn Jamison added 22.

Leading by five at the half, the Bulls ran out to 16-point lead after three quarters, getting a pair of 3-pointers from Donyell Marshall and one each from Crawford and Rose.

But the Warriors turned to their bench and the first seven points of the fourth quarter to make it 88-79 with just under 10 minutes remaining.

Then Williams and Rose hit jumpers as the Bulls regained control and pulled away again to break a three-game losing streak.

Willis’ 79.

But with the Warriors turned to their bench and the first seven points of the fourth quarter to make it 88-79 with just under 10 minutes remaining.

Then Williams and Rose hit jumpers as the Bulls regained control and pulled away again to break a three-game losing streak.

With Golden State center Erick Dampier in early foul trouble, Curry and Chandler went to work.

Crawford scored 19 points and Chandler had 12 points and 12 rebounds in the first half.
**Womens Big Ten Tourney 6 p.m.,**

**AROUND THE NATION**

**ILL Michigan 8-6 14-5**

**ILL Florida State 14-6 18-2**

**ILL Stanford 14-6 26-9**

**ILL Georgia 21-3 27-6**

**Western Conference, Northwest Division**

**Eastern Conference, Northeast Division**

**Eastern Conference, Southeast Division**

**ILL Michigan 8-6 14-5**

**ILL Florida State 14-6 18-2**

**ILL Stanford 14-6 26-9**

**ILL Georgia 21-3 27-6**

**Associated Press**

Before each practice, Jim Harrick reads a message to his players on a whiteboard next to the court.

On Thursday, the words appeared especially relevant.

"Today is the first day of the rest of your life. Forget the past and start thinking about the future."

If only it were that easy for the Georgia coach.

Harrick has had so many problems in his past that it might be tough for him to survive the latest scandal.

He was fired at UCLA for lying on an expense report.

Rhode Island is looking into alleged transgressions that occurred on Harrick's watch.

And now, he faces the most serious challenge of his career at Georgia.

A former Bulldogs player, Tony Cole, accused Harrick Jr. of paying off bills, doing shoddy work and teaching a sham class on coaching.

Harrick Jr., an assistant on his father's staff, was accused in a campus rape.

"I think Jamal has played good," Harrick said. "You can't go 30 years and remain at Georgia.

He was among three athletes accused in a campus rape.

Cole didn't have much impact on the court, but he made plenty of news off it.

Midway through his only season with the Bulldogs, he was among three athletes accused in a campus rape.

When the charges were eventually dropped, Cole was kicked off the basketball team for repeated violations.

He struck back by accusing Harrick Jr. of breaking NCAA rules.

"Yeah, I admit to making a sham class on coaching," Harrick Jr. said. "We've got a nice program in the past and start thinking about the rest of your life. Forget the past and start thinking about the future."

"Today is the first day of the rest of your life. Forget the past and start thinking about the future."

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Harrick Jr., an assistant on his father's staff, was accused in a campus rape.

"I think Jamal has played good," Harrick said. "You can't go 30 years and remain at Georgia.

He was among three athletes accused in a campus rape.

Cole didn't have much impact on the court, but he made plenty of news off it.

Midway through his only season with the Bulldogs, he was among three athletes accused in a campus rape.

When the charges were eventually dropped, Cole was kicked off the basketball team for repeated violations.

He struck back by accusing Harrick Jr. of breaking NCAA rules.

"Yeah, I admit to making a sham class on coaching," Harrick Jr. said. "We've got a nice program in the past and start thinking about the rest of your life. Forget the past and start thinking about the future."

"Today is the first day of the rest of your life. Forget the past and start thinking about the future."

If only it were that easy for the Georgia coach.

Harrick has had so many problems in his past that it might be tough for him to survive the latest scandal.

He was fired at UCLA for lying on an expense report.

Rhode Island is looking into alleged transgressions that occurred on Harrick's watch.

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Brown's 2 goals help Sabres defeat Maple Leafs

Associated Press

TORONTO

Curts Brown had two goals, and Miroslav Satan extended his points-scoring streak to seven games as the Buffalo Sabres defeated the Toronto Maple Leafs 4-2 Thursday night.

Taylor Pyatt had the other goal for Buffalo, which handed Toronto its third straight loss. Shaye Corson and Robert Svehla scored for the Maple Leafs.

Satan also had an assist, giving him 10 points in his streak. Brown has four goals in his last five games and 13 overall.

Brown made it 3-1 on the power play at 4:36 of the third period when he took a pass from Satan beside the net and beat Ed Belfour over his left shoulder.

With less than two minutes left in the game, Svehla took a pass from Maks Sundin and fired it past Martin Biron to pull Toronto within a goal.

The Maple Leafs nearly tied it with less than a minute left, but Biron gloved Gary Roberts' shot. Then Brown hit an empty net with less than a minute left, but fired it past Martin Biron to make it 3-1.

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Florida continued from page 24

losing streak three other times.
However, unlike last weekend where the Irish faced two top teams in three days, none of Notre Dame's six opponents this week fall into that category.

The Irish get a day off Tuesday before resuming the series against Jacksonville Wednesday evening, and playing Eastern Illinois Thursday.

Notre Dame closes out the series next Friday and Saturday with the second match against the Midshipmen and a meeting with Creighton.

The Blue Jays are the only team of the six Irish opponents which the Irish faced last year.

The series begins this weekend with No. 2 aerospace, a top-flight matchup, a chance to establish a sense of urgency for the regular season to do that against a Georgetown team that is just challenging as well.

The Irish will try to get back on track Saturday with a road trip to visit the Hoyas (14-12, 6-5 Big East).

"We're going back to Georgetown and hopefully we will start something new in that gym," Irish point guard Chris Thomas said. "It doesn't matter if we come out with a win or a loss, as long as we get some of our old habits back and gain some confidence.

After beginning the season 11-4 and near the top of the Big East, Georgetown endured a streak of six straight defeats, including a 73-93 double overtime loss to Notre Dame in the Joyce Center on Feb. 1st.

The last two of those three teams split the two games in the 2002 series, held in the Express College Classic.

"It's disappointing that we've lost the last two games at home, and that we lost on Senior Night. But there's a lot of basketball left ..." Dan Miller

Irish forward

Florida

continued from page 24

I n the series — the last two contests have gone to multiple overtimes — Notre Dame would like to go ahead early and avoid another close finish.

"We're not tired. Coach Brey has prepared us well, but there is just something about how we start the game," Notre Dame senior captain Matt Carroll said after the loss to Syracuse. "It's a new fault. We don't come out with a sense of urgency like we do in the second half.

But with one game left on the regular season schedule, the Irish have one last chance to fix whatever has been breaking down throughout this season.

"It's disappointing that we've lost the last two games at home, and that we lost on Senior Night," Irish forward Dan Miller said. "But there's a lot of basketball left, and we have a chance to make a great run in the tournament.

Contact Chris Federico at cfederico@nd.edu

MENS TENNIS

Irish grab first home win

BY JOE LINDSEY
Sports Writer

The Irish finally won their first home match of this season after going undefeated at the Eck Pavilion last year.

No. 46 Notre Dame defeated No. 57 Michigan 2-1 Thursday, and the Irish are showing signs of improved confidence as they prepare for the talent-laden BlueGray National Classic over spring break.

The momentum that put the Irish ahead 4-0 to clinch the victory was initiated by the claiming of the doubles point. Each of Michigan's points came only when the score did not matter.

"We gut it out to a good finish in doubles," sophomore Luís Haddad said. "That kind of kept us going. We haven't won at home. It was finally huge that we could win (the way we did).

While the No. 1 Irish doubles team lost, the bottom two, which all have times points of concern for the team, ensured that Notre Dame would start the match with the initial point on the board.

Junior Nicholas Lopez-Acevedo and sophomore Paul McNaughton at the No. 3 flight, 8-5, over the Wolverines' Anthony Jackson and Josef Fischer. Lopez-Acevedo and McNaughton have not competed together in match play since Jan. 26.

Junior Brian Randall, a second-year Irish and sophomore Paul McNaughton have not competed together in match play since Jan. 26.

"It feels good," McNaughton said. "It's a new feeling for us, especially at the No. 3 doubles, because we haven't done very well at that position. It really felt good to win one.

"That's a great sign," Scott said. "I'm really proud of [McNaughton] and [Lopez-Acevedo]. They fought hard. They came up big when they needed to. It's a big confidence booster when you can't bring your 'A' game and you have your two other teams to back you up. They saw that they were capable of playing well and playing with big teams, and I think that gave them some confidence.

The Irish believe that their participation in the Pacific Coast doubles tournament last weekend gave the doubles lineup some valuable experience and practice time, which seems to have served as a confidence booster.

In singles play, D'Amico notched his first victory in almost a month with a 6-2, 6-1 win over Shaya. D'Amico began the season 6-0 before losing the last two consecutive matches and missed a third due to injury.

Overall, D'Amico, who was 1-3 last spring, has been an important asset to the young Irish squad.

Other key assets are starting to emerge for Notre Dame.

Lopez-Acevedo, a transfer from Bowling Green, recently won through a 6-3 win in straight sets over Gossain. The junior has won four of his past six singles matches.

A freshman clinched the day's win for Notre Dame. Patrick Buchanan, who has won five of his past six matches, topped Michigan's Fischer 7-5, 6-3.

Haddock, ranked 81st nationally, was upset by No. 101 Michael Rublin, 7-6 (7-4), 6-1, which gave the Wolverines a foothold.

The Irish junior captains were injured during the match, but the condition is not serious. Haddock's doubles partner Farrell also lost, 7-5, 6-3. The team's third captain, Scott, won the final match on the court, and showed his excitement with a big celebration after he finally triumphed over Michigan's Anthony Jackson, 6-1, 4-6, 1-0 (10-8).

Jackson defeated Scott last fall, and the Irish player was eager for revenge.

Over spring break, Notre Dame will compete for the prestigious green blazers awarded to the victors of the BlueGray National Tennis Classic in Montgomery, Ala. Two years ago the Irish won the green, and last year they advanced to the finals.

Overall, the team is looking forward to playing outdoors, and with trips to Miami and Dallas approaching after the break, they won't have to count on South Bend weather to get a chance to leave the indoor courts.

"Lately I think we'll have a little better outdoor team," Haddad said.

Scott thinks the Irish are already a little better, though. "I think we do fine adjusting outdoors," Scott said. "I think [Thursday's win] is a good step toward turning our season around today.

Contact Joe Lindsay at jlindsay@nd.edu

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Steve Corbato, Director of Network Infrastructure for Internet2
Ann Doyle, Program Manager of Arts and Humanities for Internet2
Brendan Bellinò, Office of Information Technology
Dr. Jeff Kantor, Notre Dame's research agenda
Gordon Wilosh, Chief Information Officer, University of Notre Dame

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Saturday, March 7, 2003
The Observer
Irish hope to sparkle in the southern sun

By JOE LINDSLEY
Sports Writer

The Irish will be spending spring break in Tempe, but before that they will travel to Provo, Utah, where they will take on No. 49 Brigham Young.

After a week of practicing under the Tempe sun, Notre Dame will then take on No. 7 Arizona State. The Irish expect a tough fight the Saturday.

"Brigham Young is a team that always fights to the very end in every single spot of their lineup," Irish senior Katie Cunha said. "I think they have a little bit of the home-court advantage being in the [Salt Lake] altitude."

The No. 19 Irish earned their first upset victory of the season last weekend when they defeated No. 13 Texas A&M and the team is planning on carrying the momentum from that win into Saturday's match.

"If we play like we did last weekend, we should win," Cunha said. After Brigham Young, Notre Dame will spend the rest of break in Arizona.

"We're just going to get down there to Tempe and practice hard all week, just get used to the outdoor courts and the weather and then play some ball on Friday," Cunha said.

One of the best parts of traveling to Arizona State, according to Cunha, is non-tennis related.

"First of all, we're looking forward to getting out of the weather," she said.

Other than that though, the Irish are excited for the opportunity to do battle with a top-ten power.

At about the midway point in the season, the Irish are making advancements despite their challenging schedule.

"I think we've had some hard-fought matches," Cunha said. "I really think that our doubles are coming together. All the girls played solid last weekend. I think everything is starting to come together for us."

Although the team is relatively young, the Irish are slowly gaining importance experience.

"The freshmen are starting to get used to the individual match-" Cunha said. "We're getting a little more comfortable with our lineup. I think we're getting pretty good right now."

Contact Joe Lindley at jlindley@nd.edu

Irish still green as spring season gets under way

By ERIK POWERS
Sports Writer

The fall season had an auspicious start for the Irish. At the Inverness Intercollegiate Invitational, the team finished 14th out of 15 teams and 46 strokes behind tournament champion Florida. But freshman Eric Deutsch turned in a positive performance, entering the third day in fifth place before fading late.

Deutsch's performance was a microcosm of the fall season. The Irish have been starting strong and then tailing off. In four of its five fall meets, the team has posted its best overall score in the opening round. By the end of the fall season the team had finished in the top half of tournaments three times, finishing at 5th of 14 teams at the SMU Stonebridge Invitational.

Tomorrow marks the dawn of the spring season for the Irish. Like the fall, the team will be especially green. Freshmen Scott Gustafson, Tommy Balderson and Deutsch have competed in all five tournaments this year and appear to be the core of the team for the remainder of the season. Fellow freshman Mark Baldwin, who battled mononucleosis last semester, was in four tournaments and his 11th place finish with a 211 was the fourth-lowest 54-hole score ever by a Notre Dame golfer. Senior captain Brandon Lunke anchors the squad with a team-best 73.33 average.

Because of improved schedule-making at the request of coach John Jasinski, the Irish participate in two different tournaments over spring break than last year. This Saturday and Sunday, the Irish invade Ocala, Fla. with eyes set on a championship. While the team has been far from dormant, the South Bend winter has deprived the Irish the luxury of daily course play above freezing temperatures.

No ranked teams from the Precept fall season coaches poll will compete at the Lake Diamond Golf and Country Club either. The Irish will face No. 7 Minnesota and No. 18 Purdue at the Conrad Herling Invitational in Brookwood, Ala. Minnesota, last year's champion, heads a stiff class of competition. The meet runs from March 13 to March 16.

The next two weeks afford the Irish an opportunity to shed the rust from four months away from competition. While the team has been far from dormant, the South Bend winter has deprived the Irish the luxury of daily course play above freezing temperatures.

Contact Erik Powers at epowers@nd.edu

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Contact Erik Powers at epowers@nd.edu
By AARON RONSHEIM  
Sports Writer

The Notre Dame softball team (6-6) has a chance this weekend to exercise some of last year’s demons when they face No. 3 Nebraska at the Kia Classic during spring break. Last year the Cornhuskers ended Notre Dame’s season with a 5-4 victory over the Irish in the regional final. A win would have given Notre Dame its first ever berth in the College Softball World Series.

“They know how much it hurt to lose that game at regionals last year,” Irish coach Deanna Gumpf said. “I think that the girls’ emotion will take care of itself in this game.”

Besides the past team history on the field, which included a Notre Dame victory at Nebraska last season, Gumpf has a personal relationship with the Cornhuskers. Gumpf played at Nebraska from 1989-1992 and would want nothing more than a win against her alma mater.

“I don’t think I need to say much about this game,” Gumpf said. “The girls know that Nebraska is a tough team and they know how I feel about them. The Cornhuskers are 12-1 this season, with their only loss coming against No. 1 UCLA. They’ve also defeated seven ranked teams.”

The Cornhuskers have an explosive offense, boosting a .337 team batting average. Leading the explosive attack is senior outfielder USA Wangerl, who is batting .432 with five home runs and 20 runs batted in.

In order to shut down the Cornhusker offense, the Irish will need their young pitching staff to step up. Inconsistency has been the biggest worry for Gumpf and her coaching staff, but she is hoping that will improve soon.

“Our pitching needs to be more consistent,” said Gumpf. “I think we are ready in every other area, and I think we are very close to where we need to be.”

To keep pace with the Nebraska offense, Notre Dame will have to continue the offensive tear they were on last weekend in Louisiana. The Irish hit 10 home runs and pounded out 16-5 hits in their last five games. With the offense back in gear, some of the pressure is taken off the pitching staff.

“It relaxes you,” pitcher Stef Fann Stenglein said. “It also allows you to throw your own game and you don’t have to be perfect.”

One of the offensive stars for the Irish last weekend was senior third baseman Andrea Lomn. Lomn was named Big East Player of the Week for her performance in Louisiana. Lomn went 6-for-16 at the plate, which included three doubles, one homerun and two stolen bases.

Another encouraging sign last weekend was the hitting of Andria Bledsoe. Bledsoe broke out of an early season slump by blasting three home runs and has raised her average from .111 to .306 over the last few games.

“We have a team, the Irish are batting. 270 and have five players hitting over .300. The Irish will begin their California trip with a doubleheader Sunday against Cal State Northridge (11-9). Even though the Matadors are only two games over .500, they have played a tough schedule, which includes a victory over No. 24 Michigan and losses against No. 22 Alabama and No. 1 UCLA.

Junior outfielder Christen Bedwell leads the Matador offense, hitting .419 with eight RBIs and two home runs. Besides Bedwell, the Irish will have to worry about sophomore pitcher Kia Fennell, both when she is on the mound and at the plate. Fennell is 6-2 in the young season and has an impressive 2.10 ERA. At the plate, Fennell is equally impressive with a team leading 14 RBIs and a .413 batting average.

Besides facing Nebraska at the Kia Classic the Irish will take the field against Fresno State and DePaul in round robin play before starting tournament play.

Against Fresno State (4-8), the Irish will likely face Bulldog pitcher Jamie Southern. Even though Southern is 3-5 this season, she boasts an excellent 0.61 ERA and has struck out 79 batters in 59 innings.

The DePaul Blue Demons (6-2) are ranked No. 13 in the country because of a good pitching staff that has a great one-two punch with senior Lindsey Chouinard (3-2, 0.75 ERA) and junior Sarah Martz (3-0, 0.90 ERA).

“Against DePaul we have to play solid and hit the ball well,” Gumpf said. “They have two good pitchers. We can’t make mistakes against a team like DePaul. They are very aggressive and will capitalize on our mistakes.”

Contact Aaron Ronsheim at aronshei@nd.edu

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S M C S O F T B A L L

Belles looking for fresh start with new coach

By PAT LEONARD  
Sports Writer

The Saint Mary’s softball team will travel to Fort Myers, Fla. this week to play 11 games in four days beginning Sunday, March 9.

Belles first year coach Anna Welsh, the Belles will open the season away in hopes of growing accustomed to each other and to the new staff.

Last year, the Belles went 4-0, Salve Regina University (4-2) and Bentley University 1-0 and 2-2, respectively.

The DePaul Blue Demons have Regina and Transylvania University return to the Belles’ schedule from last year.

Welsh, a two-sport athlete at Olivet Nazarene University in Illinois and an NCAA All-American in softball, joins Saint Mary’s with a unique coaching style and a confident attitude.

Welsh will not have much help from upperclassmen, either. Only one senior returns to the Belles’ squad, catcher Susan Kutz, Libby Wilhelmy, Kate Sajewich, Katie Amick and Bridget Grail will anchor the Belles pitching staff.

Amick will be a key team member, as she is the only player for the Belles who bats left-handed. Welsh could use her in key hitting situations.

The roster includes nine freshmen, no sophomores, five juniors and Kutz. Freshman third baseman Meghan Marenkowic will probably start for the Belles and numerous other freshmen will start or split time with junior Welsh, who also first got into coaching by becoming the student assistant coach her senior year at Olivet Nazarene, has since coached at Nazarene, Notre Dame and Bethel College summer softball camps. Assistant Dan Miller and John Antonucci hope to help Welsh develop, young but solid core of softball players into a competitive MIAA program.

Contact Pat Leonard at pleonard@nd.edu

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Irish look to exercise last year’s demons

Irish look to exercise last year’s demons

By AARON RONSHEIM  
Sports Writer

The Notre Dame softball team (6-6) has a chance this weekend to exercise some of last year’s demons when they face No. 3 Nebraska at the Kia Classic during spring break. Last year the Cornhuskers ended Notre Dame’s season with a 5-4 victory over the Irish in the regional final. A win would have given Notre Dame its first ever berth in the College Softball World Series.

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“Our pitching needs to be more consistent,” said Gumpf. “I think we are ready in every other area, and I think we are very close to where we need to be.”

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Contact Aaron Ronsheim at aronshei@nd.edu

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Spring Break Hours

The Hammes Notre Dame Bookstore will be open Monday through Saturday 8:00 am - 7:00 pm March 8th through March 16th for Spring Break. We will resume our normal hours March 19th:

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Recycle The Observer

The Observer • SPORTS  
Friday, March 7, 2003
MENS LACROSSE

Irish must face test in early season game

By PAT LEONARD
Sports Writer

The last time the men's lacrosse team opened a season 5-0, the squad advanced to the 2001 NCAA Final Four.

To reach that goal this season, the Irish must win at No. 12 North Carolina Saturday. The No. 11 Irish (2-0) will then face two more top 15 teams in a seven-day span.

While Notre Dame knows it will have to work for a win in every contest, the team is testing itself early in what head coach Kevin Corrigan hopes to be a repeat of two seasons ago.

"I don't think we're going to see any of these teams on the same level that game again," Corrigan said. "In these three games we will find out a lot about ourselves."

Notre Dame will face No. 12 North Carolina and No. 1 Virginia on the road and No. 8 Loyola at home. Last season, the Irish dropped a close 7-5 contest to Virginia and a 7-6 nail-biter to Loyola.

This season, however, the Irish have started with two solid wins over two solid programs. Notre Dame beat now No. 13 Penn State on the road 10-9 and blew out by League opponent Penn at the Loftus Sports Center, 14-5. Junior Matt Howell had three goals and two assists against the Quakers, freshman Virginia and a 7-6 nail-biter to find out a lot about ourselves."

Notre Dame's match against Virginia, originally scheduled to be played at either Klockner Stadium or on the U-Hall Turf Field in Charlottesville, Va., and will be played at either Klockner Stadium or on the U-Hall Turf Field in Charlottesville, Va., and will be played at the Loftus Sports Center.

"The East Big conference meet over after a second place finish, the Notre Dame men's lacrosse team looks to qualify more athletes for the NCAA Championship.

Senior pole vaulter Jaime Volkmer would be the first Irish pole vaulter to earn a spot in the NCAA Championship.

In the high jump, All-Big East 2001-2002 track player Emily Loomis looks to qualify for her third straight NCAA Championship, as she is currently 19th in the country."

In what some may deem as one of the "last chance" meets in the nation, hundreds of the nation's best track and field athletes will compete this Friday and Saturday at the Alex Wilson Invitational at Loftus Sports Center.

"We're young but we see the way we've been playing," Corrigan said. "We have to be careful not to let the tempo get away from us and see if we can play with enough discipline to do that."

Notre Dame's match against Virginia, originally scheduled to be played at either Klockner Stadium or on the U-Hall Turf Field in Charlottesville, Va., has been moved to Charlottesville, Va., and will be played on Tuesday at 3:30 p.m.

Notre Dame will be in action in North Carolina Saturday at 1 p.m.

Contact Pat Leonard at pleonard@nd.edu

By Heathervan HOEGARDEN
Sports Writer

In what some may deem as one of the "last chance" meets in the nation, hundreds of the nation's best track and field athletes will compete this Friday and Saturday at the Alex Wilson Invitational at Loftus Sports Center.

With the Big East conference meet over after a second place finish, the Notre Dame men's lacrosse team looks to qualify more athletes for the NCAA Championship.

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In the high jump, All-Big East 2001-2002 track player Emily Loomis looks to qualify for her third straight NCAA Championship, as she is currently 19th in the country."

In what promises to be a competitive race, the women's second leg of the DMR with the goal.

In the_discussion, Nurudeen will be in the hunt for a qualifying time in the 3,000 meters, with Huddle holding the best time in the country."

Notre Dame also has a few athletes who have already secured spots in the field.

Huddle and King both have qualified for the 4,000 meters, with Huddle holding the experience necessary, as all three earned All-America honors in this relay just a year ago.

Notre Dame also has a few athletes who have already secured spots in the field.

Huddle and King both have qualified for the 4,000 meters, with Huddle holding the experience necessary, as all three earned All-America honors in this relay just a year ago.

Another school-record holder long jumper, Tameisha King, has already qualified, as she is 12th in the nation.

The Irish as a team look to send as many athletes as possible to Fayetteville as possible, despite the stiff competition the Alex Wilson Invitational proves to provide.

The meet starts at 7 p.m. on Friday and carries over to 1 p.m. on Saturday at Loftus Sports Center.

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Irish keeping playoff hopes alive this weekend

By JUSTIN SCHUVER
Sports Writer

Assuming everything goes according to plan, the Irish hope to return to something more than books and tests this weekend, that hope could change into a reality.

Currently, the Irish sit tied for fifth place in the CCHA along with three other teams, one of which is Northern Michigan.

If the Irish (14-14-6, 12-11-3 CCHA) can collect at least three points against the Wildcats, they will be in a good position to secure home ice for the first round of the playoffs. The top six finishers in the league receive home ice.

A month ago, an Irish bid for home ice appeared almost impossible, with Notre Dame, at one point, standing as low as ninth place in the 12-team conference. Since the start of February, a surge has seen the Irish win five of their last seven games and have the team in position to earn the home ice advantage.

Last weekend, the Irish split a home-and-home series with Western Michigan, in which the home team won each contest. The Broncos defeated the Irish 4-2 on Friday in Kalamazoo, but the Irish responded with a 5-2 win Saturday at the Joyce Center.

In Saturday's game, on Senior Night, senior guard/tourney Tony Zaowski and freshman Matt Amado were the heroes.

senior goaltender Tony Zasowski and freshman Matt Amado were the heroes.

With two goals, including an empty-netter, Amado scored the eventual game-winning goal. The other seniors aided the team in its victory as well. Evan Niren assisted on Amado's goal, Connor Dunlop and John Wroblewski scored the insurance goals.

Michael Chin assisted on Dunlop's goal and Jake Wiegand started his first game as goalie for the first time in his Irish career.

The seniors and the rest of the Irish are in for a tough test when they travel to Marquette, Mich., to take on the Wildcats (17-15-2, 13-12-1 CCHA). The Wildcats are coming off last weekend having achieved a split against Ohio State in Marquette.

Following an impressive 5-2 win over the Buckeyes on Friday, the Wildcats lost by a score of 4-1 the following Saturday.

A pair of talented senior forwards lead Northern Michigan offensively. Chris Gehrtz leads the team with 37 points, including 10 goals, while Mike Stutzel is right behind with 36 points and an impressive 23 goals, good enough for third in the CCHA.

The Wildcats are led in net by junior Craig Kowalski, who holds a respectable 2.77 GAA for the season. Kowalski usually doesn't have to work too hard, as he plays behind a defense that only gives up an average of 27.2 shots a game. By contrast, the Irish give up an average of 33.7 shots a game.

If there's a strength for the Wildcats, it's their special teams. They are ranked in the top five in the CCHA in both power play and penalty kill percentage, and have yet to give up a shorthanded goal while scoring three of their own.

Contact Justin Schuver at jschuver@nd.edu

Irish hope to qualify for tourney

By MATT LOZAR
Sports Editor

If they want a chance at their first national title since 1994, then Saturday is a very important day for the Irish.

Notre Dame looks to qualify 12 fencers for the NCAA Championships at Saturday's Midwest Regional Championship at Ohio State University.

Our goal is to qualify as many as we can. Our goal is to qualify 12 which will be hard and not easy," Notre Dame coach Janusz Bednarski said. "For us it is easier to get the better results if we have a full 12-fencer team.

To automatically qualify for the national championships, a fencer must finish in the top four at the regional competition in his or her respective weapon. A formula is used to determine the final standings by combining regular season performance with the finish at the nationals.

Each school can qualify a maximum of two fencers at a weapon on the mens and womens side.

Four berths at each weapon are allotted to the Midwest Region because of the low number of schools in the area. With the strength of the schools in the region, especially Notre Dame and Ohio State, some fencers will be left out because of the numbers game.

Our region is stronger with Ohio State having high-class fencers so the competition is growing, Bednarski said. "It's a political reason because we should get more spots in the region due to the strength. It is based on the number of schools, so we can't increase the number of spots. I think it is wrong and we should have the ratio that if you are stronger, you are better.

At last year's regional competition, the Irish qualified 11 fencers automatically and had to wait for sabre Matt Faber to earn an at-large bid to give the Irish a complete squad at the NCAA Championships.

Bednarski believes the biggest challenge for the Irish this year will be at mens sabre, which has been their weakest weapon so far this season. Junior captain Destanie Milo qualified for the past two NCAA Championships while junior Maggie Jordan qualified for the 2001 NCAA Championships at foil as a freshman and has a very good chance at qualifying.

"Destanie Milo and Maggie Jordan have to give everything they've got, because we have a little luck to qualify for nationals," Bednarski said. "Womens sabre will be the key for us, but we are trying hard.

The Irish got good news with both Milo and Jordan being seeded in the top four of the region.

"For the past two years, we have the big guys, we have the ratio that if you are stronger, you are better."

Contact Matt Lozar at mlozar@nd.edu

Join the ND club of New York City for fun and festivities during the Men's Big East Championship, March 12-15, 2003!

This year's Men's BIG EAST Basketball Championship takes place at the center of it all-New York.

You've heard of it. The City that Never Sleeps. Times Square. The Empire State Building. Madison Square Garden. Fifth Avenue. Super Models. The Notre Dame Club of New York is bringing it all right into the heart of New York City. The Irish fans have been watching the NCAA Basketball Championship on the TVs and wanted in on the fun in the home of the New York Knicks. And that is exactly what the ND club of New York will be doing during the entire weekend. From Friday to Sunday.

If you're in town, or want to be, check out our "to do" list. Be there to take it all in. Go Irish!

The Notre Dame Club of New York City
WWW.NDNYC.COM

Big East pre/post game happy hours will be at Triple Crown (7th btmw 28th and 29th) for all the ND games.

PRE-parade party-at Connollys on 47th between 5th and Madison beginning at 12:30 on March 17th come for lunch, drinks or both.

PARADE party- the ND club of NYC will also be having a great pre-parade party. The Irish fans will be rousing the local fans and giving them the Irish spirit during this key weekend. If you would like to register please email the club at ndclubNYC@yahoo.com for specific information.

POST parade party will be upstairs at Bar Harbour (1st Ave btmw 76th and 77th) beginning at 5pm- come quench your thirst, be it from marching, watching or working.

For Info email: ndclubNYC@yahoo.com

Friday, March 7, 2003
THE OBSERVER

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**SPORTS**

**WOMENS BASKETBALL**

**Streaking Irish look to make waves**

By JOE HETTLER  
Sports Editor

Six weeks ago Notre Dame was playing its best basketball at the right time of the season as they head into their first Big East Tournament game against No. 11 seed Pittsburgh Saturday at 8 p.m.

The Irish, winners of seven of their last nine, are looking forward to the challenges awaiting them in Piscataway, N.J.

"We’re playing well right now and we’re building momentum," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said. "7-2 in our last nine games, there are a lot of positives that come from that.

Notre Dame has had at least one player step up her game in all seven wins. "I think everyone has had a good game for us when we needed it," McGraw said. "Now we’re just waiting for everyone to have a good game at the same time."

Senior guard Alicia Ratay has been the spark plug for Notre Dame’s recent run. The Lake Zurich, Ill., product has made big shots when the Irish have needed it the most.

"She has really taken the load off of everybody else," McGraw said. "She’s done a great job. We’ve done a good job of getting the ball in her hands, too. She’s always been there when we’ve needed a bucket."

Muffet McGraw  
Irish coach

Now the Irish hope to delve deep into the conference tournament. Awaiting them is a familiar foe in Pittsburgh.

Notre Dame beat Pittsburgh Feb. 26 77-69. The Panthers are making their first Big East Tournament appearance in three years and are 0-12 all-time against the Irish. The winner of the game will face No. 3 seed Villanova Sunday at 8 p.m. The Irish already defeated the Wildcats earlier this season on Jan. 25, 58-56.

But right now, McGraw is more concerned about getting past the Panthers than looking ahead. "We need to focus on beating Pittsburgh," McGraw said.

However, McGraw did admit that it’s a no-lose situation if Notre Dame ends up playing Villanova. The Wildcats have an RPI ranking of six and are ranked No. 18 and No. 20 in two national polls.

"If you beat Villanova that’s great, but if you lose you don’t lose all that much," McGraw said.

In their last meeting against Pittsburgh at the Joyce Center, McGraw was very displeased with her team’s play. After starting the game on a 15-3 run, Notre Dame found themselves tied at 19 midway through the first half. The Irish allowed Panther center Mandy Wiltenzmyer to score 23 points while guard Laine Selwyn added a double-double.

Courtney LaVere led the Irish with 14 points. Notre Dame had five players score in double figures in that contest.

Contact Joe Hettler at jhettler@nd.edu

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**MENS BASKETBALL**

**Irish try to shake slump**

**Gillette looks for spark plug to get team out of rut**

By CHRIS FEDERICO  
Sports Writer

At a time of the year when most teams are hoping to peak for the NCAA Tournament, the Irish are struggling to get through the latter part of the season.

For the first time since January 2002, the Irish have lost three straight games, the most recent a 92-88 loss at the hands of No. 12 Syracuse in front of a packed crowd in the Joyce Center.

"If we haven’t learned our lesson after three losses, I don’t know what it will take," Irish coach Mike Brey said of his team’s recent struggles.

No. 16 Notre Dame (21-8, 9-6 in the Big East) has lost four of its last six games, with its only two wins in that stretch coming over conference bottom dwellers West Virginia and Virginia Tech. But after a hot start that saw Notre Dame knock off such college basketball powers as then No. 2 Texas, No. 9 Maryland and No. 10 Marquette and reach the coveted 20-win plateau in just 25 games, the Irish are still out of sorts and struggling.

"If you beat Villanova that’s great, but if you lose you don’t lose all that much," McGraw said.

In their last meeting against Pittsburgh at the Joyce Center, McGraw was very displeased with her team’s play. After starting the game on a 15-3 run, Notre Dame found themselves tied at 19 midway through the first half. The Irish allowed Panther center Mandy Wiltenzmyer to score 23 points while guard Laine Selwyn added a double-double.

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Contact Joe Hettler at jhettler@nd.edu

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**BASEBALL**

**Trip to Florida should ease recent struggles**

By BRYAN KRONK  
Sports Writer

Tan-seeking partypogo’s won’t be the only Notre Dame students in Florida over spring break.

The Notre Dame baseball team will take residence in Jacksonville starting Saturday, playing seven games in eight days over the break.

The Irish (3-4) kick off the series with a matchup with Vanderbilt at 3 p.m Saturday. Notre Dame heads into this week of games coming off a 1-2 weekend at the Dairy Queen Classic in Minneapolis last weekend. After coming up short against no. 16 Nebraska and Minnesota, the Irish were able to fend off No. 7 Wake Forest in a 2-1, 13-inning affair. Pitcher J.P. Gagne threw six shutout innings in relief of starter John Axfoil, who gave up one run in seven innings.

For his outstanding efforts — and after earning his first win of the season as a result — Gagne was tabbed as the Big East Pitcher of the Week Tuesday.

Sunday’s victory for the Irish averted what would have been the squad’s first-ever five-game losing streak under head coach Paul Mainieri. Under his leadership since 1995, the Irish have only suffered a four-game loss period.

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**MENS TENNIS**

**Notre Dame at Northern Michigan**

The Irish will look to qualify the maximum of 12 fences.

**MENS LACROSSE**

**Notre Dame at North Carolina**

The Irish continue their rigorous early schedule at Chapel Hill.

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**MENS AND WOMENS TRACK**

**Notre Dame hosts Alex Wilson Invitational**

The Irish men and women welcome competition from across the country who are all making a last-ditch effort to qualify for the national championships.

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**FENCING**

**Notre Dame at Midwest Regional Championships**

The Irish will look to qualify the maximum of 12 fences.

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**HOCKEY**

**Notre Dame at Northern Michigan Today and Saturday**

Home ice advantage at stake in this week-end’s series.

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**MENS TENNIS**

**Notre Dame 5 Michigan 2**

With the win over the Wolverines, the Irish got their first home win this season.

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**SPORTS AT A GLANCE**

**NOTRE DAME AT NORTH CAROLINA**

The Irish continue their rigorous early schedule at Chapel Hill.

**MENS AND WOMENS TRACK**

**NOTRE DAME HOSTS ALEX WILSON INVITATIONAL**

The Irish men and women welcome competition from across the country who are all making a last-ditch effort to qualify for the national championships.