**Spring Visitation draws minorities to campus**

By SHEILA FLYNN
Senior Staff Writer

Nearly 160 students arrived on campus Thursday for this year’s Spring Visitation weekend, hosted annually by the University in an attempt to recruit the most qualified and talented minority students in the country.

"It brings students that Notre Dame would normally lose to other schools that I think benefit the campus as a whole," said student coordinator Alex Santana, who oversaw Latino recruitment this year. Santana attended Spring Visitation himself in 2000 and said the weekend played a compelling role in his choice to leave the Los Angeles area and attend Notre Dame.

**IRAQ: ONE YEAR LATER**

President Bush greets a crowd during a campaign rally in Orlando on March 20. Election 2004 has already been and will continue to be strongly influenced by the politics of the Iraq War.

By ANGELA SAOUD
Senior Staff Writer

Eight months before Americans go to the polls, and with the Iraq War still fresh in voters' minds, both the George W. Bush and John Kerry campaigns have already begun to escalate their claims about what has occurred in the broken country and what should happen next.

Bush standing firm

Eight months before Americans go to the polls, and with the Iraq War still fresh in voters' minds, both the George W. Bush and John Kerry campaigns have already begun to escalate their claims about what has occurred in the broken country and what should happen next.

By ANDREW THAGARD
Assistant News Editor

The annual Kroc Institute-sponsored Student Peace Conference, which organizers say will be the biggest and best attended in the event's ten-year history, kicks off this afternoon in the Hesburgh Center.

The two day event—completely organized and run by undergraduate students—draws national and international participants to campus for lectures, roundtable discussions and workshops aimed at promoting a more just society.

"I'm just elated about this," said Nadia Stefko, a senior English major who is co-chairing the conference along with sophomore Monica Jacir and a committee of 25 students. "It's (awesome) to see them all get together and talk about something they're passionate about."

The conference opens with dinner at Greenfields Cafe in the Hesburgh Center, followed by a keynote address by Maritza Acea, an internationally renowned human rights activist from Mexico.

"She's done some phenomenal work with human rights in Mexico," Stefko said. "We thought she'd be ideal in terms of the mix of personal stories and scholarly [approach]."

The conference continues Saturday with five sessions in which participants can choose between moderated discussions and debates focusing on war and peace, reconciliation, social justice and updates on service projects carried out.

---

**Donation makes SMC building reality**

By ANGELA SAOUD
Saint Mary's Editor

Plans are in the works to build a new $15 million academic building at Saint Mary's, thanks to the generosity of one alumna and her parents.

Jennifer Mathile Prikkel, a 1995 graduate and member of the 1995 board of trustees, approached the university about the possibility of raising funds to be raised by Saint Mary’s.

The faculty are thrilled with the generosity of one young alumnas,” said Vice President and Dean of Faculty Patrick White. "She is a profound example to all parents Clayton and MaryAnn Mathile, former owners of Jams Company, have agreed to match up to $3 million in additional funds to be raised by Saint Mary’s.

By ANGELA SAOUD
Saint Mary's Editor

---

**Author discusses autism**

Presentation marked conclusion of Disability Awareness Week

By STEPHANIE YAHN
News Writer

Patricia Stacey, author of "The Boy Who Loved Windows: Opening the Heart and Mind of a Child Threatened with Autism," offered insight into how her family's life changed forever, when her youngest child Walker was diagnosed with autism, at the early age of six months.

Following a traumatic birth, Walker's parents were immediately aware that their son was different. As the first months...
INSIDE COLUMN

How proud?

One of my favorite South Bend establishments, The Linebacker, closes down each night with the song "Proud to be an American." It's something I assume the bar chose as a show of support for U.S. troops serving in Iraq. But regardless of my support for the men and women in the Armed Forces, regardless of my utmost grief for the victims of terrorism, it's something that bothers me every time 3 a.m. rolls around at The Backer.

To me, this song epitomizes the unquestioning, so-called "patriotism" that seems to be all too popular these days. This week, people around the world have remembered the one-year anniversary of the U.S.-led war in Iraq. While I do not doubt appreciate the opportunities this nation affords me, I find it difficult to pronounce my nationality with pride at such a somber time. "Proud." It's such a strong term, with many connotations: pleased, satisfied, honored, even arrogant . . .

I am not pleased to be an American when our government flouts international law and just war principles. I am not satisfied with my country when it abandons the responsibilities it has elsewhere — namely, Afghanistan — in favor of its own war of choice in Iraq. I am not honored to be an American when our leaders hypocratically espouse unilateralism. I am not arrogant about my nationality when I discover how many other countries detest mine.

While studying abroad in London last year, the disgust the world had for our country hit home when three men, who recognized me as an American, followed me on the street. They shod a newspaper bearing photographs of the devastation in Iraq at me, launting, "Why are you doing this?" I certainly wasn't proud to be an American then. Embarrassed, ashamed, angry — but not proud.

Sure, I could console myself I all wanted by thinking this was the government's fault. But as long as I failed to and demand changes, then it was my fault as well.

I worry that, post-Sept. 11, Americans are more prone to compartmentalizing or criticizing the government is somehow unaparatic. Quite the contrary, I believe holding our government to higher standards, through protest and criticism is one of the most patriotic things we can do. Patriotism is a call to action, not blind loyalty.

When I think of true patriotism, I think of the founding fathers, women's suffragists, civil rights activists, war protesters — all those who improved our coun­

Offbeat

Woman asks state to return bribe money

HARTFORD, Conn. — When Rebecca Messier asked for her money back, she drew snickers from the courtroom crowd. The cash she requested was $8,500 from a failed bribe to a prose­cutor that got her and her husband arrested.

Messier appeared in Hartford Superior Court on Thursday to argue that she is entitled to the money she gave a bagman for a crooked prosecutor six years ago.

The bagman was to give the money to the prosecutor, who was to argue for the early release from prison of Messier's husband, convicted child molester Joseph Messier. "The Messiers got in trouble because the prosecutor was­n't on the take, and the bag­man was an undercover investigator with the chief state's attorney's office.

"Chicken Soup" poet accused of harassment

McDONOUGH, Ga. — A Henry County woman who contributed two poems to the popular "Chicken Soup for the Soul" books series was arrested after leaving a less­than-heartwarming impres­sion on her neighbor.

Jill Grubb-Travoss, 51, was charged with disturbing the peace and obstructing an officer early Monday morn­ning.

Some residents of her sub­division said Travoss drunk­enly harassed them after a volatile Homeowners Associ­ation meeting, where she had lost an election to the board.

One neighbor called police claiming Travoss was intox­i­cated and would not leave his yard, and another resi­dent said Travoss called her five times within 15 minutes, according to police reports.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WOULD YOU RATHER DATE AN ENGINEER OR AN ATHLETE?

Name: Nick Setta
School: Senior
Affiliation: Off-campus
Credentials: "An athlete, because I could teach her to hold my footballs."

Name: Beth Doyle
School: Senior
Affiliation: Off-campus
Credentials: "Both an athlete and an engineer. I like to date two boys at once."

Name: Brita Helgie
School: Senior
Affiliation: Off-campus
Credentials: "For sure a pole-vaulter."

Name: Mary Dubon
School: Sophomore
Affiliation: Welsh Family
Credentials: "I'm all for interhall O'Neill athletes."

Name: Megan Horner
School: Senior
Affiliation: Off-campus
Credentials: "Either one that I pick makes me look like a jerk."

Name: Pete Dubon
School: Senior
Affiliation: Off-campus
Credentials: "I prefer engineers over athletes."

Notre Dame junior Molly Savage smiles for the camera on Wednesday. Savage posed for a photo for the senior section of the 2005 yearbook, which Lauren Studios is planning throughout the week.

IN BRIEF

Latin Expressions 2004, a showcase of diversity and talent, will take place tonight at 7 p.m. at the St. Mary's O'Laughlin Auditorium. Free transportation to the auditorium will be provid­ed from Library Circle starting at 6 p.m. The event is sponsored by LaAlanna.

The Human Rights International Film Festival will present the film "Welcome to Hadassah Hospital" tonight at 7 p.m. The film takes a close up look at the people who work and stay in this Jerusalem Hospital. A discussion will fol­low.

A Night on Broadway: The 2004 Pemco Musical Review will take place tonight at 7:30 p.m. The event is directed by Shauna Morson and Cheryl Turski and features musical director Tom Mucchetti. Tickets are $5 for students and $6 for the general public and can be purchased at the LaFortune box office.

The Clayton Miller Blues Band will perform tonight at 10 p.m. at Legends.

ND Opera will perform a fully staged production of Gian-Carlo Menotti's opera "The Consul" tonight at 7:30 p.m. in Washington Hall. The opera fea­tures Notre Dame and Saint Mary's students and will be per­formed in English.

Enjoy night club dancing at Legends tonight. The fun starts at midnight and continues until 4 a.m.

To submit information to be included in this section of The Observer, e-mail detailed infor­mation and photo to Lauren Beck at obseuw@nd.edu.

The Observer regrets inof or professional publica­ tion and strives for the highest standards of journal­ism at all times. We do, however, recognize that we will make a mistake. To report one, please contact us at 631-4541 so we can correct our error.
Panel discusses blacks in education

By KATIE LAIRD
News Writer

Members of the Erskine Peters Fellowship Symposium met Thursday night in the Eck Visitors' Center to discuss the role of blacks in higher education and the nature of the relationship to bridge a stronger connection between black academia and the community surrounding it.

The discussion consisted of seven panelists from a variety of fields and universities. Participants from Notre Dame included Richard Pierce, assistant professor of history and associate director of African and African-American studies, Rhonda Brown, director of the Office of Institutional Equality and Donald Pope-Davis, professor of psychology and associate vice president.

Also included were the 2003-04 Erskine Peters Fellows, Jessica Wormley of Fordham University, Brandi Brimmer of the University of California at Los Angeles, Sherwin Bryant of Ohio State University, Paul Minifie of the University of Texas, Austin and Dorian Warren of Yale University.

Mindful that only 6.1 percent of blacks making up the faculty at universities nationwide, panel members discussed how to build bridges of the field of learning and the community that many black lives need to form a connection between what we do in the academy and what we do in the community. Pope-Davis said.

Panelists discussed personal experiences and hardships that they faced to climb the academic ladder due to their race and other personal obstacles.

Wormley gave advice for high school students on graduate life. "Read broadly ... reading broadly is the key," she said.

Brown said that children of color need to also be aware of the other important things in life besides studying and academics. "These are the things we have to do better. Be clear on who you are... know yourself and know your value. When you question worth, you lose the connection between what we do in the academy and what we do in the community," Pope-Davis panel member Donald Pope-Davis said.

Wormley also emphasized the importance of black representation in faculty. "I have never had a black teacher or a black professor. I would have liked to see myself represented. I think black students need black mentors because there are issues that are really relevant," Wormley said.

The discussion was also opened up for the audience, in which two professors voiced their experiences and opinions. Paulinus Odoroz, a theology professor at Notre Dame from Nigeria, explained that professors sometimes concentrate too much on publishing books and journals when in reality they should be aiding students.

Wormley also emphasized the engagement of both black professors and African-American studies, "Read broadly... I would have liked to see myself represented. I think black students need black mentors because there are issues that are really relevant," Wormley said.

The discussion was also opened up for the audience, in which two professors voiced their experiences and opinions. Paulinus Odoroz, a theology professor at Notre Dame from Nigeria, explained that professors sometimes concentrate too much on publishing books and journals when in reality they should be aiding students.

The greatest commitment you can make is in human beings... push aside whatever you're doing. That is the greatest book you can write," Odoroz said.

Johnnie Griffin, Ph.D., a Sociology professor at Indiana University in South Bend, said that she hears certain themes over and over again from students, whether they be black or not. These themes include the attitude that "college is not for everybody."

"We talk as though this is a black problem," Griffin said. "This is a people problem. There is something universal."

With Notre Dame's desire to commit to diversity, Pope-Davis said that it can be very difficult. "When institutions talk about diversifying, they don't always get it. They invite you to the table without knowing what you like to eat... it's not ignorance, it's just they don't have experience," Pope-Davis said.

"We are all engaged in a process of renewal... I think this is a good place to have this kind of dialogue," Pope-Davis said.

The Erskine Peters Dissertation Year Fellowship was established in 1999 to enable outstanding black doctoral candidates in the humanities, social sciences and theological disciplines to experience life at Notre Dame while devoting their full energies to the completion of their dissertations.

Contact Katie Laird at klaird@nd.edu
WHW names Snow ‘woman of the year’

By LISA GALLAGHER
News Writer

The second annual Women Honoring Women dinner, held in Stapleton Lounge at Saint Mary’s College Wednesday, announced chemistry professor Joanne Snow as “woman of the year.”

Fourteen women were nominated to receive the 2004 Women Honoring Women award. Nomination forms were completed by members of the student body who responded to a letter requesting nominations of women meeting the Women Honoring Women Award description, according to Sarah Brown, student body vice president.

“The original fourteen nominations were carefully reviewed by the Women Honoring Women planning committee and three [contenders] were chosen to be presented to the Student Academic Council as this year’s nominees,” Brown said. Mary Pat Nolan, director of admissions; Joanne Snow, math professor; and Dorothy Feigl, assistant professor; and Jackie Ziss, who was on this year’s planning committee, the three women were chosen based on nominations by students and how they best represent the mission statement of the award.

“I can tell you that I am extremely grateful to belong to a community where students take the time to write good nominations,” she said. “I appreciate and cherish the different members of the community. I am also grateful that the students have invited me into their intellectual lives as well as their hearts and their entire lives.”

Contact Lisa Gallagher at lgallaga@smc.edu

SMC students submit advanced W

“Sophomore year, in math courses, expository papers are written,” said Connolly. “They are then submitted to a writing committee where specific feedback is given. The student chooses one paper to polish and submit to her portfolio.”

Junior year, the same process is executed except with an analytic paper in the student’s senior year, a 28-30 page formal paper is submitted as a result of independent research for her senior composition.

“A Business major must demonstrate her writing proficiency through three papers to receive her advanced W. These papers are reviewed by the student’s academic advisor and a professor. By submitting these papers, a student demonstrates that she can communicate with precision and style, said Jill Vitele, chair of the Business Administration and Economics Department.

“The advanced W at Saint Mary’s College is a step above the senior comprehensive,” said senior communications major Kara Flynn. “It is a fantastic way to improve your knowledge of your major through intense writing and understanding. Although some say it is tedious, it is the final step before you are handed the diploma.”

Other Saint Mary’s students, however, said that they believe the project should be deemphasized.

“The advanced W should be one paper instead of three, and your graduation shouldn’t depend on papers,” said junior Kinley Markin.

Despite complaints voiced about the advanced W, many professors say it is a positive exercise.

“It is critical that you learn how to write in the discipline you plan on working in,” said Connolly.

Contact Claire Valley at vall224@smc.edu

Peace continued from page 1

within the South Bend community.

The events are predominately led by graduate and undergraduate students from Notre Dame but also include presenters from other colleges and universities. Participants will have the opportunity to hear a panel of speakers.

ERSAMUS BOOKS:
- Used books bought and sold
- 25,000 Hardcover and Paperback books in stock
- Out-of-Print search service
- Appraisals large and small

OPEN noon to six
Tuesday through Sunday
1027 E. Wayne
South Bend, IN 46617
(219) 232-8444

Good with people?
What a great job?
Like computers?

Ballroom Dance Competition!

come see...

THE 2004 NOTRE DAME BALLROOM INVITATIONAL

Saturday, March 27
9:30am - 8:00pm
South Dining Hall (East Wing)

FREE ADMISSION!

All interested in working as a computer cluster consultant are invited to come to Cluster Consultant Job Fair

on Sunday, March 28 in the Coleman Morse Cluster from 1pm-5pm

Ballroom Dance Competition!

Foreign students are invited to come to Saint Mary's College for the annual Ballroom competition.

Contact Andrew Thagard at athagard@nd.edu

Ballroom Dance Competition!

The Notre Dame Ballroom Invitational will be held on March 27th at the South Dining Hall. All interested in working as a computer cluster consultant are invited to come to the Cluster Consultant Job Fair on March 28th at the Coleman Morse Cluster from 1pm-5pm.
Hamas assassination condemned
UNITED NATIONS — The United States voted to condemn Israel's assassination of a Hamas leader, calling the measure "one-sided," as Israel ignored the group's bloody record of terrorism. The United States had demanded that the resolution on the death of Ahmed Yassin include a mention of attacks by Hamas and other militant groups. Algeria, the resolution's sponsor, had resisted identifying the groups by name or citing specific attacks.

"This Security Council does nothing to contribute to a peaceful settlement when it condemns one party's actions and turns a blind eye to everything else occurring in the region," U.S. Ambassador John Negroponte said before the vote that came after days of bitter debate.

S. Africa to be asylum for Aristide
BASSETTRE, St. Kitts — Ousted Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide will take permanent asylum in South Africa but not until it holds general elections next month, Jamaican officials said Thursday. But a spokesman for Aristide said it was too soon to say for sure where he would go.

"Mr. Aristide is still in consultation. A final decision has not been made," Huntley Medley said. He was one of three from Jamaica the officials said Thursday. But a spokesman for Aristide said it was too soon to say for sure where he would go.

Fetus rights bill passes in Senate
WASHINGTON — The Senate voted Thursday to make it a separate crime to harm a fetus in the commission of a violent federal crime, a victory for those seeking to strengthen the legal rights of the unborn.

The 61-38 vote on the Unborn Victims of Violence Act sends the legislation, after a five-year battle in Congress, to President Bush for his signature. The White House said in a statement that it "strongly supports protection for unborn children.

But abortion rights lawmakers contended that giving a fetus, from the point of conception, the same legal rights as its mother sets a precedent that could be used in future legal challenges to abortion rights.

It was the second big win for social conservatives, who last year pushed through protections for the unborn with enactment of the so-called partial birth abortion ban. That ban is now tied up in the courts.


Likely al-Qaida tape urges Pakistani coup
CAIRO, Egypt — A tape purportedly released by Al Qaeda's No. 2 figure in the al-Qaeda terror group, called Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf a "traitor" Thursday and urged people to overthrow his government.

"Musharraf seeks to stab the resistance to Afghanistan in the back," the speaker said.

"Every Muslim in Pakistan should work hard to get rid of this client government, which will continue to submit to America until it destroys Pakistan," a spokesman for Masood Khan said the government has no immediate comment on the purported al-Zawahiri tape. When an al-Zawahiri tape released in September called for Musharraf's overthrow, the government said it would not be deterred in its pursuit of terrorists.

In Washington, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said he heard news reports about the tape and said if it was authentic, the speaker sounded like al-Zawahiri and made references to the Islamic holy book, the Quran, which is known to be al-Zawahiri's style.

The speaker also called for a military uprising in Pakistan.

"Musharraf seeks to stab the resistance to Afghanistan in the back," the speaker said.

"Every Muslim in Pakistan should work hard to get rid of this client government, which will continue to submit to America until it destroys Pakistan,"
Iraq

continued from page 1

one year ago. The president has repeatedly cited the Iraq War as a significant step in the war on terror, and his and the Bush administration's tough lines and protracted engagement have led many to question the wisdom and the costs of this engagement.

"That's their strong point, the Ronald Reagan of the Republican Party," said Jack Colwell, professor of American Studies at Notre Dame and political columnist for the South Bend Tribune.

Colwell said that since current President George W. Bush's record on the economy and foreign policy issues is not as impressive as his predecessor's on either score, the most critical element of his campaign strategy is to remind voters of the "decisive leader" they saw in the 9/11 aftermath.

"He rallied behind the president in a time of crisis," Colwell said, adding that Republicans are not only trying to push the war on terror as their primary issue, but also as Democrats' chief weakness.

And with a candidate whose policies are clearly not as compelling as those of the incumbent in the eyes of voters, the best strategy for the incumbent is to remind voters of the "decisive leader" they saw in the 9/11 aftermath.

"People will rally behind a candidate whose policies are not appealing enough to them," Colwell said. "People will rally behind a candidate whose policies are appealing enough to them, but they'll also rally behind a candidate whose policies are appealing enough to them because they can't imagine living without him without telling him what to do."
Executive Fraud

Olis sentenced to 24-plus years

Dynegy executive's punishment dwarfs those of former Enron executives

Associated Press

HOUSTON — A former Dynegy executive was sentenced to more than 24 years in prison Thursday after she entered a plea of guilty to conspiracy and securities fraud.

"Sometimes good people commit bad acts, and that's what happened in this case," U.S. District Judge Sim Lake said Thursday.

The punishment easily surpassed sentences in more prominent fraud cases, and dwarfed those of some Enron Corp. executives who have pleaded guilty in that company's accounting scandal.

The sentencing easily surpassed sentences in more prominent fraud cases, and dwarfed those of some Enron Corp. executives who have pleaded guilty in that company's accounting scandal.

The punishment easily surpassed sentences in more prominent fraud cases, and dwarfed those of some Enron Corp. executives who have pleaded guilty in that company's accounting scandal.

"I take no pleasure in sentencing you to 292 months," Lake said. "Sometimes good people commit bad acts, and that's what happened in this case."

The punishment easily surpassed sentences in more prominent fraud cases, and dwarfed those of some Enron Corp. executives who have pleaded guilty in that company's accounting scandal.

The punishment easily surpassed sentences in more prominent fraud cases, and dwarfed those of some Enron Corp. executives who have pleaded guilty in that company's accounting scandal.

The punishment easily surpassed sentences in more prominent fraud cases, and dwarfed those of some Enron Corp. executives who have pleaded guilty in that company's accounting scandal.

"I take no pleasure in sentencing you to 292 months." Lake said. "Sometimes good people commit bad acts, and that's what happened in this case."

The punishment easily surpassed sentences in more prominent fraud cases, and dwarfed those of some Enron Corp. executives who have pleaded guilty in that company's accounting scandal.

The punishment easily surpassed sentences in more prominent fraud cases, and dwarfed those of some Enron Corp. executives who have pleaded guilty in that company's accounting scandal.

"I take no pleasure in sentencing you to 292 months," Lake said. "Sometimes good people commit bad acts, and that's what happened in this case."

The punishment easily surpassed sentences in more prominent fraud cases, and dwarfed those of some Enron Corp. executives who have pleaded guilty in that company's accounting scandal.

The punishment easily surpassed sentences in more prominent fraud cases, and dwarfed those of some Enron Corp. executives who have pleaded guilty in that company's accounting scandal.

"I take no pleasure in sentencing you to 292 months," Lake said. "Sometimes good people commit bad acts, and that's what happened in this case."

The punishment easily surpassed sentences in more prominent fraud cases, and dwarfed those of some Enron Corp. executives who have pleaded guilty in that company's accounting scandal.

The punishment easily surpassed sentences in more prominent fraud cases, and dwarfed those of some Enron Corp. executives who have pleaded guilty in that company's accounting scandal.

"I take no pleasure in sentencing you to 292 months," Lake said. "Sometimes good people commit bad acts, and that's what happened in this case."

The punishment easily surpassed sentences in more prominent fraud cases, and dwarfed those of some Enron Corp. executives who have pleaded guilty in that company's accounting scandal.

The punishment easily surpassed sentences in more prominent fraud cases, and dwarfed those of some Enron Corp. executives who have pleaded guilty in that company's accounting scandal.

"I take no pleasure in sentencing you to 292 months," Lake said. "Sometimes good people commit bad acts, and that's what happened in this case."

The punishment easily surpassed sentences in more prominent fraud cases, and dwarfed those of some Enron Corp. executives who have pleaded guilty in that company's accounting scandal.

The punishment easily surpassed sentences in more prominent fraud cases, and dwarfed those of some Enron Corp. executives who have pleaded guilty in that company's accounting scandal.

"I take no pleasure in sentencing you to 292 months," Lake said. "Sometimes good people commit bad acts, and that's what happened in this case."

The punishment easily surpassed sentences in more prominent fraud cases, and dwarfed those of some Enron Corp. executives who have pleaded guilty in that company's accounting scandal.

The punishment easily surpassed sentences in more prominent fraud cases, and dwarfed those of some Enron Corp. executives who have pleaded guilty in that company's accounting scandal.

"I take no pleasure in sentencing you to 292 months," Lake said. "Sometimes good people commit bad acts, and that's what happened in this case."

The punishment easily surpassed sentences in more prominent fraud cases, and dwarfed those of some Enron Corp. executives who have pleaded guilty in that company's accounting scandal.

The punishment easily surpassed sentences in more prominent fraud cases, and dwarfed those of some Enron Corp. executives who have pleaded guilty in that company's accounting scandal.
Building continued from page 1

Within the walls of the new building, students will benefit from modern educational spaces designed to facilitate learning. "The new building will house classrooms with what we call collaboratories, where computers are integrated right into the classroom," said White. "We need to be able to adapt to the growing and changing technological advancements on this campus, and this building will allow for that." Before Prikkel's donation, the college had discussed renovations to Madaleva Hall, but felt bringing technology into the building would make any renovation too costly. At this time, the college does not have concrete plans for what will happen to Madaleva, which has served as the main academic building since 1968. "We have many ideas for Madaleva, but the issue is not yet resolved," said White. "We're thinking about using parts of it, possibly keeping Carroll auditorium, but nothing has been decided yet." With the construction of the on-campus apartments coming to a close and the building of the state-of-the-art student center, which is scheduled to be completed in February 2005, White said he hopes to start the construction on the academic building next year. However, building will not begin until 100 percent of the project costs are committed through contributions. "At Saint Mary's, we want to continue to attract a vibrant, rich and excellent student body," said White. "In order to do that, we need to have good facilities, and thanks to Prikkel, now we will." Contact Angela Saoud at saou0303@saintmarys.edu

DON'T DELAY...
COME LIVE WHERE YOU PLAY!

TURTLE CREEK APARTMENTS

CHECK OUT THESE LEASE OPTIONS

- Summer 2004 only (May 21-Aug 8)
- 1 year (June 2004-May 2005)
- 1 year (July 2004-June 2005)
- 1 year (August 2004-July 2005)
- "Student 10" (August 20- May 19)

**FLEXABLE MOVE-IN DATES — CALL FOR DETAILS**

CHECK OUT THESE EXTRAS

- Swimming pool is open EARLY MAY until LATE SEPTEMBER
- WALKING distance to NOTRE DAME campus
- On-site maintenance and management
- Sand volleyball court
- 24 hour lock out service
- NEWLY REMODELED units available
- LARGE STUDENT POPULATION—NOTRE DAME & SAINT MARY'S

OPTIONS AND EXTRAS... THAT IS WHAT YOU'LL GET WHEN YOU CHOOSE TURTLE CREEK APARTMENTS.

CALL US OR STOP BY OUR LEASING CENTER TODAY FOR A TOUR!

574-272-8124 www.turtlecreekND.com

Write for News. Call 1-5323.
HealthWorks Museum, Community Health Care Options

Booths with Information: O B G Y N Options, Alternative Medicine, the prospective students will
difficult," Martinez said.
it but also things that they find
not only the great things about
Dame" and "talk to them about
their experience at Notre
physical introduction to the
the weather. And when the
high school seniors come for
Spring Visitation, he said, hosts
them the real deal.
There're some great pluses, and
there are some negatives that
may affect some more than
Santana said. "It's up to each individual person to assess whether or not they can handle it. Notre Dame isn't for everyone.
And these are students who do decide that Notre Dame is for them usually end up staying," Thompson said.
"We have great retention rates," she said. "People make
friends for a lifetime through this experience..."
Organizers said the weekend is mutually beneficial for students and the University, showing targeted students that Notre Dame is the host institution for them while helping to facilitate increased diversity on campus.
"I'm making Notre Dame a better place by recruiting those bright young individuals, but I really do feel that, for a lot of these kids, I'm showing them a better way," Santana said. "A lot of them would have a better chance at success in life coming to Notre Dame."
Contact Sheila Flynn at
dflynn@nd.edu

Beauty queen’s ex held liable for topless photos

Associated Press
LUMBERTON, N.C. — A jury Thursday found a former beauty queen's ex-boyfriend liable for the e-mail he sent about topless photos that he had taken of the Miss North Carolina to give up her crown.

Jurors determined that Tosh Welch's anonymous e-mail sent a month after Rebekah Revels won the state pageant, interfered with Revels' contract with the pageant and interfered with a potential contract with the Miss America Organization.

They found that Welch did not intentionally inflict emotional distress on Revels. She also had accused Welch of invasion of privacy, but the judge threw out that claim.

"This is a very happy day for me," Revels said after the verdict.
"I'm just elated right now."

Welch, and his attorney, John Began, declined to comment.

The Robeson County Superior Court jury, which deliberated less than two hours before reaching a verdict, was to return Friday to begin deliberating on damages.

Revels wants compensatory damages for lost income and punitive damages, and claims the scandal cost her $20,000 to $30,000 in appearance fees. In a July 2002 e-mail to the

SPRING VISITATION...

Graduate Student Union’s 3rd Annual
Health & Wellness Fair
Promoting Healthy Lives
WHO: Graduate Students and their families
When: Saturday, March 27, 2004
Time: 11:00AM to 2:00PM
Where: Stepan Center

FREE Lunch will be available to graduate students and their families throughout the event.

Booths with Information: OB/GYN Options, Alternative Medicine, HealthWorks Museum, Community Health Care Options

Event sponsored by the Graduate Student Union and co-sponsored by the Alumni Association - International Student Services & Activities and Student Activities

GLUTTONY, SURGERY, AND SERVICE!!!

Operation Smile needs your help. Present this token at Hacienda (5836 Grape Road) on Monday, March 29th, and a portion of your bill will be donated to support an indigent child in need of corrective facial surgery. Applies to all food and drinks.

www.operationsmile.org
Scholarly Identities in Transition: Digital/Memory/Archive

How are archives constitutive of scholarly identities? How are digital and biological transformations of archives posing questions to scholars about the intersections of their academic practices and digital art?

The Center for Creative Computing, in partnership with the Identities in Transition Study Group is pleased to host a morning workshop devoted to the changing experience of the archive and the intersections of scholarship in the humanities with multimedia art.

Saturday, March 27, 2004
9:30-12:00 Noon
242 Coleman-Morse

Our guests Dr. Tal Halpern (NYU-Multimedia) and Orit Halpern (History of Science-Harvard University) explore the experience of the archive and the possibilities for the transformation of memory in between the analog and the digital.

Sponsored by The Nanovic Institute for European Studies www.nd.edu/~nanovic
Rebels withdraw from government

ABIDJAN — Rebels and the main opposition party pulled out of Ivory Coast’s power-sharing government Thursday after 25 people died in deadly clashes between security forces and opposition supporters, who marched in defiance of a government ban.

The street skirmishes were the bloodiest to hit this West African nation’s commercial capital since a failed September 2002 coup bid split the country in two.

Among the dead were two police and 12 civilians killed by protesters armed with machetes, Abidjan Police Chief Yapo Kouassi told reporters. Security forces struggling to maintain order shot dead several others, he said, giving no details.

Amid the violence, Air France suspended flights to the country, and the French Foreign Ministry warned citizens to avoid Abidjan. The French Foreign Ministry also took to the streets in the capital, Yamoussoukro, Kouassi Col. Bruno Misset. Protesters also took to the streets in the capital, Yamoussoukro, Kouassi said French army spokesman Lt. Col. Bruno Misset. Protesters also took to the streets in the capital, Yamoussoukro, Kouassi said.

The events dealt a serious blow to the January 2003 peace deal brokered by France that established a power-sharing government. "We have suspended our participation in the government to protest against today’s killings," rebel spokesman Alphon Lobognon said.

Rebel forces in the north were put "on alert," he added without elaborating.

Bacongo Cisse, spokesman for the main opposition Rally of the Republicans, said his party also would suspend its participation to protest the violence. The opposition Democratic Party of Ivory Coast pulled out of the government March 4, saying it’s not too late to find quality houses close to campus for the 2004-2005 school year.

Call Sean at Anlan Properties
574-532-1895

ABIDJAN — Rebels and the main opposition party pulled out of Ivory Coast’s power-sharing government Thursday after 25 people died in deadly clashes between security forces and opposition supporters, who marched in defiance of a government ban.

The street skirmishes were the bloodiest to hit this West African nation’s commercial capital since a failed September 2002 coup bid split the country in two.

Among the dead were two police and 12 civilians killed by protesters armed with machetes, Abidjan Police Chief Yapo Kouassi told reporters. Security forces struggling to maintain order shot dead several others, he said, giving no details.

Amid the violence, Air France suspended flights to the country, and the French Foreign Ministry warned citizens to avoid Abidjan. The French Foreign Ministry also took to the streets in the capital, Yamoussoukro, Kouassi Col. Bruno Misset. Protesters also took to the streets in the capital, Yamoussoukro, Kouassi said French army spokesman Lt. Col. Bruno Misset. Protesters also took to the streets in the capital, Yamoussoukro, Kouassi said.

The events dealt a serious blow to the January 2003 peace deal brokered by France that established a power-sharing government. "We have suspended our participation in the government to protest against today’s killings," rebel spokesman Alphon Lobognon said.

Rebel forces in the north were put "on alert," he added without elaborating.

Bacongo Cisse, spokesman for the main opposition Rally of the Republicans, said his party also would suspend its participation to protest the violence. The opposition Democratic Party of Ivory Coast pulled out of the government March 4, saying it’s not too late to find quality houses close to campus for the 2004-2005 school year.

Call Sean at Anlan Properties
574-532-1895
Encourage all prospects to visit

Ranked eighth on the U.S. News & World Report’s list of “dream schools,” Notre Dame clearly attracts in share of national attention from prospective students. But unlike other schools, Notre Dame does not market specific days for prospective visits during the spring semester. However, there are two notable exceptions where prospects are invited to participate in a programmed visit. One of these exceptions, Spring Visitation, is this weekend — signaling the arrival of nearly 160 prospects — and the Notre Dame community and administration should use this well-planned event as an example of what it could offer for other prospects. Spring Visitation stands out for its organization. The University provides a structured itinerary that ensures invited students can attend classes, eat in the dining halls, live in the dorms with a host, talk with current students and ask the administration questions or concerns they may have. A special visit planned for prospective engineering majors, for example, February, shows a similar effort in extending a well-organized and specifically geared welcome.

After Spring Visitation is over, however, the number of student visitors dwindles back to the usual trickle. Prospects who wish to stay on campus must be very proactive, as the scheduling burden falls on families instead of the University — a practice that discourages many from taking this initiative. And for those who do, the visits they experience are very individualized. One night with an assigned student host is not the equivalent of a carefully planned weekend offering a family aspect to most prospects at once.

Clearly, the University cannot afford to facilitate a weekend as elaborate as Spring Visitation for every admitted student. However, a simple and financially feasible solution does exist. The attraction of Spring Visitation is in its community emphasis, and by selecting several weekends during the spring semester to market heavily to all admitted students, the University can count on higher attendance that will meet better organization and therefore better-informed admitted students.

Signature Notre Dame events such as Bengal Bouts, Bookstore Basketball and the Fisher Registry provide ideal opportunities for such weekends to be held. These events represent the unique community that Notre Dame has to offer — and by design, they help create a welcome for students inclined to the University. Prospects who may have looked over the University’s website or sports promotions before their Spring Visitation weekend may be less likely to consider the University if they see their opportunity to attend these events in question.

Confusion on the home front

Notre Dame’s policies on homosexual issues are a paradigm of incoherence. Our leaders act sincerely in what they see as the best interest of Notre Dame and its students. But in their pursuit of political correctness, they have misled students, especially those with homosexual inclinations, and they have reined in the exploitation of Notre Dame’s activist movements hostile to the Catholic Church.

Ex-Credo Esse, the 1990 Apostolic Constitution on Catholic Universities requires that the “essential characteristics” of “every Catholic university” must include: “Fidelity to the Christian message as it comes to us through the Church.” That message on the homosexual issues is clear.

1. Persons with “homosexual tendencies... must be accepted with respect, compassion and sensitivity. Every sign of unjust discrimination in their regard should be avoided.” Catechism, No. 2358.

2. Homosexual acts are “intrinsically disordered. They are contrary to the natural law. They close the sexual act to its natural end.” Catechism, No. 2357.

3. The homosexual inclination is not a sin. But, as an inclination toward an objectively disordered act, the inclination itself is objectively disordered.” No. 2358.

Notre Dame refuses to recognize student groups which approve homosexual acts. It refuses on the ground that such acts are prohibited by “official Church teaching.” The University, however, refuses to acknowledge that the inclination toward such acts is disordered. But how can an inclination toward a disordered act be itself anything but disordered? And if an inclination is not disordered why may it not be acted upon? This is impossible because our leaders wrongly imply that the prohibition of homosexual acts is not rooted in the natural law and the law of God but rather that it is an arbitrary edict of an insensible church.

This misdirection is compounded by the Church’s readiness to combat other disordered inclinations. Students inclined to eating disorders, smoking, casual drinking or other disordered inclinations. Smokers, especially, have achieved the status of virtual pariahs. Not for them the welcoming solicitude extended to students inclined toward sodomy rather than tobacco.

To alumni, donors and the public our leaders present an image of inflexibility in their refusal to recognize student groups condoning homosexual acts. To the students, however, they offer cognitive confusion. If they are so adamant about refusing to approve homosexual acts, why have they allowed, for three years, University sponsorship of the Queer Film Festival which exalted homosexual and transgendered lifestyles so as to hijack the reputation of Notre Dame in support of a politicized agenda hostile to the Catholic Church? Only a liberal academic could imagine that these events were neutral academic exercises.

Despite their denial of formal recognition to activist homosexual student groups, our leaders convey by their actions the message that the Catholic Church’s opposition to homosexual lifestyles is at least an open question. While that message accords with political correctness, the de facto official religion of Notre Dame, it poorly serves the members of the University community. The Letter on the Pastoral Care of Homosexual Persons, issued with the encouragement of John Paul II, states: “(Departure from the Church’s teaching) on this subject about it, in an effort to provide pastoral care, is neither caring nor pastoral. Only what is true can ultimately be pastoral. The neglect of the Church’s position prevents homosexual men and women from receiving the care they need and deserve.”

Professor Emeritus Charles E. Rice is on the Law School faculty. His column normally appears every other Wednesday. He can be contacted at 464-1908 or e.rice@nd.edu.

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

Quote of the Day

"It is error alone which needs the support of government. Truth can stand by itself." — Thomas Jefferson

President
Watching the three-ring campaign circus

While surfing through my cable channels, I happened upon an Animal Planet program featuring magicians with animals. It was interesting to see the masters of illusion utilize the natural characteristics of their animals. For example, one magician had a pigeon on his shoulder that was trained to point to the spotlight to the question "What is this bird doing?" Turning around from him as though to ignore him.

This year's unprecedented early presidential television attack advertisements between the two apparent party nominees could have been politics as usual if the commission investigating the Sept. 11 attacks hadn't made such a hilarious joke that Clinton ranging from staff to serious Reagan and Bush employee. It speaks volumes of journalistic ethics.

It is ironic that the Bush 2000 campaign wanted the Al Gore campaign to be non-persuasive, but now has no stronger public protection, namely his handling and credibility regarding terror. The White House began an orchestrated effort to discredit its primary critic. Former terror expert Richard Clarke. The White House attack dogs' performance this week would make President Bush's act, "The Amazing W", a bit unhinged now. The non-partisan commission's findings could very well be used as discursive discreditation of a strong public perception, especially by the media.

The White House attack dogs' performance this week would make President Bush's act, "The Amazing W", a bit unhinged now. The non-partisan commission's findings could very well be used as discursive discreditation of a strong public perception, especially by the media. Clarke contends that he was asked to write a book and sworn testimony about his experience lifting its restriction on a terror briefing that Clarke once gave to reporters "on background." When that book is being written, the White House did not receive a promotion at the Homeland Security Department, he was disgruntled. They did have such a plan. The White House also claimed that since Clarke lost his job, "on background." When that book is submitted to the commission although in a single day he would never have personified himself as the ground source, he would never have personized himself as the ground source. It is unprecedented for the White House to now publicly reveal Clarke's name and his history in the White House. By official." It is unprecedented for the White House to now publicly reveal Clarke's name and his history in the White House.

It is unprecedented for the White House to now publicly reveal Clarke's name and his history in the White House. By way of some public relations and its place at this University would have mattered staff suspected anything affiliated with the Clinton administration to suspect everyone from the pre-CIA officer's name whose husband opposed the notion that Iraq bought missiles from Africa. The three, if a reporter had revealed Clarke's name as the background speaker, it would have been considered a breach of professional ethics.

Clarke defends himself against the White House's charges by saying that as a Special Assistant to the President, he was asked to highlight the positives of the Bush policies and minimize the negatives. As a background speaker, he would have been considered a breach of professional ethics. Clarke contends that he was asked to portray Senator John Kerry's record. It is unprecedented for the White House to break the rules of journalistic ethics.

It is not unusual for an incoming administration to suspect everyone from the pre-CIA officer's name whose husband opposed the notion that Iraq bought missiles from Africa. The three, if a reporter had revealed Clarke's name as the background speaker, it would have been considered a breach of professional ethics. Clarke contends that he was asked to highlight the positives of the Bush policies and minimize the negatives. As a background speaker, he would have been considered a breach of professional ethics. Clarke contends that he was asked to portray Senator John Kerry's record.

The current White House is desperate to refute Clarke's claims. The White House claimed that since Clarke lost his job, "on background." When that book is submitted to the commission although in a single day he would never have personified himself as the ground source, he would never have personized himself as the ground source. It is unprecedented for the White House to now publicly reveal Clarke's name and his history in the White House.

The current White House is desperate to refute Clarke's claims. The White House claimed that since Clarke lost his job, "on background." When that book is submitted to the commission although in a single day he would never have personified himself as the ground source, he would never have personized himself as the ground source. It is unprecedented for the White House to now publicly reveal Clarke's name and his history in the White House.
New stars shine in the Pasquale Musical Company Musical "A Night on Broadway" brings veteran performers and fresh faces to the stage. By MARIA SMITH

If you want to see West Side Story in February, you already know it's worth coming to see some of the show's stars from the Pasquale Rehearsal Hall Musical Company take the stage again this weekend in their yearly musical review entitled "A Night on Broadway." Natalie Martinez is as adorable and Jenny Radelet is as magnetic in the Revue as they were on the stage of Washington Hall. Matt Curtain and KC Kenney have just as much character.

But the best thing about the show is the variety of acts and talents. Singers and dancers who haven't performed in a lead role on campus shine in individual performances of Broadway show tunes.

Some of the Company's newest members steal the spotlight this year in their musical theatre debuts. Keough resident assistant Luke Slonkosky is confident and charming performing "Sixteen Going on Seventeen" with junior Katie Welch in his first vocal performance onstage. Slonkosky has been excited about the chance to sing onstage, practicing his number in his spare time — including in the car while driving to and from Ohio — to get ready for the show despite a busy schedule.

"I've always loved watching musical theatre... Some of the cast members encouraged me to audition," Slonkosky said, "I'm surprised how much more confidence it takes to sing than act (on stage).

Sophomore Eric Buell is quirky and entertaining in his slightly ironic performance of "King Herod's Song" from Jesus Christ Superstar.

"I think it's wonderfully heretical," Buell said, "I hope to rattle some theological cages.

Junior Dave Moisan chose a striking number for his debut, performing a slightly raucous rendition of "Matchmaker" from Fiddler on the Roof in drag with senior Tim Gibeau. Moisan has been dancing with the campus band currently known as H WOMEN and in My Best Friend's Wedding when he auditions for the show in late February.

"I did a big depressing number last year about my father who gambled away all the family's money and left us," Gibeau said. "So I wanted to do something more fun.

The show is also a great way for freshmen to continue to perform past high school and find a crowd.

Kate VanDammé, the only Saint Mary's College student in the show, read about PEMCO in The Observer following a full performances and decided to try out. Since February, you already know it's worth taking them up to the next level."

"They get ready themselves. We just take them up to the next level."

Shawna Monson
director

Finding Nemo and When Harry Met Sally."

"The show has gone amazingly," Monson said, "That is because of the people in the show working so hard on their Individual acts."

"They get ready themselves. We just take them up to the next level."

Whether they're old hands or new performers, the singers, dancers and actors in "A Night on Broadway" are talented, full of life and full of character. Most importantly, the show is fun for the cast, crew and audience alike.

Perhaps cast member Joe Garlock says it best when he quotes George from My Best Friend's Wedding midway through the show."

"Maybe there won't be marriage, maybe there won't be sex. But by

Contact Maria Smith at

Above, Joe Garlock and company sing "All I Care About." Left, Dave Moisan and Tim Gibeau dress as women and perform a song from "Fiddler on the Roof."

Below, a group of students show off their talent singing "Skid Row" from "Little Shop of Horrors."

Photos courtesy of MEGAN DAVISSON

By MARIA SMITH

"I've definitely been able to learn a lot from the upperclassmen. It's like a lot of big brothers and sisters."

Allison Giovinazzo
cast member
Latin Expressions promises diverse show with over 100 student performers

By MEEG CONROY
Scene Writer

Although La Alianza, the Latino group of Notre Dame, can't control the weather, it can heat up your weekend with Sabrosura: Latin Expressions. Latin Expressions has been 'spicing' up Notre Dame and Saint Mary's since its 'cooler' premiere in 1990. However, this year, as the title suggests, will be exceptionally tasty, or a 'Sabrosura.'

In its 15th year, Latin Expressions will bring together talents, ideas and creativity of over 100 students. This year is special because Notre Dame and Saint Mary's students will perform all of the acts. In previous years, outside performers had filled these roles.

This year's executive director is April Garcia.

"We have about a dozen acts that showcase freshmen through seniors, Latino and non-Latino students, and a wide range of artistic expressions," April Garcia, executive director of the program. "The show's performances will include poetry, dancing, singing, artwork, bands and even a political act. Latin Expressions has gained acclaim and support through the University, the audition standards have also risen. This year the executive board found themselves turning students away. There were a lot of quality acts, but we just couldn't fit them all because of time," Garcia said.

As a result, a very unique, and diverse group of students was selected to represent the artistic and Latino diversity on campus.

Guests will enjoy Latin expressions from 'Station One,' Troop ND, the Irish Dance team and various other groups. Some of the show's highlights include Ballet Folklorico, Sazon, a spoken word piece and a Flamenco act.

Ballet Folklorico will perform two pieces. The first comes from the state of Jalisco, and is all female. In the second piece, six couples will perform a traditional wedding dance from the state of Vera Cruz. This dance is a symbolic representation of unity. Dancers will gracefully tie a ribbon with their feet, imitating the bond tied through marriage. Another dance act, although quite different, is Sazon. Sazon is composed of four females who will perform a medley of Latino dance styles. This act is the first of its kind in the show's history, and is sure to please guests.

Melody Gonzalez's act, a spoken word piece, may bring back the tones of the show from its first run in 1990. Her piece is a poetic commentary on the tomato wages of Taco Bell. Although not the typical act in Latin Expressions, it will still offer an important perspective of Latino culture and issues. Gonzalez's piece will reveal some economic and political issues of Latino culture, helping to emphasize the show's overall presentation of Latino culture.

There is one act returning after a few years absence. Gabby Obregon will perform a traditional Flamenco dance. Although Latin Expressions has offered Flamenco dance before, this will be the first time in many years.

"Until now we just haven't had anyone with the experience," Obregon has been practicing Flamenco dance for many years and will display her talents in a solo act. "It's exciting to see all of these acts will be returning emcee favorites Alex Battista, Jesus Bravo and Nicole Orozco. All three are very familiar with the acts and layout of the show. Their comedic and comfortable approach will help audience members join in the celebratory atmosphere of Latino culture.

Latin Expressions hasn't always been as festive an event as it is today. In its first year, Latino groups on campus organized the show. Funds from the show were put towards a scholarship for a Latino student to attend Notre Dame. Acts were performed in the Hesburgh Auditorium, and had a 'political' quality.

"Most of the acts were poetry and skits, yet with an angry undertone," Garcia said. "Instead of a celebratory mood, a more harsh and political tone prevailed."

The event sought more to profess political and social concerns of Latino culture rather than share its rich diversity. In years following the 1990 debut, many changes were made to the event. After a few years at Hesburgh, the show moved to Stepan center. This was done to support the growing demand for audience and performance space. While at Stepan, many of the shows were composed of "outside" acts. Latino performers and musicians from surrounding areas would come in to showcase their talents. Although some students participated in the acts, a majority was comprised of alternative sources.

In its 15th year, Latin Expressions finds itself at St. Mary's O'Loughlin Auditorium. The new location allows for bigger audiences and a more formal atmosphere.

Garcia hopes the show will expand viewers' ideas of Latino culture.

"A lot of people only have one view of Latino culture. They're comfortable with. It's important to expand upon this view and get a better understanding of the culture's diversity," Garcia said. "It's important to expand upon this view and get a better understanding of the culture's diversity."

Tickets for Friday's 7 p.m. performance will be sold for five dollars at the O'Loughlin Auditorium.

Contact Meeg Conroy at mconroyl@nd.edu
Magda asks the secretary to see the consulate personally, but the secretary refuses repeatedly.

Magda returns home to her mother in law and son, who is now very ill. Magda has nightmares about her husband and ill son, but finally receives some news from the glasscutter. John is walking in the mountains for them to leave the country. A gain, Magda goes to the consulate for a visa. What follows is a race against time to save a family and to escape the authorities.

The ND Opera was started in 1991 as a way for students to learn opera techniques and then perform in front of an audience. In the fall semester, the students learn about opera and the methods by which opera is performed. In the spring, they put together a full production that puts to use the skills the students have learned.

Magda pleads for a visa at the consulate office so she can be with her husband who has taken refuge outside of the country.
Blake, Hughes lead Wizards to victory over L.A.

LOS ANGELES — A strong first half by Larry Hughes and two spurts of instant offense by Ray Allen and Gary Payton were too much for the Clippers to overcome.

Hughes scored 24 of his 30 points before halftime, and Blake had seven of his 10 points in the final 4:42 as the Washington Wizards ended a five-game losing streak with a 103-94 victory over Los Angeles on Thursday night.

Hughes, playing his third game since coming off the injured list, shot 11-for-20 for the Wizards, who won for only the third time in 13 games. It's the second straight season that they've swept the Clippers.

"We know how well we can play when we're healthy," Hughes said. "It has just been hard for us to play consistently. It was good for us to come out and play with the intensity that we showed tonight, and I feel we can play with anybody in the league when we are at full strength."

Jerry Stackhouse had 20 points and 14 rebounds for his 33rd straight double-double. Dwyane Wade and Lamar Odom had 20 points each, but neither could overcome the Wizards' lost cause.

Los Angeles made 50.4 percent of its shots, including 12 of 21 from three-point range. The Wizards shot 48.8 percent, with nine three-pointers.

"It was good for us to come out and play the way we did tonight," Stackhouse said. "Earlier, when we played West coast teams, our energy level was down. Tonight, it was up."

Q. U엔 Quen tin Miller added 18 points and 10 rebounds with a sprained right ankle at the end of the second quarter. Miller said he was going to keep playing.

"I have to keep playing," Miller said. "I have to keep doing what I do."

Los Angeles had a 25-1 first-quarter run to take command, and a 17-1 third-quarter spurt that sent Washington to their most lopsided loss of the season.

The Lakers used a 25-1 first-quarter run to take command, and a 17-1 third-quarter spurt that sent Washington to their most lopsided loss of the season.

The Lakers had beaten their previous two opponents by a total of 20 points, and all but one of those wins came over teams who can't make the playoffs.

They were much more better Tuesday night, shooting 51.6 percent from the field and 41 percent from the three-point line.

Gary Payton scored 20 points, Slava Medvedenko came off the bench with 13 points and seven rebounds, and Karl Malone added 11 points and seven rebounds for the Lakers.

Peyton added six assists, while Malone had seven assists and 13 rebounds.

Street Started 20 points and eight rebounds and Chris Webber added 18 points for the Kings.

Mike Bibby, who scored 31 points in a 103-101 victory over the Lakers last month, had 12 points and six assists. He shot 4-for-16.

Ray Allen arrived at Staples Center an hour before tipoff after attending a pretrial hearing in a Colorado courtroom on his sexual assault charge. He will return Thursday for another appearance.

Bryant made a 12-foot left-handed bank shot leading to a three-point play during the third-quarter run that extended the Lakers' lead to 86-56.

By that time, the Lakers' big four of Bryant, O'Neal, Malone and Payton, playing together for just the 26th time this season, had reached double figures, as had Medvedenko.

Spurs 94, Pistons 75

SAN ANTONIO — The San Antonio Spurs didn't look like one of the NBA's top defensive teams in the first half. They certainly did when it counted.

The Spurs limited the Detroit Pistons to only six baskets in the fourth quarter and took full advantage of Ben Wallace's late-game protection to pull away for a win.

Manu Ginobili scored 14 of his 17 points in the second half for the Spurs, who pulled within two games of Midwest Division leader Minnesota with 10 games remaining for both teams.

Ginobili said he wasn't really concentrating in the first half when he missed all three of his shots.

"So after halftime I felt that I needed to step up and produce more," he said. "We have 10 more games and of course we want to win the division and be the best in the West."

San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich said playing the Pistons was tough, given that he learned how to coach from Detroit's coach, Pat Riley.

"It's like playing ourselves," said Popovich, who was an assistant in San Antonio under Brown for three-plus seasons.

"We're very familiar with them. We like the same kind of play­ers."

3. Weiss, 1032, Mavericks 99

INDIANAPOLIS — Some might have seen Jermaine O'Neal's absence as a tough break for the Indiana Pacers. Reggie Miller said it as the best thing.

"Everybody has to raise the level of their intensity, especially with the big guy out," Miller said, referring to O'Neal, who was out with a bruised left knee. "We've had depth all year and this is a chance to show everyone all these great, young, talented players on this team. This game was a good indication of that."

It sure was.

Ron Artest had 20 points, eight steals and eight rebounds to lead six Pacers in double figures in their win over the Mavericks.

Artest had 20 points, eight steals and eight rebounds to lead six Pacers in double figures in their win over the Mavericks.

Miller said: "It's like playing ourselves," said Popovich, who was an assistant in San Antonio under Brown for three-plus seasons.

"We're very familiar with them. We like the same kind of play­ers."

Just as important, Indiana was able to keep its composure ungleed in the second half to improve to 3-0 in games with­out O'Neal this season.

O'Neal, the team's leading scorer and rebounder, said he expects to miss at least two games, but he hopes to be back for Sunday's game against Miami.

Dallas was missing a star of its own. Michael Finley, the team's second-leading scorer, did not dress because of a strained right calf.

The Pacers used their superior depth to their advantage, getting solid contributions from Croshere and Harrington to fill O'Neal's void.

"Everybody thought without Jermaine we were going to lose," Harrington said.

Harrington said.

The Observer accepts classified every business day from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the News Annex office, 624 South Dining Hall. Deadlines for rate-card classifieds is 3 p.m. All classifieds must be prepaid. The charge is $3.00 per character per day, including space. The Observer reserves the right to edit all classifieds for content without refunding.

WHERE IS THE BEST BLUESppt?

MIDWAY TAVES 810 WATF 49, MISHAWAKA

CALL 255-4058.

WWW.PHOTOKRY.COM.

Email in a

Korean Test Prep Class in March and get $100 back!

Call 1-800-479-TEST

for info.

Dan isn't just a guy

Once I thought I had mono for an entire year. Turns out I was just bored.

O nce I thought I had mono for an entire year. Turns out I was just bored.
The Clayton Miller Blues Band

Friday, March 26, 2004

10:00pm @ Legends

http://www.ClaytonMillerBluesBand.com

THIS FRIDAY!

brought to you by the student union board. nd.edu/~sub
Saint Joe's defects Wake Forest 84-80

Saint Joseph's Jameer Nelson dribbles up court as Wake Forest's Trent Strickland defends during the first half of their NCAA men's basketball championship regional game. Saint Joseph's defeated Wake Forest 84-80.

## Around the Dial

### Golf

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Players Championship, 12 p.m., ESPN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Men's Tennis Tournament</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### NBA

| Dallas at Miami, 7:30 p.m., ESPN |

| Minnesota at LA Lakers, 10:30 p.m., ESPN |

| Indiana at Orlando, 7 p.m., WB |

### NCAA Softball Top 20

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>team</th>
<th>record avg.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Stanford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Florida</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Southern California</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Arizona State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>UCLA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Rice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Virginia Commonwealth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Duke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Florida</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Florida</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Texas Christian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Georgia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Louisiana State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Arizona State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Harvard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Kentucky</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Oregon State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Ohio State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Florida State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Mississippi Valley State</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### NCAA Softball Top 20

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>team</th>
<th>record avg.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Stanford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Florida</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Southern California</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Arizona State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>UCLA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Rice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Virginia Commonwealth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Duke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Florida</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Florida</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Texas Christian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Georgia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Louisiana State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Arizona State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Harvard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Kentucky</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Oregon State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Ohio State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Florida State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Mississippi Valley State</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### NCAA Softball Top 20

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>team</th>
<th>record avg.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Stanford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Florida</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Southern California</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Arizona State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>UCLA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Rice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Virginia Commonwealth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Duke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Florida</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Florida</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Texas Christian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Georgia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Louisiana State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Arizona State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Harvard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Kentucky</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Oregon State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Ohio State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Florida State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Mississippi Valley State</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### NCAA Softball Top 20

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>team</th>
<th>record avg.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Stanford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Florida</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Southern California</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Arizona State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>UCLA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Rice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Virginia Commonwealth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Duke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Florida</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Florida</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Texas Christian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Georgia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Louisiana State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Arizona State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Harvard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Kentucky</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Oregon State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Ohio State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Florida State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Mississippi Valley State</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### NCAA Softball Top 20

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>team</th>
<th>record avg.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Stanford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Florida</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Southern California</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Arizona State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>UCLA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Rice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Virginia Commonwealth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Duke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Florida</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Florida</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Texas Christian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Georgia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Louisiana State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Arizona State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Harvard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Kentucky</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Oregon State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Ohio State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Florida State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Mississippi Valley State</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WOMEN'S TENNIS

No. 21 Irish travel south to face two top ACC teams

By ANN LOUGHERY
Sports Writer

This weekend will be anything but a walk in the park for the No. 21 Irish as they face No. 23 Wake Forest and No. 9 North Carolina.

Wake Forest (8-7) upset North Carolina 4-3 Wednesday to end its three-match losing streak. The Tar Heels (13-5) claimed the doubles point, but dropped four of the six singles matches.

"Wake Forest was really beat up last year because of injuries," Irish coach Jay Louderback said. "They lost a lot of close matches and had a tough schedule. They have better depth this year."

North Carolina is prepared for a quick win after Wednesday's loss, Louderback said.

"They're after everyone at every position; they won't overlook anyone. After losing to Wake Forest, they'll be in a bad mood," Louderback said.

Wake Forest brings a tough lineup to Saturday's match. Several team members have returned after nursing injuries in previous meets. In addition, Wake Forest brings the No. 22 player in singles, Karl Coetzee, and the No. 40 doubles team of Coetzee and Aimee Smith to the match. Coetzee won her match Wednesday 6-2, 6-2 against North Carolina's Lee Hairs, while the duo of Coetzee and Smith lost 8-6.

North Carolina's young team includes No. 29 singles Anthea Moizis and the No. 23 doubles team of Moizis and Kendall Cline. Wake Forest's Ashlee Davis defeated Moizis 6-1, 6-0. Moizis had an earlier win in doubles against Wake Forest's Coetzee and Smith 8-6.

Last weekend the Irish collected a win against No. 47 Iowa 6-1, securing the doubles point and nearly sweeping singles with four wins. They look to garner their ninth and 10th wins of the season after this weekend's matches.

"If we compete hard, we'll have a shot," Louderback said. "They'd better be ready. We're coming."

Playing on outdoor courts will be the team's greatest challenge this weekend. Since spring break, the team has only played outdoors once. Weather plays an integral role in outdoor competitions, as the sun and wind factor into the ball's speed and direction, Louderback said.

The Irish hit the courts at Wake Forest on Saturday at 1 p.m. and at North Carolina on Sunday at 1 p.m.

Contact Ann Loughery at aloughery@nd.edu

by KATE GALES
Sports Writer

As the weather improves, so have the Irish.

After moving to 11-7 with a win over Michigan Thursday, the No. 36 Irish look to establish a winning streak as they travel to Ball State Sunday.

Notre Dame is 4-2 since the beginning of March. A win this weekend could begin a win streak similar to the four-game winning streak the Irish went on in mid-February.

Ball State is 5-10, winning none of their ten matches against ranked opponents. They are ranked 19th in the country in the Mid-American conference in a tight race with Western Michigan.

"We feel we have a reasonably good chance to beat them," coach Bobby Bayliss said. "Our team is guardedly optimistic. We know they are struggling. The Northwestern [coaching staff] warned me that they could be vulnerable.

The match is scheduled for the outdoor courts, a first for the Irish in the regular dual-match season. Bayliss has used the spring weather to help transition the Irish from playing indoors.

"If we get outside tomorrow, it will help us," he said. "I actually hope we play outside because we need the outdoor play to prepare for [upcoming matches at] Florida State and Virginia Tech."

The Irish beat the Wolverines 5-2 on Tuesday in a match that was closer than the score indicated, despite the illness of three top players battling illnesses and the difficulty of a 10-hour trip.

However, the health of the team should not be a concern this weekend.

"I expect everyone to be at 100 percent," Bayliss said. Matthew Scott, Luis Haddick and Ryan Keckley practiced Thursday and are expected to be at full strength by the Sunday match.

After the trip to Michigan, the Irish spent two practices honing each player's personal techniques.

"We've been focusing on some of the things that have shown up in matches that we really need to stress individually," Bayliss said.

Contact Kate Gales at kgales@nd.edu

Contact Alicia Sales, a singles player, at salesa@nd.edu
Saint Mary's hopes to capture a fifth-place finish this weekend at Northern Kentucky's Invitational. Teams from Division I, Division II and Division III are included in the 18 schools competing in the Invitational.

Coach Mark Hamilton said the Belles look forward to the weekend, describing it as an opportunity to compete against deeper teams. "Some of the teams we'll be competing head-to-head with, and other teams we'll be playing just for pride," Hamilton said. "We're looking to shoot 320 each day, and we'll see where that score falls amongst the fray." Hamilton said the team looks forward to facing stiffer competition. "We're like amateurs playing pro's, but the amateurs still have a really good chance," Hamilton said, referring to the large, talented Division I and II teams the Belles are set to meet. Included in the tournament are seven teams the Belles have faced in previous meets, five of which they have defeated. This weekend's tournament should be approached like a chess match, Hamilton said, with the Belles aiming to stay one stop ahead of the game.

Mentally, this will require Saint Mary's to remain focused on the course and calm in pressured situations. "We're a couple of players short, so we'll need the underclassmen to step up this weekend, especially if things get tight," Hamilton said. Hamilton expects the cost of the pressure to come from DePauw. "They're playing good golf right now," Hamilton said. "It's going to take 315's all weekend to beat them. We're a fifth-place finish this year, so we'll need the underclassmen to step up this weekend, especially if things get tight," Hamilton said. Hamilton expects the cost of the pressure to come from DePauw. "They're playing good golf right now," Hamilton said. "It's going to take 315's all weekend to beat them. We're a couple of players short, so we'll need the underclassmen to step up this weekend, especially if things get tight," Hamilton said. Hamilton expects the cost of the pressure to come from DePauw.

Contact Ann Loughery at alougher@nd.edu.

Wish someone could join you in Notre Dame, Indiana?

Holy Cross College could make your wish come true.

If you have a friend or relative who would like to be closer to you next year, tell them about Holy Cross College — we're right next door to Notre Dame and Saint Mary's. They could complete our Associate of Arts curriculum, transfer, or pursue our Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies degree.

Give us a call at 239-8400 or e-mail admissions@hcc-nd.edu. Freshmen and transfer applicants are currently being accepted for Summer and Fall 2004 admission.

ROWING

Solid Irish crew will face highly-ranked opponents

By CHRISTINE ARMSTRONG
Senior Staff Writer

This Saturday the Irish face another Top-20 team when they take on No. 2 Michigan and Clemson in Ann Arbor. The Wolverines, who took second place in the 2003 NCAA varsity eight race, will provide stiff competition, but the rowers hope to build off of their solid Spring Break performances against No. 8 Michigan State, No. 13 Tennessee and No. 18 Duke.

During the 2002-2003 season, the Irish had a difficult schedule, which concluded with a frustrating two-point loss to nationally ranked Syracuse in the Big East title race. This year's competition promises to be equally difficult, as the Irish will face at least one Top-20 team each weekend. The Irish are not discouraged, though, and with returnees such as team captains Natalie Ladine and Katie Welsh, Alice Stanek — who holds the Notre Dame 2,000-meter erg score record — and Danielle Frelleswirth, the team is working to improve each week. "Challenging ourselves all season will hopefully put us in a good position as we go into Central Regionals, our most crucial race of the year," said Welsh. "Our ultimate goal is to earn a team bid to the NCAA championships, and as invitations are extended only to the top twelve teams, it is essential that we face some of the best competition throughout the season."

Notre Dame's performances on March 13-14 demonstrated that the team is ready to take on the best. The Irish held their own, winning six of their last 15 races against the Spartans and Lady Devils. The team garnered a varsity four victory and two novice wins over the Blue Devils the following day.

"Last week's competitions gave us a much better idea of where we stand as a team," Welsh said. "Competing made us more aware of our strengths and weaknesses, as well as those of some of our biggest competitors."

Contact Christine Armstrong at carmstro@nd.edu.
SMC SOFTBALL

Belles to open home schedule with Alma

Struggling team hopes to end a six-game losing streak with a win over tough Alma

By STEVE COYER
Sports Writer

A fter a tough stretch of games on the road, the Belles will begin league play at home Saturday.
Saint Mary's (5-8) has lost six straight games and will get little rest as they meet defending MIAA champions Alma College in a doubleheader. Alma (18-2) has been dominant with seven shutout victories so far, and the team looks to be on course for another league championship. Against a strong team like Alma, the Belles realize they cannot fall behind early in the game as has happened previously this season.
"We don't want to play catch-up anymore," coach Anna Welsh said. "Once we begin to start playing aggressively from the first inning on, they we will be a much more successful team."
In a doubleheader last year against Alma, the Belles were shutout in both games losing 8-0 and 9-0. In each game, Saint Mary's fell behind in the first inning and failed to get anything going on offense. The Belles had two hits the entire doubleheader.
This season Saint Mary's has more experience against Alma and will look towards returning starters Libby Wilhelm, Erin Sullivan, Jackie Zurcher and Marnie Walsh.
While the Belles have nearly every starter returning from last year, Alma likewise has their key players back this season. Alma boasts three players from last year's All MIAA-first team, including Erin Carson — who received the league MVP award.
Despite the challenge posed by Alma, Saint Mary's feels confident they can play competitively provided they start the game strong.
"In order to reach our goals on the season we are going to make adjustments to help us get prepared to have a better start in the first inning," Welsh said.
Saint Mary's will play at home this Saturday at 1 p.m.
Contact Steve Coyer at scoyer@nd.edu

Hate Crimes Vigil

Hatred paralyzes life; love releases it.
Hatred confuses life; love harmonizes it.
Hatred darkens life; love illumines it.
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929-1968)

Saturday, March 27th
Grotto
8:00 PM

Come give a tiny part of your evening in unity for peace

Light a candle for justice and forgiveness

Sponsored by Student Government

Write sports.
Call 1-4543.
Anyone interested in running for Off-Campus President, Off-Campus Senator, or Off-Campus Programmer needs to inform the Judicial Council immediately.

Contact:
Judicial Council
jcouncil@nd.edu
or
call 631-7668 asap.

INTERNATIONAL WORKING OPPORTUNITY

is seeking university graduates for a one year teaching position in Japan. Attractive salary, benefits and travel opportunities.

RECRUITING DATES: March 30 & 31, 2004
at Career and Placement Services

Japanese language skills NOT required

Open to all majors.

SIGN UPS NOW OPEN

The End

continued from page 28

praise for its resilience finally

triumphed. "We," the Irish coach smiled

half-heartedly after his team

lost 65-61, "rode those guys

hard." How else can you explain

what happened in the final

minute of Notre Dame's sea-

son-ending loss? You know,

where the Irish pulled to within

two with 46.8 seconds left but

placed the game in the hands

of their defense by deciding not

to foul? And when Oregon's all-

everything guard Luke Jackson

started driving toward the bas-

ket with 18 seconds left, it was

easy to start wondering if Brey

made the right call by trusting

his defense.

But Jackson's layup rolled off

the rim, and Torrian Jones
gave the Irish new life by

quickly grabbing the rebound

— then just as quickly kicked

them back into the grave by

throwing the

pass out of

bounds.

But the Irish

weren't done

yet. Jackson

went to the line

needing to

make two free-

throws to

clinch the

game. The first

one swished

through the net. The second

caromed off the rim, past

Colin Falls' outstretched hands

and right back into Jackson's

hands.

The Irish season was finally
dead. There could be no more

comeback — no more sec-

ond-chance tournaments; just

time for jerseys to be pulled

off the players the rest of the way. And

if one was off, the Irish were in
deep trouble.

Few could have expected that

the player who sparked so

much of the Irish success —

Thomas — played the final

games of the year with knees

so bad he went days without

being able to practice.

Fewer could have imagined

that Rick Cornett would emerge

to replace Francis in the low-

post, giving the Irish hope of

winning their first NIT title.

Brey loved to say throughout

the season that the Irish had

read their last rites time

after time. But no matter how

resilient the Irish may have

been, the priest always stood

by to read them again.

So when a controversial

charge call against Thomas

went in Oregon's favor, and

when Oregon went 8-for-10

from the field in a crucial sec-

ond-half explosion, the Irish

couldn't help but wonder if

their time was

finally up.

"You get to

ride a wave of a

game, and you

look for signs," Brey said.

"Those weren't
great signs. Those were
tough. We just

couldn't bounce

back. We didn't

have all those opportunities."
And NBA rules prohibit players want to do some formal thing." people would quit asking me if I was knew. I just wanted to get it out so season.

Brey decided not to foul from 60.01 with 48.9 seconds remaining. The Irish forced Oregon's Luke Jackson to miss, and Torrian Jones grabbed the rebound and tried to get the ball to Chris Thomas. But Jones threw it out of bounds.

"I was trying to get him the ball. He was coming to get open. There was some miscommunication," Jones said. "He thought he was getting held, but it was just carelessness with the ball. I should have held on to the ball a little longer and make sure he was open before I passed it."

Jones fouled Jackson, who made the first free throw and missed the second. But Oregon grabbed the rebound and iced the game — and Notre Dame's season — by making an additional free throw.

"We kind of folder there at the end," Thomas said. "We had our chances, but if I would have taken a couple less crazy shots, maybe that would have made up for the points."

Besides ending Notre Dame's season, the loss also kept the Irish from getting 20 wins for the first time since the 1998-99 campaign.

"It would have been nice to get that 20th win so we could have four in a row, but it's unfortunate," Thomas said.

"I think that would have been a really great achievement for our team to get that 20th win for what we've been through," he said.

Chris Thomas scored 18 points on 7-of-25 shooting Thursday.

Thomas announces he will return next year

By ANDREW SOUKUP
Senior Staff Writer

He made his decision nearly six weeks ago, but Chris Thomas didn't want many people to know about it. So the junior point guard who flirted with the NBA Draft as a sophomore waited until the eve of Notre Dame's final game of the season to tell the media that he decided to return to Notre Dame for his senior season.

"My teammates knew, my coach knew. I just wanted to get it out so people would quit asking me if I was coming back or not," Thomas said after Notre Dame's season-ending 65-61 loss to Oregon Wednesday. "I know a long time ago and I didn't want to do some formal thing."

Thomas had been plagued by knee problems for most of the year, would return for his senior season. And NBA rules prohibit players from declaring for the draft to test their status and then withdrawing more than once.

Brey said he thought Thomas wanted to help make an NCAA Tournament run next year as a major figure of a team that would include Chris Quinn, Torin Francis, Jordan Cornette and Dennis Latimore. And the chance to chase the first time since the 1998-99 campaign.

"That says a lot about the kid we're dealing with," Brey said. "He made a great decision last year to explore. I thought he made a great decision to go to Oregon. But Jones thowed that into play after Notre Dame's season — by making an additional free throw.

"We kind of folder there at the end," Thomas said. "We had our chances, but if I would have taken a couple less crazy shots, maybe that would have made up for the points."

Besides ending Notre Dame's season, the loss also kept the Irish from getting 20 wins for the first time since the 1998-99 campaign.

"It would have been nice to get that 20th win so we could have four in a row, but it's unfortunate," Thomas said.

"I think that would have been a really great achievement for our team to get that 20th win for what we've been through," he said.

Contact Andrew Soukup at asoukup@nd.edu

YOU DON'T NEED A PH.D TO UNDERSTAND “NO COMMISSIONS”

The math is pretty simple. Hidden charges, high fees, and sales commissions can erode the retirement savings you're working so hard to build. Contact us, a company known for giving direct, objective guidance and keeping costs low.

We'll show you how our principal approach to long-term investing can really add up.

TIAA-CREF.org or call 800-842-2776

Find out more about TIAA-CREF IRAs and our other tax-smart financial solutions.

TIAA-CREF

Managing money for people with other things to think about.

Contact Matt Lozar at mlozar@nd.edu
Notre Dame Women's Lacrosse

Friday, March 26 at 7:00pm

#3 Women's Lacrosse vs. Virginia Tech at Loftus Sports Center

- First 150 fans will receive a voucher to be redeemed upon exit for spaghetti and breadsticks sponsored by Fazoli's

Sunday, March 28 at 1:00pm

#3 Women's Lacrosse vs. Boston College at Moose Krause Stadium

- Brine Day! First 100 fans will receive a mini lacrosse stick!
- First 150 fans will receive free hot chocolate
- First 500 fans will receive a Krispy Kreme doughnut
- One lucky fan will win a year's supply of Krispy Kreme doughnuts!

Unlimited Minutes! Limited Time!

- Unlimited Incoming Minutes
- 1000 Outgoing Anytime Minutes
- Includes Nationwide Long Distance

NOW $29.95

Before there was me, there was only 1 month of 30 cents! Now it's

ONLY 399,95 PER MUNTH

- Add 300 Night & Weekend Minutes Only 49.95/min.
- Now with a 7 PM Start Time!

U.S. Cellular
AUTHORIZED AGENT

Low Rate Auto Loans!
(New or used: same rate)

GET YOUR CO-EX!
ALFRED & SEYMOUR

Week, Week end: 10% OFF

Monday: 10% OFF

Quality Diamonds

John M. Marshall's
Incorporated
1965
Jewelers / Gemologists
Goldsmiths / Platinumsmiths
Key Bank Building, Suite #101
South Bend, Indiana 46601
287-1427
BASEBALL

Mountaineers present first league challenge

By CHRIS FEDERICO
Senior Staff Writer

Now it's really time for the Irish to don the targets. This weekend No. 6 Notre Dame (14-3) travels to Morgantown, W. V., to kick off Big East Conference play and take on West Virginia (8-10).

As perennial conference front-runners and favorites to win the Big East title in 2004 as selected by the conference coaches, the Irish often present opponents a chance to make a big statement in the league.

Irish coach Paul Mainieri welcomes the early season expectations and the challenges his squad will likely receive in making a title run.

"I hope everybody is shooting at us, to be honest," Mainieri said. "That's the plan. The plan this year is to go out and win this thing."

The Irish will get a real test to open the conference schedule this weekend with the ever-dangerous Mountaineers.

Last year, West Virginia came into South Bend in early May and took two of three games. The Mountaineers proceeded to finish the Big East regular season 18-6 and claim second place in the standings — one spot ahead of the Irish who finished third with a 16-7 conference record.

"There are going to be some good teams we'll have to beat this year, starting with [West Virginia] this weekend," Mainieri said. "It doesn't take a long memory to remember them coming here and beating us in two out of three last year."

I think we have a team that can challenge for the title, but these Big East schools are never going to hand it to us," he said. "They have a little disadvantage for us, and they're going to give it everything they've got. ... We know we're going to have a battle this week, and we're looking forward to it.*

First, the Irish skipper is hoping his team can break out of the offensive struggles that have plagued them of late. Notre Dame started to get back on the right path Wednesday with a 16-6 win over Detroit, but problems still exist. Senior tri-captain Steve Sollmann is only batting .227 thusfar, and power-hitting first baseman Matt Edwards enters the weekend series with West Virginia mired in an 0-for-16 slump over the last four games.

"A couple of the guys are really struggling," Mainieri said. "Steve Sollmann and Matt Edwards — those are our guys, and our offense is going to go as they go. Both of them have not been swinging the bats the way I know they are capable of."

But Mainieri still has the utmost confidence in the abilities of his big hitters and believes they will turn it around very soon.

"But I'm not concerned at all about [the offensive struggles]. Everybody goes through these things," he said.

Contact Chris Federico at cfederic@nd.edu

---

Champs

continued from page 28

half of the rookie saber duo was not nearly as dynamic. Angela Vincent, who posted the most wins at saber during the regular season, struggled most of the day. She mustered only five wins and lost all six of her bouts against Ohio State, Penn State and Penn. Vincent, though, was the only Irish fencer to have a sub-par performance. The Irish received the usual sparkling efforts from seasoned veterans Alicja Kryczalo and Kerry Walton.

Kryczalo, in search of her third NCAA foil title in as many years, finished right behind Providence and Kryczalo with a 12-2 mark. Kryczalo and fellow foilist Andrea Ament — dubbed the "A-Team" — faced off against Hanna (5-2) before subduing the Mountaineers in the first round on their way to the Big East Tournament title.

But Mainieri wants to be sure his players remember what happened in their first meeting with West Virginia, as he is aware that any conference squad would love to upset the Irish in a big weekend series.

"I think we have a team that can challenge for the title, but these Big East schools are never going to hand it to us," he said. "They have a little disadvantage for us, and they're going to give it everything they've got. ... We know we're going to have a battle this week, and we're looking forward to it.*

First, the Irish skipper is hoping his team can break out of the offensive struggles that have plagued them of late. Notre Dame started to get back on the right path Wednesday with a 16-6 win over Detroit, but problems still exist. Senior tri-captain Steve Sollmann is only batting .227 thusfar, and power-hitting first baseman Matt Edwards enters the weekend series with West Virginia mired in an 0-for-16 slump over the last four games.

"A couple of the guys are really struggling," Mainieri said. "Steve Sollmann and Matt Edwards — those are our guys, and our offense is going to go as they go. Both of them have not been swinging the bats the way I know they are capable of."

But Mainieri still has the utmost confidence in the abilities of his big hitters and believes they will turn it around very soon.

"But I'm not concerned at all about [the offensive struggles]. Everybody goes through these things," he said.

Contact Chris Federico at cfederic@nd.edu
**DILBERT**

**WALLY IS IN THE MEN'S ROOM. I'VE ACCEPTED A POSITION AS HIS SEAT FILLER.**

**THIS IS THE PROUDEST DAY OF MY LIFE. I NEVER IMAGINED THAT MY CAREERS WOULD WORK OUT SO WELL.**

**I WANT TO SCREAM TO THE WORLD, 'LOOK AT ME NOW!'**

**FALSE ALARM. YOU'RE FIRED.**

BRETT CAMPBELL & DAN ZYCHINSKI

---

**SCOTT ADAMS**

**JUMBLE**

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

**VINEA**

**GOYGS**

**GUNTEO**

**VALERM**

She dumped the guitarist because she wanted to...

---

**FIVES**

Why William Shatner should never be a SportsCenter anchor:

And so... that's play
seals the game... as
Vanderbilt falls...
to the... 32 seeded UConn...

Conn...

**SCOTT ADAMS**

---

**CROSSWORD**

Across

35. Hobo-ky player
1. Phony
11. Endowment
15. Flat turnaround
18. Fraternal
32. Freestyler's place
27. Went slowly

Down

1. Complications
2. Cover made of silk
5. Ancient Greek state
4. Where pins are made
5. Really smart
6. Bird whose male mates the eggs
7. Memorial Day solo
8. Grant-
9. Filter
10. Colorful fish
11. Ship's spar
12. Volunteer's conclusion declaration
17. Lab offering?
22. 90s star, Scotland
24. "Yes, me!"
26. Frenetic chapter
27. Went slowly
28. I.U.S. code and cipher guru
29. Pack animal
30. Attires

---

**WILL SHORTZ**

**HOROSCOPE**

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Joan Crawford, Chaka Khan, Moses Malone, Elitch Finneran.

Happy Birthday! You'll be your own worst enemy this year if you try to push your will on others. Do your own thing, don't rely on what others can do. You have the know-how and the energy to do things yourself. Get it alone and you'll discover that it's much easier in the long run. Your success will be determined by your efforts. Your numbers: 2, 9, 18, 27, 36, 45

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Ask for favors, but don't take others for granted. Do not give donations if it will mean doing without necessities. You may have a financial problem with the bank.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Your emotional reaction may cloud issues. Don't make irreversible decisions. Your Reluctance to see your partner's position could make you the victim of a lonely heart.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) You will be extremely creative. Get involved in a project that will allow you to do what you want. Children can be a source of motivation if you spend time listening to their point of view.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) You will have to take care of those who can't do for themselves. Rewards for your actions will be granted. Financial matters, such as real estate and other real investments look good.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Your vitality is down. You are likely to catch minor ailments if you don't get enough rest. Limitations due to bad eating habits or finances at work are apparent.

PHOENIX (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) You must settle down. You will not be a problem to others. Make sure that your car is in good order and you'll discover that it's much easier in the long run. Your success will be determined by your efforts. Your numbers: 2, 9, 18, 27, 36, 45

---

THE OBSERVER

Published Monday through Friday, The Observer is a vital source of information on people and events in the Notre Dame and Saint Mary's Community.

Join the more than 13,000 readers who have found The Observer an indispensable link to the two campuses. Please complete the accompanying form and mail it today to receive The Observer in your home.

Make checks payable to:

and mail to:

The Observer
P.O. Box Q
Notre Dame, IN 46556

- Enclosed is $100 for one academic year
- Enclosed is $55 for one semester

Name ____________________________
Address ___________________________
City ___________________ State ______ Zip ______

Need advice? Try Eugenia's website at www.eugenialast.com
Irish duck out of NIT

Oregon’s Luke Jackson seals Notre Dame’s fate with late free throws

By MATT LOZAR
Sports Writer

Watching Oregon shoot better on 3-pointers than from the free throw line may surprise some people, but not Irish coach Mike Brey.

Brey knew coming into the game the Ducks were deadly from behind the arc, so their 10-of-20 performance Thursday night wasn’t unexpected.

The Irish couldn’t overcome that long distance shooting and lost 65-61 in the third round of the National Invitation Tournament.

“They really made some big 3-point shots,” Brey said. “A big concern was guarding the 3-point line. (Oregon) making 10 of them was too much to absorb. It’s not a fluke. They have a good offensive team and got in a rhythm to get us down nine.

They have the capability of making 5-of-7 3-pointers in one stretch, including three in a row. It’s not a fluke.”

Brey as too much to absorb. It’s not a fluke.

ers than from the free throw line may sur-

rhythm  to get us down nine.

so th eir 10-of-20 perfo rm­

prise some people, but not Irish coach Mike

Brey said. “A big concern was guarding the

National Invitation Tournament.

commitment to N D

Tuesday night.

Ted to the Irish on Jan. 25 but

ed defensive end verbally commit­

tio n,, though he m entioned

specifically on Baker’ s situa­

coach Tyrone Willingham.

B aker' s fath er, Jerry, said

“really conflicted.”

Baker waits months

Indianapolis player

renews on verbal

commitment to ND

By PAT LEONARD

Indianapolis player renews his commitment to Notre Dame.

Wednesday night, the Irish finally sput­

Arid Thursday night, the Irish finally sput­

see DUCKS/page 24

see THE END/page 23

see CHAMPS/page 26

FENCING

Women fencers take lead

Irish look to expand lead before men begin competition Sunday

By MATT MOONEY

As etiquette is a big part of fencing, it is appropriate that the NCAA Championships begin with the ladies first.

The top-ranked Notre Dame women took to the strip on Thursday as they opened the defense of their national title in the Gosman Center at Brandeis University in Waltham, Mass.

After the first four of seven round-robin rotations, the Irish are at the top of the team standings with 63 victories. Ohio State is right on their heels and only four points behind. Penn State lurks at third with 48 and Pennsylvania in fourth with 43 points. Perennial contender St. John’s, whose strength lies in its men’s team, is hiding its time with 25 points in eighth place.

Though the Irish have only a narrow 63-59 lead, Thursday was an intense day of competition in which the women competed against the best teams in attendance. The formidable lineup included No. 2 Ohio State, No. 3 Penn State and fourth-ranked Penn in all three weapons.

“These are so good even with now,” said saber Valerie Providenza.

Level of difficulty proved not to be an issue for Providenza. Participating in her first national championships, she blazed her way to a 13-1 record on the day. Her wins were by no means easy victories, as numerous times she faced the deciding point with a 4-3 deficit. But she showed poise and persevered to three 5-4 wins. Her only loss came at the hands of Penn State’s Sophia Line.

Head coach Janusz Bednarski was impressed.

“She was very good,” he said. “She had some problems at the beginning where she was very nervous. But bout by bout when she gets the confidence she started fencing extremely well.”

The Irish needed Providenza to have a big day because the other
Rob Globke and Aaron Gill lead the Irish in their first NCAA Tournament appearance.
Irish prepare to face defending-champion Minnesota

By JUSTIN SCHUVER
Assistant Sports Editor

Talk about your baptism by fire.

No. 4 seed Notre Dame (20-14-4) will face No. 1 seed Minnesota (26-13-3) in the first round of the NCAA Midwest Regional Saturday at noon in Van Andel Arena in Grand Rapids, Mich.

The Golden Gophers are two-time defending national champions and are making their third appearance in the tournament.

This is Notre Dame's first appearance.

"What better way to start," Irish coach Dave Poulin said. "We've been down this road before, and Poulin has not.

Dave Poulin has done an amazing job by coaching the Irish to a competitive level in the CCHA. His teams have made it to the Super Six three of the past four years, and this is their first NCAA appearance.

Don Lucia has coached the Golden Gophers to two consecutive national championships. Before coming to Minnesota, he helped to rebuild the Colorado College program.

The Golden Gophers have 16 players with 10 points or more this season. Thomas Vanek is a Hobey Baker finalist, and there are very few teams in the country that boast more depth that Minnesota has.

This one isn't even close. Minnesota has won 13 straight games, and it is on a roll that could carry it all the way to Edmonton.

Notre Dame's defense this season is led primarily from senior forwards Rob Globke and Aaron Gill. Sophomore Mike Walsh and freshman Jason Paige have contributed as well, but the Irish are one of the top teams in the country in terms of points per game.

The Irish are built on the CCHA's lead during the regular season in goals against average, and have shown an ability to shut down defensively-talented teams several times this season.

The Golden Gophers have a Hobey Baker candidate in Keith Ballard, but they're not quite as focused on defense as the Irish are. They allowed 2.9 goals per game to their opponents, while the Irish allow 2.6 goals per game.

Minnesota has one of the best power plays in the nation, connecting at a rate of 26.2 percent. Vanek and the rest of the Golden Gophers make a living scoring goals on the man-advantage. Their killing percentage is 85.0 percent, compared to Notre Dame's 2.5 goals allowed per game.

This matchup might be the key to the game. Notre Dame is 15th in the nation in goals scored per game, and it will have to protect the net against the Golden Gophers.

If the Irish are able to plug their defensive holes, they can pull off the upset. Notre Dame has three seniors on defense and experience is key in this kind of game. When goals are hard to come by, the Irish hold off their opponents.

Notre Dame wins this battle easily. Briggs is not a good goalie, and he is not doing his job to allow fewer goals than the Golden Gophers score. Whether it's a 2-1 win or a 4-3 win, Briggs is able to stop everything in sight.

The Irish have the "nothing to lose" mentality on their side, while Minnesota has to deal with the pressure of trying to three-peat. When it's all said and done, though, the Golden Gophers' experience in the NCAA's will give them the edge here.
Lords of the rink

Irish senior forwards Rob Globke and Aaron Gill pace the Notre Dame offense and provide veteran leadership

By JUSTIN SCHUVER
Associate Sport Editor

The date was Oct. 7, 2000. Notre Dame was playing its opening game against the University of Minnesota, in the Hall of Fame Classic at the brand-new Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul, Minn.

Aaron Gill and Rob Globke were two young freshman forwards on that team, whose first experience of Notre Dame hockey was to see their team fall to the Golden Gophers by a score of 7-3.

Fast forward four years, where Gill and Globke are senior leaders on this year's Irish and have a chance to do something that no Notre Dame has ever done — win an NCAA tournament game. It just so happens that opponent is the very same Minnesota Golden Gophers.

"I think it will be pretty neat to go up against Minnesota," Globke said. "It would be good to end their season after they gave us that loss the first time."

The No. 4 seed Irish travel to Grand Rapids, Mich., Saturday to face the No. 3 seed Golden Gophers in the first round of the NCAA Midwest Regional. Minnesota is the two-time defending national champion and currently has a 13-game postseason winning streak.

It's unlikely those numbers scare either Globke or Gill, who have no desire to end their Irish hockey careers in the same way they started.

The captain

The captain is supposed to be the team's leader, both on and off the ice. He's supposed to help the team through the hard times, and to be the guy everyone looks at to inspire the team when they're down.

Nowhere was that more obvious for Gill than in the CCHA Super Six game against Ohio State March 18. Although Notre Dame lost that game, 6-5 in overtime, it certainly wasn't because of any lack of hustle from Gill.

Gill scored a hat trick, just the second of his career, and also notched an assist on a four-point night for the Irish.

"You definitely have to be prepared well at this time of the year," Gill said. "Going into the tournament, you're not going to see much scoring. This time of the year you go into every game thinking that it could be your last game and I think that's the approach we want to have.

"You just want to go out there and give everything you have anytime you get that chance."

It's not very often that the Rochester, Minn., native doesn't give everything he has on the ice. Irish coach Dave Poulin uses Gill in nearly all situations, even-strength, short-handed and on the power play.

Poulin doesn't worry about playing Gill too often, because the forward is ranked second on the team in plus-minus with a plus-14.

"Our team's strength is defense, and that's including the forwards as well," Poulin said. "We need everyone on the ice to do their part if we're going to be successful.

Gill has been doing his part on the ice for a long time. He began playing hockey with the Rochester Youth Hockey Program when he was just five years old, and went on to become a star with the United State Hockey League's Rochester Mustangs for three seasons before coming to Notre Dame.

"Part of me wanting to come here was the school and the great traditions at Notre Dame," he said. "The other part was wanting to come to a younger hockey club and really help to build a program.

"One of my goals has always been to try and help the team achieve something that they hadn't done before and we finally did this year, which is great especially me and the other seniors."

As a freshman, Gill stepped in and was able to contribute to the Irish offense instantly. He ended up tied for third on that team in scoring along with Globke and current senior defenseman Brett Lebda.

Both Gill and Globke earned honorable-mention CCHA honors as a result of their performance in the 1999-2000 season.

Gill continued to be a model of consistency in his sophomore year, making the remarkable plays, like Globke, especially a champion.

"I just try to help the guys achieve whatever we want to achieve," Gill said of his captain's duties. "Sometimes we get tired mentally and hopefully I can help push some of those guys through those hard times."

"We've always said that whatever we have to give, it's worth it in the end, and I think this is the proof here going to the NCAA's."

The superstar

Whereas Gill is asked to help the team in all aspects of the game, Globke is asked to provide a spark. That's not to say Globke is allowed to just shirk his defensive responsibilities, but at the same time he's not asked to be the team's best all-around player.

"I think pretty much offense, in any shape or form, is my main role with the team," Globke said matter-of-factly.

Every team needs a player like Globke, especially a championship-caliber team. He is the kind of offensive presence that can take over a game and really provide a spark when the team needs one.

Globke is the kind of player who can score goals like the one he scored against Western Michigan on March 14, to send the Irish to the CCHA's second round against Ohio State. With the score 4-3 in favor of Notre Dame, Globke picked up a free puck and skated down the left side toward Western Michigan goalie Eric Mihm.

With one defender to beat, Globke made just a simple little hesitation move, that allowed him to quickly slide the puck over to the right side with his stick and whip it past both Marvin and the Bronze to win the game.

It was a simple move, yet a remarkable offensive play.

Globke has made a living of making the remarkable plays, and he has done so numerous times this season as well, leading the team in both scoring with 39 points and in goals with 19. He has seemed to especially rise to the occasion at clutch times this season, scoring a team-high five game-winning goals.

Those skills allowed Globke to achieve a piece of Irish history, becoming Notre Dame's highest-ever draft pick when he was selected by the Florida Panthers in the second round of the 2002 NHL Entry League Draft.

"It was awesome being able to go up there and get that [Florida] jersey on the podium," Globke said of his draft day experience. "Of all the great players that have come from here, to be the highest-drafted player ever is really just a great honor."

Globke's trip to Notre Dame followed a familiar course, as the West Bloomfield, Mich., native made a name for himself on the U.S. Under-18 National Team. The Irish have used the U.S. National Team as a pipeline in recent years, and Globke is one of eight players currently on the Notre Dame roster who came through the U.S. National Team program.

"There's more to life than just hockey, and this place has so much to offer besides athletics, so that was one big draw," said Globke of his decision to attend Notre Dame. "I also knew the coaches before I came here so I felt really comfortable around them and felt that it was a really good fit for me here."

Contact Justin Schuver at jschuver@nd.edu

IRISH INSIDER

IRISH INSIDER

IRISH INSIDER

IRISH INSIDER

IRISH INSIDER

IRISH INSIDER

SOFIA BALLON/The Observer

Rob Globke protects the puck from a Lake Superior State defenseman in Notre Dame's 5-3 win over the Lakers Nov. 21. Globke leads the team in scoring with 36 points.

IRISH INSIDER

IRISH INSIDER

IRISH INSIDER

IRISH INSIDER

IRISH INSIDER

IRISH INSIDER

SOFIA BALLON/The Observer

Senior captain Aaron Gill looks to pass the puck against Alaska Fairbanks in Notre Dame's 3-2 win over the Nanooks Jan. 30. Gill is currently second on the Irish in scoring with 36 points.

IRISH INSIDER

IRISH INSIDER

IRISH INSIDER

IRISH INSIDER

IRISH INSIDER

IRISH INSIDER

SOFIA BALLON/The Observer

ANDY KENNAUGH/Observer
Irish have proven naysayers wrong all season

If you've ever seen the movie "Major League II," then you know about Randy Quaid's minor-unceremonious role as a heckler named Johnny in the standby line. Whatever the Cleveland Indians do on the field, Johnny is convinced that they will eventually blow it in the season. "We just won the pennant," an excited Indian fan screams. "Who cares," Johnny says. "They'll just blow it in the playoffs." No matter what the Indians do, it's never enough for Johnny, who seems to enjoy heckling his team more than cheering for them. So what if Johnny were a Notre Dame hockey fan this season? "So we beat Western Ontario in a meaningless exhibition game," Johnny says. "So what? Let's see this team beat No. 1 Ohio State on the road in front of a crowd of screaming Buckeye fans." The Irish did just that, upsetting Ohio State in its home opener on Oct. 18 by a score of 5-2, giving Rory Walsh his first win as a Notre Dame goalie. Unfortunately, the Irish then lost their next game to the Buckeyes by a score of 3-1. "Ha, I told you so," Johnny says. "This team does nothing but choke. Just watch when they play Boston College. Then you'll see just how far those Irish have to go to play with the big boys.

Notre Dame not only showed they can compete with the big boys, but they showed they can win against them as well. Knocking off then-No. 1 Boston College 1-0 in the Golden Eagles' home opener. Goalie David Brown made 27 saves in the win. "So what," Johnny says after that game. "Boston College had a few key players injured, and the Irish aren't going to get that kind of goalfending in every big game. Wait until they play Maine over the Christmas break. Then you'll see. They've got the best mobile pair in the country in Jim Howard and Frank Boyle; there's no way the Irish can win that one." The Irish showed that they've got a pretty good pair of goalies themselves, using Morgan Cay in net as Notre Dame collected a 1-0 win over Maine on Dec. 28 at the firstever Great Lakes College Hockey Classic in Estero, Fla. "Fine, I guess even a blind squirrel finds a couple of acorns," Johnny says. "But just wait until they go on the road to Wisconsin later this January. The Badgers have one of the toughest environments in the whole country to play in at the Kohl Center in Madison. The Fighting Irish will be the Crying Irish when it's all over there." Against then-No. 4 Wisconsin, Notre Dame came away with a 2-2 tie and a 3-1 win. At this point, Johnny's getting a little frustrated. "Ha," he says. "It was a meaningless non-conference game for Wisconsin. They just didn't want to get any players hurt for the Western Collegiate Hockey Association season. Just wait until Notre Dame's last home series against Michigan. Those Wolverines will show the Irish how CCHA hockey is played!"

After all, Michigan was ranked No. 4 in the nation at the time, and was fighting with Miami of Ohio for that coveted first-place position in the CCHA. It would make sense to believe that the Irish would be lucky to come away with a tie against the mighty Wolverines that weekend of Feb. 27 and 28. The result? — Friday, Notre Dame 4, Michigan 1; Saturday, Notre Dame 5, Michigan 2. "Yeah, well Michigan was just looking ahead to Michigan State, their big in-state rival," Johnny says. "But that's beside the point. Michigan beat Notre Dame at everything, so I guess they figured they'd be nice and let the Irish have a few games on the ice. Just wait until the CCHA Super Six — they'll lose like they always do!"

Unfortunately, Johnny was right for once, as Notre Dame lost 6-5 in overtime against eventual CCHA champion Ohio State. The Irish controlled the flow of the game and had two separate two-goal leads, but simply were unable to hold off the charging Buckeyes. "Ha," Johnny says, in a rather good mood. "That ever ­time goal probably cost the Irish their chance at the NCAA's. Too bad, guess they'll just have to get their golfing equipment ready. And there's always next year." What Johnny didn't realize, though, is that all those times he was wrong earlier in the season allowed Notre Dame to just sneak into the NCAA tournament bracket, earning a chance to take on No. 1 seed and two-time defending national champion Minnesota this Saturday in Grand Rapids, Mich.

"Ha, you see," Johnny says. "Minnesota's the class of college hockey. Notre Dame's the little kid from whom bullies like Minnesota take lunch money. This one will be a blowout. I guarantee it. And believe me, even if they do get past the Golden Gophers, there's no way these Irish could ever win a national championship. No chance at all!"

To be continued ... Saturday.

The ideas and opinions expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Justin Schuer at jachueseredit.edu.

### THE NCAA TOURNAMENT

#### MIDWEST REGIONAL

**No. 1 Minnesota**
The two-time defending national champion have the depth to make it three in a row. **SUNDAY**
**No. 4 Notre Dame**
The Irish hope to go far in their first NCAA tournament appearance. **SATURDAY**
**No. 2 Minnesota-Duluth**
The Bulldogs would love a chance to take on their in-state rival in the second round. **SATURDAY**
**No. 3 Michigan State**
Forward Jim Slater and goalie Dominic Vicari have carried this team all year. **SATURDAY**

#### WEST REGIONAL

**No. 1 North Dakota**
The Fighting Sioux were the No. 1 team in our preseason poll a few years ago. **FRIDAY**
**No. 4 Holy Cross**
The Crusaders want to win the Atlantic Hockey championship to receive an NCAA bid. **SATURDAY**
**No. 2 Denver**
The Pioneers get a chance to play in front of their home fans. **FRIDAY**
**No. 3 Miami of Ohio**
They finished just one point behind Michigan in the final CCHA standings. **FRIDAY**

#### EAST REGIONAL

**No. 1 Maine**
The top team in the tournament, favored to win it all. **FRIDAY**
**No. 4 Harvard**
Underachieving Crimson could give Black Bears a scare in the first round. **SATURDAY**
**No. 2 Ohio State**
Have No. 3 Michigan State in sight and No. 6 North Dakota in the nets. **FRIDAY**
**No. 3 Wisconsin**
Badgers were upset by Alaska-Anchorage in first round of WCHA playoffs. **FRIDAY**

#### NORTHEAST REGIONAL

**No. 1 Boston College**
Eagles have struggled down the stretch, losing two of their last six games. **SATURDAY**
**No. 4 Niagara**
Purple Eagles need a win to be winning the College Hockey Atlantic Tournament. **SATURDAY**
**No. 2 Michigan**
CCHA respect, No. 1 seed gets to play New Hampshire in Manch ­ester. **SATURDAY**
**No. 3 New Hampshire**
Wildcats should have fan support on their side in the Northeast Regional.
Megan Duffy and Jacqueline Batteast return to the Sweet 16 hoping to lead the Irish to New Orleans for the Final Four
Penn State poses numerous challenges for Irish

By JOE HETTLER
Sports Writer

In Penn State’s second-round game against No. 8 seed Virginia Tech, Nittany Lion All-American Kelly Mazzante struggled, going just 4-of-16 from the field for nine points.

So All-American and two-time Big Ten Defensive Player of the Year Tanisha Wright and guard Jess Strom picked up the slack, combining for 45 points in the team’s 61-48 victory.

That game showed what kind of challenge Notre Dame faces tomorrow when it faces No. 1 seed Penn State for a championship game in the Elite Eight. The Nittany Lions have a core of talented players, so stopping just one or two is not enough to beat them.

“That’s the thing, you can’t just key on [Mazzante], even though she’s averaging 20 points a game,” Notre Dame coach Muffet McGraw said. “All four of their starters are capable of having a big night, so you can’t just concentrate on one player.”

Besides being an All-American, Mazzante is the back-to-back Big Ten player of the year and is the conference’s Defensive Player of the Year and is the conference’s Mazzante is the back-to-back Big Ten player of the year and is the conference’s defensive player of the year and is the conference’s Mazzante is the back-to-back Big Ten player of the year and is the conference’s defensive player of the year. She has also become an increasingly impressive defender, blocking three shots and swiping two steals against Middle Tennessee State.

“She’s really, really developed into a great defender and she’s now an intimidating presence in the lane,” McGraw said. “And that is so important for our defense, especially when we’re in the zone. People don’t feel like they can come in there and get off an easy shot. She’s really had a marked improvement in her defense.”

Notre Dame also got solid bench contributions from Jeneka Joyce and Crystal Erwin against the Blue Raiders. Joyce knocked down 3-of-3 3-pointers, while Erwin scored six points in 25 minutes.

“Even though her team will be underdogs for the first time this tournament, McGraw said the Irish are essentially ready for the challenges that await them in Hartford.

“We kind of feel like this is where we expected to be. We’re getting down to business and ready to go,” McGraw said. “I don’t think you saw a lot of celebrating after the (Middle Tennessee State) game. Last year after Kansas State we were so excited. We felt like we overachieved to get there as an 11 seed. As the five seed, we figure this is where we expected to be. Now let’s see if we can get one step further.”

Contact Joe Hettler at jhettler@nd.edu

---

COACHING

McGraw has now taken six of her last eight games to the next round and is one of just seven coaches to have reached the Final Four twice, including in 2001 when the Irish won the title. She knows how to push her team to the next level.

STYLE OF PLAY

Notre Dame relies on defense to stay in games and blunt opponents. The Irish used an effective 2-3 zone last game and totally shut down a MTSU team Batteast continues to be the main source of offense.

POST PLAYERS

The Nittany Lions score a lot and don’t allow a lot of points. They have one of the best defenders in the country in Wright and one of the best offensive threats in Mazzante. They play well on both ends of the court and will pose problems for the Irish.

PERIMETER PLAYERS

Penn State doesn’t use its post as much as it’s perimeter, but the Nittany Lions are still strong defensively with one of the best defensive threats in Mazzante. Wright will make her presence known.

BENCH

McGraw has the championship ring and Portland has the longest winning streak in the nation with 600 games won in her career. She has led her team to six conference championship games and 20 tournament appearances.

INTANGIBLES

McGraw has the championship ring and Portland has the longest winning streak in the nation with 600 games won in her career. She has led her team to six conference championship games and 20 tournament appearances.

The Irish need LaVere and Strom to step up big here. The Irish need LaVere and Strom to step up big here. The Irish need LaVere and Strom to step up big here. The Irish need LaVere and Strom to step up big here.

The Irish need LaVere and Strom to step up big here. The Irish need LaVere and Strom to step up big here. The Irish need LaVere and Strom to step up big here.

The Irish need LaVere and Strom to step up big here. The Irish need LaVere and Strom to step up big here. The Irish need LaVere and Strom to step up big here.

The Irish need LaVere and Strom to step up big here. The Irish need LaVere and Strom to step up big here. The Irish need LaVere and Strom to step up big here.

The Irish need LaVere and Strom to step up big here. The Irish need LaVere and Strom to step up big here. The Irish need LaVere and Strom to step up big here.

The Irish need LaVere and Strom to step up big here. The Irish need LaVere and Strom to step up big here. The Irish need LaVere and Strom to step up big here.

The Irish need LaVere and Strom to step up big here. The Irish need LaVere and Strom to step up big here. The Irish need LaVere and Strom to step up big here.

The Irish need LaVere and Strom to step up big here. The Irish need LaVere and Strom to step up big here. The Irish need LaVere and Strom to step up big here.

The Irish need LaVere and Strom to step up big here. The Irish need LaVere and Strom to step up big here. The Irish need LaVere and Strom to step up big here.

The Irish need LaVere and Strom to step up big here. The Irish need LaVere and Strom to step up big here. The Irish need LaVere and Strom to step up big here.

The Irish need LaVere and Strom to step up big here. The Irish need LaVere and Strom to step up big here. The Irish need LaVere and Strom to step up big here.

The Irish need LaVere and Strom to step up big here. The Irish need LaVere and Strom to step up big here. The Irish need LaVere and Strom to step up big here.

The Irish need LaVere and Strom to step up big here. The Irish need LaVere and Strom to step up big here. The Irish need LaVere and Strom to step up big here.

The Irish need LaVere and Strom to step up big here. The Irish need LaVere and Strom to step up big here. The Irish need LaVere and Strom to step up big here.

The Irish need LaVere and Strom to step up big here. The Irish need LaVere and Strom to step up big here. The Irish need LaVere and Strom to step up big here.

The Irish need LaVere and Strom to step up big here. The Irish need LaVere and Strom to step up big here. The Irish need LaVere and Strom to step up big here.

The Irish need LaVere and Strom to step up big here. The Irish need LaVere and Strom to step up big here. The Irish need LaVere and Strom to step up big here.

The Irish need LaVere and Strom to step up big here. The Irish need LaVere and Strom to step up big here. The Irish need LaVere and Strom to step up big here.

The Irish need LaVere and Strom to step up big here. The Irish need LaVere and Strom to step up big here. The Irish need LaVere and Strom to step up big here.

The Irish need LaVere and Strom to step up big here. The Irish need LaVere and Strom to step up big here. The Irish need LaVere and Strom to step up big here.

The Irish need LaVere and Strom to step up big here. The Irish need LaVere and Strom to step up big here. The Irish need LaVere and Strom to step up big here.

The Irish need LaVere and Strom to step up big here. The Irish need LaVere and Strom to step up big here. The Irish need LaVere and Strom to step up big here.

The Irish need LaVere and Strom to step up big here. The Irish need LaVere and Strom to step up big here. The Irish need LaVere and Strom to step up big here.

The Irish need LaVere and Strom to step up big here. The Irish need LaVere and Strom to step up big here. The Irish need LaVere and Strom to step up big here.

The Irish need LaVere and Strom to step up big here. The Irish need LaVere and Strom to step up big here. The Irish need LaVere and Strom to step up big here.

The Irish need LaVere and Strom to step up big here. The Irish need LaVere and Strom to step up big here. The Irish need LaVere and Strom to step up big here.
The dynamo duo, the Irish, have stepped up this season to lead the Irish. 

By HEATHER VAN HOEGARDEN 

Duffy has stepped up this season to lead the Irish.

"The first few days, I thought I'd come in, play a couple games and be okay," she said. "I was really adamant about going out, but I decided that I really liked having my family around, so I decided to stay here.

For me and Batteast, the decision, made without an official visit to campus, seems to be the right one so far.

When she came in as a freshman, Batteast was named the U.S. Basketball Writers Association's National Freshman of the Year. She was touted as the best freshman in the country.

"I thought it would be my best year," she said. "I was a little nervous. I didn't want to do anything and take a lot of pressure off me." 

But a prompt call from McGraw and the realization that she would be okay motivated Duffy to work hard to come back stronger.

After she was finally cleared by her doctors at home, she traveled to Dayton, Ohio, to receive a scholarship, "I was very proud of my family," she said. "They worked hard to get back [to Notre Dame]." 

Duffy and her teammates. 

"Duffy and her teammates, after six months, she was ready to play again.

"I was a lot longer than I thought I would be," she said. "I was even surprised that she was ready to come back so soon, so I have to be able to get on the floor, get loose balls."

Duffy has been unstoppable in her senior year. She has always been a key player for the Irish, but this year, she has been consistently outstanding for Batteast, it is simply her skill and talent. She has averaged her 15.4 points per game, 8.4 rebounds per game.

"I came in with confidence this year and I knew that one of the things I was lacking last year," Batteast said.

With her confidence, Batteast has led the Irish over their No. 4 Connecticut posting 23 points while missing just three shots. This week, she scored 27 points against Middle Tennessee State, taking the game over when the Irish were struggling.

"I can just let the game come to me," Batteast said.

Batteast was named Associated Press honorable mention All-American, and while she didn't let the pressure get to her in this year's tournament, she didn't forget last year either. "Last year was in the back of my head," Batteast said. "I was a little nervous too, but who cares?" But if you watch this tandem in games this season, something good is going to happen on the court together, it's hard to guess that they are good friends.

"She's unbelievable," Duffy said. "I catch myself sometimes just watching her. It just seems so easy for her out there.

And for Batteast, she is just glad to have someone else on the court to count on.

"It makes it a lot easier for me to have somebody else to go to score," Batteast said. "It has really helped with the pressure off." 

But if you watch this tandem on the court together, it's hard to guess that they are good friends.

"You wouldn't tell just from looking at us that we're friends," Batteast said. "But off the court we are."

But no matter what, this pair had something to prove, and they've done that so far this season.

Contact Heather Van Hoegarden at kvanhoeg@nd.edu

Stepping up

Jacqueline Batteast and Megan Duffy have lead the Notre Dame en route to its second straight Sweet 16.

Jacqueline Batteast drives against Middle Tennessee State in the second round of the NCAA Tournament Tuesday night.

Duffy and Batteast have been the star of the show for the Irish. 

"I'm not the most athletic kid you've ever seen, so I have to be able to get on the floor, get loose balls."

Duffy has looked to drive against Boston College Jan. 31. Duffy has stepped up this season to lead the Irish.

Megan Duffy looks to drive against Boston College Jan. 31.
Irish hit the road again for one last chance

Notre Dame enters entirely new territory this weekend. Gone are the friendly confines of the Joyce Center and a boisterous home crowd. Say goodbye to playing smaller conference foes like Southwest Missouri State and Middle Tennessee State. Adios to being the favorite in any game. A funny thing happens when you advance in the NCAA Tournament — the competition gets tougher. A lot tougher.

Notre Dame will experience this transition first hand when they battle No. 1 seed Penn State at noon Saturday in Hartford. If the Irish win, they'll likely face No. 2 seed Connecticut in overtime, before handling defeating Middle Tennessee State in the second round. But those teams aren't even close to the same caliber as the Nittany Lions or Huskies.

Penn State is 27-5 this season and has a veteran group of talented players that won 20 of their last 22 games. The Nittany Lions are the Big Ten champs and have all-time conference scoring leader Kelly Mazzante. And all five of Penn State's losses were against stiff competition. It's safe to say Penn State will surprise the country by knocking off No. 6 seed Arizona and No. 5 LSU in their first two games. The Nittany Lions are as confident as ever, and is getting contributions from just about everyone.

A year ago, Notre Dame surprised the country by knocking off No. 6 seed Arizona and No. 5 LSU in their first two games. The Nittany Lions were meant to prepare the Irish for March. So playing an outstanding team like Penn State, who will present as many, if not more, challenges than any game thus far this season.

A funny thing happens when you advance in the NCAA Tournament — the competition gets tougher. A lot tougher. Notre Dame has been impressed in the tournament so far. They defeated a pesky and determined Southwest Missouri State team in overtime, before handling defeating Middle Tennessee State in the second round. But those teams aren't even close to the same caliber as the Nittany Lions or Huskies.

Penn State is 27-5 this season and has a veteran group of talented players that won 20 of their last 22 games. The Nittany Lions are the Big Ten champs and have all-time conference scoring leader Kelly Mazzante. And all five of Penn State's losses were against stiff competition. It's safe to say Penn State will surprise the country by knocking off No. 6 seed Arizona and No. 5 LSU in their first two games. The Nittany Lions are as confident as ever, and is getting contributions from just about everyone.

A year ago, Notre Dame surprised the country by knocking off No. 6 seed Arizona and No. 5 LSU in their first two games. The Nittany Lions were meant to prepare the Irish for March. So playing an outstanding team like Penn State, who will present as many, if not more, challenges than any game thus far this season.

The Irish are as confident as ever, and is getting contributions from just about everyone. They'll need to keep that confidence level high for Penn State, who will present as many, if not more, challenges than any game thus far this season.

A year ago, Notre Dame surprised the country by knocking off No. 6 seed Arizona and No. 5 LSU in their first two games. The Nittany Lions were meant to prepare the Irish for March. So playing an outstanding team like Penn State, who will present as many, if not more, challenges than any game thus far this season.

A funny thing happens when you advance in the NCAA Tournament — the competition gets tougher. A lot tougher.

Notre Dame enters entirely new territory this weekend. Gone are the friendly confines of the Joyce Center and a boisterous home crowd. Say goodbye to playing smaller conference foes like Southwest Missouri State and Middle Tennessee State. Adios to being the favorite in any game. A funny thing happens when you advance in the NCAA Tournament — the competition gets tougher. A lot tougher.

Notre Dame will experience this transition first hand when they battle No. 1 seed Penn State at noon Saturday in Hartford. If the Irish win, they'll likely face No. 2 seed Connecticut in overtime, before handling defeating Middle Tennessee State in the second round. But those teams aren't even close to the same caliber as the Nittany Lions or Huskies.

Penn State is 27-5 this season and has a veteran group of talented players that won 20 of their last 22 games. The Nittany Lions are the Big Ten champs and have all-time conference scoring leader Kelly Mazzante. And all five of Penn State's losses were against stiff competition. It's safe to say Penn State will surprise the country by knocking off No. 6 seed Arizona and No. 5 LSU in their first two games. The Nittany Lions are as confident as ever, and is getting contributions from just about everyone.

A year ago, Notre Dame surprised the country by knocking off No. 6 seed Arizona and No. 5 LSU in their first two games. The Nittany Lions were meant to prepare the Irish for March. So playing an outstanding team like Penn State, who will present as many, if not more, challenges than any game thus far this season.

A funny thing happens when you advance in the NCAA Tournament — the competition gets tougher. A lot tougher.

Notre Dame enters entirely new territory this weekend. Gone are the friendly confines of the Joyce Center and a boisterous home crowd. Say goodbye to playing smaller conference foes like Southwest Missouri State and Middle Tennessee State. Adios to being the favorite in any game. A funny thing happens when you advance in the NCAA Tournament — the competition gets tougher. A lot tougher.

Notre Dame will experience this transition first hand when they battle No. 1 seed Penn State at noon Saturday in Hartford. If the Irish win, they'll likely face No. 2 seed Connecticut in overtime, before handling defeating Middle Tennessee State in the second round. But those teams aren't even close to the same caliber as the Nittany Lions or Huskies.

Penn State is 27-5 this season and has a veteran group of talented players that won 20 of their last 22 games. The Nittany Lions are the Big Ten champs and have all-time conference scoring leader Kelly Mazzante. And all five of Penn State's losses were against stiff competition. It's safe to say Penn State will surprise the country by knocking off No. 6 seed Arizona and No. 5 LSU in their first two games. The Nittany Lions are as confident as ever, and is getting contributions from just about everyone.

A year ago, Notre Dame surprised the country by knocking off No. 6 seed Arizona and No. 5 LSU in their first two games. The Nittany Lions were meant to prepare the Irish for March. So playing an outstanding team like Penn State, who will present as many, if not more, challenges than any game thus far this season.

A funny thing happens when you advance in the NCAA Tournament — the competition gets tougher. A lot tougher.

Notre Dame enters entirely new territory this weekend. Gone are the friendly confines of the Joyce Center and a boisterous home crowd. Say goodbye to playing smaller conference foes like Southwest Missouri State and Middle Tennessee State. Adios to being the favorite in any game. A funny thing happens when you advance in the NCAA Tournament — the competition gets tougher. A lot tougher.

Notre Dame will experience this transition first hand when they battle No. 1 seed Penn State at noon Saturday in Hartford. If the Irish win, they'll likely face No. 2 seed Connecticut in overtime, before handling defeating Middle Tennessee State in the second round. But those teams aren't even close to the same caliber as the Nittany Lions or Huskies.

Penn State is 27-5 this season and has a veteran group of talented players that won 20 of their last 22 games. The Nittany Lions are the Big Ten champs and have all-time conference scoring leader Kelly Mazzante. And all five of Penn State's losses were against stiff competition. It's safe to say Penn State will surprise the country by knocking off No. 6 seed Arizona and No. 5 LSU in their first two games. The Nittany Lions are as confident as ever, and is getting contributions from just about everyone.