ND student robbed at gunpoint

By AMANDA MICHAELS
News Writer

A Notre Dame student was robbed at gunpoint Thursday morning as he was trying to climb scaffolding that was being erected around the Golden Dome. 

The suspect, described as a black male in his late 20s to early 30s, was estimated to be six feet tall and weigh 180 pounds. He was wearing an unzipped black leather jacket with a gray T-shirt and a red baseball hat. 

After the student contacted NDSP, officers attempted to find the suspect. 

"We checked the area down by Notre Dame Avenue and alerted South Bend Police," Hurley said. "Nobody matched the description in that area." 

Hurley said there was no one in the area when the incident occurred and that the student was unsure if he could identify the suspect if he was asked to. 

NDSP has assigned a detective to the case, and he will meet with the student to develop a composite sketch of the suspect, Hurley said.

Leaders describe ideal new provost

By EILEEN DUFFY
Assistant News Editor

The search committee for the new provost, headed by University President-elect Father John Jenkins, has been meeting with various constituencies to find out what qualities they are looking for in Notre Dame's next academic leader. 

"Rather than prejudge the outcome, we want to find out what others think," philosophy professor and committee member Cornelius Delaney said. 

Senior faculty members have a great deal to say about their hopes for the new provost — regarding both his character and his vision for the University.

Character

When faculty members reflect on the qualities a provost ought to possess, they come up with a variety of responses. 

Keith Bradley, chair of the classics department, pointed immediately to academics when he described his ideal provost. 

"He or she must be an accomplished scholar who can set a standard for the rest of the faculty," Bradley said. "It's an area south of Edison where in Edison Road and associated with the University." Hurley said, adding that the provost ought to be truly "impirational." 

Others were more concerned with the provost's public presence. Dennis Donovan, chair of art, art history and design, said he hopes to see a new academic leader describe the sense of community on campus as truly the aura on the Saint Mary's campus Thursday as hundreds gathered to dedicate the new Student Center and Noble Family Dining Hall. 

Among those attending were students, faculty, staff, sisters, alumni, donors and the Board of Trustees. 

"The new Student Center is a wonderful addition to the campus," said Cornelius Delaney, chair of the provost search committee. "We are looking for a provost who has a variety of responses."

Senior faculty members have a great deal to say about their hopes for the new provost — regarding both his character and his vision for the University.
I climbed the Dome

I believe I am the only under­

graduate to climb the scaf­folding on the Dome to the top this year. That is, the only student with per­mission. First I had to sign my life away. I especially liked the part that said, "I hereby release, accept, and forever discharge the University... for any and all dam­ages, losses or injuries (INCLUD­ING DEATH)."

Our guide was Tony Polotto, sen­ior project manag­er for the University Architects. Ed Cohen and Matt Cashmore from The Notre Dame Magazine had requested this ascent to the top and I was lucky enough to come along with them. I considered myself mildly acropho­bic (afraid of heights) but the scaf­folding was very stable. With every few steps up the scaffolding stairs, the people on the ground became smaller and smaller until finally they looked like moving specks. I clung onto the railing with one hand and clutched my camera with the other.

At rooftop level we began to see the damage on the Main Building. Paint on the outside was flaking away. As I cautiously followed the others along the scaffolding walk­way I saw gold gleam in front of me and picked it up. It was a flake of gold leaf.

I suddenly felt like I understood the fervent obsession with gold that the forty-niners had. As we got closer to the top I began to pick up as much as I could and put it in my pocket. Polotto told us that only one bar of gold is used for all of the gilding on the dome and this amount of gold is valued at $109,000.

Once we reached Mary's base (she is 18 feet high) we had to start climbing little ladders and then awkwardly clamber over the railing to get to the top. The size of Mary's head is surprisingly huge. She has a lighting rod coming right out from the top of her head. On the day Mary was being stripped of her shimmering top layer because putting more gold on top would not fix the cracks and damage to the statue. Workers were coating the gold surface with paint stripper and then scraping it off. Clumps of gold were falling on the snake, speenmouthed in agony under Mary's foot.

It is an utterly breathtaking view from the top scaffolding level. The perfectly symmetrical crisscrosses of the scaffolding give way to the straight line of Notre Dame Avenue and the flat Indiana landscape beyond.

I think my favorite moment was looking over Mary's shoulder to see the campus from her point of view. Waching over us and protecting us, the part that said,"I hereby release, accept, and forever discharge the University... for any and all dam­ages, losses or injuries (INCLUD­ING DEATH)."

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

Contact Claire Kelley at ckelley@nd.edu

Corrections

The Observer regards itself as a professional publication and strives for the highest standards of journalism at all times. We do, however, recognize that we will make mistakes. If you have made a mistake, please contact us at 631-4561 so we can correct our error.

INSIDE COLUMN

OFFBEAT

NHL player opens own 'Daddy Day Care'

HARRISBURG, N.C. — Carolina Panther Mike Rucker is using his influence and wealth to make a difference in his community.

Rucker, a former University of Notre Dame hockey player, has opened the Ruckus House, a day-care center for underprivileged children in the Charlotte, N.C., area.

Rucker and his wife are the owners and operators of the facility, which provides a safe and nurturing environment for children in need. The Ruckus House is dedicated to providing educational and emotional support to children in their early years.

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"Webster" star causes ruckus speeding ticket

W AR W ICK, Ga. — A police officer was reprimanded for giving a speeding ticket to former child star Emmanuel Lewis after he was clocked driving 25 mph over the posted speed limit. Lewis, who starred in the '80s TV series "Webster," was clocked driving through town at 70 mph in a 45 mph zone last week. He was tow­ing a trailer loaded with a sport utility vehicle. He got off with a verbal warning.

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Student Center boasts a dozen new offices, high-tech theater

By MEGHAN DALEY
New Writer

Costing an estimated $17 million, the new Saint Mary's Student Center boasts a lot more space for students, clubs and offices as well as some new additions to campus, including a Cyber Café, a convenience store and a new theater.

The plans for the new center, drawn up by the Architecture Design Group of South Bend, began in 1998 and the structure was completed in two phases, starting with the new Noble Family Dining Hall and wrapping up this spring with the completion of the Student Center.

Offices in the center include Multicultural Affairs, the Office of Civic and Social Engagement, the Student Government Association, Sodexho Food Services, First Year Offices, Student Activities, the Blue Mante, The Observer and the Women’s Resource Center.

Shannon McManus, the Board of Governance’s Tri-Campus Commissioner, said she and other student government members are enjoying the new facilities.

"It is a real luxury to have the new meeting rooms — we no longer have to coordinate meeting times around other campus groups’ schedules," McManus said.

In the basement hall and across several large meeting rooms which can be partitioned into smaller spaces for groups of varying size.

The first floor has a spacious, well-furnished student lounge, which student activities director Georgeanna Rosenbush said "will be used differently than Haggar Parlor," the original student lounge. Haggar Parlor was used nearly daily for various College functions. Rosenbush said the new lounge will be "more available to students."

The new bi-level Shaheen bookstore, which moved to the new Student Center shortly after Easter, is estimated by manager Michael Illicks to have twice the size of the original setup. It was previously located in the Haggar College Center.

Thanks to the additional space, the Campus iStore, the official computer and cellular center at Saint Mary’s College, was moved out of the LeMans basement and into the new bookstore.

In addition to a larger bookstore, Saint Mary’s students have also been enjoying having a convenience store on campus.

"For students who do not have cars on campus, the convenience store is great for purchasing anything from Twinkies to laundry detergent," senior Kamille Peter said.

The new cyber café, replete with several desktop computers, is located next to the bookstore and offers typical coffee shop fare. Students have unlimited use of the Cyber Café’s computers. The entire building sports the “BelleAiré” wireless network, which is available to all students, faculty, and staff with a wireless enabled notebook computer.

Another new feature of the student center is the high tech Vander Vennet Theater which seats 100 people and has surround-sound technology.

"It is a real luxury to have the new meeting rooms."

Shannon McManus
tri-campus commissioner

The $17 million Saint Mary’s Student Center, the new home for the Shaheen bookstore, Cyber Café and student government offices, opened for use in March and was blessed in a ceremony Thursday. Hundreds, including students, faculty, donors and trustees, gathered for the event.

Building wins praise of current students, visiting prospects

By KELLY MAUS
New Writer

Since its opening last month, Saint Mary’s students, faculty and staff are finally settling into the new Student Center.

With the introduction of the new Cyber Café, theater, convenience store and offices for many of the clubs and organizations here on campus, the Student Center is becoming the center of student life at the College.

Sophomore Colleen Brunnagan said that what she likes most about the new Student Center is that "it provides students with a quiet place to study outside the library."

The new café was a convenient alternative to the dining hall and a great place to grab coffee in the mornings before heading to class, freshman Mary Frantz said. Although many students are pleased with the center as a whole, some students working inside the new facility, if they weren’t fully prepared for the demands of their new positions.

All Griimmer, a student employee at the Cyber Café, felt that "some of the student workers are being expected to accomplish more than they are able to," stemming from the fact that little training was offered to them before the café officially opened.

Despite these concerns, the facilities received many compliments from both students and non-students alike. This past Sunday during the College’s annual Spring Day on Campus, prospective students and their families were impressed by the new Student Center.

Maggie Sieffert, a tour guide for Sunday’s event, said she felt the building made the College more appealing to prospects.

"Visiting students thought the Student Center was a good asset to have on campus and that the café would be a great place to socialize and do homework," Sieffert said.

Contact Kelly Maus at kmaus01@saintmarys.edu

Contact Kelly Maus at kmaus01@saintmarys.edu
This weekend Notre Dame and Saint Mary's students will participate in Challenge Day, a program intended to reach out to youth with experimental workshops and discussions to help break down various diversity barriers that exist in groups and to discard social stereotypes.

Challenge Day was started in California in 1987 to help juvenile delinquents and has since won various awards for its ground-breaking programs. It has been featured in an Emmy award-winning documentary and the best-selling Chicken Soup for the Soul books.

From Friday night to Saturday evening, seven Notre Dame and three Saint Mary's students will travel to Ypsilanti, Mich, to help three Saint Mary's students will partake in a sequence of ice-breakers, group discussions and a speak-out session. These events help them to open their minds about others and to self-examine their own path and identity. They also raise awareness of social justice issues and problems that may arise in the students' lives.

"Challenge Day helps equip students with tools to deal with any problem going on at that time," Gass said.

Michael Anderson, a junior from Knott Hall who participated in the Challenge Day events last spring, said Challenge Day is a spark for people to open their minds to self-examination and examination of others.

"Challenge day was a wakeup call," he said. "That's the whole challenge aspect. It challenges you by confronting you with the reality that your life is not in a bubble, free of discrimination, rejection and a general lack of love.

Anderson said Challenge Day responds to your own inner conflict, not one of outside pressure — which is what makes the program unique. Gass said most activities and discussions can truly change a participant. Gass described several activities, including one game he calls "crossing the line." He said the game was "extremely moving.

"In it, students have to cross a line when a certain group such as race or religion is named. The game is meant to show how being part of certain groups can make you feel like you are on the inferior side of the line.

"Crossing the line forces you to in a moment examine your life and acknowledge the path both you've left and caused others," Anderson said. "It manages to make you feel like you are on the inferior side of the line."

"Challenge Day to the Notre Dame/South Bend community next year. He said he hopes various campus groups such as drug and alcohol groups, gender relations, women's groups and others that deal with social justice issues will contribute to the program and its funding to make it feasible.

"That way it will be 'Notre Dame on one' doing this," he said.

Gass also said he believes getting the local area school districts involved would help foster the relationships between Notre Dame and the surrounding community and counteract the "Notre Dame bubble effect" many students often mention.

Anderson said Challenge Day would be useful for not only the South Bend community but Notre Dame as well.

"Crossing the line is meant to show how being part of certain groups can make you feel like you are on the inferior side of the line."

"It manages to make you feel like you are on the inferior side of the line.

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**INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

**China, Japan to discuss dispute**

JAKARTA, Indonesia — China's president sidestepped discussion Thursday of his country's deepening dispute with Japan, which has suggested a meeting on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Summit to diffuse the crisis.

Massive anti-Japanese protests in China have erupted in recent weeks over World War II history, natural gas exploration and territorial disputes. Japan issued an apology for damages to its embassy and consulates, but the Chinese government has blamed Japan for the troubles.

The dispute threatens to overshadow a conference of Asian and African leaders, both which Chinese President Hu Jintao and Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi are attending.

**Canada apologizes for corruption**

TORONTO — Prime Minister Paul Martin apologized Thursday to the nation Thursday night for a corruption scandal that has shaken his Liberal Party, delivering a rare televised address aimed at rescuing his embattled government.

Acknowledging the allegations of money laundering and kickbacks have created an "unjustifiable mess," the embattled leader pledged to call an election within a month after an investigation; expected to be completed by Dec. 15.

"Those who are in power are to be held responsible, and that includes me," Martin said. "This is an albatross that has been around Canadians and prompted the opposition Conservative Party to threaten a no-confidence vote that could take down the government."

**National News**

**Air tanker crashes during training**

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — An air tanker designed to drop retardant during wildfires crashed on a training flight in a remote forest area the morning, killing all three pilots on board, federal officials said.

The cause was under investigation, said Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Don Dallard.

The tanker was set to begin fighting fires next month after earlier concerns grounded it and similar planes a year ago, federal officials said.

The crash site was a P-3 Orion tanker, went down Wednesday evening in a rugged area of the Lassen National Forest, about 120 miles north of Sacramento.

**Police fatally shoot murder suspect**

COLUMBUS, Ohio — A 78-year-old stroke victim was shot and killed Friday by police who said he was being shot at by his wife, who was also shot in a nursing home.

The man spoke English with an accent and was wearing a blue flight suit, indicating he was one of the three Bulgarian crew members. Two Fijian civilian security guards were also on board the flight.

The man also showed two charred bodies near the burning wreckage, about 12 miles north of Baghdad.

The authenticity of the video posted on a Web forum often used by militant groups, could not be confirmed by U.S. Embassy officials in Baghdad said he had no knowledge that any one on board survived the crash and was killed later.

The Islamic Army statement said it killed the survivor "in revenge for the Muslims who have been killed in cold blood in the mosques of tireless Fallujah before the eyes of the world and on television screens, without anyone condemning them."

**Iraq**

An Associated Press reporter who was accompanying a U.S. military unit who was in Fallujah said an unmarked vehicle was driving down the Russian-made helicopter carrying the 11 civilians on a commercial flight from Baghdad to Tikrit, the hometown of Saddam Hussein 100 miles north of the Iraqi capital.

The chartered flight was believed to be the first civilian aircraft shot down in Iraq since the U.S.-led invasion two years ago.

An Internet statement by a group identifying itself as the Islamic Army in Iraq was accompanied by a video that showed the repeated shooting down the man after he was forced to stand up and walk.

The video showed burning wreckage just before the shooting.

"One of the crew members was captured and killed," the statement said.

In the video, the man spoke English with an accent and was wearing a blue flight suit, indicating he was one of the three Bulgarian crew members. Two Fijian civilian security guards were also on board the flight.

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**Local News**

**'Star Wars' draws fans to Indiana**

INDIANAPOLIS — More than 30,000 "Star Wars" fans have gathered here for the largest official "Star Wars" convention ever.

Interest in the four-day "Celebration III" has been piqued by the May 19 release of "Star Wars: Episode III — Revenge of the Sith," the final film in George Lucas' prequel trilogy. Media outlets around the world have sent representatives, and downtown hotels are booked solid.

The convention is in Lucas' hometown, where he will Saturday make his first appearance at a fan convention since 1987.

**Producers charge alleged missile smuggler**

NEWARK, N.J. — A British businessman on trial for allegedly trying to smuggle a surface-to-air missile into the United States was "happy as a clam" as he talked to an informant about his role in the plot to destroy a civilian aircraft, a prosecutor charged Thursday.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Brian Howe said Hemant Lakhani, 69, "was no shrinking violet" in the money laundering and import smuggling ring.

Lakhani was charged with attempting to provide material support to terrorists, attempting to sell arms without a license, money laundering and import smuggling.

Lakhani faces up to 25 years in prison.

During the summation that lasted 90 minutes, he too was dead.

Lakhani has been involved in the drug trade.

**World & Nation**

**Compiled from The Observer's wire services**

Friday, April 22, 2005

page 5
Dome

continued from page 1

alerted to reports of people gaining access to the scaffolding at night. Lyphout said this prompted collaboration with NDSP to ensure "total diligence" concerning the site's safety.

Neither Hurley nor Lyphout was aware of any students being apprehended while climbing the structure, and Jeff Shoup, director of the Office of Residence Life and Housing, would neither confirm nor deny the existence of any such cases.

Shoup did, however, say that "climbing the scaffolding would be considered very serious."

According to on-duty officer George Heeter, the new installment consists of two NDSP officers posted in vehicles on either side of the quad-side Main Building steps, rotating shifts over a period of 10 hours starting when the construction workers leave each night at approximately 8 p.m. Officers began these shifts April 14.

Heeter said he assumed the service would last at least until summer break, but that no schedule of dates had been released.

Hurley refused to confirm any specific security detail information, citing official NDSP administrative policy. Lyphout said officials were undecided in regards to the watch's length.

The University concerns were perhaps well-founded, as tales of daredevils who escaped the eye of NDSP and ResLife to scale the scaffolding without a mark on their bodies — or permanent records — have been circulating around the student body.

One such student, who spoke to The Observer only on the condition of anonymity for fear of University repercussions, recounted his story.

"There was a small group of us, and we climbed the scaffolding at about nine or 10 at night. We climbed all the way to the Dome so that we could touch it," he said. "To me, it seemed like fun and it would be something I could enjoy looking back on after graduation. How many people can say they've touched the Dome?"

The student said he did not feel that what he did was particularly dangerous, but could understand the University's concern.

"I never felt myself in any danger, but if a drunk or careless student finds their way up there, it would be a totally different story," he said.

Though he realized in retrospect that the climbers were quite visible and punishment could be severe — and felt "almost certain" he would not attempt the climb again — he said the risk seemed worth it at the time.

"We could see downtown South Bend from up there and we got to actually touch the Dome," he said. "I got a huge adrenaline rush from sneaking all the way up and all the way down the scaffolding."

Contact Amanda Michaels at amichael@nd.edu

Clockwise from top left, NDSP guards the dome, Mary is hidden beneath the scaffolding and Mary's view.

PHOTOS BY CLAIRE KELLEY

Robbery

continued from page 1

said.

The student had $25-$30 in his wallet at the time, along with one credit card. Hurley said the card was cancelled right away.

"The student was shook up," he said.

Contact Heather Van Hoegarden at hvanhoeg@nd.edu

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Enron fraud trial set to begin next year

Founders Kenneth Lay faces 98 counts of fraud, conspiracy and insider trading

HOUSTON — Enron founder Kenneth Lay's trial on charges related to his personal banking will be held next year, a judge decided Friday.

Lay, who faces a separate trial on fraud and conspiracy charges scheduled to begin in January, is accused of trying to banks about his intention to use their loans to buy Enron stock on margin before the company crashed in December 2001.

Prosecutors had wanted the banking trial to begin as early as next month.

"The desire to try this case fairly outweighs expedience," U.S. District Judge Dan Sim Lake said.

The trial will go to trial within a "couple of hours" of the start of deliberations in the fraud and conspiracy case, Lake said. The fraud and conspiracy trial, which includes former Enron CEO Jeffrey Skilling and former top accountant Richard Causey, is expected to last several months.

Lake's late-afternoon hearing capped a busy day in the Houston courthouse involving Enron cases.

Earlier Thursday, two former Merrill Lynch & Co. executives were sentenced for their roles in a big accounting fraud at Enron that saw the energy giant's stock inflated by $652 million at the same time last year.

The Mountain View-based company said revenue totaled $1.26 billion, nearly doubling from $651.6 million at the same time last year.

"We do what whatever it takes to help Mr. Ellsworth access all of the files on the disc," Mary Osako said. She said Yahoo would deliver a paper copy of the contents of Ewell's e-mail account.

"It's a great comfort," Ellsworth told Detroit radio station WJR. 

"We maintain the confidentiality they had a responsibility to Justin to maintain the confidentiality they had promised him," Ellsworth said. "They approached us as a partner and worked with us to do the right thing." 

"He said, 'They approached us as a partner and worked with us to do the right thing.'" 

Yahoo's policy states accounts terminate at death, but John Ellsworth argued his son would have wanted him to have the account. The Marine told his dad that kind e-mails kept him going, and his family wanted to make a scrapbook out of them.

"They wanted to make a scrapbook out of them," Ellsworth said. "Maybe that's all he did." Ellsworth told the judge. "I'm not sure what I've got in front of me." 

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Provost

continued from page 1

speaker who is "articulate." Professor of electrical engineering Ken Sauer agreed.

"I think it's very important that both our president and our provost be people...who have a good public presence, who are very well-spoken and who will be able to put the best face of the institution to the rest of the world," Sauer said.

During the search committee's meeting with the College of Arts and Letters' college council, Doordan said a need was also expressed for someone who was sensitive to the needs of female and minority faculty members. Bradley also cited the importance of the provost's relationship with the faculty, saying it was important for the provost to gain their trust and confidence.

Physics professor John LoSecco also highlighted the importance of the provost's ability to form relationships.

"He/she must work well with the new president," he said. "It's essential that they are on the same page and have the same goals in mind, that there is a unified administration."

Allocating resources

Many professors expressed an interest in having more resources allocated toward their areas of interest. LoSecco emphasized the College of Science's interest in keeping the "momentum" going that Jordan Hall has started.

Doordan expressed similar sentiments.

"From my point of view, with the new [DeBartolo Performing Arts Center], Notre Dame's crossed a threshold, made a real commitment to the arts," Doordan said. "I don't want to see that momentum lost. I want to see the next provost committed to the visual and performing arts."

Bradley focused on the importance of liberal arts as a whole.

"One of the important things about Notre Dame is the high value it puts on liberal arts," he said. "I hope the new provost will maintain, at least, if not extend Notre Dame's educational commitment to liberal education and especially the humanities disciplines."

Sauer said the College of Engineering simply wants someone who recognizes the importance of engineering—not just in society, but also in the University itself, because of the college's small size. Chemistry professor Richard Taylor said he would like to see someone with "an appreciation for experimental sciences."

Balancing goals

Ultimately, though, it is the ability to balance these competing needs that sets a good provost apart.

Both Lewis and Richard Taylor, a chemistry professor, stressed the need to balance undergraduate education with graduate-level research.

"I think that both things are very important for a strong university," Lewis said. "But the way that both will really benefit is if there's a meaningful connection between the two."

Associate Dean of the Mendoza College of Business Bill Nichols expressed a desire for a provost who would keep with Notre Dame's traditional Catholic identity.

Taylor, though, emphasized the future along with the tradition.

"Some may say Notre Dame tends to look too much toward tradition and not enough toward evolution of the University," he said. "I want someone who is interested in projecting a strong vision for the future of the University, who looks equally toward the future as to the past."

That ability to look in many directions was also recognized by mathematics department chair Bill Dwyer.

"It's a matter of judgment," he said. "It's not obvious where resources should go. We need someone at the top who looks at the whole picture and makes judicious decisions and sometimes, bold and visionary decisions."

Contact Eileen Duffy at eduffy1@nd.edu

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Parking

continued from page 1

according to the University Architec t's office.

However, Johnson said that there will be plenty of parking available to campus visitors this weekend and in the fall.

"Parking just won't be south of the stadium," Johnson said. "There is also a shuttle south of the stadium," Johnson said. "There is also a shuttle that will run from White Field lot down to the library, just like on a typical football Saturday." Of difference between the Blue-Gold Game weekend and typical football Saturdays, however, is that traffic is usually one way in front of the Joyce Center, a change that will not occur for the Blue-Gold game.

"We will have additional officers to facilitate traffic as best we can, but there may be some extra buildup [because of two-way traffic]," Johnson said. Lots still open for parking are the Joyce Center lot, B2 Lot and D2 North Lot, as well as space near the Notre Dame Federal Credit Union and White Field North, Brown said. Additionally, Notre Dame Sports Properties has organized a fan festival from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Joyce Center parking lot, which is also usually filled with cars for football weekends.

"The fan festival is taking up some of the additional parking," Johnson said. According to the Sports Properties office, there will be interactive inflatable games for kids, a DJ and a performance by the Irish Dance Club. Chick-fil-A will be handing out free samples and Meijer and Chick-fil-A will be handing out dance by the Irish Dance Club.

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The new Student Center has been open to the public for just over a month and has quickly become the center of campus life. It houses a 98-seat theater, meeting rooms, student lounges, a Cyber Cafe, the bookstore and 1st Source Bank. Excitement has been mounting all week, highlighted by "themed bargain days" offered by the bookstore. These included country-western-Monday and rock-Tuesday, where discounts were given to students wearing themed clothing. 1st Source Bank, which is also located in the new Student Center, held a raffle in honor of the dedication.

Thursday's events began with tours and an open house in the new Student Center. Staff members said they were thrilled to have students and guests look around the new space. The day's festivities continued with a Mass of Thanksgiving held by Father Kenneth Molinaro in the Regina Hall Chapel.

At 5:15 p.m., the front courtyard of the Student Center was packed with community members for the ceremony and blessing of the new Student Center. Those in attendance included co-chair Carol Mooney, who directed the ceremony, Sodexho and many other sponsors.

"I think we exceeded students' expectations to a certain extent... 'Woo' is pretty much what we heard."

Linda Timm, vice president for Student Affairs, has seen the Student Center go from the very first visions to the finished product. She said she was overjoyed that the Student Center has only been open for a month and is already being utilized.

"Every time I walk by and see students studying, attending lectures or even sleeping in the lounge. I know it is being used exactly as it should be," Timm said. "I think we exceeded students expectations to a certain extent. 'Woo' is pretty much what we heard."

Many of the students are also thrilled with the opening.

"The building is an awesome addition to the campus," said freshman Amber Zila. "It is something everyone whether freshman or senior, living on or off campus, can use."

Contact Jen Mall at jmall01@saintmarys.edu

Center

continued from page 1

campus," said Sister Laurita Welsh, who attended the ceremony. "It is a central place that will bring everyone together. It is also a place for learning to continue outside the classroom whether it be through lectures or just talking with friends at a meal."

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**Traffic death rates hit record low**

Still overall number of traffic deaths increased, government says

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — There’s mixed evidence on highway fatalities for safety experts and auto groups engaged in a long-standing debate over reducing casualties on the nation’s roadways.

The highway fatality rate sank to a record low last year, the government estimated Thursday, but the overall number of traffic deaths increased slightly, leading the Bush administration to urge a national focus on seat belt use.

The number of deaths of motorists and drivers and passengers in sport utility vehicles and large trucks increased. Alcohol-related fatalities, meanwhile, were projected to decline for the second straight year.

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The data released Thursday are considered projections.

The government wants us to "be better" according to Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta, who said the nation "is in the midst of a national epidemic" and implored motorists to use their seat belts.

"If this many people were to die from any one disease in a sin­gle year, Americans would demand a vaccine," Mineta said. "The irony is we already have the best vaccine available to reduce the death toll on our high­ways — safety belts."

Fifty-six percent of those killed weren’t wearing seat belts, a rate unchanged from 2003.

NHTSA Administrator Jeffrey Runge said seat belt use is at 80 percent, an all-time high. But he added, "We could save thousands more lives each year if everyone buckled up."

The fatality rate dropped even as the total number of traffic deaths crept up because more drivers were on the road.

The fatality rate slid from 1.48 deaths per 100 million vehicle miles traveled in 2003 to 1.46 deaths in 2004. It was the lowest since records were first kept in 1966, when the rate was 5.3 deaths.

In 2004, the number of vehi­cles registered grew to 235.4 mil­lion from 230.8 million in 2003. Vehicles miles traveled increased slightly, from 2.89 trillion in 2003 to 2.92 trillion last year.

Jillian Gillan, vice pres­i­dent for the watchdog group Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety, called the results "bad news" for the American public.

"The government wants us to believe that even though more family members and friends were killed in crashes last year, things are really getting bet­ter because we spent more time driving," Gillan said. "The cold hard reality is that we are stuck in neutral."

The figures were released as Congress considers safety pro­grams in the pending federal highway bill. Runge has sought incentives for states with seat belt laws that let police stop motorists for failing to use belts, or states that reach 90 percent belt use for two years.

For those debating the safety of sport utility vehicles, the num­bers offered varying evidence. Deaths of drivers and pas­sengers in sport utility vehicles were projected to grow from 4,446 in 2003 to 4,666 last year, an increase of 4.9 percent. Rollover fatalities in these popular vehi­cles increased by 6.9 percent, to 2,823 last year.

SUV rollover injuries dropped 3 percent, from 67,000 in 2003 to 65,000 last year.

Supporters of the vehicles said there were roughly 10 percent more registered SUVs on the road in 2004 and the fatality rate for the vehicles has declined since the late 1990s. "Things are getting better as it relates to SUVs," said Ron DeVeire, spokesman for the Sport Utility Vehicle Owners of America.

The number of deaths dropped 2.4 percent for people in passen­ger cars and 2 percent for pickup trucks. Among large trucks, the number of people killed grew 3.7 percent.

Alcohol-related fatalities slid 2.1 percent last year, up 16.6 percent to 16,654. Wendy Hamilton, president of Mothers Against Drunk Driving, called the organization was "cau­tion­ously optimistic" but urged the nation "not to become compla­cent" about impaired driving.

Meanwhile, motorcycle fatali­ties rose for the seventh straight year, up 7.3 percent to 3,927. Former NHTSA Admini­istrator Joan Claybrook, who is now president of watchdog group Public Citizen, said the increase in motorcycle deaths was tied to "impaired driving.""The government wants us to believe that even though more family members and friends were killed in crashes last year, things are really getting bet­ter because we spent more time driving," Gillan said. "The cold hard reality is that we are stuck in neutral."

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U.S. teenagers abusing prescription narcotics

Associated Press

NEW YORK — About one in five teenagers have tried prescription painkillers such as Vicodin and OxyContin to get high, with the pill-popping members of "Generation Rx" often raiding their parents' medicine cabinets, according to a study by the Partnership for a Drug-Free America.

The 17th annual study on teen drug abuse, released Thursday, found that more teens had abused a prescription painkiller in 2004 than ecstasy, cocaine, crack or LSD. One in 11 teens had abused over-the-counter products such as cough medicine, according to members of "Generation Rx" for a Drug-Free America.

"For the first time, our national study finds that today's teens are more likely to have abused a prescription painkiller to get high than they are to have experimented with a variety of illegal drugs," said Partnership Chairman Roy Hustock. "In other words, Generation Rx often raiding their parents' medicine cabinets, according to a study by the Partnership for a Drug-Free America.

According to the study, the most popular prescription drug abused by teens was Vicodin, with 18 percent — or about 4.3 million youths — reporting they had used it to get high. OxyContin and drugs for attention-deficit disorder such as Ritalin/Adderall followed, with one in 10 teens reporting they had tried them.

Chat-room guard faces charges

Lawsuit claims AOL moderator seduced teenager for two years

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — America Online markets itself as a safe place for children, with parent-friendly features and a force of employees who monitor kids' chat rooms and watch out for adults prowling for younger.

But is AOL doing enough to monitor the monitors? That question is central to a lawsuit filed by a California teenager who claims a chat-room monitor tried to seduce her online.

The employee allegedly used his position to proposition the girl over two years, during which they exchanged graphic images, e-mails and phone calls — exactly the kind of scenario the man was hired to prevent.

AOL fired the man, Matthew D. Wright, and referred the case to the FBI and other law enforcement agencies, none of which pursued criminal charges. Attempts to locate Wright, listed in the lawsuit as a resident of Oklahoma, were unsuccessful.

The girl's lawsuit, filed April 1, is the first such claim made against an employee at AOL, or any other major Internet service provider, according to online child safety organizations and law enforcement agencies. It alleges negligence and false advertising and warns users when they post messages that participants post, and warns users when they cross the line with offensive or otherwise prohibited remarks. They can delete offending remarks, kick violators out of the chat room, even ban them from returning.

"AOL is a rarity — a major service provider that offers its own chat service, as well as one of the few online companies that have paid, full-time employees monitoring some chat rooms. The company markets its KOLs, or Kids Online, chat area as a safer online experience. It was inside one kids-only chat room where Wright, then 23, first contacted the then-15-year-old girl, who was living in Kern County, according to the lawsuit. She is now 19 and living in Los Angeles.

They grew close, according to the lawsuit, the girl gradually confiding in him about her parents' divorce and her troubles making friends. She and Wright were preparing to meet on her 17th birthday and have sex, the lawsuit said, when one of the monitor's co-workers became suspicious and blew the whistle.

AOL spokesman Nicholas Graham said monitors undergo rigorous screening, including drug testing and background checks, and receive specialized training for the area and age group they will be monitoring.

"That monitoring is itself active monitored and scrutinized by internal compliance and investigation teams with close, long-standing working relationships with both law enforcement and children's safety advocacy groups," Graham said. "The bottom line is, AOL's self-policing and self-monitoring efforts worked."

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The Observer

Friday, April 22, 2005

Blue-Gold Game a good start

Thousands of fans will watch a football game tomorrow in Notre Dame Stadium. And not one will care which team wins.

The Blue-Gold Game, kicking off at 1:35 p.m. Saturday, is a chance for the fans to quench their thirst for Irish football during the off-season. But this year there is a fresh feel surrounding the annual scrimmage that marks the end of spring practice. It's the first look at the Irish under new coach Charlie Weis, the 1975 Notre Dame alum expected to lead the football team back to national prominence. Whether he can get the Irish back in the championship race is yet to be determined. But one thing is for sure — Weis has energized a campus, a fan base and a tradition that has been relatively lethargic for the past decade.

Saturday, four Irish legends, Joe Montana, Chris Zorich, Joe Theismann and Tim Brown, are back as honorary coaches for the game. Weis might be considered a play-calling genius, but this is the smartest thing he's done since he flew to South Bend from New England. Having four of the best players in Irish football history around for the weekend, even if it's only for a ceremonial coaching role, can only help the program.

These four men know what it feels like to win at Notre Dame. At least four of that knowledge — and more importantly, that attitude — should rub off on the current team.

Football is the heartbeat of Notre Dame. And it's been more than 12 years since the blood pumped as it does now. There is a different feel around campus when the Irish are winning. There is a little more to celebrate at dorm parties and waking up for that 8:30 class doesn't seem so bad.

At least for Saturday, the campus heartbeat will be as strong as ever. There will be alums — actual and subway alike — grilling braaiwursts in the Joyce Center lots, students dusting off their Victory March CBs and ushers making sure their yellow jackets still fit. Amongst all this typical game day commotion, there is an optimism that hasn't been felt too long. A belief that Notre Dame is back on top.

It is July of 2004. The day slowly turns to dusk as I sit at the edge of the Gangas River in Rishikesh, India. Rishikesh claims to be the yoga capital of the world. Its famous visitors include four young British men who called themselves The Beatles. They came looking for enlightenment.

Determining whether or not they found it would demand a rather thorough analysis of late Beatles' recordings. If I had to venture a guess I would say George came closest, with Lennon not too far behind.

My thoughts are entwined with this sacred river not in search of enlightenment, but simply in hope of observing a ritual. I am one of less than a dozen obvious Westerners searching for a piece of the eternal amid a few hundred thousand Hindus at the edge of a sacred river.

More precisely, I am waiting for the evening puja ritual to begin. Brahmin priests prepare the grounds for singing, chanting, prayer and the ritual of lighted offerings into the river. As the large crowd waits for the main ritual to begin, a group of about 10 gather around a small candelabra of sorts with a young Brahmin priest. He leads the small circle in chants and, at certain points in the ritual, each devotee drops a small bit on incense onto the burning flames.

Vowing this all through eyes fixed by my Catholic upbringing, I imagine that the rising smoke symbolizes prayers traveling heavenward. Perhaps the sweet smell of incense gives the offering an aroma pleasing to the Lord.

As I ponder the similarities between Hinduism and the Catholic tradition the cell phone of a man on the far side of the circle begins to ring. I consider how embarrassing this would be for an American churchgoer. Most likely he would rush to step its ringing, turning red in the process. Perhaps he would walk away, answering it as he made his exit, the congregation silently critiquing his rude behavior.

The Hindu man in the circle of prayer merely neglects his phone and begins a conversation in Hindi. He talks for about five minutes, never moving from the circle. The ritual continues. He even stays somewhat involved, when able balancing the phone between himself, his shoulder and head and offering his incense to the flames. Maybe later, after his conversation complete, he turns the phone off and more actively engages the ritual around him. As with many things in India, no one else seems concerned with behavior that strikes me as quite inappropriate.

I hesitate to draw any conclusive sociological insight from a single isolated incident. At the same time, I mention this experience because one might find in it a glimpse of the deeper differences between the understanding of religion, ritual and every day life prevalent in India and Hinduism and that of much of the Western world. Ritual and religion are intertwined with everyday life in a way that differs dramatically from the West. One might contend this was not so clearly the case, years ago, when daily mass attendance was more prevalent and more homes held small altars to the Virgin Mary or some other beloved saint.

Yet I think there is something more at work in Hindu faith and popular piety. A religion that emphasizes the presence of the Divine around every corner can infused the world with a sense of the sacred that might appear foreign to our Western perception and its more transcendental frame of reference. In this blurring of distinction it should not surprise anyone that the profane and "secular" often find their way into ritual and religion in a way Westerners might deem unacceptable. Cows (themselves sacred) wander into temples, shrines spring up like wildflowers on the side of roads and shrines and statues on the phone while offering puja.

At the same time a grasp of the context and sacredness of Hinduism is, as the sacredness of creation, an essential part of the Hindu worldview. In my Catholic upbringing, I imagine Aquinas used these terms to describe these two realms: "God is in all things; not, indeed, as part of their essence, nor as an accident; but as an agent is present to that upon which it works." The Jesuit priest and poet Gerard Manley Hopkins celebrated that "the world is charged with the grandeur of God."

Rituals and liturgies imbue actions with meaning and with a deeper reality. Yet every action can be performed in a spirit of mediation and our vision can be refined to see the presence of God in the mundane elements of our world. Actions can center us as we follow the advice of the Bhagavad-Gita: "Whatever you do, eat or offer, whatever you do, do as an offering."

This is John Infranca's last column. He thanks those who have read his pieces over the past two years. He is leaving now. Goodbye. You can be contacted at jfranl@nd.edu. The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

John Wooden, former UCLA basketball coach, said a letter to the Editor at

www.ndsmcobserver.com

Quotation of the Day

"More concerned with your character than your reputation. What people think you are is relatively easy, while your reputation is merely what others think you are."
secularism," which ran in The conservative columnist George W ill wrote about Washington Rost this past Sunday, conser­vant you to have access to anything they country as a theocracy. These people media, that are seeking to remake this times. Christians led the civil rights move­there the incredible power that country's major charities. Many are influential by the day.

Indeed, I believe that Christianity has

America's best interest in mind, but allow me to cite a few facts from this January column, writing that there is a culture war raging throughout the USA and its implications. One of the "secular forces that see any Christian pub­lic display as an affront." Or ask House Majority Whip Tom DeLay, who wrote in a letter to the Traditional Values Coalition that "for the last 40 years, the anti­Christian Left in America has waged a sus­tained attack against faith in God, tradi­tional moral norms, the rule of law and the traditional marriage-based family." O' Bally and DeLay are right about one thing: There is undoubtedly a cultural war taking place in the United States, one that will have repercussions for genera­tions to come. It was not started by godless liberals, as they would have you believe. It was started by a group of extremists who want the world created in their image and who are becoming more influential by the day.

In this semester I have spent writing this column, I have been accused, in comments on dailypennsylvanian.com and in a fan 19 column by Jennifer Weiss, of being anti-Christian. That is not the case. Indeed, I believe that Christianity has often been a force for good in modern times. Christians led the civil rights move­ment, they are at the forefront of many of the country's major charities. Many are led by their faith to wonderful acts of kindness and compassion. I attended a Quaker school for 14 years, and I saw there the incredible power that Christianity can have to change the world for the better.

My problem is with the forces of evan­gelical Christianity, ever more prevalent in the highest levels of government and media, that are seeking to remake this country as a theocracy. These people don't want you to be able to live your life the way you want to lead it; they don't want you to have access to anything they personally disapprove of. They don't want your children to learn about evolution, and all too many of them don't want your children to learn that homosexuals might be people, too.

In a column entitled "Suicide by Secularism," which ran in The Wash­ington Post this past Sunday, conserv­ative columnist George Will wrote about how he perceives an increasing secu­larly that threatens the very survival of America and the country. "The challenge confronting the church ahead is one of persuading the world in one's terms," he wrote. "The church preaches that freedom is life lived in conformity to God's law is manifested in revelation and inter­preted by the church." Modernity teaches that freedom is the sovereignty of the individual's personal volition that is spontaneous, unconditional, inviolable and absolute. Punishing the innocent will hit the nail on the head. The "cul­ture war" being fought in the United States may resemble a series of uncon­nected battles over abortion rights, hom­osexual marriage and what we can or can't watch on television. But in the end, the fight comes down to two sides, and the choice is black and white. Eventually, we will all be asked to make the same choice the inhabitants of countries ruled by the church. Do we believe that we should be allowed to act as free people, or do we believe that a particular religion's interpretation of God's law should dictate our daily life?

Evidence that the war is raging is all around us. We can see it in our schools, where the scientific theory of evolution by natural selection, the veracity of which only a few fringe scientists dispute, is under attack by people who argue that in the interests of fairness and balance, the Christian story of creation must be taught as well. The creation stories of the thou­sands of other world religions are, of course, ignored. We can see it in our media, where a fight against indecency in broadcasting is slowly stripping us of the freedom to see even movies like "Saving Private Ryan" on TV because of the com­plaints of a small but active minority. We can see it in the new NBC miniseries "Revelations," which depicts scientists as dark, ominous forces seeking to take the life of an instrument of God whose phys­i­cal state is remarkably similar to Terri Schiavo's before her death.

This culture war has been1 and it is increasingly likely that it will not end until demand of this extremism. The decision is not. It is up to all of us to not retreat as our freedoms are taken away.

Culture war
underway in the U.S.

There's a battle going on for the soul of the United States, and the Left's view of this is that "for the last 40 years, the anti­Christian Left in America has waged a sus­tained attack against faith in God, tradi­tional moral norms, the rule of law and the traditional marriage-based family." O' Bally and DeLay are right about one thing: There is undoubtedly a cultural war taking place in the United States, one that will have repercussions for genera­tions to come. It was not started by godless liberals, as they would have you believe. It was started by a group of extremists who want the world created in their image and who are becoming more influential by the day.

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Anti-American,
or just anti-Bush?

It was reported in The Tennessean that six months ago Judge Barry Tatum, from Lebanon, Tenn., ordered to remove Berrera's child from her home, the language she speaks is not one of them. Parents have the right to raise their children in the manner that they feel is appropriate as long as this does not endanger the well-being and develop­ment of the child.

For that reason, the only cause to remove a child from a home should be an action that does endanger the wel­fare of the child.

Unfortunately, Tatum has crossed the line by ordering Berrera to learn English. It has not yet been decided in other courts if Berrera is guilty of neglect or abuse, and if that is the case then her child should be placed else­where.

If the court finds that she is not guilty of these acts then the language she speaks should not be the deciding factor.

There are many things people learn from their parents and extended fam­i­ly; family history and unique tradi­tions are some of them. Language is a part of the family history and tradi­tions, and a language other than English should not be looked upon as less important in the family teachings of a child.

The family heritage and support system is not something that should be taken lightly, and should always be considered when there is the possibil­ity of removing a child from a home. In many ways a child's identity is related to his or her upbringing and the influence of the child's family.

There are unique situations for fam­i­lies from various cultural back­grounds who move to the United States, but those situations could have a greater influence in creating a posi­tive outcome for the child than being taken from his or her home in order to be placed with a family that seems to better fit the mold.

In an English-speaking country, it would be con­sidered useful for a child to learn the lan­guage. However, that does not mean that English should be the only language the child speaks, or that the parents should be fluent in the language.

Forcing someone to either learn a new language or lose their child is not only unre­asonable to the parent, it is unfair for the child.

This column originally appeared on April 21 in Sidelines, the daily newspa­per of Middle State Tennessee University.

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

E-mail Sarah at Viewpoint.1@nd.edu
Bajawalla hits Battle of the Bands and Pigtostal

Notre Dame alumni Lawrence Santiago, David Miller, Peter Miller and Mike Miamone and junior Bobby Seus from Station One reform and head back to the stage with a new name.

By MOLLY GRIFFIN
Scene Writer

The lives of the members of Bajawalla have taken different directions since most of the primary members graduated, but they are reuniting for Notre Dame’s Battle of the Bands and a few other performances before they spend the summer touring Chicago.

The band’s upbeat performances and catchy songs made it a prominent figure on the campus music scene, and the band survived graduation, changes members and a range of monikers in order to return to perform this weekend.

Members of Bajawalla include vocalist Lawrence Santiago, guitarist David Miller, keyboardist Mike Miamone and bassist Bobby Seus. Justin Brandson will be joining the band for this weekend’s shows and for the summer. Lee Elsey will fill in as bassist for this weekend’s shows while Bobby Seus is studying abroad in Dublin.

The band formed in spring 2000 and has gone through a variety of names, including the Island Boys and Station One, and they won NAZZ in 2002. The band has changed lineups many times since then, and its current lineup was solidified in September 2003 when Bobby Seus joined the band.

The band took a break so that the members, many of whom had graduated, could pursue other things in their lives. Lawrence Santiago pursued a modeling and acting career and just finished work on “The New World” with Colin Farrell. Mike Maimone took a job with an accounting firm, and Dave Miller went on to pursue a Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry. Peter Miller went to medical school while Bobby Seus continued to study music at Notre Dame.

While they were all focused on their various careers this past year, they decided to reunite for the summer because, according to Peter Miller, “There was a void in all of our lives during this break — music. There was still a passion in all of us — pursuing music with full force and trying to make it. So we decided this is the summer to pursue our dream.”

The musicians are currently in the process of booking shows and continue to work promoting their shows and honing their performance skills.

Bajawalla has a distinct sound, somewhat reminiscent of surf music from California, and is not exactly the kind of music that you would expect to come out of Indiana. The variety of performers that influence the band might have something to do with this geographical anomaly.

“We have a very eclectic sound, drawing on influences from Bob Marley, Phish, Sublime, Ben Harper, punk, ska, bluegrass, blues, jazz, funk, reggae,” Dave Miller said. “Many people compare us to a fusion of Sublime, Maroon 5 and Ben Harper to name a few.”

Its songs, especially ones like “Cinderella,” are catchy and sound extremely polished and radio-ready. Bajawalla has an eclectic sound stemming from influences like Bob Marley, Phish, Sublime, Ben Harper, punk, ska, bluegrass, blues, jazz, funk and reggae.

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The band has played in many of the main South Bend venues, including Luna’s, the State Theatre, Rockers, Legends and Club 23. It typically draws somewhere between 100 and 250 people to its shows, and its members are all moving to the Chicago area for the summer in order to pursue music full time and to tour.

“I’m really excited that we’re really just jumping right into it because we haven’t played together in a long time,” Seus said. “I’m confident that we can do some great things.”

Downloads from the band’s first album “The Breaks” can be found on its Web site, located at www.bajawalla.com or www.isound.com/bajawalla.

The band has been advised by former executives and vice presidents from major record labels like Columbia, and has been encouraged by its mentors to continue playing and recording music.

Bajawalla will be performing at the Notre Dame Battle of the Bands on Friday, April 20 and at the Battle of the Bands on Friday, April 22.

“Many people compare us to a fusion of Sublime, Maroon 5 and Ben Harper to name a few.” Dave Miller said.

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Michael Tolcher covers diverse hits to Tag Team’s “Whoomp, There It Is”

By BOB COSTA
Scene Writer

Since the late 1970s, “Saturday Night Live” has been considered the progenitor of the current television show on which an up-and-coming artist can appear. But, if you ask many Notre Dame students, the real place to see them is on Fox’s “The O.C.,” which broadcast every Thursday. From Death Cab for Cutie to Modest Mouse to The Killers, “The O.C.” creator Josh Schwartz has been instrumental in building the momentum behind the recent indie rock resurgence through his television show.

“There’s been a resurgence of attention towards bands. Bands I have seen on ["The O.C."] I’ve seen more indie bands the past couple of years than I expected,” said senior Michael Tolcher, a music major.

Although he has never visited Notre Dame’s campus, Michael Tolcher feels there has been a trend in his mind.

A popular emerging singer-songwriter and lifelong fighting Irish fan, Tolcher excited about playing at Legend’s.

Irishpalooza

By BOB COSTA
Scene Writer

Since the late 1970s, “Saturday Night Live” has been considered the progenitor of the current television show on which an up-and-coming artist can appear. But, if you ask many Notre Dame students, the real place to see them is on Fox’s “The O.C.,” which broadcast every Thursday. From Death Cab for Cutie to Modest Mouse to The Killers, “The O.C.” creator Josh Schwartz has been instrumental in building the momentum behind the recent indie rock resurgence through his television show.

“One of the trendiest, hippest, up-and-coming artists is on Fox’s "The O.C."

I was an avid watcher of "The O.C."

One of the main things that I noticed about the show was the music. The band I’ve enjoyed seeing the most is The Walkmen, said freshman Phil Dre, an avid watcher of "The O.C."

As of the show, I’ve been seeing a lot of different bands, kind of out of the mainstream, and some bands like Them Crooked Vultures, The Killers, Death Cab for Cutie, and Modest Mouse

The Walkmen, who recently released their second album "Bows and Arrows,"
Ilcher discusses music and his love of Notre Dame
plays a unique brand of guitar-driven rock, blending world beat, hip-hop, soul and pop

Saturday evening as one of the headlining acts in the Student Union Board’s AnTastical concert.

"When I was growing up, I had all the interlocking-ND sweatshirts and hats," Ilcher said in an interview earlier this week. "Notre Dame was the place I always thought I'd go. I really identify with its community spirit and sense of spirituality."

Blending an infectious mix of southern rock, world beat, hip-hop and pop, Ilcher recently released his debut album, "I, Am," which has garnered a lot of college campuses around the country. The Shaw (Bob Dylan, Wyezer, Dashboard)

"When I was growing up, I had all the interlocking-ND sweatshirts and hats. I really identify with its community spirit and sense of spirituality."

Michael Ilcher singer-songwriter

"It's going to be a great party. I just want to help facilitate that vibe, join that vibe, and feel it myself. I hope to leave Notre Dame inspired."

Michael Ilcher singer-songwriter

The Walkmen will be playing at Legends tomorrow evening with co-headliners Ambulance LTD and Michael Ilcher. The show starts at 9 p.m.

The songs were first taken in the record completed in a short amount of time, "said Leithauser. The Walkmen took it upon themselves to make their own music, actually building a record studio in Harlem that they could use exclusively or rent out. Dubbed Marcata Recording, the studio is the place the band recorded its new album "Bows and Arrows" and its debut 2002 effort "Everyone Who Pretended to Like Me Is Gone."

When we did the first record, it was when we were just beginning to own Marcata studios since it was built right when the band was started," Leithauser said. "We didn't really know what we were doing and laid down some basic tracks. We didn't even play live at all.

All, "Everyone Who Pretended to Like Me Is Gone" featured tracks that were both moody and introspective with a sort of jaded edge in their cackling anthems. Songs such as "Wake Up," "We've Been to Together" and "Sonner Or Later" on TV, which is the theme song for ABC's "Life as We Know It."

"There are so many dimensions in my music, and I think mostly what people hear is hope — the describing of experiences and the wonders of life," Tolcher said. "My music embraces the ups and downs, the cycles of change, universes in the mind."

His debut album is hard to typecast, as Tolcher encapsulates his experiences into a sound that reaches beyond any specific genre, from his enthusiastic single "Mission Responsible," which challenges listeners to enlighten themselves, to the trip-hop bounciness of "Taxi Ride — Kinda Night. "I Am" is a vivid and bright release.

For the past two years, Michael Ilcher has been touring relentlessly, opening for Maroon 5, Gavin DeGraw, Hanson, Ingram Hill, The Funky Meters, George Clinton, Virginia Coalition, Sister Hazel, Hostie & the Blowfish and Collective Soul. Just this week, in the few days before he plays at Legends, Tolcher will have opened for Howie Day, My Chemical Romance and Fink.

The Walkmen's tour, comprised of Yeah Yeah Yeahs, Big Tiny on bass and Leffy Thompson on drums, has been together for over a year, and has won praise from many audiences for its ability to jam and segue from song to song during the live show.

"We've been together for about a year and a half, and we're down to a core group of four guys," Tolcher said. "With the four there is more power than with five, more balance...more solid. It's been cool because it's lived with each other. We're a fateful match, and pretty much came together out of nowhere."

Tolcher is known to cover a diverse array of tunes in concert, from Buffalo Springfield's "For What It's Worth" to Tag Team's early-1990s hit "Whoomp!" There It Is, which earned a raucous ovation for Tolcher at Muhlenberg College last week.

Notre Dame will surely be exposed to a montage of Tolcher's hip-hop and pop influences.

"It's going to be a great party. I just want to help facilitate that vibe, join that vibe, and feel it myself. I hope to leave Notre Dame inspired."

Contact Bob Costa at rcosta1@nd.edu

Ambulance LTD and Michael Ilcher.

Legends, the Irishpalooza set-up will be bigger than anything Legends has seen before this year.

Hamiton Leithauser singer-songwriter

"It was just a completely different world, and we were in the middle of a long tour, but hey, it paid really well and was lots of fun."
Thome ends his homer drought and Lieber delivers solid pitching

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — With one swing, Jim Thome unloaded Summer Camp Jobs! Work with another efficient and effective going to the Rockies. The Phillies won, 9-3.

Thome ended his season-long homer drought to back another solid outing from Lieber, who became the major league first-game winner in the Philadelphia Phillies' victory over the Colorado Rockies.

"It's always nice to get going," Thome said. With Thome slugging, Lieber cruising and Billy Wagner finishing, it was exactly how the Phillies expected to start.

Lieber said he's improved his game with each start.

"I'm just getting the ball every fifth game and trying to help us win a ballgame," said Lieber, whose answers are as expeditious as his innings.

Lieber, who earned a $21 million, three-year contract in December, gave up nine hits but struck out only one in eight innings. It was his second straight solid start and his first in which he didn't walk anyone.

A 20-game winner with Chicago in 2001, Lieber has delivered for the Phillies in his return to the National League. He's the first Philadelphia pitcher to win his first four starts of the year since Dennis Eckersley in 1990 and pitched at least eight innings in his last three starts.

Cardinals 4, Cubs 0

Crawford hit a two-run homer against the Chicago Cubs since the start of the 2004 season. Apparently, familiarity isn't helping the

"It's all about pitching," Carpenter said after throwing a seven-hitter in the St. Louis Cardinals' victory. "Hitting is the easy part when you aren't in the zone and keep people off balance, you're going to have success."

Scott Rolen homered, hit his 300th career double and had three RBIs for St. Louis. Rolen, the cleanup batter most of the season, was shifted down in the order for the second time, and his big day raised his average to just over .228.

"My last at-bat was able to relax a little bit," Rolen said. "Not until you relax do you realize how much you're pressing."

The Cardinals, who broke open a one-run game in the eighth inning on homers by Larry Walker and Rollie, are 32-10 at home against the Cubs during the last six seasons and denied them a sweep of a two-game set.

Chicago, which learned before the game that shortstop Nomar Garciaparra was out for three months because of a torn groin, hasn't swept a St. Louis since 1999.

"That's tough for us, regardless of what he's hitting," pitcher Ryan Dempster said of Garciaparra's injury. "Anytime you lose a guy like that, it's going to hurt you a little."

Carpenter (3-1) struck out six and walked one in his sixth start against the Devil Rays. He allowed two runs and four hits in 6 1-3 innings. He struck out four.

"I'm still learning," he said. "I've still got some things to work on. But I'm happy with the way I pitched.

"I'm feeling better. I'm making progress."

Rangers 2, Devil Rays 1

Rogers fell to 8-2 in 11 career starts against the Devil Rays.

Rogers worked out of a bases loaded third-inning jam twice.

Devil Rays' 3, Rangers 2

Rogers pitched through the first five innings, allowing only one run, before the Rangers loaded the bases with one out in the sixth.

...gave up three runs and four hits in 6 1-3 innings.

Rogers fell to 8-2 in 11 career starts against the Devil Rays.

Gomes at third. Hall then scored on Toby Hall's groundout in the Tampa Bay

Tampa Bay scored twice in the 10th inning that lifted the Devil Rays' 3, Rangers 2

The Rangers tied it at 2-all on Jason Bartlett doubled with one out in the eighth, but Rivas threw out Brown at home.

Rogers then walked Carlos Lee, bringing home the go-ahead run.)

Phillies' starting pitcher Jon Lieber throws a pitch in a game against the Rockies. The Phillies won, 9-3.
Rowers will take on Ivy League teams in regatta

By KYLE CASSITY
Sports Writer

Springtime along the Charles River in Boston — normally punctuated by cries from nearby Fenway Park — will be interrupt­ed by the crews of Notre Dame, Harvard and Yale this weekend.

The Irish women’s crew team will travel to Massachusetts to face off in the regatta along the Charles before heading south to nearby Worcester for the Big East Championships. Both regatta's will present the Irish women with some of their toughest com­petition of the season.

At the prestigious Ivy League schools of Harvard and Yale, rowing has been a tradition that was established decades prior to the formation of many other var­ieties. But history and past accolades do not scare Irish coach Martin Stone.

Stone and his team will cruise into New England expecting to emerge with victories over the Ivies and the best the Big East has to offer. His confidence in his team prevails any doubt of defeat to present itself.

“We are Notre Dame,” Stone said. “We are expecting to race the best. Just like our football team when it goes to face USC, we go to win no matter who we are playing.”

Currently, the unranked Irish varsity eight is fighting for its NCAA-eligible life. A victory over Harvard and Yale followed by a Big East Championship would place the Irish in a stronger position in the committ­ees’s eyes leading up to the Central Regionals.

This year is the first year that the Big East organization will host a true championship. The league first organized what it called a “Challenge” five years ago. Syracuse emerged victorious for the first three years that the Challenge was held, with the Irish finishing in second each time. But last year the Irish head­ed east to knock Syracuse off its pedestal and succeeded. The Big East Challenge victory was one of many wins that year that prop­elled the varsity eight into the NCAA's.

With the first Big East Championship looming, Syracuse is yet again the major threat to an Irish victory. The Orangemen are ranked 16th nationally and seem to garner their fourth Big East title in five years.

Stone feels with a victory over Syracuse, his varsity eight will be able to push its way back into the top-20 national rankings, yet another Kevin Hardy goal towards an NCAA bid. And it will all begin on Saturday if the Irish women can handle the storied Crimson on their home river.

Contact Kyle Cassity at kcassily@nd.edu

ND WOMEN’S CREW

The Observer • SPORTS

BELLES SNAP FOUR-GAME SKID

Bethel College falls to Saint Mary’s in close 5-4 matchup

By TIM DOUGHERTY
Sports Writer

After an agonizing two weeks of losses against a brutal confer­ence schedule of the best the MIAA had to offer — Hope, Kalamazoo, Albion and Calvin — the Belles looked outside their conference Thursday for a victory to lift their confidence.

They snapped their four-game skid by defeating Bethel College 5-4 despite the absence of two regulars.

Freshman Cassie Quaglia and sophomore Armene Gavoor replaced junior co-captain and No. 1 singles, Kristen Palombo and sophomore No. 6 singles Mary Beth Pavela, who missed the match due to late exposure. Up 4-1 in the third set, Quaglia proved effective in her No. 6 singles match against Bethel — was critical for the match.

“Cassie did really well. She really hung with it. That was really awesome because she’s never played that competitive a match before. She didn’t let her nerves get to her when she started getting down.”

In Palombo’s absence, sopho­more Calle McDavitt and Calle Malech dominated No. 1 doubles with a 9-0 showing.

Palombo said the long overdue victory — their third in three years against Bethel — was critical for the team as a whole.

“Everyone felt a lot more relieved and felt ‘oh, we can do this now.’”

Kristin Palombo
Belles co-captain

Belles co-captain Kristin Palombo holds the same expectations as she did for the match against Bethel, as the three-time defending tournament champions are again look­ing to their second consecutive non-conference match to steer them back towards a solid tour­nament showing.

“We’re really excited to get some confidence back and get on a good roll going into the (MIAA) tournament next weekend,” she said.

Contact Tim Dougherty at tdougherty@nd.edu

SMC TENNIS

Quaglia also won her No. 6 singles match with veteran com­posure. Up 4-1 in the third set, Quaglia lost four straight points to fall behind 5-4, but, unfazed by the sudden m o m e n t u m swing, she quick­ly recovered to take the next and final two points for the match.

“Cassie did really well;” Palombo said. “She really hung with it. That was really awesome because she’s never played that competitive a match before. She didn’t let her nerves get to her when she started getting down.”

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Irish host Big East tourney

By KEN FOWLER
Sports Writer

For the Irish, this weekend's Big East Championship is a time to play the role of selfish host. Sure, they'll be cordial to the competition, but head coach Jim Kubinski wants the team to run away from its opponents as fast as possible.

"Our goal is going to be to try and get off to a fast start," he said. "Whenever you're the top seed, if you get off to a fast start, you can take away from the other team's confidence." After a dismal showing at the Aggie Invitational in College Station, Texas, the team returns home to the Warren Golf Course this weekend to host its most important tournament of the season.

"I think we've got plenty of momentum coming off this spring we've had," Kubinski said. "(The Aggie Invitational) was just a bump in the road." Despite Notre Dame's last-place showing in Texas, Kubinski said the defending champions head into the tournament "confident and upbeat" as the heavy favorite and No. 1 seed.

The Irish have three golfers competing this year who made all-conference honors last year — sophomore Cole Ishan and juniors Mark Baldwin and Eric Devore. The trio's play will be pivotal to Notre Dame's success.

Ishan tied for third individual after a seven-under 67. Freshman Mike King and junior Scott Gustafson will join their teammates for the 54-hole tournament.

Golfstat ranks the Irish at 52 in the country — one of the highest rankings in school history. In fact, Notre Dame earned three votes in the most recent GCAA/Biggestone Coaches' Poll — the first time an Irish team has ever earned votes in the poll.

Of the five other teams in the Big East, Rutgers owns the best Big East ranking at No. 117. The Scarlet Knights won four tournaments this fall and placed second in another. Rutgers' senior Brett Pettman leads the Big East in scoring average at 72.67 shots per round.

Georgetown (No. 3 seed), St. John's (No. 4), Boston College (No. 5) and Villanova (No. 6) comprise the rest of the field.

The winner of the tournament receives an automatic bid into one of the three NCAA Regionals. The Southeast Regional will host the East Regional at the Golf Club of Tennessee, while Notre Dame will host the Central Regional at Carolinas Country Club and Washburn will host the West Regional at the Stanford Golf Course. Each Regional will take place from Thursday, May 19, through Saturday, May 21.

If the Irish want to play on their own course, they may have to win this week. A strong spring season that included a victory at the Nokia Sugar Bowl/Falune Invitational may propel the Irish into the Regional field if they do not defend their title, but a victory this week would take any doubt the team would have.

That's also part of the reason Coach Kubinski wants the team to get out to a fast start. "With rain, snow and wind in the forecast for the weekend, he wants his team to be ahead wire-to-wire in the event that the tournament is stopped and shortened.

"If they shorten the even from 54 holes — if you're trailing at that point, you're out of luck," he said. "If the tournament goes according to schedule and actually lasts the scheduled three rounds, two will be played on Saturday and one on Sunday.

Irish golfers are slated to tee off between 8:00 and 9:30 a.m. each morning.

Notes:

♦ Both the men's and women's championships are this weekend at Warren. The Big East rotates which tournament tees off from the first tee and which tees off from the last tee.

♦ The Irish beat Virginia Tech by six strokes last year to cinch the ACC title. The Hokies will defend their title, but a victory this week would take any doubt the team would have.

♦ The Irish will host the Central Regional at Carolinas Country Club.

Contact Ken Fowler at kfowler@nd.edu

MLB

Angels rally to defeat Indians in 6-5 victory

Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Orlando Cabrera homered leading off the bottom of the 10th inning to cap the Los Angeles Angels' rally from a 5-0 deficit to win 6-5 over the Cleveland Indians on Thursday night.

Cabrera hit a 3-1 pitch into the lower seats in the left field corner against Jason Davis (1-1), the seventh Cleveland pitcher.

Francisco Rodriguez (1-0) pitched a perfect 10th inning for the victory.

The Angels tied the game at 5 on Garrett Anderson's bloop single to center off Bob Wickman with two outs in the ninth. Darin Erstad walked and was sacrificed to second by Juan Rivera before Vladimir Guerrero singled to right.

The blown save was Wickman's second in six tries. The Indians fell 6-5 after a two-out, three-run double by Jose Hernandez in the first and a two-run homer by Ronnie Belliard off Jarrod Washburn.

Cleveland starter Kevin Millwood gave up three runs and eight hits in 5 1-3 innings, struck out five and walked two. The Indians have lost all four of Millwood's starts.

Washburn gave up five runs and 10 hits in five innings and struck out five. The left-hander has had a no-decision in each of his four starts — all of them coming in extra inning games.

The Indians had 13 hits, just their third game this season with 10 or more. They had been limited to four hits or less three times in their first 13 games.

Jose Molina's RBI single off Bob Howry cut the Angels' deficit to 5-4 in the eighth.
The Chicago Cubs’ Nomar Garciaparra is helped off the field after pulling a groin muscle during an at-bat Wednesday night. The shortstop is expected to be out 2-3 months.

Garciaparra out 2-3 months with injury

St. Louis — Chicago Cubs shortstop Nomar Garciaparra will be sidelined at least two to three months because of a torn left groin.

Garciaparra was placed on the 15-day disabled list Thursday, one day after he hurt himself while leaving the batter’s box during a game against St. Louis. Cubs trainer Mark O’Neal said the muscle pulled away from the bone.

The Cubs, doctors and Garciaparra will decide in the next 10 days whether an operation is needed.

"The surgery is really going to be determined by is it something that Nomar wants to do," O’Neal said. "We’re trying to make a determination of what would be the most predictable outcome."

If Garciaparra opts for surgery, O’Neal said the procedure should be done fairly soon so the muscle heals properly.

The Cubs, who lost 4-0 to the Cardinals on Thursday without either of their opening-day outfielders, recalled Ronny Cedeno from Triple-A Iowa. Cedeno was batting .348 with three home runs and six RBIs in 13 games in the minors.

"It’s a setback," manager Dusty Baker said. "We don’t know yet what is going to happen. We’ll have to wait and see."

Garciaparra was carried off the field after collapsing into a double play and collapsing just in front of the batter’s box in the third inning. Garciaparra is hitting just .157 with four RBIs.

Cubs second baseman Todd Walker also is out, perhaps until June, with a knee injury sustained April 10. For now, Chicago will have to do with backups Neifi Perez at shortstop and Jerry Hairston at second base.

"I’m not going to blame the rain," Nomar said. "The field was in great condition, the grounds crew did a great job, and the field was definitely playable and all of that stuff. I just slipped."

The injury is the latest in a series of setbacks for Garciaparra since he won 1996 batting titles in 1996 and 2000 with the Boston Red Sox. He was limited to 83 at-bats in 2001 after wrist surgery and he missed more than two months last year with Achilles’ tendinitis.

In Brief

Armstrong struggles in Tour de Georgia

Rome, Ga. — Lance Armstrong has plenty of work to do if he wants to win a seventh straight Tour de France.

Armstrong finished a disappointing ninth in Thursday’s third stage at the Tour de Georgia, nearly two minutes behind the winner in a goall-out style of cycling he usually dominates.

Another American, Floyd Landis, won the third stage in 39 minutes, 58.09 seconds. The other spots on the podium also were claimed by U.S. riders — David Zabriskie in second and Christopher Baldwin third.

Shockingly, Armstrong was not among them. Racing in a light rain, he failed to make up ground on the climb up Mount Alto and had no chance of closing the gap by the time he pedaled onto the slick streets of downtown Rome.

"Clearly, I’m disappointed," said Armstrong, who could only manage a time of 41:44.87. "I didn’t feel great, but I thought I’d do a better ride."

Paxson fired as GM

Cleveland — Their shocking collapse complete, the Cleveland Cavaliers began to rebuild on Thursday — from the top.

Jim Paxson fired as club’s general manager, dismissed by new owner Dan Gilbert one day after the Cavaliers’ chaotic season ended short of the NBA playoffs for the seventh consecutive year.

Expected for weeks, Paxson’s firing came exactly one month after coach Paul Silas was fired with 18 games left by Gilbert, the online mortgage banker who has had a rough introduction into operating a pro sports franchise.

Singh ties course record at Houston Open

HUMBLE, Texas — Fresh from inclusion in the World Golf Hall of Fame, Vijay Singh tied the course record with an 8-under-par 64 for a one-shot lead Thursday after the first round of the Houston Open.

The 42-year-old Fijiian, No. 2 in the world rankings, extended his streak of par or better to 56 holes at the Redstone Golf Club, where he won this event a year ago.

Singh laughed when told of his bogey-free string going back to last year, when he finished 11 under and won by two shots.

"Don’t mention that," he said. "I struck the ball really well today, had a very good feel of the greens and my speed was good, and when you do that you can make some birdies."

After Singh came Australians Gavin Coles and Brendan Jones. Eight players were at 67. Six others, including John Daly, were another shot back.

Singh was announced Wednesday as the latest inductee into the Hall of Fame, although he said he learned three weeks ago the honor was coming.

MLB

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Chicago Cubs second baseman Todd Walker is out, perhaps until June, with a knee injury sustained April 10. For now, Chicago will have to do with backups Neifi Perez at shortstop and Jerry Hairston at second base.

"I’m not going to blame the rain," Nomar said. "The field was in great condition, the grounds crew did a great job, and the field was definitely playable and all of that stuff. I just slipped."

The injury is the latest in a series of setbacks for Garciaparra since he won 1996 batting titles in 1996 and 2000 with the Boston Red Sox. He was limited to 83 at-bats in 2001 after wrist surgery and he missed more than two months last year with Achilles’ tendinitis.

In Brief

Armstrong struggles in Tour de Georgia

Rome, Ga. — Lance Armstrong has plenty of work to do if he wants to win a seventh straight Tour de France.

Armstrong finished a disappointing ninth in Thursday’s third stage at the Tour de Georgia, nearly two minutes behind the winner in a goall-out style of cycling he usually dominates.

Another American, Floyd Landis, won the third stage in 39 minutes, 58.09 seconds. The other spots on the podium also were claimed by U.S. riders — David Zabriskie in second and Christopher Baldwin third.

Shockingly, Armstrong was not among them. Racing in a light rain, he failed to make up ground on the climb up Mount Alto and had no chance of closing the gap by the time he pedaled onto the slick streets of downtown Rome.

"Clearly, I’m disappointed," said Armstrong, who could only manage a time of 41:44.87. "I didn’t feel great, but I thought I’d do a better ride."

Paxson fired as GM

Cleveland — Their shocking collapse complete, the Cleveland Cavaliers began to rebuild on Thursday — from the top.

Jim Paxson fired as club’s general manager, dismissed by new owner Dan Gilbert one day after the Cavaliers’ chaotic season ended short of the NBA playoffs for the seventh consecutive year.

Expected for weeks, Paxson’s firing came exactly one month after coach Paul Silas was fired with 18 games left by Gilbert, the online mortgage banker who has had a rough introduction into operating a pro sports franchise.

Singh ties course record at Houston Open

HUMBLE, Texas — Fresh from inclusion in the World Golf Hall of Fame, Vijay Singh tied the course record with an 8-under-par 64 for a one-shot lead Thursday after the first round of the Houston Open.

The 42-year-old Fijiian, No. 2 in the world rankings, extended his streak of par or better to 56 holes at the Redstone Golf Club, where he won this event a year ago.

Singh laughed when told of his bogey-free string going back to last year, when he finished 11 under and won by two shots.

"Don’t mention that," he said. "I struck the ball really well today, had a very good feel of the greens and my speed was good, and when you do that you can make some birdies."

After Singh came Australians Gavin Coles and Brendan Jones. Eight players were at 67. Six others, including John Daly, were another shot back.

Singh was announced Wednesday as the latest inductee into the Hall of Fame, although he said he learned three weeks ago the honor was coming.
SMC GOLF

Team to compete at Pine Hills

Saint Mary’s golfers set to wind up their outstanding season

By ANNA FRICANO
Sports Writer

For the three seniors on the Saint Mary’s Golf team, this weekend will mark the last regular season tournament in which they will compete. The Belles will travel to Baldwin-Wallace College in Berea, Ohio this afternoon for the annual Yellowjacket Invitational.

The event, which begins tomorrow at 9 a.m., is a two-day competition taking place at the Pine Hills Golf Course in Hinckley, Ohio.

Last year’s event, which the Belles did not attend, featured such schools as Wilmington College, Capital University and John Carroll University. Few of the schools that will be at the event are likely to pose any major competition for the Belles, who are hoping to take the tournament.

"Conference competitor Olivet College will be at the invitational and the Belles are hoping to perform well against them. "Olivet is in our conference and we’d like to beat them. The other teams we don’t face much." The most difficult thing for Saint Mary’s this weekend may be to focus on the task at hand and not look too far ahead of the NCAA Championships, which will take place in a couple of weeks. The team is intent on doing everything necessary to get themselves ready for the event.

“We know that we need to focus on this weekend because each round helps us prepare for nationals... but we have to be able to play well this weekend too," Adams said.

The Belles want to make sure that they don’t get too ahead of themselves so as to compromise the task at hand, especially considering the unfavorable weather conditions that they will most likely be facing.

For seniors Julia Adams, Chrissy Dunham and Stefanie Simonmerman, this weekend will be something more than just one more tournament before nationals. All three women have been involved with the golf program throughout the duration of their time at Saint Mary’s, and all three have contributed significantly to the growth of the program in recent years.

Duham, the team captain, was named to the first team All-MIAA for the 2004 fall season. She has shown immense improvement in the past three seasons with her average score dropping from a 90.6 in the fall of 2002 to 81.73 in the fall of 2004.

Adams has taken numerous MIAA honors in the past few years, including being named to the first team All-MIAA in 2003 and 2004. She was an MIAA medalist for the 2004 season, and a conference tournament medalist in 2002 and 2004.

Simonmerman rounds out the trio, having been named first team All-MIAA for the past four seasons. She was a conference co-medalist in 2003, and finished in twelfth place at the 2004 NCAA Tournament and won the national title in 2003.

All three girls have earned three varsity letters so far with the program, and all have been consistent scorers for the team this spring.

The seniors will have one last chance to hone their skills before nationals at the invite this weekend.

Contact Anna Fricano at afrc401@nd.edu

Julia Adams
Belles golfer

“We know that we need to focus on this weekend because each round helps us prepare for nationals.”

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SMC SOFTBALL

Belles are hopeful for happy ending

After finishing 0-12 in MIAA, team needs a win to close season

By TOM STILES
Sports Writer

Saint Mary’s (5-21, 0-12) will try to wind up its season on a positive note this Saturday afternoon at 1 p.m. against non-MIAA conference foe Rockford College. The Belles are still fighting to get that elusive sixth win of the season despite their inability to get off the slide from an 18-game losing streak.

It has been a frustrating season for the Belles, especially coming off a successful 2004 campaign in which the team won its first MIAA postseason title. Dealing with adversity has been difficult for this year’s team, particularly because the team only returned five players from last year’s championship squad, not to mention bringing in a new coach who was a rookie herself.

The Belles last played a week ago tomorrow, against conference leader Alma College. Alma was too much for Saint Mary’s, blanking them in both ends of a double-header by the scored of 6-0 and 15-0. The offense was almost non-existent on the day, as the Belles could only muster three hits for the entire afternoon.

Game one saw freshman pitcher McKenna Corrigan give up five runs on just five hits in two and a third innings of work. Junior Bridget Graf and sophomore Amanda Teets were both effective in relief, holding Alma scoreless on just two hits for the last four frames.

Graf and Corrigan helped themselves by notching the only two hits in the game for the Belles, as the rest of the team could not figure out Alma’s senior pitcher Leigh Ann LaFave.

Game two was Alma College putting on a clinic, as they punished Saint Mary’s pitching all day long en route to 15 runs on 15 hits. On the mound, Alma had a brilliant pitching performance by senior Melissa Tavadian and sophomore Kay McDonald, who combined to throw a five inning, one-hit shutout.

The Alma squad’s offense was led by standout senior center fielder Mary Priestch, who scored twice, and drove in three runs on three hits, including a double and a home run. As a team, Alma had four round-trippers, five extra-base hits, and no errors as opposed to the four miscues by Saint Mary’s. After falling to Alma, the Belles will finish out their season with two home games against MIAA conference opponents, Olivet College (17-1, 9-2) on Tuesday and Kalamazoo College (12-2, 7-1) on Thursday, both of which will start at 3:30 p.m.

Contact Tom Stiles at ststiles@nd.edu

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ND WOMEN’S TRACK & FIELD

Irish women continue tournament running

By RYAN KIEFER
Sports Writer

With the Big East Championship meet two weeks away, the Notre Dame women’s track team can quite literally see the finish line.

The main concern now is getting there as fast as possible.

After sending a group of athletes to the highly competitive Mt. SAC relay last weekend, the Irish will spend this weekend in Champaign, Ill., at the University of Illinois for the Central Collegiate meet.

The conference meet was very much in the minds of the Irish coaches when they made the lineup for Saturday’s Notre Dame will keep its best distance runners home this weekend, allowing them to turn their focus to the Big East meet, while the Irish will be looking to overtake indoor champion Pittsburgh.

Distance coach Tim Connelly explained his team’s strategy. “They (athletes staying home this weekend) are qualified all the way to NCAA’s, so we probably won’t have them run again until conference,” Connelly said.

The off week also gives the runners a chance to recover from last weekend’s intense competition.

“A weekend like what we had in California (last weekend) takes a toll on the girls, not only with the competition, but with the travel. We were really careful with runners like Stephanie Madia, and Sunny Olding (sick) this week. In fact they won’t have their first hard workout until (today),” Connelly said.

Sprints coach John Millar is expected to employ the same strategy.

Sprinters such as Maryann Erigha, who won both the 100 and 200 last weekend, will be resting.

As for the athletes heading to Illinois Saturday, the goals will be the same as they have been in previous weeks — hitting conference and NCAA regional qualifying times, establishing relay combinations and gaining racing experience. The Irish have posted 25 Big East qualifying marks to this point, ten of which also met the standard for the NCAA regional.

The team will place a special focus Saturday on the middle distance and technical events such as long jump and high jump.

Connelly felt that these events needed competition every weekend to stay sharp.

He was also excited about Stacey Lowan’s return to the high jump event. The junior All-American missed the Mt. SAC meet due to a death in the family.

Connelly also mentioned that the focus is strictly individual this weekend, and that there will be time for team competition later in the season.

“We won’t start looking for teams until the Big East meet,” Connelly explained his team’s strategy.

“We won’t start looking for teams until the Big East meet.”

Tim Connelly
Irish distance coach

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No. 1 seed Irish take on St. John's

By KATE GALES
Associate Sports Editor

A lot has changed in the Big East, but the strength of the Irish remains the same. After taking the title last year, Notre Dame enters the Big East tournament as the top seed after finishing the regular season 16-7 and ranked No. 29.

"The field is a little bit weaker this year, as it will be for most of the sports that play in the Big East, because Miami and Virginia Tech are out and new schools haven't come into the conference," coach Bobby Bayliss said. "It's not as strong a field as it has been and it certainly affords us a better chance of winning than normal."

Captain Brent D'Amico was injured in the final match of the regular season. However, Bayliss put the senior on the roster, which had to be submitted prior to the tournament's start.

"You have to turn in your lineup ahead of time and you can pull somebody out, but you can't change the order," Bayliss explained. "So you have to submit it—if you have an iffy player, say like Brent, you have to put him at his normal spot and then you have to hope he can play."

Eric Langenkamp was also questionable for the Irish after he was unable to travel to the University of South Florida, the tournament's venue, with the team due to illness. However, Bayliss is confident that Langenkamp is ready to play.

"We had a little scare," he said. "Eric didn't make the trip with us, he was hospitalized Tuesday evening with some sort of intestinal virus that has come and gone, and he flew up separately and practiced today—he looks good, I think he's okay."

The Irish take on St. John's after riding a bye into the semifinals, as the Red Storm defeated Georgetown Thursday. Bayliss had the opportunity to watch the first-round game.

"St. John's won decisively and we will play them tomorrow before today," Bayliss said. "So we pretty much know what we're going to face and how it kind of lines up, and it's just a matter of getting going and getting it done."

Bayliss is confident in the team's chances in the tournament.

"If we can win the doubles point and start off in control, I think they're going to realize they have to do something special to beat us," he said.

"The second key is just to play within ourselves. It's the end of the year, you're not going to invent any new shots. I think staying with the fundamentals has worked for us all year really will be key."

"The transition to muggy Tampa was Bayliss' main concern, but the Irish arrived in Florida on Saturday evening and managed to shift two of practice before the tournament.

"We got in yesterday," Bayliss said. "I think the biggest thing is just to get used to the heat, we've had two days—we're pretty acclimated." The Irish began defending their conference title at 9 a.m. today.

Contact Kate Gales at kgales@nd.edu

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continued from page 28

got out and run a little more," Funk said. "That's how we like to play every game." Kiley carried We Got Wild offensively, consistently nailing his shots from beyond the arc. Funk and Cornette added inside scoring to bury Barrymore!s

Nor-Cosa Butter 21, No. 11
Anthony Travel 14

No-Cosa Butter defeated a short-handed Anthony Travel Thursday night thanks to the scoring duo of Run Dokes and Robert Brown.

Anthony Travel captain Pat Leonard went down and saw the very beginning of the game after being knocked to the concrete and injuring his head. Without Leonard, Anthony Travel was forced to play with four men for the rest of the night. Leonard is the managing editor of The Observer.

The game was dominated by the inside battle between Dokes and former Irish basketball star Harold Swanigan. The two big men and former Irish basketball star "brought Gaziantepspor-style scoring duo of Bon Dokes and Harold Swanigan. The two big inside battle between Dokes and Swanigan was much like the rest of the night. Leonard is Anthony Travel was forced to play with four men for the rest of the night.

"Some people were complaining about Dokes' physical play inside, but we thought we were just bringing Gaziantepspor-style scoring duo of Bon Dokes and Harold Swanigan. The two big men and former Irish basketball star "brought Gaziantepspor-style scoring duo of Bon Dokes and Harold Swanigan. The two big inside battle between Dokes and Swanigan was much like the rest of the night.

"They have the experience of playing deep into Bookstore. They just have good team chemistry.

No. 5 Looking for a Sponsor at the Moment 21, No. 12

In an extremely physical game, Lola Baskets obtained momentum Downline Livebacker 21-13 Thursday night.

"They were a great team, and we needed to play our best, which we didn't," said Mean Girls' star Mike Ortiz. "We just didn't shoot well, so we dug ourselves in a hole early."

Lacking its opponent's size, Mean Girls tried to take advantage of its speed by using quick transitions and fast breaks down the court.

The strategy worked well in the beginning, and the game tightened as both teams brought us to the brink of a decision.

"They're a really good team," Murphy said. "But we're Dray's Chinmoreo 'God's Gift' Antonov's opponent. We had to stay focused and keep playing at our own tempo."

With adjustments on defense and some scoring array of inside moves, Thelma McKnight was a difference maker for looking for a Sponsor at the Moment. The Irish receiver forced turnovers, turning them into several fast break points.

Spectator Ryan Curley was amazed by the game's physical nature. "It was one of the toughest games I've seen," Curley said. "There was not a lot of fancy play. It was just for the love of the sport."

No. 1 U Got a Bad Draw 21, No. 16 Mean Girls 10

It was a bad draw, anything less than your best just doesn't cut it. Just ask the folheded Mean Girls.

Dominating the boards and capitalizing on their size advantage, No. 1 U Got a Bad Draw moved its way into the Elite Eight with a 21-10 win over Mean Girls.

Thelma is a great team, and we needed to play our best, which we didn't," said Mean Girls' star Mike Ortiz. "We just didn't shoot well, so we dug ourselves in a hole early."

"They're a really good team," Murphy said. "But we're Dray's Chinmoreo 'God's Gift' Antonov's opponent. We had to stay focused and keep playing at our own tempo."

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No. 4 State Theater 21, No. 13

Even with the wind, Chris Murphy has an inner-city parish, a service for which she earned honors distinction in divinity school. Murphy served as first chaplain in a hospital and as a local pastor to a community service organization.

Taking an early lead after hitting a couple three-point shots in beginning of the first half, No. 4 State Theater went on to triumph over No. 13 Hannah's Storm 21-14.

State Theater held an 11-lead at halftime, but Hannah's Storm pulled out a valiant effort and kept themselves in contention.

Leonard is a great basketball player. Murphy and Hannah's Storm went on to take the Sweet 16 by storm.

In the end, however, State Theater defeated No. 8 Hannah's Storm and now the team is looking forward to take on the next foe. Leonard is a great basketball player. Murphy and Hannah's Storm went on to take the Sweet 16 by storm.

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Leonard is a great basketball player. Murphy and Hannah's Storm went on to take the Sweet 16 by storm.
Anastasio, Michael O'Hara, and Travis Thomas; receivers Chase Tommy Zbikowski, and defensive tackle Trevor Laws will lead the line backers, Chris Vaughn; and tight end Marty Mooney and gold team will be led by quarterback, running back, and Dan Chervanick the defensive lines.

Continued from page 28

what he called "equalizers" to compensate for the fact that the teams were divided in such a fashion. "Because the Blue team has a little bit more ability than the Gold team, and a little bit more experience, what we are trying to do is make it a little fun for the Gold team and give them a chance by favoring the rules in their way," Weis said.

The Gold team will be allowed to fake kicks, rush the quarterback, run multiple defensive sets and use other strategies in order to make the game more even, while the Blue team will be forced into a less aggressive game plan. Weis explained that he split the teams up accordingly in order to simulate an actual game most realistically.

"One of the things I talked about doing was having a draft, where you just draft players one at a time," Weis said. "But then you get used to, the guys are making line calls next to each other and then all of a sudden, [there are] guys that haven't been out there playing with each other. "Now all of a sudden someone's making a call ... and they have no idea what you are talking about."

Other stipulations of the game include:

 ♦ Two-point conversions can only be used in order to win the game in the final two minutes and field goals cannot be kicked to tie the game in the final two minutes. Instead the team has to go for the first down or touchdown.

 ♦ After every touchdown, the team that is losing at the time of the score will regain possession at the 35-yard line.

Notes:

 ♦ Before announcing the rosters of Saturday's game, Weis announced that Justin Hoskins was back in practice today and has officially been reinstated by the team.

 ♦ Weis had an issue that has been resolved and he was back out there today in practice." Weis said. "It's not going to be talking to you but he would have said we had an issue... Hoskins will not be playing in the Blue and Gold game because he has not met the NCAA rules for a minimum amount of practices this spring.

 ♦ On Tuesday, Weis announced that Tyrgg Duerson was no longer playing with the team, citing unlisted personal reasons as the cause. Duerson is still enrolled at the University and there is no official word about his future status.

Contact Bobby Griffin at rgb28@nd.edu

ND WOMEN'S TENNIS

Irish look to dominate with a No. 1 seeding

Fourth-seeded St. John's (8-3) will be the first team looking to defeat the talent-laden Irish. Notre Dame's will take on St. John's in its first match of the tournament Friday at 9 a.m. at the University of South Florida in the semifinals.

St. John's defeated West Virginia 11-7 this morning, 4-1, after taking an early 1-0 advantage in the match following doubles. The Red Storm claimed victories at No. 1 and 3 doubles and secured the victory after singles matches, as tourney play dictates teams play to four points.

After facing St. John's, Loudonback expects the teams next opponent to be second-seeded Boston College. The last time the two teams met, Notre Dame shut out the Eagles, 7-0. The Irish secured wins across the board in both singles and doubles.

"As the Irish head into Friday's meet against St. John's, they hope this first match of the tournament will be the start of a successful and storied post-season run," said Louderback. "We've had a tough schedule all-season, so I think that should help us peak," Loudonback said. "We'll be playing some good tennis this weekend."

Contact Ann Loughery at lougher@nd.edu

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Contact Ann Loughery at lougher@nd.edu
Akron

continued from page 28

Bouch did not disappoint, leading the Irish to a 1-0 win while turning in a magnificent performance on the mound. The lefty — who pitched four innings to keep her sharp for this weekend's Big East conference games — struck out five batters before turning the ball over to Karina Fuemmeler, who was making only her fourth appearance of the season. After facing a bases-loaded jam with no outs, Fuemmeler answered with a strikeout and a fielder's choice, and appeared to be out of the inning. However, Fuemmeler could not finish the inning, giving up a single to left, and two runs scored to tie the game.

Coach Deanna Gumpf inserted Stenglein for the next three innings to keep her sharp for this weekend's Big East conference games. Stenglein struck out five batters before turning the ball over to Karina Fuemmeler, who was making only her fourth appearance of the season. After facing a bases-loaded jam with no outs, Fuemmeler answered with a strikeout and a fielder's choice, and appeared to be out of the inning. However, Fuemmeler could not finish the inning, giving up a single to left, and two runs scored to tie the game.

Contact Ryan Duffy at rduffy@nd.edu.

Junior centerfielder Alex Netty swung at a pitch in a game against Bowling Green April 22.

Centerfielder Alex Netty's hot hitting continued. The junior finished 2-for-4 on the day, a day after going 4-for-6 against Purdue.

The Irish are now 22-15. They are 9-5 in the month of April. Last year, they finished the month 18-6.

Tonight, at 6 p.m., the Irish shift back to Big East play to face the Villanova Wildcats (23-10-1, 7-6 Big East). Sitting at 2-4 in the conference, the Irish hope to jumble the standings a bit more when they face the fifth-place Wildcats in a three-game weekend series.

Contact Tom Dorwart at tdorwart@nd.edu.
Soccer
continued from page 28
Both freshman did not play for the team last fall because Pinnick sustained a season ending neck injury before the start of the season last fall and Hanks elected to play for the Under-19 team.
"We're going to start Pinnick because she has had a good spring season and we're also looking to give Hanks time," Waldrum said. "We are hopeful because she has had a good injury before the start of the season and sustained a season ending neck injury for the team last fall because Pinnick returning from last season. But we are still adjusting to losing Tancredi and Gunna starting defensive players to graduation]."
Despite the obstacles the Irish currently face, they are still looking for an exciting matchup between two highly skilled teams.
"We've prevailed 1,700 tickets so it is going to be a really good crowd. It will be a sellout atmosphere and the intensity is going to be fantastic," Waldrum said. "So it'll be a great opportunity for the fans to see something unique with an international flavor."
The men's team will feature Greg Dalby, who recently shone with the international squad. Greg Dalby, who recently shone with the international squad.
Contact Dan Tapetillo at jtapetl@nd.edu

Women's Lacrosse
Irish seek redemption on road
Notre Dame hopes to improve 1-4 streak, defeat Johns Hopkins
By MATT PUGLISI

Maybe a change of scenery will help — it certainly couldn't hurt.
After recording a disappointing 1-4 mark on a five-game homestand that concluded with a 14-6 loss to No. 3 Georgetown last Sunday, Notre Dame (3-9, 1-3 Big East) travels to Baltimore, Md. to lock horns with No. 11 Johns Hopkins (9-3) Sunday afternoon at 1 p.m.
irish coach Tracy Coyne is looking forward to the opportunity to hit the road again.
"Going to Baltimore is always a good trip," Coyne said. "There will be a lot of people there, and a lot of alumni are going to come back, so that's exciting. We've been home for a couple weeks now — I think we're well rested and ready to go."
Including the Blue Jays, all three of the opponents left on the Irish schedule — No. 13 Syracuse and No. 19 Ohio State round out the year — are currently ranked by the Intercollegiate Women's Lacrosse Coaches Association (IWLCA). However, Coyne doesn't mind the tough schedule. currently listed as the ninth toughest in the nation. In fact, she prefers it.
"I'm looking forward to our next three games," Coyne said. "I told the team in the locker room (after the Georgetown game) that I'd much rather be playing teams that are ranked and nationally competitive, because I think we can compete on that level and I would like to see this team prove that they can win at that level."
"Our next three teams are all tough opponents — teams we care about and want to beat. If we can beat someone that matters, it will give us a sense of satisfaction, because we have that feeling of unfilled potential (right now)."
The Irish had little trouble with visiting Hoyas in the opening minutes of last Sunday's game at Moose Krause Stadium. Ripping six goals to Georgetown's zero and jumping out to a 1-0 advantage on a goal by midfielder Lena Zentgraf, the Irish appeared to be well on their way to giving Big East-leading Georgetown a run for its money.
But looks can be deceiving. Just over a minute after Zentgraf put Notre Dame in front, Hoya Catherine Elbe knotted the contest at 1-1 and kicked off a streak of eight consecutive Georgetown tallies, staking the Hoyas to a comfortable 8-1 halftime lead. While attack Crystal Foote netted a hat trick in the second half alone and midfielder Kaki Orr, and attack Mary McGrath chipped in with single goals, the Irish were unable to get back into the contest, eventually falling 14-6.
"I was not happy with how the game went. I'm going to be honest about it," Coyne said. "I think that (Hoya goalie) Sarah Eckert is a good goalie, but we were shooting right at her — we weren't placing our shots. It wasn't like they were forcing low-percentage shots — we were getting wide-open looks. If you're getting that wide open, you should be scoring."
Sunday's game against the Irish will wrap up a busy week for the host Blue Jays — Johns Hopkins knocked off Towson 15-10 Tuesday evening and hosts No. 1 Northwestern this evening before Notre Dame comes to town.
With the season quickly winding down, thoughts turn to next year and returning the Irish to their place among the nation's lacrosse elite.
"I think that we have a bright future," Coyne said. "I think maybe losing six starters and three All-Americans has been more difficult to replace that we anticipated ... (but) we have a lot of younger players gaining a lot of experience. We definitely know how to compete."
Contact Matt Puglisi at mpuglisi@nd.edu
JOCULAR

Observed ideas for "The Shirt"

WE IS ND

RETURN TO

RETURN TO GLORY

ALEC WHITE and ERIK POWERS

CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1. Reaches again and again
10. Chauvinist's view
17. Averaging a wrong
18. On a opening
19. Halloween supernatural
20. Family stunt
21. ...Rose... (going from "The Music Man"")
27. Relatives of caps and crowns
28. Fruit saised fruit
29. What Spanish athletes go for at the Olympics
32. Assigned
37. Went big-game hunting
38. Keeps out

DOWN
1. They got back on the road in 1998
2. Unwilling cry
3. Leading
4. Former cable info.
5. Fine French food
6. Having bad marks
7. Kicked downstairs
8. Led on
9. Folkways closely
10. Wore a lux., maybe
11. Publisher Prize category
12. Line of work: Actor
13. 1942 Abbott and Costello movie
14. Scatterring
15. They are raised for all to see
16. Coffee
17. Jordan
18. Jewish theosophy: Var.
22. ...coffee
24. Current
26. Mytical rhythms
28. Bud. to a holomere
30. Sainted pope of A.D. 401-17
31. Keeps out

WILL SHORTZ

32. Take a bow?
33. Insensitive
34. Fictional Gray
37. Piggies supports
40. Hardly conclusive
41. As in Archimedes
44. Start of something big?
45. One of 300 in the length of Noah's ark
47. Violent
50. Here in Playgo
53. Relatives of caps and crowns
54. Eighteen
56. One chewing out
57. New Deal deals
58. Becomes
59. Assigned
60. Went big-game hunting
61. Keeps out

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

ACROSS
2. Confront
3. Often
4. Fertile
5. Spanish
6. Ward
7. Ablative
8. Game
9. Take
10. New
11. Pense
12. Daily
13. Over
14. Our
15. Local
16. Ours
17. Estas
18. Casas
19. They
20. Our
21. Will
22. Men
23. Are
24. They
25. Are
26. Business
27. Was
28. Lies
29. Are
30. Said
31. Goes
32. Title
33. Old
34. Short
35. Long
36. Even
37. One
38. Day
39. This
40. That
41. I
42. My
43. Your
44. His
45. Her
46. Our
47. Their
48. Our
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50. Our
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For answers, call 1-900-285-5656, $1.20 a minute, or, with a credit card, 1-800-614-5554.

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.

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EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Mario MacDowell, 47. Tony Denton, 54. egg Prg, 38. Charles Grodin, 70.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: The fully prepared help you leap into something you've never tried before. A chance struggle is lucky, and if you don't know your stuff, you may find yourself a bit lost. This can be a fabulous year, but only if you put everything you've got into what you are trying to accomplish. Your numbers are 8, 22, 29, 36, 39.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Avoid any sort of romantic upset. If someone is doing him or her dirty, press yourself into doing something, back away. You have plenty of other choices. An opportunity to meet someone who is good for you is apparent.****

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): The more involved you are today in activities you enjoy, the better. Love is looking positive. Start something new, and it will open your eyes to possibilities for the future. Children may play a role in your life today.****

GEMINI (May 21-June 21): Do something to please yourself because you won't be able to please anyone around you today. A merger, a half-opportunity or a short-stop to a deal will spark your exasperation. Don't let trivial matters get to you.**

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You may like to spend time at home, but today you will do far better if you get out and do things with friends. A little romance will perk you up. You will discover some very interesting information.****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): No matter what you are working on it will be important to finish on time. You need to prove something to yourself and to others. If you neglect the one you love, you will pay later.***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You may have a change of heart. Love is certainly in the picture, but how you handle it will be the question. Take a look at your past relationships, and you'll know what to do.****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Put your money into your residence or home comfort. Get involved in any opportunity that is competitive or challenging. You can gain ground using your intuitive intelligence today.***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You will have the discipline and the determination to pull something off, far beyond anyone in your field. You will know exactly what you want to do, but don't hold back today. Love can be yours.***

SATURN (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You may think you have everything under control, in which you probably don't. Don't try to improve something unimportant. You are facing too many other things.****

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): A short trip or attending a trade show or conference may be just what you need to break your routine and energize you. Love will be at a high cycle, so don't forget to include your partner in it. Single someone to whom you are attracted,***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Money, health and legal concerns should all be taken care of today. Don't make any changes in your home that will make your life less familiar. You will be lucky, so pick up a lottery ticket.***

PILES (Feb. 19-March 20): Engage in family discussions. Someone you are close to will want to introduce you to a new friend. Relationships are looking good, so don't hold back. Doing for others will bring tremendous satisfaction.***

Birthday Baby: You have plenty of drive and determination, but you are also unusual and unfamiliar.


The Observer
P.O. Box 779
Notre Dame, IN 46556
ND SOCCER
Defending NCAA champs take on international opponents
By DAN TAPETILLO
Sports Writer

The defending NCAA champion women’s soccer team is set to take on the Mexican Women’s National Team in the first of a two-game series tonight at Alumni Field. The matchup will be followed by the Notre Dame men’s soccer team against the Mexican Under-17 team at approximately 7:45 p.m.

In the women’s match, the Mexican National Team and 2004 Olympic Games quarterfinalists is led by former Irish defender Monica Gonzalez and includes recently signed midfielder Becca Mendohn. This contest will be the fifth time the two teams have met, with the first three matchups, but suffered a 3-2 loss last season.

Tonight, Notre Dame is expecting another close contest.

Every year we’ve played them it has been close,” Irish coach Randy Waldrum said. “The view we have (of the past for matches and last season’s loss) is that we recognize and respect how good Mexico has become. Both teams played really well last year, but we just didn’t get the result we wanted.”

Waldrum also attributed the different style of play of temporal soccer to American soccer as a challenge for the Irish.

“They’re (Mexico) more skillful and technical and don’t rely so much on their athleticism like we do,” Waldrum said. “Their ball handling is so much better and you could get caught chasing throughout the game if you’re not careful.”

A potential individual threat includes UCLA forward Iris Mora, who last faced the Irish during the national championship game.

Mora is the player who drew the penalty kick against the Irish during the second half of the NCAA final game. Erika Bohn made the memorable save on the kick and prevented a potential 2-0 deficit in the half.

“Offensively she’ll be one of their key players,” Waldrum said. However, the Irish are also looking to this game as an opportunity for several rising players to gain experience.

This contest will be the fifth time the two teams have met, with the first three matchups, but suffered a 3-2 loss last season.

Tonight, Notre Dame is expecting another close contest.

BASEBALL
Power hitter Cooper blasts grand slam, secures 9-8 win
By TOM DORWART
Sports Writer

Craig Cooper is starting to like left field.

When he’s not catching fly balls or stopping ground balls in the luscious green of the outfield, he’s belting them — far over the left field fence.

For the first time in a row, Cooper blasted a home run over the left field wall.

Sophomore pitcher Jeff Samardzija threw a pitch at a game against Connecticut on April 17.

ND SOFTBALL
Solid pitching sparks 1-0 shutout of Akron

In Stenglein’s absence, Booth steps up and throws 11 strikeouts
By RYAN DUFFY
Sports Writer

After seeing its 19-game win streak finally end, Notre Dame decided to respond in the most logical way it knew how — start a new one.

Behind strong pitching and clutch hitting, the Irish took both games of Thursday’s doubleheader against Akron (20-21) in their return home after nine straight away games.

After earning Big East Player of the Week honors for her dominant performance last week, senior starting pitcher Stefany Stenglein was rested for game one, allowing junior Heather Roock to take the mound.

Sooner pitcher Jeff Samardzija throws a pitch at a game against Connecticut on April 17.

ND WOMEN’S TOM DORWART
Sports Writer

Saturday’s Blue-Gold Game.

SMC SOFTBALL
The Bells want to end the season on a positive note as they take on Rockford College.

SMC GOLF
Saint Mary’s is aiming impress at this weekend’s competition at Pine Hills.
RETURNING HOME

1978 Notre Dame graduate Charlie Weis comes back to lead the Irish
Charlie Weis, the dedicated early riser

The sun was just beginning to rise.

Early Wednesday, Notre Dame's campus lay still for a few chirping birds. The cranes on site at the construction of the new John Shade Science along with Jabbie to be productive backs. Lewis coached defensive backs in the NFL with Miami for last years' special teams, specifically coaching Nickelbacks.

Junior Jabbie (8)

Like Ferrine and Jabbie, a 5-foot-10, 188-pound sophomore, is another young member of the Irish secondary who will be looking to make a name for himself this season. With Anthony Vemaglia and Mike Richardson as the leaders and returning players in the secondary, Notre Dame will look for individuals such as Jabbie to be productive on the field.

Jabbie should benefit from the help of Bill Lewis, Notre Dame's highly successful backs coach. Lewis coached defensive backs in the NFL with Miami for last years' special teams, specifically coaching Nickelbacks.

That type of coaching could pay huge dividends for Jabbie and the rest of the young Irish secondary.

As a senior in high school, Jabbie had four interceptions and scored 18 touchdowns as a running back. Jabbie graduated from the same high school as Notre Dame defensive captain Brandon Hoyte.

Anthony Vermaglia (4)

Anthony Vermaglia was a highly touted recruit coming to Notre Dame last year. A year ago the Irish secondary will look for individuals such as Jabbie to be productive on the field.

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Anthony Vermaglia (4)

Anthony Vermaglia was a highly coveted recruit coming to Notre Dame last year. His speed and athleticism were highly impressive.

Robby Griffin III

Robby Griffin III is a 6-foot-3, 220-pound sophomore, who is another young member of the Irish secondary who will be looking to make a name for himself this season. With Anthony Vemaglia and Mike Richardson as the leaders and returning players in the secondary, Notre Dame will look for individuals such as Jabbie to be productive on the field.

Jabbie should benefit from the help of Bill Lewis, Notre Dame's highly successful backs coach. Lewis coached defensive backs in the NFL with Miami for last years' special teams, specifically coaching Nickelbacks.

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As a senior in high school, Jabbie had four interceptions and scored 18 touchdowns as a running back. Jabbie graduated from the same high school as Notre Dame defensive captain Brandon Hoyte.

Contact Bobby Griffin at rgriffin@nd.edu

By BOBBY GRIFFIN
Associate Sports Editor

A certain player or group of players emerge from relative obscurity and perform well on the field every season. However, who those players are and how much the program benefits remains constant, even at 5:38 a.m. when nobody's watching.

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

Contact Pat Leonard at pleonard@nd.edu

Blue-Gold Game Schedule of Events

9:00 a.m. Brunch
9:45 a.m.-10:30 a.m. Autograph Session
10:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Fan Fest
1:35 p.m. Blue-Gold Game Kickoff*

*Tickets free to students

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Charlie Weis, Notre Dame Irish coach

"I just know that I feel I'm just a part of Notre Dame. I'm not Notre Dame myself."

Charlie Weis Irish coach

"I just know that I feel I'm just a part of Notre Dame. I'm not Notre Dame myself."
Friday, April 22, 2005

The STARTERS

RUNNING BACK
DARIUS WALKER
Sophomore

As a true freshman, Walker led the Irish last season in virtually all rushing categories. He gives the Irish a backfield threat to break a big run every time he touches the ball.

WIDE RECEIVER
RHEMA MCKNIGHT
Senior

McKnight enters this spring as the leading receiver during the past two years, catching 47 and 42 passes, respectively. In addition to his height, McKnight is also a strong downfield blocker.

DEVELOPMENT BACK
BRADY QUINN
Junior — Captain

Much of the team's success next season will be contingent on Quinn's continued improvement and his absorption of coach Charlie Weis' offensive system, especially with no clear backup.

OFFENSE

TACKLE
RYAN HARRIS
Junior

Harris might be smaller than most offensive tackles, but he is quick, agile, and displays good technique.

GUARD
BOB MORTON
Senior

Morton started 11 games at left guard in 2004 after moving from center, where he started 11 games in 2003.

CENTER
JOHN SULLIVAN
Junior

Sullivan started all 12 games at center in 2004 and returned to anchor the line, but he has been injured during the spring.

INSIDE LINEBACKER
BRANDON HOYTE
Senior — Captain

HoYTE will be the leader of the defense after making 74 tackles last season, the most of any returning player. He's also been an academic All-American the past two seasons and will get his chance to shine.

INSIDE LINEBACKER
COREY MAYS
Senior

Mays will join Hoyte as the other fifth-year senior in the linebacker corps, adding depth and size to the unit. He hasn't broken through in his first four years but has the athleticism to be a playmaker.

DEFENSIVE END
VICTOR ABIAMIRI
Junior

Despite missing most of spring practice with a bruised shin, Abiamiri needs to be a force next season as the most experienced returning lineman.

DEVELOPMENT END
DEREK LANDRI
Senior

Landri started all 12 games as a developmental tackle and is the only returning starter on a talented but relatively inexperienced defensive line. He had 40 tackles and half a sack in 2004.

INSIDE LINEBACKER
BRANDON WEISS
Junior

Weiss said he will get his chance to shine at fullback.

INSIDE LINEBACKER
COREY MAYS
Senior

Mays will join Hoyte as the other fifth-year senior in the linebacker corps, adding depth and size to the unit. He hasn't broken through in his first four years but has the athleticism to be a playmaker.

ACHIEVEMENT END
Maurice Stovall
Senior

Stovall's presence gives Notre Dame a talented and experienced pair of receivers. At 6-foot-5, Stovall is a big, intimidating receiver who can outmuscle cornerbacks when going for the ball.

DEVELOPMENT END
TREVOR LAWS
Junior

Laws is a strong defensive tackle who can use his experience as a Prep wrestling champion to get leverage against offensive linemen. He recorded 17 tackles and two sacks last season.

DEVELOPMENT END
LEVI ORISON
Senior

The second most experienced defensive player remains here during the spring, after losing Kyle Rudolph to graduation and Justin Tucker to Saturday's NFL Draft. Travis Leitko and Chris Freme have seen the most time at linebacker this season, so the returning contingent on Quinn's defense will be able to field a secondary from their spring roster. None have a lot of experience, but this unit has been a strength of the Irish even when the team has struggled.
Charlie Weis is constantly surrounded by reminders of his accomplishments. Behind his desk is a framed photo of Weis with his son and Patriots quarterback Tom Brady after the Super Bowl this year. He sometimes flashes a goofy Super Bowl ring, one of four he has won.

Weis entered a New England franchise under a defensive-minded coach and made sure that the offense wasn’t forgotten about.

Everyone knows Charlie Weis is a winner on the football field. But Charlie Weis isn’t just about football.

Weis, a father of two, one with special needs, founded Hannah & Friends with his wife to help children with autism and global delays.

“He’s really family-oriented,” said Maurra Weis. “He’s not the kind of coach that’s going to be out golfing or with his buddies when he has time off, so his hobby is his family. He’s working, or he’s with us, one or the other.”

Charlie Weis is about football and family. That’s why the 1978 graduate was hired in December to lead Notre Dame’s football program.

“That would in my mind represent a wonderful Notre Dame fit,” said athletic director Kevin White.

From New England to Notre Dame

Weis was in the middle of the season as the offensive coordinator of the New England Patriots when he contacted the “right way” by Notre Dame, which was looking for a new football coach after the Nov. 30 firing of Tyrone Willingham.

“I thought it could be a long year,” he said.

His roommate? New Jersey native Charlie Bavaro said Weis knowledge of the game attracted Weis to South Bend in freshmen year. Before the players started warming up, and again the next day. White then asked if he could fly out to visit with Weis, who he had never personally met, butwhose career he had followed throughout the years.

“Weis and Notre Dame officials, including White, met for about two-and-a-half to three hours at a hotel in Rhode Island,” Weis said.

White said he wasn’t surprised with the person he saw.

“We had followed Charlie for so long, I can’t say that anything about Charlie surprised me at that point,” White said.

But Notre Dame wasn’t ready for Weis — at least not yet.

“They turned around and flew back — they weren’t making a rash decision,” Weis said. “They were doing their T’s and crossing their T’s.”

Just an “ordinary guy”

When Jim Benenati met his roommate in his dorm freshman year, he was a little worried.

“I thought it could be a long year,” he said.

His roommate? New Jersey native Charlie Weis.

“Weis and Notre Dame officials, including White, met for about two-and-a-half to three hours at a hotel in Rhode Island,” Weis said.

But Notre Dame wasn’t ready for Weis — at least not yet.

“They turned around and flew back — they weren’t making a rash decision,” Weis said. “They were doing their T’s and crossing their T’s.”

The start of something great

Charlie Weis was teaching English at Morristown High School in New Jersey when he learned of an opening as a freshman football coach.

“His friends told me and asked if he could be interviewed for the job,” said John Chironna, Morristown head football coach at the time. “I interviewed him and I was very impressed with him. He came to work and worked diligently, and as a result, you can look the two with what you see.”

Weis worked with Chironna from 1980-84, the first of many coaches who would show him the way.

“He was the first guy who really taught me about coaching,” Weis said. And Chironna knew Weis had a lot to learn.

“Charlie was very intelligent, opinionated,” Chironna said. “I used to call him a Notre Dame soul because he would get angry. We would be breaking down film and he would make a statement and the thing that sticks in my mind is that he drew the formation in the air and said it was 100 percent. But that was his one weakness he had, that was he so smart.”

But Weis knew how to win.

When Chironna became the athletic director, he was left without a basketball coach for a season. So he asked Weis to do him a favor.

“I said you’ve got to coach our basketball team,” Chironna said. “So he coached the basketball team to a championship.”

Charlie Weis was the main coach behind taking New England quarterback Tom Brady from a sixth-round pick to a two-time Super Bowl MVP.

Charlie Weis returns to his alma mater with intentions...
Weis reached that stage as the Patriots' offensive coordinator from 1999-2001. "I think he is an absolute brilliant game planner," former Patriots fullback and 1997 Notre Dame graduate Marc Edwards said. "It changed from week to week what we did, what we did, but he always had an answer for what the defense would do." Weis won three Super Bowl rings with the Patriots, including a Super Bowl appearance against Notre Dame, and an unpredictable offense, while earning the respect of his players and players all around the NFL. "He's very confident in what he's doing, and he knows how to do it," Edwards said. "And that definitely shows in what he does." Developing a talent Beyond his offensive schemes, Weis was known for something else — the development of Tom Brady from a sixth round draft pick out of Michigan to a two-time Super Bowl Most Valuable Player. Brady had a significant role in Tom's development and overall strategy and some fundamentals and techniques and overall management plan in a press conference before the Super Bowl. Under the tutelage of Weis, Brady was a two-time Pro Bowl selection and won numerous player of the year awards. He is the first quarterback to start and win three Super Bowls before the age of 28. "He sets the tone for every meeting, every practice, and he has since the day I got here," Brady said before the Super Bowl. But with Brady and Weis it wasn't always just about football. A close call In 2007, Weis weighed more than 300 pounds — a weight he knew was a problem, especially since his father died at 56 due to a second heart attack. So that June, Weis decided to have gastric bypass surgery. "I was on a yo-yo diet for about 15 years, I was always trying to lose weight and have it come back," Weis said. "So Weis was contacted once again by Notre Dame, and he talked to several committees who interviewed him. After that, Notre Dame called him back to offer him the job. "His track record of success is second to none's," White said. "Everywhere he's been, Charlie Weis has been highly successful." And so now Weis, 49, brings his family — wife Maura, a son Charlie who will be entering the seventh grade, and a special needs daughter, Hannah — to the Notre Dame family. "It's a really exciting time for us, and it's great," Maura Weis said. "It's everything we ever thought it would be." And Weis is happy because his family is happy. "Probably one of the reasons Notre Dame was such a good fit for me," he said, "is because I love my family so much."

Back when he started It's been 27 years since Charlie Weis sat in the student section waiting for warm-ups to start. Now he is the one running the show. "I think it's somewhat inspiring to go back to the place where you went to school and you lived and have the opportunity to get Notre Dame back to the top," Weis said. "Now whether that matriculates or not, there's never any guarantee, but that's what the interest is."

Despite only having been the full-time Irish coach for a few months, Weis has his players excited about the future of Notre Dame football. "He's real intense," safety Tom Zbikowski said. "I love the way he coaches — just making sure you're doing things right, and perfecting everything. He's a perfectionist, and that's the way you gotta play football.

Irish players and assistant coaches have already seen what he can do this spring, and are learning exactly why he has the reputation he does. "To go against him and some of the things he likes to do, you can see where he's got that label of an offensive genius," defensive line coach Jappy Oliver said. "He keeps you on your toes. It's hard to get a beat on Coach Weis, which is great on our side because we feel after going against him that he's going to be hard to stop."

And if Weis has it the way he wants, he won't be stopping anytime soon. "I would really like to be here at least 10 years," Weis said. "And sometime after Charlie graduates (from Notre Dame), I'll be ready to ride into the sunset. But I'm hoping that by the time I leave, the Notre Dame fans, the alum, anyone who has a positive light on Notre Dame will be able to look at me and say we're glad we hired that guy."

Contact Heather Van Hoegarden at hvangoerg@nd.edu

A bigger priority than football to Charlie Weis is his family: his wife Maura, right, his son Charlie, left, and his daughter Hannah.
Western Pa. native always has been fond of the Irish

By KATE GALES Associate Sports Editor

He may not have attended Notre Dame when John Latina graduated, but John Latina has always had a special place for the school in his heart.

The offensive line coach is a native of Wilmington, Del., and grew up in Pennsylvania, an hour north of Pittsburgh, big Notre Dame fan base," he said. "Growing up as a child, I was surrounded by every Irish thing I could get my hands on. It's been deep-rooted.

Latina graduated from Virginia Tech in 1981, where he started for four years on the offensive line. After he graduated, he joined the coaching staff and also spent a year as an assistant at Pittsburgh before being named offensive line coach at Temple.

In 1989, Latina joined the staff at Notre Dame as the offensive line coach. He also worked as the run-game coordinator, but left in 1994 to work with Gemon at Grand Valley State.

Latina's last six years were spent at Ole Miss, where he coached the then-head coach David Cutcliffe. Cutcliffe was named the assistant head coach for offense and the quarterbacks coach on coach Charlie Weis' Notre Dame staff.

"Anytime you go into new place, new people, it's a little bit of a change and there's a lot of things you have to do, it's been long hours but it's been fun too. It's been a great experience."

Aside from getting to know the players, Latina has had a chance to build relationships with other staff members.

"Coaching is somewhat of a fraternity," he said. "I obviously know David Cutcliffe and worked for him but I didn't know the rest of the staff but everybody on our team, I knew pretty well know them very well. Great friends of mine have been with Bernie Parmalee and Rick Minter or so forth. So you have a tendency to get along as a group and you're a lot quicker than people think.

With a new staff in place and a number of veterans returning on the offensive line, Latina is ready to rebuild the Irish ball program with Weis.

"It's been a great experience." Latina said.

Contact Kae Gales at kgales@nd.edu

Haywood returns to learn offense from Weis

By MIKE GILLOON Sports Editor

Michael Haywood didn't know if he was going to like the job. He was the running backs coach and recruiting coordinator at Texas, working for a program that was 2-14 during the past two seasons and boasting some of the finest facilities in the nation.

So when Charlie Weis offered him the position of offensive coordinator and running backs coach at Notre Dame, Haywood phoned Kevin Faulk — a New England Patriots running back who Haywood had coached during his five seasons on the Tennesse staff, including the 1992 as an undrafted free agent from 1995.

"He told me you couldn't learn to be an offensive coordinator unless you were an offensive line coach," Haywood said. "I had been a former Irish defensive back, said.

"From the quality of people (Weis is), from the family man he is, from the way he thinks, it's been great," Faulk said. "I think you should go and take the job.

Haywood decided to take the advice, deciding to pack his bags and move back to South Bend.

He lettered at flanker during his freshman year at Notre Dame in 1982 and suited up for 13 starts at cornerback from 1984-86. He started his coaching career as the graduate assistant at Minnesota in 1985. Haywood then made short stints at Army, Ohio State and Ball State before landing a job at LSU in 1995.

Haywood was a senior at Notre Dame in 1986, he said during the game in the locker room against Alabama, when then-Irish coach Lou Holtz informed him he was being offered a job at LSU.

"Holtz had us go through this whole visualization," Haywood said. "During the game, I went to the sideline and I was standing behind a desk with a T-shirt and a whistle and a pair of shorts.

When he opened his eyes he was at LSU.

"That was when I first thought I wanted to coach," Haywood said. "I was looking at this new opportunity."

That game against Alabama turned out to be the last game he was at LSU.

Haywood had his knee blown out during the 38-20 loss to the then-No. 2 Crimson Tide.

On Sunday, Haywood will lead the Irish back to Crimson Tide territory.

"What a great opportunity to play in that game," Haywood said.

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Parmalee's playing career influenced his style

By MIKE GILLOON Sports Editor

Bernie Parmalee earned a spot on the Miami Dolphins roster in 2006 after spending two seasons running back out of Ball State.

Nine years later he retired with 1,306 rushing yards and 59 touchdowns — for advice.

Everything's been challenging because you're talking about a new staff, new organization, he said. "I'm just implementing Coach [Weis'] procedures, how he wants to go about handling recruiting, the weight program, just getting prepared for spring... it's been a challenge.

Though Oliver watched some film of Parmalee for the first time when he took over as head coach, the former Irish defensive back said it was just a great opportunity to have the chance.

This fall, Oliver was in his second year with Holtz at South Carolina as the defensive line coach.

"I got a call from Coach Weis this summer to see if he was interested in his new staff, new organization, he said. I thought it was just a great opportunity to have the chance.

So he did. Obviously he did a little bit more for the team himself and some of the other coaches and thought I would be a good fit here.

"And with my background, the places I've been... they kind of chose me. It was a blessing," he said.

Parmalee began his coaching career in 1978 at Davidson (Mich.) High School, where he worked with the defensive line and wide receivers.

He then worked as an assistant at Notre Dame, Eastern Illinois, Georgia Tech, and Grand Valley State, Western Illinois and Vanderbuilt before settling down at the University of Notre Dame from 1995-2002.

In 2003, he began working with the backs, who finished 6-5 last season. He helped lead the Irish against Pittsburgh this winter, working to transition the football program and prepare for a difficult full schedule.

"It's a great school," he said. "I obviously know David Cutcliffe and worked for him but I didn't know the rest of the staff but everybody on our team, I knew pretty well know them very well. Great friends of mine have been with Bernie Parmalee and Rick Minter or so forth. So you have a tendency to get along as a group and you're a lot quicker than people think.

With a new staff in place and a number of veterans returning on the offensive line, Latina is ready to rebuild the Irish ball program with Weis.

"It's been a great experience." Latina said.

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Oliver leaves South Carolina, is now 'starting from scratch'

By KATE GALES Associate Sports Editor

After losing star defensive end Justin Turk, the Irish were in need of a defensive line coach this year. Luckily, this year's coach became one just as the Irish became one.

By PAT LEONARD Sports Editor

"A guy is going to respect you when you're familiar with," Parmalee said. "A guy can only believe what you're saying.

"His experience helps us so much because he knows what we're going through as playing offensively," Irish tight end John Carlson said. "He doesn't see things just as a coach but he sees things through a player's perspective.

Finishing his professional playing days in 2001, Parmalee spent the next three years as an assistant coach with the Dolphins. He served as assistant team coordinator in 2002 and 2003 then moved up to tight ends coach in 2004 before being hired by the Dolphins.

During his time with Miami, Parmalee worked alongside current Irish offensive coordinator Rick Minter when Minter held the same position while Parmalee played tight end at West.

Parmalee is pleased to make the move back to his hometown with a couple recognizable faces.

"It's always good to have guys you're familiar with," Parmalee said.

But he is quick to point out that there are still differences between him and his fellow coaches only because of their professional relationships.

"A guy is going to respect you if you know what you're talking about," Parmalee said. "I don't think it's going to be that different if I came from the
Like his boss, Rick Minter already has his work cut out for him, as the defensive coordinator under Lou Holtz in 1992-93, when the Irish won back-to-back Cotton Bowls and finished ranked No. 4 and No. 2, respectively.

Lou Holtz in 1992-93..."It's been a very valuable experience," Minter said. "It was a chance to move back to what I saw as a unique environment.

It's hard to be around a guy who's kind of known as this offensive guy by everyone, and then to try his hand at rebuilding a much-hated offense. I was living in Florida when I made the decision to return to college football coaching, and I knew I wanted to be head coach at some point in my career. The driving force to me was really a love of the game and a, I guess you could say, a reverence for the institution. And that's Notre Dame. It's been a very valuable experience."

Minter served as the defensive coordinator for the Blue Streaks since 1994-95, under the leadership of Rick Minter. The 1997 John Carroll University graduate has already worked with an established coach in Wisconsin's Barry Alvarez.

"When I first heard about the opportunity to become the Blue Streaks' defensive coordinator, I was very excited," Minter said. "I knew it was going to be a great opportunity to learn from a great coach and a great institution."
Notre Dame's new coaching staff ties together through both the collegiate and professional ranks of football.

Charlie Weis
Head Coach
Coached with New England Patriots and New York Jets (against Lewis and Parmalee in both instances) and with New York Giants.

Bill Lewis
Asst. Head Coach (Defense)/Def. Backs
Nickel package coach with Dolphins (against Weis, who was in New England and New York, and with Parmalee).

Bernie Parmalee
Tight Ends & Special Teams Coach
Coached alongside Lewis in Miami as assistant special teams, offensive assistant and tight ends coach in three seasons (2002-2004). Also played at Ball State when Minter was the team's defensive coordinator.

David Cutcliffe
Asst. Head Coach (Offense)/Quarterbacks
Head coach at Ole Miss from 1998-2004. While Weis made Tom Brady a star quarterback in the NFL, Cutcliffe is known for pumping out quarterback talent from college, including Peyton Manning, Heath Shuler and Tee Martin at Tennessee and Eli Manning at Ole Miss.

Rick Minter
Defensive Coordinator & Linebackers
Ball State defensive coordinator while Parmalee played there. Two-year defensive coordinator at Notre Dame (92-93). Defensive coordinator under Lou Holtz at South Carolina in 2004, with Oliver as defensive line coach.

John Latina
Offensive Line Coach
Offensive line coach all six seasons with Cutcliffe at Ole Miss. Offensive coordinator the past five years.

Jappy Oliver
Defensive Line Coach
Defensive line coach at South Carolina under Lou Holtz last season with Minter as defensive coordinator.

Michael Haywood
Offensive Coordinator & Running Backs
Four-year football letterwinner at Notre Dame (1982, 84-86).

Rob Ianello
Receivers Coach & Recruiting Coordinator
Regarded as one of the top recruiters in the country, Ianello was on-campus recruiting coordinator and recruiting coordinator for two seasons each under Wisconsin head coach Barry Alvarez, who was Notre Dame linebackers coach (1987), defensive coordinator (1988) and assistant head coach (1988).

Brian Polian
Asst. Defensive Backs & Special Teams
The son of Indianapolis Colts president Bill Polian, Brian was the running backs coach and recruiting coordinator in 2004 at the University of Central Florida. He brings recruiting experience from yet another area of the country.