Existing Standing Committee renamed the Core Council for Gay and Lesbian Students

By MADDIE HANNA
Assistant News Editor

The University Standing Committee on Gay and Lesbian Student Needs will soon become the Core Council for Gay and Lesbian Students — a restructured group with increased student membership to better meet campus needs, University officials said Friday.

"It's exciting — I think it's a step forward in terms of service to our gay, lesbian and bisexual students and making sure we create a welcoming environment at Notre Dame, and all within the Catholic tradition," said Vice President for Student Affairs Father Mark Poorman told The Observer Friday.

The Standing Committee serves as an advisory board that helps Poorman and the Office of Student Affairs identify the needs of gay, lesbian and bisexual students as well as create programs; and Poorman said the Core Council will continue to fulfill this role.

What's really changing, he said, is the group's composition.

The Core Council will have 12 members total, eight of them students — the majority of whom are gay or lesbian, Poorman said. There will also be four administrators representing the Counseling Center, the Gender Relations Center, Campus Ministry and the Office of Student Affairs.

A student and a representative from the Office of Student Affairs — possibly Sister Susan Dunn, who was recently appointed to Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs — will serve as the Core Council's co-chairs, Poorman said.

The eight students and student co-chair position mark a significant increase from the Standing Committee's current six student members, said Sister Mary Louise Gude, Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs and current chair of the Standing Committee.

Gude has served as chair since fall 1998 and believes the expansion of the Standing Committee into the Core Council — an expansion that includes regularly...
Lessons learned

After three and a half years of class presentations and journalism interviews, a room full of elementary school kids shouldn’t have fazed me, right? Nevertheless, I found myself quite nervous Thursday as I drove toward Muncie Primary Center in Mishawaka. My friend Becky, student teacher in a fourth grade classroom there, thought I would be a good addition to her lesson on newspapers. In other words, I was the guest expert. Now, I would like to you to stretch your memory back to your own elementary school days when there was a classroom visitor. Remember how wise that classroom visitor seemed? How professional? How... old?

I felt compelled to do my best to live up to this image. I even wore my most adult outfit: button-down shirt, wool slacks and heels, but I still felt I embodied none of the aforementioned characteristics. Instead, I felt like a stage actress with a tape recorder and notebook as props.

What I was most concerned about, however, was not seeming grown-up or impressive. I was terrified of being boring. I had an image of glazed-over eyes staring back at me, or worse yet, heads resting on desks. I didn’t want to be yet another reason why kids told their parents their day at school was boring. I had an image of glazed-over faces, notebook as props.

After a few minutes I felt myself relax. Maybe I could teach them something interesting about the newspaper business. I certainly believed everything I was saying. Journalism is exciting, and the hard work is rewarding.

Further, I had forgotten about the hyperactive energy and the overactive curiosity of the average fourth-grader. After every sentence I uttered, hands shot up in response. Many of the questions were quite smart and made me reconsider things that I had not thought about in a long time.

Once or twice I called on students only to have them forget what they were going to say because they were so excited. Other times the response had absolutely nothing to do with the topic of conversation. A couple of the students had started their own newspaper and they provided me with a copy.

All in all, it was a very enjoyable afternoon. I got the chance to see my friend operate in her professional environment and to admire how hard she is working to engage her students every day. But the afternoon also served to remind why I am pursuing my chosen career path and gave me the opportunity to get excited about my future.

Contact Megan O’Neill at o’neil907@centenary.syr.edu

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

Editors' Note

The Observer regards itself as a professional publication and strives for the highest standards of journalism at all times. We do, however, reserve the right to make mistakes. If we have made a mistake, please contact us at (513)941-5691 so we can correct our error.

Ben Solomon
sophomore

Christine Clark
fresman

McGinn

Danny Saad
sophomore

Koehl

Grace Shen
sophomore

Howard

Pete Gargula
sophomore

Koehl

Tony Salpino
sophomore

Koehl

Megan O’Neill
Saint Mary’s Editor

Megan O’Neill

“Mr. Eko and his beat stick.”

“Phoebe from ‘Friends,’ because she’s just so funny, out there and not afraid to do anything. Also, I admire her style.”

“Chuck Norris – he’s the reason Waldo is hiding.”

“The Brain, because we have the same aspirations – to take over the world!”

“Lock from ‘Lost,’ because his wisdom knows no bounds.”

“The Count from Sesame Street, because I’m a math major.”

Lecturer Pope Davis speaks to sophomores at the Sophomore Intellectual Initiative meeting titled “What Really Happens in Graduate School and How Do I Get There?” on Feb. 16 in the Coleman-Morse Center.

OFFBEAT

Poll aims to find the best-kept bathrooms

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. — Call it the Toilet Bowl. A bathroom supply company sponsoring an online poll aimed at finding America’s best bathroom has narrowed the field to five sparkling-clean, sweet-smelling potties.

A Michigan bistro, a Rhode Island seafood house, a New Jersey casino, an Illinois airport and an Ohio restaurant are the finalists in the contest, which will name a winner in April based on the number each receives in admittedly nonscientific online voting.

“It’s a big compliment, surprisingly,” said contest organizer Jessica Sensen. “People get really excited.”

Sponsored by Cincinnati-based Cintas Corp., manufacturer of Sanis restroom supplies, the America’s Best Restroom contest was started in 2001 to spotlight businesses that maintain “exceptional hygiene, with style” in their restrooms. Nominations can be made by anyone, and about 30 are received annually, she said.

Conn. man tries to sell holy hardware on eBay

MANSFIELD, Conn. — Thomas Haley was unloading supplies for his job at Hardy’s Hardware when he said something odd caught his eye: the face of Jesus Christ on a piece of sheet metal.

Now, Haley and co-worker are hawking the holy hardware on eBay, hoping potential bidders will agree that the blurry oil stain on the sheet metal does, indeed, resemble Jesus.

“Imean, it hasn’t done anything miraculous as of yet, but seeing it is kind of groovy,” said Haley, 23. “Just seeing it brightens people’s day.”

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

A “Discussion on Academic Freedom” will occur tonight at 7 p.m. in the basement of Keenan Hall.

A campus and community conversation about “Understanding: Juvenile Justice in South Bend” will take place at 6 p.m. Tuesday at Robinson Community Learning Center on Eddy Street.

Jim Tover, Director of the White House Office for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, will speak about "Compassion for America’s Poor: What Happens When God and Government Mix" Tuesday at 4 p.m. in the Hesburgh Center Auditorium.

There will be a Jazz Coffeehouse at 8 p.m. Wednesday in the LaFortune Ballroom.

The Asian American Association will sponsor a “Grotto Walk” on Wednesday. They will meet in front of Hodges Hall at 11 a.m.

The opening meeting of the Diverse Student Leadership Conference will take place in O’Laughlin Auditorium on Thursday at 8 p.m.

AcousticCafe will take place at 10 p.m. on Thursday in the LaFortune basement.

The Safe Spring Breakdown Festival will occur from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday in the LaFortune Ballroom.

To submit information to be included in this section of The Observer, e-mail detailed information about an event to observer@nd.edu.

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Photograph by minced 0' Neil

ON CAMPUS: Festival of Lights will occur from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. today.

TODAY TONIGHT TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY

LOW 23 23 26 26 26

HIGH 38 38 38 38 38

LOCAL WEATHER

Monday, February 27, 2006
Saint Mary’s alumnae share service experience in Ghana

By MEGAN O’NEIL
Saint Mary’s alumnae Claire Higgins, left, and Leah Gillock describe their three-month experience teaching English at St. Martha’s School in Kasoa, Ghana.

When a classmate approached Leah Gillock at lunch one day during their senior year at Saint Mary’s to ask if she was interested in doing service work in Ghana, Gillock expressed interest, never expecting the trip would actually take place.

But Claire Higgins, who proposed the idea, had already started using her connections from the College’s “Friends with Sisters” program to explore options for the two women.

“Prior to my junior year of college, I felt this calling to go to Africa and ever since, I was thinking there has to be a way for me to go to Africa after graduation,” Higgins said at an slideshow presentation at St. Joseph’s House on campus Saturday.

Higgins originally intended to travel to Uganda, but after working with Sr. Madeline Theresa, coordinator of the international service office for the sisters of the Holy Cross, “everything fell into place” and she and Gillock decided they would finance their own trip to live and work with Sisters of the Holy Cross in Ghana.

After graduating in May 2005, the pair began to read up on Ghanaian history and to research social and political issues. They made ambitious goals for the trip and collected “loads and loads” of school supplies to distribute, Gillock said.

“Claire and I had gotten together and talked about things we could possibly do when we got there,” Gillock said.

When Higgins and Gillock arrived at St. Martha’s Catholic Church and Bixie School in September and saw how bad the situation was for Ghanaian children seeking an education, they found themselves modifying their “radical notions,” Gillock said.

The two women spent their three-month trip living in community with the Sisters and teaching English at St. Martha’s. Higgins said her class of 90 students was noisy and often difficult to control. Ages and abilities varied widely because financial constraints often required children to leave school for varying periods of time.

“Physical discipline was the norm at St. Martha’s,” Higgins and Gillock said. “It was just an awesome, incredibly wonderful experience.”

Leah Gillock
2005 graduate

Higgins described how she tried to quiet her class by asking for their attention, with little success.

“One of the little girls came up to me and was like, ‘They’re not going to respect you unless you come them.’”

Another time students were told to bring machetes — a household item in Ghana — to school to help weede, Gillock said. Those who didn’t were lined up outside of the building and shaved on both sides of their hands.

All students in Ghana, those attending both religious and government-run schools, wear uniforms and are also required to shave their heads.

“T here were times [at the beginning] unless they were wearing earrings I couldn’t tell if they were girls or boys because when they were sitting down you couldn’t tell if they were wearing skirts or pants,” Higgins said.

Higgins and Gillock also traveled to different regions in Ghana and visited various schools, many of which were in much better shape than St. Martha’s. Despite rich natural resources, the country’s infrastructure remains very poor, Gillock said. Roads are in disrepair and there are few economic opportunities even for the educated.

“Claire and I had gotten together and talked about things we could possibly do when we got there,” Gillock said.

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“It was an utter failure of education.”

Physical discipline was the norm at St. Martha’s, Higgins and Gillock said. “It was just an awesome, incredibly wonderful experience.”

Saint Mary’s alumnae Claire Higgins, left, and Leah Gillock describe their three-month experience teaching English at St. Martha’s School in Kasoa, Ghana.

Higgins called the trip a “humbling experience” and said she came to realize that before one can change the world they first must change themselves.

“It was just an awesome, incredibly wonderful experience,” Gillock said.

Contact Megan O’Neil at one0907@saintmarys.edu

Compassion for America’s Poor: What Happens When God and Government Mix?

Presentation by Jim Towey
Director, White House Office for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Presentation
Hesburgh Center Auditorium - Hesburgh Center
4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Reception
Great Hall - Hesburgh Center
5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Robinson

continued from page 1

February 2001 to strengthen interaction between South Bend residents and Notre Dame. The partnership was built through "interaction and opportunities that revitalized the neighborhood," said the Robinson Center offers a variety of educational, health and leadership opportunities that enrich the lives of volunteers and employees more than triple in the last five years. "The Robinson Center is instrumental in forging and sponsoring relationships within the community," said Mr. I hope to continue to foster this strong relationship," Jenkins said. "The Center brings people together and makes great contribution to this sense of neighborhood." As a researcher of town-gown relations, Buesgué University professor and former Neighborhood resident Peter Miller returned to the Robinson neighborhood to what happened to the results of his Notre Dame Robinson study. However, Notre Dame has managed to foster an equal partnership of dialogue and decisions. "Notre Dame has come together with [Northeast-sid] residents to decide what's best for everyone," Miller shared. Northeast-sid residents' quotes with the Robinson "will show the impact of the Center on the community." University responses to the Robinson "did not please with relations, but upon its 2001 opening, they noticed an immediate change." "The goodness — that is what [the Robinson Center has done]. The community and the work go together," assistant to the mayor Jack Reed said. "They complement each other and it is a wonderful place for young people.

Miller said the three things that allowed for this relationship

remains firmly committed to being affordable and accessible to a talented and diverse student body," including Notre Dame's total student charges continue to remain below the average of peer institutions, as determined by the U.S. News & World Report survey of America's best colleges. In that survey, Notre Dame is listed as the 14th best college in America in 2006, and the 19th best value in education. Brown said the University will not only continue to meet all students' demonstrated financial needs, but plans to reduce the proportion of need-based aid conditioned by loan, lending more heavily on monetary scholarships. "Over the past 15 years or so, Notre Dame's scholarship aid has grown from $5.4 million to more than $60 million per year, and that's been the highest priority in the University's fundraising and budgeting and continues to be so," Brown said. "So, while the tuition number does grow, financial aid grows even more."

The funds from the tuition increase will go into the General Operating Budget, which allocates money for a wide range of University functions, including the salaries for the faculty and staff and the daily costs of running an academic institution.

"There is a continuing need to balance the fiscal realities of operating the University while maintaining some constraint on tuition increases while needing to improve upon the educational experience we provide," Brown said. "It's a balancing act, like everything else in our world. The costs of operating any sort of organization continually increase, and at the University, tuition helps to drive in a significant way our overall budget."

Contact Amanda Michaels at

amichael@nd.edu

Transfers

continued from page 1

The College of Science are sometimes more rigorous than the classes made available to Holy Cross students, making them less competitive within the transfer applicant pool. Sophomore Danyal Kareem transferred to Notre Dame last fall and had to take the highest-level science classes available at Holy Cross in order to get into Notre Dame's College of Science. While Kareem said he was glad to have made the switch to Notre Dame because Holy Cross lacked science courses for him to take after his first year, he noticed differences between classes at the College and the University — differences that may have ultimately hindered him to transfer. "The classes [at Holy Cross] were smaller and the professors were able to be more involved in the courses," he said. Kareem said he feels he may not have had the grades to get into Notre Dame if he had tried to transfer from a school with larger class sizes.

And for Kareem, the hardest part of the transition was not getting to Notre Dame classes — it was making new friends. A lot of sophomores and juniors have already made their group of friends, which makes it harder for transfer students, he said.

Holy Cross freshman Anthony Garcia, who was previously denied admittance to the University, hopes to reap the benefits of the spring of 2007 to the College of Arts and Letters. In the meantime, however, he said he feels that attending Holy Cross allows him to go to school away from home while at the same time learning about Notre Dame's environment. "I've heard of many people who have had the opportunity of getting into Notre Dame [after attending Holy Cross], but I also wanted to experience the Notre Dame community altogether," he said.

Contact Becky Hogan at

rhegan2@nd.edu

The Observer ♦ CAMPUS NEWS

Monday, February 27, 2006

Transfer

continued from page 1

smiles every more...
INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Hamas looks for truce with Israel

Gaza City, Gaza Strip — The Palestinians' incoming prime minister said Sunday that Hamas is interested in a long-term truce with Israel but has no intention of seeking a formal peace agreement that would recognize the Jewish state.

Also on Sunday, Israel's acting foreign minister said Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas "is not relevant" because of the election victory by the militant group Hamas.

Israel and the U.S. consider Hamas, winner of January's Palestinian elections, a terrorist group. Hamas denies the existence of a Jewish state in the Middle East and has sent dozens of suicide bombers into Israel, killing hundreds.

65 missing miners considered dead

San Juan de los Llanos, Mexico — With no hope of finding 65 missing miners alive, a few dozen relatives watched outside a collapsed coal mine in northern Mexico on Sunday, hoping efforts to recover remains of their kin will begin soon.

Maria Cantu said she's come to terms with the fact that her 32-year-old son, Saul Villalobos, will never emerge from the mine alive, but insisted his remains must be brought out.

"They have obligation to get them out of there so they can have Christian burials," she said. "The mine is no kind of tomb for them."

A gas explosion Feb. 19 raised the temperature inside the Pasto de Conchos mine to 1,110 degrees and released toxic methane and carbon monoxide that gobbled up nearly all of the oxygen.

NATIONAL NEWS

Woman killed in church shooting

Detroit — A suspected gunman who opened fire with a shotgun during a church service Sunday morning killed a woman and wounded two people before he shot himself a mile away, police said.

Investigators believe a domestic dispute led to the shooting at Zion Hope Missionary Baptist Church about 11 a.m., said Second Deputy Police Chief James Tate.

A 37-year-old child, sitting next to the unidentified woman who was killed, was hit in the hand by a backshot pellet, Tate said. Police didn't know the relationship of the pair.

As the gunman fled the church, he critically shot a man trying to protect his wife from a carjacking attempt, officials said.

FBI tests: UT substance not ricin

Austin — The FBI determined a powdery substance found in a roll of quarters at a University of Texas dormitory was not ricin after initial tests had indicated it was the potentially deadly poison, a spokesman said Sunday.

The FBI tests did not identify the substance, but they came back negative for the poison that is extracted from castor beans, said San Antonio FBI spokesman Rene Salazar.

"There were no proteins in three to indicate it was in fact ricin," Salazar said. He was unlikely further testing would be done.

LOCAL NEWS

Bass Pro Shops draws more retailers

Eldridge, Iowa — Bass Pro Shops, which is receiving $20 million in state and local incentives to locate one of its megastores in a Polk County business park, is working full time in drawing other retailers to the site.

Cracker Barrel and Longhorn Steakhouse restaurants have been the first two spinoff developers to follow the Springfield, Mo.-based retailer's lead and sign on to build stores at AmeriPlex at the Port business park, said Tim Healy, senior vice president of Holladay Properties, which owns the park.

AFGHANISTAN

Rioting prisoners seize control

Al-Qaida and Taliban loyalists accused of inciting common criminal inmates

Associated Press

KABUL — Summary executions of prisoners took place at the Policharki prison during the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan and the Taliban rule of the country. On Sunday, it was the inmates who were in charge.

Hundreds of Afghan soldiers with tanks and grenade-launchers surrounded Kabul's main prison Sunday after rioting inmates seized control of much of the facility in an uprising that officials blamed on al-Qaida and Taliban militants.

Local media reported several people were killed and dozens injured. But it appeared security forces had yet to gain access to parts of the jail under prisoners' control, so officials could not confirm reports of casualties. One official said at least four inmates were injured.

Gunshots occasionally rang out as troops tried to keep the prisoners bottled up. Officials said the rioters did not have any firearms but had armed themselves with small knives and clubs fashioned from wrecked furniture.

Smoke could be seen curling out of some roll windows, which apparently were set on fire by the inmates and confused about their relationship of the pair.

A gas explosion Feb. 19 raised the temperature inside the Pasto de Conchos mine to 1,110 degrees and released toxic methane and carbon monoxide that gobbled up nearly all of the oxygen.

Netherlands

UN to consider genocide charges

The Hague — Officials said Sunday 300 Afghans were killed and dozens injured after a failed attempt to break out of a prison in Kabul, taking control of parts of the facility.

Hundreds of inmates, including terrorism convicts, clashed with guards Sunday in a failed attempt to break out of a prison in Kabul, taking control of parts of the facility.

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The Observer  ◆  CAMPUS NEWS

Monday, February 27, 2006

Class Council Election Today

(February 27)

Vote Online from 8AM-8PM
https://apps.nd.edu/elections

For a list of candidates, please see the Judicial Council Website at www.nd.edu/~jcouncil

Contact Maddie Hanna at mhanna@nd.edu

If you have any election questions, please email jcouncil@nd.edu

Live a little on Mondays!
Enjoy a double order of chicken, steak or combo fajitas (enough for two) for just $12!
Regular Price $20.99.

MISHAWAKA
4810 Grape Rd.
271-1390

*Valid only Monday 11am to close.

Today

"The push for student involvement grew organically, if you will, and was shared by all of us.

Sr. Mary Louise Gude chair Standing Committee on Gay and Lesbian Student Needs

The push for student involvement grew organically, if you will, and was shared by all of us.

Brian McGreevey associate professor of economics

Relations

continued from page 1
what measures were taken to stop the problem that had first occurred, or allowing landlords to pass their fine onto tenants.

The tension between students and South Bend has been represented in the back-and-forth debate between Baron, and Assistant City Attorney Ann-Carol Nash since the summer. While neither side has shifted positions, Baron said student government’s appearance at today’s Common Council meeting will be important in continuing to push for a student position:

“our attendance at the Council over the summer was important. Baron said, referring to his, campus president Matt Womington and several senators’ presence at June and July meetings discussing the proposed amendment. "It was a learning experience for us student leaders, to see how they went about discussing these matters. This seems like a natural step to take — to give our perspective on the way it has played out for students.

The six presenters will be student body vice president Lizzi Shappell, Community Relations committee member Shawn Finlen, Community Relations committee chair Nick Guzman, Judicial Council president James Leito, Womington and Baron.

"Hopefully, they [Common Council members] will engage us beyond the meeting," Baron said. "That’s, I think, the best-case sce-

nario."

But Baron also hopes the presentation will help a new tradition take root—to have student government play a "participatory role" in South Bend.

"This would be the beginning of student participation at Common Council meetings, which I think is more feasible goal," he said.

And the fight won’t end if the Common Council doesn’t consider Senate’s resolution, Baron said.

"It would not be the end of the line," Baron said. "At the same time we’ve been reaching out to the Council, we’ve reached out to landlords as well — to let them know they don’t have to evict student tenants.

Baron said the presentation would also emphasize the efforts student government has taken to promote a healthier relationship between the Notre Dame and South Bend communities, such as the partnership with Transpu and community relations letter to the student body passed by Senate on Nov. 9 that “addressed frankly there are some elitist attitudes” among Notre Dame students.

“We want to show them we’re taking some initiative in our own ranks,” Baron said.

Contact Maddie Hanna at mhanna@nd.edu
Market Recap

**Dow Jones**

**Close** 11,061.85  -7.37

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In Brief

**Foiled attack increases oil futures**

WASHINGTON — Crude oil futures jumped 4 percent Friday after a thwarted attack on a massive oil facility in Saudi Arabia rattled a market already jittery about supply disruptions in Nigeria and Iran's nuclear ambitions.

Saudi Arabia is the world's largest oil producer, with output of about 9.5 million barrels per day, or 11 percent of global consumption. The target of the attack, the Abqaiq oil complex in eastern Saudi Arabia, processes about two-thirds of the country's oil before it is exported.

But the incident heightened supply fears on Wall Street, with oil prices leaping higher after a report appeared in the financial daily Bloomberg News that the Abqaiq attack was foiled when guards opened fire, detonating the parked explosives-packed cars that the attackers had reportedly used to start the facility.

Yesterday, Saudi oil minister Ali Naimi said the attack caused a "small fire" that was brought under control and operations were not affected.

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The Arlington company also recommended that the judge immediately dismiss all of the new Blackberry devices and award it an initial $126 million in damages. IBM has deposited at least $250 million in escrow, and NTP says that pot of money should be reserved just in case newer Blackberry models infringe on its patents.

Alternative remedies questioned

*Sen. Rick Santorum, R-Pa., on Feb. 21 discusses adding federal incentives for technology industries to develop better wireless communications in underground mines.*

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Now, for the third time in a century, tragedy in West Virginia could reshape regulations.

The deadliest accident in U.S. mining history occurred Dec. 6, 1907 in Monongah, when an explosion killed 361 men. It was one of several that year and helped prompt Congress to act on President Theodore Roosevelt's call for creation of the U.S. Bureau of Mines.

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In Brief

**Foiled attack increases oil futures**

WASHINGTON — Crude oil futures jumped 4 percent Friday after a thwarted attack on a massive oil facility in Saudi Arabia rattled a market already jittery about supply disruptions in Nigeria and Iran's nuclear ambitions.

Saudi Arabia is the world's largest oil producer, with output of about 9.5 million barrels per day, or 11 percent of global consumption. The target of the attack, the Abqaiq oil complex in eastern Saudi Arabia, processes about two-thirds of the country's oil before it is exported.

But the incident heightened supply fears on Wall Street, with oil prices leaping higher after a report appeared in the financial daily Bloomberg News that the Abqaiq attack was foiled when guards opened fire, detonating the parked explosives-packed cars that the attackers had reportedly used to start the facility.

Yesterday, Saudi oil minister Ali Naimi said the attack caused a "small fire" that was brought under control and operations were not affected. But the incident heightened supply fears on world oil markets.

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Supporting Readership in a different way

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I am writing in response to a letter submitted by Joe Brutto ("Supporting readership," Feb. 24) about supporting the College Readership Program. In it, he attacks the Club Coordination Council for not supporting the College Readership Program and for providing "funds to a plethora of student run organizations, the majority of which no one cares about." First of all, I want Joe to tell the 1,085 student leaders of those organizations that no one cares about their organizations. Also, I want him to say that to the over 7,000 students that are involved in these organizations. The College Readership Program only provides newspapers for one in four students on this campus. In addition, biased reporting has led many members of campus to believe that the Club Coordination Council is against the College Readership Program. This is completely false. Dave Baron, Student Body President, and Beth O'Shaughnessy, Club Coordination Council President, have been working closely together to find a new way to fund the College Readership Program. The Club Coordination Council supports the College Readership Program. It is a great way to keep the student body informed of issues outside of the Notre Dame world. The Council is opposed to the cut in the money that will go toward campus clubs and organizations. Every year, students put their passion into creating new clubs and expanding existing ones. These clubs allow students to do many things they normally would not be able to do. They give students opportunities to compete in sports in college, performance, complete community service projects, increase awareness of world issues, learn about new cultures and increase their academic knowledge outside of the classroom. In addition to improving life on campus, these clubs give students leadership and economic experience for the real world. Cutting the hard line percentage that the Club Coordination Council receives from student activities fees will affect the future of campus clubs and organizations. It will be harder for new clubs to be introduced to our campus and for existing ones to continue. The Club Coordination Council is looking for ways to fund the College Readership Program that will not take away from three of every four students. With the amount of money that comes through this University, there has to be an alternative.

LeBron James
Club Coordination Council
Service Division Representative
Feb. 24

THE OBSERVER

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POLICIES

The Observer is the independent, daily newspaper published in print and online by the student of the University of Notre Dame. The Notre Dame College Editors- in-chief and the Notre Dame women's College Editors-in-chief are not governed by policies of the administration of other institutions. The newspaper reserves the right to refuse advertisement based on content. The newspaper is run as an academic and objectively as possible. It is the opinion of the majority of the Editors-in-Chief. Managing Editor, Associate Managing Editor and layout editor. Coordinating, editing and columns present the views of the authors and not those of the Observer. Viewpoints space is all available to readers. The free expression of all opinions through letters is encouraged. Letters to the Editor must be signed and may include contact information.

Questions regarding Observer policies should be directed to Editor in Chief, Claire Heineger

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Policies
There seems to be an emerging campaign discussion on whether a "living wage" at Notre Dame, an idea with a long pedigree of class resentment and organized labor criticism, is an example of the old arguments being borrowed as an excuse to step back and take a look at the purpose of Notre Dame as a university and as a Catholic institution. Mr. Forshaw said, "The University's main purpose is to serve its students with the best learning environment possible." 

The goal is not to make a profit, but to support the best learning environment possible — in terms of the Christian community. It must be a leader. A necessary way of doing this is to be an example of Catholic behavior to the students whom the University is teaching. Part of the question of why Notre Dame is a one-way street is to be an example of Catholic behavior.

Many people opposed to the living wage, including Forshaw, have suggested that one reason is that the workers are necessary to step back and take a look at the purpose of Notre Dame as a university and as a Catholic institution. Mr. Forshaw said, "The University's main purpose is to serve its students with the best learning environment possible." 

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The Actors From the London Stage performed "The Merchant of Venice" this past weekend. The group has performed several other plays at Notre Dame.

By BRIAN DOXTADER
Assistant Scene Editor

Actors From the London Stage (AFTLS) performed William Shakespeare's "The Merchant of Venice" this weekend in the Decio Mainstage of the DeBartolo Center for the Performing Arts (DPAC). The performance was a part of the Spring ArtsFest and also their regular appearance for the semester.

The play, which is one of Shakespeare's most controversial comedies, began with a brief prologue that introduced each character and how each actor was going to play him or her. This was an absolute necessity because each actor portrayed multiple characters, sometimes in the same scene. Using costuming or inflected mannerisms, the actors established how they were going to differentiate between each character.

Often, the changes were subtle, especially in the costuming. At times, a sash or sunglasses were the only notable indicators. In previous plays presented by the AFTLS, this sometimes led to confusion as it became difficult to follow who was who. But this particular group of actors' impressive talent made the play easy to understand throughout.

"The Merchant of Venice" follows Bassanio (Christopher Staines), who needs a loan of 3,000 ducats to properly woo Portia (Isabel Pollen). He approaches his friend Antonio (Gregory Cox), whose fortune is invested in several merchant ships at sea. Antonio gets the loan from the Jewish moneylender Shylock (Tim Hardy).

Shylock bitterly hates Antonio, whom he feels has insulted him for being a Jew. Shylock agrees to the loan on the condition that if it is not fully paid within three months, the penalty is a pound of Antonio's flesh. Meanwhile, Jessica (Louise Yates) has eloped with Lorenzo (Tim Hardy), much to Shylock's chagrin.

For a comedy, "The Merchant of Venice" is quite often dark. While it has its share of funny moments, Shylock is a particularly unmerciful character, and his ultimate consequence still isn't fully deserved. Hardy's portrayal emphasizes the villain dimension, particularly in his powerful rendition of the "If you prick us, do we not bleed?" monologue. But the monologue's placement right before the intermission cast a surprisingly dark pall over the rest of the proceedings.

Additionally, the Actors From the London Stage version of the play ends on a disquieting note, as Shylock's daughter Jessica (Louise Yates), who has eloped with Lorenzo (Tim Hardy) learns of her father's fate. Though Shakespeare probably intended the play to end happily, the ending presented by AFTLS is darkly indefinite. While certainly affecting, this ending seems oddly inappropriate — "The Merchant of Venice" is, after all, a comedy, and an ambiguous ending is thus problematic.

Still, all of the acting was quite good and the play was entertaining and swiftly paced throughout. Hardy's affected portrayal of Shylock was a standout, as was Cox's ability to shift between characters at will. On occasion, he even carried out entire conversations with himself while playing two characters.

Staines had a hilarious scene as Arragon, whose comical misfortune was much deserved, and Pollen and Yates seemed to have a great time switching between male and female characters. The use of singing — the actors were excellent singers, especially Hardy, who has a background in opera — and brief musical interludes gave the play's welcome added dimension.

The Decio Mainstage was a good location for the performance. None of the actors used microphones but were still easily audible, even in the balcony. This gave the show a warm, personal feel, and the actors took full advantage of the stage. Most of the time, they sat on stage (even in scenes they were not in), which allowed them to "enter" and "exit" on cue.

Costuming and staging was minimal, as per the AFTLS standard. Most of the cast wore contemporary clothes (button down shirts and pants), but this wasn't necessarily a detriment. Never once is "The Merchant of Venice" presented as a period piece, which instead allows the audience to concentrate on the poeticism of Shakespeare's writing and the skill of the actors. While the performance did rely on some key props, most of them were actually used to help differentiate between characters.

The Actors From the London Stage almost always put on a great show, and "The Merchant of Venice" was no exception. Though only Staines has toured with the group before (as part of 2004's "A Midsummer's Night Dream"), they almost always manage to pull together a great show, despite — or perhaps because of — the performance's artsy minimalism.

Contact Brian Doxtader at bdoxtade@nd.edu

Simply Shakespeare
AFTLS downplays staging, highlights acting for 'The Merchant of Venice'

The Actors From the London Stage performed "The Merchant of Venice" this past weekend. The group has performed several other plays at Notre Dame.

AFTLS performed William Shakespeare's "The Merchant of Venice" while classified as a comedy, has a frequently dark tone due its subject matter and the play's villain, Shylock. This was an absolute necessity because the production was a part of the Spring ArtsFest and also their regular appearance for the semester.

The play, which is one of Shakespeare's most controversial comedies, began with a brief prologue that introduced each character and how each actor was going to play him or her. This was an absolute necessity because each actor portrayed multiple characters, sometimes in the same scene. Using costuming or inflected mannerisms, the actors established how they were going to differentiate between each character.

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Contact Brian Doxtader at bdoxtade@nd.edu
Fiestang mixes modern, traditional in entertaining way

By TAYE ANDREWS

Scene Writer

Taking a cue from the comedic film "Dude, Where's My Car?" Notre Dame's Filipino American Student Organization put on its traditional, yet innovative show. This year's main event was a two-hour annual Fiestang show past Saturday. Dubbed "Hey! Where's My Jeepney?" Fiestang XII featured a highly entertaining program including song, dance and comedy, all with a delicious Filipino dinner. The plot of "Hey! Where's My Jeepney?" revolves around Alexis (played by Sklar Green), a young woman who broke up with her boyfriend Ryan (Jon Robinson). After encountering Dante (Vinny Nguyen), a smooth customer with less-than-reputable interests, Alexis is completely oblivious to the affection of Justin (Angelo Garcia), a genuinely good guy who is not-so-secretly in love with her. Camille Gabriel, who is also on campus,Dtante's best friend. In addition, Jon Phillips, who is also on campus, introduces the show's mix of dances, Fiestang addresses the social dynamic of Filipino-American students who struggle to balance their cultural roots with their lives as consummately as possible.

The second act warmed up with a traditional tinikling performance, choreographed by Davin Costa, literally meaning "bambu dance." tinikling involves long bamboo poles beingclapped together in rhythm. Inspired by the natural movement of tịnh bò birds as they pick their way over rough terrain, tinikling dancers skillfully navigate between the booming cadence of the bamboo poles. The traditional tinikling was followed by a modern tinikling sequence, jointly choreographed by Sison and Garcia. After the conclusion of the traditional segment, the show took a turn for the modern — and became more risque — with a modern couples dance. Choreographed by Nguyen, Park, and Lam, the performance was scintillating enough to steam up even the normally dour Stephans Center. Much to the delight of the many ladies in the audience, the couples sequence was followed by a guys' dance, choreographed by Chris Ulad. The show concluded with a modern girls dance, choreographed by Ashley Gongjuco and performed to the foxy song, "You and Me." With over 350 people in attendance, Fiestang XII was a smashing success. For those who didn't make it out to the Stephans Center, there's always a chance to catch next year's Fiestang.
Irish finish behind Buckeyes on home turf

By JACK THORNTON
Spurs Writer

If Sesame Street had sponsored this weekend's Midwest Conference Fencing Championship, the number would be "two." The Irish took second place behind top-flight Irish fences in all six team categories, each capturing a second or third place for women's overall, men's overall and combined overall.

"We did well, but Sunday I think we could've done better," women's captain Kim Montoya said. "Not that we sucked, but we weren't at top of our game." Coming in with the No. 1 ranked men's team and the No. 10 women's team, the Ohio State Buckeyes made a powerful statement by winning Sunday's team portioned at 1,325 points to Notre Dame's 1,260. The Buckeyes took first overall in every category besides women's foil, which Northwestern won.

"Earlier this year we beat [Ohio State] in women's, and today they took revenge," head coach Janusz Bednarski said. "It's not a shame to lose against such good fencers, but it is a sign that you need to improve and prepare for next weekend." Bednarski said. "She gives us this feeling of potential in our team." Overall, Notre Dame fencers made a magnificent individual session. Four of them were bronze medals — Madeline Stephanie (women's epee), Addi Nott (women's foil), Jakub Jedrzkowiac (men's foil) and Sterns (men's sabre) — and three were silver medals won by Valeri Provost (men's epee), Greg Howard (men's epee) and Ghattas (men's sabre). Bednarski said, if perhaps your team needed a wakeup call, this is it.

"I will say it will bring us to reality ... perhaps this will teach the kids that after such a long lay-off, Kubinski feels his team is ready to get back to competition. We've been hitting balls in Lollus since January, but I think the guys are excited to get back out there," Irish coach Jim Kubinski said, who is entering his second full year as Irish head coach. While some might worry about rust after such a long lay-off, Kubinski feels his team is ready to get back to competition.

"We had a few guys spend some time out in Arizona [due to travel, Christmas break], but we also had the Alumni match down in Sarasota. Fl., which helped a lot," Kubinski concluded. If the Irish can knock off the rust from this four-month hiatus, it should bode well for the 2006-07 season. Although they're ranked just No. 46 in the country, Kubinski feels they have Top 20 potential.

"We played B-golf during the fall season and still finished in the top six in all our tournaments," he said. "If we can get up to our A-game, I think we can beat anyone in the country.

Kubinski has reason to be optimistic, as Notre Dame beat a number of ranked teams during the fall season, including a victory over No. 3 Florida in the Shool Creek Invitational in September. While Notre Dame has been able to best some of the higher ranked teams this year, Kubinski feels they are ready to get back in competition.

"We just want to get out there and compete and come back with a victory," Jim Kubinski Irish head coach

"We need a forth consistent scorer that can supplement Cole [Isbarn], Mark [Baldwin] and Scott [Gustafson]," he said. The opportunity to become that fourth consistent scorer will be given to sophomores Mike King and Greg Rodgers, and if they can step up, Kubinski feels the Irish will go far this season.

"I feel that Cole, Mark (Baldwin) and Scott are all playing really solid, and I would love to see them against any other players in the country," Kubinski said. "If they can mature and get a really good score, we can come back on Tuesday with a victory."

While Kubinski said the overall level of competition in this tournament is not as strong compared to the teams Notre Dame faced in the fall season, he feels it will show where the Irish are in relation to other top teams.

"While it's not the strongest field we've faced this year, playing teams like Wake Forest (No. 21), Florida State (No. 38) and Baylor (No. 20) — there's enough good competition that we can see where we are relative to some of the best in the country," he said.

And while individual members may have personal goals for this tournament, Kubinski says the team as a whole has just one goal.

"We just want to get out there and compete and come back with a victory," he said.

Contact Jack Thornton at jthorn4@nd.edu

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Golfers ready to swing away at Lexus Naples Intercollegiate

By JOE QUINN
News Writer

Four months ago, the Notre Dame men's golf team was disfranchised from the CortezValle College in Arkansas, but today, the Irish kick off the spring season when they travel to Loxahatchee, Fla. to take part in the Lexus Naples Intercollegiate.

The Irish, ranked No. 46 in the country according to Golfweek/Griffith Performance Index, are excited to get back to competition.

"We've been hitting balls in Lollus since January, but I think the guys are excited to get back out there," Irish coach Jim Kubinski said, who is entering his second full year as Irish head coach. While some might worry about rust after such a long lay-off, Kubinski feels his team is ready to get back to competition.

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"We need a forth consistent scorer that can supplement Cole [Isbarn], Mark [Baldwin] and Scott [Gustafson]," he said. The opportunity to become that fourth consistent scorer will be given to sophomores Mike King and Greg Rodgers, and if they can step up, Kubinski feels the Irish will go far this season.

"I feel that Cole, Mark (Baldwin) and Scott are all playing really solid, and I would love to see them against any other players in the country," Kubinski said. "If they can mature and get a really good score, we can come back on Tuesday with a victory."

While Kubinski said the overall level of competition in this tournament is not as strong compared to the teams Notre Dame faced in the fall season, he feels it will show where the Irish are in relation to other top teams.

"While it's not the strongest field we've faced this year, playing teams like Wake Forest (No. 21), Florida State (No. 38) and Baylor (No. 20) — there's enough good competition that we can see where we are relative to some of the best in the country," he said.

And while individual members may have personal goals for this tournament, Kubinski says the team as a whole has just one goal.

"We just want to get out there and compete and come back with a victory," he said.

Contact Joe Quinn at jquinn6@nd.edu

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## Around the Nation

### NHL

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### Winter Olympics — Turin

**Turin Olympics close with celebration**

**TURIN, Italy — Turin’s Olympics, a topsy-turvy mix of marvels and misadventures, ended appropriately with a closing-ceremony Carnevale — a circus-like celebration full of clowns and acrobats, vibrant and often dreamlike.**

Fireworks explode during the circus-themed closing ceremony of the 2006 Winter Olympic Games in Turin, Italy, Sunday, Feb. 26. The next winter Olympics will be held in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada in 2010.

Some athletes wore red clown noses Sunday night as they swarmed across the huge stage of Olympic Stadium, waving jubilantly to a backdrop of bouncy Italian songs. Many of the 35,000 spectators donned devil and angel masks in a closing ceremony doubling as the annual Carnevale festival celebrated across Italy this weekend.

Italy had an extra reason to celebrate — a brand-new national hero as headline of the first-ever medal ceremony included in a Winter Games’ closing festivities. After an Olympics that often lacked star power, Italy’s Giorgio di Ceria filled the void with a final-day victory in the 50-kilometer cross-country race.

The crowd erupted in cheers and waved a sea of tiny Italian flags as di Ceria and his fellow medalists strode to the podium. Helping bestow the medals was di Ceria’s sister, Manuela, an International Olympic Committee member and former cross-country medallist herself.

Before declaring the games closed, IOC president Jacques Rogge described the Turin Olympics as “truly magnificent.”

“You have succeeded brilliantly in meeting your challenge,” he told organizers. “Grazie, Torino.”

**Associated Press**

**Clemens to prepare for WBC at Astros’ complex**

HOUSTON — Roger Clemens will take to the mound Monday at Houston’s spring training camp, face in minor league batters, even though he’s not part of the Astros.

The 43-year-old Clemens wants to pitch in the World Baseball Classic, then decide whether to retire or play a 23rd season, said Koby Clemens, his oldest son and a third baseman in the Astros’ farm system.

Koby Clemens said his father was due to arrive in Florida on Sunday night and planned to pitch to minor leaguers in a simulated game Monday morning.

Clemens, a free agent, wasn’t offered salary arbitration by the Astros and cannot re-sign with them until May 1. He could join another team before that, and Texas, Boston and the New York Yankees are reportedly interested.

Houston general manager Tim Purpura said the Astros got permission from Major League Baseball to allow the Rocket to pitch at their spring training complex.

**Tripplett wins first PGA Tour event in three seasons**

TUCSON, Ariz. — Kirk Tripplett was nowhere near the leaderboard through two rounds at the Chrysler Classic of Tucson. Yet when it was over, it was Tripplett hoisting the gold- en conquistador helmet and celebrating his first PGA Tour victory in three seasons.

Tripplett opened his final round Sunday with five straight birdies and added another four in arow over the back nine, shooting a 63 to earn his third PGA Tour victory and first since the 2003 Reno-Tahoe Open.

With a 22-under 266, Tripplett finished a shot ahead of Jerry Kelly. Duffy Waldorf, the second- and third-round leader who seemed poised for his first victory in six years, shot 72 and tied for third at 19 under with Bubba Watson (70) and Heath Shaw (64).

**In Brief**

**“We’ve done it,” exhorted Valentino Castellani, the organizing committee chief.** While Castellani spoke, an intruder approached the microphone and shouted, “Passion Lives in Turino” before being whisked away by security officers. Police said the man was Spanish; he was taken into custody for questioning.

The spotlight then shifted to Vancouver, host of the 2010 Games, with the raising of Canada’s Maple Leaf flag and a somber rendition of “O, Canada” by British Columbia-born opera star Ben Heppner.

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ND SOFTBALL

Irish pitch way to a 3-1 record in Invitational

By JAY FITZPATRICK

Sports Writer

Notre Dame made an impressive turnaround this weekend, posting a 3-1 record en route to winning the Golden Panther Invitational tournament hosted by Florida International University.

The Irish started the weekend with a dominating victory against Buffalo, 1-0, on Saturday behind the pitching of Sophomore Joey Kemp.

The Irish hung tough against the Bulls, allowing only three hits and five walks. Bargar was dominant against Buffalo. The only run of the day came in the bottom of the third inning from a dropped ball, sparking a pick-off attempt from Relief Pitcher Alyssa Schmelke. Schmelke’s throw was off the bag, and Glynn scored easily from third. That one run would prove to be all that was needed for Bargar, who allowed only four hits and three walks against eight strike-outs in the complete game victory. In fact, after a double by Lauren Picciano in the first inning, no Buffalo runners made it to second base against Bargar.

The Irish also boosted the tournament’s MVP, Pitcher Heather Booth. Booth won the two middle games of the tournament, compiling an ERA of 0.58 and 19 strikeouts while surrendering only eight total hits. Booth, a two-time first team All-Big East pitcher, showed a return to form in Miami this weekend, most notably in her first start against the host team, FIU.

In a rain-shortened game that lasted only five innings, Booth was perfect in three of them, retiring FIU batters in order in the first (in which she struck out the side), third, and fifth innings. While Bargar was baffling opposing hitters, the Irish offense gave her more than enough run support for the win. Despite having only one extra base hit—a double by second baseman Sarah Lai—Notre Dame’s aggressive base running led to five runs. The Irish played small ball to perfection, using five sacrifice, taking extra bases at the right time and working counts to their favor by striking out only twice.

The Irish continued winning on Saturday morning against Memphis 4-1, again featuring Booth’s arm and Notre Dame’s bats. Booth surrendered only one run on six hits while also striking out 10 in her second complete game victory of the tournament. The win also demonstrated Notre Dame’s ability to get runners on base and move them over when needed. Irish batters capitalized on mistakes and created their own opportunities against the Tigers, using bunts, hit and runs, steals and errors to keep innings alive and put runners into scoring position.

The last game the Irish played was their only loss in Miami, falling 6-5 in a rematch against FIU. This was also the only game in which Irish pitching and fielding were not stellar, as Bargar allowed five runs—only two of which were earned—in three innings of work. The Irish opened scoring in the first inning with an RBI single from Lai, but the Golden Panthers responded in the second inning with a two-run double by third baseman Samantha Card. FIU added three unearned runs in the third against Bargar, all of which resulted from a fielding error she committed.

The Irish had a comeback rally in the fifth, pushing the score to 5-4 behind a solo home run by right fielder Stephanie Brown—who, along with Booth and shortstop Nare Schonnert, were named to the all-tournament team—and an RBI single by catcher Malorie Lema. But the rally ended two batters later, leaving the Irish one run short of the Golden Panthers.

The championship game of the tournament against either St. John’s or FIU was cancelled due to rain, and the Irish were named the tournament champions, improving their record to 5-4 on the season. The Irish hope to carry this victory into next weekend’s tournament at Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Contact Jay Fitzpatrick at jfitzpa@nd.edu

ND WRESTLING

Men’s Lacrosse

By TIM DOUGHERTY

Sports Writer

In the pre-season, co-captain and senior defensiveman D.J. Driscoll said the difference between playing in the 2006 NCAA Tournament or watching it on TV would be the performance of the Irish’s first three games.

That challenge was met earlier this season when Notre Dame defeated the host team, FIU. This was also the only game in which Irish pitching and fielding were not stellar, as Bargar allowed five runs—only two of which were earned—in three innings of work. The Irish opened scoring in the first inning with an RBI single from Lai, but the Golden Panthers responded in the second inning with a two-run double by third baseman Samantha Card. FIU added three unearned runs in the third against Bargar, all of which resulted from a fielding error she committed.

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Contact Jay Fitzpatrick at jfitzpa@nd.edu

Men’s Lacrosse: Nittany Lions overpowered by Kemp, tenacious defense

By TIM DOUGHERTY

Sports Writer

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Contact Jay Fitzpatrick at jfitzpa@nd.edu
Irish remain unbeaten after weekend sweep

By DAN TAPETILLO
Sports Writer

The Irish established themselves as a powerhouse this weekend with wins over No. 20 BYU and No. 31 Wisconsin at the 8K Tennis Tournament.

No. 7 Notre Dame remained undefeated and improved its record to 9-0 this year — one win short of the all-time school record. Not only did the Irish defeat tough opponents, but they also avenged their losses to both programs from last season.

"I'm really excited, because we have never been a Top 10 team since my freshman year," senior Kiki Stastny said. "I'm thrilled with this experience. It is a whole new confidence, and we feel like we can beat anybody."

In their 6-1 win over the Sooners, the Irish began the contest by capturing the doubles point with wins at Nos. 2 and 3. However, the original lineup for the Irish was altered when junior Catrina Thompson had to pull out before the match due to a wrist injury.

"He had to play a little short-handed today, because Catrina had some wrist problems," coach Jay Louderback said. "But everybody stepped up."

Playing at No. 2 for Notre Dame were seniors Stanzy and captain Lauren Connelly, who topped Wisconsin's duo of Elizabeth Carpenter and Chelsea Nusslock 8-3. The pair stood at 9-0 in dual action play.

Following at No. 3 for the Irish was the new pairing of freshman Katie Potts and junior Christian Thompson. The duo downed the Buckeyes' Morgan Tuttle and Lexi Goldin 8-1.

"It was a tough deal, because Christian has never played with anyone [except for her sister]," Louderback said. "But it gave [Potts] good experience to play with Christian, because [Thompson is such a good doubles player]."

The only loss in doubles for the Irish came at No. 1 from the No. 29 duo of sophomore Brook Back and freshman Kelcy Tefli. Wisconsin's No. 30 team of Caitlin Burke and Rebecca Beck defeated the Irish pair 8-7 (7-1).

In singles, No. 32 Christian Thompson fell to Wisconsin's No. 24 Caitlin Burke 6-4, 6-4 in her debut at No. 1.

Following at No. 2 was Buck, who toppled Beek 6-1, 6-1. The improved Buck's season record to 11-6.

Telft played at No. 3 for the Irish with a 6-1, 6-3 win over Nusslock. Stanzy played at No. 5 for Notre Dame against the Buckeye's Carder and rallied to a 6-3, 4-6, 1-0 (11-9) win at No. 4.

"It was a rollecoaster; because she would be on a roll with four amazing winners," Stanzy said. "So it was hard to stay in control, because you didn't know what to expect."

Following Stanzy at No. 5 was Potts, who defeated Wisconsin's Erin Jode 6-1, 6-1.

Competing at No. 6 for the Irish was Connelly, who downed Tuttle 6-1, 6-0.

After Sunday's win over Wisconsin, Louderback was impressed with the team's performance in singles play this season.

"Our doubles has been good, but it is our singles that [have gotten the job done] in every match all season," Louderback said.

No. 7 Notre Dame 5, No. 20 BYU 3

The Irish got out to a strong start against the Cougars, sweeping the doubles matches.

"It was a huge boost," Stanzy said. "Once you have the [doubles point], you have a lot more momentum. Our goal this season is to be undefeated in doubles."

The Thompson twins played at No. 1 for the team and finished first as they topped BYU's Anastasia Sorkova and Jennifer Miceli 8-3.

Following at No. 2 were Buck and Telft, who defeated the Cougars' Olga Rubytecheva and Sofia Holden 6-1, 6-4.

Playing in the third position for Notre Dame were Connelly and Stanzy, who downed BYU's Daily Chang and Luren Jones 6-3, 6-2.

We are all really steady [in doubles], and we all have the experience of us playing," Stanzy Thompson said. "[Our team] are good and deep."

In singles, No. 27 Catrina Thompson was first off the court with a 6-4, 6-2 loss to No. 17 Rubytecheva at No. 1.

Playing at No. 2 was Catrina Thompson, who defeated Jones 6-4, 6-2.

Beck followed Thompson with a 7-6 (7-2), 7-6 (7-2) loss to Sorkova at No. 3.

The bottom half of the lineup closed out the match in two-set wins at Nos. 4, 5 and 6.

Tefft, playing fourth in the lineup, defeated Holden 6-1, 6-4.

Buck followed the victory with a 6-4, 6-1 win over Chang at No. 5.

The final victory came from Buck and Telft, as she downed Miocici 6-3, 6-4.

Contact Dan Tapetillo at jtapetil@nd.edu

BASEBALL

Service Academies Classic proves tough test for ND nine

By KEN FOWLER
Sports Writer

Notre Dame lost two of three games in the Service Academies Classic in Millington, Tenn., this weekend.

After beating Indiana State in a non-tournament game Thursday, the Irish (2-2) topped Air Force Friday but fell to Memphis Saturday and Oklahoma Sunday, losing late-inning leads in both.

"I think we played really good baseball," Irish coach Paul Mainieri said. "It's a shame we were only able to come away with a 2-2 record. We played well enough to win all four games."

Oklahoma 4, Notre Dame 3

Junior righthander Jeff Mansfield took the mound for the Irish and gave up just two runs in five innings, but the Sooners scored two in the seventh after a throwing error by first baseman Mike Dury opened the door for Oklahoma.

Dury hit a three-run homer in the fifth to give Notre Dame a 3-2 lead over the Sooners after Charlie Caufield's two-run blast off Mansfield in the third put Oklahoma about 2-0.

But after Irish southpaw relief pitcher Sam Eham hit fellow Kevin Smith on a 3-2 count in the seventh, Mansfield brought in the right-handed Jess Stewart to face the Sooners' Joseph Hughes. Hughes then had to take Jeff Mansfield out of the game, which we did not have many options," Mainieri said.

Hughes dropped down a routine sacrifice bunt along the first-base line but stopped halfway to the bag. Dury hesitated to tag, and the speedy centerfielder sprinted down the line. Dury then overtook. Aaron Beza, who was covering from second base, and Oklahoma's lead and caused nobody.

Stewart retired the next two batters on a strikeout and flyout, but surrendered a two-out, two-run double to Kevin Williams that put the Sooners on top 4-3.

"When your pitchers only make two mistakes in the game, it's pretty good," Mainieri said. The Irish pitchers struck out 13 Oklahoma batters but made the two big mistakes — the two-out single and the two-run home run.

"When you strike out 13 batters, normally you're going to win the game, because you're dominant," Mainieri said. "The difference was, two of them were extra-base hits."

Memphis 7, Notre Dame 6 (10 innings)

Pinch hitter Joey Liebermann sent a two-run homer over the fence for the hometown Memphis Tigers in the top of the tenth inning, and Notre Dame lost a game in which it had a 5-0 lead through five innings.

Southpaw sophomore Wade Kori allowed just three hits and no runs in five innings, but the Tigers chipped away at the Irish lead in the final four frames to force extra innings.

Our starting pitching was outpitched today," Mainieri said. "Because they were all on strict pitch counts, we had to pull them early in the game."

Will Petersen led the Memphis comeback, getting three hits, including the game-ending two-out double in the top of the ninth off freshman reliever Kyle Weiland.

"We could have been in the game, whether you're winning or losing, it any loss hurts," Mainieri said. "We always prided ourselves on winning the close ones."

Senior Matt Brazzold and third baseman Brett McLell accounted for five of Notre Dame's seven hits in the game. Brazzold had three hits and two RBIs in a rare start in left field for the 6-foot-5 righty from Englewold, Colo., while Liley went 2-for-2 with two runs scored and a walk out of the No. 2 hole.

Mainieri said the inconsistent swing on the Irish could have been expected this early in the season.

"One thing we thought was they didn't swing the bat well," he said. "It's the result of not having a lot of at-bats under their belt."

Notre Dame 8, Air Force 2

Behind the arm of 6-foot-5 righthander Jeff Samardzija, Notre Dame grounded Air Force 8-2 Friday in the opening game of the Service Academies Classic.

"I thought Jeff pitched exceptionally well," Mainieri said.

Samardzija allowed just one run on four hits in six innings of work, and the Irish bullpen held on for the victory. Samardzija pitched a run eighth that extended the Irish lead from 2-1 to 8-1.

Eight Irish batters collected hits, including two for second baseman Kiki Stastny, whose three-run homer in the eighth put the game out of reach.

Contact Ken Fowler at kfweller@nd.edu
Buckeyes
continued from page 20
said. "We had to stick to our guns and keep doing what we're doing. It wasn't a case of the level being inadequate, it was a case of winning a close match and we did." The match outcome looked bleak after the doubles point, when the Irish (8-6) were swept by Ohio State. "That's about as badly as we can play," Bayliss said. "There was no energy, and they just took it to us. I'm glad Ohio State didn't charge on the first point." In the top spot, Ryan Keckley and Barry King fell first in an 8-2 decision, while Scott Green and Ross Wilson. Green and Wilson held the nation's No. 1 doubles ranking, while Keckley and King weigh in at No. 51. Eric Langenkamp and Sheeva Parbhoo also lost 8-2 in the No. 2 spot, as Ohio State's Drew Eberly and Bryan Koniecko clinched the point for the Buckeyes. Brent Heidgen and Andrew Roth fought to avoid the sweep at No. 3, but ultimately fell 8-6. "I had a few comments for them that weren't very flattering," Bayliss said of his team's break between doubles and singles. "I think they realized it was put up or shut up." No. 17 Stephen Bass was the first to put up a win in singles, tying the match at 1-1 by defeating No. 42 Devin Mullings in No. 1 singles. Bayliss called his 6-2, 6-3 victory a "signature win" for the junior, who has now won six straight matches and 13 in a row at home. "Stephen Bass deserves a ton of credit," Bayliss said. "Mullings is a tough little street fighter and Stephen just out-toughed him. Heidgen, who stands at No. 60 in the national rankings, was next off with a 6-3, 6-4 win at No. 3. The win was more impressive because the freshman - who is 11-0 at home - still recovering from illness. When Langenkamp won 6-3, 6-4 at No. 6, the Irish were one match away from clinching the victory. "Eric did an amazing job at not making many mistakes, but also being willing to step up in the court and take advantage of short balls," associate head coach Todd Doehler said. "Our team got a lot of momentum because he was able to get off the court." Sophomore Parbhoo would clinch the match before raucous fans in a 1-6, 6-3, 6-3 win at No. 2 singles. The crowd had gravitated towards Parbhoo and Keckley, both playing their third sets on adjacent courts in the Eck Pavilion. "Parbhoo got a little tight once he knew the match was on the line, but he got more aggressive and regained his composure," Doehler said. The crowd remained to see Keckley, one of the team's most consistent wins in singles, post a win over Chris Klingemann 3-6, 6-3, 6-4. "I think the pressures off (after the match is clinched) but it's harder to play because all the guys fight so hard for the team," Doehler said. "Ryan still wanted to close out that match, just because in the past we've had some really tough matches with Ohio State." Keckley played at No. 4 for the first time with all the starters in the Irish lineup. "It was a big step moving him up to four," Bayliss said. "But, he's got a 10-1 record." The Eck drew a strong crowd from both local residents and students, as this was the tennis team's designated Gold Game. "It's nice to see that our guys can respond to the support we get," Bayliss said. The Irish return to action March 3 as the team travels to the Pacific Coast Doubles Tournament in La Jolla, Ca.

Contact Kate Gales at kgales@nd.edu

Bearcats
continued from page 20
as the buzzer sounded. "I thought we really showed our poise at the end, because we could have put our heads down and thought the game was over, but we came over, executed the play perfectly and scored a lot of points to come back from that with two seconds left," McGraw said. "And that's why I think we had the momentum going into overtime." In overtime, Schrader opened the scoring with a 1-of-2 free throws to give the Irish a 58-57 lead. She finished with 11 points in the game. After Cincinnati's Michelle Musgrove made a layup to give the Bearcats the lead, Schrader scored again on a feed from Gaines to give the Irish a one-point lead. With 2:04 left in overtime and the game tied at 62, LaVere converted on a three-point play that Schrader's said. "We wanted to get the ball inside, and Courtney did a great job down low," McGraw said. Schrader hit a jumper with 1:26 remaining to extend the Irish lead to five, and Duffy connected on eight straight free throws in the final 12 seconds to seal the win for Notre Dame and finish with 17 points in the game. "Megan at the free-throw line really iced the game for us," McGraw said. Humphries was the star of the game for Cincinnati, shutting down Duffy on the defensive end most of the afternoon and putting up 14 points of her own. Humphries played the final six minutes with four fouls but held the senior All-American to just seven field goal attempts in regulation. The Bearcats' deadlest threat from outside, freshman Shelly Bellman, made just 4-of-14 field goals, including 1-of-6 from three-point range. Cincinnati entered as the second best team in the conference from long range but hit just 5-of-20 from behind the arc against an off-day porous Irish zone. Gaines finished with 14 points on 3-of-7 shooting from the floor and 8-of-9 from the line. LaVere joined Duffy as the high-point scorer in the game, connecting on 8-of-11 field goals on route to her 17 points. McGraw said a key in getting LaVere involved was the high-low passing the Irish utilized throughout the game to extend the Cincinnati defense. "That's out of the Princeton offense, and we've run that pretty successfully throughout the year," she said. "Courtney's really good at the high post." Contact Ken Fowler at k Fowler@nd.edu

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Barbetti found the back of the net for the second time this season. Defenseman Chris Trick broke his stick and skated toward the Irish bench. Barbetti jumped over the boards to replace him and found himself in perfect position to play the puck. The junior flipped a pass to center Erik Corden and cut to the goal, where Corden found him for the 1-0 lead.

A few minutes later, the Nanooks struck back. A turnover at center led to a Fairbanks breakaway and defenseman Steve Vanoni broke the pack past Irish goalie Dave Brown from the left face-off circle. Notre Dame answered at 13:06 and again at 17:55 with goals from its fourth line of Evan Rankin, Tony Johnson and Garrett Begam. Jackson said he was pleasantly surprised by the three players, who usually see less ice time then the first three lines.

“T’ve had those guys together before,” Jackson said. “Garrett Begam skates really well, Evan Rankin is a tenacious player who plays physical, and Tony Gill is pretty smart, so they work well together.”

Rankin scored the first goal, flipping the puck from a severe angle behind and to the left of Nanook goalie Chad Johnson. The shot hit Johnson in the back and then rimmed off the post and into the net to give Notre Dame the lead.

Begam, a freshman, added his third career goal a little under five minutes later when he punched a rebound of a Wes N’Dell shot past Johnson. That was all the action Johnson would see, as he was pulled in favor of sophomore Wylie Rogers for the remainder of the game. Rogers held the Irish scoreless until the third period, when right wing Tim Wallace scored at the 1:49 mark to put Notre Dame up 4-1.

Jackson was pleased with his team’s focus for most of the game. Notre Dame earned opening round byes in the tournament to take on one of the top seeds — Miami of Ohio, Michigan State, Michigan or Northern Michigan — who all earned opening round byes in the 12-team tournament.

The Irish scored three first-period goals Friday and were in control most of the game. Notre Dame head coach Jeff Jackson said he was pleased with his team’s focus after a long school day.

“I’ve been a little concerned about our Friday night home games,” Jackson said. “Sometimes, it’s a little hard for them to refocus after a long school day.”

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**Irish fall flat in game they needed the most**

It’s time to stop making excuses. Enough with what’s wrong with Notre Dame. The Irish need to be more honest and simple. They need to win their remaining games to earn a shot at the NCAA tournament.

The Irish are a force in the paint and Notre Dame’s willingness to make excuses and start examining themselves is needed.

**Men’s Basketball**

**The Observer**

**Sports Editor**

**Bobby Griffin**

**Associate Sports Editor**

**Irish fall flat in game they needed the most**

Notre Dame still has a chance, but it will have to win its last two games and deal with the mental toll of its decisions.

It’s not even the worst part. Given Marquette’s intensity and Notre Dame’s willing­ness to make excuses and start examining themselves, it’s needed.

**continued from page 20**

points from forward Steve Novak and 18 from新鲜 from point guard Dominic James.

The Irish (13-12, 4-10 Big East) fell to No. 15 in the conference standings and must work to win their remaining two games to avoid being eliminated from the Big East tournament. March 8. The Golden Eagles (19-8, 9-5) improved their conference record and remain No. 5 in the conference.

Marquette won the first meeting between the two teams in Milwaukee, Wis., 67-65, on a contested last-second shot by Novak Jan. 20. But on Saturday, the Golden Eagles played their game and were shooting foul shots at the end instead of sinking game-winners.

"I’d rather get blown out by 20 than (have a team) just take it from us," freshman point guard Kyle McAlarney said after playing the most productive game of his young Notre Dame career (14 points, 6-12 shooting, eight assists, two turnovers).

Marquette permanently regulated movement with a 9-0 second half run behind three straight 3-pointers from Dan Fitzgerald (10 points) and two from Novak. The Golden Eagles led 55-46 with 4:22 left in the second half and held on for a 49-49 tie at the 10:58 timeout.

"We just had some possessions there — both defensively and offensively," McAlarney said. "After we were up five, in (which we didn’t get) the John Novak moment," Irish point guard Chris Quinn said. "And to beat a team like Marquette very tough to be good in those situations."

Notre Dame never recovered, though it had a chance. Guard Russell Carter’s fast break two (the Irish were 3-for-3 on fast break plays with 3:31 left to cut from 57-46) were kept out of bounds by the Golden Eagles and Marquette guard Jerel McNeal missed a shot to give the Irish the ball and a chance to draw closer or tie.

But one shot clock violation and a turnover later, the Irish saw Novak follow a miss by McAlarney with a jumper and out of South Bend with a victory.

"It hurts. It’s said of the less, "but a lot of them hurt." Notre Dame didn’t receive playing time for most of the season, but will be back to play in one this game.

"We were down and we still had a chance," McAlarney said. "But time is running out, and we just have to keep pushing, keep playing well.

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**Neal becomes first 2011 commitment**

By KEN FOWLER

Notre Dame got its first verbal commitment of the class of 2011 Feb. 23 when 6-foot-2, 225-pound defensive end Kerry Neal told Irish coach Charlie Weis he would accept a scholarship offer.

"I always wanted to go to Notre Dame," Neal said in a telephone interview with The Observer Sunday. "I plan on coming up to visit during spring practice."

Neal, a junior at Bunr High School in Burn, N.C., said he has never visited Notre Dame or any other schools in the Midwest, but accepted Weis' offer after returning a call Weis left on his high school coach's voicemail Thursday morning. He said he was speechless when Weis made the offer.

Neal said Weis was confident he would succeed at Notre Dame. "He was like, 'I've been around athletes, and I know one when I see one. And you're one,'" Neal said.

Along with his admiration for the school, Neal said his family supports his choice of Notre Dame. "My family, they're behind me 100 percent," he said.

Mike Frank of IrishEyes.com said Neal has not been rated by most recruiting services yet but will bring a definite edge to the Irish defensive line.

"He's a tremendous prospect," Frank said. "Notre Dame has a lot of defensive ends, but I don't know if they have that true pass supporter his choice of Notre Dame.

see NEAL/page 17

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**Hockey**

**Northern exposure**

Squad secures eighth spot, home ice in first round of the playoffs

By KYLE CASSILY and CHRIS KHOREY

Notre Dame and Alaska-Fairbanks left the last regular-season weekend as they entered it — deadlocked for the eighth spot in the CCHA — after the two teams split their series with a 4-1 Irish victory and a 2-1 Nanooks triumph.

Defender Tom Sowatske heads up the ice during Notre Dame's 4-1 victory over Ferris State Feb. 10 at the Joyce Center. The Irish split two games with Alaska-Fairbanks this weekend.

see NANKOKS/page 17

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**ND Women's Basketball**

Gaines, Duffy lift the Irish to 75-66 OT win

By KEN FOWLER

Decker out in its new green away jerseys, Notre Dame used a little luck of the Irish Saturday to pull off a dramatic win over Cincinnati in a crucial conference contest on the Bearcats' senior day.

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**Men's Basketball**

Postseason hopes take hit

No Noxak necessary for Eagles to come out on top of ND

By PAT LEONARD

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**Baseball**

At a Glance

**ND Women's Tennis**

Notre Dame 6
Wisconsin 1
The Irish downed the Badgers Sunday to improve to 9-0 for the first time since 1984-85.

see page 15

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**ND Men's Lacrosse**

Freshmen Peter Christman and Ryan Hoff both scored a pair of goals in the victory Sunday.

see page 14

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**ND Softball**

Fla. International 5
Notre Dame 4
Freshmen pitcher Britney Barger paid for a costly error as the Irish fell Saturday.

see page 14

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**Fencing**

The Irish finished second in the 16-team field during the Midwest Conference Championships this weekend at the Joyce Center.

see page 12

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**Men's Golf**

The Irish kick off spring competition at the Lexus Naples Intercollegiate Invitational in Florida today.