ND, SMC travelers cruise to summer destinations

By MAUREEN MULLEN
News Writer

On the last day before spring break, Notre Dame students are packing their bags, jumping in cars, trains and planes and heading en masse, it seems, to warm weather.

Anthony Travel, which arranged spring break plans for over 500 NDMC students, has had an especially busy past few weeks, said President and CEO John Anthony.

The travel agency’s leisure manager, Kayleen Carr, said cruises were popular among upperclassmen this year.

Mexico is also a common destination, and Anthony Travel helped students arrange to spend the

see BREAK/page 6

Students board a bus Thursday as they leave for their respective spring break destinations a day early.

NDSP issues surveys to Zahm

By PETER NINNEMAN
News Writer

NDSP issues surveys to Zahm

Several residents questioned about January incident with Keenan

By KATIE PERRY
Assistant News Editor

Several residents from Zahm Hall, pictured above, said they were approached by NDSP officers with an investigative survey.

Students advised to take safety precautions, protect their property while away

By KELLY MEEHAN
Assistant News Editor

In its almost 13-year history, Notre Dame’s Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE) has proven itself a program worthy of praise from many organizations — and now it can also add the White House to this prestigious list.

Presidential cabinet member and Secretary of Education Margaret Spelling has accept-

see ZAHM/page 4

ACE graduates in July

By Kelly Meehan
Assistant News Editor

In its almost 13-year history, Notre Dame’s Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE) has proven itself a program worthy of praise from many organizations — and now it can also add the White House to this prestigious list.

ACE director John Staud said he is thrilled and believes ACE is fortunate to have Spelling come to Notre Dame.

"We had obviously wanted to try to get more national exposure at the highest levels to the ACE program," Staud said. "[Spelling] is someone who is responsible for all education in the country."

Staud said although Spelling is primarily responsible for

see ACE/page 4
INSIDE COLUMN

March Madness

Madness defined as the quality or condition of being insane. Seems like a pretty apt description of the three-week rollercoaster ride set to begin next Thursday's NCAA basketball games. When else does the entire male population either call in sick or simply take two days off so they can plop in front of the television for 36 hours straight?

When else could you ever see a grown man reduced to tears because Hampton just upsets Iowa State in... anything.

When else would you ever hear the following exchange: "Why are you so happy?" "Because T.J. Sorrentine just sent the Vermont Catamounts into the round of 32."

In fact, last year I helped my high school soccer team win a playoff-clinching game the same night that the aforementioned Vermont team defeated Syracuse. Guess which one I was more excited about? If that's not madness, what is?

My point is basically this: There's no better sports event in America than March Madness.

In a country chock-full of quality sporting entertainment, that's a pretty bold statement. I've heard the arguments for college football's bowl week, the NFL's playoffs and Major League Baseball's World Series.

None of these, however, combine the unpredictability, the excitement from watching kids with no NBA future take down the big boys (No. 14 Weber State over No. 3 North Carolina, anyone?), or the sheer joy from predicting that 13 over 4 seed upset that March Madness brings to the table.

Put these elements together, and you have some of the most unforgettable moments in sporting history.

Who doesn't remember Valparaiso's Bryce Drew being mauled by his teammates after his buzzer-beater sunk Ole Miss? Or the unbelievable look on the disbelieving look on the head for the best three-week stretch of the year.

GREG ARBOGAST

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR SPRING BREAK?

Caitlin Schaefer
James Gower
AJ Radman
Tom Bodart
Amelia Kirk
Talia Barse

freshman
junior
senior
senior
junior
freshman

off-campus
Keenan
Zahn
Zahn
Fischer Grad
Fischer Grad

"I'm visiting my friends in Florida."
"Going home."
"Wait out the storms in Utah."
"Riding horses, skinny dipping and generally makin' a ruckus."
"Going to an island in Alabama."
"Going to St. Louis to visit family."

A visitor pauses for reflection at the Grotto Thursday.

GEORGE MATTEO/The Observer

OFFBEAT

Dog survives after falling into icy channel

GRAND HAVEN, Mich. — A dog that was presumed drowned after falling into an icy river channel that feeds Lake Michigan was found alive hours later and returned to its grateful owner.

Robert Chavez was walking two of his dogs alongside the Grand River around 10:30 a.m. Tuesday when his German shepherd fell into the channel and broke through the ice.

The ice prevented Chavez from getting the dog out of the water, so he ran to a nearby home and called 911. When he returned to the river, he could not find the dog.

Officers from the Police Safety Department and the Coast Guard station searched, but they also could not find the animal. Around 9:45 a.m., a woman reported that she and her friends had heard a dog barking as they walked along the channel's south pier.

Cat comforts grieving orangutan at zoo

PANAMA CITY BEACH, Fla. — Tondalayo, a 45-year-old Sumatran orangutan, and T.J., a stray tabby cat, became an inseparable duo after a zoo employee introduced them last year.

Stephanie Willard, Education Director at Zoo World in Panama City Beach, said Tondalayo was depressed since losing her mate two years ago.

Her age prevented her from moving to another zoo or taking another mate. The ducks and turtles swimming in a moat around her island were not enough, Willard told the Panama City News Herald for Thursday's editions.

When the sweet-natured orange cat wandered into Willard's life, the solution became clear.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

LOCAL WEATHER

TODAY
TUESDAY
THURSDAY
FRIDAY
SATURDAY
SUNDAY

HIGH
LOW
HIGH
LOW
HIGH
LOW
HIGH
LOW
HIGH
LOW
HIGH
LOW

49
45
46
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63
46
55
40
50
46


IN BRIEF

Spring break begins March 11 and ends March 19.

The film "Pride and Prejudice" will be shown at 7 and 10 p.m. today in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. Call 1-2800 for tickets.

The conference "Health Care in an Increasingly Health-Obsessed Culture" continues today and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. in McKenna Hall.

Dr. Paul McHugh of Johns Hopkins University will deliver the keynote address for the conference "Health Care in an Increasingly Health-Obsessed Culture" tonight from 7:15 to 8:15 p.m. in McKenna Hall Auditorium. McHugh will speak on "How a Psychiatrist Approaches the Illusion of Technique in Health Care Delivery Today."

The women's tennis team will face Western Michigan at 11:30 a.m. today at the Eck Tennis Pavilion.

The film "Nashville" is showing Saturday at 3 p.m. in the Browning Cinema at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. It is playing as part of the PAC Classic 100. Tickets are $3 for students.

The film "Ushpizin" is showing Saturday at 7 and 10 p.m. in the Browning Cinema at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. Tickets are $3 for students.

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

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
March Madness isn’t reserved for just the NCAA tournament.

Bookstore Basketball, the world’s largest outdoor five-on-five basketball tournament, is only weeks away.

Registration began this week for the five-on-five tournament, which will kick off April 4 and end with Championship Day April 30. Teams can sign-up online at http://nd.edu/~bkstore until 11:59 p.m. on March 19.

Senior Luke Maher, Bookstore Basketball commissioner, said he has high hopes for the level of participation.

“We have ambitious goals for the tournament,” Maher said. “We would like to see 700 teams sign up, which amounts to 3,500 people.”

Maher said during the past few years between 600 and 650 teams have registered.

He is “hoping that we can get the campus to come out in even greater force this year.”

Though the organizers of Bookstore Basketball do not discuss the monetary figures from past tournaments or the upcoming tournament in detail, Maher said the group is “able to donate a good amount of money to the Jum’ball organization.”

Jum’ball is a charity that organizes free basketball camps for underprivileged Jamaican youth to provide an alternative to drugs and violence in their neighborhoods. Jum’ball camps are also important because they focus on teaching kids life skills such as leadership, communication, teamwork and dedication, Maher said.

The Jum’ball organization was started in 1995 when volunteers from the Notre Dame Alumni Club in Jamaica recognized the need for youth development through sports within inner-city Kingston.

Bookstore Basketball began asking its participants to give to Jum’ball in 2002, but didn’t make an official donation until 2005.

And through the tournament raises money for a good cause, it is still a time for students to enjoy sports and the spring.

Maher said he and the rest of the Bookstore Basketball staff are very excited for the 2006 session of the tournament.

“We’re all ready to get into action out at the courts,” he said.

Contact Ryan Sydlik by rsydlik@nd.edu

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By LAURA BAUMGARTNER

Senior year is a time for many students to start preparing for life in the real world as they begin to think about and seek more independence by moving off-campus. For some seniors, however, off-campus housing is not an option and Saint Mary’s accommodates these students with unique living opportunities in Opus Apartments and Annunciation Hall.

Applicants in Opus are limited and now that the room selection process for the residence halls is beginning, seniors who were not selected in the lottery for Opus are assessing other options like living in Annunciation.

Annunciation is the fourth floor of Holy Cross Hall, which is exclusively open to members of the senior class.

The floor was established the spring semester of 1995 after Augusta Hall — a dorm that was traditionally open solely to seniors — was closed.

“(Augusta) Hall, which is the second floor, used to house all seniors,” Michelle Russell, director of Residence Life, said. “After it closed, the College still wanted to offer seniors a unique living opportunity.”

Therefore, the residence hall on the fourth floor of Holy Cross was opened to just the senior class and it was called Annunciation.

The floor is named after Mary McSheffery, Saint Mary’s alumna, who was the first director of the “Garden was the name of the floor on Feb. 4, 1996.

“The purpose of having a floor like Annunciation is the same as having an apartment building just for seniors,” Russell said. “You want to offer them something unique and give them the privilege of living with only members of their class. It creates a special community on the floor that I believe seniors have been very happy with.”

Many students living in Annunciation as an opportunity to form stronger bonds with members of their class during their last year at Saint Mary’s.

“I think that if I won events with off-campus or even in Opus that I would feel too disappointed,” junior Katie Osmark said.

The unique environment Annunciation presents Saint Mary’s students also offers a very different experience for the resident assistants (RAs) who serve the floor.

“I served as RA on the second floor of Holy Cross last year and really valued the experience and knowledge gained from the position,” senior Shannon Case’s said. “My section last year was mostly juniors and sophomores so it is a challenge to get some of the seniors up there. Our seniors have their own classes.

“Generally, the seniors in my section need less day to day guidance, but we all rely on each other for community and sharing experiences,” she said.

More freedom and less guid-

ance is something many seniors look for when considering their options for housing. However, the independence of moving off-campus is not an option for all students.

“I applied for Opus Hall and did not get in, which was very hard for my friend and I who had hoped to live there for some time,” junior Lauren Kinsley said. “Related to finances and financial aid taking a significant amount of money away from my grants if I move off-campus, I am considering Annunciation.”

“I was really looking forward to living in an off-campus like environment because it allowed me to have that sense of independence that all seniors need and deserve. I am really going to miss the quickness of the hall. I was not used to living in off-campus, but I had to do it that senior year,” said another student.

For students who do not offer as much freedom as some seniors would prefer, it does offer other advantages including a reputation for being a quieter environment and the residence halls.

Many members of the floor have already begun to wake up early for student teaching, nursing or other job, making a quiet space more desirable.

The railroad is the same to the other floors in Holy Cross. At times it is quieter because there are many people living in singles who are on different schedules with student teaching, internships and field placements,” Culbertson said.

The floor’s other attractions include access to a lounge featuring couches and a big screen television, another lounge equipped with a microwave and refrigerator and unlike the limited access granted to other Holy Cross residents, Annunciation residents are able to enter the dorm through the side door 24 hours a day.

Having a floor with only seniors also offers another unique social factor.

“After all of the residents turn 21, there is the opportunity for our friends to live down in the dorm area. We have a really good community down there and the residents are just a few of them,” Culbertson said.

While some seniors looking to live in Annunciation as a senior privilege, others do not see it as the same environment.

“When I didn’t get into Opus my friend and I went to look at Annunciation with high expectations, because many of our friends had told us that it was the best place for seniors to live on campus,” junior Kelly McVittie said. “After evaluating the floor and seeing what was there however we were very disappointed. It was dark, the rooms were smaller than we had expected, everyone had their doors closed and we didn’t see anyone in the hallway. Overall we just didn’t feel there were many advantages to living up there,” she said.

Contact Laura Baumgartner at lbaumg91@saintmarys.edu
continued from page 1

valuables and locking them up on campus and at other schools, Johnson said. "I don't know how well the security system actually works. There was no physical evidence of any broken windows or anything. It's kind of a mystery." On campus, Notre Dame Security is responsible for keeping residence halls safe. "We try to add to the patrols of the campus and recognize that during the period of break there will be fewer students on campus so we'll be partially watchful," said Phil Johnson, associate director of Notre Dame Security. Phil also realized that some students will be staying on campus and will have to go about their daily business with hall staff to be vigilant.

Johnson also recommended that students try not to leave valuables in their rooms over break and should lock the doors to the dorms after they leave. Johnson cited windows as an especially big concern.

ACE
continued from page 1

public school, she is very supportive of private and Catholic education.

Spellings was born in Michigan and moved to Houston at a young age. She graduated from the University of Houston with a bachelor's degree in political science and previously worked to devote their energies directly

to children, but also become increasingly familiarized with the program and give advice to ACE faculty.

"According to Staud, ACE graduation is held in July to allow the teachers to complete their classroom work and return to Notre Dame to commemorate their two years of work service across the nation with their families."

"This ceremony will celebrate the achievement of the 88 graduates," Staud said. "Spellings' address will largely emphasize the value and importance of this profession."

Contact Kelly Mehlan at kmehlan10@smu.edu

Zahn
continued from page 1

Most of the fruit and vomit fell in the vicinity of Keenan Rector. Staud said in the email, a copy of which was obtained by The Observer, a PDF of the eight-page survey, which had the business card for NDSP investigator Laurie L. Steffen stapled to its front. Steffen would take these papers to Notre Dame and refer them to Johnson.

The final page of the document outlined explicit instructions for respondents to follow while taking the survey and asked them to "answer the questions and that she was doing an investigation. That is all she would really tell me — not why or for what purpose."

The source said he was given the survey because his name was "randomly mentioned by someone," and knows of about six other people who were also given the survey. It was collected "about Feb. 10," he said. "[NDSP] wants scapegoats and witch hunt...." The survey obtained a copy of the eight-page survey, had the business card for NDSP investigator Laurie L. Steffen stapled to its front. Steffen would take these papers to Notre Dame and refer them to Johnson.

The final page of the questionnaire included eight questions — which hunk and discipline us."

"The letter listed the positive aspects of the hall's reputation, but firmly said such things have been made obsolete in a campus where we participate in many activities we do in com- petitions," the letter stated. "What matters is our biggest cause for pride, how we do now feel you have completed this form?" the survey read. "While filling out this form what were your emotions?" were you afraid while completing the form?" Zahn resident said such questions about emotional states made the investigation "seem like a murder case."

"To tell you the truth, I didn't change my emotions," he said. "The survey also asked residents if they thought NDSP should be good citizens following this graduation case."
Dubai company to give up stake

Opposition in Congress causes firm to rethink quest to control U.S. ports

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Bowing to ferocious opposition in Congress, a Dubai-owned company said Thursday in its quest to take over operations at U.S. ports.

"We do have a strong relationship with the UAE and a broader relationship," he said. "I think their decision reflects the importance of our broad relations that brought us to this point on this deal."

"It would have on efforts to turn Abu Ghraib over to the Iraqis fast as possible."

"The devil is in the details that several GOP leaders privately informed the president Thursday morning that the Senate would inevitably follow suit."

"The AP has concluded that several GOP leaders privately urged the firm to give up on plans."

"In the midst of questions about U.S. port controls, Longshoreman unload wood pulp from a cargo ship Thursday at the Tioga Marine Terminal Port in Philadelphia."

Dubai company to give up stake

U.S. to transfer prisoners to Iraqis

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Bowing to ferocious opposition in Congress, a Dubai-owned company said Thursday in its quest to take over operations at U.S. ports. The Associated Press that the former teacher had been "very, very depressed" two years ago and "impatient" and now was apparently seeking work. Authorities gave conflicting accounts of how hostages were taken. The local governing body said 20 students and two school employees had been taken, while police in Le Mans said 18 of the hostages were students.

Women's rights activists suppressed

TEHRAN, Iran — Police armed with batons charged into about 300 mostly female demonstrators in Tehran's central business district Wednesday night as they sought to renew their campaign for equal rights for women in a country that is 85% Muslim.

"We saw the terrorists' destructive vision for us when they killed nearly 3,000 men, women and children," Bush said. "In the face of this ruthless threat, our nation has made a enlightened decision, and the Iraqi people who most urgently need us, they will not go to war."

In the midst of questions about U.S. port controls, Longshoreman unload wood pulp from a cargo ship Thursday at the Tioga Marine Terminal Port in Philadelphia.

Dubai company to give up stake

U.S. to transfer prisoners to Iraqis

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Dubai company to give up stake

U.S. to transfer prisoners to Iraqis
Break continued from page 1

week in Cozumel, Puerto Vallarta, Cabo San Lucas, Acapulco and Cancun. Some students worked with Appalachia Seminar and booked reservations at resort in the Bahamas and Jamaica, Carr said.

However, he said Mexico is the most popular location, since it is usually less expensive than the Caribbean, and Mexico has a large student market and often offer a variety of all-inclusive packages.

Anybody who has been running the travel agency since 1991, said that the change in spring break trends over the years interesting. "I think we used to take students to Florida became charter flights to Cancun, which has now become cruises," Anthony said.

Senior Katie Hanafin made plans through Anthony Travel to go on a seven-long Carnival Cruise to the Caribbean with three of her friends. They plan to spend Saturday night in Miami, Hanafin said, and then leave on the ship Sunday. Hanafin said she was told Anthony Travel reserved a group of cabins on the ship, so a large group of Notre Dame students is expected to be aboard. The ship makes three stops at Costa Maya, Grand Cayman and Ocho Rios.

"This will be my first spring break that I've taken with a large group of friends. I can't wait to get by the pool and relax in the sun. I might even splurge and get a massage...why not?"

Many students, however, arranged their own break plans and are using the time to travel and visit with friends. Sophomore Carey Collins is from Vero Beach, Florida, a small beach town on the coast. She said she plans to go home for the break and bring her roommates along.

"The weather at home is predicted to be 75 or 80 [degrees]—so perfect time for people to come visit Florida," Collins said.

Other students intend to visit relatives during the break. Junior Emily Weissbecker will be flying to the Green Valley, Ariz. to visit her grandmother, she said.

"I've gone on more exciting spring break trips before and I usually end up needing a break from the break by the end," Weissbecker said of her relatively low-key plans. "So, I'm looking forward to the chance to sleep and see the sun.

There are yet other students who have made some rather unconventional spring break plans. Instead of the usual Mexico experience, senior James Fink will go on an adventure of another type. He said he plans to go camping in the lower Appalachians in Ga. with a group of friends.

Fink describes himself as an "avid camper" and said, "I've been camping on the last four or five mid-semester breaks. I've been itching to get into the woods since it first started thawing."

Like Fink, sophomore Kevin Faist also has plans for a different type of spring break trip. He said he, along with eight members of the Notre Dame Climbing Club, will fly to Smith Rock, Ore. to rock climb.

Though they welcome the break from classes and routine, some students will be remaining on campus next week. Senior Luke Hoover, a manager for the women's basketball team, will be staying on campus in order to fulfill his responsibilities to the squad.

"I'll be spending my spring break like a real man... writing poetry and doing laundry for 10 women," Hoover said.

Contact Maureen Mullen at mmullen1@nd.edu

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Service continued from page 1

Seminar has attracted 150 participants and will serve learn at 16 sites in the Appalachian region of Kentucky, West Virginia, Virginia, and Tennessee, according to the press release. The L'Arche Community Seminar allows students to live amongst the disabled for the week. The CSC Migrant Experiences Seminar similarly exposes students to the lifestyle of migrant workers, bringing them live and work with migrant workers in Florida.

The Holy Cross Mission Seminar in Cochella is a program co-sponsored with Campus Ministry and "will engage students of the Congregation of the Holy Cross in the Cochella region of California," according to CSC's press release.

The Children and Poverty Seminar will expose 13 students to the issues of youth, risk and poverty in New York City, visiting UNICEF and other agencies, such as food banks.

New to the CSC's spring break service learning agenda is a trip entitled "Spring Break Service Learning in Environmental Justice and Human Rights in the Aftermath of Katrina." This seminar was designed by Najarian Peters, a graduate student, and will be supported by the CSC and the Department of Africana Studies as well. According, Angela Miller McGraw, director of the Appalachian Seminar and educational immersions for the CSC, Peters, along with nine other students, will explore environmental and human rights issues prominent in the areas affected by Hurricane Katrina.

All CSC seminars are programs not only about service, but also about learning. McGraw said,

"Many immersion experiences that require preparatory work and study and function in a way that makes the world our classroom," McGraw said.

Though the seminar was designed to engage students with Croatia, McGraw said,

"It's the first year we have designed a program that specifically engages students with Croatia, and we believe it will be successful."
In Brief

Knight Ridder auction winds down

NEW YORK — The auction process for Knight Ridder Inc., which winds down this week, is a moment of reckoning for the newspaper industry, a time when one of their biggest players will find out just what others are willing to pay for it.

However, the bidding also presents a theory dilemma for newspaper companies as they prepare their final offers, which are due on Thursday, for the public auction, which seeks 32 daily newspapers that include the Philadelphia Inquirer, the Miami Herald and the San Jose Mercury News.

If big newspaper owners such as Gannett Co. don’t step up and make what investors believe will be a strong bid, pessimists might take it as a sign of waning confidence in the future prospects of an industry that many already believe is in a long-term decline. On the other hand, paying a rich price could also lead investors to punish the acquiring company.

“Just a Catch-22,” says Merrill Lynch newspaper analyst Lauren Rich Fine.

Americans not working as late in life

WASHINGTON — In the 1960s, nearly half of American men 65 and older were still working. Today, only about one in five remains in the work force.

Some of the reasons, according to a government report Thursday, are the growth in private pensions, Social Security and Medicare benefits. As benefits for older Americans grow, the length of the average retirement has also slipped away by early in eight weeks, and focused on increasing employment, the company said.

However, the session’s gains slipped away by early afternoon as investors focused on increasing their unemployment claims, which climbed above the 300,000 level for the first time in eight weeks, and awaited a Labor Department’s monthly job creation report, due Friday. A new record for the nation’s trade gap also darkened investors’ mood, which has soured in recent days amid continued uncertainty about the economy and the Fed’s interest rate policy.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 33.46, or 0.3 percent, to 10,972.28. Broader stock indicators also fell. The Standard & Poor’s 500 index lost 6.24, or 0.49 percent, to 1,272.23, and the Nasdaq composite index dropped 17.74, or 0.78 percent, to 2,249.72.

In the bond market, prices moderated as the yields on long-term Treasuries began to outpace shorter-term notes. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note was steady at 4.73 percent from late Wednesday. The dollar was 0.70 percent, to 108.58.

In the stock market, prices moderated as the yields on long-term Treasuries began to outpace shorter-term notes. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note was steady at 4.73 percent from late Wednesday. The dollar was 0.70 percent, to 108.58.

Japanese businessmen walk by the Bank of Japan headquarters Thursday after an announcement that the central bank was moving.

Biotech launches huge drug trial

SAN FRANCISCO — It’s tragedy enough that Pat Williams’ mother has Alzheimer’s disease. But Williams is also terrified because her chances of developing the disease are much higher than average.

So Williams eagerly enrolled her 90-year-old mother in the largest-ever Alzheimer’s disease drug trial. It aims to win an intense, international race among several biotech companies to find the first effective treatment to at least slow the disease’s progression in the 4.5 million Americans who suffer from it.

Analysts predict the market for such a drug could reach $4 billion annually by 2013 and success for Myriad would give Wall Street insight into wage inflation — a key component of the Fed’s interest rate policy.

"The market is preparing for a pretty good bounce in earnings," said Michael Stroum, chief economist for Commonwealth. "What that means, though, is some more concern about inflation as demand increases."

The Fed doesn’t meet until the end of the month, giving investors time to worry about individual economic reports and likely preventing a sharp move higher in stocks until then.

Dow industrial General Motors Corp. added 92 cents to $21.34 as The Wall Street Journal reported that GM and bankrupt auto parts maker德尔菲 Corp. are close to a cost-cutting labor agreement. Such an agreement could give Wall Street insight into wage inflation — a key component of the Fed’s interest rate policy.

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Sprin break a service to the community

A great day for the Irish

For having chosen him as the instrument whereby multitudes who had worshiped debauchery and unclean things had become the people of God.

Park was born in Scotland in 387 A.D. and was the son of two Romans who were in charge of colonies in Britain. At the age of 18 he was captured in a raiding party and taken to Ireland, where he was enslaved to tend and tend sheep. During his captivity, he converted some Irish to Christianity by teaching and preaching. When Patrick was freed, he returned to Ireland and preached the Gospel to the Irish, converting thousands of pagans and building churches all over the country. Kings, their families, and entire kingdoms converted to Christianity upon the approval of Patrick's messages.

Of course, legend has it that St. Patrick drove all the snakes out of Ireland. Though many share this story, it is likely that this tale is symbolic of the fact that St. Patrick helped to bring an end to the pagan practices of worshiping pagan symbols. He is also remembered for using the three-leaf clover to explain the Holy Trinity, This symbol is still used today.

One account of Patrick's life says that he died in Saul, Downpatrick, Ireland on March 17, 461 A.D. While I am not sure if the name "Downpatrick" is derived from Patrick being laid to rest in the town, his death is nevertheless the reason that March 17 is designated as his feast day. As patron saint of Ireland, St. Patrick has come to be associated with all things Irish — leprechauns and their pots of gold, the color green and the famous symbols of the nation. When immigrants from Ireland settled around the world, they took with them their history and their traditions. This is why so many cities in the United States have large celebrations to honor the Irish and St. Patrick.

In my own home town of Chicago, the celebration spans two days. Traditionally, the city's downtown St. Patrick's Day parade falls on the Saturday before the Irish holiday. Though this year's parade will include a parade, spectators, floats, and a little bit of luck.

Parades are the highlight of the St. Patrick's Day festivities. Typically, this event of the St. Patrick's Day festivities: the sounds of songs such as "Danny Boy," "South Side Irish" and "It's a Great Day for the Irish" permeate the neighborhood.

Though the "luck of the Irish" was not known about Ireland's patron saint and the Irish.

We have all heard so much about Ireland's patron saint. Typically, this is a national holiday.

A happy day to all Irish Americans and all people who wish to celebrate their Irish heritage.

Molly Acker

Nobody Likes a Dumb Blonde

The Observer is the independent, daily newspaper published in print and online by the students of the University of Notre Dame and the South Bend Tribune. The Observer reserves the right to edit or publish any content.

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China's great firewalls: Enforcing abortion ban

In recent months, American tech giants have had to grapple with questions on how to respond to the economic and technological boom in China. Early this year, Microsoft agreed to censor blog content on its MSN Spaces service. Google agreed to block Web sites that the Chinese government considers illegal, including those of human rights groups, Tibetan independence movements and religious organizations.

Yahoo! provided information that led to the conviction of dissident journalist Shi Tao, who is currently serving a 10-year sentence for leaking information about government propaganda to the press; due to its actions, Yahoo! is being reviewed by a human rights subcommittee of Congress.

It's one thing to refrain from imposing American ideals of democracy and free speech on the Chinese people, but it is quite another to aid the Chinese government in its clampdown on free speech.

Yet these Internet companies argue that it's necessary to cooperate with the Chinese government in order to provide the Chinese people with more information than they've ever had before. Also, Yahoo! points out that the United States and the international community need to regulate the high-tech industry in China instead of pointing fingers at alleged violations.

As socially conscious students poised to enter the governmental, non-governmental and corporate spheres, we are faced with two questions. First, is the infringement of free speech and human rights ever justified, even with the benefit of Chinese people with greater access to information? Second, shouldn't countries be able to block Web sites and regulate content without doing the right thing?

Should Yahoo! be providing the Chinese government with information regarding its dissidents, helping the Chinese to implement laws that the international community recognizes as human rights violations? Should Microsoft be censoring Web sites that critics say are aimed at appeasing the government, restricting freedom of speech? Should Google comply with the Chinese government's request to block "illegal sites"?

Actions like these call into question our legitimacy as a nation. Just how committed is America to freedom of speech and information? It is justified to consider such censorship to be a short-term sacrifice on the path to a more democratic China? The actions of the disappointed or persecuted American consumer, there is a risk to the moral dilemma that Yahoo! has made its reputation as a magnanimous and socially-conscious corporation. It has many millions of users appealing to the social consciousness of its clients with its motto "Don't be evil." To these companies, this amounts to a serious breach of confidence. This betrayal strikes especially close to home not only because Yahoo! is a socially-conscious campus, but also because a significant number of Stanford graduates go on to work at Google right here in the Bay Area.

The crisis of high-tech censorship in China is inevitable with the growth of the Internet and the opening of the communist country's borders to international capitalism. The actions of Google, Yahoo! and Microsoft represent a moment of reckoning for the international community and for the United States, as we must ask the question: Are our democratic values flexible when corporate profit is at stake?

We believe that Yahoo!’s demand for regulation from the Chinese government is timely and sound. We want to see this crisis addressed by our elected representatives in a way that recognizes the moral dilemma therein and accords with our democratic values. Nevertheless, Google, Microsoft and Yahoo! need to make good-faith efforts to address this dilemma even without government intervention. These companies must be honest with consumers.

But above all, they should use their commercial and economic leverage to pressure China to reviewing their current practices of Internet censorship. Instead, these companies for the improvement and technology transfer that accompany them. There is room for significant leverage for business to exert a social influence for good. Google, Microsoft and Yahoo! should seize this opportunity — we, the consumers, demand it.

This column originally appeared in the March 9, 2006, edition of the Stanford Daily, the daily publication at Stanford University. The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

In light of South Dakota's recent passage of a law banning almost all abortions, even in cases of rape and incest, I have a question for advocates of a pro-life campaign.

How much should a woman who gets an abortion spend in jail? South Dakota's answer is "none." In Kentucky, several of the doctors who perform abortions.

But if all abortion really is murder — if it's a day-old, unconscious, one-cell zygote deserving all of the legal protections that you and I — why are we going so light on the women? After all, someone who hires a hitman doesn't get off scot-free, so why should a woman who solicits the service of an abortion doctor?

It's time for us to think long and hard about how to punish women who have abortions. If one of the left-leaning Supreme Court justices retires or dies and President George W. Bush gets another chance to make a nomination, the high court will almost certainly have a five-justice majority in favor of overturning Roe v. Wade.

At that point, we’ll be seeing state legislatures passing a lot more laws like South Dakota’s. Making abortion illegal is one way to make a punishment for the women who get them. But many abortion-rights opponents seem not to have considered that the legal conclusion of “Abortion is murder” is “imprison the women who have abortions.”

It was a video I saw online (available at http://www.aaudio.com/?p=64) that got me thinking that few people truly think abortion is murder. Perhaps it’s not representative, but if it is, it casts a lot of doubt on the rhetoric of the anti-abortion movement.

The video shows an interview with anti-abortion protesters outside an abortion clinic. He interviews about ten, all of whom claim that women who get abortions should receive: Only one respondent recommends jailing the women who get abortions should receive. One respondent recommends jailing the women who get abortions should receive.

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**S THE OBSERVER SCENE**

Friday, March 10, 2006

**DPAC REVIEW**

Schola Musicorum presents Gregorian chant

By MARTY SCHROEDER

On Wednesday the Schola Musicorum presented "Abend-Musique," a concert of Gregorian chant. Founded in 1993, the Schola Musicorum was started by the music department in order to study and perform Gregorian chant directly from manuscripts.

Amir was written in Greek. This style of chant is also written in the 15th and 16th centuries. It was also the music used on "Kite Runner" which was published in 2003. It follows the life of Amir, the son of a wealthy man and his travels through childhood and into adulthood within the unique context of Afghanistan's history. Written by Khaled Hosseini, "The Kite Runner" was published in 2003. It follows the life of Amir, the son of a wealthy businessman of Kabul, Afghanistan in the 1960s. When the novel opens in 2001, he is living in California and receives a fateful call from one of his late father's friends concerning the child of Amir's childhood playmate Hassan. The book was written by Khaled Hosseini, right.

The climax of the book is a very moving performance of Gregorian chant that moved the audience. With a style and rhythm that is no longer used in contemporary liturgy, the show offered a truly unique experience. The talent of these men is unquestionable and skilled performances that moved the audience. With a style and rhythm that is no longer used in contemporary liturgy, the show offered a truly unique experience. The talent of these men is unquestionable and showed as they adeptly moved through the pieces.

At times, an individual would sing, at other intervals two and at other points, all four. The movement of voices in and out of the performance added a complexity that would not have been present otherwise. The section of the performance featuring the singers was also notable. Most of the students that performed were female, which added even greater depth to the four male voices that were heard throughout most of the show. The layering of the different ranges was also skillfully performed.

**BOOK REVIEW**

"Kite Runner" presents life, journey of Afghani man

By MARTY SCHROEDER

"The Kite Runner" is a story about a man experiencing his home country of Afghanistan, inspecting his emotional journey through the lens of Afghani history. This story chronicles the story of one man and his travel through childhood and into adulthood within the unique context of Afghanistan's history. Written by Khaled Hosseini, "The Kite Runner" was published in 2003. It follows the life of Amir, the son of a wealthy businessman of Kabul, Afghanistan in the 1960s. When the novel opens in 2001, he is living in California and receives a fateful call from one of his late father's friends concerning the child of Amir's childhood playmate Hassan. The book was written by Khaled Hosseini, right.

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Calvin M. Bower and Blachly, who also performed at the event. The Schola Musicorum performs every fall and spring, so the next chance to catch the show will be in the fall. It is definitely not a performance to be missed.

Contact Marty Schroeder at mschroel@nd.edu
Dust off those spellbooks and pick up those brooms — school is back in session. Returning to the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry for a fourth year, the DVD release of "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire" marks the latest installment of the boy wizard's adventures.

Just as each year at Hogwarts opens with a new Defense Against the Dark Arts instructor, so of late the directing chores on the Harry Potter franchise has become a game of musical chairs.

Not to be confused with the trans-Atlantic explorer by the same name, director Chris Columbus helmed the first two films in the series, "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" and "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets." Columbus proved himself a wizard in his ability to translate the literary magic of J.K. Rowling to the silver screen.

Director Alfonso Cuaron was brought in to direct the third film, "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban," as the series took a turn for the darker. While "Azkaban" met with critical and commercial success, newcomer Mike Newell was given the keys to direct "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire." With so much turnover at the position, each new "Harry Potter" director was faced with the opportunity to leave his indelible mark on the series — or do something more challenging.

Not to worry, Potter-heads — Newell doesn't drop the Quaffle here. "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire" sees Hogwarts host the Tri-Wizard Tournament, a competition between three schools from around the world. Harry, along with his classmates Hermione (Emma Watson), left, Ron (Rupert Grint), center, and Harry (Daniel Radcliffe) talk at Hogwarts during "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire."

As the fourth film in the series, the kids of "Goblet of Fire" are definitely starting to grow up. In fact, Harry, Ron and Hermione find themselves coming of age in front of the audience.

The competition is fierce. In the first challenge, Harry is required to steal a golden egg from the nest of a dragon, with a Hungarian Horntail quite literally breathing fire down his neck. Harry also faces stiff competition from his rival champions in the tournaments, especially Viktor Krum.

Described as "the best Seeker in the world," Krum looks and plays a lot like Irish safety Tom Zbikowski — if he had taken up Quidditch instead of football. Fortunately for both the health of Quidditch players everywhere and Notre Dame's secondary, Zbikowski was kept away from broomsticks as a child and gravitated towards the pigskin instead.

Already the star player of the Bulgarian national team in the Quidditch World Cup, Krum gives new meaning to the term "player in the major leagues" when he succeeds in asking Hermione out to an inter-school dance.

The Goblet of Fire "DVD is available as a one-disc option with just the movie or as a two-disc set with special features. Special features include additional scenes, conversations with the actors and features focusing on each part of the Tri-Wizard Tournament. Mike Newell does a good job as the film's director. While it has an episodic feel, and some of the transitions between scenes are weak, Newell was faced with the unenviable task of dropping J.K. Rowling's 752-page tome into a witch's cauldron and distilling a film out of it.

Although "Goblet" still runs a butt-numbing 157 minutes, the movie doesn't drag due to Newell's use of computer-generated imagery, which creates a visual experience that can only be described as spellbinding.

Contact Tae Andrews at tandrew@nd.edu.

NOTRE DAME'S BEST... Fountains

BY OBSERVER PHOTO STAFF

Hermione (Emma Watson), left, Ron (Rupert Grint), center, and Harry (Daniel Radcliffe) talk at Hogwarts during "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire."

They say it was built to be an astronomical observatory, or perhaps as a memorial to the honored dead. But we all know that celebrations after football victories are Stonehenge's real purpose.

It's awe-inspiring, though you don't quite know why at first glance. Then it hits you: there's about a ton of speckled granite calmly spinning, floating, waiting for you to reach out and touch it.

They say it was built to be an astronomical observatory, or perhaps as a memorial to the honored dead. But we all know that celebrations after football victories are Stonehenge's real purpose.

For next week: What are the best bikes on campus? Send your suggestions to obsphoto@nd.edu.

Sometimes a Belle — or a Domer — needs a place to retreat to, an island with a moat around it for protection and a fountain to help you clear your head.

Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire

Warner Home Video

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Bowman helps Hoyas ground late Golden Eagle threat

New York — After struggling offensively for much of the game, Brandon Bowman came through for Georgetown as it needed him most.

Bowman went 6-for-6 from the free-throw line in the final 31.5 seconds to help the Hoyas hold off Marquette, punch ticket to Big East Championship semifinals.

"It was the second straight day that Bowman came up big for the Hoyas. He hit the key back-to-back baskets on a driving left-handed layup in the final minute to give Georgetown a 67-63 opening round victory over No. 23 Wisconsin. Jeff Green had 16 points, nine rebounds and five assists to lead Georgetown. Ashanti Cook added 16 points.

Steve Novak hit his sixth 3-pointer with 5.6 seconds left to bring Marquette within 60-59. But Bowman restored the three-point lead with two free throws with 5.1 seconds left. Jerol McNeal missed a 20-foot jumper at the buzzer that would have tied the game.

"The name's freshman of the year, was Tom Crean said. "I got a good look at the basket, Novak said. "Unfortunately, it just didn't go in."

Georgetown will face Syracuse on Friday night in the semifinals.

Syracuse guarded the golden era of Connecticut 86-84 in overtime earlier Thursday. It will be the 12th time the schools have met in the tournament, with Georgetown leading 6-5. Five of the meetings came in championship games, with Georgetown winning twice.

"It's Georgetown-Syracuse at the Garden, that says it all," Howard said.

Georgetown led Marquette 49-48 with 5 minutes left before using a 9-2 run to take a 58-50 advantage with 37.7 seconds remaining. Bowman had six during that stretch.

Marquette (29-10) then scored the next six points, capped by Dominic James' layup with 12.9 seconds left, to grab the lead for the first and last time.

"It's very hard to come back on the road. I don't think we did a good job of coming up with a big game plan tonight," Georgetown coach John Thompson III said.

All Joe Novak scored 12 of his 14 points in the final 10 minutes and had seven rebounds for the Hoyas (21-8).

Steve Novak hit his sixth 3-pointer with 5.6 seconds left to bring Marquette within 60-59. But Bowman restored the three-point lead with two free throws with 5.1 seconds left. Jerol McNeal missed a 20-footer at the buzzer that would have tied the game.

"We were just like, "Man, listen, the No. 1 team is out and it could easily happen to us,"" Ray said. "We don't want to be the guy that made the big basket. We worked too hard for it."

Ray made a go-ahead basket in overtime, giving Marquette its only lead of the game on its first possession for the final 67-66 win.

"I thought the phone would ring. Waterson said. "I mean, they have to be pretty smart about that. They want people here at Madison Square Garden. I think these kids deserve it — they deserve a call."

No. 2 Villanova 87, Rutgers 55

The Villanovas Wildcats sit in their hotel rooms and watched while top-ranked Connecticut's run in the Big East tournament ended with one stunning loss.

"We determined to avoid a similar fate, not with a top overall seed in the tournament a very real possibility."

"All we watched 1Conn lose, everyone realized that anything can happen in these tour­naments," Allan Ray said. "And we've got come out ready to play."

Ray scored 19 of his 26 points in the second half as Villanova won on a decisive run that pulled away from Rutgers for an 87-52 victory Thursday night to advance to the semifinals of the Big East tournament.

Villanova, the Big East's regu­lar-season co-champion with No. 1 Connecticut, trailed by one in the second half but avoided the type of upset that eliminated the Huskies earlier in the day. Connecticut was stunned by ninth-seeded Syracuse in the opening round.

"We all came down to eat din­ner together and I got up in front of them and said, "Hey, we just saw what happened,"" coach Jay Wright said. "And I said, "Everyone's been talking about a match-up with UConn, and it's not going to happen now for them. If we don't beat Rutgers, it's not going to happen the end.""

Will Sheridan added 17 points and 13 rebounds for the Wildcats (22-5), who will play the winner of the late Pittsburgh-West Virginia game on Friday night.

"They want people here at Madison Square Garden. I think these kids deserve it — they deserve a call."

No. 15 Pittsburgh 66, No. 13 West Virginia 57

Freshman Sam Young, making his first start of the season, had 14 points and 11 rebounds to lead Pittsburgh to victory over West Virginia Thursday night in the semifinals of the Big East tournament.

The sixth-seeded Panthers (23-6), which beat Rutgers 87-55, in the opening round. The Wildcats were the only one of the four teams that received an automatic berth into the semifinals. Top-ranked Connecticut lost 86-79 to ninth-seeded Syracuse in overtime and fifth-seeded Georgetown beat fourth-seeded Marquette 62-59, meaning three of the four teams that received first-round byes lost in the quar­terfinals.

Young, a 6-foot-6 forward who came in averaging 7.7 points and 4.2 rebounds, started in place of junior forward Jeron Powell, who missed the game because of lower back spasms. Young fin­ished 7-for-8 from the field and blocked two shots for the Panthers, who beat Louisville 61-56 in the opening round.

Aaron Gray had 19 points and 12 rebounds, while Carl Krauser had 10 points, six assists and six rebounds. Kevin Pitts­gno had 22 points for the Mountaineers (20-10), while Mike Gansey had 10 points and six rebounds.

West Virginia guard on Friday not going to happen (for us).'

"We all came down to eat dinner together and I got up in front of them and said, 'Hey, we just saw what happened,'" coach Jay Wright said. "And I said, 'Everyone's been talking about a match-up with UConn, and it's not going to happen now for them. If we don't beat Rutgers, it's not going to happen the end.'"

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### NCAA Women's Basketball RPI Rankings

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### Point Guard Gerry McNamara's Heroics Save 'Cuse Again

New York — Gerry McNamara waited one day to one-up himself.

The senior guard hit a 3-pointer with less than a second to play to give Syracuse a win over Connecticut in the opening round of the Big East tournament.

"Obviously they're a tournament team," Connecticut coach Jim Calhoun said. "I thought they were a tournament team yesterday."

That was a McNamara highlight show ago.

On Wednesday, his run with less than a second to play meant a 74-73 victory over Cincinnati. He topped that performance in the quarterfinals by scoring 17 points and handing out 13 assists, one short of the tournament record.

"He amazes me every time I see him play. He has more guts than anybody I've ever coached," said Syracuse's Jim Boeheim, who apologized for using profanity in defending McNamara on Wednesday after local media reported the player was overrated.

"As soon as he released it, there was never a doubt. There was nothing but net. I'd say it's one of the best wins, if not the best, Syracuse has ever had." The boss shouldn't affect the No. 1 seed expected to go to Connecticut (27-3), but it ended a 10-game winning streak in the Big East quarterfinals for the Huskies, the regular-season co-champions with Villanova.

"It certainly was one of the most disappointing losses we've had in an awful long time," Calhoun said. "We came out flat as heck. Just as we thought, that shot (yesterday) carried their momentum right into today."

Syracuse, the defending champions in this tournament, will play No. 23 Georgetown, which beat Marquette 63-59, in Friday night's semifinals. It will be the 12th time the schools have met in the tournament with Georgetown leading 6-5.

### In Brief

**Northwestern's NIT hopes diminish after loss to PSU**

**INDIANAPOLIS —** Penn State might have knocked Northwestern out of contention for a National Invitation Tournament bid Thursday in the first round of the Big Ten tournament. Penn State defeated the Wildcats 60-42 to advance to a conference quarterfinal matchup with top-seeded Ohio State.

Penn State improved to 15-13 and boosted its chances of making the NIT field. Northwestern fell to 14-15 with the loss. In the past, teams were required to have a record of .500 or better to make the tournament. A recent rule change allows teams with losing records into the 40-team field, but having a winning record definitely helps.

"I'm not worried about that right now," Northwestern coach Bill Carmody said. "I just wanted to play every game and play well, and see where the chips fall."ращ

**Colts undecided about RB James's future**

**INDIANAPOLIS —** Indianapolis will take a close look at budget figures under the NFL's new $102 million salary cap before making offers to Edgerrin James and other players who will become unrestricted free agents Saturday, team president Bill Polian said Thursday.

James, the Colts' all-time rushing leader, linebacker David Thornton and kicker Mike Vanderjagt, the team's all-time scoring leader and are among the Colts who would become free agents at 12:01 a.m. Saturday.

Polian said he didn't anticipate making an offer to James or Thornton before they get the opportunity to test the market.

The Colts could declare James a franchise player like they did last year, although that move would cost them an estimated $11 million against the cap.

**Hurricanes acquire Recchi from Penguins**

The Carolina Hurricanes added another important offensive piece Thursday, acquiring veteran forward Mark Recchi from Pittsburgh less than an hour before the NHL's trade deadline.

Recchi gives the NHL's top team a replacement for injured forward Erik Cole, who will miss the rest of the regular season after fracturing a vertebra in his neck less than a week ago against the Penguins. Cole already had a career-high 60 points in 60 games before the injury.

"I didn't feel pressure to do it, it wasn't an absolute necessity," Carolina general manager Jim Rutherford said. "It's not like we were out looking at several players. While the loss of Erik hurts our team, if we weren't able to get Mark Recchi, we weren't going to get anyone else."
By DEIRDRE KRASULA  
Sports Writer

After a tough year, the Belles just want a promising start.

Saint Mary's begins its season this weekend with hope of rising toward the top of the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association (MIAA) standings. The Belles leave for their 14-game spring break trip to Ft. Myers, Fla. this week in search of improving their 7-23 overall record from the 2005 season, which included a 2-14 finish in MIAA play.

The Belles will play 10 games in five days, including matchups against Mountclair State and Heidelberg Sunday.

First-year head coach Erin Sullivan, who played for Saint Mary's as a student and led the team to its first-ever MIAA championship in 2004, said she will turn to veteran players like co-captains Audrey Gajor and Bridget Grail to lead the team both on and off the field.

"What I am looking for most from the juniors and seniors is the knowledge they possess on how to win the big game," Sullivan said.

Gajor started all 16 conference games in 2005, hitting a team best .340, and she will also have the help of Grail on the mound. The Belles will look to Grail as one of their top pitchers as she pitched a team-high 57.1 innings last season.

Besides her co-captains, Sullivan has other leaders to turn to. Junior Laura Helme returns, giving the Belles' defensive depth and strength in the infield. Helme was an all-MIAA selection last year at third base with the second highest batting average on the team (.327). Heine, Gajor, and Grail are accompanied by four other returning players who have the knowledge and experience to bring the team back to the success they experienced only two years ago in winning the conference title.

The seven returning members are joined by seven freshmen. Sullivan was the 2004 MIAA batting champion and Offensive Player of the Year and returns to Saint Mary's after completing one season as assistant coach at Bethel College.

The Irish face Edgewood and Massachusetts Boston Monday and Caenovia and North Park Tuesday. The team takes on Defiance and Mount Ida Wednesday and Dickinson and Fenessaler Polytechnic Institute Thursday.

Contact Deirdre Krasula at dkrasula@nd.edu

FENCING

Irish grab two more bids, send 12 to Houston

Full team prepared to defend national title

By JACK THORNTON  
Sports Writer

Notre Dame will attempt to defend its national title starting Thursday, March 16 at the NCAA Championship meet in Houston, Texas.

The young squad received some good news this week when junior epeeist Amy Orlando and sophomore foilist Jakub Jedrkowiak received the two national at-large bids, giving the Irish the maximum qualifying number of 12.

But Notre Dame isn't the only school headed to Texas with a big squad. Penn State and Harvard also qualified the full 12, while St. John's and Columbia are sending 11.

"The chances are we [will] have our toughest tournament ever; we have at least four or five teams who contend to fight for the National Championship, for three medals," Irish coach Janusz Bednarski said.

Harvard presents one of the strongest challenges as the Crimson carries the No. 4 and the No. 3 women's team is anchored by 2005 foilist national champion Emily Cross.

Ohio State, who won the championship in 2004, qualified the maximum six fencers on the men's side, but only three for the women.

Ohio State (Ohio State), with nine opponents, can be very dangerous, Bednarski said.

Notre Dame's biggest obstacle might not be any of the national powerhouse's inexperience. Five of the team's fencers will be first-timers.

"We're a young team, very young, younger than the others, which makes us unpredictable," Bednarski said. "But last year's championship team was a bit more experienced because we had at least five more seniors, but those freshmen, they will fight."

The Irish roster boasts six All-Americans, a national champion (Providence, 2004 sabre) and three national runners-up (Zagunis, 2005 sabre; Gaeta, sabre; Orlando, 2005 epee). Bednarski has confidence that his upperclassmen can help carry the load.

"All of the team has to step up ... of course our kids who are experienced — we have an Olympic Champion, we have a National Champion, we have runners-up. I believe they will step up to take those freshmen (on) a ride (of) excellence," Bednarski said.

Notre Dame earned 10 automatic bids at last week's Midwest Regional in Cleveland, but Jedrkowiak and Orlando placed just outside the berth cutoff, finishing fifth and seventh, respectively. Both Orlando and Jedrkowiak had strong seasons and performed well at last year's NCAA meet, factors that likely helped Fencing.

Filling out the roster are junior sabers Valerie Providence, Patrick Gחות and Matt Stevens, sophomore sabre Mariel Zagunis, junior epeeist Aaron Adjemian, sophomore foilist Melanie Bautista, freshman foilists Mark Kubik and Adrienne Nott, and freshman epeeists Karol Koslka and Madelaine Stephon.

"Even to Houston as alternates are sophomore epeeist Greg Bautista, freshman foilist Franchesca Bontempo, freshman sabre Bill Thaxton and freshman foilist Jason Irsay," Bednarski said.

In fact, the key moment in the meeting probably came at the meeting's lunch break on Wednesday when Mara, Denver's Pat Bowlen and Carolina's Jerry Richardson were escorted to an elevator by Milt Averbuch, the NFL's security chief. Averbuch made sure they were the only ones on the lift as they scoured from the basement of the hotel to Paul Tagliabue's suite.

About six hours later, there was a deal, avoiding the unknown territory of a 2007 season without a salary cap and the potential for serious labor problems down the line.

By all appearances, the union won this round by getting an extra $850 million to $900 million allocated to players over the next six years in the form of revenue sharing.
**WOMEN'S SWIMMING**

**Final lap begins Thursday**

Three swimmers, one diver rife for NCAA Championship meet

By GREG ARBOGAST
Sports Writer

After focusing all year on qualifying and succeeding in the NCAA tournaments, Notre Dame head coach Carrie Nixon said her team has only achieved the first part of its season goal and will look to achieve the second part starting Thursday at the NCAA Championships in Athens, Ga.

Three Irish swimmers — juniors Katie Athans and Claire Hutchison — and one diver sophomores Taya Hilyer — qualified for the event. While Nixon was slightly disappointed that the Irish qualified for the NCAA team meet, she is currently No. 7 nationally with a time of 2:14.37.

Carroll is not the only Irish swimmer with NCAA experience. Quinn qualified for the 100-meter breaststroke last season with the University of Minnesota. This year, along with a 100-meter championship appearance for the Irish, she also qualified in the 200 — in which she currently ranks No. 7 nationally with a time of 1:43.77.

Although this is Hutchison's first NCAA meet, she joins elite company by becoming only the fifth freshman in Notre Dame women's swimming history to qualify for three NCAA events.

One of the other four swimmers that select the Irish is Hilyer, who will be swimming in the 200 IM, 400 IM, and 200 butterfly events. Carroll is making her third consecutive appearance at the NCAA championships and hopes to draw from her experiences the past couple of years.

"The last two years helped me learn about the competition," she said. "I've researched my opponents this time. I don't just go in and get swept by those who qualified. Carroll's best event is clearly the 400 IM, as she finished in sixth place, earning her All-America honors at last year's NCAA meet. This year, she is currently No. 7 nationally in the event with a time of 4:14.37.

"We qualified more girls than we did last year, and that shows we're headed in the right direction." Carrie Nixon Notre Dame head coach

**TRACK AND FIELD**

Irish run into nation's fastest at NCAA finals

By JASON GALVAN
Sports Writer

Notre Dame is looking for one last meet of strong finishes.

The Irish will have seven athletes competing at the last winter track event of the year — this weekend's NCAA Championships at Fanshawe College in Fayetteville, Ark. at the University of Arkansas' Randall Tyson Track Center.

One of Notre Dame's best chances to place on the men's side comes in the distance relay.

Senior Ryan Postel, junior Thomas Chantry, junior American Kurt Benning and sophomore Adam Carville will be running in the event. Benning will also compete in the 3,000-meter run, and Thomas Chantry will be running the 800-meter dash. Benning currently ranks No. 6 nationally with a time of 1:47.62.

Although this is Chantry's first NCAA meet, she joins elite company by becoming only the fifth freshman in Notre Dame women's swimming history to qualify for three NCAA events.

One of the other four swimmers that select the Irish is Hilyer, who accomplished the feat in 2004. Nixon also did so as an Irish swimmer in 1998.

"It's quite an honor for her," Nixon said. "What's so exciting about her is that she had some good swims at the Big East, but she's definitely capable of more.

"The final member of the team to qualify for the NCAA was Hilyer. This is Hilyer's first NCAA championship, and she qualified by earning All-Big East honors in last month's meet.

Hilyer will compete in this Friday's NCAA Zone D Dining Meet in Columbus, Ohio, and she is expected to finish in the top four in order to qualify for a trip to Athens later in the week.

Contact Greg Arbogast at garborgas@nd.edu

**SMC TENNIS**

**Florida sun promises Belles heated contests**

By CHRIS KHOREY
Sports Writer

After posting an 8-9 record and finishing fifth at the MIAA tournament last year, the Belles hope more experience will carry them to the top of the league in 2006.

Their first test comes this week with seven matches over six days during the team's annual spring trip to Orlando.

The Belles face Urumas Sunday at 2 p.m. to kick off their season and follow that contest with a matchup against Minnesota State-Mankato 8 a.m. Monday.

"We're hoping to win the conference this year," sophomore Tara O'Brien said. "I think we have a good shot. Everyone's been working extremely well.

Saint Mary's returns four of its top six players. The only losses are singles No. 2 duo Miranda Mikulyuk and No. 6 singles No. 3 doubles Mary Beth Parkinson and No. 2 doubles Kelcey O'Brien. O'Brien said team practices have been more intense than last season.

"We've done more conditioning the last two years than I ever did in past years," she said. The Belles ran hot and cold last season sustaining a four game losing streak in mid-season then ending the year with four straight wins. Saint Mary's beat the teams it was supposed

to — sweeping every match against MIAA bottom-feeders Alma, Olivet, and Tri-State — but was unable to keep pace with the conference's top squads. The Belles lost to Embry-Riddle and Hope College last year after posting a 9-8 singles record last season. Palmombo won the MIAA individual title at No. 2 singles her freshman and sophomore years and took third in No. 1 singles last year.

No. 2 singles/No. 2 doubles Calie Mulcahy and No. 4 singles/No. 2 doubles Kelly McDavitt joins O'Brien (No. 3 singles/No. 3 doubles) in returning to the Belles this season.

Perhaps the most important returnee for the Belles is coach Dee Stevenson. Stevenson has coached at Saint Mary's since 2001, compiling a 64-19 record, two undefeated conference schedules and the Belles' only NCAA tournament appearance in 2002.

"He's a great coach and a great person," O'Brien said. "He knows a lot about tennis, and he always lets us plan and plot our shots rather than hitting it as hard as we can.

Contact Chris Khorey at ckhorey@nd.edu

**MASTERS OF THE RENAISSANCE**

OCEKHEM: MISSA L' HOMME ARMÉ

**WORKS BY JOSQUIN, MONTEVERDI, GESUALDO**

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The Observer • SPORTS

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Friday, March 10, 2006
ND SOFTBALL

Competition out west will be a test

Judi Garman Classic follows two games at home with Cal Poly

By DAN MURPHY  Sports Writer

Notre Dame will have no rest this weekend as the Irish travel west to take on the highest-ranked competition they will see all season long. The action kicks off on Sunday with a doubleheader against the Cal Poly Mustangs. The Mustangs (9-14) thrive on defensive play and the occasional long ball (16 home runs this season). With tough losses in No. 3 UCLA and Oklahoma, Cal Poly has proven they can play with the best teams in the country.

"We are very similar teams at this point in the season," Irish coach Deanna Gumpf said. "Both have some very good wins and some bad losses. After this weekend, we hope to bring our 'A' game we should beat Cal Poly."

Gumpf returns to the team full time this weekend after giving birth to her daughter a little more than two weeks ago. Players said the team is excited to have her back, "luck on the bench and is confident that her presence will give the team the boost it needs to win the schedule.

"It will take to make a big difference with Coach Gumpf here — it will really be able to help us out," freshman infielder Linda Kohus said.

After the two games against Cal Poly, the Irish will take the extra help they can get this week as they enter the inaugural Judi Garman Classic in Fullerton, Calif. The tournament, formerly known as the Kia Klassic, is considered to be the premier mid-season tournament of all of collegiate softball. The field of 16 teams is check-full of talent with 10 ranked in the top 25. Notre Dame starts the tournament in a round robin, playing games against No. 10 Arizona State, Florida State, and Cal- State Fullerton. The Titans, who beat the Irish in the Feb. 19, will have home field advantage as the hosts of Division I.

"I think we are a whole different team now," said Kohus, who went 0-for-4 with a home run in the loss to Fullerton. "I think we are going to surprise them this weekend.

The Sun Devils are the favorite in the pool, entering with a 21-1 record. The team's only loss came in extra innings against Virginia Tech March 4. If the Irish are to hand Arizona State its second loss Thursday, they will need to find a way to score more runs than most have against the Sun Devils. The stingy Sun Devil pitching staff has allowed less than 1.4 runs a game this season.

The Irish finish pool play with the Seminoles Friday. Florida State, who is quiet out of the gate this year, getting off to a 13-6 start. Senior leadoff hitter Natasha Jacob has led the way offensively, setting the table with a .349 batting average. The Irish pitchers will have to keep the speedy Seminoles off the bases for Notre Dame to be successful.

"We will be facing some tough competition where our character will be tested," Gumpf said. Following the round robin games, brackets will be set for the weekend and the competition will once again toughen. Depending on how far they fare in their pool, the Irish could face the No. 1 and No. 2 teams in the nation (Arizona and Texas) along with last year's NCAA champion Michigan.

Gumpf said a couple of big wins could help bring Notre Dame into the nation's elite after a sluggish 7-7 start.

"At this point in the season we hoped to have a higher winning percentage," Gumpf said. "By the end of season we should be well above .500.

Contact Dan Murphy at dmurphy6@nd.edu

ND WOMEN'S GOLF

Team will fire for birdies in Texas

By FRAN TOLAN  Sports Writer

Notre Dame travels to Bryan, Texas this weekend to compete in Texas A&M's 13th Annual "Mo"-Morial Tournament at the Championship Tees Traditions Golf Club. The 54-hole event is named after former A&M golfer Monika Webb, who died in an automobile accident in the early 1990s. It will include a field of 18 teams from across the country, including No. 9 Arkansas and No. 23 Kent State.

The Irish are coming off of an 11th-place finish in the Central District Classic — their first tournament of this spring — and are hoping for a better finish this weekend.

“We didn’t play as well as we expected that weekend,” Irish coach Dehly King said of the Feb. 19-20 tournament. “We’re going up against the same class of teams in this field and we’re hoping for a stronger finish.

Despite the disappointing finish in the team’s first tournament because of the weather’s ability to practice during this week’s mild weather.

“We get out in the course a couple of times this week,” she said. “So we’re hoping we can continue to improve our level of play.”

King said she hopes for a top six finish in Bryan.

This competition is crucial for Notre Dame because it pits the team against several others from the NCAA central region — teams the Irish will face in the second round of postseason play. What’s more, the par-72, 6,307-yard course is the same one that will play host to the NCAA Central Regional in May.

During the fall, the Irish had a team scoring average of 301.5 per round. King said that her girls should be aiming for that figure throughout the tournament.

“I’d feel really good if we could stay at or under that mark for each round,” she said.

After the "Mo"-Morial, Notre Dame will have only two more weekends to prepare before the Big East Championship in Duke City, Fla. April 23-25.

Contact Fran Tolan at ftolan@nd.edu

ND SOFTBALL

Lacrosse

continued from page 20

making offensive has not been as good as it needs to be," he said. "And we have to shoot the ball better when we get opportunity. We have to be better on our end with our decision making and putting the ball in the cage.

If the Irish are to light up the scoreboard Saturday, they must do so against the powerful Carolina defense featuring senior presen-" We’re not going to try to rein-correspondent All-American Stephen McDuffie. McDuffie, a nominee for the Tewaaraton Trophy, the country's best lacrosse player, is tough to attack because of his versatility," Corrigan said.

"We've faced him every year of his career," Corrigan said. "He's an excellent defenseman — very solid. He's able to guard different kinds of players on.

As Corrigan expects North Carolina to bring a sense of urgency to Saturday's game, he said the Irish need to match that same aggressive attitude.

"We’ve been too willing to set-" We’re not going to try to rein-

m the table with a .349 batting average. The field of 16 teams is check-full of talent with 10 ranked in the top 25. Notre Dame starts the tournament in a round robin, playing games against No. 10 Arizona State, Florida State, and Cal-State Fullerton. The Titans, who beat the Irish in the Feb. 19, will have home field advantage as the hosts of Division I.

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continued from page 20

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"We’re not going to try to rein-" We’re not going to try to rein-
Friends
continued from page 20

He said the key to Iowa's improvement this year was to look at each game as its own entity, rather than looking at a big picture — especially when the team faces an opponent several times, like it will Notre Dame.

"That's our goal as a program — not look too far ahead. We keep it as simple as possible," he said. "We're trying to get the program turned around. We've been down for a while.

Southpaw Jeff Maitland will lead Iowa's pitching rotation in its eight games over break. The junior is 1-0 with an ERA of 4.82 in his first full season after elbow surgery in 2004. In Maitland's last appearance, he allowed only two hits in six shutout innings against Northwestern.

"Jeff doesn't have overpowering stuff by any means, but he just knows how to pitch (and) work both sides of the plate," Dahm said. "He just continues to get stronger each time out. He took some time off over the summer and got some arm strength back.

Maitland will be followed by righties Austin Seard and David Conroy in the rotation. Seward is 1-1 with a 3.23 ERA, while Conroy has yet to earn a decision after starting two games but throwing only six innings with a 4.50 ERA.

Notre Dame cannot bask on a ninth-inning comeback in any of its games against the Hawkeyes. Iowa closer Tim Gudex has thrown five perfect innings this year, with only four batters even putting the ball in play against him. He has struck out 10 and induced one double play.

"Having Tim on the back side, our ninth inning, gives our guys a lot of confidence," Dahm said.

At the plate, center fielder Nathan Price will lead off for Iowa. Price is batting .308 with five RBIs and three stolen bases. Utility infielder Travis Sweet is in the No. 2 hole and has done a tremendous job scoring Price, hitting .600 with runners in scoring position this season.

"A lot of kids put a lot of pressure on themselves when it's time to drive in runs, but he excels in that situation," Dahm said. "He's the guy that's going to be able to drive in runs."

But before the Irish face Iowa, they must square off against No. 15 Texas A&M in their first game of the BECC.

Notre Dame looks to snap a five-game losing streak at 7 p.m. tonight against the Aggies (13-3). Texas A&M is coming off a 6-4 loss at home to Texas State Tuesday but took two of three games from No. 5 Florida last weekend in a series in Gainesville.

Utility infielder Jose Salazar is Texas A&M's top hitter this year, batting .348 with an on-base percentage of .389. Catcher Josh Stinson provides the power for the Aggies with a .452 slugging percentage and 10 RBIs in 14 games played.

Junior Austin Crecy and freshman Kyle Thebeau lead the Irish pitching rotation, and while neither are expected to take the mound for Texas A&M, the Irish will nonetheless have their hands full at the plate.

Junior righty Kyle Nicholson carries a 3-0 record and 2.08 ERA into his start against Notre Dame. Nicholson has struck out 20 batters while surrendering just three walks in 21.2 innings. If the past five games are any indication, the Irish may have trouble getting on the board against Nicholson. Notre Dame was shut out in its last two contests, an 8-0 drubbing at the hands of Minnesota March 4 and a 2-0 loss to Arizona in extra innings March 5. After the loss to Arizona, Mainieri attributed some of the team's batting woes to an early-season funk typical of his Notre Dame teams.

"We've hit the ball hard, but it's frustrating," Mainieri said. "We've had some bad breaks go against us."

One advantage for the Irish will be the return of catcher Sean Gaston. The junior missed the team's loss to Arizona after hurting his arm in the Minnesota contest. He is expected to start for the Irish tonight.

Notre Dame's two games against Iowa in the BECC will be at 11 a.m. Saturday and 7 p.m. Monday. The Irish meet Illinois (9-5) at 7 p.m. Sunday in their other game in the BECC.

Notre Dame will stay in San Antonio to host the Irish Classic, with its two remaining games against Iowa (March 16 at noon and March 17 at 5:30 p.m.) and two more against Southern Illinois (11-4) on March 17 at 1:30 p.m. and March 18 at 1:30 p.m.

Contact Ken Fowler at kfowler@nd.edu
Big East continued from page 20

"It was a relief," McGraw said. "It was an amazing run for the last week. It has to be great to see, but I think it was good for the conference in general to get it done." After defeating South Florida 73-66 in the first round of the Big East, the Irish were 21-4 overall and McGraw said that the win had sealed their NCAA berth. "I think this [win] is enough," McGraw said Saturday after the game. "I think we’ve got some good wins over good teams. We’re playing well right now — we’ve got a lot of momentum in a row, I think everyone’s positive for us."

But as West Virginia marched through the tournament, upset-like momentum was building. Kubinski, who was previously unbeaten in the conference, has had the Irish playing like they are consistently at the top," he said. "If we can get back to that mentality, that’s wonderful."

Notes:

- Irish senior point guard Courtney LaVere was chosen Thursday to receive the Robin Roberts/WBCA Broadcast Award. The award is given to coaches who excel in coaching commentary and film, television and theatre and this year recognizes Kubinski’s performance in the WBCA Announcer of the Week award. Kubinski was also previously named a WBCA Regional to the tournament. The honor is given annually to the nation’s top five players and in this instance, he is a two-spot-6 and six short of the 25th most goals in the nation to post three goals in the Big East.

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- Kubinski said that the Irish have been playing like they are consistently in the Top-25. "It’s always a challenge. Our team is ready for the competition. If we play our game we can definitely come away victorious."

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Tennis continued from page 20

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- The Irish are the only program in the nation to post three goals in the top-50. The No. 4 pairing of Catrina and Christine Thompson has lost its No. 3 ranking to the Irish at No. 1 for most of the season. Following at No. 2 is the Irish No. 27 team of sophomore Brooke Buck and freshman Kelsey Tefft. The last ranked team for the Irish at No. 3 is the No. 46 duo of seniors Kiki Stassey and captain Lauren Connolly.

- "We are hoping to always head into singles with the doubles partners. We have to make sure we are really good at the mental side of tennis," Connolly said. "We are always working on the mental side of tennis, but we are not consistent at the top," he added. "It’s always a challenge. Our team is ready for the competition. If we play our game we can definitely come away victorious."
Friday, March 10, 2006

The Observer • TODAY

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

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JACKAL

Alec White & Erik Powers

JOCKULAR

Friday, March 10, 2006

Due to pasture, they are putting sacred pigs around the dome.

I know Jenkins inaugurations are important, but so is graduation. This upcoming graduation is meaningful.

And those grade posters are really starting to get to me.

Don't blame the world. You can blame God, or you can blame yourself.

JOCKULAR

Adam Fairholm

CROSSWORD

ACROSS
26 Shout to a table 57 Quickly
1 Didn't immediately go on 58 Checking one's territory
7 "Don't fall for that" 59 Beat one's gums
15 Title bandit 60 Antiphon
22 G.P.S. device 61 Like patent leather
24 Botanical, 1,000,000 62 Better writing
19 Disorderly
20 It doesn't require a full writer
21 Some fertile regions
22 Liquid nitrogen
23 Disorderly type?
25 Sets a setter on edge
27 Spelling and other regions
28 Display
29 Locks up
30 Callings
31 Is that a fact?
32 Wolf in sheep's clothing, e.g.
33 Something auto-dated?
34 Star trek?

DOWN
1 Piano tale
2 Playground retort
3 Loose
4 Ruthless governor
5 One passing
6 Not straight
7 Native Africans
8 Big name in small tanks
9 Not just say
10 Record
11 Friday's
12 Reapers' sounds
13 Emphatic concurrence
14 Annual celestial display
15 Kitchen aid
16 Sets a setter on edge
17 Spellings and other

WILL SHORTZ

JUMBLE

Sundial House Four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LALIAGE

ARIES (March 21-April 19):
This is a good time to look at real estate or make a long-term commitment to something that will help ensure a secure future. Someone you care about may not agree with your plans. Take the time to express your opinions.

TAUREAN (April 20-May 20):
Today can bring a host of new opportunities if you are receptive to the suggestions being made. Someone may come to you from what it is but will probably be because he or she wants to surprise you. An older relative may seek your help.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20):
Listen to what others have to say before you divulge your own ideas. Favor will be granted if you are sincere about your needs. Stay clear of pitfalls that will slow you down.

CANCER (June 21-July 22):
You are averse to theสรรส arises or at least incorporate some new lifestyle change. Set your goals and you will be able to quickly discern. Emotional matters may feel very different. An older relative may seek your help.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):
Your partner's emotional messages may lead to a revelation or even a change of heart. Don't hold back — let everyone in your life feel how you feel and what your intentions are. Don't let your personal life interfere with your productivity.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):
Business or personal partnerships should take priority today. Don't overestimate the situation that arose. If you realize that other people's affairs, it will backfire, making you look like the bad guy.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):
Beg the long hard task of getting everyone to do things your way. You have the creative edge but not everyone will share your enthusiasm or your vision. Social activity or physical fitness programs will bring you in touch with people who can help get you out.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):
Take a closer look at your financial situation. Collect your due and ask for a raise. The pressure that will be relieved by taking care of each matter will surprise you. Don't get angry with someone for making an honest mistake.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):
You can't pass up an opportunity to make a career change. Use your logic and you can make the position of your dreams. Get ready to pitch and promote and you will get what you want.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):
Purist, perfection, and making a commitment are apparent. A chance to learn something valuable will come into play and help you get ahead in the future. An honest answer will be made.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):
Nothing will stop you from getting your way today. You can make demands, convince anyone, start your own business and achieve success along the way. You are fortunate and strong-willed.

Birthday Baby: You are sociable, opportunistic and ready to have the best possible year. You are on the way to following your own path and achieving success along the way. You are lucky and strong-willed.

Eugenia's Web site: eugenia.co.uk for fun, eugenia.co.uk for confidential consultations

HOROSCOPE
Team heads south and west for tournaments

By JOE QUINN
Sports Writer

Notre Dame will spend its spring break in Myrtle Beach, S.C. and Laredo, Texas, where the team will partake in two tournaments over the weekend break.

The Irish will play in the General Jim Hackett Invitational Sunday and Monday and then head west to Laredo to participate in the Border Olympics March 17 and 18.

With one tournament under its belt this spring, Irish coach Jim Kubinski feels good about his team’s chances.

"I’m expecting the guys to play very improved golf down in Myrtle Beach," Kubinski said. "This is a good course for us it really suits our game. You have to drive well and putt well, and I think that should play in our favor."

The Irish have finished in the top-6 in five of their seven tournaments this year. "Part of it is our decision making," Kubinski said. "I’m expecting the guys to play very improved golf down in Myrtle Beach," Kubinski said. "This is a good course for us it really suits our game. You have to drive well and putt well, and I think that should play in our favor."

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