Jenkins greenlights 'Monologues'  

Despite criticism from Church leaders, the 'Vagina Monologues' will again be performed on campus.

By BILL BRINK  
New Editor

"The Vagina Monologues" will be performed on campus this spring, University President Father John Jenkins said in a statement Monday, a month after criticism from Church leaders revived debate about the role of the sexually explicit play at a Catholic university.

Jenkins said the student proposal to perform the "Monologues" — which received approval from several academic departments and the dean of the College of Arts and Letters before he reviewed it — was consistent with guidelines reached in spring of 2006.

Those guidelines, formed by Jenkins and chairs from Arts and Letters after 10 weeks of campus-wide discussion, stipulate that academic panels will be held after each performance, that academic panels will be held after each performance, and that academic panels will be held after each performance.

"This is a thorough and sympathetic account of the Catholic tradition in relation to the issues raised in the play.

The performances will take place March 24-26.

"My decision on this matter arises from a conviction that it is an indispensable part of the mission of a Catholic university to provide a forum in which multiple viewpoints are debated in reasoned and respectful exchange — always in dialogue with faith and the Catholic tradition.

Hilton Garden Inn faces burglary attempt

Two suspects attempted to rob the Hilton Garden Inn on Feb. 28 in the early morning.

By LIZ HARTER  
Saint Mary's Editor

Saint Mary's Security, Notre Dame Police/Police and Saint Joseph's County Police apprehended two burglars attempting to rob the Hilton Garden Inn on Indiana Route 923 in the early morning hours of Feb. 28, local news outlets said.

The St. Joseph's County Police received a call at 4:10 a.m. from the front desk clerk at the Hilton, the news outlets reported. The Hilton borders Madeleve Drive, which is Saint Mary's property.

The clerk reported that the hotel had been robbed and a maintenance man was attempting to subdue one of the suspects in front of the hotel, according to the South Bend Tribune.

Sgt. Dale Shines, a Saint Mary's security guard, was monitoring the St. Joseph's County Police frequency at the time of the robbery and decided to patrol the area, David Gariley, director of Saint Mary's Security, said.

"The attempted burglary caused a concern for our campus should the perpetrators have decided to escape towards our property," Gariley said.

NDSP also responded to the robbery after being contacted by the St. Joseph's County Police, who requested mutual aid from another police agency, Phil Johnson, director of NDSP.

Gariley said NDSP arrived "nearly simultaneously" with the Notre Dame campus police, but the burglar had fled the area.

"It's a challenge to put out five papers per week while maintaining good grades in the classroom," Hine said. "But I have complete faith in everyone's ability to maintain the high standards established by outgoing editors.

The other appointments are: Bill Brink, news editor; Mary Jesse, graphics editor; Kara King, viewpoint editor.

College's former pres dies

Sr. M. Alma Peter served SMC for 34 years

By LIZ HARTER  
Saint Mary's Editor

Thirty-eight years after her inauguration as the President of Saint Mary's College, Sr. M. Alma Peter died at Saint Mary's Convent Friday.

Alma Peter was 98 years old and worked for Saint Mary's for 34 years in a teaching and administrative capacity. She was the College's president from 1970-72.

Current president and 1972 alumna Carol Ann Montgomery said, "She was a neutral and attractive force, the loss of the former educator.

"I have known Sister Alma since my days as a student at Saint Mary's College," she said. "I am deeply saddened by her passing."

After taking her Final Profession in 1933, Alma Peter received a bachelor's degree from Immaculate Heart College in Los Angeles and a master's degree in chemistry from Marquette University. She also held an honorary doctor of humanities degree from Saint Mary's, a master's degree in humanities from College of Notre Dame and an honorary doctor of laws degree from the University of Notre Dame.

She joined Saint Mary's faculty in 1950 and became the academic dean in 1953. She was instrumental in establishing the college's new disciplines of chemistry and biology.

People feverishly working out on the elliptical machines, countless wannabe bodybuilders pumping iron, students running around the lakes in the middle of winter and the Subway line passing the few people at Burger King were scenes that may seem familiar to most here at Notre Dame.

The student government's gender issues committee, however, is now raising the question of why this is the case. Is Notre Dame simply a healthy campus? Or are there deeper issues concerning health and body image that pervade the campus, as students obsess over a need to be thin, fit and "perfect"?

With millions of Americans, many on college campuses like Notre Dame, suffering with eating and body image disorders, the gender issues committee has organized "Live As You Are: 2008 Health and Body Image Conference," in conjunction with National Eating Disorder Awareness Week.

Promoting greater awareness and understanding of eating disorders, the "Live As You Are" conference includes bringing these issues to the forefront of Notre Dame and at least one panel on education, and insight for professionals and students alike.

Sophomore Patrick Tigh, co-chair of the student government's gender issues committee, has been on the planning and organization of the conference, along with senior co-chair Brenda Doyle. Modeled after last year's Eating Disorder Conference, Tigh and Doyle "decided to change the conference to make it more gender neutral and attract as many people as possible," Tigh said.

Started in the spring of 2007 by a Notre Dame student suffering with an eating disorder, the conference has

Speakers kick off Body Image week

Conference promotes awareness of eating disorders, examines campus health

By ANN-MARIE WOODS  
News Writer

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**INSIDE COLUMN**

**What a sad truth**

Racism in America isn't any more curable now than it was 30 years ago. For those of you who read "racism" and flipped to the comics, bear with me. I just wanted to grab your attention. Racism is going to happen unless we continue to confront it. I recently saw a cartoon in the student newspaper that illustrated this problem. The following is a sick joke; it actually happened.

Over spring break, at a large southern state university, I watched a college student tie a piece of rope around the neck of an African-American Barbie doll, tie the other end to a ceiling fan and turn it on, to raucous laughter of most others in the room. Anyone who says racism is gone is absolutely kidding themselves.

This incident told me two things. First, no amount of sensitivity training can eradicate this problem. It seeps into every nook, cranny and person in this society. It may seem harmless when a doll takes the brunt of the suffering. It may even be funny because no one told him otherwise. He must have grown up in a society that didn't prohibit this type of behavior. Unless the storm of the problem is removed, mantletsowers like this will occur.

Second, the twisted humor was infectious. Most people in the room who didn't witness this, the guy claimed he rigged it, to recover from the procedure. But even the open road wasn't big enough to haul the driver of the suffering. Even if a person becomes the target, it doesn't prohibit this type of behavior. Unless the storm of the problem is removed, mantletsowers like this will occur.

Some might see this as a harmless collegelogy prank, rigged on to alcohol and an audience. It may be relatively harmless in the privacy of an apartment, but what happens if it becomes public? Anyone who says racism is gone is absolutely kidding themselves. Anyone who says it was just an isolated incident; this guy's family is going to be racists. It may seem harmless, but if a person becomes the target, it doesn't prohibit this type of behavior. Unless the storm of the problem is removed, mantletsowers like this will occur.

Offbeat

**Collision with overpass cancels obese man's date**

**MEXICO CITY** — When Manuel Uribe went out on a date, he made all the necessary arrangements: a forklift to carry him out of the house and a flatbed tow truck big enough to haul the formerly half-ton man and his bed to a party.

But even the open road wasn't big enough to handle Uribe's dream of celebrating a budding romance and his success in losing about 440 pounds.

Uribe was halfway to a picnic near his Monterrey-surname area home on Sunday when one of the posts holding a sun-shielding tarp over his bed hit an overpass.

Uribe's blood pressure dropped so much his doctors advised him not to go on the celebration—being documented by about two dozen photographers and reporters from around the world — was canceled.

March Madness: rest and relaxation after vasectomies

**SPRINGFIELD, Ore.** — For guys who park in front of the TV during college basketball's March Madness, the Oregon Urology Institute has a suggestion: Why not use that time to recover from a vasectomy?

"When March Madness approaches you need an excuse ... to stay at home in front of the big screen," the clinic's radio ad says.

"Get your vasectomy at Oregon Urology Institute the day before the tournament starts. It's easy to see your institute Administrator Terry FitzPatrick said men need two to four days to recover from the procedure — but not all take the time.

Information compiled by the Associated Press.
ND ranked No. 13 in top 25 Latino colleges

Special to The Observer

Hispanic Magazine has ranked the University of Notre Dame 13th on its updated thou-shalt-not list. Hispanics constitute 9 percent of undergraduate enrollment at Notre Dame, and we sponsor or subsidize a college credit for their efforts.

Additional information on the Latino Community Leadership Seminar is available at http://www.nd.edu/lcs.

Founded in 1999, the LCL is designed to provide an academic environment that advances knowledge and understanding of the Latino experience in the United States. As an interdisciplinary unit, the institute seeks to incorporate the study of the Latino population of the United States as a vital component of Notre Dame's academic mission and also provides an administrative home and support for the Latino student body on campus.

"Students are central to our mission and have been incorporated into the life of the institute from the beginning," said ILS director Gilberto Cardenas, assistant professor of institutional relations and the Julian Samora Professor of Latino Studies.

"Recognizing that the needs of individual students vary, we strive to create a sense of community at Notre Dame through maintaining a balance among education, research and outreach. We have established both a minor and supplementary major in Latino studies and offer a variety of classes in fields including political science, sociology, theology, literature, history and art. We provide a wide array of research and experiential learning opportunities, and we sponsor or subsidize a gamut of cultural and academic events for students many initiated by the students themselves."

Vatican takes new stance on sin

Genetic manipulation, mind-altering drugs among Church issues

Associated Press

VATICAN CITY — In olden days, the deadly sins included lust, gluttony and greed. Now, the Catholic Church says pollution, mind-damaging drugs and genetic experiments are on its updated thou-shalt-not list.

Also receiving fresh attention by the Vatican was social injustice, along the lines of the age-old maxim: "The rich get richer while the poor get poorer."

"If yesterday sin had a rather individualistic dimension, today it has a weight, a resonance, that's especially social, rather than individual," said Gianfranco Girotti, the head of the Apostolic Penitentiary, who was asked in the interview published today in the Vatican newspaper L'Osservatore Romano what, in his opinion, "the poor are always becoming poorer and the rich ever more rich, feeding unsustainable social injustice."

Girotti rejected that view, saying that Catholic organizations help unwed mothers, educating "their children who come into the world because of their lack of foresight" and facilitating adoption.

Applications are available for pick up now:

220 Main Building

Please return by 5pm on Tuesday, April 1.
Questions? E-mail Beth Giudicessi: egiudice@nd.edu
President

continued from page 1

implementing the Study
Abroad program in Rome, of
which she is the director, and as
director, she also served as the
counselor of the College of
Arts and Letters. She then took
over as the department head of
the College of Arts and Letters.
Marta Peter became acting
dean of the College of Arts
and Sciences on March 1, 2008.
Mrs. Peter, who had served in
the role during the time when
the College and the University
of Notre Dame were determining whether or not to unite. In November 1971, Notre Dame and Saint
Mary's announced their departure, resulted in the
best possible outcome,” Gariepy said.

Many Saint Mary's students didn’t hear about the inci-
dent when they returned from spring break.

For Jessica Sobczyk, a junior,
the incident made her
realize this is a major prob-
lem on campus.

"I don't change my opinion
of security at Saint Mary's. I still
feel safe on campus."

Judith Tucker

Mary's jointly announced
termination of union
plans. Notre Dame would
admit women begin-
ing fall, 1972.

In September 1972,
the college had
remained an all-
women's college.

The Miss America and
Alma Peter was
more than just the
president and
administrator, she
served an
important to the College's
heritage.

"Saint Mary's has lost not
only a former president, but
a woman who helped to
shape our future during a
pivotal time in our history," she
said. "She and I enjoyed
many visits over the
past few years. I will
miss her wisdom and
friendship.

"I look forward to seeing
her and Sister Alma at the
next steps in our
progress.

"This year's proposal has been
approved," Jenkins said. "We
now turn to the next
step in our planning.

"The Riley Prize
Art History and Criticism

The Department of Art, Art History and Design is
pleased to announce its annual competition for the Riley
Prize in Art History and Criticism. Current Notre Dame
undergraduate and graduate students are invited to
submit essays on any topic in the history of art or art
criticism for consideration in the competition. Essays
must deal with the visual arts. They may have been
written in conjunction with a course taken at the
University, but need not have been.

Rules governing the competition are available in the Art
Department Office, 306 Riley Hall.

Two copies of the submission must be delivered to the Art
Department Office by 4:00 PM, Tuesday, March 25th to be
eligible.

A student may only submit ONE entry.
**INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

Al-Qaida responsible for kidnappings

CASABLANCA — Al-Qaida in Islamic North Africa claimed responsibility for kidnapping two Australians last month in Tunisia in an audio recording aired Monday on Al-Jazeera television.

A man who identified himself as Salah Abu Mohammedi claimed he was the oner Russian" who kidnapped the two Australians on Feb. 22 in retaliation for France's cooperation with Israel, but said the hostages were in good health.

The kidnappers have previously warned and threatened to execute the hostages, but officials said the hostages have not and will not be able to protect you, and the hostages of the two are in good health.

Al-Qaida in Islamic North Africa, which is the sister group to al-Qaida's core organization in Afghanistan, has been the most active and audacious of the various al-Qaida splinter groups, which control thousands of fighters across the Muslim world.

Serbian leaders call for an election

BELGRADE, Serbia — Serbia's caretaker government urged the president Monday to call early parliamentary elections in May after the Cabinet collapsed in a political impasse over Kosovo's declaration of independence and ties with the European Union.

The European Union called on Serbia's leaders to hold a national meeting and keep their country on course to join the bloc, while the Bush administration urged them to focus "on the future."

Early elections are seen as a test of whether Serbia will continue on a path toward EU mem­bership or revert to the international isolation of the 1990s under the late strongman Slobodan Milosevic.

**National News**

Auburn student's murderer confesses

AUBURN, Ala. — Authorities say a man accused of killing an Auburn University student confessed to the shooting during a court hearing Monday for missing a deadline on a decision to list polar bears as threatened because of the loss of sea ice.

His statement was read in a Lee County court­room. Items up for bid include lockers for tight end Dallas Clark and the on­going inquiry.

On Monday, the lowest ranking, or "Client 9," met last month with at least one woman in a Washington hotel, the law­enforcement official said.

The club's Web site dis­plays photographs of scantily clad women with their faces hidden. It also shows hourly rates depending on whether the prostitutes were rated with one diamond, the lowest ranking, or seven diamonds, the highest. The most highly ranked prostitutes cost $5,500 an hour, prosecutors said.

The scandal was first reported on The New York Times' Web site.

Associated Press

**Iraq**

Suicide bomb kills five U.S. soldiers

BAGHDAD — A suicide bomber killed five U.S. soldiers when they met with fellow soldiers in a high-rise building in the predominantly Sunni Mansour neigh­borhood. When a man in his 30s detonated his explosive about 30 feet away, said a police officer who witnessed the attack, he spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not allowed to talk to the media.

Four of the soldiers died at the scene, and the fifth died later from his wounds, the military said. Three other American soldiers and an Iraqi interpreter were also wounded in the attack, which military spokesman Maj. Mark Caudill said "was "reported to us as a suicide bomber."

Iraqi police said two civilians were also killed.

It was the deadliest attack against the U.S. military since Jan. 28, when five soldiers were killed in a roadside bomb in the northern city of Mosul.

New York governor accused of being involved in a prostitution ring, called to resign

New York Gov. Eliot Spitzer, the crusading politi­cian who built his career on rooting out corruption, apol­ogized Monday after he was accused of being involved in a prostitution ring. He did not elaborate on the scandal, which calls for his resignation.

His wife at the side, Spitzer told reporters in a hastily called news confer­ence: "I have acted in a way that violates my obligations to my family."

He said he had "disappointed and failed to live up to the standard I expected of myself."

Spitzer's involvement in the ring was caught on a federal wiretap as part of an investi­gation opened in recent months, according to a law enforcement official who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the ongoing inquiry.

The New York Democrat, identified in legal papers as "Client 7," met last month with at least one woman in a Washington hotel, the law­enforcement official said.

The prostitution ring, identified in court papers as the Emperors Club VIP, arranged connections between wealthy men and more than 50 prostitutes in New York, Washington, D.C., Los Angeles, Miami, London and Paris, prosecutors said.

Four people allegedly con­nected to the high-end ring were arrested last week.

"I have disappointed and failed to live up to the standard I expected of myself," he said. "I must now dedicate some time to regain the trust of my family." 

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"Today's news that Eliot Spitzer was likely involved with a prostitution ring and his refusal to deny it leads to one inescapable conclusion: He has disgraced his office and the entire state of New York," said Assembly Republican leader James Tedisco. "He should resign his office immediately."

Spitzer, 48, built his politi­cal reputation on rooting out corruption, including several headline-making battles with Wall Street while serv­ing as attorney general. He stormed into the governor's office in 2006 with a historic share of the vote, vowing to continue his no-nonsense approach to fixing one of the nation's worst governments.

Time magazine had named him "Crusader of the Year" when he was attorney general, and the tabloids proclaimed him "Eliot Ness."

But his term as governor has been marred by prob­lems, including an unpopu­lar plan to grant driver's licenses to illegal immi­grants and a plot by his aides to smear Spitzer's main Republican nemesis.

Spitzer had been expected to testify to the state Public Integrity Commission he had created to answer for his role in the scandal, in which his aides were accused of misusing state police to compile travel records to embarrass Senate Republican leader Joseph Bruno.

Spitzer had served two terms as attorney general where he pursued criminals and civil cases and cracked down on misconduct and conflicts of interests on Wall Street and in corporate America. He had previously been a prosecutor in the Manhattan District Attorney's Office, handling organized crime and white­collar crime cases.
GUATEMALA

Documentation fraud causes adoption limbo
Discrepancies found with papers of nine kids

Associated Press

GUATEMALA CITY - Luciana Caviquir's adoptive file says she was born 14 months ago by Caesarean section to a single mother as she could be raised by a loving family in a six-bedroom Indiana farmhouse.

But now some of the documents appear to be fraudulent, part of a slew of irregularities at the agency handling Luciana's adoption that have led dozens of babies in danger of being seized from their anguished American adoptive parents. The probe also casts a cloud of uncertainty over some 2,900 pending U.S. adoptions.

Prosecutors describe their probe of Casa Quivira - considered Guatemala's best adoption agency - as their first serious attempt to investigate a $100 million industry that has made tiny Guatemala the largest source of American babies after China.

The system has delivered 29,400 Guatemalan children into U.S. homes since 1990 - so many that one in every 100 Guatemalan babies born each year was growing up in an American home.

But after a monthslong investigation that began with the seizure of 46 babies from Casa Quivira last August, prosecutors say they found fraud cloaking the true identities of at least nine children and that half their birth mothers could not be found at all.

The fraud points to much deeper problems with the flawed adoption system that Guatemala appeared to resolve in January, and casts a cloud of uncertainty over the backgrounds of thousands of children now growing up in America, the Associated Press has learned.

After intense lobbying by U.S. parents, most of the 2,900 pending U.S. adoptions will likely go forward, partly because Guatemala lacks the resources to fully investigate them. Parents of the Casa Quivira babies, however, are stuck in the very nightmare they tried to avoid by spending at least $30,000 per child for hassle-free adoptions.

"I certainly wouldn't want to give Luciana back," said Mary Ball, the child's adoptive mother, who rescinded her adoption and had her eyes welling up. "She's our family. She's our daughter.

Prosecutors say the problems at Casa Quivira include illegal payments to at least one birth mother, stolen identities - including that of a child born 22 years ago - and a mentally ill birth mother who was incapable of giving consent.

A Guatemalan judge said he would announce Tuesday whether to pursue a trial against Casa Quivira's attorney and notary. Prosecutors also have obtained an arrest warrant against the American owner, and they want fresh DNA tests for all the babies, even those whose paperwork is apparently in order.

"Their rights to an identity are violated because if their mothers have no identity, nei-
A shopper walks by an Ann Taylor store at a shopping mall in San Jose, Calif. Retail stores, like Ann Taylor, are beginning to feel consumers shopping recede.

Gas prices could reach $4 a gallon

WASHINGTON — Gasoline prices were poised Monday to set a new record at the pump, having surged to within half a cent of their record high of $3.227 a gallon. Oil prices, meanwhile, surged above $101 a barrel on new inflation-adjusted record and their fifth new high in the last six sessions on an upward market on whether the United States will raise interest rates.

The national average price of a gallon of gas rose 0.7 cent overnight to $3.227 a gallon, 69 cents higher than one year ago, according to AAA and the Oil Price Information Service. Last May, prices peaked at $3.227 as surging demand and a severe fuel shortage raised alarm about supplies. That record will likely be left in the dust soon as gas prices accelerate toward levels that could approach $4 a gallon, though most analysts believe prices will peak below that psychologically significant mark.

In Brief

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Big Apple approves Harlem rezoning

Residents fear proposal will sap character from the lively main street neighborhood

Associated Press

NEW YORK — A city commission has approved a massive rezoning plan for the heart of Harlem that would allow hundreds of new apartments, performing arts space, shops and offices to be built with such high-profile tenants as Major League Baseball.

Officials say changes approved by the Planning Commission will revive a cultural identity that has been threatened by unregulated development on 125th Street, a thoroughfare where many大型 Harlem residents and changed neighborhood character.

"It will be a disaster," said Sikhulu Shange, Harlem resident. "Residents fear proposal will sap character from the lively main street neighborhood."

The plan offers developers incentives to build performing arts space by allowing them to build three square feet of space for every one square foot for the arts, said Planning department spokeswoman Rachelle Raynoff.

"We wanted to respect the heritage and respect the great tradition of the arts," Raynoff said. "People used to come here to be entertained. We're trying to have more places like Apollo Theater." City Council Member Inez Dickens, who represents central Harlem, has also largely supported the plan, which the council approved late last year.

Dickens has said fears that rezoning would bring a big-box-district are unfounded. The plan, she noted, actually sets height limits for developments that don't exist now. "If you had the resources and you could get a shovel into the ground before this rezoning, no one could stop you from building something out of context, so out of character with the rest of the streetscape," Dickens said. "But you can pierce the fabric of this village of Harlem." Dickens said at a public hearing.

City planners will propose one exception to the height restriction: Harlem Park, the first large office tower to be built in Harlem in decades. Major League Baseball is a likely tenant and the city has approved incentives for eco-friendly businesses.

"Height is a main concern for many long-time residents," said Shange. "People in Harlem don't want to see a McDonald's. They don't want to see a Burger King," he said. "They want to come to places like The Record Shack, like Sylvia's (the famed soul food restaurant), where they can come down and feel the atmosphere of Harlem. All these things, they are in danger."

Many business leaders disagree with residents over the zoning proposal, which has been in the works for four years and would cover dozens of blocks on 124th and 125th Streets, Columbia University plans a $7 billion expansion and West 125th street corridor — approved late last year — that raised similar debates about displaced residents and changed neighborhood character.

The largest arts groups in the 125th Street corridor have been fighting for years to prevent the corridor from becoming a commercial feel. Raynoff said new development on the street would price them out of their homes and erode even more of their community.

"It will be a disaster," said Sikhulu Shange, Harlem resident. "Residents fear proposal will sap character from the lively main street neighborhood."

Albany rezoning

Paterno could be next N.Y. gov. Spitzer’s lieutenant would be the state’s first black leader

Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. — Less than two years after he reluctantly ran for lieutenant governor, David Paterson is suddenly in line to be only the third black governor since Reconstruction, and the first for New York.

"He’s the next governor and probably quite soon," said Maurice Carroll, director of Quinnipiac University’s Political Institute and a longtime New York political reporter.

Attention turned to Paterson immediately after word surfaced Monday that Gov. Eliot Spitzer had been linked to a high-priced prostitution ring. In a brief appearance in front of reporters, Spitzer issued a vague apology and did not mention resignation.

If Spitzer quits, Paterson automatically becomes governor and would complete Spitzer’s term, which ends Dec. 31, 2010.

There was no immediate comment from Paterson.

Paterno, a 53-year-old Democrat from Harlem who is mostly blind, is well respected by Republicans and Democrats.

Former New York City Mayor Edward Koch recently called Paterson "very capable, not withstanding his near sightlessness. It’s never impeded his public actions, and he’s really overcome it in an extraordinary way."

Paterson, who does not use a cane or a guide dog, can make out shapes and even people up close. He lost most of his sight as an infant when an infection damaged his optic nerve. He still talks of his fragile self-esteem in childhood and recalls not being invited to parties because "people thought I would fall and hurt myself."

Paterson’s disability has never been an issue in Albany in his 20-year political career. He has memo­rized lengthy, impassioned speeches without missing a mark; cited arcane legal references in fast-paced floor debates; and won more victories for his party in the Senate than any other leader in the Legislature. His efforts brought Democrats to within a seat of the Senate majority for the first time in decades.

Critics and supporters alike all point to the intellect, compassion and humor that Paterson brings to the Statehouse. When Spitzer picked him to be his running mate in 2006, Paterson deadpanned: “I told Eliot, ‘Whenever you are trying to reform a system, you need a person with vision and a person who is a technician,’ and that’s what I am because I sure don’t have vision.”

Lt. Governor David Paterson, left, may succeed current New York governor Eliot Spitzer after Spitzer was linked to a prostitution scandal.
Offspring fear risk of Alzheimer’s

Study shows 22 percent of adults of parents with memory-loss disease developed the illness

Associated Press

CHICAGO — One parent with Alzheimer’s disease is tough enough, but two? The memory-robbing illness striking both parents — and knowing children are high you’ll get it, too. A study of more than 100 families for the first time gauges the size of that risk.

“I’m scared,” said Jackie Lustig, 52, of Sudbury, Mass., whose father died of Alzheimer’s and whose mother in recent years has shown early signs. “I’m hoping that, ideally, that the pharmaceutical companies can come up with something better than there is now. It’s not a nice way to go,” she wonders.

The study was funded by the National Institute on Aging and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Bird disclosed in the paper that he has a licensing agreement with Athena Diagnostics Inc. The company does lab testing for a gene related to late-onset Alzheimer’s. But Bird’s agreement involves genetic discoveries unrelated to Alzheimer’s, he said, and the company had nothing to do with the research.

Many people with two affected parents ask their doctors to quantify their risk, experts said.

Ferry system faces rough waters

The system’s problems date back to 1999, when voters repealed a vehicle-registration tax that provided much of the money to build, maintain and operate ferries. That caused fare increases, cuts in service and delays in maintaining and replacing boats.

“We had this aging, deteriorating fleet that was ignored and put on the back burner,” said Democratic state Rep. Sherry Appleton, whose district west of the Seattle mainland includes three ferry runs.

State Transportation Secretary Paula Hammond said relief is on the way in the form of 13 new boats to be built over the next 20 years.

“We've allowed the system to limp along, ignoring the long-term consequences,” she said. “We were delaying the inevitable, and now we see the problem square in the face.”

The Washington ferry system hauls 24 million passengers each year, about a quarter of all U.S. ferry passengers. Its 24 vessels range from a tiny boat that links Tacoma to Vashon Island, to a tourist-friendly international run that winds through the scenic San Juan Islands to Vancouver Island in British Columbia.

On upscale Bainbridge Island, thousands of commuters take the ferry to work in downtown Seattle, filling boats that can carry 2,500 passengers on each 30-minute crossing.

For many riders, it’s a pleasant time for drinking coffee and reading the morning paper. Some catch up on work using free wireless Internet access. Others just catch a few extra winks.

It’s not cheap, even though the state subsidizes the system. A walk-on passenger pays $6.70 a day — $134 a month, minus commuter discounts. Driving a car onto the ferry costs $11.55 each direction, or $460 a month for 20 workdays.

But many commuters cheerfully swallow those prices, making up the difference on cheaper real estate across the water from pricey Seattle.

2008 Health and Body Image Conference

Live As You Are

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http://studentgovernment.nd.edu

See Site for Conference Schedule and Registration
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OFFICE MANAGER & GENERAL INFO
(574) 631-1571
Fax: (574) 631-2927

ADVERTISING
(574) 631-8010
advertising@ndsmcobserver.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF
(574) 631-0027

MANAGING EDITOR
Bill Brink
(574) 631-8767
obsphoto@nd.edu

BUSINESS MANAGER
Katie Kohler
(574) 631-4543
sports@ndsmcobserver.com

ART DIRECTOR
Mary Jesse
(574) 631-4541
ohsnews@nd.edu

EDITORIAL MANAGER
Jessica Cencer
(574) 631-8839
euservice@nd.edu

CONTROLLER
Kit Schuckowski

SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR
Cheska Sagardia
(574) 631-8839

www.ndsmcobserver.com

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THE O
Boxing with purpose

In response to Ryan Simmons’ “Strong Bodies Fight” (Feb. 28), I agree that there is much more to the Bengal Bouts than winning a trophy. The Bouts do a fantastic job of raising money for the poor and underprivileged of Bangladesh. His view that all the practices and training were to the Bengal Bouts than winning a trophy. The vehemence and verbosity.

— would not place in the same category, namely “appealing peo­

The W o in perspective.

courage to enter the ring, not ridiculed because they find it is not for them. Their one year of service did not go to waste. They participated in the Bengal Bouts and helped raise money for the Bangladesh Missions.

Many fighters participate for one year to say they gave it a shot, and in the process helped a great cause. As a former Bengal Bouts partici­

Bengal Bouts participants deserve a great amount of respect, and the purpose of the fights should be kept in mind. However, those who box but do not continue after their first year should not be associated with “selfish pride,” but instead remembered and applauded for their year of dedication, hard work, and service.

Ben Frost

Delion Hall

Feb. 29

Real issues

Congratulations to Greg Yatorola on his recent Observer article, “Challenging male promiscuity,” (Feb. 26). From my reading of the Letters to the Editor for almost the last five years, it would seem that the main interest of students is sex. Students live for the weekends to be free of classes and to get to the important issues (like boxing) by opening discussion with NDSP and ResLife about arranging a safe haven for students that are suffering from fighting frenzy and watch our Fighting Irish take the hardwood. With almost all of this year’s squad returning, next year is bound to be an exciting year for Notre Dame basketball. It would be unfortunate if, during a year that could be so important for the program, the University allowed the negative actions of NSF to continue.

In the words of one very distinguished (and unfriendly) former presidential candidate: “The only thing that should be louder than these pants is the voice of the student body.” Well, Bob and Grant, I hope you are taking the time to listen.

Brother Bill Mewes

C.S.C.

Feb. 28

Comics in good humor

If I ever have any daughters in the future, I would love for them to attend a college like Saint Mary’s. However, as Liz Freholle and others’ “outrage” illustrates, there is one thing that is clearly not being covered in this important issue of alcohol and sex. Students live not only leave us confused (“Flu at ND” anyone?).

So I applaud Didier and the other comics that tread the line of absurdity. And if you disagree with me, you can find me in my ’69 Dodge Charger making fun of deltas, even U.S. News and World Report’s rankings — and they totally make them — would not place in the same category, namely “appealing people.”

So pathetically pathetic: The saddest part of all this, for me, is that no one at ND seems to be paying attention. I can’t believe any self-respecting nerd... actually exists. But if he did have, some of our observor staff might be able to pull together a truly elite basketball team

Dillon Hall

Feb. 29

Nerds hurt too

Last I checked, which I do at least six times a day, The Observer was “an independent newspaper serving Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s.” This school year has been the first time in five years that I’ve seen any articles specifically counter­

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This school year has been the first time in five years that I’ve see...
By CASSIE BELEK
Assistant Scene Editor

Will Ferrell's act may be getting old but it's still good for a few laughs. In his latest comedy offering, "Semi-Pro," Ferrell squares into a pair of short shorts and continues his trend of playing an oversized buffoon who can't seem to get a grip on reality. It's a shtick that has brought in box office gold over the years, but after seeing "Semi-Pro," it is clear that Ferrell will need to explore new avenues before his comedy becomes stale. But then again, he does wrestle a bear this time around.

Ferrell stars as Jackie Moon, a one-hit wonder (for the disco ditty "Love Me Sexy") and owner, head coach and power forward of the Flint Tropics, the worst team in the American Basketball Association. When Jackie finds out that the ABA is going to merge with the National Basketball Association, he convinces the ABA commissioner (David Koehler) to take the top four teams to the NBA, giving the Tropics one last chance for survival. Not only does Jackie become an expert at promotions to increase attendance (hence the bear wrestling), but he trades the team's washing machine for former Boston Celtics player Ed Monix (Woody Harrelson). Monix is a washed-up point guard, but he takes his basketball know-how and tries to turn the team around in time for the merger.

The movie hits a major snag with the pacing. First-time director Ken Alterman doesn't keep the funny coming fast enough and instead tries to inject some heart into the plot. But scenes like those between Monix and lady love Lynn (Maura Tierney) fall flat. Harrelson plays the straight man too straight, and Tierney is even straighter. We care little for their relationship because they're just so gosh darn boring. Michael Cera proved in "Superbad" that the straight man can be funny too, but Harrelson's performance evokes little laughter in "Semi-Pro."

Of course, every comedy has bright spots. Andre Benjamin of Outkast makes a refreshing appearance as a funky NBA-wannabe trapped on a terrible basketball team. Comedians Will Arnett and Andrew Daly are brilliant as the loyal Tropics radio announcers and television show hosts. Arnett's Lou Redwood always has a drink in his hand as Daly's Dick Pepperfield does most of the real announcing. Daly's humor is so dry and spot on, that at times we forget that he's an actor and not a real sportscaster.

However, just like the Tropics play like a second string high school basketball team, the cast appears to be a collection of second string players from the Will Ferrell and Judd Apatow gangs. With star players Paul Rudd and Steve Carell moving on to bigger and better projects, Ferrell is left with people like Rob Corddry and Andy Richter. While there is no doubt that these comedians are absolutely hilarious, "Semi-Pro" does little to demonstrate their comedic talent. These actors will have to keep on trying to find their "Anchorman" since Alterman never quite lets them shine.

"Semi-Pro" can make no claims of brilliance; it's meat and potatoes, Will Ferrell-style. True fans of Ferrell will appreciate his performance, but those looking for a good movie won't find it here. "Semi-Pro" could have used more over-the-top, ridiculous situations and less realism and heart. After all, one of the funniest scenes in the movie features Jackie Moon and the resea horse not rehearsing for balletmorn. All it needs to maximize its potential is to be turned into a bowl of ...
Coffee boosts students through college

“I feel like my mind is an encore.”

These immortal words were uttered by a friend during a much needed coffee-break. After hours of drawn out academic exertion, we, like many others, fled to Waddick’s for our daily ritual of caffeine. This remark most likely does not warrant being recounted in print. But alas, I’ve looked beyond the superficial lunacy of the comment. Its claim made me consider some very real, existential truths about life under the influence of caffeine.

Truth Number One: Coffee defies reality. In college, there is no escape like caffeine. The most obvious case of coffee’s delusional power is its dominance over sleep deprivation. Coffee is the all-nighter’s best friend. Any advisor or physician would suggest water and healthy eating habits as the perfect fuel for your academic fighting machine. But then again, who listens to someone who’s trying to rob us of our god-given right to eat fried foods and stay awake into the wee hours of the morning? This article is about wonderfully unhealthy caffeine habits, not addiction to carrots and such. Ultimately, everyone knows that nothing provides a quick fix like a hot cup of joe. Coffee can defeat the worst karma and the dreariest day with rejuvenation and energy. It provides miraculous services to college students everywhere.

Truth Number Two: Cause and Effect. As mom always said, “Everything in Moderation.” Caffeine can do strange and wonderful things. Case and point: 2 AM trip to St. Liam’s after two pots of extra strong coffee. Heart palpitations aren’t as cool as they sound. And then there is the whole confusing effect of being awake when you should be asleep. There is that point in caffination where up becomes down. The thin line between opposites becomes confused and nonsensical mental encore.

Truth Number Three: You are what you drink. The beautiful thing about coffee is its ability to complement the personality of every drinker. Black coffee for those not so faint of heart. Frappaccinos for our beloved pink-iPod-listening Grey’s Anatomy fans. Cappuccinos for seniors missing their year abroad in Europe. Soy infusions for granola yuppies. Mochas for chocolate lovers. The stereotyping is endless. Coffee is all about what you, as an individual, want. Just remember that you define your coffee. Don’t let your coffee define you.

Coffee may be the path to greater enlightenment. So make sure to hit up your cafe of choice. Whether it comes from Waddicks, Decio, or Starbucks, approach your daily jolt with a newfound appreciation. It may open your eyes to your own, nonsensical mental encore. Then again, it could also leave you a sleepless zombie. But at least you’ll be in good company.

The views expressed in Scene & Heard are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of The Observer. Contact Jess Shaffer at jshaffel@nd.edu
**MEN'S LACROSSE**

**UNC hands squad first loss**

By GRIFFIN DASSATTI Sport Writer

Notre Dame lost for the first time this season, 8-6 to North Carolina Saturday in Chapel Hill.

The Irish (4-1), ranked No. 7 in the most recent Inside Lacrosse/Inside Sports Top-20, dropped the Tar Heels 41-29. Notre Dame coach Kevin Corrigan said his team was done in by a combination of an outstanding performance by UNC's6 controlled the ball for the large portion of the game, and a general lack of execution by the Irish.

"It wasn't, them it was us," Corrigan said. "We had the first five shots of the game, and their goalie had four saves before they even had the ball at the offensive end of the field. We controlled the ball for the large portion of the game, we just gave up some goals we didn't need to give and didn't take advantage of our opportunities."

Junior midfielder Ben Hunt scored the Tar Heels' first goal with 5:45 left in the first period. The score was Hunt's first of the year and began a run of five unanswered Tar Heels goals that lasted until the second half. Corrigan said he did not hesitate his team at halftime because it knew the game was lost.

"I think our guys felt like we weren't dominating," he said. "At halftime the game was 5-2 and we weren't dominating the scoreboard but they weren't dominating play. It wasn't like I had to say or do. We were disappointed in the pace we showed defensively but we knew that we were right in the game. We just had to start capitalizing on opportunities."

When senior attack Alex Wharton capped a 4-1 Irish run with 4:24 left in the third quarter, the score was 6-4 in favor of North Carolina. Despite the run, the Tar Heels could not overcome Zimmerman's spectacular play in a game where the keeper set a career high with 19 saves.

While Corrigan was disappointed with his team's effort on the second half, he said the Irish still know what they have to do to be successful, and they did not do that against Dartmouth and beyond.

"It's just part of the continuum of the season. We take this loss in different from what we've been talking about," Corrigan said. "We know that when you play well you teams can't give goals away. We created opportunities for ourselves; we just didn't make them count. I don't think we learned anything new, we just confirmed some things we already knew.

Contact Griffin Dassatti at gdassatti@nd.edu

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**ND WOMEN'S TENNIS**

**Irish fall to Yellow Jackets, Blank Hawaii**

By DAN MASTERTON Sport Writer

Notre Dame swept Hawaii, 7-0, Tuesday at the Eck Tennis Pavilion.

The Irish (4-1), ranked No. 7 nationally, were looking for their second straight win after dropping their first. They took on Hawaii at home.

The Irish woes continued as the number 14 team took every point from No. 13 Hawaii. The Irish fall to Yellow Jackets, defeating them, 7-0.

"Our kids had a chance to visit a children's hospital, and it was a really great experience for all of them," Louderback said.

The Irish also took advantage of the win. They now return to chilly South Bend, the team took time to reach out to the community, visiting a local hospital in Hawaii.

"We had a nice lunch while we were there," Louderback said.

Contact Dan Masterton at dmastert@nd.edu

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**They Can't See Me, They Are Alive**

I Am Barring-a-ton like Levy

**They Can't See Me, They Are Alive**

I Am Barring-a-ton like Levy

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**The Observer • CLASSIFIEDS**

Tuesday, March 11, 2008
NBA

Wade finished for the season

Associated Press

MIAMI — Dwyane Wade needs time to heal, and the Miami Heat saw no reason to further postpone the inevitable.

Wade will miss the remainder of the season so he can further rehabilitate his surgically repaired left knee, which has bothered him for about a year. He can further rehabilitate his knee, which has bothered him for about a year. He will undergo a powerful shock-wave treatment later this week, and hopes he will be pain free in time for next season.

"I'm doing what's right," Wade said Monday night. "I would love to be out there with my teammates, but in the long run, I think my teammates would love for me to be healthy and be out there with them when we're fighting to get in the playoffs again."

There's no chance of that this year — Miami entered Monday's game against the Los Angeles Clippers with the NBA's worst record, 11-50.

So, with all hope of saving this dismal season, Heat coach Pat Riley agreed that the time has come to shut down his All-Star guard.

"There's no doubt it's a function of the record. My God, it didn't take a news bulletin for that," Riley said. "Yes, we aren't going to make the playoffs. It's a lost season. We know that. We don't want it to be a lost career. That's how I look at it."

Wade finishes the season averaging 24.6 points, fifth-best in the NBA.

He will miss Miami's final 21 games, and essentially get about 3½ months off before the U.S. Olympic men's basketball team reconvenes to resume training for this summer's Beijing Games. Riley clearly has some concerns about seeing his franchise's best player expose himself to potential injury, but indicated he won't bar Wade from playing for his country, either.

"That's Dwyane's decision," Riley said. "He wants to be an Olympic champion."

Wade still wants to be part of that, yet acknowledged that playing in China isn't his primary goal right now.

"I've still committed to the Olympic team," Wade said. "But right now, my focus is on getting healthy. That's been his focus for some time."

Injuries have been a constant throughout Wade's five NBA seasons, especially since the Heat won the title in 2006. He dislocated his left shoulder last February, returned for the final few games of the regular season, but was so

NCAA Men's Fencing

Brewers' pitcher not worried about contract

PHOENIX — Ben Sheets thinks separating money from pitching is no big deal.

"To me, the business end is totally different than the baseball end," said Sheets, entering the final season of a $38.5 million, four-year contract. "I've never worried about it and I'm not going to worry about any of that. It has no bearing on how I play the game or anything else for that matter."

The three-time All-Star could be in line for a hefty contract — if he stays healthy. He's averaged 13 missed starts a year during the past three seasons.

"There ain't nothing you can do about it. People want to say whatever, it looks at either way," Sheets said in his Louisiana drawl. "There's going to be topics and it's nothing to do with me. It might be about me, but it's nothing to do with me."

Suspicous liquids found on flight further Olympic fears

BEIJING — China disclosed Monday that suspicious liquids were found on a flight headed to Beijing from a far western Muslim region, and Olympic organizers tried to dismiss fears that the summer games were under threat.

The government announced over the weekend that authorities had foiled a plot by Islamic terrorists targeting the August games and also said there was an apparently unrelated attempt to crash a passenger jet on Friday.

Scant details were initially released about the reported plot or the airplane incident.

However, China's head of civil aviation said Monday that the flight from the far western Xinjiang region to Beijing had been diverted after some passengers were found with suspicious liquids.

Michigan to improve handicap access in stadium

DETROIT — The University of Michigan agreed to improve wheelchair access at one of the nation's largest football stadiums as part of a deal approved Monday with a paralyzed veterans' group that had sued the school.

U.S. District Judge Sean Cox signed the consent decree outlining the changes, avoiding a possible trial.

Starting with this season, 96 new accessible seats — plus seats for companions — will be available along the east side of the stadium, which can seat more fans than any other such site. And by the start of the 2010 season, at least 329 accessible seats, plus seats for companions, will be available.

The agreement also includes five years of court oversight.

IN BRIEF

NCAA Women's Basketball

UConn vs. Louisville

7 p.m., ESPNU

around the

NCAA Women's Basketball
**Men’s Golf**

**Sandman earns third place overall**

By PAT STYNES  
Sport Writer

Irish coach Jim Kubinski certainly knew what he was talking about when he said junior Josh Sandman “has the talent to mix it up with the top players.”

Over spring break, Sandman played the best golf of his career, posting a score of seven-over par and leading Notre Dame to a 12th place finish at the USC Collegiate Invitational. Sandman finished in third place individually, just two shots behind tournament winner, USC’s Tim Slusiter.

“Josh is as physically talented as any player in the country.”

Jim Kubinski  
Irish coach

“Sandman is growing both emotionally and in his decision making,” Slusiter added. “He posted scores of 74 and 75 in the second and third rounds, respectively.”

Fres hman Connor Alan-Lee and sophomore Kyle Willis also contributed to the Notre Dame’s success. Each player shot 21-over par, tying for 56th place in the tournament. Like Fortner, both underclassmen had trouble with the wind. But each player finished strong with second and third rounds of 73 and 77, respectively.

The Irish will continue their season strong and sophomore Sadie Plazibacter both crossed home plate three times, and Laing and sophomore Heather Johnson combined for six RBIs.

“I think we are making some small strides in improving our hitting,” Gumpf said. “But our primary goal is still to have better at-bats and hit the ball consistently.”

The Irish lost to Cal State-Fullerton 1-0, in a game they thought they should have won.

“We felt like we needed to beat them because we should,” Gumpf said.

The Irish got their revenge later in the week when the two teams met for a second time, this time with the Irish on top of another 1-0 contest.

Next came another offensive explosion against UC Riverside, in which Laing broke the Notre Dame doubles record while going 3-4 with 3 RBIs.

The Irish then traveled to the Long Beach State Invitational in Mayfair Park, Calif., to take on some of the best pitching in the NCAA.

“We faced three of the best pitchers in the nation going against UCLA, Virginia Tech, and Long Beach State,” Gumpf said. “Virginia Tech’s pitcher [Angela Tice] is probably the best in the entire country.”

The Irish believe that facing the best and competing is the best measure of the team’s progress.

“Every game is important to show that we are able to compete with the best pitching in the country and even beat them,” Gumpf said.

“ar is great for the girls confidence.”

The Irish lost to UCLA and Long Beach State in one-run heartbreakers. In these two contests, the Irish pitching staff allowed just two earned runs over 13 innings.

Bargar allowed only one run and six hits with four strikeouts in a 2-1 victory over Virginia Tech, while Valdivia also impressed against Cal State-Fullerton in the rematch, hurling seven shutout innings.

The final game of the trip, a 3-1 victory against Cal State Northridge, belonged to Plazibacter, whose two-run double was enough to ensure the Irish victory.

“As a freshman, [Plazibacter] really handles herself with great self-confidence,” Gumpf said. Plazibacter’s work ethic has rubbed off on all of the freshmen, who all have excited Gumpf.

“Everyone is contributing,” Gumpf said. “This is a really great freshman class.”

The Irish hope to ride their momentum into next weekend’s Charleston Southern University Invitational.

Contact Pat Stynes at pstynes@nd.edu

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REGISTRATION OPENS APRIL 14 • CLASSES START JUNE 23
Strong pitching performances highlight road trip

By LAURA MYERS
Sports Writer

The Belles will begin their season over .500 in Orlando

On the first day of play, the Belles split their two games. The first, a 10-0 win over Eastern University, was highlighted by the performances of junior pitcher Calli Davison, who gave up three hits over five shutout innings, and sophomore outfielder Ashley Peterson, who went 3-for-3 with three runs scored, and freshman infielder Hayley Boger, who had a single and a double while driving in two runs in her first college game. Against Eastern, Peterson improved her record to 4-2. In the second game of the day, a 14-12 loss against Anna Maria College, Davison and junior Ashley Fusaro had four RBIs each.

The Belles split again on day two, beginning with an 8-0 win over Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) followed by a 5-3 loss to Dominican University. Against WPI, Davison won her second game with six shutout innings and senior McKenna Corrigan went 2-3 with 3 RBI.

The Belles swept their competitors on the third day of the trip, winning 6-0 over Wisconsin Lutheran and 5-4 over St. Joseph College. Davison notched another win with seven shutout innings against Wisconsin Lutheran, and Corrigan got the win against St. Joseph’s.

The fourth day of competition was another Belles sweep as Peterson drove in six runs over five shutout innings, and Peterson had big games against St. Joseph’s. Davison improved her record to 4-2. In the second game of the day, the offense was the key as Peterson drove in six runs over five shutout innings, and Peterson had big games against St. Joseph’s. Davison improved her record to 4-2. In the second game of the day, the offense was the key as Peterson drove in six runs over five shutout innings, and Peterson had big games against St. Joseph’s. Davison improved her record to 4-2. In the second game of the day, the offense was the key as Peterson drove in six runs over five shutout innings, and Peterson had big games against St. Joseph’s.

The Belles will begin their home season on Thursday against Manchester College.

Contact Laura Myers at lmyers2@nd.edu

BY MEAGHAN VESELIK
Sports Writer

Playing seven matches in five days isn’t ideal for any team, but Saint Mary’s managed to come out on top in four of them as it opened up its tenth season over spring break in Orlando. Their young team of two sophomores and eight freshmen earned the week with a record of 4-3.

“One of our goals of the week was to have a winning record and we achieved that goal,” Belles coach Chuck Rubino said. “Another goal we achieved was showing improvement, which we definitely did throughout the end of the week.”

Saint Mary’s began play on March 2 against Methodist College, an NCAA qualifier last season. The Belles lost 8-1, with their only victory coming from freshman Laura Arnolds, who beat Methodist’s Lauren Holze 6-4, 6-3.

As the week progressed, Saint Mary’s seemed to overcome their first match anxieties and grabbed a 7-2 win over Martin Methodist early on Monday. But the Belles were unable to keep the momentum as they lost 8-1 to Wayne State, 0-1 against Eastern, as Davison improved their strength once again with an 8-5 defeat of St. Scholastica’s Katie Midley and Paula Beckermann, but were unable to carry their winning way into the afternoon, losing 8-2 to Wayne State’s Milena Vuksonowich and Sharon Arnold.

“Two singles player Jillian Hurley had a great week,” Rubino said. “She played exceptionally well, she was slow on first base and then won six in a row.”

Hurley was named one of Saint Mary’s athletes of the week as Scholastic in terms that we saw teams unable to carry their winning way into the afternoon, losing 8-2 to Wayne State’s Milena Vuksonowich and Sharon Arnold.

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Hurley was named one of Saint Mary’s athletes of the week as Scholastic in terms that we saw teams unable to carry their winning way into the afternoon, losing 8-2 to Wayne State’s Milena Vuksonowich and Sharon Arnold. Overall, the Belles were pleased with their first week of competition.

“Over spring break, it became apparent that we really good chemistry as a team, which is going to be an advantage when it comes time to pull together some big wins,” Gebert said. “I hope that we can stay competitive as our season starts in hopes of bringing home a title.”

Looking ahead to the start of the MIAA competition on March 18, Rubino said his team is well prepared.

“This week was good prep for the MIAA in terms that we saw teams that were a lot better than MIAA teams, such as Grand Valley and Wayne State, St. Scholastica is comparable to our team and others in the MIAA, and there were some home games for us,” Rubino said. “This was a good stepping stone for us as we get into the MIAA matches next week.”

Contact Meaghan Veselik at mvesel01@nd.edu
ND Women's Golf

Team cruises at Rio Verde Invite

By MICHAEL BLASCO
Sports Writer

The Irish started spring-cleaning a little early last weekend, sweeping both the team and individual awards at the Rio Verde Invitational.

After struggling at last month's Central District Invitational, No. 26 Notre Dame cruised to a comfortable first-place finish at last weekend's Rio Verde Invitational in Rio Verde, Ariz. The Irish shot an 11-over par 875 (294-290-291) for a career 18-hole score. It's the 12th best finish on the all-time list.
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FENCING
Deep Irish squad downs Buckeyes
By KEN FOWLER
Senior Sports Writer
Ohio State stood tall, but Notre Dame showed off its depth at the Midwest Regional on March 2.
Buckeyes fencers captured titles in five of the six events at the Regional in Detroit, but the Irish earned 11 medal positions, compared to Ohio State's seven.
With that, and the combined results from the regular season, Notre Dame automatically qualified the maximum 12 fencers to the national event, which begins Thursday.
The Buckeyes, meanwhile, earned 11 automatic berths. Ohio State senior epeeist Kasha Brendler finished ninth at the Regional but received an at-large bid to the NCAA Championships to give the Buckeyes the maximum 12 entrants.
A year ago, Penn State earned the national title ahead of second-place St. John's and third-place Columbia. Notre Dame and Ohio State qualified only 11 fencers last year, but finished fourth and fifth, respectively.
This time, Ohio State, Notre Dame, St. John's and Columbia will be the only teams with the full allotment at the national event. Ohio State, ranked No. 1 on the women's side and No. 2 on the men's side, will also have another fencer playing in its favor — home-strip advantage.
Irish coach Janusz Bednarski said Ohio State is the favorite, but he is looking forward to the event, at which seven of the Notre Dame fencers will be freshmen.
"It's encouraging and it's a little bit scary," Bednarski said of the youth movement.
He said that the young team is not fully prepared for the "intense pressure" of the national event, but that they are "mentally strong.
"A young team is always unpredictable," he said.
The story from the Regional, though, was the back-and-forth between the Buckeyes and Irish, who look poised to make a run at the title. That is, if they don't knock each other off in the process.
Notre Dame's sweep of the medal positions in the men's epee — Karol Kostka earning gold, Greg Schoolcraft, silver, and Greg Howard, bronze — was the only such dominance in any weapon.
Ohio State's András Horanyi won the men's foil competition, but Irish freshmen Zach Schiritz and Steve Kohli won the two spots, respectively, and Notre Dame freshman Barron Yedum placed third.
Buckeye Alexandra Obrazcova won the women's epee event, while Northwestern's Christa French earned second and Irish sophomore Kelley Hurley took third.
In women's foil, Buckeye Oksana Dmytruk bested Notre Dame junior Adrienne Nott and freshman Kelley Hurley took fourth.
In men's foil, Buckeye Karol Kostka outdistanced the Irish and freshman Hurley took fifth.
Irish freshman sabreist Sarah Bormann finished third, behind Ohio State champion Slohann Byrne and Buckeyes runner-up Eileen Grench.
Contact Ken Fowler at kfowlerl@nd.edu

WOMEN'S TRACK
Weber, Hasan shine at Wilson Invitational
By ALEX BARKER
Sports Writer
Not even some of the fiercest competition Notre Dame has faced all season could keep Anna Weber from continuing her dominance in the throwing events at the Alex Wilson Invitational this weekend at Loftus Sports Center.
The junior took first place in the weight throw and finished fifth in the shot put. Her throw of 19.23 meters met the NCAA provisional mark.
Another standout was junior Alyssa Hasan who won the pentathlon by over 200 points. Hasan, coming off a second place finish at the Big East Indoor championships, has already met the NCAA provisional mark for the Pentathlon.
The tough competition limited the number of Irish competitors who were able to place in their respective events.
Freshman Marissa Treco finished off her successful season by placing seventh in the 5000-meter run. Senior Jacqueline Carter and Freshman Abby Higgins took 17th and 18th place, respectively, in the 800-meter run.
The Alex Wilson Invitational was the last chance for athletes to set NCAA provisional marks in order to gain entry into the National Championship meet. With the exception of the national meet, this marks the end of the indoor season.
Monday night the qualifiers for the NCAA meet were announced and Hasan will be the only Irish representative.
Contact Alex Barker at abarker1@nd.edu

Write Sports. Call 631-4543.
Hockey

Irish set to face Ferris State

By KYLE CASSILY
Sports Writer

No. 12 Notre Dame split its last regular-season series two weekends ago with Western Michigan, but the Irish ended the first round of the CCHA playoffs with a bye, the Irish will return to play Ferris State in second round.

The Irish (22-12-4) will play the fifth-seeded Bulldogs in a best-of-three-game series this weekend. No. 7 Western Michigan visits Friday night and running through Sunday, if necessary. Notre Dame (17-15-1) was one of four higher-seeded teams to win its first series last weekend as the fifth-through-eighth place squads advanced, while first-through-fourth place teams sat out.

The Bulldogs swept their first-round opponent, Western Michigan, by scores of 4-3 in overtime and 6-3. Those wins came a weekend after the Irish were swept 3-0 on the road to Western Michigan before winning at home on senior night, 4-1.

Notre Dame and Ferris State will play 2-3 on the day with two home and two road contests. The Bulldogs have frustrated the Irish, gaining a series sweep over the Irish two years ago in a two-game series in Toledo. Senior pitcher Wade Korpi benefited from the win.

Seven of the Irish's 13 home runs against Ferris State were shot in the seventh and ninth frames, the Irish went on a 6-2/3 innings, the Irish gave up their first score and went on to win the game.

Notre Dame 11, Maine 10

Eagles picked up solo home runs by Crimson Reeves and Kyle Weiland in the third inning to give Notre Dame a 5-1 advantage over the Black Bears. Tate also added a two-run double that helped spark the Irish.

Shragge said. "They were ahead. We went out there and played our game. It was their home opener," Schrage said. "This showed us that when we play better from here on out." Schrage said. "It was their home opener," Schrage said. "This showed us that when we play better from here on out." Schrage said. "It was their home opener," Schrage said. "This showed us that when we play better from here on out." Schrage said. "It was their home opener," Schrage said. "This showed us that when we play better from here on out." Schrage said. "It was their home opener," Schrage said. "This showed us that when we play better from here on out." Schrage said. "It was their home opener," Schrage said. "This showed us that when we play better from here on out." Schrage said. "It was their home opener," Schrage said. "This showed us that when we play better from here on out." Schrage said. "It was their home opener," Schrage said. "This showed us that when we play better from here on out." Schrage said. 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Jackson compared Ilillesland's playing time.

"This was a grueling week for us because it was three games in a week and we had to play hard to get them," Mike Brey, Irish coach. He was glad his team secured a first-round bye for the Big East tournament. The Irish do not have to suit up for Wednesday's opening round and will play in the quarterfinals Thursday against either Marquette or Seton Hall. "This was a grueling week for us because it was three games in a week and we had to play hard to get them," Brey said. "So to not play until Thursday, I think, helps us get our legs under us and get a little more refreshed."

Contact Fran Tolan at ftolan@nd.edu

The Office of Student Affairs is now accepting nominations for the Denny Moore Award For Excellence in Journalism

Candidates must be seniors who exemplify the qualities for which Denny Moore was known, including personal integrity and character, commitment to Notre Dame, and writing ability.

Candidates may be nominated by faculty, staff, or fellow students.

For a nomination form, please visit our website at: http://osa.nd.edu/programs-and-links/dennymooreaward.shtml

Nominations are due by Tuesday, March 11, 2008.

Irish sophomore guard Ashley Barlow fights for a rebound during Notre Dame's 64-53 loss to Pittsburgh Sunday.

Collapse continued from page 24

Up 14-2 early, Notre Dame gave up a jumper and a pair from the charity stripe to Panthers guard Xenia Stewart, but bounced back with a strong traditional three-point play from guard Brittany Mallory to go back up 17-6. That was Notre Dame's last points for the next five minutes. The Panthers clawed their way back in the game (pun intended) by simply waiting for Notre Dame to miss shots. And miss it did. Irish guards Lindsey Schrader, Melissa Lechlitner and Mallory combined to shoot 4-for-24 from the floor, including 0-for-6 from 3-point land.

Despite the atrocious percentage (14.2 percent for my fellow Arts and Letters students), Irish coach Muffet McGraw said that the team did not get the shots. They were all good shots. Brittany Mallory is our 3-point shooter. We want her to shoot 3s. Schrader had some wide-open looks in the lane. Lith's shots were all pretty good," she said. "So if you're already taking all the right shots, there has to be something that can be done to make this team better before Good Friday when the NCAA Tournament starts. And the solution is simple: Do the little things better.

In psychology, there is a term "gestalt," which means the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. Case in point is Notre Dame's loss on Sunday. What cost the Irish in the second half was not doing the little things — Mallory missing open 3-pointers, the guards leaving Panthers guard Xenia Stewart open to hit game-deciding triples and not boxing out Walker in the post. Forward Becca Bruszewski and Ashley Barlow each committed two fouls in six and seven minutes, respectively, and Lechlitner turned the ball over five times without getting an assist. (At least she was in good company since every Irish player who saw minutes had at least one giveaway.)

The other main issue with these problems is how prevalent they have been all season. McGraw has talked about wanting to make her team's 3-point defense better since media day. Back in October, she said it was a point of emphasis for her team. Even going back to last season it was a major problem for the Irish. And what did McGraw say was the final nail in Notre Dame's coffin against Pittsburgh? "(Stewart) hit those two 3s and I thought that was the game," she said.

Same crap, different day. But it's not just the 3-point defense. Big men have pestered the Irish all season long. Walker might not be in the same league as Tennessee's Candace Parker and Connecticut's Tina Charles, but her 18 points and 13 boards made it seem that way. Now, I'm not pretending that I know how to fix these problems mostly because that's not my job. I'm a sports writer, not a basketball coach. McGraw, on the other hand, is. She has to find a way to make these little problems disappear come Tournament time if she wants her team to keep dancing. The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Jay Fitzpatrick at jfitzpa5@nd.edu.
Panthers
continued from page 24

"It's really disappointing to play so well for 29 games," Notre Dame coach Muffet McGraw said. "We've really had a great season and to end on a note like this the last two games is really disappointing for us after all the hard work we've put in throughout the year."

Pittsburgh center Marcedes Walker had 18 points and 13 rebounds in the game. Stewart had 13 points and guard Mallorie Winn added 12.

Irish guard Charol Allen led her team with 17 points and eight rebounds, and guard Ashley Barlow added 11. Notre Dame only shot 30.6 percent from the floor in the game.

Despite the Panther's comeback, Notre Dame kept the end of the game close until the last minute. Barlow made a layup to tie the score at 41 with seven minutes remaining, but Stewart hit the first of her two 3-pointers to give Pittsburgh the lead. Allen gave the Irish a one-point lead with three minutes left, but a triple from Winn and Stewart's second trey gave Pittsburgh a 56-51 lead.

"We needed to get something going and I didn't feel like I was contributing like the rest of my team, so I was just taking open looks and taking the shots," Stewart said.

McGraw said Stewart's 3-pointers sank her team for good.

McGraw acknowledged that Stewart's play late in the second half changed the eventual outcome.

"I thought Xeniia Stewart was the difference in the game," McGraw said. "She hit those two 3s and I thought that was the game."

Notre Dame rendered Pittsburgh ineffective after the opening tip. Walker's layup with 17:38 left in the first half would be Pittsburgh's last basket until Stewart hit a jumper with 10:04 left, a span of 7:34. In that time, the Irish scored 14 points and squashed the Panther offense. They swatted passes and blocked shots, clogged lanes in the basket and forced poor shot selection.

"I started to get a flashback of the West Virginia game, because when we played West Virginia we had two points and they had about twelve like Notre Dame today, and we lost that game by a lot," Pittsburgh coach Agnus Berenato said of Notre Dame's early lead.

Just as the Irish had the opportunity to bury Pittsburgh, they swapped places with their opponents. It was now their turn to turn the ball over, throw passes out of bounds and suffer through offensive stagnation.

As Notre Dame's transformation took place, Pittsburgh's offense revived itself. Walker completed two back-to-back 3-point plays, and a Winn 3-pointer and a jump shot from guard Taneisha Harrison tied the game at 17 with 4:36 remaining.

"We were too laid back. We should have kept being aggressive but we were just relaxed and laid back," Allen said. "We should have been aggressive from the start. When you are up 14-2 you want to keep shaving it down their throat but we didn't do that."

McGraw said Notre Dame's offense, which didn't click even when they had the chance early, never got off the ground.

"Overall, offensively we didn't really play well. I don't think we moved the ball well," McGraw said. "I thought when we to the zone we stood around a lot never really got going."

Notes:
♦ Allen was named first team all-Big East, and Barlow and junior guard Lindsay Schrader were honorable mentions. Guard Brittany Mallory and forward Deverous Peters were named to the all-Big East freshman team.

Contact Bill Brink at wbrink@nd.edu

MEN'S TRACK
Irish compete in Alex Wilson Invitational

By EUGENIA ALFONZO
Sports Writer

Notre Dame spent part of its spring break competing at the Alex Wilson Invitational at the Loftus Center and preparing for the upcoming national meet.

On the first day of competition, the Irish got strong performances from senior Kurt Benninger, who ran a 3:58 mile and helped the Irish distance medley relay earn the No. 11 seed for the NCAA National Indoor Championship. Other members of the relay squad included senior Adam Currie, sophomore Blake Chaplin and freshman Austin Wechter.

For field events, freshman Justin Schneider placed ninth in the long jump while freshman Greg Davis led the Irish in the weight throw with 16.8

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316 Coleman-Morse

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Tuesday, March 11, 2008

Eugenia Alfonzo
Sports Writer

Contact Eugenia Alfonzo at ealfonzo@nd.edu
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**Irish clinch No. 3 seed in conference tourney with win at USF**

**Harangody leads team as it holds off late charge by Bulls**

**Baseball**

**Sharples’ walk-off homer highlights trip for ND**

**Men’s Basketball**

By BILL BRINK

**HARTFORD — A 14-2 Notre Dame lead 10 minutes into the first half was not enough to bury Xenia Stewart and Pittsburgh.**

After the Panthers battled back, the guard hit two late 3-pointers, one with 54 seconds remaining in the game, to give Pittsburgh a 5-point lead. It would hold that lead and win, 64-53, at the XL Center Sunday in the quarterfinals of the Big East tournament.

The Panthers advance to play Connecticut tonight. The Irish (23-8) have now lost their last two opening games of the conference tournament. After a 61-51 loss to St. John's on March 3, Notre Dame has dropped two straight when it had won seven of its previous eight.

**Irish turn in subpar showing in Hartford**

**HARTFORD — As I sat in my hotel room after Sunday’s game, one thought consistently ran through my head.**

“How the hell did ND just lose to Pitt?”

I was appalled after the game and with good reason. The Irish started the game with a suffocating defense that held the Panthers to two points in 10 minutes, got Pittsburgh center Marcedes Walker into early foul trouble, and managed to have a 22-21 edge on the boards.

But Big East basketball gives, and Big East basketball takes away.

**BASEBALL**

**Sharples’ walk-off homer highlights trip for ND**

By LORENZO REYES

Over the week-long spring break, Notre Dame saw a bit of everything, ranging from a walk-off homer by junior Evan Sharpley, to a 16-run loss to No. 1 Arizona. Overall, the Irish went 4-4 for the week.

**Men’s Basketball**

**Irish clinch No. 3 seed in conference tourney with win at USF**

By FRAN TOLAN

Luke Harangody strengthened his candidacy in the Big East player of the year race with 21 points and nine rebounds as No. 14/14 Notre Dame defeated No. 21/21 South Florida 67-60, Saturday in the regular-season finale for both teams.

With the victory over the Bulls, the Irish clinched the No. 3 seed in the Big East tournament. And after notchin wins against DePaul and St. John’s earlier in the week, the Irish (24-6, 14-4) head into the conference tournament on a three-game win streak.

“I think we’re playing like one of the best teams in the country right now,” said senior forward Rob Kurz, who scored 14 points against South Florida before fouling out. “We feel that we have a lot of momentum.”

But despite taking several big leads over the Bulls, South Florida kept coming back.

Notre Dame led by as many as 19 points in the second half but South Florida went on a 22-4 run to pull within one with just over five minutes remaining.

But the Irish were able to fend off the late South Florida rally to finish their season with 14 Big East victories in the expanded 18-game Big East schedule.

Juniors Kyle McAlarney and Ryan Ayers each drained two 3-pointers, one with 54 seconds remaining.

Irish sophomore forward Luke Harangody posts up during Notre Dame’s 67-60 win over South Florida Saturday.

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