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Wives balance studies, military men



Senior Dayna Dantzschler wears dogtags around her neck as a reminder of her husband, who is currently in Baghdad with the U.S. Army.

Married students have husbands in war

By AMANDA MICHAELS
Assistant News Editor

Relaxing in a booth in LaFortune with textbooks and notebooks piled beside her, Dayna Dantzschler looks like a typical Notre Dame student taking a break between classes.

Only the set of etched dogtags she wears around her neck hints at a part of her life that is anything but the norm.

Dantzschler isn't just a senior who is 22 years old and lives with friends off-campus. She is also a military wife. Her husband — 21 year-old Sgt. Corbin Cody Dantzschler — is in Baghdad fighting with the U.S. Army. Gone since last August, he isn't expected to return until late this summer.

mer.

Her position is a unique one. Dantzschler is suspended between worrying about midterm grades and the safety of her husband. But she also shares this position with at least one other woman on campus.

Junior Elizabeth Clifton-Lyon, 20, is married to 22 year-old Army Spc. Mark Lyon. Lyon is a combat medic just back from a year serving in Iraq.

Dantzschler and Clifton-Lyon met randomly in a Chinese class and have leaned on each other for support ever since.

"[Clifton-Lyon] has experienced the same feelings I'm experiencing, and someone like that is almost impossible to find at Notre

see WIVES/page 6

Brown takes CEA position

Sophomore will be assistant to Shappell

By KAITLYNN RIELY
News Writer

As student body president-elect Lizzi Shappell and vice president-elect Bill Andrichik prepare to assume office April 1, they have taken the first step in shaping their administration by naming sophomore and Cavanaugh senator Liz Brown as their Chief Executive Assistant (CEA).

Brown will replace Liz Kozlow, the current CEA under student body president Dave Baron and vice president Shappell.

Brown was planning to study abroad in Toledo, Spain next year, but changed her mind when she was offered the CEA position. Brown said she is thankful Kozlow will be around next year to help her make the transition and adjust to her new role.

"[Kozlow] definitely gave me an idea of how much work it will entail," Brown said.

Shappell and Andrichik chose Brown — who served as one of their campaign managers — in recognition of the hard work she put into her managerial duties and the energy she brought to the campaign, Shappell said.

Shappell said during the course of the campaign, Brown helped the candidates introduce their platforms and spread their message and ideas to all the dorms. She also had an organizational

see BROWN/page 4

Bush assistant examines faith-based groups

By PETER NINNEMAN
News Writer

America's poor should receive the most effective government-sponsored aid possible, regardless of whether the agencies charged with their care are secular or faith-based, assistant to President Bush Jim Towey said at Notre Dame Tuesday.

A standing room-only crowd of students, faculty and administrators packed the Hesburgh Center to hear Towey — director of the White House Office for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives — examine the challenges faith-based nonprofit groups face in constitu-

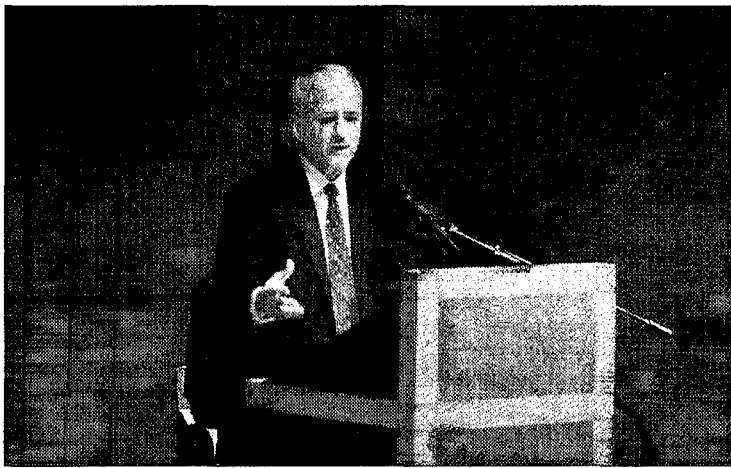
tionally gaining federal funding.

Titled "Compassion for America's Poor: What Happens when God and Government Mix," Towey's speech also included his views on the merits faith-based over secular initiatives.

"When a government attempts to express compassion, it often fails, because government can't form relationships with people ... because the government can't love, what are we to do?" Towey asked. "Can we do this in partnership with faith-based organization, or is that unconstitutional?"

The federal government should support successful programs,

see TOWEY/page 4



KIRSTEN HOELMER/The Observer

Jim Towey, director of the White House Office for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, speaks in the Hesburgh Center Tuesday.

SMC elections lead to runoff for class of 2007

By KELLY MEEHAN
Assistant News Editor

While the Saint Mary's class executive board elections ended in a sweeping success for class of 2008 president-elect Colleen Kielty and class of 2009 president-elect Francesca Johnson Tuesday, intense campaigning continued after class of 2007 election results proved votes cast between Kat Kindt and Heidi Goeppinger's tickets too close to call.

With 219 current juniors voting, Goeppinger's ticket — comprised of vice presidential candidate Christin Molnar, secretarial candidate Bridget Gorman and treasurer candidate Maggie Wickstrom — received 50.23 percent of the votes, falling a little over half a

percentage point short of clinching the 51 percent of the vote necessary to win.

Kindt, along with vice presidential candidate Meghan Mackinnon, treasurer candidate Laura Baumgartner and secretarial candidate Erica Antonucci, received 46.12 percent of the vote — putting them in a close second, something they hope to change in today's run-off election.

"We are very happy with the [voting] turnout," Kindt said. "I am excited we can campaign again ... our fourth time out. It just shows how much we really want [to win]."

The two tickets seized the opportunity to campaign one last time Tuesday before today's runoff election, which

see ELECTIONS/page 4

Panel discusses juvenile justice

Speakers, audience argue for better treatment for young delinquents

By MARCELA BERRIOS
News Writer

Juvenile delinquents awaiting sentencing need to receive better treatment regardless of the circumstances that led to their crimes, a panel concluded Tuesday night at the Robinson Community Learning Center.

A group of Notre Dame and Saint Mary's students and faculty and Michiana residents gathered Tuesday night to listen to a collection of South Bend juvenile justice experts.

Speakers at the event included Magistrate Harold Brueseke,



KELLY HIGGINS/The Observer

Panel members discuss the treatment of juvenile delinquents at the Robinson Community Learning Center Tuesday night.

see PANEL/page 8

INSIDE COLUMN

Elections ethics

Campaigning. Now there's an interesting concept. We've all been exposed to our fair share recently with student government elections taking place on our campuses, and by now it's probably safe to say people are getting a little tired of it.

Laura Baumgartner

News Wire Editor

This time, however, I want to talk about it with a twist. Billions of dollars (and probably more) are spent each year on various campaigns around the world; whether they are advertising, political, public service, etc. Advertising, public relations and other related fields often come under fire because of the vast amounts of money spent to persuade people to buy a particular product or vote a certain way. The question that arises is ethics.

Is it ethical to spend astronomical amounts of money on packaging, billboards and television advertisements when people around the world and in our own country are living below the poverty level?

Is it ethical for cigarette companies to create advertising campaigns advocating the cause to keep children from smoking or to help current smokers quit?

Is it ethical for presidential candidates to be allowed to accept money from private donors who have connections with major companies, or for that matter to accept money from major companies because of loopholes in our legal system?

Is it ethical for government officials to create advertising campaigns that throw a negative light on their opponents, but then to turn around and be the first to complain when it happens to them?

Ethics, I would say, are like a conundrum wrapped in an enigma ... and however else that saying carries on. Basically, they're confusing and they're subjective. I would think, though, that in a society as advanced as ours where we know more and are able to do more than we have ever before, that we would have advanced our morals as much as we have advanced our technology.

Unfortunately, this isn't always the case. People lie. People cheat. People distort laws and situations bending and stretching them so until they encompass their needs and actions. People spread rumors. People evade the truth.

Oftentimes, in the consumerist society we have created, the self-serving bias takes over. Human beings are competitive by nature; it's part of our genetics. Sometimes people just go too far.

There should be a line where ethics takes over and people know to stop. Unfortunately moral compasses don't always point north, and the line is either lost or smudged off the map. Depending on whom you ask, the line could be on different sides of the world to begin with.

Shouldn't there be a point in a situation when a majority of people should be able to realize and agree that something is no longer ethical? Isn't that why we come equipped with that little voice in our heads that tells us (hopefully) when we're doing something that isn't quite right?

Maybe it's just the way of the world today, and ignoring ethics is something we all have to do to get by on occasion. I may be naïve, but I'd like to think that there is hope.

Contact Laura Baumgartner at lbaumg01@saintmarys.edu

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

CORRECTIONS

Due to a reporting error, the names of Irish fencers Matt Stearns, Adrienne Nott, Valerie Providenza and Madeleine Stephan were misspelled in the Feb. 27 edition of The Observer.

Due to a reporting error, Student Activities Board president Jackie Wright's name was misspelled in the Feb. 28 edition of The Observer. The Observer regrets these errors.

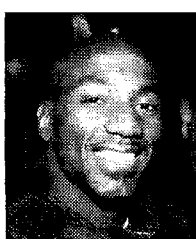
QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT ARE YOU GIVING UP FOR LENT?



Kendra Jackson

freshman Walsh

"The dining hall's hot chocolate."



Maurice Stovall

senior O'Neill

"Sunflower seeds."



Lindsey Ney

senior off-campus

"I'm a heathen ... so I'm not giving anything up."



Andrew Karl

sophomore Knott

"I'm going to try to get out of the dorm more. I'm always around."



Laura Marrs

sophomore Cavanaugh

"Skipping class, because my roommate is making me."



Meghan Jebb

sophomore Cavanaugh

"Desserts, so my roommate feels bad about herself."



JESSICA LEE/The Observer

Freshman Stephanie Bendinelli accepts a pizza from a Domino's delivery man Feb. 28. Many students will be giving up junk food as part of their Lenten sacrifice beginning today.

OFFBEAT

Barry Bonds strikes out with Abdul impersonation

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Paula Abdul probably could hit a fastball about as well as Barry Bonds could impersonate Paula Abdul.

Bonds entertained and delighted a small gathering of fans and teammates Tuesday by dressing up as Abdul to judge the San Francisco Giants spin-off of the hit Fox show "American Idol," called Giants Idol.

Bonds, who wore a strapless dress and a blonde wig, surprised everyone watching the mock contest, where young players had to sing in front of the judges.

"I'll never tell my wife to hurry up any more," Bonds said. "Because it took me forever to get ready. I'll never do that again. I couldn't get my hair right. There were a lot of things I went through during the 30 minutes I was getting ready."

Strip club owner runs for district school board

ST. LOUIS — The president and director of a Colorado-based adult entertainment company is running for the school board of a suburban St. Louis district, and already many residents are giving the candidacy a thumbs down.

"I wouldn't want that kind

of guy running a school board," Jeremy Parks, 21, told the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. "If he's that great of a guy, with good morals, he wouldn't be running strip clubs."

Micheal Ocello is president and director of VCG Holding Corp., based in Lakewood, Colo., a company that says on its Web site that its clubs feature "premium quality female performers" with "highest standards" for "appearance, attitude, demeanor, dress and personality."

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

Award winning author Ed Falco will give a reading today at 7:30 p.m. in the Hospitality Room of Recker's. Falco's latest novel, "Wolf Point," was a 2005 New York Times Editor's Choice. The event is free and open to the public.

Dalloway's Board will sponsor a Saint Mary's version of the classic game show "Family Feud" tonight at 8 p.m. in Dalloway's Clubhouse.

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

The Asian American Association will sponsor a "Grotto Walk" tonight. They will meet in front of Bond Hall at 11 p.m.

The Saint Mary's Book Club will meet Thursday at 6:30 p.m. in the Student Center Lounge to discuss "The Handmaid's Tale" by Margaret Atwood. The book is available in the bookstore.

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

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

Senior Ashley Peltier will present her senior comprehensive play "Angel: A Nightmare in Two Acts" Friday at 7:30 p.m. in the Little Theater in Moreau Hall. The play is free and open to the public.

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

	TODAY	TONIGHT	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
	HIGH 55 LOW 36	HIGH 32 LOW 23	HIGH 45 LOW 35	HIGH 35 LOW 22	HIGH 37 LOW 25	HIGH 40 LOW 28

Atlanta 70 / 53 Boston 33 / 22 Chicago 44 / 36 Denver 57 / 33 Houston 80 / 60 Los Angeles 65 / 47 Minneapolis 31 / 24 New York 40 / 30 Philadelphia 45 / 27 Phoenix 80 / 59 Seattle 47 / 38 St. Louis 66 / 44 Tampa 72 / 47 Washington 48 / 30

Lenten obligations affect student habits, dining hall menus

By RYAN SYDLIK
News Writer

While some Notre Dame students are complaining about their lack of phone and Internet usage due to ongoing dorm upgrades, others are voluntarily denying themselves those privileges today.

Today is Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of Lent — and with it come individual sacrifices by Catholics everywhere.

Basilica of the Sacred Heart rector Father Peter Rocca said the purpose of Lent is to prepare Catholics for the coming Easter and renew their baptismal promises through prayer, fast and almsgiving.

Notre Dame students will be expressing this renewal in many ways.

While freshman Natali Chavez is giving up soda for Lent, she said many of her friends' Lenten resolutions deal specifically with computers and the common snares they hold for students — including the game spider solitaire and Internet usage.

"[I] know one girl giving up Facebook," Chavez said.

Some students are still sorting out what their resolutions should be. Junior Eric Mail said Tuesday he "has no plans as of yet."

Sophomore Clare Lawless is Episcopalian, but she said she will get ashes and abstain from meat on Fridays and that she participated in Fat Tuesday. However, she said she was not quite sure about making a Lenten sacrifice.

"Rather than give up something, I will instead do something extra that is positive," she said.

Sophomore Andy Matthews also said he is doing something positive rather than giving something up.

"I will go to the Grotto every day," he said — something he has already been doing for two weeks.

While many students are focusing on the

individual aspects of the season, there is also a dorm-wide aspect of Lent at Notre Dame.

Keough Hall rector Father Peter Jarret said students in his hall are sponsoring a Grab-and-Go program. Instead of getting the meals for themselves, they will collect non-perishable items for donations to charity.

Food plays a major role in sacrifice during the Lenten season. Rocca said Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence on which meat is not eaten, and only one full large

meal and two small meals are permitted. And while not all Fridays during Lent are days of abstinence, they are days of fasting from meat.

The University's dining halls have devised ways to help students fulfill this Lenten obligation.

Dan Patterson, the Operations Manager of South Dining Hall, said the dining halls will modify the menu so there is no meat on Fridays. In order to compensate for this, he said, new items have been added that were not available last year.

Marc Poklinkowski, the General Manager of South Dining Hall, said the dining hall menus will have more variety. Substitute items will include grilled pizza, grilled vegetables, cinnamon sticks, garlic cheese pizza, unfried fish, quesadillas and bosco sticks — "lots of grilled items which are fairly popular and lots of cheese."

Patterson said the dining halls will end the season with a Lenten buffet on April 7, one week before Good Friday.

Since Lent is a time to prepare for the celebration of Christ's death and resurrection, Rocca said the Basilica has made additional plans for Lent to prepare Catholics for Easter.

Ashes will be distributed at both the 11:30 a.m. and 5:15 p.m. Masses today, with the Eshola Cantorum providing music for the 11:30 Mass and the Notre Dame Liturgical choir singing at the



Observer File Photo

The Basilica will hold Ash Wednesday Masses to start the Lenten season today. Above, a choir sings in the Basilica in 2003.

5:15 Mass.

On all Fridays of Lent, the Basilica will host the Stations of the Cross, with various choirs providing music throughout the season.

Rocca said Lent is also the time when catechumens — people wishing to become Catholic — prepare to enter into the Church before receiving the sacraments

of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Reconciliation) during the Easter Vigil Mass. In addition, candidates for full communion — Protestants who wish to become Catholic — will be received into full communion on April 2.

Contact Ryan Sydlík at rsydlík@nd.edu.

Ten Years Hence

Register Now!

MBGR-60210

BAUG-30210

2006 Speaker Series

This one-credit-hour course will explore issues, ideas and trends likely to affect business and society over the next decade. A series of separate lectures on selected Friday mornings will feature a wide range of experts.

business.nd.edu/tenyearshence

March 3

Seven Revolutions

Erik Peterson, Senior Vice President, The Center for Strategic and International Studies

March 24

Technology and Talent: Reshaping Global Architectures

John Hagel, III, Consultant and Author

March 31

Four Paths to Four Futures

John Petersen, President, The Arlington Institute

April 7

Public Health Issues in the Future: America and Beyond

Dr. James Curran, Dean, Rollins School of Public Health of Emory University

April 21

Future Government and Public Policy

William McGurn, Chief Speechwriter, Office of the Presidential Speechwriter

April 28

The Future of the Faith in an Age of Fundamentalism and Secularism

Harry Attridge, M.A., Ph.D., Dean, Yale University Divinity School

business.nd.edu/tenyearshence

Selected Fridays from 10:40 a.m. to 12:10 p.m. in the Jordan Auditorium, Mendoza College of Business. Lectures are open to the public.

"Ten Years Hence" is listed as BAUG-30210 and MBGR-60210, and is open to all Notre Dame undergraduate and graduate students, and Saint Mary's students. There are no prerequisites to enroll. See your academic advisor or your department chair for additional detail. You are expected to attend all lectures and be prepared to engage speakers. No unexcused absences. This is a "Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory" course. This course requires no textbook purchases, examinations or term papers. Use an add form to register; registration is not available online.

Elections

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allows the class of 2007 to vote on PRISM from 12 a.m. until 11:59 p.m. tonight.

While hopeful for her ticket, current junior class president Goeppinger was not as optimistic about voter turnout.

"I think that the election will again be close, and I fear that voting numbers may even diminish due to the fact that people get tired of the campaigning process and having to vote a second time," Goeppinger said.

Goeppinger said she thought the reason for the initial close conclusion of the election was due to the tickets sharing mutual friends within the class and all candidates being members of her "very successful" junior board.

"The women on my ticket are still very excited about the prospect of representing the upcoming senior class and will be working very hard tonight to encourage women to vote," she said.

Kindt said she was not about to back down from the challenge and mirrored her opponent's goal to spark desire to vote amongst her classmates.

"I am not pushed over by a few percentages," she said. "We are going around to every [junior's dorm room] tonight to get our message across."

While the Kindt and Goeppinger tickets spent their time Tuesday attempting to clinch senior class executive positions, the rising junior and sophomore class executive board winners began planning and executing their platforms.

"We are really excited to win and start planning for next year," junior class president-elect Kielty said after receiving 64.63 percent of the vote to beat Michelle Michalak's ticket, comprised of vice presidential

candidate Brooke Trudeau, secretarial candidate Katie Soller and treasurer candidate Cailene Pisciotta.

Kielty's fellow executive board officers will be vice president Erin Hogan, secretary Elizabeth Bush and treasurer Shawn Redington.

Kielty said she hopes to immediately begin planning for an Ovarian Cancer Walk at the College in September to raise funds for cancer research.

"I feel that since I served as first year class president, I can set realistic goals," she said of her plan to have at least one class activity each month.

Sophomore class president-elect Francesca Johnson, along with ticketmates vice president Pauline Kistka, secretary Sarah Voss and treasurer Maggie Johnson said they

hope to increase attendance at class activities. The ticket won the election after members achieved the majority of the vote in their unopposed campaign.

Johnson, who currently serves as first year class president, said she has learned a lot from her involvement in student government.

"I have learned how to work with all kinds of people," she said. "I hope to do stuff that unites the class and really brings us together."

While Kielty and Johnson are busy making plans for the future, Goeppinger and Kindt must wait until Thursday to find out their presidential fate.

"Both tickets are very strong with dedicated people who will do a good job for our class," Kindt said.

Her running mate, Antonucci, could not help but agree.

"Regardless of which ticket wins, our class will be well-represented next year," she said.

Contact Kelly Meehan at kmecha01@saintmarys.edu

"I feel that since I served as first year class president, I can set realistic goals."

Colleen Kielty
president-elect
class of 2008

"Regardless of which ticket wins, our class will be well-represented next year."

Erica Antonucci
secretarial candidate
class of 2007

Towey

continued from page 1

regardless of whether they are secular or faith-based, Towey said.

"When we start talking about compassion, we have to talk about effective compassion," he said.

Towey, who said he is a Democrat, provided legal counsel for Mother Teresa of Calcutta for 12 years. In 1990, he lived as a full-time volunteer in a home for AIDS patients that Mother Teresa set up in Washington, D.C.

"The men were broken, the women [were] prostitutes and addicts," he said.

The people needed clothing, food and housing, but there was also a "spiritual poverty" in the house, Towey said.

Towey discussed Thomas Jefferson's views on the separation between church and state. Although Jefferson wrote of a "wall" between the two, the former president later scratched it out and attended church service

in a government building, Towey said.

The Constitution envisioned a "dynamic tension" between church and state, and not a barrier keeping religion from the public square, Towey said.

"When you have a public square hostile to religious values ... who suffers?" Towey asked. "The poor do."

Towey used a recent lawsuit against the Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE) as an example of how the poor suffer from a lack of religious volunteer organizations. ACE co-sponsored the lecture with the Center for Social Concerns.

"The real stakeholders in that decision were not the first amendment specialists or the [American Civil Liberties Union]," Towey said. "They were those [poor] students who were denied contact with Notre Dame students in their schools."

Towey advocated free competition for federal grants between secular and faith-based organizations based on the organizations' effectiveness. He said while it may now appear there is competition,

many large secular nonprofits often squeeze out small, effective faith-based groups — even if the larger organizations are not very effective.

"We don't measure success. There's no accountability ... You have to be incredibly inept to lose funding," Towey said. "It really is a cruel hoax to put forward a program that we're not going to keep track of."

Towey said the federal government gave \$2 billion to faith-based nonprofits last year, and that the amount continues to increase.

He said when President Bush came into power, the president believed regulations in place were "forcing" faith-based groups to secularize in order to gain funding. The groups were becoming less effective in the process, he said.

"The little groups in the neighborhoods, often minority neighborhoods, that were not well-connected politically were cut off from funds," Towey said.

Contact Peter Ninneman at pninnema@nd.edu

Brown

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role, hanging posters and sending e-mail updates to the campaign's contact people in each dorm.

"We chose Liz because we are impressed with her leadership and organization within her role as campaign manager this year and impressed with her work as Cavanaugh senator," Shappell said. "She will bring that dedication to the office."

Brown is a dual political science and Spanish major. In addition to her current role on Student Senate, she served on student government's communications committee during her

freshman year.

Brown said she was excited and surprised Shappell and Andrichik chose her for the position.

"I've been very impressed with what Lizzi and Bill have done in my work with them in the campaign," Brown said. "I know they have a lot of great initiatives that they want to get done next year, and I am excited to be a part of it."

Brown said she feels her leadership experiences thus far will help her transition to the position of third in command of the student government.

"I think I've done a good job this year in my position as Cavanaugh senator as far as bringing through initiatives that have been brought up," Brown

said. "I hope I can help push through what Bill and Lizzi want to get done, especially in terms of community relations."

As CEA, Brown will serve as chair of the Executive Programming Board, coordinate Student Senate activities and run the daily logistics of the student government office.

Shappell called the CEA position an "integral part" of student government and said a new person will bring a different energy to the job.

"The position will change with the person's personality, because it is only its third year in creation," Shappell said.

Baron served as the first CEA.

Contact Kaitlynn Riely at kriely@nd.edu

A Discussion on Issues Surrounding the Academic Freedom Debate

All Students are invited to Attend

Wednesday, March 1

7:30 PM

Coleman-Morse Lounge (1st floor)

An opportunity for all students to come together and discuss the issues surrounding the Academic Freedom debate.

Students will be broken up into small groups (randomly selected) to discuss the issues and then will reconvene in a large group to share the discussions.

Please, only students. No faculty, staff, or alumni.
Sponsored by Student Government.



University Resources for Gay, Lesbian, & Bisexual Students

The Standing Committee on Gay and Lesbian Student Needs

(Confidential information, education, and resources)
Contact: Sr. M.L. Gude, CSC, 1-5550, or student members (see web site for student contact info.)

Office of Campus Ministry

(Annual retreat for gay/lesbian/questioning students and their friends; pertinent library resources in 304 Co-Mo; confidential discussion and support)
Contact: Fr. Dick Warner, C.S.C., at 1-9704

University Counseling Center

(Individual counseling)
Contact: Dr. Maureen Lafferty at Lafferty.3@nd.edu

For more information, check out our web site: <http://www.nd.edu/~scsls/>

WORLD & NATION

Wednesday, March 1, 2006

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Court views evidence against Hussein
BAGHDAD — Prosecutors presented documents Tuesday they said show Saddam Hussein approved executions of more than 140 Shiites in the 1980s, the most direct evidence yet against the former Iraqi leader in his four-month trial. Among those sentenced to hang was an 11-year-old boy.

The most significant document featured a signature said to be Saddam's on a court list of people to be executed, though it was not clear he was aware of their ages. The list on that particular document only had names.

About 50 of those sentenced died during interrogation before they could go to the gallows. One man, his brother and two sons were executed by mistake, and Saddam allegedly ordered them declared "martyrs" to cover up the error.

Putin optimistic about Iran talks

BUDAPEST, Hungary — Russia's president said Tuesday that he is optimistic that his country will strike an agreement with Iran over its disputed nuclear program.

A delegation led by top Iranian negotiator Ali Larijani is expected to arrive in Moscow on Wednesday for discussions on a Kremlin proposal to enrich uranium for Iran on Russian territory to ensure the nuclear fuel cannot be diverted for atomic bombs. Enrichment is a process that can produce fuel for a nuclear reactor or fissile material for a weapon.

"We are optimists," Vladimir Putin told reporters on a visit to Hungary. "It's quite possible for us to reach an agreement on the establishment of a joint venture on Russian territory to enrich uranium for Iranian nuclear energy needs."

NATIONAL NEWS

Lawmakers resist a quick port vote

WASHINGTON — Congressional Republicans and Democrats on Tuesday tempered calls for an immediate vote to block a Dubai-based company's takeover of some U.S. port operations as President Bush prodded them to avoid a confrontation.

Returning to the Capitol in force for the first time since news of DP World's takeover broke, lawmakers from both parties criticized the White House for failing to let them know about the deal before it became public.

But many also said steps taken over the weekend by the White House and the United Arab Emirates company for a 45-day investigation of the transaction's security issues reassured them and negated the need for legislation for now.

Bush praises Iraqis, visits South Asia

WASHINGTON — President Bush praised Iraqis' "defiance of the terrorists and the killers" before embarking Tuesday on a ties-strengthening visit to South Asia — the presumed hiding place of Osama bin Laden and a part of the world where the war on terror is often close at hand.

With a wave but no words, Bush left for India, Pakistan and, possibly, Afghanistan.

"I can go to Pakistan as a friend of India's and be able to have a good dialogue. And go to India, as a friend of Pakistan's and be able to have a good dialogue," Bush told ABC News on Tuesday. "The good news is that it's less delicate than ever before."

Bush exited Washington for five days at a time of turmoil for his presidency.

A new CBS poll shows Bush's approval rating dropped to 34 percent from 42 percent in January.

LOCAL NEWS

Response to Toll Road bill mixed

INDIANAPOLIS — Hundreds packed the Statehouse on Tuesday for a rally designed to build momentum for Gov. Mitch Daniels' "Major Moves" highway initiative. But as some cheered support, others shouted jeers that sometimes drowned out the governor and other speakers.

Daniels told the crowd that the legislation, which would allow him to lease the Indiana Toll Road for \$3.85 billion, would create tens of thousands of jobs by help funding many highway projects that have languished for years.

"This will make promises and dreams a reality in this state," Daniels said.

IRAQ

At least 68 killed in bombings

Sunnis, Shiites exchange mortar fire against religious targets on day after curfew lifted

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Sunnis and Shiites traded bombings and mortar fire against mainly religious targets in Baghdad well into the night Tuesday, killing at least 68 people a day after authorities lifted a curfew that had briefly calmed a series of sectarian reprisal attacks.

At least six of Tuesday's attacks hit clearly religious targets, concluding with a car bombing after sundown at the Shiite Abdel Hadi Chalabi mosque in the Hurriyah neighborhood that killed 23 and wounded 55. A separate suicide bombing killed 23 people at an east Baghdad gas station, where people had lined up to buy kerosene.

In addition to those known to have been killed Tuesday, police found nine more bullet-riddled bodies, including a Sunni Muslim tribal sheik, off a road southeast of Baghdad. It was unclear when they died.

The surge of violence deepened the trauma of residents already shaken by fears the country was teetering on the brink of sectarian civil war, threatened talks among Iraqi politicians struggling to form a government and raised questions about U.S. plans to begin drawing down troop strength this summer.

Iraq began to tilt seriously toward outright civil war after the Feb. 22 bombing of the important Shiite Askariya shrine in the mainly Sunni city of Samarra, 60 miles north of Baghdad.

President Bush decried the latest surge in sectarian violence Tuesday and said that for Iraqis "the choice is chaos or unity."

In congressional testimony, National Intelligence Director John Negroponte said a civil war in Iraq could lead to a broader conflict in the Middle East, pitting the region's Sunni and Shiite powers against one another.

Defense Intelligence



An Iraqi firefighter extinguishes a fire in a car at the site of a car bombing in Baghdad Tuesday morning. At least 15 people were killed and dozens were wounded, police said.

Agency chief Lt. Gen. Michael Maples said the sectarian violence stems from a core of Sunni Arab insurgents who can exploit "social, economic, historical and religious grievances."

"Networks based on these relationships remain the greatest threat to long-term stability in Iraq," Maples said.

The sectarian violence has hit Baghdad hardest because the population in the capital is about evenly divided between Shiites and Sunnis, more so than in any other region of the country.

At about the same time as the attack on the Shiite Abdel Hadi Chalabi mosque, a mortar round landed near the Shiite Imam Kadhim

shrine in the Kazimiyah neighborhood on the opposite side of the Tigris River, killing one and wounding 10.

Those attacks appeared to have been in retaliation for assaults on Sunni places of worship earlier in the day.

North of Baghdad, a blast badly damaged a Sunni mosque where the father of Saddam Hussein was buried in the family's ancestral hometown, Tikrit. The Iraqi Islamic Party reported a bomb hit the Sunni Thou Nitaqain mosque in the Hurriyah neighborhood at 8 a.m. Tuesday, killing three and wounding 11. Gunmen in two speeding cars opened fire on the Sunni al-Salam mosque in the western

Baghdad's Mansour district, killing a guard.

Late Tuesday police reported finding the body of Shiite cleric Hani Hadi handcuffed, blindfolded and shot in the head near a Sunni mosque in Baghdad's notorious Dora neighborhood.

One of the day's bloodiest attacks came when a suicide bomber detonated an explosives vest packed with ball bearings among people lined up to buy kerosine at a crowded filling station in east Baghdad. The blast killed 23 people and wounded 51, leaving behind the charred and twisted remains of wheeled carts that customers had used to transport fuel canisters to the station.

High Court favors abortion protesters

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A 20-year-old legal fight over protests outside abortion clinics ended Tuesday with the Supreme Court ruling that federal extortion and racketeering laws cannot be used against demonstrators.

The 8-0 decision was a setback for abortion clinics that were buoyed when the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals kept their case alive two years ago despite the high court's 2003 ruling that had cleared the way for lifting a nationwide injunction on anti-abortion leader Joseph Scheidler and others.

Anti-abortion groups appealed to

the justices after the lower court sought to determine whether the injunction could be supported by findings that protesters had made threats of violence.

In Tuesday's ruling, Justice Stephen Breyer said Congress did not create "a freestanding physical violence offense" in the federal extortion law known as the Hobbs Act.

Instead, Breyer wrote, Congress addressed violence outside abortion clinics in 1994 by passing the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act, which allows for court injunctions to set limits for such protests.

"It's a great day for pro-lifers," said

Troy Newman, president of Operation Rescue.

Kim Gandy, president of the National Organization for Women, said the decision was disappointing because the injunction had decreased violence outside clinics nationally.

She said the clinic access act is problematic because it requires abortion providers to seek injunctions "city by city" and turns back the clock to the late 1980s when NOW played cat and mouse with Operation Rescue in trying to anticipate the cities and clinics that abortion protesters planned to target next.

Wives

continued from page 1

Dame," Dantzsch said.

Though their stories may be different, both women share the difficulties of leading almost double lives — carefree college students one moment and wives who face real fear the next.

Their stories

Dantzsch met her husband Corbin Cody in their Minnesota high school, where they became friends, and later, when he was shipped to Afghanistan, pen pals. They didn't start dating until he returned to the U.S. — but three months after they did, in July 2004, he proposed.

The plan was, Dantzsch said, to have a two-year engagement before they finally tied the knot. They went a year, seeing each other as often as her education and his stationing in New York would allow, before he found out he would be deployed to Iraq.

"We just had to do it before he left," Dantzsch said. "That way, we wouldn't have to worry about planning a wedding while he was in Iraq, and he would be able to participate in putting everything [for the wedding] together."

Given his long deployment, there was a lot of pressure to reconsider the marriage, Dantzsch explained.

"Everyone kept telling us that people change in a year, but we knew that we could make it together if we maintained good commu-

nication," she said. "We are very open with one another, and that's where a lot of military families go wrong. They don't talk to their significant others as often as they can, and that creates a huge barrier."

Their wedding was last July 2. Corbin Cody was deployed less than two months later on Aug. 12. They did, however, find time to squeeze in a honeymoon.

"We actually went to Bermuda with his entire family," she explained, laughing. "It was his grandmother's 25th anniversary and the trip had been planned for a while, it just happened to fit perfectly with our wedding. Everyone was respectful and accommodating though, knowing it was our honeymoon, and it was great for him to spend time with his family before he went to Iraq."

Dantzsch has tried to talk to her husband at least every other day on his cell phone since he's been in Iraq, although she said it was impossible to know where he would be at any time.

"If I can't get ahold of him, I just keep calling until I know he's OK," she said.

"If I can't get ahold of him, I just keep calling until I know he's OK."

Dayna Dantzsch
senior

In the manner of traditional high school sweetheart tales, Clifton-Lyon met her husband Mark when she was a freshman in a California boarding school and started dating him when she was a

senior. By her freshman year at Notre Dame, she was engaged.

They had intended to get married in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart her senior year, she said, but the world had other plans.

On Dec. 27, 2004 — just three days before Mark was deployed to Iraq — the two were wed.

"We had wanted to wait, but since he was getting into the war, he wanted something to keep him going over there," Clifton-Lyon said. "We threw the wedding together in a few days. Thankfully, his mom used to be a wedding planner, and one of his sisters is a florist while the other is a photographer, so that made life easy."

While she said she does not regret her decision to get married, Clifton-Lyon said life has been far more difficult than she anticipated.

"I was depressed 364 days out of the year when he was gone. It was the worst time of my life, spent just constantly worrying about him," she said. "I never gave it much thought, him being in the Army and how that would change things. I just knew this was the man I wanted to marry, and that was his job. I didn't realize until later that it comes with some prices."

Because Mark was stationed in a less urban area with little cell phone reception, the couple was forced to rely on handwritten letters to communicate for several months.

"That was a very hard time, because we just didn't feel connected. You start to have some doubts after you go a month without talking to your spouse," she said.

Her husband returned in February, and for the first time since their wedding, the two had to adjust to married life.

"I missed him so much and thank God every minute he's back, but this is the first time we're really spending time together," she said. "People sometimes miss the

difficult side of marriage, having to live in an apartment together and share space all the time."

How to deal

One of the hardest things about being a student and a military wife, both women said, is balancing the two worlds.

"It's a lot easier being a student when he's gone, but believe me, I would take the hit on the grades just to have him back," Dantzsch said. "I actually use schoolwork as a way to distract myself from the worry that him being away causes, from thinking the haunting thought that people die over there every day."

Dantzsch said while it is hard to find anyone who can relate to her situation on campus, her friends have been instrumental in getting her through this time.

"I have a hard time spending a lot of time by myself, because then I tend to think about him more," she said. "My friends give me something else to focus on, and a vent for my feelings. They don't necessarily understand, but they sympathize."

She also said apart from her friends, it was sometimes difficult to find support from the campus in general.

"Support for the war on campus is minimal, and I have a hard time with people making comments in class that are just insensitive. People here may be sympathetic, but they're almost negligent," she said. "They see there's a war going on, see the news, say, 'Wow, that's terrible,' and go on living their lives."

"When your husband is in the military, you focus on the challenges of every day."

Elizabeth Clifton-Lyon
junior

Clifton-Lyon said her first months back on campus after her marriage were the most overwhelming.

"I was trying to deal with school and deal with fears about my husband at the same time, and no one was around who understood," she said. "I mean, I could talk to the people who were married, but they didn't really understand what it was like to be separated for a long time. I could talk to friends in the military, but they didn't know what it was like to be married. That was the hardest thing, not having anywhere to turn."

The Notre Dame family, however, pulled together for her, Clifton-Lyon said.

"ND is definitely a community and all my friends came together to help me. My old roommates helped me move into my apartment, and my friends in grad school would cook for me because I just didn't have time to do anything," she said. "It was impossible for me to find a balance."

What next?

If there's one thing Dantzsch and Clifton-Lyon were reluctant to talk about, it was the future.

Dantzsch speculated about joining the Air Force and her husband going for a master's degree when he was done with service. Clifton-Lyon, whose husband will leave this month for a year of training around the continental U.S., just laughed.

"You can't make concrete plans," Clifton-Lyon said. "You don't know what's going to happen. When your husband is in the military, you focus on the challenges of every day."

Contact Amanda Michaels at
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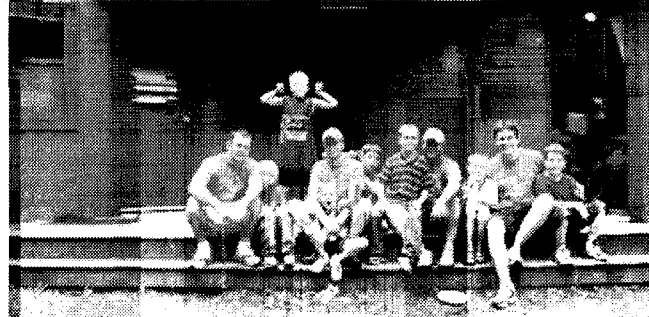


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MARKET RECAP

Stocks
Dow Jones 10,993.41 -104.14

Up: 1,035 Same: 140 Down: 2,237 Composite Volume: 2,421,090,200

AMEX 1,847.22 +7.69
NASDAQ 2,281.39 -25.79
NYSE 8,060.61 -79.06
S&P 500 1,280.66 -13.46
NIKKEI(Tokyo) 15,938.02 -267.41
FTSE 100(London) 5,791.50 -84.40

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
CISCO SYS INC (CSCO)	+1.35	+0.27	20.24
NASDAQ 110 TR (QQQQ)	-1.49	-0.62	41.10
INTEL CP (INTC)	+0.39	+0.08	20.60
MICROSOFT CP (MSFT)	-0.67	-0.18	26.87
APPLE COMPUTER (AAPL)	-3.52	-2.50	68.49

Treasuries			
10-YEAR NOTE	-0.94	-0.43	45.47
13-WEEK BILL	+0.38	+0.17	45.07
30-YEAR BOND	-0.92	-0.42	45.03
5-YEAR NOTE	-1.10	-0.51	46.01

Commodities			
LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl.)	+0.41	61.41	
GOLD (\$/Troy oz.)	+6.90	563.90	
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)	-0.18	89.40	

Exchange Rates			
YEN		115.8700	
EURO		0.8376	
POUND		0.5700	
CANADIAN \$		1.1375	

IN BRIEF

Bankrupt Twinkie-maker lays off 230

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Interstate Bakeries Corp., the bankrupt maker of Twinkies and Wonder Bread, said Tuesday it will layoff around 230 employees in Indiana and Michigan as it consolidates routes, depots and retail outlets in the upper Midwest.

The company said the moves, expected to be completed by March 13 if approved by bankruptcy officials, will require a \$700,000 charge, including \$400,000 in severance payments. In addition, the company said it expects to pay \$300,000 in the future for capital expenditures tied to the consolidation.

Tuesday's announcement concludes the company's evaluation of operations in its 10 regional "profit centers." Since filing for bankruptcy in September 2004, the company has closed nine bakeries and trimmed its national work force by 5,000 jobs in a bid to bring down operational costs.

Also Tuesday, Interstate Bakeries said it may have to raise the price of its bread products and snack cakes because of higher costs for ingredients, such as flour and sugar, and fuel. Such an increase, it warned, could further crimp sales.

Stocks fall on mixed economic data

NEW YORK — A mixed economic picture sent stocks tumbling Tuesday, with the Dow Jones industrials falling more than 100 points after investors were unnerved by weakness in home sales, consumer confidence and manufacturing. An upward revision in the fourth-quarter gross domestic product, meanwhile, raised worries about higher interest rates.

The GDP showed that the economy grew at an annual rate of 1.6 percent, much better than the 1.1 percent the Commerce Department initially estimated and beating the 1.5 percent economists predicted. The GDP is the broadest measure of the economy's performance — and one indicator of whether the economy continues to grow fast enough to prompt additional interest rate hikes by the Federal Reserve.

The day's other data showed soft spots in the economy. Sales of existing homes fell for the fifth consecutive month January, exacerbating some investors' concerns that a fall in home sales and refinancings could choke off a source of wealth for consumers, slowing their spending.

Steel merger opposition softens

Proposal to combine world's two largest steel companies receives decreasing criticism

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Opposition to the disputed proposal to combine the world's two largest steel manufacturers is softening, the president of Mittal Steel Co. maintained Sunday in defending his firm's hostile takeover bid for rival Arcelor SA.

Aditya Mittal, who also is chief financial officer of the world's largest steelmaker, predicted the controversial deal will close by the end of June after gaining approval from European regulators and Arcelor shareholders.

"There has been a reduction in terms of the negative reaction to this offer as governments have begun to realize the strategic rationale, the industrial rationale [and] begin to understand what Mittal Steel is about, what Mittal Steel wants to do with Arcelor," he told reporters. "The reaction is turning more in our favor."

The company's No. 2 executive and other Mittal officials spoke at a news conference in Chicago, their latest effort in what has been widely referred to as a "charm offensive" aimed at overcoming resistance to the unsolicited takeover offer.

Several European countries are leery of the proposed \$22.1 billion (18.6-billion euro) merger, fearing the possibility of job cuts at plants now owned by Luxembourg-based Arcelor, the world's second-largest steel producer. Mittal Steel is hosting about four dozen reporters, mostly from Europe, on a two-day media tour of its Chicago-area operations, hoping to polish its image by showing where it makes some of its highest-quality steel. Those operations include Indiana mills at East Chicago and Burns Harbor that employ about 10,000 people combined.

The 30-year-old Mittal,



A wrapped coil of steel is shown at Mittal Steel's Burns Harbor, Ind., plant. Mittal's executives predicted Sunday that the proposal to combine with Arcelor SA will close by June.

whose billionaire father Lakshmi Mittal is chairman and CEO, said the company will start sharing specific post-merger plans this week with the countries involved. The proposed acquisition, he argued, will be good for both companies and their shareholders and will create more growth opportunities for the industry.

"We expect as we share with them the industrial plan and the strategic plan, they will become more and more understanding of what we're trying to propose and realize that it's actually a great thing for Arcelor and a great thing for the steel industry," he said.

Those meetings will coincide with a stepped-up effort to block the merger by Arcelor, which plans to

lay out a long-term plan at investor meetings starting Tuesday to show shareholders why they should reject it. Arcelor management already has told shareholders in a letter that a Mittal takeover would dilute value, threaten shareholder interests and undermine future prospects for the stock.

Aditya Mittal also plans to return to Chicago in mid-March for investor meetings connected with the takeover. He said he expects regulators to take another four to six weeks to clear the bid, after which Arcelor shareholders would have as long as 60 days to vote on it.

The acquisition would create a steel powerhouse with the ability to produce close to 130 million tons a year, more than triple the output of the nearest competitor, Nippon Steel of

Japan. Mittal estimates annual savings of roughly \$1 billion from combining the two.

The head of Mittal's U.S. division rejected a suggestion that the proposed mega-company could have a negative impact on the U.S. automotive industry by resulting in higher prices for steel.

"We have a commitment as a company to say we're not going to disadvantage any customer of ours on the price front," said Lou Schorsch, CEO of Mittal Steel USA.

Mittal, which has headquarters in Rotterdam and London, selected Chicago as its U.S. headquarters shortly before launching the disputed Arcelor bid last month. Its mills in Indiana and Ohio make steel for the auto industry.

Dana meets with banks, stock rises

Associated Press

TOLEDO, Ohio — Dana Corp.'s stock rebounded 18 percent on Monday after the auto parts maker said it was working with banks and other lenders on its financing plans.

The company issued a short statement before trading began on the New York Stock Exchange, saying it hopes to come to a resolution within two weeks on its financing.

Dana's shares, which tumbled 52 percent on Friday to their lowest level in more than three decades, climbed 27 cents, to close at \$1.78.

The company's stock has been falling since Dana said last fall that it was restating earnings and lowering its profit forecast for 2005 because of accounting errors.

Reports that the struggling auto parts maker had hired a restructuring

company led to extremely heavy trading and speculation that the company could be facing bankruptcy.

Dana also has been hurt by soaring energy and steel prices and said in January that it lost nearly \$1.3 billion in the third quarter last year while realigning its business.

In 2000, Dana had more than 6,400 employees at 11 Indiana plants. Since then the company has downsized, selling factories and announcing plans to close and sell more, trimming its work force in the state to 2,000.

Auto parts suppliers over the last year have struggled. Delphi Corp., the nation's leading supplier, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in October. Visteon Corp., the nation's second biggest parts supplier, is closing three plants and putting another six up for sale under its restructuring plan.

"I'm sure there are people thinking that Dana's next," said David Siino, an analyst with Gabelli & Co.

Dana still has assets that would allow it to borrow money and it has little long-term debt due in the next two years, he said. "They have a little bit of breathing room," he said.

But Shelly Lombard, a senior analyst with Gimme Credit, a corporate bonds research service, said Dana's response to the bankruptcy speculation was late and not enough.

"It did nothing to assure investors that a deal is imminent," Lombard said.

Sean Egan, managing director of Egan-Jones Ratings Co., said Dana is likely reviewing a number of financing options, but first it must line up funding with its banks and calm fears of investors and the company's suppliers owed money.

Panel

continued from page 1

Magistrate for the St. Joseph's County Probate Court; Dr. Jeff Burnett, Director of the Residential Treatment program at the Juvenile Justice Center; Mark Geissler, a social worker with the South Bend Community School Corporation; Peter Morgan, Coordinator of the Youth Justice Program at the Robinson Community Center and Kenneth Cotter, Chief Deputy Prosecutor.

Notre Dame's Children's Defense Fund (CDF) sponsored the event in an effort to generate constructive dialogue regarding the virtues and shortcomings of South Bend's juvenile justice system.

The panelists and their listeners assessed the effectiveness of the outreach programs in high schools and the conditions individuals face in the detention and correction centers. The group also discussed the involvement of parents in the rehabilitation process.

Morgan explained the concept of restorative justice, a principle that drives the entire juvenile justice system.

"We think of the delinquent acts of these children not in terms of broken laws, but rather in terms of broken

relationships," he said. "We sit with the young person in trouble and with those who are directly affected by his [or] her behavior and we help develop a plan to repair those relationships and any consequences that may have arisen — avoiding prosecution if possible."

In fact, when a teenager is found delinquent, the court determines which course of action will contribute most to the youth's rehabilitation.

Some of the options and programs that can await an adjudicated delinquent are family counseling, residential treatment programs, substance abuse treatment, community service and — for more serious offenders — penalties such as fines and prison time.

Most of the teenagers in detention centers and correction facilities are not there serving a court sentence, but rather awaiting trial or sentencing hearings.

"Sometimes the child is so unruly he may pose a threat to the community, or he may be considered likely to flee before his trial begins, and since there are no bails allowed in the juvenile justice system, temporary detainment may be the only available course of action," Burnett said.

That's a large problem within the system, panelists

said. Prosecuted delinquents and teenagers awaiting trial are placed in the same facilities and receive the same treatment as prisoners.

Notre Dame freshman Martha Calcutt, a mathematics tutor at the South Bend Juvenile Correction Facility, expressed her concern regarding the treatment the detainees sometimes receive at the hands of their wardens.

"Some of the boys I work with in the correction center tell me all about the snide comments the guards make, and how they even get away with beating some of the boys," Calcutt said. "I really do question how much the authorities and the people in charge of these programs monitor the rehabilitation of the boys, or care about the direction their lives will take after they are released."

Other volunteers pointed out the unsatisfactory educational programs in the detention centers. Seventh and 10th graders are given the same mathematics assignments, and there is a shortage of teachers to help the children, they said.

Brueseke spoke about programs implemented within the detention centers to help teenagers obtain GED certification, as well as the possi-

bility of establishing technical vocation programs. Such programs help offenders integrate into the workforce.

Brueseke said high schools are making improvements in the outreach programs by testing children for emotional and psychological disorders. Sixty percent of teenagers who get in trouble with the juvenile justice system are either affected by these conditions or have substance abuse problems, he said.

However, Brueseke and other panelists said these programs are still in the early development stages.

In the meantime, panelists said, the juvenile justice system is still struggling to strike a balance between protecting the community from offenders and determining a course of action that will rehabilitate and re-integrate the offender into society.

Every case is different and every child has a different story to tell. Some come from homes with supportive parents who failed to discipline an unruly child, while others

come from dysfunctional families with problems of domestic violence and alcoholism.

Either way, the counselors, attorneys, social workers and volunteers at the Robinson Center Tuesday night were focused on the rehabilitation of these troubled youths regardless of the circumstances.

"I really enjoy working with children and teenagers, so I would really like to help these kids get their lives back together, and make an honest living," CDF member and Notre Dame freshman Rachel Wiehoff said. "Some of them really do have the potential to become contributing members of society."

Many of these juveniles actively work to achieve that goal. One drawing by an unknown child at the Robinson Center conveys a message that suggests potential for reform.

"I will be nice," the poster reads. "I will be loud outside, not inside."

The panelists urged the community to become involved and help these children by becoming Big Brothers and Sisters, tutors or mentors. Such actions, they said, will help juveniles overcome their problems and frustrations in healthy ways — and stay away from delinquency.

Contact Marcela Berrios at aberrios@nd.edu

"We think of the delinquent acts of these children not in terms of broken laws, but rather in terms of broken relationships."

Peter Morgan
Youth Justice Program
Coordinator
Robinson Community
Center

"I really do question how much the authorities and the people in charge of these programs monitor the rehabilitation of the boys, or care about the direction their lives will take after they are released."

Martha Calcutt
freshman

"Some of them really do have the potential to become contributing members of society."

Rachel Wiehoff
freshman

Italian prime minister visits Bush

U.S. president gives Iraq ally Berlusconi support in re-election bid

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, facing a tough election to stay in power, got a boost Tuesday from his ally President Bush, who effusively praised Berlusconi as a strong leader who has "brought stability to the Italian government."

Berlusconi had breakfast with Bush, followed by formal talks.

"He's a man of his word," Bush said of Berlusconi as they sat side by side in the Oval Office. "Obviously, it's important for an American president to be able to work with somebody in a consistent manner and I appreciate the stability the prime minister has brought to our close ally and friend."

Asked whether the friendly U.S.-Italian relations would continue if Berlusconi's opponent won, Bush hastened to say that he was keeping his distance from Italian politics. Yet, he again spoke of the value of a leader with whom he has developed close ties remaining in power.

"My relationship is not a political relationship with this man. It's a strategic relationship and this strategic relationship is important for both our peoples and it's important to

lay the foundations for peace," Bush said. "If a government is changing every year, it requires a person in my position to constantly have to reacquaint yourself. And that's what I meant by stability. It's much easier to make common policy when you're dealing with a person from one year to the next."

"Thank you very much, Mr. President, for your words of appreciation, which give me a lot of satisfaction," Berlusconi replied.

Bush and Berlusconi are both conservatives who came to head their governments in 2001.

Italy initially was among the most important U.S. allies in the Iraq war, having provided 3,000 troops to the effort in 2003 after U.S.-led invaders had brought down President Saddam Hussein's government. Italy now has 2,600 troops in-country and is in the process of removing them all by the end of the year.

Berlusconi's almost five years in power make him Italy's longest-serving premier since World War II. His is the 59th postwar government.

But he faces a tough battle in the April 9-10 Italian elections

from Romano Prodi, a former European Commission president, who defeated Berlusconi and became premier in 1996.

The Italian economy is foundering and Berlusconi's support for the war in Iraq has been deeply unpopular in Italy. Berlusconi has expressed confidence repeatedly that he would win re-election, and recent opinion polls show him narrowing Prodi's lead.

The Italian's visit "is a bold move but not a defining one and may not have any effect on his political fortunes," said Moises Naim, a specialist on Italy at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, a Washington research group.

Another specialist on Italy, Michael Calingaert of the Brookings Institution, a think tank, said that by closely allying himself with the United States, Berlusconi has demonstrated Italy is a major international player.

"This visit is the icing on the cake in that relationship," Calingaert said, "and the centerpiece is the address to Congress."

The Italian premier speaks before a joint meeting of Congress on Wednesday, then heads to New York City to receive an award for promoting freedom and democracy.

Speaking before Congress is an honor the United States accords to close allies. Others who have addressed joint meetings during Bush's presi-



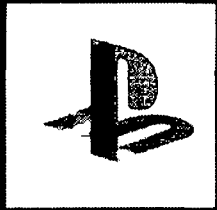
Italian PM Silvio Berlusconi, a strong U.S. ally during the Iraq war, met with President Bush in Washington, D.C. Tuesday.

dency include Prime Minister Tony Blair of Britain and Manmohan Singh of India and Afghanistan's president, Hamid Karzai.

For Bush, the visit comes as his administration reels from setbacks in Iraq, criticism of its response to Hurricane Katrina, a series of criminal investiga-

tions affecting Republicans in Congress and the White House and an uproar over a deal to allow a Dubai company to manage six U.S. seaports.

Bush will try to put some of those difficulties behind him when he leaves Tuesday on a trip to India, Pakistan and possibly Afghanistan.



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THE OBSERVER VIEWPOINT

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Wednesday, March 1, 2006

THE OBSERVER

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On surfing naked

It has been my privilege (and misfortune) to see many "hot" Internet trends come and go over the last few years. Most of them, while initially promising, never lived long enough to make any lasting mark on society, or even on other technologies, and they were soon forgotten by everyone — except of course by their dumbstruck investors.

The Internet, largely because of its novelty, has been both aided (commercially) and hindered (socially) by attempts in the media and in business to define "what it all means." The major problem with this

approach is that the Internet, just like any other freeform collection of human interactions, has no actual goals, and very little focus. Local trends may shape the needs of Internet in the short term, but over the long haul it is moved by little else but sociology and psychology. Forgetting this, and forgetting the critical role of the individual, is the first step in creating a soon-to-be failed dot-com, and the next unimportant trend.

I bring this up because right now many pundits want to place blogs (and their cousins, like LiveJournal and MySpace) in this category of big-hype, low-impact technologies. And worse, well-meaning parents and educators, having learned of these new social constructs from the media and believing that they understand their purpose and extent, are trying to restrict their sons' and daughters' access to these new media without first asking why they were interested in the first place.

And actually, I don't entirely disagree

with either group on the underlying point, even though I have a blog, (and I have no plans to dismantle it even if blogs in general should fall out of favor). I think most of the current attraction is pure hype, and so the entire phenomena, as it is understood in the media, is not worth much long-term attention. Blogs are too hyped and too misunderstood, and there will shortly come a day when the blog-bubble will collapse, around the same time that people realize that there is not really money in blogs or blogging.

I look forward to this day because I think that the current emphasis on blogging and on its "moral," "moneymaking" or "popularity building" potential completely misses the real and significant trend of what blogs are doing, and what they have done, to the Internet and which gives a major hint toward where it may be going.

In truth, a blog is nothing more than a publishing tool — an easy to use Web based interface that permits almost effortless personal publishing and community building, without the normal technical knowledge. It has always been possible for a person to create something like a blog on the Internet, but only lately have programmers worked together to make the task trivial.

Unfortunately, once blogs took off, their early writers began focusing on areas that called certain kinds of attention to them: foreign policy, politics and news. This is the cause of the blog hype: politicians who were taken unaware and paranoid media companies who wondered if blogs were a threat to their entrenched business model. This initial interest drew more individuals to blogging, but only as a pale clone of the earliest journalist/bloggers, in the hopes of emulating some of that fame.

However, these media blogs are only business as usual. They are the direct equivalent of a bricks-and-mortar compa-

ny that creates a Web site in order to move its business online but which otherwise does not alter its business model.

The real power of blogs, and the real future of the Internet, does not lie in these popular media commentaries. It lies in the unseen blogs. There are, at last count, between 30 and 40 million blogs, the vast majority of which are written by teenagers for their immediate friends or for some small, but closely-knit Internet community (such as DeviantART). The younger the blogger, the greater the probability that he or she will share something quite personal, and in many cases, shockingly remarkable in its naked honesty.

It is this spiritual nudity, which also takes other forms depending on the artistic taste of the author, that I think hints at the future of the Internet. Blogs are important because they are a sort of vast social group therapy, created by a collection of otherwise uninhibited people who have discovered that, in this case, there may be more to gain from openness than from privacy. What was once confined to a book and read, perhaps, by a really nosy little sister is now spread, with its author's blessing, to the entire world.

And if this trend lasts, if the psychology of the computer screen, which gives both intimacy and great distance and which completely changes what is "public" and what is "personal" takes hold, then the widespread social impact of this trend will dwarf anything a political blog could ever dream of attaining.

Lance Gallop is a 2005 graduate of Notre Dame. Comments should be e-mailed to comments@tidewaterblues.com. More of his opinions can be found at www.tidewaterblues.com

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



Lance Gallop

Tidewater Blues

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Lent is time to reflect on values

As we enter the season of Lent, members of the Campus Labor Action Project would like to extend a wide invitation to all members of the Notre Dame family to a communal examination of conscience on our University's relationship with our Catholic values of community, worker justice and campus employees. This Lenten season, as we continue to ponder our Catholic Character in relation to Academic Freedom, we feel it is imperative to explore how our tradition is exercised in our business practices. Our call, from Biblical justice to Catholic Social Teaching, compels us to do more than what is competitive in the market. The economy should work for the people, not the other way around. The call to Christian love is horizontal as well as vertical. We find the call to love our neighbors in 1 John 3:17: "If someone who has worldly means sees a brother in need and refuses him compassion, how can the love of God remain in him?" This compassion is neither charity nor welfare. A living wage is paying people enough to live on and have a dignified quality of life.

In this season of preparation, CLAP would like to challenge every member of the University and President Father John Jenkins, as our leader, in particular, to turn our commitments to Catholic Social Teaching and to ending poverty into real actions on this campus. This semester, by committing publicly to the principle of living wage and commissioning a Joint Taskforce to begin meeting

next school year, Jenkins can give all interested parties — students, workers, faculty and administrators — a place at the table to draw up a Just Employment policy and to decide an appropriate implementation of a living wage. Notre Dame has, in the past, advocated for living wages for workers outside our campus. Our apparel licensing code of conduct prohibits the use of sweatshops. It states, "The University of Notre Dame du Lac ('Notre Dame') is committed to conducting its business affairs in a socially responsible manner consistent with its religious and educational mission. Notre Dame expects nothing less of its business partners and licensees." Our commitment to just treatment to workers abroad is admirable. Let us reflect on this past action in light of current struggles of workers here and work for a living wage.

Scripture reminds us that we must "Be doers of the word and not hearers only" (James 1:22). Instead of giving up something for Lent, give of your talents, passion and efforts to creating a just community here at Notre Dame. CLAP is only one of many paths to take. We invite you all, through attending meetings, signing petitions and coming to our Labor Prayer Service this Lenten season to walk with us in solidarity towards a better Notre Dame.

Campus Labor Action Project
Feb. 28

OBSERVER POLL

What do you think about the tuition hike?

Vote by Thursday at 5 p.m.
at www.ndsmcobserver.com

Submit a Letter
to the Editor at
www.ndsmcobserver.com

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Character is like a tree and reputation like its shadow. The shadow is what we think of it; the tree is the real thing."

Abraham Lincoln
former U.S. president

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Higher standards for men's basketball

As Notre Dame's men's basketball team hurtles toward its worst record in 14 mostly mediocre seasons in the Big East, it is appropriate to ask when we all knew for the first time that the current coach might not be the right man for the job. For me, it was during the Sweet 16 matchup with the University of Arizona in March 2003, when he chose the highly irrational and sublime strategy of trying to "outscore" the top-seeded, NBA-talent laden Wildcats, only to be (surprise!) blown out by halftime. As I sat just one seat behind the athletic director, Kevin White, I said to myself, I wonder if he is as perplexed by this strategy as I am? For some, it may have been in March of 2004 when, in response to learning that his team was not selected for the NCAA tournament, he suggested that missing the NCAA tournament was something that had to be expected periodically at Notre Dame. For many more, it was evident in March of 2005 after he wasted two consecutive seasons of Notre Dame basketball for the sake of appeasing the interests of a malcontented prima donna, rather than putting the team's goals first. And now, for just about everyone, it became shockingly transparent on Feb. 25, as Marquette marched into South Bend and turned the JACC into their home court and the Irish into their personal Washington Generals (see history of the Harlem Globetrotters).

Since I am not a professional basketball coach or player, I do not suggest that my two varsity letters in high school basketball qualify me to pass judgments on the coaching acumen of Notre Dame's exceedingly well-compensated and well-connected head coach. For example, I am willing to admit that what appears to me to be a highly unconventional strategy of complete abandonment of a low post game, coupled with an alternative strategy of "have two guards dribble it around with no other motion or off-the-ball screening and then chuck up a three-ball from 35-feet with one second left on the shot clock and two hands in your face," is a potentially more cutting-edge, sophisticated, winning strategy than the tried-and-true approach of feeding the low post for two to four-foot buckets or a foul shot every other time down the floor. I will also admit that it may be incredibly innovative to take the rarely pursued approach of recruiting only two college-caliber big men during six years as coach and combine that with a complete lack of attention to teaching those players how to play the low post so as to ensure no semblance of an inside game as an option for your offense for three straight seasons. Lastly, it may be the veritable future of the sport to

state as your goal "if they shoot 48 percent, we're gonna try to shoot 55 percent because that is who we are," and combine that with the rarely-employed defensive philosophy that consists of "stand flat-footed, keep your hands at your side, play as passively as possible, never jump out on high screens even when we are ahead by three points with two seconds left in the game and never, ever, box out as if you intend to actually obtain the rebound." These may be the mandates of a true visionary, and it is not for me to suggest that other programs, for example, Indiana and Duke, which have combined for seven national championships via total commitment to defense and fundamentals, know any better than the current Notre Dame coaches as to how to achieve success on the court.

However, I do feel qualified to state that at Notre Dame, where excellence in men's basketball was once a staple (see long-forgotten era from 1973-1981), mediocre-to-awful basketball as displayed in such historically astounding fashion the past three years, should never be accepted. The question is: why has Notre Dame, which is arguably the national benchmark of combined academic and athletic excellence, tolerated academically two decades of non-existent men's basketball? At a school that annually competes for national honors in women's soccer, women's basketball, fencing, cross country, baseball, women's tennis and lacrosse, why has the administration treated the men's basketball program like the infirmed little sibling, as if unable to meet the standards to which everyone else in the family is held? This is particularly galling and ironic given that the legacy of success in men's basketball at Notre Dame needs to take a back seat to no other program on campus, save to that of the football program.

Perhaps the "soft bigotry of low expectations" surrounding men's basketball has come directly from the head coach alone. We certainly have all grown weary of his pathetic six-year running refrain of "we are just trying to steal enough wins to make it on to the tournament bubble." As likely, I suspect it is the combined failing of the head coach's vision and that of the athletic director, who hailing from Arizona State, may have no working knowledge of Notre Dame's once-high standards of excellence in men's basketball; after all, this is the same athletic director who tolerated the Davie era far too long, panicked in hastily selecting two consecutive unworthy coaches for the football program (as if he never considered that Davie would ever

leave as head coach), had to be ordered to fire the last football coach when it was obvious that success would never be in the offing and then, again, having not learned his previous lesson, pathetically pandered to the wrong coaching target again (in Utah) in a very public and embarrassing manner. Regardless of where this tolerance of mediocrity originated, the current problem at Notre Dame is not that "the landscape of college basketball has changed since Digger was the coach" or that "the JACC needs to be renovated and new practice facilities are necessary" or "the academic standards impede recruiting the best players." The current problem is that the Notre Dame leadership needs to assign the same high standard to men's basketball as it does to football and every other sport at the school. When University President Father John Jenkins overhauled the football program 14 months ago, he stated that, in order for Notre Dame to be successful in football, they needed to succeed "ethically, academically and with wins on the field." Out of simple respect for the current players on the basketball roster, that same mandate needs to be applied immediately to the men's basketball program. Thanks to a lack of accountability and high standards for the basketball team, Chris Quinn, a splendid basketball player who might otherwise be this generation's John Paxson, has gone to the NCAA tournament once in his four years of labor at Notre Dame. For the administration to allow the men's basketball program to continue to languish in its current vegetative state does a disservice to all the younger players on the team, the incoming recruits, the student body who support the team and those who built this once-storied program.

As a final point, I would remind the administration that, the last time I checked, the men's basketball coaching position at Notre Dame was indeed a "job," not a volunteer camp counselor position. In fact, I suspect it ranks as one of the most highly-compensated positions at the University. As such, there should be fundamental standards and milestones which are required to be met. As an ordinary example, in my job as a new faculty member at a university medical center, I was given three years of financial support up front, with the stipulation that I would achieve external (National Institutes of Health) grant funding to pay the entirety of my salary and research budget by the end of that time frame. If I failed in those goals, I would be at imminent risk of losing my university support and position. By virtually any other professional standard, six

years is plenty of time to objectively assess the milestones achieved by this basketball program. Short of simply existing, it is not clear what goals are being met, other than the most dubious ones of failing to qualify for the 12-team Big East tournament and having the worst conference record in Notre Dame's history. I would submit to the administration that simply holding the men's basketball coach to standards that are appropriate for Notre Dame would be a good place to start. For example, 1) annually compete for the Big East conference title. 2) Annually finish in the top 10 of the national rankings. 3) Annually compete for one of the top 16 seeds in the NCAA tournament bracket. If these goals seem outrageous, consider that from 1970-1981, Notre Dame finished in the top ten final national rankings seven times and garnered several number one to four seedings in the NCAA tournament! Consider also that Notre Dame is the 11th winningest men's basketball program in NCAA history (behind Indiana and ahead of UCLA) and has the second-most 2,000-point scorers in NCAA history. Digger Phelps obviously understood Emerson's fundamental tenet of human competition: "You have to aim above the target to hit the target!"

The history of college athletics has shown, more than at any other level, the impact that the right coach can have at the right institution. The basketball programs at UCLA and Indiana come to mind as good examples. I work at an institution, Duke University, which, in 1982, had a comparable, if not inferior, history of achievement in men's basketball compared to Notre Dame's to that point. In that year, a single individual, a new head coach, came to that university, which had an antiquated arena and mediocre practice facilities, and through his sheer, unrelenting commitment to excellence, they have become what they like to be considered, "the Notre Dame of college basketball." Notre Dame needs a basketball coach and athletic director who, recognizing Notre Dame's own legacy in men's basketball, will commit to bring the Irish back to the top of the rankings, not to a seat on the annual bubble. And anyone who doubts the impact that hiring the right coach can make for an institution should ask the men who hired Charlie Weis at Notre Dame.

John P. Chute
alumnus
Class of 1986
Feb. 27

Fan appreciation

In short, on behalf of your Notre Dame hockey team, thank you to our students and the members of our faculty and staff who have come to the Joyce Center to cheer on the Fighting Irish icers this season. With your support, we've filled the Joyce Center to capacity each weekend this semester, and without a doubt, that helped us earn each of the victories that allowed us to host the first round of the CCHA's postseason tournament this weekend.

On that note, your vocal support will be a key element in our success in this best two out of three series against a very worthy opponent, the Nanooks of the University of Alaska-Fairbanks. As has been the policy all year, admission for students (of Notre Dame, Saint Mary's and Holy Cross) is free to each game (while the supply of seats anywhere in the Joyce Center Fieldhouse last).

In closing, we hope we'll see (and hear) many of you in the stands at each game again this weekend. Thanks again for your support. Go Irish! Beat Nanooks!

Jeff Jackson
head coach
Notre Dame Hockey
Feb. 28

EDITORIAL CARTOON





The 78th Annual Academy Awards



By BRIAN DOXTADER
Assistant Scene Editor

For the first time in almost a decade, the Oscars are a competition between small, independent films.

No huge blockbusters, few overwhelming prestige films, no Miramax — most of the Best Picture nominees are from the art-oriented offshoots of the major studios (Focus Features, Sony Pictures Classic, Warner Independent). Not since 1996, when Miramax's "The English Patient" beat out critical favorite "Fargo," has there been an Oscar race oriented around so many smaller films. In other years, it's possible to make the argument that the films that emerge as classics and/or the true best pictures of the year aren't even nominated (2004's "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind," 2000's "Almost Famous" and "Memento"). That doesn't

seem to be the case this year, as the gravitation toward independent films means that the pictures nominated may truly be the five best of the year.

Still, 2005 has a clear favorite: Ang Lee's exquisite "Brokeback Mountain." It leads the race with eight nominations, including most of the major categories.

In other nominations, Spielberg's "Munich," mired in controversy and less-than-stellar box office returns, seems like an afterthought (though it garnered a few key nominations), while George Clooney finally comes into his own as a regular Orson Welles with no less than three nominations

(acting, directing and writing, and his film "Good Night and Good Luck" was also nominated for Best Picture).

In an unusual turn of events, all five of the Best Picture nominees were matched by nominations for their directors, something that has only happened three times before (in 1957, 1964 and 1981).

While few of these categories are wide-open races, there's also no Scorsese, which means no guaranteed loser either. The 78th Annual Academy Awards will be aired on Sunday at 8 p.m. on ABC. Here's a look at the major categories:

Best Picture

What will win: Brokeback Mountain

Why it will win: Bluntly put, there's not a whole lot of competition. "Crash" may be the closest contender, but mixed critical consensus and the ensemble cast will sink its chances. "Brokeback Mountain" has

everything the Oscars look for: an all-star cast, a talented and proven director, a topical and relevant plotline, a quotable script. "Brokeback Mountain" is also one of the most beautifully and exquisite made films in years, and the Academy's love of high production values will certainly bolster its chances.

What should win: Brokeback Mountain

Why it should win: If "Brokeback Mountain" wins, it will mark the finest Best Picture winner in a decade — maybe longer. Prestige and marketing often overshadow the actual content of a film, which is how "The English Patient" won in 1996 and "Shakespeare in Love" won in 1998. "Brokeback Mountain" is an accomplished, amazingly effective film that will remain in the public consciousness for years later. Its stature will grow, rather than diminish, in ensuing years.

Best Actor

Who will win: Philip Seymour Hoffman, "Capote"

Why he will win: What a fantastic actor Hoffman is! He's one of the few actors who steals the show in every picture he's in, playing everything from a porn industry soundman ("Boogie Nights") to rock critic Lester Bangs ("Almost Famous"). "Capote" may be his finest work, as Hoffman controls the film with a perfectly modulated performance, proving once and for all that the one-time character actor is capable of carrying a picture by himself.

Hoffman is an actor known for disappearing into his characters, and his affected turn as the eponymous ornery writer-journalist is both memorable and effective. The Academy will certainly not overlook Hoffman, who has become a critical favorite over the years.

Who should win: Heath Ledger, "Brokeback Mountain"

Why he should win: His staggeringly brave performance — an absolute revelation. Ledger does so much with so little that he commands the screen throughout "Brokeback Mountain," acting as the aching emotional core of the film, anchoring it with such presence that it's hard to believe that this is an actor whose past credits include "A Knight's Tale" and "Ten Things I Hate About You." His turn as the cowboy Ennis is heartbreaking in its emotional scope and breathtaking in its measured control. Without doubt one of the best performances of the year, it should instantly move Ledger to the top of the A-list in Hollywood and make him a future Academy Award candidate.

Best Actress

Who will win: Faye Dunaway, "The Contender"

Why she will win: Faye Dunaway is the most beautiful and exquisite made film in years, and the Academy's love of high production values will certainly bolster its chances. "The Contender" is an accomplished, amazingly effective film that will remain in the public consciousness for years later. Its stature will grow, rather than diminish, in ensuing years.



Not since 1996, when Miramax's "The English Patient" beat out critical favorite "Fargo," has there been an Oscar race oriented around so many smaller films.

with a... finest... Giamatti... Gould... "Cinderella"... but it's... "Sideways"... Who's... Why h... His perf... moving... hearteni... Things"... Mary"... featured... and Sar... them al... ing the... dimensi... film.

Best Supporting Actor

Who will win: Heath Ledger, "Brokeback Mountain"

Why he will win: His staggeringly brave performance — an absolute revelation. Ledger does so much with so little that he commands the screen throughout "Brokeback Mountain," acting as the aching emotional core of the film, anchoring it with such presence that it's hard to believe that this is an actor whose past credits include "A Knight's Tale" and "Ten Things I Hate About You." His turn as the cowboy Ennis is heartbreaking in its emotional scope and breathtaking in its measured control. Without doubt one of the best performances of the year, it should instantly move Ledger to the top of the A-list in Hollywood and make him a future Academy Award candidate.

2000

Best Picture:
"Gladiator"

Best Director:
Steven Soderbergh
"Traffic"

2001

Best Picture:
"A Beautiful Mind"

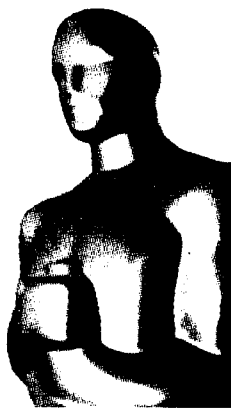
Best Director:
Ron Howard
"A Beautiful Mind"

2002

Best Picture:
"Chicago"

Best Director:
Roman Polanski
"The Pianist"

Academy Awards



Graphics by MATT HUDSON/The Observer

Best Actress
Will win: Reese Witherspoon, "Walk the Line"

he will win: She's a lock. Look at her performance — two past winners (Judi Dench in 1998's "Shakespeare in Love" and Charlize Theron for 2003's "Monster"), as yet unproven talent (Keira Knightley) and the largely untouted Felicity Huffman. Aside from Knightley's "Pride and Prejudice," nobody has seen any of the films (Dench's "Mrs. Henderson Presents," Theron's "North Country" and Huffman's "Transamerica"), which gives Witherspoon a major publicity boost. Plus, she's usually pretty good as June Carter in "Walk the Line," which makes this one of the most contestable categories in the show.

ould win: Reese Witherspoon, "Walk the Line"
he should win: Again, lack of competition. Huffman's performance in "Transamerica" has been praised, but it's not as good as a good actress in a bad film. Witherspoon's dead-on performance as June Carter was one of the most notable of the year, as she even overshadowed fellow lead Joaquin Phoenix as Johnny Cash.

Best Supporting Actor
Who will win: Paul Giamatti, "Cinderella Man"
Why he will win: Consider it a consolation prize. Giamatti has been snubbed time and time again by the Academy (he didn't even get nominated for last year's "Sideways"), so they'll compensate him with a statuette this year. It's not the performance of his career, but his turn as fast-talking manager Joe was one of the highlights of "Cinderella Man." If he wins, he deserves it, more of a make-up award for "Cinderella Man" and "American Splendor."

ould win: Matt Dillon, "Crash"
he should win: Yes, that Matt Dillon. His performance as bigot cop Jack Ryan is subtle and deep — surprising and funny from the guy who was in "Wild Things" and "There's Something About a Girl." In a fantastic ensemble cast that includes Don Cheadle, Terrence Howard and Cuba Gooding Jr., Dillon stood tall above them, dominating his scenes and allowing the film to linger. He gives his character depth and provides the crux of Haggis' story.

Best Supporting Actress
Will win: Rachel Weisz, "The Constant Gardener"
he will win: Weisz was one of the best things about Fernando Meirelles' largely inconsistent "The Constant Gardener." Her steady performance as the activist Tessa gave the film an emotional anchor and she brought strong emotional impact to the difficult role. Weisz, whose previous credits include "The Mummy" and "Envy," has emerged as the leading critical favorite after a win at the Golden Globes. An acting award here would also be an award for "The Constant Gardener" as a whole, which failed to garner any other major nominations.

Who should win: Catherine Keener, "Capote"
Why she should win: This was a tough, tough call. Keener is an excellent actress, veering from comedy ("The 40 Year-Old Virgin") to drama seemingly at ease. Her turn as "To Kill a Mockingbird" author Harper Lee was touchingly sensitive without being cloying. Does Keener deserve the award more than Weisz? The fact is that Keener is in a better film, and that makes her performance stand out more. None of the actresses in this category dominated their picture (Weisz alongside Ralph Fiennes, Keener alongside Hoffman, Michelle Williams alongside Ledger), but Keener held her own against Hoffman, which is no small feat. She did the same against Steve Carrell in "The 40 Year-Old Virgin," which, while slightly easier than playing against Hoffman, is still difficult.

Best Adapted Screenplay
Who will win: Larry McMurtry and Diana Ossana, "Brokeback Mountain"
Why they will win: This is a tough call. The screenplay for "Brokeback Mountain" has been mocked almost as much as it has been praised, but it is still a solid achievement. The writing is generally good, aside from a few poor lines (all of which apparently made it into the film's trailer). McMurtry is a Pulitzer Prize-winner, which should give him some leverage with Academy voters who like his prestige factor.
Who should win: Dan Futterman, "Capote"
Why he should win: Futterman's screenplay for "Capote" is about as measured and exquisite as they come. Overshadowed by Hoffman's performance, it's easy to forget just how well written this film is — yet the skillful dialogue and strong characterization is evident throughout. Futterman, who was also executive producer of the film, is better known as an actor (he starred in "The Birdcage" and the TV show "Judging Amy") but it's obvious that he could have quite the career in screenwriting.

Best Original Screenplay

Who will win: Paul Haggis and Bobby Moresco, "Crash"

Why they will win: Quentin Tarantino once quipped that the screenplay Oscar is the consolation prize for being the hippest film of the year. And no film was hipper than "Crash," with its interlocking storylines, clever dialogue and topical subject matter. Haggis' script for "Million Dollar Baby" lost to Alexander Payne's "Sideways" last year, so expect a win here for the talented writer/director.

Who should win: George Clooney and Grant Heslov, "Good Night, and Good Luck"

Why they should win: Clooney and Heslov's acute, insightful screenplay isn't as flashy as Haggis' work on "Crash," but it is

in many ways more impressive. The examination of McCarthy-era hypocrisy is subtle and shaded ("Crash," for all its many attributes, is anything but subtle). Unlike many of the other nominees in this category, "Good Night and Good Luck" survives on the strength of its words alone. The writing

handles a controversial topic with grace, fortitude and even a little style.

Oscar Oversights

◆ "Star Wars Episode III: Revenge of the Sith" received only a single nomination, for Best Makeup, inexplicably failing to garner even a Best Visual Effects nomination (marking the first "Star Wars" film to not receive even an Effects nomination).

◆ David Cronenberg's "A History of Violence" failed to receive a Best Picture nomination or a Best Director nomination.

◆ Ron Howard's "Cinderella Man," a box office disappointment during its summer release, received no nomination for Best Picture, Best Actor (Russell Crowe) or Best Director.

◆ Terrence Malick's "The New World" received no major nominations. It also failed to garner a nomination for James Horner's excellent score.

◆ Woody Allen's "Match Point," praised by critics as his finest in years, was nominated for Best Original Screenplay but no other major awards.

◆ Fernando Meirelles' "The Constant Gardener" received only an acting nomination, for lead Rachel Weisz, overlooking lead Ralph Fiennes.

◆ Peter Jackson's "King Kong" received no major nominations.

◆ Christopher Nolan's "Batman Begins" received only a single nomination, for Best Cinematography.

Contact Brian Duxtader at bduxtade@nd.edu

Oscar Odds

Best Picture

"Brokeback Mountain"	1/10
"Capote"	12/1
"Crash"	1/1
"Good Night, and Good Luck"	15/1
"Munich"	7/1

Best Actor

Philip Seymour Hoffman	1/9
"Capote"	
Terrence Howard	10/1
"Hustle & Flow"	
Heath Ledger	5/1
"Brokeback Mountain"	
Joaquin Phoenix	14/5
"Walk the Line"	
David Strathairn	38/1
"Good Night, and Good Luck"	

Best Actress

Judi Dench	25/1
"Mrs. Henderson Presents"	
Felicity Huffman	2/1
"Transamerica"	
Keira Knightley	22/1
"Pride & Prejudice"	
Charlize Theron	26/1
"North Country"	
Reese Witherspoon	1/6
"Walk the Line"	

Best Supporting Actor

George Clooney	2/3
"Syriana"	
Matt Dillon	8/1
"Crash"	
Paul Giamatti	1/3
"Cinderella Man"	
Jake Gyllenhaal	3/1
"Brokeback Mountain"	
William Hurt	20/1
"A History of Violence"	

Best Supporting Actress

Amy Adams	7/2
"Junebug"	
Catherine Keener	12/1
"Capote"	
Frances McDormand	13/1
"North Country"	
Rachel Weisz	1/4
"The Constant Gardener"	
Michelle Williams	4/1
"Brokeback Mountain"	

Best Director

Ang Lee	1/17
"Brokeback Mountain"	
Bennett Miller	22/1
"Capote"	
Paul Haggis	20/1
"Crash"	
George Clooney	15/2
"Good Night, and Good Luck"	
Steven Spielberg	9/2
"Munich"	

Odds Courtesy of www.bodog.com

2003



Best Picture:
"The Return of the King"
Best Director:
Peter Jackson
"The Return of the King"

2004



Best Picture:
"Million Dollar Baby"
Best Director:
Clint Eastwood
"Million Dollar Baby"

SCENE FEATURE

Cinematic combat: Hollywood's modern warfare

By SEAN SWEANY
Scene Writer

Plato once famously said, "Only the dead have seen an end to war." For film fans, this means there will never be an end to war movies.

Since the invention of cinema, war films have come in various types and styles. With the arrival of computer technology, war films about contemporary war have undergone broad transformations in the years before and after the turn of the twentieth century.

The Thin Red Line (1998)

This serious, brooding film from Terrence Malick details the ordeals, emotions and struggles of a young band of Marines fighting at Guadalcanal during World War II. Sean Penn headlines the all-star cast that also includes Adrien Brody, George Clooney and John C. Reilly. As with every other Malick film, "The Thin Red Line" is clearly his brainchild, a film he spent many years developing. Malick's cinematography is both superb and unique, especially in battle scenes. The most distinctive feature is the film's slow pace. The three-hour-long movie uses numerous flashbacks that highlight the difference between war and home and ultimately question the pain and evil associated with war.

Three Kings (1999)

"Three Kings" can best be described as a comedic war movie. It begins at the end of the Gulf War, when three American soldiers try to find and steal Saddam Hussein's gold amid the turmoil

and confusion at the end of Operation Desert Storm. The war scenes provide realistic and authentic visuals, and the comedy stems from good performances from Clooney, Mark Wahlberg and even rapper-turned-actor Ice Cube. Director David O. Russell crafts a movie that is smart and intelligent, and he manages to provide a good moral lesson at the end. There is also a distinct style to "Three Kings," a gritty, bleached feel that makes the viewing experience visceral and powerful, as if one were really living and fighting in the sands of Iraq.

Black Hawk Down (2001)

Ridley Scott's "Black Hawk Down" relates how a standard U.S. military operation in Mogadishu, Somalia went terribly wrong on Oct. 3, 1993. The acclaimed director assembled a stand-out cast featuring Josh Hartnett, Ewan McGregor and Eric Bana in this intense and bloody film. Unlike most other war movies, "Black Hawk Down" completely forgoes any political or cultural pretenses and depicts events strictly from the point of view of the soldiers. During filming, Scott created a 360-degree war with pyrotechnics and used dozens of hidden cameras to film the reactions of the actors. As a result, the actors exhibit a genuine fear that viewers can feel and comprehend. This film is so successful because of the frankness with which it allows viewers to experience both the horrors and heroics of war.

Saving Private Ryan (1998)

Without doubt the best war movie in recent history — and perhaps the greatest war film of all time — Steven Spielberg's "Saving Private Ryan" is a



Photo courtesy of movieweb.com

Steven Spielberg's "Saving Private Ryan" is commonly considered one of the finest war films of all time. It set a new standard for realism in the war picture.

masterpiece. Tom Hanks is the leader of a military unit that must venture behind enemy lines to rescue a comrade after experiencing the dread of the D-Day invasion at Normandy. The opening minutes of the film constitute some of the most graphic war footage ever, and a constantly moving camera adds to the total chaos of the situation.

After the surreal D-Day invasion, "Saving Private Ryan" becomes a character study of men at war who must decide whether orders from distant superiors are moral and feasible. Incredible performances by all the actors, especially Hanks, dominate the

rest of the movie and leave viewers pondering powerful themes and questions long after the movie ends.

While it is possible to debate whether a good war film must either be for or against war, it may be more accurate to say that good war films depict characters with whom an audience can sympathize and relate.

Films like these four allow viewers to experience war realistically in order to understand and discuss its implications beyond the walls of a theater or living room.

Contact Sean Sweany at ssweany@nd.edu

MOVIE REVIEW

Human characters fail to eclipse canine standards

By ERIN MCGINN
Scene Critic

"Eight Below" is an inspirational story with a very strong message — animals are far better actors than humans.

The movie is based on a true story from 1957. A fierce blizzard forced two Japanese scientists to evacuate their station, and the helicopter that took them to their ship didn't have room for their 15 sled dogs. The scientists were so certain a rescue team would be back soon that they chained the dogs to posts. But the storm made the rescue impossible. When the scientists finally got a ride back 11 months later, they were shocked and thrilled to find two of the dogs had freed themselves and survived.

"Antarctica," Koreyoshi Kurahara's 1983 movie about the event, was a big hit in Japan, but American producers found it too dark. Frank Marshall, better known for his other survival movie, "Alive," about the Uruguayan rugby team, was chosen to direct this new version. Under his guidance, the dog crew shrank from 15, to eight, and the survival rate rose.

The expedition is also updated to take place in 1993, conducted by American scientists. Gerry Shepherd (Paul Walker) works in Antarctica as a guide for a research and exploration facility. He has a team of amazing sled dogs, each with their own personality.

When geologist Dr. McLaren (Bruce Greenwood, "Thirteen Days") hires Gerry to take him to a remote mountain region, they get caught in a killer snowstorm, and McLaren gets badly hurt. Thanks to the heroic dogs, McLaren survives, and both men make it back to the base camp.

The eight dogs are then left behind when the exploration team has to suddenly make an emergency evacuation. Gerry agrees to leave them because he thinks it's only going to be hours before they can return for the dogs, but a second trip turns out to be impossible — and so begins the saga of the dogs' survival.

The movie switches back and forth between Gerry's efforts to return for his dogs and the story of the brave dog team's fight to survive alone in the wilderness. The film is at its best when it goes to the dogs. Not only are they

Eight Below



Director: Frank Marshall
Writers: David Digilio and Mike Rich
Starring: Paul Walker, Jason Biggs, Bruce Greenwood and Wendy Crewson

the beautiful backdrop of Antarctica (which was actually filmed in Canada and Greenland). Their struggles on the ice, complete with a ferocious attack by a leopard seal, are reminiscent of the highly successful "March of the Penguins."

The people, not the animals, are where this movie falls to pieces. None of the characters ever experience any



Photo courtesy of movieweb.com

Paul Walker stars in Frank Marshall's "Eight Below." The film is interesting when it concentrates on the dogs, but loses steam due to lack of characterization.

real development — they only serve to take the action away from the dogs and make the movie run longer than it should. While Walker isn't bad as the scientist Shepard, he also isn't very convincing in his role.

There is also an undeveloped and pointless love interest between him and the pilot, played by Moon Bloodgood. Jason Biggs is Walker's friend on the research team and is meant to provide comic relief, but serves instead as a good indicator of when it is safe to go

to the bathroom or refill a tub of popcorn.

With a little tweaking "Eight Below" could have been a great movie — namely if they edited out the people and let the movie be strictly about the dogs. But overall, "Eight Below" is a good movie worth watching for the endearing performances of the eight dogs.

Contact Erin McGinn at emcginn@nd.edu

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BENGAL BOUTS

Schaefer dominates Albonetti in quarterfinals

By GREG ARBOGAST and
JAY FITZPATRICK
Sports Writers

Senior Greg Schaefer dominated his fight with graduate student Phil Albonetti, as he earned a unanimous decision victory in the 160-pound weight division Tuesday.

Schaefer was the more aggressive of the two fighters, and he had Albonetti on the defensive for the entire evening. Schaefer was able to land repeated combos as Albonetti often retreated after the initial punch.

Schaefer was often able to pin Albonetti into the corner, which allowed him to unleash some of his combos. In the third round, the ref had to stop the fight at one point to allow Albonetti to recover from one of Schaefer's combos.

Charlie Gough vs. Andrew Massari

Senior Charlie Gough finished strongly in his fight with freshman Andrew Massari to earn a unanimous decision in the 165-pound weight division.

In the final round, Gough took over a fight that was fairly even through the first two rounds as he consistently landed punches on Massari. Near the end of the round, Gough landed a combo that caused Massari to start bleeding and forced the ref to stop the fight.

Gough continued this momentum immediately after the timeout as he landed multiple punches to the face of Massari right before the bell rang signaling the end of the match.

Christopher Jordan vs. Adam Burns

Junior Adam Burns used an aggressive style to narrowly defeat sophomore Christopher Jordan by a split decision in their 165-pound division fight.

Burns opened the fight quickly as he threw a furious combination of punches, landing a couple to the body and face. Jordan countered by using his long reach, which allowed him to land consistent punches. The ref had to stop the fight twice.

Burns, however, continued to land punches throughout the fight, including a final combo right before the final bell rang. The ref had to stop the fight once in the third round to check on Jordan.

Stephen Hansen vs. Brad Amiri

Junior Stephen Hansen dominated MBA student Brad Amiri as Hansen won a unanimous decision in the 165-pound weight division.

sion.

Hansen was on the attack all night, repeatedly forcing his opponent into a defensive position on the ropes. Amiri often succumbed helplessly to vicious combos from Hansen, and the judges easily awarded the victory to Hansen.

Mike Hazlebeck v. Billy Hederman

Law student Billy Hederman defeated sophomore Mike Hazlebeck by knockout in the second round in the last quarterfinal of the 165-pound weight class.

Hazlebeck started off punching very frenetically, throwing many punches but only landing a few of them. Hederman took advantage of Hazlebeck's wild punching and went on the attack. While Hazlebeck danced around the ring, Hederman waited stoically in the middle, defending himself while landing his own onslaught.

By the second round, Hazlebeck had taken a good deal of punishment, leading the referee to stop the fight.

Brian Nicholson v. Stephen "The Wrecker" Klein

Law student Brian Nicholson used his height and his aggressive nature to defeat junior Stephen "The Wrecker" Klein in a unanimous decision in the first 170-pound quarterfinal.

In the first round, Klein was able to get in close and tried combinations and uppercuts, but was unable to overwhelm his opponent. Nicholson came out aggressively in the second round, using an onslaught of various combinations to take the upper hand in the bout.

Michael "The Liberator" O'Connely v. Gregory "Busta" Brown

Senior Michael "The Liberator" O'Connely was able to avoid a strong attack from Gregory "Busta" Brown in the first round and came back to win the fight by knockout early in the third round.

Brown attacked O'Connely with an almost constant onslaught in the first round, but his punches were so wild that it appeared that not even Brown knew where they were going to land. Luckily for Brown, many of these early attacks did connect, but not enough to give him the clear advantage in the fight.

Early in the third round, O'Connely resumed his attacks on Brown, so much so that the referee had to stop the fight in the third in a knockout victory for O'Connely.

Jeffrey Schaal v. O'Neil "Prime

Time" Peart

Junior O'Neil "Prime Time" Peart was able to stay competitive at the start of his fight with senior Jeffrey Schaal, but quickly lost control of the round and the fight, losing by a knockout in the third.

Schaal showed his agility and quickness throughout the fight, dancing around Peart, who stood in the center of the ring. The junior was able to move in and out quickly, delivering his attack and while not letting Peart counter. He used this advantage throughout the round, easily hitting Peart hard in the head and body.

Peart was lucky enough to make it to the third round, as he was saved by the bell in each of the first two rounds, but could not escape the third, when he was knocked out.

Brian Kantar v. Andrew Breslin

In the final quarterfinal of the 170 pound weight class, senior Andrew Breslin delivered an enormous uppercut in the second round to defeat freshman Brian Kantar.

Breslin had tried to use his uppercuts earlier in the first round, but Kantar was too quick for him, countering with quick jabs. The first was a relatively equal match, with the two fighters trading punches throughout the round.

But the freshman could do nothing to defend himself from the knockout punch in the second, after which the referee was compelled to stop the fight, giving the win to Kantar.

Daniel "Pound Town" Ward v. Andy "Doogie" Houser

The first fight in the 180 pound division was a blowout by junior Daniel "Pound Town" Ward over fellow junior Andy "Doogie" Houser.

Ward had the clear advantage in height, speed and strength, and merely toyed with Houser for three rounds. Almost none of Houser's punches landed because Ward was able to block or dodge most of them. Ward would then attack Houser quickly and move away to avoid any counterattack.

Robert Lochridge v. Brian Bylica

The bout between seniors Robert Lochridge and Brian Bylica featured wild, frantic punching by both fighters, resulting in a split decision win for Lochridge.

Lochridge and Bylica traded punches for much of the first round, but Lochridge took the advantage by working Bylica's body at the end of the round. Brian fought back throughout the

second, forcing Lochridge to go on the defensive, including being forced by the referee to have a standing eight count.

In a relatively equal third round, Lochridge was the slightly better fighter and won in a split decision.

Jeffrey "The Golenator" Golen v. Ben O'Brien

Despite throwing many big punches, sophomore Ben O'Brien lost to senior Jeffrey "The Golenator" Golen in a unanimous decision.

One of the biggest assets for Golen in the fight was O'Brien's inaccuracy, which left him wide open to counterattacks. In the second round, O'Brien was able to slightly even things up, but Golen was still stronger throughout the round.

Eric Retter v. Daniel Stypula

The last 180-pound quarterfinal was a sloppy fight between juniors Eric Retter and Daniel Stypula, one that Stypula won in a split decision.

The two traded punches throughout the fight, but many of the punches thrown were highly inaccurate. Retter started off strong in the second round, chasing Stypula around the ring, but was not able to take a clear advantage over his opponent due to a high rate of missed punches. Retter was more aggressive in the third round, but Stypula was able to land several punches, giving him the win in a split decision.

Pat Bloniarz v. Peter Courtney

The first cruiserweight fight of this year's Bengal Bouts featured a knockout win for sophomore Peter Courtney over freshman Pat Bloniarz by knockout in the first.

After three consecutive big hits by Courtney, Bloniarz already was in a standing eight count, and would receive his second in the first round shortly thereafter. Courtney hit him with just a few more punches until the referee stopped the fight in the first, advancing Courtney to the semifinals.

Patrick K. Ryan v. Benford Begay

A relatively equal fight between sophomore Patrick K. Ryan and freshman Benford Begay ended abruptly in the third round when Begay went down suddenly with what appeared to be a dislocated jaw.

The fight started off in favor of Ryan, who used his height advantage to stop Begay. Begay tried to get in low against Ryan, and deliver combinations as a counterattack.

Ryan continued to work these

combinations in the second and third rounds while Begay began to fight higher, attacking Ryan's face and evening up the fight.

In the middle of the third round, Begay suddenly and quickly went to the mat, although he was not hit. The referee stopped the fight then and checked on the freshman, who stood up and was fine after being treated by the medical staff on site. Ryan was declared the winner by knockout in the third round.

Patrick McInerney v. Christopher Nanovic

The first heavyweight fight of the evening, between sophomore Patrick McInerney and junior Christopher Nanovic, was another sloppy fight characterized by wild punches.

The wild punching was mainly done by Nanovic, who swung frantically at McInerney without hitting him consistently. McInerney, on the other hand, was able to get in some big hits in the second round to gain the clear advantage. He won in a unanimous decision.

Clarence Ervin III v. Kevin Lynch

The evening's penultimate fight featured senior Clarence Ervin III knocking out law student Kevin Lynch in the third round.

Although the first round was mostly defensive, with the two boxers protecting themselves and trying to get a read on the other fighter, the second round was very aggressively fought, especially by Ervin. Ervin attacked Lynch, working the face throughout the round and forcing multiple standing eight counts. Ervin was still much stronger than Lynch in the third, and won by knockout early in the third round.

Matt "Bad to the" Bono v. John Bush

The final quarterfinal bout was a heavyweight match-up between freshman Matt "Bad to the" Bono and junior John Bush, who won the fight in a unanimous decision.

Bush started off the fight aggressively, keeping Bono at bay with his advantage in height and reach. But Bono was still able to respond somewhat by getting inside on occasion and working the body.

Bono came out strong in the third round, but was too tired from Bush's onslaught, leading to the junior's victory by unanimous decision.

Contact Greg Arbogast at
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jfitzpa5@nd.edu

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MISSING: Enchanted fiddle. Pitched by wife into cornfield during tantrum. Please return to Crowley Hall of Music. Orpheus.

Happy Ash Wednesday everybody!

Marc Mejaki, this is for you:
"Johnny's in the basement
Mixing up the medicine
I'm on the pavement
Thinking about the government
The man in the trench coat
Badge out, laid off
Says he's got a bad cough
Wants to get it paid off
Look out kid
It's somethin' you did
God knows when
But you're doin' it again
You better duck down the alley way
Lookin' for a new friend
The man in the coon-skin cap
In the big pen
Wants eleven dollar bills
You only got ten"

Kickball is a contact sport.

Watch the World Baseball Classic or else the terrorists win

Congratulations to all the Bengal Bouts fighters, but really just Litschi, Joey Leary and Duffy.
Go Big Red

Let's bring the Jeffrey Robinson Community Learning Center to ND...I heart you Joey B.

Requiem for Ken Fowler

I think animal crackers make people think that all animals taste the same. "What's a giraffe taste like?" "A hippopotamus! I had 'em back-to-back!"

ONE MORE DAY

The Observer accepts classifieds every business day from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Notre Dame office, 024 South Dining Hall. Deadline for next-day classifieds is 3 p.m. All classifieds must be prepaid. The charge is 5 cents per character per day, including all spaces. The Observer reserves the right to edit all classifieds for content without issuing refunds.

AROUND THE NATION

Wednesday, March 1, 2006

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

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NCAA Men's Basketball RPI Rankings

	team	record	previous
1	Duke	25-1	1
2	Villanova	21-2	2
3	Connecticut	23-2	4
4	Tennessee	19-4	3
5	Memphis	24-2	5
6	Pittsburgh	20-4	6
7	Ohio St.	19-4	8
8	Michigan St.	19-7	10
9	Gonzaga	23-3	12
10	Iowa	20-7	9
11	Texas	22-4	7
12	Illinois	22-4	13
13	Wisconsin	18-7	16
14	UCLA	20-6	11
15	Oklahoma	18-6	14
16	LSU	18-7	15
17	Arizona	16-10	20
18	North Carolina St.	21-5	22
19	North Carolina	17-6	23
20	George Mason	21-5	27
21	Marquette	18-8	35
22	Florida	22-4	18
23	UNI	22-6	17
24	Wichita St.	21-7	21
25	Missouri St.	18-7	25

NCAA Women's Basketball RPI Rankings

	team	record	previous
1	Tennessee	24-3	1
2	North Carolina	25-1	5
3	Duke	24-1	4
4	Connecticut	24-3	2
5	LSU	23-2	3
6	Oklahoma	23-4	6
7	Maryland	24-3	7
8	Ohio St.	23-2	9
9	Rutgers	21-3	8
10	Baylor	19-5	12
11	Arizona St.	22-5	11
12	North Carolina St.	16-10	10
13	DePaul	22-5	15
14	Virginia Tech	18-7	16
15	Georgia	18-7	18
16	Brigham Young	20-3	13
17	Old Dominion	16-7	24
18	Michigan St.	20-8	20
19	Stanford	19-6	14
20	Kentucky	19-6	17
21	St. John's (N.Y.)	19-6	23
22	Boston College	19-8	19
23	Western Ky.	20-5	25
24	New Mexico	18-7	22
25	Utah	19-5	26

NCAA Men's Basketball Big East Conference

team	conf.	overall	str.
Connecticut	12-2	25-2	Won 3
Villanova	12-2	22-3	Lost 1
West Virginia	11-4	20-8	Won 2
Pittsburgh	10-5	21-5	Lost 1
Georgetown	10-5	19-7	Won 2
Marquette	9-5	19-8	Won 3
Syracuse	7-7	19-9	Lost 1
Cincinnati	7-7	18-10	Lost 1
Seton Hall	7-7	16-10	Lost 3
Rutgers	6-9	16-12	Won 1
Louisville	5-9	17-10	Lost 1
Providence	5-9	12-13	Lost 1
St. John's (N.Y.)	5-9	12-13	Won 1
NOTRE DAME	4-10	13-12	Lost 2
DePaul	4-10	11-14	Won 1
South Florida	0-14	6-21	Lost 16

around the dial

NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL

Duke at Florida State, 6 p.m., ESPN
Texas at Texas A & M, 7 p.m., ESPN2
Utah at TCU, 9 p.m., ESPN2

NFL



NFL Commissioner Paul Tagliabue, left, speaks with New Orleans Saints coach Sean Payton on Feb. 14. Tagliabue and NFLPA executive director Gene Upshaw broke off negotiations Tuesday, three days before teams can sign free agents.

NFL labor talks deadlock, break off

Associated Press

NEW YORK — NFL labor talks broke off Tuesday three days before the start of free agency, leaving teams and players in a quandary about negotiating new contracts.

Gene Upshaw, executive director of the NFL Players Association, spent the last three days meeting in New York and Washington with commissioner Paul Tagliabue.

"We're deadlocked. There's nowhere to go," Upshaw said. "There's no reason to continue meeting."

The NFL acknowledged the talks had broken off

and said no further discussions were scheduled. The league said it would not extend Friday's deadline for the start of free agency.

Although the contract does not expire until after the 2007 season, this is a critical period in the negotiations to extend the 12-year-old agreement. Talks have been going on for more than a year.

Free agency is scheduled to start Friday. If the deal is not extended, this would be the last year with a salary cap, so agents and team officials want to know how to structure contracts.

For example, if there is no extension, the salary

cap is expected to be about \$95 million this season and annual raises after 2006 in a long-term deal would be limited to 30 percent. If the deal is extended the cap could be \$10 million or more higher.

The sides have agreed on a number of issues. The biggest one is changing the formula for the amount of money to go to the players from "designated gross revenues" — primarily television and ticket sales — to "total gross revenues," which include almost every bit of money a team generates.

They differ, however, on the percentage of revenues

to be allocated to the players — the union is asking for 60 percent and the league's current offer is 56.2 percent.

But there are also disputes among groups of owners on that issue, too. Tagliabue has called a league meeting in New York for Thursday.

Teams with lower revenues — mostly small-market clubs — say that if the contributions to the players' fund are equally apportioned among 32 franchises, they will have to pay a substantially larger proportion of their non-television and ticket monies because they have less.

IN BRIEF

Federer breezes by first-round opponent

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Top-ranked Roger Federer returned from a month's vacation and began his bid for a fourth straight Dubai Open title Tuesday, beating Stanislaus Wawrinka 7-6 (3), 6-3 in an all-Swiss match in the first round.

Also advancing was second-ranked Rafael Nadal, who defeated beat France's Paul-Henri Mathieu 6-7 (5), 6-1, 6-2.

Federer has been resting in his hometown of Oberwill since winning the Australian Open in January. He said Wawrinka pressured him into several unforced errors.

"I am quite pleased with the way I played," Federer said. "I really don't care about the bad shots as long as the end result is fine."

Federer, a seven-time Grand Slam champion, will next play 488th-ranked Kuwaiti wild card Mohammed Al Ghareeb.

Primeau says season over after head injury

VOORHEES, N.J. — Keith Primeau promised his wife he wouldn't break down while talking about the premature end of his season because of lingering symptoms from a concussion four months ago.

He had good reason to keep his word. His wife, Lisa, threatened to come into the news conference from a nearby room and smack him on the head if he became too emotional.

"That's probably not what I can use right now," Primeau said Tuesday, cracking a brief smile.

Primeau won't be taking any whacks to the head on the ice any time soon. The Philadelphia Flyers captain is done for the season, still feeling the effects of an Oct. 25 hit from Montreal's Alexander Perezhogin, the latest and most severe in a list of head injuries the center has sustained in a 15-year career.

Autistic hoopster returns to the bench

GREECE, N.Y. — Alone in the gym after practice, Jason McElwain went through his elaborate pregame ritual.

The 17-year-old senior, manager of the Greece Athena High School basketball team, drained a 3-pointer, a double-pump layup and a free throw, kissed the back of his ring finger at center court and sped off to the dressing room to exhort and amuse his teammates.

"You've gotta give it everything you got!" McElwain sang in rap verse. "The winner goes home all happy/The loser goes home and says/Mommy we lost the game, wah wah wah!"

McElwain, who is autistic, was back in his role as an all-around motivator on the eve of a sectional semifinal game Tuesday night — handing out water bottles, dispensing tips, helping run drills.

NFL DRAFT

Vandy quarterback impresses experts

Cutler wows scouts at pre-draft combine

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Jay Cutler will be leaving Vanderbilt with much more than an excellent education.

Cutler, who was Indiana's Class 3A All-State quarterback in 2000 at Heritage Hills, is the current hot topic of the NFL draft, shooting so far up the charts after a strong performance at the combine that some analysts now consider him the top quarterback available — ahead of even Matt Leinart and Vince Young.

A quarterback from Vanderbilt? Traditionally, the worst team in the Southeastern Conference? A program that last had a quarterback drafted in 1990 — in the long-defunct 12th round?

Now you know why Cutler was determined not only to attend the combine that concluded earlier this week, but also answer every question and run every drill.

"With Matt and Vince not working out, the spotlight wasn't going to be on them. It was going to have to go somewhere else. That was the reason I wanted to step up and throw and get some of that media attention and kind of ride that wave a little bit," the SEC player of the year said Tuesday.

"You want to try to keep your name positive in the media as much as possible up until the draft."

So what if he nearly rallied the Commodores to victory in double overtime at Florida or beat Tennessee last November for Vandy's first victory in the series since 1982? Young almost single-handedly led Texas to a national championship last season. Leinart left USC with two national titles and a Heisman Trophy on his resume.

But the 6-foot-3, 223-pound Cutler from the southern Indiana town of Santa Claus has a strong arm and was smart enough to be accepted by the SEC's only private university, a picky school that turned down future NBA

player Ron Mercer.

Cutler started wowing coaches and scouts at the Senior Bowl with his strong arm and decision-making. Not working out at the combine wasn't much of a consideration, and it's paid off with NFL Network analyst Mike Mayock calling Cutler the top quarterback in the draft.

"He's a fan of mine, so I'm a fan of his," Cutler said.

Other raves came from Sean Payton, the new coach of the New Orleans Saints, who hold the No. 2 pick overall. He compared Cutler to a young Brett Favre.

"It's an honor to be linked to someone [Brett Favre] at that level."

Jay Cutler
Vanderbilt quarterback

"It's an honor to be linked to someone at that level," said Cutler, who spoke to Favre before signing with his agent, Bus Cook. "He's one of the best quarterbacks

ever. But I've got a long way to go before that comparison is going to be a reality."

The idea that Cutler might be among the first five draft picks hasn't hit him yet. Vanderbilt's best-known quarterback drafted by the NFL was Bill Wade, the top pick in 1952.

BOXING

Mayorga vies for WBC title

De La Hoya ready to defend his WBC belt

Associated Press

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. — With their fight more than two months away, Oscar De La Hoya and Ricardo Mayorga are tuning up with some verbal sparring.

The 33-year-old De La Hoya has said he hopes to close out his career with the May 6 bout against Mayorga, and a grand finale against either Floyd Mayweather Jr. or Felix Trinidad in September.

Mayorga, a wild-swinging WBC champion from Managua, Nicaragua, talked a great game on Tuesday, saying that he intends to spoil De La Hoya's plans.

"This clown sitting here to my right has disrespected me," the animated Mayorga said at a news conference. "He keeps saying that he's going to be fighting in September or October, like he's fighting a nobody in May."

"I'm the champion. You've got to recognize that. My strongest hand is my right hand. You see his eye? I'm going to detach his retina," Mayorga said through a translator.

"I recognize that at one point that you were a great champion. But I'm going to prove on May 6 that you have nothing left in the tank. You remind me



Don King and Ricardo Mayorga pose at a press conference Tuesday. Mayorga will face Oscar De La Hoya May 6 in Las Vegas.

of an old lady that's past her prime that should be sitting home in a rocking chair doing nothing."

De La Hoya sat staring coldly at Mayorga.

At one point, after Mayorga said he was going to bust up De La Hoya's face, the two traded shoves before others quickly stepped in to separate them.

When De La Hoya's time at the podium came, he spoke in a measured tone.

"This will be," he said and then took a long pause, "the fight of my life. I've never had

any anger toward anybody, or disrespect, except for one man out there who got knocked out," De La Hoya said, ostensibly alluding to Fernando Vargas. "This guy here, May 6, believe me, he will get knocked out."

"He's throwing fuel at the flame. I'm not a talker at all, but inside the ring, he's going to pay."

Again staring at Mayorga, De La Hoya added, "I'm not afraid of you at all, nothing. Fighters are not afraid. But inside the ring, I'm going to knock you out. Believe it."

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BOTH GAMES AT LOFTUS SPORTS CENTER

Friars

continued from page 24

The Irish must win tonight at Providence and Sunday at home against DePaul to earn six wins and a Big East tournament berth.

The Friars (12-13, 5-9 in the Big East) are fighting for a postseason life of their own behind leading scorer and senior guard Donnie McGrath (15.4 Big East average) and freshman guard Sharaud Curry, who led Providence with 24 points and seven assists in an 81-68 loss to Pittsburgh Saturday.

If the season ended today, the Friars would be the 12th and final team in the Big East tournament. But Notre Dame won the first meeting of the two teams, 92-77, on Jan. 14 at the Joyce Center.

Providence will secure a conference tournament berth if it beats Notre Dame tonight —

regardless of the outcome of its game against Marquette March 5 — because the Friars would have at least six wins and would win tiebreakers if necessary with the loser of the Rutgers vs. St. John's game March 5 and with DePaul.

"For both teams, the Big East tournament starts Wednesday," Brey said. "Both teams know what's on the line."

Notre Dame also knew what was on the line last Saturday, but the Irish came out flat, and point guard Chris Quinn and shooting guard Colin Falls never got going on offense. Marquette capitalized and handed Notre Dame its most lopsided defeat, statistically, of its Big East season, 80-72.

Providence plays a similar style to Marquette. The Friars

look to open the floor and push the ball early and often, establishing their own tempo against opponents. Brey said Monday he was concerned about Notre Dame's transition defense, which allowed Marquette to start Saturday's game shooting 6-of-8 from the field.

In contrast to Saturday's performance, Quinn and Falls could not miss when the Irish played Providence last in the 92-77 victory Jan. 14. Quinn (11-of-14) and Falls (8-of-12) combined for 55 points and shot 10-of-16 from the 3-

point arc.

Notre Dame averages almost exactly 10 points more than Providence in Big East games. The Irish lead the league in scoring average (79.4), while the Friars are seventh (69.5).

"For both teams, the Big East tournament starts Wednesday."

Mike Brey
Irish head coach

Brey said Monday he feels Providence is more confident heading into its Senior Night because its younger players have gained experience in Big East play. And while Notre Dame has bounced back from defeats all year to play with top conference opponents, the Irish are on a two-game losing streak.

Some critics point to Notre Dame's 4-10 conference record and see 10 losses for a bottom-level conference team. Other critics believe Notre Dame is good but unlucky, dropping its first nine losses only by a combined 32 points.

But Irish forward Torin Francis put the losses and the season in perspective Monday as his team heads into the home stretch.

"It's 10 losses," said Francis, who is third in the Big East in rebounds per game (9.6). "The fact that we're good enough to possibly have won any of those games doesn't change the fact that we have 10 losses. But

that's in the past ... After a frustrating loss, you have to get over it and look forward to the next game.

"We had a hard, frustrating loss against Marquette. It was at home. They swept us in the series. But we're over it. We're looking forward to getting a win [tonight]."

Notes

♦ Quinn has been named to the National Association of Basketball Coaches Association (NABC) District 10 team. He was chosen from among 150 players in 15 districts for the team, joining Terence Dials (Ohio State), Marco Killingsworth (Indiana), Eric Hicks (Cincinnati) and Brian Thornton (Xavier) on the five-man team.

The selection makes Quinn eligible for national team honors that will be announced following the season.

Contact Pat Leonard at pleonard@nd.edu



Eurydice caught decorating Arlstaesus' cottage!

INSIDE:

Orpheus' "instrument" drives Eurydice to distraction!

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Shutout

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team. The win also ties the program with its best start — at 10 wins — since becoming a Division 1 program in 1985-86. Notre Dame (10-0) began the contest by claiming its 10th consecutive doubles point this season.

"It's amazing that we are all playing so well and confidently," senior Kiki Stastny said. "We're just clicking right now ... it's just been so much fun for all of us."

The first Irish match finished was the No. 29 pairing of sophomore Brook Buck and freshman Kelcy Tefft with an 8-4 triumph over the Hoosiers' Brianna Williams and Sigrid Fischer at No. 2. The Irish twosome is 9-1 this season after last weekend's loss to Wisconsin's Caitlin Burke and Nicole Beck.

The next finished was Notre Dame's No. 49 senior duo of Stastny and captain Lauren

Connelly, who beat Indiana's Cecile Pertion and Alba Berdala Caitlin 8-2 at No. 2 and secured the doubles points.

The Irish completed the sweep when the nationally ranked No. 2 pairing of juniors Catrina and Christian Thompson defeated Sarah Batty and Laura McGaffigan 8-4. The victory marked the return of Catrina Thompson after being sidelined against Wisconsin Sunday due to a wrist injury.

"[Catrina Thompson] is so mentally tough that she's able to play through anything," Stastny said. "She's able to keep distractions away and focus on what needs to be done. I'm so proud of her because she is a true fighter."

Sophomore Bailey Louderback said she looks forward to seeing just how successful the team will be later in the season in doubles.

"We are so deep in doubles that I don't see us losing all season," Louderback said. "But we are not going to look past any teams."

In singles, No. 28 Catrina Thompson recorded a 6-3, 6-4

win over Batty at No. 1. The win improved Thompson's record to 14-6 on the season.

No. 2 Christian Thompson topped McGaffigan 6-3, 6-1, then No. 3 Buck recorded a 6-1, 6-0 win over Williams and now stands at 12-6 on the season.

Tefft continued the trend with a 6-2, 6-4 win at No. 4 over Berdala, a freshman from Spain.

The win at No. 5 came from an intense third set tiebreaker from Stastny, who rallied back after being down one set in the match. This marks the second consecutive third set tiebreaker the senior has won after defeating Wisconsin's Elizabeth Carpenter 6-3, 4-6, 1-0 (11-9) Sunday.

"[Third set tiebreakers] are challenging, but I feel so confident going into them," Stastny said. "I've had a pretty good record [this season] when playing them."

Freshman Katie Potts completed the sweep for the Irish with a 6-3, 6-3 victory over the Hoosiers' Pertion.

The Irish return to play Sunday, facing Illinois at the Eck Tennis Pavilion at 11 a.m.

Contact Dan Tapetillo at jtapetil@nd.edu



PHIL HUDELSON/The Observer

Irish freshman Kelcy Tefft hits a shot during the team's 7-0 home win over Indiana Tuesday at Eck Tennis Pavillion.

Baldwin

continued from page 24

Notre Dame's eighth top-six finish in 11 tournaments under coach Jim Kubinski.

Tuesday's tournament, however, belonged to the tri-captain Baldwin. Dedication this tournament to his father, who passed away during Christmas break, Baldwin shot a six-under par 210 (72-69-69), tying his career low and giving him the second-best three rounds in Notre Dame history.

Baldwin's score was good enough to put him in a fourth place tie in Naples. But for the Irish senior, the weekend was more important than a golf tournament.

"It was a test of faith," Baldwin said. "When facing adversity, I

just had to have faith in my ability to turn things around very quickly, and that's what I did."

Baldwin turned things around just about as fast as anyone in the tournament.

Through seven holes in Monday's first round, he was playing near-bogey golf, shooting five-over par.

"If I had just played even over the first seven holes, I would have won the tournament," Baldwin said.

Baldwin settled down after that and played solid golf. His recovery was important given his desire to play the tournament in remembrance of his father.

"I dedicated this tournament to my dad," he said. "He passed away over Christmas and this would have been his birthday."

With that on his mind, Baldwin gave his father a birthday pres-

ent he would have been proud of.

"I guess his birthday present was the 12 birdies," said Baldwin, who is entering his fourth and final season for the Irish.

If Baldwin has it his way, he'll be able to dedicate a bit more than 12 birdies to his dad later this spring.

"We, as a team, obviously want to reach the ultimate goal — the National Championship," Baldwin said. "This was just the beginning of our championship run."

Kubinski was equally opti-

mistic about the upcoming season. While he was able to pinpoint a few negatives from the tournament such as Notre Dame's decision-making and bogies throughout the round, Kubinski feels all the Irish need is just to get the rust from the long winter off.

"I think we just need to get a few tournaments under our belt," Kubinski said. "By the time the Big East Championships roll around, we'll be feeling a lot better about how we're playing."

Contact Joe Quinn at jquinn6@nd.edu

"When facing adversity, I just had to have faith in my ability to turn things around."

Mark Baldwin
Irish senior

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Bouts

continued from page 24

victory from sophomore Chris Izaguirre.

Both fighters started quickly, but it was Izaguirre who led throughout the match. A strong series of combinations temporarily stopped the fight in the second round. Navare altered his strategy and was able to land a few punches early in the third round by pinning his opponent against the ropes, but the effort was not enough to hold back Izaguirre, who was able to work his way out of trouble and stay in control.

James "The Beast from the Beach" Carlson vs. Josef-Dmytro "Fun Size" Aponte

After a strong start, second year law student Josef-Dmytro "Fun Size" Aponte fell to sophomore James "The Beast from the Beach" Carlson.

"Fun Size" kept Carlson along the ropes early in the second round but a series of strong rights soon took away the law student's advantage. Carlson outlasted Aponte in the third round as he struggled to protect his face, allowing "The Beast from the Beach" to land enough punches to secure a split decision.

David Rowinski vs. John Biddle

Sophomore John Biddle upset junior David Rowinski with a unanimous victory in the next fight using a slight height advantage and a steady helping of jabs.

Rowinski began the first round with a quick flurry, but was kept on the defensive for much of the remainder of the fight. In the closing seconds, Biddle finished with multiple right hooks that won him a chance to fight in the semifinals next week.

Anthony "The Desire" Steler vs. Kris "El Azteca" Perez

In the next bout, senior Anthony "The Desire" Steler faced off against second-seeded freshman Kris "El Azteca" Perez.

Perez — the quicker of the two fighters — flew around the ring, trapping his opponent in the corners on several occasions in the first and second rounds. "El Azteca" went for the kill in the third, and halfway through the final round he landed a huge left hook that knocked Steler to the canvas for good. The knockout win was the first of the night.

Jason "The Jackhammer" Rodulfa vs. Patrick "Homewrecker" Garrison

Sophomore Patrick "Homewrecker" Garrison won a unanimous decision against freshman Jason "The Jackhammer" Rodulfa.

Garrison started the fight with a few strong right hooks that got Rodulfa on the run for the remainder of the first round. With standing eight counts in both the first and second rounds, "Homewrecker" had a strong lead going into the third. He kept the pressure on by staying aggressive throughout the third round and came out with the unanimous victory.

James Drath vs. Lawrence "The Boston Massacre" Sullivan

Two Fishermen faced off in the next bout as freshman James Drath took on sopho-

more Lawrence "The Boston Massacre" Sullivan.

Sullivan got out to an early advantage by throwing a set of combinations in the first round that kept Drath from doing any serious damage. Drath retaliated early in the second round, but "The Boston Massacre" was able to regain his momentum as he landed a crushing uppercut at the conclusion. The final round continued to go in Sullivan's favor as he shook up Drath and drew a standing eight count in the closing seconds to take the unanimous victory.

Michael "Soldier" Schmitt vs. Brian "Mad Dog" Desplinter

Senior Michael "Soldier" Schmitt used his experience to win a unanimous decision over freshman Brian "Mad Dog" Desplinter, as his speed helped overcome a slight height disadvantage for the win.

In the first round Desplinter was able to sprinkle in a few strong punches, but "Soldier" held the advantage from bell to bell, continuously backing his opponent into a corner. Schmitt's aggressive style kept "Mad Dog" from mounting any kind of a comeback in the later rounds, as he had to spend most of his time defending himself from the constant blows. Schmitt moves on to the semifinals with the unanimous decision.

Calvin Evangelista vs. Michael "Just Call Me Merck" Hennig

Junior Michael "Just Call Me Merck" Hennig wasted no time in his quarterfinal bout against freshman Calvin Evangelista.

Hennig landed six consecutive punches in a span of 30 seconds, which caused the referee to stop the fight.

The effort cemented Hennig's place in the semifinals in impressive time.

Andrew McGill vs. John "The Iceman" Cooney

Junior Andrew McGill started off the 145-pounders with a similar speedy win over sophomore John "The Iceman" Cooney.

Cooney lasted only one minute and 17 seconds as McGill started off with a killer combination causing a standing eight count.

Only seconds after the fight resumed, McGill landed an identical combo, giving Cooney his second eight count and ending the fight.

Christian "The Count of Monte Fisto" Kondratowicz vs. Chris "C.F." Hanlon

Junior Chris "C.F." Hanlon defeated Christian "The Count of Monte Fisto" Kondratowicz in a unanimous decision in the 145-pound division.

After an even first round, Hanlon delivered a string of left jabs drawing a standing eight count in the second round. Kondratowicz was able to keep his hands up high for most of the fight defending against Hanlon. "C.F." then resorted to using uppercuts to sneak between his opponent's gloves, landing enough punches for the win and a berth into the semifinals.

Brian "Bulldog" Barret vs. Dan Rodgers

In a split decision, freshman Dan Rodgers held off graduate student Brian "Bulldog" Barret for the win.

Both fighters came out fast

in the first round, landing blows in an evenly-contested opening.

Rodgers used his height to jab Barret while keeping himself out of harm's way. In the later rounds, Rodgers boxed "Bulldog" into the corners to gain a slight advantage. The fight was evenly contested throughout but Rodgers was able to hold on for the win.

Robert "Golden Boy" Cimino vs. Tommy "Fightin' for Milk" Ford

After an even first round, junior Tommy "Fightin' for Milk" Ford took control of the fight and went on to win a unanimous decision.

Sophomore Robert "Golden Boy" Cimino managed to fight Ford into a corner early in the second round, but the O'Neill junior landed a few strong jabs to bloody Cimino's nose and temporarily stop the fight. Ford repeated the performance in the third, once again drawing blood, which caused the referee to end the fight and award him the final semifinal spot in the 145-pound division.

John "The Highlighter" O'Connell vs. Guillermo "Almost done with law school" Tijerina

Freshman John "The Highlander" O'Connell won a unanimous decision over Guillermo "Almost Done with Law School" Tijerina.

O'Connell led off the second round by trapping Tijerina in a corner and landing a strong combo. "The Highlander" was able to keep his momentum throughout the remainder of the round, preventing Tijerina from landing any solid blows. "Almost Done with Law School" mounted a small comeback early on in the final round, but O'Connell finished strong for the victory.

Joey Leary vs. Brian Tyrrell

Freshman Joey Leary lost in a close split decision to junior Brian Tyrrell.

Tyrrell started off well with a series of lefts. In the second round, Leary stayed low and worked the body. However, the junior from O'Neill came back with another set of lefts and uppercuts to punch his ticket into the semifinal round.

Patrick O'Brien vs. Bret Shapot

Sophomore Bret Shapot used an aggressive style to win a unanimous decision victory over sophomore Patrick O'Brien in the 150 pound weight division. Both fighters landed punches throughout the fight, often trading blows with one another.

Shapot, however, landed more of his punches, the biggest coming in the second round as he landed a flurry on O'Brien, causing the ref to stop the fight.

Shapot also delivered an effective combo in the first round that caused O'Brien to stumble to the ground.

The fight proceeded at a frenetic pace all night, as the two fighters preferred to go right after one another rather than dance back and forth.

This pace finally slowed down in the third round as the fighters tired and resorted more to grabbing.

David Pepe vs. Jesse Brawer

Sophomore Jesse Brawer delivered the pain early and often on his way to a unanimous decision victory over sophomore David Pepe in the 150 lb. weight division.

Brawer landed multiple punches, including one to the face, near the end of the first round. He then continued his momentum as the second round began, landing a big counterpunch to Pepe's head. Pepe was clearly dazed from this point on.

Pepe attempted to use a dance and counter style throughout the fight that was largely ineffective. Pepe did not aggressively land punches until the third round, by which point the fight was largely determined.

Chris "The People's Champ" Calderone vs. Anthony Schweiss

Junior Chris Calderone was effective enough to convince the judges to give him a split decision victory over junior Anthony Schweiss in the 155 lb. weight division.

The fight started out slowly in the first round, as both fighters danced around one another feeling each other out. Calderone landed a few quick punches to Schweiss' head, but not many overall.

The pace picked up in the second round as Calderone used his jab effectively, opening Schweiss up to round-house blows to the head. Schweiss attempted to use his jab in return but that was largely ineffective.

The third round featured the two fighters trading blows back and forth as they tired, but Calderone had done enough to win the decision by this point.

Bryan "The Polish Sausage" Marek vs. Nathan Dyer

Junior Nathan Dyer saved his best for last as he dispatched of junior Bryan Marek by a split decision in the 155 lb. weight division.

The fight started out slowly, but got progressively more exciting with the biggest hitting coming in the final round. Both fighters still had energy left as they had spent the first round largely feeling each other out. Dyer took control of the fight in the third round as he landed multiple punches, including a couple to Marek's face.

The second round featured aggressive combos from both boxers, but neither fighter really took control of the match in the earlier rounds.

Andrew "The Fuzzy Raptor" Litschi vs. David "The Southern Gun" Wierson

In one of the most exciting fights of the night, junior David Wierson landed enough key punches to defeat senior Andrew Litschi by a split decision in the 155 lb. weight division.

Wierson looked as though he would have no trouble with Litschi as he, utilizing his long reach, opened the fight by unleashing a huge combo within the first five seconds of the fight.

But Litschi responded later in the round with a vicious combo of his own that caused Wierson to stumble into the ropes.

The fight continued at a fast pace throughout the three rounds as the two fighters traded punches.

In each round, both fighters landed numerous combos as well as blows to the head. In the end, the judges decided Wierson had landed the more effective series of blows.

Michael Gibbons vs. Zachary "Zach Attack" Jara

With one of the most impressive performances of the night, junior Zachary Jara

dominated all three rounds to defeat senior Michael Gibbons by a unanimous decision in the 155 lb. weight division.

Jara was one of the seeded fighters in the 155 lb. weight division, and he showed that he deserved the ranking. Using a dodge and counter-attack style, he repeatedly caused Gibbons to whiff on his punches, which gave Jara the opportunity to counter.

Jara landed repeated combos as well as punches to Gibbons' head in every round. The ref had to stop the fight in the third round after Jara delivered a series of punches to Gibbons' head.

Mark Basola vs. Jeffrey Hausfeld

Sophomore Jeffrey Hausfeld broke through near the end of his fight with senior Mark Basola to earn for himself a split decision victory in the 160 lb. weight division.

Basola, who owned a significant height advantage, utilized his long reach to keep his opponent at bay.

In the first round, Hausfeld was unable to penetrate Basola's reach, and neither fighter landed significant punches.

In the second and third rounds, both fighters started to land punches as they traded combos back and forth. Hausfeld, who started to use a counter punch style to get inside of Basola's reach, landed enough punches to convince the judges to give him the victory.

Mark Hinken vs. Daniel Liem

In perhaps the most exciting fight of the evening, freshman Mark Hinken outlasted senior Daniel Liem to win a split decision in the 160 lb. weight division.

The pace of the fight was extremely fast as both fighters exchanged numerous blows in every round. The crowd spurred both fighters on as they traded combos back and forth.

Liem, who used a duck and counter style, landed multiple punches to the head and the ref had to stop the fight three times to allow Hinken to clean the blood off his face.

Hinken, however, responded to nearly every one of Liem's combos. The most important of these came at the very end of the third round when Hinken closed out the fight with four big hits.

Sean Wieland vs. Alex Duffy

Freshman Alex Duffy got stronger as the fight progressed, earning a unanimous decision victory over sophomore Sean Wieland in the 160 lb. weight division.

The fight started out slowly as neither fighter attempted to throw many punches in the first round. Duffy did land one punch to the head of Wieland.

The fight picked up in the later rounds as Duffy started to land punches with consistency.

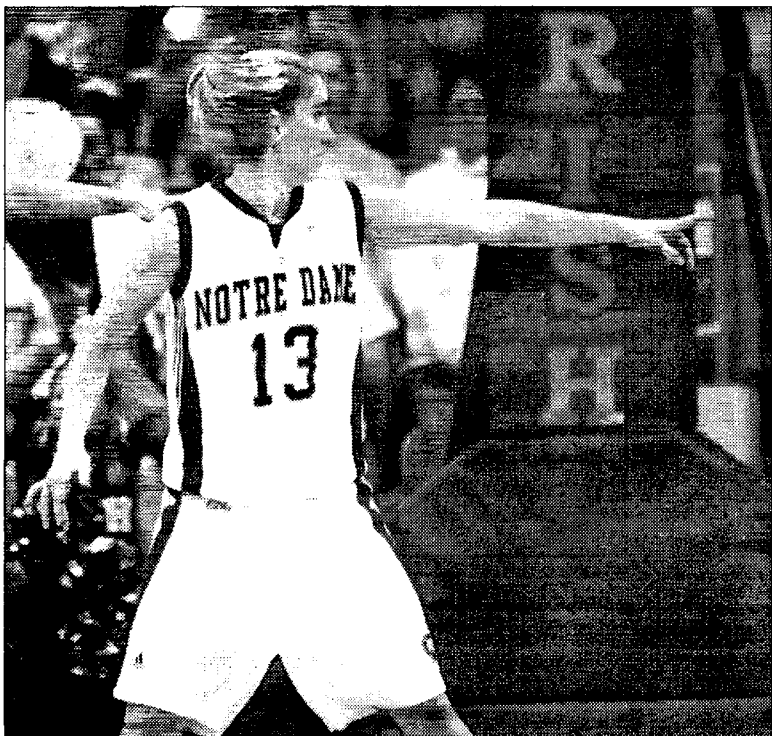
Wieland was on the defensive for the entire fight, and he was unable to land many significant punches.

Duffy's best combo of the night came in the third round when he caused Wieland to stumble. The ref had to stop the fight to allow him to recover.

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ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Duffy honored for academic success



Notre Dame guard Megan Duffy adjusts the Irish defense during a 72-65 win over Pittsburgh Tuesday.

Senior point guard earned 3.821 Grade Point Average in fall

By KEN FOWLER
Sports Writer

Notre Dame senior point guard Megan Duffy earned first-team Academic All-American honors Tuesday when ESPN The Magazine announced this season's honorees.

"I couldn't have asked for a better situation both academically and athletically," Duffy said Monday before learning of the award. "I'm going to get my degree from here ... and the overall atmosphere of this university is something I'll never forget."

Duffy, a psychology and computer applications major in the College of Arts and Letters, earned a 3.821 grade-point average in the fall semester and a 3.917 last spring. She has a cumulative 3.555 GPA.

She is only the second player in team history to garner first-team honors. Former Irish captain Ruth Riley earned the distinction twice — in 2000 and

2001. Duffy qualified for the award when she earned Academic All-District V status for the second straight year earlier this season. She is also a finalist for the Nancy Lieberman Award, given annually to the nation's top point guard.

The preseason consensus All-American said she would likely to reflect on her accolades more after Notre Dame finishes its season.

"I feel like I'm going to savor it more after the season's over," she said. "I think when it's all over I'll be able to enjoy and look back at my experience a little more than I am right now."

The other first-team honorees were Indiana State guard Melanie Boeglin, Kent State forward Lindsay Shearer, Michigan State forward Liz Shemik and Tennessee guard Shanna Zolman.

Two other Notre Dame athletes have earned first-team Academic All-America status this school year. Irish women's soccer goalie Erika Bohn and midfielder Annie Schefter earned the distinction Nov. 24.

Contact Ken Fowler at kfowler1@nd.edu

Panthers

continued from page 24

Dame's NCAA Tournament prospects and ensured the Irish of the No. 10 seed in this weekend's Big East Tournament in Hartford, Conn. Notre Dame's first game of the tournament will be Saturday at 6 p.m. against South Florida in the Hartford Civic Center.

"This team has a lot of pride," McGraw said. "To get back to .500 was really important for us for our NCAA Tournament hopes."

"This team has a lot of pride. To get back to .500 was really important for us for our NCAA Tournament hopes."

Muffet McGraw
Irish head coach

The Irish used a 17-5 run in the first eight minutes of the second half Tuesday to turn a 41-31 deficit at the break into a 48-46 lead. Allen capped the run with 12:21 left in the game when she hit a 15-foot jumper from the left side after she grabbed one of Notre Dame's eight second-half offensive rebounds.

Senior Megan Duffy sparked the high intensity second half for Notre Dame when the 5-foot-7 point guard made a hard foul on Panthers 6-foot-3 space-eating center Mercedes Walker — and both players fell to the floor.

"I just tried to make a play on the ball," Duffy said. "I just wanted to not get crunched afterwards."

Walker, who had eight inches on Duffy, had to come out of the game because of blood on her arm, and the Irish played motivated ball from that point forward.

Walker tied her season high with 12 points and 18 rebounds in the game, but said Irish senior forward Courtney LaVere and Notre Dame's help defense improved dramatically in the second half.

"I compliment their whole team for playing great defense and coming out aggressive," Walker said. "And as a team, we didn't match their aggressiveness in the second half."

Pittsburgh head coach Agnus Berenato said Notre Dame's intensity in the second half was the key difference in the game.

"It was really a war out there. People were definitely playing for something," she said. "In the second half, the crowd got into it ... and all of a sudden, it looked like our crew got shell-shocked."

After Allen's shot gave the Irish the 48-46 lead, the two teams battled back and forth for the next eight minutes. With Notre Dame clinging to a two-point lead, senior Courtney LaVere converted a layup in transition on a pass from Duffy to put the Irish up 63-59.

The assist was one of six on the night for Duffy, who also had 11 points and four

rebounds. Sophomore guard Tulyah Gaines led Notre Dame's 21-assist performance with eight dishes of her own.

LaVere had success on the defensive end to go along with her offense. She finished the night with 14 points, five rebounds and five blocks. She held Walker to 2-of-12 shooting in 31 minutes of physical play before fouling out with 1:29 remaining in her final game in the Joyce Center.

"She's so big in the lane — she takes up so much space — I thought we did a decent job," LaVere said of the Irish defense on Walker. "I thought we did a good job at getting more bodies there and making it hard to shoot."

Pittsburgh's biggest lead of the night came with 2:26 left in the first when guard Maddy Brown hit a 3-pointer off the glass from the left side to put the Panthers ahead 38-23.

Notes:

♦ The 15-point comeback was the second largest in Notre Dame history. The largest comeback for a victory in team history is Notre Dame's win over Connecticut in the 2001 Final Four when the Irish came back from a 47-31 halftime hole against the Huskies to win 90-75.

♦ With Duffy, LaVere and Allen scoring more than 10 points, it was the ninth straight game the Irish had three players in double digits.

Contact Ken Fowler at kfowler1@nd.edu

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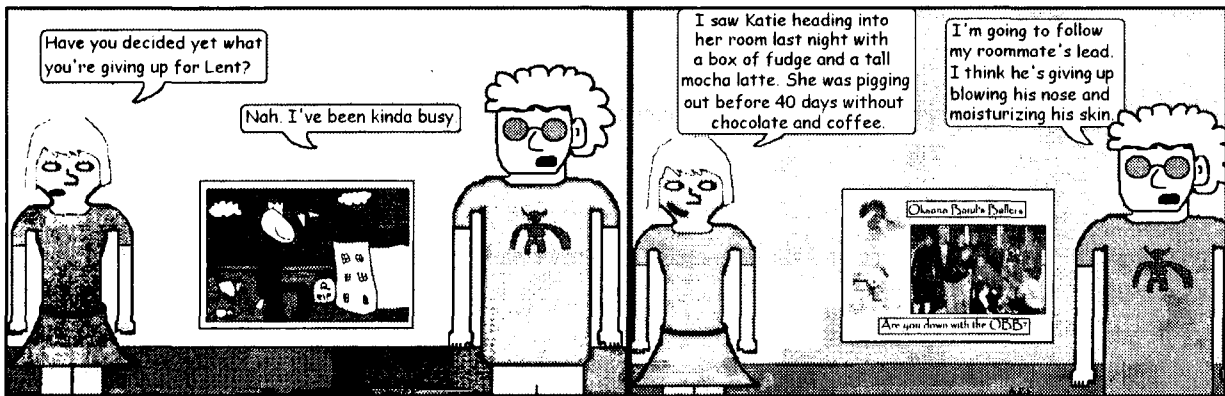
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JUMBLE

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

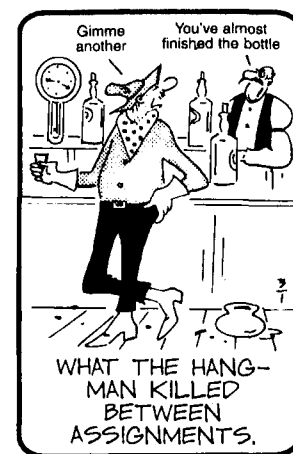
DUTOO
 USTEA
 BLIRME
 FLASTE

Answer here: OF

Yesterday's Jumbles: CURRY LIMBO TYPING PANTRY
 Answer: When the beauty queen beat the bowler by one, she was a — "PIN UP"

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

CROSSWORD

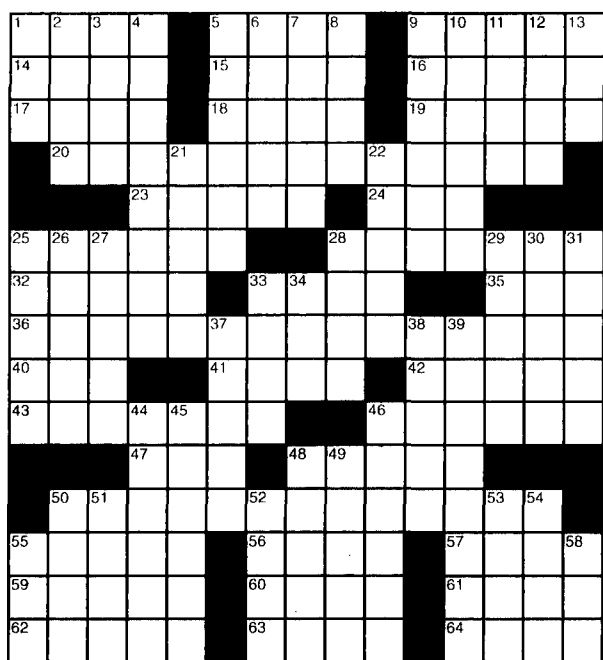
WILL SHORTZ

- ACROSS**
- In years past
 - Throws on
 - Took steps
 - of faith
 - Mirror-conscious
 - Halt
 - Supermarket section
 - "What ___?"
 - Film reviewers' showings
 - Shame a star of "Singin' in the Rain"?
 - Well-developed area?
 - Words said while holding hands
 - It may be brought out during a blackout
 - Israeli legislature
 - Netzero.com service
 - Radio's "___ & Anthony Show"
 - Corrida call
 - Santa ___
 - Essential for an investigator
 - Sad sack
 - Softens
 - Rising stars
 - "Yes, ___!"
 - Rugby formation
 - Send a president out
 - Vanishes
 - Kind of horse
 - Actor Wyle
 - Gladiator's venue
 - Facility
 - Spoil, with "on"
 - Tripmeter feature
 - Tore
 - Brain part

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

SEMIS BEAU CLEF
 CAPRA ROWS LINE
 ITS ANYONES GUESS
 TOW RUBOUT
 WHOCANSAY ACNE
 REPO ELVIRA
 ICEBAG LEADROLE
 SHR BEATSME CON
 TEARINTO ADDEND
 AGEOLD IAGO
 FICKA IDONTKNOW
 SANKIN UNO
 CLUELESSREPLIES
 ASST MAIL AISLE
 BEES OPRY ZZTOP

- DOWN**
- Antediluvian
 - Impecuniosity
 - Cartel city
 - Like a soap opera
 - Against, with "to"
 - Lama
 - Some are slipped
 - Snick and ___
 - Give in
 - Big strings
 - Caboose, e.g.
 - Glimpse
 - Plaines, Ill.
 - Big name in California wines
 - Former Pirates slugger Ralph
 - Chest material
 - Nitrogen compound
 - Sounding like one has a cold, say
 - N.B.A. star Jason
 - Lush



Puzzle by Sheldon Benardo

- Aunt ___ of "Oklahoma!"
- Is in charge
- Fateful date
- Ancient ascetic
- Barely catches, as the heels
- ___ court, law student's exercise
- Stretched in order to see
- Deep-six
- Selected
- Bell the cat
- Bottom line?

For answers, call 1-900-285-5656, \$1.20 a minute; or, with a credit card, 1-800-814-5554.
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HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Eric Lindros, 33; Bernadette Peters, 58; Mario Andretti, 66; Gavin MacLeod, 76

Happy Birthday: Don't stop until you reach your goal this year. Be strong, resilient and willing to go the distance. The potential is there and victory is written on the wall, so step up to the plate and do your thing. Money and good fortune are heading your way. Your numbers are 5, 9, 17, 18, 26, 32

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Take extra care and pride to do things right and cover your back. Money matters can be resolved if you work hard to make deals happen. Make some changes to your living arrangements and you will feel more at ease. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Although you will have some opportunities crop up and partnerships open up, you will have to concentrate on matters of home and family. Someone you are indebted to will need your assistance. Don't let anyone at work stand in your way. ****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You aren't likely to get the help you need or ask for. Refrain from getting into a debate that will waste your time and get you all riled up. You will do your best working on your latest invention, scanning the Internet or taking a short trip. **

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Someone you used to know will be on your mind and should probably be in your life. Don't hesitate to make contact -- it will turn into a worthwhile venture and a long-lasting connection. By looking back you can let go of the past and move forward. *****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Share your thoughts regarding an investment that interests you. Money will come your way and deals can be sealed. You can make important changes to your future, your home environment and your position. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Today, put your efforts into both business and personal partnerships. If you aren't involved with anyone, now is the time to search for the person who can benefit you the most. The more interaction you have with others, the better. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Now is the perfect time to get a job finished, push your ideas and deal with your colleagues. A change of position is apparent and interviews will go extremely well. You will have the upper hand, regardless of what you decide to do. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Focus on home, family and your creative dreams. You have the discipline to get things off the ground but don't let someone hold you back or make you feel guilty for putting time and effort into your ideas. *****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't take chances with money, while traveling or when dealing with others. You aren't likely to get your way. A problem at home will escalate and anger and harsh reactions should be expected. **

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Today, all you have to do is show up. You have laid the foundation and now you can reap the rewards. Changes will be to your benefit. You can choose your course and proceed with confidence. ****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Partnerships will take a turn. If you have been striving for equality and treating the people around you with respect, your relationships will flourish. If you haven't, expect to be put in your place. Arguing won't do any good. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Stay calm, don't jump to conclusions and do your best to turn your ideas into moneymaking projects. Your imagination will be working overtime. Keep things plain and simple and you will get favorable results. ***

Birthday Baby: You are outgoing, outspoken and even outrageous at times. You have a sense of what's to come and you are willing to put yourself on the line. You are goal-oriented and quick to take advantage of any opportunity.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

THE OBSERVER

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ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Comeback kids

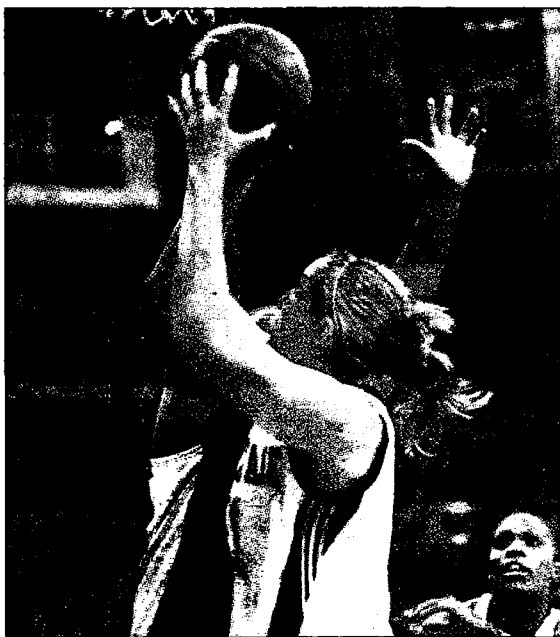
Squad erases 15-point second-half deficit to beat Pittsburgh 72-65 on Senior Night

By KEN FOWLER
Sports Writer

Freshman Lindsay Schrader scored 20 points and sophomore Charel Allen added 16 as Notre Dame erased a 15-point deficit to top Pittsburgh 72-65 on Senior Night at the Joyce Center Tuesday. "On Senior Night, it was the day of the underclassmen," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said. "I thought Charel and Lindsay both played really well."

See Also
"Duffy honored for academic success."
page 22

The win helped Notre
see PANTHERS/page 22



Left, Irish guard Lindsay Schrader drives to the basket. Right, forward Courtney LaVere takes a shot in Notre Dame's 72-65 home win over Pittsburgh Tuesday.

KIRSTEN HOELMER/The Observer

MEN'S GOLF

Baldwin leads team in opener

By JOE QUINN
Sports Writer

Notre Dame kicked off the spring season with a fifth-place finish in the Lexus Naples Intercollegiate Invitational in Naples, Fla. Tuesday.

The Irish picked up where they left off last fall behind a record-tying performance by senior Mark Baldwin and strong showings by junior Cole Isban and sophomore Mark King.

This was the fifth top-six finish by the Irish in six tournaments. The only time Notre Dame didn't finish in the top six was a disqualification in the CordeValle Invitational Oct. 31. It is also

see BALDWIN/page 20

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Team fights for its life versus Friars

Notre Dame needs a win to keep Big East Tourney hopes alive

By PAT LEONARD
Sports Writer

Facing elimination from the Big East tournament and an empty schedule in March, Notre Dame must win the first of its final two regular

season games where it has been least successful — on the road.

The Irish (13-2, 4-10 in the Big East) are 1-6 in conference away games this season. They close their road schedule tonight in a 7:30 p.m. tipoff with Providence at the Dunkin Donuts Center in Providence, R.I.

"I think we've played well on the road. We've competed," Notre Dame coach Mike Brey said Monday, referring

to his team's resilience but poor results away from the Joyce Center. "We played well against [Providence] before, and we've played well in the Dunkin Donuts Center historically. No one in [our] locker room has lost in that building."

Notre Dame has won three straight at the Dunkin Donuts Center, most recently winning 62-61 on Feb. 19, 2005.

see FRIARS/page 19

BENGAL BOUTS

Veterans dominate quarterfinal round



PAMELA LOCK/The Observer

Law student Guillermo Tijerina lands a punch against freshman John O'Connell during quarterfinal Bengal Bouts action Tuesday.

Izaguirre defeats Navarre in 132 pound division

By DAN MURPHY and GREG ARBOGAST
Sports Writers

The first quarterfinal fight of 2006 ended with 26 seconds remaining in the final round as sophomore Will Marra defeated sophomore Nicholas "Spiderman" McClees.

Marra used his height advantage to keep "Spiderman" at bay while con-

necting on solid combos throughout. After landing a strong right jab to draw a standing eight count in the second round, Marra kept his opponent along the ropes for the remainder of the fight to earn the victory.

Sagar Navare vs. Chris Izaguirre

The 132-pound division opened up with another Zahm

see BOUTS/page 21

WOMEN'S TENNIS

Irish shut out Hoosiers, 7-0



PHIL HUDELSON/The Observer

Irish freshman Kelcy Tefft backhands a shot in Notre Dame's 7-0 win over Indiana Tuesday at Eck Pavillion.

Team is 7-0 against opponents ranked in the nation's Top 30

By DAN TAPETILLO
Sports Writer

The No. 5 Irish proved their strength and depth as a top-five program after shutting out the No. 27 Hoosiers 7-0 Tuesday — their seventh consecutive victory against a top-30

see SHUTOUT/page 20

SPORTS AT A GLANCE

NFL

Former Vanderbilt quarterback Jay Cutler impressed NFL scouts during this weekend's Draft combine in Indianapolis.

page 18

BOXING

Oscar De la Hoya and Ricardo Mayorga exchanged verbal blows two months before their fight.

page 18

NFL

Talks in New York between players and owners broke down, leading to a possible end to the salary cap after next season.

page 17

TENNIS

Roger Federer won his opening round match at the Dubai Open, beating Stanislaus Wawinka.

page 17

NHL

Philadelphia Flyers captain Keith Primeau will miss the rest of the season after sustaining a concussion.

page 17

BENGAL BOUTS

Senior Greg Schaefer defeated graduate student Phil Albonetti in 160-pound quarterfinal action.

page 16