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Campus struggles with activism, apathy

By EILEEN DUFFY and
MEGHAN WONS
News Writers

Editor's Note: This is the first article in a three-part series examining activism at Notre Dame: its current role on campus, how that role has changed and what those changes mean for the future.

With the war in Iraq potentially stretching on longer than the one in Vietnam over 30 years ago, last week's fourth anniversary of the United States' invasion shone a spotlight on college campuses — once the sites of passionate anti-war activism.

At Notre Dame, the only protest that took place last week was organized by members of the Catholic Worker

movement — a group from outside the University. While students were involved, the lack of major student organization for the event seemed to reinforce the stereotype that Notre Dame lacks activism.

To many, the question remains whether or not Notre Dame students are making their voices heard when it comes to human rights, the war in Iraq, the genocide in Darfur and other pressing concerns of today's generation of college students.

But to some students like junior Stuart Mora, a member of Campus Labor Action Project (CLAP) who is also active with the South Bend Center for the Homeless, loud arrest-focused protests are

see ACTIVISM/page 4



Students take part in a 2005 rally put on by the Progressive Student Alliance in celebration of campus activism. Observer file photo

Kelley part of attorney removals

ND law professor serves as deputy to White House counsel

By MADDIE HANNA
News Writer

As controversy continues to brew around Attorney General Alberto Gonzales' handling of the recent U.S. attorney firings, a Notre Dame law professor has quietly found his way to the center of the investigation.

"Late in the afternoon on Dec. 4, a deputy to Harriet E. Miers, then the White House counsel and one of President Bush's most trusted aides, sent a two-line e-mail message to a top Justice Department aide," begins a March 14 article in The New York Times. "We're a go," it said, approving a long-brewing plan to remove seven federal prosecutors considered weak or not team players."

That deputy is William K. Kelley, who left the Law School in the spring of 2005 to take a presidential appointment. Since then, he has served as White House deputy counsel in what Notre Dame law professor Richard Garnett called "a position of great responsibility."

"We're good friends," Garnett, who is at the University of Chicago this semester as a visiting professor, said Tuesday. "He



Kelley

see KELLEY/page 8

Community discusses disabilities

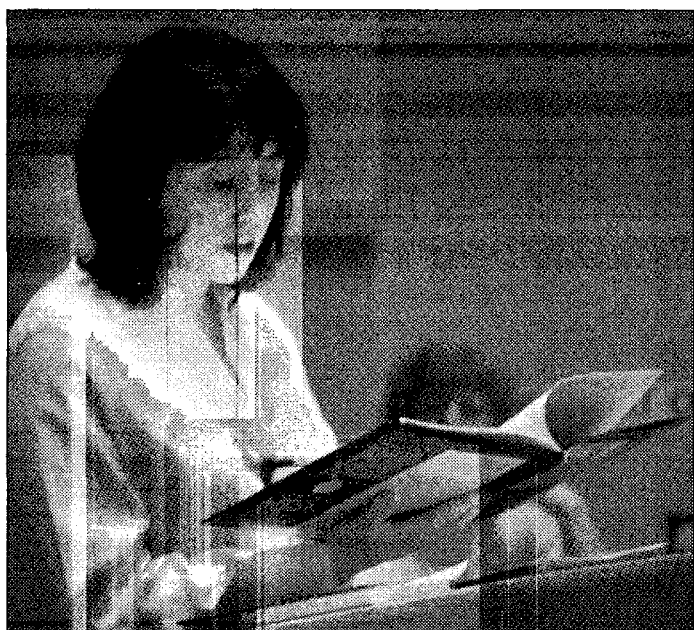
Author Abeel addresses dyscalculia, life without comprehending numbers

By EMMA DRISCOLL
News Writer

After being diagnosed with dyscalculia — a sequential learning disability — at age thirteen, Samantha Abeel has written two books, earned a Master's degree in Social Work from the University of Michigan and become a motivational speaker.

Abeel delivered the Disability Awareness Month keynote speech Tuesday in DeBartolo, focusing on her experiences with her learning disability and its influence on her life.

see ABEEL/page 9



Samantha Abeel reads from her book, "Reach For the Moon," Tuesday in her Disability Awareness Month keynote speech. CASEY CARNEY/The Observer

Office of Disability Services assists in classrooms, exams

By AARON STEINER
News Writer

When junior Molly Rivard was six years old, she was diagnosed with dyspraxia, a motor skills disability that can make movements and gestures associated with coordination — such as writing — difficult.

"Yes, I do have a disability," said Rivard, a history and Irish studies major who hopes to continue her education after graduating from Notre Dame. "But that does not make me different. I just have to do things differently."

Rivard described the disability as

see DISABILITY/page 6

Students report two sexual assault crimes

Incidents affect ND and SMC campuses

By KATIE KOHLER
Saint Mary's Editor

Police are investigating two separate incidents of reported sex offenses — one involving a Notre Dame student and the other involving a Saint Mary's student.

The incidents, a fondling sex offense and sexual assault, both were reported Sunday night to Notre Dame Security/Police (NDSP).

In the case of the sexual assault, a Notre Dame student reported an acquaintance committed the crime, according to an e-mail to

students Monday. The e-mail said the assault occurred on campus Saturday.

The Observer was not able to reach NDSP officials Tuesday.

In the second case, a Saint Mary's student notified NDSP at 8:15 p.m. Sunday after a man approached her and a friend at State Road 933 en route to the Grotto. The man, who was on roller blades, inappropriately touched the student, who was not injured, as he passed by, the e-mail said.

"The suspect was

see NDSP/page 3

Copy Shop to close after 18 years

By KATE ANTONACCI
Senior Staff Writer

After a nearly two-year-long legal battle, The Copy Shop in LaFortune will permanently close its doors Friday, marking the end of 18 years of operations.

"This letter is one that I never anticipated having to write," Tim Wright, president of Copy Wright, Inc. and owner of The Copy Shop in LaFortune, wrote in a letter available to any visitor to the LaFortune shop.

The letter, dated Monday, details the reasons for the business' closing — namely the cost of the lawsuit between The Copy Shop and the University.

While Wright had hoped to continue business operations during

see SHOP/page 6



Tim Wright, owner of the Copy Shop at LaFortune, announced Monday that the shop will close Friday due to legal costs. DUSTIN MENNELLA/The Observer

INSIDE COLUMN

Love is in the air

Before I arrived at Notre Dame, I thought nothing would excite me more than passing by Brady Quinn on campus or doing the jig at a home football game. Then again, I had never experienced winter in Northern Indiana before (schools close at the chance of snow in Washington DC). Therefore, seeing the sun again and experiencing temperatures above 60 degrees could not have been more exciting or welcome this week.

Eva Binda

News Wire Editor

I noticed how campus suddenly came to life. Students were playing lacrosse, frisbee and even badminton out on North Quad. Grills were broken out by a couple of dorms. Music was blasting from dorm room windows. A couple of female students got very excited and even broke out the bikini tops for some sunbathing.

One of my friends remarked that campus really felt like college now with the large number of students hanging around outside, instead of hiding in their dorm rooms to keep warm. It looked like the pictures you see in the brochures sent to prospective student.

Another thing I've noticed in addition to the quick transition into shorts and skirts is the romance. Sure, there are those slightly awkward SDH dates and completely awkward good-byes outside girls' dorms at parietals all year-round, but suddenly, it seems people are just more affectionate.

Walking around campus today, I couldn't help noticing the rise in couples holding hands on the way to class or sitting on benches showing PDA. I mean it's not quite "The Notebook" or anything, but it's still kind of sweet. Everyone just looks a little happier.

I've even noticed this new phenomenon among people I know ... the person who never admits to liking anyone, suddenly blushing and participating in PDA with someone. Or, on the other end of the spectrum, the person who goes through potential love interests like profile pictures on Facebook, actually talking about having found that special someone and maybe, just maybe, settling down soon. It's all quite amusing and it's okay to make a little fun of them, but at the same time, it's also kind of sweet and makes me smile.

Whatever the case or wherever you fall between the two, I've come to believe that there's more in the air than just warmth. There might be some love in the air.

And so, Notre Dame, forget (just for a moment or you may fail out) about trying to solve integrals that seem impossible, writing papers that you don't feel like writing and reading course packets and chapters that never seem to end. In the words of the Beatles, "Nothing you can do but learn how to be in time. It's easy. All you need is love."

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Eva Binda at jbinda@nd.edu

CORRECTIONS

In the March 27 article entitled, "NDSP arrests, cites ROTC protesters," it was stated that the Army ROTC Battalion declined to comment. There was a miscommunication in the ROTC office and Army ROTC Battalion designated spokesman Major Gary Masapollo was never informed that he had been contacted. The Observer regrets this misunderstanding.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT IS YOUR BIGGEST PET PEEVE?



Tazi Shortey
freshman
Lyons

"When you can't think of a word that's on the top of your tongue."



Jon Carifo
freshman
Stanford

"People who take too long to make decisions at Starbucks."



Nicole Overton
freshman
Breen-Phillips

"People who walk out in the middle of a lecture."



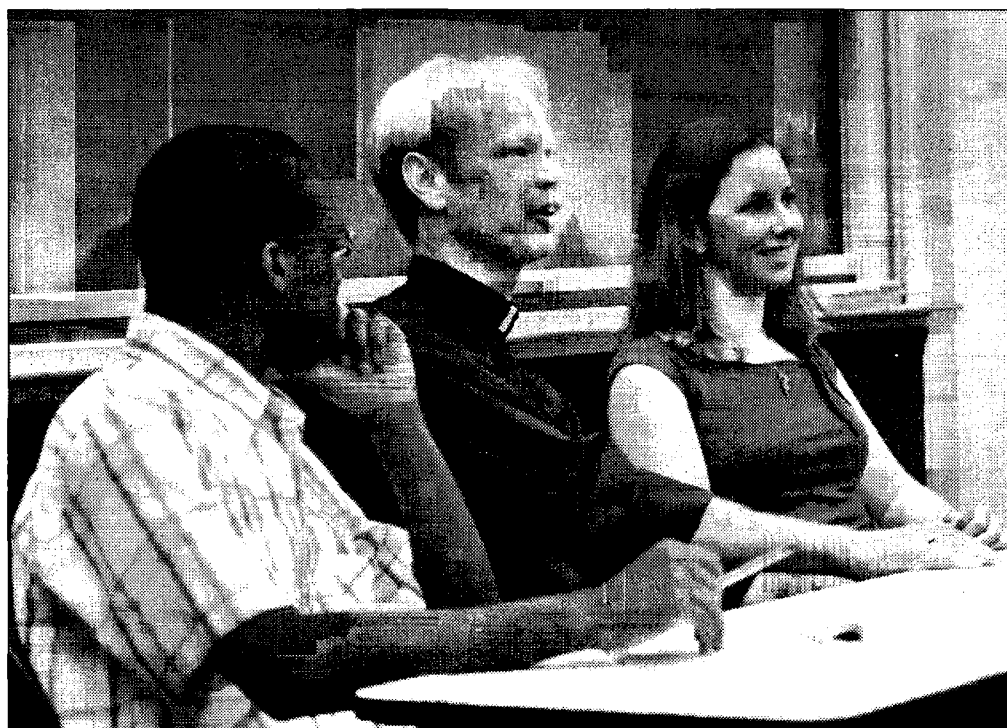
Lance Ladendorf
sophomore
Kennan

"PDA ... including my own."



Sarah Lesniak
freshman
Pasquerilla East

"When people drop trash and don't pick it up it makes me cry and die inside."



DUSTIN MENNELLA/The Observer

Ugandan master's student Denis Okello, Notre Dame Millennium Development Initiative Director Father Bob Dowd and senior Colleen Mallahan made up the panel for Tuesday's "What is Our Role?" session focusing on Notre Dame's current and future role in Africa.

OFFBEAT

Dog performs 'Heimlich' on owner, saves life

CALVERT, Md. — Toby, a 2-year-old golden retriever, saw his owner choking on a piece of fruit and began jumping up and down on the woman's chest. The dog's owner believes the dog was trying to perform the Heimlich maneuver and saved her life.

Debbie Parkhurst, 45, of Calvert told the Cecil Whig she was eating an apple at her home Friday when a piece lodged in her throat. She attempted to perform the Heimlich maneuver on herself but it didn't work. After she began beating on

her chest, she said Toby noticed and got involved.

"The next think I know, Toby's up on his hind feet and he's got his front paws on my shoulders," she recalled. "He pushed me to the ground, and once I was on my back, he began jumping up and down on my chest."

That's when the apple dislodged and Toby started licking her face to keep her from passing out, she said.

Trees removed at beach to curtail sexual activity

MADISON, Wis. — Willow trees lining the Mazomanie nude beach on the

Wisconsin River have been removed to reduce alleged sexual activity and provide more sun for nesting turtles, the state Department of Natural Resources says.

"These willows just became a cruising area for people looking for sexual activity out there," Steve Colden, the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway's property manager, said Monday in an interview with The Capital Times of Madison.

The nude beach has been used by naturists for more than 50 years.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

Ruth Messinger, President of American Jewish World Service, will give the lecturer "Bearing Witness: Crisis in Darfur" at 8 p.m. today in the Eck Visitors Center Auditorium.

Judge Victoria Marina de Aviles will deliver a lecture entitled "El Salvador Reform of the Judiciary" Thursday at 8 p.m. in Hesburgh Center Auditorium. The lecture will be in Spanish, but an English translation will be available. The event is sponsored by Latin American/North American Church Concerns (LANACC) in the Kellogg Institute.

Howard Schultz, the founder and chairman of Starbucks, will deliver the 2007 Frank Cahill Award Thursday at 7 p.m. in Jordan Auditorium in Mendoza. His lecture is entitled "Entrepreneurship and Ethics."

Married lecturers and scholars James Whitehead and Evelyn Eaton Whitehead will give the lecture "Spirituality and Sexuality: The Marriage of Eros and Grace" Thursday at 7 p.m. in the Carroll Auditorium in Madeleva Hall at Saint Mary's.

Ceyl Prinster, a 1976 Notre Dame graduate and executive director of the Colorado Enterprise Fund, will deliver the lecture entitled "Building a Balanced Life: Strategies for Combining Career and Family" Thursday at 5 p.m. in 119 O'Shaughnessy.

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

LOCAL WEATHER	TODAY		TONIGHT		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
	HIGH	53	HIGH	38	HIGH	58	HIGH	64	HIGH	62	HIGH	51
	LOW	40	LOW	30	LOW	44	LOW	49	LOW	44	LOW	35

Atlanta 63 / 58 Boston 49 / 39 Chicago 45 / 39 Denver 54 / 40 Houston 71 / 64 Los Angeles 57 / 50 Minneapolis 50 / 42 New York 73 / 47 Philadelphia 68 / 50 Phoenix 69 / 49 Seattle 53 / 40 St. Louis 72 / 57 Tampa 84 / 61 Washington 70 / 59

COUNCIL OF REPRESENTATIVES

Appointees approved for leadership roles

By SONIA RAO
News Writer

Several student government appointees were approved for the 2007-08 term during the final meeting of 2006-07 Council of Representatives (COR) members Tuesday.

Michelle Byrne, Phil Ross, Ashley Weiss, Christopher Tillet, Eva Binda, Sheena Plamoottil, Michelle Zaldana and Emily Cooperstein were all approved to assume leadership roles of various student government organizations that are represented within COR. Each was presented to COR members along with a letter of recommendation.

Junior class president-elect Bob Reish presented Michelle Byrne as the class of 2009 secretary. Byrne takes the position, which is one of four positions on the class voting ticket, as secretary-elect Callie Pogge "will be unable to fulfill her duties because of other interests within Notre Dame student government," Reish said.

Reish said Byrne is "qualified, dedicated and hardworking," and he noted she has had various leadership roles including those as Cavanaugh's Hall representative, spiritual committee chair and Cavanaugh Hall president.

Current Student Union Board (SUB) manager Patrick

Vassel presented junior Phil Ross as his nominee to continue leading SUB next year.

"Phil is far and away the best candidate for the position," Vassel wrote in his letter of recommendation. "He has demonstrated tremendous time-management skills as well as innovative creativity and constant professionalism. His past leadership experiences exemplify the combination of hard work and fun that are central to the mission of SUB."

Current Judicial Council president Liz Kozlow nominated junior Ashley Weiss as her successor.

"Over the past year, she showed enthusiasm and dedication for Student Government by working as the Chair of the Student Senate Committee on Gender Issues where she oversaw and coordinated both the Eating Disorders Conference and Sexual Assault Awareness week," Kozlow wrote.

Kozlow also noted that Weiss ran for the elected position of student body vice president earlier in the year, which would serve as valuable background.

Kadeja Gaines, chairwoman of the Financial Management Board, announced her nomination of freshmen Christopher Tillet and Eva Binda to the Assistant Student Union Treasurer positions.



President-elect Liz Brown, president Lizzi Shappel and vice president Bill Andrichik listen to the Council of Representatives Tuesday.

Gaines said she interviewed eight people for the position and Tillet and Binda were the most qualified.

Binda is a news writer for The Observer.

Student body president-elect Liz Brown presented her nominations of Sheena Plamoottil, Michelle Zaldana and Emily Cooperstein as next year's chief executive assistant, student body secretary and academic delegate, respectively.

All three have extensive background in student government and have excelled in

leadership positions, Brown said.

In other COR news:

♦ Members approved a COR Collaboration Fund Appeal for the 30th BCAC Fashion show, sponsored by Walsh Hall, Freshman Class Council and the Office of Admissions. The group requested \$757.79 in order to provide food, raffle supplies, copy expenses and the venue.

Contact Sonia Rao at
srao1@nd.edu

NDSP

continued from page 1

described to NDSP as a college-age, white male, skinny build, wearing a blue T-shirt and black jeans, black roller blades and a black hat with a white t-shirt pulled over his head," the e-mail said.

Saint Mary's Security did not return phone calls from The Observer Tuesday.

NDSP's e-mail encouraged students to report information on crimes, suspicious activity and emergencies to 9-1-1 and to contact NDSP with any non-emergency assistance on campus.

Contact Katie Kohler at
kkohle01@saintmarys.edu

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Activism

continued from page 1

not the only effective ways to show activism.

For Mora, student participation in "concrete things" — such as service projects at home and abroad through the Center for Social Concerns and the high number of hours Notre Dame students spend volunteering — is proof that activism is "still here [on campus] ... and maybe stronger than ever" in a different form.

"I think activism has changed," he said. "I don't think we have the marching around with placards anymore ... I think people are looking to do more concrete things."

But just before spring break, it was that "marching around" activism that was seen on Notre Dame's campus.

Soulforce, a national gay rights group, stopped at Notre Dame as part of its cross-country Equality Ride, a 32-stop bus tour intended to protest the intolerance of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people that it believes occurs at Christian colleges.

After University administrators denied the group's request to visit in the fall, citing a policy that reserves such demonstrations for members of the campus community, Soulforce members notified Notre Dame that they would nonetheless arrive March 8 — and they did.

The 25 riders marched into LaFortune and were soon met with Notre Dame Security/Police (NDSP) officers who, when Soulforce members refused to cease and desist, issued trespass notices to six group members for restricting foot traffic, speaking in loud voices and interfering and disrupting normal business activity. Trespass notices, said Assistant Vice President of News and Information Dennis Brown, carry with them a request never to return to campus.

The next morning, March 9, six group members attempted to walk down Notre Dame Avenue with a wreath, intending to deliver it to the statue of Tom Dooley, a gay military hero and Notre Dame graduate. Near the vicinity of the old post office, the members were again stopped by NDSP and this time issued arrest citations, with a likely request to appear in court. Brown said policemen then gave the group a ride back to their bus.

"We checked with other universities where Soulforce had conducted its activities. We're aware of what [the group's] objectives are," Brown said. "Now they're able to publicize that they were arrested at Notre Dame, which is sort of their goal."

Soulforce — which counts many college students among its members — has continued to face resistance and arrest at subsequent stops on its Equality Ride. A handful of Notre Dame students took part in the Soulforce event, but many campus activist groups seem to favor talking, if not yelling, about their causes — and many are listening.

CLAP has staged protests and written reports in sup-

port of a "living wage" of \$12.10 an hour for every employee at Notre Dame.

The Progressive Student Alliance (PSA)'s "Week of Action" brought Liam Madden, an honorably discharged marine and leader in the anti-war movement, to DeBartolo Hall — and 170 people flocked to hear him. Another of the week's events, a talk on the correlation between biology and homosexuality, drew a standing-room only crowd.

Sophomore Michael Angulo, vice president of the PSA, said he received good feedback from students and faculty regarding the "Eyes Wide Open" exhibit displayed on South Quad to raise awareness about the Iraq War.

The display was brought to campus by the PSA through the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), which organized the traveling exhibit and supplied the public display of boots honoring each U.S. military casualty. The exhibit featured a field of shoes, a multimedia display exploring the "history, cost and consequences of the war" and a Wall of Remembrance to memorialize the Iraqi citizens killed in conflict, according to the AFSC Web site.

"It's really important to have an attitude of reaching out," senior Katie Rose Hoover said of promoting awareness and education about issues on campus. "Rather than being exclusive to people who share the same ideas, values and mindset."

Hoover, an active member of the Notre Dame Peace Fellowship, Amnesty International and CLAP, said that such groups are making an impact. She also said campus activists have changed her own attitudes about many issues.

While Notre Dame has historically been identified as a campus lacking activism, junior Katie McHugh — a member of both PSA and CLAP — thinks the University is underrated in terms of activism.

"We have many politically-minded people on this campus, as political science is the most popular major in Arts and Letters, as well as a peace studies program that may be the most well-respected in the nation," she said, adding that Notre Dame has one of the best collegiate social concerns centers. "There is a deep-seeded obligation [among Notre Dame students] to help those in need around the world and in the South Bend community."

Still, that obligation doesn't inhabit a large portion of Notre Dame students.

Angulo said he thinks Notre Dame students are not necessarily apathetic, but that oftentimes they "don't have a forum" to express their concerns and discuss issues of social justice in constructive ways.

The bureaucracy of Notre Dame and the University's history of not being an activist campus, he said, are two big hurdles for students involved in efforts such as the ones the PSA advances. McHugh said she questioned whether "the real problem isn't apathy, but bodies of administrators that silence the beginnings of discussion or controversy on campus."

Both PSA and CLAP sometimes feel "hushed" by Student Activities, which takes measures to prevent

controversy, she said. PSA was put on club probation a few years ago for illegally handing out condoms, she said, and CLAP "was not allowed to hand out coffee, donuts and information on

workers' rights because they were denied permission by Student Activities."

But the level of activism has varied over the years. The second part in this series

tomorrow will examine the historical context of activism at Notre Dame.

Contact Eileen Duffy at eduffy1@nd.edu and Meghan Wons at mwons@nd.edu



Asian Summer Language Grant Program

Deadline is March 30, 2007.

The Center for Asian Studies is sponsoring a competition for undergraduates and graduate students who wish to study an Asian language not currently offered at Notre Dame. The program selected can be either in the U.S. or a foreign country.

It is expected that such study will contribute to the student's further education at Notre Dame. In most cases, language classes will be counted for academic credit at Notre Dame. The competition is not open to seniors or graduate students completing their degrees.

Applications at www.nd.edu/~cas



Essay Prize in Asian Studies

Deadline is April 9, 2007.

Two prizes of \$100 each will be awarded for the Best Undergraduate and Best Graduate Essay. Essays should focus on Asia or Asian American topics.

Undergraduate submissions should be no longer than 20 pages. Graduate submissions should be no longer than 30 pages.

Submit three copies (two without author information) to:

Center for Asian Studies
210 O'Shaughnessy Hall
1-0487
www.nd.edu/~cas



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Invites Nominations
for the

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Each year, the Sheedy Award, named for a former dean of the College of Arts and Letters, honors one member of the Arts and Letters faculty for outstanding teaching.

Both students and faculty are invited to submit nomination letters for this year's award to:

Stuart Greene
Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies
104 O'Shaughnessy Hall

Deadline
Monday, April 9, 2007

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Rice pushes Israeli-Palestinian talks

JERUSALEM — The Israeli and Palestinian leaders will meet every two weeks for discussions aimed at paving the way for a final settlement to the Middle East conflict, officials said Tuesday, a small sign of momentum for the latest U.S. push to restart peace efforts.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice announced the planned meetings at the end of a swing through the region, her fourth in as many months. Although the talks will begin with day-to-day issues, they signaled a deeper U.S. commitment to bringing the sides together after a six-year lull in peace efforts.

"The Israelis and Palestinians are taking the initial step on the path to peace, and the American role will include helping them to overcome obstacles, develop new ideas and rally international support for their efforts," she said.

Italian troops to stay in Afghanistan

ROME — Premier Romano Prodi's government won a Senate vote Tuesday to keep Italy's troops in Afghanistan, despite increasing concerns over the worsening security situation in the country.

The 180-2 vote — with 132 abstentions, which in the Senate count as "no" votes — gave final approval to a government decree that provides funding for all Italian missions abroad. The lower house of parliament approved it earlier this month.

Italy has about 2,000 troops in Afghanistan, deployed between Kabul and Herat, far from the more restive south of the country. But a series of small incidents involving the Italians and heavy fighting elsewhere in the country are heightening concerns in Italy over the troops security.

NATIONAL NEWS

U.S. war exercises in Gulf warn Iran

ABOARD THE USS JOHN C. STENNIS — American warplanes screamed off two aircraft carriers Tuesday as the U.S. Navy staged its largest show of force in the Persian Gulf since the 2003 invasion of Iraq, launching a mammoth exercise meant as a message to the Iranians.

The maneuvers with 15 warships and more than 100 aircraft were sure to heighten tensions with Iran, which has frequently condemned the U.S. military presence off its coast and is in a faceoff with the West over its nuclear program and its capture of a British naval team.

Bad veteran care causes resignation

PHOENIX — The head of the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services resigned in the wake of an inspection that found shortcomings in care provided by the state's nursing home for military veterans, Gov. Janet Napolitano said Tuesday.

Napolitano's announcement that she had accepted the resignation of Patrick F. Chorpennig came one day after she removed him from direct responsibility over the facility and ordered an immediate review of the home in Phoenix.

LOCAL NEWS

Diverted plane not a threat to crash

GARY — A review by the Federal Aviation Administration of a SkyValue jet that diverted from Gary to South Bend determined the plane never was in danger of colliding with other aircraft, a spokeswoman said Tuesday.

Elizabeth Isham Cory said radar and voice data on SkyValue Flight 512 from Mesa, Ariz., on Friday determined the jet never got any closer than 6 miles to another plane.

"There was never anything out of the ordinary. There was never an issue of the two planes getting too close. There was never an issue of it being a near miss. It was just some regular, normal procedures," she said.

Senate sets Iraq withdrawal timeline

Democrats' plan draws ire of Congressional Republicans, White House, Lieberman

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Defying a veto threat, the Democratic-controlled Senate narrowly signaled support Tuesday for the withdrawal of U.S. combat troops from Iraq by next March.

Republican attempts to scuttle the non-binding timeline failed on a vote of 50-48, largely along party lines. The roll call marked the Senate's most forceful challenge to date of the administration's handling of a war that has claimed the lives of more than 3,200 U.S. troops.

Three months after Democrats took power in Congress, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid said the moment was at hand to "send a message to President Bush that the time has come to find a new way forward in this intractable war."

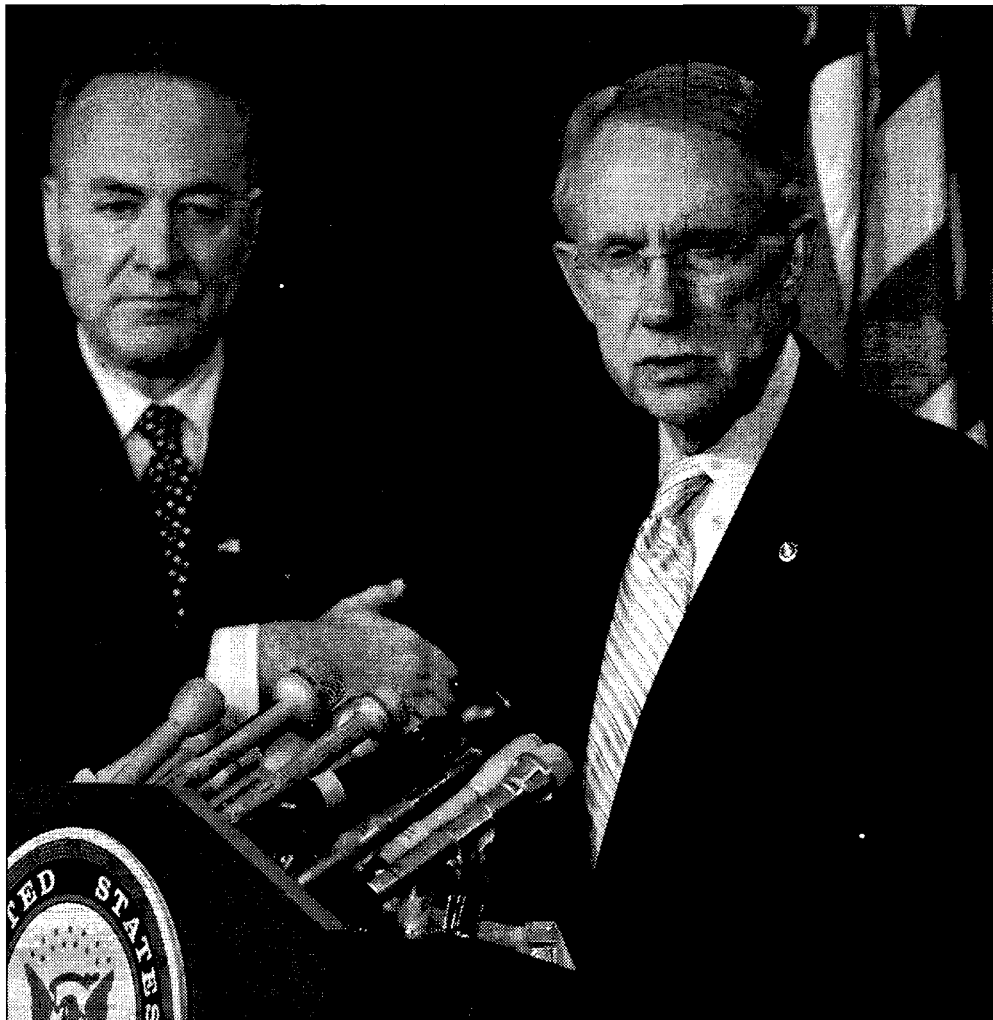
But Republicans — and Sen. Joseph Lieberman, an independent Democrat — argued otherwise.

John McCain, R-Ariz., a presidential hopeful, said that "we are starting to turn things around" in the Iraq war and that a timeline for withdrawal would embolden the terrorists in Iraq and elsewhere.

The effect of the timeline would be to "snatch defeat from the jaws of progress in Iraq," agreed Lieberman, who won a new term last fall in a three-way race after losing the Democratic nomination to an anti-war insurgent.

Bush had previously said he would veto any bill containing the timeline, and the White House freshened the threat a few hours before the vote on Tuesday. "This and other provisions would place freedom and democracy in Iraq at grave risk, embolden our enemies and undercut the administration's plan to develop the Iraqi economy," it said in a statement.

Similar legislation drew only 48 votes in the Senate earlier this month, but



Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid speaks during a news conference following the Senate's 50-48 vote to set a binding timeline to bring troops home from Iraq.

Democratic leaders made a change that persuaded Nebraska's Democratic Sen. Ben Nelson to swing behind the measure.

Additionally, Sen. Chuck Hagel of Nebraska, a vocal critic of the war, sided with the Democrats, assuring them of the majority they needed to turn back a challenge led by Sen. Thad Cochran, R-Miss.

The debate came on legislation that provides \$122 billion to fund the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan as well as domestic priorities such relief to hurricane victims and payments to farmers.

Separately, supporters of an increase in the minimum wage readied an effort to attach the measure to the spending bill, along with companion tax cuts that Republicans have demand-

ed. The House and Senate have passed different versions of the bill but have yet to reach a compromise.

The House has already passed legislation requiring troops to be withdrawn by Sept. 1, 2008. The Senate vote assured that the Democratic-controlled Congress would send Bush legislation later this spring that calls for a change in war policy. A veto is a certainty, presuming the president follows through.

That would put the onus back on the Democrats, who would have to decide how long they wanted to extend the test of wills in the face of what are likely to be increasingly urgent statements from the administration that the money is needed for troops in the war zone.

"Frankly, I think we'd like

to reach out to the president ... and say, 'Mr. President, this is not a unilateral government. It is a separation of powers, and the Congress of the United States is assuming review,'" House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer of Maryland told reporters as the Senate debated the war.

Reid also referred to the president at a news conference. "I would hope that he would be willing to work with us in coming up with some language that both (houses of Congress) could accept. At this stage, he has been very non-negotiable. So we'll see what happens," he said.

As drafted, the legislation called for troop withdrawal to begin within 120 days, with a non-binding goal that calls for the combat troops to be gone within a year.

Americans die in Green Zone attack

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Two truck bombs shattered markets in Tal Afar on Tuesday, killing at least 63 people and wounding dozens in the second assault in four days on a predominantly Shiite Muslim city hit by a resurgence in violence a year after it was held up as a symbol of U.S. success.

After the bombings, suspected Sunni insurgents tried to ambush ambulances carrying the injured out of the northwestern city but were driven off by police gunfire, Iraqi authorities said.

The carnage was the worst bloodshed in a day that saw attacks across Iraq.

A major Sunni Arab insurgent group reported its military leader was slain outside Baghdad, an assault likely to deepen an increasingly bloody rift between al-Qaida in Iraq and opponents of the terror group in Sunni communities west of the capital.

In Baghdad, a U.S. soldier and an American working as a U.S. government contractor were killed by a rocket attack on the heavily guarded Green Zone, U.S. officials said. Another contract worker suffered serious wounds and three were slightly wounded. A soldier also was wounded.

The last known U.S. death in the Green Zone, site of the U.S. Embassy and Iraqi government and parliamen-

tary headquarters, was in February when an American contractor was killed in a checkpoint shooting in the Green Zone.

It was the second rocket attack on the zone in less than a week. A Katyusha rocket exploded just 50 yards from U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon as he spoke with reporters there Thursday during an unannounced visit to the city.

U.S. soldiers, meanwhile, foiled two suicide truck bombers trying to attack their base in a small town 50 miles west of Baghdad and killed as many as 15 attackers, the military said. It said eight soldiers suffered wounds, all but one of them slight, during the firefight in Karmah.

Disability

continued from page 1

a problem with the neural communication between her brain and motor muscles — something that her mother noticed when Rivard had trouble crawling as a baby — that leads to difficulty writing.

But Rivard is not left alone at the University to deal with her disability. She is one of the more than 200 students who receive services at the Office of Disability Services.

Approximately 140 of the 200-plus students are learning disabled or suffer from Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Coordinator of Disability Services Scott Howland said.

Saint Mary's Disabilities Specialist Iris Giamo said the Disabilities Resource Office at the college serves approximately 75 students both for learning disabilities and for ADHD.

Students come to the College and University with an array of learning disabilities, including dyslexia and other disorders, Howland said.

"It's a variety," Howland said.

"A lot of it deals with information processing. ... There are some students with dyslexia — there are some [disabilities] that are more related to spatial issues."

Howland said the disabilities primarily involve the time it takes to process information.

"It might take [students] longer than their peers to complete their homework, or get their reading assignments done," he said. "That's always a challenge, balancing that ... with everything else that's going on."

But those are the issues associated with just studying, he said.

"In the classroom, probably the biggest challenge they have relates to exams," Howland said. "We have a lot of students that do need accommodations."

When she applied to Notre Dame, Rivard included a note about her disability.

"I did notify them in that section [of the undergraduate application], 'If there's anything else you'd like to tell us,' that I [was diagnosed with a disability]," Rivard said.

And though Rivard is not alone in acknowledging a physical or learning disability, the number is low, hovering at about one percent of the applicant pool, Senior

Associate Director of Admissions Alisa Fisher said.

That percent constituted 206 of more than 12,000 applicants during the 2005 to 2006 admission year, Fisher said.

Fisher, who also serves as the liaison between the Office of Disability Services and the admissions office, said there has been a slight increase year-to-year of students who apply and disclose they have a learning disability, as more people feel comfortable doing so.

"If they want to tell us, we encourage that," Fisher said. "The more information we have about your academic performance, the better we can understand if you struggled with some grades."

Fisher said that while the University does not discriminate on basis of disability, it will take such a disclosure into account when reading an application.

When looking at a student's record "from the point from when [the disability] was discovered to getting some help," a visible improvement in the student's performance is often seen, she said.

Since being admitted, Rivard has utilized functions the Disabilities Services office offers including having a note taker and

special accommodations for testing and extended time in an alternate location.

"For me, it's about becoming more independent. I have to be an advocate for myself," Rivard said. "I have to go to my teachers to ask for accommodations, and I have to let Scott [Howland] know if I need a note taker."

Howland said most of the students with learning disabilities he serves utilize test-taking accommodations and note taking services/classroom assistance.

In addition to providing services similar to those of Howland's office, Saint Mary's offers services including instruction on study skills and technical skills tailored to needs of the learning disabled, Giamo said.

In the 11 years Howland has been at Notre Dame, only "a few" students have not graduated as a result of a learning disability and other related issues, he said.

Giamo said that in her two and a half years at Saint Mary's, she hasn't seen any students drop out — and has seen plenty succeed.

"I think with a lot of support from professors, administrators, this office and their parents, they are successful," Giamo said. "They have to be extremely hard-

working students."

For Rivard, her academic experience at Notre Dame has been relatively normal and successful, given her disability. The environment — especially with professors, she said — is typically an understanding one.

But Rivard said there is one response she often receives from friends and peers when she tells them she has a disability.

"They say, 'But you're so smart,'" Rivard said.

Such a comment, she said, can be disappointing since her disability has nothing to do with intelligence.

"Lots of people who have disabilities have been very smart," she said.

Giamo agreed that there is a stigma associated with learning disabilities — which leads some to feel "a little embarrassed" or "inferior" — even though intelligence is not related.

Still, Giamo said she feels there is a "growing awareness" of the issue and credits events like Tuesday's keynote address for providing a more personal look at learning disabilities.

Contact Aaron Steiner at asteiner@nd.edu

Shop

continued from page 1

the litigation, the costs of the process have drained the company's cash flow to "the point where the business can no longer support itself," the letter said.

University spokesman Don Wycliff said the University could not comment because the case

"is in litigation."

The dispute between Wright and the University revolves around the "option to renew" clause in the lease for The Copy Shop's space.

Originally added to the store's lease in 1989 by former owner Dan Foley, the option gives the owner an explicit option to renew the lease until the owner decides he or she does not want the space anymore or until a rule of the lease is violated,

Wright said in a Nov. 21, 2005 article in The Observer.

But in early 2005, Wright was notified that the University "did not accept our offer to renew."

"I sent them a letter and I said this was not an offer. It was the exercise of an option. That's the basic dispute that the University was involved in with us when they filed their complaint," he said at the time. "They said it was an offer, we said it wasn't."

In August 2005, the University filed a suit in the St. Joseph Circuit Court in Mishawaka against Copy Services Inc. asking the court for immediate possession of the property in the basement of the student center. Copy Services Inc. operates under the name The Copy Shop. The issue was brought to the Indiana Court of Appeals, which ruled against the Copy Shop.

"We are in the process of moving the dispute to the next

level, the Indiana Supreme Court," Wright said in the letter.

Wright has operated The Copy Shop, an independent business not affiliated with the University, since 2001.

In his letter, Wright said that the University intends to "terminate our campus lease and, in effect, sell our business to Kinko's."

Contact Kate Antonacci at kantonac@nd.edu



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Stocks

Dow Jones 12,397.29 -71.78

Up: 999 Same: 156 Down: 2,245 Composite Volume: 2,687,688,816

AMEX	2,154.77	-8.02
NASDAQ	2,437.43	-18.20
NYSE	9,288.79	-52.57
S&P 500	1,429.61	-7.89
NIKKEI(Tokyo)	17,313.35	51.70
FTSE 100(London)	6,292.60	+0.70

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
NASDAQ 110 TR (QQQQ)	-0.70	-0.31	44.99
S&P RECEIPTS (SPY)	-0.24	-0.34	142.86
CMGI INC (CMGI)	-2.81	-0.07	2.42
SUN MICROSYS (SUNW)	-2.57	-0.16	6.06

Treasuries

10-YEAR NOTE	+0.55	-0.025	4.612
13-WEEK BILL	-0.20	-0.010	4.920
30-YEAR BOND	+0.54	+0.026	4.809
5-YEAR NOTE	+0.42	+0.019	4.497

Commodities

LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl.)	+0.02	62.93
GOLD (\$/Troy oz.)	-1.40	662.50
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)	-0.68	101.60

Exchange Rates

YEN	117.4050
EURO	0.7488
POUND	0.5086
CANADIAN \$	1.1564

IN BRIEF

Atlantic City card dealers form union

ATLANTIC CITY — The parent company of Caesars Atlantic City has decided not to challenge a vote by workers to form a union, granting casino dealers in Atlantic City their first union in 25 years.

The deadline for Harrah's Entertainment Inc. to challenge the March 17 unionization vote was Monday, according to the company and the United Auto Workers, which is representing nearly 900 Caesars dealers, keno and simulcast employees.

The workers voted 572 to 128 to become part of the UAW.

The union said it was notified by the National Labor Relations Board on Tuesday that the board had certified the results of the election, clearing the way for collective bargaining at Caesars.

"This is another important step in winning a strong voice for casino workers in Atlantic City," said Elizabeth Bunn, the union's national secretary-treasurer. "We're proud to assist workers at Caesars, Trump and all Atlantic City casinos in this historic citywide organizing effort."

Caesars workers will elect a bargaining committee in the next several weeks.

Stocks fall as pessimistic data released

NEW YORK — Stocks stumbled Tuesday as investors grew wary when new data raised the possibility that the nation's weak housing market would seep into the broader economy and crimp consumer spending.

A housing index released Tuesday by Standard & Poor's showed that prices of single-family U.S. homes fell in January compared to a year ago, in their worst showing since January 2004. Also, Lennar Corp., one of the nation's largest homebuilders, said its first-quarter profit plummeted 73 percent and warned that it probably won't meet its 2007 earnings guidance.

Wall Street has been nervous lately that a drop in housing values will further weaken subprime mortgage lenders, who make loans to people with poor credit, and make consumers feel less wealthy and rein in spending. Consumer spending makes up about two-thirds of U.S. economic activity.

The Conference Board said Tuesday that its March consumer confidence index fell to 107.2, the lowest level since November and a

Consumer confidence index falls

Rising gas prices, declining home values prompt greater than expected decline

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Consumers sent up a warning signal in March that rising gas prices, falling home values and a volatile stock market could hurt spending in the coming months, a widely watched index showed on Tuesday.

The New York-based Conference Board said that its Consumer Confidence Index fell to 107.2, down from the revised 111.2 in February. Analysts had expected a reading of 109. The March index was the lowest since November 2006 when the reading was 105.3.

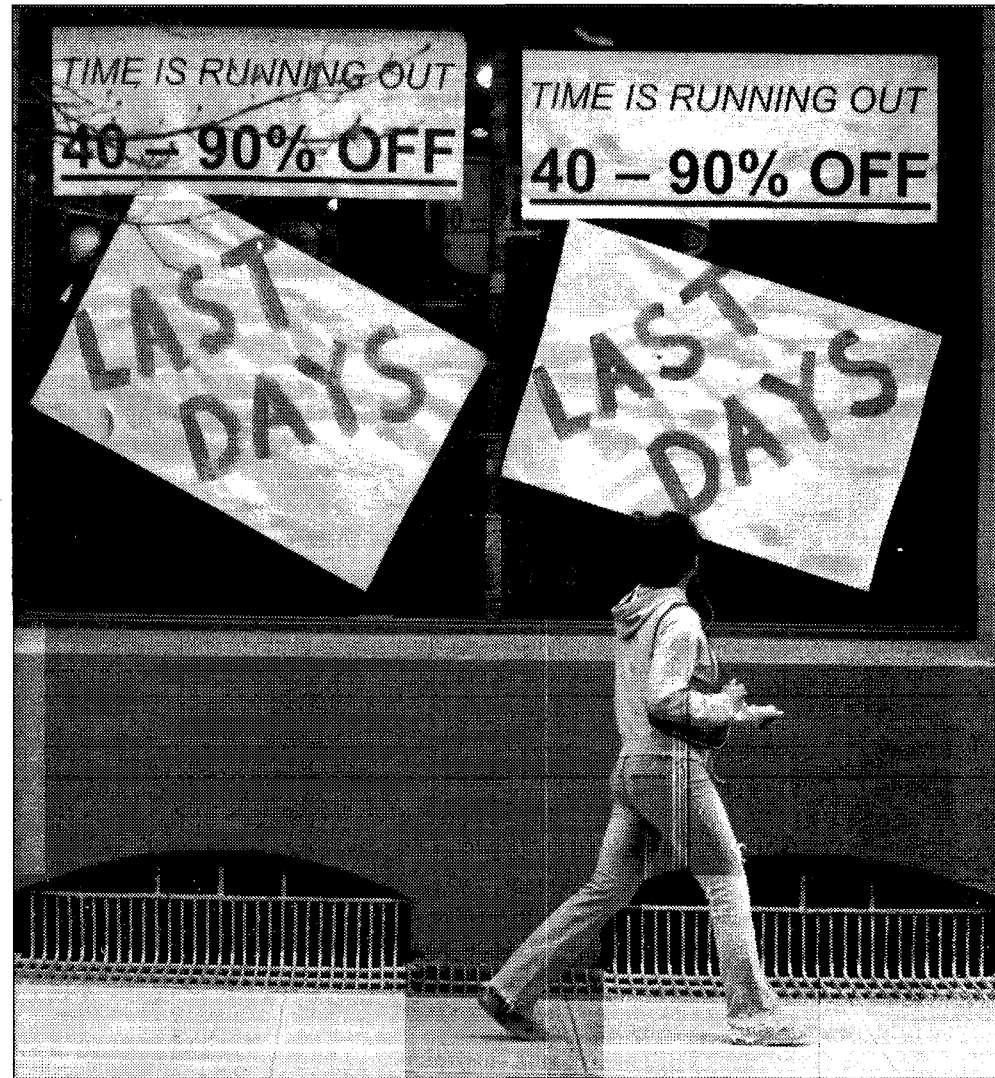
"Apprehension about the short-term future has suddenly cast a cloud over consumers' confidence," Lynn Franco, director of the Conference Board Consumer Research Center, said in a statement.

"The recent turmoil in financial markets coupled with the run-up in gasoline prices may have contributed to consumers' heightened sense of uncertainty and concern. The direction of both components over the next few months bears watching to determine whether this decline is just a bump in the road or something more substantial," she added.

Economists closely monitor consumer confidence because consumer spending accounts for two-thirds of all U.S. economic activity. Confidence had been climbing, helped by consumers' faith in the job market.

The Present Situation Index, which measures how shoppers feel now about economic conditions, increased slightly to 137.6 from 137.1 in February. The Expectations Index, which measures consumers' outlook in the next six months, declined to 86.9 from 93.8.

Joel Naroff, president of Naroff Economic Advisors, said that a one-month dip in consumer confidence



A woman looks at sale signs in the window as she walks past a downtown Portland, Ore., store Tuesday. Consumer spending may fall because of rising gas prices.

after a four-month climb doesn't mean that shoppers are suddenly going to stop spending, but he said it is a "warning sign."

"Everything is consistent on the uncertainty," Naroff said, noting that if consumers are questioning what is going on, they are also going to be questioning their future purchases.

The Conference Board report — derived from responses through March 21 — showed increasing anxiety about the stock market and inflation. Those expecting the stock market over the next 12 months to decline increased to 30.7 percent, from 16.7 percent in February. Those expecting the stock market to

increase fell to 29.3 percent from 39.9 percent.

Meanwhile, the report also showed that consumers expect the inflation rate on the goods they buy to increase by an average rate of 4.9 percent over the next 12 months, up from 4.6 percent in February. Franco noted that such a spike usually is consistent with an increase in gasoline prices.

The Conference Board report was a bit sobering for retailers and other businesses that rely on consumer spending.

The arrival of warmer weather this month — following an unusually cold January and February — has helped the nation's retailers catch up to a slow

start to the spring selling season. But a slowing economy, particularly a weakening housing market, could challenge shoppers in the months ahead. Rising defaults and delinquencies in mortgages to people with poor credit histories and fewer home equity withdrawals that give consumers extra cash could curtail spending.

The latest report on housing, released Tuesday by Standard & Poors, further dimmed hopes for a rebound in the market. Prices of single-family homes across the nation depreciated in January compared to a year ago, the weakest results in more than 13 years, according to the S&P housing index.

UAW leader reasserts strike threat

Associated Press

DETROIT — Ron Gettelfinger didn't mention concessions in his opening speech to the United Auto Workers' bargaining convention Tuesday, but many others were speaking the word in and out of the meeting hall.

The UAW president, facing what many say will be the toughest contract talks with the Detroit Three automakers in union history, warned companies that the UAW would strike if necessary, and he reassured members that it would protect their interests as DaimlerChrysler AG places its U.S. unit up for sale.

But across the street and on the floor of the downtown Detroit convention

center, union members debated whether they should give anything back to companies, especially those who have granted bonuses to executives.

"The upper management continues to get their bonuses. They continue to take work overseas no matter what the worker does," said Phil Doyle, a delegate from an Allison Transmission plant near Indianapolis who is against granting any wage cuts, health care givebacks or other concessions.

But Dennis Bryan, a delegate who retired from a former Ford Motor Co. and Visteon Corp. plant in Saline, said the union has to be flexible according to a particular plant's situation.

Bryan's former plant is now part of a

holding company and awaiting sale or closure, and he said there are times when concessions may be necessary to keep a plant competitive.

While he, too, is upset with executive bonuses, he wouldn't rule out giving back something to save a plant from closure or help a troubled company.

"We've always been about keeping a company viable so we can earn decent wages," said Bryan.

The two men represent conflicting views among the 1,500 or so members attending the two-day convention, and they also present a challenge to Gettelfinger as he leads the union into the formal start of bargaining with the Detroit Three this summer.

Kelley

continued from page 1

has not, as you can imagine, said a word to me about this stuff."

This "stuff" is the escalating Congressional investigation of Gonzales, who is accused of covering up his role in last year's dismissal of eight U.S. attorneys. Criminal charges haven't come into play, since "the U.S. attorneys are appointed by the president. They serve at the will of the president," Notre Dame law professor Jay Tidmarsh said Tuesday.

That means "it's not a mystery" that when a president comes into power, he replaces the attorneys as he chooses, Tidmarsh said — it's legal, and expected. But while political considerations may play into the initial appointments, the recent firings have raised questions.

"There's potential taint involved in someone replaced for political, rather than performance considerations," said Tidmarsh, who explained that Gonzales' denial of involvement in the situation has generated concern. "This is always true: It's the cover-up, not the actions, that get someone in trouble."

Last week, a House Judiciary subcommittee authorized subpoenas for several Bush aides, including White House political adviser Karl Rove, Miers and Kelley. Tidmarsh said his understanding was that the subpoena was issued, but not yet served. Bush has denied Congressional requests for formal testimony from the aides.

Garnett said he could not analyze the situation or Kelley's chances of being called to testify, because he did not want anyone to mistakenly believe Kelley had spoken to him about the investigation.

Kelley's executive assistant in the White House counsel's office did not return Observer phone calls Tuesday.

While Kelley's role in the controversy is still hazy — "Years as a lawyer lead me to be very skeptical of one e-mail," Tidmarsh said — that may be due partly to the nature of his job.

"The counsel's office in the White House has a really broad portfolio," Garnett said. "They're not the personal lawyers for people in the White House."

Instead, the counsel advises the president on a wide range of legal issues. The deputy counsel's job entails "advising the Counsel and the President on decisions to sign or veto legislation, ethical and conflicts questions, executive appointments and judicial selection, Presidential pardons, and lawsuits against the President in his official capacity," according to the fall 2005 issue of Notre Dame Lawyer magazine.

"I'm sure there are a thousand things that pass across Professor Kelley's desk on a

daily basis," Tidmarsh said.

But despite the position's heavy workload and the stress of a Congressional investigation, both Tidmarsh and Garnett said there were clear reasons — besides prestige — that a law professor would take this job.

"It is certainly an important position in government — I think many lawyers feel a call to public service," Tidmarsh said. "For Professor Kelley, I think that certainly is true."

Garnett said Kelley was "honored and pleased" to take the job, given the importance of the appointment.

Kelley, a tenured member of the Notre Dame faculty who has been at the University since 1995, clerked from 1987 to 1988 for former federal judge Ken Starr on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia. The next year, he clerked for Chief Justice Warren E. Burger and Associate Justice Antonin Scalia.

From 1991 to 1994, he served as assistant to the solicitor general at the Department of Justice in Washington, D.C.

Kelley's appointment to deputy counsel "was kind of natural," Garnett said. "It probably wasn't all that surprising. ... He would have been on everybody's list."

Kelley is the second Notre Dame law professor to serve in President George W. Bush's administration. Professor Jimmy Gurule worked as the Treasury Department's undersecretary for enforcement from 2001 to 2003.

Those kind of appointments, said Associate Vice President for News and Information Don Wycliff, make professors "more valuable faculty members." And that's why the University was willing to grant Kelley a leave.

"In cases where a faculty member is invited to do something special that adds to his or her credentials ... essentially what they can do is go to their dean and request a leave of absence, an unpaid leave, and negotiate the terms," Wycliff said Tuesday.

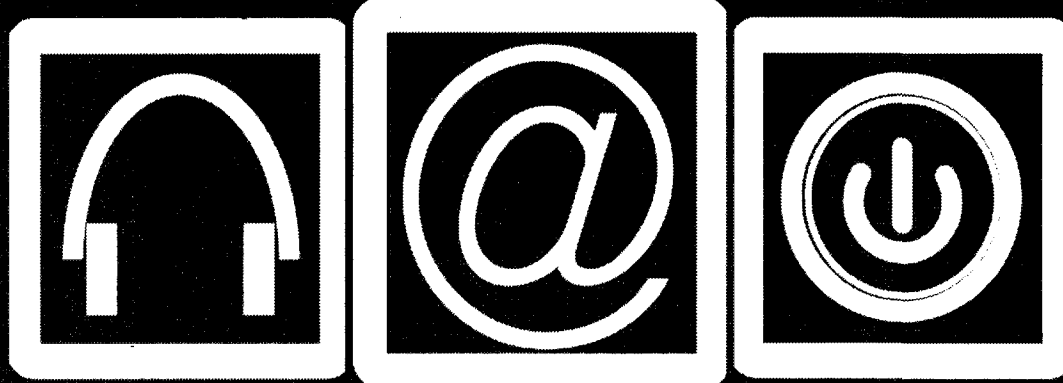
When Kelley received the appointment, "his first concern was fulfilling his obligations to the class he was then teaching," Dean of the Law School Patricia O'Hara said in an e-mail Tuesday.

"I encouraged him to accept the appointment, and I recommended approval of a leave of absence from the University," O'Hara said. "With my permission he made arrangements to complete the course by teaching the class sessions on an accelerated calendar."

O'Hara said the Law School would benefit from Kelley's return.

"Professor Kelley is an outstanding teacher and scholar in the areas of constitutional law, administrative law and federal courts, as well as a valued colleague," she said. "I am hopeful that he will choose to return to the Law School for the start of the 2007-2008 academic year."

Contact Maddie Hanna at mhanna1@nd.edu



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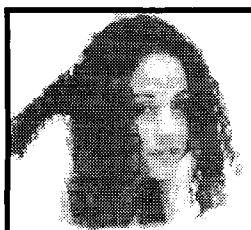


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Abeel

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Abeel's mother, Betsy, also spoke about the struggles of raising a child with a learning disability and how to creatively face these challenges.

Dyscalculia makes understanding numbers nearly impossible for Abeel, a struggle that has affected both her academic life and her everyday life.

"My sense of time is something that I struggle with," Abeel said. "Often times, I can't tell the difference between ten minutes and an hour."

Dealing with money, following cooking recipes and keeping score while playing games have also been difficult, Abeel said.

She explained that she can write the number ten and she can name the number ten, but she has no concept of how much ten is.

Both Abeel and her mother

stressed the importance of creativity in developing coping skills for learning disabilities.

Abeel, who wrote *Reach for the Moon* at age fifteen and has also published *My Thirteenth Winter*, said she has always succeeded in English and creative writing courses.

The gap between her verbal capabilities and her mathematical capabilities made it difficult for elementary school teachers to pinpoint her disability. It was not until she reached sec-

ond grade that Samantha was tested for disabilities, but her parents were told not to worry and that her math and verbal skills would eventually "even out".

However, her learning disability began to take an emotional and psychological toll on Abeel.

"By the time I was in fourth grade, I was extremely withdrawn socially," she said. "I looked like I belonged ... but I didn't feel like I belonged."

The transition from elementary school to middle school in seventh grade was even worse.

"Seventh grade was the worst year of my life," she said, describing how she could no longer rely on the coping skills that she used in elementary school to get through her daily life. Those skills included following the rest of her peers to know when to switch classes.

"I was in a regular algebra class, and I could barely add," she said.

In eighth grade, Abeel was placed in some special education classes.

"Special education changed my life," Abeel said. "It was the best thing that ever happened to me, because for the first time in my life, I could raise my hand and say I didn't get it and nobody else did either."

It was around this time that Abeel began to realize that her disability was out of her hands.

"What a relief to know that it wasn't my fault," she said.

Abeel went on to Mount Holyoke College, but found herself doing homework constantly and having panic attacks. At that point, Abeel began to see a counselor.

"It helped me to start a dialogue with somebody who was not a part of my life," she said. "I was not allowing myself to be learning disabled ... I was expecting myself to reach or attain these perfect goals."

She now realizes that acceptance is a continuous, ever evolving project.

"Acceptance is such a huge part of it, but it's a process too," she said.

Contact Emma Driscoll at edriscoll@nd.edu

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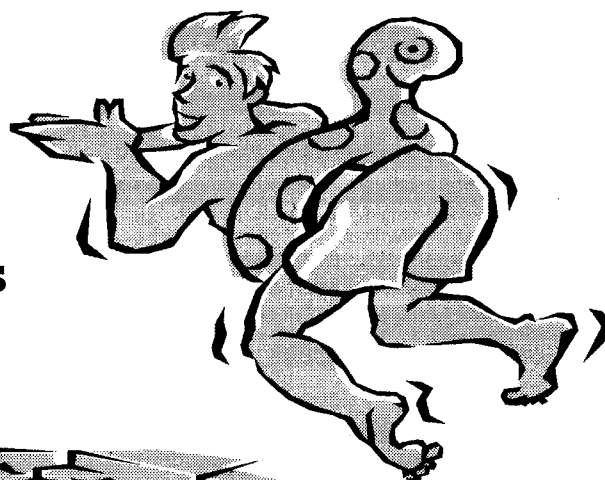
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THE OBSERVER VIEWPOINT

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Wednesday, March 28, 2007

THE OBSERVER

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Viewpoint space is available to all readers. The free expression of all opinions through letters is encouraged. Letters to the Editor must be signed and must include contact information.

Questions regarding Observer policies should be directed to Editor in Chief Maddie Hanna.

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Pilgrimage to Washington

I spent my spring break as a participant in the Center for Social Concerns' Washington Seminar. I, like most of you, watched School House Rock in middle school and took government class in high school. I even remember a little bit of James Madison's Federalist Paper No. 10. But I didn't truly understand the American political system until I spent a week in Washington, D.C. I wish I could convey to you the intricacies of our system, but I know my explanation will be far from sufficient. I can only suggest that you visit our nation's capital. Washington, D.C. should be America's Mecca. Every adult of voting age has an obligation to visit it at least once in their lifetime. Sit in on a hearing, visit your congressman's office or drop in on one of the myriad of public policy lectures that occur every week.

Unlike the Muslim who returns from Mecca with a renewed faith and greater devotion to God, I found myself leaving D.C. with a sense of despair in the American political system. My idealistic vision of intelligent, well-meaning diplomats was quickly supplanted in my mind by a conglomerate of special-interest groups, lobbyists and politicians scrambling for their own piece of the pie. As I traveled around D.C., I began to realize that most people in politics care about one thing — advancing their own personal agendas. Of course, they never frame their argument as such. They always state their personal agenda in a way that aligns with the common good. For example, if you ask a certain Senator from

Oklahoma how he can claim to be a small-government conservative when he continuously supports subsidies for the oil and gas industry, he'll reply by stating that strong domestic production is essential for "national security" reasons. It has nothing to do with the fact that his constituents benefit immensely from federal subsidies. It's all about national security, a public good.

Perhaps more appalling than the self-interestedness of politicians was the way they advanced their agenda. I don't think any of the people we met with ever outright lied to us, but a sly dishonesty permeated from many of the conference rooms. They only told one side of the story, or they cited a non-scientific report put out by a biased interest group, or they responded with the Potomac Shuffle; that is, talking around a question without ever giving a direct answer. It wasn't sufficient for everyone to just sell themselves. They also had to shoot down conflicting ideas, hold personal vendettas against opponents and turn what was already menial debate into ad hominem attacks. The fight to obtain influence and political stardom makes for great drama. As one of my fellow Seminar participants put it, "Washington is just like Hollywood, except the people are uglier."

Once I understood how Washington works, the Abramoff scandal, the Libby indictment and the Gonzalez hearings didn't seem so anomalous. By the end of the week, I began to wonder why our political system is a haven for such ugliness. None of the people we met are inherently bad, and I think many of them probably came to Washington as idealistic, principled persons. But at some point in their careers, they began

to sacrifice their principles for self-interest. They wavered to keep their job, to appease their constituents or to secure more funding. Little by little, their integrity eroded away until they are now at the point where they no longer realize how far they have strayed from their principles. They've begun to believe wholeheartedly in their mission, even if it is based on dishonesty.

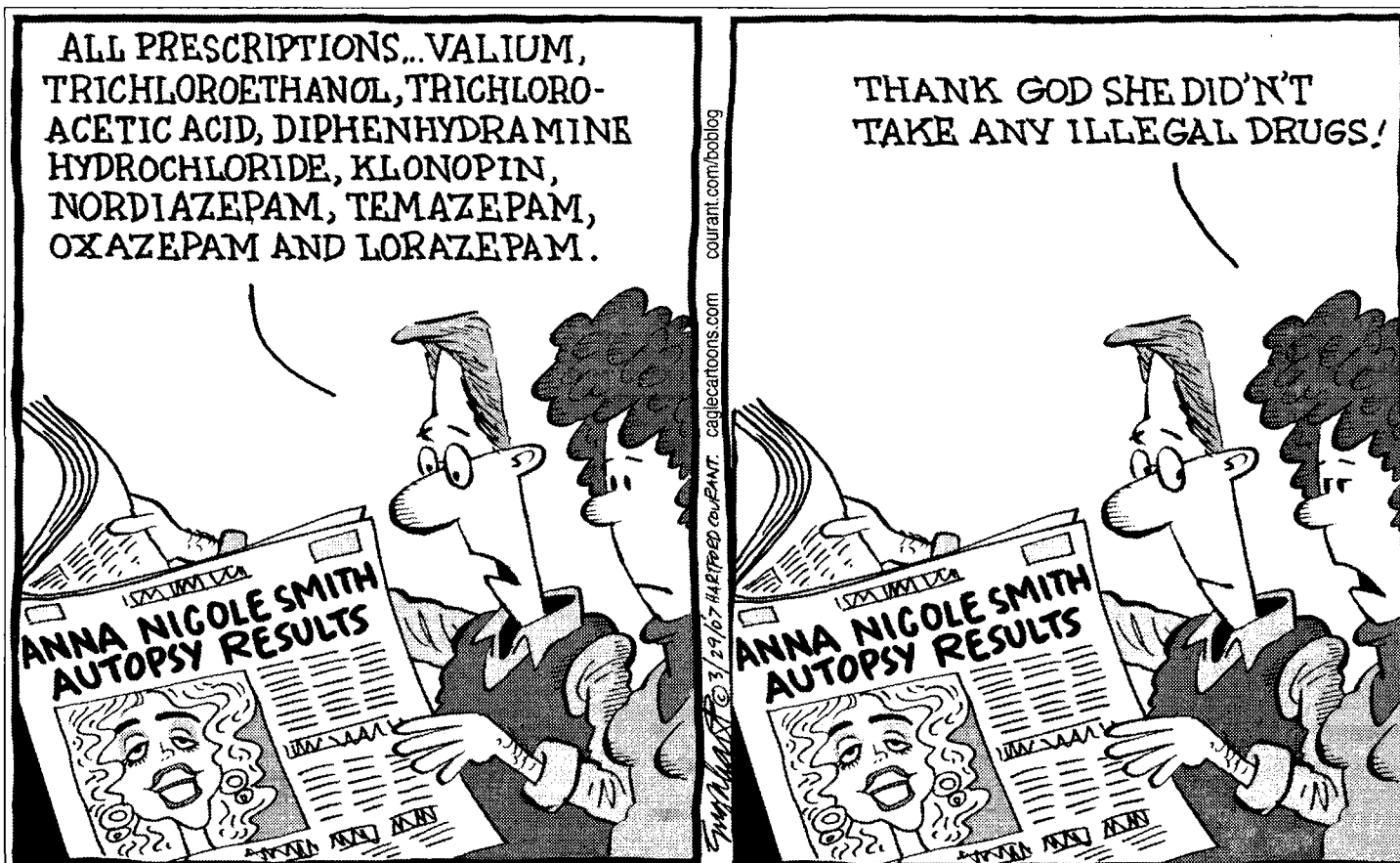
Don't take my cynicism to mean that everyone in Washington is narrow-minded and self-serving. We had the chance to meet with several nonpartisan groups and a few honest congressmen. Unfortunately, they seemed to be the exception rather than the norm.

One night we had dinner with a Notre Dame grad who works in the Pentagon. He told us that he had at one time considered the priesthood, until one of his friends convinced him otherwise. "We have enough ethical people in the priesthood," his friend told him. "What we need are ethical people in government." If you get a chance to embark on a Hajj to D.C., walk around the Washington Monument seven times and pray for more ethical government leaders. Or at least pray that we may have the good sense to elect them.

Zach Einterz is a junior majoring in economics and environmental sciences. He has turned to politics after giving up on an unsuccessful sports career. Contact him at zeinterz@nd.edu. To learn more about the College Libertarians, visit their website at www.nd.edu/~liberty.

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

EDITORIAL CARTOON



OBSERVER POLL

What is your take on activism at Notre Dame?

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

"My own business always bores me to death; I prefer other people's."

Oscar Wilde
Irish dramatist

Examining Fair Trade on campus

Fair Trade, also known as alternative trade, refers to a voluntary certification program with requirements for both producers and distributors. Working through producer cooperatives, Fair Trade seeks to raise the living and working conditions of small producers of handicrafts and commodities located mostly in the global south.

Carolyn Woo

Guest columnist

Coffee is the first commodity to receive fair trade labeling. Fair Trade certification stipulates that coffee producers will receive a premium that exceeds market levels. These prices (\$1.21 for a pound of arabica coffee, additional 15 cents for organic coffee, and a social premium of 5 cents) have enabled farmers to remain on their land, improve sanitation and water supply in their homes, build bridges and roads, establish medical clinics and build schools for their children.

Beyond coffee, other Fair Trade certified commodities include tea, cocoa, banana, rice, sugar, honey, fruits, nuts, juice, vanilla, olive oil and others. Recently I received an e-mail on Fair Trade sporting goods. The Europeans are further along in the Fair Trade movement, distributing 60% of the global output. In the United Kingdom alone, 2,500 product lines are certified Fair Trade. The U.S. is growing faster at rates of about 40% per year. Fair Trade coffee is served in 80 million U.S. households and available on 400 campuses.

Fair Trade, despite its good intentions,

has critics. These cite over-supply of coffee beans as the cause of low market prices. By artificially raising the price, Fair Trade prevents necessary adjustments and diversification into other crops. The higher price would entice other producers, thus exacerbating the surplus problem. Critics see such price protection as providing little incentive for improvement. Fair Trade may breed dependence of small producers on the charitable instincts of consumers who may be fickle. Others have argued that the stipulated prices are too low to make a big difference. Some critics point out the disproportionate positive publicity large corporations gain when they make seemingly token commitments. Others caution that the gains to Fair Trade products may not accrue to producers but to retailers who use this as a marker for price-insensitive consumers. Most are concerned that interventions to the free market are inefficient and nonproductive.

Fair Trade certification is structured for the potential to achieve long-term gains in the form of enhanced competitiveness of producers and environmentally sustainable approaches to agriculture. To qualify, producers must be small family farms organized into politically independent demographic associations and committed to ecological goals. Certified distributors must buy directly from Fair Trade certified growers at stipulated prices and contract for periods longer than one growing cycle. In addition, the distributors also provide pre-financing equal to 60 percent of the

contract value.

These arrangements provide funds for cooperatives to invest in better facilities for storage, processing, quality control, transportation and so on. Some cooperatives hire technical experts to improve their crops, develop new products, get market information, and provide leadership training. The producers, through more stable and higher cash receipts, gain access to credit and increase their bargaining leverage with government, development agencies and NGOs. Divine Chocolate, distributed by Catholic Relief Services and the first farmer-owned Fair Trade chocolate brand, offers a model of empowerment and a vision of what is possible. The farmers from the Kuapa Kokoo cooperative in Ghana supply the cocoa, serve on the board of Divine Chocolate, participate in decision-making and share in the profits of the company. The other focus of Fair Trade is environmental sustainability. Dangerous chemicals listed by the International Standards Organization cannot be used in Fair Trade products. Transfair (a Fair Trade labeling organization) reports that approximately 85 percent of the Fair Trade coffee in the U.S. is certified organic.

With respect to concerns about free market interventions, Fair Trade is not as disconnected from current market practices as some have worried. No market is completely "free," as evidenced by the tax credit for the Prius, minimum wage stipulations, tariffs on certain imported products, subsidies for various commodities,

regulations on product safety, environmental standards, ingredients that are banned, employee benefits, etc. Fair Trade options go up against regular products and are not exempt from competition even within their own class. For coffee alone, there are approximately 200 grower associations from 24 countries listed on the Fair Trade registry. Fair Trade products also vie for market distinction through prestigious awards from Food and Wine magazine and other food and beverage reviews.

Moreover, in Economic Justice for All, the U.S. Catholic Bishops state that "the economy should work for people, and not the other way around." Catholic Social Teaching reminds us that where we stand with God depends on how we stand with each other. As consumers, we are moral agents, not just economic agents. Fair Trade offers a non-violent, non-political option to level the playing field for producers in the global South and to give a hand, not a handout.

This essay would not be complete without passing on a recommendation for my favorite coffee, Green Mountain Island Coconut — Fair Trade certified.

Carolyn Y. Woo is the Dean of the Mendoza College of Business and a Professor for Entrepreneurial Studies. She can be contacted at Carolyn.Y.Woo.5@nd.edu

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Protest questioned, reaction praised

I write to support the University's decision to disperse the Catholic Worker protesters on Monday. Their coming to Notre Dame and their accusations are truly troubling to me, and I think should raise questions as to the Catholic Worker movement's appropriate place within the Church.

Clearly, the protesters are extraordinarily misled as to the implications the presence of the ROTC at Notre Dame has for our University. It is absurd to presume that simply because an ROTC program exists on our campus that the University also supports any war that the United States enters into. Were it the case that the University officially supported every position of every program on campus, it would have many conflicting views. The Catholic Workers conveniently did not mention the University's strong Peace Studies program, nor did they mention the work the well-funded Kroc Institute does.

Further, who are they to protest a program at Notre Dame? They have no ties to the University, except for a shared faith, and they are not affected

at all by there being an ROTC program here. The University's policy regarding protests is a sound one — if we were to let every group wishing to protest come to Notre Dame, we would be bombarded by all sides with fringe groups like the Catholic Workers. Such a scenario would produce chaotic results and severely impact the capacity of our University to function.

All that said, the protest should never have occurred in the first place. The Catholic Worker movement does good work with the poor and the oppressed in our country, even in South Bend. I think that should be the need that the Catholic Workers fulfill within our Church. I encourage those involved with this movement to continue to do the good work it does in these areas, and to end such needless and unproductive protests.

Christian Hoeffel

senior

St. Edward's Hall

March 27

'Moses' needs further analysis

Most students, faculty, and visitors to campus shuffle by the large statue of Moses near the library without giving much thought to Moses, his story, or what the statue means for Notre Dame and the broader community. Thus, I commend Xavier Lebec for reflecting upon this and sharing his conclusions with us ("First Down Moses" underlies negative attitudes toward other religions," March 27). Yet, I am not as quick to agree him, because I feel he unfairly analyzes the story of Moses, unduly attacking Judaism and Christianity.

One must read the book of Exodus as a whole to gain a good understanding of the events contained within its chapters. To the modern ear, God's actions may seem rather cruel and unmerciful. Chapters 7-12 recall the ten plagues God sends upon the Egyptians, the last being the death of the first born son of every household. It seems unjust that innocent Egyptian citizens were subjected to these horrendous afflictions simply because Pharaoh would not free the Israelites. Again, in Chapter 14, we read of how God drowns the pursuing Egyptian army in the Red Sea, so that the Israelites may escape. Do not these actions seem incongruous with the later commandment God gives in Chapter 20, "Thou shall not kill?"

However, closer inspection reveals that these accounts cannot, in fact, be equated with acts of modern day terrorist groups. The Israelites were a people unjustly enslaved by the Egyptians, and God, through Moses, commanded them to be freed. After increasingly severe plagues did not persuade the Pharaoh, God urged Moses to lead the Israelites to freedom and aided in their escape. The violence brought upon the Egyptians is rooted in the stubborn tyrannicism of their leader, just as the violence brought upon the Israelites is rooted in their idolatry of a man-made golden calf.

Likewise, Moses was not squelching another religion when he destroyed the golden calf; he could served that end more effectively by destroying the religious artifacts of the Egyptians. Rather, he was calling his people back to their God, from whom they had strayed. Moses was not a terrorist, nor a wagger of jihad, nor a religious bigot who sought to violently destroy other religions. He was a simple man, with a speech impediment, whom God called to do great things for the Israelites. And, at the very least, he did a good job of signaling a first down.

Chris Spellman

senior

off campus

March 27

Nothing wrong with our 'Reputation'

Twenty. Eight. Zero.

Twenty is the number of dollars I will pay Megan Rybarczyk ("Our reputation: a sober reality," March 23) to transfer to a different school. Eight is the number of times I vomited over spring break. Zero is the number of times I regret vomiting during spring break.

Ulysses S. Grant was able to win the Civil War and serve as the 18th President of the United States of America all while being a world renowned booze hound. The most important thing Notre Dame students have to worry about is what time to go to the dining hall. I think we can handle a little moonshine every now and then without killing ourselves.

If God did not want us to partake in the miraculous golden goodness that is beer, then Jesus would not have turned gallons of water into wine at Cana. It is a little known fact that most of the apostles started hanging out with Jesus because of His ability to conjure happiness out of thin air in the form of crunk juice.

Trying to convince college students not to drink makes less sense than the Church of Scientology. As

you may or may not know, the term "townie" is not unique to Notre Dame. It has been used by millions of collegians for decades as a way to describe the disgruntled local citizens. They are only disgruntled because they see the fun we are having and are jealous that they cannot partake. Anyone who has visited a friend at a state school can testify to the fact that the party scene at any one of them makes Notre Dame look like a 16th century monastery. If the NCAA decided to make drinking a Division I sport, they would bar Notre Dame from competition on the grounds of lameness. It is therefore imperative that everyone takes the exact opposite advice of Rybarczyk's prohibition reminiscent letter. We must work diligently to rebuild our reputation in the eyes of our fellow undergrads across the nation and attempt to put the "Fighting" back in the Fighting Irish.

Patrick McMaster

sophomore

Siegfried Hall

March 27

COWABUNGA!

TURTLE POWER RETURNS IN TMNT

'TMNT' REBOOTS POPULAR FRANCHISE

By RAMA GOTTUMUKKALA
Senior Staff Writer

"TMNT" is a reunion only the movies could arrange. Like so many treasured gems from the '80s, "TMNT" takes a laughably delightful premise and reminds us why we fell in love with it in the first place.

Or not. If these heroes in a half-shell failed to endear themselves to you a decade ago, there's a good chance "TMNT" can't redeem them now. Fortunately, writer/director Kevin Munroe and his creative team never confuse their film for high art. This latest movie, like all three that preceded it, caters exclusively to the fans. And it's better off for it.

"TMNT" plays out like a run-in with four dear childhood friends. Like most pleasant memories, they're just like we remember them. Mostly.

After defeating Shredder and saving feudal Japan, our heroes have grown apart as a family. Leonardo no longer leads, instead traveling the world to hone his fighting skills. Raphael is as cool but crude as ever, ignoring orders as often as he cracks heads. He's gone ronin, roving the rooftops of New York as a more brutal vigilante called The Nightwatcher.

Donatello and Michaelangelo are now the breadwinners of the family. Working from home as a tech support consultant, Donnie still does machines. Mikey is a party dude. Literally. His alter ego, Cowabunga Carl, is a popular but abused MC at birthday parties for kids. Meanwhile, Master Splinter waits for the inevitable reconciliation between his four sons. When he's not meditating, the radical rat spends his days watching soaps.

These are all fun touches that ease us back into the franchise,

leaving plenty of angst to drive the story forward. Plus, it's nice to know how these turtles get the bank to fund their pizza habit.

Aided by perennial favorites Casey Jones and April O'Neil, the turtles need to wrangle 13 mythically ugly beasties and thwart four stone villains in their attempt to achieve — surprise, surprise — immortality.

Like its predecessors, "TMNT" never flexes a muscular plot. It's more like what turtle stew tastes like, I imagine. Thin and sloppy, the plot is completely in service of its characters. The best moments in the movie come when the turtles act like a family. They relax, joke, squabble and roughhouse together just like they did 15 years ago.

In a long-running franchise, fans develop expectations for their heroes. A giant turtle nut himself, Munroe wisely takes all these moments, splashes them into a blender and whips up a green potpourri that borders on recycling, but without the boredom that sets in from having seen it all before. He never crosses that line because

we really have never seen the turtles quite like this.

As he's done before, Raphael needles Leonardo mercilessly, culminating in a spectacular rooftop fight. In a moment made for the movies, rain starts pouring down as they prepare to face off. Inspired by the very best Hong Kong martial arts films, they leap, chop, parry and lock weapons in a dizzying sequence that was never possible in the restrictive live-action escapades.

For the first time, a turtles movie succeeds in putting the "N" in "TMNT." Jim Henson and his puppeteering posse did an admirable job dropping the turtles into the New York of the '90s. "TMNT" shows us that they shouldn't have been realistic in the first place.

The goofy rub replaced with superb art inspired visual has been given build to fit their skills. Mikey's California surfer is stockier and brothers, reflect brooding bruiser

Even New York we last remember rooftops are cl escapes, water lights — all of which as the turtles bo

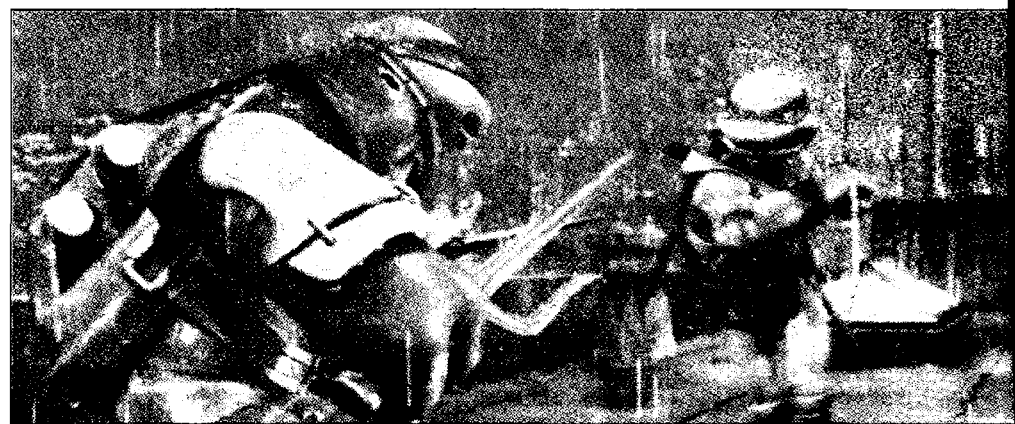
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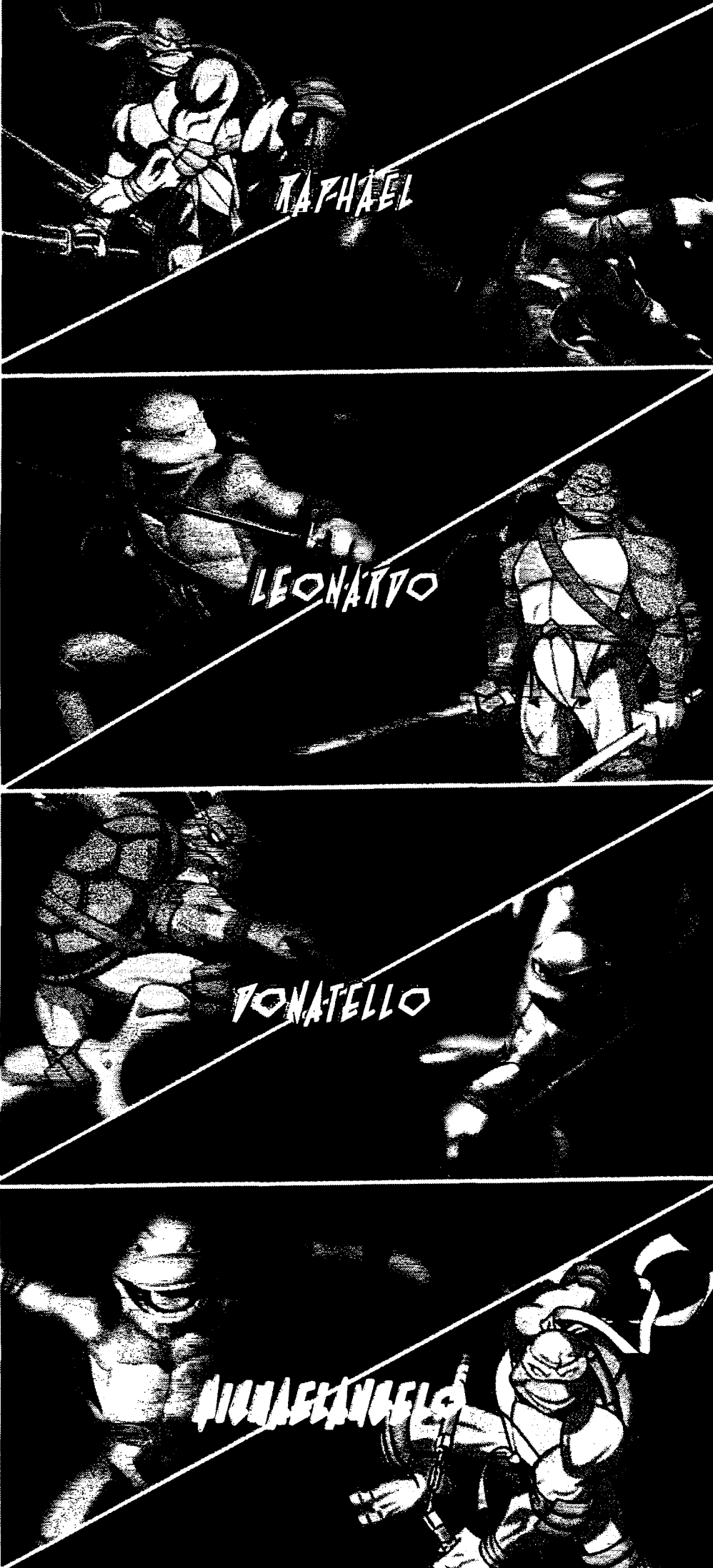
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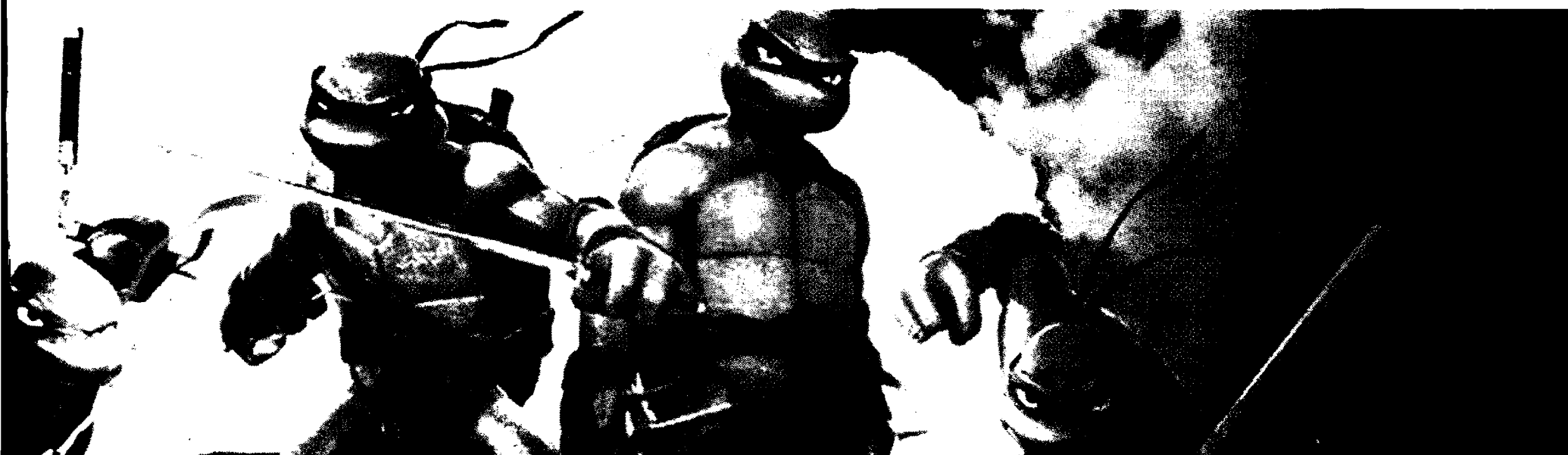
Throughout makes it abund fond he is of nostalgic affect why we pick and played pr good seeing the

Contact Rama rgottumu@nd.



Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles Raphael, left, and Leonardo battle each other in the rain in the film marks the first time the Turtles have sprung into action on the big screen since 1993.





JEFF ALBERT | Observer Graphic

VINTAGE 'NINJA TURTLES' FILMS IN PERSPECTIVE

By MARTY SCHROEDER
Assistant Scene Editor

With a love of pizza and cries of "Cowabunga!" the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles are icons of a generation. With the film release of the newest addition to the Turtles universe, it's important to remember the earlier films that made our younger eyes glow in wonder at the heroes in a half shell.

Released in 1990, "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles" promised our Renaissance-named heroes as "lean, green and on the screen," and it certainly impressed every six-to-10 year old in the country. With the Turtles fighting their archrivals, the Foot Clan, they hid in the sewers of New York and delivered their own brand of justice all the while being led by the sagacious Splinter. With the aid of the cocksure Casey Jones and beautiful reporter April O'Neil, the vigilante Turtles battled the evil Shredder.

Starring Elias Koteas and Judith Hoag as Casey and April respectively, this film was panned by critics but loved by a generation. The suits the turtle actors wore left something to be desired in terms of matching lip movement and voices but they did their job well enough for a fan base raised on

the cartoon version.

Following the success of the first film, "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles II: The Secret of the Ooze" was released the following year. The sequel delved into the origins of the Turtles, introducing the radioactive material that transformed them from mere house pets to the league of headband-wearing crime fighters they were to become. The introduction of two new villains, Tokka and Rahzar, added to the fantastic nature of this film.

More light-hearted than the first film, "Turtles II" features the famous "Go Ninja, Go!" sequences performed by the inimitable Vanilla Ice. A rather unneeded and out of context scene, this nonetheless became the unofficial tag line of the film. With ninjas a-go-going and animals and men alike finding new power in the "ooze," this movie was, like its predecessor, panned by critics but loved by fans. With its bouncing music and light-hearted tone, this was the children's film producers had been looking for. Unfortunately, with the third film, they went a little too far.

"Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles III" saw the Turtles travel back in time to feudal Japan with the aid of a magic scepter found by April. With poor production values, "TMNT III" saw the franchise take a nose-dive into the



Photo courtesy of ninjaturtles.com

The four Ninja Turtles chow down on some pizza in 1990's "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles," the first live-action film of the popular franchise.

ridiculous. The Turtles had to battle weapons dealer Walker and the Japanese Lord Norinaga in order to prevent a war from breaking out. Granted, it is a children's film, but by 1993, fans of the Turtles were only getting older and yet the third film pandered to a younger audience than the second. While adding some memorable scenes to the canon, the third installment couldn't match the dark mis-escence of the first film, nor the happy-go-lucky innocence of the second.

In the end, the early '90s Ninja Turtles trilogy represents only a small fraction of what the Ninja Turtles are. With the release of the original comic books, the franchise was born, and, following those, the cartoons, toys and video games garnered a legion of children all over the world. Thankfully, the film tradition that began almost two decades ago is still alive and well.

Contact Marty Schroeder at
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TURTLE TOYS THROUGH THE YEARS

By NATE HOGAN
Scene Writer

The perhaps unfamiliar names Groundchuck, Walkabout and Dirtbag all have one thing in common. They are all the names of obscure characters from the original line of Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles action figures. When the TMNT cartoon came out in 1987, it captured the hearts of American youth and simply screamed merchandising. In the following year, Playmates Toys released the first line of a long chain of action figures for the TMNT cartoon and beyond. This release featured the classic characters anyone of our generation associates with the Ninja Turtles. This would be the classic four — Leonardo, Donatello, Michaelangelo and Raphael — plus their master, Splinter. Their compadre and confidant April O'Neil was also included. The Shredder, a Foot Soldier, Bebop and Rocksteady rounded out the line by providing a basis of villainous characters to pit against the gnarly four.

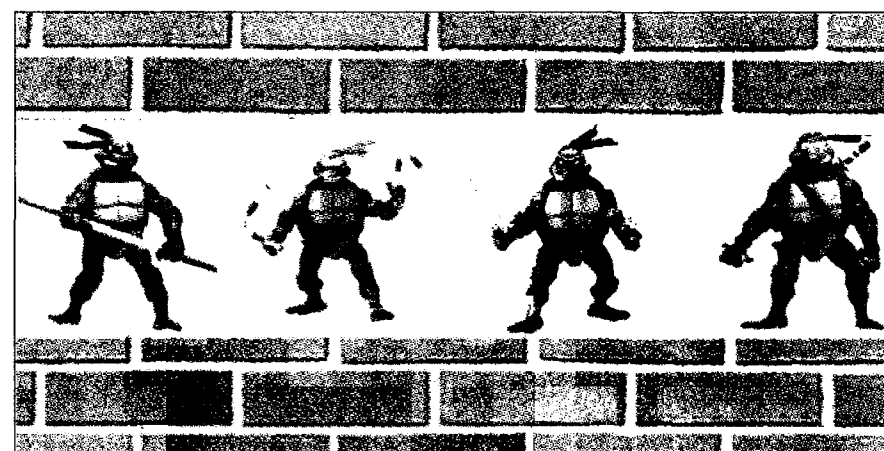
These figures possessed great detail for the time and came with numerous accessories that added to their playability. Shredder and Splinter even featured cotton capes, which one could take the liberty of removing and giving to more worthy characters if one so chose. (The fashion trend in "The

Incredibles" of not wearing capes does not apply to action figures, as a cape makes any figure infinitely better.)

As the cartoon gained popularity, Playmates capitalized by continuing to release new figures. Characters from the show earned their immortality in plastic, such as the Cajun-accented Leatherhead, the Rat King and vigilante sports enthusiast Casey Jones. Jones featured what were arguably the greatest accessories ever: a golf bag which could go over his shoulder, complete with a golf club and two baseball bats for beating criminals into submission as he attempted to rid the world of bad sports.

At this point, Playmates decided to branch out a little and began providing their young market with a plethora of creative stimuli. In addition to selling characters from the show, they released the original four with outlandish outfits as well as completely new characters who never even saw screen time. This opened the doors for imagination, allowing the owner to create the back story and personality of the figure, since no one actually paid attention to the canned history on the back of the figure's card.

As mentioned before, Playmates released variants of the original turtles in every costume imaginable. To put this in perspective, from 1988 to 1995 Playmates released more than 30 figure variants of Leonardo alone. These



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Action figures of the Turtles went through many designs and looks through the years, often with customizable weapons and accessories.

included such greats as T.D. Tossin' Leo, Lieutenant Leo and the ever-popular Classic Rocker Leo. As interest began to wane, Playmates toned their production down, yet continued to steadily release figures based on the 1987 cartoon through 1997.

The TMNT property was reinvigorated with the release of a new cartoon in 2003, after a failed revamp in 1997 known as the next mutation. Of course a new line of figures was released to accompany the 2003 cartoon. These new figures were the same old characters, but with a much edgier look. The increased articulation, superior paint jobs on characters

and weapons and increased detail in both the accessories and expressions hooked kids of a new generation on the characters. Not only was the cartoon better looking than ever, but the figures looked as if they were lifted straight from the television and put in the arms of the imaginative viewers.

Fans of the original cartoon can appreciate the updated representation of their favorite classics in plastic, while recalling a time when figures opened their playtime up to the whims of the imagination. Cowabunga, dude!

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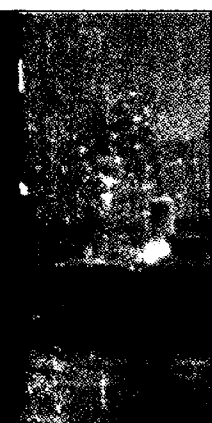


Photo courtesy of movieweb.com

"TMNT." The CGI



JEFF ALBERT | Observer Graphic

BAY'S 'TRANSFORMERS' MORPHS INTO SUMMER BLOCKBUSTER

By SEAN SWEANY
Assistant Scene Editor

The "robots in disguise" are back. The iconic, shape-shifting robot characters of the "Transformers" world return to the big screen this summer in an epic film creators hope will reinvigorate and re-launch the franchise.

Launched in 1984 as a combination toy line/comic book series that quickly spawned a popular animated series, Transformers earned a spot in the minds of youths around the world as a fun, action-packed story about the basic premise of good versus evil. The unusual and imaginative "wow factor" of Transformers rests in the fact that the characters can transform into objects such as cars, planes or animals, lending the "Robots in disguise" and "More than meets the eye" taglines.

The basic premise of Transformers pits the intrinsically good Autobots — led by the benevolent Optimus Prime — against the evil Decepticons — ruled by the tyrant Megatron — in a search for new sources of energy on Earth, as resources on their planet Cybertron have run out. This basic plot, which has survived many years and changes to the Transformers universe, has always been the main focus of the series, especially on the big screen.

The first film adaptation of the show — "Transformers: The Movie" — debuted in 1986 as an animated picture that fit into the storyline of the animated television show that aired from 1984 to 1987. The film and TV series maintained the comic book look

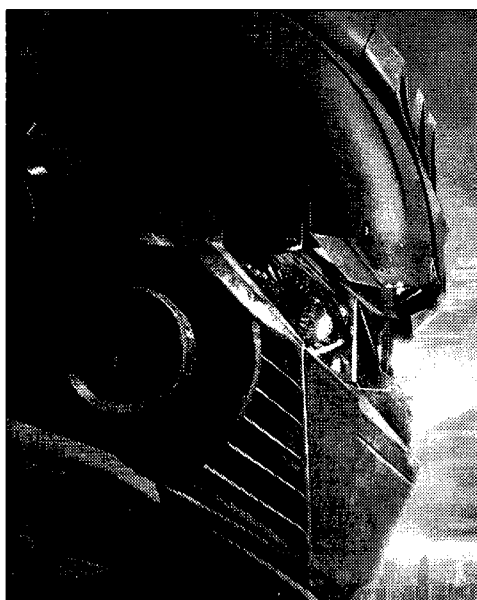
of the Transformers and remained popular throughout the 1990s. While often over-the-top and unrealistic, the animated programs were popular enough to sell millions of toys to fans, thus ensuring their popularity and longevity.

By 1996, however, the Transformers world was in need of a facelift and creators devised a new line of toys and television shows called "Beast Wars." This took the traditional characters and gave them completely animal forms. Whereas the original Optimus Prime morphed into a semi-trailer truck, his Beast Wars counterpart was an ape named Optimus Primal.

The Beast Wars line also eventually died out and Transformers faded from the public consciousness until a statement in 2005 announced that a live-action film would roll into theaters in 2007. When Michael Bay was attached as director, Transformers fans experienced both delight and anguish.

There was no doubt that thrilling, epic action scenes would be present, but the big question was whether "Transformers" would follow the likes of Bay's critical flops such as "Pearl Harbor" and "Armageddon" or if it would become at worst a decent film such as "The Island."

As the release date draws near and more production photos and stories become available, it seems that "Transformers" will be more like "The Island" — combining an effects extravaganza with a compelling storyline. A strong cast of supporting actors including Jon Voight, John Turturro and Bernie Mac join up-and-coming lead actor Shia LeBeouf ("Holes") in per-



Photos courtesy of aintitcool.com

Optimus Prime, right, and Megatron square off in "Transformers," Michael Bay's 21st-century adaptation of the decades-old franchise. The film debuts July 4.

forming what has been rated an intelligent script.

As with previous rehashes of the Transformers franchise, the new film will bring a new look to the robots. Gone is the boxy, old-fashioned look of the 1980s, replaced with a sleek, smooth style more befitting the 21st century.

Bay insisted that every mechanical part of the machines and their transforming motions be as realistic as possible so as to lend a credibility to his film that was sometimes lacking in the cartoons. The CGI will also have a level of detail never before seen, as Bay has

boasted that it takes 38 hours to render a single frame of animation.

These stringent standards for the "Transformers" movie accompany high expectations held by a caring and loyal fanbase. These fans will subject the film to intense scrutiny and criticism not out of cynicism, but from a desire for the material to hold up to its beloved predecessors.

Only when the film is released July 4 will we know if Bay's movie is more than meets the eye.

Contact Sean Sweany at
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RESTORED CLASSIC SHAKES OFF RUST ON DVD

By RAMA GOTTUMUKKALA
Senior Staff Writer

Orson Welles hated his final role. He thought so little of it he couldn't even recall the name of the character he voiced. "I play a big toy who attacks a bunch of smaller toys," Welles said cryptically of the movie.

For the record, he was mostly right. His character, Unicron, is an insatiable, planet-devouring robot that threatens the whole galaxy in "Transformers: The Movie," an animated classic from 1986. Like the project as a whole, Unicron was dreamed up for the sole purpose of selling more Transformers toys, the white-hot phenomenon of the '80s. Whether he wanted to or not, Welles helped fulfill that goal admirably.

More surprising, though, is the film's current cult status among children of the '80s. When it was released, it was marketed so poorly that it was out of theaters before kids even knew it was made. Critics reamed it for its dark and violent tone. No Transformers had died on the kid-friendly animated show, yet they were dying by the dozens in the movie. The most egregious violation of all, according to naysayers, was the gutsy choice to kill off the noble Optimus Prime, heart and soul of the series, midway through the film. His death was short-lived, but its impact was not.

Twenty years later, hindsight has been much kinder to the film. In many ways, the movie was ahead of its time. In the '90s,

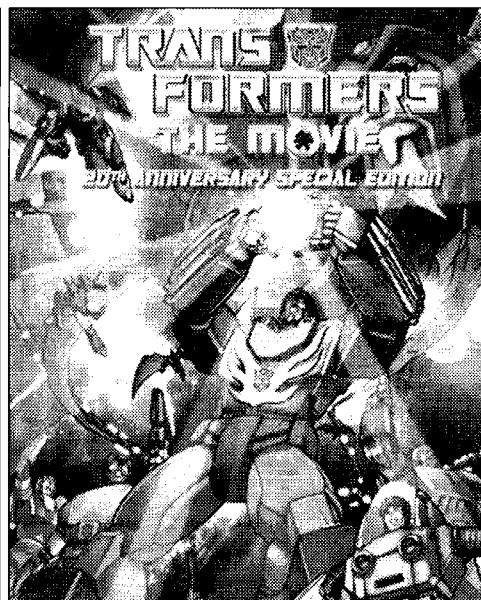
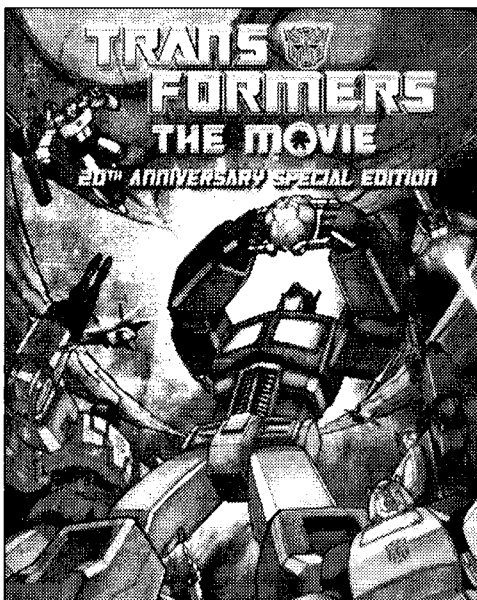
shows like "Batman: The Animated Series" won Emmys for their grim, gritty approach to superheroics. But never before had animated fare, especially one with the enormous fan following that the Transformers enjoyed, gone this dark.

As a movie, "Transformers" worked perfectly well for what it was: an intergalactic adventure that juggled its sizable cast of characters with ease. The first act of the film is one of the strongest of any animated movie outside of the Disney banner. The evil Megatron launches a devastating attack on the Autobots, only to be halted by the arrival of Optimus Prime.

Robots on both sides suffer grievous injuries and die. The Autobots are left without a leader after Prime's death. Hope is tenuous. And Unicron looms in the distance, ready to devour all. The second and third acts suffer in comparison, but characters change, mature and are redeemed. Heroes rise to the occasion, and robots on both sides live to disguise themselves and fight another day.

On the cusp of Michael Bay's \$150 million live-action film, Sony BMG has dug deep into the Transformers archives and has released a two-disc special edition DVD to coincide with the animated film's 20th anniversary.

Prior to this release, the widescreen version of the original theatrical release had never been available on home video. This release contains both widescreen and fullscreen versions, the latter of which has been available on video tape for years. With a remastered and color-corrected image and cleaned-up audio, the movie



Photos courtesy of transformersthemovieDVD.com

The recent two-disc special edition DVD of "Transformers: The Movie" features a lenticular cover which shows both the above images when rotated in the light.

looks and sounds better than ever before.

The second disc is loaded with special features that cater to both mild and hardcore fans. Chief among these are three thorough featurettes on the controversial death of Optimus Prime, the film's ensemble cast of characters and the impressive stable of voice talent (which included celebrities like Leonard Nimoy, Casey Kasem, Judd Nelson and Welles).

This DVD is an impressive set for an animated movie already two decades old, especially one that was neglected upon its initial release. It's inspired and exhaustive, unlike most of the bare and subpar DVDs

that accompany films no more than six or eight months old.

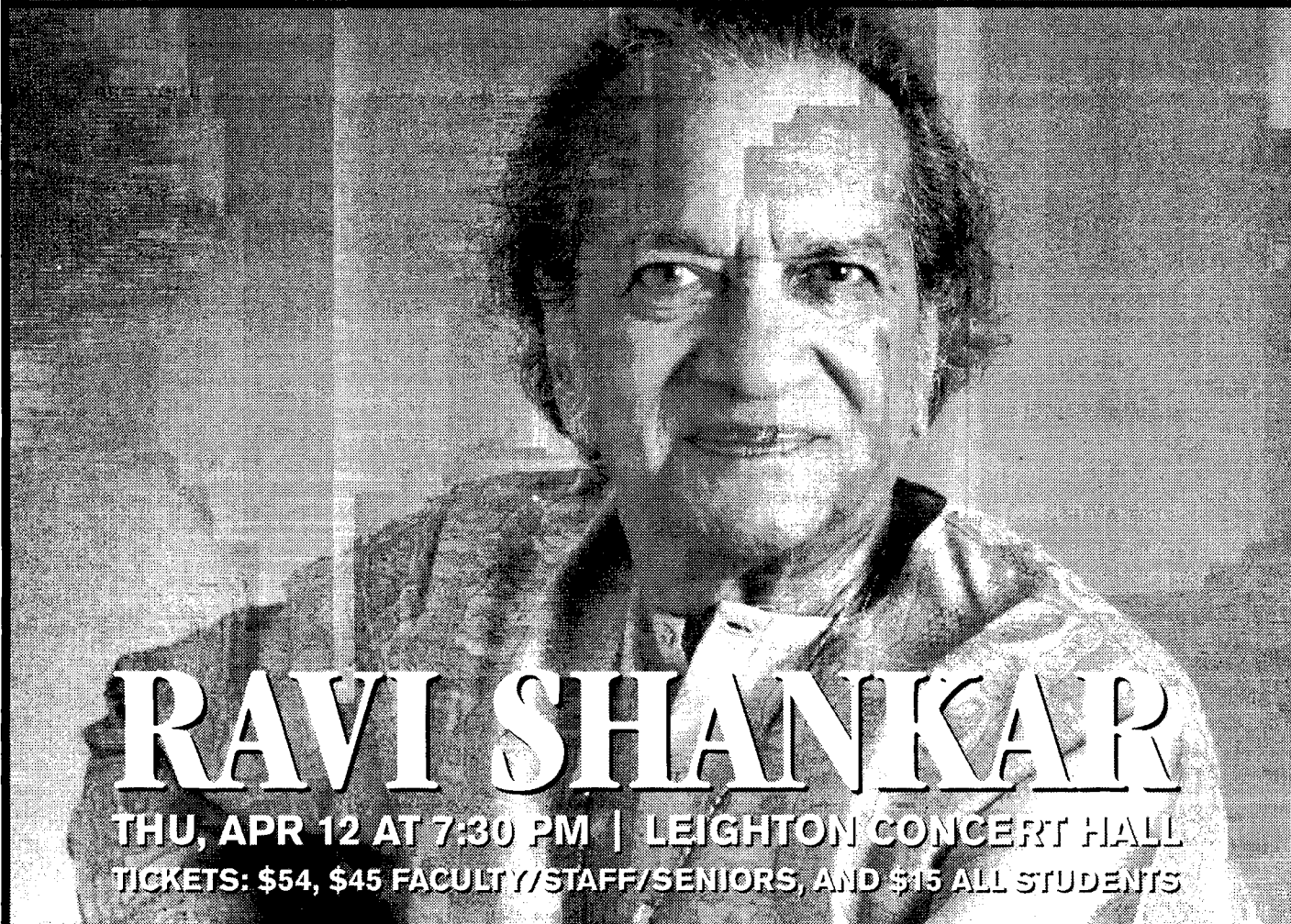
Welles' scorn for "Transformers" seems justifiable. After all, this was the American legend who co-wrote, directed and starred in "Citizen Kane" at age 26. Like the character he played in his final role, he was a big toy in a world of smaller toys. He may not have respected it. But his imposing presence added gravitas to a film that took itself seriously and continues to be remembered for it.

Contact Rama Gottumukkala at
rgottumu@nd.edu



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NBA

Cavs clinch playoff berth with win over Pacers

Mavericks take 21st consecutive game against Hornets, Lewis scores 21 points in fourth to beat Timberwolves

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — LeBron James led with words, then he led by example.

After kicking coach Mike Brown out of a team meeting Tuesday morning, James had 26 points, seven rebounds and six assists as the Cleveland Cavaliers beat the Indiana Pacers 105-94 to clinch a playoff berth.

Cleveland had lost three of four after an eight-game winning streak, but pulled within 2 1/2 games of Detroit in the race for the top seed in the Eastern Conference playoffs. It was the opener of a five-game road trip for the Cavaliers, who won the season series with Indiana 3-1.

The Cavaliers came out focused after the meeting that James led on Tuesday.

"This is my team, that's my responsibility to make sure everyone's on course," James said. "There can be a lot of distractions on a five-game road trip."

Brown didn't mind his star player becoming more vocal.

"We can help them and put them in spots, coach them, continue to show them where they're wrong, where they're right and so forth," Brown

said, "but really, when it gets down to it, they're the ones on the floor playing. If you have a team that decides to take ownership of what they're doing, then the sky's the limit."

Zydrunas Ilgauskas scored 23 points for the Cavaliers, who shot 52 percent from the field. Cleveland outrebounded the Pacers 43-33 and outscored the Pacers 27-19 from the free throw line.

Indiana's Jermaine O'Neal did just about everything but scrub the floor at Conseco Fieldhouse the past two games, but the Pacers didn't reward him with a win.

O'Neal scored 32 points, his second straight game with more than 30. He was coming off a 39-point game, the second-best scoring effort of his career, in a 92-90 loss to Chicago on Sunday. He followed it up Tuesday by shooting 11-for-18 from the field and 10-for-10 from the free-throw line.

"He's been a horse and a warrior," Indiana coach Rick Carlisle said. "He's played through a lot and he had a mammoth game tonight."

Mavericks 105, Hornets 89

Even a throwback night couldn't help the New Orleans



Minnesota center Mark Blount, right, impedes Seattle guard Luke Ridnour, center, as Timberwolves guard Mike James drives through. Minnesota blew a 25-point lead in their 114-106 loss Tuesday.

Hornets hearken back to the times when they beat the Dallas Mavericks.

Not against a team so proven at establishing and extending winning streaks.

Josh Howard had 25 points and 10 rebounds, and the Mavericks beat New Orleans Tuesday night for their 21st straight victory over the Hornets.

For a team that's already become the first in NBA history to have three winning streaks of 12 games or longer in a single season, it was also the seventh straight win for the Mavericks and their sixth in a row on the road.

"It was really a fun trip, obviously. We're trying to work hard offensively moving the ball, and everybody's making shots," said Dallas forward Dirk Nowitzki, who scored 15 points while shaking off an illness. "It was a fun trip."

Jason Terry added 19 points and seven assists, and Devin Harris scored 14 points for Dallas. The Mavericks are already past halfway to an unprecedented fourth 12-game winning streak.

Dallas needs only one more win to match the franchise record of 60, set in 2002-03 and matched last season.

"We just knew we wanted to

get better as a team going on this road trip. In the playoffs, you need wins on the road," Howard said. "We've kind of proven to ourselves right now that we can get wins on the road."

The Hornets haven't beaten Dallas since the turn of the century, the longest losing streak for one team against an opponent in the NBA, NFL, NHL or Major League Baseball. The Mavericks' last loss in the series came on Nov. 17, 1999, in Charlotte.

Supersonics 114, Timberwolves 106

Instead of putting away Seattle, the Minnesota Timberwolves gave away the game — and maybe their chance to make the playoffs.

Up by 25 points with five minutes left in the third quarter, Minnesota was outscored 51-18 the rest of the way and 25-2 to end the game, losing

to the SuperSonics in Tuesday night after the biggest blown lead in franchise history.

"It's been the same thing all year," Minnesota coach Randy Wittman said. "We play the right way for three quarters. ... We either don't respect the game or don't respect the opponent. It comes back to get you every time."

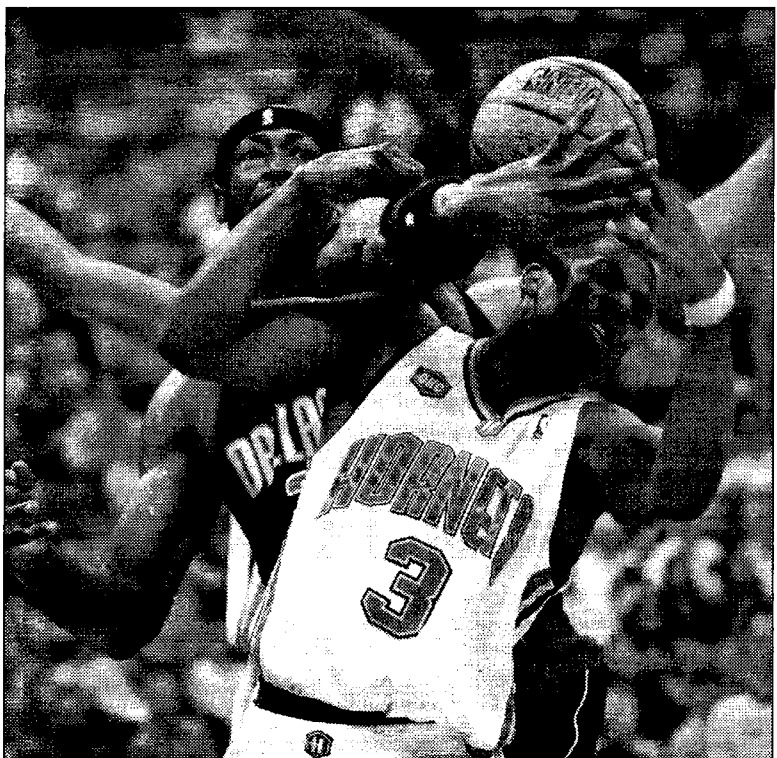
Rashard Lewis led Seattle's comeback with 21 of his 35 points in the fourth quarter. Earl Watson set a career high with 24 points, while Chris Wilcox also finished in double figures with 19.

The loss was a serious blow to Minnesota's playoff chances, as the Wolves entered Tuesday 3 1/2 games back of the eighth playoff spot in the Western Conference. Instead of gaining ground, Minnesota was left to contemplate its biggest blown lead in the history of the team, surpassing a 22-point blown lead to Dallas on December 18, 2001. The Wolves' biggest blown advantage this season was 17 points against Charlotte on Feb. 21.

"For some reason, I didn't initiate and keep us together down the stretch, and that bothers me," Wolves forward Kevin Garnett said. "We got a great lead, but in the second half I didn't keep us aggressive like we should have."

Instead, Lewis was the aggressor for the final 12 minutes — attacking the basket on offense while slowing Garnett on defense.

"We went to him at the end of the game when we had to have them and he came through," Seattle coach Bob Hill said.



Dallas center Erick Dampier, left, battles with New Orleans guard Chris Paul during the Mavericks 105-89 win Tuesday over the Hornets.

CLASSIFIEDS

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.

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AROUND THE NATION

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

page 17

NBA

Eastern Conference, Atlantic Division

team	record	pct.	GB
Toronto	38-32	.543	-
New Jersey	32-38	.457	6
New York	30-40	.429	8
Philadelphia	28-42	.400	10
Boston	21-49	.300	17

Eastern Conference, Central Division

team	record	pct.	GB
x-Detroit	45-25	.643	-
Cleveland	42-28	.600	3
Chicago	42-30	.583	4
Indiana	31-38	.449	13.5
Milwaukee	25-44	.362	19.5

Eastern Conference, Southeast Division

team	record	pct.	GB
Miami	38-32	.543	-
Washington	37-32	.536	.5
Orlando	33-38	.465	5.5
Atlanta	27-45	.375	12
Charlotte	26-45	.366	12.5

Western Conference, Northwest Division

team	record	pct.	GB
x-Utah	46-24	.657	-
Denver	35-34	.507	10.5
Minnesota	30-39	.435	15.5
Portland	29-42	.408	17.5
Seattle	27-42	.391	18.5

Western Conference, Pacific Division

team	record	pct.	GB
y-Phoenix	53-17	.757	-
LA Lakers	38-32	.543	15
LA Clippers	34-36	.486	19
Golden State	33-39	.458	21
Sacramento	30-40	.429	23

Western Conference, Southwest Division

team	record	pct.	GB
x-Dallas	58-11	.841	-
x-San Antonio	50-20	.714	8.5
x-Houston	45-26	.634	14
NO/Okla. City	32-38	.457	26.5
Memphis	17-54	.239	42

x - clinched playoff spot, y - clinched division title

Baseball America College Poll

	Team	Record	Prev.
1	North Carolina	2-1	2
2	Clemson	3-0	1
3	Vanderbilt	6-0	4
4	South Carolina	5-1	3
5	Arkansas	6-2	6
6	Rice	5-4	7
7	Virginia	4-1	8
8	Florida State	9-0	9
9	Oregon State	9-1	10
10	Cal State Fullerton	7-2	12
11	Miami	4-4	5
12	Wichita State	1-2	11
13	Texas	6-5	14
14	Arizona State	7-3	13
15	UCLA	6-4	15
16	Georgia Tech	3-3	16
17	Oklahoma State	5-1	17
18	San Diego	9-4	18
18	Nebraska	3-1	19
20	Pepperdine	7-3	23
21	Tulane	4-2	22
22	TCU	6-1	24
23	Winthrop	7-2	25
24	Mississippi	4-1	NR
25	Evansville	3-3	21

around the dial

NBA

Houston vs. LA Clippers
10:00 p.m., ESPN

SWIMMING



American swimmer Michael Phelps swims in the 200-meter butterfly during the Swimming World Championships Tuesday. Phelps broke the record in the 200-meter freestyle held by Australian Ian Thorpe.

Phelps highlights record-breaking meet

Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — Michael Phelps stood on deck with 50 Cent blaring in one ear, a steely determination in both eyes. When his name was announced to the crowd at Rod Laver Arena, the young American did nothing more than stare down the strip of water at his feet.

Next door at the warmup pool, Phelps' teammates stopped what they were doing — even those who had races of their own coming up at the world championships. They had to see this one for themselves, so they paused to

watch it on a big screen.

"I had a thought in my head," Aaron Peirsol would say later, "that this was going to be one of those legendary races."

With four laps of the pool Thursday night, Michael Phelps wiped out Hoogie and took down the ghost of Thorpe, leaving little doubt that we're all getting the privilege of watching the greatest swimmer ever to hit the pool.

"You just can't count him out of any race that he's in," said Mark Schubert, head coach of the U.S. team. "He's obviously on a mission. He's going to be real special here — and

he's going to be real special a year from now."

Phelps already is special, of course, his legacy cemented by performances such as his six-gold, two-bronze medal haul at the 2004 Athens Olympics, or his five world records — two of them in different events on the same day — at the 2003 world championships in Barcelona.

But a magical swim Tuesday night in the 200-meter freestyle might have been the best yet, a swirling symphony of wind-milling arms, flapping feet, somersaulting turns and rocket-like bursts just beneath the water line of the tempo-

rary pool.

"I will say," Phelps allowed, "everything was pretty close to perfect in that race."

On a night when four world records fell, three of them to the powerful U.S. team, no one stood out more than the 21-year-old who loves hip-hop music, video games and a pet bulldog that he had to leave back home in Michigan.

The 200-meter freestyle record was one of swimming's hallowed marks, the time of 1 minute, 44.06 seconds set six years ago by Australia's Ian Thorpe, the iconic "Thorpedo."

IN BRIEF

Kerry argues against DirecTV Extra Innings deal in Senate

WASHINGTON — Sen. John Kerry urged Major League Baseball on Tuesday to hold off on a deal to put the sport's "Extra Innings" package of out-of-market games exclusively on DirecTV Group Inc. A top baseball official declined to agree, with opening day less than a week away.

Kerry, D-Mass., made the push at a Senate Commerce Committee hearing on behalf of subscribers to cable TV and EchoStar Communications Corp.'s Dish Network who had received the package previously.

The dispute concerns which homes will receive baseball's new television network in 2009. DirecTV, a satellite service, has agreed to carry that package as part of its deal. The company would also receive an equity stake in the channel.

"What's the matter with that?" Kerry asked Bob DuPuy, baseball's chief operating officer.

NFL owners vote to make replay rule permanent

PHOENIX — Replay is here to stay in the NFL.

League owners voted 30-2 on Tuesday to make the video replay system to aid officiating a permanent tool. All but three stadiums will be equipped with high-definition equipment and will be recabled before the upcoming season. The stadiums being replaced in Irving, Texas, Indianapolis and East Rutherford, N.J., will not get the updates.

"It's a long time coming," said Atlanta Falcons general manager Rich McKay, co-chairman of the competition committee that recommended the change. "It made sense to us this year to do it. Instant replay is an accepted part of the game. It's what we are. There was not really much discussion about it."

Cincinnati and Arizona voted against the proposal, as they nearly always do on replay issues.

Williams upends Sharapova in Sony Ericsson Open

KEY BISCAYNE, Fla. — Serena Williams bounced the ball at the baseline, eager to serve. Maria Sharapova stood with her back to the court, frowning at her racket and in no hurry to continue. Sharapova finally took her position, and the rout resumed.

There was no slowing Williams on Tuesday. In a result reminiscent of the Australian Open final, she beat the top-seeded Sharapova 6-1, 6-1 to reach the quarterfinals of the Sony Ericsson Open.

"Once she gets up in the set or in the match, she seems to steam-roll," Sharapova said.

The match was only the third for Williams since she defeated Sharapova 6-1, 6-2 in Melbourne two months ago. Williams bristled when asked if she expected such an easy rematch.

TENNIS

Twice beaten, Federer finds new nemesis

Associated Press

KEY BISCAVNE, Fla. — Standing near the net, looking up at the ball coming almost straight down in the twilight, Roger Federer hesitated.

Should he hit an overhead, or let it bounce?

With the match on the line, the world's greatest player made the wrong choice, took a swing when the ball reached chest level and whacked it into the net.

Two points later, Federer had lost to his new nemesis. Guillermo Canas beat Federer for the second time this month, 7-6 (2), 2-6, 7-6 (5) in a fourth-round epic at the Sony Ericsson Open.

The upset wasn't the only rematch repeat Tuesday. Serena Williams beat Maria Sharapova 6-1, 6-1, in a rout reminiscent of their Australian Open final two months ago.

With that, Key Biscayne's two No. 1-seeded players were eliminated.

Two weeks ago, Canas ended Federer's 41-match winning streak at Indian Wells. The dogged Argentine showed that victory was no fluke, extending points by repeatedly chasing down shots and forcing a frustrated Federer into 51 unforced errors.

"It's one of those matches I

never should have lost," Federer said.

The defeat ended his bid for a third successive Key Biscayne title, while Canas improved to 3-0 this year against top-10 players. He was ranked as high as No. 8

before serving a 15-month doping suspension, and he had to qualify for the Key Biscayne draw.

"I'm surprised because I beat two times the No. 1 in the world. Really, I don't know what is my secret," Canas

said. "I'm just trying to enjoy the moment. For me it's like a dream."

Williams, who defeated Sharapova 6-1, 6-2 in the Australian Open final, this time won by an even more lopsided score. She bristled

when asked if she anticipated such an easy match.

"Haven't you learned that I expect the best of myself?" she said. "If I'm playing well, then anything can happen. I believe there could be a similar score if I'm playing well."



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What's in a Name?: The Wisconsin Right to Life Case and
Deciding When an Issue Ad is Not an Issue Ad

William V. Luneburg
PROFESSOR, UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH SCHOOL OF LAW
Can Lobbying Disclosure Really "Deliver?"

James Tucker
ADJUNCT PROFESSOR, BARRETT HONORS COLLEGE, ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY
Preventing Discrimination or a Scarlet Letter? Federal Oversight under the Recently
Reauthorized Voting Rights Act

Thomas Susman
PARTNER, ROPES AND GRAY, LLP
Ethical Lobbying and the Challenge of Reciprocity

Moderated by Professor Alejandro Camacho

MEN'S TENNIS

ND looks to extend streak against MSU

*Irish, winners of ten
straight matches, to
face rival Spartans*

By **JAMES WADE**
Sports Writer

No. 5 Notre Dame will try to extend its longest winning streak in five years against rival Michigan State in East Lansing today at 2:30 p.m.

The Irish, who are fresh off a dominant 7-0 victory over Purdue this weekend, have not lost in their last 10 matches.

But Michigan State is no slouch. The Spartans are coming off a recent double-header against Bradley and Valparaiso in which they won 7-0 and 5-2, respectively, putting their overall record at 9-10.

While Michigan State's record is not quite up to par with Notre Dame's 16-2 mark, the Irish have struggled against the Spartans in the past. Two years ago, an Irish team ranked in the top 25 barely escaped East Lansing, having to win four three-setters to claim a victory.

But the outcome of today's match may depend on factors other than normal tennis skills. The weather report in East Lansing is forecasting rain with a high of 50 degrees. If the weather is as predicted, the Irish will be

forced to play indoors again after starting their outdoor circuit. The indoor game has a faster pace with a different rhythm than the outdoor matches for which the Irish have been preparing.

"I think the biggest thing is where the match will be played — will it be inside or outside," Irish coach Bob Bayliss said.

There are also a few of interesting matchups within the contest — Notre Dame's No. 1 singles player, national No. 8 Stephen Bass, barely won in a closely contested tiebreaker last year against Michigan State's Nick Rinks. Rinks has continued to play well this season as well. He is the reigning Big Ten player of the week and has won 12 consecutive sets dating back to March 10.

Another match of interest is the No. 1 doubles matchup between Notre Dame's Sheeva Parbhu and Ryan Keckley and Michigan State's Rinks and Adam Monich.

"They serve big and are very aggressive around the net, and they have beaten us more than we have beaten them in the past," Bayliss said of the matchup.

Bayliss said he feels there is no added pressure on the Irish because of their current win streak, and his main focus is on leaving East Lansing with a win.

Contact James Wade at jwade@nd.edu

*"They serve big
and are very
aggressive around
the net."*

Bob Bayliss
Irish coach

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ND Chalk Talk

at Legends

Featuring Lacrosse Coaches

KEVIN CORRIGAN & TRACY COYNE

Wednesday, April 4th
12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

LEGENDS
OF NOTRE DAME

Want to write for Sports? Call 1-45443.

Home

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record.

Offensively, senior center-fielder Stephanie Brown should cause trouble for Toledo. Leading the Big East in on-base percentage at .487, Brown has come up big for the Irish in the leadoff spot. Brown is second in the conference in batting average at .412.

The Rockets have struggled to start the season and head into South Bend on a three-game skid. Pitching woes have been the main source of Toledo's struggles — the Rockets have given up an average of 6.8 runs per game.

One of the few bright spots

for Toledo this season has been first baseman Leslie Strong. The junior has batted .370 on the season, including four homers and 11 RBI. Aside from Strong, however, the Rockets have also struggled to produce on the offensive end — no other batter is hitting over .250.

The game against Toledo is an out-of-conference break for the Irish, who will return to Big East play this weekend with doubleheaders at home against Pittsburgh and Syracuse. The Rockets begin Mid-American Conference play Saturday against Buffalo.

No Irish players were available for comment prior to the game.

Contact Michael Bryan at mbryan@nd.edu



PHIL HUDELSON/The Observer

Irish sophomore Beth Norway swings at a pitch during Notre Dame's 9-1 win Sunday over Seton Hall at Ivy Field.



Congratulations to John Cooney and Alex Renfro of Alumni Hall for finding the Morrissey Manor Medallion. Thanks to all for participating, and **good luck in next year's Medallion Hunt!**

The 2007 Manor Medallion was found on the tenth floor of the Hesburgh library. It was placed in a hollowed out N.D. phone book and set next to "One for the Gipper: George Gipp, Knute Rockne and Notre Dame" (call number: GV 939 .G53 C47).

2007 Morrissey Manor Medallion Hunt Clues

Blue and Gold jerseys will lead to the find,
Father Vierling's riddles will mess your mind.
Ninety-three days of planning went in,
But only nine strides, enough to win?

Ghost of the Gipp could help you discover,
What these five clues are meant to recover.
Yet in the end, you won't need them all.
By day number three, the answer could fall.

Rockne's house is now Charlie's heaven
It's seen great teams like the squad of '47.
A bit of football history, and the answer's complete
But you must go undercover to accomplish this feat.

Here you can find the last missing link
Our legend is forever engrained in ink.
Follow the horsemen and rear up your stallion
Behind the word of life, lurks the medallion!

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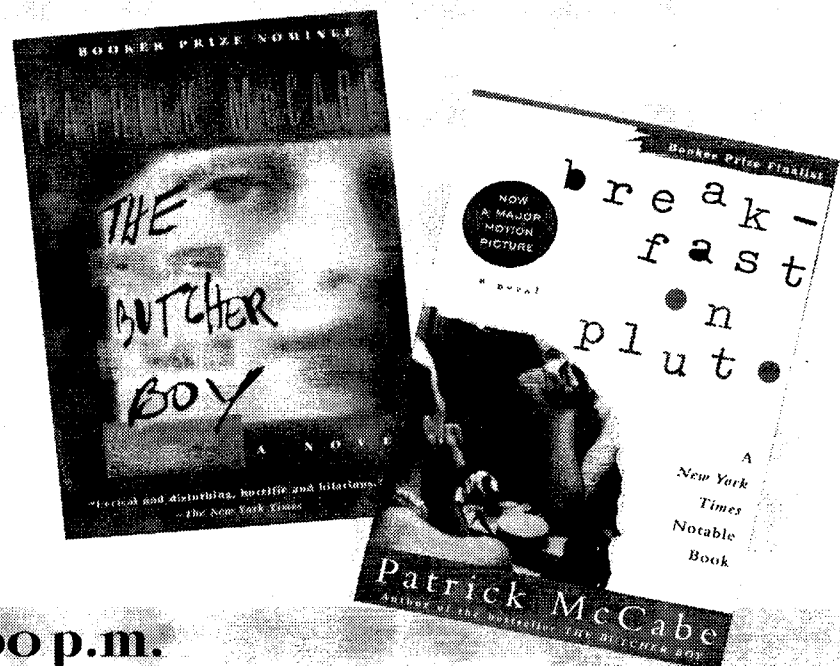


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A Reading by Booker Nominated Irish Novelist

Patrick McCabe

Author of critically acclaimed novels such as *The Butcher Boy* (1992) and *Breakfast on Pluto* (1998)



**7:00 p.m.
Thursday, March 29th
McKenna Auditorium**

Sponsored by the Keough-Naughton Institute for Irish Studies and the Creative Writing Program

Babin

continued from page 24

really worked to develop his game in a more complete fashion than just be run-and-gun all the time," Jackson said.

Babin led the Irish defense in points this season with a career-high 22 points (two goals, 20 assists) on a blue-line unit that surrendered only 1.63 goals per game — the best in the nation.

"He always had the ability, and it was just a matter of him playing that ability with a little more concentration on how he plays the game," Jackson said.

"It was more a matter of him taking that next step as a player, as a defenseman. This year he just came in much more determined and focused to become a complete player."

Jackson said he expects Babin to play in the AHL for "a good year, maybe two" — depending on the depth of the Carolina defense and the time it takes him to adjust to the professional game. The AHL is the minor league directly below the NHL, in which teams develop most of

their players for the final jump to the top league.

"With the way the game is today, I think he could have a chance to make [an NHL career]," Jackson said.

Babin is the first Irish player from the senior class to sign a pro contract, although defenseman Wes O'Neill and goalie Dave Brown were drafted by the Islanders

"With the way the game is today, I think he could have a chance to make [an NHL career]."

Jeff Jackson
Irish coach

and the Penguins, respectively, in 2004.

Contact Kyle Cassily at kcassily@nd.edu



LAURIE HUNT/The Observer

Notre Dame defenseman Noah Babin holds off a Ferris State forward during a 2-0 Irish win Feb. 24 on senior night.

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CMU

continued from page 24

six different players knocking in a run. The game marked Stewart's first start for the Irish since a March 9, 2005 loss to Coastal Carolina.

Senior first baseman Mike Dury got the Irish on the board in the bottom half of the first, hitting a two-run home run to left field after freshman third baseman A.J. Pollock drew a walk. The homer was Dury's team-leading sixth and gave him 16 RBIs on the season.

Stewart retired Central Michigan in order in the second before Joey Williamson pitched three scoreless innings in relief.

"[Williamson] did a great job," Irish head coach Dave

Schrage said. "I thought it was his best outing of the season."

But the Irish couldn't claw back into the game and scored only twice more. They mounted rallies in the sixth and seventh innings, but in both cases their efforts were squashed before they could inflict enough damage to even the score.

"We were hitting into some hard luck today," Schrage said.

With one out and the bases full in the sixth, Central Michigan third baseman Noah Lankford dove to stop a hard grounder off the bat of Irish left fielder Ryan Connolly, before stepping on third and firing to first to complete an inning-ending double play.

"Ryan couldn't have hit that ball any harder," Schrage said. "Things just weren't falling for us."

In the seventh, the Irish took advantage of two walks and two wild pitches to scratch out a pair of runs, but pinch hitter Ryan Smith grounded out with the bases loaded to end the threat.

"We're still waiting for the two-out clutch hit," Schrage said.

The Irish left 11 runners on base in the game after stranding 14 against South Florida Sunday.

"We're getting enough guys on base, enough opportunities," Schrage said. "Hopefully, things will even out for us."

Senior right-hander Kurt Lauscher got the win for the Chippewas, working six-plus innings and surrendering four earned runs while striking out four.

Senior James Ricchio worked 2 1-3 scoreless innings to record the save. Central Michigan shortstop Jeff Helps went 2-for-4, including a two-run single in the eighth that sealed a win for the Chippewas after the Irish had cut the deficit to two in the seventh.

Contact Fran Tolan at ftolan@nd.edu

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Rudolph

continued from page 24

Like Carlson, Rudolph is a standout on the basketball court as well as on the football field.

"[Kyle] is an outstanding athlete," Frank said. "He's a tall, athletic kid with great hands."

Frank said Rudolph is faster than Carlson, though the current Irish tight end is 25

pounds heavier than the prospect.

"He's going to have to put on some weight," Frank said. "We'll see if he can keep that speed."

Players cannot sign binding letters of intent until February.

Rudolph has his senior year of high school in front of him, and Frank said that another year in the weight room would help him prepare for college football. He said Rudolph could enter college as heavy as 250

pounds.

Rudolph is considered one of the top prep tight ends in the nation and was rated the top overall prospect in the Cincinnati area by Ohio High magazine. He would join an already deep roster of young tight ends at Notre Dame, including current rising sophomores Konrad Reuland

and Will Yeatman and incoming freshman Mike Ragone.

"[Rudolph] is a tall, athletic kid with great hands."

Mike Frank
Irishey.com

"Coach Weis loves tight ends, especially if they can get [down the field]," Frank said. "Guys that can get past the linebackers really open up the vertical passing game."

Frank said Weis' success in recruiting tight ends has been a product of the pro-

duction of Notre Dame tight ends over the last two years — specifically senior John Carlson and former Irish standout Anthony Fasano, who is now with the Dallas Cowboys.

"If you continue to put guys in the NFL and you continue to throw to the tight end the way Weis does, kids realize there are a lot of opportunities at Notre Dame," Frank said.

Contact Chris Khorey at
ckhorey@nd.edu

Battle

continued from page 24

"More than the players themselves, it's just how they run the operation," he said. "The first part of being a quarterback is being able to take the playcall, call it in the huddle, get to the line of scrimmage and just run the operation."

Of the four, only Sharpley has taken a snap during a contest, playing in parts of eight games. Sharpley mostly handed off during those times, completing 1-of-2 passes for seven yards in his Irish career — not exactly significant experience.

But even though his playing time is extremely limited, Sharpley still has one more year in Weis' system than any of the other quarterbacks.

"If there's anyone that has an obvious, slight advantage through experience it would be [Sharpley]," Weis said. "Not necessarily playing time, but the fact that he was around me a lot when I was talking to [former Irish quarterback] Brady [Quinn]."

Despite Sharpley's experience within the program, Weis said he is giving equal attention and "exactly the same" coaching to all four quarterbacks. One of the ways Weis has kept the coaching so equal is by teaching the system from the very beginning.

The equal coaching is especially beneficial for Clausen, the only quarterback to have spent no time in the system so far.

"I think he's made some progress and we've seen some encouraging signs, but it's way too early for me to be jumping on anyone's bandwagon," Weis said of the freshman. "He's done some encouraging things in the first four days."

Weis also explained how Clausen is at no disadvantage because he is a freshman.

"We're kind of starting from scratch, so he's not really behind on that end because I'm installing everything as if they're hearing it for the first time," Weis said. "But he doesn't have the luxury of having heard the terminology or running the whole operation before in this

system."

During the spring practices, Weis has been at the lead in coaching the quarterbacks, along with quarterbacks coach Ron Powlus and offensive coordinator Mike Haywood.

But after looking at the four for a week, Weis still hasn't seen "it" — an intangible to separate one quarterback from the rest.

"Let's let them get through shell shock first," he said. "They're getting a lot of coaching, they're getting scrutinized. They know that this is a competition and everything they do is part of the evaluation."

Adding to the pressure for the quarterbacks is their general inexperience at the college level — something especially

poignant at a school with the media attention and tradition of Notre Dame.

"There's a lot of pressure on these guys right now," Weis said. "Throw on top of that the fact that everyone in the free world knows who's going to be the new quarterback at Notre Dame."

Weis remains optimistic about his team's quarterback, even if right now isn't the right time to find answers.

"I think we'll find out early on if somebody has that something when the time comes," he said. "But right now I think it's really early in the evaluation."

Contact Jay Fitzpatrick at
jfitzpa5@nd.edu

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Wednesday, March 28th, 2007

7:00pm at Browning Cinema DPAC (FREE & open to public)

Alex Kronemer, who grew up during the 'rust belt' era, went on to earn a Master's Degree from Harvard University in theological studies and is a frequent writer and lecturer on religious diversity. He has published essays in numerous newspapers and journals and has been a CNN commentator on several occasions. Mr. Kronemer has also served a one-year appointment at the Bureau of Human Rights in the U.S. State Department focusing on U.S. foreign policy and Islam.

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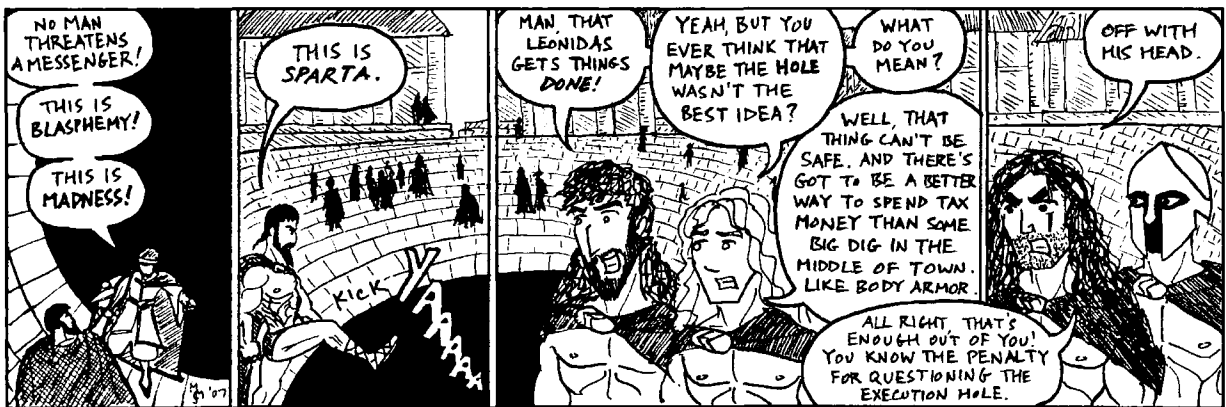
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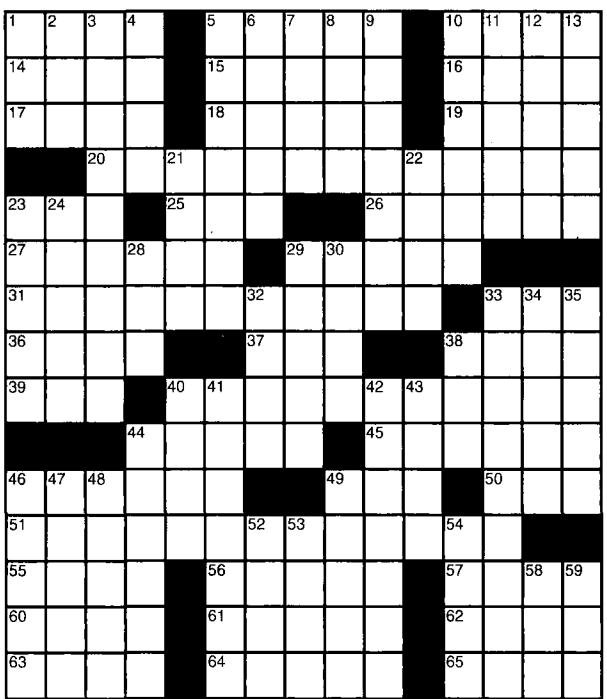
CROSSWORD

WILL SHORTZ

- ACROSS**
- 1 Own (up to)
 - 5 Freezes
 - 10 Hardly racy
 - 14 Chichi
 - 15 Old Intellivision rival
 - 16 ___ Bator
 - 17 Hoedown site
 - 18 Recoiled
 - 19 Place for studs
 - 20 Hurricanes or Lightning
 - 23 Suggest, as a price
 - 25 Zip
 - 26 Ship sent for breadfruit in 1787
 - 27 Blasts of the past
 - 29 "Out of the question"
 - 31 Links obstacle
 - 33 Valentine and others: Abbr.
 - 36 Periodic table abbr.
- DOWN**
- 1 Terrif
 - 2 Part of B.C.E.
 - 3 Full-count cry
 - 4 Harmony
 - 5 Contents of some hookahs
 - 6 Playwright Fugard
 - 7 Of the flock
 - 8 All-day hike
 - 9 Court conference
 - 10 Expression of annoyance
 - 11 U.F.O. pilot
 - 12 Charlotte Corday's victim
 - 13 Other side
 - 21 ___'acte
 - 22 In the distance, poetically
 - 23 Egypt's Sadat
 - 24 Cabinet department
 - 28 Spot for a scene
 - 29 ___ Walton, author of "The Compleat Angler"
 - 30 Like the eye of a hurricane
 - 32 Picasso's "Colombe ___ fleurs"
 - 33 Takes a powder
 - 34 Pre-noon time
- 37 Actor Kilmer**
- 38 ___-Ball (arcade game)**
- 39 Royale of old autodom**
- 40 Device patented by Thomas Savery in 1698**
- 44 Sharp-witted**
- 45 You can take it with you**
- 46 Pierce with a point**
- 49 Horned Frogs' sch.**
- 50 Opposite of great, to Burns**
- 51 Put more pressure (on) ... or a title for this puzzle?**
- 55 Stuck, after "in"**
- 56 Turner autobiography**
- 57 "The Naked Maja" artist**
- 60 Turner who was called the Sweater Girl**

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

SODA APOP INCAN
ACED BELA MOORE
HANDYANDY ATLA
ANTES NICENELLY
RAIDED EON ESO
ADS RAP DOWAGER
NATO TOT APEAK
PLAINJANE
ISSUE TAX SORT
NONSTOP WEB REA
ALI RID DAMASK
DAPPERDAN LANCE
ARIEL GLOOMYGUS
ZINES ILSA BEET
EAGLE NYET ESSO



Puzzle by Paula Gamache

- 35 "Ciao"**
- 38 Police rank: Abbr.**
- 40 Original Enterprise navigator**
- 41 Cravat adornments**
- 42 Captivate**
- 43 Modern, to Mahler**
- 44 "The Spirit of Australia" sloganeer**
- 46 Author Calvino**
- 47 Diego Rivera work**
- 48 Snip what's superfluous**
- 49 Mortise's mate**
- 52 Sunroof alternative**
- 53 "The ___ Report," 1976 best seller**
- 54 Matures**
- 58 Roll call vote**
- 59 Nile biter**

For answers, call 1-900-285-5656, \$1.20 a minute; or, with a credit card, 1-800-814-5554. Annual subscriptions are available for the best of Sunday crosswords from the last 50 years: 1-888-7-ACROSS. Online subscriptions: Today's puzzle and more than 2,000 past puzzles, nytimes.com/crosswords (\$34.95 a year). Share tips: nytimes.com/puzzleforum. Crosswords for young solvers: nytimes.com/learning/xwords.

JUMBLE

HENRI ARNOLD
MIKE ARGIRION

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

HYSYL
YANGO
TRYDAW
DANUSE

That's a bit too strong, Harry

LOCAL POLICE
CROOKED

EDITOR

WHY THE EDITOR REJECTED THE ITALIC HEADLINE.

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

A: IT

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: BOOTY SCARF BENIGN ARCTIC
Answer: When the financier studied the merger, he found it — "ABSORBING"

HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Mariah Carey, 36; Quentin Tarantino, 43; Xuxa Meneghel, 43; Michael York, 64

Happy Birthday: You will have a year with plenty of opportunities and setbacks. An openness and entrepreneurial attitude will help you jump into the limelight. This is not the year to waste your time on anger or revenge but to see potential in what's being offered and go for it without hesitation. Your numbers are 4, 6, 13, 19, 20, 38

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Deception is prominent in your chart today. If you feel the least bit suspicious, don't make a comment or decision. Someone may be trying to trap you into divulging information that may harm you in the future. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You can write your own ticket today if you go about things diplomatically. You will be able to come up with solutions and help people who will be indebted to you. A problem with someone in your family may require your attention. ****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You must be careful not to become so exuberant that you lead someone down a path with no ending. A relationship problem may get out hand if you are too aggressive. **

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You have everyone in your corner so don't hesitate now when you can gain the most. Take advantage of business travel opportunities. Plan a social evening to celebrate your day's victory. *****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Spend time fixing things up around your home. This is a great day to look at real estate or to invest. A chance to become involved in a business partnership looks good. Set careful rules and boundaries. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You'll be drawn into some interesting conversations today but be careful not to be a know-it-all. A dispute could break out, leaving you in a precarious position. A creative idea you have will go over well at work. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You can make some significant headway in your professional goals. An innovative approach to something you've been doing will bring new life and meaning to your work. Communication, travel and keeping things in perspective will pay off. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Social or industry events will lead to a chance meeting with someone who will lift your spirits. You will realize what you've been missing all along and will enjoy expanding your thoughts with people who have something interesting to offer. *****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't be fooled into thinking that everyone is on your side. Emotional matters will escalate if you decide to deal with them today. It may be a good time to cash in an investment. **

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): There is money to be made if you are quick to react to a new idea or project. Take the lead position. Today is all about progress and taking action, something you do very well. ****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You will be haunted by something from your childhood. Be honest with yourself and you will be able to overcome anything you face. Straightforward, honest action will be what saves you from making matters worse. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): The truth will be discovered and, if you have been embellishing, you can expect to have to 'fess up. There will be lots of disappointment from those who have trusted you. Put pending problems behind you and move on. ***

Birthday Baby: You have a fabulous imagination and a highly intuitive perspective on life and the people you deal with. You are unpredictable, sensitive and somewhat of a dreamer.

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

THE OBSERVER

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HOCKEY

Babin signs contract with Carolina, will dress in AHL tonight

Senior defenseman is first member of class to begin pro career

By KYLE CASSILY
Sports Writer

Notre Dame senior defenseman Noah Babin signed a two-year contract with the NHL's Carolina Hurricanes and is expected to be in the lineup

tonight for the Albany River Rats, Carolina's affiliate in the American Hockey League, Jason Karmanos, vice president and general manager of the Hurricanes, announced Monday.

Babin, who arrived in Albany Tuesday, will begin his two-year professional contract with the start of the 2007-08 season but will spend the remainder of this year's AHL season in Albany before he graduates from Notre Dame in May. The River Rats play the Syracuse

Crunch tonight with 11 games remaining in the regular season.

"Noah has exceptional skating ability, which is extremely important in the game today," Karmanos said in a news release. "That, combined with his strong work ethic, gives him a solid foundation to start his pro career."

The Hurricanes became interested in Babin through another Notre Dame player — Carolina seventh-round draft pick and Irish freshman

defenseman Kyle Lawson. Ron Francis, director of player development for Carolina and a 23-year NHL veteran, visited South Bend several times throughout the season to check up on Lawson and in the process was struck enough by Babin's play to sign the undrafted senior.

"I know that after the first time, he was coming in specifically to see Lawson and his development," Irish coach Jeff Jackson said. "[Francis] and I spoke several times and talked

about Noah. And he said they were looking at free-agent defensemen, and I knew there was a pretty deep interest there."

Jackson said Babin generated interest from the pro team with his naturally strong skating and puck-handling abilities, but his work in the past few years on his play without the puck is what will help him make a career in the NHL.

"I give him credit, because he

see BABIN/page 21

FOOTBALL

Fantastic four

Weis sees no standout in four-way battle to replace Brady Quinn

By JAY FITZPATRICK
Associate Sports Editor

One week into the spring season, Notre Dame coach Charlie Weis has given no indication that he's ready to say — or if he even knows — if any of the four Irish quarterbacks vying for the starting job have separated themselves from the pack.

The four competitors to be Notre Dame's lead signal-caller next year are early-entry freshman Jimmy Clausen, rising sophomores Zack Frazer and Demetrius Jones and rising junior Evan Sharpley.

One of the main traits Weis said he is looking for in his quarterbacks is their ability to lead the offense.



DUSTIN MENNELA/The Observer

Rising sophomore Demetrius Jones runs through drills during Tuesday's practice as freshman Jimmy Clausen looks on. Jones and Clausen are both competing for the quarterback position.

see BATTLE/page 22

Cincinnati tight end expected to add name to list of 2008 recruits

By CHRIS KHOREY
Sports Editor

Kyle Rudolph, a 6-foot-7, 235-pound junior tight end from Elder High School in Cincinnati is expected to announce his verbal commitment to Notre Dame today.

Rudolph would become the fifth verbal commitment for Irish coach Charlie Weis' 2008 recruiting class, joining defensive tackle Sean Cwynar, wide receiver John Goodman and offensive linemen Braxton Cave and Mike Golic, Jr.

Mike Frank, who covers Notre Dame recruiting for Irisheyes.com, compared Rudolph to current Notre Dame tight end John Carlson.

see RUDOLPH/page 22

BASEBALL

ND nine lose third straight

Chippewas score six runs in first inning en route to 8-4 win

By FRAN TOLAN
Sports Writer

Central Michigan pushed across six runs in the first inning and never looked back in an 8-4 triumph over Notre Dame at Frank Eck Stadium Tuesday.

Irish senior right-hander Jess Stewart, who came into the game with a 2.76 ERA in 10 appearances as a reliever this season, took the loss after giving up eight hits in the opening frame. The Chippewas sent 11 batters to the plate in the inning, with



DUSTIN MENNELA/The Observer

Senior pitcher Jess Stewart throws during Tuesday's 8-4 loss to Central Michigan. Stewart gave up six runs in two innings.

see CMU/page 21

ND SOFTBALL

Bargar and Co. look to stay unbeaten at home

By MICHAEL BRYAN
Sports Writer

Notre Dame will look to continue its winning ways at home tonight at 6 p.m., facing off against Toledo at Ivy Field.

After winning five in a row at home last weekend, the Irish (14-12) attempt to stay unbeaten on their own turf against the Rockets (4-14). The red-hot Notre Dame pitching staff, which has led the way during their win streak, should challenge the slumping Toledo club.

In their five home wins, Irish hurlers have posted an earned-run average of 0.66. Leading the way for the Irish has been sophomore Brittney Bargar, who was named Big East pitcher of the week Tuesday.

Bargar went 3-0 with wins over IUPUI, St. John's and Seton Hall. The righty allowed only two runs in her three starts, shutting out St. John's and pitching complete games in all three contests. Bargar also struck out 20 batters in 20 innings on the weekend, bringing her season total to a team-leading 109.

Freshman Heather Johnson, one of Notre Dame's offensive leaders during the streak, was also named to the Big East honor roll for the week. In the five Irish wins, Johnson batted .538 with five doubles and six RBI. The infielder posted a pair of three-hit games — including three doubles against Seton Hall, matching a Notre Dame

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