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College grants focus on local area

Students collaborate with South Bend

By MEGAN O'NEIL
Assistant News Editor

A few months ago, Elia Sanchez was just a regular senior at Saint Mary's. Now, with the help of a grant from the Center for Women's Intercultural Leadership (CWIL), she is putting her Spanish skills to work as the student coordinator, anchor and producer of a local public television program "Imagen Latina."

CWIL has created a new grant opportunity for Saint Mary's faculty and students like Sanchez, designed to facilitate projects between the local community and the College.

The "bridging college with community grant," which is co-sponsored by the office of civic and social engagement, provides up to \$2500 for faculty-student teams to collaborate with a community member or organization on educational initiatives.

Since its birth in 2000, CWIL has awarded dozens of grants related to its mission of instigating intercultural engagement at Saint Mary's. The center often provides money for students traveling abroad and faculty research in intercultural-

see CWIL/page 6

Students anticipate Bush's visit



Security awaits as President George W. Bush steps out of Air Force One at the Rhein-Main Air Base in Frankfurt, Germany Feb. 23. The plane will carry the president to South Bend Friday.

Air Force One not expected to disrupt spring break flights

By MADDIE HANNA
Assistant News Editor

While some students are vying for tickets to President Bush's speech at the Joyce Center Friday, and others are preparing to protest outside, still others are worrying about the prospect of spring break flight delays out of South Bend Regional Airport due to the arrival of Air Force One.

However, the only delays will occur during the 15 minutes before Bush's arrival and the 15 minutes after his departure, airport executive director John Schalliol said.

The White House issued a media release Wednesday that included arrival and departure times for Air Force One, but asked news agencies to keep the information confidential for security reasons. Local television stations WNDU and WSBT, how-

see AIRPORT/page 4

Roughly 1500 identification cards swiped in five-hour distribution of lottery numbers

By KATE ANTONACCI
Associate News Editor

Students lined up outside the Dooley Room in the LaFortune Student Center Wednesday to enter a lottery for the 200 available tickets to President Bush's visit to the Joyce Athletic Center Complex (JACC) Friday.

"I don't have an exact number, but our rough estimate is that around 1500 [identification cards] were swiped," said Jimmy Flaherty, Student Union Board (SUB) manager.

SUB was asked to conduct a lottery Tuesday evening and put together a distribution similar to the one used for away football games, which usually takes a few weeks to plan. Flaherty credited the hard work of SUB members for the efficiency of the last-minute event.

"People were actually really excited," said Flaherty. "People kind of knew what to expect from a SUB lottery — that they are well-run and organized."

SUB was the organizer of the event, but Student Government, mainly the Student Senate, was

asked to assist in the ticket distribution. Student government officers said students took advantage of the opportunity to put their name in the lottery.

"Both my conservative and liberal friends are trying to get tickets, which is also positive," said Nick Coleman, Senate Diversity Committee Chair. "I could also notice that the students were disappointed that only 200 students will have the opportunity to see President Bush from this lottery."

Many students expressed excitement at the chance to see the president, whether or not their

political beliefs are consistent with those of the current administration.

"I was interested in hearing our president speak, especially since I'm a Bush supporter. It'd be interesting to see what he has to say," said junior Johnny Mospan. "It'd be cool. Not everyone gets to hear a president speak in person."

Bush's speech about Social Security is open to the greater South Bend community, as well as to Notre Dame, but tickets are short in supply.

see LOTTERY/page 4

Death penalty talk gets personal

Exonerated inmate, others discuss firsthand experiences in panel

By KAREN LANGLEY
News Writer

While the issue of capital punishment typically generates debate, few discussions involve individuals from as many perspectives as did Wednesday night's panel entitled "National Debate on the Death Penalty." A pardoned death row inmate and the grandson of a brutally murdered woman were among those who offered their opinions on the issue.

The discussion was one of the culminating events in a weeklong series of events called "Life in the Balance: Death Penalty Perspectives," and was moderated by law student Kate Leahy, chair of

the Notre Dame Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, and senior Michael Poffenberger, an anthropology and peace studies major.

"It is up to us as concerned speakers to determine how to act most responsibly within society," Poffenberger said.

The first panel member to speak was Richard Dieter, the executive director of the Washington, D.C.-based Death Penalty Information Center. Dieter stressed the presence of the death penalty in American history while referring to Tuesday's Supreme Court ruling that the Constitution bars capital punishment for juveniles.

"What happened yesterday

was an amazing turnaround for the Court. The Supreme Court took on this issue 15 years ago, but in 1989 there was a sense that the death penalty was permissible under our constitution," Dieter said. "Even when the death penalty was originally banned in 1972, it was not because executing humans was deemed cruel or unusual, but because [capital punishment] laws at that time were very arbitrary."

Dieter described the subsequent shift in public opinion away from the death penalty, attributing this move to the establishment of DNA technology as an accepted means of

see PANEL/page 6



KERRY O'CONNOR/The Observer

Former death row inmate Madison Hobley, who was pardoned by Illinois Gov. George Ryan in 2003, speaks about his experiences.

INSIDE COLUMN

Spring break ... serenity?

Unlike a lot of my classmates, I'm not going on vacation for spring break. Sure, a cruise in the Caribbean or spending the day relaxing on a beach in Mexico would be nice. But what's so great about a week in a tropical paradise full of sand and sun?

Mike Gilloon
Sports Writer

Instead of all that, I'm heading back to my hometown of Omaha. That's right. Instead of travelling to Cabo, I'm spending my spring break "somewhere in middle America."

And I can't wait. I can't wait to hang out with a few of my old friends. But not to party all night long. I just want to relax on the couch in my buddy's basement. Watch some Seinfeld re-runs and recall the time our friend Morgan's pen exploded in his mouth during sophomore theology class.

I can't wait to pick up a late-night Frosty at Wendy's and cruise the street with the windows down as Bob Seger's voice seeps through the classic rock station on the radio.

I can't wait to stop for lunch at King Kong Gyros, where everyone speaks clear English, except for the guy taking your order. His Greek accent is the only thing thicker than the half-pound burgers they serve.

I can't wait to shoot hoops in the driveway with my sisters, using the same Notre Dame basketball I got when I was 11. The grip is all worn off and the Leprechaun is gone, but it still works for a game of knock-out.

I can't wait to sleep in my bunk bed, the same one I've slept in since I was eight years old. It creaks a little bit and my legs hang over the edge. But it's cozy and the sheets are a lot warmer than my dorm room.

I can't wait to drive past Rosenblatt Stadium, the home of the College World Series. I'll look forward to the second week of June, when I can sit with my friends in the sun-soaked stands all day long and watch the top college baseball teams in America. Tickets are only five bucks, just two dollars less than the chicken fingers.

I can't wait to head over to Homer's Music, the best record store in town. The CDs aren't as cheap as at Best Buy, but the atmosphere is incomparable. There are only two cash registers, and the people behind them look like they are in a contest to see can dress more like Jerry Garcia.

I can't wait to go home.

And if I get bored? Well, I'll just turn on MTV and see how much fun everyone's having at spring break.

Contact Mike Gilloon at mgilloon@nd.edu

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

CORRECTION

The Observer regards itself as a professional publication and strives for the highest standards of journalism at all times. We do, however, recognize that we will make mistakes. If we have made a mistake, please contact us at 631-4541 so we can correct our error.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: If you were on IRISH IDOL, what song would you sing, and why?



Brendan DuBree
senior
Stanford

"That 'Numa-Numa-i-ei' song because that dancing fat guy is just awesome."



Andy Carter
freshman
Fisher

"School's Out for the Summer' because we all wish it was."



Zac Liptak
freshman
Zahm

"Call On Me.' We all know why."



Eric Natke
freshman
Dillon

"Hmm... 'Jefferson Starship' because it's awesome."



Grisel Ruiz
senior
off-campus

"If I did sing, which I can't, I would sing something romantic, like Whitney Houston."



Pat Ryan
freshman
Keough

"Since U Been Gone' because Hamilton Marx is my idol."



DUSTIN MENNELLA/The Observer

Members of Army ROTC spent part of the day Wednesday in the snow on South Quad practicing the skill of land navigation. Using only a compass and counting their steps, they were able to calculate how far they travelled.

OFFBEAT

Man sets off nuclear alert detector on fire engine

ESCONDIDO, Calif. — A man who recently had received radiation treatment for a medical condition set off a nuclear alert detector on a fire engine, prompting police to close down a roadway in Escondido while authorities searched for a nuclear weapon.

The Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District engine crew's radiation monitor sounded Tuesday when the man and his friend walked past the crew on their way to fill a gas can.

The Nuke Alert monitor

sounded again as the men walked back to their vehicle.

Firefighters notified the San Diego County Sheriff's Department after they drove by the men's vehicle and the monitor sounded a third time.

Robber: Prison will help my crime research

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — A man caught in a parked car counting loot from the bank he'd just robbed, with his fake mustache falling off, told the judge who gave him a nine-year term that prison would be an opportunity for his further study of criminal

behavior.

"I've talked to kids about crime across this country and on three continents," John L. Stanley told U.S. District Judge Fernando Gaitan at his sentencing on Tuesday. "But there are some things about crime you can't understand unless you get into the belly of the beast."

Stanley, 61, of Dallas, already has first-hand knowledge of life behind bars, and he's written and lectured about his criminal past.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

There will be a poetry reading entitled "Notes from the Divided Country" today from 7 p.m. to 8 in the Hospitality Room of South Dining Hall.

The Higgins Labor Research Center is sponsoring a viewing of the film "On the Waterfront" today at 4 p.m. in C-100 Hesburgh Center.

The women's lacrosse team face Northwestern today at 4:30 p.m. at the Moose Krause Field.

As part of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Questioning Awareness Week, the film "In and Out" will be shown today at 6 p.m. in the LaFortune Ballroom. There will be free pizza and soda at the event.

Frank Connolly, professor of mathematics, will be featured in the workshop "How to Prepare Undergraduates for Graduate Work and Graduate Fellowship Competitions" Friday from 3:30 p.m. to 5 in the Notre Dame Room of LaFortune Center. The event is open to all Notre Dame faculty.

Men's and women's track will be competing in the Alex Wilson invitational from 7 p.m. to 9:30 in the Loftus Sports Center Friday. The meet continues Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The film "Bad Education" will be shown at 7 p.m. and 10 in the Browning Cinema of the DeBartolo Center for the Performing Arts. For tickets, call the DeBartolo box office at 1-2800.

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

	TODAY	TONIGHT	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
	HIGH 31 LOW 24	HIGH 21 LOW 16	HIGH 42 LOW 29	HIGH 35 LOW 25	HIGH 37 LOW 31	HIGH 44 LOW 28

Atlanta 54 / 35 Boston 31 / 18 Chicago 35 / 27 Denver 54 / 32 Houston 67 / 50 Los Angeles 67 / 52 Minneapolis 34 / 26 New York 34 / 22 Philadelphia 35 / 21 Phoenix 76 / 52 Seattle 57 / 44 St. Louis 46 / 35 Tampa 59 / 49 Washington 39 / 25

SENATE

Members discuss newspaper, printer pilot programs

By AMANDA MICHAELS
News Writer

Pilot programs took the wheel at Wednesday night's meeting of the Student Senate, where senators were given updates on the progress of both the College Readership and dorm printer pilot programs.

Tracie Sexton of the USA Today addressed the Senate during podium, giving a review of the College Readership Program's progress and answering any questions senators might have.

The four-week long pilot program, which ends Friday, is a free trial period during which the newspaper needs of the student population are addressed, and after which members of the student government can assess the value of paying for the service full time.

Sexton said that over a three-week period, 26,889 newspapers circulated through Notre Dame's students and faculty.

"The consumption was awesome here," Sexton said. "It's probably one of the strongest consumption patterns we've seen at any school."

She reported that 900 copies of the New York Times and USA Today and 800 copies of the Chicago

Tribune are now being distributed to campus locations daily — more than double the 400 handed out each day when the program first started.

Affirming that everything "went very well," Sexton explained that they will examine the surveys taken by students Wednesday and begin to work out the most viable program for the University.

When questioned about the cost of the service, Sexton declined to give a number, saying they have to get through the process of analysis and discussion before they can outline a realistic budget.

Vijay Ramanan, chair of the Committee on Academic Affairs, which spearheaded the program, said his committee is looking into sources of funding, and plans to send letters to academic departments asking for contributions to help balance out the costs.

Chris Harris, Carroll Senator and member of the Committee on Academic Affairs, then updated the group on the status of the dorm printer pilot program, which installed printers in five dorms in hopes of determining whether putting a printer in every dorm would be both feasible and necessary.

Harris said he was told



KERRY O'CONNOR/The Observer

Representatives listen as Vijay Ramanan, chair of the Committee on Academic Affairs, discusses the possible sources of funding for the dorm printer program, such as academic departments.

1,500 to 2,000 pages were printed off in the trial dorms each week, and that an expansion to all the dorms is being considered. The cost of doing so, however, must be factored into the University's budget before it can be approved.

Sending the senators off on a lighter note, Sorin senator Erik Powers and his former presidential running mate Alec White presented a resolution to change the name of spring break at Notre Dame to "Alec and Erik's Week of Awesomeness."

The pair expressed concern about a number of issues that affect the University "socially, physically, emotionally and

epidemicly," as Powers said.

White protested the misnomer of "Spring Break," pointing out that the vacation is two weeks before the Vernal Equinox that officially ushers in the spring season, and the violence connoted by the word "break" itself.

He suggested changing its title to, among other things, "A Temporary Restraining Order from Our Lady."

They also objected to the prevalence of fake tans on the campus, proposing that the University line the sidewalk with foil sheets so students could get a tan while walking to class.

Also in question was the

enforcement of parietals over the break.


"We suggest giving each student an anklet that can detect the hormone levels in the room and runs on a universal clock, so if there's too much of the wrong hormone in a room after midnight or two, you get a little shock," White said.

They also proposed that students write a one-page report on their vacation experiences, and that a booth with pin-up crucifixes be set up in LaFortune so everyone can be sure the rooms they stay in over break have one.

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university of notre dame

JUNE 20 – AUGUST 5, 2005



- anthropology
- architecture
- art
- biology
- business
- chemistry
- classical languages
- computer applications
- east asian languages
- economics
- engineering
- english
- film
- french
- german
- history
- irish studies
- italian
- mathematics
- music
- philosophy
- physics
- political science
- psychology
- sociology
- spanish
- theatre
- theology

The 2005 summer session will begin on Monday, June 20 (enrollment), and end on Friday, August 5 (final exams). Some courses—primarily in science and languages—will begin and end before or after these dates. The *Summer Session Bulletin* contains complete schedule information. The *Bulletin* is available at the Summer Session Office (111 Earth Sciences Bldg.) beginning on Monday, February 28. Information on summer courses, as it appears in the *Bulletin*, is also available at the Summer Session Web site (www.nd.edu/~sumsess).

Notre Dame continuing students—undergraduate and graduate students in residence during the spring semester of 2005 who are eligible to return in the fall—must use Web Registration (1) to register for summer courses and (2) to add or drop courses according to the add and drop dates specific to each course. The Web Registration PIN (personal identification number) for summer is available on insideND for all continuing students. Instructions for course registration (selection) are available at <http://registrar.nd.edu>. Course reference numbers (CRNs) are published in the *Bulletin* and at the Summer Session Web site.

Web Registration will be available for summer registration from Wednesday, March 16, through the add and drop dates specific to each course. Students may register or make schedule changes whenever they choose during this period; no appointment times are necessary.

Air-conditioned and non-air-conditioned housing and (optional) summer meal plans will be available. Forms for these services may be obtained at the Summer Session Office at any time during the spring semester. Students may also apply for summer housing online at www.nd.edu/~sumsess

Tuition for the summer session of 2005 will be \$565 per credit hour for undergraduate students and \$302 per credit hour for graduate students, plus a \$50 general fee.

Bomber had sketch of Grand Central Station

Associated Press

NEW YORK — A crude sketch of Grand Central Terminal was found at the home of a suspect in the Madrid train bombings, but was not considered cause for alarm, New York City's police commissioner said Wednesday.

The one-page, hand-drawn document "was a very basic schematic," Commissioner Raymond Kelly said. "It's not an operational plan. It's not something that would indicate an immediate threat."

The Spanish newspaper El Mundo reported that the drawing and other data were on a computer disk seized about two weeks after the train bombings in Madrid that killed 191 people on March 11, 2004. Spanish police turned the disk over to the FBI and CIA in December.

Kelly said the data — found on the disk of a laptop computer — was also shared with the New York Police Department's counterterrorism division and city transit officials, who concluded the sketch depicted Grand Central.

The material also included photographs, and a drawing of a private building in the city, which Kelly refused to

identify. But an analysis found no indication of a terrorism plot, and authorities quickly decided there was no need to alert the public, he said.

"We didn't see it as a threatening piece of information," he said.

On Wednesday at Grand Central, security appeared to be at a high level as usual, with National Guardsmen, law enforcement officers carrying machine guns, and bomb-sniffing dogs.

"I'm used to this," said Elaine Weaver, a tourist from England who was passing through the station. "We're used to bomb scares everywhere. So you're careful but it doesn't deter me."

The NYPD's intelligence division studied the bombings in Madrid as a possible template for a New York attack. The department responded by tightening security in the subways and at train stations. Those measures were in place long before the city received word of the sketch.

"This is not something I think people should be panicked about or worried about," Mayor Michael Bloomberg said. "We took the appropriate steps and we do not think that in that particular case there was a real plan to attack Grand Central."

Airport

continued from page 1

ever, reported the president will arrive at the airport at 2:25 p.m., speak at the JACC at 4:45 p.m. and depart South Bend at 6:20 p.m.

According to Schalliol, the airport will not miss any flights, and the maximum delays will last for just 15 minutes.

"But we have those kinds of delays anyway, so it's not a problem," he said.

Schalliol did not expect major travel difficulties.

"There should be no serious ramifications," Schalliol said, explaining that these measures were standard procedure when a President travels by plane.

Schalliol could not comment on further details regarding the trip.

"There are a lot of things going on with the airport staff, security, the Secret Service," he said. "But nothing that affects anyone else or the traveling public."

Many Notre Dame and Saint Mary's students flying out of South Bend on Friday are concerned about their travel arrangements.

"It kind of annoys me," freshman Betsy Keough said. "It's just the anxiety of the possibility [of problems]."

Keough, who is scheduled on a 7:30 p.m. flight to Atlanta, said she has been checking the Delta Web site frequently for any updates.

Sophomore Stacy Fredrich, scheduled on a 3:30 p.m. flight to Orlando, agreed with Keough.

"That would be kind of annoying, but it's Bush, so what can you do," Fredrich said.

Students also said they were confused and had no idea what would happen on Friday.

"I have no idea what's going on," said Darrin Albers, a junior who will be flying out on a charter plane Friday afternoon with a small portion of the band on the women's Big East trip.

Similarly, freshman Antoinette Bronesky said, "I'm not sure what to expect, since we don't really know the details about Bush's visit. I don't know how it will affect me."

Bronesky, scheduled on a 6:40 p.m. flight to Cincinnati, said she didn't think she could change her plans at this point.

"I heard today that the airport already knew [about Bush], so there aren't flights scheduled while he's here, but I don't know if that's true," she said.

Saint Mary's students received an e-mail yesterday from vice president of Student Affairs Linda Timm warning about traffic disruptions and urging them to plan ahead and check their departure times in advance.

"I know the roads are going to be closed, and I will leave earlier," junior Cristina Ortega said.

Ortega said she would not switch her Friday morning flight to Texas unless the airport called to say there would be major delays.

Contact Maddie Hanna at
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ENGLAND

Ban on Muslim dress ruled violation of rights

Associated Press

LONDON — A school violated a student's human rights by banning her from wearing a traditional Muslim gown to class, a British court ruled Wednesday, ending a more than two-year legal battle.

Assimilating Muslim students is a sensitive political issue in Europe, especially in France, which last year banned "conspicuous religious symbols" such as head scarves from state schools. Britain allows individual schools to decide what form of dress is appropriate.

Shabina Begum, now 16, was sent home from school in Luton,

north of London, in September 2002 for wearing the jilbab, a long, flowing gown covering all her body except her hands and face.

She first went to the High Court, arguing that the ban breached her right to religious freedom under the European Convention on Human Rights.

The court rejected that argument in June. But on Wednesday a panel of three Court of Appeal judges ruled that Begum had been illegally excluded from the school, which "unlawfully denied her the right to manifest her religion."

The teenager was represented in her high-profile appeal by

Cherie Booth, wife of Prime Minister Tony Blair.

Muslim leaders welcomed the ruling that Denbigh High School had breached Begum's right to freedom of religion. The school said it was trying to respect the views of all its students — and balance competing views of what is "appropriate" Muslim attire.

Begum, who now attends a school that allows her to wear the jilbab, said the ruling was "a victory for all Muslims who wish to preserve their identity and values despite prejudice and bigotry."

"It is amazing that in the so-called free world I have to fight to wear this attire," she said.

Four-fifths of Denbigh High's students are Muslims, and the school said its ban on the jilbab had the support of many students and parents, who looked to the school to protect children from the influence of religious extremists.

The school argued that the jilbab posed a health and safety risk, and might cause divisions among pupils, with those who wore traditional dress being seen as "better Muslims" than others. Pupils are allowed to wear trousers, skirts or a traditional shalwar kameez, consisting of trousers and a tunic, and female pupils may wear head scarves.

EGYPT

Australian archaeologists discover mummy

Associated Press

SAQQARA — Archaeologists uncovered three coffins and a remarkably well-preserved mummy in a 2,500-year old tomb discovered by accident — after opening a secret door hidden behind a statue in a separate burial chamber, Egypt's chief archaeologist said Wednesday.

The Australian team was exploring a much older tomb — dating back 4,200 years — belonging to a man believed to have been a tutor to the 6th Dynasty King Pepi II, when they moved a pair of statues and discovered the door, said Zahi Hawass, Egypt's top

antiquities official.

Inside, they found a tomb from the 26th Dynasty with three intricate coffins, each with a mummy.

"Inside one coffin was maybe one of the best mummies ever preserved," Hawass told reporters at the excavation site in the cemetery of Saqqara, a barren hillside pocked with ancient graves about 15 miles south of Cairo.

"The chest of the mummy is covered with beads. Most of the mummies of this period — about 500 B.C. — the beads are completely gone, but this mummy has them all," he said, standing over one of the mummies that was swathed in

turquoise blue beads and bound in strips of black linen.

The names of the mummies have not been determined, but the tomb is thought to be that of a middle-class official.

Hawass said the wooden coffins, called anthropoids because they were in the shape of human beings, bore inscriptions dating to the 26th Dynasty, together with a statue of a deity called Petah Sakar. Petah was the god of artisans, Hawass said, while Sakar was the god of the cemetery.

The door was hidden behind 4,200-year-old statues of a man believed to have been Meri, the tutor of Pepi II, and

Meri's wife, whose name was not revealed.

Meri also was believed to oversee four sacred boats found in the pyramids, which were buried with Egypt's kings to help them in the afterlife, Hawass said.

"I believe this discovery can enrich us about two important periods in our history, the Old Kingdom, which dates back to 4,200 years, and the 26th Dynasty, that was 2,500 years ago," Hawass said.

According to tradition, Pepi II — the last ruler of the 6th Dynasty — ruled from 2278-2184 B.C., one of the longest reigns in ancient Egyptian history.

Lottery

continued from page 1

"I think it might be the only chance for me to hear the president speak," said junior Mark Cartoski. "[It's] an important time in history. I'd like to be a part of it however possible."

Some students have delayed their spring break plans due to the President's visit.

"I personally am driving to Florida Friday and our carpool has decided to wait until after Bush speaks, providing some of us win tickets, to leave," Coleman said. "I have heard some of the same reactions from people eager to hear him speak and from people who are going to protest."

Students received a ticket stub from the lottery distribution. The 100 winning numbers were posted on the door of the SUB office in 201 LaFortune Wednesday evening.

Contact Kate Antonacci at
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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Palestinian leader Abbas visits EU
BRUSSELS, Belgium — Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas told the European Union on Wednesday that he wants Palestinian statehood "as soon as possible."

Abbas was making his first visit to EU headquarters to drum up support from the 25-nation bloc for his reforms to prepare for statehood. "We will continue to work for this as soon as possible," he said.

Asked when the Palestinians might get statehood, EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana said: "The sooner the better."

Abbas on Tuesday attended an international conference on the Middle East in London, where he pledged to improve the Palestinian Authority's security services, a key demand of Israel and world donors.

The EU has given millions of dollars to back the building of government institutions.

Workers for the tribunal killed

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Gunmen killed a judge and lawyer working for the tribunal that will try Saddam Hussein and members of his former regime, a day after the secret court referred five of the ousted dictator's aides to trial for alleged crimes against humanity, officials and a relative of the slain men said Wednesday.

News of the deaths came as two car bombs exploded in the capital, killing 10 Iraqi soldiers and wounding dozens of others. The first blast targeted an Iraqi army base in central Baghdad, killing six troops and wounding at least 25. A second car bomb an hour later at an army checkpoint in south Baghdad killed four soldiers, police said.

NATIONAL NEWS

Court considers Commandments

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court is considering whether Ten Commandments displays on government property unconstitutionally entangle church and state, a cultural battle that has splintered lower courts for more than two decades.

Justices were hearing arguments Wednesday in two cases involving displays in Texas and Kentucky. It is the first time since 1980 the high court is tackling the emotional issue, in a courtroom boasting a wall carving of Moses holding the sacred tablets.

Ten Commandments monuments are common in town squares, courthouses and other government-owned land around the country. At issue is whether they violate the First Amendment ban on any law "respecting an establishment of religion," or simply represent a secular tribute to America's legal heritage.

BTK suspect charged with 10 counts

WICHITA, Kan. — As Dennis Rader was formally charged with 10 counts of first-degree murder in the BTK serial killings, investigators used metal detectors to search for new evidence along suburban roads.

Sheriff Gary Steed said the search in Park City was sparked by new information from the task force investigating the serial killings. He declined to elaborate.

LOCAL NEWS

Tensions increase in the House

INDIANAPOLIS — Partisan tensions ran high in the Indiana House on Tuesday with representatives facing a midnight deadline to keep several bills alive, including ones to mandate statewide observance of daylight-saving time and give the governor's inspector general prosecutorial powers.

The Republican-controlled House convened shortly after 9 a.m. EST, but Democrats upset about several bills they consider partisan power grabs left the floor to meet privately.

Financing flaws need attention

Greenspan wants the financial issues in Social Security and Medicare mended

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan urged Congress Wednesday to move quickly to fix the financing problems in Social Security and Medicare, arguing that delay will only make the country's budgetary problems more severe.

Greenspan again endorsed the key part of President Bush's Social Security overhaul to set up private accounts, but he stressed that much more needed to be done to put the giant retirement program and Medicare, which he said faced even more severe financial strains, on a more sound footing.

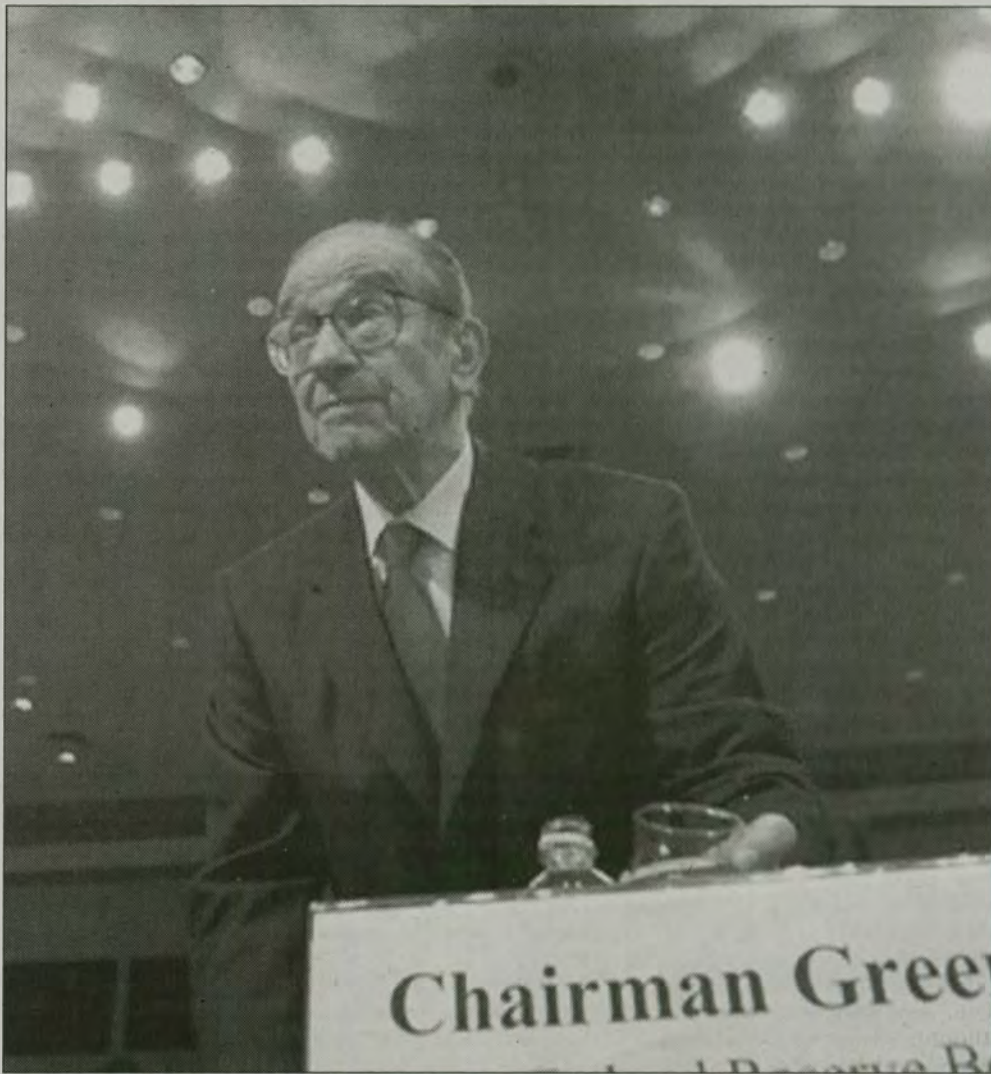
While saying that Congress should move quickly to consider possible benefit cuts for Social Security and Medicare before the baby boomers begin retiring, Greenspan, as he did a month ago, urged a go-slow approach to setting up Bush's proposed private accounts.

The administration estimates those accounts will require about \$745 billion in new borrowing over the next decade. Greenspan said it is difficult to judge what impact that increased borrowing will have on financial markets and for that reason, the government should move cautiously to keep from triggering higher interest rates.

"I think it is very important that you move gradually and see what the response is," Greenspan said.

He said it is entirely possible that the impact on interest rates will be "zero," but he said since that can't be forecast with total confidence "cautious and gradual" was the best approach.

Bolstering the administration's drive to get a Social Security reform bill enacted this year,



Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan takes his seat before the start of a Senate Banking Committee hearing on Feb. 16 in Washington.

Greenspan warned that every year of delay would make fixing the problem harder, especially after the baby boomers begin retiring.

Bush's proposal for private accounts has proved to be a hard sell.

"This is the mother of all issues," House Majority Leader Tom DeLay said Tuesday, as Republican congressional leaders conceded that they may not be able to win congressional approval of it this year.

Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist said Bush will have to take a lead in building support for private accounts, especially "when a lot of political figures want to run and hide

and when you have a lot of people who say there's no problem."

In his testimony Wednesday, Greenspan repeated a warning he first made a year ago, saying he believed the government had promised more than it could deliver to the 78 million baby boomers now approaching retirement and saying that cuts in benefits would have to be considered.

"If existing promises need to be changed, those changes should be made sooner rather than later," he told the House Budget Committee.

Greenspan reiterated that he supports President Bush's push for setting up personal retirement

accounts by diverting up to 4 percentage points of payroll taxes into the new accounts.

Diverting the payroll taxes into the Social Security trust fund, he said, had merely allowed the government to run larger budget deficits. Greenspan said that switching to the private accounts would be a way to bolster the nation's low savings rate.

In his prepared testimony, Greenspan did not repeat the cautionary message he sent last month: Creation of the accounts should be done slowly to gauge the impact the increased borrowing that will be needed will have on financial markets.

ISRAEL

Gaza settlements could create jobs

Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Israel is negotiating to hand over greenhouses in Gaza settlements to Palestinians after its planned withdrawal in the summer, an official said Wednesday, and the military scrapped a contentious plan to dig a deep, wide moat along the Gaza-Egypt border.

Yonatan Bassi, head of Israel's Disengagement Authority, told reporters that peppers and tomatoes grown in the greenhouses could help feed the 1.3 million Palestinians

packed into the narrow coastal strip. Luxury items such as flowers and strawberries would be exported, mainly to the European Union.

"Israel is negotiating now with America and with others, with the international community, to leave all the infrastructure of the greenhouses to the Palestinians through a third party," Bassi said, without giving further details.

A study published last year by the United Nations and the United States Agency for International Development said seven out of 10 Palestinians were living on insufficient food, and the

United Nations put unemployment in Gaza at more than 22 percent.

A USAID official in Tel Aviv said 3,000 Palestinians were working in settlement greenhouses and turning them over to Palestinian ownership could create a further 7,000 jobs.

With each Gaza laborer supporting about eight other people, that could help an estimated 63,000 people.

Bassi also said all the residents of the largest Gaza settlement, Neve Dekalim, could move to Nitzan, a failed community between Ashdod and Ashkelon on Israel's southern coastline.

Grants

continued from page 1

al studies.

According to Bonnie Bazata, director of community connections for CWIL, this is the first time a grant has been offered specifically tailored for projects within the Michiana area.

"One of the outcomes is we will have deepened our relationship with our community, and the community will have a deeper knowledge of the College," Bazata said.

Six proposals submitted since the start of the semester have already been accepted and are underway, and six more are "in the pipelines," Bazata said.

Sanchez is the student organizer for one of the projects already begun. She was approached in the fall by political science professor Marc Belanger and Jesusa Rodriguez, director of "Imagen Latina," about contributing to the show.

The program, which airs Thursday and Sunday afternoons at 5:30 p.m. on Comcast channel 99, is targeted at the local Hispanic population and has a viewing capacity of 880,000 people. Content includes practical information such as changes in immigration laws and how to survive the cold weather.

"It was bridging with the community and I had been looking for a way to work with the community," Sanchez said.

Sanchez seized the "Imagen Latina" opportunity, for which her CWIL grant provided \$2500 to purchase production equipment. Once her project is done, the equipment will belong to the College.

She called the grant opportunity "phenomenal" and said the experience she is gaining is invaluable. As part of her work with the television program, she recently presented a grant proposal to the South Bend mayoral office that was promptly approved.

"The types of skills we are learning are basically untouchable," said Sanchez, and said that this knowledge can't be found for undergraduate students anywhere else.

Sanchez added that the people in the community she has met through her work with "Imagen Latina" have been "inspirational and motivating." The first Saint Mary's student-produced segment airs today.

Communications professor Susan Latham was told that her bridging

grant proposal on communicative disorders had been approved Tuesday.

Working with Saint Mary's students in the communications and social work departments, Latham is launching a program to educate local parents on communication development.

"The goal of this program is to provide training to important people in the child's life so they can provide language training throughout the day," said Latham.

The program will be based at St. Joe's Health Center, also known as the Chapin Street Clinic, but will include house visits.

The departments "give (the students) a wonderful opportunity to work in schools and in hospitals ... but what is always missing is the parents' perspective," said Latham.

Latham and participating students are using connections the social work program already has with students in the community to enter homes and assess the needs of parents, she said.

Bazata said these programs are proof that the grant will bring many more original project proposals to CWIL and the community than she could develop alone. "I'm thrilled [with the proposals so far]," she said. "[They are] far more creative than I could come up with just sitting here."

The proposal must include, among other things, an inter-cultural aspect, and must be based in Michiana.

"We are looking for a creative idea, committed partners and something feasible within the time frame [of the school year]," she said.

According to Bazata, the project idea usually starts with one individual who must then approach potential partners.

"It has to be triangulated," Bazata said. "There has to be a student involved, there has to be a faculty member involved and there has to be a community member involved."

Once the project is completed, participants are expected to reflect on the experience and then share it with others, Bazata said.

"They have to submit a written report," she said, "and we encourage them to do some sort of other sharing with the Saint Mary's community."

CWIL also provides a retreat at the end of the year so those who worked on projects can meet and interact with one another.

Contact Megan O'Neil at onei0907@saintmarys.edu

Panel

continued from page 1

evidence in American courts.

"The numbers [of convicts] on death row are dropping," he said. "We're not sure who is innocent and who is guilty anymore."

Bill Pelke, whose grandmother was murdered, then spoke on his personal experiences with the issue. In 1985, Pelke's grandmother was stabbed 33 times when a group of high school girls entered her home under the pretense of seeking Bible lessons, Leahy explained. One of the girls, Paula Cooper, was 15 years old at the time of the murder. At 16, she became the youngest death row inmate in the United States.

"About three and a half months after she was sentenced, I began to reflect on my grandmother's life and death. My mind went back to the courtroom on the day that Paula Cooper had been sentenced to death," Pelke said. "As the judge sentenced her, he said that he hoped that someday soon the American public would have its fill of the death penalty."

Pelke described his reflections about his grandmother and her killer.

"I thought about my grandmother's Christian faith. I thought of my grandmother and tried to pray for God to give me compassion for Paula Cooper," he said. "I no longer wanted her to die. I learned the most important lesson in life that night: the lesson of the healing power of forgiveness."

Pelke went on to found Journey of Hope, an organization of murder victims'

family members committed to promoting forgiveness and abolishing the death penalty. He is also the president of the board of directors of the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty and sits on the board of directors of Murder Victims' Families for Human Rights.

The third speaker, Madison Hobley, said he survived a fire that killed his wife, son and five others — only to be arrested and tortured by four Chicago police officers. The policemen went on to provide the testimony that led to Hobley's conviction for the fire and his subsequent death sentence. Hobley spent three years in prison and 14 years on death row until Illinois Governor George Ryan pardoned him in 2003.

"It is sad that we put our trust in police who would sacrifice a person like me for the color of my skin and execute me for a crime I did not commit," Hobley said.

Hobley described the subhuman conditions of death row, in which inmates reside in tiny cells, are chained at all times and are forbidden communication with anyone.

"If you had experienced what I did, I don't think you would be pro-death penalty. There is no doubt that we need prison, because many inmates were guilty of crimes, but I also learned that they are human beings," he said.

Charles Rice, Notre Dame

professor emeritus of law, was the evening's final speaker and spoke about law and Catholic teaching. He has published extensively in the areas of natural law, abortion jurisprudence and Catholic morality and the law.

"I formerly supported the death penalty for pro-life reasons because I regarded the infliction of the death penalty for murder as the proper stigmatization of murder, so as to create a climate in which murder would be reduced," he said. "My opinion has since changed."

Rice described Catholic teaching on the death penalty. He explained that the state does have the authority

to impose the death penalty, but that Pope John Paul II has sharply restricted the moral power of the state to use such a punishment.

"The main focus is the conversion of the sinner. The state has the moral authority to use the death penalty only

when it is absolutely necessary to protect other lives from this guy," Rice said.

He noted that it is difficult to imagine a situation in contemporary America that would necessitate infliction of the death penalty.

"Support for the death penalty is a symptom of a broader cultural problem in which the infliction of death is looked at as a problem-solving approach," Rice said.

Contact Karen Langley at klangle1@nd.edu

"I thought of my grandmother and tried to pray for God to give me compassion for Paula Cooper. I no longer wanted her to die."

Bill Pelke
president
National Coalition to
Abolish the Death Penalty

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**disability
awareness**

Tuesday, 3/15

Sujeet Desai will be playing the violin, clarinet and piano. He graduated from the Berkshire Music Academy and was born with Down syndrome.
7p.m. Washington Hall, Free Admission

Saturday, 3/19

Come to the Best Buddies Friendship Games and interact with children and adults with special needs.
12 noon-2p.m. Logan Center Gym

Monday, 3/21

Head Football Coach Charlie Weis, 9p.m. DeBartolo 102
Coach Weis will be speaking about disability awareness.

Tuesday, 3/29

Students with Disabilities Discussion, 8p.m. Legends

www.nd.edu/~bbuddies



**Notre Dame
Disability Awareness Month**

March 2005

MARKET RECAP

Stocks
Dow Jones 10,811.97 -18.03

Up: 1,515 Same: 185 Down: 1,762 Composite Volume: 1,567,437,056

AMEX	1,515.78	+6.34
NASDAQ	2,067.50	-3.75
NYSE	7,343.14	-7.89
S&P 500	1,210.08	-0.33
NIKKEI(Tokyo)	11,813.71	0.00
FTSE 100(London)	4,992.80	-7.70

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
NASDAQ 100TR SER I (QQQQ)	-0.05	-0.02	37.61
SIRIUS SATELLITE R (SIRI)	+0.51	+0.03	5.92
INTEL CP (INTC)	-0.41	-0.10	24.52
MICROSOFT CP (MSFT)	-0.08	-0.02	25.26
CISCO SYS INC (CSCO)	+1.37	+0.24	17.74

Treasuries			
30-YEAR BOND	+0.34	+0.16	47.37
10-YEAR NOTE	+0.16	+0.07	43.79
5-YEAR NOTE	-0.35	-0.14	39.94
3-MONTH BILL	-0.56	-0.15	26.77

Commodities			
LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl.)	+1.37		53.05
GOLD (\$/Troy oz.)	-0.10		433.90
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)	-0.05		89.38

Exchange Rates			
YEN			104.7400
EURO			0.7610
POUND			0.5226
CANADIAN \$			1.2393

IN BRIEF

Chiron resumes making flu vaccine

NEW YORK — British regulators gave the go-ahead Wednesday for Chiron Corp. to resume production of flu vaccine, ending a five-month suspension that caused widespread shortages in the United States.

The company said it plans to begin production immediately in anticipation of getting clearance from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration so it can have vaccine available for the flu season starting this fall.

In October, Britain's Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) barred the Emeryville, Calif.-based company from shipping to the United States some 48 million doses of its Fluvirin-branded flu medicine made in its Liverpool, England factory because of contamination concerns.

Chiron had been expected to supply nearly half the U.S. vaccine supply for the flu season. The resulting shortage prompted U.S. health officials to put restrictions on who was eligible for flu shots. Those restrictions were later eased.

Mall changes gift card policies

ALBANY, N.Y. — The nation's largest shopping mall chain on Tuesday agreed to change its policies regarding gift cards that New York Attorney General Eliot Spitzer called misleading and costly for consumers.

Indianapolis-based Simon Property Group Inc. settled Spitzer's case for \$125,000 in penalties and costs of the investigation. Similar legal battles in Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Connecticut continue, said Spitzer spokeswoman Christine Pritchard.

The settlement comes before New York consumers would face a \$2.50 monthly "administrative fee" beginning May 18.

Simon agreed not to charge the fee unless the gift card has been unused for 12 straight months, Spitzer said. Simon also agreed to disclose on the gift card the \$5 fee it charges to replace a card and the \$7.50 fee it charges to reissue an expired card. The prominent disclosure is required by state law.

"This settlement recognizes that consumers are entitled to receive the full protection of the law with regard to monthly fees and important disclosures about gift card terms and conditions," Spitzer said.

Prosecutors analyze corruption

WorldCom's Bernard Ebbers' combination of money and power led to fraud

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Money, power and pressure combined to form a "perfect storm of corruption" that led one-time WorldCom Inc. chief Bernard Ebbers to commit an \$11 billion accounting fraud, a federal prosecutor said Wednesday in closing arguments.

Prosecutor William Johnson said Ebbers, worried about repaying multi-million-dollar loans that were backed by WorldCom stock, ordered his subordinates to cover up expenses and inflate earnings.

Even when former finance chief Scott Sullivan warned Ebbers it would be wrong to cook the books, "Ebbers commanded Sullivan to do it anyway," and then lied to the public about it, Johnson said.

"WorldCom had truly become World-con," the prosecutor said. "He lied over and over again. All of his lies were criminal."

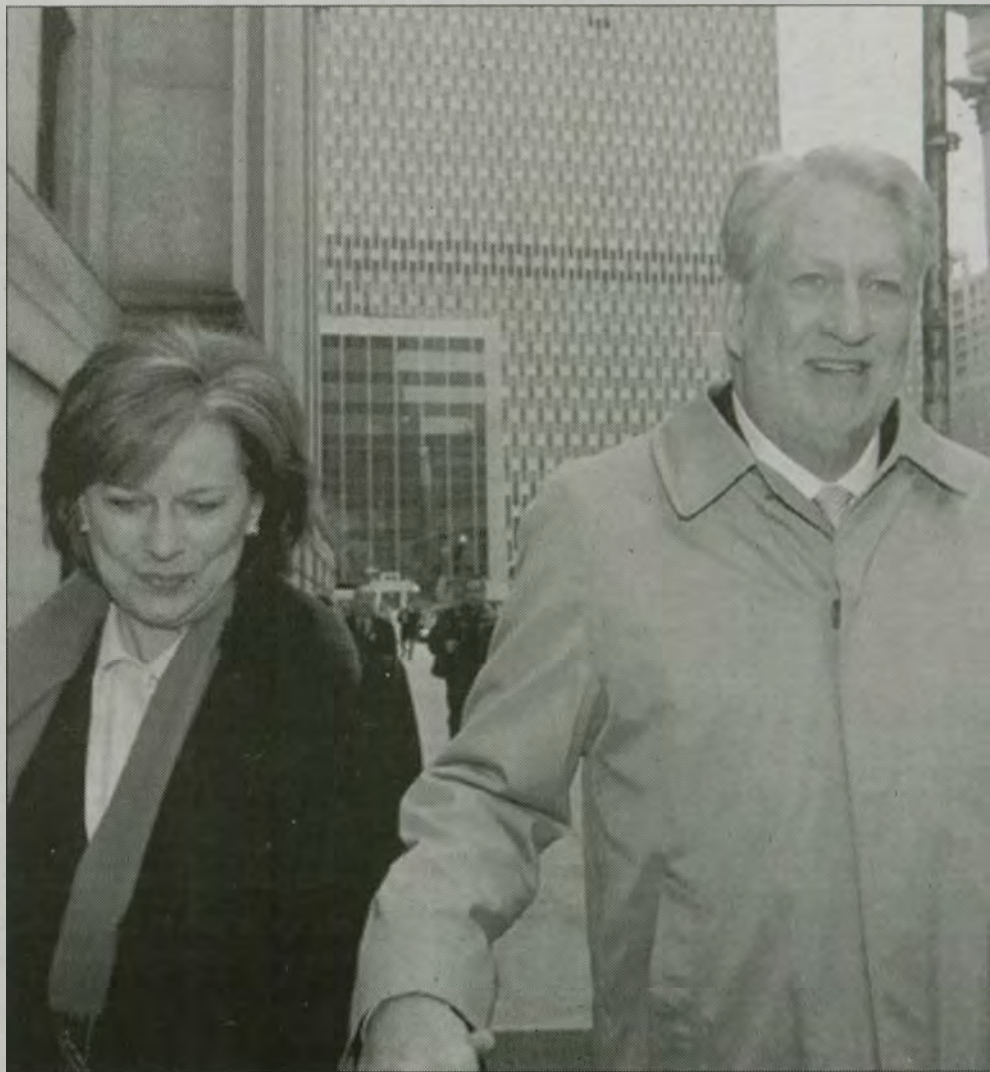
Johnson said Ebbers had the biggest motive of anyone at WorldCom to cook the books — and was the only person with the authority to control it.

"He was WorldCom, and WorldCom was Ebbers," Johnson said. "He built this company. He ran it. Of course he directed this fraud."

The defense rested its case earlier Wednesday after two days in which Ebbers took the witness stand and denied any role in the fraud, saying he only learned about it after he resigned after WorldCom in April 2002.

The 63-year-old ex-CEO claimed on Monday that Sullivan never told him about the huge adjustments WorldCom accountants were making to inflate earnings and hide out-of-control expenses.

"He's never told me he made an entry that wasn't right," Ebbers said. "If he had, we wouldn't be here today."



AP
Bernard Ebbers, former CEO of WorldCom, enters Manhattan federal court with his wife Kristy on Feb. 28 in New York.

Sullivan, who testified as the star prosecution witness, claimed Ebbers pressured him into committing the fraud. He said he repeatedly told Ebbers it was wrong, but Ebbers insisted that WorldCom must "hit our numbers."

Prosecutors say the remark was an indication that Ebbers, worried about \$400 million in personal loans that were backed by his WorldCom stock, was desperate for the company to meet Wall Street estimates.

In a daylong cross-examination Tuesday, Ebbers said he "just didn't see" glaring irregularities in internal financial papers that he reviewed while the company's \$11 billion

fraud was under way.

Ebbers was presented with a WorldCom budget report that showed so-called line cost expenses at \$732 million in September 2000, only half the \$1.4 billion budgeted by the company.

The report was doctored, reflecting adjustments made by WorldCom accountants to cover up line costs that were much higher than summer than the company expected.

Federal prosecutor David Anders asked Ebbers whether he noticed the gap.

"If I would have noticed that, we would not be here today," Ebbers responded. The former CEO said he paid more attention to

other expenses in the document, such as administrative costs.

Ebbers is charged with fraud, conspiracy and making false filings to the Securities and Exchange Commission. The charges carry up to 85 years in prison.

Sullivan, who testified for the government earlier in the case, claims Ebbers was obsessed with hitting Wall Street earnings and revenue targets and pressured him each quarter into committing the fraud.

The former finance chief said Ebbers attended a meeting during the spring of 2001 in Ashburn, Va., in which he was told that line costs were spiraling out of control.

Disabled workers see decline in pay

Associated Press

MUNCIE, Ind. — Disabled workers employed by a specialized shop that depends on contracts with local manufacturers have seen their pay decline as the amount of work has dwindled, officials said.

More than 180 workers at Hillcroft Service's Cannon Industries' sheltered workshop have only about half the work today as they had a year ago, said Clint Bolser, Hillcroft's executive director. The workers still split assignments 180 ways, but also must divide the declining payroll.

The decline can be directly linked to the loss of manufacturing jobs in east-central Indiana, Hillcroft officials said.

Take-home pay is less than half that of a year ago, said worker Jim Benedum.

"Before, we were going like gangbusters," Benedum told The Star Press for a Wednesday story. "Now, it has slowed down dramatically, and that hits me in the wallet."

Hillcroft has for 50 years sought work for disabled clients who also receive Medicaid and Social Security benefits. As many as 500 clients work in outside businesses, but the rest are employed in the highly supervised, sheltered work environment for the seven months from July 2003 through January 2004. Cannon's contracts totaled \$770,000. A year later for the same seven-month period that ended this January, contracts totaled only \$385,000, Bolser

said.

"We are not losing customers because we are providing bad services; we are losing customers because the companies we have contracts with are either moving out or doing away with local business commitments," said Bolser, adding that sheltered workshops in other communities faced the same problems.

One of the largest contracts left at Cannon Industries is with Artista, a company that provides gift wrap for Victoria's Secret stores nationwide.

Folding pink tissue paper is cleaner work than loading kits for assembly line workers at manufacturing plants, Benedum said. But he misses the fatter paychecks that came with assembly line work.

THE OBSERVER VIEWPOINT

page 8

Thursday, March 3, 2005

THE OBSERVER

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THE
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Questions regarding Observer policies should be directed to Editor in Chief Claire Heining.

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Risking Notre Dame's reputation

In retrospect, it is clear that the Queer Film Festival and The Vagina Monologues were not what they claimed to be. My concern is with the judgment of our leaders in permitting these events again at Notre Dame. These comments, therefore, raise no issues relating to the students involved.

Charles
Rice

Right or
Wrong?

Liam Dacey, director of the Queer Film Festival, said "The theme ... was ... not a promotion of [a] gay agenda." The "gay agenda," however, is to legitimize homosexual activity as a mainstream lifestyle. The presentation of films that support that objective at a Catholic university serves that "gay agenda." Due to space limits, discussion of that will wait for another day.

With respect to The Vagina Monologues, it claims to promote awareness of the problem of violence against women. The Vagina Monologues, however, is so inconsistent with that purpose that it could almost qualify as a spoof. In two ways, the play itself promotes violence against women. First, the proceeds of The Vagina Monologues went to Sex Offense Services, the rape-crisis center and to the St. Joseph County YWCA. Both entities provide information on abortion access to pregnant women. Abortion is an act of violence, in which about half of the victims who are killed are women.

Second, in its content, The Vagina Monologues promotes violence against women by glorifying the depersonalization that contributes to such violence. The human person, as Pope John Paul II put it, is a "unified totality" of body and spiritual soul. The Vagina Monologues fragments that unity of the woman's person in two ways, by personalizing a part of her body and by identifying the woman herself with that

body part.

Various monologues present the vagina as an entity with which the woman can, and should, establish a "conscious relationship." I spare the reader the abundant details (believe it — you should thank me). The monologues include such literary gems as, "If your vagina got dressed, what would it wear?" and "If your vagina could talk, what would it say, in two words?" One monologue recounts a group masturbation in a workshop run by "a woman who believes in vaginas." This introduces the Notre Dame community to the concept of organolatry, the deification of a body part. The decisive moment in that monologue came when the workshop participant thought, "I didn't have to find it. I had to be it. Be it. Be my clitoris. Be my clitoris. ... My vagina, my vagina, me." There, the person is reduced to, and equated to, her body part. This fragmentation and objectification of the person facilitates violence against women.

The Vagina Monologues includes a monologue, "The Little Coochi Snorcher That Could," a detailed recounting of the lesbian seduction of a 16-year-old by a 24-year-old. This seduction is described by the victim as "my ... salvation." This monologue is abominable in a "Catholic" university in light of the sex abuse crisis in the American Church. The great majority of such cases involve seduction of a teen-aged boy by a homosexual priest, the mirror image of the lesbian seduction portrayed as a "salvation" for the victim in the monologue.

Another monologue consists of the repeated utterance of a four-letter expletive used to describe a body part. Other monologues, I guarantee, are better left unmentioned. The intellectual content of the text would suffer by comparison with the transcript of a town

meeting of "Idiot Village." Maybe you have to be a politically correct academics or administrator to take such material seriously.

"Ex Corde Ecclesiae," the Apostolic Constitution on the Catholic University, lists, as one of the "essential characteristics" of the Catholic university: "Fidelity to the Christian message as it comes to us through the Church." As Bishop John D'Arcy said in his statement, "Ex Corde" guarantees academic freedom within the parameters of "truth and the common good." Bishop D'Arcy concluded that The Vagina Monologues violate not only the common good but also "the truth about women; the truth about sexuality; the truth about male and female; and the truth about the human body."

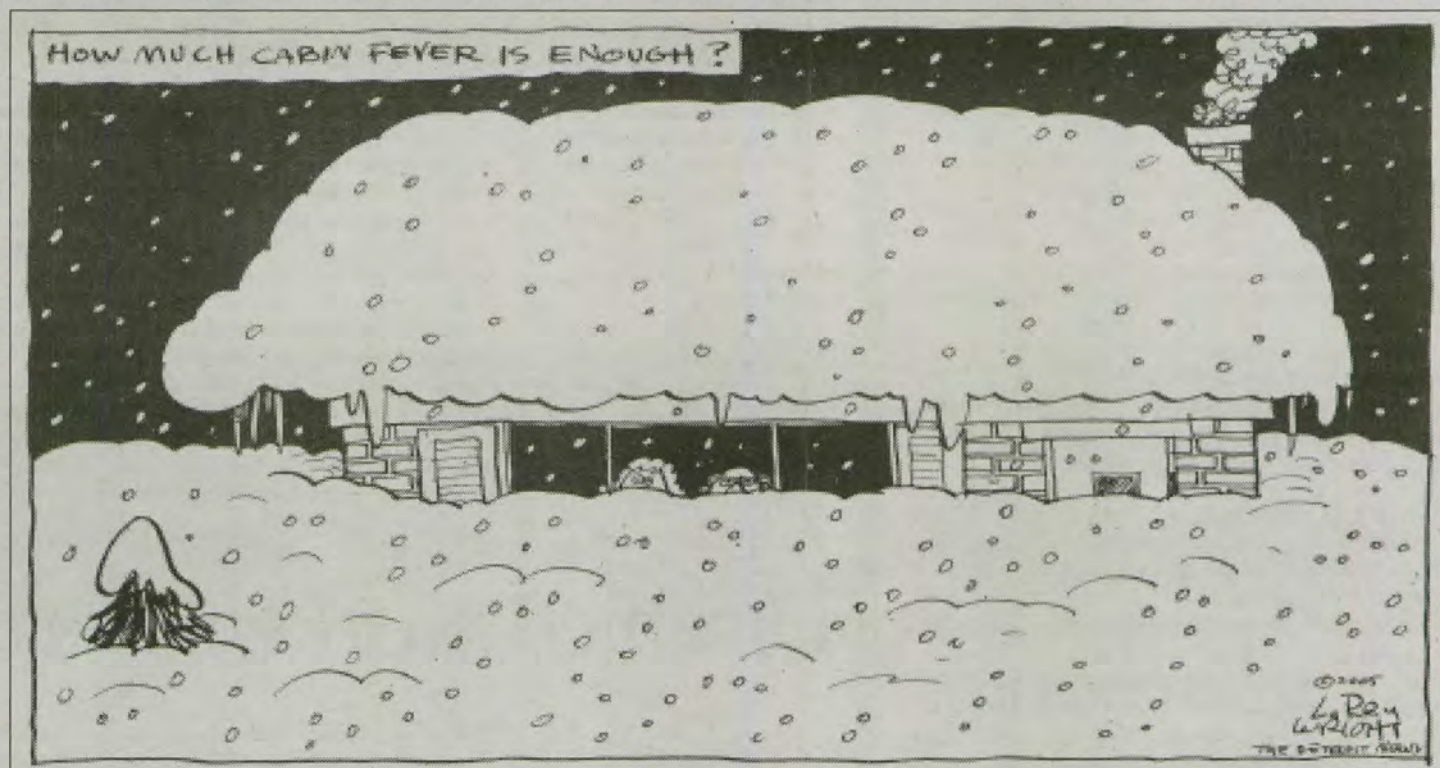
Notre Dame is subservient to the NCAA, accrediting agencies and many other entities. The one entity it will not obey is the Catholic Church, not even to the limited extent required by "Ex Corde." The University's concept of academic freedom is no different from that at Michigan State, Stanford, etc. In short, Notre Dame's claim to be Catholic violates the principle of truth-in-labeling.

The effect of the Queer Film Festival and The Vagina Monologues was to hijack the reputation of Notre Dame in support of an agenda at war with the Catholic Church. Our leaders who permitted this repeated exploitation of Notre Dame ought to be more than embarrassed. They ought to be ashamed of themselves.

Professor Emeritus Rice is on the Law School Faculty. His column appears every other Thursday. He can be contacted at plawecki.1@nd.edu.

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

EDITORIAL CARTOON



OBSERVER POLL

Where are you going for
spring break?

Vote by today at 5 p.m. at
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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"As long as people believe in absurdities they will
continue to commit atrocities."

Voltaire
French philosopher

Experiencing Rome with the pope

Last year abroad in Rome I had many exhilarating experiences. Living in the "Eternal City," staying down the block from the Pantheon, being just a short walk from the Roman Forum and Castel San Angelo. The list is endless, but there was one thing that surpassed even the thrill of being able to see the tremendous Vatican regularly.

Molly Acker

Nobody Likes A Dumb Blonde

For me the experience of seeing Pope John Paul II is surely something I will never forget. I was lucky enough not only to see him at his weekly Sunday blessings, but also to attend an audience and beatification mass. Each time I found myself in awe in the presence of this holy man.

Not everyone is as fortunate to have lived so close. Therefore, to many people the Vatican and the pope seem even more distant than the thousands of miles that separate Rome from America. Right now the Catholic Church in America is in crisis. We are in desperate need for people with religious vocations.

This raises questions of why women cannot be priests and why not just allow the clergy to marry. In addition to this problem, we see that some of the priests we do have are sadly sometimes less than perfect. This is not to undermine the many wonderful priests we do have

who are capable of changing lives, but the sex scandal in the Catholic Church is a huge issue that has left many Catholic Americans disenchanted with the institution.

Further separating many Americans from the Church are what they feel is old doctrine that must be updated. Though the Second Vatican Council opened the door for much discussion on issues we are still concerned with today, there are still stances the Church takes that seem ridiculous to many. It is a constant struggle for some Catholics to choose whether to follow Church doctrine to practice the cultural norms our country has today.

Despite the fact that the Catholic Church still has to make great strides and that many disagree with the beliefs and official positions of our current Church leader, few can deny that this man is not a deeply religious man with a presence and charisma that has shaped and influenced many to be better Christians.

You may not agree with Pope John Paul

II's stances on war. You may have been angered by his warnings to Americans about the dangers of materialism, selfishness and secularism and his urging to share our wealth with the Third World.

You may think he is too conservative when it comes to issues

such as abortion, birth control and euthanasia to which he said, "It's a mistake to apply American democratic procedures to the faith and truth. You cannot take a vote on truth." But you cannot say this man did not reach the people. Many people argue that he is responsible for the ultimate fall of communism in his native country of Poland.

In his own papacy Pope John Paul II has personally encountered more individuals

than any other pope to date. More than 17.6 million people have made pilgrimages to Vatican City for his weekly audiences. He has traveled to virtually every country in the world. Pope John Paul II has visited 110 parishes outside Italy, not to mention the 146 in Italy and 317 in Rome. Among the people he has met, he especially tried to connect with



young Catholics by holding World Youth Day celebrations, which he has celebrated every other year since 1985.

Pope John Paul II has been afflicted with Parkinson's Disease and has even survived a near-fatal gunshot wound in 1981 yet has nevertheless remained steadfast in all his convictions. He has undoubtedly relied on his strong faith in God as a source of strength throughout these trials which has earned him a great deal of respect. This is a man who has always remained committed to his principles and has refused to back down. We have all seen his health quickly deteriorating lately causing him to undergo surgery and miss his first papal blessing on Feb. 27. Perhaps you do not agree with his positions as a leader, but you must respect this man as an example of how one should live a Christian life of integrity. It seems apparent that this man whom has prayed to God for so much of his own life now needs our own prayers more than ever. I am sure he can tell you better than most how powerful this can truly be.

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Million dollar blunder

If you have not seen the Oscar-winning movie "Million Dollar Baby," stop reading this article right now because I am about to blow the ending for you.

Of all the rich layers of storyline, the one layer that elicited the most profound soul searching on my part showed itself at the very end of the film when Frankie (Clint Eastwood) submits to Maggie's (Hilary Swank) desire to remove her breathing tube, thus ending the young woman's life. Lying in a hospital bed permanently paralyzed from the neck down after a devastating boxing injury, Maggie wishes for death instead of living the life she has inherited. Frankie at first resists, but finally acquiesces.

This is an example of euthanasia. As a practicing Catholic, I have always assented to the Church's teaching on this matter, which flows from the belief that human life is sacred from conception to natural death. "Million Dollar Baby" prompted me for perhaps the first time, however, to deeply ponder the natural death of the consistent ethic of life.

Maggie's desire and Frankie's subsequent action seemed to me to be objectively wrong. I found myself with the overwhelming feeling that Maggie's view of her life — a view which was once so robust and relatively expansive — had become detrimentally narrow. Lying on her bed unable to move, Maggie came to define herself in terms of what she had once been able to do rather than who she was presently, even though who she was presently was inextricably connected to who she had been. Her desire to die was then, I think, a product of a radically incomplete vision of herself.

Frankie instinctively knew that there was something wrong with Maggie's desire.

Frankie's parish priest provided what I thought was a very insightful observation when he said that should Frankie go along with Maggie's wishes, he would perhaps never again be able to find himself. As I perceived it, Frankie violated his conscience by giving in to Maggie's wishes. He had been willing and eager to help Maggie continue on with her life

in a new way, but in the end he quieted this will and acted in another manner.

This issue brought to mind two real-life situations — those of Christopher Reeve and Teri Schiavo. Reeve, who once played Superman, was confined to a wheelchair after an injury in 1995 — paralyzed, like Maggie, from the neck down. Rather than choosing death, though, Reeve embraced fully the new form of his life. He struggled through numerous medical complications and hardships, but attempted to experience the fullness of life just like anyone else.

Teri Schiavo is the woman in Florida who must be fed through a tube in order to live. Her family is battling against her husband in the courts because he

wants to remove the tube from Teri and therefore end her life.

In Teri's case, she is unable to speak in order to express her own desire in the matter, so the courts are weighing what her intention would be by considering the wishes of those closest to her.

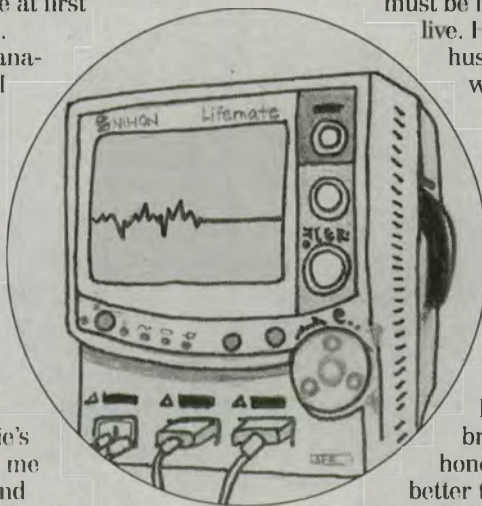
I thought of Teri after seeing the movie. I was led to ponder what value the gift of life has when someone is brought to a state like hers. I honestly asked myself, "Would it be better to die at that point than to go on living in such a way?"

In the end, my answer was, "no," I would choose life, even if it meant living without many of the faculties that are natural to me.

What I witnessed in "Million Dollar Baby" has led me to believe even more fully that life is precious in all its forms, that it should be protected and promoted, and that the premature taking of a life is objectively wrong.

Ultimately, I think the root cause of a desire for one to die prematurely or to take the life of another in these situations may be an inadequate view of self. Limited definitions of life can lead one to accept the unnatural termination of it.

Lenny DeLorenzo
Institute for Church Life
Recruitment Coordinator
March 2



U-WIRE

Instant messenger lingo a-go-go

LiveScience.com claims a new study has found that college students typing on instant messaging systems like AOL Instant Messenger, Yahoo! Messenger and the like are surprisingly formal.

I would love to meet all these "formal" people hanging out online. They certainly are not the people I usually talk to.

If I only had a dollar for every time I saw "LOL" on my screen. Apparently, I am quite the comedian because some people I talk to just cannot seem to stop laughing out loud. Tell a friend I am glad I get to actually sleep for more than eight hours and I might as well be David Letterman; my correspondent is laughing so hard.

Face reality: Half the time people type "LOL" they are not laughing out loud. Often times they probably are not laughing at all. Do you really think anybody has ever pulled an "ROFL" over an instant message? It is pretty hard to fall out of your chair. Even if you did pull that part off, proceeding to roll around on the floor like you ate bad chicken just does not seem likely.

If we are going to use slang and lingo, why not add some that describe how we really feel. Something like "loti" for laughing on the inside. If you're laughing under your breath throw in an "lumb."

You might also throw in an "IDRKHTRTWYJSSITATLI" for "I don't really know how to respond to what you just said so I'll type all these letters instead."

When the acronym gets so long you actually have to stop and concentrate intently to figure out what it means, you are defeating the purpose of abbreviating things.

The study also claims that the college kids are very good spellers. This also comes as a surprise. In my experience, instant messaging systems are excuses for typing too fast, thus causing you to misspell more words and leave a letter off or add a letter that shouldn't go there.

Let's not forget contractions. I am usually more surprised to actually see an apostrophe used than left out.

Run on sentences are also a problem the person just starts typing whatever they're saying and "thro n sum slang 4 u 2 look at they wont use punctuation n they wont even capitalize letters."

If you must use your slang and shortcuts with a complete lack of grammar and punctuation make sure you do not let it spill over into your regular writing. If ever you start turning in assignments with your instant messaging shorthand, then it will be time to say the style has "gtg". Ttyl.

This column originally appeared March 2 in The Parthenon, the daily publication at Marshall University.

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

John Allan

*Marshall University
The Parthenon*

ALBUM REVIEWS

Kings of Leon keeps rock shaking

By BECCA SAUNDERS
Assistant Scene Editor

Many American rock fans have at least heard of Kings of Leon, but the band's popularity in the States is miniscule compared to the success the band has experienced in Great Britain, where its first album, "Youth and Young Manhood," has almost reached double platinum. While Kings of Leon experienced a great deal of critical acclaim on both sides of the Atlantic, something about these hometown rural American boys did not pick up in their homeland.

All this may be about to change. "Aha Shake Heartbreak," the second major release for Kings of Leon, is a darker follow-up to 2003's "Youth and Young Manhood." The Kings of Leon Web site explains the difference between the two albums, saying, "If 'Youth and Young Manhood' was the party, 'Aha Shake Heartbreak' is the hangover." Although the album is definitely one of a much darker mood and tone, "Aha Shake Heartbreak"

has a great many strengths of its own.

The story of the Kings of Leon is not in any sense a traditional tale of rock star formation. Three of the members of the band, singer-guitarist Caleb Followill, bass guitarist Jared Followill and drummer Nathan Followill are brothers. And the fourth member is hardly excluded from the family, as the Followill brothers' first cousin — Matthew Followill — plays guitar.

The three brothers grew up in a fundamentalist Christian family, led by their father who was a traveling evangelist. The boys spent a great deal of time on the road with their father going from city to city throughout the southern U.S. to spread the good news.

The subject matter of the majority of "Aha Shake Heartbreak" hardly reflects this upbringing. For the most part, the album covers the wild life that the members of the band have experienced in their rise to fame in the past year and a half. Many of the songs are strong enough for the album to gain a parental caution



Photo courtesy of mtv.com

While Kings of Leon has become quite popular in Great Britain, the band has yet to match that popularity in the United States.

sticker and the lyrics seem to tell the true life of future rock and roll icons.

Nathan Followill explains this subject change and their personal relation to the lyrics of "Aha Shake Heartbreak," saying, "On our first album, I'd say about 30 percent of what we were writing about was autobiographical and 70 percent was wishful thinking. We were writing about things we hadn't seen yet. On this album, 90 percent of what we're writing about are things we've experienced, nights we've had. There's still that other 10 percent though..."

The "Aha Shake Heartbreak" experience does not end at the meaning behind the lyrics — the music also shows the growth of Kings of Leon as artists. Many different types of songs are featured throughout "Aha Shake Heartbreak." The slower "My Generation" and "Slow Nights, So Long" are matched in quality to the

more upbeat pace of "The Bucket" and "Taper Jean Girl." Caleb Followill's vocals are distinctive throughout the all the album's songs, and it seems that Kings of Leon on the whole has captured its own unique sound.

While "Aha Shake Heartbreak" is not as groundbreaking as "Youth and Young Manhood," it is a little easier to listen to and relate to musically. This album sets the Kings of Leon up for a spectacular third album where the originality of "Youth and Young Manhood" can be combined with the musical maturity of "Aha Shake Heartbreak." Overall, "Aha Shake Heartbreak" is a terrific rock album that proves the Kings of Leon deserve and probably will receive recognition on both sides of the Atlantic.

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Aha Shake Heartbreak Kings of Leon

RCA



Stars ablaze on stellar third record

By MATTHEW SOLARSKI
Scene Music Critic

Stars, a Montreal-based electro-pop band, by nature possess a multitude of extraordinary properties. In the fine tradition of Pixies, Liars, Panthers, Oxes and Owls, defy the definite article. The quartet, comprised of vocalist/keyboardist Torquil Campbell, vocalist/guitarist Amy Millan and multi-instrumentalists Evan Cranley and Chris Seligman, seems to shine exponentially brighter with each suc-

cessive release. "Set Yourself on Fire" proves to be the combo's most accomplished release to date, brimming with the warmest of harmonies, the most infectious of melodies and near peerless production.

Stars entrance. Beginning with the mesmerizing opener, "Your Ex-Lover Is Dead," Stars exerts a hold over the listener's heart, with swelling strings underscoring Amy Millan's frost-tinged, angelic vocals. Millan's proclamation, "I'm not sorry there's nothing to save," subtly becomes "I'm not sorry; there's nothing to save" just as

the strings and drums rise to climax. "Ageless Beauty," much like "Elevator Love Letter," from Stars' previous effort, immediately casts its spell over the listener and holds the room in trance for all of its four glorious minutes.

Stars illuminate. The lyrical leap made by Campbell and company since their 2001 debut "Nightsongs" is easily their most stunning advancement. Here, Campbell and Millan deftly illustrate the proverbial ins and outs of love, life and current affairs with impeccable flair and sensitivity. On the down-tempo duet "The Big Fight," the two trade vocals in a bedside dialogue, then align in lovely harmony. The charming "The First Five Times" is a wistful account of just that — the "first time," euphemistically speaking, and the four thereafter, until "finally we rested."

Venture too close and Stars is apt to burn, as on the chilling "He Lied About Death," a scathing invective against the sitting U.S. president. This jaw-dropping number showcases Stars at its most fiercely political, at one point rebuking the man in question as the "the shadow of fear." Perhaps more efficacious is "Celebration Guns," which trades on the cruel irony inherent in the titular phrase. Here, Millan

asks, "How will you know your enemy? By their color or your fear?" to the tune of pensive strings and percussion made to sound like cannon fire. Of war's casualties, she probes, "are the beating drums / celebration guns / the thunder and the laughter / the last thing they remember?"

Amusingly, Stars too embody many of the same qualities commonly associated with stars of the sort born in Hollywood. The personalities of Campbell and Millan impress themselves indelibly upon the listener. The songs here exude an unmistakable charisma, and manage to be instantly catchy while begging repeat listens — indeed, only then do these pop confessions reveal their true sophistication.

Stars' star is one that continues to rise. The quartet just garnered a Juno nomination for "Set Yourself on Fire" (the Junos being eons more astute than its stateside counterpart, the Grammys), and "The OC" and "Cosmo Girl" invariably loom on the horizon for these pop parvenus. For now, Stars has light-years of warmth to share with the lovelorn who gaze perennially skyward.

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Set Yourself on Fire Stars

Arts & Crafts

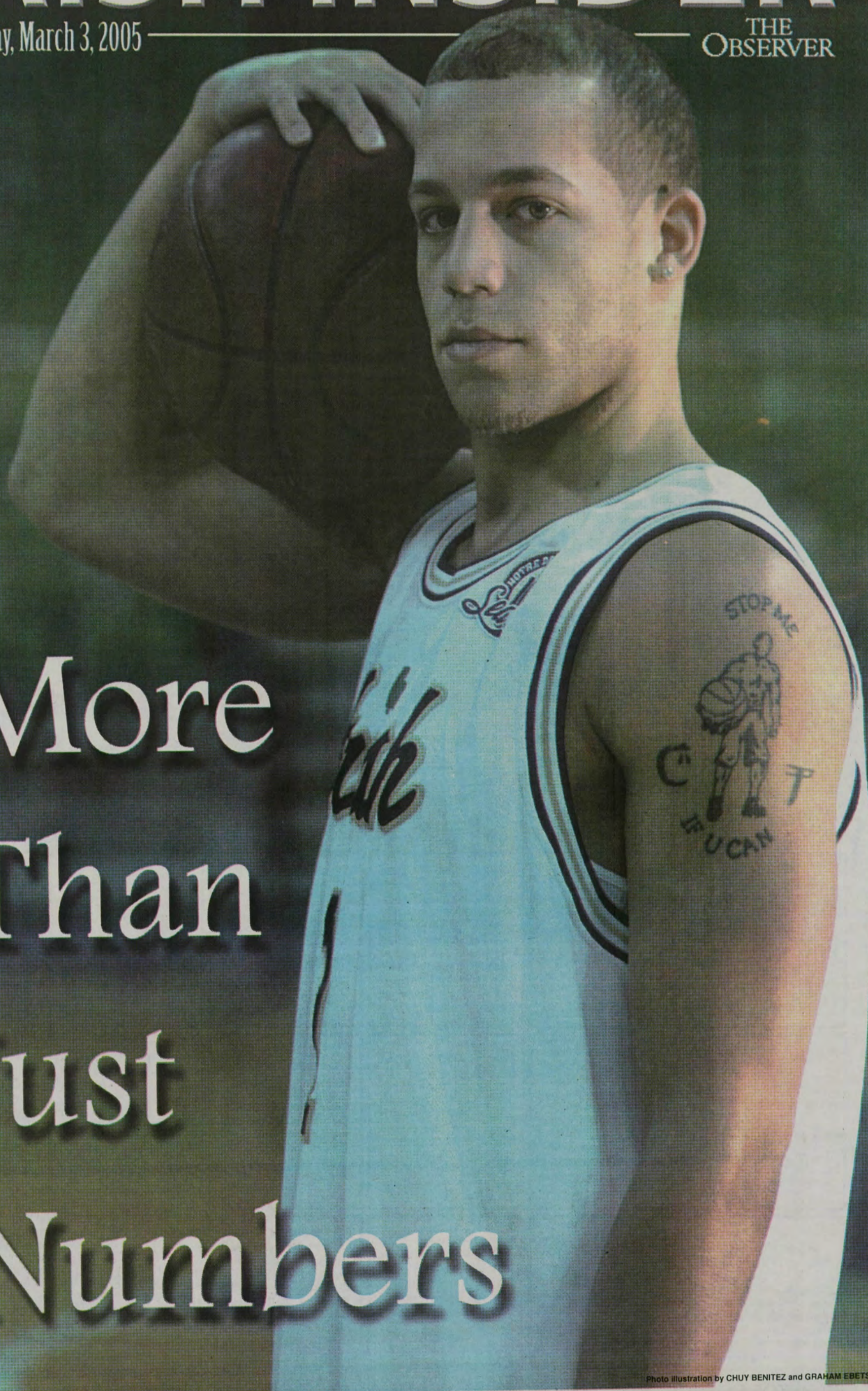


IRISH INSIDER

Thursday, March 3, 2005

THE
OBSERVER

More
Than
Just
Numbers



Four years later, seniors represent new identity

When you first think about it, the question seems so obvious it shouldn't need an answer. On the other hand, the question is so loaded most people would opt not to answer it at all. Which is why the question, full of history and drama and significance beyond even words, needs to be asked.



Pat Leonard
Associate Sports Editor

What will Notre Dame basketball be without Chris Thomas? Don't dismiss it. Though every team graduates seniors and every program moves on, this year's Notre Dame team seems different. Comparing the state of the program four years ago to its status today, one answer to the question becomes clear.

It will not be the same. Amid heavy criticism from fans and under the spotlight of national media, Thomas has accomplished what he hopes others will continue — the revival of Notre Dame basketball.

He has had his bad days, bad weeks and bad streaks. He has thrown the ball away trying to make the extra pass, the highlight reel assist. But give Thomas a break. All he is trying to do is win.

Talk to his teammates, his coaches, his managers. They all say the same thing, and it sounds like this — Chris Thomas cares more about this team than anyone else.

That may be true, but if it isn't, that is only because the other Irish senior cares just as much.

Following Sunday's 75-65 loss to UCLA at the Joyce

Center, coaches and players were quiet and reserved, disappointed in the loss. Jordan Cornette was devastated.

The senior forward sat in the first seat in the locker room — not his normal post game spot. He held his head in his hands, with elbows rested on limp knees.

Cornette seemed on the verge of tears.

"That's one the thing with senior leadership, you've got to make sure everyone's heads are right and the morale is high," he said Tuesday night. "That's one of the toughest tasks as a senior."

Days later, Cornette was back to being the most vocal person in the Notre Dame locker room.

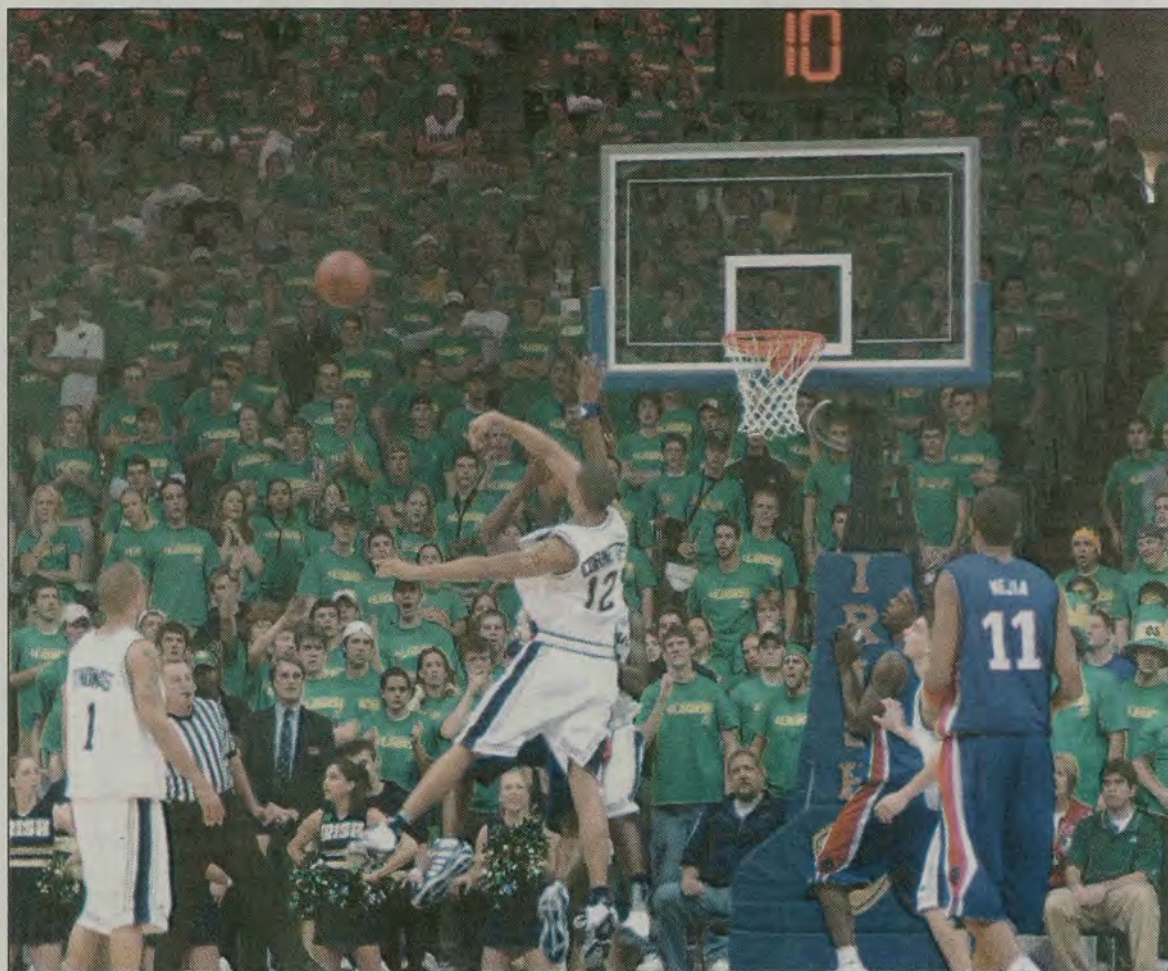
"I'm always trying to be that voice in their heads keeping the [team] focused," Cornette said. "I think especially down the stretch, this is when any team, especially our team, needs the senior leadership."

The Irish need the leadership, especially, because of who the seniors are.

Thomas recently joined Sherman Douglas and Gary Payton (two NBA stars) as only the third Division-I player to register 2,000 points and 800 assists during a career. Maybe he set the bar too high when he notched a triple-double in his first game as a freshman, and all of the fans that gave Thomas a hard time felt they had the right to compare his play to that one game.

But while criticism is justified for Thomas' play on occasion, the Irish point guard can do a large number of things the Notre Dame program has not seen for a while in a single player.

The most important of those things is that Thomas can win consistently. And Notre Dame, under Thomas' lead, for the most part has done that.



GEOFF MATTESON/The Observer

Irish senior Jordan Cornette rejects a shot against DePaul Dec. 11. Cornette, Chris Thomas and Greg Bosl will be honored Saturday afternoon on Senior Day.

This senior class has value even down to the walk-ons, who the floor general says has everything to do with his success in games.

"I told [senior walk-on Greg Bosl] this about a month ago, people don't realize the impact he has on our team," Thomas said. "They don't get any PT [playing time], but their importance in practice, knowing other teams game plans has been a huge part of our success this season."

On Saturday, Thomas will walk with Cornette and Bosl onto the floor to face

Pittsburgh on Senior Day, their final home game at the Joyce Center.

"It's going to be a culmination of great experiences, big games, the resurgence of Notre Dame basketball back on the map," Thomas said. "It's definitely going to be an emotional time, but it will be a great motivator for us going into the tournament and finishing the season strong."

Thomas and Cornette deserve a deep NCAA tournament run. Four years ago, such a statement would not logically attach itself to Notre Dame

basketball. But now, Thomas more than anyone deserves a memorable postseason to put an ideal finishing touch on a statistically and historically amazing career.

What will Notre Dame basketball be without Chris Thomas?

The Irish hope they don't find out until April.

The opinions expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
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	COACHING	STYLE OF PLAY	POST PLAYERS	PERIMETER PLAYERS	BENCH	INTANGIBLES
NOTRE DAME	After the disappointing UCLA loss, Brey had his toughest coaching job of the season to get the confidence back. He succeeded in getting his team focused for Rutgers.	The UCLA loss forced the Irish to rededicate themselves on the defensive end of the court. In the past, Brey would try to outscore teams, but against the Panthers, they just can't adapt that philosophy.	Every time the Irish take the court, no one knows how the big men will produce. Francis played better on Sunday, but it seems like he needs a fire lit to play to his ability. Latimore and Cornett haven't been consistent help off the bench.	In the two-point loss Feb. 12, Thomas and Quinn carried the Irish with a combined 41 points. This has been the strength of the team all season and will carry the Irish as far they go in the post-season.	Brey's been experimenting more with lineups of late. Isreal is seeing a lot of time and looks more confident every night. Carter's been stuck in the backcourt logjam but provides instant offense off the bench.	If the Irish win this game, they are a lock for the NCAA tournament. Beating the Panthers gets the Irish to 10 wins in conference, which is impressive in the Big East.
PITTSBURGH	With his team facing a place on the NCAA tournament bubble, Dixon got the Panthers to play their best game of the season in the 22-point destruction of Boston College at the Conte Forum Monday night.	Pittsburgh continues to be a typical Big East team — battling down in the post and playing in-your-face defense. After allowing more than 70 points during their three-game losing streak, the Panthers allowed just 50 against the Eagles.	This is the strength of the Panthers. Troutman has been their most consistent player, while Taft has been frustrating for Dixon. But Taft joined Troutman in leading the big win Monday night.	Krauser has been making some big-time shots of late, especially against the Irish and in the comeback win at Syracuse Feb. 14. Graves has started 22 games and can fill it up from behind the arc.	The Panthers have nine players getting double-digit minutes every night, but no one sticks out. Dixon isn't afraid to pull one of his starters like he did with Taft in the first meeting against the Irish.	Pittsburgh's in the NCAA tournament. The only thing left is playing for seeding. A win at Notre Dame would help that resume and move the Panthers farther away from playing a 1 or 2 seed before the second weekend.
ANALYSIS	Brey has more experience, but both of these teams have struggled to get on a roll heading into college basketball's most important month. Adjustments from the first game will be key.	At the Petersen Events Center, the Panthers took advantage of a physical game, but the Irish were able to get open looks from the perimeter. This will be a slow game, and that suits the Panthers.	At Pittsburgh, the Panthers simply dominated Notre Dame's big men. That could happen again Saturday, or Francis and Latimore could turn in a performance like they did against UConn. But the former is expected.	The Irish backcourt struggled against UCLA, but its depth provides the edge against the Panthers. Falls is in a slump, but there's simply too many options for Brey that someone will play well on Saturday.	Neither of these areas stand out over the other. But it could be the team that gets an unexpected lift from one of the reserves that gets an advantage.	Despite the majority of students being on spring break, this one still goes to the Irish. Senior Day will be an advantage, but the Irish get this category because they need this game to get into the dance. They haven't forgotten last season.

End of an era

Chris Thomas plays his last home game Saturday against Pittsburgh

By MATT LOZAR

Senior Staff Writer

Mike Brey pointed out his office window.

It wasn't at the blizzard blanketing the Notre Dame campus Tuesday.

He was pointing at Notre Dame Stadium.

Why? To describe Chris Thomas.

"I think he's really been the poster boy for the program," Brey said. "Quite frankly, he's been the highest profile athlete [at Notre Dame] as well. More than any of the guys over there, because he's been the guy, and I think he's handled that with real grace."

Forget about Thomas' name being all over the Notre Dame record book.

Forget about the accolades and awards decorating his biography.

Forget about the expectations coming from being Mr. Indiana or his opening-night triple double.

What Brey indicated by simply raising his left arm confirmed the landmark decision made by the Pike high school junior in April 2000.

Thomas accomplished what he came here to do.

Making his own path

In basketball-crazed Indiana, the news of Thomas spread quickly throughout the state. Purdue coach Gene Keady and former Indiana coach Bob Knight had recruited Thomas since junior high. Thomas looked at top-flight programs outside Indiana as well — specifically Duke and Michigan State.

When it came down to it, Thomas wanted to be different.

"I kind of wanted to write my own story," Thomas said. "I think I wanted to have the ability to get a great degree and get playing time and really do something nobody has really done. That was a huge part of the decision."

Coming down to a choice between Notre Dame and Stanford, Thomas chose the Irish with a major reason being then-coach Matt Doherty recruited him harder than anybody.

But after one season in South Bend, the former North Carolina player left for his alma mater when the head coach position opened up in Chapel Hill. Doherty didn't even call Thomas or Jordan Cornette, who were at a Nike Camp in Indianapolis, until the next day to let them know.

However, when he got the Irish job, Brey called Thomas "right away" and asked the Indianapolis native to come visit the campus in early August, spend some time with the new coaching staff and see if it was still going to be a fit.

Thomas never opened his recruiting back up to other schools.

"I think before he met me, when I was on the phone with him in July, he was about 90 percent back to staying," Brey said. "I think that says a lot about him as a kid — talk about a loyalty to a university."

Setting the bar high

Thomas didn't walk onto campus as a celebrity. When he would play at Rolfs or outside his dorm, people would provide some advice — try out for the team.

It didn't affect Thomas until his first collegiate game. Twenty-four points, 11 assists and 11 steals later, and Thomas wasn't a campus unknown any longer.

"It was something I just shrugged off until the very first game when I had the triple-double or the exhibition games when I played really well," Thomas said. "So I just set the bar real high. I expected to play real well."

Thomas played well throughout that freshman season — earning numerous freshman or rookie of the year honors — when the Irish almost knocked off No. 1 seed Duke

in the second round of the NCAA tournament. One year later, the Irish finished off their second-round opponent, advancing to the school's first Sweet 16 since 1987.

Coming off a season where he garnered Associated Press honorable mention All-American honors, Thomas declared himself eligible for the NBA Draft on May 6, 2003. Brey was right there next to him, encouraging him.

After participating in individual workouts with a number of teams, Thomas never got a guarantee he would be a first-round pick, which meant a guaranteed three-year contract.

Thomas therefore returned to school on June 16.

"I've always said, I think it was a great decision to explore it and if he was guaranteed a No. 1 pick, he would have gone and I would have told him you have to go, even if he didn't want to go," Brey said. "I think it was good for him because it showed him what he had to work on."

Becoming a leader

Those 41 days taught Thomas a lot.

It taught Thomas the decision-makers in the NBA weren't looking for flashy point guards, but leaders.

"It was very important to my progress as a player more as a cerebral player. You see their work ethic and see what the general managers look for," Thomas said. "They don't look for the dunks or crossovers, but how you lead your team, win big games, pick up full court on defense."

Attempting to better understand his role as a point guard, Thomas refocused his game for his junior year.

There was only one problem — that pain in his left knee.

Thomas hurt the knee after his sophomore year but didn't want to shut down his junior season when Brey asked him twice if he should. He actually cut his coach off in mid-sentence both times.

So Thomas stayed the course and the led team through an eight-day stretch that saw the Irish, sitting at 10-9 overall and 4-5 in the Big East, beat Connecticut, Seton Hall and Syracuse — three future NCAA tournament teams — and get back into the talk for the tournament.

"I think that kind of shows what kind of kid he is," Brey said. "I was proud of him because he carried us. For us to get to 9-7 [in the Big East] and be on the bubble after where we were at 10-9, 4-5 and the big guy [Torin Francis] goes down, that says a lot about the kind of stretch drive he had for us ... He was a hunchback by the end of the season. No wonder the knee was sore."

The Irish finished at 16-11 but didn't hear their name called on Selection Sunday. After two years of going to the Big Dance, the Irish settled for the NIT.

"It was real tough. That was probably the lowest point of our four-year career, Jordan [Cornette] and mine," Thomas said. "Walking out of coach Brey's basement knowing that you couldn't even play in the tournament."

"I think it was a motivator, a wake-up call."

Leaving a legacy

That motivation stayed with Thomas during the off-season, despite his April 9, 2004 surgery preventing him from returning to the court until August.

Now it's put his team in position for the NCAA tournament — one final chance for Thomas to leave his mark on the Notre Dame program.

"Nobody deserves it more. I think anybody around the country with this kid, you want him to go out playing in the NCAA tournament," Brey said. "I don't know if anybody wants that more than he and I."

Regardless of what happens this season, Thomas has already left his mark on the program for next season. Brey said he now can recruit a segment of high school players Notre Dame hasn't seen since the middle of the 1980s. Players that led to the incoming freshman class being rated in the top 15 in the country.

Players such as Luke Zeller from Washington, Ind. who stayed in-state but came to South Bend.

Players such as Kyle McAlarney from Staten Island, N.Y. who is the heir apparent to Thomas at the point guard position and came to Notre Dame largely because of what Thomas has done during the past four years and the relationship Brey has with the current point guard.

"He's one of the best guards in the nation, and he's gotten better over his four years there, and he's been quarterbacking his team since he was a freshman," McAlarney said. "It influenced me a lot. I saw the style of play. And I think I have kind of a similar game to him offensively."

It's not easy to match Thomas' success by filling out the stat sheet, but Brey's been judging his point guard by what he's measured by — wins and losses.

It's something Thomas' teammates and fellow senior co-captain Cornette see all the time, putting the team above himself.

"People are going to naturally associate you with wanting to achieve personal achievements. He's the guy that would trade it above all else to have team achievements," Cornette said. "He wants it to be the team did this and



After his sophomore season, Chris Thomas declared himself eligible for the NBA Draft at this May 7, 2003 press conference at the Joyce Center.

not CT did this. That's a huge testament. He puts everything aside for the betterment of the team. That's selflessness."

Thomas could have taken the easy road and followed the rest of the top players from Indiana and stayed at a state school.

He could have thought about his bank account and left for the NBA after either of his first two seasons.

He could have put himself first last season and repaired his aching knee that got iced down minutes after every game before the quarterfinal run in the NIT.

But for four years, Thomas hasn't put himself first.

"I just look at the wins and losses over the last four years," Thomas said. "In my eyes, my main basketball goal was to help turn this program around."

"I think that was my main goal, and I feel like I've accomplished it pretty well."

Thomas has one more home game and the Big East tournament to prepare for an NCAA tournament run — the tournament he came to Notre Dame for.

"It's been almost a whole year since we've been back. Even though you're in postseason tourney play, it's a totally different atmosphere," Thomas said. "Your program's not buzzing about it, and when we went sophomore year, it was the biggest thing to come around for a long time."

The biggest thing to come around, that is, since Chris Thomas.

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Chris Thomas by the numbers

consecutive starts made by Thomas — a Notre Dame record and every Irish game since he arrived on campus **125**

82 Notre Dame wins since the Indianapolis native took over the point guard position four seasons ago

years the two-time state champion at Pike High School has been named an Associated Press honorable mention All-American **2**

41 days the former McDonald's All-American spent flirting with the NBA Draft after declaring himself eligible following his sophomore season

Big East Rookie of the Week honors garnered by the only Mr. Basketball from Indiana to attend Notre Dame during his 2002 Big East Rookie of the Year campaign **6**

3 point guards in college basketball history with 2,000 career points and 800 career assists. Thomas joined Sherman Douglas and Gary Payton in that club Sunday

minutes played by Thomas as a freshman in a 116-111 quadruple-overtime win at Georgetown — an NCAA record **60**

1 triple-doubles in Notre Dame history. Thomas recorded 24 points, 11 assists and 11 steals against New Hampshire Nov. 16, 2001 in his first collegiate game



GEOFF MATTESON/The Observer

Notre Dame's 55-45 win at Indiana on Dec. 8, the first in Bloomington since 1973, was especially sweet for Indianapolis native Chris Thomas.

Brey mixes and matches with deep bench



Omari Isreal pulls up for a jumper against UCLA Sunday. Isreal has seen his minutes increase recently as Mike Brey goes deeper into the Irish roster.

Carter, Cornett, Isreal working their way into team's rotation

By PAT LEONARD
Associate Sports Editor

At the beginning of the season, Mike Brey boasted he had nine or 10 players ready to see the court and make significant contributions.

Twenty-six games into the 2004-05 campaign, the Irish coach is using the depth he talked so highly of early in the season.

Juggling six players through three combinations of starting lineups, Brey also has found strengths in reserve players Russell Carter, Rick Cornett and Omari Isreal.

"Everyone knows during the course of the game that anyone could be playing from Chris Thomas to our last walk-on," Carter said. "Not just me, but everybody — [coach Brey] tells everyone to be ready."

Cornett, a 6-foot-8, 256-pound junior, has played the most prominent role off the bench this season, often substituting for center Torin Francis down low. At first permanently relegated to the bench behind a healthy Francis and Arizona transfer Dennis Latimore, Cornett played his way into a 9.5 minutes per game average — he scored four points in six minutes and anchored a 2-3 zone in the hostile Assembly Hall early in the season.

On the other hand, sophomores Carter and Isreal have shown in later emergencies they may be able to contribute just as much in a back-up role as Cornett.

"I just play," Carter said. "I know I can play. And I just go out there and show what I can do."

What Carter can do is score.

The sophomore is shooting almost 49 percent from the field and 10-for-18 (55.6 percent) from the 3-point line. He averages 7.3 minutes per game and has played in 21 of the team's 26 contests. Carter played 10 hard minutes in a 75-65 loss to UCLA Sunday, spelling a struggling Colin Falls and scoring six points on 2-of-3 shooting (both baskets were 3-pointers).

Carter (6-foot-4, 223 pounds) said he has gained 25 pounds of muscle since he arrived at the Joyce Center his freshman year. Physical work in the weight room has increased Carter's strength and value on the floor, though — as any player would — he may have enjoyed the playing time sooner.

"Everybody is coming from their high schools where they were the man, and sometimes it's a slow process," Jordan Cornette said.

Carter "was the man" at Paulsboro High School, finishing as the second all-time leading scorer in school history with 2,287 points after averaging 30 points, 11.2 rebounds and 3.4 assists per game as a senior.

This season, while demonstrating his scoring ability, the sophomore has also committed 20 turnovers and 25 personal fouls, both factors that limit him to a bench role but that, once corrected, will place Carter in a position to hog minutes.

Isreal, like Carter, saw significant minutes against UCLA and

made the most of them. The sophomore forward scored five points and grabbed four rebounds in 16 minutes.

"I've just always been positive," said Isreal, who is averaging 7.7 minutes and 1.3 points per game in 16 games played. "I think I've gotten stronger mentally. Physically, I think I've been the same all here. Mentally, I think I've gotten better."

Similar to Cornett's role of becoming an extra, skilled body, Isreal often jumps into the lineup for the athletic Cornette or for the third Notre Dame guard. His presence makes the Irish defense longer and the overall team taller.

"As the season goes on, guys that play a lot of minutes get a little bit tired," Isreal said. "Big East gets more physical, so the extra bodies help us a lot."

Isreal shoots just 30 percent from the field and averages 1.8 rebounds per game, but his performance against UCLA showed the sophomore is close to becoming a major factor.

"Omari waited his turn," Cornette said. "Now he's getting the opportunity to show his stuff."

Carter, Cornett and Isreal have all taken a mature approach to their roles, preparing for each game as if they will see the floor even more than they did the game before.

"On any given night, I can get 10 minutes or no minutes," Carter said. "It's mental toughness."

Contact Pat Leonard at pleonard@nd.edu

The Office of Student Affairs is now accepting nominations for the

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ALBUM REVIEW

Third Atticus compilation worth a look

By MIKE TENNANT
Scene Music Critic

Atticus is back again with its third installment of the "Dragging the Lake" compilation. The album contains some newer and somewhat harder to find tracks from well-established and popular bands, such as Blink 182 and Taking Back Sunday. And just like its predecessors, Atticus submits a number of unfamiliar sounds for the listener's approval.

While the previous Atticus discs are easier to classify under the punk or emo categories, the third chapter contains much more of a mishmash of genres and styles. While this is great

for the musically-cultured listener, it is a tough listen for single-genre-minded folk.

On the whole, the tracks from the more popular acts are good — but not great. Many Taking Back Sunday and MxPx fans might find their bands' cuts slightly disappointing. While Taking Back's "Number Five with a Bullet" gets extra credit for its "High Fidelity" reference, the track is not up to the band's usual standards. The song is a good emotionally driven rock song, no doubt, but it is not up to the group's standards set by its breakout album "Tell All Your Friends."

The Motion City Soundtrack cut "1000 Paper Cranes" also falls along

the same lines. While not as well known as Taking Back or Blink, the band does have a loyal following. And the majority of them know it has better songs. Again, the song is not bad by any means. It offers a jumpy style of post-punk complete with a well-incorporated moog. The drums rock the listener along, and by the end you very well could be jumping up and down. But they have even better songs that are not on display here.

However, Blink's cut "Not Now" proves the exception to the rule, as the veteran punk trio puts forth a quality tune. Musically, the song demonstrates the maturation of the band's style. This is also demonstrated in the lyrics, as Mark Hoppus and Tom DeLonge sing as though they are laying on their deathbeds coming to grips with the ever-approaching end.

While the majority of the lesser-known acts on the album tend to blend together in a big mesh cloak of Taking Back Sunday / Thursday / Further Seems Forever-type music, there are a few diamonds in the rough that stand out.

Lucero takes a big swing at originality, as it is essentially a punk-country band that somehow manages to cross Rancid with Johnny Cash. "Bike Riders" casually and almost perfectly blends these styles as lead singer Ben Nichols narrates a sad story of a biker romance from bar-room beginnings to

sad bedroom endings.

Also stepping up to the plate is the band Gratitude whose song, "This is the Part," could very well be the best of the bunch. This San Francisco group starts the album off on the right foot with a nice big hook and a sound similar to Jimmy Eat World. Do not be surprised if you find yourself nodding your head and singing along before the end of the song.

Other bands also try a little originality, but its members end up falling on their faces. VCR's "Bratcore" is nothing more than a cheap attempt at dance-punk that ends up sounding a lot like a weird European night club where only the extremely weird venture out to the dance floor.

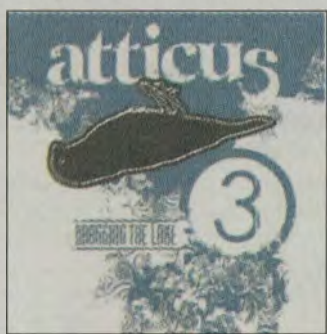
Overall, the album has a depressing feel to it. Taking Back Sunday sings about dying miserable and alone, while Blink sings lament on their deathbeds. Death Cab for Cutie then sees nothing hopeful about New Year's. This is mostly a product of the emotionally-driven style of music that flows through the majority of the bands on display, but it proves to be a downer anyway.

While some of the song selections might be subpar, the diamonds in the rough make "Dragging the Lake Vol. 3" worth the listen.

Contact Mike Tennant at
mtennant@nd.edu

Atticus: Dragging the Lake, Vol. 3 Various Artists

USA Side 1 Dummy



50 Cent feuds with protege

Associated Press

Another day, another feud for 50 Cent. This time, he's beefing with his own protege, the best-selling rapper The Game.

Actually, make that former protege.

In an interview on hip-hop radio station Hot 97 Monday night, 50 announced that he was kicking The Game out of his G-Unit clique because of disloyalty — for refusing to take 50's side in his latest battles with high-profile rappers. Then a shooting occurred outside the radio station, wounding one man, police said.

At the time, 50 Cent was inside speaking on the radio — the interview ended abruptly as security people escorted the rapper out the building, a spokesman for the radio station said.

"No one from Hot 97 witnessed this incident," said Alex Dudley, the Hot 97 (WQHT-FM in New York) spokesman.

Investigators, still trying to sort out the chaotic scene, suspected 50's comments were heard on the radio by associates of The Game, including the shooting victim. The associates allegedly went to the radio station, where they were met outside by members of 50 Cent's entourage and the violence erupted, police said.

It was unclear whether The Game was directly involved, police said.

No arrests have been made. An unidentified, 24-year-old Los Angeles man was in stable condition with a gunshot wound to the upper thigh.

Police were also investigating a report of a second shooting incident about two hours later outside a building where the company that manages 50 Cent —

named Violator — has offices. Witnesses said two men fired eight shots through the building's front door, then fled. No one was injured.

Representatives for 50 had no comment when contacted by The Associated Press on Tuesday.

All this comes as 50 prepares to release the album "The Massacre" Thursday. It's the follow-up to 2003's "Get Rich or Die Tryin'," which not only made the bullet-scarred, brash rapper an international superstar, but also an empire.

The rapper's debut sold more than 8 million copies, and his G-Unit umbrella has launched the careers of three top-selling rappers — The Game, Young Buck and Lloyd Banks. In addition, there's a G-Unit fashion line and other enterprises.

"The Massacre" was scheduled for release March 8, but was moved up to Thursday because it is so hotly anticipated. The first single from the album, "Candy Shop," is already No. 1 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart.

Elliott Wilson, the editor in chief of the hip-hop magazine XXL, says the publicity will give a boost to what is already expected to be a blockbuster album.

"It helps him obviously in terms of exposure. You can't ask for better promotion. Now he's literally making history by beefing with his own artist," Wilson said. "This is more the boss of the clique dismissing his own artist."

50 Cent built much of his stature on feuds — his battle with Ja Rule helped demolish Ja Rule's star power. As his new album approached, he's also picked feuds with Fat Joe, Nas and Jadakiss.

The Los Angeles-based rapper, The Game, seemed to be following in 50's footsteps. Like 50, he was a former drug



Photo courtesy of mtv.com

A shooting allegedly occurred between the entourage of 50 Cent, above, and associates of The Game during a recent interview with 50 Cent at New York hip-hop radio station Hot 97.

dealer, had been shot several times and used rap as his way out of a life of crime. And like 50, who was introduced under the wings of Eminem, The Game rode 50's coattails into the rap world.

The Game's album "The Documentary" debuted at No. 1 when it was released in January and features 50 on several songs, including the album's hit, "How We Do."

The Game apparently drew 50 Cent's ire after an interview appearance on Hot 97 Saturday night, in which he supported 50's enemies.

"I ain't gonna turn on my friends and Nas is one of my friends, and Jada's really a homie ... 50's beef is 50's beef and I really don't know where all this stems from."

On Monday's show, 50 said The Game was no longer part of G-Unit and claimed responsibility for his success.

"Every record he's selling is based on me being on his record with him," he

said.

In the short-term, 50's presence on his album may end up hurting The Game, who brags about his affiliation with G-Unit in songs like "How We Do." But ultimately, Wilson said the feud may end up boosting his career by showing he's not a 50 puppet.

"I think that Game obviously feels like he's his own man already," said Wilson.

As for 50 Cent, Wilson said all the drama surrounding the star may turn into a negative. It has certainly caused some waves for both 50 and The Game's parent label, Interscope — and for Eminem and Dr. Dre, who are both affiliated with The Game (Dr. Dre produced much of the album).

"I think he's making more and more enemies," Wilson said of 50. "You definitely feel like he is doing too much of a Tupac spiral, like me against the world. You bring more people wanting to see you fail."

NBA

Francis scores 29 points in victory over Kings

Nets stop 76ers; Wizards knock off Rockets; Celtics beat Lakers; Warriors win

Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — Steve Francis and the Orlando Magic had a difficult time holding off the tired Sacramento Kings.

Francis had 29 points and 10 assists to help the Magic snap a three-game losing streak with a victory over the Kings.

"We just wanted to get back to playing well after losing our previous three," Orlando coach Johnny Davis said. "Our mission is the make this the standard for how we play every night."

Francis had eight points in the fourth quarter, including a dunk that gave the Magic a seemingly safe 114-105 lead with 48 seconds left. But the Kings' Cuttino Mobley and Mike Bibby hit consecutive 3-pointers to cut it to 114-111 with 30 seconds to play.

The Kings, playing their eighth road game in a nine-game span, had a final chance with 3.3 seconds to play, but Peja Stojakovic's 3-pointer at the buzzer was just long.

"It felt pretty good when I released the ball," Stojakovic said. "An inch shorter and maybe it goes in, but we gave it a good effort."

Stojakovic led Sacramento with 28 points in his first game after missing seven games because of a hamstring injury. Bibby had 26 points and 10 assists.

"It was great to be back on the court," Stojakovic said. "I was worried about my injury, but it felt good. It is going to take a couple of days to get back to normal."

Sacramento lost for the second straight night without center Brad Miller, sidelined by a calf injury. That, combined with trade of Chris Webber to Philadelphia last week, forced the Kings to start backups Darius Songaila and Brian Skinner.

Nets 99, 76ers 93

Vince Carter's transition to a new team is going much smoother than Chris Webber's.

Carter scored 26 of his 32 points in the second half and Clifford Robinson added 18 points, leading the New Jersey Nets to a victory over the Philadelphia 76ers.

Allen Iverson had 37 points and Webber scored 10 in his worst performance in three games for the Sixers. Philadelphia has lost three of four since acquiring Webber from Sacramento last week.

"I don't know what to say,"

Webber said. "Anything you say is an excuse. You just have to do it. Everybody knows what type of player I am. Obviously, I have to make adjustments. It's frustrating."

The Nets have won three straight to close within 1 1/2 games of Philadelphia, which trails first-place Boston by 1 1/2 games in the Atlantic Division.

"There's got to be a grace period for the guy to fit in," Nets coach Lawrence Frank said of Webber.

Carter has fit in well with the Nets since coming to New Jersey in a trade with Toronto on Dec. 17. He has scored 30 or more points in 12 of his 33 games with the Nets, who are 19-18 since the trade.

After a three-point play by Iverson cut New Jersey's lead to 85-82 with 2:36 left, Carter and Iverson traded 3-pointers. Carter added a pair of free throws, giving the Nets a 90-85 lead, and the Sixers couldn't get any closer.

"We were able to maintain when they made their runs," Carter said. "We tried to take advantage of mismatches."

Carter missed eight of his nine shots and had just 6 points in the first half. But he scored 14 in the third quarter, including 12 during a 23-8 run that gave the Nets a 65-59 lead. Carter had three 3-pointers in that stretch.

"I wasn't discouraged," Carter said. "I tried to be patient and get other guys involved."

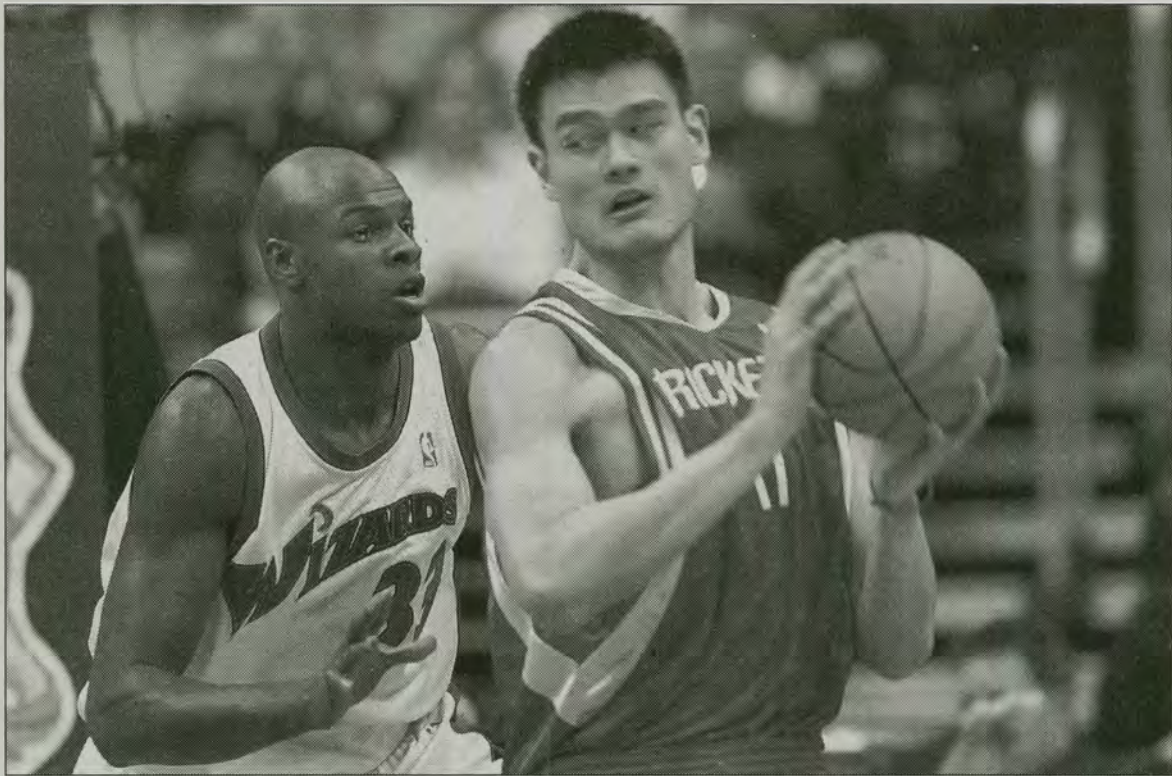
Wizards 101, Rockets 98

Larry Hughes stunned his teammates, his coach and the fans with 31 points in his first game back from a broken thumb. To hear him talk, it was his game plan all along.

Hughes did not ease himself back into the lineup the way many injured players do. He had a block and a dunk before the game was two minutes old. He played 37 minutes, made 11 of 20 shots, grabbed six rebounds, had four assists and made the 3-pointer that gave the Washington Wizards the lead for good in their victory over the Houston Rockets.

"That was above and beyond the call of duty, it really was," coach Eddie Jordan said. "Just to come and play those minutes and to score the points and play the 'D' and make timely shots late in the game. Man, that was a classic."

The Wizards have an eight-game winning streak when Hughes is in the lineup, but the



Rockets center Yao Ming, right, works against Wizards forward Brendan Haywood during Washington's 101-98 victory over Houston.

previous seven came before he was sidelined after a victory over Phoenix on Jan. 15. His teammates went 9-11 in his absence and had lost five of their last six. Though playing with a splint on his thumb, he showed no ill effects from the injury as he resumed his back-court chemistry with Gilbert Arenas, who finished with 33 points, eight rebounds and five assists.

"A lot of players who get injured, it takes them three or four games to get a swagger back," Arenas said. "But it was like he didn't miss a beat."

Hughes credited his success to waiting until he was properly healed to attempt a return. His thumb was broken when it was hit by Quentin Richardson during a drive in the paint, and he didn't want another hack from a defender to re-injure the thumb and knock him out for the season.

"You're the only person who knows your body," Hughes said. "I've been around in this league, and I know that you have to take care of yourself. You have to make sure that you're ready to go, and that's really what I did."

Celtics 104, Lakers 101

Kobe Bryant's problems have moved back to the basketball court.

Just 30 minutes after settling a lawsuit filed by the woman who accused him of rape,

Bryant scored 17 first-quarter points against Boston. But he was scoreless in the fourth — missing a 3-pointer just before the buzzer — as the Celtics beat Los Angeles to extend the Lakers' losing streak to four games.

Asked about the settlement following the game, Bryant said, "Gentlemen, anybody with basketball questions, gentlemen?" Pressed a few minutes later for comment, he repeated his no-comment and Lakers spokeswoman Allison Bogli said, "Basketball questions only."

After a few more questions about the team's troubles, Bryant was asked when he might be able to comment on his own. "I know you came all the way down from New York," he told a TV reporter, "but y'all came all this way for nothing."

Paul Pierce had 29 points and nine rebounds, Ricky Davis scored 29 points and Antoine Walker had 16 points and 13 rebounds in his first game in Boston since being reacquired at the trading deadline. The rejuvenated Celtics have won three straight since then and six straight at home overall.

Warriors 99, Timberwolves 93

The Minnesota Timberwolves are looking more and more like a lottery team.

Derek Fisher had 23 points and nine assists to lead the Golden State Warriors to just

their sixth road victory of the season, a win over the Timberwolves.

The Warriors trailed by as many 11 points in the third quarter, but opened the fourth with a 16-2 run to snap a three-game losing streak and hand the Timberwolves a crushing home loss.

Kevin Garnett had 28 points and 13 rebounds for the Timberwolves, who remain one game behind the Los Angeles Lakers for the eighth and final playoff spot in the West after advancing to the Western Conference finals a year ago.

With home games against the Warriors and Milwaukee and a game at Boston this week, the Timberwolves were hoping to "make some hay" as new coach Kevin McHale put it and gain some ground on the Lakers, who lost to Boston on Wednesday night.

But the Warriors had other ideas.

After scoring just 13 points in the fourth quarter of a loss to Memphis on Tuesday night, Golden State ripped off 31 against Minnesota, coming up with every big shot down the stretch to stave off the desperate Timberwolves.

Mike Dunleavy's 3-pointer gave Golden State a 90-79 lead with 3:15 to go, but the Timberwolves responded with a 7-0 run to pull within 90-86 with 1:12 to go.

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I've fallen from the rankings, it is a sad day.

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NFL

Ravens sign former Titans wide receiver Mason

Moss trade to Oakland becomes official; Redskins come to terms with Samuels

Associated Press

The Washington Redskins did it again, jumping Wednesday to sign the first free agent of the season.

But the Baltimore Ravens landed the biggest prize of the first day of free agency, signing wide receiver Derrick Mason, whose 96 catches for Tennessee last season led all NFL wide receivers.

And the Cleveland Browns traded defensive tackle Gerard Warren, the third overall pick in the 2001 draft, to Denver. It was an overall net loss for Cleveland — the Browns will get just a fourth-round draft choice for the underachieving Warren.

The 31-year-old Mason, one of six Titans cut last month in a salary cap purge, will join a team whose leading receiver had just 35 catches a year ago.

"We were high on his list, and he was high on our list," Ravens general manager Ozzie Newsome said. "He was really the only receiver we have had any active discussions with thus far. What this does is, we bring in a veteran receiver who has the type of attitude and type of personality that we look for in a football player."

St. Louis, meanwhile, signed 32-year-old linebacker Dexter Coakley, one day after he was released by Dallas.

Washington's catch was a former Raven, center Casey Rabach, who joined a team has spent millions in the early days of free agency the last two seasons. But more significant for the Redskins, who went wildly after high-priced free agents on the first day the last two years, was keeping one of their own — left tackle Chris Samuels, whose contract was redone to provide more salary cap room.

Those were the major free agents to sign on Day 1 of free agency.

Oakland also made an expected splash by officially completing the deal for Randy Moss, a trade made last week with Minnesota. The Raiders gave up linebacker Napoleon Harris and two draft

picks, one of them the seventh overall in April's lottery.

Moss may not be the only significant addition to the Raiders' offense.

They appeared close to signing running back Lamont Jordan, who spent four years as Curtis Martin's backup with the New York Jets. He averaged 4.9 yards per carry in part-time duty but has never been a full-time back.

Jordan should help, but Moss teamed with the re-signed Jerry Porter is the seemingly perfect combination for the strong arm of quarterback



Getty

Officials rule Titans wide receiver Derrick Mason out of bounds on a catch last NFL season. Mason signed with Ravens during the offseason after being cut by the Titans.

Kerry Collins. The big question is whether the offensive line can protect the immobile and turnover-prone QB.

Collins was delighted.

"If he's not the best, he's certainly one of the best," he said of Moss. "You can make a strong argument. Everybody has their own opinions. But ask any quarterback around the league which receiver they'd want, and I think most

would say Randy Moss."

As for Rabach, who played at Wisconsin, he will probably replace another former Badger with the initials "CR," — Cory Raymer in the middle of the line.

With Jon Jansen back from injury at right tackle and Samuels on the left side, the Washington offense should be stronger than last year's unit, which scored just 240 points,

second fewest in the NFL.

In other developments:

◆Philadelphia re-signed running back Correll Buckhalter, who missed all of last season with a knee injury.

◆Guard Joe Andruzzi, a starter on all three of New England's Super Bowl winners, was in Cleveland talking to the Browns, coached by former Patriots' defensive coordinator Romeo Crennel.

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HORSE RACING

Smarty Jones' jockey detained by customs

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Kentucky Derby winning jockey Stewart Elliott was on his way back from an overseas trip when his past caught up with him again.

Elliott, a Canadian citizen who won the Derby and Preakness aboard Smarty Jones last year, was taken into custody Tuesday and detained by customs agents in connection with a guilty plea to felony assault four years ago, the Department of Homeland Security said Wednesday.

The 40-year-old Toronto native was returning from a trip to Hong Kong late last year when federal agents interviewed him at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York, but let him go on his way, said Homeland Security spokesman Manny Van Pelt.

He was asked to return to a Customs and Border Protection office in New York, where officials said he was arrested and transferred to Immigration and Customs Enforcement in Philadelphia.

Elliott was held at the York County Prison in central Pennsylvania. He was released shortly after 5 p.m. Wednesday, said Kelly

Wietsma, a spokeswoman for Elliott. The jockey was expected to appear before a federal judge Thursday.

"This was an unfortunate situation. The arrest was many years ago. I served my probation and paid the fine," Elliott said in statement released by Wietsma. "I thought this was all behind me."

Elliott's criminal history became public during Smarty Jones' bid for the Triple Crown, which fell short when he lost to Birdstone by a length at the Belmont Stakes in June. But federal officials said they weren't aware of it until recently.

"It takes time for court records to get entered," Van Pelt said Wednesday. "There are tens of thousands of convictions that occur in the United States every year."

Under federal immigration law, aliens with felony convictions are subject to removal from the United States. Van Pelt declined to comment on Elliott's immigration status specifically, but said that he "is not here illegally."

A lawyer for Elliott said her client voluntarily appeared before the immigration court Tuesday.

AROUND THE NATION

page 14

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

Thursday, March 3, 2005

Men's College Basketball ESPN/USA Today Top 25

	team	record	points
1	Illinois (31)	28-0	775
2	North Carolina	24-3	742
3	Kentucky	22-3	691
4	Wake Forest	24-4	673
5	Boston College	23-2	648
6	Duke	21-4	579
7	Kansas	21-4	555
8	Oklahoma State	20-5	542
9	Louisville	24-4	524
10	Washington	23-4	499
11	Arizona	24-5	480
12	Michigan State	20-5	431
13	Gonzaga	22-4	376
13	Syracuse	24-5	376
15	Utah	24-4	354
16	Connecticut	19-6	276
17	Pacific	23-2	272
18	Charlotte	21-4	226
19	Alabama	21-6	210
20	Oklahoma	21-6	184
21	Cincinnati	22-6	175
22	Villanova	19-6	135
23	Wisconsin	18-7	125
24	Pittsburgh	18-7	86
25	Southern Illinois	24-6	43

Women's College Basketball AP Top 25

	team	record	points
1	LSU (45)	25-1	1,125
2	Stanford	25-2	1,061
3	Ohio State	2-3	976
4	North Carolina	24-3	920
5	Tennessee	23-4	915
6	Duke	26-3	909
7	Baylor	23-3	887
8	Michigan State	25-3	881
9	Rutgers	22-5	796
10	NOTRE DAME	24-4	746
11	Texas	19-7	618
12	DePaul	24-3	603
13	Texas Tech	21-5	568
14	Connecticut	19-7	534
15	Minnesota	22-6	500
16	Temple	24-3	462
17	Kansas State	20-6	344
18	Vanderbilt	21-6	331
19	N.C. State	20-6	314
20	Iowa State	21-5	257
21	Georgia	21-8	216
22	Boston College	18-8	164
23	Penn State	18-9	148
24	Gonzaga	25-2	106
25	Maryland	18-8	63

Fencing Coaches' Association Rankings

Women's	Men's
1 Ohio State	1 Ohio State
2 NOTRE DAME	2 Penn State
3 Penn State	3 St. John's (NY)
4 Harvard	4 NOTRE DAME
5 Columbia	5 Columbia
6 Northwestern	6 Princeton
7 St. John's (NY)	7 Penn
8 Penn	8 Harvard
9 Princeton	9 Stanford
10 Temple	10 Air Force

around the dial

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Georgia Tech at Wake Forest, 7 p.m., ESPN
Charlotte at Louisville, 7 p.m., ESPN 2
Purdue at Illinois, 9 p.m., ESPN2

NBA

Indiana at Denver, 8 p.m., TNT
Detroit at Phoenix, 10:30 p.m., TNT

NBA



Los Angeles Lakers' Kobe Bryant, center, looks to pass with pressure from Portland Trail Blazers' Theo Ratliff in a Feb. 23 game. Blazers coach Maurice Cheeks was fired yesterday after his team fell to 22-33.

Cheeks fired, Prichard to take over Portland

Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — For all his popularity among the players and the fans, Portland Trail Blazers coach Maurice Cheeks ultimately didn't have the wins.

Cheeks was fired Wednesday morning, after the Blazers had lost seven of their last nine and tumbled to 22-33.

"Our players liked Mo a great deal, but sometimes a fresh voice might ignite them to go in a different direction," Blazers general manager John Nash said.

With Portland's chances of making the playoffs dwindling, the Blazers appointed Kevin Prichard,

the team's director of player personnel, as interim head coach.

While not entirely giving up on the playoffs, Prichard's appointment indicated the Blazers were going to focus on evaluating their younger players.

"I'm not going to mislead anybody. It's a long uphill battle to get to the playoffs from where we're at — 11 games under .500," Blazers President Steve Patterson said.

The Blazers are in 12th place in the Western Conference, six games back of the Los Angeles Lakers for the eighth and final playoff spot. They went 41-41 last season, missing the playoffs for the

first time in 22 years.

With the loss to the Pistons, Cheeks leaves the Blazers with a 162-139 record. He was in the final year of a four-year contract worth an estimated \$12 million.

Cheeks, who played in the NBA for 15 seasons, was hired by Portland in 2001 to replace Mike Dunleavy, who was also fired.

The Blazers hardly made Cheeks' tenure easy — on and off the court.

There were several players cited for marijuana possession, and forward Qyntel Woods was investigated in a dog fighting scandal.

Former Blazer forward

Rasheed Wallace also drew unwanted attention to the team two seasons ago when he threatened a game official on the loading dock of the Rose Garden.

Cheeks never shied away from questions about his team's misbehavior, bringing him the respect of fans and reporters who covered the team.

He endeared himself to many in April 2003 when he came to the rescue of a 13-year-old girl, Natalie Gilbert, who forgot the words to the national anthem before a playoff game against the Dallas Mavericks. Cheeks went to her side and helped her with the words.

IN BRIEF

Colts release tight end Marcus Pollard

INDIANAPOLIS — The Indianapolis Colts released veteran tight end Marcus Pollard on Wednesday, saving the team an immediate \$2.65 million against the NFL salary cap.

Colts President Bill Polian said the team hoped eventually to get Pollard back under a new contract and would welcome him next season if he does not sign with another team in the meantime.

Pollard, the only team member to have played in both of the Colts' AFC Championship Game appearances in 1996 and 2004, said he had been expecting the move. Polian and coach Tony Dungy told him in person Wednesday morning, but paperwork for Pollard's release had not yet been completed late in the afternoon.

"I've always dreaded this day because I didn't know how it would happen and how I would deal with it emotionally," he said. "But as far as how Bill and Tony handled it, I got

cut, but I don't feel like I got cut, if that makes any sense."

Serena Williams rallies to reach Dubai quarters

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Australian Open champion Serena Williams overcame a rough first set and tricky wind Wednesday to beat Russia's Elena Bovina 1-6, 6-1, 6-4 and reach the Dubai Women's Open quarterfinals.

Williams was making her first tour appearance since a stomach illness forced her to withdraw before the Paris Indoor quarterfinals last month.

"I don't know what I was doing there tonight," she said. "I think I was trying to kill myself out there. It was really windy and I hadn't played in the wind. All my shots were going out of here."

Top-ranked Lindsay Davenport had an easier time, defeating qualifier Jie Zheng of China 6-2, 7-5. Davenport will next meet Conchita Martinez, who ousted seventh-seeded Nathalie

Dechy of France 6-1, 6-2. Former Atlanta pitcher Rick Mahler dies at 51

VIERA, Fla. — Rick Mahler, who won nearly 100 games during a 13-year career spent mostly with the Atlanta Braves, died Wednesday. He was 51.

Mahler died of a heart attack at home in Jupiter, Fla., while preparing for his second season as a minor league pitching coach for the New York Mets, the team said. He was set to rejoin the Mets' Class-A team in Port St. Lucie.

New York pitcher Tom Glavine telephoned the Braves to inform them of his former teammate's death shortly before Atlanta played Georgia Tech in its first exhibition game of the spring.

Mahler pitched in the majors from 1979-91, going 96-111 with a 3.99 ERA. His best season came in 1985, when he went 17-15 with a 3.48 ERA for the Braves. The next year, he led the majors with 18 losses.

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Irish prepare to face 'Cats

By MATT PUGLISI
Sports Writer

Revenge is a dish best served cold.

No. 20 Notre Dame's opportunity to avenge last year's season-ending NCAA tournament first round 10-8 loss to No. 3 Northwestern (3-0) comes relatively quickly. The Irish have only played one regular-season game since the heartbreaking defeat. Notre Dame (1-0) will take the revenge in whatever form it can get it — cold, hot or in between. The Irish will have that chance this afternoon when the red-hot Wildcats visit the Loftus Center at 4:30 pm.

Coach Tracy Coyne expects the showdown to produce the high-level of emotion typically reserved for season-

end, elimination contests and not the second game of the year.

"As early as it is in the season, I think there's going to be a playoff type atmosphere to the game," Coyne said. "Several months have passed since we've played them, but I still think there are a lot of feelings about how [the playoff game last May] went that are going to be evident in this game."

Building a 6-4 advantage by the end of the first half in the NCAA tournament first round match-up, the Irish were unable to hold off the Wildcats as Northwestern rallied to net five

of the second half's first six goals en route to the victory.

The playoff loss wasn't the first time last season that Northwestern rained on Notre Dame's parade — the Wildcats also handed the Irish the second of four consecutive losses after Notre Dame started last season by reeling off 10 straight victories.

The pair of close, hard-fought contests between the two talented squads has fueled a growing tension between the teams.

"I think we definitely feel a rivalry towards Northwestern — one of those competitive

games that you look forward to," Coyne said. "We have respect for them and what they've done over the past couple of years. We're just looking forward to playing them."

The Irish enter today's game on the heels of a season opening 16-10 stomping of Ohio University in Athens, Ohio last Sunday.

Paced by attack Crysti Foote's career-high eight points (five goals, three assists) and a pair of four-goal performances from sophomore midfielder Meghan Murphy and freshman midfielder Caitlin McKinney, the Irish scored early and often in the victory.

After jumping out to a quick 4-0 lead, Notre Dame allowed the Bobcats to get back into the contest before a pair of goal-scoring bursts finished off host

Ohio.

While Foote's career-best performance was instrumental in the win, Coyne pointed to the play of Murphy and McKinney as particularly important, yet not surprising.

"From what we were seeing in practice, [I expected the high goal output]," Coyne said. "I was very pleased that Meghan and Caitlin both had four goals each — I think that was a good way for the season to start off."

After rallying from a 5-2 half-time deficit to top then-No. 6 North Carolina Feb. 20, Northwestern trounced both Oregon and Denver 21-2 and 20-9, respectively, in its two most recent games this past weekend.

Following the home face-off with the Wildcats, the Irish hit the road for a three-game spring break trip down the East Coast, where they will lock horns with Cornell, Vanderbilt and James Madison.

Notes:

◆ Two Notre Dame players took home conference awards this week for their play in last weekend's 16-10 victory over Ohio University. Foote was named Big East Offensive Player of the Week for her career-best eight point game (five goals, three assists) while midfielder Jess Mikula was pegged as the Big East Defensive Player of the Week. Mikula recorded two ground balls and five draw controls while causing a trio of turnovers in her team's victory over the Bobcats.

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MEN'S GOLF

Kubinski already off to good start with team

Notre Dame takes first place in new coach's first tourney

By KEN FOWLER
Sports Writer

Already, Jim Kubinski has made his mark — one tournament, one win.

The new Irish men's golf head coach joined the team at the end of January, and 30 days into his tenure as head coach, he has set the highest of standards for the rest of the season and the rest of his career.

That's fine with him, though. The important thing for Kubinski is to set a precedent.

Finishing well in early tournaments is "important when you're trying to establish credibility and build a program," he said. "We've started down the right road. Honestly, I was

hoping for a good finish, but to have a chance to win shows a lot about us." Kubinski led the Irish to more than just a good finish. He led the team to its first win since last April.

After serving at Duke as an assistant coach since 2003, he accepted an offer to join his long-time favorite university on Jan. 28 to replace John Jasinski as head coach.

"At Duke I had to be a more of a closet fan [of the Irish]," he said. "But for me, [Notre Dame] was the perfect setting to build a program."

In the month since Kubinski joined the Irish, his main task has been to instill a confidence in his golfers. "One, you've got to believe in yourself ... and have that confidence that we're going to go into tournaments [knowing] we're going to beat these guys," he said.

He saw that confidence on the 16th tee of the English Turn Golf and Country Club Tuesday as his players prepared for their playoff with the University of North Carolina at Wilmington for the tournament title.

"When we found out we were going to have a five-person playoff ... Eric [Deutsch] said, 'you put

Mark [Baldwin] and Eddie [Peckels] and I together and this thing's over,'" Kubinski said. Right after that, he said, Cole Isban and Tommy Balderston "looked at each other like they're never going to lose this thing."

They didn't. That attitude, though, was not isolated to the tee of the playoff hole.

Kubinski stressed that the Irish were calm, patient and determined throughout the 54-hole tournament.

"In the morning, they played okay," he said. "We just weren't making any putts. Then they came out in the afternoon and shot the low round of the day."

"When things are rough out there, it just takes a lot of patience. That's what I was impressed most about."

He had reason to be impressed. The Irish had just shot a team score of 5-over 293 and vaulted from fifth after the morning to first by the afternoon.

After falling behind to Wilmington on Tuesday, that calm demeanor returned towards the end of the round.

Notre Dame, down nearly a half-dozen, saw Wilmington's best golfer make a triple-bogey, and the Irish were right back in the tournament.

From then on, Jasinski said, "everyone was very relaxed. There was no panic."

No panic, indeed. The Irish came back, tied the Seahawks, and then won the playoff convincingly, 2-under to 1-over.

"It's just remarkable. ... For me, this was the perfect setting to build a program," Kubinski said.

He followed that sentence with a comment that proves the new coach trying to build a program is fully acclimated to the old school with its long-standing traditions.

"Notre Dame is what college sports is all about," he said.

With wins like this week's and words like those, coach Kubinski's era as Notre Dame's men's golf coach just started as smoothly as his players' swings.

Contact Ken Fowler at kfowler1@nd.edu

The Office of Student Affairs is now accepting nominations for the

Denny Moore Award

For Excellence in Journalism

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

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

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Nominations are due by Friday, March 4, 2005.

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CLUB SPORTS

Squash team reaches finals in national championship

Men's volleyball falls in first round of Hoosier-Illini Classic

Special to The Observer

Notre Dame made an auspicious debut in the Collegiate Squash Association national championships in Cambridge, Mass., this weekend.

Playing in the emerging team division, the Irish reached the finals in their first participation in this prestigious event.

Trinity won its seventh consecutive national championship, defeating Harvard in the finals. Forty-eight teams, most of them varsity, were entered in six divisions.

The Irish opened quarterfinal play with a 5-0 blanking of Bard College. All five Irish players swept to victory in three games. James Zhang at No. 1 defeated Brian Wolf, 9-0, 9-2, 9-1; at No. 2, Mike Gelinas defeated Rafael Ishnokov, 9-0, 9-0, 9-1; at No. 3, Phil Moss handled Trey Phillips, 9-3, 9-2, 9-4; Mike McConnell defeated Amwi Heredia at No. 4, 9-0, 9-0, 9-1; and Jose Polomo white-washed David Manning, 9-0, 9-0, 9-0.

In the semifinals, coach Geoff McCuen's Irish again blanked their opponent, Bryant College, 5-0. Zhang defeated Eric Zipp, 9-2, 9-0, 9-1; Gelinas topped Eli Chernin, 9-0, 9-1, 9-2; Moss was a 9-5, 9-2, 9-3 victor over Steve Lamb; McConnell handled Steve Parry, 9-2, 9-5, 9-3; and Polomo won a close match over T J Euley, 10-9, 10-8, 9-2, to set up the showdown with Washington in the finals.

Washington had also swept two opponents, USC and Kenyon, as the two squads proved to be the best in the division. The final, played at Harvard's Muir Gym, was competitive, but the Huskies proved the better squad. Zhang lost at No. 1 to Sawhill Ghandi, 9-6, 9-5, 9-6; Gelinas claimed the only point for the Irish at No. 2, 10-8, 9-1, 6-9, 9-5; Moss fell at No. 3 to Norman Wilson, 9-0, 9-3, 9-0; McConnell dropped the No. 4 match to Ryan Antonio, 9-1, 9-0, 9-4; and Polomo was unable to sustain his early momentum, falling at No. 5 to Ritwik Kejriwal, 0-9, 0-9, 9-6, 10-9, 9-7. USC won the losers bracket to finish third in the division.

Men's Volleyball

The Irish men's club volleyball team participated in the largest regular season tournament in the Midwest over the weekend, attending the Fourth Annual Hoosier-Illini Classic at Indiana University. Forty total teams were there including 12 of the top 25 teams in the country.

The Irish won the first match handily against the Wildcats of Kentucky, 25-21, 25-16, outplaying them on all fronts. In their second match of the day Notre Dame faced Virginia Tech and played an exciting up-and-down contest.

The Hokies stole the first game from the Irish by rallying to win the final four

points of the game, ending 25-23.

This inspired the Irish to fight back, and they dominated Virginia Tech in the second game, winning 25-13, but Tech trumped Notre Dame in the final game, 15-8, to win the match. A flat Notre Dame squad took the floor in the final match of pool play against No. 10 Purdue, and they paid the price, losing 25-16, 25-18.

The Irish took on Miami of Ohio in the challenge round, having success in a very competitive match to make it to the Gold Bracket in Sunday's tournament round. The victory (25-21, 27-25) was aided by strong play from Ryan Goes, who stepped out of his normal role of middle blocker to play outside hitter.

The Irish played one of their best matches all season against host Indiana (No. 16) in the first match of the tournament round. In an 8 a.m. match against the hometown heroes, Notre Dame came to life in the first game, jumping out to an early lead and never looking back, taking Game 1, 25-14.

With freshman setter Nolan Kane running the offense, the Irish got several open looks, and hitters Mike Giampa, Joe O'Connell, Dan Parziale, Dan Zibton, and again Goes were putting the balls away hard. Revitalized by their fan support, the Hoosiers regrouped for a great Game 2, and the Irish did what they could with solid blocking and great defense from Kevin Overmann and John Tibble, but fell 25-21.

Tibble was making incredibly plays all weekend as libero, and was even complimented during the match by the captain of Indiana after making two diving saves in one volley.

Game 3 was very intense, with the score tight throughout, but Indiana eventually pulled out the win 18-16 in a heartbreaking loss for the Irish.

MEN'S TENNIS

Irish travel west for tourney

Pacific Coast Doubles Championship should give team good practice

By RAMA GOTTUMUKKALA
Sports Writer

The forecast for the next few days is sunny and 70 degrees — in California. It should be a welcome respite for the men's tennis team, which heads out to La Jolla, Calif., to take part in the Pacific Coast Doubles Championships March 3-6.

For the seventh time in the last eight years, Notre Dame (10-3) will compete in this annual doubles competition, one of the oldest and most prestigious tennis tournaments in the nation. The names of winners at the event feature a who's who of tennis greats, including John McEnroe and Stan Smith.

While the competition features a few professionals and a few junior players, the field consists primarily of college players. Because there are non-collegiate players in the event, the results do not count in the college rankings and should provide valuable practice opportunities for the Irish.

"It's something that we look forward to very much," Irish coach Bobby Bayliss said. "It gives us an opportunity to make the transition to outdoors. This tournament allows us to do this where the results don't hurt us and yet the level of competition is as good as anything we'll see all year, including the NCAA Championships."

Among the slated teams entered in the event are Stanford, UCLA, USC and Pepperdine — all top 20 teams. These schools will enter some of their nationally-ranked doubles teams in the tournament, providing plenty of competition for Notre Dame's own tennis duos.

"It's hard not to improve because you're surrounded by some of the top doubles teams in the country," Bayliss said. "You're forced to meet that level of competition so all our guys benefit from being here."

The Irish will enter four doubles teams into the competition



BETH WERNET/The Observer

Brent D'Amico serves against Marquette in a match Feb. 13. D'Amico and the Irish compete in the Pacific Coast Doubles Championship this weekend.

this year. The first three duos have seen plenty of doubles play already this season. Playing at the No. 1 slot will be senior captain Brent D'Amico and sophomore Ryan Keckley.

"Our No. 1 team has had some real bright spots this year, but also some poor matches," Bayliss said. "But they've played extremely well and it looks like they're beginning to gel, just in time for this stretch run here at the last half of the season."

Junior Eric Langenkamp and freshman Sheeva Parbhu comprise the No. 2 team and sophomores Stephen Bass and Barry King will play as the No. 3 team. Junior Patrick Buchanan and sophomore Irackli Akhvlediani will round out the Irish duos entered in the event.

"Eric and Sheeva have been a little more consistent, but

they've had a couple matches in a row that they didn't play well," Bayliss said. "So it was great to see them rebound [against Virginia]. The biggest concern is at No. 3. We have good tennis players who can do different things well — some serve well, some return well and some volley well — but we're looking for the whole package."

Notre Dame has been busy with dual match play in the last few weeks. The next few days should provide a relaxed, yet competitive, atmosphere for the Irish as they prepare for the season's stretch run. The team will conclude the weekend with a dual match against St. Joseph's at noon on March 6.

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Victory

continued from page 20

up at all. On Wednesday, the Irish shot 53.3 percent from the field and held Rutgers to 29.5 percent from the floor.

"We knew that we were going to have an edge about us because of how we practiced this whole week," point guard Chris Thomas said.

When Notre Dame players showed up for practice Monday afternoon, they were not allowed in the locker room. But Thomas said the motivational tactics of coach Mike Brey were not negative.

"We haven't been on punishment," he said. "His theme was we have to get back to playing like how people respect us. We really don't get any respect."

Thomas scored 10 points and dished a respectable 12 assists while committing only one turnover, while Colin Falls scored a team-high 18 points and Chris Quinn added 14.

Quinn limped off the court towards the middle of the second half and did not return. Coach Mike Brey said Quinn's status for Saturday as of now is questionable.

Thomas, meanwhile, did not force much on offense and ignited scoring in the second half.

"I was pretty much being a decoy on offense the whole game and just waiting to pick my spots," Thomas said.

With under 11 minutes remaining, the Irish were up



Chris Thomas, left, drives past the defense of Ricky Shields Wednesday night.

49-41, but the Scarlet Knights rattled off three straight buckets to cut the lead to two. When Rick Cornett dunked but then Rutgers Quincy Douby

(19 points) canned two free throws out of a timeout, Thomas answered with two pull-up jumpers to hold the Notre Dame lead.

"I think I forced a couple threes early just trying to get going and coach told me to let the game come to me, and I had some open looks there in the second half," Thomas said.

A Thomas bucket with 5:51 left put the Irish up 55-49. After a few Rutgers misses and some Irish free throws, Notre Dame gained its largest lead of 12 (66-54) before earning the 10-point victory.

"Those teams at the bottom of our league don't have a lot of wins," Brey said. "But I don't think of them as teams at the bottom of our league."

Brey said he did underestimate Rutgers because he

knows how the Irish battled against other "bottom" teams in three one-point conference wins.

On Jan. 5, the Irish defeated Seton Hall on a Falls 3-pointer. On Jan. 15, they beat St. John's, 67-66. And on Feb. 19, the Irish edged Providence, 62-61.

Notre Dame led 30-29 at the half, despite shooting 52.4 percent to Rutgers' 27.6 percent from the field.

The Scarlet Knights scored the first basket of the game on a Marquis Webb 3-pointer. Douby scored 13 points in the first half, including two free throws to make the score 26-25 just before the 3:54 television timeout.

Scarlet Knights' center Jimmie Inglis canned two free throws to make the score 27-26 Rutgers, but Torin Francis followed with a bucket to give the Irish a 28-27 lead in the fourth lead change of the half.

Thomas scored his first points of the game on two foul shots with 57.5 seconds remaining, and Notre Dame went into halftime with the lead.

Contact Pat Leonard at pleonard@nd.edu

Defense

continued from page 20

ing 53 percent compared to Rutgers' 30 percent, and a 68-58 victory seems disappointing, especially for a team marching to the NCAA tournament.

But Mike Brey knew better.

"I fully expected a battle," he said.

Going by Big East standards, maybe this one was a blowout.

Brey pointed out in Notre Dame's three other wins against the Big East's cellar dwellers — Seton Hall, St. John's and Villanova — the Irish survived by a combined three points.

So Wednesday night's 10-point victory could be classified as a pre-Spring Break cruise for this Irish team.

The Irish won this game with what's been emphasized during the two days of practice leading up to Wednesday's game — defense.

Jordan Cornette jumping out in the passing lanes, forcing passes closer to half-court than the 3-point line.

Chris Quinn swatting passes out of bounds.

Dennis Latimore and Torin Francis stepping out on pick-and-rolls to disrupt the Rutgers offense's flow.

All of that led to Rutgers shooting 29.5 percent from the field overall, an emphasis for the Irish in every game they play, but especially so Wednesday night.

"That was a main goal, field goal defense," Cornette said. "UCLA came in here and shot the lights out."

That's the short-term positive from the win.

Now for the long-term positive — getting to 9-6 in the conference.

It doesn't sound too impressive, but putting it in perspective definitely does.

The win guarantees the Irish a winning record in confer-

ence play for the fifth straight year, something only Syracuse has done in the Big East during the same time period. That simple statement Brey can lean on to promote his program to the media, fans and recruits.

For this season, a winning record in conference makes a major statement to the NCAA tournament committee, even if

the Irish lose to Pittsburgh Saturday and get upset in the first round of next week's Big East tournament. A 9-7 record in the deepest conference in America means the Irish are worthy of

getting their name called on Selection Sunday.

The Irish still control their postseason destiny. A win Saturday gets them to 10-6 in the Big East and all but guarantees them in the NCAA tournament. A win Saturday also gets them a bye in the Big East tournament, meaning they would have to win three games in New York to wrap up the league's automatic bid. No Big East team has ever won four games in four days at Madison Square Garden.

The Irish are leaving all of that prognostication, at least publicly, to the media. Chris Thomas didn't bite on the question

Wednesday night. "I'll leave that to Digger," Thomas said. "He'll be the one to do that."

But don't kid yourself that the Irish aren't doing some projecting of their own.

"That stays in the locker room," Thomas said. "We know we're an NCAA-caliber team and most of the time we show that, but there are times we don't."

Just like Wednesday night.

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

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"We knew that we were going to have an edge about us because of how we practiced this whole week."

Chris Thomas
Irish point guard

"We know we're an NCAA caliber team and most of the time we show that, but there are times we don't."

Chris Thomas
Irish point guard

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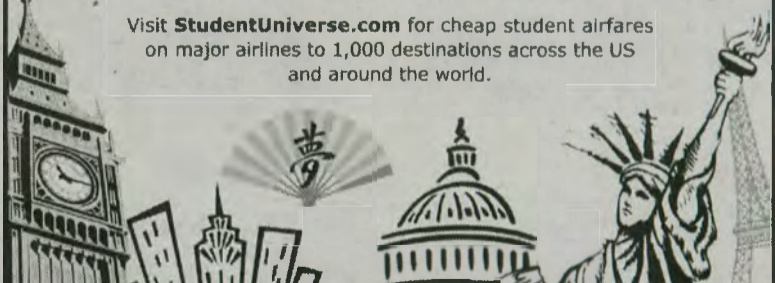
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Academic

continued from page 20

points are earned. Heisler said that one of the main advantages of the APR is the relevancy of the numbers.

"I think we're all used to dealing with the graduation rates that have not been completely up to date because of the length of time they permit for the graduation to take place or for the recording process," he said. "In some cases, you're talking about people who enrolled eight or nine or 10 years ago, where as this is a completely up-to-date measurement for the most recent academic year."

Heisler said that in order for the APR to take full effect, there is

going to be a learning process for all NCAA schools.

"I think it is a learning experience for everyone to have an appreciation for what the numbers mean, and in the case of anybody who falls short of the 1,000 mark, how does that happen?" Heisler said. "It's going to take a while for everyone to appreciate exactly what it is that causes you to not receive the full complement of points."

The lowest numbers at Notre Dame came in football, where the Irish scored a 934. But Heisler said this number can be deceiving because of the unique way Notre Dame handles fifth-year seniors in the program.

At Notre Dame, fifth year seniors are often not eligible in the second semester of their fifth year per the

NCAA standards because they are not taking the minimum number of credits.

"There's a little bit difference in philosophy in terms of the computation that was probably affected to some effect by some fifth year people," Heisler said. "That may be the kind of thing that you go back to the drawing board and explain a little about how each sport works."

Despite the fact that the APR will be used to compare all schools in the NCAA, Heisler said the number doesn't necessarily tell the whole story of student-athletes at their respective schools. Different schools have different standards for student-athletes, as the NCAA allows them to, and this could distort the APR to an extent. For example, at Notre Dame, student-

athletes have to maintain a 2.0 grade-point average, a standard enforced by the University, not the NCAA.

"In some cases, our numbers are a reflection of our own eligibility standards, which are not necessarily the same as other people's," Heisler said. "In some cases, you're not always comparing apples to apples, because what the NCAA requires is a one-time per year certification of an athlete in terms of their eligibility. So once that certification takes place, the NCAA doesn't worry how that person has done academically until the time comes to certify everybody again."

Heisler also expressed concern that at Notre Dame, the numbers might not always accurately reflect a school's progress in aca-

demics.

"In some cases, our numbers may reflect that our student-athletes are being held to higher standards," he said.

As far as the overreaching effect of APR, Heisler said it will reinforce to schools that they need to bring in student-athletes that can make in it in the classroom as well as in the athletic realm.

"I think it's probably going to make coaches in particular think twice about anybody that they recruit and their ability to be successful academically, because your program could be penalized if you are recruiting and giving scholarships to people that aren't going to make it," Heisler said.

Contact Heather Van Hoegarden at hvanhoeg@nd.edu

Panzica

continued from page 20

After missing the Bouts his sophomore year due to a case of mono, Panzica slugged his way to the finals of the 155 lb. weight class his junior season. Once there, he lost to teammate Nathan Lohmeyer.

"Last year, it was a big achievement for me to be in the finals," the Cleveland native said. "I think I was more in awe of being there."

With the finals defeat in mind, Panzica has trained over three hours per day, six days per week since boxing season started in January.

"I usually try to get to practice 45 minutes to one hour early just to work on some individual things," Panzica said.

Spending all that time in the boxing room, Panzica has formed a close bond with many of the 127 club members, but especially with the four other captains.

"I definitely admire and respect the other captains for the amount of work they put into boxing," Panzica said. "It's a great group of guys and we just keep each other going." Panzica is a finance major and will be working in the real estate business next year. Though the corporate world can be competitive, it will be tough to match the adrenaline rush he receives from boxing.

"It's a feeling I've never had before in any other sporting event," Panzica says of the Bouts. "Because all eyes are on you."

All proceeds from the Bengal Bouts go to Holy Cross missions, a fact which Panzica is proud of.

"What makes the Bengal Bouts so great it is that it is a completely selfless event," Panzica said. "There's a hundred-plus kids doing this purely for the fact of raising money for people on the other side of the world. I think it's unbelievable how unselfish that is."


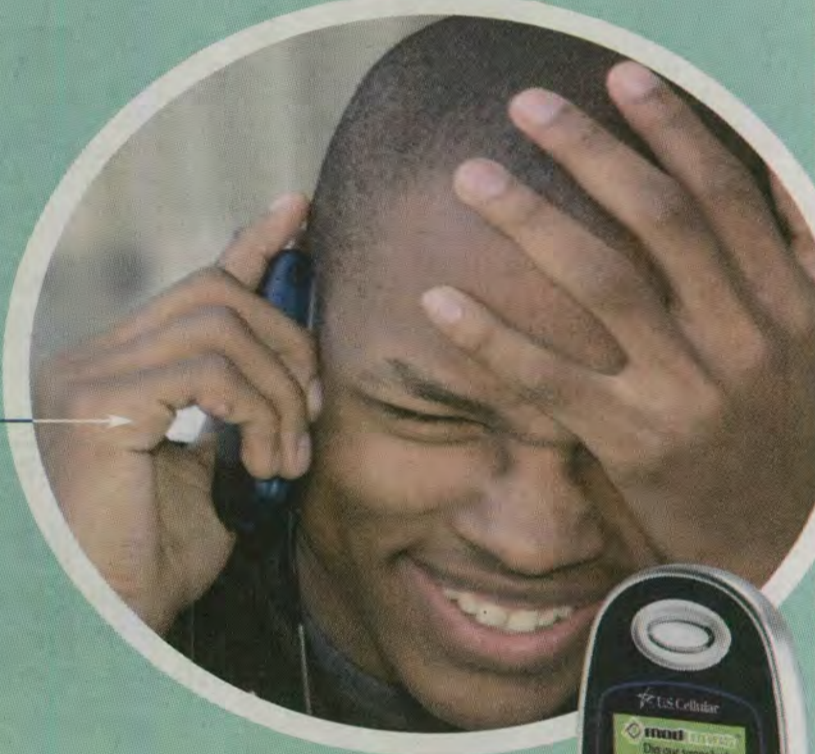
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DILBERT

SCOTT ADAMS



PEANUTS

CHARLES SCHULZ



JUMBLE

HENRI ARNOLD
MIKE ARGIRION

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

TOIDI
NIFSI
ARQUEV
PERUSH



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

Answer: A " " (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: AIDED PLAID WEAKEN AUTHOR
Answer: What the tipsy gambler and the dice had in common — THEY WERE "LOADED"

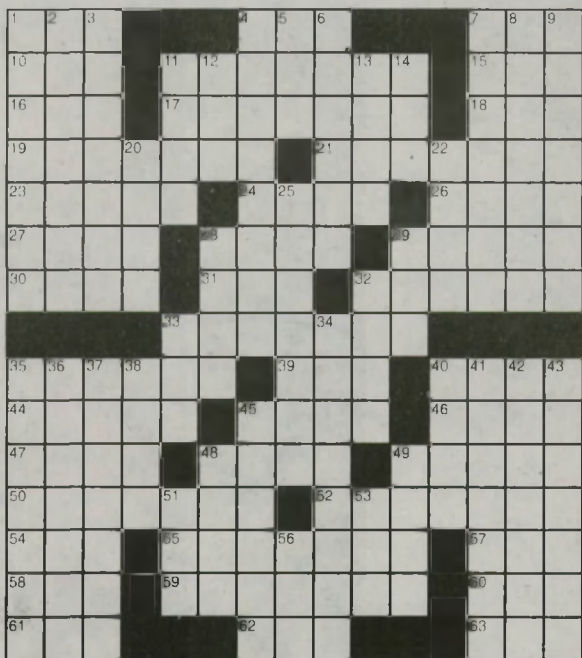
CROSSWORD

WILL SHORTZ

- ACROSS**
- 1 Appear
 - 4 KLM competitor
 - 7 Promulgate
 - 10 Help the crew
 - 11 Paprika-powdered serving
 - 15 One doing checks and balances?
 - 16 Election day: Abbr.
 - 17 "Not true!"
 - 18 TV cartoon dog
 - 19 Stain
 - 21 Bicycle maker since 1895
 - 23 Some sports cars, for short
 - 24 "Out of Africa" novelist Dinesen
 - 26 Niche at Notre Dame
 - 27 Baltic Sea viewer, maybe
 - 28 Rudiments
 - 29 Cleaning cloths
- DOWN**
- 30 Letters in Icelandic
 - 31 "Yay, team!"
 - 32 Patronizes, as a restaurant
 - 33 Make compact, with "up"
 - 35 Groups on horseback
 - 39 Parking place
 - 40 Particle flux density symbols
 - 44 Quechua-speaking
 - 45 79 for gold, e.g.: Abbr.
 - 46 Neither this nor that, in Peru
 - 47 Rob Reiner's father
 - 48 Chichén (Mayan city)
 - 49 Hearts
 - 50 Gossipy group
 - 52 Lug
 - 54 In place
 - 55 Horace's "Ars"
- DOWN**
- 1 Gallery event
 - 2 Terse verse
 - 3 Like L, alphabetically
 - 4 Where to order tekka maki
 - 5 Like
 - 6 Some dips
 - 7 Newspaper publisher who founded the United Press
 - 8 Briny expanse
 - 9 Most pale
 - 11 Beats it, out of the city
 - 12 Not needing a prescription: Abbr.
 - 13 Twisted
 - 14 Restrained laugh
 - 20 Some are wild
 - 22 "You're going too fast for me!"
 - 25 "Hogan's Heroes" sergeant
 - 28 Meteor paths
 - 29 "Do Diddy" (1964 #1 hit)

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

NOV BIOTA SOAPY
ERA IDIOM TOMEL
ZEN BALLOONPARK
DCL SEEN DDE
ONEHIT BULBOUS
WALLOONPAPER
STLO DEI VISA
CARTOONWRIGHT
HSIA TOA IATE
DRAGOONSTRIP
SWEEPER DETECT
OHM RUSH NEW
LAMPOONPOST IQS
OMAHA GAMER TON
NOSIR ENEMY HMO



Puzzle by Manny Nosowsky

- ACROSS**
- 32 Opposite of endo-
 - 33 Upper body: Abbr.
 - 34 Occidental, e.g.
 - 35 Harasses
 - 36 Ready for anything
 - 37 No-go at the track
 - 38 A dash, maybe
 - 40 Kitty
 - 41 Time for one doing time
 - 42 Words of emphasis
 - 43 Some pot scrubbers
 - 45 Acropolis figure
 - 48 Pointer's target
 - 49 The New Yorker cartoonist Addams
 - 51 Marienbad, for one
 - 53 D with 50% off
 - 56 Number of one-voweled, seven-letter words in this puzzle

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

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HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jon Bon Jovi, 43; Laraine Newman, 53; Lou Reed, 63; Jennifer Jones, 86

Happy Birthday: Everything is beginning to fall into place. Times are changing, but the changes are good. Let go of all that's unnecessary from the past and clear the way for bigger and better times. Take on new projects, learn new skills and make a promise to yourself that you will no longer harbor ill feelings about what's over and done with. Your numbers are 1, 16, 19, 28, 33, 42

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't get angry -- get moving. You have to ask yourself what you want and go after it. Getting upset with someone who tries to sabotage you is just a waste of time. Rise above any conflict. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): It's not about what you get back but truly about what you give. You can turn a negative into a positive, by taking action and moving forward. Someone you know will open your eyes to something you overlooked. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Nothing should stand in your way when it comes to getting your work or duties out of the way. You may not be thinking straight, so double check everything you do. Someone is likely to let you down. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Use your charm to get what you want. Someone you meet will take a serious interest in you. You will find out something about your background that will make a difference to your future. Love is apparent. ****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Something isn't right but you can't put your finger on it. Don't leave anything to chance, especially if it involves a contract, a legal or financial matter or anything to do with your home and family. You can be a hero if you stay on top of things. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You can have it all today just by standing up and pushing for what you believe. Partnerships may be tense at first, but as the day progresses you should be able to smooth things over. An energetic approach to everything you do will bring results. ****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Your mind should be on what to do next in terms of work, money and getting ahead. Don't think too big, or you will miss out on an opportunity that has a greater potential for longevity. Don't be in too big a hurry. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You can't go wrong as long as you take the initiative and make those all-important phone calls. Your creative talent is high, so take advantage of the ideas that pop into your head. Short trips will lead to new connections. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You won't see everything that is going on around you. Someone may try to take advantage of you emotionally and mentally. Prepare to face a challenge head-on. If something doesn't seem right, ask questions before giving your word. ***

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You've got everything going your way as long as you don't take on too much. The key will be moderation and graciousness. Once you master these two qualities you will have everyone eating out of your hand. ****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Focus on work and learning and forget about what's going on around you at an emotional level. As long as you protect yourself from dishonest people you will do just fine. Put you first and work toward a better future. **

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Love, romance and partnerships are looking good. Your unique approach to everything you do will bring you a lot of attention today. You will be in tune with people you deal with, knowing exactly how to manipulate the situation to get what you want. ****

Birthday Baby: You are imaginative, artistic and innovative. You are interested in anything that is peculiar or unusual. You are sensitive, loving and kind.

Check out Eugenia's Web sites at astroadvice.com and eugenialast.com.

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NCAA ATHLETICS

Notre Dame passes NCAA's first academic test

New academic progress rate information shows Irish above minimum requirements for Division I teams

By HEATHER VAN
HOEGARDEN
Sports Editor

More than half of Division I sports teams had at least one subpar academic progress rate (APR), according to NCAA statistics released Monday, but Notre Dame was not one of them.

The newly formulated academic standard shows that the Irish are

above the minimum rate in every Division I sport they participate in, and have perfect scores in 13 of 22 sports, according to the data, which is based on the 2003-04 school year. Only Duke had more teams with perfect scores in Division I-A, with 15 of 24 teams registering 1,000 on the 1,000 point scale.

With the new rules by the NCAA, teams would face scholarship losses if a sport underperformed per

the standard. For example, teams that don't meet the NCAA minimum would lose a scholarship if a player leaves because he or she is academically ineligible. However, these penalties won't be enforced until next fall.

Points are awarded based on a player-by-player basis, taking into account whether the player remains at the school, and remains academically eligible so that he or she graduates. The

maximum points a team can earn is 1,000, and the NCAA minimum is 925 — the number the NCAA says is equivalent to a 50 percent graduation rate.

"I think this is a little bit of a learning experience, an educational process for probably everybody involved," Notre Dame senior associate athletic director John Heisler said. "The fact that this is a different way of going about measuring academics and graduation

rates, and it's a more current set of criteria that what's been available in the past."

With the new standard, a team can earn up to two points per player, per year. If a player transfers or leaves early for a professional draft, he or she earns one point. But if that same athlete leaves because he or she is academically ineligible, then zero

see ACADEMIC/page 18

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Goodnight

Notre Dame downs Rutgers Wednesday at the Joyce Center

By PAT LEONARD
Associate Sports Editor

Notre Dame is one win away from earning a bye in the Big East Tournament.

Needing wins in its final two conference games to secure the No. 5 seed, the Irish took care of half the battle by beating Rutgers (9-17, 2-13 Big East), 66-56, at the Joyce Center Wednesday night.

Notre Dame (17-9, 9-6) had lost its previous two contests to UCLA and Connecticut, games in which the Irish defense played subpar or did not show

See Also
"MORE THAN
JUST
NUMBERS"
IRISH INSIDER



Above, Colin Falls, left, controls the ball. At right, Omari Isreal goes up for a put-back dunk.

PHOTOS BY
FRANCESCA SETA



Renewed emphasis on defense plays key role in Irish victory

It would have been natural to expect a blowout.

Called for a midnight practice hours after the UCLA embarrassment and forced out of their locker room because of a "wiring" problem prior to Monday's afternoon practice, the Irish should have been pretty ticked off heading into Wednesday night's home game against a 2-12 Rutgers squad that hasn't won a conference road game since January 2004.

Then looking at just field goal percentage in the box score, with Notre Dame shoot-

see DEFENSE/page 17



Matt Lozar

Senior Staff
Writer

BENGAL BOUTS

Senior captain ready for hard work to pay off

By MIKE GILLOON
Sports Writer

Mike Panzica has been scared only once in a boxing ring. He was a freshman at the time and climbed inside the ropes to face the top-seeded senior in his weight class. Ten seconds, two

punches and one dazed look after the second-round fight started, Panzica knew he had a long way to go if he wanted to be a Bengal Bouts champion.

Four years later, Panzica is close to reaching his goal. He's a senior and one of the top seeds in the 155 lb. weight class and has hopes of

capturing his first Bengal Bout title when the finals take place on March 19.

"A championship would definitely be a great end to these four years of boxing," Panzica said. "It would pretty much make everything worth all the effort."

The first step on the final leg of his journey begins

tonight as he faces Bryan Grissinger in a Bengal Bouts quarterfinal fight beginning at 6 p.m., in the Joyce Center Fieldhouse.

Panzica joined the boxing club his freshman year and first heard about the Bengal Bouts from a sister who attended Notre Dame before him.

"My older sister would tell me how cool it was to watch the fights," Panzica, a team captain, said. "Initially I was just looking for a regular workout. But after doing it every day, I got to meet a lot of great guys and a lot of good friends."

see PANZICA/page 18

SPORTS AT A GLANCE

MEN'S TENNIS

Irish head to California for Pacific Coast Doubles Championship Thursday.
page 16

CLUB SPORTS

Squash team falls in National Championship finals Wednesday.
page 16

WOMEN'S LAX

Notre Dame gets ready to face No. 3 Northwestern Thursday.
page 15

MEN'S GOLF

Kubinski off to a good start as Notre Dame's new coach.
page 15

NBA

Portland Trail Blazers fire head coach Maurice Cheeks.
page 14

NFL

Ravens sign former Titans receiver Derrick Mason.
page 13