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NDSMCOBSERVER.COM

Appeals court upholds ACE funds

Judge overturns 2004 decision, supports governmental backing for Notre Dame program

By JULIE BENDER
News Writer

An appeals court upheld federal funding for Notre Dame's teacher-training program, Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE), last Tuesday, overturning a 2004 ruling that the AmeriCorps-based program violated a constitutional ban on establishment of religion by awarding tuition vouchers to participants.

In a 3-0 decision, U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit Judge Raymond Randolph stated that taxpayer support of religious schools is constitutional as long as government funding goes to "programs of true private choice." He wrote that the

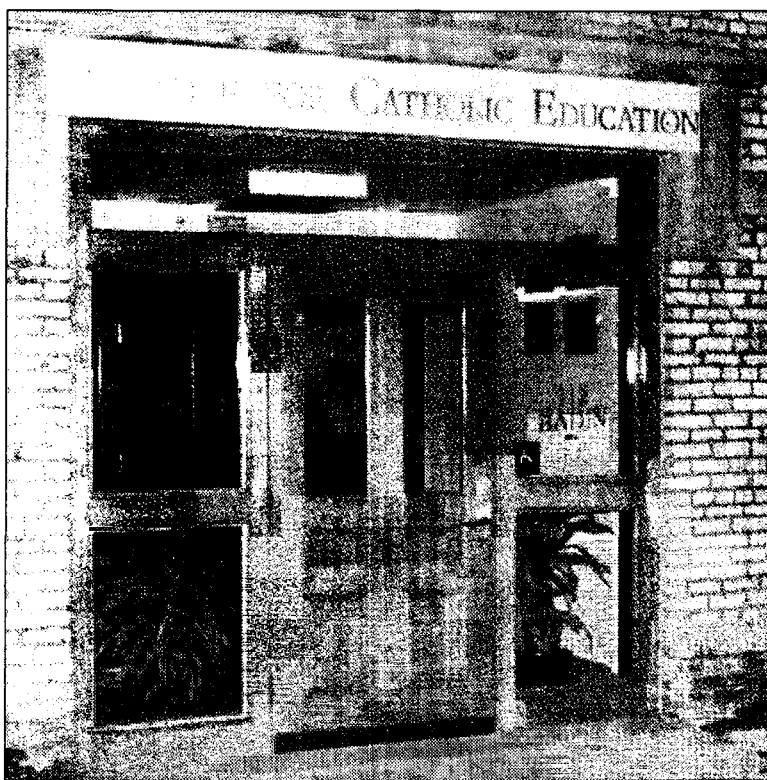
government is not promoting religion by funding programs such as ACE, which provide teachers for disadvantaged Catholic schools.

"We're obviously delighted with the court's decision," said John Staud, ACE director. "It was a unanimous decision, which is very important for ACE and for other faith-based organizations affected by the ruling."

This decision reversed a 2004 ruling by U.S. District Court Judge Gladys Kessler that the Corporation for National and Community Service, which runs the AmeriCorps program, had violated the constitutional ban on establishment of religion by awarding federal funding to ACE teachers who only serve in Catholic schools.

The 2004 ruling came as the result of a charge by the American Jewish Congress (AJC) that AmeriCorps unlawfully used federal money to

see ACE/page 6



TIM SULLIVAN/The Observer

The ACE program, with an office located in Badin Hall, above, will continue to operate with federal funding.

See Also

"Students anticipate ACE program placements" page 3

University selects '05 grad speaker

By EILEEN DUFFY
Assistant News Editor

The President of the United States won't be speaking to Notre Dame's 2005 graduates, but a man who has held three presidencies in his life will.

The University announced Tuesday that Vartan Gregorian, president of the Carnegie Corporation and former president of Brown University and the New York Public Library, will be the principal speaker at its 160th commencement exercises on May 15.

Gregorian has held high-ranking positions in a wide variety of fields, making him an ideal selection, University President Father Edward Malloy said in a press release.

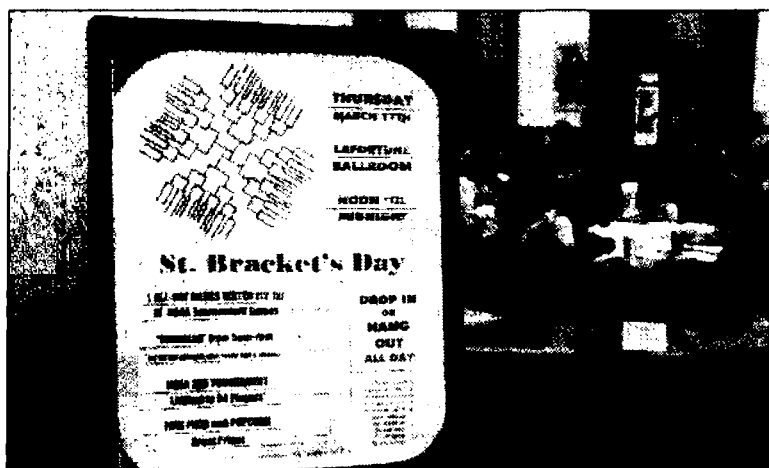
"In all his many roles in public life, Dr. Gregorian has displayed extraordinary leadership," Malloy said. "I know that his remarks will be an ideal capstone for [our graduates'] educational experiences on our campus."

Gregorian has served at the helm of New York's Carnegie Corporation since 1997. The corporation, which was founded in 1911, seeks to carry out



Gregorian

Students fill out NCAA brackets, plan pools



TIM SULLIVAN/The Observer

A poster hangs in LaFortune Tuesday to advertise a March Madness basketball tournament pool.

Men's and women's dorms organize own contests for March Madness tradition

By JOHN EVERETT
News Writer

Notre Dame students passed through the four stages of grief — depression, denial, anger and acceptance — after learning Sunday that the men's basketball team would not be participating in the NCAA tournament and would instead be relegated to the National Invitational Tournament (NIT). But their own team's fate hasn't stopped many from jumping into the March tradition of

filling out brackets — competing online, in dorms and across campus.

March Madness, the nickname given to the NCAA tourney due to its unpredictability, is one of the most widely wagered-on sporting events of the year.

Very rare is the workplace without an office pool, and even those less knowledgeable on the subject of college basketball are often participants. Not everyone is pleased with the bracket-

see BRACKETS/page 4

Summer registration premieres new system

By MARY KATE MALONE
News Writer

Registration for summer classes, which begins today, will be the first time students use the new five-digit course numbering system.

The new course numbers are part of a series of changes taking place as a result of the Renovare Project, the new University mainframe system being installed and set for completion in two years.

Beginning today, students will log onto "insideND" to register and search for summer and fall course offerings. They will have to enter the new course numbers in order to find their classes.

Christopher Temple, an academic specialist in the registrar's office, said he does not expect any glitches with students using the new course numbers today.

"We don't anticipate any problems; we have been

see REGISTER/page 8

Activist compares U.S. and China

By KATIE PERRY
News Writer

With his salt and pepper hair, large wire-rimmed glasses and unassuming demeanor, it is hard to imagine John Kamm in the desolate setting of a Chinese prison. But the executive director of the Dui Hua Foundation — and this year's O'Grady Asia Lecture Series featured speaker — has worked on behalf of political and religious inmates for over 15 years and tal-



BETH WERNET/The Observer

John Kamm spoke Tuesday in the Mendoza College of Business about the struggles for human rights in China.

INSIDE COLUMN

The other holiday

Everyone knows about the national holiday coming up tomorrow. Many are getting ready to don their green beads and green shirts while sharing green drinks and good times. But what I'm really looking forward to is the other national holiday that happens to land on March 17th this year.

Mike Harkins

Graphics

Okay, maybe it's not a national holiday, but the first day of the NCAA men's basketball tournament is still one of my favorite days of the year.

So the Irish men are out of the tournament and now out of the NIT. It's painful to think about given the high hopes for the team going into the season, and this week would have been a lot more fun with them participating in the tournament. It'll be alright though, because once the tournament games begin on Thursday, I will be glued to the television from the first tip off at 12:20 p.m. until the final whistle at midnight without having to think about anything else but basketball.

Well, alright maybe I'll be thinking a little about that other holiday taking place tomorrow. And I do plan on celebrating the way it is meant to be celebrated. But I have definitely been looking forward to the NCAA Tournament a whole lot longer.

From now until CBS plays "One Shining Moment" after the final game, basketball will most likely consume the majority of my life. Whether it's reading up on which Cinderella teams have the best chance of pulling an upset, filling out brackets with all the possible outcomes, or highlighting my bracket for the pool that I take part in with a few friends, chances are you would find me doing something tournament-related.

Fortunately I have worked pretty hard in school so far this semester, knowing I would have to be prepared for the inevitable skipped classes and large decline in time spent on homework during March Madness. Of course, as a second semester senior, working hard pretty much means cutting down on playing video games from the average 3-4 hours to about 1-2 hours.


Anyway, I hope you all are as excited about tomorrow as I am. My schedule tomorrow is as follows:

- 8:00 - Wake up.
- 8:01 - Crack open a Guinness.
- 8:02-9:20 - Guinness continues.
- 9:30-12:15 - Class (I know it sounds bad, but they do allow water bottles in class, right?)
- 12:20-5:00 - Watch basketball.
- 5:00-7:00 - Eat and continue St. Paddy's festivities.
- 7:00-Midnight - Watch basketball.
- Midnight-? - Heartland.

Now that I think about it, I might just have to follow the same schedule on Friday.


The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Mike Harkins at mharkins@nd.edu

QUESTION OF THE DAY: ARE YOU WORKING THIS SUMMER?




Steve Shaul
sophomore
off-campus

"Working at the carwash. The bikini carwash."




Eileen Locke
junior
McGlinn

"Yes, I have a job in sunny California. Booya."




Alissa Mendoza
senior
off-campus

"No. I don't want to work yet."




Tim Stawicki
junior
Siegfried

"I'm currently in the running for the president of Yemen."




Jennifer Stall
junior
Pasquerilla West

"Yes, I have an internship at the Wells Center for Pediatric Research at Riley Hospital in Indianapolis."



Christopher Ban
senior
off-campus

"Yes. I'm working as a concession engineer in Lancaster."



Violinist Sujeet Sesai, who has Down syndrome, performed in Washington Hall Tuesday night as part of Disability Awareness Month.

OFFBEAT

Thousands compete to be named national cheese champ

MILWAUKEE — John Umhoefer calls it the Olympics of cheese. Every two years, hundreds of cheeses are sent in from across the nation to see which makes the cut and is crowned the U.S. champion of cheese.

This year, more than 1,000 cheeses from 25 states are in Milwaukee for the U.S. Championship Cheese Contest to be poked, prodded, squished, chewed, sniffed and ultimately spit out by 14 finicky judges.

Though every cheese that's entered is good, come Wednesday, only one will get to be the big cheese.

"It's kind of like the Olympics where you start out with a 10 and your flaws are downgraded," said Umhoefer, executive director of the Wisconsin Cheese Makers Association, which co-sponsors the event that started Monday.

Vice mayor receives 'dirty' complaint

LEXINGTON, Ky. — A harassment complaint has been filed with police after an aide found fecal matter in an envelope addressed to the vice mayor.

The envelope was one of two that contained harassing materials, according to a report filed Friday with Lexington police. The envelopes also contained a letter from someone complaining about the city's ban on smoking in enclosed public places.

Lexington police declined to comment about the contents of the letter, but Lt. James Curless said officers are investigating. Curless said police think both envelopes were sent by the same person.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

Dei Dao, an exiled Chinese poet and human rights activist, will give a poetry reading today at 4:30 p.m. in the Eck Visitors' Center. A reception will follow. The event is sponsored by the Creative Writing Program.

The Notre Dame Schola Musicorum will perform a concert entitled "Abend-Musique XXIV" at 8 p.m. in Reyes Organ and Choral Hall, located in the DeBartolo Center for the Performing Arts. The concert is free but tickets are required. Please call the DeBartolo box office at 574-631-2800.


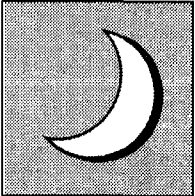
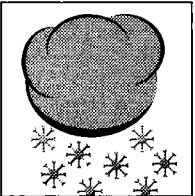
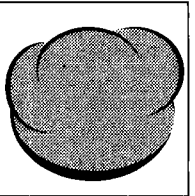
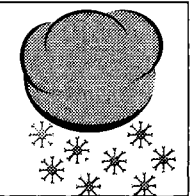
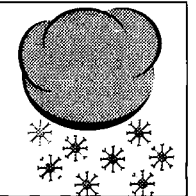
Bishop Gregorio Chavez, auxiliary bishop of San Salvador, will give a Romero keynote lecture entitled "Archbishop Romero: A Bishop for the New Millennium" tonight at 8 p.m. in McKenna Hall Auditorium.

Israeli poet Yosefa Raz will read excerpts of her work Thursday at 6 p.m. in the West Wing of the Saint Mary's dining hall. Raz will be followed by Israeli writer and peace activist Rela Mazali, who will give a talk titled "Militarism, Gender, and Anti-Militarist Activism in Israel."

The men's tennis team will face off against Illinois Thursday at 4 p.m. at the Eck Tennis Pavilion.

Ross Pillari, president of BP of American, will give a lecture entitled "Oil and Peace" Friday at 10:30 a.m. in the Jordan Auditorium. The lecture is part of the "Ten Years Hence" business course and is open to the public.

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

LOCAL WEATHER	TODAY	TONIGHT	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
						
HIGH	44	20	44	43	37	39
LOW	12	18	31	29	28	28

Atlanta 55 / 44 Boston 43 / 30 Chicago 40 / 29 Denver 35 / 16 Houston 66 / 52 Los Angeles 69 / 52 Minneapolis 34 / 28 New York 46 / 32 Philadelphia 46 / 30 Phoenix 68 / 45 Seattle 56 / 40 St. Louis 42 / 31 Tampa 80 / 66 Washington 47 / 34

Employee allegedly assaulted

Observer Staff Report

An assault was reported outside Notre Dame's Stepan Chemistry Hall around 11:15 p.m. March 9, said Phil Johnson, assistant director of Notre Dame Security/Police.

The alleged victim, a female University employee, said a man approached her from behind and kissed her on the cheek as she sat outside the hall, according to a March 10 e-mail Johnson sent to the student body.

The woman said that as she pulled away from the man, he asked her what buildings were open on campus, then began to walk south, Johnson said.

After the employee told her supervisor what happened, NDSP was contacted regarding the alleged assault.

The employee described the alleged suspect as a "black male, about 30 to 35 years old, about 6 ft. tall, wearing a black jacket with lettering on the front, tan pants and a black baseball cap with a red bill and U.S. Flag on the bill," Johnson said.

Johnson said Tuesday no additional information was available to report, but NDSP investigators are continuing to work on the case.

Students anticipate ACE program placements

By JEN ROWLING
News Writer

Students arrived back on campus this week to receive the final decisions on their pending acceptances into the Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE) program.

This year, 360 students applied to the ACE program. Currently, 85 provisional acceptances have been distributed.

Seniors with a variety of majors and backgrounds were encouraged to apply to the ACE program.

"They don't look for a cookie-cutter person," said April Garcia, an ACE applicant.

John Staud, ACE director, said it is hard to predict which majors and backgrounds will be needed from year to year.

The ACE program is unique because it is responsive to the needs of the Catholic schools for which it provides teachers, Staud said. Candidates are only admitted into the program if

they match the request of a specific school.

"We encourage everyone to apply who has an interest in service through teaching," Staud said.

Students apply from all the colleges at Notre Dame, Staud said. The College of Arts and Letters, however, has the highest number of applicants. Math, science and foreign languages are usually areas that are in high demand.

Staud, however, stressed the importance of encouraging students with diverse backgrounds to apply.

The ACE program considers each applicant's major, background and work with ethnic and service groups. All Notre Dame and Saint Mary's students are guaranteed interviews.

"We try to look as broadly as possible," Staud said.

The 85 students accepted have provisional acceptances, which means the schools to

which they have been assigned have the right of refusal. Staud said that a rejection is uncommon, however.

Tonight at 7 p.m. students will find out the details of their assigned positions. They will acquire information including location, school name, grade and assigned subject. After

"They don't look for a cookie-cutter person."

April Garcia
ACE applicant

learning this information, students have the opportunity to accept or reject their placement. Garcia, a management major, was notified Monday of her acceptance into the program.

"I am just really happy to have gotten in," she said.

Garcia enhanced her business major with education classes at Saint Mary's. She would like to obtain a Masters in Education. After taking the GRE, Garcia

decided the provisions of the ACE program fit her best.

"Traditional graduate school was not the best choice for me," she said.

As a long-term goal, Garcia plans to become a principal or superintendent.

"I went to a public school my entire life," said Garcia. "I never would have expected to teach in a Catholic school."

Maya Noronha, a psychology major with experience in social work and diverse communities, was also provisionally accepted into the program.

"I have wanted to go into education for a long time, and this seemed like a great way to do it and still attend Notre Dame," she said.

Noronha will find out today where she will be placed.

"I would prefer to be within driving distance of my family so visiting them wouldn't get too expensive," she said.

Contact Jen Rowling at
jrowling@nd.edu

9-11 commissioner to speak on terrorism

Special to the Observer

Lee Hamilton, vice chair of the 9-11 commission, will lay out a blueprint for effective counter-terrorism strategy and U.S. foreign policy in lectures March 22 and 23 at Notre Dame.

The March 22 lecture,

"Fighting Terrorism," will begin at 4:15 p.m. in the Decio Mainstage Theatre of the DeBartolo Center for the Performing Arts. The second lecture, "How to Use American Power," will begin at 12:30 p.m. in the auditorium of the Hesburgh Center for

International Studies.

Sponsored by the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, the talks comprise the 11th annual Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C., Lectures in Ethics and Public Policy and are free and open to the public. The lectures will be Webcast live at

mms://streaming.nd.edu/hamilton.

Hamilton was vice chair of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks upon the United States, which issued the influential and best-selling "9-11 Report" on the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

PATRICK NOBLE AND JUAN PABLO GARCIA | RICH FOX AND BAND | THE IRISH DANCE CLUB | THE GAELIC SOCIETY BAND

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ST. PATRICK'S DAY GIVEAWAYS:
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SHAMROCK TATTOOS, AND PINS!

DRINK SPECIALS FOR THOSE 21+

THURSDAY

10:00PM

LEGENDS



SUB.ND.EDU

Brackets

continued from page 1

mania — critics have claimed these pools are a violation of anti-gambling laws.

Legal or not, employers may have a right to gripe about the tournament.

A survey cited on ESPN.com stated that last year, the NCAA men's basketball tournament caused a \$1.5 billion loss in productivity to the U.S. economy due to time wasted filling out brackets and the more hoops-mad workers taking sick days to catch all the action.

At Notre Dame, Brian Tracy, president of the Leprechaun Legion and a resident assistant in Knott Hall who will be running a dorm-wide bracket pool this year, said he does not see any hostility on the University's part towards the pools.

"As far as I know, brackets are fully legal as long as student-athletes aren't involved. I would bet that at least every guys' dorm has one," Tracy said.

Several women's dorms on campus are also organizing their own tournament pools.

Cavanaugh vice president Monica Selak said she and fellow dorm officers decided to organize a tournament pool just this week. Participants will be charged \$3 to enter, and all the money collected will help sponsor a service trip to a needy school in Phoenix,

Ariz. The eventual bracket winner will receive a gift certificate to Target.

"We were trying to find a creative way to do some sort of social service activity and we figured this would be a great way to raise money," said Selak.

Every student has a different approach to filling out his or her bracket. Some pick all the favorites, some go for a lot of upsets, some go with their favorite team to win it all, while others are a bit more realistic.

Freshman Tom Manning has UConn, Syracuse, Arizona and Texas Tech in his Final Four.

"I go by the coach when I'm filling the bracket out," Manning said.

With coaches Jim Calhoun, Jim Boeheim, Lute Olsen and Bob Knight, Manning has four of the best in NCAA history.

Freshman Paul Quintela's Final

Four is a bit more predictable and is comprised of Wake Forest, Duke, North Carolina and Illinois. Three of those teams are seeded first in their region, and Wake Forest is a 2-seed.

However, the rest of his bracket is loaded with upsets, including LSU reaching the Sweet Sixteen. Quintela credits "those sweet purple uniforms," with his LSU pick.

Megan O'Neil contributed to this report.

Contact John Everett at jeverett@nd.edu

Speaker

continued from page 1

founder Andrew Carnegie's vision of philanthropy, which Carnegie said should aim "to do real and permanent good in the world." Awarding grants in four areas (education, international peace and security, international development and strengthening U.S. democracy), the corporation expects its fiscal year 2004-2005 grants to total over \$80 million.

From 1989 to 1997, Gregorian served as the president of Brown University, where he taught freshman and senior history seminars and a course on Alexis de Tocqueville. In addition, he led capital campaigns that helped triple the endowment there.

Prior to that, Gregorian served for eight years as president of the New York Public Library — no small task, considering that this system has four research libraries and 83 circulating libraries. He is credited with pulling the library out of financial crisis.

Gregorian was born to Armenian parents in Tabriz, Iran. After receiving his elementary education there and his secondary education in Lebanon, he enrolled at Stanford University in 1956. He graduated with honors just two years later.

In 1964, he earned a doctorate in history and the humanities, also from

Stanford.

Gregorian taught European and Middle Eastern history for eight years at San Francisco State College, the University of California at Los Angeles and the University of Texas. He then joined the University of Pennsylvania faculty. In 1972, he became the founding dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences there; in 1972, he became the provost.

Senior Erin Mai said she is "excited and proud" of Notre Dame's decision to bring someone with a "different perspective."

"This is a Catholic university, but it's still important for people to be exposed to different ideas and different religions," she said. "[Gregorian] seems to know a lot about Islam, and I think that could bring a lot to his speech."

Senior Galen Loughrey agreed, calling the University's choice of Gregorian a "great change" from the past commencement speakers.

"I would hope [Gregorian] would bring a unique perspective, given his international experience, that might not be at Notre Dame," he said.

Gregorian has received myriad accolades and grants during his career.

Currently serving as a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Gregorian has received fellowships from the John Smith Guggenheim Foundation, the American Council of Learned Societies, the Social Science Research Council and the American Philosophical Society.

He received the National Ethnic Coalition of Organization's Ellis Island Medal of Honor in 1986,

which is annually presented to "Americans of diverse origins for their outstanding contributions to their own ethnic groups and to American society," according to that organization's Web site.

He has also been honored by U.S. presidents. In 1998, President Bill Clinton awarded Gregorian with the National Humanities Medal; last year, President George W. Bush awarded him the Presidential Medal of freedom, the nation's highest civilian award.

Gregorian is the author of "Emergence of Modern Afghanistan: Politics of Reform and Modernization, 1880-1946;" "Islam: A Mosaic, Not a Monolith;" and his autobiography, "The Road to Home."

"I would hope [Gregorian] would bring a unique perspective ... that might not be at Notre Dame."

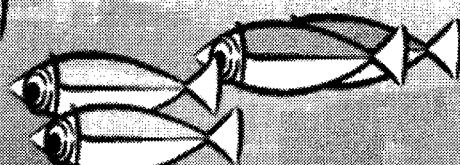
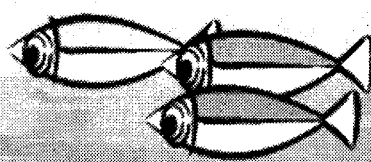
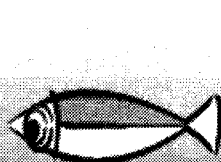
Galen Loughrey
senior

Contact Eileen Duffy at eduffy1@nd.edu



(you)

Do you want to get involved?



(involved)



The Student Union Board
is now accepting applications
for several positions

Do you want to help program SUB events?

Want the chance to plan concerts, movies,
comedy shows, and trips to Chicago?

Programming Positions are available for:
concerts, acoustiCafe, movies, services, special events,
campus entertainment, Collegiate Jazz Festival,
Notre Dame Literary Festival, Cultural Arts, and more!

Other Positions available for:
operators, controllers, marketing assistants,
web designers, graphic designers, & digital
photographers

All Applications due March 18

Get applications online at sub.nd.edu
or in 203 LaFortune



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WORLD & NATION

Wednesday, March 16, 2005

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

page 5

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Italy withdraws from coalition

ROME — Italy's prime minister announced plans Tuesday to start drawing down his country's 3,000-strong contingent in Iraq in September, putting a fresh crack in President Bush's crumbling coalition. Bulgaria also called for a partial withdrawal, and Ukraine welcomed home its first wave of returning troops.

The moves come on top of the withdrawal of more than a dozen countries over the last year and could complicate efforts to keep the peace while Iraq's new government builds up police and military units capable of taking over from foreign forces.

Two years after the U.S.-led invasion toppled Saddam Hussein, the coalition is unraveling amid mounting casualties and kidnappings that have stoked anti-war sentiment and sapped leaders' resolve to keep troops in harm's way.

European men are more obese

BRUSSELS, Belgium — At least seven European countries now challenge the United States in size — at least around the waistline.

In a group of nations from Greece to Germany, the proportion of overweight or obese men is higher than in the United States, experts said Tuesday in a major analysis of expanding girth on the European continent.

"The time when obesity was thought to be a problem on the other side of the Atlantic has gone by," said Mars Di Bartolomeo, Luxembourg's Minister of Health.

NATIONAL NEWS

Anthrax detected in Pentagon mail

WASHINGTON — Hundreds of postal workers were offered antibiotics Tuesday and many were taking them after initial tests detected anthrax in a pair of military mailrooms. Nobody reported symptoms of the disease as officials awaited results of further testing.

Three mail facilities were closed — two that serve the Pentagon and one in Washington that handles mail on its way to the military as well as all federal offices in the area.

In more than three years since the 2001 anthrax-by-mail attacks, there have been scores of initial tests that falsely reported anthrax in government mailrooms. In this case, however, the bacteria were detected separately in two different mailrooms, raising concerns and invoking memories of the attacks that killed five and panicked Americans still raw from the Sept. 11 attacks.

Road assassin kills three men

DALLAS — A man squeezed through the sunroof of a Jaguar early Tuesday and opened fire with an assault rifle on another moving vehicle, killing three men and critically wounding a fourth, police said.

Authorities were searching for the gunman and two others who may have been riding in the light-colored Jaguar with fancy wheels, police said.

LOCAL NEWS

Senate hears new stadium plans

INDIANAPOLIS — Lawmakers started over Tuesday in their work to find the money for a new Indianapolis Colts stadium after several proposals failed during the first half of the legislative session.

A Senate committee listened to city officials and Colts coach Tony Dungy speak about the benefits of a new stadium and expanded convention center, but most senators already seemed supportive of the project — at least in theory.

Senate Tax Committee Chairman Luke Kenley, R-Noblesville, said while the idea of a new stadium had broad support, funding will be tricky in a tight budget year.

RUSSIA

Reward paid for tracking rebel

Russian security service had \$10 million bounty for information on Maskhadov

Associated Press

MOSCOW — Russia's security service announced Tuesday it paid an unprecedented \$10 million to informers who helped track down the late Chechen rebel leader Aslan Maskhadov — an effort to give credibility to its renewed offer of an identical prize for the Kremlin's No. 1 foe, warlord Shamil Basayev.

The announcement appeared part of a stepped-up effort to eliminate separatist leaders whose fight against the Kremlin has dragged on for most of the past decade and destabilized much of Russia's southern flank. Chechnya's Moscow-backed president suggested it was part of a plan to rely increasingly on the region's local population in its attempts to stop rebel warlords.

"The promise to pay a large sum of money has been realized, and the population knows that this is no myth. People will turn up who will independently trace Basayev and his underlings and report to the proper authorities," the Interfax news agency quoted Alu Alkhanov as saying.

"I am certain that Basayev can now hardly feel calm and sure of himself in any region or settlement at all, in a forest or in the mountains," he said.

Russian authorities did not say who received the reward, and there was no way to confirm the payment. But the \$10 million would be the largest ever given by the Russian government for a fugitive.

U.S. authorities paid \$30 million in reward money to a tipster who pointed American forces toward the hideout of former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein's two sons, Qusai and Uday, who were killed July 22, 2003 by U.S. troops during a shootout in Mosul; the reward offered \$15 million for each of the sons.

The \$30 million was the



Aslan Maskhadov converses with the current most wanted Chechen rebel, Shamil Basayev, in January 1997. There is a \$10 million bounty on the head of either

largest amount paid under the State Department's Rewards for Justice program, a terror-era innovation. U.S. officials have said a promised \$25 million reward for help in capturing Saddam was not likely to be given out because he was located by the U.S. military.

Washington has also offered \$25 million each for al-Qaida chief Osama bin Laden and his top operative in Iraq, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi.

Maskhadov was killed last week in a Russian special forces operation in the Chechen village of Tolstoy-Yurt, authorities said. The security service, known by its Russian acronym FSB, had said in September that

it would pay a \$10 million bounty for information leading to the killing or capture of him or Basayev — who remains at large and has claimed responsibility for attacks including the deadly raid on a school in the town of Beslan.

Basayev is now seen as the most powerful rebel figure, despite the appointment of a little-known former Islamic judge to replace Maskhadov.

The killing of Maskhadov was a victory for the security services, who have struggled to penetrate the tightly knit clan society of Chechnya. Maskhadov and other rebel leaders appeared able to move about fairly freely in the region, where they boasted of a large network

of collaborators. Previous claims that their killing or capture was imminent had never borne out.

The FSB said it would be prepared to help the people who provided the information on Maskhadov by relocating them to another region of Russia or to a Muslim country, and offered similar guarantees for informants on Basayev's whereabouts.

"The Russian Federal Security Service confirms its preparedness to guarantee personal security and payment of an appropriate monetary award to citizens providing trustworthy information on the whereabouts of the terrorist leaders," the FSB statement said.

Atlanta man charged for rampage

Associated Press

ATLANTA — Ringed by 19 officers in a cinderblock jail room, his hands and ankles shackled, the man accused in the crime spree that left an Atlanta judge and three others dead went before a judge Tuesday for the first time since the rampage.

Brian Nichols, 33, was informed that authorities plan to charge him with murder.

Nichols looked straight ahead during the five-minute hearing and did not make eye contact with anyone in the room, including the judge. He spoke only once, when Judge Frank

Cox asked him if he had any questions.

"Not at this time," he said.

Nichols was held without bail on the rape charge he was on trial for Friday, when he allegedly overpowered a guard at the Fulton County courthouse, stole her gun and started a rampage that terrorized Atlanta and left four people dead.

This time, authorities took no chances for the hearing at the Fulton County Jail.

All prisoners booked into the jail make their first appearance before a judge inside the jail, not at the courthouse. But 19 officers —

almost five times the usual number — packed the small room, and several more officers blocked the hall outside.

Those entering the hearing room were searched with a handheld metal detector.

Fulton County Sheriff Myron Freeman said other steps had been taken to improve courthouse security: 40 uniformed deputies have been added and high-risk inmates will be transported separately, accompanied by specially trained officers.

"The security improvements we've made in the past few days will continue," he said in a statement.

ACE

continued from page 1

promote the teaching of Christian values by awarding monetary vouchers to participants in programs like ACE, which assigns teachers to needy Catholic schools. Notre Dame joined the lawsuit filed against AmeriCorps as a defendant-intervener.

"We believed all along that we were not in violation of the establishment of religion clause, and we're pleased that the court saw this too," Staud said. "For the past 11 years, it has been our practice to follow the AmeriCorps guidelines, so the religious activity of ACE participants has not counted toward the service hours required for the AmeriCorps stipend. Those hours come from the secular subjects that are taught, like chemistry and math."

The ACE program was founded in 1993 and since then has been training teachers for two-year commitments in underfunded parochial schools across the southern

United States. After completing the two-year program, each participant receives a master's degree in education from Notre Dame.

ACE teachers-in-training are allotted a stipend of \$12,000 per year from the schools in which they teach. In addition, most ACE participants are eligible to apply for and receive two annual \$4,725 education vouchers through AmeriCorps.

To qualify, the participant must complete 1,700 hours of service in or outside of the classroom that is of a non-religious affiliation.

Through the ACE program, Notre Dame also receives grants of up to \$400 per year for every full-time AmeriCorps member. This money covers

nearly eight percent of salaries for the ACE faculty members who are teaching secular subjects.

The court's ruling will allow ACE to continue its service program and especially will help with recruitment of new participants, Staud said.

"The AmeriCorps awards enable us to recruit broadly for ACE," he said. "Participants tend to be recent college graduates who have significant loan indebtedness. The award is well deserved for these participants who are providing service for the country."

"It would have been a big disappointment had the ruling gone the other way, making it more challenging to attract students with high debt," he

continued. "At the same time, the University strongly supports ACE, so we're convinced nothing will stop the program. Catholic schools are too needy. We would just have had to been more creative and energetic in finding other sources of funding."

Last week's ruling ensured the future of ACE at a critical time for Catholic schools throughout the country. There are nearly 8,000 Catholic schools in America, but last year only 34 new schools were opened, while more than 100 were closed.

Within the past few months, the Archdiocese of Chicago announced it is planning on closing 23 schools, and the Brooklyn diocese said it would

be closing 22 schools in Brooklyn and Queens. The Archdiocese of Detroit also has closed 21 schools in the past two years.

"Now is a difficult time for Catholic schools nationally," Staud said, "but ACE is committed to serve these schools for decades to come. The challenges are great, and many schools have confided that they would be unable to stay open if it weren't for ACE. However, because we have so many motivated people who are part of the program, we are able to turn them loose on this problem. We're in this for the long haul."

Contact Julie Bender at jbender@nd.edu

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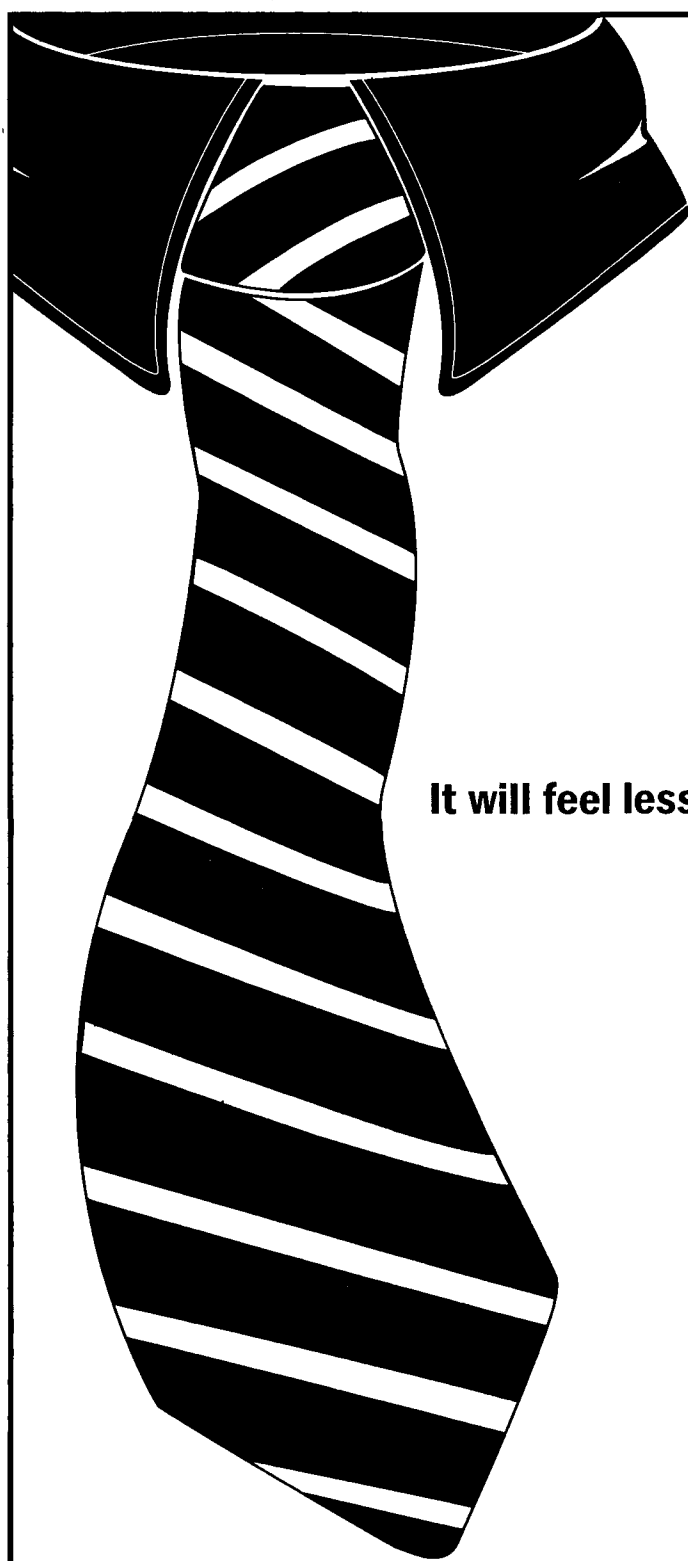
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MARKET RECAP

Stocks
Dow Jones 10,745.10 -59.41

Up: 1,113 Same: 159 Down: 2,213 Composite Volume: 1,513,064,448

AMEX 1,486.06 +3.47
NASDAQ 2,034.98 -16.06
NYSE 7,310.41 -43.48
S&P 500 1,197.75 -9.08
NIKKEI(Tokyo) 11,821.09 0.00
FTSE 100(London) 5,000.20 +25.20

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
NASDAQ 100TR SER I (QQQQ)	-0.80	-0.30	37.04
MICROSOFT CP (MSFT)	-0.80	-0.20	24.91
TIVO INC (TIVO)	+74.93	+2.87	6.70
INTEL CP (INTC)	-1.61	-0.39	23.88
CISCO SYS INC (CSCO)	-1.56	-0.29	18.25

Treasures			
30-YEAR BOND	+0.67	+0.32	48.13
10-YEAR NOTE	+0.58	+0.26	45.42
5-YEAR NOTE	+0.43	+0.18	42.17
3-MONTH BILL	+0.92	+0.25	27.37

Commodities		
LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl)	+0.10	55.05
GOLD (\$/Troy oz)	-0.20	441.40
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)	+0.65	90.35

Exchange Rates	
YEN	104.51
EURO	0.7514
POUND	0.5229
CANADIAN \$	1.2068

IN BRIEF

Insurance giant AIG under fire

NEW YORK — Concerned about the upheaval in management at American International Group Inc. and regulatory probes of its business operations, major credit agencies on Tuesday either lowered the insurance company's debt rating or said they would review whether it should be cut. AIG shares sank 3 percent.

The board of AIG, one of the world's largest insurance companies, late Monday removed longtime Chief Executive Officer Maurice "Hank" Greenberg in a first step toward trying to resolve the widening federal and state probes into its property and casualty insurance business.

In one ongoing probe, New York Attorney General Eliot Spitzer, federal prosecutors and the Securities and Exchange Commission are looking into the use of so-called finite insurance, or financial reinsurance, which they contend can be used to manipulate earnings.

WTO finds fault with the EU

GENEVA — Both sides claimed victory Tuesday in a trade fight pitting the United States and Australia against the European Union, centering on the right of foreign exporters to use geographic food names such as Florida oranges or Idaho potatoes to describe their products in European markets.

A World Trade Organization panel released a ruling on complaints by Washington and Canberra against the 25-nation EU.

The United States and Australia claimed that the EU breached the rules of global commerce by discriminating against their producers in not granting them the right to use "geographical indications" for their products.

The WTO ruling said the EU had "not succeeded in rebutting that case," even though the bloc was not guilty of wide-ranging breaches.

The ruling found fault with some parts of the EU's current rules, which say only foods produced in their original region can carry certain well-known labels — something the EU says is needed to give customers a quality guarantee.

Under that system, only ham produced using traditional methods near the Italian city of Parma can be called Parma ham, Roquefort cheese must come from its native region in southern France and Madeira wine from the Portuguese island of the same name.

IRAN

Saudis propose increase in oil

OPEC does not approve of plan that will lower prices of crude internationally

Associated Press

ISFAHAN — Saudi Arabia is trying to wrestle oil prices lower with a pledge to pump more crude — with or without OPEC. But so far, it isn't working.

On Tuesday, the world's largest oil producer said it might boost supplies unilaterally to bring relief to world markets if other members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries balked at its earlier proposal to raise the cartel's output quota.

OPEC meets Wednesday amid growing concerns about how long the global economic engine can remain in high gear with crude oil prices hovering near \$55 a barrel.

The original Saudi proposal, made Monday, would add 500,000 barrels, or 2 percent, to the OPEC output ceiling of 27 million a day. But beyond sending a psychological signal of the group's readiness to respond to high prices, some analysts questioned the impact of such a move because OPEC members were already producing about 700,000 barrels a day above their quotas.

OPEC's president, Sheikh Ahmad Fahad Al Ahmad Al Sabah of Kuwait, tried to blunt that argument by saying that any deal to formally raise production would lift actual output from about 27.7 million barrels to 28.2 million barrels a day for 10 of its members. The 11th, Iraq, is exempt from quota restrictions as it rebuilds.

Al Sabah said OPEC should not only raise output by 500,000 barrels a day, but follow it some time in the future, if necessary, with another hike of 500,000 barrels a day.

Taking matters one step further, Saudi oil minister Ali Naimi signaled his country's willingness to raise output by itself, without OPEC approval.

"We have done that in the past in order to meet the



Rising crude oil prices from OPEC countries, including Saudi Arabia, are leading to climbing gas prices, as seen at a 76 gas station in Malibu, Calif., on March 15.

requirements in the market," Naimi told reporters. "Uppermost in our minds is [the intention] to satisfy the demand that is out there."

Light, sweet crude for April delivery rose 35 cents to \$55.30 per barrel in afternoon trade on the New York Mercantile Exchange. That's above the record Nymex settlement price of \$55.17 per barrel, set twice in late October, although futures would have to surpass \$90 a barrel to meet the inflation-adjusted peak set in 1980.

Reflecting the pessimism other OPEC members have toward the Saudi proposal, Algeria's Oil Minister Chakib Khelil said, "We can do a goodwill gesture, but it doesn't mean anything in

reducing prices."

Other experts also said the effects would be minimal.

"It will not drive the price down but stabilize it and keep it from zooming into the stratosphere," said professor Anthony Sabino of St. Johns University's Peter J. Tobin Business School in New York.

Still, he described OPEC countries opposed to the hike as "a little short-sighted" because ultimately there will be a lower demand for oil as the high prices will slow the growth of the world's economies.

In a sign the rest of OPEC may relent to the Saudi proposal, the cartel's ministerial monitoring committee is set to recommend lifting the

group's output ceiling by 500,000 barrels a day to 27.5 million barrels a day, according to Dow Jones Newswires, which cited an anonymous OPEC source in Isfahan.

Iranian Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zangeneh has said neither a higher ceiling nor an unchanged one would put more oil on the market.

The proposal of a higher ceiling is probably intended to legitimize some of the overproduction, Zangeneh said. OPEC would be unwise to raise output aggressively in what is traditionally the weakest season for oil, he said.

"Both proposals mean we should keep the existing level of production within OPEC," Zangeneh said.

'Telecom Cowboy' guilty of fraud

Associated Press

NEW YORK — They called him the Telecom Cowboy, a darling of Wall Street who took a small long-distance company global by steering a snowballing set of mergers and acquisitions.

Now, Bernard Ebbers is the government's biggest catch since it began pursuing the largest corporate fraudsters three years ago. He could spend the rest of his life in federal prison.

The 63-year-old former CEO of WorldCom was convicted Tuesday of orchestrating the \$11 billion fraud that sank the company in 2002, the

biggest corporate fraud and bankruptcy in U.S. history.

As a jury forewoman read the verdict — guilty on all nine counts, including fraud and conspiracy — Ebbers' face reddened noticeably. His wife, seated in the front row, broke into tears.

Later, as his lawyer promised an appeal and predicted he would "ultimately be vindicated," Ebbers and his wife, nearly crushed by a phalanx of cameras, hailed a cab and sped away.

A judge set sentencing for June 13. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales called the conviction a "triumph of our legal system." He said the jury

had recognized the fraud "extended from the middle management levels of this company all the way to its top executive."

The verdict marked a colossal fall for Ebbers, who had turned a humble Mississippi long-distance firm into a global telecommunications power, swallowing up companies along the way and earning the nickname Telecom Cowboy.

In a six-week trial, prosecutors painted him as obsessed with keeping WorldCom's share price high, panicked about pressure he was getting over \$400 million in personal loans that were backed by his own WorldCom stock.

Register

continued from page 1

preparing for months," he said.

Temple said the longer numbers are necessary for the new Renovare system, but he noted further changes will come gradually as the system continues to be upgraded.

"Sometimes you'll hear this [the new Renovare System] called the 'vanilla version' because the University is trying to implement the system with as few customizations as possible," Temple said.

The daunting task of re-numbering each of the University's 9,000 courses began last summer and was successfully completed with the help of all academic departments, Temple said.

"It was a challenging project for everybody," Temple said. "I was impressed with how the academic departments stepped up."

The first two digits of the new numbers, assigned by the registrar's office, will indicate the level and type of course. Previously, a letter suffix was used to indicate the type of course.

Each academic department was responsible for assigning the last three digits, using whatever system they preferred.

"Some departments used a numbering system similar to

their old ones," Temple said. "Others used this as an opportunity to revamp their structure."

Faculty complaints were scarce, as all departments came together to reconfigure their course numbering systems, Temple said. In fact, he noted that many departments welcomed the opportunity to create a new and better identification system.

"Some departments were running out of unique numbers to manage their teachings. It was a lot of work, but some were excited at the prospect of reconfiguring their whole organization."

To make the transition as smooth as possible, "insideND" will feature a link on the Student Services page to a tool that will allow students who know a course's old number to find the matching new one, Temple said.

Links to tutorials are also featured on the Web site to help students learn to navigate and take advantage of the new system.

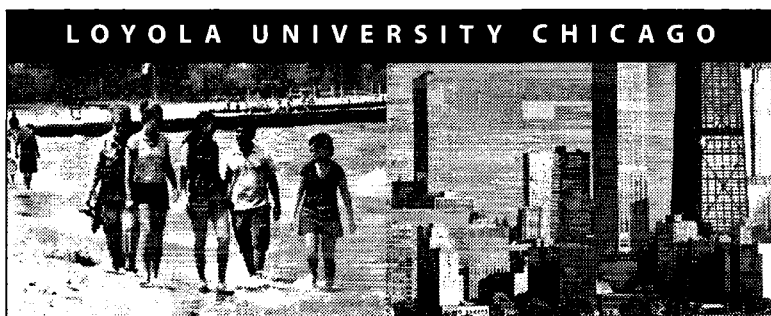
Temple admitted the new numbering system might be a difficult change at first.

"A five figure course number can be complicated at first, but in time it will become second nature," Temple said. "It's just a matter of learning the new language."

Contact Mary Kate Malone at mmalon3@nd.edu

"It was a challenging project for everybody."

Christopher Temple
academic specialist



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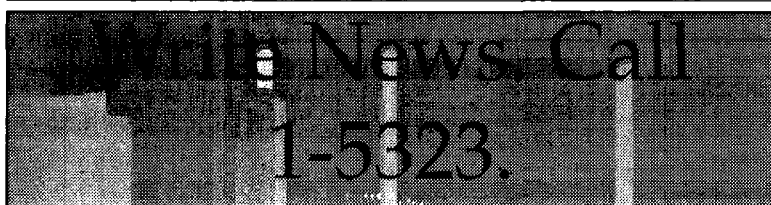
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Kamm

continued from page 1

lied over 100 visits to the region for his cause.

Kamm's Tuesday presentation, "Civil Rights, Human Rights: The Struggle for Justice in the United States and China," emphasized the intrinsic parallels between American Civil Rights activity of the 1950s and 1960s and the struggles faced by contemporary Chinese society.

The 1972 Princeton graduate explained his human rights career as almost inevitable given the social and historical context of his own coming of age. Kamm listed such events as the Medgar Evers murder, the March on Washington and the Asbury Park riots of the 1970s — which occurred just miles from his childhood home — as incidents which shaped his eventual life course.

"I took away the bedrock belief that social change is best achieved through non-violence, even when the cost is high," Kamm said.

One of the most fundamental comparisons between post-World War II America and 21st century China is that both societies are defined by their immense economic growth and the subsequent widening of the gap between the wealthy and the poor, Kamm said. It is this disparity that spurs frustration and conflict, Kamm said.

"It is striking to examine the two societies because the profits of nonviolence arise precisely at the time of greatest tension," Kamm said.

Continuing to link the two

movements, Kamm compared the likes of American Civil Rights activists Martin Luther King Jr., Ralph Abernathy and Robert Moses to present-day Christian practitioners in China who, although vehemently nonviolent, have been detained for political crimes.

"Both [groups of individuals] are members of movements that seek to awake the conscience of the people," Kamm said.

His own conscience was awakened in May of 1990 when he first took the plunge into human rights activism. Kamm opted to walk away from his career as a successful businessman for a large cooperation in order to advance this cause. In 1999, he established and chaired the Dui Hua Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to improving human rights in China.

The Foundation prided itself on its establishment of an elaborate database containing names and related information for more than 9,000 political and religious prisoners incarcerated in China.

Recently, his meticulous efforts have paid off. Last month, in an iconoclastic move made by Beijing government officials, information on 56 prisoners was ceded to Dui Hua — without prior solicitation. The gesture could, Kamm said, present a watershed event in terms of international access to prison records in China.

The concession of records, as prompted by growing pressures from the international community, draws another significant comparison to the Civil Rights movement, said Kamm. American

racial policies criticized abroad adversely affected diplomatic relations with other nations and thus spurred domestic social change.

"International pressure pushed forward the American Civil Rights revolution," Kamm said. "I am grateful to those who criticized us."

Despite significant milestones reached by the foundation, Kamm and his coworkers realize their work is far from over. In fact, given the current circumstances of a China marked by rapid economic growth, the time has never been more appropriate to move forward these advancements in human rights, according to Kamm.

"We should push for more concrete improvements in China because the country is rising so fast," Kamm said.

According to Kamm, the mindsets of American human rights activists — and citizens of the US in general — reflect concern over the kind of superpower China will inevitably be: democratic or authoritarian.

Citing the Civil Rights movement as a large influence in his own approach to the human rights issue in China, Kamm embraces the value of vociferous perseverance in the name of moral good by continuing to investigate the identities of the innumerable political dissidents help captive in the grim penitentiaries of China.

"We find the names of the lost and forgotten, and we present them to power," Kamm said. "Sometimes lives are changed, even saved."

Contact Katie Perry at kperry5@nd.edu

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Agents bug mayor in graft investigation

Sixteen months after implementation, FBI-installed microphone reveals no corruption

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — In the final weeks of Philadelphia's heated 2003 mayoral campaign, FBI agents crept into City Hall and installed a microphone above the mayor's desk.

For months, they had been gathering evidence that city contracts were being traded for campaign contributions. They wanted to know whether Mayor John F. Street himself was involved.

Sixteen months later — and weeks into the third federal trial to come out of the graft investigation — they are probably still wondering.

The bug in the mayor's office was in place for only a short time before it was discovered by Philadelphia police and the investigation was cut short. During that time, the listening device picked up nothing of importance, FBI agents said.

FBI agents also secretly

recorded more than 25,000 phone calls involving one of Street's top fund-raisers for nearly nine months. But none of the transcripts released in recent weeks have disproved Street's declaration that anyone eavesdropping on his conversations would find "no corruption, no sex and no profanity."

The FBI apparently overheard no instance in which the mayor said outright that he was willing to trade city work for a donation, and Street has not been charged with any wrongdoing.

The absence of a smoking gun has allowed his supporters to suggest the mayor's problems are probably behind him.

"I think a lot of people see that there are some serious questions that have been raised by the investigation, but there are also legitimate answers," said Street's spokesman, Dan Fee.

The tapes are being played in court this month for the trial of former city Treasurer Corey Kemp, who is charged with accepting tens of thousands of dollars worth of illegal gifts from one of Street's top campaign fund-raisers, a lawyer named Ronald A. White. Prosecutors said White — who died in November while awaiting trial — was trying to buy himself influence over the awarding of city contracts.

The recordings do not paint a flattering picture of city government. In several calls, the lawyer and treasurer can be heard talking about rewarding companies that had given money to Street's campaign, and denying city work to people who hadn't.

But Street's knowledge of the dealings between his treasurer and fund-raiser remains unclear.

In one typical call intercepted by the FBI, Street listened

politely to White's request that a certain financial services firm be included in a city transaction, but stopped short of promising to take any action.

In another, Street listened as White described a plan to "sell" tickets in the city's luxury box at Philadelphia Eagles games to campaign contributors. But the mayor seemed to throw cold water on the plan by saying seating in the box was limited.

Investigators also went looking for evidence that Street had used his office for personal gain, but may have come up short there, too.

Financial records seized by the FBI showed that Street and his son received loans from Commerce Bank at a time when the bank was seeking city deposits. But there has been no proof that the transactions were linked to any city deal or conveyed the mayor any special benefit.

Experts support arbiter proposal

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Setting up an independent arbiter of freedom-of-information disputes with the government would make appeals for the release of information more fair and less expensive, witnesses told a Senate panel Tuesday.

"It will more than pay for itself in diverting cases from the courts," Thomas M. Susman, a lawyer specializing in Freedom of Information Act cases, told the Senate subcommittee on terrorism, technology and homeland security.

The proposal is part of a bill Congress is considering that would strengthen the 1966 act in part by forcing government officials and agencies to respond more quickly to requests for information.

Sponsored by Sens. John Cornyn, R-Texas, and Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., the bill would create an ombudsman at the Administrative Conference of the United States to review agency compliance with FOIA requests and recommend alternatives to litigation.

Currently, disputes are resolved in court, with the Justice Department defending the agencies.

Creating a government office with oversight of the process would go a long way toward correcting the defensive posture of some agencies toward FOIA requests, sending the message from the government that "we are serious about open government requirements," Katherine M. Cary, division chief of the Open Records Division of the Texas Attorney General's Office, told the panel.

"FOIA isn't a game of us versus them," Susman said.

The bill, sponsored in the House by Rep. Lamar Smith, R-Texas, would require agencies to give people seeking documents a tracking number within 10 days and to set up telephone or Internet systems allowing them to learn the status and estimated completion date.

Agencies that didn't respond within 20 days would lose all exemptions to FOIA requests except for national security, personal privacy, proprietary information or a ban in another law.

The open government issue took on new weight after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks when the Bush administration set a higher threshold for FOIA disclosures. The White House advised agencies to make sure the information they released would not jeopardize national security.

But media outlets and others say that "national security" has become too common a reason for withholding information.

Walter Mears, a retired Associated Press newsman, told the subcommittee that the more information the government tries to keep secret, the greater the chance that what should be withheld will be leaked.

The O'Grady Asia Lecture Series 2005

Presents

**John Kamm, Executive Director
Dui Hua Foundation**

"Civil Rights, Human Rights: The Struggle for Justice in the United States and China"

Tuesday, March 15 at 5:00 p.m.

Jordan Auditorium

Mendoza College of Business

University of Notre Dame

A workshop and discussion with John Kamm

(Dui Hua Founder and Executive Director) &

Irene Chan Kamm, (Manager of Administration and Development)

**"Dui Hua: The Strategy and Technique
of Human Rights Work in China"**

Wednesday, March 16, 2005 at 2:00 p.m.

Hesburgh Center for International Studies Auditorium

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University of Notre Dame

Reception to follow

Hesburgh Center, Great Hall

<http://www.duihua.org>

The public is invited to attend both events.

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Questions: Call John or Sylvia Dillon at 631-7163



Mass. governor wants turnpike chairman out

Associated Press

BOSTON — Gov. Mitt Romney asked the state's highest court Tuesday if he has the power to fire the Massachusetts turnpike chairman after an engineer who led an investigation into leaks at the \$14.6 billion Big Dig project says he can no longer vouch for the safety of its tunnels.

"With the Big Dig there's been a pattern of cover-up and stonewalling that has left the public with little confidence that the

project is being managed well or that the road and tunnel system are safe to travel," Romney said.

But he stopped short of calling the tunnels unsafe and said he will continue to drive through them.

The governor's comments came in response to a March 9 letter written to the Turnpike Authority by engineering specialist Jack K. Lemley, who said he was "unable to express an opinion as to the safety of the I-93 portion of the Central Artery."

Bill redirects license plate profits

State political parties stand to lose hundreds of thousands of dollars

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — When Indiana drivers spend \$48 for personalized license plates, \$30 is sent to political parties, a vestige of a time decades ago when the parties ran the Bureau of Motor Vehicles.

But a bill that a House committee unanimously advanced Tuesday would take the nearly \$1.4 million split between Republicans and Democrats and give it to the BMV.

Republicans said the money

should be used to help upgrade license branches. BMV Commissioner Joel Silverman said the money could also be used for security or to keep up with increasing costs.

"We need to upgrade our license branches," said Rep. Cleo Duncan, R-Greensburg.

But Democrats said the money should go back to customers who probably would not want to donate an extra \$30 to help upgrade the branches.

"If we were to ask the people, I'd bet they'd want their money

back," said Rep. Carolene Mays, D-Indianapolis.

"It just looks like it's a slush fund being created for the BMV," said Rep. Terry Goodin, D-Crothersville.

The only person to speak against the bill was John Livengood, former Indiana Democratic Party chairman. He said the money has helped fund a healthy two-party system in the state and that he realizes where the money goes when he buys his two personalized plates.


FAITHPOINT

What's up?

Today, 3/16 *Four:7 (see right) *Sant'Egidio Prayer Community (5:30 PM, Log Chapel)	Eucharistic Adoration Every Week Day, 12-7 PM Coleman-Morse Chapel				
Thursday *Halaga: A Qur'an Discussion and Conversation Circle (7-8 PM, Meditation Room in Coleman-Morse Center)	Friday *Nothing scheduled	Saturday *Vigil Mass (5 PM Basilica)	Sunday *10 AM Mass (Basilica) *10:30 AM RCIA Morning of Reflection *12PM Mass (Basilica) *Spanish Mass (1:30 P. St. Ed's) *Law School Mass (5 PM, Law School Chapel) *MBA Mass (7 PM, Mendoza Faculty Lounge)	Monday *Eucharistic Adoration Every Mon-Thurs (12-7 PM, COMO Chapel) *Applications due for NDE #86 Last NDE of the year! *Lenten Bible Study: "The Passion & the Eucharist" (7:30-8:45 PM, 330 COMO)	Tuesday *Bible Study with Fr. Frank Zagorc (7:30-9:30 PM, 316 COMO)

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Campus Ministry

A Prayer for Lent: The Courage to Follow Christ

God of all,
the love of your Son led him to accept
the suffering of the cross
that we might glory in new life.
Help us to be like Christ your Son,
who loved the world and died for
our salvation.
Inspire us by his love,
guide us by his example.
Change our selfishness into self-giving.
Help us to embrace the world you have given us,
that we may transofmr the darkness of its pain
into the life and joy of Easter. Amen.

Catholic Q&A

What is the Church's Position on the Death Penalty? Is it Ever Justifiable?



modern times, the Church could potentially see that the only way to both restore order and protect a community after a heinous crime would be to execute the offender. Even in

Scripture, we hear one of the criminals hanging on the cross next to Jesus rebuke the other criminal, saying, "We have been condemned justly, for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes..." (Lk 23:41, NAB).

As our society has progressed from biblical times, the Catholic Church would hope to see an equal progression in society's philosophies regarding criminal punishment. Sadly, this has not been the case. Modern popes, bishops, and moral theologians agree that, given modern

imprisonment, which can more than adequately protect society from the guilty, capital punishment is unjustifiable. The Catechism also states that "if bloodless means are sufficient to defend human lives against an aggressor..., public authority should limit itself to such means" (#2267). The Church, in its efforts to promote the respect of all human life, challenges us today to take the higher road on this issue.

Send your questions to Perkins.26@nd.edu

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Army platoon leader penalized for assault

Lieutenant sentenced to 45 days in prison

Associated Press

FORT HOOD, Texas — An Army platoon leader was sentenced Tuesday to 45 days in a military prison for his role in forcing three Iraqi civilians into the Tigris River.

Army 1st Lt. Jack Saville also must forfeit \$2,000 of his military salary each month for six months, military judge Col. Theodore Dixon ruled.

Prosecutors had recommended Saville, who chose a nonjury trial, be discharged from the Army.

"I hope to use these experiences for greater good," Saville, a 25-year-old West Point graduate, read from a statement.

Saville pleaded guilty Monday to assault and other crimes for forcing two curfew violators into the river at gunpoint in January 2004 near Samarra. One of the men allegedly drowned.

Saville was convicted Tuesday of a lesser assault charge for

doing nothing to stop another Iraqi man from being forced into the river near Balad in December 2003.

The charges carried a maximum 9 1/2-year sentence though a plea deal capped the sentence at 15 months; that part of the agreement was kept secret so the judge would not be influenced, Army officials said.

During sentencing Tuesday, Saville apologized, saying his poor decisions "adversely affected U.S.-Iraqi trust during critical times of reconstruction." He said he has learned from his mistakes and has been forgiven by God.

Earlier Tuesday, former soldier Terry Bowman testified that before the Balad incident, Saville laughed and said it was part of a bet with another platoon over who would do such a thing first. The actual orders, however, were given by Saville's co-defendant, Staff Sgt. Tracy Perkins.

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THE OBSERVER VIEWPOINT

page 12

Wednesday, March 16, 2005

THE OBSERVER

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The news is reported as accurately and objectively as possible. Unsigned editorials represent the opinion of the majority of the Editor in Chief, Managing Editor, Assistant Managing Editor and department editors. Commentaries, letters and columns present the views of the authors and not necessarily those of The Observer.

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The magic of forgiveness

I had one of those "don't put it off till tomorrow" moments last week. My father called last Thursday and told me that my grandmother (his mother) would probably not live much longer. "She won't recognize you or even know you're there," he told me, "but if you want to come for yourself, you should."

Kate Barrett

FaithPoint

I went the next day, on Friday, and she died on Saturday, at 92. My dad was right; she didn't recognize me, and I doubt she knew I was there, even though she did blink a little at one point when I prayed a Hail Mary right in her ear. I did go for myself, and it's a day I won't forget, in part because I sat with my grandmother on the day before she died, but mostly because I got to sit there with my dad.

My grandmother, I should note, was a complex and difficult woman. We never seemed to please her quite enough, though I think that may have been the only way she knew how to love us — believing us to have the potential for just a bit more than what we were showing her. As it turned out, her own life never seemed to please her quite well enough either, even if to others it would appear she and my grandfather had achieved every material success. After my grandfather's death, she became more and more adept at re-inventing her own life story, adding more imagined money, travel and prestige every time she told a new audience her constantly-improving autobiography.

My mom and dad had cared for her for the last 15 years, since my grandfather's death, guiding her from a relatively independent life through the gradual loss of her abilities and her freedom into the world of the nursing home. She did not make these changes gracefully or willingly, and my dad, an

only child, bore the brunt of her ongoing anger, frustration and loneliness.

Over the course of about three quiet hours, I sat with my dad last Friday in her room. If it's true that we learn how to take care of our own ailing parents by watching the way they took care of theirs, then I have learned how to be a hero from my dad.

He made the three-hour round trip to see her, first once a week, and in more recent years and months two or three times a week or more, even though he knew that he might be greeted by a torrent of complaints, frosty silence or a list of imagined affronts. As she grew more frail, she finally seemed to recognize a love and need for my father and mother that she hadn't been able to admit before. My dad, too, found healing and reconciliation in his ongoing pilgrimages, and especially, I think, in his prayer and belief that God's grace worked through what must have seemed at times too heavy a burden.

My grandmother grew up during a time in our Church when faith was driven in part by fear — fear of somehow not fulfilling the obligations a demanding and punitive God seemed to have imposed. She carried that understanding of her faith into adulthood. My dad and I wondered together as we sat whether she was somehow afraid to die. Did she worry that she hadn't quite gotten it right somehow? That God waited for her with a list of the shortcomings she had accumulated

and hadn't yet "erased" with her multitudes of daily Masses and rosaries?

God graced my dad with the gift of forgiveness in his journey through my grandmother's last 15 years, transforming his pain into compassion for her and into hope and prayers for her healing and peace. Sometimes —

maybe even most times — we can't forgive on our own, but only with God's generous help. We find that help in the

Sacrament of Reconciliation and in our own pilgrimages with those whom God has given us to love.

On Sunday we hear the Passion story for the first time this year.

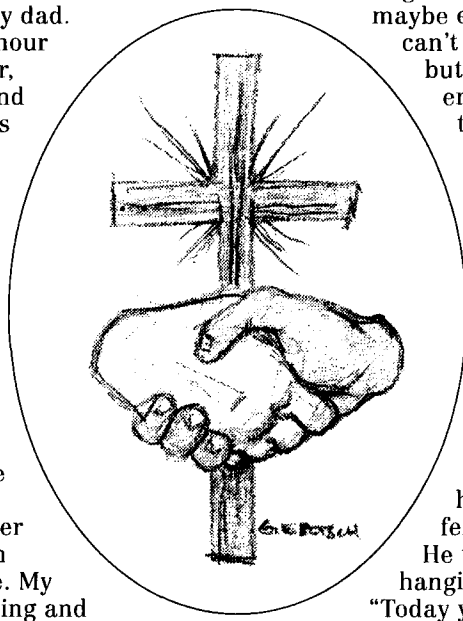
Jesus, while on the cross, forgives those who have abused him, mocked him and felt driven to kill him.

He tells the "good thief" hanging beside him that, "Today you will be with me in

paradise." I believe that my grandmother has gone to be with Jesus in paradise, that God forgives much more readily than she knew and that God gave that gift of healing to my dad. We again approach Holy Week, our holiest week. Again we can gratefully approach the Lord who loves us, who forgives us, and who offers us the ability, with his grace, to forgive each other in his name.

Kate Barrett works for Campus Ministry. She can be contacted at barrett.28@nd.edu.

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



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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"What we have done for ourselves alone dies with us; what we have done for others and the world remains and is immortal."

Albert Pike
American architect

The credentials generation

It is official. Spring break has come to a close, and from somewhere deep within the collective weariness of the campus mind, synapses, long dormant, are beginning to fire. There is a growing tension about some people, even a kind of dread. There is a wild rush to get engaged, and small mammals have started fleeing to the hinterland. All of the signs are here: graduation is coming.

Lance Gallop

The Third Way

I must admit that I am more than a little apprehensive about the whole business. Life after college is famously rough. Still, I suspect that fear and doubt — playing off of each other — are perfectly normal. No matter how often someone mouths the phrase "Notre Dame bubble" it never prepares one for the ice water of a normal and productive (read: savage) life. It also does not help matters that by now, many of us have a nice chunk of debt to force the issue.

But for me at least, there is something more at the root of all this tension. Very soon, I shall be beyond the point of no return, and the preparations I have made for the future will become my reality. Have

I done right? What of the choices that I made when I did not realize that they were lasting choices? And more over, how I am expected to make any choices at all, when I am still not even sure what it is that I want out of life?

I am not alone. We have become what some call the credentials generation. The perfect internship; the right mix of study, service, and work; law schools; MCATs; the perfect job; a power resume; a promotion; those key contacts; and do not forget the Notre Dame diploma. All of these are ground together and sifted over our heads in the hope that we might finally locate the credentials that will complete us as persons. They focus our minds on the present, and shield us from the uncertainties in our futures and in ourselves.

But in truth, a diploma just labels me as an ex-student. And no amount of credentials will ever protect or console me from weariness or pain. For, if I am honest with myself, I know that none of these things will ever give me any sort of happiness, and it is this truth that I fear most of all.

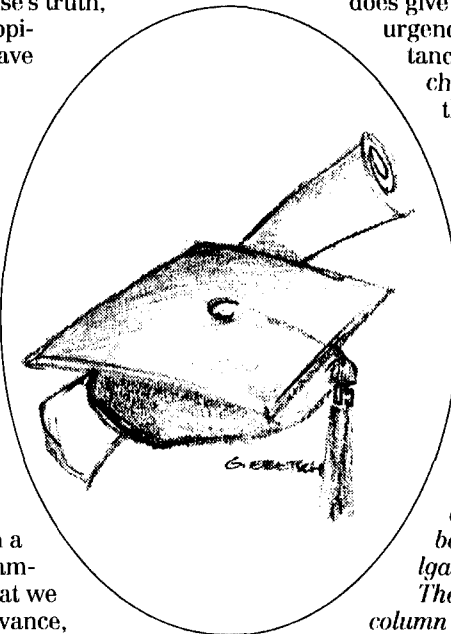
That is really the essence of the problem. Does a career, a diploma, have anything at all to do with my happiness? What have I thrown away for the sake of that career,

and what will I lose forever if I continue down this road? Maybe my happiness was among those things that I sacrificed. I worry that I have sold out to someone else's ideal, someone else's truth, and someone else's happiness. Maybe I should have been a farmer, like my great-grandfather, or a teacher like his father-in-law. Maybe I should have followed my friends to DaLian, or Ouagadougou, or to a Chilean seminary.

I am envious of those with a greater sense of purpose than I, those who can become doctors (and dentists), teachers, preachers and scholars out of a sense of duty and love. I am not sure if there is even a god of computer programmers, or whether all that we do is just human contrivance, politics and business. Perhaps following this path will just inevitably take

me farther and farther away from what it is that I truly need and want.

None of this thinking puts a stop to graduation of course, nor should it. But it does give it a sense of greater urgency and of deeper importance. I have many difficult choices to make, as do all the members of the credentials generation. Those choices will ultimately lead to happiness or to an illusion of it. Time will tell if we choose correctly.



Lance Gallop is a fifth-year senior majoring in computer science, philosophy and theology. For those who are curious, he is a neo-Platonist and a Thomist. He can be contacted at lgallop@nd.edu.

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

U-WIRE

Day o' St. Pat on the way

I enjoyed Black History Month so much I thought February's lessons should be applied to March's Irish wonder — St. Patrick. Did you know he was kidnapped in Great Britain and relocated to Ireland as a slave for six years? St. Patrick's connection to Irish heritage began in the same unfortunate fashion that led to the glorious civil rights revolution in the United States. Since Black History Month challenged us to perpetually celebrate history and heritage, we ought to reverently reflect upon the significance of St. Patrick and his day.

Joe Dowglallo

*University of Maryland
The Diamondback*

The Irish-American and African-American dilemma is finding a connection with the culture of a land separated by the Atlantic Ocean and a progression of years. Black History Month is filled with reverence — an attribute many Irish Americans fear is absent in the celebration of St. Patrick. I have an easier time taking Roots' Kunta Kinte seriously than I do a leprechaun, for example. The celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. allows some to say, "I'm going home for the three-day weekend, and my extended family is coming to visit."

When March 17 rolls around, some say, "I'm going straight for the chick not wearing green when I set foot in R. J. Bentley's." It's safe to say St. Patrick has been passed over more times than "Hotel Rwanda's" Don Cheadle for Best Actor — two crimes in need of amends.

Patrick's leading role was offering religion to those without it. He brought understanding to the undereducated and is remembered as having a clover for a prop, which has become Irish culture's icon. The claim he expelled snakes from Ireland is likely a metaphor to describe his successful confrontation with the druids of Tara (not your favorite Dungeons & Dragons class, but actually pagan practitioners).

AmericanCatholic.org claims "a better advocate than Patrick cannot be found for anyone disadvantaged

or living on the fringes of society." Scholar Thomas Cahill adds, "The papacy did not condemn slavery as immoral until the end of the 19th century, but here is Patrick in the fifth century seeing it for what it is." Ireland takes great pride in these accomplishments and Patrick is its patron saint (it's a Catholic thing).

How much does St. Patrick have to do with the United States? Well, St. Patrick's Day is an American holiday, according to the university's International Education Services. It is being celebrated at the university in various ways. On campuses nationwide, St. Patrick's Day is treated with a mixed reception, ultimately mixed cocktails.

I would be lying if I claimed I did not enjoy the festivities associated with St. Patrick's Day. The stigma of the day being a drunken celebration of debauchery has a special appeal to my college appetite. The American attitude toward the Irish has improved since the New York City of the 1800s and the slogan, "No Irish Need Apply." Drinking was stereotyped to make people believe all Irish descendants were irresponsible employees.

Having progressed since then, the United States recognizes the potential for a person of any background to become an alcoholic and be irresponsible. It's cute (and a lot of fun) for people to express this unity in the expected destructive behavior of March 17. It's just rather appalling it gets done in the name of a saint, the irony of which makes the occasion all the more enjoyable to defamers. Perhaps Americans just need a day of alcoholic indulgence, just like Halloween is for candy fanatics. St. Patrick symbolizes a sacred heritage to many, though, and gratitude shown to him should be with the same reverence for February's great civil rights activists.

This column originally appeared in the March 15 edition of The Diamondback, the daily publication at The University of Maryland.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thanks for nothing

Like many of the other students on this campus, you could say that I'm a cradle doper. I have been coming to football games for as long as I can remember, and this was the only school I applied to out of high school. And so it is with great frustration that I write this letter, for I am still in disbelief that this one place I loved so much has let me down so often. The graduating class of 2005 has arguably gone through four of the worst years at Notre Dame. We have seen the alcohol policy changed simply for publicity sake, the dorms we loved so much had their greatest traditions ripped away (SYRs and the like), tuition has increased at an alarming rate, seniors have been kicked out of football games for throwing marshmallows, tailgating has been destroyed as we know it ... the list goes on and on. Let's face it, we are the first class to go through Notre Dame's new "No Fun Policy." The bottom line is that the University couldn't care less about how their actions affect student life. And up until now, I've been able to deal with it.

However, when I read in yesterday's paper that the golden dome, the symbol of this school, was going to be hidden by scaffolds during our graduation, that was the last straw. Some of you may disagree with my earlier complaints, but this one is felt by all of us. You're telling me that this precious regilding can't be done between May 16 and September? Are you, the University, seriously going to claim that there aren't enough "dry and windless" days between those two dates? Because that would be absurd. Something must be done about this. I just want to say thanks, administration. Thanks for destroying our ability to take great family pictures on one of the most important days of our lives. Thanks for not caring about the student body again. Thanks for nothing.

Kevin Rycyna
senior
off-campus
March 15

Consider it Christian

I enjoyed reading the piece entitled "Can you afford to be a Liberal?" by Sarah MacMillen. Having lived in South Bend, I can attest to the cost of trying to live in consideration of others. It puzzles me that many food chains drastically raise the prices on organic and traditionally farmed foods to fool the consumer into believing that sustenance farming is more expensive, when in many cases, it is just the opposite.

How is it that in Los Angeles, arguably one of the most expensive places to live in the United States, I can find organic or traditionally farmed foods for cheap? Indiana is practically America's breadbasket, and yet I cannot ever remember seeing a farmer's market advertised in South Bend, or seeing anything organic or traditionally farmed under the price of five dollars. I go to the Brentwood Farmer's Market and buy an entire sack of fresh vegetables and eggs that are organic or traditionally farmed for those same five dollars. I can also go to the Santa Monica or Beverly Hills Farmer's Market and do just as well there.

The mere fact that this article was equated to living as a "liberal" (I see the categorization of people still persists under the Dome) tells me something. Are the people of the Midwest so conservative that they no longer support the old adages of farming? When was it "un-cool" to mill about the fresh wares of the farming community on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon? I buy my chicken and eggs from a family at the Brentwood

Farmer's Market every Sunday afternoon. Even though it takes an extra two or three minutes of my time, I like hearing their son tell me how he is now old enough to harvest the eggs without his mother's supervision.

The fact that I buy organic or traditionally farmed foods, in my eyes, makes me very conservative. I support those who farm in ways that enrich God's earth, rather than hurt it. I support the littlest guy out there — the single family farmer. I support those who know no other way of life but farming. I like seeing the boy at the market smiling at me, as opposed to seeing the smiley face of Walmart infiltrating my living room every evening. And I have to say that buying my food while basking in the sunlight sure beats shopping under the cold hum of fluorescent lighting.

The Notre Dame and Saint Mary's community prides itself on being socially aware. However, the mere fact that Domers and Belles equate being environmentally, dare I say economically, aware with being "liberal" sends shivers down my spine. It shouldn't be liberal or conservative. It should be considered Christian. The Bible instructs us to "do unto others as you would have them do unto you." That is exactly what I intend to do. God bless.

Holly M. James
Saint Mary's alumna
Class of 2002
March 15

Famous tenor brings true Irish feeling to St. Patrick's Day

Self-taught singer Ronan Tynan has risen above challenges to become an inspirational and world-famous performer

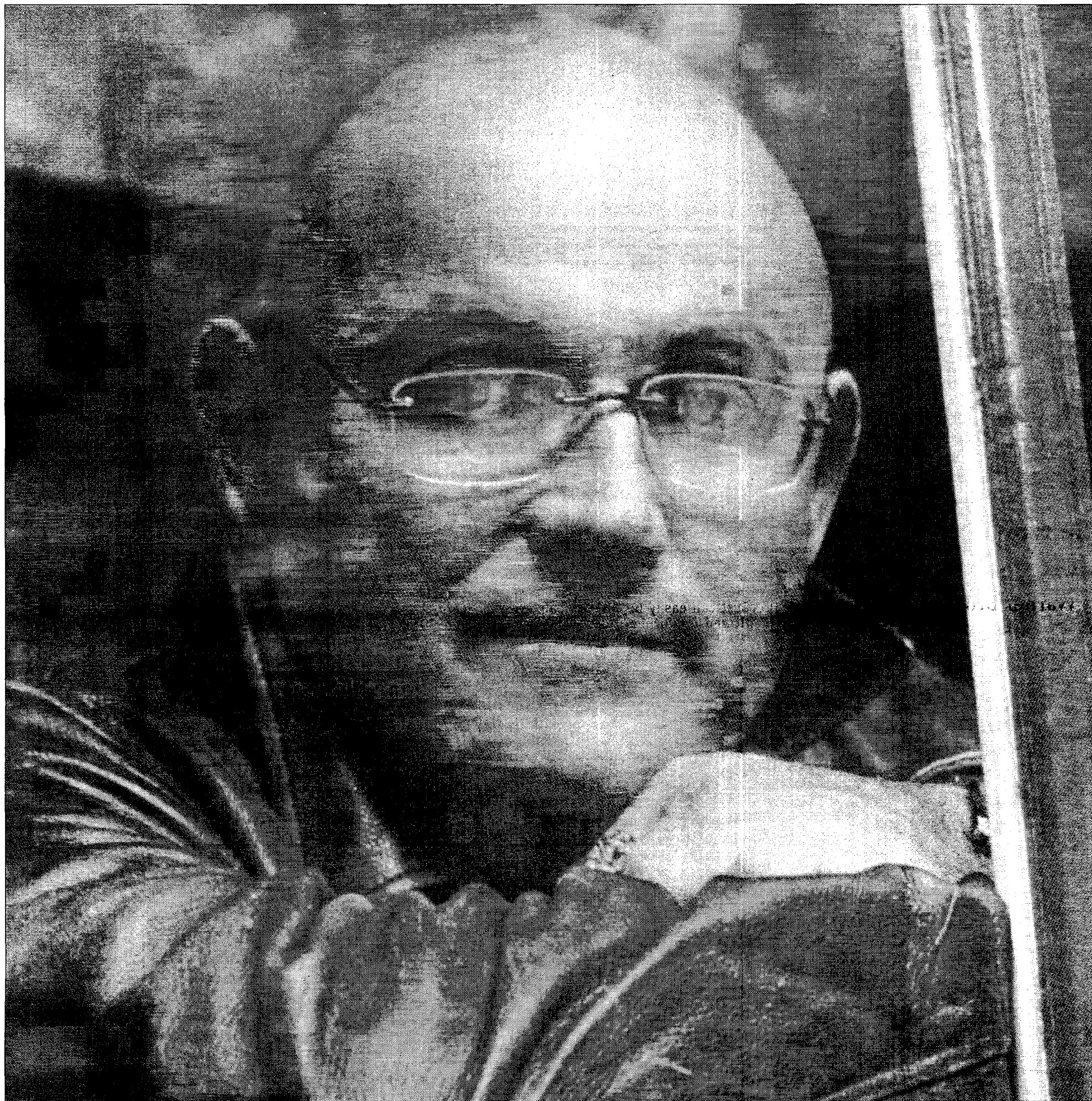


Photo courtesy of Patrick Ryan

STORY BY BRANDON HOLLIHAN

Just in time for St. Patrick's Day, the world-renowned Irish tenor Ronan Tynan will perform in the Leighton Concert Hall at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center Thursday, March 17. The concert also features performances from guests Vince Gill and the Notre Dame Glee Club.

The majority of today's classically trained musicians hone their crafts through their collegiate experience, but the County Kilkenny native's voice has gained reputation as a natural talent. He broke into singing at the age of thirty-three and after less than a year of training, won the top prize in the BBC talent show "Go For It" (a predecessor to "Pop Idol" and "American Idol" in the UK and the United States, respectively). The

instant success led to his association with the "Irish Tenors" trio, along with John McDermott and Anthony Kearns.

Tynan left the group last year to pursue soloist opportunities and has since essentially made himself a household name in the United States — as well as endeared himself greatly to New York City. Sports fans undoubtedly recall his 7th inning renditions of "God Bless America" at Yankee Stadium and perhaps also his singing "New York, New York" at the 2004 Belmont Stakes. Tynan also devoted much time to funerals and memorials centering around Sept. 11, 2001, alongside such people as Bono, former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani, Billy Crystal, Barbara Bush and Regis Philbin.

The tenor was also the only soloist for the funeral of former President Ronald

Reagan, a request personally made by Nancy Reagan.

Tynan was born with a lower limb disability and ended up a double amputee at age 20. Even so, he had a steadfast and strong personality, and he committed himself to becoming an athlete, eventually winning a total of 18 gold medals in the Paralympics and setting world records in the long jump, shot put and discus. He also earned a degree as a medical doctor from Ireland's Trinity College.

The performance at Notre Dame kicks off a U.S. tour for Tynan. The tour is in conjunction with the recent release of his self-titled CD, featuring classic inspirations such as "How Great Thou Art" and "Amazing Grace," as well as popular tunes such as "Man of La Mancha" and

"From a Distance." Tynan also wrote one of the songs — "Passing Through," a tribute to his mother who suffers from Alzheimer's disease. While doing much work in popular and Irish folk music, Tynan has also made his operatic debut as Pinkerton in Puccini's "Madama Butterfly" and has performed soloist roles in Verdi's "Requiem," Rossini's "Stabat Mater" and Puccini's "Messa di Gloria."

The concert begins at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$75 preferred seating, \$50 for the general public, \$40 for Notre Dame, Saint Mary's and Holy Cross faculty and staff, \$37.50 for senior citizens and \$20 for all students.

Contact Brandon Hollihan at bholliha@nd.edu

DVD REVIEW

Human characters populate classic children's film

By RAMA GOTTUMUKKALA
Scene Editor

Before a family of "incredibles" was even a glimmer in his imagination, there was an eleven-year-old and his unlikely friendship with a benevolent iron giant.

Director Brad Bird, recently anointed with an Academy Award for his work on Pixar's "The Incredibles," has excelled in the animation business for quite a while. He has contributed to such classic animated fare as "The Simpsons" and the Disney film "The Fox and the Hound."

Despite all his other accomplishments, Bird's most poignant and wholly human film may still be his first feature film — "The Iron Giant." Based on a children's novel entitled "The Iron Man" by Ted Hughes, the film excels on many levels, exuding a childish sense of joy that is infectious and heartwarming.

Produced at the Warner Bros. feature animation studio, "The Iron Giant" was a tremendous critical success despite flying beneath the radar of the general public. It quietly crashed and burned at the box office. An uninspired marketing push never sold the film to potential viewers and doomed the film on a quick

path to home video.

Timed to coincide with the smash success of "The Incredibles," Warner Bros. has reissued a new special edition of "The Iron Giant," complete with a host of new special features and a new digital video transfer. The new DVD finally delivers justice to the film and pays homage to Bird's creative brilliance.

Set in the 1950s following the launch of the Russian Sputnik satellite, the film follows the exploits of Hogarth Hughes (voiced by Eli Marienthal), an eleven-year-old with an active imagination and a pension for horror films and adventures.

While alone in the house at night, Hogarth discovers the Iron Giant (voiced by Vin Diesel) in his own backyard — the thick woods of Maine. Befriending the innocent alien robot, he elicits the help of a friendly junkyard operator, Dean (voiced by Harry Connick Jr.) in hiding the 50-foot-tall giant from Kent Mansley (voiced by Christopher McDonald), a paranoid government agent.

Hiding behind the veneer of an innocent children's tale, "The Iron Giant" is populated by very real characters, as human as any seen in live-action feature films. Although it cleverly uses the 1950s Cold War setting as a backdrop to showcase that period's mass paranoia, its message can easily be applied to the 21st century. Russian spies and atomic holocaust can easily be substituted for foreign terrorist threats and nuclear warfare. The film's lessons are simple but at the same time

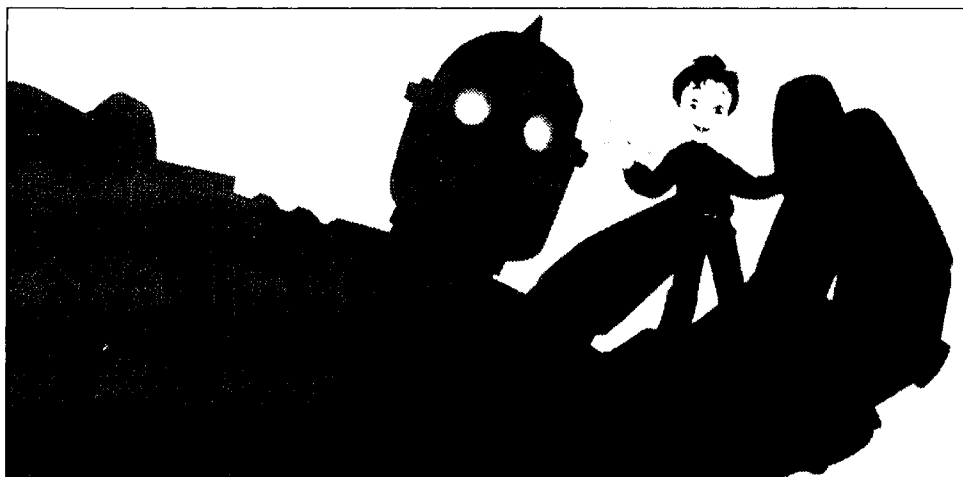


Photo courtesy of movieweb.com

The Iron Giant (voiced by Vin Diesel), a benevolent alien, learns some valuable life lessons from his new friend, Hogarth Hughes (voiced by Eli Marienthal).

firmly based in reality, rising above the conventions of the average Disney animated fare.

But the film's foundation is still set firmly upon the touching friendship between Hogarth and the Iron Giant and. Although the Giant appears to be quite benevolent and altogether harmless, there are still hints at its more sinister origins. Hogarth refuses to question the Giant's past, preferring instead to teach his new 50-foot pal the joys of comic books, television and cannonballing into a local lake. Through it all, Hogarth reminds the Giant that he always has a choice — to be the heroic Superman everyone adores or the arch-villain everyone fears.

The special edition DVD features an excellent new digital video transfer as well as a solid surround-sound audio track. The video transfer highlights the film's vivid color palette and is quite

striking.

The real heart of the special edition lies in the wealth of special features. These features include an audio commentary with key members of the creative team (including Bird himself), 18 minutes of deleted scenes and several short featurettes on the production, design and voice talent in the film. These features provide a peek at the amount of love that went into making this project, and there is nary a regret to be found for the film's dismal box office returns.

Bird infuses the project with the same sense of life and character that pervades "The Incredibles." Beneath the simple story of boy's friendship with an all-too-human robot lies the beating heart of an animation classic.

Contact Rama Gottumukkala at
rgottumu@nd.edu

The Iron Giant

Special Edition

Warner Bros.



Machines triumph in \$36.5 million 'Robots' debut

Associated Press

"Robots" ruled the box office as the animated family flick debuted with \$36.5 million — a solid opening, but well below the \$46.3 million premiere of the filmmakers' previous hit, "Ice Age."

While "Ice Age" opened with little competition for the family crowd, "Robots" faced Vin Diesel's hit "The Pacifier," the previous weekend's No. 1 movie. "The Pacifier" finished a strong second with \$18.1 million, lifting its 10-day total to \$54.4 million, according to studio estimates Sunday.

The weekend's other new wide release, the Bruce Willis police thriller "Hostage," debuted at No. 4 with \$9.8 million.

Mel Gibson's religious blockbuster "The Passion of the Christ," which grossed \$370 million last year, made barely a ripple at theaters in a recut version that toned down the blood and violence. "The Passion Recut" played in 957 theaters but took in just \$239,850.

In sharp contrast to the firestorm over the original film, the new version of "The Passion" arrived quietly, with little fanfare. The fact that the original is available on DVD limited theatrical prospects for the recut edition.

Gibson said he recut the movie for people who were put off by the brutality of the original, which explicitly depicted Christ's scourging and crucifixion.

"We certainly had higher expectations than what we got," said Rob Schwartz, head of distribution for Newmarket Films, which released "The Passion of the Christ" and the new cut. "We were trying to get the film out there hoping it would reach an audience that it didn't reach the first time around. It doesn't seem to have worked out quite as well as we had hoped."

Newmarket executives hope more movie-goers will turn out as Easter approaches, Schwartz said.

"Robots," featuring the voices of Ewan McGregor, Halle Berry, Robin Williams and Mel Brooks, is the second feature-length cartoon tale from "Ice Age" directors Chris Wedge and Carlos Saldanha. The movie tracks the adventures of an idealistic robot inventor who moves to the big city.

While "Robots" did not enter theaters with the profile of "Shrek 2" and "The Incredibles," which opened to sky-high numbers, it had been expected to rival the opening weekends for 2002's "Ice Age" and last year's "Shark Tale."

But competing with "The Pacifier," "Robots" fell about \$10 million short of both those debuts.

"Those other movies didn't have anything that was working the families with this strength, so I am very, very pleased," said Bruce Snyder, head of

"The holidays are coming up, kids are getting out of school, so it's positioned wonderfully."

Bruce Snyder
Fox studio executive

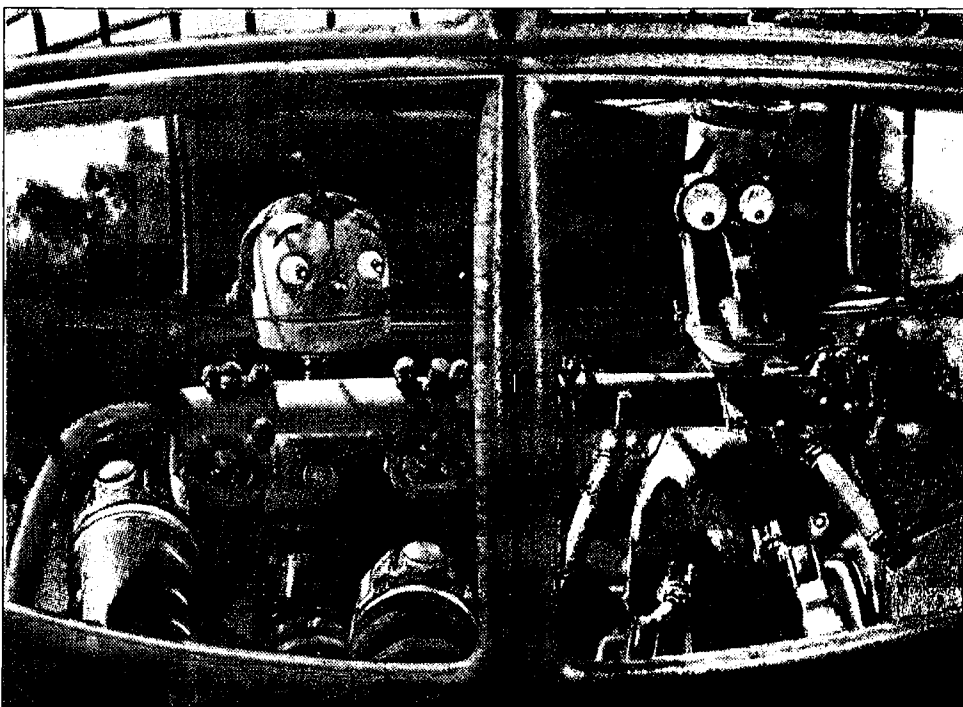


Photo courtesy of movieweb.com

Rodney Copperbottom (voiced by Ewan McGregor), left, and Fender (voiced by Robin Williams) take a harrowing ride on Robot City's Crosstown Express.

distribution for Fox, the studio behind "Robots." "The holidays are coming up, kids are getting out of school, so it's positioned wonderfully."

In limited release, the Joan Allen-Kevin Costner comic drama "The Upside of Anger" opening strongly with \$225,783 in nine theaters.

The film, centering on a boozy mother embittered over the abrupt departure of her husband, expands to about 150

theaters this weekend.

"Millions," a British family film from director Danny Boyle ("Trainspotting," "28 Days Later") grossed \$72,987 in five theaters.

The movie follows two young brothers momentarily distracted from grief over their dead mother after a suitcase of cash lands in their laps.

It expands gradually over the next six weeks.

NCAA TOURNAMENT

Oakland gets 64th berth in first tourney win

Associated Press

DAYTON, Ohio — It took eight years in Division I for Oakland to get its first win in the NCAA tournament.

As a reward, the Golden Grizzlies get to play top-seeded North Carolina — in Charlotte, no less.

Oakland broke open a tight game behind Rawle Marshall's 29 points and Courtney Scott's 21 to beat Alabama A&M 79-69 Tuesday night in the opening round of the NCAA tournament at the University of Dayton.

"There can't be too many colleges who can say they won a game in the NCAA tournament," a grinning Marshall said. "We'll ride this momentum and see how far it takes us."

The Golden Grizzlies (13-18) won their sixth game in a row, including three upsets in as many days last week by a combined seven points to take the Mid-Continent Conference title, giving them a berth in the field

of 65.

"If we win the national championship, we'll finally get to 19-18," coach Greg Kampe said with a laugh.

Now they get to play the mighty Tar Heels on their home turf.

"To play against some of the No. 1 players in the nation — it'll be great to put your talent up against them and see where you stand," Scott said.

Oakland became only the fifth team with a losing record to win an NCAA tournament game, following Bradley in 1955 and the last three years at the Dayton opening round: Siena in 2002, UNC-Asheville in 2003 and Florida A&M a year ago.

"There was a whole lot of adversity during the season," said Brandon Cassise, who chipped in with 13 points. "It brought us together. That's why we've played so well in these do-or-die games."

Obie Trotter scored 24 points

and Joseph Martin added 22 for Alabama A&M (18-14), regular-season and tournament champs of the Southwestern Athletic Conference.

Both teams were making their first appearance in the NCAA tournament. Oakland made the jump from Division II to Division I in the 1997-98 season.

As the Golden Grizzlies stretched the lead to 21 points with 5 minutes left, the emboldened Oakland student section began chanting, "We want Tar Heels! We want Tar Heels!"

The turnaround is almost incomprehensible for a team that was 7-18 and riding a three-game skid just 18 days earlier. Almost as incredible, Oakland opened the season 0-7, losing by an average of 13 points a game against a who's who of powerhouses: Illinois, Marquette, Xavier, Missouri, Texas A&M, Kansas State and Saint Louis.

Marshall, a wiry, 6-foot-7 sen-

ior swingman expected to be taken in the NBA draft this spring, was the focal point for the Golden Grizzlies most of the night.

He was 9-of-16 from the field, including 3-for-4 on 3-pointers and 8-of-11 in free throws, to go with nine rebounds and three assists.

Marshall's most dramatic play came in the opening half. He took a pass on the right elbow, pump-faked a defender off his feet and then sliced through the lane for a soaring dunk and a foul. A crowd of 8,254 roared its approval.

Ahead 38-35 at the break, Oakland scored 16 of the first 18 points in the second half.

Patrick McCloskey, who had sleepwalked through the first half with no points and two rebounds in 12 minutes, led the surge with five points, five rebounds and a blocked shot. The 260-pound Scott, a transfer from Iowa, added four points on two twisting inside moves,

Cassise came off the bench for two baskets and Marshall hit a 3-pointer.

"It took us a while to learn how to play against their speed," Kampe said. "We completely controlled the tempo the rest of the game."

The Rochester, Mich., school with an enrollment of 16,500 pushed the lead to 54-37 and the lead never dropped below double digits.

"This is surreal," Cassise said. "I can't believe it's all happening."

Scott built his 21 points on 9-of-14 shooting and added eight rebounds and McCloskey had 11 rebounds as the Golden Grizzlies took a 43-29 edge on the boards.

A&M coach L. Vann Pettaway said his team was worn out from playing four games in six days, winning the conference tournament on Sunday before hitting the road less than 24 hours later to make it to Dayton.

NATIONAL INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT

Diener's 30 lift DePaul over Missouri in 75-70 victory

Associated Press

COLUMBIA, Mo. — After burning Missouri from 3-point range all night, Drake Diener's biggest shot of the game ended up being a tip-in.

Diener scored a career-high 30 points and tied his career best with seven 3-pointers, leading DePaul to a victory over the Tigers in the first round of the NIT. The tip-in by the 6-foot-5 guard was made with 20 seconds left for a three-point lead.

"I usually spend my life about 14-15 feet out," Diener said. "But I think to say that a big guy likes doing things from the outside, and for guards it's fun to get in the paint and in the mix."

Coach Dave Leitao said he kidded Diener after the game that it was probably his first tip-in in three seasons they've been together.

"I don't know if I'll have a more special person who happens to be a special player," Leitao said. "That's why you get up and go to the office every day. You know you owe Drake

Diener your best effort."

Quemont Greer added 17 points and Draelon Burns had six assists for the Blue Demons (20-10), who dropped to the NIT after losing three of the last four regular-season games. DePaul will play the winner of Clemson vs. Texas A&M in the second round.

Linus Kleiza had 23 points and Thomas Gardner 17 for Missouri (16-17), which had a losing season for the first time since it also was 16-17 in 1996-97. The Tigers have been in the postseason eight straight seasons, but the last two they've lost in the first round of the NIT.

"I thought our team really regressed a little bit," coach Quin Snyder said. "Tonight it was almost as if we kind of thought it was just going to happen for us."

"We didn't defend the way we've defended and we settled for jump shots."

Diener, a senior who averages 13.6 points and is a 45 percent shooter from 3-point range, was 7-for-11 from long range and

was the only DePaul player with a 3-pointer. He was at his best at the end, scoring DePaul's final seven points in the last 1:50.

Diener was 11-for-15 overall, topping his previous career best of 28 points against Dayton on March 18, 2004, and he hit seven 3-pointers for the second time in his career. He also had that many at Charlotte on Feb. 16.

Virginia Tech 60, Temple 50

John Chaney's return to the bench for Temple came without any fanfare — and without any success for the Owls.

Zabian Dowdell scored 12 of his 16 points in the second half, six in a game-turning 8-0 run, and Virginia Tech beat the Owls in the first round of the NIT.

Chaney was coaching his first game since serving a three-week suspension for sending Nehemiah Ingram in to commit hard fouls that left Saint Joseph's senior John Bryant with a broken arm on Feb. 22.

He had nothing to say about

his uncertain future.

"I think I hear my mother calling me," he said when asked. "I'll be leaving you now if you have no more questions [about] my kids. That's the only reason I'm here — to talk about the team and the game."

Temple athletic director Bill Bradshaw said Monday that he, Chaney and others will get together once the season is over to talk about the future.

The subject of the game was no bargain either for the Owls (16-14), who were trying to give their coach his 500th victory at Temple, but led only until Virginia Tech got a few 3-pointers to fall in the first half.

"Coming into the season, I thought this was perhaps one of my greatest teams," the 73-year-old Chaney said. "It's a bunch of players that did not mix well and we miscalculated how they could be effective."

Chaney was booed when he entered the court, and Ingram drew jeers when he made two free throws. There was security behind the Owls' bench, but

Chaney remained calm throughout, mostly just sitting on the bench.

The Hokies, meantime, gave the crowd of 7,416 plenty to cheer about.

Making their first postseason appearance in nine years and their first in the NIT in a decade, Virginia Tech (16-13) shook off some early shooting woes and grabbed control once it solved the matchup zone.

"We just had to feel our way through the zone and a couple of guys stepped up," said Dowdell, who finished 3-for-9 on 3-pointers. "We made a couple of shots. After that, it was just taking care of the ball."

The Hokies, who won the NIT in 1973 and 1995, finished with five turnovers, one in the second half. After a quick look at the Hokies' basketball history this week, they became intent on adding to it.

"I lined the guys up yesterday and had them look up and read the banners and the years," second-year coach Seth Greenberg said.

CLASSIFIEDS

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

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LAW

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A panel of alumni and alumnae reflect on the integration of faith and social concerns into life beyond Notre Dame.

Sunday, March 20

4:00 - 5:30 pm

Center for Social Concerns

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Speakers

Peter Tomas Morgan '90, '98 JD, '99 LL.M.
Coordinator, Youth Justice Project
Robinson Community Learning Center

McRae Miller
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Notre Dame Law School



The Hispanic Law Students' Association cordially invites the
Notre Dame community to attend this year's
Graciela Olivarez Award Ceremony
Saturday, March 19, 2005

This prestigious award is given in honor of Graciela Olivarez, the first Hispanic and first female to graduate from NDLS. The Award is bestowed each year upon a Hispanic lawyer or judge who best exemplifies Graciela Olivarez's commitment to community service, demonstration of the highest ethical and moral standards, and dedication to justice. This year's recipient is **Mercedes Colwin, Partner, Correspondent, & Community Activist.**

Award Ceremony begins at 11:00 am in the Law School Courtroom

Write for sports.

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NFL

Redskins attempt to sign DE Brown

Associated Press

The Washington Redskins made the first overtures to Courtney Brown, with coach Joe Gibbs flying to Cleveland on Tuesday to try to woo the one-time top draft pick who was cut by the Browns the previous day.

Within hours after Brown's release, Gibbs and defensive line coach Greg Blache had dinner with the oft-injured defensive end and his wife.

Cleveland has said it would like to re-sign the No. 1 pick in the 2000 draft, who was released a day before he was due a \$2.5 million roster bonus. If Brown were to join the Redskins, he would be reunited with his Penn State teammate, linebacker LaVar Arrington, who was taken with the second overall pick that year and also has been plagued by injuries.

If Washington acquires Brown, the team will have the top three picks from that draft: Brown, Arrington and tackle Chris Samuels.

In another development Tuesday, Minnesota signed wide receiver Travis Taylor, a disappointment with Baltimore after being taken 10th overall in 2000. It probably put an end to any chance Plaxico Burress will end up with the Vikings, one of the few teams that had some interest in the player thought to

be the most sought receiver in free agency.

Pro Bowl left tackle Orlando Pace wrapped up a two-day visit with the Houston Texans, the first step of a process that could eventually lead to a trade with St. Louis.

"We've had contact with the Rams and we brought the player in for a visit," Texans general manager Charley Casserly said. "That's all I'm going to say for now."

St. Louis faces a 4 p.m. EST Wednesday deadline to re-sign Pace. After that, under NFL rules the Rams wouldn't be allowed to strike a deal with him until July 15.

With most of the top players in free agency already signed, there were some lesser contract agreements Tuesday.

Tight end Anthony Becht, a late first-round pick in 2000, signed with Tampa Bay, leaving the New York Jets. The Bucs are hoping his blocking helps their run game.

Offensive tackle Stockar McDougle signed with Miami. McDougle had been Detroit's starting right tackle.

Arizona signed former Seattle linebacker Orlando Huff.

Jacksonville re-signed wide receiver Troy Edwards and running back Chris Fuamatu-Maafala, both former Pittsburgh Steelers.

Indianapolis considers building new stadium

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Lawmakers started over Tuesday in their work to find the money for a new Indianapolis Colts stadium after several proposals failed during the first half of the legislative session.

A Senate committee listened to city officials and Colts coach Tony Dungy speak about the benefits of a new stadium and expanded convention center, but most senators already seemed supportive of the project — at least in theory.

Senate Tax Committee Chairman Luke Kenley, R-Noblesville, said while the idea of a new stadium had broad support, funding will be tricky in a tight budget year.

The proposed 63,000-seat retractable roof stadium to replace the RCA Dome is projected to cost between \$550 million and \$700 million.

"We all want to do it," Kenley said. "Now we need to see who will pay."

The lobbying effort for the new stadium included NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue, who met with Gov. Mitch Daniels in the afternoon and was to attend an evening reception for legislators.

"I think the need is clear," Tagliabue told reporters after meeting with the governor. "And I think the opportunity is a good one." Several NFL cities have formed public-private partnerships to build new stadiums, Tagliabue noted.

"It's a mixture of public and private funding — it's a public

and private asset," he said.

Kenley and other members of the Senate have their chance to make a funding plan on which the state, city and team can agree. Several House bills to finance the stadium died in the first half of the legislative session, although the legislation could be revived by adding them to other bills.

"We're kind of in the third quarter of this game and we're running out of timeouts," Kenley said.

House Speaker Brian Bosma, R-Indianapolis, said some lawmakers met Monday with Colts owner Jim Irsay to discuss the project. A group of city officials, Colts representatives and Senate and House members planned to start work on a new funding plan, starting with a meeting Wednesday. Bosma said House Republicans in the group want to make sure the stadium money comes from balanced sources, including the city and the team. He also said lawmakers wanted to look at the stadium agreement Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson reached with the Colts to see whether it is fair.

"There are still a lot of discussions that need to happen," Bosma said.

Fred Glass, president of the Indianapolis Capital Improvement Board, which oversees the RCA Dome and the adjoining convention center, said Tagliabue's visit could bring perspective about how other stadiums have been constructed using NFL loans.

NCAA FOOTBALL

Georgia Tech coach recovering from heart attack

Gailey suffers heart attack on racquetball court, has surgery

Associated Press

ATLANTA — It was a normal morning for Chan Gailey. The Georgia Tech football coach was running around the racquetball court, getting in a little exercise before getting down to work.

Suddenly, he felt a tightening in his chest.

Then, a pain surged through his left arm.

He was having a heart attack.

Gailey was rushed to the hospital Monday, where doctors performed a balloon angioplasty to clear an artery that was totally blocked. He was resting comfortably and expected to make a full recovery.

"It was touch and go for a lit-

tle while, it really was," athletic director Dave Braine said. "We were told it was serious, so everybody said a prayer and hoped he was going to be fine, and he is. His family — his wife and his two sons — there with him, and he's doing well."

Gailey, who turned 53 in January, began feeling pain during his usual early morning racquetball game at the campus recreation center.

"He does it religiously every morning, so it isn't like he's not trying to take care of himself," Braine said.

After calling the school's athletic trainer, the coach went next door to the student health

center. Two university doctors examined Gailey and called an ambulance to take him to Piedmont Hospital, just a couple of miles away from the downtown campus.

"It was touch and go for a little while. We were told it was serious, so everybody said a prayer and hoped he was going to be fine, and he is."

Dave Braine
Georgia Tech athletic director

He wasn't aware of the coach having any previous heart problems.

"He'll be in hospital probably three or four days, but they do expect a complete recovery," Braine said. "We expect him to be back here within a few weeks."

Most of the players learned of Gailey's condition shortly after he went into the hospital.

"I couldn't believe it," said safety Chris Reis, one of the team's top defensive players.

"He's like a father figure to all of us. He's like a mentor to all of us. It's just disbelief and a feeling of helplessness. You can't do anything except hope for the best."

Gailey, entering his fourth season as Georgia Tech's coach, has a 21-17 record and has guided the Yellow Jackets to three straight bowl appearances, extending the school-record streak to eight years.

This is considered a critical year for Gailey, who has been criticized for failing to match the success of his predecessor, George O'Leary. The Yellow

Jackets have yet to win more than seven games in a season after eclipsing that total each of the last four years under O'Leary.

Gailey plays racquetball every morning, but was told by doctors that he'll need to make a major change in his diet to reduce the chances of additional heart problems, according to Braine.

"I couldn't believe it. He's like a father figure to us."

Chris Reis
Yellow Jackets safety

"The worst thing is he's not going to be able to eat ice cream anymore," Braine said.

Georgia Tech began spring practice last Friday. Much of the attention is focused on the quarterback position, with junior-to-be Reggie Ball fighting to keep his job.

The Yellow Jackets were scheduled to practice Tuesday, Friday and Saturday, then take next week off for spring break. School officials were considering whether to cancel practice this week, with hopes that Gailey would be well enough to resume at least some of his duties after the break.

Spring practice is scheduled to end April 16. Georgia Tech would likely need a waiver from the NCAA to extend its spring schedule an extra week.

"I think he would want us to go ahead and go through practice," Reis said. "He's one of those coaches who's very humble. He doesn't want things to stop on account of him."

Gailey previously coached the Dallas Cowboys for two seasons, leading the team to an NFC East championship and consecutive playoff appearances. Despite that success, he was fired by owner Jerry Jones.

Gailey also worked as an assistant with the Denver Broncos, Pittsburgh Steelers and Miami Dolphins. He was a head coach at Samford and Troy State and served a one-year stint in the same position with the Birmingham Fire of the World League of American Football.

He is one of several football coaches who have experienced heart problems, a possible side effect of a job where the pressure to win each week is greater than any other sport.

Former Atlanta Falcons coach Dan Reeves, a close friend of Gailey's, needed an angioplasty while in his 40s and had quadruple-bypass surgery late in the 1998 season. He returned to coach in the playoffs, leading the Falcons to their first Super Bowl.

Former Georgia coach and athletic director Vince Dooley underwent an angioplasty five times between 1987 and 1996 to clear blocked arteries, but has had no further heart problems.

"It's definitely a stressful position," Reis said. "Coaches have it rough. With their traveling schedule and all their speaking engagements, they probably don't eat as well as they want to and don't get to work out as much as they want to. Then, when you add all the stress to that, it's definitely a recurring theme throughout coaching."

"I don't know how you cut it back. You just try to relax and do your best."

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Wednesday, March 16, 2005
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Asian Summer Language Grant Competition

Deadline: Friday March 18

The Center for Asian Studies is sponsoring a competition for undergraduates and graduate students who wish to study an Asian language NOT currently offered at Notre Dame. At present, this means that students may not apply to study Mandarin Chinese, Japanese, Arabic or Hebrew. It is expected that such study will contribute to the student's further education at Notre Dame. In most cases, language classes taken elsewhere will be counted for academic credit at Notre Dame.

The program selected can be either in the United States or in a foreign country. The competition is NOT open to seniors or graduate students completing their degrees.

Applications are available at <http://www.nd.edu/~cas> or from the Center for Asian Studies (327 O'Shaughnessy); you may request one by mail by calling 1-0487.

BENGAL BOUTS

Christoforetti reflects on four fighting years

Following brother's footsteps, the senior made his own niche

By MATT PUGLISI
Associate Sports Editor

Senior captain Jim Christoforetti had already made up his mind.

The younger brother of three-time 160-pound weight class winner John Christoforetti (1995-'97) and proud holder of four martial arts black belts and a Bengal Bouts title of his own, Christoforetti was more than familiar with the annual fundraising, face-smashing tournament known as Bengal Bouts when he stepped on campus four years ago.

"When I was in fifth grade, my brother came to school here, and he was a three-year champ and president of the club," Christoforetti said. "I came in as a freshman wanting to do it."

For the off-campus finance major, the motivation for participating in Bengal Bouts is multifold.

"Foremost, it's a lot of fun — I really enjoy it," Christoforetti said. "I can get in shape and do something I love, but it's also for a really great cause, so it's kind of a win-win. Plus, I love teaching people to fight, as well."

While the fighting background is undoubtedly valuable to the former Alumni resident, Christoforetti is quick to point out the difference between martial arts and boxing.

"[Martial arts are] not quite as intense as being out in the ring in Bengal Bouts," Christoforetti said. "It's a completely different atmosphere than any other kind of fighting I've done before."

Identifying himself as a counter-fighter, Christoforetti couples impressive natural ability with extensive preparation to leave opponents on the mat and his arm raised high come the end of the fight.

"I'm really patient — I like to feel out [my opponent] and then wait for them to make a

mistake or try to force them to make a mistake and then attack it," he said. "I like to watch the person I'm going to fight to see if there's a mistake or something I can capitalize on. I attack it from the same viewpoint every time, but I'll change my specific tactic."

Thus far, the synergistic strategy has proven quite successful.

After advancing to the second round in each of his first two years, Christoforetti won all four of his fights junior year en route to victory in the 180-pound weight class — the same class he has fought all four years.

After a questionable second-round decision ended his sophomore campaign, however, Christoforetti nearly didn't return to the Bouts as a junior.

In the end, swallowing the disappointing defeat has turned out to be the most important lesson Christoforetti has learned throughout his Bengal Bouts journey.

"Fighting is a very humbling experience," Christoforetti said. "It gives your perspective. The biggest thing I've learned is that you can be hit and get up and keep going — you can persevere."

The ascent to Bengal Bouts captain senior year has continued to pay dividends both inside and outside the ring.

"Everyday I talk in front of 125 guys, so it's helped me give speeches in class immeasurably," Christoforetti said. "As far as technique, it's helped my personal fighting immensely. We go around and teach people, so I have to know what I'm saying in order to teach it to someone else. I get to see so many people doing things wrong and right and what works and what doesn't work, and it helps me work out the kinks in my own fighting."

On March 3, Christoforetti moved a step closer to repeating as 180-pound champion, polishing off Dillon senior Michael Schmied in a unanimous decision.

"Being back in the ring was nothing short of incredible," Christoforetti said. "My game plan was to counter fight, and I was able to do so. Schmied is a tough fighter, and I had to stay



Jim Christoforetti, left, shown here in a preliminary round of this year's 75th annual Bengal Bouts, is finishing his last year in the ring at Notre Dame.

on my toes the whole time, even though I was in control."

Christoforetti is slated to meet Alumni junior Jeff Golen in the class semifinals Wednesday.

"Jeff is a good fighter," Christoforetti said. "I'd rather not say how I plan to fight him, but I expect him to be tough."

While the brutal Bengal Bouts training regimen is no secret — rumors of push-ups, sit-ups and jumping-jacks in the hundreds, lengthy runs and hours of fighting drills quickly make their way across the frozen South Bend landscape — the trim-down diet many of the fighters adopt can be just as staggering.

For Christoforetti, a little advice from Subway's infamous Jared goes a long way.

"A lot of guys do a lot of different things," Christoforetti said. "Some do the wrestler-style — it's really unhealthy and we discourage it. I actually go on the Jared Subway diet. I eat Subway twice a day — it's the quickest and easiest way to know exactly what I'm eating

and maintain that."

With much of America battling the bulge, Christoforetti doesn't seem to have much trouble dropping pounds to prepare himself to fight.

"The biggest thing is that if you cut back the amount that you eat and make really easy switches like McDonald's to Subway, it makes a huge difference because you're working out every day," Christoforetti said. "Over the last three years I've lost 30 pounds each year from the beginning of January until our weigh-in in February. I basically just concentrate on being in the best shape I can be so I can fight the best."

Ultimately, it hasn't been the knockout blows or glory of victory that have helped make Bengal Bouts such an unforgettable experience for Christoforetti, but instead, the lifelong friendships and spirit of companionship that accompanies strapping on the gloves and going to work day in and day out for over two months.

"The thing I like the most

about Bengals is definitely the people I've met and the people that have become my friends," Christoforetti said. "Without question, hands down, no doubt about it, it's been my best experience here at Notre Dame. I have the utmost respect for everybody that goes through the program — the camaraderie is definitely the best part."

So, looking back at the four years of grit and glory in the squared circle, is there anything Christoforetti would have done differently?

"I would have worked out more over the Christmas holiday," Christoforetti said with a smile. "It's always been something I've wanted to do and always said I'm going to do."

If last year's results are any indication, come the 2005 Bengal Bouts 180-pound weight class Finals, a little extra holiday rest for the 6-foot-3 right-hander won't hurt a bit.

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WOMEN'S ROWING

No. 16 crew team prepared to take on Spartans

By KYLE CASSILY
Sports Writer

The No. 16 Notre Dame women's rowing team looks to overcome the inclement weather that plagued its races last week against Michigan State and produce strong finishes across the board.

The team was originally slated to take on the No. 4 Michigan Wolverines Saturday, but it was cancelled because of a frozen Wolverine lake. Irish coach Martin Stone then scheduled a match-up between Michigan State and Notre Dame.

The Irish faced the Spartans March 12, but the regatta was cancelled shortly after the

start due to inclement weather conditions.

The Irish are not intimidated by the higher ranked Spartans.

"We only saw a little bit of them last weekend because there were only three races due to the weather," Stone said of the Michigan State team. "We are training very hard this week to prepare for them."

The races this weekend will be slightly different than usual.

"The normal race lengths of 2000 meters will be shortened, and it will be more of a scrimmage," says Stone.

"We approached and did things differently last fall, so the result was not good or bad. We have a young team, so everything is still coming together so far this spring."

Martin Stone
Irish coach

running and some yoga," Stone said of the off-season. "I think physically we're pretty strong

going into this spring, better than we were last year."

The first varsity eight is coming off a strong spring last year, finishing 11th in the NCAA Championships. The crew consists of coxswain Maureen Gibbons as well as rowers Allison Marsh, Melissa Felker, Amanda Polk, Mary Quinn, Sarah Palandech, Katie Chenaweth, Jessica Guzik and Rachel Polinski.

Things are still coming together for the first varsity eight, as the group has only rowed together competitively five times, but Coach Stone is confident in its performance.

The fall of 2004 marked the beginning of the Irish's quest to return to the elite NCAA Championships, as well as a

departure.

"We approached and did things differently last fall, so the result was not good or bad," Stone said. "We have a young team, so everything is still coming together so far this spring."

This young Irish squad is anchored by walk-ons who learned the ropes at Notre Dame to become varsity leaders. Last year's NCAA varsity eight consisted of seven walk-ons out of the nine women rowers. The novice crews, positions limited to freshmen only, are made up almost completely of these non-scholarship athletes.

Contact Kyle Cassily at kcassily@nd.edu

ND WOMEN'S SWIMMING & DIVING

Perry-Eaton registers NCAA-worthy score

Diver joins Carroll and Bouvron in top swimming meet

By MIKE TENNANT
Sports Writer

It really seemed more of a formality than anything as senior diver Meghan Perry-Eaton qualified for the NCAA Championships Saturday in West Lafayette, Ind.

The All-American finished third off the one-meter springboard in the Zone C Diving Championships, earning her a berth in the national meet for the third consecutive time in her career. She will join swimmers Christel Bouvron and Katie Carroll as the only Irish representatives in the NCAA Championships.

Perry-Eaton took third place last year in the NAAs off the one-meter board, finishing a mere 3.3 points behind the champion.

The five-time conference champion started off the Zone C Championships strongly, posting the second-highest preliminary score with a 286.15 in the round. Her fifth dive, a reverse 1.5 somersault with 1.5 twists, earned Perry-Eaton her highest score of the day with a 54.60. She then followed

that round with a mark of 302.50 in the finals for a 12-dive score of 588.65.

Her final mark put her behind only Indian's Christina Lakos and Purdue's Carrie McCambridge. This event marked only the second time Perry-Eaton has been beaten in 11 competitions in 2004-'05.

Lakos and McCambridge are the only two swimmers to best the Irish diver this season.

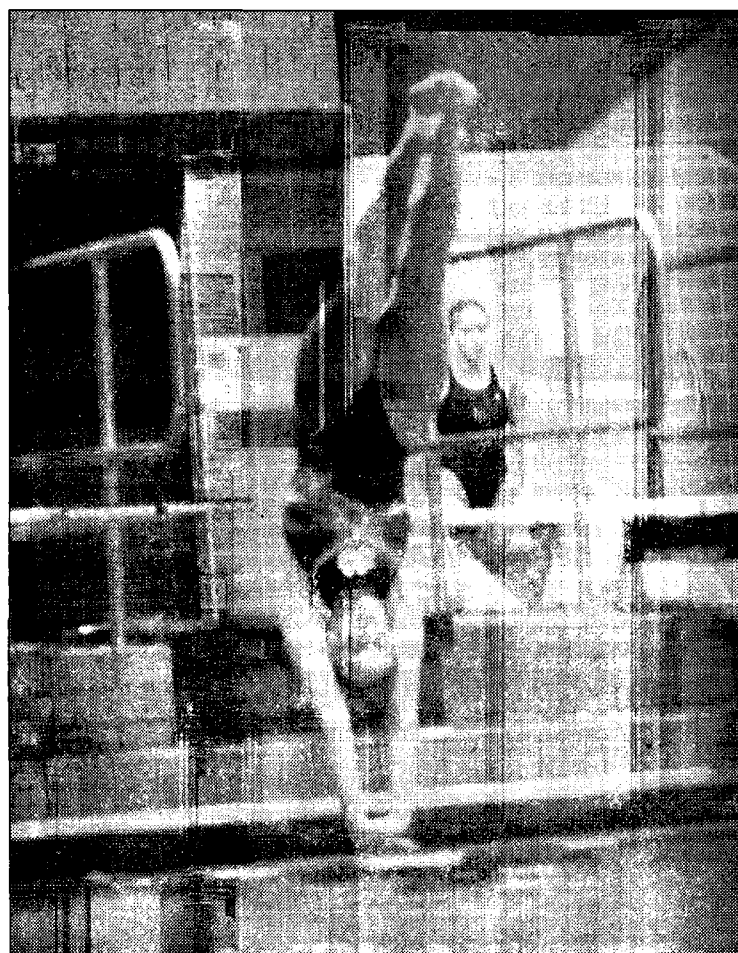
Saturday also was the third consecutive time that Perry-Eaton finished in the top three off the one-meter board at the Zone C meet, taking third in 2003 and winning the competition last year.

Named the Big East's Most Outstanding Diver each of the last three years, Perry-Eaton is only the second diver in Notre Dame history to qualify for the NCAA Championships, following in the footsteps of Heather Mattingly (2002).

This year will be the eighth time in nine years that the Irish have had three or more qualifiers to the championship meet.

The NCAA Championships are scheduled for March 17-19, and will be held at the Boiler Maker Aquatic Center in West Lafayette.

Contact Mike Tennant at
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Richard Friedman/The Observer
All-American Meghan Perry-Eaton, shown here in a Dec. 2 meet, is ready to dive into the NAAs.

SMC GOLF

Belles look to finish strong

Golfers return home after successful trip to Pinehurst course

By THOMAS BARR
Sports Writer

The Belles are back in town after their spring break trip to Pinehurst, N.C.

The trip allowed the team to get its first swings of the new season. It also allowed the players to walk the course of the NCAA national championship. The team is very optimistic as it goes into the new season with a firm idea of where it is coming from and where it wants to go.

Under the guidance of second-year coach Mark Hamilton and with returning roster of full of talent and experience, the Belles look to continue on the path they laid in the fall.

"We all worked hard and played well in the fall, and [we] see the spring as a continuation of that, as well as an opportunity to really push ourselves and prove we belong among the elite in women's Division III golf," captain Chrissy Dunham said.

Hamilton has helped SMC golf to rise from relative mediocrity to near the top of Division III women's golf. The team finished eighth in NCAA in the fall and fourth last spring. The team is grateful for the improvement and has not forgotten its hard

work.

"Through hard work, great coaching and dedication, you can achieve anything," Dunham said. "We took a program that had never won a conference tournament to the NCAA National Tournament in a year."

The team is returning to the course after a fall season

marked by both team and individual success.

The roster of the No. 3 Belles boasts three first-team all-MIAA golfers in Dunham, Julia Adams and Stefanie Simmerman, as well as two second-team all-MIAA golfers in Nicole Bellino and Megan Mattia.

"Our success in the past has given us confidence in our ability to be successful as a team, but we also realize that we need to keep working on our

games in order to keep reaching the goals that we have set for ourselves," said Julia Adams.

The team forged its character from both the climb in the national rankings and a solid core of return-

ing players from year to year.

"Besides being teammates, we're all very good friends and support each other on and off the course," Simmerman said.

The team is pleased with its growing recognition and its past

success, but it is not satisfied. For the seniors, this is one last opportunity to make a final run at the national championship. They remain focused both on that goal and on the present.

"We need to stay focused for the entire 18 or 36 holes," Simmerman said. "We have to remember that every shot

counts, and that if we do have a bad shot, on next hole to look past that and think of how to come back and finish strong."

The team benefits from a multitude of veterans, including sen-

iors Simmerman, Dunham, and Adams, who have been on the varsity squad all four years. The wealth of upperclassmen will benefit the team with not only experience but also perspective.

The Belles hope to leave their mark individually and collectively on the course, as well as to leave a legacy for their community.

"We've watched the team come from a mediocre squad to one that is ranked third in the nation," Simmerman said. "We've helped build up a great reputation for SMC Golf, and I hope that we're passing that dedication on to our underclasswomen."

The path to Pinehurst starts with a tournament April 1 and 2 in Columbus, Ohio.

Contact Thomas Barr at
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SMC SOFTBALL

Belles prepare for two games against Goshen

Double-header offers chance for team to regroup, improve

By TOM STILES
Sports Writer

The Belles will look to get back to their winning ways with a double-header this afternoon against Goshen College. The Belles return from their spring training trip in Ft. Myers, Fla., with a 5-4 record, but they finished strong by winning four of their last five games.

After dropping three of four to begin the trip, the bats came alive as the Belles outscored their opponents 25-7 during their four-game winning streak. Unfortunately, the streak was broken in the final game of the trip as the Belles suffered a defeat at the hands of Medaille College.

Freshman pitcher McKenna Corrigan was touched up for five runs in four innings of work, but Bridget Grall held Medaille scoreless in the last two innings. Grall and Laura Heline had two hits each for an offense that was held scoreless on five hits.

The Belles are looking to

repeat as MIAA champions, but the road ahead appears quite challenging. The Belles are returning only five players from last year's championship team, and the entire squad will have to make the transition under first-year coach Kristi Beechy.

The Belles lack a single senior on the roster, which means the five returning players will be expected to step up as leaders, especially when it comes to setting an example for the five freshmen. The schedule proves to be challenging as Tri-State University officially joined the MIAA this year. Even so, the Belles will certainly be up to the task of defending their Tournament title.

After taking on Goshen College tomorrow, the Belles will play two games before competing in the Trinity Invitational Tournament on April 2. The Belles will then go on to play fellow MIAA opponents in eight of their next ten games. If the Belles worked out all of the kinks on the spring trip, a quick start out of the gate will undoubtedly send the message to the rest of the conference that this year's team presents just as much of a challenge as last year's group.

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ND SOFTBALL

Team turns around over break

Irish win four to take Hawaii Invitational with power hitting

By THOMAS BARR
Sports Writer

Maybe it wasn't exactly a cruise or a week in a sunny tropical paradise, but far from the frozen tundra of South Bend, spring has sprung, and the Irish bats have thawed.

The team heated up while in the tropics for the Hawaii Invitational Wednesday through Friday last week. The team went 4-0 before the tournament was called Saturday due to inclement weather. The Irish were declared tournament champions, netting them their second tournament championship this season.

"We knew what we had to do to win," pitcher Steffany Steinglem said. "We knew if we played our game, we could beat any team."

While in Hawaii, Notre Dame beat Campbell 6-1, Hawaii 9-1, Virginia 3-1 and Nevada 7-1. In the first two games, the Irish out-hit their opponents a combined 25 hits to five.

Notre Dame would end up with 45 total hits in its four

victories, boosting its season average 36 points to a respectable .268. The team put up 25 runs in four games at the tournament, nearly doubling their season output of 27 in the previous 14 games.

Going into spring break, the Irish seemed uncertain where their season was headed. The team had been inconsistent, losing to low-ranked opponents while defeating more highly-touted foes such as No. 5 Tennessee.

The team's batting average was an unimpressive .232 — nearly 40 points off last year's mark, and the team's winning percentage was hovering just below .500.

Going into a three-game west coast road trip followed immediately by the Hawaii Invitational, the Irish realized

they had an important opportunity to get their season back on the right track.

Sophomore catcher Jessica Hufnagle credits captain Megan Ciolli, who implored the team to "come ready to play and play no matter what," with motivating the team.

When asked about the cause of the turnaround, the answers among players were very positive. Steinglem credited the recent success to a combination of positive

attitude, good all around fielding — especially in the infield — and an explosion of hitting.

The Irish are back in South Bend for the week preparing for a four-team tournament this weekend at Ohio State. There is a clear change in attitude amongst the players, and they feel the momentum has shifted.

"We are feeling great and hoping to continue this roll we are on", said catcher Mallorie Lenn. "We played together as a team and fed off one another. That is what will keep us going."

**Notre Dame 1,
UC Santa Barbara 0**

The Irish left California on a positive note before they headed to Hawaii. Heather Booth shut out California-Santa Barbara 1-0 March 7 and chalked her fifth win of the season with a little help from the base-running heroics of Kellie Middleton, who recorded two stolen bases and the game winning run.

**Notre Dame 1-1 against
Loyola Marymount**

The defeat of UCSB came on the heels of a double header the Irish played against Loyola Marymount March 6. The Irish were able to eke out a 2-1 victory on the arm of Booth in the first game — avenging a 7-0 defeat from earlier in the season. In the second game, the Lions offense roared back to life, shutting out the Irish 5-0.

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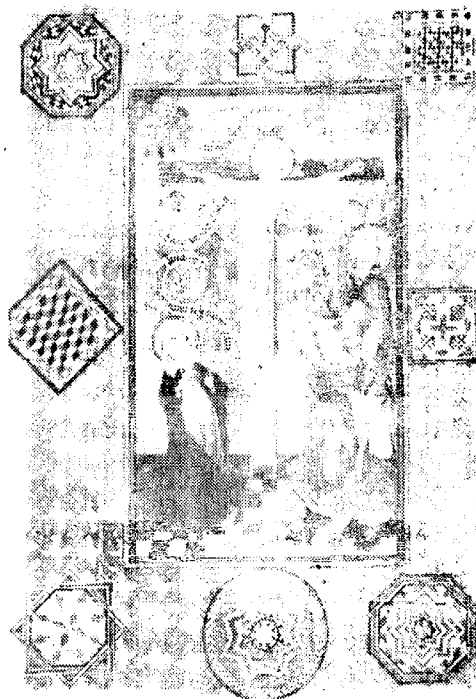
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MEN'S TENNIS

Irish stay busy, notch victories over break

By RAMA GOTTUMUKKALA
Sports Writer

Spring break is usually a time to catch some sunshine and much-needed rest and relaxation. The Irish men's tennis team found both of the latter rare during the past ten days. But they did catch plenty of sun in several contested outdoor matches.

Transitioning to outdoor play for the first time this spring, No. 18 Notre Dame (13-4) competed in four dual-matches and sent

four doubles teams to compete in the prestigious Pacific Coast Doubles Championships. The Irish won three matches against St. Joseph's (3-5), No. 68 William and Mary (4-10) and No. 27 Rice (9-4). Their only loss came to No. 55 Boise State (15-5) in the Blue-Gray National Tennis Classic.

In their first outdoor match of the season, Notre Dame easily rolled past St. Joseph's in a 7-0 decision. The two doubles points were closely contested, but the Irish had no problems in singles play. In a match that

heavily favored the Irish, the team collectively dropped just 20 total games in the victory.

The rest of the team's matches during break were not quite as easy. Competing in the Blue-Gray National Tennis Classic, Notre Dame won their first round match against William and Mary in a close 4-3 decision.

Placed as the second overall seed for the event, the Irish came out strong against William and Mary on March 10. Winning both doubles matches and getting victories in the first two singles contests, the Irish jumped out to an early 3-0 lead. But William and Mary won three straight three-set victories to close the gap. Sophomore Barry King beat Colin O'Brien 3-6, 6-1, 6-1 in the final match on court to seal the victory for Notre Dame.

Unfortunately, the Irish came up just short the following day against Boise State, dropping a 4-3 decision. The match lasted more than four hours and featured five three-set singles matches. Winds of greater than 20 miles per hour added problems for both teams in the marathon match.

Although the Irish fell behind 3-1 early, King keyed a comeback by posting a 7-6, 2-6, 6-1 victory over Matias Silva at the No. 3 slot. Victories from Stephen Bass and junior Eric Langenkamp helped notch the

score at 3-3 before the decisive last singles match.

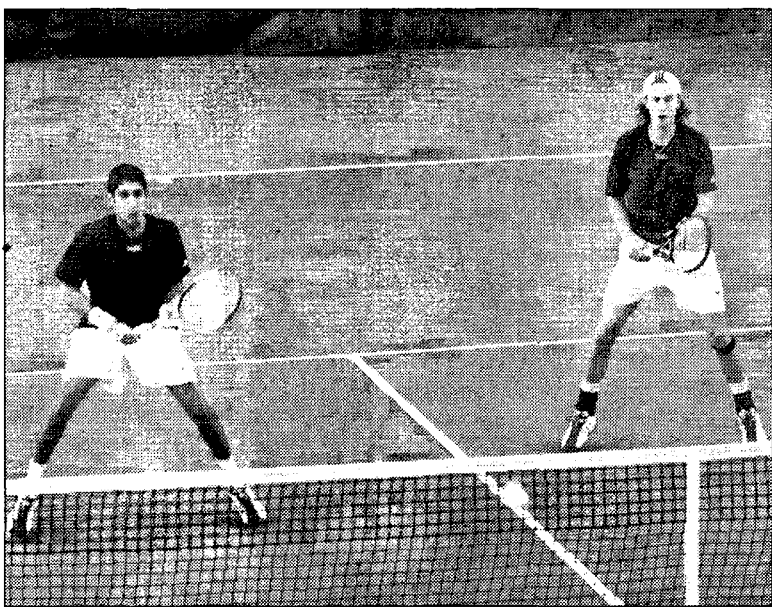
Boise State Senior Ikaika Jobe topped Irish freshman Sheeva Parbhu with a 3-6, 7-6, 6-3 victory that gave the Broncos the win.

The down-to-the-wire drama didn't stop there for the Irish. Saturday, Notre Dame's match against Rice again came down to a hotly contested 4-3 victory. This time, the Irish clinched the all-important fourth point.

Again playing the final match on court, King clinched the match for the Irish with a 6-3, 6-7, 6-1 victory over Rice's Ben Harknett. The Irish fell behind 2-0 to the Owls early, but a 6-1, 6-3 victory by Parbhu keyed the Irish comeback.

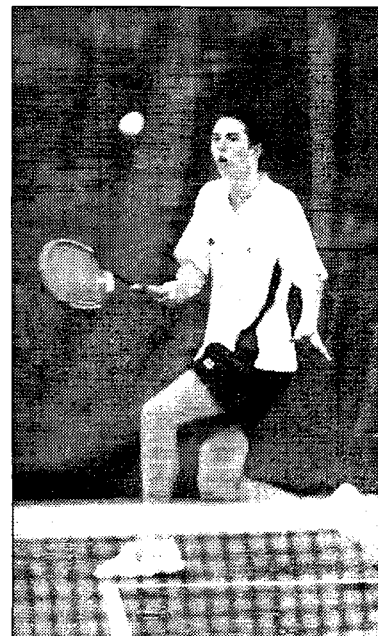
Among a talented pool of competitors, Notre Dame also played well at the Pacific Coast Doubles Championships, advancing three of their four duos to the round of 32 in the 128-team draw.

The doubles team of Langenkamp and Parbhu advanced to the final 16 before losing to Pepperdine's No. 1 team. Bass and King beat the Texas A&M team of Matt Bain and Yevgeny Supeko 4-6, 6-4, 7-5 in their opening round match and then upset UCLA's No. 3 team of Chris Lam and Philipp Gruendler 6-3, 4-6, 1-0 (10-6). The duo's run was ended in the round of 32 by Rice's No. 2 team, Konstantin Haerle and



Sheeva Parbhu, left, and Eric Langenkamp take the courts against Northwestern on Feb. 18.

PAMELA LOCK/The Observer



BETH WERNET/The Observer

Barry King returns a serve in a match against Marquette on Feb. 13.

Filip Zivojinovic, in an 8-4 decision.

Senior captain Brent D'Amico and sophomore Ryan Keckley beat Marco Amorico and Jared Kobren 6-1, 6-2 before losing 8-6 to Fresno State's No. 1 team, Jakub Cech and Sergui Modoc in the round of 32.

The Irish next take to the courts against No. 3 Illinois Thursday.

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MEN'S SWIMMING

Kegelman becomes first ND swimmer to make NCAA's

By RAMA GOTTUMUKKALA
Sports Writer

The rise of a program to elite company occurs in small steps. It has been a continual effort for the Notre Dame men's swimming and diving team, but after years of hard work the program can add one more important milestone to this season's accomplishments.

Sophomore Tim Kegelman earned an invitation to the NCAA Championships last Friday afternoon. This marks the first time Notre Dame will send a swimmer to the pinnacle



Kegelman

of collegiate swimming in its 47-year history.

"As far as the program goes, it means that now all doors are open," Irish coach Tim Welsh said. "The path to the very top of collegiate swimming is open, and Tim is going to be the first person to walk through the door. That's huge and we wanted that to happen for a long time."

Kegelman garnered the invite due to his season-best time in the 100-yard butterfly (47.66 seconds), which came in the preliminaries of the Notre Dame Invitational in December. That performance broke the meet, pool and University records in the 100-yard butterfly. His time was .03 seconds faster than Pat Cary of UC Santa Barbara (47.69), the final qualifier in the 28-man field competing in the 100-yard but-

terfly.

"The best thing is that not only does it mean the doors are open, it happened for the program in the best of all possible ways — Tim has made his last step of improvement while he was at Notre Dame," Welsh said. "While being a part of this program, he's improved to the point where he can qualify for the NCAA Championships."

Kegelman will swim the 100-yard butterfly event on March 25 in Minneapolis, Minn., the site of the NCAA Championships. Having also registered NCAA B cuts in the 200-yard individual medley and 200-yard butterfly this season, Kegelman qualified to swim those events as well. He will swim those events on March 24 and March 26, respectively.

Kegelman headlined a strong performance by the Irish swim-

ming corps in the Big East Championships. Seven other Irish swimmers also qualified NCAA B cuts for consideration to take part in the NCAA Championships.

While Kegelman is the sole Irish representative for the season's final collegiate meet, Welsh sees the team's performance as a sign of things to come.

"I'm not disappointed at all," Welsh said. "The reason I say that is because all of those B cuts are lifetime-best achievements. In our sport, anytime you're talking about a lifetime-best performance, that's good news. What we have seen is step-by-step, stroke-by-stroke, second-by-second. We're getting closer. There will be a point at which we have a gang going."

This season has seen the Irish

crack the national ranking polls, beat a nationally-ranked opponent and also win the Big East Championships — all firsts in program history. As the season draws to a close, the Irish are looking for a little more from one of their leaders.

"We're going to focus on the simplest and the hardest of all things — getting faster," Welsh said. "The qualifying time is the fastest time ever in the 100-yard butterfly. So even at 28 guys deep, this is the fastest field ever assembled in the 100-yard butterfly for the men's NCAA Championships. His next step is to say, 'Can you go to the biggest meet in college and go faster at that point?' That's what we're focusing on."

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Boston	35-29	.574	8-2	0.0
Philadelphia	30-33	.476	4-6	4.5
New Jersey	28-36	.438	5-5	7.0
Toronto	27-36	.429	6-4	7.5
New York	26-35	.426	6-4	7.5

Eastern Conference, Central				
team	record	perc.	last 10	GB
Detroit	39-23	.629	6-4	0.0
Cleveland	33-27	.550	3-7	5.0
Chicago	32-28	.533	5-5	6.0
Indiana	31-31	.500	5-5	8.0
Milwaukee	25-37	.403	3-7	14.0

Eastern Conference, Southeast				
team	record	perc.	last 10	GB
Miami	49-16	.754	9-1	0.0
Washington	34-27	.557	4-6	13.0
Orlando	31-31	.500	3-7	16.5
Charlotte	12-49	.197	1-9	35.0
Atlanta	11-52	.175	1-9	37.0

Western Conference, Northwest				
team	record	perc.	last 10	GB
Seattle	42-19	.689	6-4	0.0
Denver	32-30	.516	8-2	10.5
Minnesota	32-32	.500	5-5	11.5
Portland	23-38	.377	2-8	19.0
Utah	20-42	.323	3-7	22.5

Western Conference, Pacific				
team	record	perc.	last 10	GB
Phoenix	48-15	.762	7-3	0.0
Sacramento	39-25	.609	5-5	9.5
L.A. Lakers	32-30	.516	4-6	15.5
L.A. Clippers	28-35	.444	5-5	20.0
Golden State	20-44	.313	4-6	28.5

Western Conference, Southwest				
team	record	perc.	last 10	GB
San Antonio	48-15	.762	7-3	0.0
Dallas	41-21	.661	5-5	6.5
Houston	38-25	.603	6-4	10.0
Memphis	36-27	.571	6-4	12.0
New Orleans	14-48	.226	3-7	33.5

College Softball
Big East Conference

team	conf.	overall
Providence	0-0-0	10-4-0
Syracuse	0-0-0	9-4-0
Villanova	0-0-0	17-9-0
NOTRE DAME	0-0-0	11-7-0
St. John's	0-0-0	10-11-0
Seton Hall	0-0-0	4-5-0
Boston College	0-0-0	9-12-0
Pittsburgh	0-0-0	7-13-0
Connecticut	0-0-0	3-9-0
Rutgers	0-0-0	0-11-0

College Baseball
Big East Conference

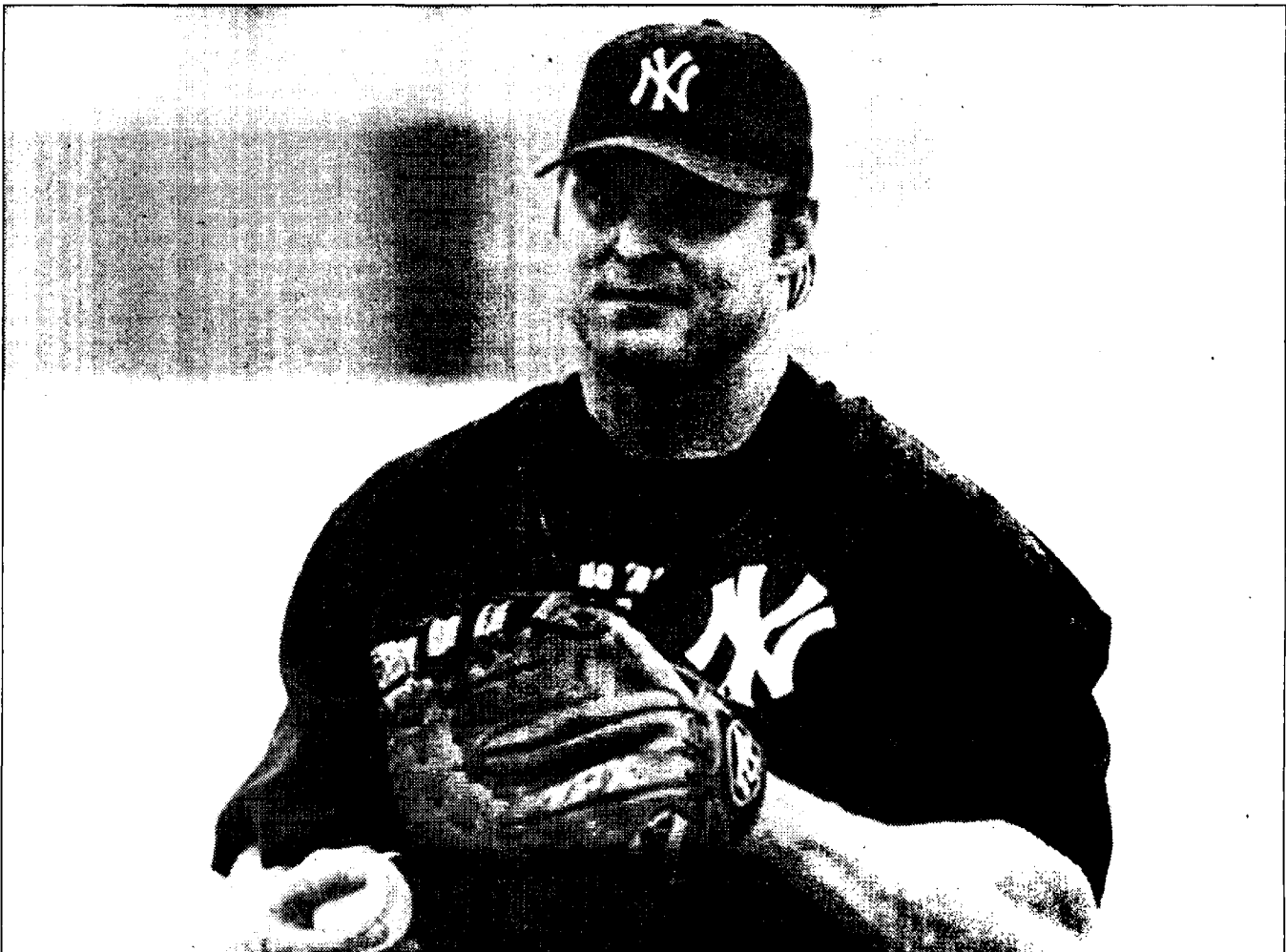
team	conf.	overall
Connecticut	0-0-0	9-3-0
Boston College	0-0-0	8-5-0
Georgetown	0-0-0	9-6-0
Villanova	0-0-0	6-4-1
Pittsburgh	0-0-0	7-5-0
Rutgers	0-0-0	6-5-0
NOTRE DAME	0-0-0	6-7-0
St. John's	0-0-0	6-7-0
West Virginia	0-0-0	4-9-0
Seton Hall	0-0-0	3-6-0

around the dial

NBA
Timberwolves at Spurs, 9 p.m., ESPN

TENNIS
2005 Pacific Life Open, 5 p.m., ESPN2

MLB



New York Yankee Jason Giambi stands on the field during warmups before the team's game against the Florida Marlins Tuesday. Giambi did not have to testify about steroid use at Thursday's congressional hearings.

Giambi excused from hearing, does not testify

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Jason Giambi was excused from testifying at Thursday's congressional hearing on steroids in baseball, and the top Democrat on the committee said it's possible other players also could have subpoenas withdrawn.

Giambi does not have to go to Washington because of his involvement in the ongoing federal investigation into illegal steroid distribution, House Government Reform committee chairman Rep. Tom Davis and ranking Democrat Rep. Henry Waxman said Tuesday. The New York Yankees slugger testified in 2003 before a grand jury probing the Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative.

"I appeared in front of the federal grand jury a year ago. I answered every question, told the truth and cooperated fully," Giambi said in a statement released by his agent. "I appreciate that the members of the committee evaluated my situation, and I will now continue to focus on playing the best baseball I possibly can for the Yankees and our great fans."

BALCO founder Victor Conte, BALCO vice president James Valente, Barry Bonds' trainer Greg Anderson, and track coach Remi Korchemny were indicted in the case, and trial dates have not yet been scheduled.

In a letter sent to the committee accompanying more than 400 pages of documents Monday, baseball lawyer Stan Brand said just 12 of 1,133 tests last year were positive, and that positive tests from nandrolone dropped from 73 in 2003 to one last year.

Davis and Waxman waited until Tuesday evening to make the announcement on Giambi.

"From the outset, we have said that we in no way wanted our inquiry to impede or complicate any ongoing investigations by law enforcement," they said in a joint statement. "Upon hearing today from the Justice Department that Mr. Giambi's appearance could do just that, we have decided to excuse him from testifying. All other invited witnesses, however, will be expected to comply with the subpoenas issued to them last week."

Lawyers for Giambi, Palmeiro and Thomas sent the committee letters Monday asking that their clients be excused, citing Giambi's prior testimony and the adverse effects travel would have on Thomas' recovery from an ankle injury.

"It's still a dynamic process," Waxman said.

IN BRIEF

Sorlie leads the Iditarod close to the finish

NALAKLEET, Ala. — The church bell rang and the whole village came out to welcome Robert Sorlie on Tuesday when he arrived at the White Mountain checkpoint, just 77 miles from the finish line of the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog.

The 47-year-old Norwegian, who held the same commanding lead when he won the 2003 race, was the first musher to reach the village of White Mountain, an Eskimo village of 200. Sorlie arrived a minute before 1 p.m. with eight dogs and will be able to leave for the final homestretch of the 1,100-mile race after fulfilling a mandatory 8-hour layover.

Kathy Chapotone, wife of four-time Iditarod winner Martin Buser, watched the small town celebrate Sorlie's arrival.

"He was tired, but his dogs looked strong," she said. "They had to go through 2-foot snowdrifts. It was a lot of work."

After White Mountain, there's just one more checkpoint, Safety, and then it's 22 miles to Nome.

The closest contenders have up to three more dogs than Sorlie, who dropped another in Elim. He also won with eight dogs in 2003.

The winner of the 33rd running of the Iditarod will receive \$72,066.67 and a pickup truck. The total purse this year is \$750,107.

Tigers release Sanchez after 2 years

DETROIT — Alex Sanchez was released Tuesday by the Detroit Tigers, five days after the center fielder was reunited with his mother for the first time in 11 years.

Sanchez has frustrated Detroit with his sloppy play in the field in the past, and did again during spring training.

"We've had a chance to watch him this spring and his defense was just not up to the level we like," Tigers president and general manager Dave Dombrowski said at spring training

in Lakeland, Fla.

Detroit hopes either Craig Monroe or Nook Logan will emerge as its top center fielder. Tigers manager Alan Trammell said Dewayne Wise and Alexis Gomez were also candidates to win the job.

Serena Williams skips Indian Wells tournament

MIAMI — Four years later, Serena Williams says the memory of being jeered at Indian Wells, Calif., remains vivid, which is why she's skipping the tournament this week.

Instead she's home in Palm Beach Gardens, working on her fashion business and preparing to seek her fourth consecutive Key Biscayne title at the Nasdaq-100 Open, which begins March 23.

Serena and her sister Venus last played at Indian Wells in 2001. They were supposed to meet each other in the semifinal that year, but Venus pulled out with knee tendinitis, prompting speculation she ducked the match.

Linemen

continued from page 28

undergo surgery, but it was unlikely that team physicians would clear him to play anyway.

Ryan was heading into his senior season and would likely have been the top reserve offensive lineman on the depth chart. The 6-foot-5 senior from

Tamaqua, Pa. has had a productive but injury-filled career at Notre Dame.

As a sophomore, Ryan started three games, logging over 120 minutes of playing time.

However, knee injuries in 2004 mostly kept him off the field for all but 10 minutes, 24 seconds.

The back condition — a degenerative disk problem — will allow Ryan to pursue other interests in football.

He has said that he would like to stay involved in some way with the Irish and eventually go into coaching.

Giles' case is much different. The senior had only started one game in his career for the Irish, and the South Bend Tribune reported his departure is rooted in Giles' desire to play, according to his former high school football coach Lou Silva.

"I haven't talked to Zach, but

according to some of his good friends it's a done deal. "He just wants to play football," Silva told the South Bend Tribune.

The center played in place of the injured Bob Morton at times in 2003, including the entire second half of the Boston College game and the fourth quarter against Florida State.

Giles will join a Northeastern team that finished 5-6 overall and 4-4 in the Atlantic 10 conference.

Giles is a native of Marshfield, Mass., 30 minutes away from the Northeastern campus.

Aside from the loss of Ryan and Giles, Notre Dame retains all five of its starting linemen this year — including tackle Ryan Harris, who won the team award for top offensive lineman as a sophomore in 2004.

Contact Bobby Griffin at rgriffi3@nd.edu

Owens

continued from page 28

son ends.

This is a dream come true," said Owens. "I remember when I was a sophomore, and I told [then-head coach] Jane [Albright] that once I graduated, I would come back as her assistant in two or three years. This is even better. I can't explain how excited I am to be part of the Huskie family again."

The 37-year-old Owens helped guide Notre Dame to a 251-74 record during her tenure, including 10 consecutive NCAA Tournament appearances and the only national championship in 2001. She is also credited with aiding the development of forward Ruth Riley, arguably the greatest player in Irish history.

"Carol Owens is one of the top assistant coaches in the nation, and in my opinion, she is the best skills coach in the country when it comes to the post position," Riley said on

Notre Dame's athletic Web site. "As a young player, I was very grateful to find a school where I knew I would develop fundamentally at my position. Coach Owens has personal experience of being an All-American post player, and she uses that knowledge to teach and mold young student-athletes. I am very grateful for the time she invested in making me the best post player I could be."

Owens has also been an integral part of Notre Dame's outstanding recruiting classes. The Irish claimed eight straight top-20 ranked classes from 1996-2003.

"Carol's one of the reasons we've gone to 10 straight NCAA Tournaments," McGraw said. "She's turned our program around. I don't know what we'll do to replace her. We're so happy and sad at the same time. We're losing a friend, a big part of the Notre Dame family."

Owens played for Northern Illinois from 1986-'90, where she set 13 school records, including being the all-time leader in scoring, shot blocks,

free throws made, free throws attempted and field goal percentage. She was also the first player to reach the 2,000 point/1,000 rebound plateau for either the men's or women's program at Northern Illinois. Owens was inducted into the Northern Illinois University Athletic Hall of Fame in 1995 and then into the Illinois Basketball Hall of Fame in 2001.

"I've told her how fortunate I was as a young coach, not only to be able to coach a player of her caliber, but of her character," said Jane Albright, Owens' coach for the Huskies. "This is a person you'd want your daughter to play for."

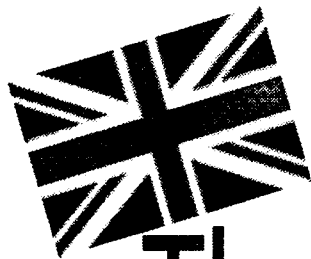
Owens graduated from Northern Illinois and played three seasons professionally in Japan, Spain and Italy. She will take over a Huskies team that went 7-20 this season, including a 2-11 home mark. Northern Illinois was 12-16 in both 2003-04 and 2002-03 and 17-13 in 2001-02.

Contact Joe Hettler at jhettler@nd.edu



RICK FRIEDMAN/The Observer

Senior forward Jacqueline Batteast goes up for a shot against Duke on Nov. 17. Batteast and her teammates have excelled under head assistant coach Carol Owens's guidance.



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5:00 pm – 131 DeBartolo Hall

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Tennis

continued from page 28

Gantcheva 7-6, 6-1, No. 59 Buck followed up with a quick win over Zsiros 6-2, 6-7, 6-2 to put the team within a point of victory.

But UNLV's Cindy Treber made the match more competitive, recording a win over Stastny 6-3, 4-6, 6-4 at No. 4 to put the score at 3-2.

Lauren Connelly's 6-4, 4-6, 7-5 win over Smith secured the win for the Irish at No. 5 after the score was tied at 3-3.

At No. 3, Christian Thompson added to the team's success with the final win, edging out Ortiz-Luis 6-2, 4-6, 6-4.

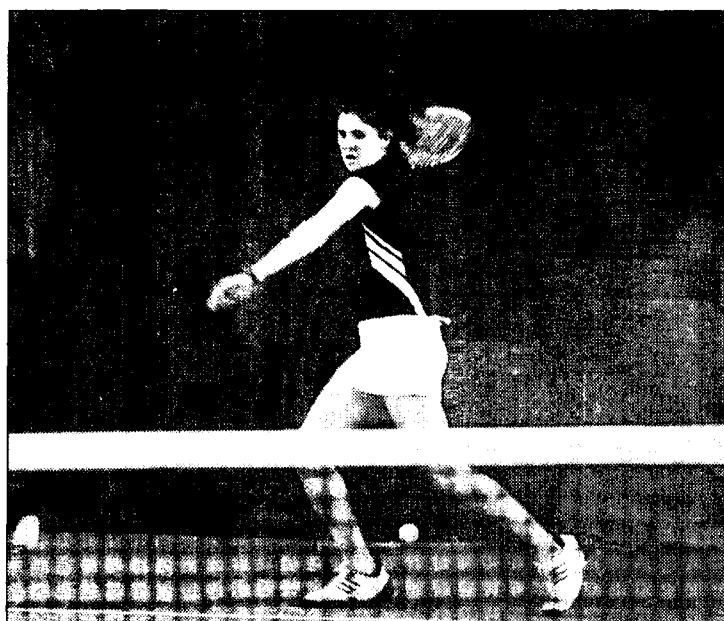
No. 24 Brigham Young 6, Notre Dame 1

The Irish did not fare as well against No. 24 BYU (10-10) on March 12.

The team felt the void of Christian Thompson, who played her doubles match but was sidelined because of a knee injury for singles. Notre Dame registered victories at No. 1 singles and No. 1 doubles, but were unable to secure the win.

"Pulling [Christian] out of singles really hurt us," Louderback said. "Any time you're missing one of your top players, it affects the team."

Prior to her injury, No. 2 Christian and sister Catrina Thompson collected the lone victory in doubles for the Irish at No. 1 doubles over No. 56 Lauren Jones and Dolly Chang 8-0. The remaining doubles teams were not as successful, with Buck and Lauren Connelly



DUSTIN MENNELA/The Observer

Junior Liz Donohue winds up to return a volley in a match against North Carolina earlier this season.

falling 8-5 to Anastasia Surkova and Jenny Miccoli at No. 2 and Sarah Jane Connelly and Stastny dropping their match 8-5 for a loss against Olga Boulytcheva and Sofia Holden. This is only the second time this season that the Irish have lost the doubles point, a testament to the hard work they have put in, Louderback said.

"I've been real proud of our doubles this season," Louderback said. "They're all tough competitors. I think this was one of our worst matches this season, but I guess we were due for a bad one. We've been playing so well the rest of the year."

In singles, Catrina Thompson bested Jones 6-2, 6-2 to register the lone point for the Irish. Lauren Connelly was the only

other Irish player to win a set in singles. Although she bounced back from a loss in her first set tiebreaker versus Holden, she was unable to secure the win and fell 7-6, 2-6, 6-2 at No. 4.

Chang defeated junior Liz Donohue 7-6, 7-6 at No. 6. Suffering an upset, Buck lost to Boulytcheva 6-3, 6-4 at No. 2. Stastny, filling in for the injured Christian Thompson, played at No. 3, but dropped her match 6-0, 6-2 to Surkova at No. 3. Finally Miccoli defeated Sarah Jane Connelly 6-1, 6-1 at No. 5.

The Irish will return to the courts on Friday versus Tennessee.

Contact Ann Loughery at aougher@nd.edu

Recruits

continued from page 28

recruiting for next year is very well underway," he said.

Weis believes the success of any college football program begins with its ability to recruit. On Feb. 27, he demonstrated the concern to improve that essential effort at Notre Dame.

Weis and his new staff had 80 junior recruits visit the campus that Sunday, coordinating meetings between players, parents and the entire coaching staff and later dividing players up between specific position coaches.

The players attended a Notre Dame-UCLA basketball game at the Joyce Center, a storied series between two basketball programs that would bring an advantageous atmosphere and experience to the recruits' visits.

"I think that every time someone steps foot on campus, an impression is being made," Weis said. "Notre Dame shouldn't be about weather, it should be about the place."

Weis pointed to past recruit complaints about the characteristically overcast weather of South Bend as unfortunate but existing reasons — among others — for why players have not chosen Notre Dame. Weis said he thinks the recruits should receive a more thorough experience of the school and program before making surface decisions, exhibiting a developing understanding of the college recruiting process new to the first-time head coach.

"I have a passion for recruiting, as much as I like to coach," Weis said. "Now, that confuses some people [who ask] 'How can somebody who's been in the NFL for the last

15 years and hasn't had to recruit be a guy that has a passion for recruiting?"

"It's because I look at recruiting like a game with wins and losses and setbacks and small steps."

Weis has been on four Super Bowl-winning staffs over his NFL career, and though he is not used to losing the big game, he understands the feeling and has applied his disdain for that experience to recruiting.

"When you go after a guy and you don't get him, sometimes it's a setback, and sometimes it feels like you just got punched in the mouth," he said.

Weis' competitive approach to recruiting is a testament to his roots in the NFL with head coaches Bill Parcells and Bill Belichick, a place Weis knows is the destination of many of the talented players he seeks.

"These kids all think they are going to play in the NFL," he said. "Everyone who goes to a Division-I school thinks that's where they're going to end up. So all of a sudden, that's what winning is all about right there."

So, along with attractive weekend visits and meetings with assistant coaches, Weis has the perfect marketing tool.

"I don't wear it because it fits so well on my finger," Weis said, reluctantly removing a Super Bowl ring from his finger.

"It's because it makes an impression. You can make an impression verbally. Well, you can also make an impression non-verbally — it's tough not to notice."

Weis plans to make recruiting efforts and — eventually, recruiting success — just as difficult to ignore.

Contact Pat Leonard at pleonard@nd.edu

Law & . . .

An Interdisciplinary Colloquium Series

March 16, 2005

4:00 p.m.

Law School Courtroom

Tocqueville as Critical Race Theorist

Presenter

Alvin Tillery

Department of Political Science

Commentator

Jay Tidmarsh

The Law School

NIT

continued from page 28

of-10 on 3-pointers) and Russell Carter (seven points) hit consecutive three-point field goals to cut the deficit to seven.

Teams traded baskets for the next six minutes, and Holy Cross led 60-55 with 5:31 to go. But Chris Thomas — who had a team-high 21 points and nine assists — hit a pull-up jumper and then found Rick Cornett for a wide-open dunk to cut the score to 60-59.

Then, the ghosts of Madison Square Garden appeared in purple jerseys.

Crusaders center Nate Lufkin canned 1-of-2 foul shots. Hamilton scored a bucket and point guard Torey Thomas converted a fast break lay-up to make the score 65-59. Notre Dame would not recover.

Holy Cross made 7-of-8 free throws — including 5-of-6 from Hamilton — to hold on to the win and advance in the NIT.

While the Irish struggled once again to make key defensive stops, they also were severely out-rebounded — especially on the offensive glass. Holy Cross grabbed 20 offensive rebounds to Notre Dame's 11, leading to 18 second-chance points and 34 points for the Crusaders in the paint.

In comparison, Notre Dame scored just 11 points in the lane.

"I think that if everyone boxes their man out, we won't have a problem rebounding," forward Rick Cornett said. "I

think that's where we struggled the last few games."

In a 66-56 win over Rutgers on March 2, Notre Dame surrendered 19 offensive rebounds and grabbed only five.

In the first half Tuesday night, Torin Francis (23 minutes, seven points) made a free throw to open the scoring, but the lead changed often throughout the half. Though the Irish seemed they would go into the half with the lead and some momentum up 32-30, Holy Cross freshman point guard Pat Doherty stripped Thomas and fed Hamilton for a buzzer-beating lay-up to tie the score at the break.

"That's a big momentum play right there," Brey said. "That's a deflating play right before the half."

The Crusaders then opened the second half with an 18-5 run.

Notes

◆ In their final game in Notre Dame uniforms, seniors Chris Thomas and Jordan Cornette broke significant program records.

Thomas' 3-point field goal with 27 seconds to go was his 302nd career shot made from behind the arc. The basket moved Thomas past former Irish sharpshooter Matt Carroll on the all-time list for most 3-point field goals made.

Cornette registered his 201st block Tuesday, as well, passing LaPhonso Ellis as the all-time leading shot-blocker in Irish men's basketball history.

Contact Pat Leonard at pleonard@nd.edu

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Team runs out of steam in NIT

As the NCAA tournament started, a disappointing Notre Dame basketball season came to an end Tuesday night.

Appearing on ESPN2 while the play-in game aired on ESPN, the Irish simply got beat by an inspired Holy Cross team.

A Holy Cross team jumping at the opportunity to knock off the Irish even after the Crusaders saw their 16-game winning streak come to an end on their home court in the Patriot League title game Friday.

A Holy Cross team grabbing 20 offensive rebounds, forcing 19 Notre Dame turnovers and scoring 34 points in the paint.

A Holy Cross team meeting a Notre Dame team that needed to have its season come to an end.

Relegated to a second consecutive NIT appearance, an under-achieving Irish squad had nothing left in the tank physically to get back to Madison Square Garden — the NIT's saving grace.

"I don't know if we could have got to New York, quite frankly," Mike Brey said. "Let's be honest with where we are depth wise

and physically. It would have been nice to stay alive for another week.

"I'm just being very realistic about our basketball team."

Having Chris Quinn on the bench in a white button-down shirt and black pants instead of in the backcourt alongside Chris Thomas hurt this team a lot. Brey's right — the Irish simply don't have the depth to replace what Quinn brings to this team.

But it wasn't just physically where the Irish couldn't keep pace with the Patriot League runner-up in the first round of the NIT.

Most importantly, it was mentally.

When reaching the preseason goals of a Final Four run and a 30-win season became less realistic each time the Irish stepped on the court, expectations changed to simply earning an NCAA tournament bid.

But then the late-season collapse even took that goal away, with a collapse capped off by a loss to Rutgers that effectively ended Notre Dame's season.

And the criticism about a disappointing season peaked.

"We always held ourselves to high expectations, but all the negativity and criticism put a hamper on our team," Thomas said.

Not meeting those high expectations became physically apparent by the sparse Joyce Center crowd of 2,518 for Tuesday night's game.

That sent a strong message — one received by the Irish.

"When people don't show up, that takes a lot out of you," Thomas said.

That wasn't any more evident than after the game in the Notre Dame locker room.

Usually the immediate voices of this Irish team, even after disappointing losses, Thomas and Jordan Cornette just sat on the stools in front of their lockers with towels pressed against their faces.

Towels hiding the tears streaming down their cheeks.

Thomas eventually removed the towel from his face and fought through tears at the start of his interview before eventually settling in.

Cornette didn't move.

Those two didn't want to have their careers in an Irish uniform end this way. Removing the towels meant facing the realism there were no more chances left.

No more chances to practice.

No more chances to atone for the mistakes made in previous games.

No more chances to make a mark on the Notre Dame program.

When practice started in October, no one would have said this was the way Notre Dame's season — one of the most anticipated in years — would end. But it was a good thing it did.

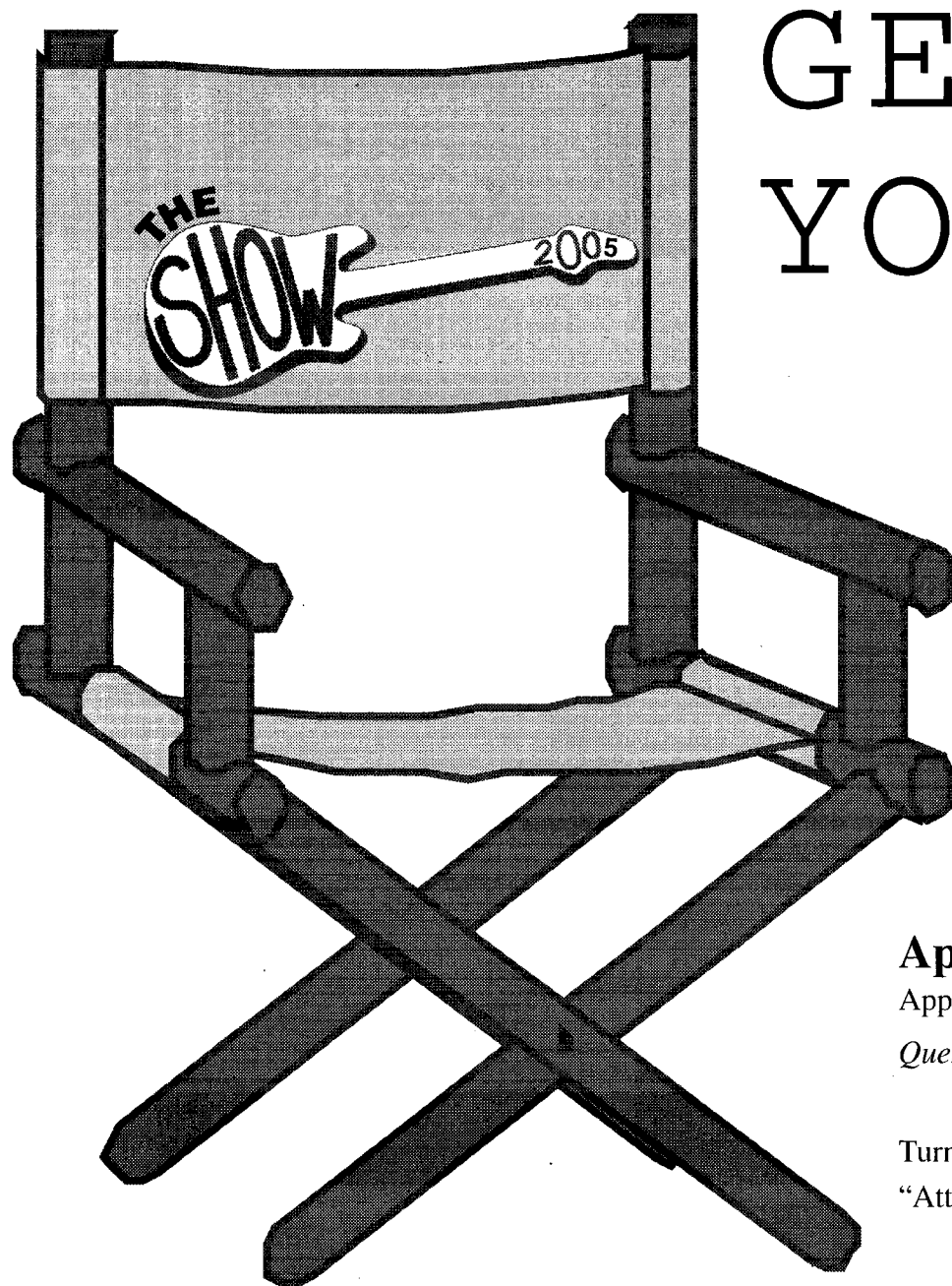
Contact Matt Lozar at mlozar@nd.edu



Matt Lozar

Senior Staff
Writer

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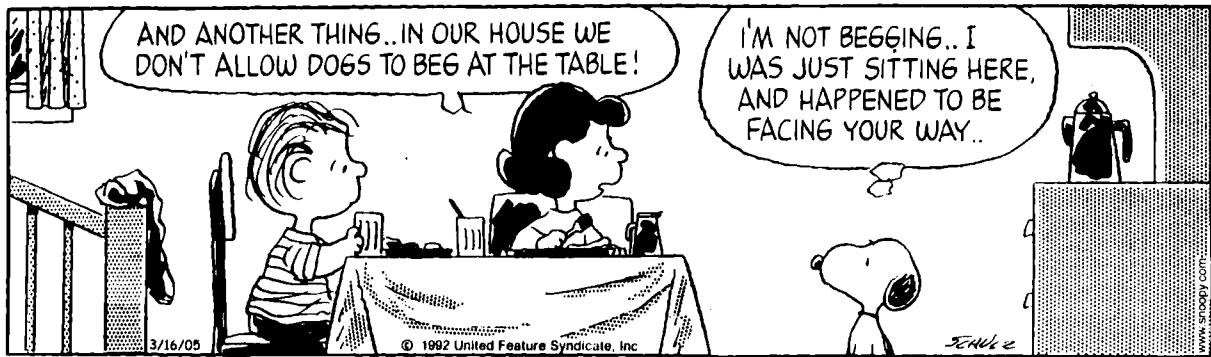
DILBERT

SCOTT ADAMS



PEANUTS

CHARLES SCHULZ



JUMBLE

HENRI ARNOLD
MIKE ARGIRION

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

BOINS
HIWSS
TANNIE
GLUBIN

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion



Print answer here: [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []
(Answers tomorrow)
Saturday's Jumbles: JULEP PATIO BUSHEL TOUCHY
Answer: How she felt when her cobbler recipe won the blue ribbon — JUST "PEACHY"

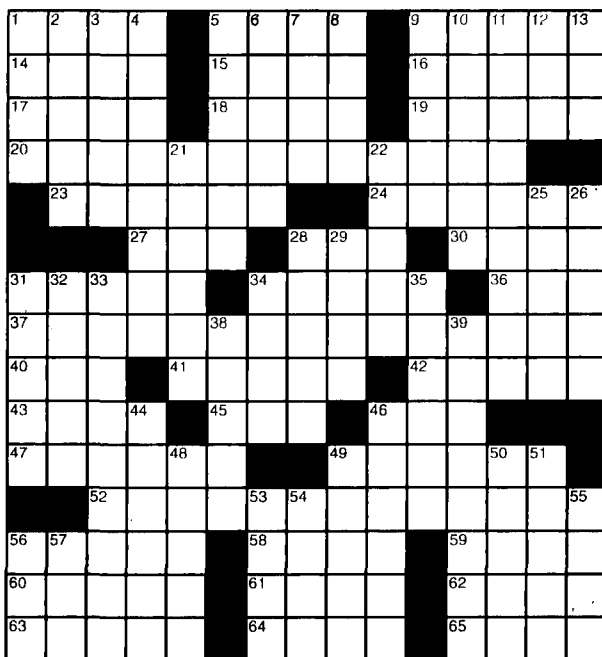
CROSSWORD

WILL SHORTZ

- ACROSS**
- 1 Exemplar of grace
 - 5 Bidder's site
 - 9 Fancy duds
 - 14 Stay near the shore, say
 - 15 1963 film "___ la Douce"
 - 16 Eyeball benders
 - 17 Pierce portrayer on TV
 - 18 C
 - 19 Raggedy Ann and friends
 - 20 What a scary Doris Day did on the film set?
 - 23 Cried a river
 - 24 Congressional committee subject
 - 27 Slippery sort
 - 28 Nursery noise
 - 30 Lather
- DOWN**
- 31 More miffed
 - 34 Talking birds
 - 36 60's muscle car
 - 37 What the lexicographer/dairy expert did?
 - 40 Ring master?
 - 41 Family nickname
 - 42 Adam of "The O.C."
 - 43 Air ball, e.g.
 - 45 Math ordinal
 - 46 RR depot
 - 47 Sounded like a chick
 - 49 Oracle site
 - 52 What the paranoid C.I.A. publicist did?
 - 56 Diet guru Jenny
 - 58 Temple University team, with "the"
 - 59 Snack with a lickable center
- DOWN**
- 1 Give and take
 - 2 Dylan Thomas's home
 - 3 Build on
 - 4 Weak brew
 - 5 Tower designer
 - 6 Hair twist
 - 7 Gallic girlfriend
 - 8 Prison exercise area
 - 9 Beckett's no-show
 - 10 Historical periods
 - 11 Stern lecture
 - 12 www bookmark
 - 13 N.B.A. stats: Abbr.
 - 21 Land south and west of the Pyrenees
 - 22 Post-op program
 - 25 Referred to
 - 26 Bedtime request
 - 28 See 29-Down
 - 29 With 28-Down, noted 20th-century American artist, informally
 - 31 Little rascal

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

RABAT GOSH TBSP
IMACS ENTO RATA
BANTU NEAR ORES
INDIANAJONES
ATH AYE TUPELO
TRAUMA LAID YEN
VIRGINIAWOOLF
SOUL MPH IRIS
MINNESOTAFATS
IRS IATE ARENOT
NICELY CRT KOS
STATESPEOPLE
AURA ALER ERUPT
NAUT YELP SINAI
ELMS SASS SKILL



- ACROSS**
- 32 Kukla's puppet pal
 - 33 Scream and holler
 - 34 Breath freshener
 - 35 Understated
 - 38 Bankrolls
 - 39 Magician's secret exit
 - 44 Repair, as film
 - 46 Quakes
 - 48 Fired up
 - 49 C sharp equivalent
 - 50 Comedic horn honker
 - 51 Ultimate goal
 - 53 Sluggin' Sammy
 - 54 Victor's cry
 - 55 Fish dish
 - 56 Comedian Bill, for short
 - 57 Some strands in a cell

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HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Caitlin Wachs, 16; Sean Biggerstaff, 22; Fabio, 46; Judd Hirsch, 70

Happy Birthday: Stability will be your thing this year. You will surpass your goals because you will persevere. You will be courageous, caring and content because you do what's best for you as well as for others. Multitasking will be a breeze and standing your ground a must. Your numbers are 5, 17, 23, 24, 27, 33

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Take charge and do something that will help benefit your career or financial situation. You can simplify your life if you are organized and set up a budget. Additional responsibilities are likely to occur. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Being secretive will be the key to getting things done. You can gather information from Internet sources that will help you make the right choices. A short trip for business purposes will pay off. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't push yourself too hard today. Lowered vitality will take its toll, so do less and do it well. A change in plans can be expected, but don't let that upset you. Avoid disagreeable people. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Take a quiet approach to whatever you do, and you will prosper. There are plenty of changes in the offing -- accept them, and you will benefit. Love is apparent. ****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You have some great ideas, but if you try to enforce them in your personal life you can expect trouble. Focus on your work and what you can do to get ahead. The further ahead you get, the more you can change other areas of your life. **

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Doors will open for you today if you take the initiative and visit people in the know who can help you. A change is apparent, and a new partnership will interest you. Don't wait -- respond. *****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Take care of some of the personal matters that have been upsetting you. You'll be surprised how much you can accomplish if you set your mind to it. Changes in the workforce will be to your benefit. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Someone may be trying to get your attention. Take heed of the advice being offered. You are up for some incredible changes. Let your creative intuition lead the way. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Pay a little extra attention to those you are working with or for today. You will have some worthwhile suggestions, but if you are too pushy about doing things your way, you will meet with resistance. Don't make changes today. ***

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You can make new friends, start new partnerships and take on new ventures, but be careful what you promise along the way. Overdoing it in any capacity will come back to cause you grief. Business travel will bring good results. *****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You may be questioning a lot today about your personal life and where you see yourself heading. Ask questions if someone you know is confusing you. It's better to know where you stand. **

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Today can be touch-and-go for you. Although there will be people on your side, you will have to deal with others who are trying to take you for granted. Say no if you don't feel comfortable with what someone wants you to do. ****

Birthday Baby: You are unpredictable, especially when emotional matters are an issue. You are precise and well-informed, and you take pride in being at your very best at all times. You are energetic, poetic and romantic.

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

THE OBSERVER

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

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

'Cross'ed out

Crusaders eliminate Irish from the NIT

By PAT LEONARD
Sports Writer

Deflated by its opening-round loss in the Big East tournament and nagged by injury, Notre Dame saw its final bubble burst Tuesday night.

The Irish fell to visiting Holy Cross in the Joyce Center, 78-73, in the first round of the National Invitation Tournament, bowing out two rounds earlier than they did last season in a quarterfinal defeat to Oregon.

"We haven't had much in the tank here the last three weeks," Irish coach Mike Brey said. "I think that was evident physically today with us."

You're disappointed because we just didn't have a whole lot of energy."

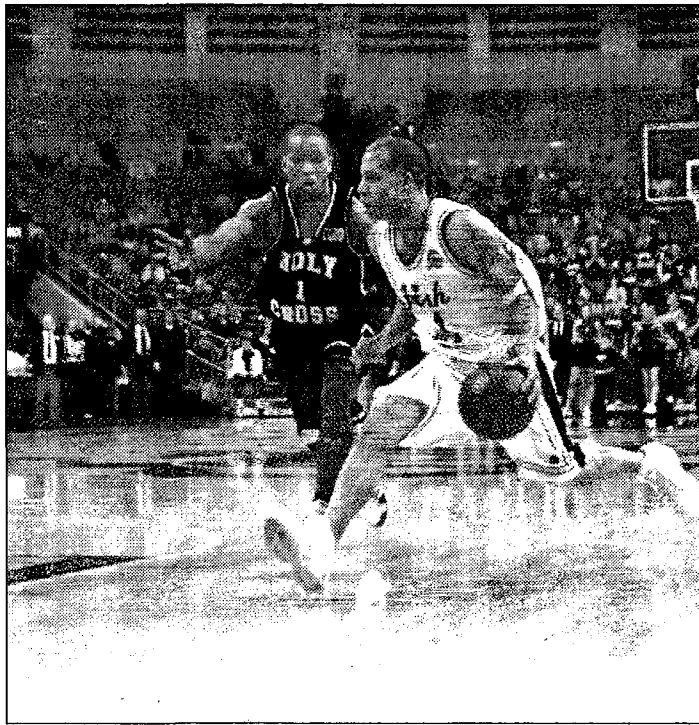
The loss came just two days after Notre Dame was passed over for an NCAA tournament bid, making it the second straight year the Irish have not played in the big dance.

Irish shooting guard Chris Quinn did not dress due to a bruised clavicle, which Brey said would have kept Quinn out the remainder of the season had Notre Dame advanced. Forward Omari Israel dressed but also did not play due to a bone chip in an ankle.

Holy Cross guard Kevin Hamilton led the Crusaders with 26 points on 7-of-16 shooting, and Holy Cross took a page from Rutgers' playbook in staving off a late Notre Dame run.

The Crusaders led by 13 points with 12:28 remaining before Colin Falls (18 points, 4-

see NIT/page 26



Senior guard Chris Thomas dashes past Holy Cross point guard Torey Thomas in the first round of the NIT Tuesday.

GEOFF MATTESON/The Observer

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Owens will return to alma mater

By JOE HETTLER
Senior Staff Writer

After 10 years at Notre Dame, Carol Owens, women's basketball head coach Muffet McGraw's top assistant, is returning home.

Owens, the associate head coach, accepted a job at her alma mater, Northern Illinois, Tuesday after serving on the Irish staff since 1995. She will assume duties with the Huskies when Notre Dame's sea-

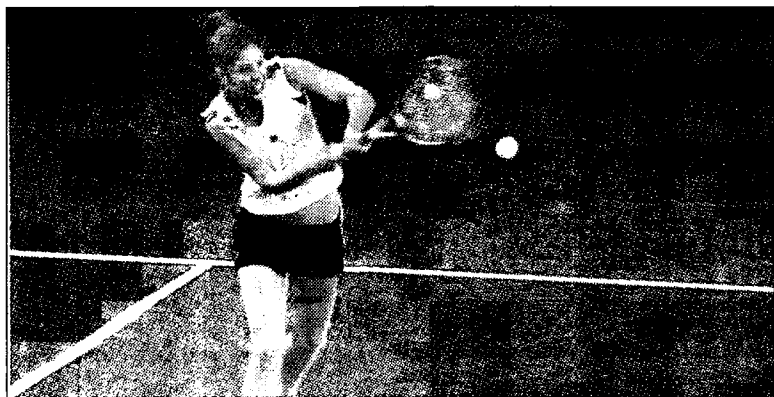


Owens

see OWENS/page 25

ND WOMEN'S TENNIS

No. 22 Notre Dame bests UNLV, falls to BYU



CHUY BENITEZ/The Observer

Junior Lauren Connelly returns a volley in a match against Iowa earlier this season. Connelly clinched the win over UNLV.

By ANN LOUGHERY
Sports Writer

The Irish had their share of triumphs and heartbreaks over spring break, claiming a victory over the University of Nevada-Las Vegas, 5-2, but dropping their match against Brigham Young University, 6-1.

The No. 22 Irish (6-6) showed just how much potential they possess, remaining poised under pressure in what coach Jay Louderback described as an especially tight match against No. 30 UNLV (5-2).

"It was really great knowing that we could win a tough match like that," Louderback said. "Our kids played hard and really battled. We won 5-2, but it felt like it could've easily been 4-3."

The Irish jumped to an early 1-0 lead in the March 10 match after claiming the doubles point. The nation's No. 2 duo of Catrina and Christian Thompson defeated Elena Gantcheva and Sharon Marin 8-2 at No. 1 while freshman Brook Buck and junior Lauren Connelly collected an 8-2 win over Anne Claire Ortiz-Luis and Linda Tempelfelde at No. 2.

Senior Sarah Jane Connelly and

junior Kiki Stastny dropped a hard-fought match against Gyorgyi Zsiros and Claire Smith 8-4 to round out the doubles matches.

With the doubles point secured and the team's momentum in large supply, Notre Dame looked to carry that success over to singles.

And the Irish didn't disappoint. Sarah Jane Connelly was the first to walk off the court with a win at No. 6 over Tempelfelde 6-2, 6-1. Though No. 39 Catrina Thompson fell 7-6, 6-1 to No. 21

see TENNIS/page 25

FOOTBALL

Weis makes recruiting his first main focus

Editor's note: This is the first of a three-part series detailing the recruiting methods and policies under new head football coach Charlie Weis.

By PAT LEONARD
Sports Writer

It has been just over three months since Notre Dame named Charlie Weis its new head football coach. It has been only 38 days since Weis' former team, the New

England Patriots, won Super Bowl XXXIX and gave the offensive coordinator-turned-head coach an opportunity to give full attention to the Irish football program.

With that minimal time window, however, Weis has hit hard on what he believes to be the foremost concern of the team he is inheriting from Tyrone Willingham.

"The bottom line for us is that

see RECRUITS/page 25

Linemen to pursue options

Ryan sidelined with a serious back condition; Giles opts to transfer

By BOBBY GRIFFIN
Associate Sports Editor

In order for the Irish offense to be successful next year under new head coach Charlie Weis, the continued development of the young offensive line will be imperative.

Jamie Ryan and Zach Giles, however, will not be a part of this process.

The two offensive linemen will not suit up for the Irish next season, Ryan because of a serious back condition and Giles because he has elected to transfer to



Jaime Ryan

North-eastern — a Division I-AA school in Massachusetts.

Ryan's back injury will effectively end his football career. Blueandgold.com reported that doctors informed the Irish guard that he could



Zach Giles

see LINEMEN/page 24

SPORTS AT A GLANCE

MLB

The New York Yankees' Jason Giambi has been excused from testifying at congressional hearing on steroids in baseball.

page 23

MEN'S TENNIS

Team registers victories over St. Joseph's, No. 68 William and Mary, and No. 27 Rice.

page 22

MEN'S SWIMMING

Sophomore Tim Kegelman became the first Irish swimmer to earn an invitation to the NCAA Championships.

page 22

SMC GOLF

The golfers set new goals for themselves after a successful trip at the Pinehurst course.

page 20

BENGAL BOUTS

Senior captain Jim Christoforetti is set to fight in his final bout.

page 18

NFL

The Redskins are looking to sign Cleveland defensive end Courtney Brown.

page 17