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Lovitt granted clemency by Va. governor

Notre Dame students worked on death row case, met convict

By MADDIE HANNA
Associate News Editor

Convicted murderer Robin Lovitt watched waves of Notre Dame students come and go through the University's Washington Program while cycles of legal appeals

See Also

"Va. governor spares man's life" page 3

bought him time on death row — until the day before his scheduled execution, when Virginia Gov. Mark Warner, troubled by the destruction of DNA evidence, granted Lovitt clemency.

Warner issued a statement Tuesday evening that commuted Lovitt's sentence to life in prison without parole, just before his scheduled Wednesday night execution by lethal injection.



Lovitt AP

Lovitt was slated to be the 1000th person executed in the United States since the Supreme Court reinstated the death penalty in 1976, a distinction that drew national media coverage in recent weeks.

"In this case, the actions of an agent of the Commonwealth, in a manner contrary to the express direction of the law, comes at the expense of a defendant facing society's most severe and final sanction," Warner said in the statement.

"The Commonwealth must ensure that every time this ultimate sanction is carried out, it is done fairly."

Approximately 40 Notre Dame students have met Lovitt — who was convicted in 1999 of murdering a man with a pair of scissors — while taking Professor Tom Kellenberg's capital punishment litigation course in the Washington Program. Two of those students, seniors Christin O'Brien and Ryan Finlen, have been following Lovitt's case closely since meeting him in fall 2004.

"I'm ecstatic," O'Brien said. "I think it's definitely the right decision. They worked tirelessly on that ... He's a great guy."

Kirkland & Ellis, a D.C. law firm headed by double Domer Tom Yannucci, handled Lovitt's defense, and so did former

Whitewater independent counsel Ken Starr.

Finlen returned to D.C. this summer as an intern for Kirkland & Ellis, where he spent 10 weeks working on Lovitt's clemency petition. He had been at Kirkland & Ellis for slightly more than a month when the Supreme Court granted Lovitt a stay on July 11, his original execution date.

"We were pretty excited [in the office]," Finlen said of the July 11 decision, which came hours before the scheduled execution.

The Court's Oct. 3 decision not to hear Lovitt's case came

see LOVITT/page

ND offers elective aviation course



Notre Dame sophomore Christine Scacco reads the informational sign posted around dorms about the Fundamentals of Aviation course offered at the University.

By RYAN SYDLIK
News Writer

Posters publicizing Fundamentals of Aviation — a relatively unknown course offered through the Notre Dame Pilot Initiative — read "Fly Like a Champion Today" and encourage students to learn to fly for elective credit.

Though the University first offered a ground aviation course in 1973, the course ended in 1977 because no professor remained to teach it.

But in recent years, the course has returned, thanks to the efforts of former Notre Dame students and currently licensed pilots Joe Friel, Jeff Newcamp and Brian McCarthy.

While at Notre Dame, the men taught the undergraduate course, under the guidance of Air Force Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) professor Col. Michael Zenk.

The course is currently taught by Dillon senior Lauren Centioli.

"I got involved my freshman year when I saw the posters for NDPI," Centioli said. "Since [Friel] was graduating that year, the course would have ceased to exist if I had not come around. He asked me if I would teach it and I said yes."

Centioli, a certified commercial pilot, flight instructor and ground instructor, said the program is an advanced ground school.

"Other programs teach you just what you need to know to pass the private pilot's exam," he said. "This class goes above and beyond that. The scope is beyond that of simply passing the FAA test."

The purpose of the course is to fulfill one of the major requirements for a pilot's license, Centioli said. With Fundamentals of Aviation

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SEA seeks to lower emissions

Group joins Campus Climate Challenge

By JOE PIARULLI
News Writer

When it comes to Notre Dame, the word 'admission' holds much more bearing than the word 'emission.' But the Students for Environmental Action (SEA) are trying to give the latter more attention.

SEA co-president Nichole Mitchell recently decided to get Notre Dame involved in Campus Climate Challenge, a campaign through U.S. Public Interest Research Groups (PIRG), with the hope of reducing emissions on campus.

Greenhouse gases naturally occur in the atmosphere and include water vapor, carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide and ozone. But certain human activities add to the levels of these naturally occurring gases — and become the emissions the Campus Climate Challenge is aiming to control.

The goal of Campus Climate Challenge is to get over 500 universities to lower their emissions by 2 percent each year below their 2005 levels in order to eliminate global warming pollution. There are currently 139 campuses involved nationwide.

"Energy conservation is a worldwide initiative right now," Mitchell said. "We have a very ambitious and intelligent student body and we could really make a big difference."

Some schools have gone as far as switching to renewable energy sources, while others

see CHALLENGE/page 4

Students begin planning for spring break

Anthony Travel books students early for vacation destinations

By LAURA BAUMGARTNER
News Writer

The holiday season has arrived and brought with it a cold, snowy South Bend winter — leaving many students dreaming of sun, sand, surf and 80-degree temperatures as they make spring break vacation plans.

Nearly 100 students have already booked vacations through Anthony Travel, said Kayleen Carr, leisure manager for the agency.

"Typically we see about 600 students book through us per year," Carr said.

Carr said cruises and destinations in Mexico are usually the most popular vaca-

see BREAK/page 4



Anthony Travel, the travel agency located in LaFortune Student Center, already has planned spring break trips for nearly 100 students.

INSIDE COLUMN

All I want for Christmas

I can still hear the warnings, the strict advice that I would receive every holiday season as a child. It came from my parents, teachers and virtually every adult I knew, and it was the art of getting everything you wanted from Santa Clause.

Kelly Meehan

Assistant News Editor

"If you are a bad girl, you will get nothing but coal from Santa," they scolded me. I could not even escape the questioning from the old man himself, for there is not a child in the world that sits on Santa's lap without him asking if they had, in fact, been a good boy or girl that year.

For the first seven years of my life, Santa Clause was pretty much equivalent to God in my mind. I was constantly told that he was watching my every move, knowing if I had been bad or good. I sang songs about him, baked cookies for him, and even wrote long detailed letters to him. I was basically worshipping the man.

As the years passed, the letters stopped, I realized I cannot sing and I ate the Christmas cookies that I baked. I learned that I was a bit naive in first grade when I burst into tears days before Santa's arrival and confided in my mother that I did not believe I had done enough to please this mysterious all knowing man to receive the coveted American Girl Doll that I so desired.

I learned if I was relatively well behaved, I would rip open my gifts on Christmas morning to find that I had been deserving of Go-Go My Walking Puppy, a Cabbage Patch Doll and even Molly, my American Girl Doll.

As a college student, however, the holiday season sometimes becomes a jaded time filled with finals and projects. I might have to shape up my behavior a bit or carve a large chunk of time out of my schedule to bake some gourmet cookies to get my name on the good list. Even if I had the time to write a letter to Santa, what would I ask for?

For starters, nothing I want would come from Toys-R-Us.

I would probably ask for Albert Einstein or any other genius from the past few centuries to miraculously take my final exams for me.

Next would possibly be the relocation of South Bend to somewhere a little more exotic than Indiana ... perhaps Costa Rica?

And finally, I would ask for that blue Volkswagen Jetta I have desired for so long.

My wish list is definitely nothing that any Santa I know could fulfill, but Christmas is all about miracles, right? Oh, I would also let Santa know that this year he does not need to travel all the way to Poland, Ohio from his humble abode in the North Pole — just as long he has someone in the likes of Brad Pitt or Jake Gyllenhaal fill in for him.

Contact Kelly Meehan at kmeeha01@saintmarys.edu

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

CORRECTIONS

In a Nov. 29 article, a broadcast journalism class was incorrectly identified as a broadcast journalism program. No such program exists at the University. The Observer regrets the error.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT ARE YOU DOING FOR SPRING BREAK?



Patrick Kaiser
sophomore
Fisher

"I don't know. How many months away is it?"



Jim Bochnowski
sophomore
Fisher

"What kind of question is that before Christmas break?"



Nate Origer
senior
Fisher

"Visiting the Rue McLanahan Museum."



Gessica Hufnagle
junior
Walsh

"I'll be playing softball in the Kia Classic."



Jimmy Wilson
freshman
Alumni

"I'm going to Canada with some friends."



Greg Ramsower
sophomore
Keough

"Touring with the Glee Club in southern California."



PHIL HUDELSON/The Observer

One of the first signs of Christmas on campus are the dorm decorations, including an inflatable snowman recently set up in front of Howard Hall.

OFFBEAT

Man accused of deliberate finger severing

SALZBURG, Austria — Prosecutors on Tuesday accused a former fingernail designer of deliberately putting his hands beneath a passing train so his fingers would be severed and he could collect on a \$1.17 million insurance policy.

The 35-year-old defendant from the town of St. Johann, whose name was not released in line with Austrian privacy laws, is being tried on federal charges of insurance fraud stemming from claims filed in Nov. 2003, when the

incident occurred.

The suspect told police he was riding his bicycle when he lost control and rolled down an embankment and onto railroad tracks just as a train was passing by, losing a thumb on one hand and an index finger and a pinky on the other.

Farmer protects animals with orange paint

OGANTON, Pa. — With deer hunters out all over the woods, a farmer has decided to paint his cows, horses and even his dog bright orange to make sure they aren't mistaken for

deer.

Friz Konieczka doesn't want to take any chances because he heard about a neighbor's horse being shot during hunting season several years ago.

Konieczka, a Clinton County farmer, wants his animals to stand out — and they do. Fluorescent orange paint lines their backs and their sides.

Konieczka said he'd rather spend \$5 for a can of orange paint than have one of his animals killed or injured.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

Joseph Antenucci Becherer, Ph.D. will give two lectures on "Between Silence and Strength, the Sculpture of Dietrich Klinge." The first will be at 6 p.m. tonight while the second will be at 6:30 p.m. tonight. Both will be at the Snite Museum of Art.

Kevin Ducey, 2004 winner of the Honickman First Book Prize in Poetry, will read at 7:30 p.m. tonight in the Hospitality Room of South Dining Hall, Reckers. A reception follows.

NDtv will present the "Mike Peterson Show Christmas Special" Thursday at 10 p.m. at Legends. The Late Night Talk Show season-end special will include live and taped comedy segments and will feature the campus band Summersaults.

The Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra will perform at 7:30 p.m. Thursday in the Leighton Concert Hall of the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. Tickets are \$60 general public, \$51 faculty or staff, \$51 seniors and \$20 all students.

The Dance Company of Notre Dame will perform Thursday and Friday at 7 p.m. in Washington Hall. The performance, entitled "Soul," will feature various genres of dance, including jazz, lyrical and modern. General admission tickets are \$3 and preferred seating is \$5. Tickets are available at the door or in advance by contacting Ashley Lucchese at danco@nd.edu.

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

	TODAY	TONIGHT	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
	HIGH 36 LOW 29	HIGH 27 LOW 20	HIGH 35 LOW 21	HIGH 33 LOW 25	HIGH 36 LOW 22	HIGH 34 LOW 23

Atlanta 55 / 34 Boston 59 / 38 Chicago 37 / 30 Denver 43 / 24 Houston 70 / 57 Los Angeles 69 / 53 Minneapolis 26 / 18
New York 57 / 38 Philadelphia 56 / 34 Phoenix 70 / 47 Seattle 41 / 32 St. Louis 43 / 32 Tampa 69 / 49 Washington 52 / 34

Va. governor spares man's life

Lovitt, set to become 1,000th person executed in U.S., granted clemency

Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. — Virginia's governor on Tuesday spared the life of a convicted killer who would have been the 1,000th person executed in the United States since the Supreme Court allowed capital punishment to resume in 1976.

Robin Lovitt's death sentence was commuted to life in prison without parole a little more than 24 hours before he was to be executed by injection Wednesday night for stabbing a man to death with a pair of scissors during a 1998 pool-hall robbery.

In granting clemency, Gov. Mark R. Warner noted that evidence from the trial had been improperly destroyed, depriving the defense of the opportunity to subject the material to the latest in DNA testing.

"The commonwealth must ensure that every time this ultimate sanction is carried out, it is done fairly," Warner said in a statement.

Warner, a Democrat, had never before granted clemency to a death row inmate during his four years in office. During that time, 11 men have been executed. Virginia is one of the most active death-penalty states, having executed 94 people

since 1976.

The 1,000th execution is now scheduled for Friday in North Carolina, where Kenneth Lee Boyd is slated to die for killing his estranged wife and her father.

The 999th execution since capital punishment resumed a generation ago took place Tuesday morning, when Ohio put to death John Hicks, who strangled his mother-in-law and suffocated his 5-year-old stepdaughter to cover up the crime.

Lovitt's lawyers, who include former independent counsel Kenneth Starr, and anti-death penalty advocates had argued that his life should be spared because a court clerk illegally destroyed the bloody scissors and other evidence, preventing DNA testing that they said could exonerate him.

Ashley Parrish, another of Lovitt's attorneys, called Warner's decision "entirely proper, given the extraordinary circumstances of Mr. Lovitt's case."

Lovitt was convicted in 1999 of murdering Clayton Dicks at an Arlington pool hall. Prosecutors said Dicks caught Lovitt prying open a cash register with the scissors, which police found in the woods between the pool

hall and the home of Lovitt's cousin.

Lovitt admitted grabbing the cash box but insisted someone else killed Dicks. DNA tests on the scissors at the time of the trial were inconclusive. But more sophisticated DNA techniques are now available.

The governor, who is considered a possible Democratic presidential contender in 2008, said he was "acutely aware of the tragic loss experienced by the Dicks family."

"However, evidence in Mr. Lovitt's trial was destroyed by a court employee" before post-conviction DNA tests could be done, he said. "The actions of an agent of the commonwealth, in a manner contrary to the express direction of the law, comes at the expense of a defendant facing society's most severe and final sanction."

The state attorney general's office released a statement acknowledging the governor's authority to grant clemency and adding, "Our thoughts and prayers are with the victim's family."

In addition to Starr, Republicans such as Mark Earley, Warner's GOP opponent in the 2001 gubernatorial election, had also denounced the planned execution.

Convicted murderer indicted for '83 slaying

Associated Press

WHEATON, Ill. — A convicted murderer was indicted Tuesday for the 1983 beating death of a 10-year-old girl in the Chicago suburbs, the latest development in a case that put a spotlight on Illinois' capital punishment system.

Brian Dugan, 49, was charged with 15 counts in the killing of Jeanine Nicarico of Naperville, whose slaying attracted national attention after two men were convicted and sent to death row, then freed years later.

"This is the result of a full and open-minded investigation of the facts and circumstances of this case," DuPage County State's Attorney Joseph Birkett said.

Nicarico was home alone from school recovering from the flu on Feb. 25, 1983, when she was abducted, leaving no sign but fingernail scratches on the wall near the kicked-in front door.

Birkett said Dugan raped and bludgeoned the girl to death. Her body was later found in a nature preserve.

Rolando Cruz and Alejandro Hernandez were convicted of the crime and condemned to death in 1985, but appeals courts over the following decade twice reversed the convictions.

Cruz was acquitted during a third trial in 1995 after spending almost a decade on death row, and prosecutors later dropped the charges against Hernandez.

DNA testing was among the factors that made the indictment possible, Birkett said.

"The past is the past. We're going forward. This indictment is about the evidence available now, today," Birkett said.

He planned to seek the death penalty if Dugan is convicted. "I could not stomach seeing this crime go unpunished."

Thomas McCulloch, Dugan's defense attorney since 1985, said Dugan would probably enter a plea of not guilty.

"I'm saddened but not surprised," McCulloch said of the indictment. "I think it's a terrible waste of time and energy. I wish they spent their time and money elsewhere."

A message left at the home of Jeanine Nicarico's parents was not immediately returned.

After Cruz's acquittal, seven DuPage County prosecutors and law officers were charged in 1996 with lying and fabricating evidence against Cruz in what prosecutors described as a conspiracy to railroad him for the crime. All seven were cleared in 1999 after a high-profile trial.

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME WORLD AIDS DAY 2005

Wednesday, November 30

7PM Catholicism and the Fight Against AIDS Panel
Lafortune Ballroom

Thursday, December 1

Wear Red on this day

7PM AIDS in the 21st Century: Home & Abroad Panel
Lafortune Ballroom

Friday, December 2

6:45PM Rosary at the Grotto



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Challenge

continued from page 1

have focused on increasing environmental awareness.

Since Notre Dame just joined the challenge, the primary focus this year will be on education, specifically in the dorms.

"The Students for Environmental Action has had this ongoing competition between the dorms to reduce electricity, so whatever dorm wins gets some form of a prize," Mitchell said. "That's been going on for a really long time, but not many people know about it."

Part of the goal this year is to increase awareness of that competition, but in the following years, SEA will need more large-scale projects to reduce emissions, Mitchell said.

While the students will be the ones actually working toward emission reductions, the SEA will need cooperation from others around campus.

"Hopefully the teachers are going to be the ones who talk with me to administrators," Mitchell said. "That's who it really needs to go through, is administrators."

Laura Fuderer, a member of the Environment Group of the PFSA (Progressive Faculty-Staff Alliance), said the environmental groups on campus should work together to come up with ways of reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

"The Environment Group of the PFSA is indeed hoping to work with the SEA on what-

ever projects they propose that might make the Notre Dame community aware of the potential impact of global warming," she said. "That might consequently help us to reduce our contribution to the causes of global warming."

For Fuderer, the motivation behind the movement is quite clear.

"It's because we believe, as stewards of this earth, we can find a more sustainable balance between consumption of the Earth's resources and humanities needs for a healthy environment," she said. "As a major producer of the world's carbon dioxide our country has an obligation to the rest of the world to mitigate that output."

Mitchell said Notre Dame and other college campuses are obviously parts of that output, and there are many ways they can help reduce carbon dioxide emissions.

"Notre Dame is becoming more and more [environmentally conscious] through faculty and students, but energy is a big issue we need to take into consideration," Mitchell said.

The SEA hopes to raise attention about the Campus Climate Challenge and get student input next semester by starting an educational campaign.

"For this year, we only have four months left, so education of energy conservation would be a big enough goal for us," Mitchell said.

Contact Joe Piarulli at jpiarull@nd.edu

"We have a very ambitious and intelligent student body, and we could really make a big difference."

Nichole Mitchell
SEA co-president

Aviation

continued from page 1

being counted as ground school, a student is able to continue to flight school and get his or her license.

"We cover everything needed for a private pilot's license," Centioli said.

Topics covered in the course include aerodynamics, systems, performance, weight and balance, navigation, flight planning, emergencies, weather, airports, airspace and communication, among others, Centioli said.

There are currently 18 students registered for the course in the spring — nearly triple the number who had enrolled in the fall. Centioli said students should not be deterred

from enrolling, as there is room for 30 students.

"Most people do not think of an ROTC class as an elective," he said.

Though the ROTC runs the course, it is intended for civilians. Students are not required to be in the armed forces to take it.

"If more people knew people about the class, more people would take it," Centioli said. "The supply is there to meet the demand."

A ground school course taken elsewhere runs between 200 to 400 dollars. With the Notre Dame Pilot Initiative, the cost is already covered by tuition.

Fundamentals of Aviation also features guest speakers, such as Sam Pavel, President of Experimental Aircraft Association in Elkhart; Lowell

Farrand, one of the most seasoned pilots in the United States and the first to fly a powered parachute; Richard Levy, a Boeing 777 captain; and Col. Mel DeMar, a former Marine One pilot who served two tours in which he transported now-former Presidents Jimmy Carter, Gerald Ford, George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton.

In addition to visits by guests, the students also get to take a trip to the South Bend Regional Airport to see the control tower and static aircraft displays.

For those interested in the course, AS 30098 is offered Monday and Wednesday from 3:00 to 4:15 p.m.

Contact Ryan Sydlík at rsydlík@nd.edu

Break

continued from page 1

tion choices among students.

"Puerto Vallarta and Cabo San Lucas have also been very popular," she said.

Following this trend, Joey Maher, a junior at Notre Dame, is planning a trip to Acapulco with several of his friends.

"We were deciding between Jamaica, Acapulco and one other place," he said. "But because of the hurricanes, we decided it's going to be Acapulco 2005, baby."

Maher said 15 to 50 people will be flying to Acapulco for spring break.

"We have a package that includes everything," Maher said. "We're trying to get as many people as possible to go because the more people we have, the cheaper it will be."

Cost is an issue many stu-

dents are concerned with when planning their travels. Some students said they are waiting to finalize their plans because they are searching for a deal on airlines and hotels on popular Internet travel sites.

"I might be going to Montana with friends to go skiing at Big Sky," said Kat Kindt, a Saint Mary's junior. "It depends on what kind of price I can find for flights. It's really just all about the money."

Not all students are planning the stereotypical trip to paradise, including those who will already be studying abroad.

"My roommate and I will be in Rome next semester," said

Emily Addis, a Saint Mary's sophomore. "Our spring break will be two weeks of nonstop travel throughout as much of Europe as we can possibly see."

"Our spring break will be two weeks of nonstop travel throughout as much of Europe as we can possibly see."

Emily Addis
Notre Dame
sophomore

Other students are using their break to get away from school and visit family or relatives.

"I'll probably just go to Arizona to visit my grandma," Saint Mary's junior Emily Griesemer said.

"My friend and I are planning on going on a summer abroad program, so I have to do something inexpensive, like go to Arizona."

Contact Laura Baumgartner at lbaumg01@saintmarys.edu

AUDITIONS!

for
Burial at Thebes
(Antigone)
by Seamus Heaney



For further details and to arrange an audition time please contact:

Dr. Andrew Faulkner
faulkner.3@nd.edu
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WORLD & NATION

Wednesday, November 30, 2005

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

page 5

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

French tighten immigration rules

PARIS — The French premier on Tuesday announced tightened controls on immigration, part of his government's response to the country's worst civil unrest in four decades.

Authorities will increase enforcement of requirements that immigrants seeking 10-year residency permits or French citizenship master the French language and integrate into society, Dominique de Villepin said.

France also plans to crack down on fraudulent marriages that some immigrants use to acquire residency rights and launch a stricter screening process for foreign students, Villepin said.

Anti-racism groups widely opposed the measures, saying that greater government scrutiny of immigrants could stir up racism and racist acts.

Both Villepin and Interior Minister Nicolas Sarkozy have announced law-and-order measures since the rioting broke out this month in depressed suburbs where many immigrants live. The two — both members of President Jacques Chirac's conservative party — are expected to run for president in 2007, and both want to appear firm in response to the violence and France's broader social problems.

Opposition group quits election bid

CARACAS, Venezuela — Three Venezuelan opposition parties pulled out of congressional elections Tuesday, five days before the vote, saying the conditions are tilted toward President Hugo Chavez's allies.

The government insisted Sunday's elections will be clean, but the parties' defections appear to set up a major political confrontation before a vote long predicted to be a resounding victory for pro-Chavez candidates.

NATIONAL NEWS

Clinton defends vote on Iraq war

WASHINGTON — Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton on Tuesday defended her vote to authorize war in Iraq amid growing unease among liberal Democrats who could determine the potential 2008 presidential candidate's future.

"I take responsibility for my vote, and I, along with a majority of Americans, expect the president and his administration to take responsibility for the false assurances, faulty evidence and mismanagement of the war," the New York senator said in a lengthy letter to thousands of people who have written her about the war.

At the same time, she said the United States must "finish what it started" in Iraq.

City launches new wireless network

NEW ORLEANS — To help boost its stalled economy, hurricane-ravaged New Orleans is offering the nation's first free wireless Internet network owned and run by a major city.

Mayor Ray Nagin said Tuesday the system would benefit residents and small businesses who still can't get their Internet service restored over the city's washed out telephone network, while showing the nation "that we are building New Orleans back."

The system started operation Tuesday in the central business district and French Quarter. It's to be available throughout the city in about a year.

LOCAL NEWS

County to impose jury duty fines

INDIANAPOLIS — Marion County's judges might begin imposing fines or community service next year to punish the growing number of people failing to show up for jury duty.

Since May, the number of residents ordered to report for jury duty who actually showed up has dropped more than 20 percent in the county. Court officials are at a loss to explain why fewer than four of every 10 Marion County residents now bother to appear.

VATICAN CITY

Vatican defends policy on gay priests

Policy will bar incoming gay priests, but will not apply to current gay priests

Associated Press

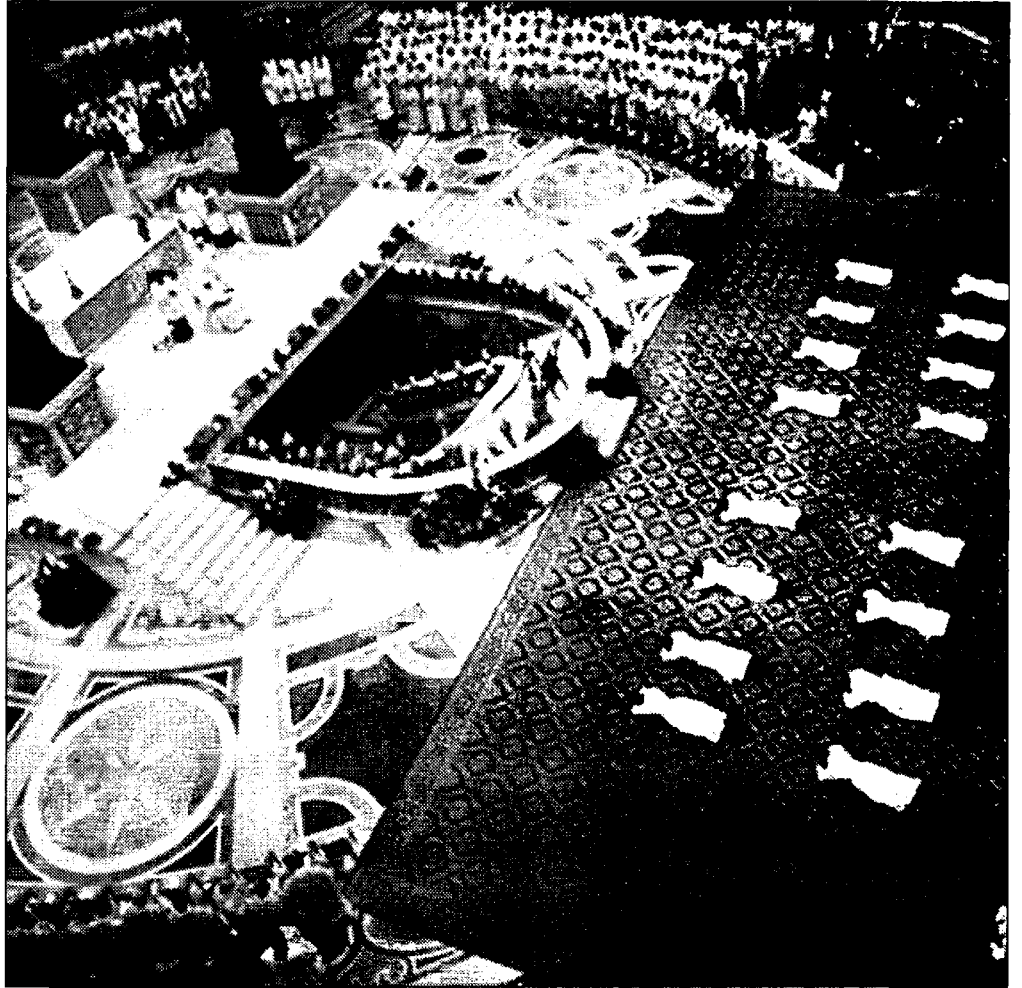
VATICAN CITY — The Vatican defended a policy statement designed to keep men with "deep-seated" homosexual tendencies from becoming priests, but said there would be no crackdown on gays who are already ordained.

The Vatican document, the first major policy statement of Pope Benedict XVI's papacy, was officially released Tuesday after being leaked earlier. Conservatives have said it may help reverse the "gay culture" of many U.S. seminaries, while liberal critics complain the restrictions will create morale problems among clergy and lead to an even greater priest shortage in the United States.

The Rev. James Martin, a U.S. Jesuit who has written on the issue, said American theologians, canon lawyers and other Roman Catholics will "hope that the document won't really mean what it says." But he believes it's clear the Vatican wants to keep gay men from being ordained — even if they're committed to celibacy — and hopes bishops and seminary rectors will act accordingly.

Martin predicted "a slow, silent attrition among celibate gay men who cannot accept the idea of staying in an organization that condemns their existence in the priesthood."

Matt Foreman of America's National Gay and Lesbian Task Force called the document "appalling," saying it was an affront to thousands of gay priests. He accused the Vatican of "a calculated campaign to blame gay men for the church's own criminal conduct in fostering and covering up decades of sex



Deacons of the Rome Diocese lie in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican during ordination celebrated by Pope John Paul II in 2004. The Vatican released a document Tuesday prohibiting men with "deep-seated" homosexual tendencies from becoming priests.

abuse."

The official "Instruction" from the Congregation for Catholic Education was released a week after an Italian Catholic news agency posted a leaked copy on its Web site.

The document has been in the works for years, but its existence came to light in 2002 at the height of the clergy sex abuse scandal in the United States. A study commissioned by U.S. bishops found most abuse victims since 1950 were adolescent boys.

Experts on sex offenders say homosexuals are no

more likely than heterosexuals to molest young people, but that did not stifle questions about gay seminarians.

The Instruction said men "who practice homosexuality, present deep-seated homosexual tendencies or support the so-called 'gay culture'" cannot be admitted to seminaries. The only exception would be for those with a "transitory problem" that had been overcome for at least three years.

The head of the education congregation defended the document as a clear reflec-

tion of long-standing church teaching, saying that "in this field, in today's world, there is some confusion."

"Many defend the position according to which the homosexual condition is a normal condition for the human being, as if it were nearly a third gender," Cardinal Zenon Grocholewski told Vatican Radio.

He also made clear the Instruction was intended for candidates for the priesthood and not someone who "discovers his homosexuality after having been ordained."

Bush: Military to not leave Iraq without victory

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush said Tuesday a U.S. military pullout from Iraq would be a terrible mistake, beginning a new push defending his embattled war policy. His Pentagon chief said, "Quitting is not an exit strategy."

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said of the Iraqis, "They know that they're the ones that are going to have to grab that country. And it's time."

The administration is under pressure to convince increasingly skeptical Americans that the president's strategy for Iraq is headed in the right direction. The president is to give a speech on the subject Wednesday at the Naval Academy.

The unrelenting violence that con-

tinues to claim American lives has contributed to a drop in Bush's popularity, to its lowest level yet, and to growing doubts about the war. It also has led to a debate in Congress about when the 160,000 U.S. troops there should begin to come home.

The GOP-controlled Senate voted 79-19 this month to urge the president to outline a strategy for "the successful completion of the mission." Rep. John Murtha, D-Pa., attracted attention with his call for a withdrawal within six months.

The administration has responded by counseling patience while also signaling it is planning for a way out. Bush, speaking to reporters from El Paso, Texas, rejected any immediate withdrawal in unusually personal terms.

"I want to defeat the terrorists.

And I want our troops to come home," the president said. "But I don't want them to come home without having achieved victory."

His speech Wednesday at Annapolis, Md., was to focus on progress in the effort to train an Iraqi security force and allow the gradual exit of U.S. military forces.

Later speeches over the next two weeks are to emphasize the strides being made in establishing a stable, democratic government and creating a viable economy.

In June, Bush delivered a prime-time address from Fort Bragg, N.C., on the first anniversary of Iraq's sovereignty. Later in the summer, the president tried to blunt the message of anti-war activist Cindy Sheehan, who camped outside his Texas ranch.

Lovitt

continued from page 1

as "kind of a blow, really," Finlen said. "One more option not available."

Lovitt's case focused largely on an Arlington court clerk's destruction of DNA evidence that defense attorneys said could have been used in his appeal to prove the innocence Lovitt has maintained from the beginning.

Other controversial aspects of the case included the validity of a jailhouse snitch's testimony against Lovitt and the initial defense team's failure to investigate Lovitt's troubled childhood background — something the Supreme Court has explicitly required in the past, Starr told The Observer last April.

Finlen is "absolutely thrilled" with Warner's decision and called it "great news" for both Lovitt and his attorneys.

Kirkland & Ellis released a statement Tuesday commending Warner's decision as "entirely proper given the extraordinary circumstances of Mr. Lovitt's case."

But while Lovitt's sentence was commuted, Finlen said he thought the decision could actually strengthen Virginia's capital punishment system.

"Robin is saved, but on the other hand, this may provide a legitimacy to the death penalty in Virginia," Finlen said. "Proponents [of the death penalty] will likely say that the governor's actions indicate that clemency power is providing the necessary failsafe to capital punishment."

In his statement, Warner said clemency should be reserved for "the most extraordinary circumstances."

"Among these are circumstances in which the normal and honored processes of our judicial system do not provide adequate relief — circumstances that, in fact, require executive intervention to reaffirm public confidence in our justice system," Warner said.

The then

Notre Dame law professor Richard Garnett said challenges to the death penalty — a practice currently allowed in 38 U.S. states — have been

present for decades, but not seriously considered, since capital punishment is included in the U.S. constitution.

But in 1972, the landmark *Furman v. Georgia* case prompted the Supreme Court to void the death penalty statutes of 40 states and commuted 629 death row sentences, according to information provided by the Death Penalty Information Center.

Garnett said while the *Furman* case did not say the death penalty was "always and everywhere unconstitutional," it required the modification of state statutes to include two key legal buzzwords: "narrowing" and "individualization."

"The death penalty has to be administered using statutes more narrowly crafted," Garnett said. "It's not for every murder, but 'aggravated' murders ... and the jury must consider potential mitigating circumstances."

In 1976, the *Gregg v. Georgia* case presented revised state statutes to the Supreme Court, which approved the changes and made the death penalty permissible as outlined by the new statutes.

"The pipeline started again," Garnett said. "Capital cases take a long time ... [so it] took a while for the pipeline to start flowing."

The complex process meant a "backlog" of cases, which accounts for the increased rate of executions in the 1990s, Garnett said.

The now

Political science professor Peri Arnold said he felt debate about capital punishment has increased in recent years.

"We increasingly become sensitive to the racial disparity in capital punishment," Arnold said. "That leads some people to think there's injustice in the death penalty."

The other major point of debate, Arnold said, is "increasing suspicion that not everybody who goes to their death is not necessarily found guilty."

The potential for innocence was a key point in Lovitt's case and the reason former Illinois governor George Ryan instituted the nation's first moratorium on state executions in 2000.

"We've found some [who

have been executed] innocent," Arnold said. "Have we sent some people to their deaths?"

Law professor Jay Tidmarsh said while "there's always argument about whether or not [the death penalty] is really a deterrent," innocence is a different kind of argument.

In an imperfect world, "we struggle with the fact of imperfection," he said.

And Tidmarsh said innocence doesn't necessarily mean freedom from punishment.

"You don't have a federal constitutional right to be released from custody because you're innocent," Tidmarsh said. "It may sound bizarre, but it's true ... as long as procedural [aspects] are fair."

Garnett mentioned debate about racial issues, that some people argue the current system is not "colorblind."

Arnold also cited a religious aspect to recent discussion — the Catholic Church's stand against capital punishment, a position voiced by the late Pope John Paul II.

For Garnett, who believes the death penalty should be abolished because "it distorts our law, and it costs too much, and it doesn't yield significant benefits," it's this last point that is the most important, the "deeper reason."

"I'm inclined to agree with the late Pope," he said. "It's more consistent with the culture of life."

Finlen said his experience working on Lovitt's case and researching the death penalty for a project through the Hesburgh Program in Public Service opened his eyes to different sides of the issue and shifted his perspective.

"You have to have a foolproof system, or you can't have one at all," he said.

Contact Maddie Hanna at mhanna@nd.edu

Professor sheds light on infant co-sleeping

Special to the Observer

If sleepless nights and stretch marks aren't enough, new mothers also can expect a litany of unsolicited and often uncompromising opinions and judgments on the best way to care for their babies.

Even the medical community is divided on questions of infant care, with conflicting information and shifting directives issued every few years to new parents.

Should babies be breast-fed or bottle-fed? For how long? Is it safe to sleep with newborns? If so, for a few months or for several years? Are babies safest sleeping on their backs or their tummies?

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), regarded by many as the authority on infant well-being, recently reversed recommendations it issued earlier this year, and now cautions against "any and all mother-infant bed sharing." Along with that reversal came the recommendation that all babies use pacifiers during sleep — quite a change from its earlier position issued in February of this year that encouraged, among other things, "exclusive breast-feeding for approximately the first six months and support for breast-feeding for the first year and beyond as long as mutually desired by mother and child."

Confusing, isn't it? Anthropologist James McKenna, director of Notre

Dame's Mother-Baby Behavioral Sleep Laboratory and a renowned expert on infant co-sleeping, breast-feeding and sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), served as one of three expert panel members for the AAP committee that made this most recent recommendation against bed-sharing. However, he voted against the recommendation.

Based on his scientific studies and familiarity with how mothers bed share and what it means to families, McKenna points to the differences among contemporary cultural practices, personal preferences and just good science.

"The truth is, not all families and babies are the same," he said. "Bed sharing is a heterogeneous practice with outcomes ranging from lethal when practiced unsafely to being beneficial and protective when practiced safely."

McKenna considers infant co-sleeping unsafe when either or both parents are chemically impaired; if the mother smokes, sleeps in a chair, sofa or recliner with a baby; when babies are placed on thick pillows; when other children are permitted to sleep in the same bed; or if the baby is placed in the prone — or tummy — position to sleep.

"The AAP 'one-size-fits-all' recommendation certainly shows that Western medical authoritative knowledge has failed to learn tragic lessons from our past," says McKenna.

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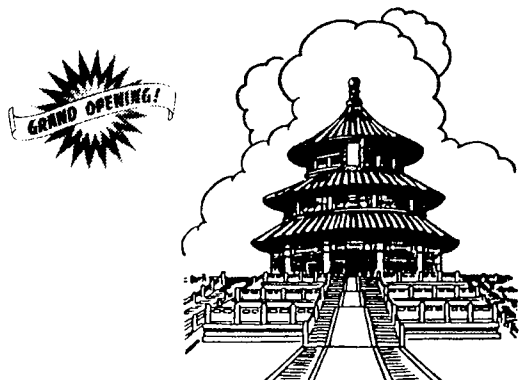
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COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
SUN MICROSYS INC(SUNW)	-0.77	-0.03	3.89
NASDAQ 110 TR (QQQQ)	-0.47	-0.197	41.343
CISCO SYS INC (CSCO)	+0.17	+0.03	17.51
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IN BRIEF

U.S. eases ban on poultry imports

WASHINGTON — The United States has relaxed a ban on poultry imports from British Columbia initially sparked by the discovery of bird flu in a duck raised in the Canadian province.

The strain of bird flu is now known to be low-pathogenic and poses no threat to human health, unlike the more virulent form in Asia that has killed dozens of people, the Agriculture Department.

U.S. officials said they banned on Nov. 21 all poultry imports from British Columbia until their Canadian counterparts could identify the virus, later found on a second, nearby farm as well. Several Asian countries that quickly followed the U.S. lead now are expected to relax their bans as well.

In the days after the Nov. 18 discovery of the virus, Canadian officials killed nearly 58,000 ducks and geese on the two farms, located outside Vancouver, said Brian Evans, Canada's chief veterinary officer.

Goldman Sachs builds headquarters

NEW YORK — Goldman Sachs broke ground Tuesday on its \$2.4 billion headquarters near the World Trade Center site, which state leaders hope will serve as the catalyst to lure other financial companies to millions of square feet of proposed office space.

"If Goldman builds here, others will come. And we need others to come," U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., said at the ceremony to mark the beginning of construction on the 43-story tower just south of the site.

State and city officials went through months of negotiations to persuade Goldman Sachs to build and struck a deal in August that includes \$1.65 billion in tax-exempt government bonds.

The headquarters, with 2.1 million square feet of office space to house at least 9,000 employees, is scheduled for completion in 2009.

"Goldman Sachs has called Lower Manhattan its home for 136 years and we are proud to reaffirm our commitment to this neighborhood and to the city of New York," said Goldman Sachs Group Inc. chairman and CEO Henry M. Paulson.

Merck faces start of third Vioxx trial

Pain reliever caused husband's death; Merck knew complications, plaintiff claims

Associated Press

HOUSTON — A lawyer representing the widow of a man who claims that Merck & Co.'s Vioxx caused her husband's death argued on Tuesday that taking the pain reliever for one month was enough to cause the 53-year-old man's heart attack.

But Merck countered in opening statements at the first federal Vioxx trial that its extensive studies of the painkiller before introducing it in 1999 showed no evidence it caused heart attacks with short-term use, and that heart disease, not Vioxx, led to Richard "Dicky" Irvin's death.

Unlike the two previous state-level cases where Merck emerged with a loss and then a win after several weeks, the federal case before U.S. District Judge Eldon Fallon of New Orleans appeared to rush along at a headlong pace.

It took about two hours to pick a jury of five men and four women, three of whom are alternates. Opening statements for the plaintiff — Irvin's widow, Evelyn Irvin Plunkett — took about an hour and Merck's opening took about the same time.

The case is in Houston rather than its original venue of New Orleans because of damage wrought by Hurricane Katrina.

Jurors will be asked to decide whether Vioxx contributed to the fatal heart attack Irvin suffered in May 2001. The 53-year-old manager of a wholesale seafood distributor in St. Augustine, Fla. had been taking the drug for about a month to alleviate back pain when his co-workers found him dead at his desk.



Evelyn Irvin Plunkett, the plaintiff in the Vioxx trial, leaves the Federal Court in Houston on Tuesday. Plunkett claims Vioxx caused her husband's fatal heart attack.

"There was nothing that would have triggered a fatal heart attack except for Vioxx," Plunkett's attorney Andy Birchfield told jurors.

This is the third trial Merck is facing over Vioxx's safety. It lost the first state trial in Texas last August, but scored a victory in its home state of New Jersey earlier this month.

Whitehouse Station, N.J.-based Merck withdrew Vioxx from the market in September 2004 after a long-term study showed

the drug doubled risk of heart attack or stroke if taken for 18 months or longer. By then, more than 20 million Americans had used Vioxx.

Birchfield told jurors that Merck likes to cherry pick the 18-month hallmark to demonstrate that the drug could not have caused problems in patients who took it for a shorter time. But he told jurors a study showed Vioxx can cause problems after just seven days.

He said that Merck knew about Vioxx's safety prob-

lems before it was launched. Birchfield quoted from internal e-mails, including some from Merck scientists who raised warning flags about its cardiovascular risks, to support his assertions.

Merck made a "premeditated, financial decision" not to warn patients about the drug's risks because it wanted the revenue the former \$2.5 billion seller would generate, and longed to beat Pfizer Inc.'s competing drug Celebrex in the marketplace, Birchfield said.

Disability benefit programs declared outdated

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Federal rules used to determine who's disabled are nearly 50 years old and need to be updated to reflect economic, medical and technological advances, a government panel says.

Many Americans with disabilities are willing and able to work but remain thwarted from seeking jobs by Social Security Administration guidelines that discourage economic independence, according to the National Council on Disability report being released Wednesday.

Applicants for disability insurance must prove a complete inability to engage in "substantial gainful activity," according to rules adopted in 1956. About 6.5 million people received disability benefits in 2002, according to the latest available data.

"Our nation's current disability

benefit programs are based on a policy principle that assumes that the presence of a significant disability and lack of substantial earnings equate with a complete inability to work," council chairman Lex Frieden wrote President Bush in submitting the report, which assesses efforts to promote employment among the disabled.

Also, federal efforts to make it easier for the disabled to work have had little effect since few people are aware of the incentives and how they affect access to benefits and health care, the report found. And the months and years it can take beneficiaries to convince Social Security that they are disabled and cannot work can leave them leery of enrolling in any employment or training program that might jeopardize their benefits, including Medicaid or Medicare, it said.

"We will be looking carefully at the

recommendations," Social Security Administration spokesman Mark Lassiter said.

Congress and the agency have made it easier for Americans who collect disability to make more while retaining their benefits, according to the council. However, less than half of one percent of those receiving either supplemental security income or disability insurance ever leave the rolls to seek work, the council said, citing Social Security and General Accounting Office reports.

"The bottom line, from my perspective, is the biggest programs that serve people with disabilities are from an era when expectations were not as great as they are today," said Andrew Imparato, president of the American Association of People with Disabilities. There was no expectation that the disabled would ever want to buy a home, have a career or start a family, Imparato said.

Teen pleads guilty to school shooting

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — The teenage son of a tribal chairman pleaded guilty Tuesday to a criminal charge for his role in shootings that left 10 people dead on an Indian reservation last March.

Louis Jourdain, 17, pleaded guilty to threatening interstate communications, according to a docket released by a federal court in St. Paul.

Two other charges — conspiracy to commit murder and conspiracy to commit offenses against the United States — were dropped.

The docket, some of which had been blacked out, gave few details of the charge, saying only that Jourdain used a computer to conduct interstate communications that "could be taken by an objective observer as threatening" sometime between Jan. 1, 2003 and March 2005.

Most of the proceedings involving Jourdain have been closed to the public because of his age, and the release of the docket marked the first time the charges were even disclosed.

Jourdain is the son of Floyd Jourdain Jr., the tribal chairman of the Red Lake Band of Chippewa. He was also a friend of 16-year-old Jeff Weise, who shot and killed nine people on the northern Minnesota reservation before killing himself.

Floyd Jourdain said authorities examined about 400 pages of text messages from his son that covered everything "from girls to music to video games to movies."

"Unfortunately, some of it might be perceived as threatening or inappropriate," he said. "And that is basically what he's decided that he is admitting to today."

The rampage started when Weise killed his grandfather and his grandfather's girlfriend, then went to Red Lake High School, where he killed seven people in the nation's worst school shooting since Columbine.

Jourdain was arrested a week after the shooting and remained jailed Tuesday. His trial had been expected to begin in mid-December in federal juvenile court.

Floyd Jourdain said his son "admits to his wrongheaded and inappropriate use of the Internet, but he does not accept responsibility for the 10 lives lost at Red Lake on March 21 because he is not responsible."

Carol Stillday Spears, whose 15-year-old daughter, Thurlene, was killed, said she was frustrated to hear that the more serious charges against Jourdain were dropped.

"I think he should be punished. I lost my baby over there," Spears said. Her two other teenage daughters do not attend the school because they are still scared.

Red Lake Principal Chris Dunshee said he hopes the plea "will lend to the healing process and not be something that will cause more divisiveness."

Messages left at the office of Jourdain's attorney, Jon Hopeman, were not immediately returned.

ABC, CBS to air movies on Pope

Networks go head-to-head with controversial movies about John Paul II

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Controversial depictions of romance, heroism, anti-Communism and molestation scandals are part of two new biopics on the life of Pope John Paul II.

When TV networks pursue the same ideas they typically pretend otherwise. But there was unambiguous rivalry as ABC and CBS rushed their movies through production after John Paul's death April 2.

Now they're airing almost head-to-head: ABC's two-hour "Have No Fear: The Life of Pope John Paul II" at 8 p.m. EST on Thursday, and CBS's two-part "Pope John Paul II" at 9 p.m. Sunday and the following Wednesday at 8.

Both productions portray a remarkable man who worked with Christian colleagues to outlast brutal tyranny under both Nazis and Communists, preaching resolute resistance without descending to terrorism. He then became one of history's great popes.

Neither film measures up to the Hallmark Channel's "A Man Who Became Pope," a four-hour European epic that aired in August. But both new films are lavishly produced, well-acted and eminently watchable for believer and skeptic alike.

ABC's effort, filmed in Lithuania and Rome, casts Thomas Kretschmann (Captain Hosenfeld in "The Pianist") as Wojtyla. It suffers from cramming vast material into limited time, with the tale jerking along from one vignette to the next.

CBS's more leisurely pace allows storytelling flow and narrative context. Filmed in Poland and Rome, it also benefits from Academy Award winner Jon Voight's portrayal of John Paul from his elevation to his death.

However, it's disconcerting that CBS has Cary Elwes (Dr. Lawrence Gordon from "Saw") playing Wojtyla as an adult through the conclave that made him pope. All of a sudden, Voight materializes as the brand-new pope on the balcony overlooking St. Peter's Square.

CBS sought and received Pope Benedict XVI's blessing at a Nov. 17 screening, while ABC emphasizes that it proceeded without Vatican assistance. For the most part that makes little difference — but three ABC scenes will spark debate.

When Polish workers rise against their Communist overlords and Soviet troops mass near the border, ABC has John Paul notifying the Kremlin that if it invades Poland, "I will relinquish the throne of St. Peter and stand at the barricades with my fellow Poles." There's no evidence for that implausible claim.

CBS avoids such mythological heroics, but perpetuates the equally debatable claim that after meeting President Reagan in private, John Paul reported that "we decided to work together" against Communism.

Second, ABC has John Paul berating El Salvador Archbishop Oscar Romero over his Marxist-tinged theology, then being stricken with guilt

after a right-wing death squad murders Romero. Third, when America's molestation scandal erupts in 2002, an aide says "they accuse you too" and John Paul replies, "I accept this criticism.... I have asked for forgiveness."

There's no corroboration for either incident.

Though most previous popes were cloistered young adults, Wojtyla was a handsome amateur actor at university, and all three TV depictions toy with his relationships to women.

The Hallmark Channel had Wojtyla kiss a woman, but only to fool Nazi soldiers. ABC's racier Wojtyla delivers a warm kiss to a classmate, but she says no liaison is possible because she's Jewish. With CBS, Wojtyla walks arm in arm with a woman, but says he's too occupied with Nazi occupation to think of romance.

The most intriguing bit, plausible but hard to prove, is on CBS:

Warsaw's indomitable Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński, who was incarcerated by both Hitler and Stalin, omits Wojtyla on his list of bishop candidates submitted to the Polish Communists for approval. The regime rejects all names on the list and Wojtyla becomes a bishop at a notably young 38.

Did Wyszyński bypass Wojtyla as too nave about Communism, or too liberal on church issues? Or did he know his endorsement would be the kiss of death and purposely plot to make sure Wojtyla became a bishop?

The question lingers after the credits fade.

Possibility of cocaine trafficking on the rise

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — More cocaine is likely to come into the United States from South America as the U.S. diverts resources from its drug-control strategy to hurricane relief and the war on terror, congressional investigators say.

The report prepared by the Government Accountability Office, an investigative arm of Congress, found that U.S. cocaine seizures from 2000 to 2004 increased by 68 percent to a record 196 metric tons in the "transit zone," the area between the U.S. and South America.

But the Pentagon's attention to armed conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq and the Homeland Security Department's focus on Hurricane Katrina threaten to undermine recent achievements, the GAO said in its report.

The report, an advance copy of which was obtained by The Associated Press, offers a sobering look at the future of government efforts to stymie America's \$65 billion illegal drug habit. It notes that while drug seizures have increased, U.S. cocaine supplies and the number of users (2 million) have not fallen, apparently due to a rise in shipments.

"We need to be more effective

and better prepared because these are routes that not only move illicit drugs today, but can easily move other more dangerous commodities such as terrorists in the future," said Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, who requested the study.

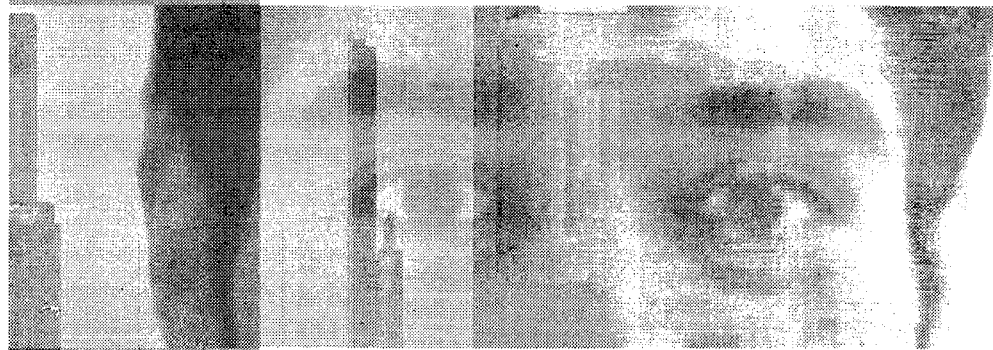
In the report, the GAO pointed in particular to reduced use of the Navy's P-3 maritime patrol aircraft "due to structural problems," a slowing Coast Guard response because of aging ships, and a surface radar system on Coast Guard aircraft that is "often inoperable."

Since fiscal year 2000, the number of hours flown by the Navy P-3s has decreased nearly 60 percent to about 1,500 hours in fiscal year 2005, according to the study.

"Various factors pose challenges to maintaining the current level of transit zone interdiction operations," the GAO said in calling on the Pentagon and Homeland Security to develop a long-term strategy to plan for a likely shortfall in ships and aircraft.

In their official responses, the departments said they were working to boost resources for drug control but acknowledged they were constrained partly by the perceived threat level as well as availability of funding.

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BRITAIN

Debate over nuclear power begins

Associated Press

LONDON — Prime Minister Tony Blair opened a fierce debate on energy and the environment Tuesday, saying the British government will consider building a new generation of nuclear power plants.

In a speech briefly delayed by anti-nuclear activists, Blair said an energy study due to be finished next summer would look specifically at nuclear power.

He acknowledged that reconsideration of a long-standing move away from the use of atomic reactors to generate electricity is a "difficult and challenging" issue.

"What we need is a serious debate, not one conducted by protest or demonstration to stop people expressing their views," he said, referring to two Greenpeace activists who climbed into the rafters of a London conference hall, forcing Blair's speech to be moved to a nearby site.

Many Europeans have strongly opposed nuclear power plants since the 1986 Chernobyl reactor disaster increased fears about its safety, but Britain is not alone in beginning to rethink that aversion.

Finland this year became the first western European country to begin construction of a reactor since 1991. France, which already generates much of its electricity with nuclear plants, plans to start building a new-generation reactor in 2007.

The conservatives in Germany's new coalition gov-

ernment want to keep some nuclear plants going, although the Social Democrats in the power-sharing Cabinet insist on sticking with a plan to shutter all those facilities by 2021. Italy's industry minister said earlier this year that the public's negative feelings about atomic power were weakening.

Opponents, including many in Blair's governing Labour Party, worry about accidents or terrorist attacks at nuclear plants and the need to dispose of radioactive waste safely.

Advocates say nuclear power, which does not generate greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming, is environmentally beneficial. They also believe it will become increasingly necessary as world oil supplies tighten.

"The issue back on the agenda with a vengeance is energy policy," Blair said. "Energy prices have risen. Energy supply is under threat. Climate change is producing a sense of urgency."

For Britain, the problem is getting worse as oil and natural gas production in its own North Sea fields declines. Blair said that by 2020, coal and nuclear plants that now generate more than 30 percent of the country's electricity supply will be decommissioned.

"Some of this will be replaced by renewables, but not all of it can," he argued. "In Britain, on any basis, we also have the issue of our transition from being self-sufficient in gas supply to being an importer."

A government policy paper on energy resources will be

issued early in the summer of 2006 and will address the possibility of a new generation of nuclear reactors that could help provide enough energy for Britain, Blair said.

Energy Minister Malcolm Wicks, who is leading the review, said it will also look at coal, gas, renewable energy sources and other new technologies. It will also examine energy efficiency and the energy used for transportation.

Nuclear power now provides a fifth of Britain's electricity, but the country's 12 nuclear power plants are aging and unless replaced will provide only 4 percent of electricity by 2010.

David Willetts, trade and industry spokesman for the opposition Conservative Party, said the energy review was crucial.

"People want to know that when they flick the switch the light will come on, that their fuel bills are affordable; and that we meeting our targets to cut (carbon dioxide) emissions," he said.

Greenpeace rejected the idea of building new nuclear plants.

"Nuclear power is not the answer to climate change — it's costly, dangerous and a terrorist target," said Stephen Tindale, director of the group's British branch.

The two Greenpeace protesters delayed Blair's speech when they got up in the rafters of the conference hall and unfurled a banner reading: "Nuclear: wrong answer." Police said they were detained on suspicion of aggravated trespassing.

IRAQ

Video shows peace activists held hostage

Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq — After a months-long hiatus in the kidnapping of foreigners, television footage once again showed Westerners held captive: A German archaeologist — bound and blindfolded — knelt among masked gunmen in one video and four frightened peace activists were shown in another blurry tape.

The latest attacks are part of a new wave of kidnappings police fear is aimed at disrupting next month's national elections.

There was other violence Tuesday: Two American soldiers were killed by a roadside bomb north of Baghdad, a Sunni cleric was assassinated as he left a mosque, and a suicide car bomber killed eight Iraqi soldiers and wounded five.

But while assassinations and car bombings have raged on, abductions of foreigners had fallen off in Iraq as most Westerners fled the country or took refuge in heavily guarded compounds.

Since Friday, however, 11 foreigners, including an American, have been abducted. Six were Iranian pilgrims — though Iranian television said all were later released.

On Tuesday, Al-Jazeera broadcast video of the four peace activists held by a previously unknown group calling itself the Swords of Righteousness Brigade.

The group claimed its hostages were spies working under the cover of Christian peace activists. The captives — the American, a Briton and two Canadians — were members of the Chicago-based aid group Christian Peacemaker Teams, which confirmed they disappeared Saturday.

The footage showed Norman Kember, a retired British professor with a shock of white hair, sitting on the floor with three other men. The camera revealed the 74-year-old Kember's passport, but the other hostages were not identified.

However, Christian Peacemaker Teams confirmed that the others were Tom Fox, 54, of Clearbrook, Va.; James Loney, 41, of Toronto; and Harmeet Singh Sooden, 32, a Canadian electrical engineer.

In a statement, Christian Peacemaker Teams said it strongly opposed the U.S. invasion of Iraq and blamed the kidnapping on coalition forces.

"We are angry because what has happened to our teammates is the result of the actions of the U.S. and U.K. government due to the illegal attack on Iraq and the continuing occupation and oppression of its people," the group said.

Christian Peacemaker Teams does not consider itself a fundamentalist organization, a spokeswoman said.

"We are very strict about this: We do not do any evangelism, we are not missionaries," Jessica Phillips told the Associated Press in Chicago. "Our interest is to bring an end to the violence and destruction of civilian life in Iraq."

The group's first activists went to Iraq in 2002, six months before the U.S.-led invasion, Phillips said, adding that a main mission since the invasion has been documenting alleged human rights abuses by U.S. forces.

Loney, a community worker, was leading the Christian group's delegation in Iraq.

Fox, the captive from Virginia, has two children, plays the bass clarinet and the recorder and worked as a professional grocer and at a Quaker youth camp, according to the statement.

Sooden was studying for a masters degree in English literature at Auckland University in New Zealand to prepare for a teaching career.

Kember is a longtime peace activist who once fretted publicly that he was taking the easy way out by protesting in safety at home while British soldiers risked their lives in Iraq. He and his wife of 45 years have two daughters and a grandson, the group said.

The brief, blurry tape was shown the same day a television station displayed a photo of the German hostage. The kidnappers threatened to kill Susanne Osthoff and her Iraqi driver unless Germany halts all contacts with the Iraqi government.

Osthoff and her Iraqi driver were kidnapped Friday, and German's ARD public television said it obtained a video in which the kidnappers made their threats. The station posted a photo on its Web site showing what appears to be Osthoff and her driver blindfolded on the floor, with three masked militants standing by, one with a rocket-propelled grenade.

A German newspaper, the Neue Osnabruecker Zeitung, reported that Osthoff had received a kidnap threat last summer from extremists linked to al-Qaida in Iraq leader Abu Musab al-Zarqawi and that U.S. soldiers brought her from Mosul to Baghdad for her own safety.

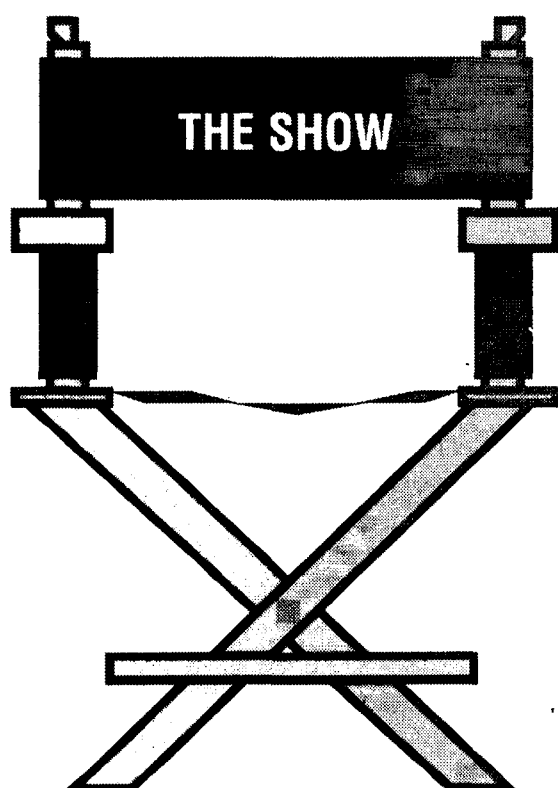
Lt. Col. Barry Johnson, a U.S. military spokesman, said he was unaware of the report but if true, such a move would have been with the knowledge of the German government and "we would ultimately leave it to them" to comment.

Osthoff's mother told Germany's N24 news station that her daughter was an archaeologist who was working for a German aid organization distributing medicine and medical supplies since before the 2003 U.S. invasion of Iraq.

Germany has ruled out sending troops to Iraq and opposed the U.S.-led war, but has been training Iraqi police and military outside the country.

Iraq was swept by a wave of kidnappings and beheadings of foreigners in 2004 and early 2005, but such attacks have dropped off in recent months as many Western groups have left and security precautions for those who remain have tightened. Insurgents, including al-Qaida in Iraq, have seized more than 225 people, killing at least 38 — including three Americans.

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THE OBSERVER VIEWPOINT

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Wednesday, November 30, 2005

THE OBSERVER

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Privately public

One of the things I think I'll miss the most about college will be the sheer joy of having your friends run around with you on your mundane errands. So many times, friends have asked me to walk with them to turn in papers or buy a magazine from the bookstore; and that's totally normal.

Our lives are not inundated with so many personal tasks daily so we gladly share each other's tasks. Also we turn every thing into a chance to be with each other and converse — hence studying groups, cooking parties and errand pairing.

However, I fear we shall see the last of errand pairing when college is over. For example, one day I went with a friend to the salon while she got her hair cut. I had nothing else to do and it was on campus. Yet, if I were living in Chicago and my friend asked me to come to watch her get her hair cut on the other side of town, I would definitely decline.

When you leave a place like Notre Dame, which is extremely communal and sharing, your identity and time use would be most tied with the things you need and want to do. The question is not "How can I spend as much time with others as possible?" but, "How can I spend my time most wisely to maximize my goals?" While we may still strive to wind the hours with companions, the demands of work and rest may keep us from late night grocery runs with our friends.

Yet, there is a distinct beauty of errand pairing. Going to the store or the post

office can be so boring. You are in a place surrounded by people, but it is not normal to be talking with them. The loneliness of errand-running probably explains why parents drag their unwitting children to bulk shopping at Target — any companionship is preferred when shopping for 16 packs of paper towels (critiquing the merits of stockpile shopping will follow).

Also, errand loneliness disorder has caused the rise in cell phone usage. In absence of actual people to talk to, people shop and dial, most annoyingly on those hands-free things, bewildering the other shoppers braving the errand-running on their own. When people are looking right at me, talking right at me, and there is no one else around, I usually speak back — to my embarrassment.

Therefore, a friend and I have devised a way to keep errand pairing alive and well. With so many searching for dates on Match.com, Yahoo personals and the like for what Mother Nature intended to occur in bars, parties and coffee shops, why not use the internet to match people who want an errand companion together? This could be the answer for so many dreading going to the farmers market one more time without someone to compare fresh squash with. The website could also list what type of errands you like to do and find an adequate partner for you. If you love going to used record stores, weird alternative spirit stores for tarot cards or street fairs, your errand profile would state that. You could also vary the people you run errands with as well. If you spark in conversation with a fellow bulk shopper, but cannot take him to the record store, set up a second errand friend for the second thing on the list.

I cannot imagine a better way to reduce cell phone costs, get your errands done

and meet new people. Yet be advised, this is not dating. People looking for relationships had better keep looking. Errand pairing is about livening up those everyday, boring tasks that could use some inane small talk. It should be a rule — no spewing your guts on an errand; you would not do that anyway with a person you met recently and will never see again. Let us use the errand pairing service for what the Internet is best at: impersonal, short and efficient communication and task completion (anti-technology rant on the way.)

Besides the cell phone usage in stores, there is the whole bucket of worms provided by the iPod. My unease with the iPod probably comes from the fact I do not have one, but it's crazy how many people are plugged up to those trendy white earphones everywhere. I think there should be a mandate that everyone on headphones should sing what he is listening to. Then public places would be more like a Tower of Babel musical than a silent crowded place.

So maybe taking out an ad for someone to sit with you to get your oil checked is not a great idea. Neither is singing Dolly Parton's Jolene on the subway — unless you have a killer voice. Yet, never speaking to people in public places sounds pretty ridiculous too.

Kamaria Porter is a senior history major. This piece goes out to everyone writing long papers cram-style, especially Ben Zerante — You can do it! Also, Stephen Smith, the last action hero. Good luck on the 11th. Thanks for the emails and shoot outs, Notre Dame — you're beautiful.

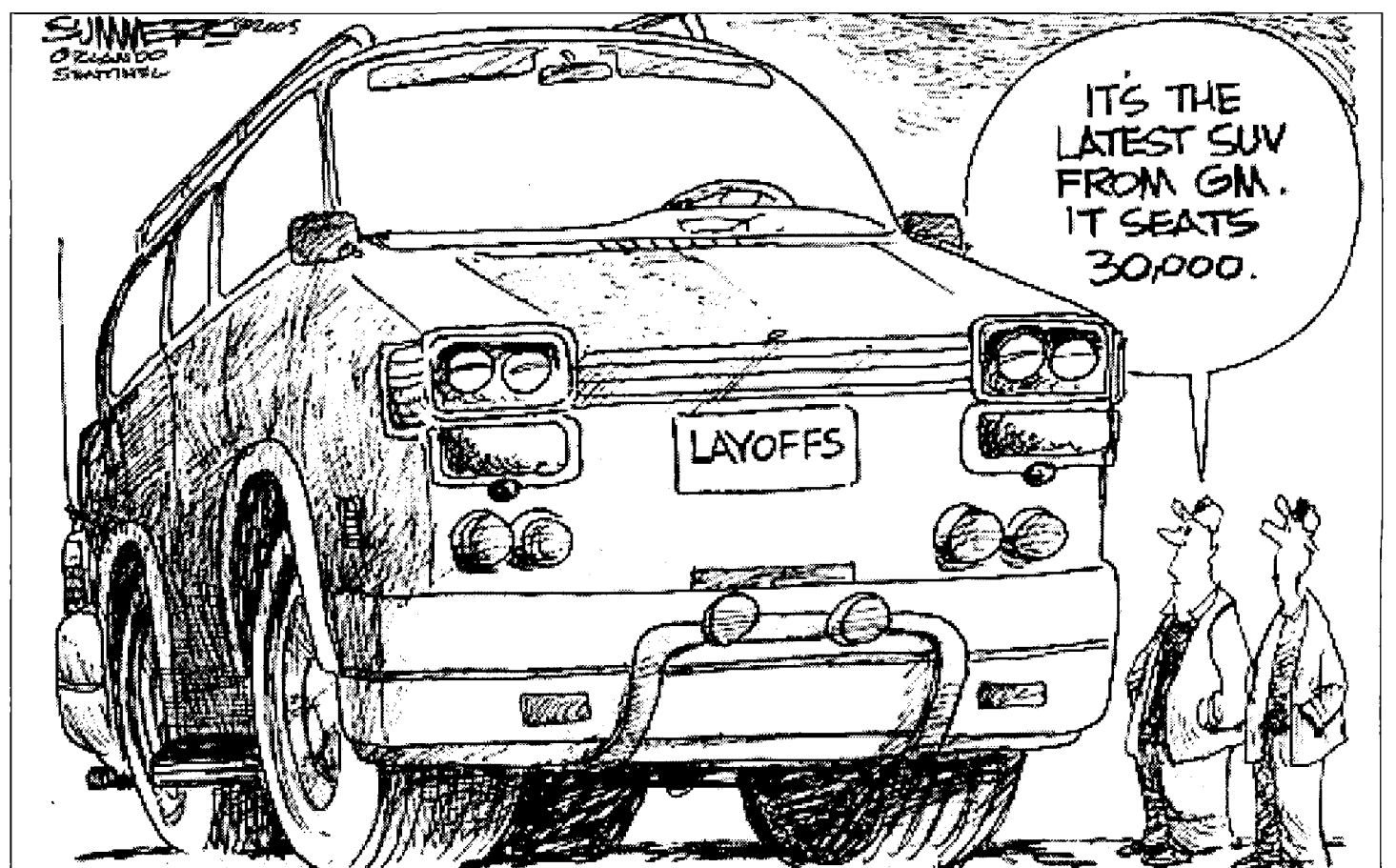
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QUOTE OF THE DAY

*"Dictators ride to and fro upon tigers
they dare not dismount. And the tigers
are getting hungry."*

Sir Winston Churchill
former British Prime Minister

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Rector relationships

Two weeks ago, The Observer ran a series of articles discussing residence life infractions and punishments at Notre Dame ("Crime and Punishment," Nov. 11-18). One of the issues that seemed to be addressed, both directly and indirectly, was the role of a rector in students' lives.

It's hard to define the role of a rector because they are disciplinarians, but they are not the cops. Rectors play a much more integral role in our lives than the cops. They know us better than the cops. They're there for us when we need someone to talk to about big issues or emotional distress — definitely not like the cops.

The problem is, that ambiguity makes it very tempting to think of a rector like a mother or a father. But rectors are not mothers and fathers, either. Thinking of a rector in that way is what can cause people to get so angry when their rector "doesn't trust" them or "doesn't forgive" them or "doesn't let something slide." Maybe our moms forgive us for having hard alcohol in the dorm, but our rectors don't.

This is something that has been really hard for me personally to deal with: Defining my rector's role in my own life. When she responds to things that I do, it is hard for me to understand her responses, because she doesn't treat me like the cops do, but she doesn't treat me like my mom does, either. I guess the important thing to keep in mind is, if I'm having trouble defining my rector's role in my life, think of how much harder it must be for her to play that ambiguous role. I realize more and more: A rector is a role that deserves just as much respect as a cop — and just as much gratitude as a mother.

Kathryn Kemnetz
junior
Lewis Hall
Nov. 29

Why fight drugs?

I completely agree with Ian Ronderos ("The cost of the real war lost," Nov. 29) that the drug war has been a fiasco, and that everything up to and including cocaine, meth and heroin should be legalized — assuming that the vast majority of people are rational. I have never had the "pleasure" of trying cocaine myself, but I knew plenty of people who did, and the vast majority of them still lead normal (or, to most people, quasi-normal), functional lives, even if they might still indulge in it one to a few times a year. Ditto for the one person I knew who occasionally dipped into OxyContin, the Midwest's "hillbilly heroin." (I honestly believe that most students at this school could occasionally use cocaine and lead otherwise functional lives, and ditto for most other hard drugs. After all, studies show that only heroin rivals nicotine in terms of addictive potential.) Even mildly future-oriented people can cope as one person described: "My girlfriend didn't see what the big deal was with crack, she tried it three times and then she started to crave it, so she stopped."

Unfortunately, there is another side of America, the significant "underclass" — both urban and rural — whose people have little to live for and who perceive no chance of advancing beyond dull, low-paying menial jobs and distinctly unglamorous lifestyles, who don't value the future because they have no rational basis to do so. When I did menial labor at a large business over several high-school summers with a lot of "low-SES" people, I saw a mindset utterly opposite from that of a student at a top-50 college. One worker had to pay garnishments to five different women for six different children (all illegitimate). The overwhelming majority of the workers there had illegitimate children.

Now, if you care so little about the future that you'd rather repeatedly risk a lot of future income for illegitimate kids than use condoms, and if the definition of childlike behavior — stay with me — is

the inability to defer gratification now for more gratification later, how can the state not treat people with that outlook like infants? If everyone is equal under the law, how can the law not cater to the lowest (significant) common denominator?

I am as libertarian as the next guy, but the fact is that not all people care enough about the future not to go off a cliff (and be high at the same time) in the present. And while "you should be able to do whatever you want as long as it doesn't harm anybody else," legalized drugs definitely will be my problem when my Medicare dollars start paying for over-coked livers and new teeth for meth tweaks. (Don't see it? Treating obesity is now a Medicare liability. Do you think obese people need treatment more than drug addicts do? Have you no compassion?) You can either allow people a wide berth to potentially destroy themselves or coddle them with a sprawling welfare state, but you can't do both.

The legalizers' beef isn't really with America's drug laws, but rather with America's values, which have pretensions to "rugged individualism" but actually enthusiastically embrace trial lawyers and welfare sprawl. To see what happens when a society does a 180 from collectivism to individualism, libertarians should take a look at Russia, where the fittest are certainly thriving — and the unfit can join the mafia, overdose to death or starve.

It's a small wonder that the legalization dichards ignore the real costs of legalization (they'd have no audience), and a great irony that those who hate Big Brother the most have been most blind to its infantilizing effects on three generations of Americans.

Alex Forshaw
sophomore
St. Edward's Hall
Nov. 29

U-WIRE

Football kills brain cells

A high concentration of football fans in one place turns us into cavemen, shedding our intelligence like a bad habit. We swagger, we swear, we scream epithets at the other team — and that's just the girls.

Take the BYU-Utah game. When I got close to the stadium entrance, I felt myself regressing into a more primeval form. I locked eyes with a Ute fan and I had an urge to go for the jugular. It didn't matter that this fan was eight years old and had big Bambi eyes. He was the enemy.

As I went to find my seat, I gripped my ticket stub in my sweaty hand and looked at where my seat should have been. There was a girl standing on the bench, cell phone glued to her ear and Louis Vuitton bag slung over one shoulder. I felt my fists clench and I waded into the crowd to claim my seat.

I stood before her, hands on my hips, and looked her dead in the eye. I grinned maniacally and shoved her out of my seat. (It wasn't much of a victory, especially since I spent the next quarter with her purse com-

fortably nestled in my left armpit.)

Butot all fans are filled with the bloodlust of competition. For example, I saw a blonde who I swear was losing brain cells by the minute, but that may not have been because of the football game. She had a high-fashion outfit — as out of place at a football game as a prom dress at Denny's — with a faux fur-lined marshmallow jacket and color-coordinated heels. "Faux Fur," as I like to call her, came with a balding boyfriend with his hat on sideways (batteries not included).

This couple supplied the surrounding fans with a stream of witless conversation. When Faux Fur wasn't asking, "What just happened?" she was staring vacantly in the direction of the press box. During the half-time show the marching band played America the Beautiful, and she snapped out of it for a minute.

"Did somebody die?" she asked her boyfriend.

Then there was a girl I'll just call "Invade-your-space." We hadn't even exchanged names and she wanted a high-five after every good play and commiseration after every bad play. After she patted my head a

couple of times, I was ready to call the Creep police. But instead, I just adopted Faux Fur's technique: staring vacantly at the press box every time Invade-your-space wanted to chat. It worked beautifully.

I regret to report ignoring didn't work so well with the Wild Woman. The Wild Woman — who was probably in her late 50s — cheered louder, jumped higher and screamed fouler insults than any one of us college kids.

Only once I was genuinely concerned for my safety around the Wild Woman. There was an announcement to check under your seat for a prize voucher. Sixty-five thousand fans idly looked under their seats, but only one made a point to elbow three people in the process. I guess you can't expect more from a woman who, when the cougar growl came over the loudspeaker, clawed at the air and yelled, "ROWR!!! ROWR!!!"

But Wild Woman wasn't the only one really getting into the game. The stands were packed with the ex-high school football players who probably played third string water boy. These guys, gut hanging over belt buckle, scream out plays and advice from the 35th row. What's incredible is that

they're fully convinced that the players will hear them. "He's wide open!! How could you not see that?!" they scream, spit flying as they try to relive their high school glory days.

But let us not forget the stupid referee at the U game. With my own eyes, I watched the U running back dive out of bounds, and then watched the ref call it a touchdown.

I froze. I couldn't think. I couldn't breathe. All my intelligence, all my higher thoughts and feelings evaporated as my wrath poured out of my very soul in one syllable: "Boooooooo!!!!!!"

So why in heaven's name do we, as the heads of the food chain, keep subjecting ourselves to the de-evolution of the LaVell Edwards Stadium?

I have no idea. Could somebody pass me my loincloth?

This column originally appeared in the Nov. 29 issue of The Daily Universe, the daily publication at Brigham Young University.

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

Pointless petition

Referendums are clearly being used well by our student body when they force the Associated Students of the University of California to waste time bargaining for lost causes. A student group's petition to authorize negotiations with In-N-Out Burger would do just that — if it garners the requisite 1,000 signatures to put it on the ballot.

This petition is pointless. For one thing, In-N-Out isn't really interested in coming to UC Berkeley. The fast food chain is reluctant to set up shop at a site that would not allow a drive thru. What's more, In-N-Out would like to own the property that its new branch would

inhabit. But this is out of the question — ASUC only rents out its campus space. Thus, ASUC hasn't dealt with In-N-Out for good reason: There's no point.

Why does a group of students feel the need to push for revitalization of the Bear's Lair? Perhaps because it seems as if student government isn't doing enough to revive the tired student union. For example, in September the ASUC Auxiliary announced that Cheese N' Stuff would be joining the Bear's Lair. The popular sandwich joint, however, has yet to make an appearance.

Students, who haven't seen tangible results come out of ASUC efforts are getting frustrated. While ASUC has made important strides by getting Gelateria Naia and Cheese N' Stuff to actually sign up for a spot on campus, it needs to bring these plans to fruition before students

take any more fast food crusades into their own hands.

Political movements do have their place. But you can't legislate commercial negotiations and you definitely can't force them through a referendum. The petitioners' shortsightedness doesn't help, either — they have no plan beyond forcing ASUC to attempt negotiations and don't seem to have considered the negatives. These students should let their elected representatives do the job they were chosen for.

This editorial originally appeared in the Nov. 29 issue of the Daily Californian, the daily publication at the University of California — Berkeley.

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

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MOVIE REVIEWS

Mangold's Johnny Cash biopic is money

By GRAHAM EBETSCH
Scene Critic

With the recent rise in biography films, this holiday's "Walk the Line" has some hard acts to follow. But the cast of James Mangold's story of country music legend Johnny Cash has risen to the occasion and proved itself to be as good, if not better, than similar musical biopics.

"Walk the Line" stands in a different class entirely, telling an honest tale of a troubled musician, leaving out the typical Hollywood bells and whistles.

Though the opening shots are of the infamous Folsom Prison concert, the actual plot begins with Cash's upbringing in Arkansas. At a young age, Johnny, or J.R. as his family called him, loses his older brother Jack. As if such an event weren't traumatizing enough, J.R.'s father, a heavy drinker and harsh man, tells the young boy that God "took the wrong son."

Cash's father continues throughout the movie as the token parental antagonist whose son's achievements will never meet his expectations. While the basic character is a common one in writing, actor Robert Patrick does a fantastic job in not overacting the role. After some slow plot progression of Cash's marriage and rise into fame, the story takes off into the main focus of the movie.

The cat and mouse game between Cash

and his country music predecessor, June Carter, inspire the most touching scenes. Every event depicted in the film after their first interaction reflects Johnny's obvious desire to be with her, a desire which eventually ends his marriage to Vivian, isolating him from his two daughters. The movie does not drag on through the death of Cash in 2003. Instead, it concludes with a resolution between June and Johnny.

Inevitably, "Walk the Line" will be compared to last year's stand-out picture, "Ray." While they both incorporate the same basic musician biopic formula of a hard childhood, overcoming obstacles, failed romantic relationships and the eventual substance dependency, the similarities end there.

To compare the performances by the two leading men would be an injustice. In portraying an iconic celebrity, an actor is confronted with the difficult line between becoming the individual and being able to do great impersonation.

While Joaquin's speaking voice isn't dead on, the mannerisms, personality and singing voice he picked up from years of studying

Cash make for an excellent performance.

Jamie Foxx, a trained comedian, seems to be more focused on making the most spot-on imitation with the very familiar traits of Ray Charles. "Ray" seems to use the standard Hollywood template for an individual beating adversities and succeeding. But "Walk the Line" is instead a gripping story of Cash made by people



Photo courtesy of movieweb.com

June Carter (Reese Witherspoon) and Johnny Cash (Joaquin Phoenix) perform onstage together in "Walk the Line," James Mangold's biopic of the music star.

who genuinely want the story to be told.

It is quite refreshing to see Joaquin Phoenix in a role not written by M. Night Shyamalan. Phoenix shows his strength in dramatic acting giving an eerie glimpse in the mind of Cash, especially since Phoenix himself lost his own brother River to a drug addiction. Any Oscar-buzz for this role is well deserved.

But Reese Witherspoon has the stand out role of the movie and of her career - as June Carter, Witherspoon has finally decided to fly her acting flag. This role might seem like a stretch for the actress who is two-deep in the "Legally Blonde" franchise, but she tackles it head-on. Witherspoon captures both the witty per-

former and the southern girl longing for real love beautifully. Hopefully this will be the gateway to better roles for the talented actress - then again, Jamie Foxx did go on to star in "Stealth."

Every aspect of "Walk the Line" proves it is the most devoted biopic in recent years. Johnny Cash fans will have all of their expectations fulfilled, and non-fans can't help but be sucked in by the performances, the music and the direction. Though 2005 has been a slow year in movies, "Walk the Line" is easily the best yet.

Contact Graham Ebetsch at gebetsch@nd.edu



Director: James Mangold
Writers: James Mangold and Gill Dennis
Starring: Joaquin Phoenix, Reese Witherspoon and Robert Patrick

Thriller 'Derailed' barely stays on track

By JAMES COSTA
Scene Critic

Audiences who expect a simple and obvious thriller in "Derailed" might be in for a pleasant surprise. While it encapsulates many of the common elements of the thriller, with surprise twists and obvious methods of foreshadowing, it succeeds on a far deeper level of connecting the viewer with common human emotions and then interweaving them into a state of confusion and mayhem. Still, the film falls short where it really counts.

The film does have a certain B-movie vibe that seems reminiscent of such films as "Unfaithful" with Richard Gere and "A Perfect Murder" with Michael Douglas. But it succeeds in its own right at presenting a surprisingly fresh perspective to the seedy underworld of sexual infidelity and deception.

The film essentially begins on the commute to Chicago when, late for work, Charles (Clive Owen) is out of cash and cannot buy a ticket. He is about to be kicked off the train when a gorgeous woman (Jennifer Aniston) offers to pay his fare.

After a few pleasantries, the two learn they are both successful business people in the city. Lucinda (Aniston) is

a financial consultant with a beautiful baby girl and a negligent husband. Charles feels attracted because he too has a beautiful daughter and faltering marriage.

Following some innocent commuter flirtation, the two meet for drinks after work. The drinks lead to phone calls to their respective spouses detailing their plans to not come home till morning. Building on their lies together, the two plan a night in a hotel and the beginnings of an affair.

After sobering up a bit, Lucinda decides she cannot follow through with the affair. But after standing with Charles in the street for a bit, they both see a seedy hotel and decide to get the room.

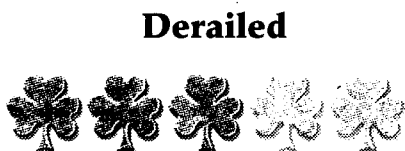
After beginning their interaction in the room, a sudden burst erupts from the door and a violent, gun-bearing stranger breaks in. He brutally pistol-whips Charles into a state of semi-consciousness and then proceeds to viciously rape Lucinda.

The rape scene is especially powerful and disturbing because it is shot from the perspective of Charles. Drifting in and out of consciousness, he is powerless to stop the horrible acts being performed on Lucinda. He wishes to stop them but simply cannot, and the camera and direction conveys this quite



Photo courtesy of movieweb.com

Charles (Clive Owen) and Lucinda (Jennifer Aniston), who meet on the Chicago commuter train, begin an ill-advised affair in Mikael Hafstrom's "Derailed."



Director: Mikael Hafstrom
Writer: Stuart Beattie
Starring: Clive Owen, Jennifer Aniston, Vincent Cassel and Melissa George

well.

After deciding not to go to the police because of the danger of exposing their planned infidelity, the two return to their regular lives until the rapist - a French man named Laroche (the disturbing Vincent Cassel) demands huge sums of money from Charles in order to protect his family from further violence.

From this point on in the film, "Derailed" builds slowly and deftly with tension and fear until the shocking truth is revealed. The twist is actually completely surprising. Audiences will very likely be taken in by the shocking

climax, which is difficult to predict.

The film then begins to expose a series of less-important and even more shocking events until ending at a scene that is rather outlandish, though somewhat satisfying. Like most Hollywood thrillers, it thrives on the suspense it builds.

But on a more important note, "Derailed" fails to say anything new, relevant or insightful about the human condition that the viewer did not already know before seeing the film, though it seems to try.

Contact James Costa at jcosta1@nd.edu



SHOW REVIEW

By MARY SQUILLACE
Scene Critic

With people spontaneously bursting into song and chorus lines materializing out of thin air in the background, it can be difficult to take the average musical seriously. But "Rent" is a musical that can, and should, be taken seriously.

"Rent is about a community celebrating life, in the face of death and AIDS at the turn of the century," said Jonathan Larson, the musical's creator, prior to his death.

Larson worked for seven years to nurture the show into being but died suddenly the night before it was ever performed for an audience, which effectively added another dimension to the play's "seize the day" attitude.

Now, nearly 10 years after it first came to life, Larson's music remains fresh and the show's underlying themes still ring true among audiences across the nation.

One of the most defining features of

the ensemble of characters featured in "Rent" is the fluidity of sexuality among them. The three romantic storylines feature a straight couple, a gay male couple and a lesbian couple. But what makes this portrayal so innovative is not the presentation of their sexuality as something novel, but as something that is almost insignificant.

Each relationship consists of tribulations as well as triumphs, regardless of the sexuality of the characters. In fact, each couple could conceivably be replaced with one of a divergent sexuality without significantly altering the show's plot.

Arguably, the least tumultuous and most tender relationship is between Tom Collins and Angel, a drag queen. While it's difficult to overlook the fact that this is a man dressed in opaque tights and a wig, Angel's status as a

drag queen takes a backseat to the devotion between himself and Collins.

This representation is particularly relevant today in a world where, not only are homosexual relationships hotly disputed in the political realm, but most

portrayals of gay men and women tend still to be stereotypical, and are usually peripheral to a central romantic storyline between straight characters.

Similarly, though the cast is multiracial, the characters Larson created fail to represent any particular racial archetype. Instead, Larson forefronted how, despite their diversity of experiences, the characters connect with one another. They ultimately share the same goal of thriving in the face of adversity, instead of merely surviving in the wake of a large breadth of challenges.

In addition to struggling to afford

their artistic ambitions in New York City, the characters also endure the devastation of AIDS. The play was originally written when AIDS in America received an enormous amount of attention.

Today, though discussions about the issue have somewhat subsided, audiences are still reminded of the serious toll AIDS continues to take on the world's population.

Larson penned his musical in part to pay tribute to the friends he'd lost to AIDS, an issue which takes particular relevance this week at Notre Dame. Students will have the opportunity to assert themselves as part of the cure at a number of events that are being held in conjunction with World AIDS Day 2005, on Thursday.

The words, music and spirit of "Rent" have withstood time, and, thanks to the feature film's wide-release, are now available to the population at large.

Contact Mary Squillace at
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MOVIE REVIEW

By MARY SQUILLACE
Scene Critic

"How do you measure a year in the life?"

The recently released "Rent," which brings Jonathan Larson's 1996 musical from the stage to the screen, first poses then answers this question.

The film follows a year in the life of a group of struggling artists who live in New York City in the midst of their own AIDS epidemic. With an eclectic selection of music ranging from rock to salsa, "Rent" chronicles the joys and strifes of these young people, but ultimately conveys its underlying theme living life to the fullest.

But it's possible that audiences will see two different movies depending on whether or not they have previously seen "Rent" performed onstage. For those who will receive their first glimpse of the critically acclaimed musical via the local movie theatre, "Rent" will not disappoint. The combined fortitude of catchy songs and a moving message make the movie unforgettable.

For those who have had prior exposure to "Rent" — and particularly for self-proclaimed "Rent-heads" — the film has a slightly different effect, as it certainly can't embody the all of the various visions of its extensive fan base. Diehard fans will notice a few song omissions and might initially be thrown by the lines that are

spoken instead of sung in the film. But for the most part, the film provides a solid adaptation, which is true to Jonathan Larson's musical.

In fact, because the stage version is under a number of constraints — as the viewers are fairly removed from the action and only a number of locations can be portrayed — there are a number of opportunities for enhancing the show in its cinema version.

Through flashbacks and montage, the film is able to account for time and events that the play can only allude to. Additionally, director Chris Columbus

("Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone") is creative with the locations that he shoots.

Many of his choices work well, such as the use of a subway car as the location for the playful song "Santa Fe," and depicting Mimi's solo "Out Tonight" as progression from her show at the Cat Scratch Club to her attempts to persuade Roger to take her out. But some of the Columbus' vision seems out of place with the rest of the musical. In particular, a number that illustrates a heated lover's quarrel

between Maureen and Joanne takes place at a country club luncheon seems out of synch with the rest of the action that occurs in the gritty and boisterous city.

A treat for Rent-heads and "Rent" neophytes alike is Columbus' idea to use most of the original cast members for the movie. In doing this, he has not only



Director: Christopher Columbus
Writer: Steve Chbosky
Starring: Anthony Rapp, Rosario Dawson, Adam Pascal and Jessie Martin



Photo courtesy of movieweb.com

Jonathan Larson's beloved musical "Rent" comes to theaters with most of its original Broadway cast intact. The film is directed by Christopher Columbus.



Photo courtesy of movieweb.com

Roger (Adam Pascal) and Mimi (Rosario Dawson) deal with relationships in Christopher Columbus' "Rent," which is based on the acclaimed musical.

DPAC SPOTLIGHT

Fellini's masterpiece showing at DPAC

By BRIAN DOXTADER
Assistant Scene Editor

The brief years between 1959 and 1960 were staggeringly important and groundbreaking in the burgeoning film world — Jean-Luc Godard's "A Bout de Souffle," Michelangelo Antonioni's "L'Avventura" and Francois Truffaut's "Les quatre cents coups" were all released in that brief span of time.

Equally important among them was Federico Fellini's "La Dolce Vita" ("The Sweet Life"), the film that catapulted its director to international prominence and one of the towering and enduring motion pictures of its time.

Though not as inscrutably brilliant as his 1963 masterpiece "Otto e Mezzo" ("8 1/2") or as poignantly beautiful as 1954's

"La Strada," "La Dolce Vita" may stand as the Fellini's best film, and, subsequently, as one of Italy's best films.

Eschewing the "cinema veritae" tendencies of Italian Neo-Realism, "La Dolce Vita" may be the archetypal Fellini film: at once serious and whimsical, realistic enough to be engagingly grounded, yet just flighty enough to keep its audience unbalanced.

The film follows gossip columnist Marcello Rubini (Fellini's alter-ego Marcello Mastroianni) as he explores a

staggeringly decadent Rome. He becomes increasingly drawn into the heady hedonism of the world around him, as he finds himself entrenched with socialite Maddalena (Anouk Aimee), his mistress Emma (Yvonne Furneaux) and a bisexual prostitute (Adriana Moneta).

As Rubini descends into the decadence surrounding him, he stops trying to resist and starts accepting the shallowness of his life, eventually indulging in "the sweet life" described by the title.

Critic Lucia Bozzola notes that "La Dolce Vita" was a major success partially due to its

"then-frank sexuality," and while that may be true, such an analysis suggests that it is badly outdated. Surprisingly, the film holds up remarkably well nearly half a cen-

tury later, thanks to the unique vision of its director. Admittedly, some elements of the plot haven't dated well, but the stunning widescreen cinematography and Fellini's eye for composition and pacing keep the whole affair afloat.

There are some indelibly iconic moments sprinkled throughout the film, especially the evocative opening and closing shots, which have helped define a style justifiably called "Fellini-esque." Like all Italian films of the



Photo courtesy of img.photobucket.com

"La Dolce Vita," Federico Fellini's 1960 international breakthrough, will be screened in the Browning Cinema at the DPAC as part of the PAC Classic 100.

period, "La Dolce Vita" was shot silently and dubbed later, which grants a slightly detached quality that serves Fellini's stylistic tendencies surprisingly well.

"La Dolce Vita" is thoroughly an art film, beautifully shot and deliberately paced. At 174 minutes, it's also quite long, but Fellini's directorial sense, and Mastroianni's strong presence keep the audience engaged throughout.

It was a major success internationally, as it won the Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival and garnered a Best Director Oscar nomination for

Fellini and a Best Original Screenplay Oscar nomination. Though it may be argued that the seminal director's other films ("Otto e Mezzo," "La Strada," "Amarcord") are more personal, few would argue that "La Dolce Vita" is not a masterpiece, and it endures as one of the defining films of the 1960's.

"La Dolce Vita" is being screened on Saturday as part of the PAC Classic 100.

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DVD REVIEW

'Stewie Griffin' feature is a hilarious treat for fans

By BETSY SIMON
Scene Critic

In the face of cancellations, censorship, and critical disapprovals, "Family Guy" has emerged with a DVD classic in "Family Guy Presents Stewie Griffin: The Untold Story" — giggity, giggity.

Keeping to the standard and now-familiar "Family Guy" format, creator Seth MacFarlane parodies pop culture, such as "Ferris Bueller's Day Off," "Lethal Weapon" and "The Sound of Music," and ridicules current controversial issues such as politics, abortion and incest.

While the animated Griffin family satirizes religion, race and physical disability with the most unnecessarily inappropriate and politically incorrect humor, it is humor nonetheless and very funny humor at that. While it maybe offensive, it is also very funny, which helps overcome the inevitable criticism.

In classic Hollywood style, the Griffin family arrives at their own movie premiere via the red carpet. The laughter begins with the appearance of "Family Guy" favorites, including Mayor Adam West, Drew Barrymore, the Kool-Aid

Man and, of course, Greased-up Naked Deaf Guy.

The appearance of these characters indicates the movie is directed specifically at fans of the series and not at those who aren't well versed in the "Family Guy" world.

The movie itself does not hesitate to dive immediately into humor as the overweight son, Chris Griffin, executes a perfect triple somersault into the Quahog Public Swimming Pool and the infant son, Stewie Griffin, comes face to face with death.

Normally obsessed with killing his mother and dominating the world, Stewie's attitude begins to change. After a glimpse into his future as a changed, 30-year old virgin, Stewie becomes the protagonist who attempts to change his past. This provides the crux of the film's plot.

The movie's unforgettable clips are linked together by Stewie's desire to erase his near-death, life-changing experience.

From the graphic murder of Bugs Bunny to the blinding of Ray Charles, the family's flashbacks reek of extremely clever postmodern satire. Although somewhat offensive, the provocation of the flashbacks pales in comparison to scenes such as Jesus' miracles represented as mere magic shows or Walt Disney depicted as outwardly anti-Semitic.

The memorable jokes and passionate humor make up for the movie's offensive material, especially since the makers seemed to be having so much fun.

The insulting and inappropriate material con-

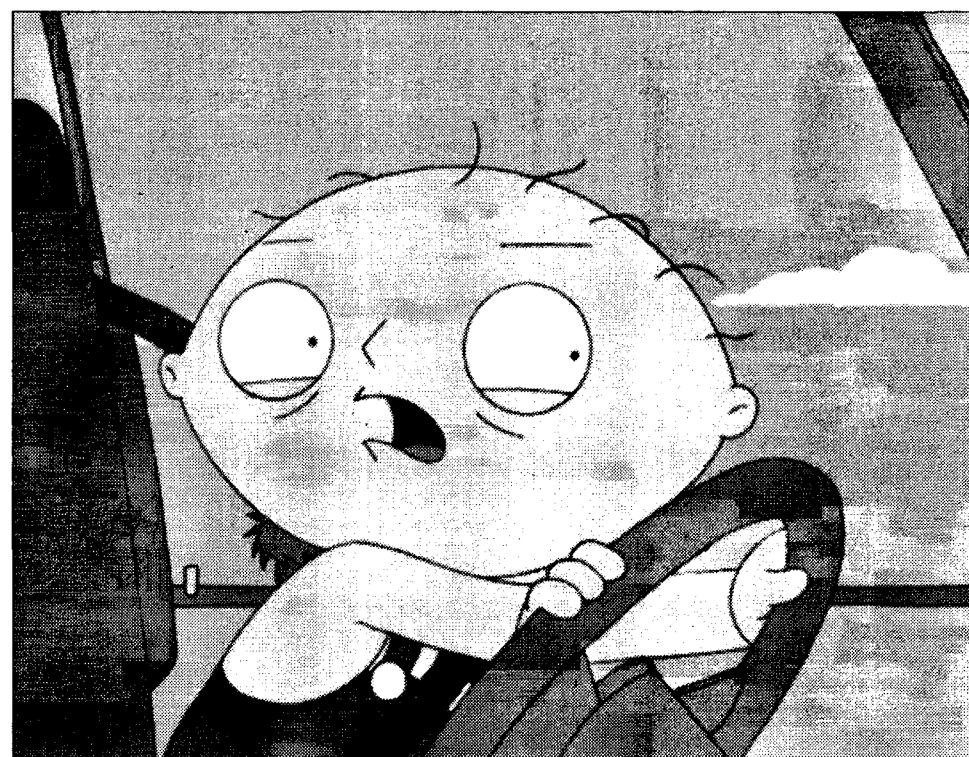


Photo courtesy of img.photobucket.com

Stewie Griffin (voice of Seth MacFarlane) takes center stage in "Family Guy Presents Stewie Griffin: The Untold Story," which is based on the Fox TV series.

tained in the movie does not (totally) exceed what "Family Guy" enthusiasts are exposed to on a weekly basis. But for the easily offended viewer, a censored version is provided on the DVD.

The only other special feature included is a commentary by show creator Seth MacFarlane (who is also the voice Stewie, Peter and Brian) and other various cast members, show writers and crew. While more special features would have been welcome, the movie itself is funny enough that they aren't really missed.

Like the weekly Fox show itself, "Family Guy Presents Stewie Griffin: The Untold Story" only gets better with repeated viewings. The more the movie is seen, the more missed jokes and cleverly placed comedy is enjoyed by alert viewers.

While more inappropriate than breaking parietals, "Stewie Griffin: The Untold Story" gets two thumbs up — a high-quality reward for "Family Guy" enthusiasts.

Contact Betsy Simon at esimon1@nd.edu

Stewie Griffin: The Untold Story

Fox Home Video



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"Two thumbs way up." -EBERT & ROEPER

NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL

UConn overcomes slow start to beat Army, 68-54

Kentucky blasts overmatched High Point; Wake Forest edges Wisconsin, 91-88; Aldridge leads Longhorns to win

Associated Press

HARTFORD, Conn. — Rudy Gay had 17 points, 10 rebounds and five steals, and Connecticut shook off a sluggish start to beat Army 68-54 on Tuesday night.

The third-ranked Huskies (5-0) were coming off victories over Arizona and Gonzaga to win the Maui Invitational, but they struggled for long periods against the scrappy Black Knights (2-3).

Jarrell Brown had a career-high 26 points for Army, including four 3-pointers that helped the Black Knights stay close for much of the first half.

Brown had four of Army's seven first-half 3s that helped put the Black Knights up by as many as six points in the period. He repeatedly found the open spot in the UConn defense, prompting coach Jim Calhoun to frequently swap defenders on him.

The Huskies finally got their up-tempo game going with the help of Rashad Anderson, who scored 11 points in the final 3:43 of the period. He had three 3-pointers and a steal in a 16-5 UConn run, and the Huskies closed the half with a 35-27 lead.

UConn opened the second half with a 10-0 run and appeared to be headed for a rout, leading by as many as 18. But the Black Knights refused to fold. Brown scored eight points during an 8-minute stretch and Army cut the UConn lead to 56-46 with 6:21 left.

The Huskies went without a field goal during that stretch. Freshman guard Craig Austrie ended the drought, hitting consecutive baskets with 5:01 left and Army was unable to mount much of a threat after that.

UConn dominated the paint, outscoring Army 30-8 in the lane. The Huskies outrebounded the Black Knights 41-26 and scored 31 points off turnovers.

Anderson finished with 16 points, and Hilton Armstrong added 10 for UConn.

Corban Bates had 10 points for Army.

Kentucky 75, High Point 55

Point guard Rajon Rondo had 14 points, 10 rebounds and six assists Tuesday night to lead No. 10 Kentucky past High Point.

Ramel Bradley scored 14 points and Patrick Sparks added 13 for Kentucky (5-1), which won its third straight game while prepping for a showdown

Saturday at Rupp Arena against defending national champion North Carolina.

Arizona Reid had 29 points and 16 rebounds — each a career high — for High Point, a member of the Big South Conference and the alma mater of Kentucky coach Tubby Smith. It was the third time the Panthers (3-2) played Kentucky since Smith became the Wildcats' coach in 1997.

Kentucky's average margin of victory in its previous two meetings with the Panthers was 36.5 points. High Point went 1-of-19 from 3-point range but kept things interesting for a half before wearing down against the Wildcats' defense.

High Point outrebounded Kentucky 20-19 in the first half and trailed only 34-30 at half-time, but Kentucky finished with a 43-35 edge on the boards.

Wake Forest 91, Wisconsin 88

Justin Gray scored a career-high 37 points, including six free throws in the final 28 seconds, to lead No. 22 Wake Forest past Wisconsin in the ACC/Big Ten Challenge on Tuesday night.

Kyle Visser added all of his 13 points and five assists after half-time for the Demon Deacons (6-1), who led by 10 in the second half but had to hold on for their 21st straight home win.

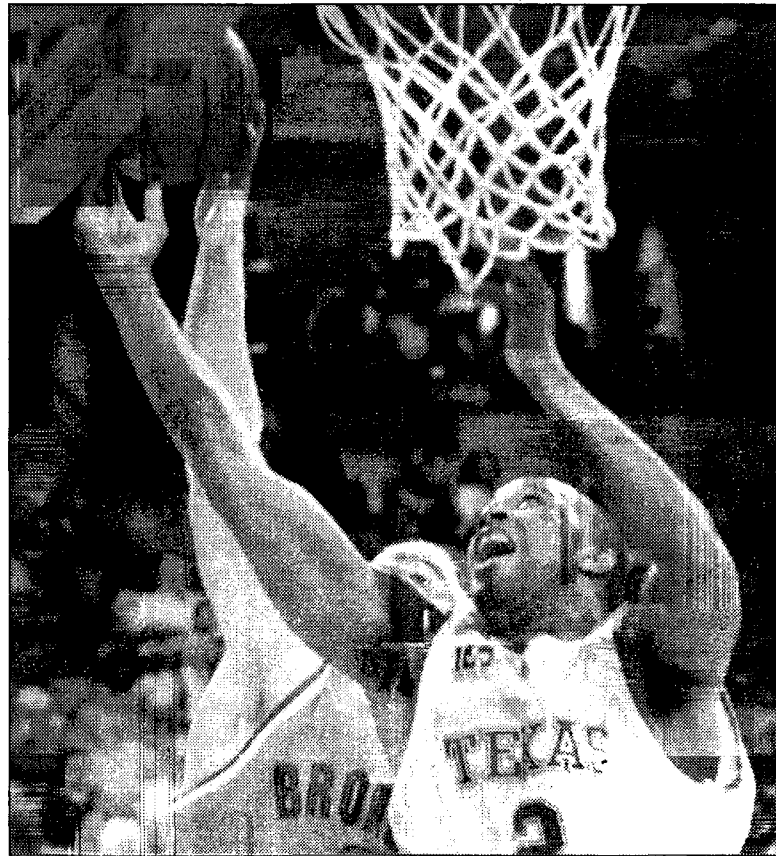
Wake Forest has won 51 of 52 home games against non-conference opponents, and improved to 3-0 against the Badgers in the seventh annual event.

Alando Tucker scored 23 of his 27 points in the second half for the Badgers (4-1), while Brian Butch added 19 points and 10 rebounds.

Kammron Taylor's 3-pointer pulled Wisconsin to 89-88. Gray then made his final two free throws, and Taylor missed a long 3 at the buzzer that would have tied it.

Gray was unstoppable all night, hitting 11 of 20 shots and knocking down all 13 free throws in 37 minutes. The senior got some big help from Visser, a 6-foot-11 junior who turned in a strong second half with Eric Williams picking up his fourth foul soon after the break.

Meanwhile, Tucker scored only four points and sustained an apparent injury to his nose in the first half. He came out of the break wearing a protective



Texas forward P.J. Tucker goes up for a layup during the Longhorns' 82-54 win over Texas Pan-American Tuesday.

mask, but soon took it off and showed no ill effects in leading the Badgers back in a game that came down to the final play.

Texas 82, Texas Pan-American 54

LaMarcus Aldridge scored a career-high 23 points and grabbed 11 rebounds, and No. 2 Texas shook off poor shooting in the first half to beat Texas-Pan American Tuesday night.

P.J. Tucker added 19 points and 11 rebounds for the Longhorns (6-0), off to their best start since winning their first 14 games in the 1981-82 season.

Aldridge has a double-double in every game this season. Mike Williams also had 10 points and 10 rebounds.

Johnathan Chatman and Dexter Shankle each scored 10 points to lead Texas-Pan American (2-4).

The Longhorns have made a habit of beating up on their weaker state rivals — they are 56-5 against Lone Star opponents under coach Rick Barnes — and the Broncos hardly figured to be much of a match for Texas.

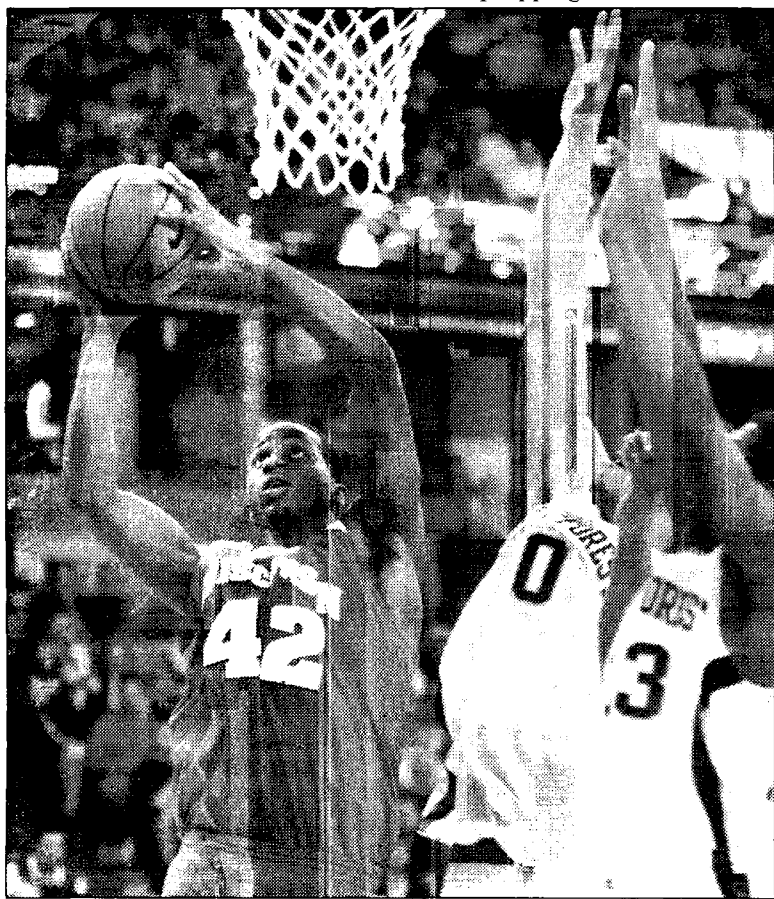
But Pan American made it anything but easy in the early going for the Longhorns, who

shot just 37 percent in the first half, including 2-of-12 from 3-point range. Texas missed layups, threw passes into the stands and turned the ball over eight times.

Tucker, who hit all nine of his shots against Louisiana-Monroe three days earlier, missed his first two Tuesday night and Texas trailed 11-10 before seizing the lead with a defensive effort that kept Pan American scoreless for six minutes in a 10-0 run. Aldridge converted a three-point play and Connor Atchley's putback made it 20-11.

Pan American cut it to 26-21 before Aldridge and Williams helped Texas end any threat of an upset. Aldridge scored the Longhorns' final six points of the half, including a dunk, to send Texas into halftime leading 32-23.

Texas slowly stretched the lead in the second. Williams scored eight points as the Longhorns continued to struggle shooting but built a 48-30 lead with rebounding that produced second and third shots. J.D. Lewis' 3-pointer and Aldridge's rebound and putback off Lewis' miss made it 56-36 with 9:29 left.



Wisconsin forward Alando Tucker skies past two Wake Forest defenders in the Badgers' 91-88 loss to the Demon Deacons Tuesday.

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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Oh how I would sulk if my hulk turned to bulk

Don't work too hard, Alison

I'm Meredith Brooks

Blues and Gold ... If you plan on making books Friday, then it looks like you're gonna be down for a heavy dose of blues, rock, funk and everything in between

Your humble servant, Th: Jefferson

AROUND THE NATION

Wednesday, November 30, 2005

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

page 17

NFL

AFC East

team	record	perc.	PF	PA
New England	6-5	.545	243	279
Buffalo	4-7	.364	223	223
Miami	4-7	.364	217	217
N.Y. Jets	2-9	.182	248	248

AFC North

team	record	perc.	PF	PA
Cincinnati	8-3	.727	289	208
Pittsburgh	7-4	.636	243	187
Cleveland	4-7	.364	169	194
Baltimore	3-8	.273	145	226

AFC South

team	record	perc.	PF	PA
Indianapolis	11-0	1.000	331	159
Jacksonville	8-3	.727	235	187
Tennessee	3-8	.273	236	194
Houston	1-10	.091	168	325

AFC West

team	record	perc.	PF	PA
Denver	9-2	.818	283	190
San Diego	7-4	.636	323	219
Kansas City	7-4	.636	270	230
Oakland	4-7	.364	239	262

NFC East

team	record	perc.	PF	PA
Dallas	7-4	.636	243	188
N.Y. Giants	7-4	.636	302	208
Washington	5-6	.455	217	224
Philadelphia	5-6	.455	229	246

NFC North

team	record	perc.	PF	PA
Chicago	8-3	.727	182	120
Minnesota	6-5	.545	198	257
Detroit	4-7	.364	174	220
Green Bay	2-9	.182	232	223

NFC South

team	record	perc.	PF	PA
Carolina	8-3	.727	266	188
Tampa Bay	7-4	.636	216	196
Atlanta	7-4	.636	271	213
New Orleans	3-8	.273	180	285

NFC West

team	record	perc.	PF	PA
Seattle	9-2	.818	296	208
St. Louis	5-6	.455	285	327
Arizona	3-8	.273	222	292
San Francisco	2-9	.182	173	323

Women's Volleyball Top 12

No.	Team	Points
1	Nebraska	1459
2	Penn State	1452
3	Washington	1399
4	Florida	1270
5	Stanford	1252
6	Arizona	1220
7-tie	Hawaii	1079
7-tie	Texas	1079
9	Louisville	1001
10	Missouri	966
11	NOTRE DAME	950
12	USC	810

around the dial

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Georgia Tech at Michigan State 7:00 p.m., ESPN

Minnesota at Maryland 7:30 p.m., ESPN2

Duke at Indiana 9:00 p.m., ESPN

MLB



Billy Wagner responds to questions at Shea Stadium Tuesday after inking a four-year deal worth \$43 million with the Mets. New York also has an option to keep him for a fifth year.

Mets sign new closer Wagner

Associated Press

NEW YORK — When he's not blowing 100 mph fastballs by big league hitters, Billy Wagner likes to relax with his family on their quiet Virginia farm.

So the New York Mets knew it was going to take some serious convincing to bring him to the bustling Big Apple — even though he spent the past two seasons in another tough city, Philadelphia.

To lure the free-agent closer, New York offered \$43 million over four years, a no-trade clause

and some comforting words from a country boy of its own.

Done deal.

"It seemed like all roads kind of led to New York," Wagner said Tuesday after slipping on his new No. 13 Mets jersey at a Shea Stadium news conference. "I think it was always the Mets' ball to lose."

Maybe one reason was James Plummer, director of corporate services for the Mets and a longtime team employee. A Mets bat boy in 1965, he still counts Hall of Fame pitcher Nolan Ryan among his good

friends.

The 54-year-old Plummer grew up near Wagner's hometown in Virginia, so he popped in to chat when the four-time All-Star was in general manager Omar Minaya's office during a two-day visit last week.

"It was going to be 2 minutes, it turned into 30 minutes," Plummer said. "I don't know about recruit, I just try to help out."

But Minaya thought that conversation helped do the trick, making Wagner feel more comfortable about New York.

"Our secret weapon this year was Jimmy Plummer," the GM said.

Wagner saved 38 games for Philadelphia last season and turned down an offer of just more than \$30 million over three years to stay with the Phillies.

New York's proposal included a club option for 2010 that could raise the value to \$50 million over five seasons.

While the Mets offered a no-trade clause, Wagner said Philadelphia was willing to include it for only the first two years of a contract.

IN BRIEF

Colts downplay importance of undefeated season

INDIANAPOLIS — Peyton Manning and the Indianapolis Colts would define perfection as winning a Super Bowl title. Anything more would be a bonus.

But with five weeks left in the regular season, the Colts' arduous, three-decade quest to return to the Super Bowl now carries an added burden — trying to join the 1972 Miami Dolphins as the only unbeaten teams in NFL history.

Forget that the Colts are already 11-0, could clinch the AFC South title in the next two weeks and may soon wrap up a first-round bye and home-field advantage throughout the playoffs.

The big question now around Indy — and the NFL — is whether anyone can beat this team.

Coach Tony Dungy wants everyone to keep things in perspective.

"Hopefully we win the next two because that means we will wrap up the division," he said Tuesday. "If we

win them, we know there will be a lot of talk about 'Can you go undefeated?' But that's never really been our goal."

Fulmer apologizes to Tennessee fans

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — Tennessee football coach Phillip Fulmer's acknowledgment that the 2005 season was "unacceptable" has been put in writing to the fans.

Fulmer wrote a 300-word letter that was e-mailed Tuesday to about 38,000 season ticket holders and other fans signed up to receive periodic newsletters from the athletic department through its Web site.

"This year was a disappointing season for everyone in the Tennessee family," wrote Fulmer, echoing what he's been saying on the radio and television and in speeches. "We started this season with great expectations and failed to live up to those expectations."

"I assure you that no one is happy about our season — especially me, and I know that our fans deserve

better than what we produced this year."

The letter was gleaned from 10 pages of notes from a speech Fulmer gave Monday to the Knoxville Quarterback Club. That speech also expressed his concern over finishing 5-6, the first losing record and lack of a bowl bid since 1988.

Solich receives probation for drunk driving

ATHENS, Ohio — Ohio coach Frank Solich will be put on probation by the university following his drunken driving conviction.

Athletic director Kirby Hocutt said at a news conference Tuesday that Solich also will publicly address his arrest and conviction and become involved in alcohol education initiatives on campus.

"I cannot crawl in a hole. I cannot take a step backward," said Solich, whose team went 4-7 in his first year after six seasons at Nebraska. "I can try to use this as an experience in my life that has happened. There's no way I can take it back."

NFL

Shockey blossoms in fourth season with NY

Giants tight end and Miami product has matured since bursting onto the professional scene in 2002

Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Jeremy Shockey's career appears to be settling into its triumphant third act.

In Act I, the free-spirited rookie from a small town in Oklahoma comes to the big city and unleashes his vast talents on the NFL, making the Pro Bowl and setting team records at his position.

Act II is the inevitable fall from grace as the team stumbles and the hero's brashness begins to look more like self-aggrandizement. Several ill-timed — some would say vulgar and inflammatory — public comments only fan the flames.

Now comes Act III, in which the chastened hero minds his manners, is rededicated to his craft, and again becomes a star and even a team leader of sorts.

With five regular-season games remaining, the New York Giants tight end already has seven touchdown catches, one more than his career best. His 713 yards are second among NFL tight ends behind San Diego's Antonio Gates (823), and his 14.9-yard average is the best in the league among tight ends with more than 18 receptions.

Not coincidentally, the Giants are 7-4 and tied for the first place in the NFC East with Dallas as they prepare for Sunday's showdown with Dallas at Giants Stadium.

"This game's hard, especially being in New York on the No. 1 stage in America," Shockey says.

"People are going to criticize you no matter what; even if you get a win and you barely beat a

team they're going to still point out the negatives. People in this locker room understand that's the baggage that comes with being a part of the New York Giants.

"But the good thing is when you start doing good, people probably give you a little more praise than in other cities."

Worshipped as a rookie in 2002 when his 74 receptions set team marks for rookies and tight ends, Shockey has had a sometimes uneasy relationship with Giants fans, though the team's 10-22 record in 2003 and 2004 undoubtedly fueled their discontent.

"All I can really control is what I do on the field, how I play on Sundays and how I work during the week," Shockey said a day after his 10-catch, 127-yard, one-touchdown performance in last Sunday's overtime loss to the Seahawks. "I can't really control what people think of me. They praise me now, but I guarantee if I start not doing well, they're going to start bashing me."

That may be a harsh assessment considering that, from almost any perspective in the Giants Stadium parking lot, Shockey's No. 80 reigns supreme before home games, ahead of Eli Manning's No. 10, Tiki Barber's No. 21 and Michael Strahan's No. 92.

And the jerseys won't become obsolete — Shockey signed a five-year, \$31.2 million contract extension in October.

Shockey's increased numbers this season are the product of several factors.

They include better health —

he has been plagued by nagging foot injuries.

They also include Manning's growth as an NFL quarterback and the addition of wide receiver Plaxico Burress, signed as a free agent in the offseason. Burress leads the team with 60 receptions for 928 yards, and has opened up room in the secondary for Shockey.

"I think they are very much helping each other in the attention that teams have given them," said Giants tight ends coach Mike Pope. "Both of them are pretty tall and good jumpers, so teams have to think about putting those 5-9 guys out there to cover them."

He won't come out and say he has learned from his public mistakes — such as throwing a cup of ice into the stands in San Francisco that inadvertently hit two children or calling Cowboys coach Bill Parcells a derogatory name in a magazine article.

But it's clear the new Shockey has adopted an all-business, all-the-time attitude when it comes to football and is a respected part of the team. He and Barber were the two players invited to the deathbed of Wellington Mara, the team's owner and the NFL's patriarch, on the day before he died — and he was one of the straight-laced Mara's favorite players.

The old Shockey occasionally resurfaces, too, as it did near the end of the Seattle game. He mugged for the sideline cameras as Jay Feely's attempt at a game-winning field goal appeared to be sailing through the uprights, only to look on in disbelief when the kick missed.



New York Giants tight end Jeremy Shockey runs off the field after the Giants' overtime loss to the Seattle Seahawks Sunday.

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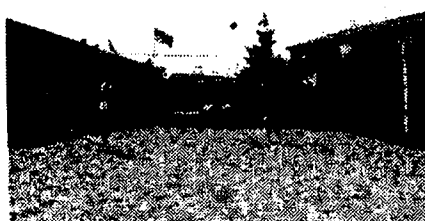
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SMC BASKETBALL

Slow start dooms Belles in loss to Carthage

Lady Reds jump out to 24-2 lead as Saint Mary's shoots 8.5 percent from the field in first half — Belles lose third of season

By FRAN TOLAN
Sports Writer

Steve Bender didn't want to start this way.

The first-year Belles coach saw Saint Mary's fall to 1-3 on the season Saturday.

Saint Mary's team lost 63-45 to Carthage in a game in which the Belles never got on track.

In their first home game of the young season, the Belles came out struggling, hitting just 4-of-24 field goal attempts in the first half. They fell behind 24-2 and were never able to recover.

"There's no way we had a chance after such a poor start," Bender said.

Carthage (1-1), meanwhile, knocked down 12-of-18 shots in the first 20 minutes to take a commanding 30-17 lead at the half.

Saint Mary's battled back in the second half, cutting the lead to 34-28 with 16:11 remaining.

But Carthage's strong shooting was too much for them to handle.

The Lady Reds went on a 25-5 run to ice the game after Saint Mary's cut the Carthage lead to six. Carthage made 53 percent of

its shots on the night, and the Belles, who dropped their second straight game, shot just 26 percent.

Carthage sophomore Jenny Wuest led all scorers with 21 points to go along with her six rebounds. Wuest dominated the Saint Mary's defense all game, missing just two of her 11 shots.

Freshman guard Shana Lieberman also chipped in 17

points for the Lady Reds.

Bender said his team took at least one positive away from the Carthage loss. He said several underclassmen played well and saw more playing time Saturday and that he believes the freshmen and sophomores showed potential to contribute significantly this season.

"I realized we have a lot of depth that we were not nec-

essarily expecting this soon," Bender said.

Sophomore guard Alison Kessler was the only Saint Mary's player to reach double digits, scoring 15 points. Junior Bridget Lipke added eight points and three assists in the losing effort.

Guard Bridget Boyce scored five points and Erin Newsome, Emily Light, Katie Rashid each chipped in four points.

The Belles will next be in action against Hope today at the Angela Athletic Center.

Contact Fran Tolan at
ftolan@nd.edu

"I realized we have a lot of depth that we were not necessarily expecting this soon."

Steve Bender
Belles head coach

NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL

Blue Devils and Hoosiers to square off in Bloomington

Indiana students anticipate first ever Duke visit to Assembly Hall as part of Big Ten-ACC Challenge

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana's Marshall Strickland can already envision Assembly Hall on Wednesday night.

He expects the wild, late-night crowd to taunt Duke's top players, J.J. Redick and Shelden Williams. He expects the sold-out crowd to remind

freshman Josh McRoberts he made a mistake by choosing the Blue Devils over his home-state Hoosiers, and he hopes the Indiana students swarm the court in a postgame celebration.

Welcome back to college basketball, Indiana style.

"When Assembly Hall gets rocking, this is a special place," Strickland said. "I'm excited just thinking about it."

So far, the 17th-ranked Hoosiers (3-0) have brought a renewed level of excitement to their program after two consecutive subpar seasons.

They overwhelmed Nicholls State, Florida A&M and Western Illinois with a strong inside-outside combination and have scored more points in each game. They're averaging 100.3 points and have not resembled the previous under-achieving teams, thanks in part to the addition of forward Marco Killingsworth and solid 3-point shooting.

But if Indiana intends to re-establish itself as a national power this season, it must start with a strong showing in one of the ACC/Big Ten Challenge's marquee matchups.

"We have things that we

want to work on and make sure that we execute the things we need to do to win the game," Killingsworth said.

What makes this game special? Everything.

Duke (5-0) will become the first nonconference team to ever visit Assembly Hall with the No. 1 ranking. It has a roster filled with McDonald's All-Americans, a stronger and more experienced inside-outside combination than the Hoosiers and a perfect 6-0 mark in a showcase event that has been dominated by the ACC in each of the previous six years.

Strangely, though, the Blue Devils have never played in Bloomington.

The last meeting between the schools came in the 2002 regional semifinals when the Hoosiers rallied for a stunning 74-73 upset of then No. 1 Duke, a victory that sent coach Mike Davis sprinting onto the court and catapulted Indiana into the Final Four.

"We know they're going to come out and get after us," freshman guard Greg Paulus said. "The crowd is going to get into it and playing uphill is never good on the road."

The bigger question may be what the Blue Devils, and particularly McRoberts, a native of Carmel, Ind., receive.

A year ago, the Hoosiers had a similar matchup against then No. 9 North Carolina in Bloomington native Sean May's homecoming. Indiana responded with one of its best games of the season, a 70-63 loss, and the hostile crowd rattled May. Fans chanted "Traitor" and wore shirts that spelled out "May you must be adopted."



Duke senior Lee Melchionni talks to coach Mike Krzyzewski during the Blue Devil's win over Seton Hall Nov. 16.

Those memories have already prompted McRoberts to ask his parents to stay home.

"I don't think I'm going to be the favorite person," he said. "I always followed Indiana basketball, but I always wanted to go to Duke."

Other battles may prove more critical.

Inside, Killingsworth and Williams could turn the game into a wrestling match. Williams, at 6-foot-9, 250 pounds, is considered one of the nation's strongest and most talented players. Killingsworth, at 6-8, 268, wants to prove he can match up with Williams and has also demonstrated the ability to pass and hit 3-pointers.

But the key could be the perimeter.

Redick, a 6-4 guard, averages 22.4 points and is one of the nation's top shooters for 3-pointers and free throws. He'll likely be defended by Lewis Monroe, who, like Killingsworth, transferred to Indiana from Auburn. The Hoosiers could also use speedy

Earl Calloway or versatile 6-5 swingman Robert Vaden on Redick.

Meanwhile, Indiana has connected on 16 3s in each of its last two games and might get a boost if sophomore guard A.J. Ratliff returns from a broken thumb. Ratliff has not yet played this season and was expected to start.

Both teams will be missing key players. The Blue Devils lost starting guard DeMarcus Nelson for six to eight weeks after he had surgery on a fractured right ankle, while Indiana is still without D.J. White, who broke his left foot in the Hoosiers' first exhibition game. White was last year's Big Ten freshman of the year.

Whatever happens, Strickland and his teammates figure this is what big-time college basketball is all about.

"We want to make them play our game," Strickland said. "If we start letting them set the tempo of the game, we could have some troubles. We have to make them run with us, and I think we will have some success."

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Hope

continued from page 24

lead Saint Mary's in scoring, averaging 14.8 and 11.0 points per game, respectively.

Bender also predicts solid contributions from freshmen Erin Newsom, Nicole Beier, Calli Davison and Emily Light, who all logged at least ten minutes of playing time against Carthage.

With the added contributions

of some of these underclassmen and the steady guard play of Boyce and Kessler, Bender believes his group will show it can compete with the top teams in the league.

"We can't back down against [Hope], or they'll have their

way with us," Bender said.

The game, which is the Belles' first against a league opponent, will be played at the Angela Athletic Facility at Saint Mary's on Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

After Hope, the Belles face

North Park University Friday. They return to league play next Wednesday and Saturday games against Adrian and Alma, respectively.

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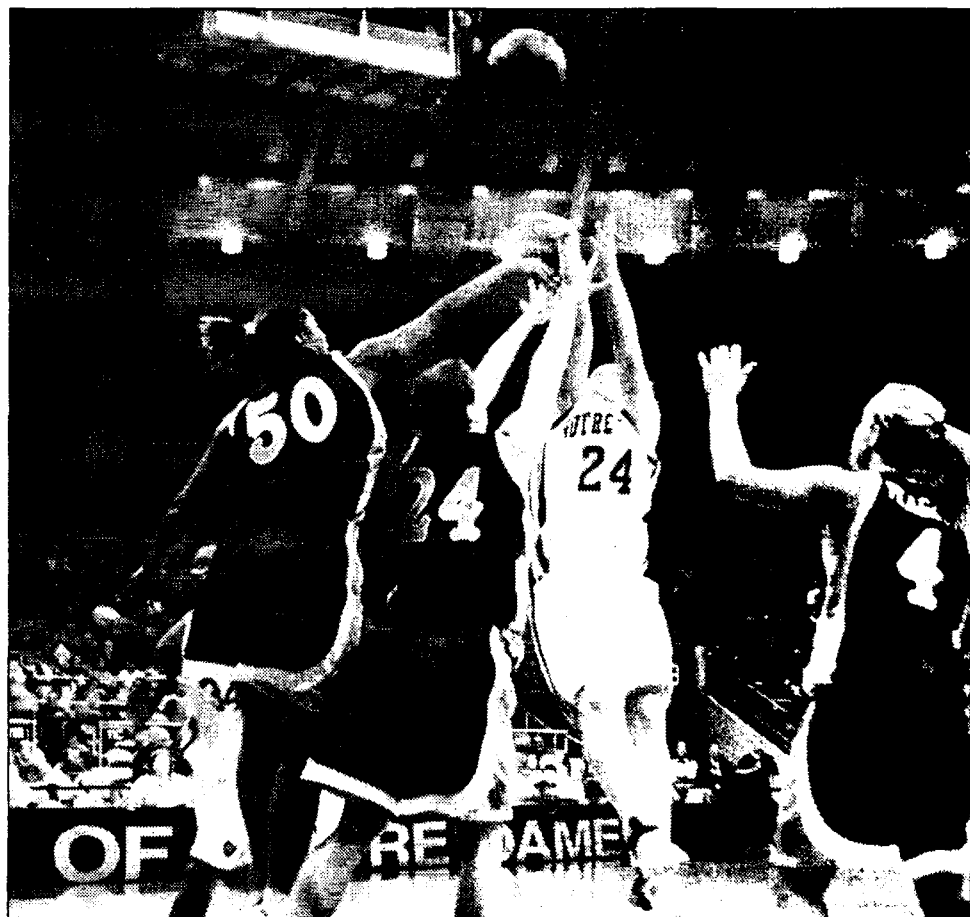


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ALLISON AMBROSE/The Observer

At left, Tulyah Gaines applies the full-court press against Iona's Lauren DeFalco. Gaines had five points and a steal in 18 minutes of action Wednesday. Lindsay Schrader, right, takes a jump shot over Anna McLean (50) and Martina Weber (24). Schrader had 14 points on 6-of-9 shooting in the contest.

Gaels

continued from page 24

team's second leading scorer behind Duffy.

Duffy led the Irish charge to pull away from the Gaels early in the second half. Iona scored the first four points of the half to cut the Notre Dame lead to 36-32, but Notre Dame responded with a 16-4 run keyed by pressure defense and Duffy's outside shooting. With 14:34 left in the game, Duffy connected on her second straight three-point shot to stretch Notre Dame's advantage to 52-36 and put the game out of reach.

In the first half, Notre Dame relied on the inside play of center Melissa D'Amico and forward Courtney LaVere. The pair each recorded eight points in the first half. D'Amico pulled down eight rebounds in the game, while LaVere added five.

But despite the strong interior play early on, Iona hung with the more talented Irish in the first half. Washington attributed her team's first half struggles to McGraw's absence.

"It's tough when you play

without your head coach," Washington said. "I think in the first half, we were all a little nervous. We didn't really find out until just before the game that coach McGraw wasn't going to be there. I think it took us the first half to kind of get used to the way it was going to be tonight."

McGraw has stressed all season the need to improve team rebounding. The Irish edged the Gaels 42-35 on the boards, but D'Amico said the margin should have been even greater.

"Rebounding has been an issue all year," the center said. "It's something we work on in practice a lot. I think sometimes [when] we box out, we just don't go after it. And that's something we really have to improve on, especially against the better teams."

Iona point guard Toni Horvath had a productive outing, leading the Gaels in scoring with 14 points and connecting on 4-of-6 three-point attempts. Iona's 6-foot-5 forward Martina Weber pitched in with 11 points and nine rebounds.

The Irish struggled with free throws Tuesday night, shooting just 62 percent from the chari-

ty stripe. Washington said she does not think the problem will continue.

"It's not really a concern of ours," Washington said of the team's free throw shooting. "We're pretty good in practice, so sometimes it's just when the lights go on a little nerves. And that's just something that I think, as the season goes on, we'll get used to that and we'll knock them down."

"I'm totally confident in our players. They can go to the line and make free throws."

Washington said she was

extremely nervous when informed she would have to fill in for McGraw. But the associate head coach eventually was calmed, she said, by her confidence in the players.

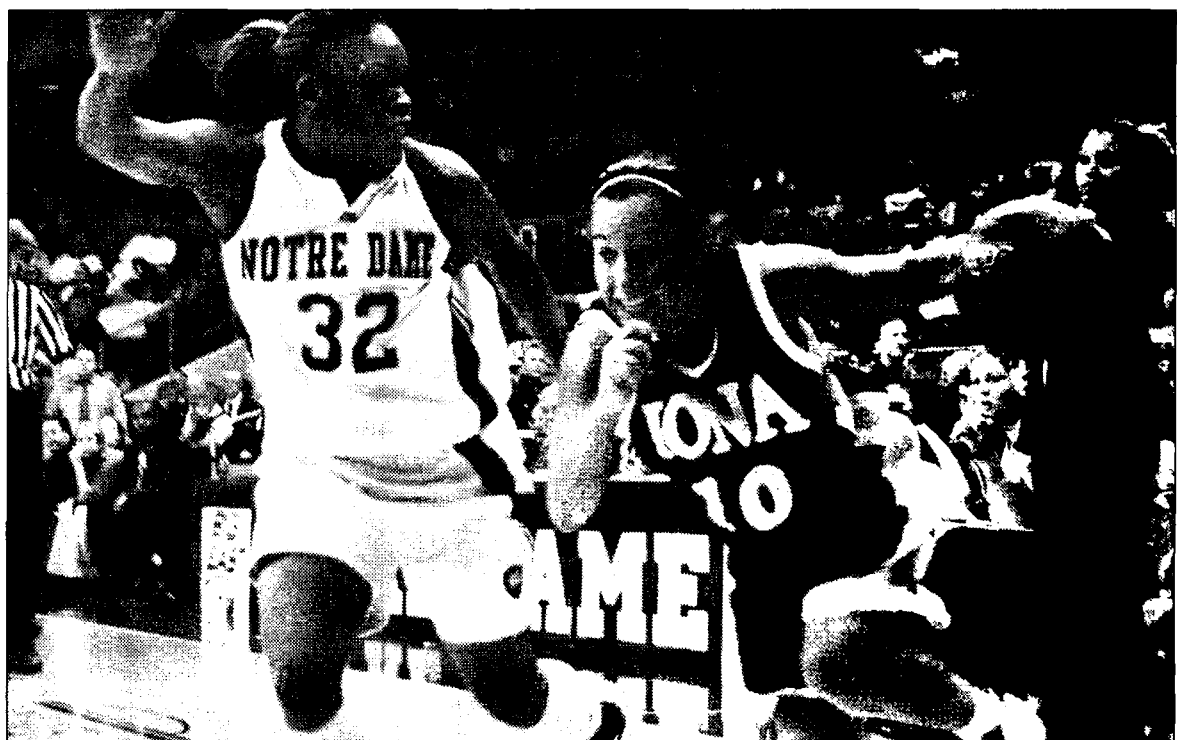
"When you have players like Megan Duffy, it's easy to be relaxed and confident because I know no matter what, they are going to give us the best effort that they have," Washington said.

No update on McGraw's condition or timetable for return was available following the game.

Notes

◆ Before the game Tuesday night, Duffy was presented with a plaque commemorating her accomplishments with the USA World University Games Team. Duffy, elected a captain of the team before the tournament, led the United States to an undefeated record and a gold medal victory in Izmir, Turkey. She started all seven games at point guard, averaging 6.1 points per game.

Contact Kevin Brennan at kbrenna4@nd.edu



ALLISON AMBROSE/The Observer

Breona Gray, left, forces Iona guard Toni Horvath to the baseline during Notre Dame's win over the Gaels. Gray finished the game with two steals in 23 minutes.



HY PHAM/The Observer

Lauren Brewster, left, watches as Adrianna Stasluk sets a ball during Notre Dame's victory over Louisville on Nov. 20.

Seed

continued from page 24

Texas, which will take place Dec. 9 and 10. The Final Four will be the following week in the Alamodome in San Antonio.

Notre Dame's strength of schedule may have been a key factor in the team's high seeding. Eight of its regular-season opponents made the NCAA field. Those include Louisville, Texas, Tennessee, LSU, Loyola-Chicago, Valparaiso, Florida and Southern California.

Playing Louisville twice and the other eight once, the Irish

compiled a 7-2 record against their top opponents.

The Irish were down after their loss to Tennessee Saturday, but they've gotten over it.

"I think it [the high seed] really lifted our spirits," Brown said. "We were all pretty down about it [the Tennessee loss], and to kind of be able to look ahead [was good]. Obviously we'll have to look back at [the loss] and learn from it and not pretend that it didn't happen — because it did."

The saying goes, "You win as a team, you lose as a team." But against Tennessee, the Irish didn't lose as a team, Brown said.

This time of year, she said, they need everybody to con-

tribute.

"We just had two or three players that didn't have a good match for us," she said. "And this time of year, we need to have everybody. That's why we've won the tough matches in the past, like the Big East championship because it was a just a great, solid team effort. Everybody contributed really well."

With a solid week of practice and extra energy because of their unexpected high seed, the Irish will be back in action Thursday, ready to make a run — as a team.

Contact Tom Dorwart at tdorwart@nd.edu

Sacks

continued from page 24

relief that the game was over," Abiamiri said Notre Dame's 38-31 win Saturday. "Glad to come out of here with a victory."

He had just sacked Stanford

backup quarterback T.C. Ostrander, ending any chance of a Cardinal comeback with his fourth sack of the day.

"We were in a three-man rush and Brian Beidatsch was in getting three guys on him, and I was free on the outside one-on-one," Abiamiri said. "And you just have to take advantage of the one-on-one matchup, and I did that."

Abiamiri finished with a team-leading 10 tackles, including six solo tackles, playing most of the game because Ronald Talley sat out with an injury.

The defensive end position was already thin after Chris Frome was injured for the season against USC, and so with backup Justin Brown starting, Abiamiri saw most of the

snaps Saturday. The junior responded with arguably the best game of his Notre Dame career.

Abiamiri was around Stanford quarterbacks Trent Edwards and Ostrander the entire game and was one of the reasons Edwards had to leave with an injury.

He credited the interior line with helping him make plays on the outside. Beidatsch, Derek Landri and Trevor Laws fought off double teams all game, leaving Abiamiri isolated on the outside, and he was able to capitalize on the opportunity.

"I think I tried to take advantage of one-on-one matchups," Abiamiri said. "A lot of times, my teammates were getting double-teamed — my hat's off to my teammates for hanging in there and throwing punches back and forth. Them getting double-teamed freed me up on the outside to get one-on-one blocking. And you have to win the one-on-one battles to be successful, and we did that [Saturday]."

Landri also said he was pleased with the pressure the Irish got up the middle on

Saturday.

"We were able to get good pressure up the middle all day," the defensive lineman said. "We stayed true to our gaps and didn't let [the quarterback] run around, and our ends just got upfield, did what they're supposed to do and made plays, and that's all you could hope for."

"We were in a three-man rush and Brian Beidatsch was in getting three guys on him, and I was free on the outside one-on-one. And you just have to take advantage of the one-on-one matchup, and I did that."

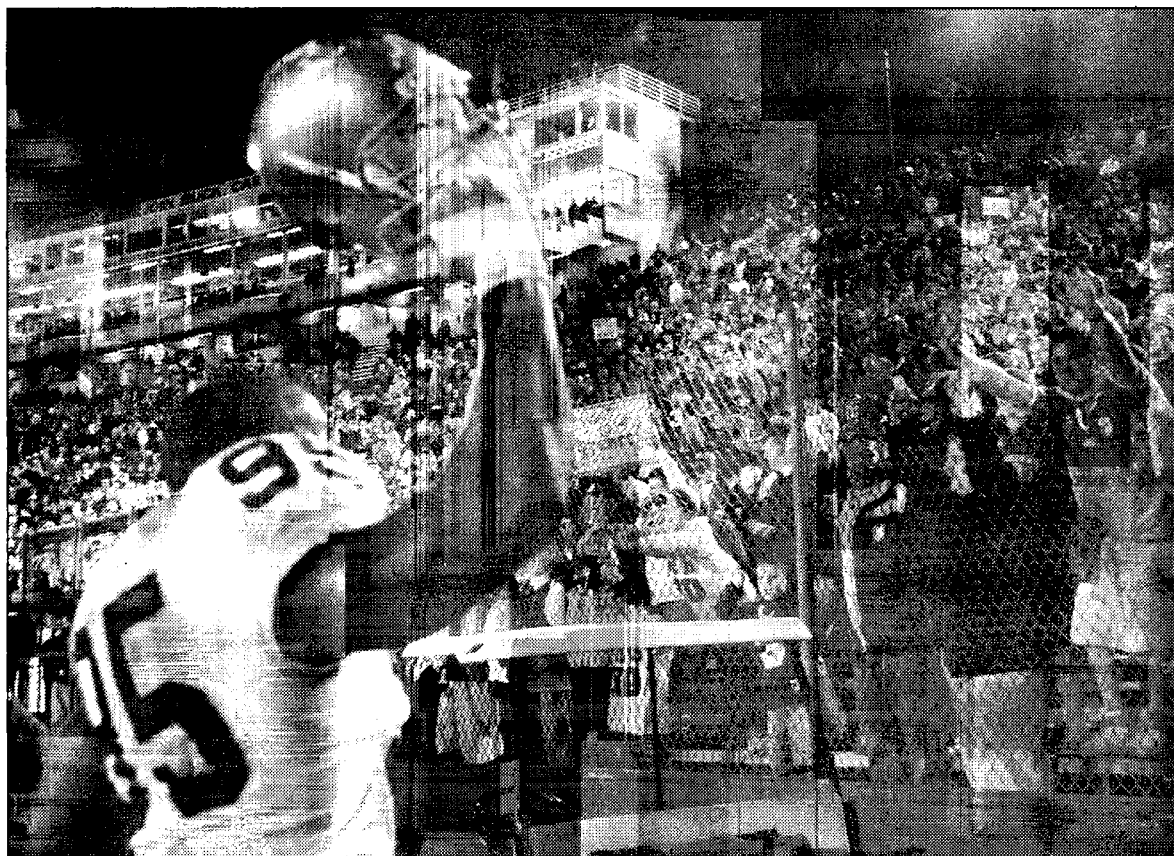
Victor Abiamiri
Irish defensive end

As a result, Abiamiri had by far the best statistical game of his career. As a freshman, he registered 22 tackles and one sack in 12 games, starting five. Last season, rotating with NFL draft pick Justin Tuck and senior Kyle Budinscak, he played in all 12 games, registering 15 tackles and two

sacks. And after Saturday's game, he had doubled his sack total on the year to eight, and his numbers this year have nearly tripled his career stats.

"He played real solid," Landri said. "He stuck true to his keys, [and] he played solid. We got push up the middle, the quarterback would flush out and Vic was right there, and he made a play when we needed it."

Contact Heather Van Hoegarden at hvanhoeg@nd.edu



CLAIRE KELLEY/The Observer

Victor Abiamiri raises his helmet in salute of Irish fans after Notre Dame's 38-31 victory over the Cardinal Saturday. Abiamiri led the Irish defense with 10 tackles and four sacks.

Amado

continued from page 24

tive ranking.

Irish head coach Jeff Jackson has worked with Amado to fine-tune certain aspects of his game in the hope that Amado will reach the 20-goal plateau for the season and average one point a game.

"I'm kind of on pace to do both," Amado said. "I started off a little slow the first couple games, so I think if things keep on going the way they will, I'll reach those goals. Then hopefully I can do something after this year with hockey, either in Europe or North America."

The 5-foot-11, 197 lb. left-winger is undrafted but has serious aspirations to reach the pro level. When the time comes to take that next step, he feels his time spent under Jackson will pay off in his play.

At the same time, it hasn't been easy for Amado to adjust to a new coach with a new style in his last year with the Irish.

"It's a tough transition," he said. "We go from a coach [Dave Poulin] who was a lot more laid back and supposedly more of a pro-style coach where you can

do your own thing. Coach Jackson is a lot more into discipline and accountability and overall work ethic, big-time sacrifice."

Despite the big changes, one thing remains the same — his wingman. Amado has been paired with right wing Tim Wallace for most of this season, and the duo has been explosive. Wallace currently leads the team in points with 11 (five goals, six assists).

Amado describes Wallace as the bigger, more physical guy that's not afraid to get dirty, while he is more adept at finishing with a solid shot and setting up teammates.

"Me and Timmy have played together all the time pretty much from day one," he said. "Being back with him, it's good. We get along off the ice, [and] we hang out a lot. We're not really total opposites, but were different enough that we help each other out and bring something different."

Wallace and Amado have seen two centers shore up the middle of their line, first Mark Van Guilder and now junior captain T.J. Jindra. But no matter who lines up to take the faceoff between the two, Amado has one goal for the team in sight — the

NCAA tournament.

"Ultimately, your goal is to always win an NCAA championship, but that might not always be totally feasible," Amado said. "Our goal is to get to the tournament and see what we can do from there."

That may seem like a tall order in the midst of Notre Dame's current four-game winless skid, including two losses to Ohio State and a loss and a tie to Miami University on back-to-back weekends, but Amado knows what it takes to make the national stage.

In his sophomore season, Amado was an integral part of the 2003 Notre Dame NCAA Tournament berth that resulted in a loss to Minnesota in the first round, and he recalls vividly the excitement of playing in big rinks with big crowds.

"[It was] just a totally different atmosphere," he said. "Thee fans were awesome."

To get to the tournament this year, Notre Dame has a long road ahead, but the early season woes against nationally ranked teams will give way to a much lighter schedule, beginning this weekend against Western Michigan.

Contact Kyle Cassily at kcassily@nd.edu



JENNIFER KANG/The Observer

Irish left winger Matt Amado looks to receive a pass during Notre Dame's 9-4 victory over Bowling Green on Nov. 10.

NCAA Volleyball Championships

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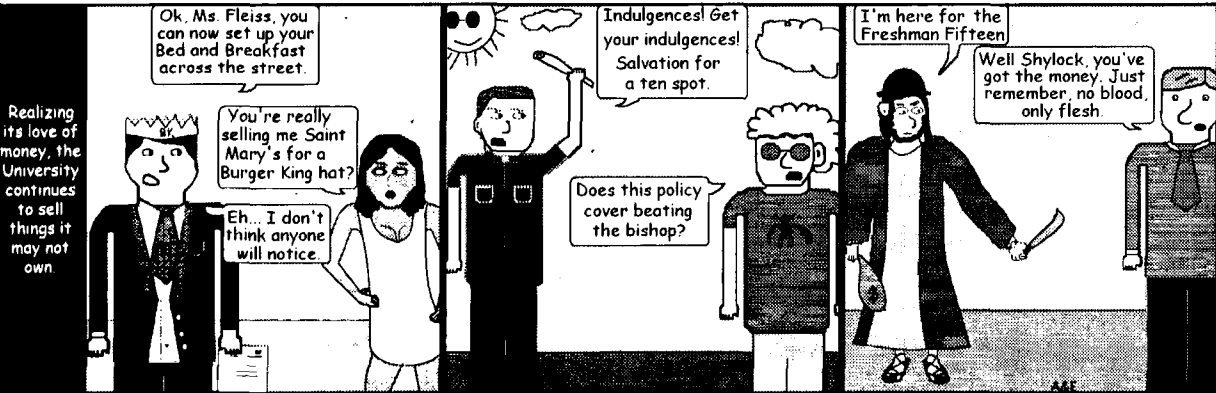
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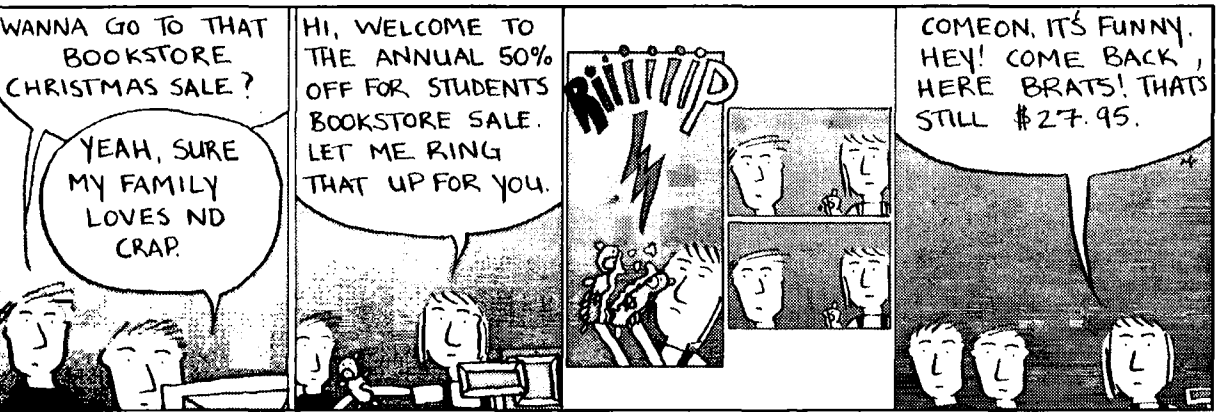
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ADAM FAIRHOLM



JUMBLE

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

TAABE

ANBOT

BEHREY

FLEMSY

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www.jumble.com

Answer: THE

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: CRANK SNACK MEASLY PIRATE
Answer: When Mom heard Junior's excuse, she said that — TAKES THE CAKE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

Your story doesn't add up

WHAT THE MATHEMATICIAN FACED WHEN HE STAYED OUT LATE.

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

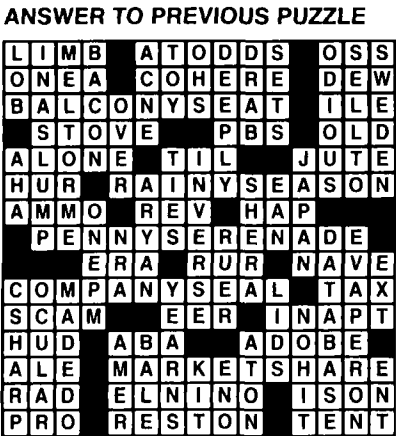
CROSSWORD

WILL SHORTZ

HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

- ACROSS**
1 Pixels
5 Jaguars, e.g.
9 1942 movie with the song "Love Is a Song"
14 Setting for "The Plague"
15 Popular cookie
16 Each
17 Slayer of Ravana in Hindu myth
18 ___ ball
19 Aches
20 "Star Trek" genre
23 Refers (to)
24 Herald reader
28 Private line?
29 Bottom line
30 "But, ___ was ambitious, I slew him": Brutus
- 31 Literary oceans
33 Swinger's opportunity
34 Turntable, speakers, etc.
38 Lightly maul
39 "I've had enough!"
40 Slang expert Partridge
41 Hoosier cabinet wood
42 Lie alongside of
47 All-purpose
49 One way to win
50 Places to get online without plugging in
52 Finger ___
55 Tribe associated with the Seven Cities of Cibola
56 "That'll be the day!"
57 Zippy
- DOWN**
1 Quai ___ (French foreign office locale)
2 Magic 8 Ball, e.g.
3 Many Sri Lankans
4 Mix-ups
5 Degree recipient
6 Sectors
7 Coastal predator
8 Romantic notes
9 Raft material
10 Marine greeting
11 Door sign
12 Snare
13 Tags
21 "Hurray for me!"
22 Marksman's skill
25 Bibliophile's citation, for short
26 At the drop of ___
27 Bottom line
29 Precious mettle?
32 Pistol, in slang
33 Early zoology topic



Puzzle by Manny Nosowsky

34 One leading a chase
35 Victor's cry
36 Turn toward sunset
37 Break for games
38 Dowel
41 Ox

43 Get up after a multiplayer football tackle
44 "Aww"
45 Largest city on Belgium's coast
46 Coca-Cola product
48 Unsafe

49 Faux pas
51 Hip activity?
52 Presidential inits.
53 Make, altogether
54 Box with a manual

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

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CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Cathy Moriarty, 45; Andrew McCarthy, 43; Jonathan Knight, 37; Kim Delaney, 44

Happy Birthday: Change has become routine in your life and you have learned to take advantage of it. Now it is time to try your hand at something you've always wanted to do. Financial gains look positive, but you need to revise your spending habits. Your numbers are 13, 17, 22, 30, 41, 45

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Whatever isn't paying you back or working for you must be stopped. You've been working too long and too hard. Your generosity has become a hindrance, so get back to doing what counts. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Bend over backward for an older friend or relative. Now isn't the best time to take on another responsibility but, by doing so, you will please someone who will make a difference in your future. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Try to settle down a little and focus on one thing. Multitasking is fine, but not today. Put your thoughts on paper. You can get your point across if you are precise. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You may have some minor disputes with older or younger people. Today is about love, getting along and doing things that will bring you closer to someone you truly care about. *****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't let little things depress you. Everything is OK, even if you can't see the light at the end of the tunnel. Ignore the negative and you will see some good possibilities to work toward. **

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You're in dreamland, so shake yourself before it's too late. Someone may try to take advantage of you when he or she doesn't think you'll notice. Keep a sharp eye while taking part in fun activities. ****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You can make your professional position more interesting. A new way of doing things or a chance to try something different will bring you greater recognition. Include friends and family in your ideas. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Things are either moving way too fast or way too slow. Get used to it. Today will be a repeat of the past and an indicator of the future. Base your actions on your past experience. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Do something that will help your self-esteem. Spending time with someone you respect will change your attitude and give you some great ideas about things you should pursue. ***

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't let someone take advantage of you because of your interest in him or her. If you can keep things even, you stand a better chance of gaining respect and getting what you want. ****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Take your time and do things by the book or you may face ridicule for what you didn't do. Sudden changes will affect your future. Don't be discouraged -- you need more time. **

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You'll be hard to resist no matter what you do. Everyone will be looking to you for answers. Don't let it go to your head. One slip up and you may get caught in the middle. *****

Birthday Baby: You are in control. It is your own uncertainties that will hold you back. You are respected, looked up to and called upon to solve problems. You can do anything you set your mind to.

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

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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ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Gaelstrom

Washington coached Irish Tuesday against Iona in McGraw's absence

By KEVIN BRENNAN
Sports Writer

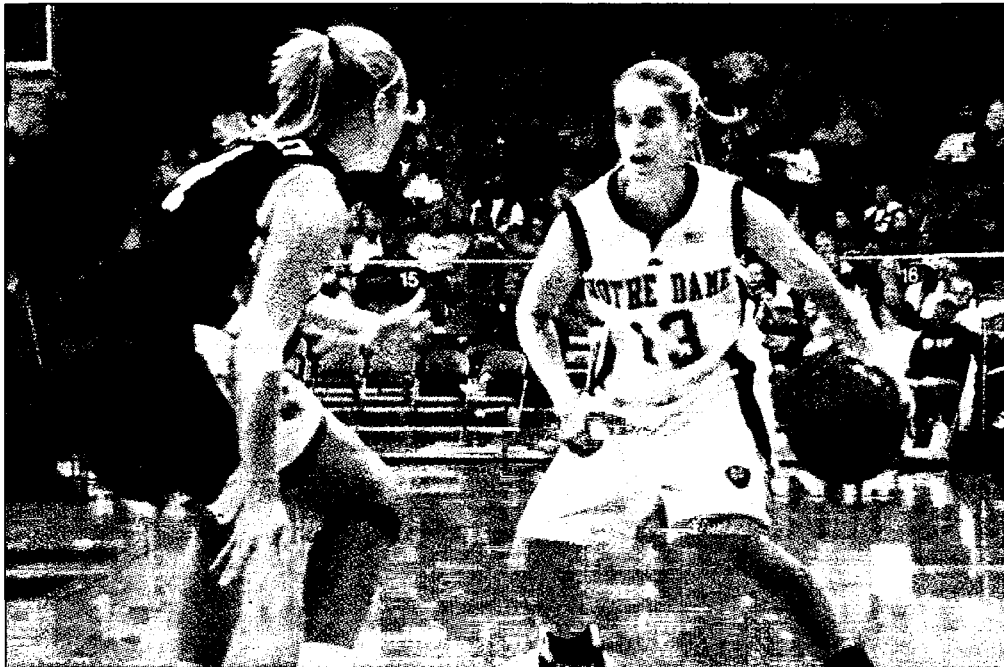
Notre Dame was forced to take on the Iona Gaels without its leader at the Joyce Center Monday night.

Irish head coach Muffet McGraw had to stay at home because of an illness, but associate head coach Coquese Washington guided Notre Dame to a 74-55 win over the Gaels.

Senior point guard Megan Duffy led the Irish with 21 points and out three assists. The Irish captain did not commit a single turnover in the game.

Freshman guard Lindsay Schrader continued to light up the scoreboard early in her Irish career, adding 14 points in 22 minutes. Schrader, who averages 10 points per game, is the

see GAELS/page 21



ALLISON AMBROSE/The Observer

Irish guard Megan Duffy dribbles against an Iona defender Tuesday during Notre Dame's 74-55 win over the Gaels. Duffy shot just 2-of-10 in the first half but finished strong for the 5-0 Irish, connecting on 7-of-10 attempts in the second period.

SMC BASKETBALL

Bender sees a new Hope in big game

By FRAN TOLAN
Sports Writer

When Saint Mary's hosts Hope College tonight in its first conference game, Belles coach Steve Bender knows his team cannot afford a repeat of its previous outing.

"We absolutely have to come out playing hard this time," Bender said.

That's because Saint Mary's fell behind 24-2 to Carthage

Saturday, in a start Bender called "pathetic." The Belles never regrouped, and Carthage sailed to a 63-45 victory.

Hope, the defending MIAA champion, is undefeated at 2-0 as it enters Angela Athletic Facility for a 7:30 p.m. tip-off.

Bender said in addition to starting well, his team must shoot better to have any chance at winning. On Saturday, Saint Mary's shot 17 percent in the first half.

Bender, who is now 1-3 in his first year as Saint Mary's head coach, called the young season a "roller coaster" for the Belles. He said, in spite of the rough start, the team needs to "keep going forward."

And despite the poor record, he said the team has been improving in practice and must translate that progress into game situations beginning tonight.

Bridget Boyce and Alison Kessler

see HOPE/page 20

See Also
"Saint Mary's falls to Carthage" page 19

ND VOLLEYBALL

Irish happily surprised with No. 6 seed

Team enters NCAA tournament with its highest-ever ranking

By TOM DORWART
Sports Writer

High expectations are nothing new for Notre Dame.

The No. 7 Irish have been ranked in the top-10 for most of the season. They went on a

15-match winning streak for most of September and October. They won both the Big East regular season and tournament titles for the ninth and 10th times, respectively, in the past 11 years.

But the most important news they received so far this season — their most exciting achievement — was announced Sunday afternoon.

The Irish (28-3) nabbed the No. 6 national seed for the NCAA tournament — Notre

Dame's highest-ever NCAA seed — despite dropping their final match of the regular season to Tennessee (21-8). The Irish will host the first two rounds of the 64-team tournament, beginning Thursday at the Joyce Center. Notre Dame's early-round bracket includes Dayton, Texas A&M and Northwestern.

"I was surprised, I was thinking we'd get maybe about a 10 or 12 [seed]," Irish coach Debbie Brown said. "But we'll

take it."

The national seed was the fifth top-16 seed in program history for the Irish and second in the past four seasons.

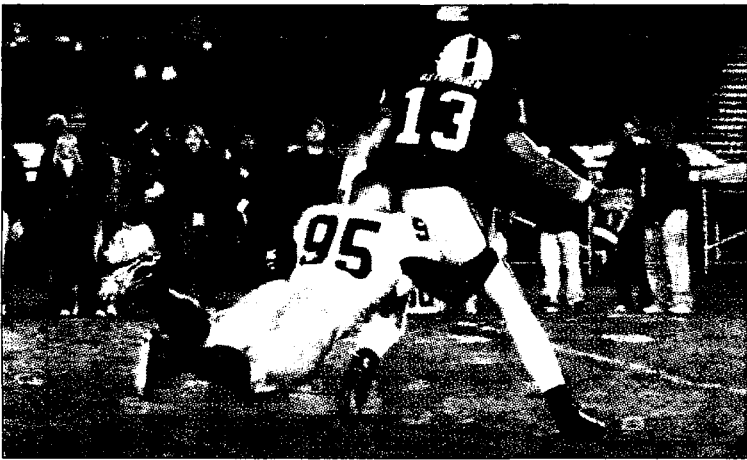
This is the seventh time the Joyce Center has hosted the early rounds. Notre Dame is 6-2 all-time at home in the NCAA tournament.

The winner of Friday's second round will advance to the round of 16 in College Station,

see SEED/page 21

FOOTBALL

Abiamiri gets it done out West



GEOFF MATTESON/The Observer

Victor Abiamiri sacks T.C. Ostrehander on Stanford's final play against the Irish Saturday. Abiamiri finished with four sacks.

Notre Dame's junior defensive end had his best game Saturday

By HEATHER VAN HOEGARDEN
Sports Writer

Notre Dame defensive end Victor Abiamiri walked off the field drained. His jersey was no longer white, and his face was drenched with sweat as he carried his helmet.

"Huuuuuge, many sighs of

see SACKS/page 22

HOCKEY

Amado makes a mark for squad as a senior

By KYLE CASSILY
Sports Writer

Matt Amado has been one of Notre Dame's top scoring threats throughout his career, but only this season has the senior forward truly become a force to be reckoned with on the ice.

Amado has already scored seven goals in 12 games this season, compared to five goals in 31 games during the 2004-05 campaign. He notched two of his tallies last weekend against Ohio

State, scoring a goal in each of the back-to-back home games.

"Maybe in the past I haven't performed as well as I should have, and now I am," Amado said of his recent touch. "So it's all coming together. It's nice to see."

Although Amado is fourth in points for Notre Dame with nine, he is tied for the lead in goals with Josh Sciba and boasts a +2 plus/minus rating — one of only seven Irish players with a posi-

see AMADO/page 22

SPORTS AT A GLANCE

SMC Basketball

Carthage 63
Saint Mary's 45

A slow start doomed the Belles to their third loss of the season.

page 19

NCAA Basketball

Duke at Indiana
Wednesday, 9 p.m.

The Blue Devils invade the Assembly Hall for the first time ever tonight.

page 19

NFL

Giants tight end Jeremy Shockey comes of age in his fourth professional season.

page 18

NCAA Basketball

Kentucky 75
High Point 55

The No. 10 Wildcats extended their winning streak to three Tuesday.

page 16

NCAA Basketball

Wake Forest 91
Wisconsin 88

Justin Gray scored 37 points to lead the Deacons past the Badgers.

page 16

NCAA Basketball

Connecticut 68
Army 54

Connecticut overcame a slow start to beat the Black Knights.

page 16