

THE OBSERVER

The Independent Newspaper Serving Notre Dame and Saint Mary's

VOLUME 40 : ISSUE 90

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2006

NDSMCOBSERVER.COM

Rape prevention is common goal



Performances of "The Vagina Monologues" drew large crowds this week and stirred discussion regarding sexual violence at Notre Dame.

KERRY O'CONNOR/The Observer

Amid 'Monologues' controversy, groups fight campus violence

By KATIE PERRY
Assistant News Editor

While the production of "The Vagina Monologues" has long been a polarizing issue on campus, one of the play's stated goals — stopping sexual violence against women — is a constant objective at Notre Dame and Saint Mary's. And various organizations on both campuses are making efforts to emphasize it, whether or not they support the play.

Notre Dame's Feminist Voice and Right to Life organizations have found the issue's severity outweighs its partisan volatility, and leaders are in talks

with student government and the Orestes Brownson Council — a campus group dedicated to the study of traditional Catholic teachings — to collaboratively host a fundraiser for groups that benefited financially from previous years' presentations of "The Vagina Monologues."

Student body president Dave Baron said representatives from Feminist Voice, Right to Life, the Orestes Brownson Council and student government met Feb. 8 to discuss a way — a benefit formal — to raise funds for sexual assault prevention in an attempt to replace those not earned from this year's "Monologues," held in DeBartolo Hall Monday through Wednesday. Last year's performances raised approximately \$15,000.

see GOAL/page 4

SMC hosts Ensler-like production

'SMC Monologues' is in its second year

By KELLY MEEHAN
Assistant News Editor

The Saint Mary's community will unite to promote campus awareness of sensitive issues like rape and violence against women this weekend during two performances of the SMC Monologues — its personal adaptation of Eve Ensler's "The Vagina Monologues," which has not been held on campus since 2004.

The SMC Monologues mirrors the format of "The Vagina Monologues," but each monologue is a personally written reflection of the experiences of Saint Mary's students, faculty, staff and Sisters of the Holy Cross.

Campus Alliance for Rape Elimination (CARE) president and SMC Monologues producer Ginger Francis said "The Vagina Monologues" was held on the Saint Mary's campus between 2000 and 2004, but students decided the SMC Monologues was a more appropriate production given its closer connection to the Saint Mary's community.

This is the second consecutive year CARE, Feminists United and Straight and Gay Alliance (SAGA) have produced this event, which is designed to increase campus activism and awareness in the prevention of sexual assault against women.

Francis said the overwhelmingly positive response she received last year from the College administration and members of the campus community prompted

see SMC/page 6

Bissinger buzzes on famous football novel

By BRIDGET KEATING
News Writer

Venerated author Buzz Bissinger delivered a spirited message on the power of sports and the inspiration they lent to his best-selling novel "Friday Night Lights" to an enthusiastic crowd at Washington Hall 7 p.m. Thursday evening in the final event of the Notre Dame Literary Festival (NDLF).

NDLF Chairperson Laura Fox described the event-sponsoring Student Union Board's attraction to the author of "Friday Night Lights" as a fitting end to the festival. His performance was titled "Through the Looking Glass."

"Bissinger's talent and work appeal to students' sports fanaticism and varied interests,

as he has written about football, baseball and urban politics," Fox said.

Bissinger, winner of prestigious awards such as the Pulitzer Prize, Livingston Award, American Bar Association Silver Gavel Award and the National Headliners Award, delivered a pointed speech on his book, which centered on the impact of high school football on small-town life. He began by verbally painting a picture of his journey to Odessa, Texas, through "dry, dusty Texas," where high school stadiums were "shrines, temples, glistening, perfect. It was obvious that something powerful was going on in these places."

He animatedly emphasized the "sacred, special American

see BISSINGER/page 9



PHIL HUDELSON/The Observer

Buzz Bissinger, author of "Friday Night Lights," speaks at LaFortune Thursday as part of the 2006 Notre Dame Literary Festival.

Junior parents pour onto campus for weekend event

By JACLYNN MADDEN
News Writer

The parents of Notre Dame juniors have migrated annually to South Bend for Junior Parents Weekend since 1952, when University President Emeritus Father Theodore Hesburgh wanted juniors' parents to have the opportunity to take part in their child's Notre Dame life prior to graduation.

More than 1,200 families are scheduled to arrive in the South Bend area today to celebrate the 54th annual Junior Parents Weekend (JPW). This year's JPW theme, "Traditional Notre Dame," embraces the true nature of the three-day gathering — for

parents to experience the spiritual, social and academic aspects of Notre Dame.

JPW 2006 chairperson Marri Kajfez, a junior herself, expressed enthusiasm for the weekend and all its family-oriented events.

"We hope that the juniors and their parents enjoy the traditional Notre Dame that we have sewn through our events," she said. "I'm really excited to see all the parents that are going to be here experiencing Notre Dame in such a unique way."

JPW kicks off at 9 p.m. today with the Opening Gala, a formal event at the Joyce Center to include dancing, a cash bar, hors d'oeuvres and portrait photography. On Saturday

morning, the College of Science, College of Engineering, College of Arts and Letters and Mendoza College of Business will hold Collegiate Workshops for their students in which juniors and parents will hear faculty addresses and attend departmental presentations. Juniors and parents then will head to each student's residence hall for hall luncheons, where parents can mingle with rectors and roommates.

University President Father John Jenkins will celebrate the JPW Mass at 5:30 in the Joyce Center Arena. Immediately following the Mass, the President's Dinner

see JPW/page 4



GEOFF MATTESON/The Observer

Junior parents Bret and Jamie Boudreaux check in at the Morris Inn Thursday. Junior Parents Weekend events begin today.

INSIDE COLUMN

Running on empty

Between a costly, poorly-led war and Social Security complications, the Bush Administration faces numerous problems as George W. Bush begins his second term. Unfortunately, the one issue that remains largely overlooked — the environment — will unquestionably prove the most disastrous.

Ann Kelley

Photographer

At first Bush's concern for the environment looked promising — while speaking to several environmental advisors in May of 1999, he pledged that after his term as president, "the air will be cleaner, the water will be cleaner, and the land will be better cared for."

Today, this statement is less true than the threat of WMDs in Iraq. In his first three months after being sworn into office as the 43rd president of the United States, Bush announced that the United States would not take part in the Kyoto Protocol, an agreement between countries to reduce carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions. Without the United States which, with only five percent of the world's population, emits almost a quarter of the world's carbon dioxide, the goals of the Kyoto Protocol cannot be reached.

Alarming, Bush refuses to take part in the agreement in part because he believes the rise in global temperatures is a natural phenomenon, despite countless research indicating that global warming is human-induced.

Since rejecting the Kyoto Protocol and undermining the threat of global warming, Bush has also supported drilling in the Arctic Wildlife, weakened clean air and water standards, broken his promise to protect and repair our National Parks and slowed the cleanup of toxic waste dumps. It is not surprising that environmental protection groups see the Bush White House as the most hostile in our country's history. Last month, six former heads of the Environmental Protection Agency, five of them Republican, accused the Bush Administration of neglecting global warming and other environmental problems.

President Bush has made many irreversible, serious mistakes during his presidency. None will prove as catastrophic as his decision to ignore the pressing environmental issues that face our world. The Bush Administration's regressive environmental policies are destroying the health of the American people, our standing in the world, the companies who are struggling to implement environmentally safe technology, and the irreplaceable biodiversity of our earth.

In his recent State of the Union Address, Bush spoke of further clean-energy research, ethanol as an alternative energy source, and increased American energy independence. I sincerely hope Bush carries out these promises, but his past environmental record suggests otherwise. I can only pray that the successive leaders of our country take these environmental issues seriously — considering that if our country continues to approach environmental issues as the Bush Administration has, the irreversible damage inflicted on our world will be devastating beyond imagination.

Contact Ann Kelley at akelley@nd.edu

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

CORRECTIONS

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

QUESTION OF THE DAY: ARE YOU GOING TO SMC MONOLOGUES?



Caroline Dunne

junior
Regina

"No, 'cause I'm not into all that feminism stuff."



Cindy Wahlman

senior
Opus

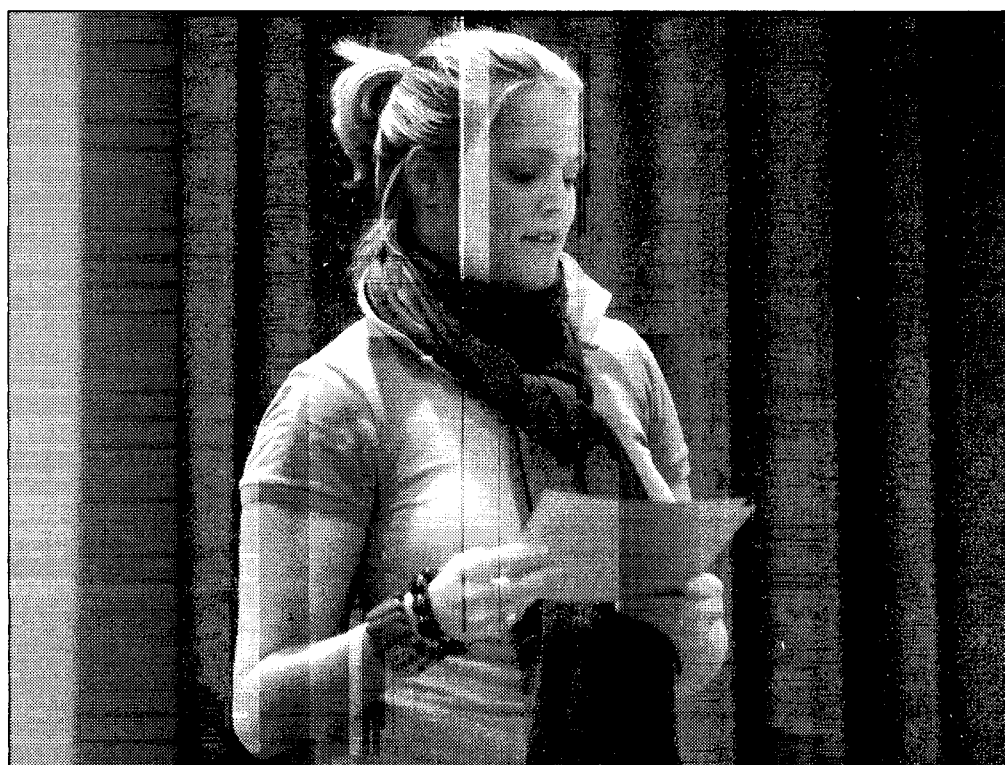
"Yes, I am going to support the women of Saint Mary's and academic freedom."



Erin Fitzpatrick

junior
LeMans

"No, because our school forced them to change the name from 'Vagina' to 'SMC.'"



CHELSEA GULLING/The Observer

Saint Mary's student Susan Mitchell performs a piece about being proud to be a feminist at an SMC Monologues rehearsal Thursday. The SMC Monologues will be performed Saturday at 7 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. in Carroll Auditorium.

OFFBEAT

Ruined Iraqi city promotes peace with olive trees

FALLUJA, Iraq — Residents of Falluja, the Iraqi city devastated by a U.S. offensive in 2004, have begun planting thousands of olive trees in a bid to promote peace.

The first trees were planted Wednesday near a football pitch that became a graveyard for the victims of the U.S. military assault against insurgents holed up in the city. The aim is to plant 250,000 trees by April, organizers said.

"It is a peace message to all Iraqi cities to cast away all the sectarian and ethnic

issues and hold together," said Hassan Muhammed, a member of Falluja's Cultural House group.

Falluja, 50 km (32 miles) west of Baghdad, was a stronghold of Sunni Muslim militants until the U.S. offensive, which left much of the city — known as the "city of mosques" — in ruins.

Mourners photograph deceased with cell phones

TOKYO — Japan's obsession with camera-equipped mobile phones has taken a bizarre twist, with mourners at funerals now using the devices to capture a final

picture of the deceased.

"I get the sense that people no longer respect the dead. It's disturbing," a funeral director told the Mainichi Shimbun newspaper.

At one ceremony several people gathered round the coffin and took out their phones to photograph the corpse as preparations were made to begin a cremation, she was quoted as saying.

"I'm sure the deceased would never want their faces photographed," she said.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

The Saint Mary's College Dance Ensemble Workshop will host its annual performances today at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday at 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 in O'Laughlin Auditorium. The programs will include ballet, jazz and modern dance.

Notre Dame Concert Bands will perform a Rosa Parks Memorial Concert today at Leighton Concert Hall in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. It is a free but ticketed event. Call 574-631-2800 to reserve tickets.

Black Koffeehouse, a showcase of African American art, literature and music expressed in the Notre Dame community, will take place today at 7 p.m. in LaFortune Ballroom.

The Chicago-based improv comedy troupe Second City will perform today at 9:30 in Washington Hall. Tickets are \$5 for students and \$10 for non-students and are available at the LaFortune Box Office.

The Irish women's tennis team will face Tennessee at 12 p.m. Saturday and Harvard at 10 a.m. Sunday at the Eck Tennis Pavillion.

Israeli philosopher Avishai Margalit will speak at the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies' annual John Howard Yoder Dialogues on Religion, Nonviolence and Peace at 11 a.m. Monday at the Hesburgh Center for International Studies.

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	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
	HIGH 30 LOW 21	HIGH 21 LOW 13	HIGH 18 LOW 7	HIGH 22 LOW 9	HIGH 29 LOW 15	HIGH 25 LOW 12

Atlanta 64 / 48 Boston 52 / 44 Chicago 21 / 19 Denver 15 / 5 Houston 66 / 61 Los Angeles 59 / 44 Minneapolis 8 / -2
New York 55 / 42 Philadelphia 55 / 43 Phoenix 70 / 47 Seattle 33 / 19 St. Louis 32 / 24 Tampa 79 / 61 Washington 64 / 49

Weis gets personal at Saint Mary's disability lecture

By NICOLE ZOOK and
AMANDA SHROPSHIRE
News Writers

Notre Dame head football coach Charlie Weis discussed his experience as the father of a child with developmental disorders in a talk to students at Saint Mary's Thursday.

Weis asked the standing-room-only crowd in Vander Vennet Theater to imagine their first child — "apparently thriving, apparently normal" — fade into her own little world, "almost like a fog."

That was the case with Weis' daughter Hannah 11 years ago when she was first diagnosed with Persuasive Development Disorder (PDD). Weis said he and his wife, Maura, went through a difficult time, asking themselves what they did wrong after realizing the problem could not be fixed.

"PDD is kind of a catch-all," Weis said. "They have autistic qualities, but it doesn't matter if [the child is] autistic or not."

While people who suffer from PDD can have a variety of symptoms, Hannah's include autistic qualities, severe food allergies and multiple seizures.

Fortunately, Weis said, he and his wife had the financial resources to help their daughter. They soon realized developmental delays affected families around the world, and they wanted to help. The pair founded Hannah and Friends, a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing better quality of life for children and young adults affected by autism and global delays.

"This is not a promo on charity work," Weis said. "This is telling you how you can make a difference with any disorder. We did not go raise money for research. We were trying to go right to the kids to make their lives better."

Weis said the original goal of the foundation was to raise \$100,000 per year. But every grant requested in the first year was satisfied, and the foundation now raises more than \$500,000 every year.

Weis said the organization fulfills needs such as fences for backyards — so children do not wander off — and computers for kids to speak through.

Weis, who calls himself a "very private person" and said he had "zero awareness of autism" prior to Hannah's diagnosis, now receives more than

2,000 requests to speak each year — donating all of the speaking fees to Hannah & Friends.

"To be honest with you, I don't really like talking about football," Weis said. "On the flip side, I don't have much of a problem talking to students or anyone about people who are globally and developmentally delayed, because it is personal."

"Winning football games doesn't do me any good. I'm a miserable person as a football coach, because if I don't win every game, I'm not happy," he said. "The good part of me doesn't come from football. [It comes from] bringing compassion to people who just don't get [autism]."

Weis said he attempts to give his audience "a grasp of what you really deal with" when someone you love has autism.

"There is no day that it doesn't affect you," Weis said.

Weis said he and his wife have a long-term goal of building a farm with multiple dwellings for people with special needs to live and work on. Weis said this project was inspired by Hannah, who is "a very social girl — she likes to have friends."

"We've tried to involve her more in social programs with other kids with special needs," Weis said. "She has a heck of a lot more fun because she realizes she's not alone."

Weis said the farm would be geared toward people with various special needs and



CHELSEA GULLING/The Observer

Notre Dame head football coach Charlie Weis speaks to Saint Mary's students Thursday in Vander Vennet Theater.

would allow them to live fulfilling lives almost on their own. He also said he and Maura "greatly look forward to the day" Hannah lives on the farm.

"I will not consider my success based on football," Weis said. "The day Hannah is taken care of, my son and wife are taken care of, I will have done my job."

Weis also said Hannah serves as inspiration to the Weis family every day.

"My wife and I talk about her as an angel," Weis said. "Hannah came to us so we could do some good. She was given to us to be a messenger. Our lives are much more fulfilled because of what she has given to us."

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JUNIORS

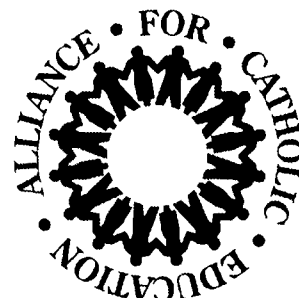
ACE invites you and your parents to a

JPW Open House

In the offices of the Alliance for Catholic Education, 112 Badin Hall

From 2-4PM
Friday, Feb. 17th

If you're interested in ACE, and want to let your parents find out more information, please stop in!



Goal

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"It was one of the most impressive meetings that I've been to at Notre Dame," Baron said. "To see individuals who are diametrically opposed on the issue of 'The Vagina Monologues' come together in a shared spirit of creativity and shared opposition to sexual violence was great."

Baron and student body vice president Lizzi Shappell met Feb. 10 with Executive Assistant to the President Frances Shavers and Vice President for Public Affairs and Communication Hilary Crnkovich. He said the purpose of the meeting was to update the administrators on campus sentiment and discussion regarding academic freedom.

"We told them of the joint meeting of Right to Life, Feminist Voice and student government as an example of a collaborative effort," he said. "We presented the basic idea of a benefit formal to fight sexual assault, which they supported in principle, but await us to present further details as they are determined."

The date, location and intended attendees of the event have not yet been confirmed, but Baron said he hopes the benefit formal will be held in conjunction with student government's Sexual Assault Awareness week, to be held March 27 through 31.

Baron said event organizers will likely seek funds from the Council of Representatives Collaboration Fund — a fund "by which student groups and organizations who collaborate to put on an event can receive additional funds."

Right to Life president Arina Grossu and Feminist Voice president Kaitlyn Redfield declined to comment Thursday.

Anthropology professor Carolyn Nordstrom, who studies sexual violence against women, lauded the cooperation between the various student groups and said problems like rape and sexual assault require some of "the most creative solutions in the world."

"For Feminist Voice and Right to Life to come together to create a solution is ... a beautiful thing," she said.

Nordstrom said she has had an "awful lot" of students come through her office over the years as victims of rape or sexual assault and even more as friends of people who have been sexually violated.

"It's a lot more pervasive [at the University] than administrators recognize, [but] students are more aware," she said. "Because there is no institutional framework, people feel anguished. It's hard to come up with a positive solution without the [necessary] tools."

Arts and Letters associate director Ava Preacher, who serves as the University's sexual assault resource person, said

violence, sexual harassment and rape are problems occurring within the campus community that "deserve much more attention."

"We are not immune to these ills," she said.

Notre Dame Security/Police associate director Phil Johnson said three instances of forcible fondling and one rape were reported during 2005.

The department is looking into a second alleged rape, which Johnson said was not reported to the department, involving a Saint Mary's student who said she was assaulted in a Notre Dame residence hall.

NDSP is also soliciting information on sexual offenses from resident assistants, rectors, advisors, deans and department heads for its 2005 report, Johnson said.

"There are sexual assaults reported to other agencies because they happen off-campus, at houses or apartment complexes," he said. "Those aren't in our jurisdiction."

Preacher said rapes often go "largely unreported" and statistics represent only a small percentage of rapes that occur.

"We want to encourage students to come forward and know we have trained staff to assist them," Johnson said. "It opens options because [crimes] are harder to pursue if survivors fail to report them."

Nordstrom said the University can better combat such crimes "on a number of levels."

"We need rape crisis centers, people trained — police, rectors and rectresses, health care administrators," she said. "We need a culture of social friendship, a network of people who understand and request justice."

Notre Dame has a Sexual Assault Advisory Committee that meets several times a semester to implement measures to address crimes of sexual violence on campus. Preacher said the group is comprised of representatives from Notre Dame and Saint Mary's residence life, the Gender Relations Center, NDSP, Sexual Offense Resources (SOS), academic departments and the student body.

Saint Mary's Counseling Center director Kris Pendley said staff members are available to help victims of sexual violence alleviate emotional trauma. A support group also was introduced this semester for sexual assault victims at the College.

Through her studies, Nordstrom said she has seen firsthand the detrimental effects — on health, fertility and even lifespan — crimes of sexual violence can bring to a society.

"We need to be a little more civilized," Nordstrom said. "My question is, 100 years from now, how will we be judged? We will be judged very harshly if we don't do something. We have to deal with this."

Contact Katie Perry at kperry5@nd.edu

Sophomore parents visit College

Weekend activities include dinner at South Bend's Palais Royale

By MEGAN OSBERGER
News Writer

With the football season over and a bristling winter setting in, most students go months without seeing their family.

But all that will change for Saint Mary's sophomores the weekend of Feb. 17-19 for Sophomore Parent's Weekend at the College.

Students are preparing to see their parents and celebrate this year's theme — "Ladies of the 80s."

Local hotels are filling up quickly, and sophomores are getting excited for the highly anticipated weekend.

"I'm really looking forward to my parents having a direct involvement in my environment," sophomore Beth McKevitt said. "Seeing my parents with my friends and their parents will be a nice change from normal."

For some students like sophomore Siobhan Lezynski, the most anticipated

event is the presidential reception and formal dinner at the Palais Royale Saturday night.

"I'm definitely excited about the dinner," Lezynski said. "I live far away and really look forward to seeing my parents. This will be the only time I see them until summer."

The weekend activities will begin with a disco party Friday night. Saturday events include an academic open house, a tour of the South Bend Chocolate Factory and an all-class mass held in the Church of Loretto. The night will conclude with the Palais Royale dinner.

During the dinner there will be a slide show containing pictures submitted by members of the sophomore class. There will be a silent auction for gift baskets to benefit the class of 2008, followed by dancing.

The Sophomore Parent's Weekend Committee, headed by Kelly MacDonald, has

been planning the event since last semester, and students had to fill out invitations before Thanksgiving.

Most students will not attend every event.

"I'm sure we'll go to most of the events, but my parents have not met any of my friends yet, so that will be what most of the weekend is for," sophomore Natalie Manese said.

McKevitt said her parents wanted to have a tailgate before the disco party on Friday, but "we'll see if that actually happens," she said. "We're definitely going to the tour of the chocolate factory."

Whether or not the students attend all of the events, the weekend is about creating interactions between family and friends, McKevitt said.

"It is going to be a totally different situation than the last time all of our parents were here with us," McKevitt said. "That was back moving in our first year, and everyone was wondering how their daughters would do away from home. This time is to show them that we're all just fine."

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JPW

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will be held in the Joyce Center Fieldhouse. Junior class president and student body vice-president elect Bill Andrichik will give the junior class address, and Jenkins will deliver the President's address.

The weekend concludes Sunday with the Closing Brunch, also in the Joyce Center Fieldhouse. The brunch will feature a speech by Father Mark Poorman, the vice president for student affairs.

Local hotels and travel services have prepared for the annual influx of junior parents.

Anthony Travel began organizing trips for JPW parents as early as last March. Pat Walsh, vice president for business service at Anthony Travel, said the agency "has helped a few hundred parents book trips this year — we book air flights for many parents, but the biggest part comes from booking hotel rooms."

The Inn at Saint Mary's, Walsh said, is the most popular hotel for those parents booking through Anthony Travel. Aware of their high popularity and demand, The Inn at Saint Mary's has raised its rates for JPW. Other hotels in the area, however, do not raise prices for this weekend. The South Bend Marriott, Holiday Inn and The Morris Inn keep their prices at normal weekend rates.

"We do not need to raise our rates because there is not a huge demand of rooms for us," said Dawn Boulac, Holiday Inn general manager. "JPW is not a like a foot-

ball weekend where thousands and thousands of people pile into South Bend. We are not even booked for this weekend, and half of the residents that will be here are not even here for JPW."

Only two out of the six South Bend hotels interviewed are booked this weekend — the conveniently located Inn at St. Mary's and Morris Inn. The Morris Inn, located on campus, has a unique way of booking hotel rooms for JPW parents. In the fall of each semester, most of the rooms in The Morris Inn go to a junior class lottery. Those parents who enter the lottery are then chosen at random to stay in one of the designated hotel rooms for JPW.

A committee of 13 juniors began coordinating JPW in April 2005.

Kajfez is confident this weekend will be a fun yet meaningful time for the Class of 2007 and the families.

"I'm really excited for JPW this year," she said. "It's hard to believe that 10 months of planning is finally here."

The JPW committee also includes one advisor, Brian Freneau, the coordinator of student welfare and development at the Students Activities Office, and two sophomore committee chairs. The sophomore committee chairs, chosen a month before JPW, are in charge of organizing sophomore volunteers to manage the behind-the-scenes work so the juniors on the committee can actively enjoy their JPW. All undergraduate residence halls will have parietals at midnight Friday and Saturday of JPW.

Contact Jaclynn Madden at jmadden1@nd.edu

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TICKETS GO ON SALE SATURDAY FEB 11 at 10:00am at Morris Box Office, charge by phone 574/235-9190 or www.morriscenter.org

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Death squads to be investigated

BAGHDAD — The Shiite-dominated Interior Ministry announced an investigation Thursday into claims of death squads in its ranks as police found a dozen more bodies, bringing the number of apparent victims of sectarian reprisal killings here to at least 30 this week.

The probe was announced after U.S. military officials indicated there was evidence to support the allegation of death squads. The 12 men found on Thursday had been bound and shot in the head execution-style.

At least 25 other people were killed in violence across Iraq, including three tribal sheiks slain in a drive-by shooting north of the capital. Three supporters of anti-U.S. cleric Muqtada al-Sadr died in a Baghdad mortar barrage.

Preval is winner of Haiti election

PORT-AU-PRINCE — Rene Preval was declared the winner of Haiti's presidential election Thursday under an agreement between the interim government and electoral council, staving off a crisis over last week's disputed vote.

With nearly all the ballots counted, Preval had been just shy of the 50.1 percent margin needed to avoid a runoff.

Under the agreement, officials decided early Thursday to divide the 85,000 blank ballots cast in the Feb. 7 election among the candidates in proportion to the percentage they had already won. That gave Preval a 51.15 percent majority, said Michel Brunache, chief of Cabinet for interim President Boniface Alexandre.

The blank votes represented about 4 percent of the estimated 2.2 million ballots cast.

NATIONAL NEWS

Man trained to commit jihad in U.S.

SACRAMENTO — A man accused of attending an al-Qaida training camp is a trained terrorist intent on attacking Americans, prosecutors alleged Thursday, but his attorney called him just a directionless young man prone to wild storytelling.

In opening statements of Hamid Hayat's federal trial, prosecutors said the 23-year-old Lodi man visited the Pakistan camp in 2003 and 2004, then returned to his family's home in California farm country and awaited information about potential terrorist targets.

"Hamid Hayat talked about jihad before he even left the United States," prosecutor Laura Ferris said in opening statements. "He admitted he went to a jihadist training camp, not once but twice."

White House defends its port sales

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration on Thursday rebuffed criticism about potential security risks of a \$6.8 billion sale that gives a company in the United Arab Emirates control over significant operations at six major American ports.

Lawmakers asked the White House to reconsider its earlier approval of the deal.

The sale to state-owned Dubai Ports World was "rigorously reviewed" by a U.S. committee that considers security threats when foreign companies seek to buy or invest in American industry, National Security Council spokesman Frederick Jones said.

LOCAL NEWS

Arrest made in hospital fondling

ANDERSON — A teenager entered a woman's hospital room and fondled her before then breaking into locked offices, authorities said.

Police officers arrested Derek D. Hutchison, 18, of Anderson, inside the volunteer services offices of St. John's Medical Center about 1:30 a.m. Wednesday on preliminary felony charges of burglary, theft and sexual battery.

Hutchison was a visitor of an emergency room patient when he went into the main part of the hospital, said Marlene Carey, St. John's vice president of corporate communications.

Cheney's explanation 'just fine'

Bush approves the vice president's handling of his traumatic hunting accident

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush said Thursday he was satisfied with Vice President Dick Cheney's explanation about his shooting accident, and Texas authorities said they had closed their investigation without filing any charges.

"I thought the vice president handled the issue just fine," the president said in his first public comments on Saturday's accident. "I thought his explanation yesterday was a powerful explanation."

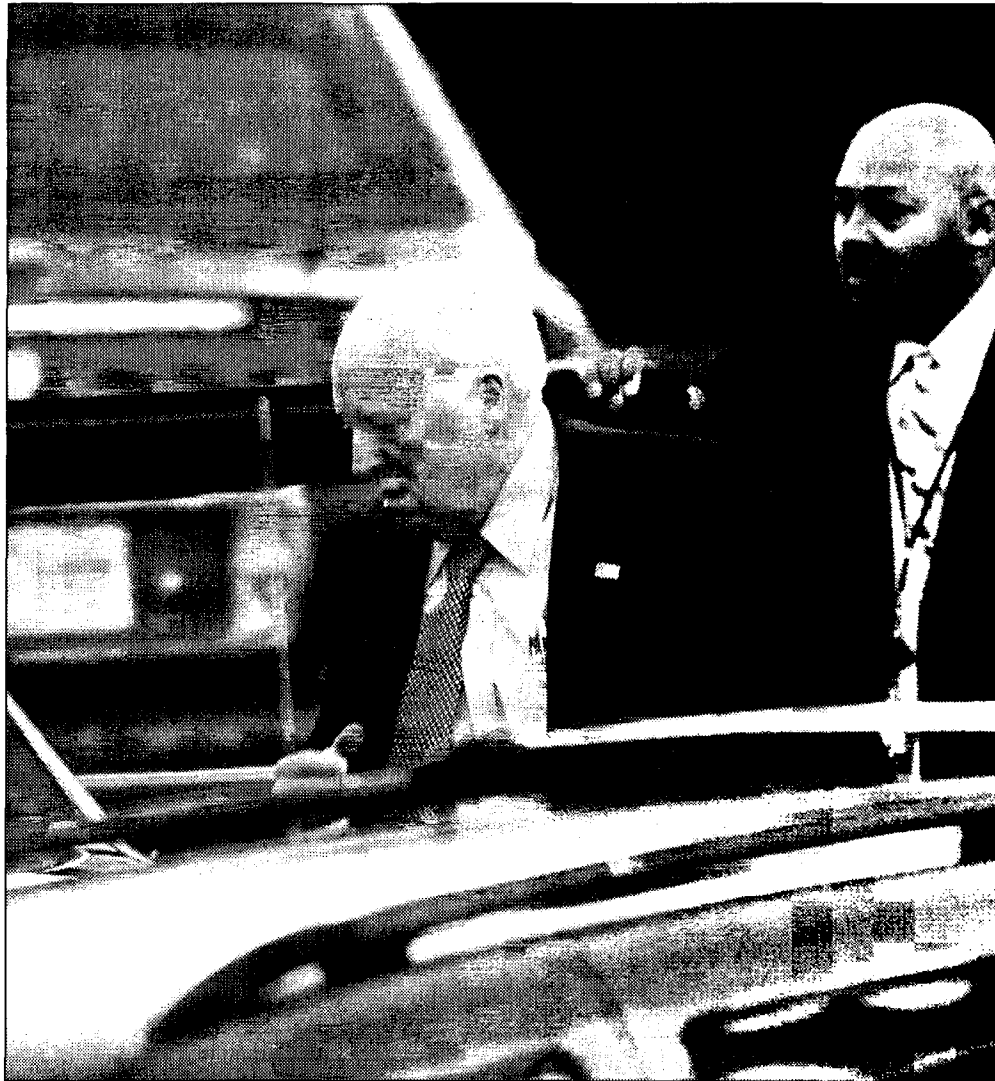
Bush said it was "a deeply traumatic moment" for Cheney "and obviously it was a tragic moment for Harry Whittington." He said that the shooting "profoundly affected the vice president."

In Texas, meanwhile, the Kenedy County Sheriff's Department released its report from Chief Deputy Gilberto San Miguel Jr., which said he interviewed Cheney the morning after the shooting. Cheney explained that he did not see hunting companion Whittington come up behind him and accidentally sprayed him with birdshot in the face and upper body while aiming at a quail, the report said.

As for the timing of the public disclosure of the shooting, Bush said Democrats are drawing "the wrong conclusion about a tragic accident" when they say it depicts the White House as overly secretive.

"Yesterday when he was here in the Oval Office I saw the deep concern he (Cheney) had about a person who he wounded," Bush said. "I thought yesterday's explanation was a very strong and important explanation to make to the American people."

The president said he knew Whittington from Bush's days as governor of Texas. "He's been involved



Vice President Dick Cheney arrives at the White House Thursday as President George Bush states that he is satisfied with his explanation of the hunting accident.

in our state's politics for a long period of time. My concern is for Harry and I know the vice president feels the same way," Bush said.

Whittington remained in stable condition Thursday at a Texas hospital, two days after doctors said one of the shotgun pellets traveled to his heart and he had what they called "a mild heart attack."

While some White House officials were unhappy about the vice president's handling of the accident, Bush did not publicly object to Cheney's decision not to make the shooting public until Sunday, the day after it happened. The president also did not express con-

cern about the fact that Cheney did not speak to him about the accident until they saw each other on Monday.

Bush recounted Cheney's explanation of the accident. "He heard a bird flush and he turned and pulled the trigger and saw his friend get wounded," the president said.

Bush, during an Oval Office photo opportunity, seemed upset when pressed about whether he was satisfied that Cheney had disclosed the shooting in a timely way.

"I'm satisfied with the explanation he gave," Bush said tersely.

"I thought his explanation yesterday was a very strong and powerful

explanation and I'm satisfied with the explanation he gave," the president said.

On Wednesday, in an interview on Fox News Channel, Cheney said Saturday had been "one of the worst days of my life." He rejected any notion that Whittington bore any responsibility, saying, "I'm the guy who pulled the trigger and shot my friend."

Cheney also defended his decision to keep the shooting from the public until a day after it happened, allowing the ranch owner to tell a local newspaper about it instead of making an official announcement from the White House.

SWITZERLAND

Guantanamo should be shut down

Associated Press

GENEVA — The United States should shut down the prison for terror suspects at Guantanamo Bay and either release the detainees or put them on trial, the United Nations said in a report released Thursday.

The world body also called on the United States to refrain from practices that "amount to torture."

The White House rejected the recommendation to shut the prison.

"These are dangerous terrorists that we're talking about that are there," spokesman Scott McClellan

said.

McClellan dismissed the report as a "rehash" of allegations previously made by lawyers for some detainees and said the military treats all prisoners humanely.

"We know that al-Qaida terrorists are trained in trying to disseminate false allegations," McClellan said.

The report, summarizing an investigation by five U.N. experts who did not visit Guantanamo, said photographic evidence and testimony of former prisoners showed that detainees were shackled, chained, hooded and beaten if they resisted.

Some interrogation techniques — particularly the use of dogs, exposure to extreme temperatures, sleep deprivation for several consecutive days and prolonged isolation — caused extreme suffering, the report said.

"Such treatment amounts to torture," it said, urging the United States "to refrain from any practice amounting to torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment."

It also said Guantanamo's military commissions are under the ultimate authority of the White House and that detainees should have trials.

SMC

continued from page 1

her to make the SMC Monologues an annual College event.

"The performance is very powerful and we received a great response," she said. "These are stories for us, created for us, performed by us, performed by real women who tell real stories."

Vice President of Student Affairs Linda Timm, who attended last year's performance and plans to go again this year, said the SMC Monologues have proven to be a "powerful experience" of stories from the Saint Mary's community.

"These individuals are willing to share their experiences, their issues and, in some instances, their pain with us," she said. "That takes courage and a great deal of faith that in sharing their stories, it may help someone else."

A 10-person board comprised of students, faculty, staff and sisters selects approximately 25 monologues for the performance and then reviews the submissions, which include a variety of genres from poetry to essays.

CARE faculty advisor and College psychology professor Catherine Pittman said not only do the SMC Monologues allow for a more intimate look at campus issues, but they also showcase the students' superior writing skills.

"[Saint Mary's] is a place that has a strong focus on writing," she said. "Writing expertise is a strong characteristic of our students ... and I think we sometimes take for granted that we get so many people to respond [to our request for monologues]."

Francis said the idea for the

SMC Monologues stemmed from the worldwide V-Day campaign, which dedicates February to activism targeting violence against women.

"We really wanted to do activism work focused on the experiences of Saint Mary's women," she said. "The Monologues reflect the deep, personal issues within the Saint Mary's community."

The 27 actresses in this year's production will each read one of the selected monologues, and Francis said no one will recite her own submission.

Center for Women's Intercultural Leadership [C.W.I.L.] research analyst and Monologues actress Joy Evans said her participation in the SMC Monologues allows her to get involved with students who are proactive in changing the College community.

"It's really been a phenomenal process both years to watch students develop their own voice and become empowered to speak out on challenging issues," she said. "It's also a real honor to be able to give voice to a fellow SMC woman's experiences."

Senior SMC Monologues actress Stephanie Snyder said she performs to help break the "violence of silence" and acknowledge that no one is alone in his or her personal struggles.

"The power of presence is what makes the monologues different than any other publication [at] Saint Mary's," she said. "The presence of the women on stage combines with the presence of the women they are reading for to create a space in which all feel sorrow, joy, embarrassment, pain and, most importantly, healing."

Francis said she believes that the College is one of the first in the nation to create a version of

Ensler's "Monologues" written solely by the members of the immediate community — a fact that is gradually confirmed through SMC Monologues' coverage in "Women in Higher Education" and discussion at national educational conferences.

Francis is creating a documentary about the SMC Monologues' production process and said she hopes it will serve as an instructional tool for other communities who wish to create their own version.

"I hope to premier my documentary in April," she said. "I also will hopefully present it at my next [educational] conference in Wisconsin."

But for now Francis is focused on this weekend's performances at 7 p.m. Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday in Carroll Auditorium. She said she hopes to surpass last year's \$600 donation — raised from the \$3 admission fee — made to S.O.S., the local rape crisis center.

"When you walk out of the SMC Monologues, you'll be changed forever," she said. "The axis in which you live [will be] shifted ... it will open your eyes and shift your thinking."

Snyder said she too wants the audience to experience a change in their thoughts and attitudes after viewing the performance.

"I hope the audience feels uncomfortable at times, sad at times and happy at times," she said. "The overall effect is that there is one monologue that each person in the audience resonates with. [But] mostly I hope they take from it that we are strong, effective, powerful women and we will not be silenced."

Contact Kelly Meehan at kmecha01@saintmarys.edu

Skilling blamed for dispensing false info

Rice claims he was told to mislead Enron board

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Kenneth Rice, chief of Enron Corp.'s struggling broadband unit, testified Thursday that his boss, Jeffrey Skilling, directed him to paint a rosy, misleading picture for the Enron board of directors that was in line with false statements Rice said he already made to financial analysts in 2001.

But Rice, the former CEO of Enron Broadband Services, said in his third day on the stand at the fraud and conspiracy trial of Skilling and founder Kenneth Lay that he had no documents

and "only my recollection" to back up a conversation he had with Skilling, Enron's chief executive, as he prepared for a May 2001 meeting of the company's board.

"What I took from meeting with Mr. Skilling was he wanted me to put a presentation together that was more consistent with the analyst conference and less direct on some of the challenges we were facing at EBS," Rice said.

In January 2001, Rice told

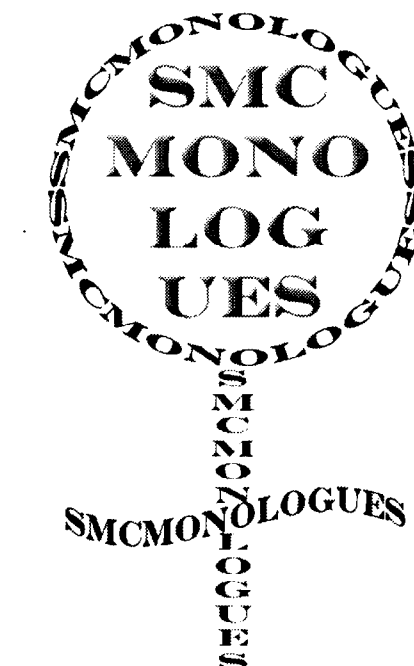
Wall Street analysts who influenced the company's stock price that the business was well-positioned for strong, long-term financial performance. In reality, however, EBS was spending \$100 million per quarter and generating little revenue and business, he said.

He told the board, after making what he said were some 13 drafts of his presentation, that his unit was successful, helped Enron overall keep a strong position in the market, that its broadband network was substantially complete and they had an "excellent deal

flow" in trading activities.

"What I presented to board was inconsistent with what was going on at EBS," said Rice, who is among 16 ex-Enron executives who have pleaded guilty to crimes stemming from the government's investigation of the energy company's swift tumble into bankruptcy proceedings in December 2001.

But as he has done throughout his three days of testimony, Rice stopped short of saying Skilling lied to investors about the health of Enron.



MC C.A.R.E. (Campus Alliance for Rape Elimination) presents:

2nd Annual SMC MONOLOGUES 2006

Saturday, February 18th @ 7pm

Sunday, February 19th @ 2pm

Carroll Auditorium in Madeleva Hall

The SMC Monologues are an original production of the stories based on the experiences of women in the Saint Mary's Community!

Suggested Donation of \$3. All proceeds will go to SOS (the rape crisis center for St. Joseph County) and the YWCA

Don't miss your chance to hear the voices of Saint Mary's speak!! It is an AMAZING and EMPOWERING production. Join us as we celebrate the lives of Saint Mary's women

Sensitive, adult topics intended for mature audiences

For more information please contact Ginger Francis @ fran3260@saintmarys.edu or Jen Hanlon @ hanl6805@saintmary.edu

Sponsored by C.A.R.E., Feminists United, and SAGA (Straight And Gay Alliance)

MARKET RECAP

Stocks
Dow Jones 10,883.35 +24.73

Up: 1,691 Same: 151 Down: 1,586 Composite Volume: 2,442,958,200

AMEX 1,831.05 +14.64
NASDAQ 3,102.99 -5.72
NYSE 7,980.17 +5.26
S&P 500 1,263.78 -1.87
NIKKEI(Tokyo) 16,430.94 -8.73
FTSE 100(London) 5,808.70 +83.60

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
CISCO SYS INC (CSCO)	+0.77	+0.15	19.55
ORACLE CORP (ORCL)	+0.95	+0.12	12.69
INTEL CP (INTC)	+1.60	+0.33	21.00
NASDAQ 110 TR (QQQQ)	-0.95	-0.39	40.71
SIRIUS SATELLITE R (SIRI)	-3.01	-0.18	5.80

Treasuries

10-YEAR NOTE	-1.18	-0.54	45.41
13-WEEK BILL	+0.11	+0.05	43.97
30-YEAR BOND	-0.81	-0.38	46.43
5-YEAR NOTE	-0.22	-0.10	45.41

Commodities

LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl.)	+0.07	62.62
GOLD (\$/Troy oz.)	+14.30	568.10
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)	+0.13	77.55

Exchange Rates

YEN	118.6800
EURO	0.8348
POUND	0.5739

Dow hits high on late surge

Investors are at ease after Wall Street shows excellent gains in cautious trading

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Stocks posted moderate gains Thursday, buoyed by Hewlett-Packard Co.'s earnings, a surprising jump in home construction and more positive comments from the Federal Reserve. The Dow Jones industrial average posted a new 4 1/2-year high on a late surge in trading.

Hewlett-Packard's ongoing turnaround encouraged buying in the technology sector and helped the Dow reach its highest level since June 5, 2001, demonstrating Wall Street's confidence in large-cap stocks.

Investors' economic worries were eased as the news on home construction, which jumped 14.5 percent last month, followed a bullish economic outlook from new Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke.

"Clearly, the market has turned for the better here," said Joseph Battipaglia, chief investment officer at Ryan Beck & Co. "You're seeing today some of the ebb and flow that's to be expected in a market like this, but with Bernanke saying the economy is still powering ahead, this is not a bad environment to be in."

However, with the major indexes posting substantial gains for the week, Thursday's trading was lackluster until the last half-hour of the session, when St. Louis Fed President William Poole said the Fed was close to stopping interest rate hikes.

The Dow rose 61.71, or 0.56 percent, to 11,120.68.

Broader stock indicators also posted modest gains. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 9.38, or 0.73 percent, to 1,289.38, and the tech-focused Nasdaq composite index added 18.20, or 0.8 percent, to 2,294.63.

Bonds were little



Trader Jackie Moran works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange Thursday, as the Dow average hit a four and a half year high.

changed, with the yield on the 10-year Treasury note falling to 4.59 percent from 4.60 percent late Wednesday. The dollar rose against most major currencies, while gold prices fell.

A jump in oil prices limited the stock market's gains. A barrel of light crude settled at \$58.46, up 81 cents, on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

The recent drop in oil below \$60 per barrel, combined with strong earnings and Bernanke's testimony, spurred this week's rally. However, some analysts question whether future uncertainties, such as slower economic growth or a reverse

in oil prices, could keep stocks from building on their gains.

"Nobody wants to get ahead of things," said Jeff Kleintop, chief investment strategist for PNC Financial Services Group in Philadelphia. "The stuff that could happen later in the year could be creeping into things now, which is keeping us flatter than I would've liked."

Hewlett-Packard rose \$2.35, or 7.4 percent, to \$34.02 after beating Wall Street's earnings estimates by 4 cents per share on strong notebook computer sales and success in cost cutting initiatives. Credit Suisse analysts subsequently raised the compa-

ny's stock rating to "outperform" from "market perform."

H-P's impact on the tech sector may have been limited as investors waited to see quarterly earnings from rival Dell Inc., due after the session. Dell added 19 cents to \$31.96 before the report.

Target Corp. said its fourth-quarter earnings rose 14 percent, helped by a number of new stores as well as better sales at existing locations. The retailer beat Wall Street's earnings forecasts by a penny per share. Target nonetheless lost \$1.21 to \$54.59 as investors worried about the company's expenses.

IN BRIEF

XM Radio posts wider quarterly loss

NEW YORK — XM Satellite Radio Holdings Inc.'s losses soared in the fourth quarter on higher costs for marketing and acquiring subscribers, and a key director quit over disagreements about the company's direction, warning of a looming "crisis."

Investors punished the shares of the Washington, D.C.-based company, sending them down \$1.27, or 5 percent, to close at \$23.98 in very heavy volume Thursday afternoon on the Nasdaq Stock Market. They reached a 52-week low of \$22.94 earlier in the day.

Of particular concern to investors was the unexpected departure of Pierce J. Roberts Jr. from XM's board of directors, who said in his resignation letter that he was "troubled" by the company's current path.

"Given current course and speed there is, in my view, a significant chance of a crisis on the horizon," Roberts wrote in the letter, which the company disclosed in a regulatory filing. "Even absent a crisis, I believe that XM will inevitably serve its shareholders poorly without major changes now."

Swift plant cannot ship meat to Japan

WASHINGTON — The Agriculture Department has prohibited a Swift & Co. meat-packing plant in Nebraska from shipping beef to Japan.

The department said the plant's beef met all the rules for exporting to Japan, but its procedures did not.

"It was not a situation of unsafe food or anything like that," Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns said.

The Grand Island, Neb., plant chose cattle suppliers without getting the approval of its corporate headquarters, a violation of export rules that turned up in a routine audit this week, the department said.

Department spokesman Ed Loyd said the audit was unrelated to a prohibited veal shipment that arrived in Japan last month. That shipment originated in New York.

Japan suspended imports because the veal cuts contained backbones, which Asian countries consider at risk for mad cow disease. The cut of veal, hotel rack, is eaten in the United States.

Boston Scientific stock up sharply

Associated Press

BOSTON — Shares of Boston Scientific Corp. rose nearly 9 percent Thursday after the medical device maker's top chief financial officer bought nearly \$4.5 million worth of his company's stock, prompting investors to follow his lead and drive up the stock's price.

The shares' rise to their highest closing price in more than a month helped the stock rebound from a recent slump amid investor worries about the company's pending \$27 billion acquisition of Guidant Corp. Shares of Boston Scientific also have languished following a Jan. 25 warning by the U.S. Food

and Drug Administration about quality-control problems at the Natick-based company.

Analysts said investors Thursday responded to stock purchases by Larry Best that amounted to a personal vote of confidence in his company's future.

"I think investors do take insider buying as a good sign, and I think they especially wanted Boston Scientific to do it," said Jan Wald, an analyst with A.G. Edwards & Sons.

Best, chief financial officer and a senior vice president, bought 200,000 shares on the open market Wednesday at an average price of \$22.43, according to a filing

with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

In recent days, another company insider, board member Nicholas Nicholas Jr., bought 25,000 shares.

Shares of Boston Scientific rose \$1.97 to close at \$24.58, and traded at more than three times the normal volume on the New York Stock Exchange. It was the highest closing price since Jan. 13, when shares closed at \$25.20.

Tao Levy, a Deutsche Bank analyst, said in a research report that the moves by Best and Nicholas increased his confidence in the outlook for Boston Scientific and its Guidant acquisition.

Bissinger

continued from page 1

phrase — 'Friday Night.' He went on to speak about the power of sports and the experience of seeing 20,000 fans cheering on high school boys when he moved to Odessa in 1988.

The author then turned to the negative influence of athletics and "the other side, the way in which kids were literally being sacrificed in the hope of winning a state championship."

He further described the town's obsession and adoration of high school football.

"Preparation for life after this intoxicating experience [high school football] is considered little more than an afterthought," he said.

He spoke at length about Booby Miles, the Permian High School football player whose life and high school football career are chronicled in "Friday Night Lights." Bissinger said the book started positively and "began as a love story, like 'Hoosiers,' but turned out a cautionary tale."

The author fielded questions from the attentive audience about the movie, its effects and more. He described his experiences with the film — which his cousin directed — as positive.

Bissinger denied that his next project would necessarily involve sports.

"I'm not a sports writer," he said. "I gravitate toward subjects that light me up."

Throughout his speech, Bissinger alluded to Notre Dame's tradition and reputation, contrasting the University to other schools at which academics are a second priority to athletics and where athletes "are not there to study."

In a post-lecture interview, he expressed his respect for Notre Dame's "unique tradition of excellence on and off the playing field."

"The concept of student-athlete has not been compromised here," he said. "It is one of the

few schools that can attract top students and continue to have a winning tradition."

Audience members were able to socialize with the acclaimed author at a reception following the speech.

SUB Manager Jimmy Flaherty commented on the lecture's role as the culminating event of the Literary Festival.

"Bissinger is a premier author," he said. "This event was an amazing opportunity for students to interact with him in an informal setting, which is what NDLF is all about." Begun in 1967, NDLF encourages close interaction between students and the visiting wide spectrum of writers.

Contact Bridget Keating at bkeating@nd.edu

"Preparation for life after this intoxicating experience [high school football] is considered little more than an afterthought."

Buzz Bissinger
author

Senate nears Patriot Act passage

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Senate pushed the Patriot Act a step closer to renewal Thursday, overwhelmingly rejecting an effort to block it.

Passage is expected next month for extending the law that was passed weeks after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks as a weapon to help the government track terror suspects.

The 96-3 vote Thursday was no surprise to Sen. Russell Feingold, the Wisconsin Democrat who was the lone senator to oppose the law four and a half years ago and is the chief obstacle to extending 16 provisions now due to expire March 10.

Feingold, who is considering seeking his party's presidential nomination, plans to make the Senate spend several more days on the bill. He complained that Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., had used procedural maneuvers to prevent him from trying to add more protections for people investigated by the government.

"We still have not addressed some of the most significant problems with the Patriot Act," Feingold said.

At the White House, spokesman Scott McClellan urged the Senate to keep up the momentum on the legislation, which he called "a good faith effort" to improve the law.

"Yet there are still some Senate Democrats that want to continue to engage in obstructionist tactics and prevent this

vital legislation from being reauthorized," McClellan said. "We hope the Senate will move ahead quickly and reject the continued obstructionist efforts."

Only Sens. Jim Jeffords, I-Vt., and Robert C. Byrd, D-W.Va., supported Feingold on Thursday's vote to stop what Frist had characterized as a filibuster preventing the Senate from acting on the legislation. Sen. David Vitter, R-La., did not vote.

The changes Feingold was seeking included an amendment that would set a four-year expiration date on Patriot Act provisions regarding National Security Letters — demands made to banks, libraries, Internet providers and others without warrants — for records of their customers or clients.

Another amendment would require the government to notify the subject of a secret search within seven days or obtain court permission to maintain the secrecy for a longer period. The bill would give authorities 30 days after a search before they had to notify the subject of it.

Feingold said the new deal some Senate Republicans brokered with the White House on civil liberties protections would "still allow government fishing expeditions."

Other senators also had advocated more curbs on the government's power to investigate people. But with the law already extended temporarily twice since December and a midterm election approaching, most of

those who share Feingold's concerns are willing to accept the compromise struck last week with the White House.

Virtually all of the 45 senators who had stood with Feingold last year to kill a House-Senate agreement abandoned the effort this month after two of them, Republican Sens. John Sununu of New Hampshire and Larry Craig of Idaho, struck a deal with the White House to add more privacy protections.

"Compromise and consensus require concessions and flexibility," said Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., who sided with Feingold in December but who will now vote for the bill. "It is the responsibility of the Congress to 'provide for the common defense,' and I believe we live up to that duty in this bill."

Sixty votes were required to overcome Feingold's filibuster.

Supporters expected the Senate to pass the bill March 1 and the House to quickly add its approval.

Under the deal, recipients of court-approved subpoenas for information in terrorist investigations would have the right to challenge a requirement that they refrain from telling anyone. The bill would also remove a requirement that an individual provide the FBI with the name of an attorney consulted about a National Security Letter. A third change, supporters say, makes clear that most libraries are not subject to National Security Letter demands for information about suspected terrorists.

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January boasts record-breaking housing construction

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Construction of new homes and apartments, defying forecasts of a housing slowdown, shot up in January at the fastest pace in more than three decades.

The Commerce Department reported Thursday that building activity was up 14.5 percent last month when compared to December, pushing construction to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 2.276 million units.

That was the fastest construction rate since March

1973, but it was expected to be a one-time blip caused by unusually warm weather in January that prompted builders to start work on more homes. Analysts are forecasting that housing construction will slow this year as the nation's five-year housing boom quiets down.

In other economic news, the number of Americans filing claims for unemployment benefits rose to 297,000 last week, up 19,000 from the previous week. The increase was larger than economists had been expecting but they cau-

tioned against reading too much into the one-week rise. They said the level still remained in a zone that indicates a strong job market.

Ian Shepherdson, chief U.S. economist for High Frequency Economics, said that jobless claims are likely to bounce around quite a bit for a few weeks, reflecting the disruptions in filing claims caused by the weekend's huge snowstorm in the Northeast.

The weather played a major factor in the big rise in construction last month, which was the mildest January in

more than a century. Some economists, however, said that a 6.8 percent rise last month in building permits, which are not affected by the weather, could be a signal that housing activity will not slow as much this year as previously thought as long as mortgage rates do not rise too quickly.

"Low long-term rates and a strong jobs market will continue to provide substantial support to the housing market," said Bob Walters, chief economist for Quicken Loans, an online lender.

On Wall Street, the Dow

Jones industrial average rose 61.71 points to close at 11,120.68 on Thursday.

The 14.5 percent rise in construction activity in January followed a 6.9 percent drop in December. Analysts had been expecting a rebound but the actual rise was far above their forecasts. Still, they are forecasting that construction of new homes and apartments will decline by about 6 percent in 2006 from last year's 2.07 million units.

For January, construction of single-family homes rose by 12.8 percent to an annual rate of 1.819 million units, an all-time high. Construction of multifamily units was up 21.9 percent to an annual rate of 457,000 units.

Permits, considered a good indication of future activity, rose as well in January, rose to an annual rate of 2.217 million units. Applications for building permits had been down 4.1 percent in December.

Sales of both new and existing homes have set records for five consecutive years as unusually low mortgage rates have spurred demand. However, mortgage rates have started rising, reflecting a continued campaign by the Federal Reserve to boost interest rates in an effort to keep inflation pressures from increasing.

Forecasters believe that sales of both new and existing homes will decline slightly this year and prices, which have been surging, will rise but at a slower pace than the double-digit gains seen in much of the country in recent years.

The National Association of Realtors reported Thursday that the slowing in sales that started at the end of 2005 has yet to dampen price gains.

The Realtors found that 72 metropolitan areas around the country reported double-digit gains in median home prices for existing homes sold in the last three months of 2005, compared to the same period in 2004. That was a record level for areas reporting double-digit price increases, besting the old mark of 69. The biggest gain came in the metropolitan area that includes Phoenix, Ariz., where home prices shot up by 48.9 percent.

Some economists have expressed concerns that once home sales start to slide, the big price gains could turn into sharp declines in prices in some areas, bursting the speculative bubble in much the same way that the stock market bubble burst in early 2000, triggering shock waves that helped to push the country into a recession.

However, new Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke, testifying to Congress on Wednesday, said he did not expect such a severe impact from the housing slowdown.

"A leveling out or a modest softening of housing activity seems more likely than a sharp contraction," he told members of the House Financial Services Committee.

Building activity rose in all parts of the country in January. The biggest gain was a 29.2 percent rise in the Northeast followed by increases of 23.7 percent in the Midwest, 16.9 percent in the West and 8.7 percent in the South.

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(Even the 5 calls from your girlfriend in the last 20 minutes.)

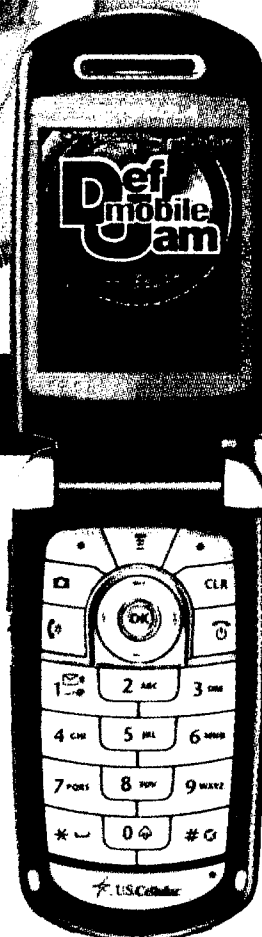


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POST OFFICE INFORMATION

The Observer (USPS 599 2-4000) is published Monday through Friday except during exam and vacation periods. A subscription to The Observer is \$100 for one academic year; \$55 for one semester.

The Observer is published at:
024 South Dining Hall
Notre Dame, IN 46556-0779
Periodical postage paid at Notre Dame and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER
Send address corrections to:
The Observer
P.O. Box 779
024 South Dining Hall
Notre Dame, IN 46556-0779

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Academic 'Monologues' belong at ND

Let's hope he saw what we saw.

A blunt, vulgar, shocking production that without hesitation portrays masturbation, extramarital sex and lesbian seduction onstage. And a production that absolutely belongs at the nation's top Catholic university.

University President Father John Jenkins said he attended "The Vagina Monologues" Wednesday — Notre Dame students' third and final performance of the Eve Ensler play this year — to "listen and learn." That is exactly what he needed to do before deciding whether academic departments can continue to sponsor the play at the University, and he should be commended for his attendance. Now — with the V-Day campaign's demonstrative peak finished for another year — comes the waiting game, as the Notre Dame community anticipates the president's verdict.

And now that Jenkins has seen the play in the academic setting he required, he should choose to allow the "Monologues" to remain — a choice he should make not only in favor of academic freedom, but in favor of the University's Catholic character, as well.

Not that he wasn't right to be concerned. "The Vagina Monologues" contains plenty of crude, disturbing and arguably immature content that even the most liberal viewers often find offensive, as well as some seemingly pointless skits — including lists of what a vagina would wear or say — that are not particularly enlightening. Questioning the appropriateness of Ensler's approach was clearly within the president's bounds. Though Jenkins should allow the play's performance to continue, criticism of the "Monologues" is certainly valid.

However, Notre Dame, to quote its 15th president, Father Theodore Hesburgh, strives to graduate "some of the most intelligent Catholics in America." It's a lofty and unique goal, one the University recognizes can't be accomplished by simply reinforcing Church teaching. In and out of the classroom, students already are encouraged to critically examine their faith in light of contemporary challenges. Confronting and engaging Church teaching while at Notre Dame — Masses-in-residence-halls Notre Dame, crucifixes-in-lecture-halls Notre Dame, "God, Country, Notre Dame" Notre Dame — allows students to strengthen and deepen their understanding of Catholicism in a pervasively Catholic context.

Intelligent young Catholics who will lead the Church for decades to come must understand how their beliefs apply to American society in 2006, a society that includes masturbation, extramarital sex and lesbian seduction — not to mention rape, sexual abuse, female genital mutilation and other atrocities the "Monologues" brings to light. Exposing Notre Dame students to aspects of contemporary culture through a production like "The Vagina Monologues" — performed by their talented peers, in a classroom, followed by an open discussion of Catholic teaching versus the play's content — is a positive educational force to open their eyes and put their professed Catholic beliefs into practice.

This academic context is essential, however. If academic freedom is cited to justify "The Vagina Monologues," presence at Notre Dame in future years, then the play must retain the academic character it showed in the past week. The "Monologues" should

continue to be held in a large classroom, an environment that plays an important part in setting the audience's expectations and the event's academic tone. Other campus academic events don't charge money for attendance, so the "Monologues" shouldn't either — the funds the play raises for charities fighting violence against women can be raised through other means, just as campus clubs are attempting to do this spring. Stopping sexual violence, as Jenkins said in his academic freedom and Catholic character addresses last month, is an undoubtedly worthy cause, and the Notre Dame community should show its support by pledging its dollars to the fundraising alternative the groups conceive.

Also crucial to preserving the academic character of the "Monologues" is the continuation of the panel discussions that followed this year's performances. The discussions provided valuable insight into the themes of the play, as well as a wider context for its content that enhanced the audience's understanding of the play's purpose. Future panels should maintain those goals, while also ensuring a range of viewpoints are represented by seeking out both supporters and detractors of "The Vagina Monologues" to speak on behalf of its merits and faults. And students and faculty must make speakers' educational effort worthwhile by listening to the panelists respectfully, questioning them intensely and seeking in the discussion implications for Notre Dame — all of which audiences did successfully this week.

Retaining these academic components for future Notre Dame productions of the "Monologues" should leave no question about whether the production belongs underneath the University's academic freedom umbrella. Academic departments should be able to decide to sponsor the play on the grounds of sponsoring learning, not on the grounds of endorsing the content of the "Monologues." If the University administration is squeamish about the play attracting publicity and prompting questions about Notre Dame's Catholicism, it can simply make a public statement that while Notre Dame does not endorse the play's content and values due to the University's Catholic character, some of its departments have chosen to sponsor the play as an academic exercise.

"The Vagina Monologues" has been performed at Notre Dame for five years now, and the play has yet to cause the drastic shift in Catholic character that some continue to predict. There has been no upsurge in pro-choice, or pro-war, or anti-charity, or otherwise Catholicism-conflicting events on campus. Notre Dame is still widely recognized as the best Catholic university in the country. Its president is still greeted fondly by the pope. And to retain that character and that status, as associate professor of theology Father Paulinus Ozodor said at Tuesday's panel, events like the "Monologues" that conflict with Catholic teaching "cannot go unchallenged in a Catholic university."

Indeed, Father Jenkins, they cannot. So challenge them — not by banning the "Monologues," not by silencing students' voices, but by fighting speech with speech: holding panels, sparking discussions and pushing intelligent Catholics to graduate from Notre Dame having challenged, utilized and strengthened their faith, not having hidden behind it.

The Observer Editorial

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Administration defines academic freedom

I have followed with some interest the discussion in the Viewpoint section on academic freedom at Notre Dame and other, secular, universities. However, I believe certain participants in this discussion have made a subtle but important category mistake.

For example, Professor Gary Anderson discusses the case of a prominent Oberlin professor who was "subject to terrible harassment" for espousing views critical of "the normalization of homosexual behaviour" ("Lessons from other universities," Feb. 15). While I hope readers across the political spectrum can agree this was, prima facie, an incident of terrible injustice, it seems to me to be completely irrelevant to the issue of academic freedom — unless Oberlin has an official or unofficial policy of discriminating against people with these particular views (which strikes me as highly unlikely), the harassment was no doubt carried out by individuals, not the administration as such.

By contrast, the issue at Notre Dame is whether it is consistent with justice for our administration to systematically restrict the expression, outside of a narrowly-construed "academic" context, of views that are thought to differ from official Church doctrine (whether this difference actually rises to the level of contradiction or not). Thus, whether it is consistent with justice for the adminis-

tration to bar "The Vagina Monologues" from using theatre spaces on campus and raising funds for local rape crisis centers; or whether it is consistent with justice for the administration to forbid the formation of student organizations based on support for access to abortion or the "normalization of homosexual behaviour;" or whether it is consistent with justice for the administration to adopt policies that would recognize the reality of sex, both consensual and otherwise, among the student body (pun intended).

Certainly the incidence of discrimination by individuals at other, secular, universities is a mark against those schools. But this does not imply the administration of these universities restricts social conservatives the way the Notre Dame administration is thought by many to restrict social liberals; nor does it imply that it's somehow just for Notre Dame to tilt the scales in favor of social conservatives because they are discriminated against elsewhere.

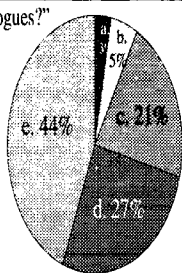
Dan Hicks
graduate student
department of philosophy
Feb. 16

OBSERVER POLL

Are you going to "The Vagina Monologues?"

- a. Yes, I'm curious about the controversy.
- b. No, I couldn't get a ticket.
- c. No, I'm not interested.
- d. Yes, I support the v-day movement.
- e. No, I don't support them.

*Poll appears courtesy of
www.ndsmcobserver.com and is based
on 391 responses.



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

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Whatever you are, be a good one."

Abraham Lincoln
former president

An unholy approach to television's lure for tithing

The new year accentuates a need for revenue by so-called televangelists. While their methods sometimes differ, they laser on specific rhetoric for pledges, vows or tithes. Recently billboards, direct mailing pieces and television broadcasts have permeated our lives. This writer surfed the channels well past midnight to record some requests and has concluded that P. T. Barnum was correct when declaring that a sucker was born every minute.



Gary Caruso

Capital Comments

Spirituality is the most private and personal aspect of our lives. Factions in any religion should not "preach" on how to correctly worship. Yet time after time televangelists instruct us on the proper way to worship, mostly with a "born again" conversion. Remarkably Jimmy Swaggert contradicts fellow ministers saying that they may lead to the death of souls in a black pit. Swaggert reveals that a decade ago the Lord told him to write a new Biblical interpretation which he sells for a mere \$125 with three musical CDs — usually a \$175 offer.

Pat Robertson's "700 Club" recently hosted a telethon to raise \$450,000. Interestingly, Robertson's approach was twofold, targeting the wealthy

while asking the poor to contribute just 65 cents a day. Drawing on our human greed, viewers were told that if we want a \$100,000 job, we must begin to think at that level and give to the Lord (i.e., Robertson) at ten percent of that amount. Once we have committed to God, He will, in turn, reward us by opening a door to such a position. Robertson's son noted that many viewers were able to give \$10,000, and "you need to call." Pledges totaled \$582,000.

It seems to this writer that Robertson "needed" those people a bit more than the wayward flock watching the telethon. A staff person handed the younger Robertson a yellow paper with a pledge for \$10,000 followed by another pledge of an unusual \$5,004 amount. Moreover, the elder Robertson's quick math left this watcher bewildered. He asked for a mere 65 cents a day, "about \$20 a month" or about \$200 a year. Actually, 65 cents a day equals more at \$237.25 a year, but less than \$20 a month. The crawl below the screen listed names and "\$20 per month."

One televangelist offered "free miracle water" with a call to his 800 toll-free number. Never mentioning contributions, he promised "miracle money." After airing sessions where he healed others by touching their foreheads before they fell to the floor, the program cut to testimonials from those receiving "miracle money." One woman told of \$7,000 miraculously

transferred into her checking account. Another claimed that \$10,000 appeared in her account.

Testimonials are the lifeblood of fundraising, and each program aired several. Many begin describing how desperate the people were for housing, money, a job or their own lives. A February flyer from Ron Hembree of Cornerstone TeleVision Network, which airs the 700 Club twice a day, features an upbeat cover story about a woman who planned to kill her boyfriend and end her own life. She has transformed her life since she began watching Cornerstone. When Cornerstone last contacted her, "she had a thriving ministry as an author, songwriter and speaker."

Cornerstone also offers five ways to contribute — monthly pledge, telethon pledge, special gift, memorial gift and caring hearts — but nowhere does it list how to obtain an accounting of income and expenses. To take the message of Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth, Hembree offers a \$5,000 special gift feature which raises a foreign flag on his Avenue of Promise leading to "Signal Hill." After a year, the foreign flag will be sent in a presentation box to the contributor. Hembree writes, "Prayer not only helps us align our will with that of our Lord but also spurs us on to fulfill His command to reach a world He loves and died for."

Kenneth Hagin Ministries touts that "your believing brings about your

receiving." He quotes Mark 9:23 with editing, "Jesus said ... If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth." He writes that "some people quote the same scriptures they've heard a preacher quote and wonder why they don't get results." The answer might come from fellow preacher Robert Tilton whose January 2006 plea targeted desperate people facing bankruptcy which he could see through the television. Asking for a vow of \$1,000 seed money to God (envelopes included), he may have recycled his television "visions" once too often for the credits ending the program revealed it had been filmed in 1998.

Give this Catholic writer the original, traditional Christian outlook which was never designed to be comfortable and whose "born again" notion meant leaving this life for the next. Even then we are not released from tithing as demonstrated by a billboard on the road to Detroit's Super Bowl soliciting us beyond our graves, "Is God's will in your will?"

Gary Caruso, Notre Dame '73, is a political strategist who served as a legislative and public affairs director in President Clinton's administration. His column appears every other Friday. He can be contacted at hotline@aol.com

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

A 'Mountain' of discovery

Sooner or later, more than a few of us do a mountain stint.

For me, movie scenes from "Brokeback Mountain" flash bigger-than-life reminders of time I spent on that lonely hilltop.

My Brokeback occurred 20 years ago in San Francisco. Serving as a naval officer, I was engaged to be married to a woman.

Chuck Colbert

Guest Columnist

But a severe case of cold feet pushed me to a critical turning point. Unlike Ennis Del Mar (Heath Ledger) and Jack Twist (Jake Gyllenhaal), the movie's protagonists, I broke off that engagement six weeks short of my wedding day.

Believe me, it was not easy telling my fiancée a hurtful truth. I was gay.

Sure enough, it was during an Engaged Encounter weekend, that I, then a Roman Catholic, prayerfully faced up to my own truth.

I was an only son; and pressures of family, church and state weighed heavily on me. So much expectation rested on my shoulders to marry well and carry on the family name. For Ennis and Jack different societal pressures ensnared them.

I look back and find it nothing less than a miracle the courage that I, a then very conflicted 28-year-old naval officer, managed to muster. It was doubly risky for me. My fiancée's father was a retired naval officer. In this good Catholic family, rage and hurt could easily have given way to payback — reporting me to military officials as I broke the silence and came out of the closet.

Instead, my fiancée's mother phoned a few days after breaking off the engagement; and said to me, "Chuck, I know that what you did for my daughter, telling her, you did out of love for her. And I will never forget that."

The parish priest, who had mentored

and confirmed me into the Catholic faith in my hometown of Johnstown, Pennsylvania, encouraged me to break off the engagement and come clean. He assured me that he would provide sensitive pastoral care for my parents as they dealt with a bitter disappointment.

Fortunately, I lived in California. Gay life and same-sex love had traveled a long way from 1963 to 1983, from the loneliness and heartbreak that E. Annie Proulx's short story tells in wrenchingly stark prose.

The story's plot line and mood are only enhanced on film. The motion picture captures all of the pathos and more, with full moons and crystalline blue skies, the alpine beauty of big-sky country Wyoming-style, the wide-open stretches of landscape that Ennis and Jack share with coyotes, bears and herds of sheep.

For me, Gustavo Santaolalla's haunting music captures perfectly the prevailing melancholy. That music and the dark Wyoming skies pierced only by moonlight enabled me to go back in time, connecting with my own private Brokeback. In the film, it is the mountain's biting cold that brings Ennis and Jack together, if only for the warmth of human connection in a bedroll. Suddenly, the spark of same-sex male desire ignites and never really dies out.

Many of us have been there. It's a breaking point — where only the raw male physicality of sexual desire cuts through. Words can't quite bridge the disconnection and loneliness many of us feel — imprisoned behind walls of stultifying silence and denial.

But you don't have to be a cowboy to feel the pain of the ill-fated love story of Ennis and Jack. My husband and I saw "Brokeback Mountain" before visiting my family for the holidays. If there is ever a gay-themed story with hometown resonance, this story qualifies.

There I recalled another powerful scene from the movie. It's the one in which a highly constricted, emotionally disconnected Ennis holds two shirts. One shirt is Jack's; the other belongs to Ennis. That clothing and the memory are all that remain.

Undoubtedly, during the last 40 years, society's knowledge and understanding of gay people and same-sex relationships have grown. Yet I fear that that for far too many Brokeback's chains still shackle and bind. From small towns in rural America and even within close-knit urban communities — I wonder about men too constricted to trust their true feelings, too afraid to come out fully, too burdened to be more honest with themselves, family and friends. I wonder also about the silently painful Brokebacks — past, present and future — within the Notre Dame and Saint Mary's extended family.

I guess I'm lucky. More than 20 years later and well off my Brokeback hilltop, I celebrate nearly two years of being happily and legally married to another man here in Massachusetts. Still, married or single, there is something about "Brokeback Mountain" in all of us. Personal narratives on the

film's Web site, www.BrokebackMountain.com, testify to the film's universal appeal.

Despite the movie's box office success, four Golden Globes, and eight Oscar nominations, a "Brokeback" backlash of misunderstanding has surfaced.

A few weeks ago, the movie was pulled from a theatre in Utah. For some, its showing at Notre Dame seems to threaten the University's Catholic character and very identity.

But I am not worried. The truth-telling power of this film derives from its ability to break the back of prejudice, intolerance and misunderstanding. For those who leave Brokeback's pain behind, there's no turning back — no return to the self-destructiveness of self-denial, to the prison of silence.

A 1978 graduate of Notre Dame, Chuck Colbert is a freelance journalist who lives in Cambridge, Mass. He is a founder of the Gay and Lesbian Alumni of Notre Dame and Saint Mary's. He can be contacted at CrcllIUND@aol.com

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

**Want to be a columnist, copy editor
or illustrator for Viewpoint?**

E-mail Sarah at Viewpoint.1@nd.edu

Upcoming Events...



Rosa Parks Memorial Concert

Friday at 5 p.m.

The University of Notre Dame concert band honors Rosa Parks during Black History Month with a special performance in Leighton Concert Hall.



Wallace and Gromit — The Curse of the Were-Rabbit

Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m.

The much-loved duo from the Oscar-winning clay-animation shorts returns to thrill audiences in the Browning Cinema.



Gone With the Wind

Saturday at 3 p.m.

A sweeping, tragic love story, this 1939 classic takes its place within the PAC Classic 100 film series screened in the Browning Cinema.



Soweto Gospel Choir

Saturday at 8 p.m.

The 25-member choir performs an inspirational, soulful African gospel program in Leighton Concert Hall.

...at the
**DeBartolo
Center for the
Performing
Arts**

Graphic by Chris McGrady and Alexa Antekaler/The Observer

'Triplettes' transcends atypical fare

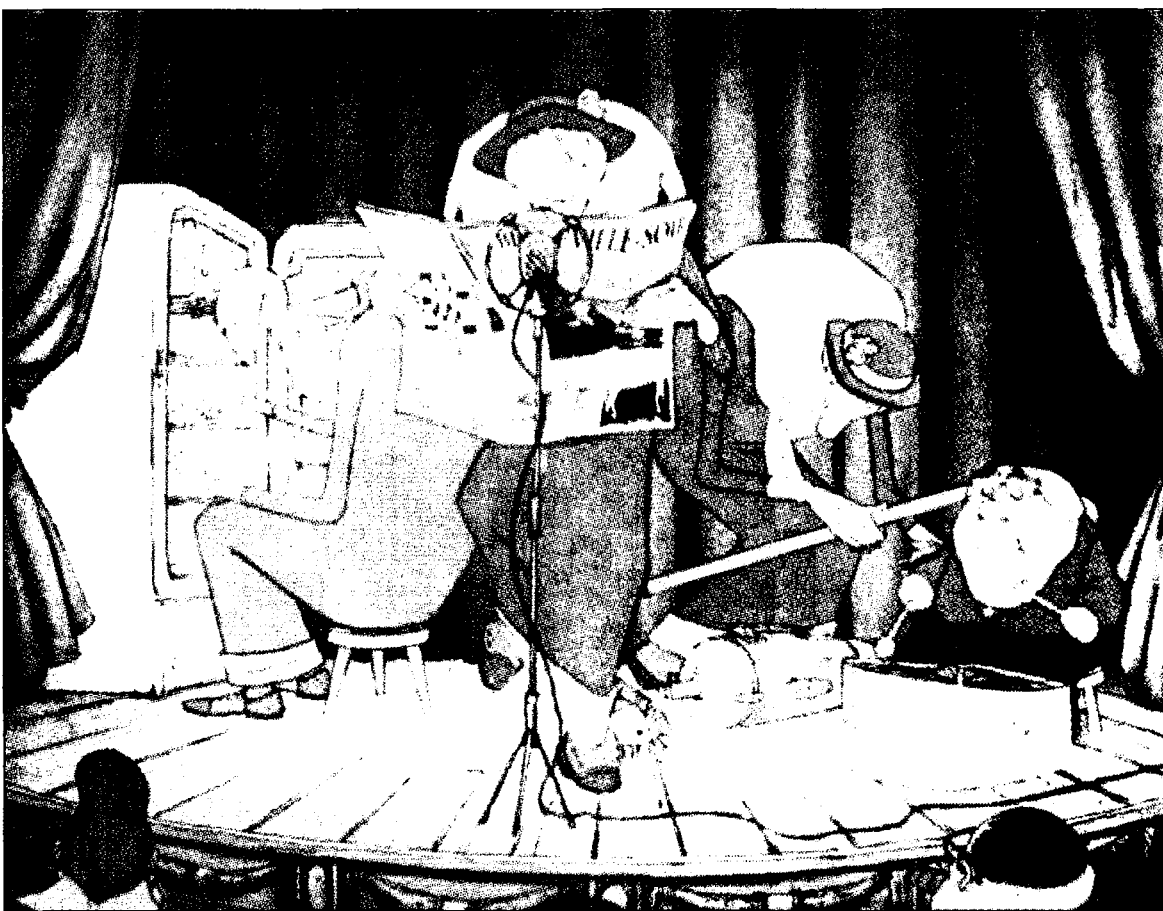


Photo courtesy of movieweb.com

"The Triplets of Belleville," a French animated movie, hits screens with its unorthodox style and sense of humor. The film challenges the ideals that are commonly associated with animated films.

By MOLLY GRIFFIN
Assistant Scene Editor

"The Triplets of Belleville" is a difficult movie to categorize. It's animated, but it lacks the "feel good" quality of Disney and Pixar films. It's technically in French, but lacks any real dialogue. It's also about things — cycling and an ancient trio of jazz singers — that a viewer would be hard-pressed to find in any movie, let alone an animated one.

Somehow, the mix of European visual flair and antiquated references to people like Josephine Baker and Django Reinhardt manages to cohere into a stunning film. In spite of its failure to fit into the usual film categories, "The Triplets of Belleville" is a highly entertaining movie that will leave the viewer with a song in his or her head and a burning desire to see the movie again to discover what was missed the first time.

The film didn't receive a wide release in the United States, as Sony Pictures was naturally nervous about a PG-13 rated, French animated film, but it will be playing this Friday and Saturday at 10 p.m. in the Browning Cinema at the DPAC.

The film follows Madame Souza, the grandmother of a young orphan boy named Champion. He becomes fascinated by bicycles and Madame Souza becomes his dictatorial trainer. Champion eventually makes it to the Tour de France. During the race, Champion is kidnapped and Madame Souza, along with her dog Bruno, must go to Belleville, a distinctly Manhattan-esque city across the ocean, in order to find him.

While in Belleville, she meets the Triplets of Belleville, an aging trio of frog-eating, found-object-playing singers who were famous decades ago. They help Madame Souza find her son, who has been abducted by the French mafia for surprising reasons, and the movie is truly a testament to her dedication as a parent.

With very little dialogue, the animation becomes the central focus of the film. The images have a distinctly European flair and the style of the entire movie is really unlike any other.

The movement of the characters and the exaggerated shapes of their bodies, such as the cyclists with enormous calves and the bad guys literally shaped like blocks, gives the movie an entirely different feel. The animation is also darker, grittier and in some cases more grotesque than the Disney or Pixar gloss that American viewers are used to.

The film visually pokes fun at a variety of cultural stereotypes. Paris is portrayed as an expanding metropolis so big that it has expanded to the point that it has swallowed up its rural suburbs, while Belleville is painted as an overwhelming, gaudy city. The citizens of Belleville are obese and the French in the film actually eat frogs.

Once viewers become accustomed to this different animation style, it becomes addictive, particularly because it allows the story to be effectively told without words. While speaking is nearly absent from "The Triplets of Belleville," the emotive animation and music allows the characters to express genuine emotion without dialogue.

The music in "The Triplets of Belleville," which is an eclectic jazz sound that uses found objects like bike wheels and vacuum cleaners, emerges as one of the best aspects of the film. The music is distinctly French, but the film manages to add enough to the songs to make its own distinct sound.

Sound, musical or not, is present throughout the entire film. For example, Madame Souza's every step is marked by her clunky orthopedic shoe, Champion perpetually pedals his bike and each one of the triplets is constantly tapping out a rhythm on something.

It is rare to find a foreign film sans subtitles, but "The Triplets of Belleville" makes effective use of alternate means of communication.

With its blend of jazzy rhythms and an unusual percussion section, the extremely catchy featured song "Belleville Rendez-Vous" is undeniably one of the highlights of the movie. It deservedly received an Oscar nomination for "Best Song" in 2004 and is nearly impossible to get out of your head for days after the film is over.

Writer and director Sylvain Chomet, who also wrote "Belleville Rendez-Vous," clearly had a distinct vision for "The Triplets of Belleville," and the movie refuses to cave into the common ideals that viewers would normally expect from an animated film.

It is a celebration of European style, whether through the use of innovative music or the love and tenacity of a woman for her child. "The Triplets of Belleville" is truly unique and quite unlike any other movie — particularly among modern day animated features — out today and is a must-see for any fan of European cinema, animated or not.

The Triplets of Belleville

Where: DPAC Browning Cinema

When: Friday and Saturday at 10 p.m.

Tickets: \$6, \$5 faculty/staff,

\$4 seniors and \$3 for all students

Contact Molly Griffin at mgriffin@nd.edu

SHOW REVIEW

'Van Gogh' paints powerful portrait

By MARTY SCHROEDER
Scene Critic

"Inventing Van Gogh," by Stephen Dietz, is a powerful play that brings characters from different times together for a dynamic inquiry into the human experience. It involves love, obsession, what is meant by the word "art" and, ultimately, what it means to be a human being with something to live for. None of the characters involved are perfect, but they all display their humanity in distinct ways.

This play is about Patrick Stone, a struggling painter in the present day. Viewers learn that he has painted for some time and that his work is good, if not great. Unfortunately, Patrick is now going through the painter's equivalent of writer's block. He is commissioned by the painting authenticator René Bouchard to paint — or forge — the long-lost and only remaining self-portrait of Vincent Van Gogh, from which Bouchard hopes to make a fortune. The play then begins to delve into a series of flashbacks that bring Van Gogh and important figures from his life into Patrick's world.

This production, directed by Patrick Vassel and Drew McElligott, brings the script to life very adeptly. The play involves some scenes that take place during Van Gogh's life, some that occur during Stone's life and a few that involve both characters interacting in the same time period. Due to the nature of the play, the action can be hard to follow at some isolated points, but overall this production does a very good job of minimizing any confusion. As the play progresses, the viewer is caught off guard by the fact that Stone can be in Van Gogh's time period and vice versa. But suspension of disbelief is something that comes naturally with this play due to the excellent acting.

This acting is the heart of the production. Vassel is very adept at playing the confused Stone, and Nathaniel Grams is the appropriately arrogant and effete Bouchard. But the play is carried by Drew McElligott as Van Gogh and Matthew Goodrich as Stone's late professor, Dr. Jonas Miller. Goodrich also plays Van Gogh's doctor, Paul Gachet, but is better as the Van

Gogh-obsessed Miller. The cast is rounded out with London Vale playing both Miller's daughter and Stone's love interest, Hallie Miller and Van Gogh's love interest and Gachet's daughter, Marguerite. Finally, Brandon McGirr is excellent as Van Gogh's arrogant yet insecure mentor, Paul Gauguin.

The play ends quite dramatically, but its real power lies in the middle. In this section, there is much interaction, ranging from Miller and Stone discussing their past, to Dr. Miller's fruitless quest for Van Gogh's last self-portrait, to Gauguin and Stone arguing over what art is and what previous artists are of merit. One particular scene involves Stone, Van Gogh and Gauguin arguing over which artists that came before Van Gogh are noteworthy. The subtext of this scene is how one should live life. The interaction between McElligott, McGirr, and Vassel is one of the strongest aspects of the play.

McElligott, at his most energetic here, walks all over the stage and gives Van Gogh an erratic presence that seems to mirror his painting style. McGirr is also at his strongest. He portrays a very self-assured Gauguin but the script betrays

this slightly with some self-doubt. McGirr's delivery combines these two to give his character many levels. Finally, Vassel brings to the stage a confused Stone who is absorbing what these two great artists have to say. While the end provides the resolution to all the conflict throughout the play, it is this very conflict that arouses the most emotion and gives the most satisfaction to the audience.

The Washington Hall Lab Theater is adroitly used as Stone/Van Gogh's studio, which ultimately fuses into one studio they both use. The lighting, designed by Ryan Retartha, has the stage awash in blues, reds and yellows, giving an essence of the colors that become an important part of Van Gogh's character.

While this play is not perfect, it is an excellent, exciting and very thought-provoking piece of contemporary theater.

Contact Marty Schroeder at
mschroel@nd.edu

Inventing Van Gogh



Directors: Patrick Vassel and Drew McElligott

Writer: Stephen Dietz

Starring: Patrick Vassel, Drew McElligott, Matthew Goodrich and Nathaniel Grams



Photo courtesy of Drew McElligott and Patrick Vassel

"Inventing Van Gogh" stars Drew McElligott, left, as Vincent Van Gogh. The play is directed by McElligott and Patrick Vassel, who plays painter Patrick Stone.

NOTRE DAME'S
BEST... *JPW Destinations*

BY OBSERVER PHOTO STAFF



The Dome may be golden on the outside, but don't pass on the opportunity to appreciate its inner beauty, too. Beware, though — an ancient tradition forbids all who have not yet graduated from entering by the front stairway.



With its stunning array of sculpture, painting, photography and indigenous art from around the world, the Snite Museum is the hidden jewel of the south side. Stop in for a journey from the Mesoamerican through the Postmodern.



The final destination of any visit to Our Lady's University is Her own Grotto. On a cold night, in the glow of moonbeams, starlight and flickering candles, it's easy to believe in miracles.

For next week: Where is the best light on campus?
Send your suggestions to obsphoto@nd.edu.

OLYMPIC HOCKEY

Switzerland evens record with upset victory

United States, Canada take care of undermatched opponents Thursday with flashy offense and strong goaltending

Associated Press

TORINO, Italy — David Aebischer got stronger with each Czech shot that smacked against his pads.

He turned aside 40 shots — including 20 in the second period — and carried Switzerland to one of its greatest hockey victories, a 3-2 win Thursday over the world champion Czechs.

"It's great for Swiss hockey that we won," said Aebischer, who stopped Jaromir Jagr six times in the second period. "We have to be careful because it's one game."

Montreal Canadiens defenseman Mark Streit, who has only one NHL goal this season, gave the Swiss a 3-2 lead during a power play 6:42 into the third.

"I think it's by far the biggest win in Swiss hockey — since I've been playing. Even in history," Streit said. "It's kind of a miracle."

Aebischer, best known for replacing Patrick Roy as the Colorado Avalanche's top goalie, was brilliant while his team was short-handed for most of the final 7 minutes of the middle period. Switzerland was ahead 2-1 when the parade to the penalty box began.

The Swiss (1-1 in Group A), who had just two NHL players in their lineup, were whistled for six of the final eight penalties in the period and were down two men for about 2 minutes. Aebischer got tougher as flag-waving fans chanted his name.

Marek Zidlicky tied it at 2 for the Czech Republic (1-1) a minute into the third, but that was the last goal they'd get.

"They wanted it more, I guess," New York Rangers forward Martin Rucinsky said. "Maybe it's a good thing that happened to us. Maybe it will wake us up and give us a warning."

Jagr, who scored the first goal for the Czechs to tie it 2:55 into the second, had several other chances. After going without a shot in the first period, Jagr fired from all over. He was stopped by the very bottom of Aebischer's left pad on a drive from the right circle. Set up there again during a power play, Jagr fired high out of play.

"I think a couple of times he missed his shot," Aebischer said.

Tomas Vokoun made 16 saves in place of injured Czech goalie Dominik Hasek and said he didn't feel any added pressure.

"No, I just played bad," he said.

A team physical therapist said

Hasek, who has an injured left hamstring, has a 30-40 percent chance of playing again in the Olympics. He will test his sore, stiff leg on Friday.

Thomas Ziegler gave Switzerland a 1-0 lead in the first period and Thierry Paterlini answered Jagr's goal in the second by getting to his feet after being knocked down to net a short-handed tally midway through the period.

Switzerland earned only one Olympic win in 2002 and hasn't finished higher than fifth since 1952.

USA 4, Kazakhstan 1

It didn't take long for the pressure to ease on the U.S. goalie and his teammates in a victory Thursday night over Kazakhstan.

DiPietro, dressed in stars-and-stripes pads and a mask that bears the image of the helicopter his father piloted in the Vietnam War, needed to make only 11 saves in his successful Olympic debut.

"Obviously, you're going to have jitters the first time you play in this event, but at the end of the day, it's still the same game," the New York Islanders goaltender said.

The difference was in the result.

The U.S. (1-0-1) used three first-period goals to move into second place in Group B with three points, behind Slovakia — the Americans' next opponent — and the only 2-0 team in the six-squad bunch.

It didn't take long for the U.S. to shake off any remaining jet lag and the disappointment of its 3-3 tie with Latvia in Wednesday's opener. The Americans quickly established dominance over a team that fielded only two NHL players.

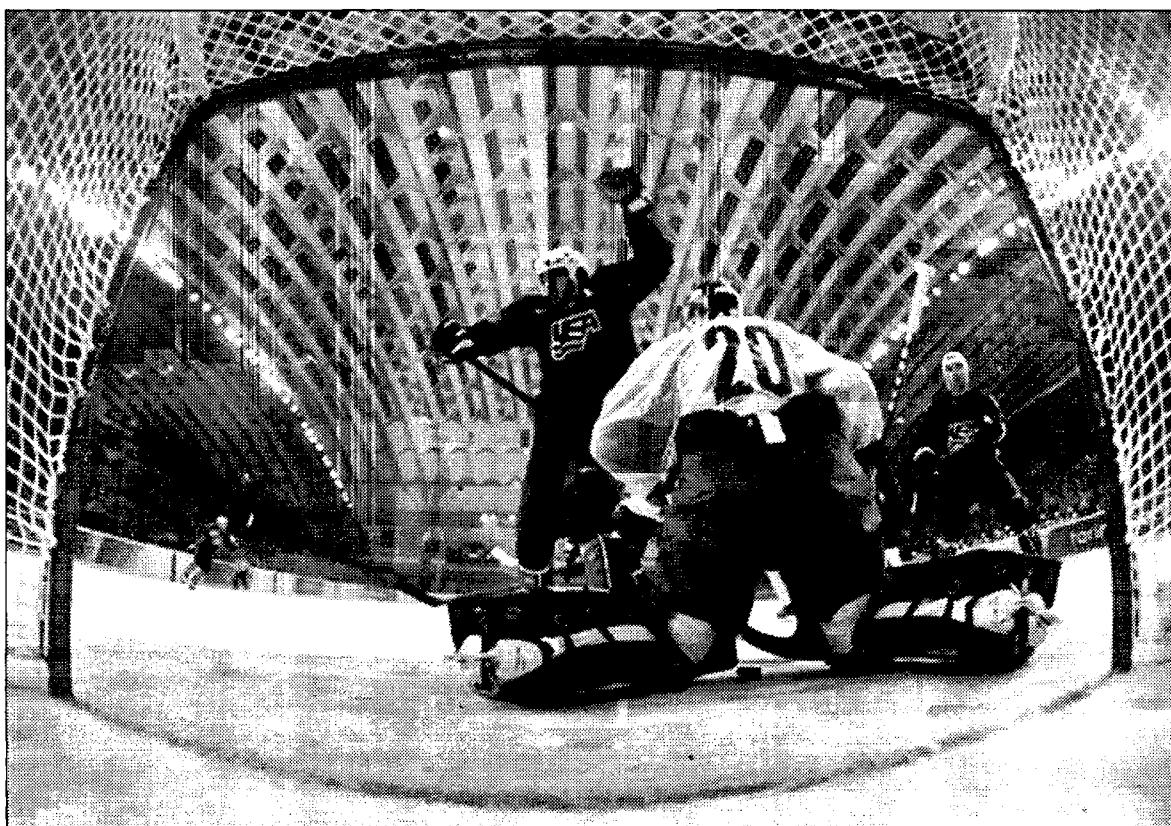
"I loved how we skated and were in position," forward Doug Weight said. "We played better as a team. We should've had a lot more goals."

Anything but a victory would have made the chances of advancing to the quarterfinals near impossible as the Americans still have their three toughest matchups ahead of them in a four-day span beginning Saturday.

"Against Slovakia, we're going to have to be on top of our game," Brian Rolston said.

Kazakhstan, outshot 36-12, has been outscored 11-3 in its two losses.

The Americans peppered goaltender Vitaly Kolesnik, who has been in the minor leagues since



USA's Mike Modano celebrates a first period goal against Kazakhstan Thursday. The United States won 4-1 to improve its preliminary round record to 1-0-1.

a seven-game stint with Colorado in December. He faced 17 shots in the first period and gave up power-play goals to Rolston and Brian Gionta along with an even-strength score by Bill Guerin that made it 1-0 just 1:34 in.

Mike Modano made it 4-1 at 11:53 of the third, 51 seconds after Yevgeniy Koryukov scored for Kazakhstan on its first third-period shot.

DiPietro turned aside five shots in the first period — only one of which came from in close as the Americans dominated.

Rolston was the fourth forward on the Americans' power-play unit, serving a role he fills with the Minnesota Wild. That also helped take the load off the U.S. defense, down to six players for the second straight game as New Jersey's Brian Rafalski sat out with an injury believed to be to his midsection.

Kazakhstan couldn't muster any kind of counterattack. Unlike Wednesday against Latvia with John Grahame in goal, the Americans didn't have to fear every mistake turning into an odd-man rush the other way.

Even when there was a breakdown, the threat was minimal. Aryom Argokov had a second-period breakaway but then shot high over the net. Later, DiPietro fell down while the puck was in his zone and still didn't have to

scramble back into position.

Kazakhstan didn't register a shot in the middle period until 13:09 elapsed. By then, the shot tally was 26-6.

Canada 5, Germany 1

The only distraction Canada's hockey team has had in the Olympics is boredom.

Wade Redden, Joe Sakic and Simon Gagne gave the defending gold medalists a 3-0 lead halfway through the first period and, wearing distinctive black uniforms, the Canadians roughed up Germany Thursday.

Canada and Finland are the only teams with 2-0 records in Group A, with three games remaining in round-robin play. The top four teams in each of the two groups reach the quarterfinals.

"It always helps to get off to a good start," Sakic said.

In easily beating Italy and Germany, the Canadians have looked more comfortable than they did at this stage four years ago in Salt Lake City, when the eventual gold medalists lost to Sweden 5-2 and barely squeezed by Germany 3-2.

That prompted executive director Wayne Gretzky's "us against the world" speech in which he said everyone but Canadians rooted against the Maple Leaf, and his players responded by winning the gold

medal.

This time, the distraction caused by Gretzky was totally unintentional — his link to an alleged gambling ring supposedly run by his Phoenix Coyotes assistant coach, Rick Tocchet. But Gretzky's attorney said Thursday he has been assured Gretzky's only involvement in the case will be as a possible "fact witness" who might be interviewed informally.

"There's nothing there," Sakic said. "He's fine."

Asked if any Canadian players were joking with Gretzky about the matter, Sakic replied, "No."

Gretzky has mostly stayed out of sight since a Tuesday news conference in Turin, watching games from a private box before leaving without talking to reporters.

Germany gambled by starting San Jose Sharks goalie prospect Thomas Greiss rather than No. 1 goalie Olaf Kolzig, who played well in a 4-1 loss Wednesday to the Czech Republic.

With Greiss in net, Canada was in charge from the start. The Canadians outshot Germany 40-12 and scored on three of nine shots in the first period — even as Germany persisted in trying to play its international version of the neutral zone trap.

"I think we are starting to jell and coming together," Todd Bertuzzi said.

CLASSIFIEDS

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

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AROUND THE NATION

Friday, February 17, 2006

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

page 15

Men's College Basketball RPI

	team	record	prev.
1	Duke	23-1	1
2	Villanova	20-2	2
3	Tennessee	18-3	3
4	Connecticut	22-2	5
5	Memphis	22-2	4
6	Pittsburgh	19-3	9
7	Texas	21-3	8
8	Ohio State	18-3	12
9	Iowa	19-6	7
10	Michigan State	18-6	6
11	UCLA	20-5	11
12	Gonzaga	21-3	10
13	Illinois	20-4	13
14	Oklahoma	16-5	19
15	LSU	16-7	21
16	Wisconsin	17-7	25
17	UNI	21-5	15
18	Florida	21-3	14
19	West Virginia	18-5	30
20	Arizona	15-9	18
21	Wichita State	20-6	23
22	North Carolina State	19-5	22
23	North Carolina	15-6	26
24	Southern Illinois	18-7	39
25	Missouri State	16-7	36

Women's College Basketball RPI

	team	record	prev.
1	Tennessee	22-3	1
2	Connecticut	22-3	2
3	LSU	22-1	5
4	Duke	23-1	4
5	North Carolina	23-1	3
6	Oklahoma	21-4	6
7	Maryland	22-3	8
8	Rutgers	19-3	9
9	Ohio State	21-2	7
10	North Carolina State	18-9	10
11	Arizona State	20-5	11
12	Baylor	17-5	12
13	BYU	20-2	13
14	Stanford	18-5	14
15	DePaul	20-5	19
16	Virginia Tech	17-6	16
17	Kentucky	17-6	24
18	Georgia	17-6	15
19	Boston College	19-6	25
20	Michigan State	19-7	22
21	Purdue	20-3	17
22	New Mexico	18-6	18
23	St. John's (N.Y.)	18-5	21
24	Old Dominion	14-7	20
25	Western Kentucky	18-5	30

MIAA Women's Basketball

	team	overall	conf.
1	Hope	23-1	15-0
2	Calvin	20-3	13-2
3	SAINT MARY'S	11-13	9-6
4	Albion	16-8	8-7
5	Olivet	12-12	8-7
6	Alma	12-10	7-8
7	Adrian	9-14	4-11
8	Kalamazoo	6-16	3-12
9	Tri-State	2-23	1-15

NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL



Indiana head basketball coach Mike Davis answers questions at a press conference Thursday. Davis announced that he plans to step down at the end of this season.

Davis to leave Indiana at season's end

Associated Press

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. — Mike Davis' departure from Indiana was as sudden as his ascent to the top of Hoosiers basketball.

Just a couple dozen yards from where he became Bob Knight's successor in 2000, Davis walked into in a crowded room and announced he would resign at the end of the season.

He was still wearing a crimson Hoosiers' sweater as he urged fans to unite behind the program.

"Don't be sad for me. Please don't be sad for me," Davis said as his wife

watched from the side.

"This is like the MasterCard commercial. You know, it's priceless what God has given me to be the head basketball coach here."

The embattled heir to one of college basketball's signature programs made his decision public with five games left before the Big Ten tournament. In six seasons, he was 109-76.

But Indiana (13-9, 5-6) has been slumping lately. The Hoosiers have lost four straight games and are just 3-7 since a promising 10-2 start that put the team in the top 10.

Indiana president Adam Herbert said he had planned to wait until after the season ended to evaluate whether the 45-year-old Davis would return as coach next year, but Davis wouldn't wait.

Herbert said Davis initiated discussions before the Connecticut game on Feb. 4.

They met again afterward and eventually agreed on an \$800,000 buyout — a hefty price for an athletics department that has run a multimillion dollar deficit in recent years.

Davis was scheduled to earn about \$800,000 with

outside income over the final two years of his contract.

At the news conference, Herbert and athletic director Rick Greenspan extolled Davis' successes — becoming the first coach in school history to win 20 games and reach the NCAA tournament in each of his first three seasons, leading the Hoosiers to the national championship game in 2002 and producing one of the nation's finest recruiting classes two years ago.

But fan unrest, unfinished business and incessant pressure led to Davis' decision.

IN BRIEF

Gordon is Daytona favorite

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Jeff Gordon thinks it's far too early to label him the Daytona 500 favorite.

But based on his early Speedweeks showings and an outstanding string of success in the Great American Race, he's the only one who doesn't think he's once again the driver to beat.

Gordon staked his claim Thursday by winning one of the twin qualifying races at Daytona International Speedway that is used to set the field for Sunday's season opener. Elliott Sadler won the first race, which also had strong runs from Dale Earnhardt Jr., Jimmie Johnson and Tony Stewart.

"I don't know how you can just pick one guy, there's strong cars out here," Gordon said. "I felt like (Sadler) was really strong in that first race. I know that Tony and Junior and Jimmie and those guys who weren't in our race are going to be strong."

Steinbrenner speaks out against Baseball Classic

TAMPA, Fla. — George Steinbrenner began spring training in classic Boss style, saying he was disappointed some of his New York Yankees stars will be leaving camp for the first World Baseball Classic.

Steinbrenner was surrounded by reporters when he finished his lunch at Legends Field on Thursday, the team's reporting date for pitchers and catchers. He gave brief responses to questions, talking about the Yankees and the WBC, which runs from March 3-20. Derek Jeter, Alex Rodriguez and Johnny Damon are on the U.S. roster, and Bernie Williams is on Puerto Rico's preliminary roster.

When baseball owners approved the World Cup in August 2004, the Yankees abstained.

"We don't like it that well," Steinbrenner said. "If a player gets hurt, he's risking a lot. But it was Selig's idea and he wants to do it, so I suppose we're going to do it."

Wilson and Rose lead Nissan Open ahead of Woods

LOS ANGELES — Dean Wilson has seen enough of the big hitters on the PGA Tour to realize there will be tournaments that put him at a disadvantage. The Nissan Open is not one of them.

Wilson navigated his way around Riviera Country Club without a bogey for a 7-under 64, putting him atop the leaderboard with Justin Rose among the early starters on a course that requires more than sheer length.

They were two shots clear of a group that included Fred Couples, who was so sick upon returning from Australia that he stayed in bed Monday and Tuesday, skipped the pro-am Wednesday and felt his hands shaking over his first putt. He wound up with a 66, then went back to bed.

Also feeling ill was Tiger Woods, although it had nothing to do with being allergic to Riviera. Woods finished with a 69.

around the dial

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Georgetown at Marquette, 9 p.m., ESPN

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Tennessee at Georgia, 8 p.m., ESPN2

PGA TOUR
Nissan Open, 3 p.m., USA

ND WOMEN'S TENNIS

Undefeated Irish face two ranked opponents

By DAN TAPETILLO
Sports Writer

After coming off a dominating 6-1 win over rival Michigan Tuesday, the No. 15 Irish (5-0) are confident as they head into this weekend's matches against two top-30 opponents. On Saturday, the Irish face No. 22 Tennessee, and the competition will only get tougher Sunday with No. 9 Harvard coming to the Eck Tennis Pavilion.

"This weekend is definitely going to be tough," junior Christian Thompson said. "But ever since we beat [then-No. 10] North Carolina, we know we

can compete with the best teams in the country."

This season, Tennessee has proven themselves with wins over Purdue and Illinois. However, the Lady Vols are coming off of a recent loss to No. 23 Wake Forest, a team the Irish defeated 4-3 last weekend.

"Wake Forest was not an easy team to beat," junior Catrina Thompson said. "So [Tennessee's loss to Wake Forest] does not mean Tennessee is going to be an easy win for us on Saturday."

Heading into this weekend's matchup, Tennessee holds a pair of nationally ranked doubles teams. Playing at No. 1 for

the Lady Vols this season is the national No. 28 duo of Blakeley Griffith and Bryce Marable. The second nationally ranked pairing for the Lady Vols is Melissa Schaub and Samantha Orlin, who stand at No. 38 in the country.

But the Irish are the only program in the nation that post three ranked doubles pairings. The No. 1-ranked duo of Christian and Catrina Thompson have led the Irish this season with only one loss to their record. The Thompsons are followed by the No. 35-ranked pairing of sophomore Brook Buck and freshman Kelcy Tefft, who are currently on an

eight-match winning streak. They are followed by the No. 45-ranked seniors Kiki Stastny and captain Lauren Connelly.

"[Stastny and Connelly] have been such a big part of our success this season," Christian Thompson said. "They have a great record in doubles and we wouldn't be as strong as we are without them."

Leading the team in singles this weekend are Christian and Catrina Thompson, who both have earned national rankings at Nos. 24 and 44, respectively. Christian Thompson is coming off of a tough win over Michigan's No. 48-ranked Nina Yaftali (6-4, 7-5) last Tuesday.

"The win at Michigan [over Yaftali] was really big," Christian Thompson said. "It was because it took a lot of mental strength for me to pull it out."

In Sunday's match against Harvard, the top-ranked Thompsons will face the challenging No. 6-ranked doubles pairing of Melissa Anderson and Elsa O'Riain.

"This weekend is definitely going to prove where our team stands against the best in the country," Catrina Thompson said.

Contact Dan Tapetillo at jtapetil@nd.edu

NBA

Stern pleased with new attitude

NBA players have cleaned up the league's reputation

Associated Press

HOUSTON — David Stern is happy to be talking basketball as the NBA gathers for its All-Star weekend.

After what he had to deal with last year at this time, the commissioner knows the alternative can be a real drag.

"It beats getting poked in the eye with a sharp stick," Stern said in an interview with The Associated Press on Thursday.

Stern referred to All-Star weekend as a "celebration," but there wasn't nearly as much joy around the game a year ago. That was a particularly tough time for Stern and the league, just three months after the brawl between Indiana Pacers players and fans in Detroit, and months before the collective bargaining agreement was set to expire.

"Last year we were going in post-Detroit. [It] wasn't a lot of fun to contemplate," Stern said.

"The year before we went in sort of post-Olympics and potentially pre-lockout, so there have been issues and there are always issues. The reality is if there's nothing to write about, you guys have to find something to write about anyway."

Following the brawl, Stern made it a point to improve the image of the NBA players. A dress code was introduced this season, mandating that players dress in "business casual" attire when conducting league business. Players sitting on the bench who aren't in uniform are required to wear a sports jacket.

After a few early objections, there has been little criticism of the rule.

Even the one big potential headache that brought a reminder of the brawl passed fairly quickly. Antonio Davis was suspended five games for going into the stands in a game at Chicago, but there was little outrage toward him because he was calm and seemed to be going to support his wife.

"We haven't had excessive fisticuffs. These are things that commissioners worry about,"

Stern said. "And truth be told, our player reputation in the testing that we do is rebounding quite well from a year ago."

Stern reiterated that he has little concern about bringing next season's All-Star weekend to Las Vegas, despite the recent gambling ring that the wife of former NHL star Wayne Gretzky was linked to.

"You have to parse the connections," he said. "And to us the parsing requires you to say that our players shouldn't be engaged in illegal activities and they shouldn't bet on basketball games. If they behave there, that's all there is in terms of regulations."

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FENCING

Junior Olympics provide tune-up

Notre Dame sends seven young athletes to compete in Hartford

By JACK THORNTON
Sports Writer

While the Irish are enjoying success as a team, seven members of the squad are competing at the Junior Olympics in Hartford, Conn. this weekend. The competition begins today and continues through Monday.

The women are sending foilists Adrienne Nott and Rachel Cota, as well as epee Kim Montoya and sabre Ashley Serrette. Of the men, foilists Mark Kubik and Alexander Grigorenko are going along with sabre Tom Horton.

"I'm really excited to go," Serrette said. "For me it just seems really important and special. It's pretty tough competition because you have top

competition from each region and others who are just here to experience it."

The Irish contingent will join nearly 2,000 other athletes at the event, split between junior (under-21) and cadet (under-17) divisions. Players could either qualify by winning regional tournaments or by amassing enough points on the national circuit.

"I had to go through qualifiers, and when I qualified through that I got to go," Serrette said.

"You have top competition from each region."

Ashley Serrette
freshman sabre

"But there are other people with [a high] ranking."

Many of Notre Dame's best fencers are ineligible to compete because of the age restrictions in the tournament.

Kubik is competing in his fifth Junior Olympics — he took third place overall as a

foilist two years ago.

"I'm coming here to do a little better — hopefully winning," Kubik said.

Competing in the Junior Olympics earns competitors points on the national circuit, a points-based championship series.

Freshman sabre Bill Thanhouser would be competing in the Junior Olympics, but instead is competing at the World Cup in Paris, France this weekend.

"He choose to go to [the World Cup] because it's more points [towards the circuit]," Notre Dame coach Janusz Bednarski said.

The team returns to competition as a full squad Feb. 25 with the Midwest Regional Championships at the Joyce Center. Both teams finished the regular season 29-1. The women are currently ranked No. 1 in the nation, while the men are ranked No. 2.

Contact Jack Thornton at
jthornt4@nd.edu

TRACK AND FIELD

Irish prepare for Championships

ND looks to cap off a successful winter in Akron this weekend

By JASON GALVAN
Sports Writer

Notre Dame will put its strong record to the test this weekend at the 2006 Big East Indoor Championships in Akron, Ohio.

The top athletes from the conference will perform at their most competitive meet before the NCAA Championships in March. The Irish men's and women's teams are looking to shine this Saturday and Sunday.

"I think we can do well and hopefully improve on what we've done," junior sprinter Maryann Erigha said. "Our conference gets more and more competitive each year, and the high level of the athletes who compete there makes this event something to really look forward to."

Erigha is off to a strong start with several wins during this season's campaign — two alone coming at last weekend's Windsor Challenge at Ontario, Canada. She will look to improve upon her best times in the 60-meter (7.42), and 200-meter (23.74) sprints.

"We have a lot of good competitors and our freshmen ... have been really impressive this year as well," Erigha said. "We're looking to perform well in all our events and do our best to win it this weekend."

Freshmen jumper Mary Saxer and multi-event specialist Alyssa Hasan have put together solid starts to their careers at Notre Dame. Hasan set a school

record for the pentathlon — 3,665 points at the Notre Dame Invitational on Jan. 27 — and Saxer cleared a height of 4.05 meters, setting a new school record in the pole vault. The two are looking to make strong showings and build upon already solid performances this year.

"I just have to keep going up in my heights, qualify for [the NCAA Championships] and keep getting better," Saxer said. "We're pretty hopeful about doing well and everyone just wants to do their best and win it."

Other athletes, such as senior All-American distance runner Stephanie Madia, are set to take their performances to the next level.

Madia finished fourth at the Mayo Invitational in the 3,000-meter run and qualified for the Big East meet with a time of 9:27.47, but she wants to build upon this finish. Madia will compete in the 5,000 and 3,000 meter runs. And though she also qualified for the mile, she has decided to cut this event from her list.

"I'm not really thrilled with how I did at Mayo, and I have sort of a ways to go from my expectations," Madia said. "Right now, though, it's just a matter of getting into the race and getting it done, and I'm definitely ready for it."

Irish junior All-American Kurt Benninger, who earlier this year at the Notre Dame Invitational became the first Irish runner to clock a sub-four-minute mile (3:57.40) twice in his career, also will compete for the Irish this weekend.

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ND	38.2	38.7	
CONN	38.4	35.2	
ASSISTS PER GAME		OPPONENTS	
ND	12.6	13.8	
CONN	17.5	12.0	
TURNOVERS PER GAME		OPPONENTS	
ND	14.8	17.0	
CONN	16.2	18.5	

ALEXARAE ANTEKEIER/Observer Graphic

Optimism

continued from page 24

Five years ago, the Irish beat Connecticut — twice — the second win coming in the Final Four just two days before the Irish won the 2001 national championship.

Beginning with that victory, the Irish won four out of their next 10 games against the Huskies, becoming a yearly threat on UConn's schedule. A young rivalry began to bud.

On Sunday, Notre Dame again squares off with the Huskies in a must-win game. But this time, the Irish are fighting to salvage their season, struggling to turn around a disappointing stretch in the Big East that has them at 5-7 in-conference with losses to mediocre opponents like Seton Hall and Villanova.

"This year I think of it a little bit different — it's a big game for us," McGraw said.

Connecticut, like it has so often these past years, enters the game with an imposing 22-3 record and a No. 3 national ranking.

The Huskies, however, have a lot to lose.

"They're fighting for a No. 1 seed in the NCAA Tournament

right now," McGraw said.

Most coaches of back-against-the-wall teams are pretty worried when a hungry, top-5 team comes to town. McGraw, however, seemed excited when discussing Sunday's match up and appears to view the game in more optimistic terms — an opportunity for major progress.

"It's really a great time for us to play them," she said. "We need to play a really good team to help our RPI."

The Irish, a classic bubble team, need an impressive finish to qualify for the NCAA tournament. A win Sunday would go a long way to help Notre Dame on that front.

Perhaps McGraw is so confident because she knows her team can beat the Huskies. After all, they did it last year.

In the Irish's 65-59 win in 2005, All-American senior Jacqueline Batteast shot 3-of-17 from the floor, and senior center Teresa Borton had five points. That day, Notre Dame was led by Courtney LaVere, Megan Duffy and Charel Allen, who had 14, 12, and 11 points, respectively.

All of them were hot that day. And all of them are peaking now.

Duffy has been the team's

anchor all season, averaging 15.5 points per game, and at times she has been responsible for keeping the Irish in games.

LaVere has recently rediscovered her form in the post, scoring in double figures in each of her last four games.

Against Villanova on Feb. 7, Allen had 14 points in the second half and almost single-handedly led the team back from a 20-point deficit to send the game to overtime.

Maybe McGraw is so confident because she knows her team is dangerous. She fully expects Connecticut to play that way.

"They won't look past us," she said. "They'll be ready to play."

Connecticut is one the best teams in the country, and its national ranking accurately reflects that. But the way McGraw sounds, maybe it won't be so shocking if the Huskies weren't ranked No. 3 Monday morning.

Rivals have a way of making those things happen.

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

Contact Eric Retter at eretter@nd.edu

Huskies

continued from page 24

prospects for making the NCAA Tournament. With a less-than-stellar conference record, McGraw said she knows Notre Dame must improve its current RPI of 40 to be in good position when the selection committee makes its decisions.

Connecticut enters at the other end of the spectrum. The Huskies have won 11 of their last 12, dating back to Jan. 7. Their only loss in that stretch was a hard-fought 60-56 loss to Rutgers, which is unbeaten in the conference, on Feb. 7. It was Connecticut's only Big East loss.

"They're really peaking; they're right where they want to be for the Big East Tournament," McGraw said. "It's really a great time for us to play them because we need to play a really good team to help our RPI. And if we play well, it will give us confidence for a strong finish."

Connecticut has four players with scoring averages in double digits. Guard Ann Strother leads the team with 14.3 points per game on 43 percent shooting from the floor, and her backcourt teammate Mel Thomas is scoring at a clip of 12.7 points a contest while shooting 50 percent from the floor. Forward Barbara Turner is shooting even better — 54 percent — and averaging 11.3 points a night. Huskies guard

Charde Houston has started just four games all year but averages 10.7 points in just 16.5 minutes.

"It's a big challenge for us, and I think defensively, one of our biggest challenges of the year," McGraw said. "Because generally everybody we play, there's somebody on the team that we don't have to worry about. But this is a team that not only in their [whole] starting group, but also coming off of the bench, players who are capable of having a big game."

Connecticut's strengths are not limited to the offensive end. The Huskies have 262 steals on the season (10 a game), compared to 173 for their opponents. What's more, Connecticut grabs an average of five more rebounds than its opponents, and the team is plus-30 on blocks for the season.

"They're a really good defensive team, and I think it's something they don't get enough credit for," McGraw said. "People overlook that because they score so many points."

That combination of offense and defense has led to sheer domination of Connecticut's opponents. The Huskies average scoring 74.9 points per game and giving up just 55.5. The 19.4 average margin of victory is sixth in the nation.

But McGraw said Notre Dame's win in Storrs, Conn. last year, which snapped Connecticut's 112-game conference home winning streak, gives the Irish hope heading into the matchup.

"We have the confidence to know that this group, right here, has the ability to beat them," she said. "If you look at the stats of that game, it wasn't because [former Irish star forward] Jackie [Batteast] had a great game, so we have confidence."

The stars of that game included Courtney LaVere (14 points) and Charel Allen (11) — both of whom should see a considerable amount of playing time Sunday. And like she did a year ago, when she scored 12 points while adding five assists and four

rebounds, Megan Duffy will run the point for the Irish.

McGraw said she will not start Allen Sunday for strategic reasons.

"I think we need a spark off the bench; I think that she gives that energy coming in off the bench," McGraw said. "We thought about starting her, but if we changed the lineup, I'm not sure who would give us that energy off the bench."

The Irish enter the game in a tie for spots 9-11 in the Big East, with West Virginia a game back

at No. 12. The Mountaineers face Pittsburgh Sunday in Morgantown, W. Va. and then host Notre Dame Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Despite the loss to DePaul, the Irish are nearly assured a spot in the Big East Tournament, held in the Hartford Civic Center March 4-7. For Notre Dame to miss the tournament, Seton Hall likely must win its last four games and the Irish would have to lose out.

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HOCKEY

Heat turns up in last road trip of the season

Irish travel to Ohio to play Bowling Green in two crucial games

By CHRIS KHOREY
Sports Writer

After a crucial sweep of Ferris State last weekend, the Irish will travel to Bowling Green for their last road games of the regular season Friday and Saturday at 7:05 p.m. against the Falcons.

Notre Dame (11-16-3, 9-12-3 CCHA) is tied with Alaska-Fairbanks for ninth place in the conference with 21 points. The Irish and Nanooks currently trail Northern Michigan and Ohio State by one point in the standings. Out of

those four, the top two will earn home ice in the first round of the conference tournament March 3-5.

Bowling Green sits mired at No. 11 in the conference with just 17 points. The Falcons face conference leader Miami (Ohio) Feb. 24 and 25 and will be hard pressed to get points against the No. 2 Redhawks.

Irish coach Jeff Jackson said while his team is aware of the complicated home ice situation, they are not focusing on how well other teams around the conference are playing.

"We can't worry about Bowling Green or the teams that are right in front of us."

Jeff Jackson
Irish coach

"It seems like all the teams that are competing against each other for the eighth place spot play each other the next two weeks," Jackson said. "We have to worry about ourselves. We can't worry about

Bowling Green or the teams that are right in front of us.

"We have to put ourselves in a position to win every night."

Notre Dame and Bowling Green faced each other earlier this season in a two-game set in South Bend Nov. 10-11 with the Irish winning both games, 9-4 and 4-2. But Jackson said the Falcons are a much better team than they were three months ago.

"I thought they played us tough here, the only [thing] was that they didn't have great goaltending that weekend," Jackson said. "But that kid has improved a lot since then and he's playing well now."

Despite allowing the Irish 13 goals in those two games, Bowling Green goalie Jon Horrell has a 3.24 goals-against average this season.

The Falcons are also the nation's ninth best offensive team, averaging 3.44 goals per game. They are led by two

dynamic offensive players in Alex Foster, who leads the country with 36 assists this season, and Jonathan Masumoto, whose 17 goals lead Bowling Green and whose nine power play goals rank eleventh nationally.

"They have two of the best players in the entire conference," Jackson said. "We can't let them get rolling."

Notre Dame is coming off its first sweep since its two wins over the Falcons in November, beating the Bulldogs 4-1 and 3-2 in the two home contests Friday and Saturday. Jackson said a large part of the team's success was due to goaltender David Brown and the defense in front of him.

"[Brown] played extremely well," Jackson said. "Ferris'

coach complimented our defensive play — that we weren't letting them get many rebounds. Even when David would allow a rebound our backcheckers were clearing the puck."

While scoring — especially in even-strength situations — has been difficult for the Irish this year, Jackson said he has seen steady improvement that he expects to continue.

"If we get a power play goal a game and a couple of even strength goals a game, the way we've been playing defensively and with our goaltending, it should give us a good chance to win every game," he said.

The all-time series between the Falcons and Irish is tied at 34-34-1.

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SMC BASKETBALL

Belles focused for difficult finale

Team tries to avenge early season defeat to conference foe Hope

By TIM KAISER
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's will take on Hope College in Holland, Mich. Saturday in the team's last regular-season game.

The Belles are coming off a tough loss to Albion on Wednesday night but were able to hold their spot at third in the MIAA standings. And the team is more motivated than ever.

"We're definitely fired up," Belles sophomore forward Bernadette Broderick said. "We want to finish the season the best we can and start the postseason even better. We're really motivat-

ed."

The Belles will still have quite a challenge on their hands, as the Flying Dutch enter Saturday's season finale at 23-1 with a perfect 15-0 record in the MIAA. The Belles last played Hope on Nov. 30 and lost in a rout, 77-38. Saint Mary's has improved since then, but Hope is the same dominant squad.

"It's hard to say [where Saint Mary's is compared to Hope] because the beginning of the season is so different, but they're an all-around solid team from the one- to five-positions," Broderick said. "I'm not surprised [they are still undefeated]."

Senior forward Shelly Bender

was less impressed.

"I didn't think they were going to be undefeated," she said. "They're good, but not unbeatable ... I don't think that [Hope's perfect MIAA record] will affect us at all."

The Belles have seen what Hope can do, but after a whole season, they are confident they can force a different result this time.

"We need to play an all around solid game, from a post perspective, point guard, shooting guard," Broderick said. "We're looking to dictate."

Bender also thought her team should stick to the game plan that's been driving the winning ways.

"We don't need to change, just play like we know how to play," she said. "We can win if we do that. [Hope] was our first home game. Now we've played for two months, improved, and we know we're going to do well."

Despite their struggles last time, the Belles think that a season's experience will make this contest much more competitive.

"We are going in with a lot more confidence, more experience, and we've improved so much from November," Broderick said. "Our coach has devised a really, really good game plan. We're playing with more confidence, and, knowing that it is the last game this [regular] season, the seniors will give it all they have; lay it on the line, like they do every game."

Bender also thought her team would play just as hard in their final regular season game.

"We're just going to go out there and play," she said. "We've been improving every day, and we're planning to play a lot longer. Everyone is just more and more excited, and we're building up to the tournament."

Contact Tim Kaiser at
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FEATURING A TRIBUTE TO ROSA PARKS

Hiben

continued from page 24

architecture program. But as the year progressed, he realized he would have to either find a new major or quit the football team.

"It had been going on for quite a while," Hiben said. "During the fall I realized that there would be a point in time when I would have to pick architecture or football because at this University, it's impossible to do both at the same time. I had known that this would have to happen."

Hiben, who saw little action as a rookie tight end — playing sparingly in seven games — would have been in the mix for playing time at the position next season.

Senior Anthony Fasano decided to forgo his final year of eligibility to enter the NFL Draft, leaving junior John Carlson as the probable starter and senior Marcus Freeman as the only other returning scholarship tight end.

Freeman's status is unclear because he would be a fifth-year senior, and those players coming back for a fifth-year

have not been announced. Hiben's departure opens the door for highly touted signee Konrad Reuland, who was a first-team USA Today All-American out of San Capistrano, Calif.

Hiben said he spoke with director of personnel development Ron Powlus throughout the process, and Powlus told him that if architecture was the best choice for him, he should pursue it. Hiben also said that although Weis was surprised when he informed him of his final decision, he is leaving the team on amiable terms.

"I think [Weis] was surprised — he wanted me to stay," Hiben said. "[He was] telling me he wanted me to think about it, that hopefully we can work something out. However, the reality is that you do have to choose either architecture or football ... It was very pleasant when I left the team, which was a relief. It was my decision, and I think people will respect that."

Since he is leaving the team, Hiben will no longer attend Notre Dame on a football scholarship. But he said he has been working with the Office of Financial Aid to ensure he can stay at Notre Dame.

"The scholarship will be cut

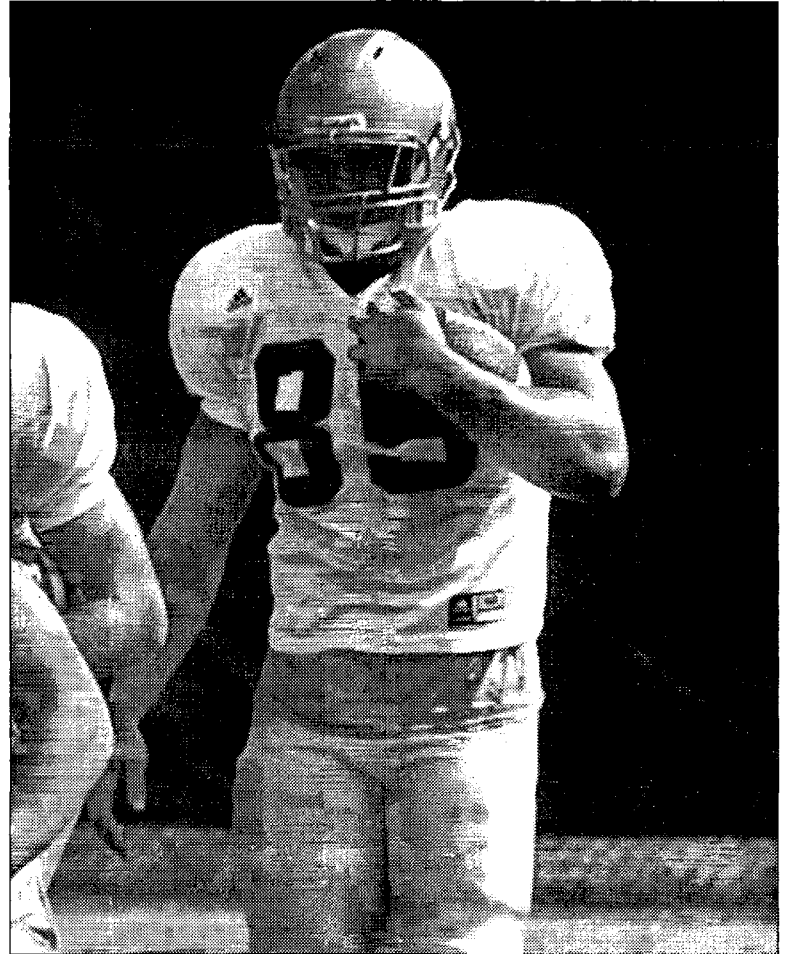
off in a few days," said Hiben, who said that after talking to Powlus he almost immediately went to Financial Aid to get things squared away. "That's one of the big things that my family's been aware of. We were prepared for that to happen."

Hiben, who was also a track and field standout in high school by setting school records in the hurdles and shot put, said he has not ruled out competing for the Irish track and field team at some point. But he emphasized that if it happened, it would occur in the future. For now, he's focused on the major that took him away from football.

"The reason for leaving the team is so that I can excel at architecture," Hiben said. "So I have to make sure I adapt to life without football, that school is going great for me and after that I will definitely talk to the track coach. I'm not sure if that will be this spring or next year or when I return from Rome, but that's definitely in my future."

"I'm in the best shape of my life — how can I stop competing all together? So that's something to look forward to."

Contact Heather Van Hoegarden at hvanhoeg@nd.edu



GEOFF MATTESON/The Observer

Former Irish tight end Joey Hiben cradles the football during a Notre Dame practice Aug. 17.

Michigan

continued from page 24

The Irish prepared for a tough match, knowing that any team playing a regional rival like Michigan would have to battle for every point.

"While we had had the upper hand of late, I remembered that they were very capable of playing a great match at home and they certainly did," Bayliss said.

The Irish fell 4-3 in a match that had a severe negative impact on their NCAA Tournament seeding, dropping the team to the lower part of the top-10.

Although the Irish would beat Michigan in the first round of that year's NCAA Tournament at the No. 14 rank, Bayliss still remembers that crushing loss.

"I've got a lot of memories of going to Ann Arbor," he said.

The Irish return to the scene of those memories tomorrow, taking on the Wolverines in an evening match in Michigan to continue the streak of Big 10 teams in the schedule. After a loss to Illinois on Feb. 7, the Irish have posted dominant wins over Northwestern, Purdue, Wisconsin and Michigan State. They play Ohio State at home on Feb. 24 and travel to Indiana on March 7.

"I want to play the better teams in the Big 10 every year," Bayliss said. "I want to play the very best teams in the country."

Bayliss said the team's almost-uninterrupted stretch of Big 10 teams from January through the beginning of March is the result of scheduling around mid-semester breaks.

"The Big 10, of course, has mandatory round robin scheduling that begins in late March and goes through late April," Bayliss said. "Because of our spring break and most other schools' spring breaks taking up two weeks in March ... those dates are usually not available."

The Irish are riding a four-match winning streak going into Ann Arbor, improving to 6-4 with Wednesday's win over Michigan State. Notre Dame's doubles teams have been playing particularly well, as they have won the point in each of the past four wins.


In singles, Stephen Bass and

Sheeva Parbhu have alternated in the top two spots of the lineup. Ryan Keckley, Barry King and Brett Helgeson have been consistent in the third-through-fifth positions, and Eric Langenkamp, Irackli Akhvlediani, Patrick Buchanan and Andrew Roth have also seen time in singles.

The team will be forced to focus in Ann Arbor to beat 5-2 Michigan.

"They fill their place up and have a pretty raucous crowd," Bayliss said.

Contact Kate Gales at kgales@nd.edu



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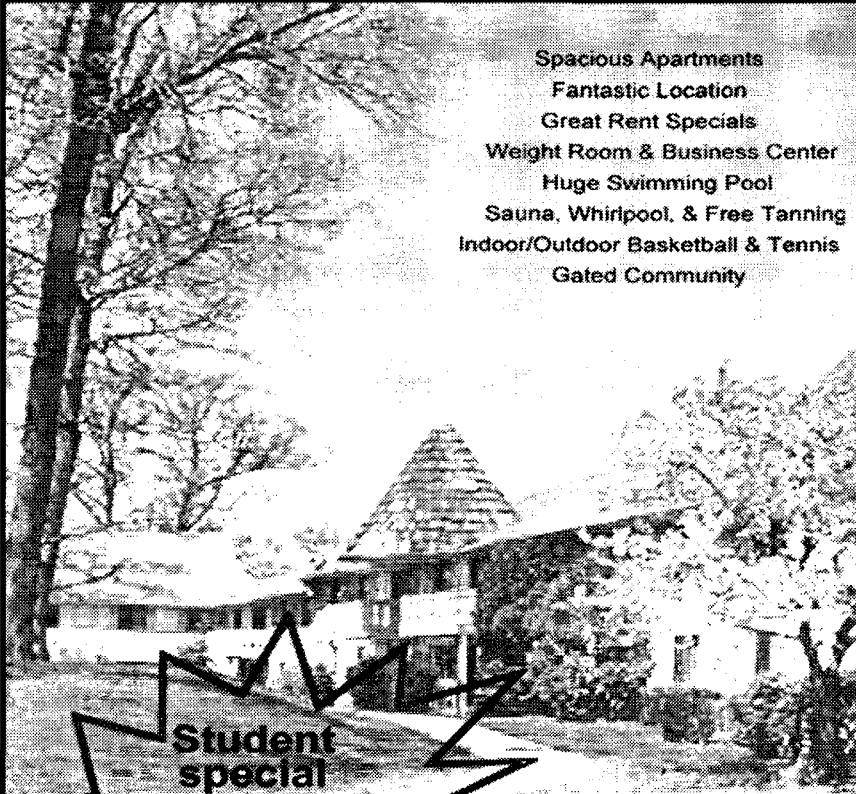
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Hall

continued from page 24

7:30 p.m. Saturday coming off a momentous win at Continental Airlines Arena.

Seton Hall downed No. 11 West Virginia Tuesday, 71-64, just three days after what can only be described as an embarrassing 99-57 home loss to Connecticut.

The Irish begin the two-game road trip and catch the Pirates at the end of a three-game home stand of their own.

"[Seton Hall is] resilient as heck, obviously," Notre Dame coach Mike Brey said following Wednesday's 62-55 win over South Florida. "They get smoked by Connecticut, [and] they come right back and beat West Virginia. And West Virginia couldn't get a shot off. I mean you saw it — they just smother you."

Seton Hall, under fifth-year coach Louis Orr, actually averages fewer points scored (71.3) than points allowed (72.9) in Big East play. The Pirates also lost three of their first four conference games — just like Notre Dame.

But Seton Hall rattled off five straight wins up to its loss to Connecticut. The Pirates are No. 6 in the Big East, and their frontcourt has been dominant recently.

Forwards Grant Billmeier, Brian Lang and Kelly Whitney combined to score 50 points on 18-of-25 shooting against the Mountaineers. That performance has Brey comparing this Seton Hall team to a familiar opponent from the past.

"I'm going to compare them to the old Pittsburgh teams," Brey said. "[It's like former Panthers forwards Chevon] Troutman and [Chris] Taft — Billmeier and Whitney, banging on you, beating on you ... they're tough kids."

Irish co-captain and point guard Chris Quinn said after Wednesday's win that the team has discussed defensive intensity as a key area of improvement to earn the necessary possible victories.

"On the defensive end, we want to build on [what we did against Rutgers]," Quinn said, referring to a 90-63 win over the Scarlet Knights Feb. 8. "[We need] awareness of different players the other team has."

Rutgers had Quincy Douby. South Florida had Holmes and Buckley."

Whitney is the player to stop Saturday, though the Pirates have several scoring options. The 6-foot-8, 240-pound forward/center scored 21 points and grabbed 12 rebounds in the West Virginia win.

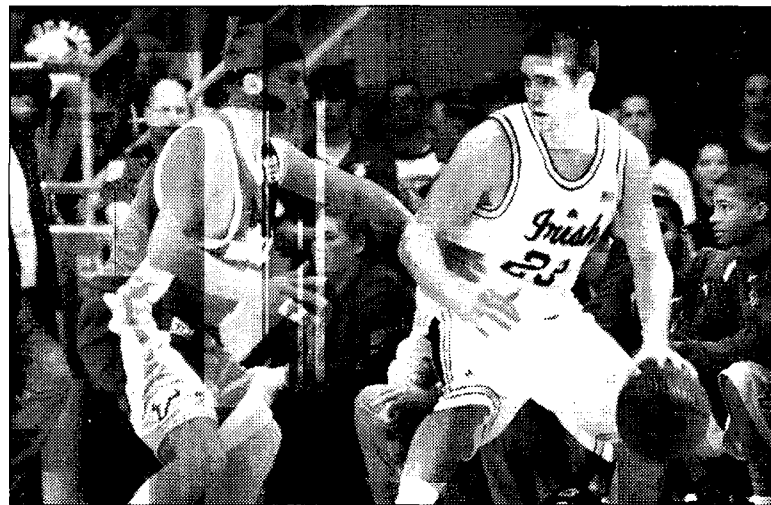
Brey will use Irish forwards Torin Francis, Rick Cornett and Rob Kurz to combat the physical Pirates frontcourt, though Notre Dame knows it is just as important to improve on offense from the 12-turnover, 11-assist performance against South Florida.

"It comes out of moving the ball better," Quinn said of taking care of the ball. "It seems like our offense is a little stagnant at times, and we've got to do a better job of getting guys the ball in the right spots."

And the coach said focus must remain on the dangerous Seton Hall squad, though an even more imposing opponent

"It seems like our offense is a little stagnant at times, and we've got to do a better job of getting guys the ball in the right spots."

Chris Quinn
Irish guard



Irish guard Kyle McAlarney dribbles against South Florida guard Chris Capko Wednesday during Notre Dame's 62-55 victory.

looms.

"We know what's coming Tuesday," Brey said, "but we've got to deal with Saturday night. We've played well on the road, though. We've gone for it [and] given

ourselves chances. I have every reason to believe it'll be game situations in Continental Airlines arena on Saturday."

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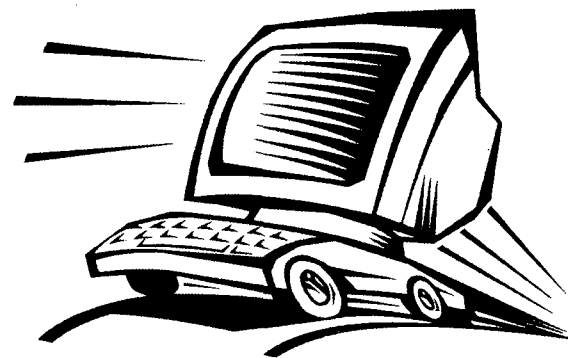
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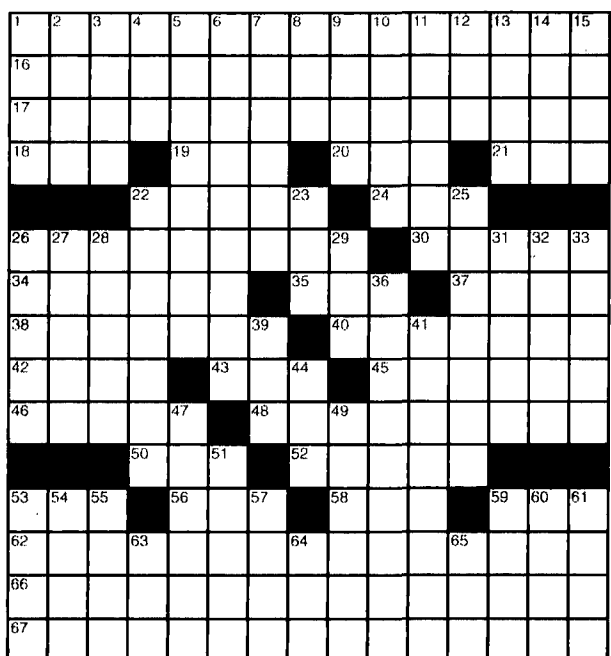
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| 18 | Tpks. | 45 | Beat in November, perhaps |
| 19 | Full house sign | 46 | It's on the Rhone delta |
| 20 | Patriot, e.g.: Abbr. | 48 | Some tracks |
| 21 | Old map abbr. | 50 | Kind of cart |
| 22 | "Look _____" | 52 | Sticking point? |
| 24 | One going back and forth to work | 53 | Elicitors of little dances, briefly |
| 26 | Replacement raiser | 56 | Wing |
| 30 | Loses | 58 | Alternative to Rep. or Dem. |
| 34 | When Nora leaves Torvald in "A Doll's House" | 59 | 67-Across citers: Abbr. |
| 35 | Man wearing une couronne | 62 | August comment |
| 37 | Follow | 66 | Like Scorsese, but not Fellini |
| 38 | It's often hit at night | 67 | It begins "A well regulated Militia ..." |
| | | 1 | Member of the Allies in W.W. II Abbr. |
| | | 2 | Expressed surprise |
| | | 3 | R.F.K. Stadium team, briefly |
| | | 4 | Proactive target, informally |
| | | 5 | Aeschylus trilogy |
| | | 6 | Legendary 49ers receiver |
| | | 7 | Charles of CBS News |
| | | 8 | Uintah and Ouray Reservation inhabitant |
| | | 9 | Madrid maze-runner |
| | | 10 | Ices, maybe |
| | | 11 | Bakery output |
| | | 12 | John |
| | | 13 | "Last one _____" |
| | | 14 | Boarding places: Abbr. |

O	G	O	A	R		F	L	I	T	S		R	I	M	S
R	O	L	L	O		A	U	D	R	A		U	N	I	T
A	L	I	A	S		S	T	O	A	T		M	I	O	R
D	O	H	S	I	E	T	E	N	D	Y	I	S	T	H	E
L	E	G		E	P	S		T	Y	R	A		S	A	E
E	D	Y	S		U	T	A					G	R	E	E
				M	A	R	A	O	A	S		R	I	L	L
					L	A	S	T	R	E	F	U	G	E	O
S	H	A	R	K		T	R	I	P	L	E	T			
P	O	U	T	S				T	E	E		S	T	D	S
I	S	R		I	R	A	Q			R	A	L	R	E	T
T	H	E	U	N	I	M	A	G	I	N	A	T	I	V	E
T	I	A	S		M	I	H	E	D		L	A	B	O	R
E	R	T	E		E	N	D	E	R		A	M	A	I	N
R	T	E	S		S	O	A	K	S		W	I	L	D	E



Puzzle by David Levinson Wilk

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 36 Osteoarthritis treatment | 51 Tons | 60 Sheepskin leather |
| 39 Silent lawman? | 53 "I'm pointing at it" | 61 Volunteer babysitter, maybe |
| 41 Public | 54 Act feeble-mindedly | 63 Inits. in 70's-80's rock |
| 44 It might be filled with ink | 55 Disconnected, in mus. | 64 Leg that gets whistled at |
| 47 Like guests at home | 57 Large moth | 65 Net holder |
| 49 Message on a dirty car | 59 Inits. on many A.T.M.'s | |

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: Steffani Brass, 14; John McEnroe, 47; Ice-T, 48; Lisa Loring, 48

Happy Birthday: Nothing is out of reach if you put your mind to it this year. Change can be good. If you can bring yourself to set new rules and impress upon the people in your life that you mean business, you will feel better about yourself and see a much clearer picture of your future. Your numbers are 12, 16, 29, 33, 36, 41

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Do what you can to help an older relative or friend. Make the effort to travel to resolve a problem. Taking action will be the way to victory. Think big but don't go overboard. Baby steps will bring the best results. ***
TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't take everything you hear at face value. Sift through the information received and decide for yourself what is fact and what is fiction. A romantic encounter may leave you feeling confused. Don't expect too much. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You can make some changes around home that will suit your needs better. A change of scenery will do you good. Finding out more about something that interests you will lead to a decision regarding a future business prospect. *****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't expect anyone you have to deal with to see things your way. Make a few changes to your home or look for a safe investment for your money. Make a deal with a partner or a friend. **

for your money. Much can be learned at a seminar on managing your money.**
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Do your best to keep things honest, especially with joint finances. Money can be made but you have to be upfront about your plans. Someone may try to take advantage of your generosity.****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Start looking at your options and prepare to keep up with what's going on around you. Living in the past or holding on to something that no longer has any value will be a waste of time. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Take time out of your busy schedule to have some fun. Be creative with fashion, style or a hobby that interests you. You will be able to convince others to assist you in achieving something that requires a little help.***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): By keeping a secret you can surprise someone about whom you care deeply. Although you may cause some suspicion and upset by doing so, it will be worth it. A chance to follow through with one of your creative dreams is a must. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Deal with matters that aren't so close to home. Take a breather from personal problems and give yourself some space and time to think matters through. Visit with someone you trust to give you good advice. ****

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't worry too much about the people who don't see or do things the same way you do. Focus on those who back and support your ideas and plans. Change may be required to move forward. **

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Do whatever you can to complete a deal or formulate a contract. Money can be made if you are willing to go the extra mile. Aggressive action will not be the route to take. Rather, knowing what you want and how to go about getting it will lead to success.*****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Finish up any little details that have been left undone. Put an end to the past so you can start fresh. A new deal can be made if you are willing to abide by the rules and set the record straight. ***

Birthday Baby: You are a wanderer. You love to experience new places and things. You are creative, sensitive and always looking for new interests. You never settle for less than what you want.

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

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The Observer
P.O. Box 779
Notre Dame, IN 46556

FOOTBALL

Irish tight end Hiben leaves team in favor of architecture

Freshman prioritizes academic goals ahead of football ambitions

By HEATHER VAN HOEGARDEN
Sports Writer

Joey Hiben knew he had to make a choice — three hours of football practice every day or

three hours of studio.

He chose studio.

After much deliberation, the freshman tight end informed coaches on Tuesday that he was leaving the football team to pursue a degree in



Hiben

architecture at the University.

"It came down to architecture [being] more important than football to me," Hiben told The Observer from his dorm room Thursday.

A University spokesman said Irish head coach Charlie Weis would have no comment on the matter.

Architecture majors at Notre Dame are required to study in Rome during their third year of

the five-year program. Hiben said the foreign study requirement was not the deciding factor in his decision to eliminate football in favor of a major in architecture, because he could have made that a redshirt year anyway.

He said instead that the conflict of mandatory studio and football practice in the fall forced him to make a decision. And he chose the major that

had always caught his interest.

"It basically boils down to the time constraints of architecture," Hiben said. "Ever since I was 12 years old, I [have been] very interested in architecture."

Hiben, a Chaska, Minn., native, said one of the reasons he chose Notre Dame after originally committing to Purdue during recruitment was its

see HIBEN/page 20

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Hustlin' the Huskies

Irish look to upend No. 6 Connecticut this weekend

By KEN FOWLER
Sports Writer

It's the kind of game that can define a season.

Coming off a 79-50 drubbing at the hands of DePaul, the Irish (14-9, 5-7 Big East) host No. 6 Connecticut (23-3, 11-1) Sunday at 7 p.m. in the Joyce Center in a matchup of conference rivals heading in opposite directions.

Notre Dame has struggled all season, playing inconsistent offense and defense and rarely winning the battle on the boards. But the team is looking forward to the game with Connecticut.

"We had one of the best practices of the year yesterday. At this point of the year, some teams have quit," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said. "But we have battled ... and I think that shows a lot about the character of this team."

The Irish want to rebound after their 29-point loss Feb. 12 and improve their

see HUSKIES/page 18



ALLISON AMBROSE/The Observer

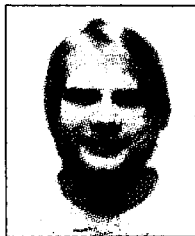
Irish guard Charel Allen drives left during Notre Dame's 69-65 overtime loss to Villanova Feb. 7. The Irish host No. 6 Connecticut Sunday at 7 p.m.

ND faces familiar foe in unfamiliar circumstances

Five years ago, it wasn't a rivalry. Five years ago, Notre Dame had never beaten Connecticut, one of the standard bearers of women's basketball over the last decade.

Back then, Irish head coach Muffet McGraw announced that sentiment, making it clear that one-sided rivalries aren't rivalries. Rivalries involve back-and-forth action. They involve winning on both sides. As

Notre Dame began to establish itself as a national power, the UConn matchup was a must-win game — the cover charge to get into the elite door of NCAA women's hoops.



Eric Retter

Sports Writer

see OPTIMISM/page 18

MEN'S BASKETBALL

It's no easy walk down the Hall



GEOFF MATTESON/The Observer

Irish guard Russell Carter aims for the hoop Wednesday during Notre Dame's 62-55 win over South Florida at the Joyce Center.

By PAT LEONARD
Sports Writer

No. 1 Connecticut waits on the horizon. The Huskies (22-2, 9-2 Big East) are virtually unbeatable at home, and Notre Dame (12-10, 3-8) needs every win it can get to qualify for post-season eligibility.

If only the Irish had the luxury of preparing for the Huskies this early. A date with Seton Hall (16-7, 7-4) stands in the way. And the Pirates host the Irish at

see HALL/page 22

MEN'S TENNIS

Maize and blue set to show ND's true colors

By KATE GALES
Associate Sports Editor

Notre Dame travels to Michigan tomorrow at 6 p.m., nearly four years after the Wolverines pulled a stunning upset of the Irish in a match at the William Clay Ford tennis facility.

Not a single player from that match remains on either team, but tennis coaches have long memories.

It was March 2002, and the

Irish were No. 4 in the national team rankings. The team was traveling to Ann Arbor to play the Wolverines, barely in the national top-50.

"We had just moved up to No. 4 in the rankings, which is the highest we'd been in a while," Irish coach Bobby Bayliss said. "Michigan had beaten us there two years prior [in 2000] with pretty much the same team ... These guys knew each other pretty well."

see MICHIGAN/page 20

SPORTS AT A GLANCE

SMC BASKETBALL Saint Mary's at Hope

The Belles take on a league powerhouse in the regular-season finale.

page 19

HOCKEY Notre Dame at Bowling Green

The Irish have two crucial games against a conference foe.

page 19

ND WOMEN'S TENNIS

The squad faces No. 22 Tennessee Saturday and No. 9 Harvard Sunday at the Eck Tennis Pavilion.

page 16

NBA

In an interview with the Associated Press, Commissioner David Stern said he is happy with the league's image.

page 16

NCAA BASKETBALL

After weeks of rumors, Indiana coach Mike Davis announced he will resign at the end of the season.

page 15

OLYMPICS

United States 4 Kazakhstan 1

The Americans got back on track a day after tying Latvia in hockey.

page 14