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Minority decision causes diverse reactions

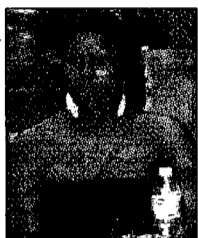
Last week's Student Senate vote against making ad-hoc MAC a recognized part of student government angers, prompts action

By KAREN LANGLEY
Associate News Editor

The Student Senate's defeat last Wednesday of an amendment to make the ad-hoc Minority Affairs committee (MAC) a constitutionally-recognized part of student government has angered some student leaders and prompted others to accelerate the completion of a revised amendment.

The issue at hand, leaders said, is the attention given to the minority voice within the student body.

"The number one issue is that MAC represents 20 percent of the student body," said Rhea Boyd, who chaired MAC this past year. "To have that huge of a constituency without a voice in student government is unfathomable. People's racial and ethnic identities are such a huge part of their Notre Dame identities."



Boyd

Boyd said she was angered by the amendment's defeat — a vote she said she had not expected.

But the issue will soon resurface. Student body president Lizzi Shappell said Friday she expects a new resolution to be ready within a few weeks after review by a newly established task force.

"In no way are we eliminating MAC," she said. "It's a matter of articulating it best."

The Senate's Wednesday meeting was the last of the 2005-06 student government term, which ended Friday.

The committee was formed in April 2005 with the goal of giving a voice in student government to racially underrepresented groups. Before that time, issues of race had been addressed by the permanent Senate Diversity committee. That committee now undertakes issues related to religious affiliation, sexual orientation and socioeconomic status.

In March, then-student body president Dave Baron, then-student body vice president Lizzi Shappell, then-MAC chair Rhea Boyd, then-Diversity committee chair Sarah Liu and new

MAC chair Destinee DeLemos met to compose the amendment, which would have established the committee permanently as a "means of expression for racially and ethnically marginalized students."

Last Tuesday — the night before the Senate meeting — Baron, Shappell and Liu met with Boyd. At that meeting, they suggested the amendment be taken off the Senate agenda until it could undergo further revision.

"There was no attempt to

see MAC/page 6

Students find Facebook insecure forum for postings

SMC professors access personal messages

By LIZ HARTER and
MEGAN O'NEIL
News Writers

In early March, Saint Mary's senior Angela Rizzo posted the following message on her Facebook.com profile.

"To my nursing faculty secretly trying to spy on us ... posing as students on Facebook — ya found me!! I'm not as interesting as you'd think ... No secrets here!! You guys should start asking us to be your friends ... make it into a joke, please ..."

The disclaimer came in response to a lecture she and fellow nursing majors received from nursing department chair Linda Zoeller earlier this semester on unacceptable Internet postings. Rizzo said staff members never mentioned Facebook specifically, but she and her

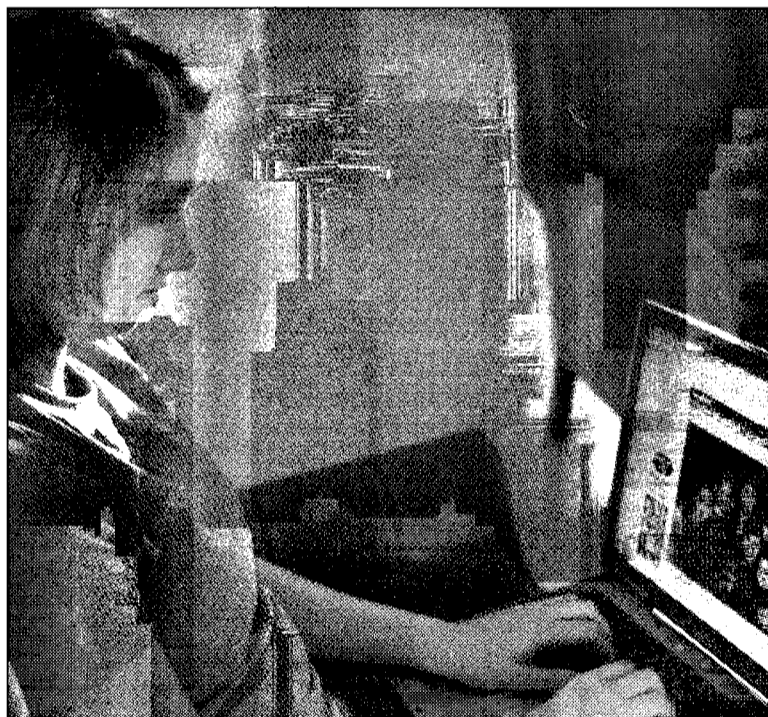
classmates immediately thought of the popular Web site.

"I had no idea professors could be on Facebook at all ... that was a real shock to me," Rizzo said.

Rizzo said the lecture left her feeling guilty. She logged on to her profile to check if it contained any postings or photographs that could be deemed inappropriate and activated the site's option to restrict who could view it. She discovered that Zoeller and several other professors were listed, some as undergraduates.

"The first week everyone was mad ... I know of girls who took all of their pictures off Facebook. It kind of ruined it because Facebook was a fun way to keep in contact with friends," Rizzo said.

see FACEBOOK/page 8



KELLY HIGGINS/The Observer

Saint Mary's sophomore Brie Anne Eichhorn views a picture on Facebook in March. Her professors may also have viewed the photo.

ND students attempt to enhance security

By KAITLYNN RIELY
News Writer

Kristin, a Notre Dame sophomore living on campus who has asked that her last name not be disclosed, felt her privacy had been violated after she was approached by members of her dorm's hall staff concerning a Facebook.com group she belonged entitled Shower Power Hour — a group centered drinking in the dorm showers.

Kristin and other members of the group were reprimanded by their rectress for being in the club and told to remove the profile from Facebook. No pictures of any

see SECURITY/page 8

Raymond lectures on Catholics in Tinseltown

By ADRIENNE RUFFNER
News Writer

Hollywood — a town known for its scandals, sex and violence — is being made safe for Catholics.

In a lecture titled "Young Catholic Hollywood," Rev. Willie Raymond, national director of Family Theater Productions, told a group of about two dozen students, faculty and community members in the Hayes-Healy Center Tuesday night how Catholic newcomers to Hollywood can embrace popular filmmaking without sacrificing their spiritual values.

"Young people, because they

are artists and think a lot about the important things, are more open to expressing their faith in film," Raymond said.

According to Raymond, Family Theater is a production company helps young filmmakers settle in Hollywood and allows them to make films that present moral values — eschewing Hollywood's tendency to make movies rife with sex and violence.

"So much of what is out there is driven by money, power, trying to be edgy and impressing peers," Raymond said. "I'm not standing outside Hollywood throwing a grenade and condemning all of it, because there

see HOLLYWOOD/page 4

Parents reflect on kids coming out

By MEGAN O'NEIL
Senior Staff Writer

Nancy Mascotte — a Saint Mary's alumna — was surprised by her own reaction when her then college-aged son told her he was gay.

"I cried a great deal," Mascotte said. "I was upset. In retrospect, it wasn't because [my son] was gay, it was because [I was afraid of] what he would have to face as a gay man."

In an event Tuesday night sponsored by the Saint Mary's Straight and Gay Alliance (SAGA) and the

see PFLAG/page 4



KELLY HIGGINS/The Observer

Tony and Beth Garascia and Nancy and Hank Mascotte speak about experiences stemming from having gay children at Saint Mary's Tuesday.

INSIDE COLUMN

Oh, how the time flies

People say that the older you get the faster time passes, and I'm starting to believe them. As of today we only have a month left before this school year draws to a close. It feels like move-in day was only last week, but shortly we'll all have to start worrying about moving out.

Laura Baumgartner
News Wire Editor

When I first started applying to colleges, Saint Mary's was the last place on Earth I thought I would end up. I didn't even consider it as an option until the school I had planned on attending sent me a letter saying they had mistakenly accepted too many freshmen and had randomly selected me as one of the "lucky" students being asked to find another school.

After waging a battle to be reimbursed for my room deposit, reality struck, it was June and I had no plans for the fall. I had already turned down offers of admission to the other colleges I had applied to, and staying at home for a semester was not an option I was willing to consider.

Family members encouraged me to apply to Saint Mary's, and because I had no other choices, I relented. My application was turned in and processed with record speed, and a saintly woman in the admissions office helped me to arrange classes for the fall. Despite her kindness and my first campus visit, I was still less than thrilled to know I would be spending four years of my life in South Bend.

Some days, when the weather is ridiculously awful or I'm just in a grouchy mood, I still curse myself for not going to school somewhere else.

The thing is, though, as the end of my junior year gets closer, I find myself thinking about next year and how much I will not want to leave.

I don't want to have to grow up and live in the real world. Finding a job and paying bills just seems like too much stress. I've watched some of my friends go through the struggles of off-campus life and having to provide for themselves, and watched others as they strive to stand out in the increasingly competitive job market.

None of it looks like much fun.

There are things I will not miss at all about this place when I leave — like forcing myself to eat dining hall food, showering with shoes on and sleeping in a loft.

This list pales in comparison, however, to what I will miss.

Most of all, I'll miss my friends. Never again will I be able to live in a place where I can have a lifestyle like I do at Saint Mary's. This school has given me the opportunity to meet some of the most fascinating people, and to make some of my best friends.

It turns out spending four years in South Bend hasn't been as awful as I thought it would be, and spending 24 hours a day at an all-women's college hasn't killed me.

Who would have thought?

Contact Laura Baumgartner at lbaumg01@saintmarys.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: HOW OFTEN DO YOU USE YOUR DORM PHONE?



Cristina Tallarico
freshman
Pangborn

"Never — we get scared when it rings."



Colleen Ferreira
sophomore
LeMans

"To have my friends call me from Jimmy John's and Papa John's to pick up food."



Biz Stohl
sophomore
LeMans

"I have a room phone?"



Eugene Nam
junior
Stanford

"Whenever the little light is blinking."



Sharon Lam
freshman
Pasquerilla East

"Let's just say I've never set up my voicemail."



Erin Heck
sophomore
LeMans

"When we prank call people on the death phone system."



KIRSTEN HOELMER/The Observer

Students Erika Qurrola, left, and Danielle Espinoza serve as mock "border patrol" agents at a fence in the middle of South Quad. The MECHA display brought attention to the dangers faced by immigrants crossing the border and stated "No human is illegal."

OFFBEAT

Teen banks on time change

FORT WAYNE — An industrious teenager is hoping time is money.

Eighteen-year-old Evan Kelso offered to change every digital clock in a customer's home or car after all of Indiana went to daylight saving time this weekend for the first time in more than 30 years. His fee: \$10.

Kelso, a senior at Bishop Luers High School, said he came up with the idea as Indiana lawmakers sniped about time zones and daylight-saving time.

His offer includes changing the time on microwaves, ovens, answering machines,

cars, computers, watches and VCRs. For an extra \$1, he'll also install new batteries.

Kelso expects the time-change predicament to affect senior citizens the most. He planned to work from Sunday into this week — which is his spring break from school.

The biggest challenge is changing VCRs.

"There are so many makes and models. God knows, they are impossible to do anyway," Kelso said.

What a long, strange trip it's been — for Garcia's toilet
SONOMA, Calif. — The

long, strange trip continues for Jerry Garcia's toilet.

Police say the Grateful Dead leader's commode was stolen recently from a driveway along with three other toilets and a bidet.

Garcia's salmon-colored toilet was the subject of a legal battle before it was finally moved to Sonoma, to await shipment to a Canadian casino.

It's unclear if the toilet was swiped by a wayward Deadhead or a thief remodeling a bathroom. Police have no suspects or leads.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

The Fighting Irish Battalion will host a blood drive today from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Pasquerilla Center. All donated blood will be given to United States soldiers.

Barry Sharpless, the 2001 Nobel Prize winner in chemistry, will speak on "Organic Azides: Later Bloomers" today at 4 p.m. in 127 Nieuwland Science Hall.

The SMC Tostal, sponsored by Student Activities Board, will begin at noon Thursday in the Student Center. The event will include chair massages, caricature and henna tattoo artists, an indoor picnic in the Noble Family Dining Hall and a concert featuring Phantom Planet. The doors to the O'Laughlin Auditorium will open at 5:30 p.m. for the opening acts, with Phantom Planet taking the stage at 8:30.

Renowned American Chemist and 2001 Nobel Prize Winner in Chemistry K. Barry Sharpless will speak on Thursday at 4 p.m. in 127 Nieuwland Science Hall.

Madison Center is sponsoring Alcohol Screening Day, a one-day outreach, education and screening event designed to educate the public about alcohol and allow individuals to seek help in a non-threatening, easily accessible manner. Free, anonymous screenings will be held all day Thursday at the Center in South Bend.

Saturday from 3:00 - 7:00 p.m. O'Neill and Lyons Halls will host recess on South Quad. Bring back your childhood days with free food, inflatables and schoolyard games all afternoon.

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

	TODAY	TONIGHT	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
	HIGH 49 LOW 30	HIGH 42 LOW 28	HIGH 57 LOW 37	HIGH 61 LOW 48	HIGH 63 LOW 40	HIGH 56 LOW 38

Atlanta 68/ 40 Boston 44 / 34 Chicago 55 / 33 Denver 72/ 47 Houston 79 / 65 Los Angeles 61 / 51 Minneapolis 56 / 36 New York 49/ 37 Philadelphia 50 / 36 Phoenix 82 / 63 Seattle 59 / 42 St. Louis 63 / 42 Tampa 80 / 61 Washington 54 / 39

Sparks' initiative helps authors get published

Special to The Observer

Among notable Notre Dame alumni, best-selling author Nicholas Sparks often tops the list in the literary category. With novels such as "Message in a Bottle," "A Walk to Remember" and "The Notebook" made into major motion pictures, he is something of a household name.

Sparks is the benefactor for what is fast becoming a legacy of significant authors to emerge from the Creative Writing Program.

It has been nearly five years since Sparks, who graduated in 1988 with a finance degree, established a \$1.5-million initiative to support aspiring writers. The Sparks initiative underwrites a three-tiered program that includes a fellowship, internship opportunities and the annual Sparks Prize. The prize awards \$20,000 to a new graduate of the two-year master's program, who then can stay at Notre Dame for a year to focus on completing a book.

Since its inception in 2001, the Sparks initiative has become a key component of the Creative Writing Program, whose young authors are experiencing "more success in early publishing than ever expected," according to William

O'Rourke, director of the program.

"Three students from the past five years are going to be published by major houses," O'Rourke says. "That level of success matches us with any program in the country."

The 2005 Sparks Prize winner, Angela Hur, achieved what O'Rourke describes as the Sparks "trifecta." The fellowship placed her as an editorial intern on Notre Dame Review, the University's award-winning national literary journal. As a Sparks intern, Hur completed a stint at a New York publishing house. Using the Sparks Prize Hur completed her novel, "The Queens of K-Town." O'Rourke predicts it will soon have a publisher.

Past Sparks Prize winners who have published works include 2004 winner Kelly Kerney, the first to ink a deal with a major house. Her novel, "Born Again," is forthcoming by Harcourt. It is described as a comedy of a girl who secretly reads Darwin and becomes caught between her faith and her intellect in a family of evangelicals, charismatics, and speakers-in-tongues.

Sara Swanson, who won the prize in 2003 and has since had short stories published in Tampa Review and Connecticut Review.

SMC Tostal to feature popular band

Phantom Planet will headline Saint Mary's largest annual social event

By KATIE KOHLER
News Writer

Students will not have to travel to Orange County, Calif. to experience warm weather, good times and "the real O.C." on Thursday evening when all three will invade Saint Mary's campus.

SMC Tostal — the College's largest social event of the year — will play host to henna tattoo and caricature artists, an indoor picnic and an evening concert featuring Phantom Planet, the band most commonly known for singing "The O.C." theme song.

Students from Saint Mary's, Notre Dame, Holy Cross, IUSB and Bethel are invited to attend. The event is hosted by the Student Activities Board (SAB).

Sophomores Cassie Callon and Noelle Whiteside, co-chairs for the event, decided to deviate from the typical events of the festival — such as fire works and canoe races — and refocus the event around a major concert series.

"We decided to do a concert series in the evening with small activities during the day," Callon said.

This year's concert features the band Phantom Planet along with west coast rock band Delaney and Saint Mary's Battle of the Bands winner Slap Bracelet Suicide.

Callon said SAB began to

plan the event last October.

"We wanted to bring someone rather well known to campus that obviously fit into our budget," Callon said. "We chose Phantom Planet for their smooth California sound and the extreme popularity for the show 'The O.C.'"

Student Activities Board President junior Megan Cahill said the date and venue of the event had to be changed in order to bring a big name like Phantom Planet to Saint Mary's.

"SMC Tostal traditionally occurs in late April and includes a picnic dinner and games on the library green," Callon said. "Because of scheduling conflicts, the event date had to be moved up, moving most of the activities indoors to avoid weather issues."

The events of SMC Tostal, however, are not entirely centered on the concert series. Tostal festivities, such as chair massages and henna art, will take place in the student center starting at noon, with an indoor dinner picnic in the

dining hall that evening.

Callon and Cahill said they feel a "positive buzz" around campus.

"The students seem very excited," Callon said. "We've been receiving e-mails from students since it was announced that Phantom Planet was coming, which makes us excited as well."

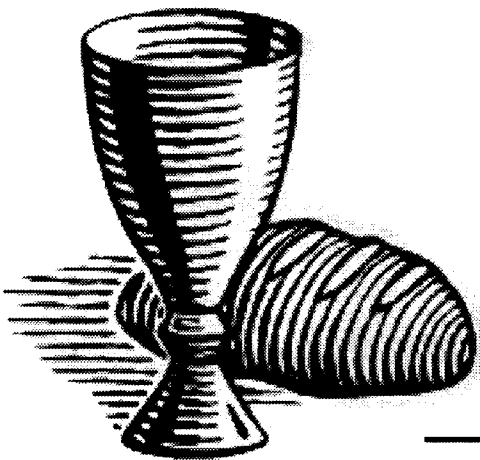
Saint Mary's freshman Nikki Badalamenti said she was excited Saint Mary's got such a big name to perform.

"I was really happy when I heard that Phantom Planet was coming," she said. "I definitely plan on going."

O'Lauhlin Auditorium doors will open at 5:30 p.m. with the opening act, Slap Bracelet Suicide, scheduled to go on at 6:30 p.m. Delaney will perform at 7:20 p.m. and Phantom Planet will take the stage at 8:30 p.m.

Tickets are on sale now for \$5 with a student ID at the O'Laughlin Auditorium Box office and LaFortune Student Center.

Contact Katie Kohler at kkohle01@nd.edu



BREAKING BREAD

*Walking with Cleopas:
Emmaus and the Theological Life*

Join fellow students and faculty for dinner and an evening of faith-based discussion

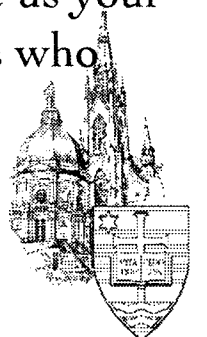
Tuesday, April 25th at 6:00 pm
Notre Dame Stadium Press Box

Featuring guest speaker
Rev. Michael Heintz
*Rector of St. Matthew Cathedral
and teacher in the Theology Department*

If interested, e-mail the Center for Ethics and Culture at ethics2@nd.edu. Please give us your name, local address, class and major. Spaces are limited to the first eighty students who respond. We welcome all students regardless of faith commitment.

Sponsored by the Notre Dame Center for Ethics and Culture

<http://ethicscenter.nd.edu>



PFLAG

continued from page 1

Leadership Team (CoLT) on sexuality, Mascotte, Hank Mascotte, Beth Garascia and Tony Garascia shared their experiences of being the parent or sibling of a gay or lesbian individual.

Nancy Mascotte said she worried her son's sexual orientation might lose him a job or damage his relationship with his father and grandparents. With the help of the counseling center at Notre Dame, she began educating herself on homosexuality. She was determined to find "healthy" role models — gay people she would like her son to associate with.

"I began to educate myself and I had realized I had absorbed through the culture many myths about homosexuality," Nancy Mascotte said.

As she learned more, Nancy Mascotte grew angry at the difficult realities gays and lesbians face in society — and she began taking action. She founded the first support group for HIV positive men in South Bend.

Some individuals in the group, she discovered, struggled more with telling their families they were gay than informing them of their illness. As members began dying, she stopped working with

"I was upset. In retrospect, it wasn't because [my son] was gay, it was because [I was afraid of] what he would have to face as a gay man."

Nancy Mascotte
PFLAG member

the group because it had become too emotionally painful.

That didn't stop her from continuing her support of homosexuals in the South Bend area.

Sixteen years ago, she founded the South Bend chapter of Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG). PFLAG is a national organization that seeks to support, educate and advocate for the families of gay and lesbians.

Beth and Tony Garascia, also members of PFLAG, said they suspected their son might be gay since he was in high school. As a college freshman he came out to one of his sisters, and then later to his parents over the telephone. They were not surprised, Beth Garascia said.

A more recent announcement was unexpected, however. "Our youngest daughter just actually told us a couple of weeks ago that she is dating a girl and that was a little bit more of a surprise," Beth Garascia said.

When a child comes out, Tony Garascia said, the parents must go through a coming out process of their own. PFLAG provides the context in which they can

"The thing that I have found with the young people I know that have come out is that it is hard for them to realize that it is a process and not an event ... it can take 15 or 20 years."

Nancy Mascotte
PFLAG member

both receive and give support, he said.

"We really love our three children and we will continue to do so," Tony Garascia said. "We are all mysteries in a sense and we continue to unfold."

A priest in the Fort Wayne-South Bend Diocese for 30 years before marrying Nancy and Hank Mascotte said religion could be a difficult obstacle for family members to overcome in accepting gay children of siblings.

Beth Garascia said she and her husband experienced feelings of fear and guilt over their son's homosexuality.

"Tony and I both wondered if we had done something wrong," Beth Garascia said.

The acceptance process can be long and trying, Nancy Mascotte said.

"The thing that I have found with the young people I know that have come out is that it is hard for them to realize that it is a process and not an event ... it can take 15 or 20 years," she said.

Nancy Mascotte said being the parent of a gay child

has propelled her to grow in ways she could never have imagined. She has also been encouraged by the progress of other parents in learning to accept their gay children.

"I think what happens often when a child comes out is the parent has the opportunity to grow," she said.

Contact Megan O'Neil at
onei0907@saintmarys.edu



KIRSTEN HOELMER/The Observer

Rev. Willie Raymond speaks on the Catholic role in Hollywood Tuesday night in the Hayes-Healy Center.

Hollywood

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is a lot of good work and a lot of good people there, but it's important to be discerning."

Family Theater provides many services for young people in the film industry, including Masses, educational services, RCIA programs and a special night once a month called "Prayer and Pasta."

"It's something reliably Catholic they know they can come to the third Wednesday of every month," Raymond said. "There are a lot of ways to go wrong when you first come to Hollywood."

The lecture was a part of a series called "Hollywood: Mission Field or Mission Impossible?" sponsored by Notre Dame's Center for Ethics and Culture. The Center brought the series this spring because it recognized the importance of film's impacts on society.

"Film is so powerful that it's shaping pop culture and even high culture," Raymond said. "People around the world may not know the Secretary General of the U.N., but they know all the big names in Hollywood."

Family Theater Productions was started in 1947 by Father Patrick Peyton, an Irish immigrant who graduated from Notre Dame in the late 1930s. Father Peyton made radio shows featur-

ing Catholic celebrities. Today, Family Theater is committed to producing films that embody strong values.

"It's really important to have people who love the truth in the media and in the film industry," Raymond said. "It's important to have people who will not distort the truth."

Raymond said one of Family Theater's most important contributions to the film industry are the Angelus Awards, a yearly international film festival for film students. Last year, the festival garnered over 700 entries, and during the lecture Raymond showed a film called "Christmas Wish List," a story of a generous doctor who teaches a stingy lawyer about Christmas spirit.

"We never expected the Angelus Awards to grow the way they have," Raymond said.

In a question and answer session at the end of the lecture, Raymond advised students to be cautious when moving to Hollywood, and he also fielded questions about Notre Dame's ongoing academic freedom debate.

"What happens at Notre Dame is very important to other Catholics in the country," Raymond said. "I was glad to see [President Jenkins] was not afraid to take on these questions."

Contact Adrienne Ruffner at
aruffner@nd.edu

2006 is a good year for mushrooms

Last year's mild wildfire season brought good crop for hobbyist hunters

Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho — Last year's mild wildfire season in the Northwest may be bad news for commercial mushroom hunters, but hobbyists are already salivating at the thought of spring morels.

More than 8.2 million acres of state and federal lands nationwide burned during the 2005 wildfire season, and mushrooms typically thrive in the year after wildfires. But many of last year's fires were in grass and rangeland instead of forests, where the mushrooms are most often found.

"Commercial hunters follow the burns, because at peak season they can make \$1,000 a day," said Orson Miller Jr., a prominent mycologist who lives in McCall, Idaho. "They'll probably be in other states this year."

However, pothunters — hobbyists who collect enough of the wild mushrooms for dinner and perhaps some extras for drying — will likely be in luck, Miller said.

"This year looks particularly good because we got quite a bit of moisture in the soil before the freeze up last fall, and that really gives the morels a chance to grow," Miller said.

Morels are an aromatic fungus with a distinctive cap that looks a bit like a peach pit or pinecone. They are highly prized by gourmet cooks and fine restaurants, and can fetch \$30 a pound or more for pickers.

The high prices have led to a competitive commercial picking industry, largely made up of traveling outfits that go from burn site to burn site. For pothunters, nothing is more frustrating than arriving at a favorite mushroom site only to find it's already been picked clean by a commercial outfit.

"For mushroom hunting in general, this should be a good year because the commercial picking may be concentrated to a few very small burn areas," said Genille Steiner with the Southern Idaho Mycological Association.

Marjie Millard, owner of Millard Family Mushrooms in Waldport, Ore., used to travel to burn sites throughout the Northwest to ensure a good spring haul. But these days she spends most of her time picking in her home state.

"Last year it was Alaska; they had a ton of wildfires up there. People I've talked to this year plan on staying closer to home, maybe in Oregon or Washington," Millard said.

Lori Carris, a resident mycologist at Washington State University in Pullman, said would-be mushroom gatherers can find morels even without the forest fires. They just have to know what to look for.

"We can find morels coming up when there's been construction, or on campus here at WSU in the spring when they put new planting beds around a building or shrubs and woodchips," she said.

The mushrooms also occur naturally, without disruption.

Finding those fungus flushes is just a matter of timing, she said.

His INSTRUMENT drove her into the arms of BACCHUS!

The Notre Dame Department of Music and Opera Notre Dame present Jacques Offenbach's scorching work:

Orpheus goes to HELL

Opera Notre Dame presents a scandal of epic proportion...

April 7 and 8, 2006
7:30 PM, WASHINGTON HALL
UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

Tickets (\$5-10) available at LaFortune Box Office or by phone at (574) 631-8128

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Shiite leader refuses call to step aside

BAGHDAD — An Iraqi vice president called Tuesday for the embattled Shiite prime minister to step aside so a new government can be formed, becoming the most senior Shiite official publicly to endorse demands for a leadership change to halt the slide toward civil war.

Vice President Adil Abdul-Mahdi told the British Broadcasting Corp. that he met with Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari on Monday and urged him to give up the nomination for a second term because he had lost the confidence of the Sunnis and Kurds.

But Abdul-Mahdi said al-Jaafari refused, insisting he wanted to take his case to parliament, which must approve the new prime minister and his Cabinet by a majority vote.

Asked whether al-Jaafari should withdraw his nomination, Abdul-Mahdi said: "Yes, after such a time of naming him, not getting approval from others now in UIA [the dominant Shiite political bloc], there is some rejection so I think he should step aside."

Violence mars French job law protests

PARIS — Rioting youths swarmed across a downtown Paris plaza, ripping up street signs and park benches and hurling stones and chunks of pavement at police at the end of the largest of massive but mostly peaceful protests Tuesday across France against a new jobs law.

Riot police fired tear gas and rubber pellets and made repeated charges into the crowds of several hundred youths at Place d'Italie on the Left Bank, carrying away those they arrested.

The clashes came as more than 1 million people poured into the streets across the country, including 84,000 in Paris, according to police. Union organizers put the figure in the capital at 700,000 — and 3 million nationwide.

NATIONAL NEWS

Mass. passes health insurance bill

BOSTON — Lawmakers overwhelmingly approved a bill Tuesday that would make Massachusetts the first state to require that all its citizens have some form of health insurance.

The plan — approved just 24 hours after the final details were released — would use a combination of financial incentives and penalties to dramatically expand access to health care over the next three years and extend coverage to the state's estimated 500,000 uninsured.

If all goes as planned, poor people will be offered free or heavily subsidized coverage; those who can afford insurance but refuse to get it will face increasing tax penalties until they obtain coverage; and those already insured will see a modest drop in their premiums.

Bush's AIDS efforts under scrutiny

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration's \$15 billion global AIDS initiative is emphasizing sexual abstinence and fidelity more than Congress intended, and that focus is undermining prevention efforts in poor countries, congressional investigators said Tuesday.

U.S. teams on the ground in Africa and other poor areas told Congress' Government Accountability Office that the requirement that they spend a specific percentage of their money on abstinence is hurting some efforts to tailor prevention programs to countries' needs.

LOCAL NEWS

Dem. party chooses new Gary mayor

GARY, Ind. — Democratic Party committeemen on Tuesday chose Lake County Commissioner Rudy Clay to complete the final 21 months of former Mayor Scott King's term.

King resigned last month after 11 years in office to return to his private law practice and do consulting work.

Three people were in the running for the position — Clay, Acting Mayor Dozier Allen Jr. and Gary attorney John Henry Hall. Vote totals from the about 130 committeemen were not immediately available.

IRAQ

Hussein faces genocide charges

Iraq files charges against former ruler for the 1980s killings of 100,000 Kurds

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraqi authorities filed genocide charges against Saddam Hussein on Tuesday, accusing the ousted ruler and six others in a 1980s crackdown that killed an estimated 100,000 Kurds in northern Iraq.

In alleging Saddam sought to exterminate the Kurds, the prosecutors are for the first time accusing him of the sort of far-reaching crimes that the Bush administration has used to justify the war in Iraq.

The former Iraqi president returns to court Wednesday in his current 6-month-old trial, facing a possible death sentence if convicted in the killings of more than 140 Shiites. Defense lawyer Khamis al-Obeidi said Saddam plans to make a statement to the court.

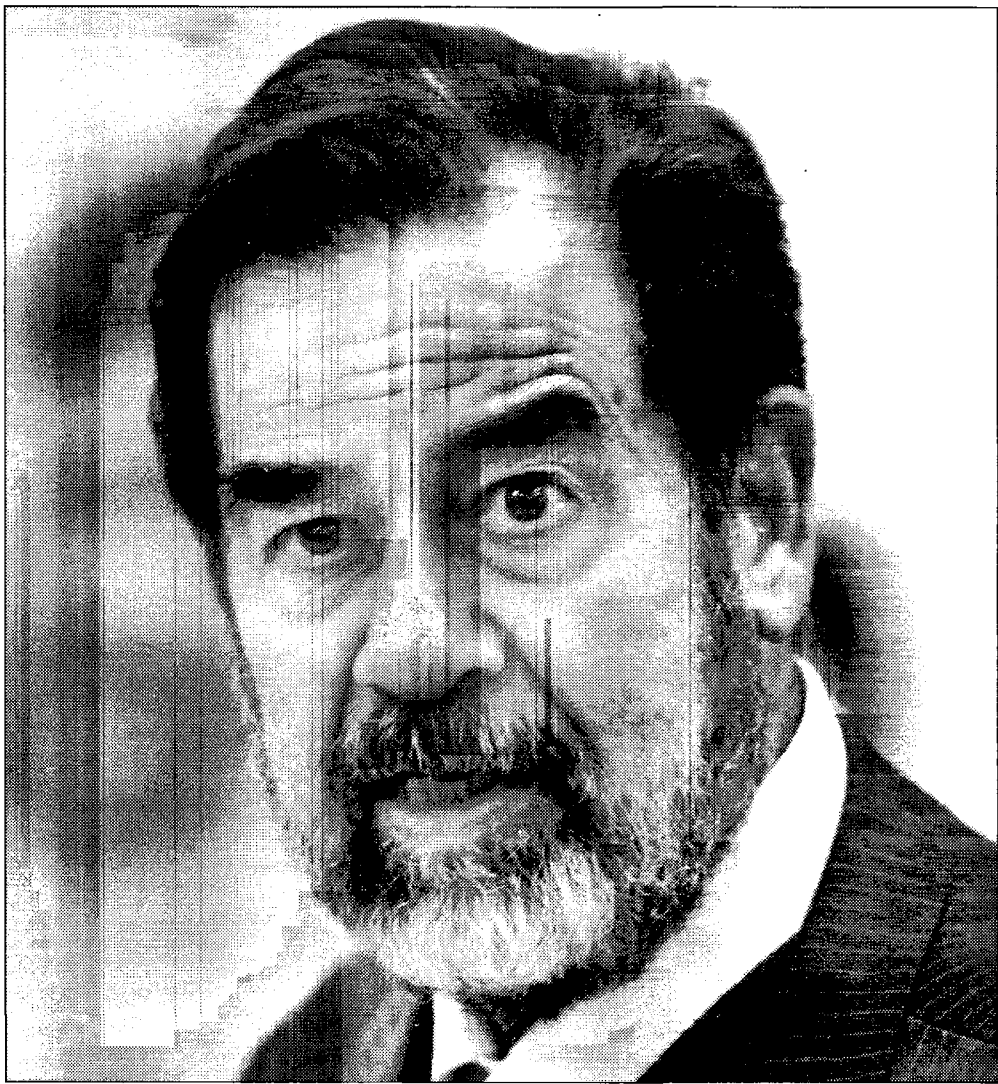
But that case involves a relatively small number of victims, and the scope of the allegation pales in comparison to the crackdown against the Kurds or the suppression of the Shiite uprising in south Iraq in 1991.

Investigative judge Raid Juhi told reporters he submitted the new case against Saddam and the others to the Iraqi High Tribunal — a legal step that is the equivalent of an indictment under Iraqi law.

His move paves the way for a second trial, which could begin any time after 45 days. Juhi said charges also include crimes against humanity.

Legal experts said the decision to accuse Saddam of genocide is controversial because the charge is difficult to prove. An international convention following the Nazi Holocaust of World War II defined genocide as an effort "to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group."

The latest charges involve Saddam's alleged role in Operation Anfal, the 1988 military campaign launched in the final months of the war with Iran to crush independence-minded Kurdish militias and clear Kurds from the sen-



Saddam Hussein speaks at his trial in Baghdad in this March 1 file photo. The Iraq tribunal on Tuesday announced new criminal charges against Hussein and six others.

sitive Iranian border area of northern Iraq.

Saddam had accused Kurdish militias of ties to Iran. Thousands of Kurdish villages were razed and their inhabitants either killed or displaced.

A memo released by the tribunal said the Anfal campaign included "savagely military attacks on civilians," including "the use of mustard gas and nerve agents ... to kill and maim rural villagers and to drive them out of their homes."

"These people were subjected to forced displacement and illegal detention involving thousands of civilians," Juhi said. "They were placed in different detention centers.

The villages were destroyed and burned. Homes and houses of worshippers and buildings of civilians were leveled without reason or a military requirement."

In the Kurdish city of Sulaimaniyah, Othman Hassan, 72, said he lost two sons and 26 other relatives in Anfal.

"When I last saw my sons, it was as if I had lost the light of my life," he said. "It was a terrible day when they were taken away. They don't need to hear from any witnesses. Just come here and see the thousands who never knew their parents and the widows who lost their husbands."

The operations against the Kurds included the March

1988 gas attack on the village of Halabja in which 5,000 people, including women and children, died. However, Juhi told The Associated Press that the Halabja attack would be prosecuted separately and was not considered part of the charges filed Tuesday.

Others accused in the Anfal case include Saddam's cousin, Ali Hassan Majid, or "Chemical Ali"; former Defense Minister Sultan Hashim Ahmad; former intelligence chief Saber Abdul Aziz al-Douri; former Republican Guard commander Hussein al-Tikriti; former Nineveh provincial Gov. Taher Tafwiq al-Ani; and former top military commander Farhan Mutlaq al-Jubouri.

DeLay departs from an uneasy GOP

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Tom DeLay leaves a troubling legacy for Republicans as they face re-election.

The Texan, once one of the most powerful and feared leaders of Congress, joined Newt Gingrich in helping to lead Republicans to power in 1994. But he became a symbol of the widening ethics scandal that now clouds GOP prospects for continued control.

Republicans face voters weary of corruption allegations and the heavy-handed tactics DeLay came to personify. At the same time, GOP candidates are further weighed down by President Bush's low approval ratings and the unpopu-

larity of the war in Iraq.

"It's hard to believe that in just 12 years, Republicans could end up in the same situation that it took Democrats 40 years to get in," said Republican strategist Frank Luntz.

Luntz, who was once Gingrich's pollster and who helped orchestrate the 1994 "Contract With America," a set of unifying GOP policy initiatives, said the GOP majority now seems "tired" and those speaking out for change and innovation "are just not being noticed."

Republicans hold 231 of the 435 House seats. Democrats have 201. There is one independent and two vacancies.

DeLay said Tuesday he would resign

from Congress rather than seek a 12th term so as not to hurt Republican chances. He acknowledged his re-election prospects were threatened.

The voters of his Houston-area district "deserve a campaign about the vital national issues that they care most about and that affect their lives every day, and not a campaign focused solely as a referendum on me," DeLay said.

He had stepped aside as House majority leader last fall after a grand jury in Texas indicted him, accusing him of funneling illegal corporate contributions into state legislative races. In January, he decided against trying to get the leadership post back amid a spreading election-year corruption scandal.

MAC

continued from page 1

cover up [the amendment]," Baron said. "We wanted to make sure the best proposal was put forth, but if Rhea thought this was the best proposal, that was it."

Boyd asked that the amendment be kept on the agenda, and so it was presented to Senate the following afternoon.

"I wanted this amendment to go before the current Student Senate, who knows what [MAC has] done throughout the year," she said Monday.

Baron and Shappell's concerns centered on the amendment's articulation of the differences between MAC and the Diversity committee — an ambiguity that, according to Shappell, has caused some conflict this year.

The use of the word "minority" in the committee's name also caused some concern, as it is not used on the national level and could cause further confusion when contrasted with the name of the Diversity committee, Baron said, adding that hesitation about the name is sufficient reason to delay consideration of an amendment.

"A lot of what we do in student government is dependent upon the perception of people," he said. "It is essential you have a name that makes sense

immediately."

Shappell said the amendment's defeat was likely due to the Senate's experience with the problems caused by unclear committee definitions.

"Senators lived this term with the Diversity committee and MAC and the confusion that ensued," she said. "They recognized the need for clarification and research and student opinions brought forth on how the two overlapped."

Boyd said MAC's fate is "too tied" to that of the Diversity committee, a particular problem given that committee's "nebulous nature."

Liu also attested to the problems in definition.

"The two committees go hand-in-hand," Liu said Tuesday. "You cannot change one without changing the other."

While Liu said her committee "experienced a lot of frustration in [its] role," she denied a lack of direction.

Along with Baron and Shappell, Liu had decided at the pre-Senate meeting that perhaps the amendment should wait, as she was uncertain about the structural specifics.

She and the rest of the Diversity committee thought a strong option would be to once more combine the two committees while allowing for various subcommittees.

But Boyd supported the amendment's call for separate

and distinct committees to deal with racial issues and other issues of diversity.

"The structure this amendment calls for is one I think is appropriate," Boyd said. "To have one big committee undermines the importance of MAC being a separate voice."

Boyd also questioned the necessity of delaying ratification based on the name of MAC, which she said was a "superficial" concern when compared to the importance of making MAC permanent.

Though the senators' concern about creating long-lasting amendments is legitimate, this amendment would not require any more revision than others that have been recently passed, she said.

Shappell immediately granted MAC continued ad-hoc status when she took over as student body president at 12:01 a.m. Saturday. She then established a task force of minority and non-minority students to discuss how to best revise the amendment with regards to its wording and the structure of the two committees.

"I unequivocally want a permanent voice of minority students [in student government]," she said Monday.

Former Cavanaugh senator and new chief executive assistant Liz Brown will be responsible for overseeing MAC and the Diversity committee in the new term.

"The main dilemma is dividing them in a logical way so they both have a clear purpose," Brown said.

Brown said students approached her after the Senate meeting to ask why the amendment had been rejected and what would happen to MAC. Though initially concerned, the students reacted positively "once they heard what the real concerns were ... going back to make sure it was really done right," she said.

Jason Laws, a current MAC member and former president of the class of 2007 freshman and sophomore years, expressed frustration at the outcome of Wednesday's meeting.

"At the meeting, I just don't know if people had their eyes open," Laws said Tuesday. "There were [senators] who just wanted to get out of the meeting."

Laws said the senators would have done well to consider the significance of MAC to a large portion of their peers and constituencies before rejecting it.

"The amendment is more than just a piece of paper," Laws said. "It's about the experiences of all minorities here at

this university and their lifestyles here."

The amendment seemed to have undergone more strenuous criticism than other amendments to make committees permanent, Laws said.

"I've never seen this much hesitation with any other amendment," he said. "You have to be careful about the message you send not just to the student body but also to the minority community."

As a candidate for student body president in the 2006 election, Laws campaigned on a platform that included the creation of a Black Student Union. He is now in discussions to investigate creating such a group, whose eventual name and form remain undecided.

The group would create a community in which black students could develop a sense of identity, communicate issues with other student government groups and become more active in the Notre Dame and wider communities.

Laws said the passage of an amendment making MAC permanent and the creation of a group

tailored specially to the needs of black students would fill a gap in student government.

"As of now, there's not a strong black voice in student government," Laws said. "That's a fact."

Contact Karen Langley at klangle1@nd.edu

"I unequivocally want a permanent voice of minority students [in student government]."

Lizzi Shappell
student body president

"The amendment is more than just a piece of paper. It's about the experiences of all minorities here at this university and their lifestyles here."

Jason Laws
MAC member

"As of now, there's not a strong black voice in student government."

Jason Laws
MAC member



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IN BRIEF

Delta pilots vote to authorize strike

ATLANTA — Delta Air Lines Inc. pilots, angered by management's effort to throw out their contract and impose deep pay cuts, voted by a wide margin to authorize a strike, union leaders said Tuesday.

The 94.7 percent vote in favor of authorizing a strike gives union leaders the authority to set a strike date. They didn't set a date immediately and gave no indication when they might act.

The results were announced in a memo to pilots from the chairman of the union's executive committee, Lee Moak, and first reported by The Associated Press.

An arbitration panel must decide by April 15 whether to void the pilots' contract. The union has said it will strike if its contract is rejected.

The nation's third largest carrier, which is operating under bankruptcy protection, has said a strike would put it out of business.

Any strike would likely prompt a court challenge by the company, which would almost certainly seek a restraining order. Moak said in an interview the union will "do what is legal."

CEO says Delphi will avoid a strike

DETROIT — The chairman and chief executive of Delphi Corp. said Monday that he is confident the troubled auto parts supplier will avoid a strike that would devastate General Motors Corp., Delphi's former parent and largest customer.

Speaking to the Detroit Economic Club, Robert S. "Steve" Miller said the bankruptcy court motion the company filed Friday, asking a judge to void its labor contracts, was "an insurance policy" he hoped the company would not have to use.

The United Auto Workers has warned that a long strike would be inevitable if the judge agrees to void the contracts and Delphi imposes its most recent proposal, which would have lowered wages from \$27 to \$22 through 2007, and then to \$16.50. The offer was rejected by the UAW and other unions.

Asked after the speech whether Delphi would be able to avoid a strike, Miller answered: "Absolutely."

"We are determined to work this out," he told reporters on his way out the door.

Delphi has about 6,000 employees in Indiana, most of whom work at the company's Electronics & Safety Division headquarters in Kokomo.

IBM supports teaching careers

Company helps interested employees move from Big Blue into the classroom

Associated Press

RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, N.C. — After more than three decades at IBM, Larry Leise and Susan Luerich could be planning a leisurely retirement. Instead, the married couple are headed back to college, with plans to start new careers in retirement as high school science teachers.

"Seeing the proverbial light bulb come on [in a student], there is no better feeling," said Luerich, 54. "It's a way to give back."

And their bosses at International Business Machines Corp. are only too happy to help.

Luerich and Leise, 58, are among the first batch of IBM employees taking the company up on its offer to pay for the college classes needed to leave Big Blue behind for a math or science classroom, where a shortage of qualified teachers concerns a company that thrives on high-tech innovation.

"We're only as successful as our innovation is and we have to have future talent that will bring that kind of innovative thinking and help us as future employees," said Rick Falknor, a community relations manager at IBM. The company believes it is the first to help workers make the switch into a teaching career.

So far, hundreds of employees of Armonk, N.Y.-based IBM have expressed interest in the program, through which the company will financially support employees as they earn teaching credentials. Employees will continue to work for IBM while taking classes part-time, with a leave of absence for time spent student teaching, supported by up to \$15,000 in



Larry Leise checks an LCD screen Friday on the IBM campus in Research Triangle Park, N.C. Leise is among several IBM employees turning toward a second career in teaching.

tuition reimbursements and stipends.

About 65 IBM employees have been picked so far for the 100 spots in the pilot program. All must have worked at IBM for ten years and ideally would have had to have a bachelor's degree in math, science or a higher degree in a related field.

"The IBM program is designed to attract high performers," Falknor said. "We want people that are valuable to the company to participate because we know

that those are the same people who will be valuable in schools."

Such a commitment from business and industry can really make a positive impact on schools, especially as the nation's schools continue to struggle with a shortage of math and science teachers, said Cathy Seeley, president of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics. The shortage is growing because students are now expected to take more math

and science than ever before, Seeley said, and IBM cites federal statistics predicting a need for more than 260,000 new math and science teachers by 2008.

"If you are a math and science teacher in this country, you can choose many different places where you can go teach," Seeley said.

Clearly, it's not about the money. The average teacher's salary was \$47,808 last year, according to the National Association of Educators.

Ameristar offers cash bid for Aztar

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Ameristar Casinos Inc. said Monday it has offered about \$1.5 billion in cash to acquire Aztar Corp., a Phoenix-based casino operator, trumping previous offers from Pinnacle Entertainment Inc. and Colony Capital LLC.

Ameristar said the move would give it prime real estate in the nation's top gambling markets in Las Vegas and Atlantic City, N.J., and move it from the ninth-largest publicly traded U.S. casino company to fifth.

"Ameristar's proposal is clearly superior to all previous proposals," the company's chief executive, Craig Neilsen, said in a conference call Monday. "We're looking at this as a very strategic move."

Las Vegas-based Ameristar said it bid \$42 a share for Aztar, which owns the Tropicana casino hotels in Las Vegas and Atlantic City. Including

debt, the bid values Aztar at about \$2.25 billion and tops the reported offer from real estate investment fund Colony by \$1 a share.

Aztar's holdings include Casino Aztar, a riverboat on the Ohio River at Evansville, Ind. Pinnacle owns the Belterra Casino at Vevay in southeastern Indiana.

Aztar said in a statement late Monday that its board approved negotiations with Ameristar and Colony. Those talks put in jeopardy a March 13 deal it made to be bought by Las Vegas-based Pinnacle for \$38 per share in cash.

"Each of the unsolicited proposals ... is, or is reasonably likely to result in, a superior proposal," Aztar said.

Aztar shares rose \$2.61, or 6.2 percent, to close at \$44.60 Monday on the New York Stock Exchange, a sign that market players expect the bidding will continue higher.

Ameristar Casinos shares lost \$1.78, or 6.9 percent, to \$24.01 on

the Nasdaq Stock Market on concerns a three-way bidding war could make the final buyer pay too steep a price.

"I think the concern is that, in order to actually close on the acquisition, they might have to come in with a higher bid," said analyst Ryan Worst of Brean Murray, Carret & Co.

Colony said it has seen the value of its Aztar holdings increase.

"Colony is already a significant shareholder in the company and welcomes the additional interest," Colony spokesman Owen Blicksilver said.

A Pinnacle spokeswoman declined to comment.

Ameristar runs seven casinos in Missouri, Iowa, Colorado, Nevada, and Mississippi. The proposed merger would double its revenue to some \$1.9 billion annually and expand its presence from six markets to 11. The new company would operate roughly 21,000 slot machines, 650 table games and 7,000 hotel rooms.

Facebook

continued from page 1

Her intention, Zoeller said in an e-mail Tuesday, was to alert students to the fact that sites such as Facebook and Myspace.com are easily accessible.

"For example, some of the senior nursing students are applying for graduate school and others are applying for professional nursing positions throughout the country," Zoeller said. "It was important to let them know that Facebook and Myspace are essentially open to that audience, including their potential grad school or their next employer."

Students were encouraged to reexamine what sorts of personal information and images they displayed on the Internet, Zoeller said, and whether it made them vulnerable to predators.

"I have to believe that some of the students really had not thought about it this way," Zoeller said. "Now they have another perspective from someone who cares about them as individuals and about their safety."

Junior Irene Bayudan first heard some professors were accessing student's profiles from a friend. Although she does not feel she is being targeted in any way, Bayudan said, she nevertheless views it as an invasion of privacy.

"I'm contemplating pulling out my whole profile now because it's reaching the extent that it is," Bayudan said. "It's not fun anymore. To know that

employers are looking at it and people are making judgments on you based on your pictures."

Students' concerns about faculty and staff members' use of Facebook has caught the attention of student government officers. It was briefly discussed at the Feb. 27 Board of Governance meeting and was addressed directly this past weekend at the student government retreat.

Student activities director George Rosenbush said Monday she does not have time to browse Facebook but is aware of the sort of content some students choose to upload. She advised those on the retreat to be cautious with the information and images they make available on the internet.

Students are "misleading themselves" if they believe Facebook is a secure forum, Rosenbush said. Further, they are taking "a risk" when they include inappropriate content by jeopardizing future employment opportunities.

"I want them to be able to present themselves in the light they want, and to be careful," Rosenbush said.

Senior Alicia Heimann said she was not surprised that non-students were accessing student profiles because anyone with an ".edu" address can register on Facebook. She said she has nothing to hide from her professors and was not overly concerned about their use of the site.

"I don't think they're doing it for punishment reasons. I think

they're doing it overall as concern for us as a person ... that and curiosity," Heimann said.

What she does on the weekends should be of little interest to her professors, freshman Lauren Mangiaforte said. She also does not want to know how they spend theirs.

"I feel like Facebook is more of a social network than it should be a phonebook and I don't want to Facebook my professors," Mangiaforte said.

Facebook can't be taken too seriously, freshman Lauren Momenie said.

"You can't make judgments on what you see on Facebook because a lot of it's [a joke]," she said.

Junior Nicole Korte is relatively unconcerned that professors or future employers may attempt to look her up on the Internet.

"I think it is ridiculous. People need to find something better to do. I'm not really concerned about it," Korte said.

Rizzo said she found it ironic that employers are prohibited from asking questions about religion or family in interviews, but can scope out future employees on sites such as Facebook. She called this a "huge" invasion of privacy.

She and classmates originally thought faculty members had accessed Facebook only once, Rizzo said, but later realized they have logged on multiple times — some as recently as two weeks ago. Students respect faculty members who have chosen not to create profiles, she said.

"[Professors] should not make comments to students and they should not make judgments on students based on Facebook," Rizzo said.

Contact Liz Harter at eharte01@saintmarys.edu and Megan O'Neil at saintmarys.edu

Security

continued from page 1

member of the group drinking in the showers appeared in the group profile or on the rest of the website.

Kristin said the actions of her hall staff invaded her personal space and strained her relationship with them this year.

"The fact that they're going through our profiles and looking at all of this stuff and kind of going into our personal space ... made me feel attacked, almost," she said.

Since the girls removed the group from Facebook, the incident stayed within the dorm and was not sent to ResLife.

"I almost wanted to challenge them and tell them to bring it to ResLife, because I want to know how this group proves that we did anything wrong," Kristin said.

Occurrences like Kristin's are becoming increasingly common as college and university administrations across the nation are accessing Facebook as a means of cracking down on illegal activities and campus violations.

The Shower Power Hour Facebook group was created as a joke the previous year, Kristin said, and she had not given it much thought since its creation.

"It was very innocent, and the entire situation was just misconstrued and blown way out of proportion," Kristin said.

After this incident, Kristin and the other members of the group tightened the security on their accounts to prevent administrators and graduate students from seeing information and pictures on their profiles.

"Now it's only my friends that can see it," Kristin said. "After the article I was like, I'm not even taking any more chances, this is happening everywhere."

Freshman Kim Mering said

she was not surprised to read in a March 29 Observer article that both the Office of Residence Life and some rectors maintain Facebook accounts.

"It seems pretty expected actually," Mering said.

Mering said she uses the available security settings to make her phone number, address, and pictures visible only to her friends, making sure people she does not know are not able to view her personal information.

"I'm more worried about the outside people than I am about ResLife," Mering said.

Sophomore Luke Cieslewicz just recently became a Facebook member and was disappointed to discover that the site is more than a way to exchange information with friends.

He said even though students post their pictures and information on a fairly public website, it is a "low blow" that ResLife and rectors use the site to incriminate students.

"On the one hand these people do have to realize these are images that other people are going to see ... but on the other hand I think it is kind of shady dealings to have these administration accounts," Cieslewicz said.

Junior Tim Masterton also called the actions by ResLife "invasive," but says he can understand why they would make use of Facebook. He said he thinks students can avoid the threat of incrimination through Facebook by enabling the security settings.

"I would say it just seems that you can make your profile visible to only your friends so that would kind of eliminate the problem," Masterton said. "A lot of people are concerned about it just being out for the public [to see], but you can control who sees it."


Contact Kaitlynn Riely at kriely@nd.edu

"[Professors] should not make comments to students and they should not make judgments on students based on Facebook."

Angela Rizzo
senior

"The fact that [hall staff is] going through our profiles and looking at all this stuff and kind of going into our personal space ... made me feel attacked, almost."

Kristin
sophomore



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Ray Siegfried Award for Leadership Excellence

Claire S. Heininger
Denny Moore Award for Excellence in Journalism

Deportation flights cost U.S. millions

Immigration department struggles to send back illegal immigrants

Associated Press

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador — U.S. marshals unlock the prisoners' leg shackles, body chains and handcuffs when green jungle and turquoise sea come into close view.

As the U.S. government's MD-83 airliner bumps to the ground at the small San Salvador airport, the 44 men and five women being deported home to El Salvador cheer. One man belts out a few bars of a Tom Petty song: "I'm free-ee...."

For a growing number of migrants picked up in the United States for immigration violations or criminal offenses, this is the way their American experience ends: a free flight home.

As Congress debates how to overhaul the nation's immigration system, the U.S. government is spending about \$56 million to fly illegal immigrants home or to new locations within the U.S.

Last year, the government flew 60,000 people — mostly Central and South Americans — to their home countries for about \$600 per person. An additional 35,000 were moved inside the U.S., mostly to be closer to the Mexican border in preparation for deportation.

Officials want to double the deportations in the next year as the U.S. ends its practice of freeing some illegal immigrants until they can be returned to their native countries.

Less than an hour after arriving in San Salvador, the men and women on this flight were led blinking into the tropical sunshine.

At the back of the line, two young men glanced around with curious expressions. They were teenagers when they left El Salvador. A decade later, their home country is now just a memory. Family members have grown, died or moved to the U.S.

In an interview the day before in a Florence, Ariz., detention center, one of the men, Antonio Medina, 28, summarized their situation. "I don't know what I'll do when I get there," he said through a translator. "When I get to El Salvador I'll decide."

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials

have collaborated since 1998 with the Justice Department, which flies U.S. prisoners throughout the country. But immigration officials are stepping up the number of flights as they come under increasing pressure to ensure all illegal immigrants caught in the U.S. are deported. An estimated 11 million immigrants live in the U.S. illegally.

Hundreds of captured immigrants are released each week and asked to return for a court hearing, a request many ignore.

The government hopes to end that practice on the Southwest border by Oct. 1 and across the rest of the country by next year. To do that, officials have been speeding up the timetable to deport foreigners who arrive without papers.

Scores of non-Mexican immigrants now need to be shuttled out of the country each week. Almost all Mexicans caught without papers in the U.S. are driven to the border by immigration officials and dropped off. Last year, that was almost 1 million people.

The people on this flight were caught because they committed crimes in the U.S.

Medina fought with his girlfriend and was arrested for domestic violence. Another, Jose Cabrera, was arrested six or seven times for auto theft, drug possession and other crimes.

The government doesn't keep statistics on how many of the deported immigrants return to the United States. There's almost no way of knowing unless they are picked up again, but officials guess there are many.

One man on the El Salvador flight told a guard he was on his third trip home this year. He earns \$24 an hour working as a carpenter in the U.S., earning in one hour a little more than 1 percent of the average annual per capita income in El Salvador.

Many immigrants build lives in the U.S. and have reasons to return. Medina, for example, was injured on the job in California. He still has a claim against his employer and needs surgery to repair his knee.

A couple of years ago, he was picked up by immigration

and deported for not having papers. He told officials he was Mexican, so they dropped him off across the border in Tijuana, south of San Diego. Within a year, he had found his way back into the United States.

Asked if he thinks he can come back illegally, Medina said in Spanish, "Es posible." It's possible.

John Torres, acting director of the immigration agency's office of detention and removal, said that for now the best way to deal with the almost 1.2 million people who are caught in the U.S. illegally each year is to send them back as quickly as possible, as most are.

"The more people we arrest and the more people we return to their country serves as a deterrent to others thinking of coming," he said.

The Department of Homeland Security is pushing several countries to take back thousands of their citizens, with department Secretary Michael Chertoff saying Tuesday that a deal with China was near.

But some fear the government is denying migrants their rights in its rush to deal with a backlog of immigrants.

Immigrant advocates say some government screeners are not following regulations, and that some people with legitimate claims for asylum in the U.S. may be deported.

Foreign governments also struggle to absorb hundreds of their own citizens.

In El Salvador, returning migrants are placed in a "Welcome Home" program to help them find family and — if possible — a job.

Police, army involved in Columbia drug ring

Group flew cocaine shipments into U.S.

Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia — Active and retired police and army officers working for one of Colombia's largest cocaine cartels used commercial cargo planes to ship drugs to the United States, authorities said Tuesday in announcing seven arrests.

U.S. officials, who are seeking the extradition of the seven, said the case illustrates the reaches of Colombia's notorious drug rings and the danger posed by corruption among the country's security and transportation workers.

Among those arrested are a retired police major and captain, a former army lieutenant, two police officers and an employee of Colombia's national airline, Avianca. The seventh suspect was described as a liaison between the active and former police officials and the Norte del Valle cartel, one of Colombia's largest drug traffickers. Police said the cartel used Avianca's cargo plans to transport the drugs.

"There is a national security component to this case," said Boyd Johnson, chief of the international narcotics trafficking unit at the U.S. Attorney's Office in Manhattan.

Authorities said the seven would be extradited to New York to stand trial on charges they smuggled more than 900 pounds of cocaine bound for the United States. Police

said they seized 1,200 pounds of cocaine linked to the cartel in a warehouse in northern Bogota on Monday.

The arrests, beginning Monday night, were based on a U.S. indictment in New York that alleges the Norte del Valle cartel recruited the airline worker and police involved with security at El Dorado Airport.

It alleges the ring shipped the cocaine in October through Avianca's cargo facility after an airline employee approved false paperwork. The drugs were allegedly destined for the United States via Mexico.

Two patrolmen let the shipment go through security and guarded it for three days at the airline cargo area, the indictment alleges. The cocaine noted in the indictment was seized in Mexico City by Mexican law enforcement agencies on Oct. 17, it adds.

If convicted, the defendants could face anywhere from 10 years to life in prison, though the United States has assured Colombia that it will not seek life sentences for defendants extradited from there.

Colombia is the world's largest producer of cocaine. In the last four years, nearly 350 Colombians have been extradited to the United States to stand trial on drug trafficking charges.

The Norte del Valle cocaine cartel is considered to be one of the largest mafias operating in Colombia. One of its leaders, Diego Montoya, sits alongside Osama Bin Laden on the FBI's ten-most-wanted list.

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Intelligence officers discuss Iraq's future

Arab countries, Turkey make civil war plans

Associated Press

CAIRO, Egypt — Top intelligence officers from several Arab countries and Turkey have been meeting secretly to coordinate their governments' strategies in case civil war erupts in Iraq and in an attempt to block Iran's interference in the war-torn nation, Arab diplomats said Tuesday.

The meetings came after several Arab leaders voiced concerns about possible Shiite domination of Iraq and their alliance with Iran.

The four diplomats said intelligence chiefs from Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and non-Arab Turkey held a series of meetings over the last few weeks to assess the situation in Iraq and work out plans to avoid any regional backlash that may result from sectarian conflict in Iraq.

The diplomats in several Middle Eastern capitals, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue, said Iran and Syria have been excluded from the talks.

One diplomat whose country is involved in the talks said the officials are focusing on the proposed U.S.-Iranian dialogue on Iraq and the implications on Arabs and Turkey of any "American-Iranian deal."

Government officials in Egypt and Jordan declined to answer questions on the meetings.

Reports in the Arab press have suggested that any agreement between Washington and Tehran will be at the expense of Arabs.

Arab nations, mostly Sunni and traditionally suspicious of Iran, are deeply concerned about what they see as Iran's growing influence in Iraq. Turkey, also a key Sunni Muslim nation, is worried about Iraq's split

into sectarian and ethnic entities that will give rise to Kurdish ambitions for independence.

Last year, Jordan's King Abdullah II accused Shiite-dominated Iran of trying to influence events in Iraq. He warned that Iran was seeking to create "a Shiite crescent" that would disrupt the balance of power in the region.

Saudi Foreign Minister Saud al-Faisal made similar warnings.

Before Iraqis voted on their new constitution last year, both Arab League Secretary-General Amr Moussa and Abdul Rahman al-Attiya, head of the Gulf Cooperation Council, lobbied to include a clear reference about Iraq's "Arab identity" in the document.

Elections held in January produced a parliament dominated by Shiites and Kurds, and a ruling coalition by both groups is bound to have close ties to Persian and Shiite Iran.

Many Arab governments say that sidelining the Sunnis would increase Iran's influence in Iraq and the whole region — anathema for Sunni Arabs and a nightmare for many Washington policy-makers.

At least one meeting of the intelligence chiefs was held in Cairo in late March, shortly after the U.S. administration said it wanted to open contacts with Tehran about Iraq, the diplomats said.

They said further meetings are planned, including at least one in Cairo this month to finalize the strategy.

Since the ousting of Saddam Hussein three years ago, officials from Iraq's neighbors have held scores of meetings on Iraq but the discussions have not yielded concrete efforts to help restoring stability to the beleaguered nation.

Exposed British spy killed

Secret agent served as Sinn Fein legislative chief in Northern Ireland

Associated Press

DUBLIN, Ireland — A former Sinn Fein official recently exposed as a British spy was found fatally shot Tuesday after apparently being tortured, police said — a slaying certain to send shock waves through Northern Ireland's peace process.

Denis Donaldson was Sinn Fein's former legislative chief in the failed power-sharing government of Northern Ireland. He admitted in December he had been on the payroll of the British secret service and the province's anti-terrorist police for two decades. He went into hiding because the traditional Irish Republican Army punishment for informing is death.

But the IRA denied responsibility in a one-line statement. "The IRA had no involvement whatsoever in the death of Denis Donaldson," the outlawed group said.

Irish Justice Minister Michael McDowell said the 55-year-old Donaldson had been tortured before being killed — apparently with one or two shotgun blasts to his head — inside his isolated home near Glenties, County Donegal, in northwest Ireland. He was last seen alive Monday while walking in the village, McDowell said.

"His right forearm is almost severed," McDowell said. "He was shot in the head and mutilation was done to his body. It's a murder we're dealing with."

Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern and British Prime Minister Tony Blair both condemned the murder.

The killing comes at a pivotal moment in Northern Ireland's

13-year-old peace process.

On Thursday, Blair and Ahern are to travel to Northern Ireland to reveal a new blueprint for reviving a Protestant-Catholic administration, the intended cornerstone of the province's 1998 peace accord.

The plan — 3 1/2 years of diplomacy in the making — would call for Northern Ireland's legislature to reconvene in mid-May and face a Nov. 24 deadline to elect an administration.

The killing appeared certain to harden Protestant opinion against cooperating with Sinn Fein, the IRA-linked party that represents most Catholics in Northern Ireland. But officials in both governments said Thursday's announcement would go ahead anyway.

Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams — who in December initially defended Donaldson as an innocent man, then outed him as a British spy — said he did not know who killed him. But he suggested it might have been the work of IRA dissidents opposed to Sinn Fein's peacemaking efforts.

"It is likely that his death at this time is intended to undermine current efforts to make political progress," Adams said. "Those who carried out this murder are clearly opposed to the peace process."

But Ian Paisley, whose Democratic Unionist Party represents most of Northern Ireland's British Protestant majority, said someone within IRA ranks was the most likely culprit. "There is a finger-pointing tonight at IRA-Sinn Fein," he said.

A Catholic-Protestant administration for Northern Ireland fell

apart in October 2002 because of an IRA spying scandal involving Donaldson.

Donaldson and two others were charged with pilfering documents that identified the personal details of thousands of potential IRA targets. Protestants accused the IRA of plotting a potential resumption of its violent campaign to oust Northern Ireland from the United Kingdom.

But British prosecutors mysteriously dropped all charges in early December. A week later, Adams announced that Donaldson had confessed to being a paid British spy. Within hours, Donaldson admitted the same in a television interview.

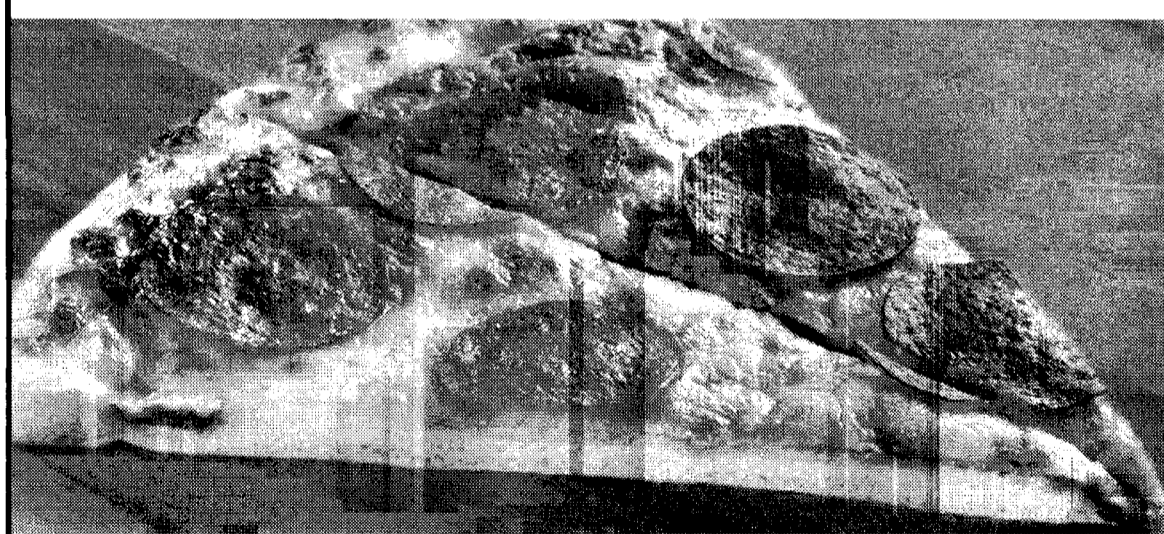
During its 27-year campaign, the IRA's internal security unit tortured scores of IRA members suspected of passing information to British intelligence. Typical IRA methods included drowning the interrogation victim in a bathtub, applying electric shocks, and administering cigarette burns.

Those who admitted informing had their confessions audiotaped before being shot in the head; their bodies were usually dumped — naked and with hands tied behind their backs — on rural roadsides.

The IRA last year declared it was renouncing violence for political purposes and backed the pledge by handing over its weapons stockpiles — moves supposed to spur a revival of power-sharing involving Sinn Fein.

But Paisley has refused to cooperate with Sinn Fein, citing the IRA's refusal to disband and its alleged involvement in criminal activities.

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Senators add money to Iraq bill

Republicans worry \$107 billion figure will increase on Senate floor

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A bill to fund the war in Iraq ballooned by more than \$10 billion Tuesday after a Senate panel added funding for everything from fighting bird flu to repairing oyster beds.

The extras are sure to provoke a reaction from GOP conservatives already complaining about their party's recent record on spending. But the temptation for using the must-pass bill containing \$67.8 billion for the Pentagon's mission in Iraq — and some \$27 billion in additional hurricane relief along the Gulf Coast — as a locomotive to drive even more spending proved too difficult for senators to pass up.

Overall, the bill would cost about \$107 billion.

That's still not enough for Gulf Coast senators like Mary Landrieu, D-La., who marched from the Senate Appropriations Committee vote to the Senate Press Gallery to demand another \$5 billion-plus to reflect new Army Corps of Engineers estimates of what will be needed for Louisiana levees.

Landrieu vows to block Senate confirmation of every Bush administration appointment until President Bush supports the new and higher figure.

Senators piled the extra money into the bill on a series of voice votes — at a pace of almost \$100 million per minute of debate — with high-ranking Republicans such as Majority Whip Mitch McConnell of Kentucky sitting by in silence.

The additional funding includes:

- ◆ \$4 billion for farmers hit by drought, floods and high energy costs. Top supporters were Byron Dorgan, D-N.D., and Conrad Burns, R-Mont.

- ◆ \$2.3 billion to combat the avian flu. It was offered by Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, as championed but not officially requested by the White House.

- ◆ \$1.1 billion for various projects to bring back Gulf Coast fisheries, replace fishing equipment and facilities

and provide aid to workers and fishing companies. The funding, pushed by Sen. Richard Shelby, R-Ala., includes \$100 million to rehabilitate damaged oyster and shrimp beds.

- ◆ \$648 million for port security projects, obtained by top panel Democrat, Sen. Robert Byrd of West Virginia.

- ◆ \$594 million to repair highways damaged by earlier disasters but put off after aid was focused on the Gulf Coast. Obtained by Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., with full backing from Sen. Christopher Bond, R-Mo.

Senate Budget Committee Chairman Judd Gregg, R-N.H., cast the only "nay" vote, in absentia. Even before the \$10 billion in additions, Gregg said the \$96.7 billion version drafted by Appropriations Chairman Thad Cochran, R-Miss., had "ballooned out of control."

But even Gregg is poised with a floor amendment to add more than \$1 billion for border security, though he'd tap other funds in the bill to pay for it.

The White House supports the overall bill, but Budget Office spokesman Scott Milburn said "the Senate committee's funding level is significantly higher than the president's request, and that's a cause for serious concern."

The driving force behind the measure is the need to provide funding for the rising costs of the U.S. missions in Iraq and Afghanistan, and that makes it a tempting target for senators' pet projects.

On Iraq and Afghanistan, \$67.8 billion goes to the Defense Department for operations and logistics, fuel, replacing equipment lost in battle or damaged by harsh conditions, supporting Iraqi forces and classified intelligence activities. More

than \$4 billion in foreign aid is also included, including \$3.1 billion for Iraq.

The Congressional Budget Office has estimated that \$320 billion has been spent on Iraq and Afghanistan since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, including \$50 billion that Congress sent Bush in December.

The Senate measure drops language passed by the House to block DP World, a corporation owned by the government of Dubai, from taking over operations at six U.S. seaports. The company has promised to sell off the its U.S. operations.

For hurricane relief, the underlying bill also boosts

Bush's request for \$4.2 billion in community development block grants by about \$1 billion. Louisiana is expected to receive the bulk of the money, which would generally go toward rebuilding houses and

apartments destroyed or damaged by storm surges and levee breaks.

With hurricane season looming, the bill also contains \$2 billion to repair and rebuild levees and other flood-control projects, which comes on top of \$2 billion approved last year. That's \$600 million than requested by Bush but far short of the \$5.9 billion the Army Corps of Engineers says is needed on top of the Bush request.

Meanwhile, Texas Republican Kay Bailey Hutchison obtained \$350 million to help school districts defray the costs of educating students displaced by the storms. About 38,000 Katrina victims are being taught in Texas schools.

The bill heads to the Senate floor the week of April 24 and GOP officials are worried it will balloon even more there.

"The Senate committee's funding level is significantly higher than the president's request, and that's a cause for serious concern."

Scott Milburn
White House Budget
Office spokesman

Brother of 'milkshake murder' victim killed

Associated Press

GREENWICH, Conn. — The brother of an investment banker poisoned in Hong Kong in what became known as the "milkshake murder" was found stabbed to death in his home, police said.

When movers found the body of 46-year-old Andrew M. Kissel on Monday, his hands and feet were bound, a manager for JB Moving Services in Stamford said. There were no signs of forced entry or burglary, Police Chief James Walters said.

"This was not a random act," he said. "We do believe that Mr. Kissel was the intended target of this assault."

He was last seen alive Sunday afternoon by an acquaintance, police said.

Greenwich police were interviewing friends and family members, including Kissel's wife, Hayley, police said. No immediate arrests were made.

Walters would not comment on a motive, whether a weapon was recovered or whether there were suspects. Police began searching the home for evidence and drained the swimming pool.

At the time of his death, Kissel was facing federal and state criminal charges in New York. The federal case charged him with real estate fraud, and state prosecutors charged him with grand larceny, alleging he stole nearly \$4 million from his Manhattan apartment cooperative.

"We're certainly aware of the criminal and civil problems he was facing, and they will play a role in the investigation," Walters said.

Kissel's attorney Philip

Russell said Kissel had planned to plead guilty Thursday in connection with the federal case in New York.

"Andrew did bad things," his father, William, told The Associated Press Tuesday. "He took money from a lot of people. He was killed in an extremely vengeful, angry way."

William Kissel said his son was killed in the basement of the house.

"Someone got in there in a very narrow timeline," William Kissel said. "Someone had to know something."

Andrew Kissel's brother, Robert, was killed in 2003 after his wife, Nancy, fed him a drug-laced milkshake and beat him to death with a statuette. She was convicted of murder and is serving a life sentence.

Andrew Kissel and his recently estranged wife temporarily cared for his brother's three children before the youngsters were formally handed over to the custody of the Kissels' sister.

In divorce papers, Hayley Kissel said her husband had sought treatment for a drinking problem and had committed fraud against her, including forging powers of attorney to transfer property she owned in Vermont and converting assets for his own use in violation of court orders. The couple have two children.

Joseph Martini, her attorney, had little comment.

"Right now, she is focused on her children and trying to get them through what is obviously a tragic ordeal for them and trying to get herself through it," Martini said.

Kissel also was being sued by a former business partner.

Official arrested for online actions

Homeland Security press secretary charged with seducing minor

Associated Press

MIAMI — The deputy press secretary for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security was arrested Tuesday for using the Internet to seduce what he thought was a teenage girl, authorities said.

Brian J. Doyle, 55, was arrested at his residence in Maryland on charges of use of a computer to seduce a child and transmission of harmful material to a minor. The charges were issued out of Polk County, Fla.

Doyle, of Silver Spring, Md., had a sexually explicit conversation with what he believed was a 14-year-old girl whose profile he saw on the Internet on March 14, the Polk County Sheriff's Office said in a statement.

The girl was an undercover Polk County Sheriff's Computer

Crimes detective, the sheriff's office said.

Doyle sent the girl pornographic movie clips and had sexually explicit conversations via the Internet, the statement said.

During other online conversations, Doyle revealed his name, that he worked for the Homeland Security Department and offered his office and government issued cell phone numbers, the sheriff's office said.

Doyle also sent photos of himself to the girl, but authorities said they were not sexually explicit.

On several occasions, Doyle instructed her to perform a sexual act while thinking of him and described explicit activities he wanted to have with her, investigators said.

Doyle later had a telephone conversation with an undercover

deputy posing as the teenager and encouraged her to purchase a web camera to send graphic images of herself to him, the sheriff's office said.

He was booked into Maryland's Montgomery County jail where he was waiting to be extradited to Florida, the sheriff's office said.

There was no immediate response to messages left on Doyle's government-issued cell phone and his e-mail, and he could not be reached by phone at the jail for comment.

Homeland Security press secretary Russ Knocke in Washington said he could not comment on the details of the investigation. "We take these allegations very seriously, and we will cooperate fully with the ongoing investigation," Knocke said.

NCAA head criticizes men's lacrosse party

Associated Press

BOSTON — NCAA president Myles Brand said behavior at a Duke men's lacrosse party last month was inappropriate, regardless of whether the alleged assault of an exotic dancer results in criminal charges.

The dancer, a student at a nearby university, told police she was raped at the party by three men who restrained and choked her as she struggled to free herself from a bathroom. Investigators have collected DNA evidence from team members but no charges have been filed. A spokeswoman for North Carolina's attorney general's office said Tuesday the state's crime lab is still analyzing those samples.

Brand said no assumptions about guilt or innocence should be made before the case runs its course.

"Nonetheless, the situation that arose was inappropriate at best," he said in Boston, where he is attending the NCAA women's basketball championship game. "It is inappropriate that we should have any group of young men, let alone those who play on our athletic teams, inviting a stripper, underage alcohol and that kind of environment."

Brand's comments were in response to a question during a

news conference at which he discussed women's basketball before Duke played Maryland in the national championship game.

He said the Duke women's team should not be drawn into the discussion over what happened at the lacrosse party.

"I think the Duke basketball team is a terrific team," Brand said. "I don't think that's in the least bit overshadowed or taken anything away from the women. In fact, I think by pushing the women to answer something that they have no role to play, that strikes me as misleading to readers. I know some journalists have done that."

Brand also said he thought Duke president Richard Brodhead was correct in suspending the lacrosse team's season until the university learns more about what happened at the party. The lacrosse team's co-captains have denied that anyone was sexually assaulted or raped at the party.

"I'm pleased to see they're taking strong steps until they get to the bottom of it," Brand said of Duke's administration.

Several campus demonstrations have criticized Duke for not doing enough, but Brand called Brodhead's decision "evidence that the administration and faculty are treating it very seriously and not ignoring it."

Musicians displaced by hurricane 'sing back' to city

Associated Press

AUSTIN — The music of New Orleans is huddled in an old Austin recording studio.

Some of the Crescent City's musical legends have returned to this Texas city where — just six weeks after Hurricane Katrina — they cut a therapeutic album dedicated to their ravaged hometown.

At that post-Katrina recording session, names synonymous with New Orleans — Neville, Porter, Nocentelli, Rebennack — gathered to channel their raw emotions into the bittersweet tribute, "Sing Me Back Home."

On a recent evening, a few weeks before the release of their album, they reconvened.

"The music lives on in those players, no matter where they are," says George Porter Jr., the bassist and band leader of the New Orleans Social Club, the name the collective has adopted.

The great talents of the New Orleans music scene had been accustomed to living minutes away from each other in the Ninth Ward, but Katrina scattered them across Texas, Colorado and elsewhere.

"I think I live in South Austin," says Cyril Neville, still trying to get his bearings on his new home. On the album, released this week, he passionately sings Curtis Mayfield's "This Is My Country."

In the weeks after Katrina, producer Leo Sacks assembled the New Orleans Social Club — a five-piece band led by Porter, best known as one of the founding members of the Meters. Fellow Meter Leo Nocentelli joined on guitar, as well as Ivan Neville on organ, Henry Butler on piano and

Raymond Weber on drums.

Many guests were brought in. Dr. John (whose real name is Mac Rebennack) plays "Walking to New Orleans"; John Boutte covers Annie Lennox's "Why"; and Big Chief Monk Boudreaux sings the specially composed "Chase."

"I knew as soon as you got New Orleans cats together you were going to have the spirit and sound of the city," says Sacks. "We could address all the emotions of the moment."

As much of the album proves, those emotions were running high. Between songs, many were busy tracking the damage to their homes, looking at old photos or speaking to family members dispersed by the storm.

"It helped me to be with these guys and be busy, take my mind off of it," says Weber, who has migrated to Austin with his family. "It was like being back home."

Since portions of the proceeds from "Sing Me Back Home" will benefit the Salvation Army, the New Orleans Musicians Clinic and Music Cares, Weber says he's in the funny position of raising money for his own cause — to rebuild his home.

"I'm part of the project as well, because we did it for Katrina victims who want to come on back home," he says, laughing heartily. "I want to go back home!"

Ivan Neville is the son of New Orleans icon Aaron Neville, whose house was ruined in the floodwaters of Katrina. Like countless New Orleans residents, Ivan feels the government has let down his city and his people, and expresses that by covering Creedence Clearwater's "Fortunate Son."

"A song like 'Fortunate Son'



Members of the New Orleans Social Club, including George Porter Jr., Dr. John and Ivan Neville and his uncle Cyril Neville rehearse outside the flood-damaged city after the storm.

was pertinent when it was out during the Vietnam War," says Neville, who is currently living in Austin. "And the fact that that's still relevant now is ridiculous."

Like "Fortunate Son" (which Rolling Stone called "outraged funk"), much of "Sing Me Back Home" is imbued with political protest.

"Too many have died protecting my pride, for me to go second class," Cyril Neville (brother to Aaron and Art) sings on "This Is My Country."

Much of the album, though, is full of toe-tapping optimism. The Mighty Chariots of Fire perform "99 1/2 Won't Do" and Irma Thomas and Marcia Ball sing "Look Up."

"Music always takes the place of anything that's negative," says Nocentelli, who lost an office space to the hurricane, and whose mother and sister lost everything. "Even though the negativity was there, the music overcomes that."

"The music heals," echoes Cyril Neville.

Everyone in the band is concerned that the culture of New Orleans will never come back, even if the city does. Over 250,000 residents — more than half of the pre-hurricane population, many of them black — remain scattered all over the country.

"It's never going to be the same because a lot of the poorest people who had to leave are not going to be able to make it back," says Ivan Neville. "To me, that's a major part of the heart and soul of the city: the people."

Brooks releases DVD collection

Director discusses the eight comedies included in his \$100 box set

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Mel Brooks would love to see a run on the new DVD collection of eight of his gleefully manic movie comedies, including "Blazing Saddles," "Young Frankenstein" and "High Anxiety."

"I think people should buy 20 of them. Buy 20 and save a lot of them for Christmas presents. Who knows how many of these they make? They might be gone," Brooks said, and not entirely in jest.

It's not that Brooks, 79, who turned his 1968 film "The Producers" into a Broadway money machine, could be financially strapped. Profit isn't the issue, he said.

"I want these movies to be seen. Nobody has seen 'The Twelve Chairs' or 'Silent Movie,'" he said, naming two of the hard-to-find titles in the boxed set out this week.

Brooks is especially fond of 1970's "The Twelve Chairs," based on an early 1900s novel by two writers in the new Soviet Union who "were like me — they were crazy. They were tongue-in-cheek comedy writers," he said.

He recognized back then that the film, made in Yugoslavia for less than \$1 million, was "a great indulgence, because I didn't think anybody would go for it." Time has proved him wrong.

"Through the years, I keep getting letters: 'My favorite

movie of all the movies you've done is 'The Twelve Chairs.' Not only is it funny but it's moving, it has heart," Brooks said, reciting a typical mash note.

"You never know. You never know," he mused.

He is certain about what helped shape his approach to comedy. As a newcomer he shared writing duties on Sid Caesar's classic '50s sketch series, "Your Show of Shows," with other humorists destined for fame, among them Neil Simon, Larry Gelbart and Carl Reiner.

They were heavily influenced by the show's producer, Max Liebman, Brooks recalled.

"It was like Liebman University. He taught us the best humor comes out of the human condition, out of the weakness of people, their greed, their broken promises," he said.

"We didn't write jokes. We wrote little stories with characters, which prepares you to write screenplays. Our sketches were mini-movies. They weren't situation comedy, where they ride on a very thin premise, like an angry neighbor, for 30 minutes."

If there's a theme that connects his movies, he said, "it's greed or love, love or greed. ... Do you want to be good or want to be rich? You can't be both."

The jacket of the DVD set is decorated not with critical praise but with snippets of his movie dialogue.

There's "What a dramatic air-

port" from "High Anxiety"; "I hate people I don't like" from "The Twelve Chairs" and "How romantic" from "Blazing Saddles," which Brooks aficionados will know to pronounce with an overheated Marlene Dietrich accent.

Other films in the collection (Fox Home Entertainment, \$99.98) are "Robin Hood: Men in Tights," "To Be or Not to Be" and "History of the World Part I."

Reviewers rarely had kind words for his parodies of film genres including Hitchcock thrillers, Westerns and disaster dramas. "The Producers," for instance, about two sadsacks trying to swindle investors by staging a musical with Hitler as the hero, was panned by one critic as "an almost flawless triumph of bad taste, unredeemed by wit or style."

(The Zero Mostel-Gene Wilder film is excluded from the DVD set because it's to be released along with last year's musical version, based on the stage play and starring Nathan Lane and Matthew Broderick, Brooks said.)

If critics didn't appreciate Brooks and his singular, sometimes sophomoric work, his target audience did.

"When we did 'Young Frankenstein,' we knew we could get the college crowd. They loved the Mary Shelley novel," Brooks said. "If you didn't get the references, you couldn't enjoy my movies."

Couric may leave NBC for nightly news show

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Katie Couric may mark her 15th anniversary as "Today" show anchor this week by making the decision to leave.

She's talking with CBS about taking over as "CBS Evening News" anchor, according to a non-network person close to the negotiations, and neither CBS nor NBC is disputing reports that she could announce a deal as early as this week.

There are still some issues left to be resolved before a deal is reached, said the person who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Couric's contract with NBC ends in May, and she reportedly needed the network's permission to begin negotiations with another network before next month. NBC's decision to grant it could be an indication that the network expects her to leave, or at least that it wants a decision before outlining its fall programming plans to advertisers next month.

Couric's first day as "Today" anchor was April 5, 1991, and the morning show plans to mark that anniversary on the air Wednesday. Her tenure, with



Couric

Couric paired the last nine years with Matt Lauer, have brought the morning show unparalleled ratings and financial success.

Representatives for NBC, CBS and Couric would not comment Tuesday on the discussions.

Meanwhile, Meredith Vieira of "The View" has emerged as the leading candidate to succeed Couric at "Today" if she leaves, according to people familiar with NBC's thinking. Vieira, a former CBS News reporter who won a Daytime Emmy as host of "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire," has previously turned down offers to return to news since joining "The View."

"Today" weekend host Campbell Brown is also a candidate, along with NBC reporter Natalie Morales and "Today" newsreader Ann Curry.

Couric, 49, would be the first woman to be named as a sole host of a network evening newscast — even though Elizabeth Vargas frequently has done that job alone at ABC's "World News Tonight."

That designation — and the desire to try a new challenge after 15 years of early wake-up calls — is said to be a powerful motivation for Couric. NBC's offer to keep her is reportedly several million dollars more than CBS's offer, but it doesn't include the anchor slot at NBC's "Nightly News," said the person close to the talks.

She likely would begin at "CBS Evening News" in September.

THE OBSERVER

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P.O. Box 779, Notre Dame, IN 46556
024 South Dining Hall, Notre Dame, IN 46556

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Mike Gilloon

MANAGING EDITOR: Maddie Hanna
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WEB ADMINISTRATOR: Damian Althoff

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OFFICE MANAGER & GENERAL INFO

(574) 631-7471

FAX

(574) 631-6927

ADVERTISING

(574) 631-6900 observed@nd.edu

EDITOR IN CHIEF

(574) 631-4542

MANAGING EDITOR

(574) 631-4541 obsme@nd.edu

ASSISTANT MANAGING EDITOR

(574) 631-4324

BUSINESS OFFICE

(574) 631-5313

NEWS DESK

(574) 631-5323 obsnews.1@nd.edu

VIEWPOINT DESK

(574) 631-5303 viewpoint.1@nd.edu

SPORTS DESK

(574) 631-4543 sports.1@nd.edu

SCENE DESK

(574) 631-4540 scene.1@nd.edu

SAINT MARY'S DESK

smc.1@nd.edu

PHOTO DESK

(574) 631-8767 obsphoto@nd.edu

SYSTEMS & WEB ADMINISTRATORS

(574) 631-8839

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OBSERVER ONLINE
www.ndsmcobserver.com

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

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A marriage question

It has been observed by some well-known political columnists and bloggers that members of the neo-conservative right, which is famously fond of denouncing traditional marriage and civil rights for gay and lesbian couples and families, rarely, if ever, say what rights and social structures they favor for them to provide the support given by these proven institutions. Yet the fact of the matter is, according to the Urban Institute, there are at least 250,000 same-sex families raising children across the nation. Some of these children are the product of legal adoption in those states that permit it, like California and Massachusetts. Others are born through artificial insemination (possibly carried by a willing surrogate mother) or are "Brokeback Mountain" cases where a gay parent retains child-custody after legal separation.

It is odd, and more than a little distressing, that the defenders of "family values" and the coiners of the phrase "no child left behind" have remained entirely closemouthed about their policy toward this growing segment of the population. It is almost as if they wish that these families, and these children, would vanish without a trace. Yet any social historian can tell you that legal marriage has always been primarily about the legitimization of children and provisions for their protection. Therefore, arguably any national institution that willfully ignores the need to legally and socially protect a nontrivial cross-section of its children has no real claim to the name "marriage" at all.

Looking at marriage through the lens



Lance Gallop

Tidewater Blues

of its larger pragmatic goals, and setting aside any questions of its underlying meaning (although I argue that its meanings and its goals are aspects of the same thing), one begins to wonder, given its track record, if the institution of marriage is even suitable for the modern world.

After the 18th century the entire concept of marriage was stood completely on its head, as a major segment of the population began to believe (against all tradition, mind you) that people should marry for the sake of love. This was the first great sexual revolution, and the mother of every lesser moral revolution that has come since, from Dr. Ruth to Dr. Phil. Frankly, the theology of marriage, and indeed of human sexuality, has also not yet caught up with this reality. The strain shows in the disconnect between what Christian religions teach and what people, by their own common-sense morality, hold to be true. (Start up a discussion of condoms at lunch and see what I mean.)

Can we even honestly claim that marriage is doing its job anymore, and are we even certain what the job of marriage should be? Both are valid questions. Besides the aforementioned problem of providing legal protection to the children of gay couples, half of all marriages in the United States end in divorce, millions of children are born to single mothers and millions more are terminated before birth by those who feel unable, emotionally or financially, to support them. Meanwhile, the failure of many couples to understand the basic mechanics of stable relationships has given rise to a booming relationship self-help industry.

Something is clearly missing from our implementation of marriage, and as the empirical evidence shows, the institution of marriage is becoming less and less able to fulfill its given role. With this most excellent track record, is it any wonder that more and more couples are choosing to forgo marriage altogether? Perhaps

they have taken the smarter road.

The situation is laughably depressing, and it is hard to construe otherwise. What's more, the conservatives are very much aware that the institution of marriage is not healthy in this country, and that it is neither fulfilling its larger social purpose nor meeting the needs of those who seek it out. Indeed, they are always quick to enumerate the goals and benefits of marriage — protection of children, the long-term economic stability of society, the physical and emotional health of couples and the physical and emotional health of children.

Yet the neo-conservatives have already committed themselves to the form of a solution to this problem — marriage, exactly as it is today, with no compromises, no adjustments and no questions asked. The argument has become the social science equivalent of creationism, where one side is pre-committed to an untouchable ideal handed down from on high. Even when the institution has become self-contradictory, as with its inability to protect the children of gay couples, they remain unwavering. Unchangeable sanctity, they say, even if the institution is totally broken.

Meanwhile everyone else is controlling their bladder and trying not to giggle while the old priest from "The Princess Bride" mutters on about "Marwahge."

What we have lost sight of is the reality that what ultimately suffers from all of this neo-conservative rhetoric is marriage itself, along with its loftier goals and all those who have come to depend upon it.

Lance Gallop is a 2005 graduate of the University of Notre Dame. He can be contacted at comments@tidewaterblues.com, or, if he is standing close by, semaphore works just as well.

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

EDITORIAL CARTOON



NEWS ITEM: OBESE INFANTS CAN'T FIT IN CHILD SAFETY SEATS

OBSERVER POLL

What do you think of the academic advising system?

Vote by Thursday at 5 p.m.
at www.ndsmcobserver.com

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

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"There is nothing like returning to a place that remains unchanged to find the ways in which you yourself have altered."

Nelson Mandela
civil rights leader

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

History validates University's nickname

As a member who comes from Irish ancestry, I feel compelled to stand up to those who are claiming that the nickname Fighting Irish is offensive — I do not find it offensive one bit. The Notre Dame Athletic Website has written the history of the Fighting Irish nickname. The Web site states that although there are many stories of how the nickname came about, most seem to center around the Notre Dame football team in the early 20th century and how the team was comprised mostly of Irish Catholics. The nickname was drawn from opposing fans who referred to the Notre Dame football team as the Fighting Irish. Before that, the team was known as the terriers, with an Irish terrier named Clashmore Mike as the mascot. Then University president Rev. Matthew Walsh, an Irish-Catholic priest, officially adopted "Fighting Irish" as the Notre Dame nickname in 1927 mainly because the sports team that Notre Dame was known for, its football team, had earned a reputation as Irish-Catholic college students who could play football very well.

If either of the previous two writers had bothered to do any research in regards to the "Fighting Irish" nickname, they would have found that it had nothing to do with the University seeking out to bad-mouth or harm Ireland or Irish People or any conspiracy on the part of the United States to profit from supposed symbols of the country of Ireland. The nickname came from how hard our football

teams played, not out of any "violent" Irish history. If Sinéad Howley wants to believe that the University chose the nickname out of spite to Irish history, then I ask the question: If you find it so "offensive," then why are you here? There are hundreds of students worldwide who see the nickname Fighting Irish for what it actually is — tradition. If Sinéad Howley has a problem with leprechauns, then why does the University allow us to play schools like Canisius, who also sports a mascot that is a mythological creature? The next thing I am hoping for is for guys with beards to start writing into The Observer complaining that the leprechaun unfairly represents their beards.

Finally I had a problem with Howley stating that the United States is essentially using the country of Ireland and that the United States has great control over the tourism industry and economy of Ireland. Ms. Howley, did you know that Ireland has been reported to have the second highest per capita income of any country in the European Union next to Luxembourg, the fourth highest in the world? Did you also know that during the Celtic Tiger period of economic success in Ireland that Ireland's historic trend of emigration was stopped and Ireland even started to become a destination for many immigrants? Did you also know that many worldwide countries began to build their businesses in Ireland because of its economic success? Finally, did you know that unemployment in Ireland fell from 18

percent in the late 1980s to 4.9 percent by the end of the Celtic Tiger period? If Ireland is so dependent on American money, then how do you account for the increase in jobs, the economy and the livelihood of the Republic of Ireland? Ireland's economy is one of the best in Europe, I hardly doubt that one of the best economies in Europe is solely dependent on American money.

This argument, while intellectually stimulating and interesting enough to stir up conversation, is pointless if the people complaining about it do not fully understand the meaning. Fighting Irish is tradition, it is who Notre Dame is. Nobody before the 1900s ever heard of Notre Dame but our football opponents put us on the map by referring to us as a bunch of "Fighting Irish." It has nothing to do with Ireland's nation as a whole nor does it have to do with Irish history. It has to do with the fact that the football team was primarily composed of Irish-Catholics from the Chicago area. If you find it offensive, then that is fine, you have that right, but do not argue that it is offensive without understanding its meaning. I do not find it offensive, I understand that it is tradition, and I urge all students of Notre Dame to say loudly and proudly with me, "Go Irish!"

Patrick Rigney
junior
Siegfried Hall
March 27

Broken clock shames quad

In Monday's edition of Jockular there was a panel making fun of the fact that the O'Shaughnessy clock is constantly broken. When I was an undergraduate student here there was a comic called 4th and Inches which I recall on a least one occasion also made fun of the fact that the O'Shag clock was perpetually broken. This was some four years ago. So what is my point? It has been four years and they still haven't fixed the O'Shag clock. This is an embarrassment to the university. We spend thousands upon thousands of dollars every year to make everything on this campus look immaculate, and yet we have a massive broken clock which is visible from the whole of South Quad.

What must visitors to our university think of us when they see this clock? So what exactly is the problem with this clock? Have all the clock engineers transferred to the business school? Is this clock possessed by a demon? In any case, if it is beyond repair for some reason, why don't they just remove it from the building, seeing as in its broken state it is nothing more than a massive eyesore (and don't tell me even a broken clock is right twice a day!). Or, if it is not beyond repair, please fix it!

Terence Stomp
alumnus
Class of 2001
April 3

Saint Mary's is losing proven winner

As a former member of the Saint Mary's varsity basketball team, I am deeply disappointed in the Saint Mary's athletic department for not renewing coach Steve Bender's contract. In only his first year at Saint Mary's, Coach Bender and his assistant coaches accomplished Saint Mary's' best record in the MIAA. He brought increased recognition and respect to Saint Mary's in the conference when he was named MIAA Coach of the Year.

The MIAA is one of the oldest and most competitive Division III conferences in the U.S. The MIAA consistently sends two to three women's basketball teams to the post-season NCAA tournament. This year, Hope College, a member of the MIAA, won the NCAA Division III National Championship. Not only was Coach Bender able to overcome the challenges of being a first year coach, but he was able to do so in the nationally competitive conference that is the MIAA.

Saint Mary's will be losing Coach Bender and his assistant coaches, particularly coach

Jill Bodensteiner. Having personally been coached by her, I can attest to her loyalty to Saint Mary's, her team and her players.

Players have expressed their disbelief and surprise openly at Coach Bender's dismissal. While briefly speaking with current players, they reported that they are committed to taking an active role to reinstate coach Bender.

In recent years, the Saint Mary's Athletic Department has experienced increased success due to the quality of its coaches and support from the Saint Mary's community. I have no reason to believe Coach Bender acted in any way that would cause Saint Mary's to ask him not to return. By not renewing his contract to Coach Bender, the Saint Mary's Athletic Department is jeopardizing the future success of the Saint Mary's basketball team.

Julie Malone
junior
Holy Cross Hall
March 27

U-WIRE

Why you should care about Darfur

Since 2003, the Sudanese government has been waging a campaign of genocide against targeted African communities in Darfur. Brutal murders and rapes continue as government-backed militias attack refugee camps. Disease and malnourishment are rampant in the camps. More than two million people have been displaced, and 400,000 people have died.

The United States acknowledged that genocide is taking place in Darfur in Sept. 2004 but has yet to take the action necessary to stop the violence. The African Union is failing to keep the peace with its limited number of poorly trained and poorly armed troops. The United Nations continues to talk about supporting AU troops with its own forces without taking action. Meanwhile, 500 people continue to die every day.

I want to share why I think it is important to take action on this genocide and on all injustices and hatred in the world.

We need people to fight injustice because it is those people who have been changing the world for the better throughout history. There's always an alarmist notion that society is going downhill, but the opposite is true. Think of how far our own country has come since our own genocide and the enslavement of our brothers and sisters. Our progress is the direct result of the hard work of millions of dedicated people who refused to give up.

We need people who triumph over hatred with love. We need individuals with a passion within them that drives them to keep fighting, even though the world may never see a day when hatred doesn't exist. It drives them to keep going when they fail over and over again, when change seems impossible, when the world calls for their crucifixion.

We can all be one of these people. It requires a conscious decision to strive to love others and ourselves. It requires a commitment to continue fighting hatred with love any way that we can until our death. It takes practice, patience, persistence and sacrifice. There will always be the temptation to give up. It is never easy, but it is always worth it.

April 6 will mark the 12th anniversary of the Rwandan genocide. More than 900,000 people were slaughtered as most of the world looked on and did nothing. The world needed people to step up — but few did.

Genocide is happening again, but you can step up.

This column originally appeared in the April 4 edition of the Daily Michigan, the daily publication at the University of Michigan.

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

The
Family

Final Season of 'The Sopranos' E

STORIES BY RAM

MARRIED TO THE MOB: MAFIOSOS IN THE MEDIA

When "The Sopranos" debuted on Jan. 10, 1999, Tony Soprano — the show's ursine, amoral center — did more than just get himself a gun. He became the stone cold veneer of HBO's cable empire, helping the company whack its competition en route to instant cult-hit status, blockbuster ratings and 17 Emmys over the next five years.

Along the way, Tony and his crew joined a long lineage of notable Mafia families, gangsters who've been immortalized in pop culture lore. Names like Capone, Gotti and Corleone — some fictional, others not — have become inseparable from the public's fascination with the dangerous, but enticing, world of organized crime.

Hollywood is no different. Mob stories have been popular destinations for Hollywood's caviar dreams since the 1940s, when the crime noir genre of black and white films rose in popularity following World War II. Over the next few decades, Western outlaws outfitted with cowboy hats and six-shooters were slowly replaced by Tommy guns and trench coats in audience imaginations. The new folk anti-heroes had arrived — members of "La Cosa Nostra."

Arguably the most influential depiction of the Mafia in popular culture is director Francis Ford Coppola's "The Godfather" trilogy, based on works by author Mario Puzo. Populated by colorful characters, Coppola's filmic glimpse at the Corleone crime family — about as close to privileged Mafia royalty as they come — has withstood the test of time and continues to be one of the most revered American films ever made.

While Coppola's crime opus is essentially the story of Michael Corleone — the promising college graduate and World War II veteran who is initially sheltered from the family business — the most complex and beloved character is his father, Vito. With his strong moral code and an unwavering devotion to his clan, the Corleone family patriarch shone in every second of his considerable screen time. As regal as he was resourceful, Vito did more than just command fear and respect from his New York crime kingdom. He laid the tracks for Tony Soprano as a devoted family man and a

charismatic friend, inspiring loyalty from both his families — domestic and criminal.

Played by two different screen giants — Marlon Brando and Robert De Niro — Vito was the heart and soul of the first two installments of the trilogy. The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences apparently agreed, awarding both Brando and De Niro respective acting Oscars for their efforts — the only time two actors have won separate Oscars for playing the same character.

"The Sopranos" is replete with loving references to Coppola's classics. Aside from spouting classic lines from the trilogy several times a season, Tony and his crew have entered into passionate discourses about each film's merits. During one such occasion, Tony reveals that he prefers "Part II," pointing to the segment where Vito goes back to Don Cheech's villa in Sicily as his favorite scene from the trilogy.

In that same episode, Tony's crew gathers around a TV set to test out an advance bootlegged copy of "The Godfather" on DVD. Alas, the DVD shorts out and produces a "no disc" error. This prompts crewmember Paulie Gualtieri to quip, "Somebody should tell Paramount Pictures to get their [stuff] together. We're gonna be stealing thousands more of these things" — a clever tongue-in-cheek reference to the crew's honest day jobs.

If "The Godfather" glamorized Don Corleone's white collar operation, director Martin Scorsese took his view of crime directly to street level in "Goodfellas." Released in 1990, the film follows the exploits of Jimmy Conway (De Niro, proving himself once more to be the yardstick by which all other fictional gangsters are measured), Henry Hill (Ray Liotta) and Tommy DeVito (Joe Pesci), a triumvirate of New York mobsters who rise from low level hoods to genuine mafiosos in the '60s and '70s. For the first time, a film showed how working class mobsters operated, including a peek into the drug trafficking and money heists that launched their fortunes.

While the stately Corleones are the mob family Tony and his soldiers aspire

to be, the felons in "Goodfellas" are their most direct ancestors. In fact, "The Sopranos" and "Goodfellas" share more than a few commonalities. Besides the common blue-collar crime roots of both dramas, "Sopranos" lifers Christopher Moltisanti and Dr. Jennifer Melfi are played by former "Goodfellas" cast members Michael Imperioli and Lorraine Bracco, respectively — a coincidence that the HBO drama exploits with comical repercussions.

Midway through Scorsese's film, Imperioli — who plays an ill fated bartender named Spider — gets a bullet in the foot from an irked Pesci for being slow with the drinks. Almost a decade later, Imperioli repays the favor in a first season episode of "The Sopranos," shooting a bakery clerk in the foot due to a perceived slight — a clear-cut homage to Scorsese's Mafia classic. That style of dark humor — prevalent in many of Scorsese's films, but especially in "Goodfellas" — is echoed in many "Sopranos" episodes.

Mob stories are never in short supply in Hollywood, and every decade boasts a Mafia gem of its own.

While films like "The Godfather" romanticized the seedy, yet tight knit, underbelly of crime, others — 1983's "Scarface," 1987's "The Untouchables" and 2002's "Road to Perdition" come to mind — have painted this same world in blood-red hues that belie the respectful kisses and affectionate epithets of gangster solidarity.

Into this lineage steps "The Sopranos." At once alluring, provocative and disturbing, the series represents an evolution of the genre as much as a vivid new interpretation. When Tony says to his nephew, "Once you're into this family, there's no getting out," he voices his binding avowal to the Mafia's past and present.

Fortunately for Vito, Michael, Henry and the rest of their cadre, the future of La Cosa Nostra in the media is assured — it lies in Tony's burly hands, tapering down to the gun barrel nestled between his fingers.

See Also
"A New Addition
to the Family"

page 18

Tony Soprano

Played By James Gandolfini

Carmela Soprano

Played By Edie Falco

Meadow Soprano

Played By Jamie-Lynn Sigler

Anthony Soprano

Played By Robert Iler

Janice Soprano

Played By Aida Turturro

Corrado "Junior" Soprano

Played By Dominic Chianese



Photo courtesy of hbo.com

Carmela (Edie Falco), the willful matriarch of the Soprano clan, struggles to reconcile her husband's infidelities with his role as a loving father.



Dr. Jennifer Melfi (Lorraine Bracco), doctor of mob boss Tony Soprano's (James Gandolfini).

es Out with a Bang

GRAPHICS BY
JEFF ALBERT AND GRAHAM IBETSCH

The
Business

A GOTTUMUKKALA

SEASON SIX PREVIEW

The last time audiences saw Tony Soprano, he was fleeing from FBI agents on foot through an icy patch of New Jersey woodlands. Not exactly the most dignified image of one of the most feared mafiosos in the imaginative world of "The Sopranos." "Be of good cheer," advises Neil Mink, Tony's lawyer, for the hulking mobster had skirted his way past more than just jail time — fortuitously, he hadn't even been named in an indictment sting that landed one of Tony's colleagues in prison.

For once, a "Sopranos" season finale ended with a whimper than a bang, as Tony gingerly trod home through the snow. Fifteen months later, the highly anticipated sixth — and final — season of the HBO drama is here, and the excruciating wait is over. As if culminating the legend of Tony Soprano — one of the most charismatic, dangerous and formidable mob bosses to ever extort and formidably — isn't enough pressure, this season is being heralded with the same fanfare that has preceded every season of the show since its pilot.

A critical darling from day one, "The Sopranos" finally received all due respect from the 2004 Emmy Awards, garnering four awards including the Outstanding Drama Series prize that had eluded it for years. While series tentpoles James Gandolfini and Edie Falco had both won multiple Best Acting Emmys for their portrayal of the Mafia monarchs of New Jersey, this was the first year that "The Sopranos" reversed the trend of falling short of "The West Wing" in the race for the Outstanding Drama honor — and its accompanying industry respect.

Moreover, 2004's Emmys reaffirmed the status of the show as an ensemble effort, one that perceives the life of crime through more than a single pair of heavyset eyes. Michael Imperioli and Drea Matteo both picked up awards for Best Supporting Actor and Best Supporting Actress, respectively, for their deeply affecting turns as ill-fated lovers Christopher Moltisanti and Adriana La Cerva.

Very rarely can a television series dictate its own terms with as little network

interference or compromise as "Sopranos" series creator David Chase and his crew have managed with this show. Tony and his crew have become larger-than-life pop culture icons, as closely linked to television in the past decade as "The Godfather" was to Hollywood in the 1970s.

With the sun shining down on the crown jewel of HBO original programming, it's a sure bet that this season will push the boundaries past anything that's come before. If the cast and crew manage to pull this off, it will be a narrative coup for the ages — as singularly identifiable as the blood-soaked conclusions to "The Godfather" and "Scarface."

At least that's where Tony's dark path is heading, based on the events of the last season. Season five of "The Sopranos" was a milestone for the series. In an era when shows average only a season or two before being swept under the rug, "The Sopranos" looked itself in the mirror and refused to yield to a creative mid-life crisis — a period marked by characters hardening and losing their appeal, and stories running dry while meandering over beaten paths. Instead, the show's creators slipped another magazine into their Glock 23 and came out firing.

On top of the routine headaches from quelling internal power struggles in "the business" — and holding egomaniacs in check — Tony (Gandolfini) was trucking it alone at the start of the season. Separated from his wife Carmela (Edie Falco) — sick of his infidelities — Tony watched from the sidelines as his wife and only son, Anthony, Jr. (Robert Iler), drifted apart under the domestic strain.

Cluttering matters even further was the flood of former Mafia associates released from prison, eager to get back in the game. Prominent among these were Tony Blundetto (Steve Buscemi), incarcerated for 15 years after a failed hijacking that Tony missed due to a panic attack, and Phil Leotardo (Frank Vincent), a longtime soldier for New York's Lupertazzi family.

The season's drama reached a fever pitch over the last four episodes when

Blundetto went rogue, killing Leotardo's younger brother in retaliation for a mob hit on Blundetto's friend. Backed into a corner while trying to protect his cousin, Tony kills Blundetto himself to spare him from a protracted death at the hands of Leotardo — setting the stage for the current season's precarious strain between the New York and New Jersey mob families.

Every season of "The Sopranos" has led to this point — the two families now stand at the precipice of an all-out mob war. The crumbs have been left for several enticing plotlines for the final season. Will AJ end up falling into the family business like his old man, despite Tony's wishes? (Meadow's always been the promising scholar to AJ's rebel waiting to ignite, so this seed seems to have an air of certainty to it.)

Out of Tony's closest associates — Christopher, Silvio, Paulie, Bobby and Vito — who will be the first to fall in the mêlée, or attempt their own insurrection for power? (Egocentric and volatile, Vito and Paulie appear to be the best bets.)

Will Tony ever be able to end the cycle of violence raining down upon his house? (That question was answered a long time ago, despite Tony's frequent — and feverish — dreams that indicate a man torn by the dark path his life is taking.)

How it all ends will remain a mystery for the better part of a year. HBO has partitioned the sixth season into two blocks of continuous episodes — 12 episodes in 2006 and another eight additional episodes set to debut in early 2007, an effective strategy the network used for the final season of "Sex and the City."

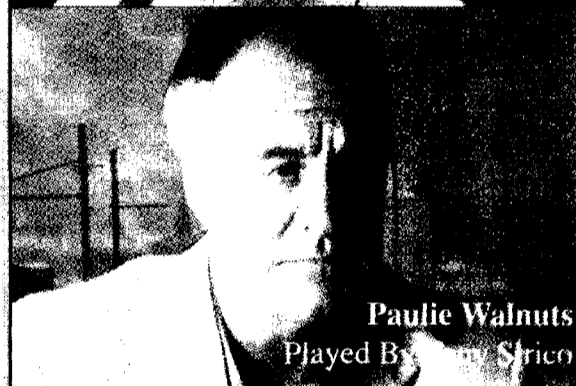
But one thing's for sure — Tony and his crew won't go quietly. "This ain't negotiation time," Christopher demands of Tony early in the first season, "This is 'Scarface,' final scene, [freakin'] bazookas under each arm, say hello to my little friend!"

Finally, thanks to Chase and crew, that time has come.

Contact Rama Gottumukkala at
rgottumu@nd.edu



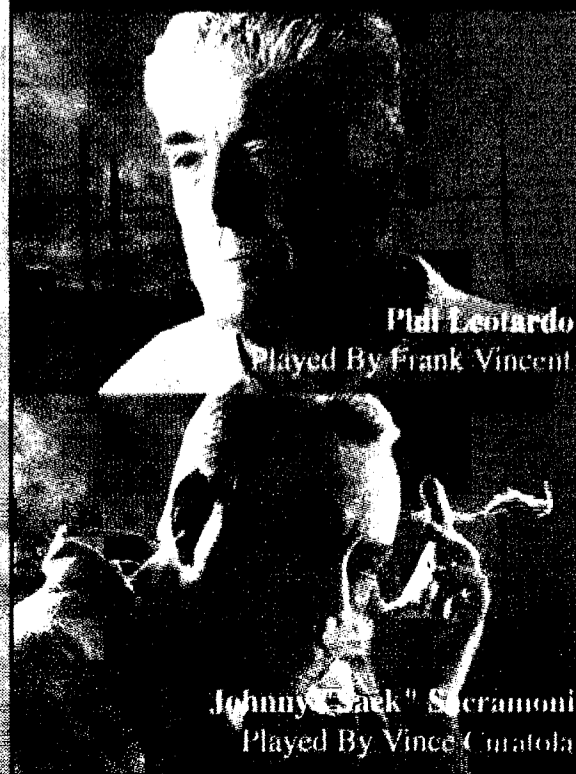
Silvio Dante
Played By Steven Van Zandt



Christopher Moltisanti
Played By Michael Imperioli



Paulie Walnuts
Played By Dominic Sica



Phil Leotardo
Played By Frank Vincent

Johnny "Sack" Sacramoni
Played By Vince Curatola



Photo courtesy of hbo.com



Photo courtesy of hbo.com

Tony Soprano (Gandolfini), left, and Johnny Sack (Vince Curatola) move into position for an all-out war between the New Jersey and New York families.

Goodfellas") psychoanalyzes the murky (James Gandolfini) dangerous mind.

A New Addition to the Family

Take the Game, Leave the Cannon!

The Godfather THE GAME

JEFF ALBERT/Observer Graphic

By TAE ANDREWS and CHRIS McGRADY
Assistant Scene Editors

Tae: Prior to the video game release of "The Godfather," fan speculation about its quality was high — would it do justice to the film, or was it just a money-making addendum to the film series, in pursuit of the almighty dollar? After a March 21, 2006 release, the final verdict is out: justice is served, although the game is hardly a masterpiece.

The EA Games' video game rendition of the classic film follows the precedent set by the Rockstar Games hit series, "Grand Theft Auto." Based primarily on the "GTA" format, the player has virtually unlimited free reign to explore the city map of 1940s New York.

However, the game's strength lies in its storyline missions. Players can name and create their own characters, then pimp them out with customizable features such as mustaches, fedora hats and fine Italian suits. (Perhaps the most hilarious part of the game is hearing a college dorm room packed with heterosexual guys arguing the finer points of a created gangster's wardrobe and hearing lines such as, "Pick the tan tie, it goes better with his shoes!")

The player-created character is peripherally woven into the plot of the film version of "The Godfather." For example, when Michael Corleone uses a planted pistol to knock off some mob leaders in a restaurant, the player is responsible for stashing said assassination weapon. In addition, the film's cut scenes are excellent. The pixelated versions of the film's characters are for the most part very good, with the exception of Michael Corleone's video game self, who fails utterly to look or sound like Al Pacino. Especially well-rendered are the hot-headed Sonny and the Godfather himself, Don Corleone. The video game Corleone resembles late actor Marlon Brando down to a T, with that same dead stare, preposterous jowls and raspy mumble.



Photo courtesy of ea.com

"The Godfather" video game provides plenty of scintillating car chases, machine gun shootouts and criminal activity for those looking to become Mafia dons.

While it remains faithful to the film, the game's true fun lies in allowing the player to embrace his or her inner gangster. Tired of being a "button" for the powers-that-be? Feel free to take to the streets and dodge the coppers en route to achieving capo status. Again, like "Grand Theft Auto," "The Godfather" encourages players to both beat their way down and shoot their way up to the top of the criminal food chain.

While piloting his or her self-created Slim Shady around town, the player is required to earn his or her dishonest living by shaking down local businesses for their hard-earned cash. Having the freedom to rule with an iron fist quickly goes to the player's head, as he or she hustles, extorts and intimidates the various denizens of New York City.

Should the locals refuse to comply with diplomacy, do as any true Godfather fan would — simply make them an offer they can't refuse. Like Don Corleone, it helps in the game to speak softly but carry a big stick. Or a lead pipe. Or a tommy gun. To rustle up some cash, a veritable armory slash-hardware store is available for use as instruments of destruction. However, if gamers get tired of using the tools of the trade, they can simply lose the jackets, roll up those sleeves, and get their hands dirty with an innovative fist-fighting system. Remember, spare the rod, spoil the child.

Unfortunately, despite all its fun, the game has definite drawbacks. The

game's playing aesthetic has a knack for the arcade — after special gangland-style executions, different catchphrases flash on-screen. For example, after whacking a guy with a baseball bat, the player is rewarded with the words "Grand Slam Execution" flashing onscreen. Also, button instructions advising players to "Press Triangle to Extort" and "Press R2 for Execution," while humorous, fail to capture the grave and somber nature of the classic film.

While the game has good graphics, it recycles the same character models and building interiors over and over again, to the point where wandering around feels like the film "Groundhog Day" — every backdoor gambling ring and back alley hustler on the street looks identical.

Despite its shortcomings, "The Godfather" video game is a solid enough effort for fans of the film series to reaffirm a lesson worth learning from the film "Office Space" — damn, it feels good to be a gangster.

Chris: Here's a simple rule: tread with caution when remaking a classic film. Rule number two: be even more careful when remaking said classic film into a video game. However, Electronic Arts does a sincerely impressive job of just this task in its video game "remake" of "The Godfather."

Although any avid — or even novice — "Godfather" fan can tell that the game strays from the plotline of the original film, there are similarities that are poignant and necessary. Don Corleone looks very similar to Marlon Brando and sounds almost exactly like him, the cut scenes are nearly identical to the films in some cases and the general feel of the game is very

much like the movies. However, Electronic Arts (EA) did not strive to make a replica of the movie, but rather a game based on the general premise of the film. While this may irk the "Godfather" aficionados, the game is still beyond entertaining.

This game's impressiveness hinges on its playability. Rather than follow a linear plot line, the gamer can feel free to roam about the New York/New Jersey area (think of classics like Rockstar's "Grand Theft Auto" series). The player can extort shop owners, shake down back alley rackets and generally cause mayhem on the streets.

The gamer starts off as a lowly street thug, taken under the wing of the mob. Customized to look however the player desires — from eyebrow intensity to hair color to style of clothing — the fully personalized character makes his way through the hierarchy of the organized crime family, ultimately ascending to the lead role as Don while avoiding police and other gang vendettas. This task requires skill, streets smarts and a little bit of luck, but comes together for a fun experience.

However, the game is not without its faults. Although the map is huge, many of the areas are vague and lack detail. The game would have a more realistic feel if specific landmarks were more recognizable as actual places.

In addition, what is meant to be New York City is filled with large areas with nothing in them. While driving from place to place, oftentimes there is nowhere to go but straight. In this sense, the game is a bastardized version of "GTA," taking away much of the freedom that was allowed to the gamer. This game would have been served well by spending another six months in development, increasing the variety of the scenery. The game lacks in detail and tries to make up for it in quantity. It doesn't work.

However, what is unique about this game compared to the slew of other games in the genre, such as "GTA" and "True Crime," is the fact that it was adapted from a previously existing — and beloved — film. The plot line is more substantial, albeit not as complex as the movie, and provides the gamer with a bit more interest in the actual outcome of the story.

At times over the top, the game is definitely not for those fans of "The Godfather" movie looking for an exact replica. However, the entertainment value is too much to pass up. So don those pinstripes and fedoras and ascend to Mob greatness.

Contact Tae Andrews at tandrew1@nd.edu and Chris McGrady at cmcgrad1@nd.edu

The Godfather

PS2, Xbox, Gamecube

Electronic Arts



JEFF ALBERT/Observer Graphic

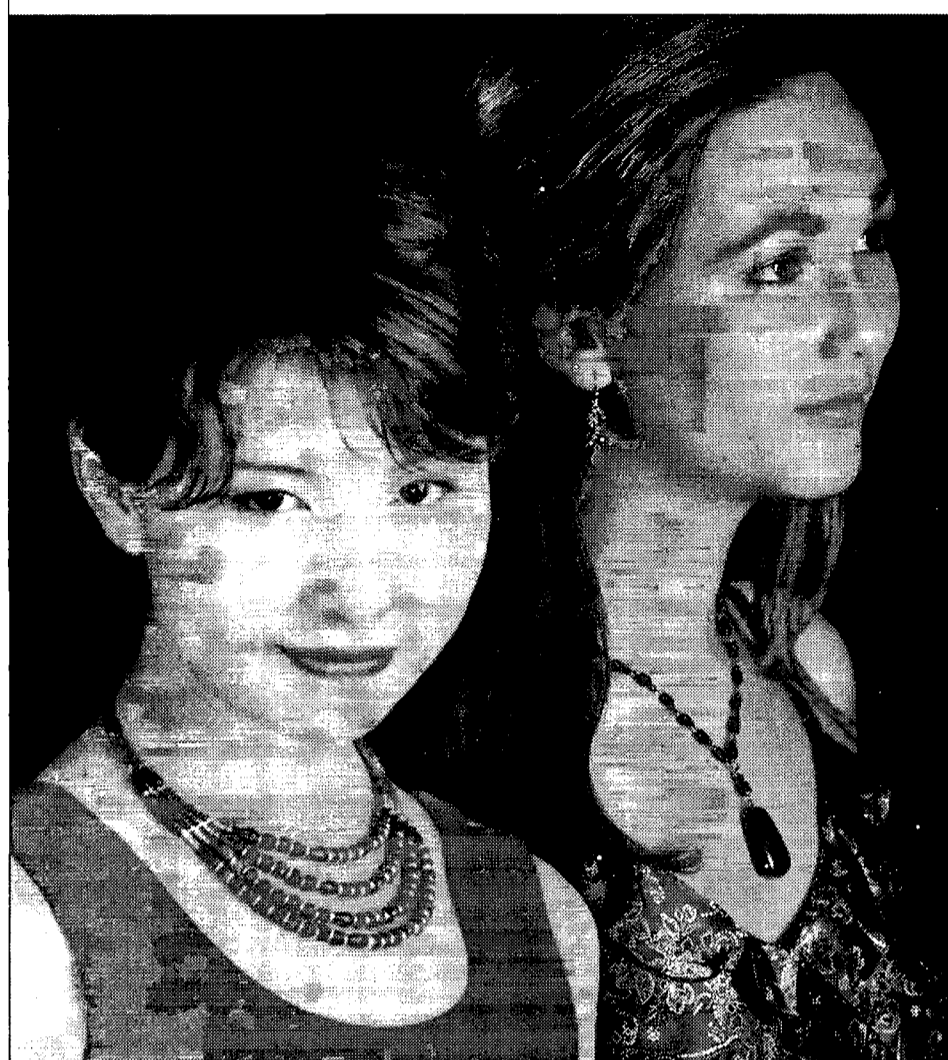
"The Godfather" video game visage of Don Corleone, left, does justice to Marlon Brando's famous character, right, from the classic film of the same name.



Photo courtesy of ea.com

To hustle up some quick cash in "The Godfather," players can beat up, shake down and intimidate the local businessmen living in 1940s New York City.

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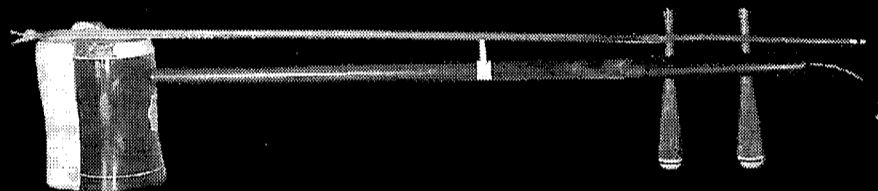
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NBA

Nets hold off Hawks to win 13th straight, clinch division

McDyess scores a season-high 26 points and grabs 14 rebounds off the bench for the Pistons in win over Hornets

Associated Press

East Rutherford, N.J. — The New Jersey Nets had the Atlantic Division wrapped up and were coasting to their 13th straight win before they got complacent and needed to fight off the Atlanta Hawks.

The Nets tied the longest winning streak in the NBA this season and clinched their fourth division title in five years Tuesday night with a win over the Hawks.

Despite blowing all but one point of a 23-point fourth-quarter lead, the Nets were able to prevail behind 27 points and some clutch foul shooting from Vince Carter.

New Jersey unraveled on offense as the young Hawks, who were without three players, went on a 24-2 run and almost stole the game. An offensive foul on Joe Johnson with 8.9 seconds left ended Atlanta's last chance.

Jason Kidd, who finished with 11 points and 13 assists, feels that the Nets could benefit from the close call.

Streaks "can be dangerous, because you can get complacent and feel like you can turn it on and off at any time," Kidd said.

"Tonight was one of those nights. We have to understand that we have to play 48 minutes."

The Nets (45-28) had already clinched the division title before the end of Tuesday's game, courtesy of Philadelphia's 124-91 loss to Cleveland. New Jersey's starters were on the bench early in the fourth quarter before Atlanta (22-51) rallied behind Johnson, who finished with 33 points, and sub guard Anthony Grundy, who was signed to a 10-day contract last week.

Detroit 101, New Orleans 93

Antonio McDyess doesn't want any part of the starting lineup.

Luckily for the Detroit Pistons, that's the only thing he won't do.

With Rasheed Wallace sidelined Tuesday night, McDyess had a season-high 26 points and added 14 rebounds to help the Pistons win their 60th game, beating the New Orleans Hornets.

"Antonio was great tonight," Pistons coach Flip Saunders said. "He's been playing like that for a while now. He has a lot of confidence in himself."

Wallace missed the game after picking up an automatic

one-game suspension for receiving 16 technical fouls. While McDyess took most of his minutes, it was Dale Davis who started, ending Detroit's NBA-record streak at 73 straight games with the same lineup.

"I'm superstitious," said McDyess, who is averaging 17 points in Detroit's last four games. "I didn't want to start and mess up my rhythm."

The Pistons have won five straight, and need four wins in their final eight games to break the 1988-89 team's franchise record of 63 wins.

"We're not going to chase that record, but if it comes, it comes," Saunders said. "Our focus right now is health and staying sharp. We're going to rest some guys and give our bench extended minutes to get them ready for the playoffs."

The Hornets had their three-game winning streak snapped as they lost their fourth in a row to Detroit.

"That's a championship team," New Orleans coach Byron Scott said. "Being so young, we knew it was going to be difficult going against the Pistons, even without Rasheed."

Miami 115, Milwaukee 89

As Pat Riley requested, the Miami Heat gave Dwyane Wade plenty of help.

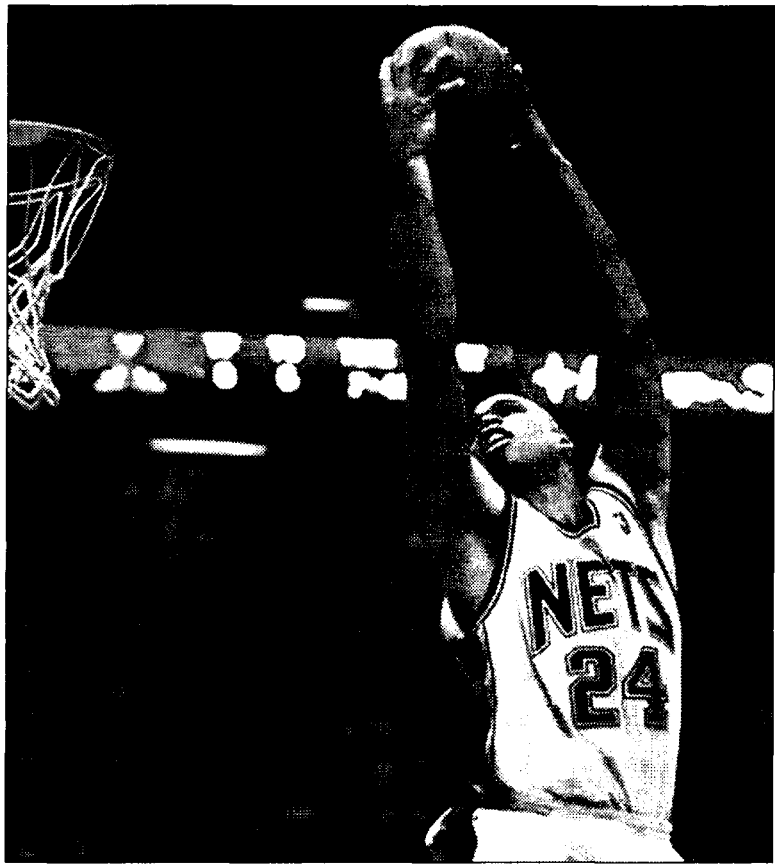
Shaquille O'Neal had 24 points and 10 rebounds, and five other Miami players reached double figures as the Heat defeated the Milwaukee Bucks on Tuesday night to maintain control of the race for the Eastern Conference's second-best record.

Udonis Haslem scored 16 points and Wade had 14 points, eight rebounds and eight assists before sitting out the final 11 1/2 minutes for Miami, which shot 62 percent and won for only the fourth time in eight games.

"That's one of the better games, more complete games that we've played in a long time," Riley said after his team opened with a 13-0 run and never trailed.

Wade accounted for 41 percent of Miami's offense in its previous three games. But with the Heat securing control early, Wade needed to take only 10 shots — his third-lowest total of the season.

"It was a matter of everybody moving the ball and getting everybody involved," Wade said. "Defensively, everybody making the rotations and rebounding



New Jersey forward Richard Jefferson goes up for a reverse dunk during the Nets' 96-94 victory over the Hawks Tuesday in East Rutherford, N.J.

the ball. If we continue to do this, we'll be all right."

Charlie Bell had 20 of his season-high 29 points in the first half for Milwaukee, which came in averaging 110.8 in its previous five outings. Michael Redd had 16 points and Toni Kukoc added 13 for the Bucks.

"It was one of those nights when nothing went right," Bell said. "We tried to get back in the game. We just didn't have it in the tank."

Boston 124, Toronto 120

The Toronto Raptors are out of the playoff hunt. The Boston Celtics are still clinging to thin postseason hopes.

Paul Pierce and Wally Szczerbiak scored 22 points apiece to help the Boston Celtics beat the Toronto Raptors Tuesday night.

"I don't think you're going to draw art from this game at all," Celtics coach Doc Rivers said. "It was not a beautiful game in any way."

Morris Peterson had 32 points and eight rebounds to lead the Raptors (26-48), who lost their fifth straight game. Mike James added 25 points and Matt Bonner had 16 points and a career-high 13 rebounds.

With eight games still to go in

the regular season, the Raptors will miss the playoffs for the fourth straight season. They finished 33-49 last season.

"It seems like tonight was the same story, different day," Peterson said. "We had the lead down the stretch, we didn't win."

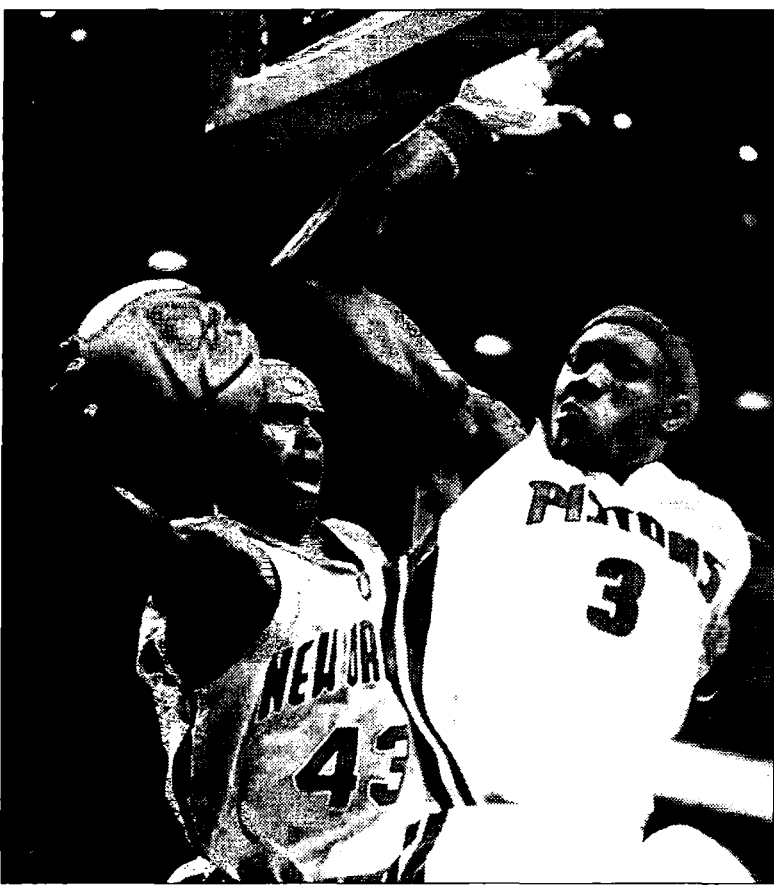
Washington 105, New York 90

Washington Wizards coach Eddie Jordan was concerned that his team would play down to the level of the woeful New York Knicks.

No worries there. Knicks coach Larry Brown said he's reached the point where he's "begging guys to play," and Steve Francis was on the verge of tears.

A game against the worst team in the East turned out to be the ideal homecoming for the Wizards, who got 13 points and a season-high 13 assists from Gilbert Arenas in a 105-90 rout Tuesday night.

"New York is a team that is not playing well, and we didn't play down to their level," Jordan said. "I thought we played very well, especially Gilbert, with how he got his teammates involved early. We played the right way."



New Orleans forward Linton Johnson, left, passes in front of Detroit center Ben Wallace during the Pistons' 101-93 win in Auburn Hills, Mich. Tuesday night.

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 3 cents per character per day, including all spaces. The Observer reserves the right to edit all classifieds for content without issuing refunds.

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AROUND THE NATION

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

page 21

NHL

Eastern Conference, Atlantic Division

team	record	OT	points
NY Rangers	41-21	12	94
Philadelphia	41-23	10	92
New Jersey	39-27	9	87
NY Islanders	33-36	5	71
Pittsburgh	19-42	13	51

Eastern Conference, Northeast Division

team	record	OT	points
Ottawa	50-17	7	107
Buffalo	46-23	6	98
Montreal	38-27	9	85
Toronto	35-32	7	77
Boston	28-34	13	69

Eastern Conference, Southeast Division

team	record	OT	points
Carolina	49-20	6	104
Tampa Bay	40-30	5	85
Atlanta	36-32	6	78
Florida	34-32	9	77
Washington	25-38	11	61

Western Conference, Central Division

team	record	OT	points
Detroit	52-15	8	112
Nashville	43-24	8	94
Columbus	32-40	3	67
Chicago	23-40	11	57
St. Louis	20-40	13	53

Western Conference, Northwest Division

team	record	OT	points
Calgary	42-24	9	93
Colorado	41-26	8	90
Edmonton	38-26	12	88
Vancouver	40-30	7	87
Minnesota	34-34	7	75

Western Conference, Pacific Division

team	record	OT	points
Dallas	49-21	5	103
Anaheim	39-23	12	90
San Jose	37-26	11	85
Los Angeles	40-31	5	85
Phoenix	36-35	4	76

NCAA Baseball Big East Conference

Team	conf.	overall
St. John's	6-0	16-1
West Virginia	5-1	10-3
NOTRE DAME	5-1	15-5
Connecticut	6-3	13-2
Louisville	4-2	13-2
USF	5-4	11-0
Cincinnati	3-3	14-6
Rutgers	2-4	18-1
Pittsburgh	2-7	13-2
Seton Hall	2-7	16-1
Villanova	1-5	16-3
Georgetown	1-5	11-2

MIAA Softball

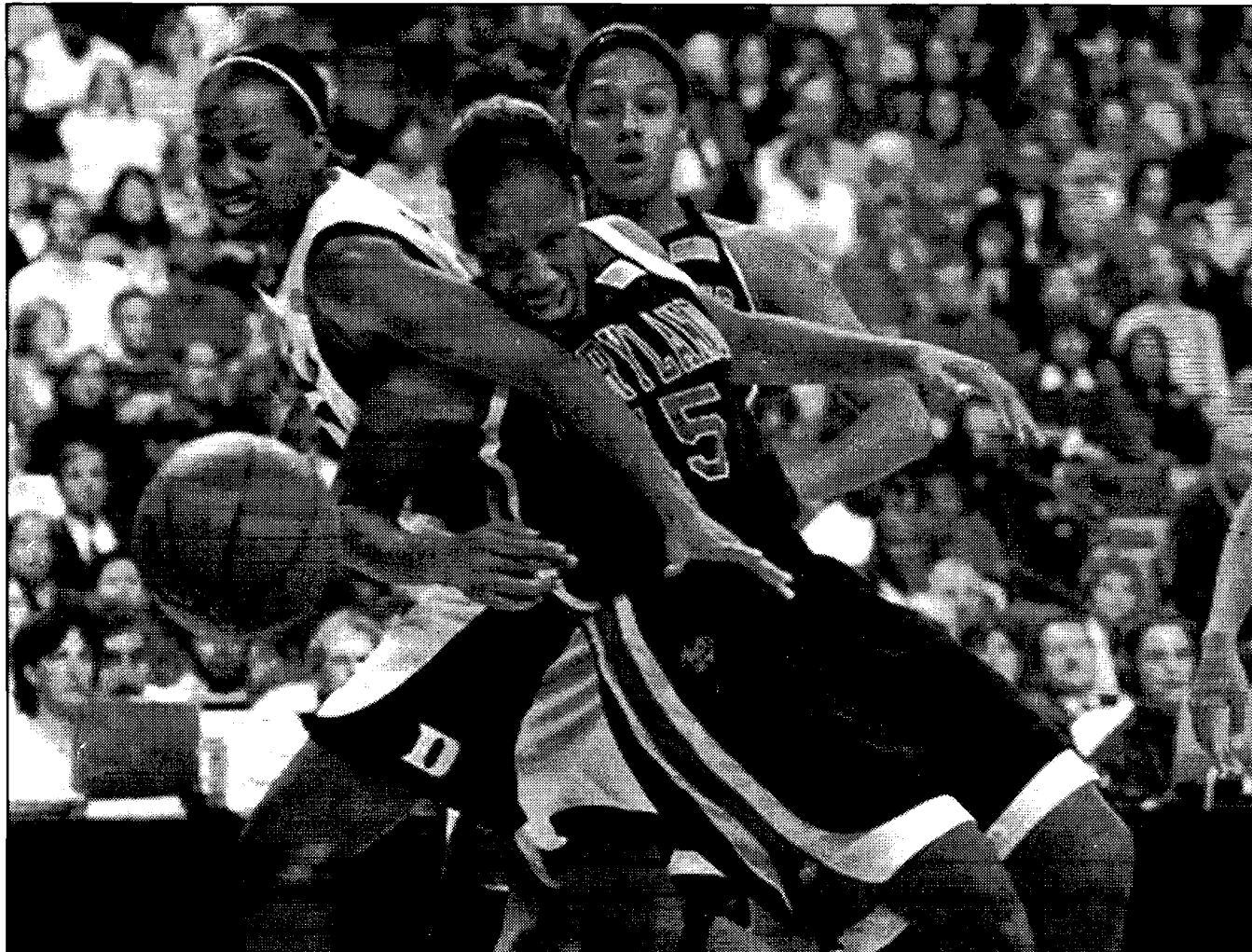
Team	conf.	overall
Alma	4-0	15-5
Hope	2-0	11-4
SAINT MARY'S	2-0	13-5
Albion	2-2	10-12
Calvin	0-0	5-7
Tri-State	0-0	9-9
Kalamazoo	0-2	3-11
Olivet	0-2	14-6
Adrian	0-4	9-11

around the dial

NBA

Washington at Boston, 7 p.m., ESPN
Sacramento at San Antonio, 9:30 p.m., ESPN

NCAA WOMEN'S BASKETBALL



Duke center Chante Black, left, and Maryland center Laura Harper fight for a loose ball during the second half of the NCAA women's championship game. Maryland won 78-75 in overtime.

Lady Terrapins capture their first title

Associated Press

BOSTON — Overtime belongs to Maryland. So does the NCAA championship.

Freshman Kristi Toliver hit a 3-pointer at the end of regulation to cap a 13-point comeback, then made two free throws with 35 seconds left in overtime Tuesday night to give the Terrapins their first NCAA women's basketball title with a 78-75 victory over Duke.

Maryland (34-4) is 6-0 in overtime games this season — the first five on the road and the last in the championship to complete the second-largest

comeback in a women's final. It was the first time the title was determined in overtime since Tennessee beat Virginia in 1991.

The Maryland players stormed the court twice — once after Toliver's basket forced overtime and again when Blue Devils guard Jessica Foley's desperation, well-covered 3-point attempt nicked the front of the rim at the overtime buzzer.

Piling up on the court, hugging and bumping chests, the Terrapins reveled in the youth that had been the biggest doubt surrounding them coming into the tournament.

"Age is just a number," Maryland coach Brenda Frese said. "When you got kids that believe and they believe in each other and they got that kind of confidence, you can accomplish anything as a team."

Foley made two free throws with 18 seconds left in regulation to give Duke a 70-67 lead, then Frese called timeout to set up a play.

Toliver, who had 12 turnovers in the semifinal victory over North Carolina, brought the ball down and veered over to the right before putting through the 3 with 6.1 seconds left and Duke's Alison Bales in her face.

"And I even felt her fingertips as I was holding my follow through," Toliver said. "So, she did a great job contesting. I just had a lot of confidence. And I knew I wanted to take the big shot so I just took it."

Duke (31-4) opted not to call a timeout; Lindsey Harding brought the ball down the court and put up a desperation leaner from the right baseline that went off the rim.

After that, the usually frenetic Frese just let her players take over.

"I didn't have to say a word," Frese said. "They just know that overtime is their time."

IN BRIEF

Dodgers place Nomar on 15-day disabled list

LOS ANGELES — The Los Angeles Dodgers placed first baseman Nomar Garciaparra on the 15-day disabled list Monday and recalled James Loney from Triple-A Las Vegas.

The 21-year-old Loney was in the lineup Tuesday night against Atlanta, batting fifth and playing first. His big league debut, however, was in jeopardy because of daylong rain.

The 32-year-old Garciaparra, signed as a free agent during the off-season, was injured while swinging in his first-at-bat Sunday in the Dodgers' exhibition finale against the Los Angeles Angels in Anaheim.

When Garciaparra returns he will be playing first base for the first time, having been a shortstop most of his career.

"I believe it's only going to be a two-week thing," Garciaparra said. "Let's get this right so we can put this behind us."

Ratings for title game slip 25 percent from last year

NEW YORK — The NCAA tournament championship game between Florida and UCLA drew an 11.2 Nielsen rating for CBS Monday. That figure was down 25 percent from last year's final.

Florida's 73-57 victory over UCLA on Monday at the RCA Dome in Indianapolis was watched by 12.31 million households. Last season, North Carolina beat Illinois in the final and the game drew a 15.0 rating.

But the Gators and Bruins did slightly better than the 2004 championship game, when Connecticut's victory over Georgia Tech drew an 11.0 rating.

CBS's 26 tournament telecasts averaged a 6.3 rating — with an average of 6.959 million households watching — down 9 percent from last season (6.9), but up 2 percent from 2004.

White Sox receive World Series rings

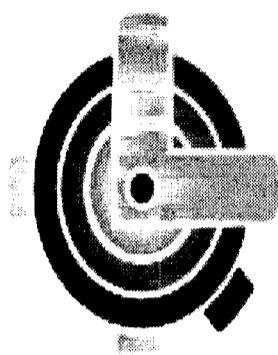
CHICAGO — The Chicago White Sox received their World Series rings Tuesday in a pre-game ceremony, and the loudest ovation went to a player no longer on the team.

Aaron Rowand, the popular center fielder traded in the offseason to the Philadelphia Phillies for Jim Thome, got a rousing greeting as he walked onto U.S. Cellular Field in a suit and tie to get his ring.

Rowand waved to the crowd as he approached the area between the mound and plate where commissioner Bud Selig assisted White Sox owner Jerry Reinsdorf and general manager Kenny Williams in passing out the rings.

Rowand got big hugs from Reinsdorf and Williams and then another from World Series MVP Jermaine Dye when he went to the third base line to join his former teammates.

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NFL

Culpepper cleared of charges

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Quarterback Daunte Culpepper was cleared Tuesday of misdemeanor charges stemming from a boat-party sex scandal.

A judge ruled there wasn't probable cause to determine a crime was committed by Culpepper, one of four Minnesota Vikings accused of misdemeanor lewd conduct during the cruise last fall on a suburban lake. Culpepper has since been traded to the Miami Dolphins last month.

Culpepper issued a statement through the Dolphins saying he was "delighted" at the ruling.

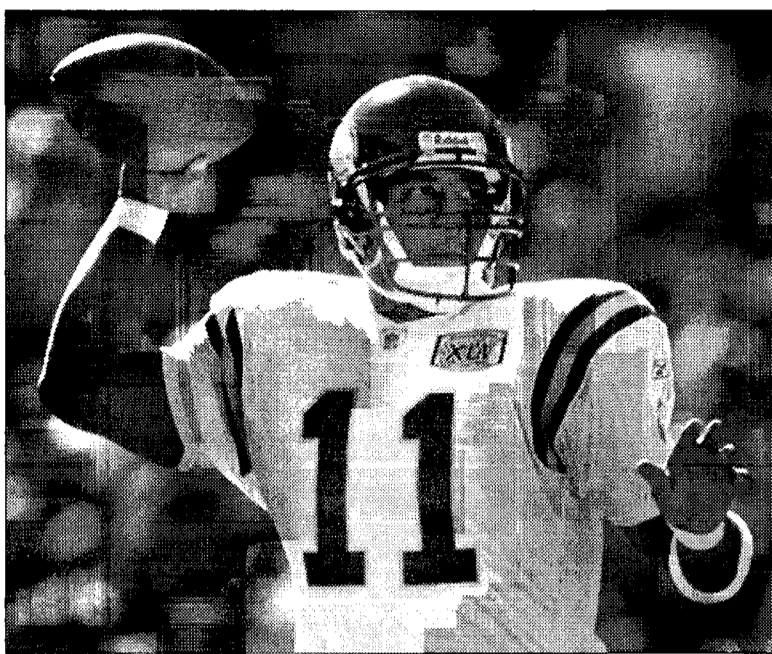
"I was confident when the legal process began that the truth would come out, and I am glad that my innocence has been proven," he said.

Culpepper testified last month that he merely played dice on the cruise. That, plus backing testimony from a friend, was enough to convince a judge to toss out the charges.

"Since no evidence was presented to refute this testimony, this Court is compelled to find" lack of probable cause, Hennepin County District Judge Kevin Burke ruled.

"I greatly appreciate Judge Burke's sensitivity to the damage that can be done to a person's reputation when they are wrongly charged," Culpepper said.

His attorney, Earl Gray, said,



Minnesota Vikings quarterback Daunte Culpepper looks downfield during a 28-3 loss to the Bears Oct. 16, 2005 in Chicago.

"It vindicates him from being involved in any sexual misconduct on the boat."

Prosecutor Steve Tallen said he thought Burke had "applied things wrong," but said he hadn't had time to fully digest the ruling. He said it was possible he might re-file the case.

Burke denied a motion to dismiss charges against running back Moe Williams. His trial is scheduled for April 18.

The other two players charged, cornerback Fred Smoot and tackle Bryant McKinnie, weren't part of Tuesday's ruling.

Their next hearings were scheduled for Thursday.

Williams' attorney, Joe Friedberg, said he was disappointed.

"I disagree with him, but that's what makes horse racing," Friedberg said.

Both Culpepper and Williams had denied any improper conduct in a hearing before Burke last month. Culpepper, who was accused of touching a dancer's buttocks, testified that he spent the cruise playing a dice game in the back of a boat and rejected offers from several women.

NCAA BASKETBALL

Wooden scheduled for release from hospital

Former UCLA coach suffers diverticulitis

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Former UCLA basketball coach John Wooden may be released from a hospital as early as Wednesday after suffering from diverticulitis, his daughter said Tuesday.

The 95-year-old Hall of Fame coach was admitted to a hospital near his home in the San Fernando Valley on Sunday for diverticulitis, an inflammation of the area around the colon.

"His spirits are very good and he's doing fine," Nancy Muehlhausen said. "He's ready to get out [of the hospital.]"

Muehlhausen said her father needed several blood transfusions. Other tests performed on Wooden showed the former coach was healthy, she said.

Wooden watched with his family as UCLA lost to Florida

73-57 on Monday in the national men's basketball championship game. He was disappointed that his former team didn't win but knew the Gators would be a tough matchup.

"Before the game he said it was a toss-up," Muehlhausen said. "Much to our chagrin it didn't work out the way we planned."

Although he had some offers to attend the Final

"His spirits are very good and he's doing fine. He's ready to get out [of the hospital]."

Nancy Muehlhausen
John Wooden's daughter

Four, there were no plans of returning to his home state of Indiana for the games. His most recent public appearance was last week in San Diego for the McDonald's high school All-American games.

Muehlhausen also said that Wooden had to cancel a couple of speaking engagements this week.

Wooden retired from UCLA in 1975 with a record of 620-147 in 27 years as coach. The Bruins won 10 national titles under the "Wizard of Westwood," including seven in a row. The streak included 38 straight NCAA tournament victories.



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Nate Hogan
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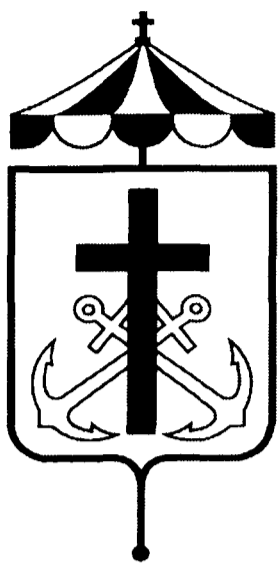
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Basilica of the Sacred Heart

Holy Week 2006

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion, April 9

5:00 pm (Saturday)	Vigil Mass
*9:45 am	Solemn Mass
*12:00 noon	Sunday Mass
*Special Mass times for Palm Sunday only	

Tuesday, April 11

7:00 pm	Campus-wide Stations of the Cross (Procession departs from the Grotto)
9:15 pm	Opportunity for individual confession follows Stations in the Basilica

Holy Thursday, April 13

9:00 am	Morning Prayer
5:00 pm	Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper
*6:30 pm	Adoration in the Lady Chapel
11:00 pm	Tenebrae
*Basilica of the Sacred Heart will remain open from 6:30 pm until 12:30 am	

Good Friday, April 14

9:00 am	Morning Prayer
12:00 noon-3:00 pm	Silent Hours of Prayer
3:00 pm	Celebration of the Lord's Passion
7:15 pm	Stations of the Cross

Holy Saturday, April 15

9:00 am	Morning Prayer
9:00 pm	The Paschal Vigil

Easter Sunday, April 16

+8:00 am	Easter Sunday Mass
10:00 am	Solemn Mass
12:00 noon	Easter Sunday Mass
7:15 pm	Solemn Easter Vespers
+This is an additional Mass only for Easter Sunday.	

Confessions during Holy Week

Monday	11:00 am, 4:45 pm & 7:00 pm
Tuesday	11:00 am, 4:45 pm, 7:00 pm & 9:15 pm
Wednesday	11:00 am, 4:45 pm & 7:00 pm
Holy Thursday	11:00 am to Noon & 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Good Friday	11:00 am to 1:00 pm & 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Holy Saturday	11:00 am to Noon & 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm

NFL

McNair sent home as contract is reworked

Tennessee Titans owe franchise quarterback \$9 million for 2006

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The Tennessee Titans told Steve McNair they don't want him working out in their building until his contract is reworked, the quarterback's agent said Tuesday.

McNair was told to go home Monday when he showed up at the team's headquarters for the start of the third week in the Titans' offseason conditioning program. The team's general counsel had called agent Bus Cook earlier Monday and informed him McNair would be told to leave.

A team trainer told the 11-year veteran to leave, Cook said.

"You tell the guy who's the mainstay of the organization, the leader, to get out, that he's not wanted, that's pretty rough," Cook said. "I don't know what Steve will do or won't do. I imagine he would have a hard time going back over there."

McNair, the NFL's 2003 co-MVP, is due \$9 million in salary in 2006 — but his salary cap number is \$23.46 million.

The Titans declined last month to pick up a \$50 million option to stretch the deal through 2009, leaving McNair with nearly a quarter of their cap space.

"We have no choice but to protect the club and its future from the possibility of having a significant amount of our salary cap at risk in a single player should he sustain a major injury," the team said in a statement. "This is entirely a risk management problem."

Cook said the Titans' general counsel told him the team doesn't want McNair working out on team property until his contract is reworked.

General manager Floyd Reese and coach Jeff Fisher were in Los Angeles following a private workout of Southern California quarterback Matt Leinart. The Titans said in a statement that they look forward to McNair returning once his contract is resolved.

"It was unfortunate the way this played out yesterday, but we think both Steve and Bus understand the team's position," the Titans said. "Other clubs facing the same dilemma have arrived at the same conclusion we did."

McNair is the franchise's winningest quarterback with a record of 81-59. He started 15 games in 2005 and threw for 3,161 yards.

MLB

Indians put Sabathia on DL

Strained right oblique muscle sidelines ace for three to five weeks

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Cleveland Indians ace lefty C.C. Sabathia was put on the 15-day disabled list Tuesday and is expected to be out three to five weeks with a strained right oblique muscle.

The 6-foot-7, 290-pound Sabathia was hurt in Sunday night's season opener against the Chicago White Sox and had to leave in the third inning after throwing just 37 pitches. His injury is similar to one he had a year ago, when he began the season on the DL after hurting the muscle in spring training. He missed six weeks but still finished 15-10.

"It's not as bad as it was last year," Sabathia said before Tuesday's game against the White Sox. "It feels good today. I feel zero pain. Last year it hurt for about a week or so. I woke up yesterday and it felt a little sore. Today I feel no pain."

But Sabathia's absence will likely hurt the Indians, who hoped to get off to a quick start this season in hopes of dethroning the White Sox in the AL Central.

"It's clearly disappointing and it's also part of the game," Indians general manager Mark

Shapiro said. "Part of the ability to be a championship team is how you deal with setbacks during a 162-game season. ... It's part of the deal."

Indians trainer Lonnie Soloff said Sabathia's weight is not a problem, and Shapiro noted that Sabathia had made at least 30 starts for five straight seasons. It is just Sabathia's second trip to the DL in a major league career that began in 2001.

"The fact that it has happened back-to-back years is a cause for some concern at a low-level," Soloff said. "But once again, he's a rotational athlete and he generates some pretty intense torque around his front side. His rotational velocities are probably the highest in the game, just from his height and his size."

"I would say that his size plays into that, not his weight. We are comfortable where he is from a weight standpoint."

Sabathia said he's been steadfast with his conditioning. He pulled out of pitching for the U.S. team in the World Baseball Classic so he would be ready for the season, another sign of his resolve to be the Indians' No. 1 starter.

"I'm working hard and doing everything I can to stay on top of that. I have been for the past two years," he said.

"Conditioning has always been an important part of C.C.'s game, mainly more than most because he's such a big

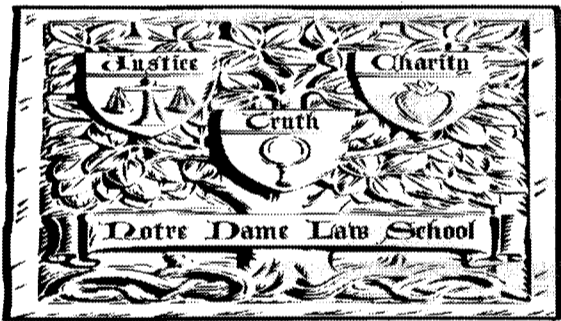
guy," manager Eric Wedge said. "He's been consistent with it and as strong as he's ever been. ... As electric as it was other night, he probably tried to reach back and do a little more and tweaked it."

Soloff said that Sabathia's arm should be ready to respond from the layoff sooner than a year ago because he pitched in spring training. In 2005 he was hurt warming up prior to his first spring start on March 6 and wasn't activated until April 16.

The Indians called up 6-foot-6 reliever Jason Davis to take Sabathia's roster spot. Cleveland doesn't need a fifth starter until April 15 because of off days so will get by with four starters until then and then find a spot starter. The rest of the rotation is Jake Westbrook, Cliff Lee, Jason Johnson and Paul Byrd.

Sabathia felt the muscle grab when he delivered a pitch to Tadahito Iguchi in the third inning Sunday. He tried some warmup pitches but had to leave the game after just 2 1/3 innings.

"I was watching the game in the clubhouse, just watching video and I was throwing the ball harder than I thought I was," he said. "I was going up there trying to throw nice and easy, go 90, 91 and it was more like 93, 94. It was just being pumped up, I guess, because of the circumstances in the game."



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MLB

Rollins' hit partly due to Cards coach

With 3-0 count in last at bat, LaRussa made reliever throw strike

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Tony La Russa watched too many teams pitch around Mark McGwire to let it happen to Jimmy Rollins.

Rollins' hitting streak was on the line when he came to the plate with two outs in the eighth inning and the Philadelphia Phillies trailing the St. Louis Cardinals 13-5 in Monday's season opener.

Reliever Adam Wainwright's first three pitches were out of the strike zone, and those remaining among the sellout crowd of 44,614 at Citizens Bank Park booed each one.

Before the next pitch, La Russa got catcher Yadier Molina's attention and signaled for a strike. The right-handed Wainwright threw a fastball down the middle and Rollins ripped it down the right-field line for a double to extend his hitting streak to 37 games.

"You have to play the game. We can't walk him in that spot," La Russa said.

It was the eighth time during his streak that began against San Francisco last Aug. 23 that Rollins kept it going during his last at-bat. He ought to thank La Russa for giving him a chance this time.

La Russa was in his third year managing the Cardinals in 1998 when McGwire hit 70 homers to break Roger Maris' single-season record of 61. It was frustrating for La Russa to see McGwire often get nothing to hit from pitchers, especially in tight games. He didn't want Rollins' streak to end with a walk when his team had an eight-run lead.

"Some of that is him, but mostly it's about us," La Russa said. "I wouldn't want the St. Louis Cardinals to walk him in his last at-bat. That's not what we represent."

Rollins went 0-for-3 with a sacrifice fly before getting his hit. He hit two hard liners at center fielder Jim Edmonds, grounded out to first base and fouled out his first time up when shortstop David Eckstein made a spectacular, sliding catch near the railing down the left-field line.

If the score was close, Rollins probably wouldn't have swung at a 3-0 pitch in the eighth inning. But Wainwright's fastball was too good to pass up down eight runs.

"If he had thrown a ball and I couldn't get to it, I wouldn't have swung," Rollins said.

Phillies manager Charlie Manuel had conflicting thoughts about Rollins swinging ahead 3-0 in the count.

"You usually don't have to give Jimmy the take sign if we're losing the game," Manuel said. "I wanted to see him have every chance. He got a good ball and he hit it. But the question will always be there about swinging 3-0."

Wainwright had no problem challenging Rollins.

"Obviously a guy who plays as hard as he does and gets a streak going like that, I respect that," Wainwright said. "It's kind of a pitcher's duty if a guy has something going like that to give him a chance at it."

A three-time All-Star shortstop, Rollins ended the 2005 season with a 36-game hitting streak, the ninth-longest over one season in big league history, and the longest in the majors since 1987, when Paul Molitor hit safely in 39 consecutive games.

Rollins' pursuit of Joe DiMaggio's major league record 56-game hitting streak has a catch, however.

DiMaggio accomplished his feat in the same season in 1941. The major league marks for longest hitting streak in one season and longest hitting streak spanning two seasons are separate records.

DiMaggio holds both with his 56-game streak in 1941, but there is a difference in the NL records: Pete Rose (1978) and Willie Keeler (1897) share the NL mark at 44 games. However, Keeler got a hit in his final game of 1896, so his run of 45 games overall is the first record Rollins is chasing.

The previous Phillies franchise record of 31 was set by Ed Delahanty in 1899.

Rollins is a notoriously slow starter with a .227 batting average in April over the last two years. But he had several good swings against reigning NL Cy Young Award winner Chris Carpenter and relievers Randy Flores and Wainwright in his first game.

"You don't get rewarded for good swings," Rollins said. "I wasn't worried. As long as my swing is there, I know I'll get a hit somehow."

Rollins goes for 38 on Wednesday against tough left-hander Mark Mulder. If he keeps going, Rollins could tie Keeler at 45 next Thursday in Atlanta.

NCAA MEN'S LACROSSE

NCAA president decries Duke

Behavior of lacrosse team 'inappropriate at best,' Brand said

Associated Press

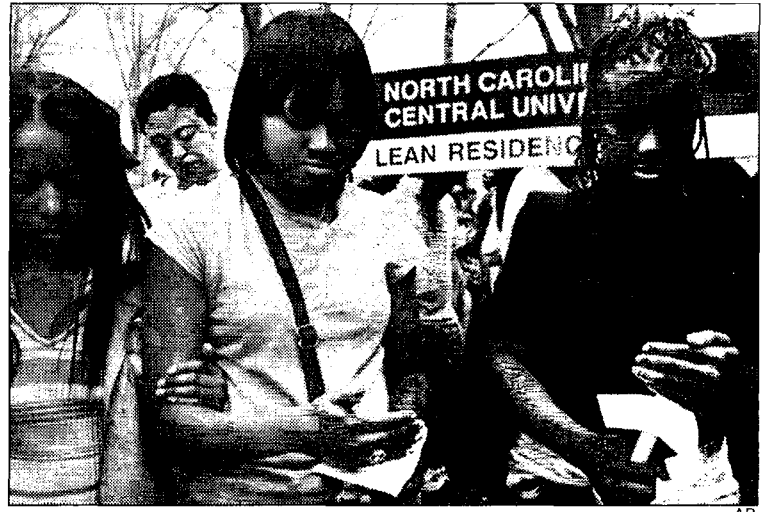
BOSTON — NCAA president Myles Brand said behavior at a Duke men's lacrosse party last month was inappropriate, regardless of whether the alleged assault of an exotic dancer results in criminal charges.

The dancer, a student at a nearby university, told police she was raped at the party by three men who restrained and choked her as she struggled to free herself from a bathroom. Investigators have collected DNA evidence from team members but no charges have been filed. A spokeswoman for North Carolina's attorney general's office said Tuesday the state's crime lab is still analyzing those samples.

Brand said no assumptions about guilt or innocence should be made before the case runs its course.

"Nonetheless, the situation that arose was inappropriate at best," he said in Boston, where he is attending the NCAA women's basketball championship game. "It is inappropriate that we should have any group of young men, let alone those who play on our athletic teams, inviting a stripper, underage alcohol and that kind of environment."

Brand's comments were in response to a question during a news conference at which he discussed women's basketball before Duke played Maryland in



North Carolina university students pray during a rally held Monday in Durham, N.C., in support of a student who alleges she was sexually assaulted by members of Duke's lacrosse team.

the national championship game.

He said the Duke women's team should not be drawn into the discussion over what happened at the lacrosse party.

"I think the Duke basketball team is a terrific team," Brand said. "I don't think that's in the least bit overshadowed or taken anything away from the women. In fact, I think by pushing the women to answer something that they have no role to play, that strikes me as misleading to readers. I know some journalists have done that."

Brand also said he thought Duke president Richard Brodhead was correct in suspending the lacrosse team's season until the university learns more about what happened at the party. The lacrosse team's co-captains have denied that anyone was sexually assaulted or raped at the party.

"I'm pleased to see they're

taking strong steps until they get to the bottom of it," Brand said of Duke's administration.

Several campus demonstrations have criticized Duke for not doing enough, but Brand called Brodhead's decision "evidence that the administration and faculty are treating it very seriously and not ignoring it."

Also Tuesday, the North Carolina chapter president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People said the group plans to keep watch on the investigation and has asked to meet with the district attorney who would prosecute any charges.

"Our position as an organization whose mission is civil rights and community justice is that the investigation of the allegations are fair, meticulous, comprehensive, aggressive and thorough," said the Rev. William Barber II. He did not immediately return calls Tuesday evening.

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SMC SOFTBALL

Belles take one of two from Eagles

Team captures first game 5-2 before dropping nightcap 6-1

By DIERDRE KRASULA
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's split a home doubleheader with Robert Morris Tuesday, winning the first game 5-2 but dropping the second 6-1.

"Our intensity going into the first game was excellent," Belles head coach Erin Sullivan said. "We were relaxed going into the second. We didn't have enough time to come back."

Saint Mary's took an early lead in the first game, capitalizing on an error by Robert Morris shortstop Nichele Ratliff. Sarah Miesle reached second on the miscue and third baseman McKenna Corrigan drove her in with an RBI double.

Belles right fielder Calli Davison and center fielder Audrey Gajor made it 3-0 in the third inning with a pair of

RBI singles.

Saint Mary's freshman Kristin Amram strong off the mound in the opener. She struck out 11 and allowed six hits. The win was Amram's seventh of the season.

"We pulled together at the clutch time," said Amram. "[We hit] when we needed to hit."

Saint Mary's infielder Megan Marenkovic added an RBI double in the fourth and Davison scored on a fielding error by Robert Morris second baseman Katelyn Contreras in the fifth to give the Belles a 5-0 lead.

The Lady Eagles cut into the lead in the sixth when right fielder Jesse Razim's sacrifice fly and third baseman Jen Long's an RBI single. But that was all Robert Morris could muster, as Amram pitched a perfect seventh to secure the win.

In the second game, powerful left-handed pitcher Bethany Toyias kept the Belles in check en route to a 6-1 Robert Morris victory. Toyias struck out 11 from the mound in the complete game. Long went 2-for-4,

scoring two runs and designated player Shauna Robertson drove in two.

Miesle knocked in the only run for Saint Mary's in the sixth with an RBI single that scored Davison from second.

Saint Mary's committed four errors in the loss, and all but one of the five runs Belles senior Bridget Grall surrendered was unearned.

"We had much better defense in the first [game]," Sullivan said. "We made too many mental errors [in the second]."

Robert Morris jumped ahead in the top of the third of game two when Ratliff and Robertson scored on errors.

Amram said that the Belles were not prepared for the Robert Morris' speed in the nightcap.

Robert Morris finished off the game in the seventh inning with a four-run barrage to put the game out of reach at the decisive score of 6-1.

Saint Mary's plays Hope in a home game today at 3:30 p.m.

Contact Dierdre Krasula at
dkrasula@nd.edu

NHL

Rangers put end to drought in win

3-2 shootout victory clinches first playoff bid since 1997 season

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Kevin Weekes was still holding court with a small group of reporters in the New York Rangers dressing room when a friendly face stopped by to congratulate him.

Henrik Lundqvist, the rookie who wrested the Rangers No. 1 goalie position away from Weekes, was all smiles after New York's 3-2 shootout victory over the Philadelphia Flyers lifted the Rangers into the playoffs for the first time since 1997.

Michael Nylander scored in regulation and the shootout, and Martin Straka added a goal for the Rangers, who are three points ahead of the Flyers with each team having seven games left.

"This isn't the only goal we have, but it's certainly part of it," general manager Glen Sather said.

Once the Rangers got into overtime, the NHL's longest active playoff drought ended. But New York, a club some picked to finish last in the 30-

team league, isn't content with just reaching the postseason. The Rangers are gunning for the division title, too.

"We're speaking kind of casually now that we did clinch a playoff berth, but when you stop and think about what that means and how that looked in August and how that looked in September ... to now be in this position it's very gratifying," Weekes said.

Usually it is Lundqvist who is tucked in the corner of the dressing room after a Rangers win. But his sore hip put him into a suit instead of the net on this night, and left New York's biggest game of the season in the hands of Weekes — who has become a bit of a villain to the home fans who want to see Lundqvist play.

Boos rained on Weekes when New York's 1-0 lead turned into a 2-1 deficit by the end of the second period. But he held his ground in the third, made several key saves — including breakaway stops — and heard his name cheered.

"The fans have supported our team all year long and fallen in love with some of our players, certainly my partner Henrik, and that's fine," said Weekes, who earned his first home victory since Nov. 19.

MLB

Selig stands by Mitchell decision

Commissioner defends choice to head baseball steroid investigation

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Commissioner Bud Selig defended his choice of George Mitchell to head baseball's steroid investigation, saying the former Senate Majority Leader has independence.

Selig brushed off criticism that Mitchell is too much of an insider for the job — Mitchell is a director of the Boston Red Sox and chairman of The Walt Disney Co., which owns ESPN — a national broadcaster of baseball and the network airing Barry Bonds' new reality show.

"It's important for somebody who understands what I call the mores of culture of this sport as well as he does. That helps in the investigation. That doesn't hurt it," Selig said Tuesday after helping hand out World Series rings to the Chicago White Sox.

"He has complete autonomy. He wouldn't have taken this without complete autonomy. I mean the fact that we're friends

had nothing to do with it. ... He doesn't come back and talk to me. I don't want to hear from him. And he can do whatever he wants with whomever he wants. So I don't know how anybody could have more independence than Sen. Mitchell," he said.

The investigation is already under way and has no time limit. It was launched after a book detailing allegations that Bonds, who is approaching Hank Aaron's career home run record, used performance-enhancing drugs for five years starting in 1998. The probe will be limited to events since September 2002, when baseball banned steroids, but Mitchell can expand the investigation if he feels it is necessary.

"What I said to Sen. Mitchell was that, 'Look, we've done now everything we can do.' We have the toughest program in American sports. We've banned amphetamines, which I think a lot of people don't understand the significance of that," Selig said.

"And while the book triggered, as I said last week, some of this because of the specificity of things, I think it's fair — and I've thought a lot about it since — that we've taken care of the

present, we've taken care of the future and now I think it's important to look at the past," he added. "We'll see what happens. ... There's no sense in me speculating."

Selig emphasized that Mitchell was not looking into just Bonds. He's looking at the entire game.

"For anybody who thinks this is just a singular investigation is just wrong," Selig said. "It's incorrect. I don't know how much clearer I can be."

Selig was saddened by the fans' response to Bonds in San Diego on Monday night, when a syringe was tossed in the direction of the Giants' left fielder.

"I guess none of this is unexpected. I'm saddened by it in the sense that Opening Day was such a good, positive day," Selig said. "Every game was sold out. It was really a great baseball day. But controversy will spawn with that type of activity, whether I like it or not."

Bonds began the season with 708 homers and trails only Babe Ruth (714) and Aaron (755) on the career list. Selig said baseball currently has not made plans for a celebration should Bonds move past Ruth's mark but could do so in coming weeks.



University Resources for Gay, Lesbian, & Bisexual Students

The Standing Committee on Gay and Lesbian Student Needs

(Confidential information, education, and resources)
Contact: Sr. M.L. Gude, CSC, 1-5550, or student members (see web site for student contact info.)

Office of Campus Ministry

(Annual retreat for gay/lesbian/questioning students and their friends; pertinent library resources in 304 Co-Mo; confidential discussion and support)
Contact: Fr. Dick Warner, C.S.C., at 1-9704

University Counseling Center

(Individual counseling)
Contact: Dr. Maureen Lafferty at Lafferty.3@nd.edu

For more information, check out our web site: <http://www.nd.edu/~scglsln/>

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Ballers

continued from page 32

the team's cohesive play was enough to knock off its first foe.

"We were the ninth-to-last rated team, so we have a lot to prove in this tournament," Unfortunate Draw captain Fritz Shadley said.

Team 161 captain Pat O'Brien was not surprised by the game's outcome, as he thought going in his team was outmatched.

"We were hoping to play a girls team that wasn't taking it seriously," O'Brien said.

After an early 1-1 tie, Unfortunate Draw ripped off seven straight points en route to an 11-3 halftime lead. The team used its strength and athleticism to create second-chance opportunities with offensive rebounds.

The chairmen of the boards were captain Fritz Shadley and Eric "The One Who Goes by Churninator" Cherney, who both fed outlet passes to teammates for fast-break points.

The Churninator donned a Wisconsin t-shirt and scored a game-high six points, badgering Team 161's defense with a shot that was a hybrid Kareem skyhook and one-handed toss. Every player on Unfortunate scored at least three points.

Shadley said the tournament is a personal mission for him.

"I feel like I'm going to have to stand up for people named Fritz everywhere," he said. "Cause we can play basketball."

1997 All European Team 21, Dem Keenan Boyz 9

An endless arsenal of Euro-fabulousness was too foreign for the ebionically confined "Boyz" of Keenan to stop.

Dem Keenan Boyz suffered sudden culture shock, as All Euro opened up with a 7-1 run their opponent never came back from.

All Euro captain Ben Chupp said his team had to replace its original starting lineup of former Bulls forward Tony Kucoc, Hornets center Vlade Divac, Blazers center Arvydas Sabonis, Celtics guard Dino Rada and Sonics forward Detlef Schrempf due to the fact they had no affiliation with Notre Dame.

But Chupp dealt with the lineup changes and tied a game high with six points, a feat matched by teammate Anthony Obering.

Both Chupp and Obering played physical games reflecting a style more American than European, as Chupp's Grant Hill jersey suggested.

Chupp complimented Obering's play.

"We used our big man pretty well," Chupp said. "Everything kind of went through him. [He] was a dominating force."

On defense, Chupp disrupted

Dem Keenan Boyz' offensive flow by getting in the passing lanes and forcing turnovers.

Five Hot Girls Who Will Probably Lose in the First Round But are Hoping to Get Lucky 21, Flunis 15

Defying the team name, Five Hot Girls used advantages in size and quickness to defeat Flunis 21-15 Tuesday at McGlinn Courts.

"We have some quick big guys that really helped out on the fast break," Hot Girl junior Joe O'Connell said.

Five Hot Girls used its transition offense to seal the contest towards the end. The game was neck-and-neck through the first half, as Flunis employed a 2-3 zone, often doubling Five Hot Girls' big men underneath. The Hot Girls led 11-10 when the teams switched ends.

"We tried to limit their shots inside with the zone, but they got some put-backs and easy transition buckets," Flunis player Brandon Reichardt said. "We hung in there, but then we got tired, and they pulled away."

While Hot Girls had three players that were taller than the tallest Flunis member, the 2-3 zone kept Flunis in the game.

But Hot Girls began hitting their midrange jumpers after the half and increased its lead to 16-13.

"We tried to attack the open spots and get the closest shot as possible, then use our size to get putbacks," O'Connell said.

The Hot Girls pulled away using fast break opportunities created by an aggressive man-to-man defense to seal the victory.

Team 50 21, Fetching Fivesome 2

Despite eccentric clothing, the Fetching Fivesome could not overcome the wind, a talent disadvantage and an "inept" coaching staff in a 21-2 loss to Team 50 Tuesday.

"I think our lack of ability stems from our coaching," Fivesome member Maureen Sefton said.

Using a coach-designed offensive strategy, Fetching Fivesome had more than 10 passes intercepted by Team 50 near the half-court line.

"In our defense, we did score — twice," Fivesome coach Meg Ditsworth, said. "To be honest though, we're in it for the money."

Fetching Fivesome's tactic of wearing distractingly bright undergarments over regular clothes worked wonders on the defensive end of the court as Team 50 missed more than a dozen layups.

"We caused them to miss all those lay-ups," Sefton said. "But the rest of us were just too lazy to get back down there and rebound."

Halfway through the game, one of the players on Team 50 engaged in some trash-talking, Fivesome player Chrissy Perocchi said. That lit a fire under the team.

Perocchi said she her one of her opponents quip, "You guys paid \$20 for this?"

She responded by scoring the first of her team's two buckets.

After the game, resentment remained among the Fivesome.

"I'm not going out with any of those guys," Fivesome guard Lauren Shuttlesworth said.

Middle School MVPs 21, Team 183 9

Middle School MVPs topped Team 183 21-9 at the Bookstore courts Tuesday in a game much closer than the final score indicates.

The contest was a hard-fought battle between two teams comprised entirely of women that saw countless dives for loose balls. Players on both teams said the intensity level was higher than expected.

"There was definitely a lot of aggressive play," MVP senior Erika Gurrola said.

Members of Team 183 said the high-contact game resulted in many abrasions and bruises on their teammates.

"We knew that Bookstore

games were supposed to be serious as well as fun but we're very disappointed that the game got so brutal," Team 183 sophomore forward Meghan Paladino said.

All five members of Middle School MVPs are seniors.

"We knew we could take on a bunch of sophomores," MVP Liz Berry said.

Berry said the win was important to legitimize the team's name.

"Middle school was the last time we were legit," she said. "Until now."

We're Big in Europe 21, Team UBS 17

We're Big in Europe defeated Team UBS — Build Up Your Assets 21-17 at the Bookstore courts yesterday in a game that remained close throughout.

"We're definitely lucky to have won," We're Big player Patrick Starr said.

We're Big led 19-13 but Team UBS, which was composed entirely of female players, fought back to cut the deficit to 19-17. But to the dismay of a vociferous crowd, We're Big thwarted the Team UBS comeback attempt.

"It was a pretty tough loss," UBS freshman guard Alison Heyden said.

Meanwhile, members of the

all-male squad We're Big in Europe were thankful to have escaped to play in the second round.

"We faced some good players today," We're Big point guard Andrew "Conan" Digan said. "They definitely gave us a run for our money."

Digan said the two teams were evenly matched in terms of basketball talent.

His teammate, Tim "Let's Get Physical" Harmon, said the squad is looking forward to its next game, a contest Saturday against Google Maps Are the Best, True That, Double True. Harmon said his team must improve upon its performance in the first contest.

"We have to rebound a lot better than we did," Harmon said, referring to the physical play of Team UBS' players in the paint.


Despite not advancing to the second round of the open tournament, Team UBS will play again.

"We still get to play in the women's tournament, so we're not that upset," Hayden said. "This was a very good warm-up for us."

Contact Tim Dougherty at tdougher@nd.edu, Chris Hine at chine@nd.edu and Fran Tolan at ftolan@nd.edu

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IRISH BASEBALL

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5
VS. BALL STATE
5:05 PM**

Cats

continued from page 32

1 after sweeping the doubles matches and earning three wins in singles. Irish junior Christian Thompson attributed the victory to the collective efforts of the team.

"The strength of our team comes from the depths of our hearts," Thompson said. "And it's only going to get stronger as we get closer to the NCAA [Tournament]."

The nationally ranked No. 3 doubles pairing of Thompson and Irish junior Catrina Thompson downed Purdue's Brooke Beier and Mallory Voelker 8-2 at No. 1 Sunday. The Thompsons were followed by the Notre Dame's No. 29 pair of Buck and Kelcy Tefft, who defeated Randi Schuler and Stephanie Wooten 8-4 at No. 2. The final doubles win came from seniors Lauren Connelly and Kiki Stastny when they beat Anna Dzeva and Brittany Minna 8-4 at

No. 3.

Notre Dame is determined in continuing their flawless streak this season of earning the doubles point against Northwestern.

"We feel secure as we should [win the point against Northwestern], but we shouldn't be overconfident because they have good doubles [teams] too," Buck said. "Everyone is going to have to play well tomorrow, and I have full confidence we will."

The Irish have failed to secure the victory just once this season in singles — a 4-3 loss to Vanderbilt March 29. Notre Dame is hoping not to repeat that loss.

"We lost and it was a tough match, but it wasn't like we weren't fighting until the last point, and our coaches realize that," Buck said. "That day, Vanderbilt was a better team than we were. I think it was good for us, because we hopefully learned from it and use it to play well against Northwestern."

Contact Dan Tapetillo at jtapetil@nd.edu

Buckeyes

continued from page 32

powered offense will continue to produce against Ohio State. The Irish have already surpassed last year's season total of goals scored (145) with 158

goals in 10 games for an average of 15.8 per game, good for second in the nation.

But the Irish are looking to continue to mount offensive attacks.

Notre Dame freshman Jill Byers enters today's game five goals shy of the single-season Irish record for a freshman. Her 33 goals and 45 points are second on the team this year only to senior



Foote

attack Crysti Foote.

Foote, who was named Big East player of the week for the third time this year Tuesday, has 41 goals and 20 assists.

Despite an overall losing record, the Irish have fared well against Ohio State recently. Notre Dame has won three out of its last four games against Ohio State. In 2002, Notre Dame's first NCAA Tournament appearance in program history, the Irish were defeated by Ohio State in regular season play before beating the Buckeyes in their post-season run.

Ohio State dropped its first eight games of the season before beating Davidson 16-5 at home Sunday.

Buckeyes senior midfielder KC Carter and sophomore attack Jessica Patane lead the Ohio State offense with 21 and 17 points, respectively.

Ohio State sophomore attack Kristen Slahor is the team's most efficient threat

in the starting lineup. Slahor has eight goals on 15 shots and has added seven assists in nine games.

Buckeyes freshman Kristen Gilwee leads Ohio State in the net with a 10.34 goals against average.

In the next few weeks, the Irish face a gauntlet of tough opponents.

Duke, Georgetown, Vanderbilt and Syracuse are all ranked and noble opponents to the resurgent Notre Dame squad.

Notre Dame and Duke clash Sunday at 1 p.m. at Koskinen Stadium in Durham, N.C.

Georgetown hosts the Irish April 15 in Washington, D.C., and Notre Dame ends its regular season at home against Vanderbilt May 7.

The Observer was unable to contact tenth-year Irish head coach Tracy Coyne Tuesday.

Contact Chris Williams at cwilli11@nd.edu

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Tuesday, April 4th
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DoubleHeader!
First Pitch @ 4:00pm

Wednesday, April 5th
vs. Akron
First Pitch @ 4:00pm

Cooper

continued from page 32

Phelps and Kyle Weiland to close out the game. But Chicago State's bats forced Mainieri to keep Graffy in the game until the Weiland pitched the ninth.

"[Graffy] was pitching so well that I just let him keep going," Mainieri said. "I thought Graffy pitched with a lot of emotion out there and a lot of fire, made some big pitches."

The Irish did not waste Cooper's leadoff double after a scoreless Chicago State first inning.

Dressman (3-for-4, one RBI, one walk) pulled a single to right field to move Cooper to third base. Notre Dame shortstop Jeremy Barnes' walk loaded the bases before

designated hitter Sean Gaston scored Cooper on a fielder's choice to third base.

Notre Dame second baseman Ross Brezovsky (2-for-3, 2 RBIs, one walk) followed Gaston with a two-run triple to right centerfield — giving Notre Dame a 3-0 advantage.

Irish left fielder Steve Andres' one-hop single to right over the head of 6-foot-5 Cougar first baseman Raven Jackson scored Brezovsky and extended the lead to 4-0.

"In all honesty, we had a couple of base running mistakes, but other than that I thought we played a pretty decent game," Mainieri said. "I thought Chicago State is a much improved program, and they played extremely well and made it a tough game."

Chicago State pitcher Jonathan Kohn pitched an eight-inning complete game, allowing six earned runs, 11 hits, five walks and three strikeouts. Kohn threw 137 pitches against Notre Dame after a 161-pitch outing in 7 1-3 innings against Kansas State March 28.

"That's amazing," Mainieri said of Kohn's pitch totals. "He was a real challenge for us."

We get teams pitching their ace against us, and we're using our guys that are young kids that are trying to get experience. So I thought our kids really met the challenge very well today."

The Cougars cut into the four-run deficit in the second inning on an RBI groundout by catcher Cody Sandzimier with runners on second and third.

RBI singles by Bernosky and center fielder Chris Goya forced Gruener from the mound in the third inning with Notre Dame leading 4-3.

Cooper drove Notre Dame center fielder Alex Netey

home with his deflected double in the sixth and was immediately followed by a Dressman RBI single to left field to score Irish catcher Cody Rizzo that gave Notre Dame a 6-3 lead.

The Cougars were able to muster a one-

run seventh but could not secure a hit against Graffy in the eighth or Weiland in the ninth. Sandzimier scored the run on an RBI groundout by John Torres to move the tally to the final of 6-4.

Cooper helped the Irish escape further damage in the seventh inning when Cougar shortstop Roc Latino popped up near the first base dugout. After making the catch, Cooper doubled up the runner tagging from second.

Weiland secured his seventh save on the season with a perfect ninth inning, striking out the first two Cougars faced.

The Irish pitcher was roughed up in an eighth inning appearance last Saturday

against Pittsburgh when he allowed two earned runs on two hits before working out of the jam.

"He just hasn't gotten on the mound enough times," Mainieri said of Weiland. "So we were definitely going to throw Weiland today no matter what, and we want to see if he can bounce back again tomorrow and pitch an inning against Ball State."

The Irish head back into action today against Ball State at 5:05 p.m. at Frank Eck Stadium.

Notes

♦ The Kohn breaking ball that hit Rizzo in the second inning was the 75th time the catcher has been hit by a pitch in his Notre Dame career. That vaulted him into sole possession of third place in the all-time NCAA career hit-by-pitch tally, surpassing Texas' Jeff Ontiveros (74). Gabe Somaribba of Florida Atlantic holds second place (81) and San Francisco's Tony Hurtado is the career leader (92).

"They try to jam him sometimes and he doesn't back down," Mainieri said of Rizzo's record. "He just takes it for the team. Believe me, I don't encourage him to do it — I don't even like him to do it — but it's just one of those parts of the game. Thank goodness he doesn't get hurt."

♦ Notre Dame starter Wade Korpi and Cooper were named to the Big East Weekly Honor Roll this week. Korpi pitched a three-hit, 11 strikeout, complete game shutout of Western Michigan on Mar. 29 to earn recognition. Cooper hit .529 with a home run, two doubles and three RBIs in five games last week.

Contact Kyle Cassily at kcassily@nd.edu

Shutouts

continued from page 32

"Heather's changeup was on fire and Brittney's curve was menacing."

The pitching staff's dominance was especially important in Tuesday's doubleheader since the offense could muster just three runs on ten total hits in both games.

The Eagles pitching shut down Notre Dame's hitters, and the Irish drew no walks in the first game and two in the second.

"I don't think we really lacked offensive production today, the hits just weren't going where we needed them to go," Irish center fielder Alexandra Kotcheff said.

But when the hits did land where the Irish needed them, good things happened for Notre Dame.

In the first game, Irish second baseman Katie Laing led off the bottom of the second with a triple to the wall in center field. Notre Dame shortstop Sara Schoonaert drove in Laing for the team's first run with a ground ball to second.

With two outs in the fourth, Irish first baseman Linda Kohan knocked a 1-2 pitch to the gap in right for a double. Notre Dame designated player Erin Glasco then stepped up and drove a ball over the head of Eagles centerfielder Heather Giroux for an RBI double and insurance run Booth wouldn't need.

The biggest hit of the second game came in the bottom of the sixth inning with neither team on the scoreboard. Kotcheff led off the inning with a double to center and then moved over to third on a sacrifice bunt by Irish senior catcher Mallorie Lenn. Notre Dame third baseman Meagan

Ruthrauff then stepped up and drove in Kotcheff for the winning run.

Ruthrauff, who was 2-for-3 in the game before Sarah Smith pinch ran for her, said the Irish lacked a certain intensity on offense.

"We had some intensity, but we could bring a lot more," Ruthrauff said. "If we would have done that, we would have been able to score a lot more runs."

With slim leads in each game, the defense stepped up to provide Booth and Bargar with support. Notre Dame's infield played well, preventing potential hits from getting through the infield.

"We had very solid defense today," Ruthrauff said. "Laing in particular was flawless, showing her range not only to the hole but also to her left."

The outfield also showed its range, not allowing an extra-base hit.

The sweep of Eastern Michigan was the Irish's eighth and ninth consecutive wins, during which they have allowed only three runs to opposing hitters — including three consecutive shutouts and two no-hitters.

Notre Dame next faces Akron today at 4 p.m. at Ivy Field.

The Zips (11-14) are lead by freshman outfielder Cali Stratton, who enters the contest with a .295 batting average, one homer and seven RBIs. Akron freshman pitcher Julie Boyes is batting .284 with one home run and nine RBIs.

Gumpf feels the Irish can beat Akron.

"We definitely have to pick it up a notch," Gumpf said. "They'll bring it and we have to be ready."

Contact Jay Fitzpatrick at jfitzpa5@nd.edu

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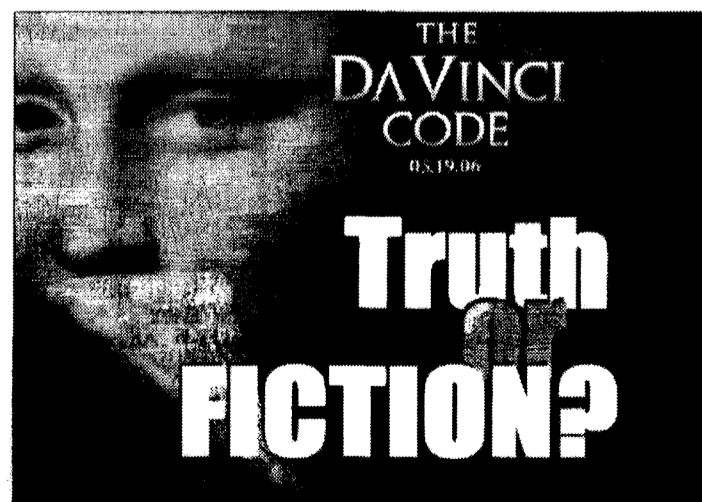
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The Da Vinci Code



A look at how The Da Vinci Code
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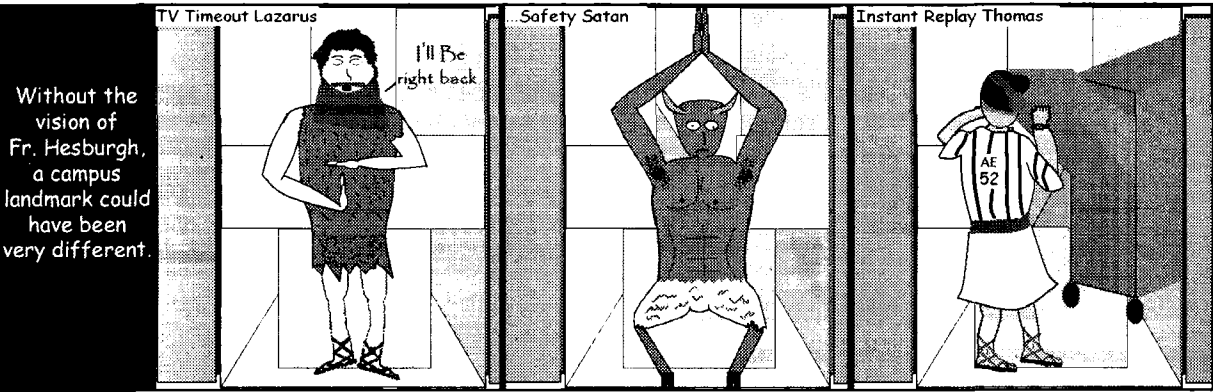
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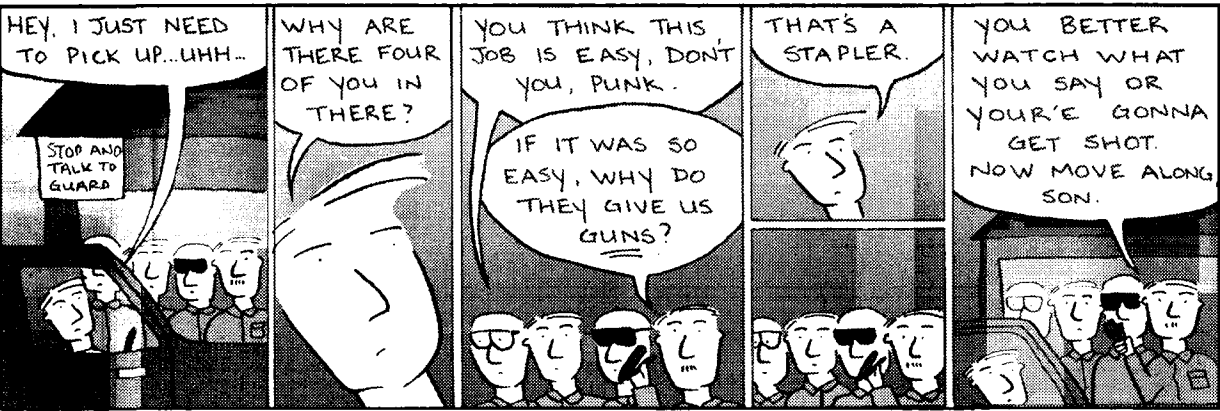
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ALEC WHITE & ERIK POWERS



CROSSAINTWORLD

ADAM FAIRHOLM



JUMBLE

HENRI ARNOLD
MIKE ARGIRION

JUMBLE

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

ALLIC
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YAPPEE

SNUFIL

BOCHOR

Answer here: WAS

Yesterday's Jumbles: PROBE AGING JUMBLE BOUGHT
Answer: What the drivers did in the demolition derby – A "BANG-UP" JOB

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

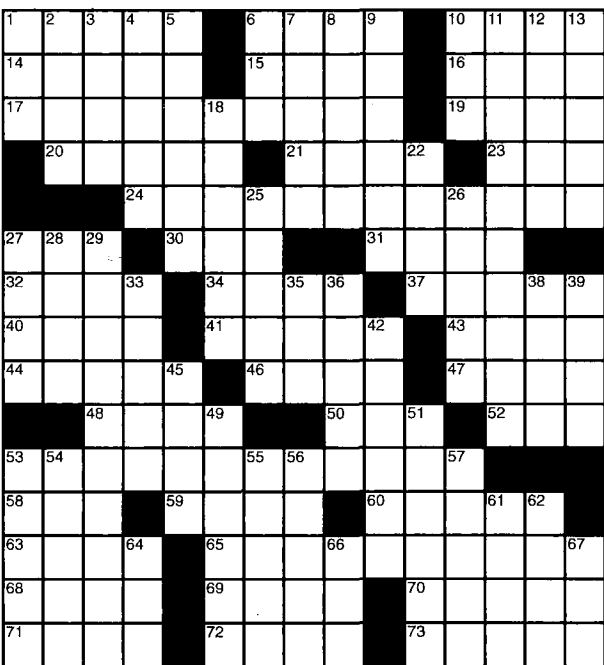


Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

CROSSWORD

WILL SHORTZ

- ACROSS**
- 1 Turn
 - 6 Wall St. deals
 - 10 Polish, as text
 - 14 To have, in Le Havre
 - 15 The last Mrs. Chaplin
 - 16 Matter of contention
 - 17 Royal recorder?
 - 19 World capital of 1949-1990
 - 20 School in Madison, N.J., for short
 - 21 Had second thoughts about
 - 23 Carnival site
 - 24 Iranian changemaker?
 - 27 "What ___?"
 - 30 "What ___...?"
 - 31 Dingbat
 - 32 Hera's mother
- DOWN**
- 34 Klutzes
 - 37 Fingerprint part
 - 40 Some try to make them meet
 - 41 "Peer Gynt Suites" composer
 - 43 "Heartburn" author Ephron
 - 44 Something you make standing up
 - 46 Portrait on a coin of A.D. 64
 - 47 Blame bearer
 - 48 Dates
 - 50 G.I.'s troupe grp.
 - 52 Abbr. in an apt. classified
 - 53 Finalized decree?
 - 58 Round figure
 - 59 Dial in the bathroom
 - 60 Just beats
 - 63 Wanton sneer
- DOWN**
- 1 Wander aimlessly
 - 2 "Ars Amatoria" poet
 - 3 Wild hog
 - 4 Broadcaster
 - 5 Wry humor
 - 6 Late crooner Rawls
 - 7 Transvaal settlers
 - 8 Slightly ahead in a game
 - 9 How the rational behave
 - 10 Fall back
 - 11 Tough way to sell
 - 12 Certain belly button
 - 13 Lohengrin, for one
 - 18 Tasty clam
 - 22 Stylish Christian
 - 25 Get smart
 - 26 Failing to win or lose
 - 27 Fingerprint part
 - 28 "Darn it all!"
 - 29 Obviously embarrassed
 - 33 Good point



- Puzzle by Nancy Salomon
- 35 "Bah!"
 - 36 Red Cross supply
 - 38 Fat unit
 - 39 Takes in
 - 42 Preacher's preaching
 - 45 Events where white gloves may be worn
 - 49 Foil
 - 51 Chap, in Chelsea
 - 53 Just plain people
 - 54 Papas of "Zorba the Greek"
 - 55 "Cheers" barmaid
 - 56 Poppy product
 - 57 "Uncle!"
 - 61 Barely produces, with "out"
 - 62 Drought-stricken
 - 64 Low-___ image
 - 66 1972 treaty subj.
 - 67 Urban grid: Abbr.

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

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ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jamie Lynn Spears, 15; Heath Ledger, 27; Robert Downey Jr., 41; Craig T. Nelson, 62

Happy Birthday: Trust and believe in yourself if you want things to happen this year. You are the one in control. You do have wonderful ideas and what it takes to finish what you start. Your numbers are 2, 14, 24, 28, 36, 44

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't expect things to run according to plan in your personal life. You may take things the wrong way or overreact emotionally. 2 stars

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Use your charm and you'll be able to talk someone into telling you a secret. Social activities can open up doors to potential new partnerships. Short trips will enhance love. 4 stars

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): It's time you spoke up and let everyone know what you are thinking. In so doing, you rid yourself of the people who have been taking advantage of you. Clear up old feuds and move forward. 3 stars

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't let the little things bother you. A chance to do something you enjoy and make a little money at the same time should be your goal. Discuss your options with someone you admire. 3 stars

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Keep your secrets to yourself today. The less said and the more done, the further ahead you will become. 3 stars

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Be careful not to give too much of your time or money today. If you are too accommodating, someone will take advantage of you. 4 stars

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Someone will be out to get you one way or another. Don't set yourself up for disappointment. Instead work diligently on a project you can do by yourself. 2 stars

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Your interest in what's going on around you will result in your joining a worthy cause. The people you meet and the contributions you make will bring promising results. 5 stars

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You have plenty of energy so put it to good use. A chance to get involved in something with friends or relatives will pay off. Money can be made if you are smart with your investments. 3 stars

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Get busy doing the things you know will pay off and you will excel today. Your moneymaking ability will kick in and those who want to do business with you will get what you are trying to accomplish. 3 stars

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): If you try to start too big, you will end up becoming discouraged. Baby steps will ensure you make progress. 3 stars

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Fun and games are apparent today. You can make some very important changes around your home. They may not please everyone but the ones who are in favor will back you every inch of the way. 5 stars

Birthday Baby: You are a dreamer with big vision. You are positive, aggressive and progressive. You are thoughtful, kind and generous with people you love. You are open, trusting and true to your beliefs.

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

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BASEBALL

Cooper's double ignites Notre Dame offense in victory

By KYLE CASSILY
Sports Writer

Notre Dame first baseman Craig Cooper pulled two doubles down the left field line and ignited a first-inning rally to propel Notre Dame (18-8) over Chicago State (3-17) 6-4 Tuesday at Frank Eck Stadium. Cooper's double to open the game sparked a four-run Notre

Dame first inning. He followed it up in the sixth with an RBI line drive off the glove of diving Chicago State third baseman Randy Bernosky to extend Notre Dame's lead to 5-3. It was Cooper's 40th career double.

With Cooper's first inning double, he reached base safely for the 14th time in 17 leadoff at-bats this season (.823 on-base percentage). He is hitting

.769 at the top of the order with five doubles, one home run, three walks and a hit by pitch.

"I've always liked a hitter in the leadoff spot that was a slugger," Irish head coach Paul Mainieri said of Cooper. "Because if he leads off the game with a double or a home run or something, right away it puts pressure on the other team."

"It kind of sets a tone for the game that you've got an aggressive team that's going to attack the opposition."

Notre Dame freshman Brett Graffy earned his first career win after 5 1-3 innings of work in relief of lefty starter David Gruener.

Graffy entered the game in the top of the third with two outs and runners on first and second as Notre Dame held to a

4-3 lead. He allowed one run in the relief appearance.

Graffy worked out of the jam by forcing Cougar left fielder Chris Freshour to fly out to Notre Dame right fielder Danny Dressman.

Mainieri originally planned to pitch Gruener for three innings and give Graffy the same workload before going to David

see COOPER/page 30

BOOKSTORE BASKETBALL XXXV

Opening tips

Annual spring games started Tuesday on courts across campus

By TIM DOUGHERTY, CHRIS HINE and FRAN TOLAN
Sports Writers

The 35th edition of Bookstore Basketball tipped off Tuesday on the pavement of the Hammes Notre Dame Bookstore and two other sets of courts as teams battled in the preliminary round of the tournament.

You Surely Received an Unfortunate Draw began its tournament with a 21-5 victory over Team 161.

Unfortunate Draw's name is a reference to past champions and 2006 No. 1 seed U Got a Bad Draw, though the spin-off team lacks a starting quarterback. But

see BALLERS/page 28



Photos by DUSTIN MENNELLA/The Observer

At left, a member of Fetching Fivesome makes a pass during the team's 21-2 loss to Team 50. At right, a player on Rule No. 76 takes a shot in the team's 21-16 loss to You Won't Do it Again.

ND WOMEN'S TENNIS

Courtney to host top-10 showdown

By DAN TAPETILLO
Sports Writer

After a 4-3 road victory over Purdue Sunday, Notre Dame returns home to face No. 9 Northwestern at the Courtney Tennis Center at 3:30 p.m. today.

Despite facing one of the nation's top teams, the Irish are not allowing the pressure to get the best of them.

"This [match] is different than most because they are an incredibly tough team," Notre Dame sophomore Brook Buck said. "But we are going into the match with the same mindset [as any other match]."

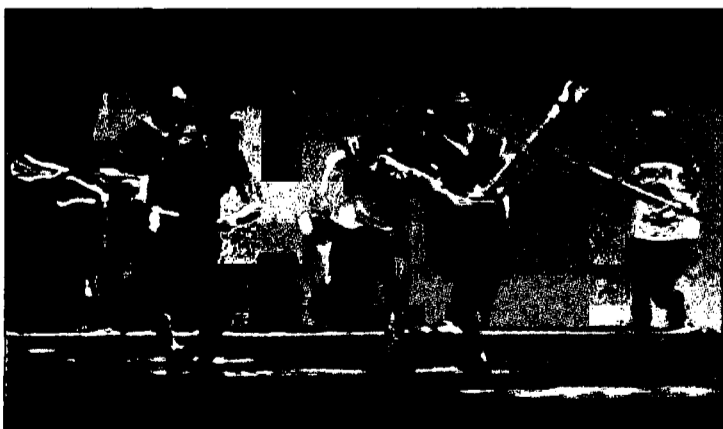
In the win over Purdue, Notre Dame improved its record to 18-

see CATS/page 29

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Irish and Bucks to tangle in Ohio

No. 10 Notre Dame faces OSU today before traveling to No. 4 Duke



GEOFF MATTESON/The Observer

Irish ophomore midfielder Mary Carpenter intecepts a pass during Notre Dame's 17-15 victory over Cornell March 5.

By CHRIS WILLIAMS
Sports Writer

No. 10 Notre Dame meets a familiar opponent today as the Irish (9-1) travel to Columbus, Ohio, to take on the struggling Buckeyes (1-8) at Jesse Owens Memorial Field, in Columbus, Ohio.

It will be the 11th match between the two programs — a Notre Dame team record. Ohio State has won six of the previous 10 meetings.

Notre Dame hopes its high-

see BUCKEYE/page 29

ND SOFTBALL

Booth and Bargar shoot down Eagles

By JAY FITZPATRICK
Sports Writer

Notre Dame starting pitchers Heather Booth and Brittney Bargar led the Irish to two shutout victories Tuesday as Notre Dame swept a doubleheader against the Eastern Michigan Eagles with 2-0 and 1-0 wins at Ivy Field.

Booth and Bargar each pitched complete game gems, combining for seventeen strikeouts while giving up only

seven hits in the two shutouts.

Booth was able to work all her pitches in the first game — forcing hitters to chase after her fastball while fooling them with the changeup. Bargar dominated the Eagles lineup in game two, striking out 11 batters with her overpowering fastball and baffling curve.

"[Booth and Bargar] showed up more than anybody else tonight," Irish head coach Deanna Gumpf said.

see SHUTOUTS/page 30

SPORTS AT A GLANCE

SMC SOFTBALL

The Belles split a doubleheader with Rober Morris, winning game one 5-2 but losing the second 6-1.

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NHL

Rangers 3 Flyers 2 (SO)

The Rangers clinched their first playoff berth since 1997, ending the league's longest drought.

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MLB — NL

Tony LaRussa's decision to have his pitcher throw Jimmy Rollins a strike on a 3-0 count kept Rollins' hit streak alive Monday.

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

Legendary UCLA head coach John Wooden was scheduled to be released from a Los Angeles hospital today after being admitted Monday.

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NFL

A judge dropped charges against Minnesota Vikings quarterback Dante Culpepper stemming from a boat-party sex scandal.

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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Maryland 78 Duke 75 (OT)

The Terrapins used the extra frame to beat the Blue Devils and capture their first national title.

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