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Students scramble for advisor appointments

College of Arts and Letters reports difficulty accomodating flood of scheduling questions

By KATHLEEN MCDONNELL
News Writer

As students scramble to put together class schedules for the fall semester, some advising offices on campus are so swamped that advisors are forced to turn away students seeking guidance before they register for classes next week.

While the undergraduate advising office in the College of Arts and Letters had openings earlier this month, Assistant Dean of the College of Arts and Letters Ava Preacher said scheduling has become increasingly difficult since so many students are struggling to squeeze in last-minute meetings with their advisors.

"Our priority is seeing students, so we try to see everyone who walks through the door," Preacher said. "There are only four of us in the office, though, so if we get a rush of students, we may simply run out of time to see them."

About 45 percent of non-freshman undergraduates have majors in the College of Arts and Letters. Advisors try to pack every student into their schedules, but the large number of requests sometimes makes this impossible, Preacher said.

The University's award-winning First Year of Studies (FYS) program has been ranked one of the best in the nation — pairing each first year student with an

see ADVISING/page 4



Political science professor Josh Kaplan advises junior Jon Bischof in his office about choosing classes last Thursday.

SOFIA BALLON/The Observer

CAMPUS LIFE COUNCIL

Members give ideas for LaFun

Resolution proposes more storage, venues

By KAITLYNN RIELY
News Writer

The Campus Life Council (CLC) unanimously passed a resolution Monday recommending renovations for LaFortune Student Center as part of the Campus Master Plan, a 15-year plan developed in 2002 that calls for major improvements to various parts of campus. Zahm Hall senator Pat Knapp presented the proposal — drawn up by the Student Senate Committee on Residence Life — which called for improvements to the existing social space, dining options, technological capabilities and storage space at LaFortune.

"We conducted some focus groups to determine what students' needs were in all these areas," Knapp said.

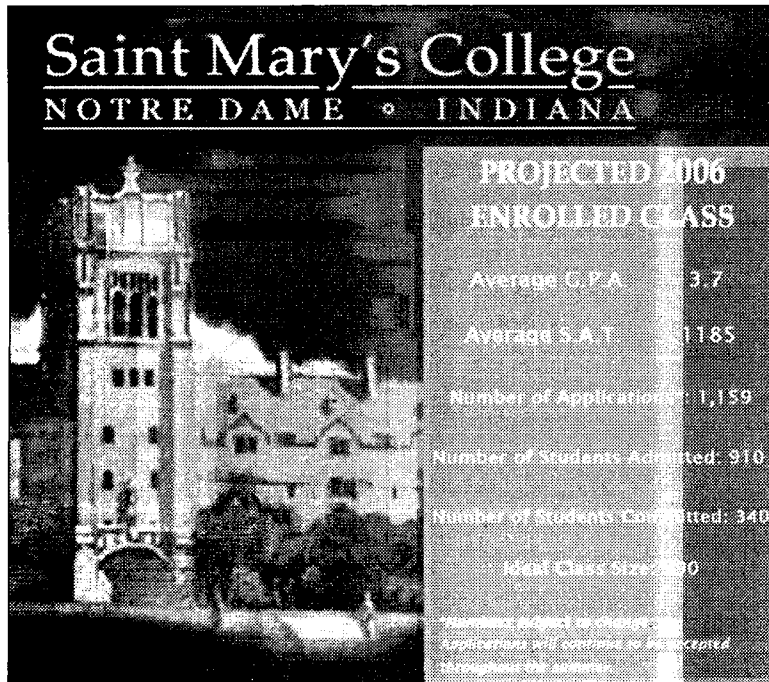
These focus groups allowed current students to reflect on what the purpose of a student center should be, while also discussing possible improvements or additions.

"We recommend some 'action venues' in the future," Knapp said. "For example, a bowling alley. Some place that's really gender neutral, some place that involves more than sitting on a couch and watching TV."

Knapp discussed improving the dining options at LaFortune by bringing in local South Bend restaurants to fill any future vacancies. The resolution men-

see CLC/page 4

College applicants break record



Graphic by ALEXA ANTEKEIER/The Observer

By MOLLY LAMPING
News Writer

Saint Mary's received a record-breaking number of applications from high school seniors for the Class of 2010 with 1,159 students vying for a spot in the College's freshman class. And applications are still coming in.

Saint Mary's has a rolling admissions policy, accepting students continuously as applications are received. So far, 1,159 applications have been submitted to the Office of Admissions, Vice President of Enrollment Management Dan Brown said.

The spike in applications represents a 20 percent increase over last year's number and is the highest application total in 17 years, Brown said.

With an average high school

GPA of 3.7 on a 4.0 scale and average SAT score of 1185 out of a possible 1600, the College's incoming freshman class is very promising, Brown said. He said those numbers are relatively comparable to academic statistics from previous years.

"I hate defining 'best' by average GPA and SAT scores, but this class has exceeded expectations academically," Brown said.

So far, 910 students have been admitted to the College and 340 students have already committed to fall enrollment.

"We don't have a wait list, per se," Brown said. "Our policy is to accept all qualified students. It usually works itself out."

Brown is "very confident" that numbers for the incoming class will reach 390 by mid-May, but he said he does not want that

see SMC/page 4

Writer criticizes 'DaVinci Code'

By MAUREEN MULLEN
News Writer

Syndicated columnist and Catholic blogger Amy Welborn criticized bestselling novel "The DaVinci Code" for depicting a version of Jesus Christ that is inconsistent with the Gospels during a lecture in DeBartolo Hall Monday.

"The big theme of The DaVinci Code is that Christianity is the enemy to the truth," Welborn said. "But this is not new."

In her lecture, titled "Decoding DaVinci: The Fact Behind the Fiction of The DaVinci Code," Welborn explained that Dan Brown's



JENNIFER KANG/The Observer

Columnist and blogger Amy Welborn lectures on misrepresentations of Jesus in DeBartolo Hall Monday.

see LECTURE/page 4

Mooney names final candidate for VP post

By KELLY MEEHAN
Saint Mary's Editor

Saint Mary's President Carol Ann Mooney has announced that Robert Lueger will be the third and final candidate in the search for the College's new vice president and dean of faculty.

Lueger, a professor of psychology and former Associate Dean of Academic Affairs for the College of Arts and Sciences at Marquette University, is scheduled to address the College community during open forums April

18 and 19. The scheduled times of the forums have not yet been announced by the College.

Lueger's events at the College will mirror last week's open forums with the College's first two candidates — Saint Mary's religious studies professor Joe Incandela and Dean of Faculty at Colgate College and Saint Mary's alumna, Jill Tiefenthaler.

One forum will be open to faculty members and a second forum will invite stu-

see VP/page 6

INSIDE COLUMN

There is no legal way?

These last few weeks I've been disheartened by the conflict and the rage with which some people view the undocumented Hispanic worker one can find behind every shovel, every mop, and every drying cloth in a kitchen sink.

Marcela Berrios

I saw a man on television saying he didn't have a problem with immigrants as long as they entered the country legally.

Wire Editor

If this were the only misunderstanding between him and my 5,000 friends yesterday, I wouldn't have worried as much, because there is a simple cure for ignorance.

I could've just told this man there really is no legal action the undocumented immigrants could've taken.

I was born and raised in El Salvador, and I could tell him exactly what happens behind the walls of the U.S. Embassy down there.

To do it the bureaucratic — yet diplomatic way — the campesinos would have to open an account with one of the banks affiliated with the Embassy, and pay a \$100 deposit to set up an appointment four months into the future.

The deposit does not guarantee a visa, though.

The campesino — someone with a 40 percent chance of living below the poverty line — now needs to present his valid credit card, an employer statement, and receipts for promptly paid utilities in the last few months.

The peasants I'm talking about live in rural areas, in houses made out of mud and clay, and the bus fare to the city, to the Embassy, is a luxury they cannot afford.

One hundred dollars is thus an insurmountable amount of money to them, and if they were foolish enough to use it to set up an appointment at the Embassy, it would be money lost.

It would be a waste because everybody knows a campesino will never get a legitimate visa, because everybody knows he cannot afford an airplane ticket or a hotel, and because everybody knows all the Embassy wants are tourists who can go to Disneyworld and spend \$10 on a hot dog.

They then brave the desert sun, and the roaring river, and most importantly, the unwelcoming eyes, because at the end of the day, these are all things that a person can endure, unlike hunger and oppression.

Yesterday, the immigrants and their friends walked under the sun again, without being scorched.

Yesterday, 5,000 people, myself included, stepped outside in quiet harmony, in sympathy with the millions of undocumented workers that face hostility in Congress.

Across the nation, similar marches and nonviolent demonstrations took place, and as I watched the news at night — witnessing hope and a human rights movement bloom before my eyes — I concluded spring had just begun.

The children yesterday were enjoying the weather, unaware of the political unrest surrounding their parents.







A little boy walking in front of me was eating cookies, and threw the wrapping on the floor.

His Mexican mother immediately scolded him, made him pick it up, and put it in her pocket.

I felt like crying, because I wish that man on television, and everybody in Washington could see things the way I do.

Contact Marcela Berrios at aberrios@nd.edu
The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE THING ABOUT A SUNNY AFTERNOON ON THE QUAD?

					
Kristie Koch freshman McGlinn	Amy Wilhelmy freshman McGlinn	Pat George freshman Siegfried	Andrew Smith freshman Dillon	Catherine Martinez freshman Cavanaugh	Aiden Fitzgerald freshman Knott
"Making Amy chase my throws around South Quad"	"Playing football is a good excuse to not do my homework."	"Showcasing my football skills to all the ladies on the quad."	"I like having playtime with my friends."	"Anything because I love sunny days on my birthday."	"Napping."



Sophomore Jordan Lacy, back left, senior Laura Froyen, front left, and sophomore Courtney Smith perform Mini Drama in Italian class Monday.

OFFBEAT

Alaskans get their pizza by air

NOME, Alaska — Last Christmas, residents of the Yupik Eskimo village of Savoonga added a special dish to their everyday fare of whale, walrus, reindeer and berries — fresh pizza flown in from Nome, 170 miles away.

A tiny delivery joint, Airport Pizza, opened several months earlier just steps from Nome's busy runways, and many of Savoonga's 700 residents were eager to try something different.

Nome's first and only pizza delivery service does a robust business in the western Alaska town of 3,500. But it really

stands out for its free deliveries via commuter plane to more than a dozen other remote, spread-out subarctic villages.

The village council in Savoonga, on St. Lawrence Island in the icy Bering Sea, wanted a special holiday treat for young families in the village. It ordered 50 pizzas, half topped with chicken and ranch dressing and the other half with Canadian bacon and pineapple.

Feds tried to seize gold caps from suspect's teeth

TACOMA, Wash. — Talk about taking a bite out of crime.

Government lawyers tried to confiscate the gold tooth caps known as "grills" from the mouths of two men facing drug charges, saying the dental work qualified as seizable assets.

They had them in a vehicle headed to a dental clinic by the time defense attorneys persuaded a judge to halt it.

"I've been doing this for over 30 years and I have never heard of anything like this," said Richard J. Troberman, a past president of the Washington Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

James Lardner will give a lecture on "U.S. Economic Inequality and Why it Matters" today at 7 p.m. in room 127 of Hayes-Healy Hall.

Myla Leguro will speak about "Women Making Peace: A Philippines Initiative" today at 4:15 p.m. in room C103 of the Hesburgh Center.

Notre Dame softball will take on Ball State at 5 p.m. Tuesday at Ivy Field.

A campus-wide stations of the Cross procession will begin at 7 p.m. today at the Grotto.

The Asian American Association will host a Night Grotto visit Wednesday from 11 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. Meet in front of Bond Hall.

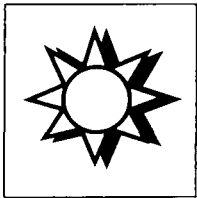

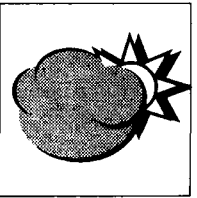
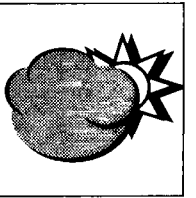
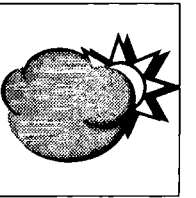
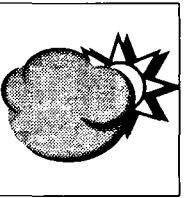
Notre Dame baseball will take on Manchester at 5:05 p.m. Wednesday at Frank Eck Stadium.

AcoustiCafe will take place at 10 p.m. Thursday in the LaFortune basement.

"Ben Hur", the 1959 film starring Charlton Heston, will be shown at 7 p.m. Thursday in the Browning Cinema in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center.

Men's baseball will take on St. John's at 12:05 p.m. Saturday at Frank Eck Stadium.

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

LOCAL WEATHER	TODAY		TONIGHT		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
												
	HIGH 70	LOW 65	HIGH 60	LOW 55	HIGH 65	LOW 50	HIGH 70	LOW 50	HIGH 72	LOW 52	HIGH 74	LOW 57

COUNCIL OF REPRESENTATIVES

Group seeks to improve relations

Shappell, Andrichik to present report to University Board of Trustees

By KATHLEEN MCDONNELL
News Writer

Student body president Lizzi Shappell focused Monday's Council of Representatives (COR) meeting on improving student/alumni relations in the upcoming year.

Shappell and former student body president Dave Baron will travel to Washington D.C. May 4 to present a report to the University Board of Trustees regarding their administration. Shappell asked COR for input to help prepare for their presentation and to begin the discussion on student/alumni relations.

"This topic carries over to [student body vice president] Bill [Andrichik] and my administration," Shappell said. "It deals with the student/alumni relationship that we're working to improve. We want to get more students on [the online alumni contact network] Golrish to get more in touch with alumni, and have receptions for football games."

Senior class president Emily

Chin said while student/alumni connections often develop during junior and senior year — a time when students receive e-mails about working with alumni to get internships or to help with career options — she would suggest trying to connect earlier with underclassmen.

Hall President Council (HPC) co-chair Bryan Lowery said dorms involve their own alumni in a number of ways, and the level of alumni involvement varies greatly by dorm.

"Morrissey Manor had a reunion after a football game last fall that attracted 200 alumni, and the Alumni Center made that happen by supplying contact information," Lowery said.

"There are variances across the dorms for alumni relations," Lowery said. "It is not necessarily a priority for dorms to put someone in charge of alumni correspondence. But maybe a yearly newsletter for alumni to hear about what we've been up to could be beneficial."

"Morrissey Manor had a reunion after a football game last fall that attracted 200 alumni, and the Alumni Center made that happen by supplying contact information."

Bryan Lowery
Hall President Council
co-chair

Junior class president Bridget Keating said the Golrish search engine made student/alumni relationships possible for organizations like the sailing club and Circle K service organization. She said she'd like the possibility of more clubs being able to take advantage of alumni connections.

In other COR news:

♦COR confirmed John Bush as the Student Union Board (SUB) chief controller for the upcoming year.

♦Carolyn White was confirmed as co-director of SUB, effective next fall after her return from spring semester in London.

♦Steve Cartwright was confirmed as a COR liaison from VOICE, the student advisory board for the Center for Social Concerns. Cartwright promises to bring the perspective of the local community, since the CSC relates closely with local leaders.

"There are a number of issues, especially involving the community just beyond Notre Dame, that this group [COR] might be interested in," Cartwright said. "I might be able to bring to COR the issues community leaders bring forth as well as those of the Center."

Contact Kathleen McDonnell at kmcdonn3@nd.edu

BOARD OF GOVERNANCE

Leaders anticipate College fundraiser

Part of second-to-last meeting closed to public

By LIZ HARTER
News Writer

The Saint Mary's Board of Governance (BOG) went over upcoming events Monday night before closing

the meeting to discuss the Observer comic strip Jockular.

Student body president Susan McIllduff briefly outlined the schedule for the final few weeks of the semester, reminding BOG members there is only one formal meeting left for the school year.

Residence hall association (RHA) president Amy Dardinger told commissioners that the dance marathon is coming up soon and added that RHA has planned some of the more recognizable events for next

year already.

"Dance marathon is on the schedule for the 21 and 22 [of April] ... and the [all-school] formal will be at Palais Royale again," Dardinger said.

Money raised from the dance marathon will be given to the Indianapolis-based Riley Hospital for Children.

After all the executive officers reported, McIllduff closed the meeting to strictly commissioners and executives.

"BOG discussed Thursday's issue of [Observer comic strip] Jockular," McIllduff said in a statement after the meeting.

When asked what was talked about in the closed session, she would not release any more details.

"Dance marathon is on the schedule for the 21 and 22 [of April] ... and the [all school] formal will be at Palais Royale again."

Amy Dardinger
resident hall
association president

Contact Liz Harter at charte01@saintmarys.edu

THE NINTH ANNUAL

IN GOD'S IMAGE

an inclusive retreat for gay, lesbian, bisexual and questioning students and their friends.

FRIDAY, April 21st AND

SATURDAY, April 22nd

Register by Tuesday, April 18:

- campusministry.nd.edu
- 114 Coleman-Morse

Questions? Contact Tiffany

Thompson (tthomps1@nd.edu)

CAMPUS MINISTRY & THE CORE COUNCIL FOR GAY, LESBIAN AND BISEXUAL STUDENTS

SMC

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will reach 390 by mid-May, but he said he does not want that number to exceed 415.

Usually between 45 and 47 percent of students who are accepted to the College choose to attend. Because the applicant pool was so large this year, the danger of having too large a class is a possibility, Brown said, although it is not probable.

The reason for the increased application numbers could be credited to the new style of admissions at the College, Brown said.

"We made the decision to visit fewer high schools this year, but we did more follow-up work with students through phone calls, e-mail and instant messaging, trying to make the College more accessible to them," Brown said.

With the cost of college tuition steadily rising nationally, the College does what it can to ensure

that attendance is financially possible for students. According to Brown, the total financial aid awarded to the class of 2010 in scholarships at this time is between \$1.6 and \$1.8 million.

Incoming freshmen won't be the only new students at Saint Mary's in the fall. Numbers are also up for transfer applicants. Twenty-six percent more applications have been turned in by potential transfer students than last year, Brown said.

However, the numbers for the College's Linkage program with Holy Cross College are down at the moment. For the past three years, approximately 50 students have participated in the program, which allows first-year Holy Cross students to take one class per semester at Saint Mary's and also live on-campus at the College while enrolled as a Holy Cross student. If students maintain a 3.0 GPA, they are then accepted into Saint Mary's as sophomores.

Contact Molly Lamping at mlampi01@saintmarys.edu

Lecture

continued from page 1

best-selling novel depicts "Christianity as the bad guy and we and our personal beliefs and our personal desires are good."

Welborn explained that Brown is not the first to publish a work that attacks established Christian belief.

"Beginning in the late 19th century, there were discoveries of various Gnostic texts. More recent discoveries of The Dead Sea Scrolls, or even the Gospel of Judas have, like earlier Gnostic texts, caused 'people to start writing books about the hidden sayings of Jesus.'"

"There were even a couple of novels written on the theme that there are other truths to Christianity not expressed by the institutional church," Welborn said.

She cited the 1999 film "Stigmata" as one example of a contemporary work which, like "The DaVinci Code," presents misleading notions and erroneous beliefs of Christianity. Yet, for some reason no previous text has received quite so much hype and public attention as has "The DaVinci Code," she said.

Welborn said what troubles her is not so much the fiction of Dan Brown's work as it is the way in which our society has received it.

"Sometimes people say to me you know, it is just a novel. If you go buy it, its on the fiction shelf," Welborn said. "Of course I realize that. Of course 'The DaVinci Code' is just a novel. In fact, I would say that 'The DaVinci Code' is 99 percent fiction. Paris exists. The Louvre exists. Leonardo lived."

Other than those basic aspects of the story's setting,

there seems to be little fact to the tale, according to Welborn.

She said that she's encountered many who accept at least some assertions of "The DaVinci Code" as truth. Welborn said readers "who lack adequate knowledge of theology and history fail to realize the inventions of the author."

Welborn believes that many people who read the book may see Brown's extensive bibliography and believe the book

the Gospel?

"The Jesus of The Da Vinci Code says that we're fine the way we are," Welborn said. "But what does the Jesus of the Gospel say? Love your enemy. Sell everything you have and give the money to the poor. Blessed are the poor. Jesus says if you want to serve me, feed the hungry, cloth the naked, visit the imprisoned ..."

"Of course, people don't want that Jesus because that's hard stuff. That's the Gospel. And

"What bothers me is the number of people who allow this book to shape their sense of early Christianity, shape their sense of art."

Amy Welborn
syndicated columnist

so yes, it matters. 'The Da Vinci Code' Jesus doesn't save or redeem. 'The Da Vinci Code' Jesus lies on a page, but the Jesus of the Gospels, he can change our lives."

Welborn received her B.A. in Honors History from the

University of Tennessee and her M.A. in Church History from Vanderbilt Divinity School and has worked for the Church for most of her life.

Welborn has written for the Catholic press for the past fifteen years and is currently a very popular Catholic blogger. Recently she has dedicated much of her time to discussing and lecturing about Christianity as she understands its representation in "The DaVinci Code," which her book, "Decoding DaVinci," examines in more detail.

Welborn said with the upcoming release of the film, it seems to her that "The DaVinci Code" is destined again to be a hotly debated topic in popular culture.

Contact Maureen Mullen at mmullen1@nd.edu

VP

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dents, administration and hourly employees to meet the candidate. Student leaders and search committee members have both scheduled private meetings with Lueger, as well as Incandela and Tiefenthaler.

Faculty, administration and students will have the opportunity to share their opinion of the candidates following the forum through the submission of an evaluation form — a process that Mooney has deemed successful thus far.

Although Mooney does not attend the forums and has yet

to see the evaluation forms — which are submitted directly to Human Resources — she said she has "been told responses have been coming in at a good rate."

The search to replace the current Vice President and Dean of Faculty Pat White began as a result of his Jan. 28 announcement that he would be leaving the College at the end of the academic year to head Wabash College in Crawfordsville, Ind.

Mooney said she has not set a specific date to name White's replacement, but hopes to do so by the end of the semester.

Contact Kelly Meehan at kmeeha01@saintmarys.edu

CLC

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tions that bringing in local businesses could help students develop "meaningful relationships with the South Bend community." The resolution also brings up a frequent student request discovered by the task force— longer evening hours for Burger King.

The Senate Residence Life committee broached the issue of increasing storage space in the building for student groups to director of student activities Brian Coughlin.

Storage space is filled to capacity right now, but Student Activities will look into adding closet space in the long-term renovation plan, Knapp said.

With regards to improving the technology offerings in LaFortune, the Senate committee recommended making wireless more widely available throughout the building.

In other CLC news:

♦The CLC task force on social

concerns wants to alert incoming freshmen of the dangers posed by third party websites and illegal downloading and file-sharing. They intend to give cautionary information to new students during Freshman Orientation.

♦Student Union Board manager Jimmy Flaherty discussed his meeting with the Office of Information Technologies to create a "database of student lead-

ers."

Under this new site, prospective student leaders could fill out online applications and committees could then sift through the database to find committee members.

Flaherty said it was highly unlikely the site would be in place by next year.

Contact Kaitlynn Riely at kriely@nd.edu

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ROIT 10115 is a 6 week, 6 credit course meeting from June 20 until August 3 - MTWRF 8:30-10:30/11:00-12:00

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WORLD & NATION

Tuesday, April 11, 2006

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

page 5

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Returns reveal close election in Italy

ROME — Exit polls indicated Monday that the Italian parliamentary election pitting center-left economist Romano Prodi against flamboyant billionaire Premier Silvio Berlusconi was too close to call.

Projections showed Berlusconi's coalition leading in the Senate, but the two sides running neck-and-neck in the lower Chamber of Deputies.

Based on 95 percent of pollster Nexus' sampling, Berlusconi's alliance won 158 Senate seats, compared with Prodi's 151. The margin of error was between 1 and 3 percentage points.

Also, the projections did not account for six seats chosen by Italians abroad.

Voter turnout was about 84 percent, the Interior Ministry said.

Africa pledges to improve education

MAPUTO, Mozambique — African leaders launched a campaign to get every child in school by 2015, and Britain responded Monday by pledging \$15 billion in education aid to developing countries over the next decade.

British Treasury chief Gordon Brown joined Mozambique President Armando Guebuza, former South African President Nelson Mandela and other African leaders in launching the Free Education For All initiative.

Brown's announcement follows a pledge by Britain and other members of the Group of Eight industrialized nations at their summit last year to double aid for Africa, the world's poorest continent.

NATIONAL NEWS

Bush quells rumors of Iran attack

WASHINGTON — President Bush dismissed as "wild speculation" reports that the administration was planning for a military strike against Iran.

Bush did not rule out the use of force, but he said he would continue to use diplomatic pressure to prevent Iran from gaining a nuclear weapon or the know-how and technology to make one.

"I know here in Washington prevention means force," Bush said at the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University. "It doesn't mean force, necessarily. In this case, it means diplomacy."

Several weekend news reports said the administration was studying options for military strikes. The New Yorker magazine raised the possibility of using nuclear bombs against Iran's underground nuclear sites.

Katrina victims return home to vote

LAKE CHARLES, La. — Hundreds of Hurricane Katrina evacuees in Texas and other states boarded buses and traveled to Louisiana on Monday to cast early ballots in New Orleans' storm-delayed election for mayor.

The election officially is April 22, but residents scattered around the country by the storm will be able to vote all week at satellite voting centers set up in Lake Charles, Shreveport, New Orleans and seven other cities around the state.

"We need to be a part of the political process," said Cara Harrison, an evacuee from the flood-devastated Ninth Ward.

LOCAL NEWS

Bus accident injures five students

INDIANAPOLIS — A car collided with a school bus Monday, sending five students to a hospital to check for possible injuries.

All of the students, ranging in age from 6 to 18, were released after being examined or treated for bumps and bruises at Methodist Hospital, said Karen Cantou, a spokeswoman for the Metropolitan School District of Perry Township, on the south side of Indianapolis.

The bus was carrying 15 students to the RISE Learning Center, an alternative school that serves students, including some with learning or behavior problems.

JAPAN

N. Korea to resume arms talks

Japan conference rekindles hope of nuclear disarmament amid recent pessimism

Associated Press

TOKYO — A Chinese diplomat said Monday that North Korean negotiators were warming toward a resumption of international talks on ending the North's nuclear weapons program, but the top U.S. envoy said he had no plans to meet directly with his counterpart from Pyongyang.

North Korea has shown "some" signs of positive commitment, China's top nuclear envoy, Wu Dawei, said after meeting twice with the North Korean delegation on the sidelines of a two-day security forum in Tokyo.

"We can expect some progress," he said without elaborating. "We discussed what should be done to achieve a breakthrough."

Wu's comments were some of the first positive statements in a flurry of diplomatic meetings that has otherwise produced little progress in resuming the stalled, six-nation nuclear talks. Those talks include the United States, the two Koreas, China, Japan and Russia.

North Korea has boycotted the dialogue since November, citing what it calls a hostile U.S. attitude illustrated by financial sanctions Washington imposed on North Korean companies for alleged financial crimes.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill has urged North Korea to return to the talks but said he has no plans to meet one-on-one with the North Korean side while in Tokyo.

"The North Koreans have not yet decided to



Delegates of six nations — the United States, North Korea, South Korea, China, Japan and Russia — sit at the 17th North East Asia Cooperation Dialogue in Tokyo Monday.

return to the talks," Hill said after arriving at Tokyo's Narita airport, adding that both countries held unproductive meetings on the matter in January and March.

"I'm not sure there's much more I can talk to them about," he said. "Everybody else is in, so we're waiting for them."

The North's chief delegate, Kim Kye Gwan, said Monday he was prepared to meet with the United States.

The North agreed in the six-nation talks last year to abandon its nuclear

program in exchange for aid and security guarantees, but the talks floundered and there has been little progress on implementing the accord.

North Korea has refused to restart talks unless the financial restrictions — imposed on a Macau bank and North Korean companies — are lifted, but Washington maintains the sanctions are unrelated to the nuclear talks and will stay in place.

The presence of delegates from all six nations involved in the talks at

the private conference in Tokyo has raised hopes they could find a way through the impasse.

The forum's agenda will focus on energy, verification processes regarding the North's nuclear program and ways to ease tensions on the Korean Peninsula, according to its sponsor, the University of California, San Diego.

For several days, delegates from Japan and South Korea have met with their North Korean counterparts and each other but have made little progress.

Immigrant rallies swarm U.S. cities

Associated Press

ATLANTA — Tens of thousands of immigrants spilled into the streets in dozens of cities across the nation Monday in peaceful protests that some compared to the movements led by the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and farm-labor organizer Caesar Chavez.

"People of the world, we have come to say this is our moment," said Rev. James Orange of the Georgia Coalition for the People's Agenda in Atlanta, where police estimated that at least 50,000 people marched Monday morning.

At the Mississippi Capitol, 500 demonstrators sang "We Shall Overcome" in Spanish. In Pittsburgh, protesters gathered outside Sen. Arlen Specter's office to make their voices heard as Congress considers immigration reforms.

Groups in North Carolina and Dallas called for an economic boycott by immigrants to show their financial impact.

The rallies had a noticeable impact on production at Excel Corp. plants in Dodge City, Kan., and Schuyler, Neb., a spokesman for the nation's second largest beef processor said. He said there was a slowdown, but the company had no intention of taking action against workers who were gone for the day.

"We assume they will be back at work tomorrow," spokesman Mark Klein said.

Atlanta police estimated that at least 50,000 people, many in white T-shirts and waving American flags, joined a two-mile march from a largely immigrant neighborhood Monday morning.

The protesters had two targets in

Georgia: congress members weighing immigration reform and state legislation now awaiting Gov. Sonny Perdue's signature that would require adults seeking many state-administered benefits to prove they are in the U.S. legally.

Nineth Castillo, a 26-year-old waitress from Guatemala who joined the Atlanta march, said she has lived in the United States for 11 years "without a scrap of paper."

Asked whether she was afraid to parade her undocumented status in front of a massive police presence, she laughed and said: "Why? They kick us out, we're coming back tomorrow."

Hundreds of Latinos in North Carolina were called on to skip work or boycott all purchases Monday to demonstrate the financial impact of the Latino community on area businesses.

Advising

continued from page 1

advisor and requiring regular meetings throughout the year to keep students on track. Notre Dame has one of the highest retention rates in the nation, as 97 percent of first year students come back for their sophomore year.

But after freshman year, students must find new advisors in their respective colleges and adjust to a new and varied set of resources.

"I remember them not telling us we needed to declare our majors in order to get into classes, then it was two crazy days trying to get that done and make sure I was fulfilling requirements," said sophomore English major Jenni Fong.

But Fong said after she made the adjustment from FYS, she has not had any serious problems with advising.

Though students often have multiple advisors available within their respective colleges, some upperclassmen still return to their FYS advisor.

"I do see some [older] students, especially if I had a good relationship with them," FYS advisor Mel Tardy said. "But we try and trust the other advisors with upperclassmen — it is better to go to the department [of the student's major] because they know the particular classes and the new developments."

Upperclassmen advisors primarily focus on helping students choose classes and finalize their fields of interest, Tardy said. Because they each have so many students to assist, advisors after freshman year do not call students to meet on a regular basis like in FYS.

In the College of Arts and Letters, students can visit the assistant deans to obtain information on University and college requirements as well as "an overview of how all the pieces fit together," Preacher said. They also have major and minor program advisors, but each department determines its own structure — some have one director, some have multiple faculty advisors.

The wide degree of latitude in class selection for Arts and Letters majors usually means more students in the advising office right before registration, Preacher said.

"Many students come to us because they have more than one major or a major and a minor, or a major and supplementary major, and so forth, and are not sure how all their courses will be counted," Preacher said. "But we'd like students to come to us not just for accounting purposes ... but for developmental purposes — what are their goals in building their curriculum?" In the Mendoza College of Business, advisors are available at both the department and college level. Students can choose to meet with any of the five undergraduate advisors sophomore year, and they can choose to switch to a specific department advisor during their junior year.

Upperclassmen in all colleges can meet with an advisor as often as they choose — the extent of the relationship is left up to the individual student, undergraduate business advisor Doug Hemphill said.

Hemphill said some 4.0 students never walk into the office with questions, while other strong students come in twice per month.

"One thing that makes this work pretty special is the personal relationships," Hemphill said. "You can talk about [a] student's ideas for a particular program, or about what they want to do with their lives after graduation."

Advisors in the College of Business have two main purposes,

Hemphill said. They make sure students understand the requirements for graduation, and they try to show students the possibilities and opportunities the University offers.

"Nobody can see all that Notre Dame has to offer," Hemphill said. "But if we talk about ideas that we have seen or come up with, the student has more to choose from. We don't want anybody to walk out the door after graduation saying 'I wish I'd known about that option, I would have done that.'"

"We want everyone to take advantage of the opportunities here."

Nearly half of business requirements must be fulfilled outside of the College of Business, Hemphill said. So business students often need advice similar to the kind

Arts and Letters majors seek — advice like picking up a second major or selecting Arts and Letters classes that will complement their area of interest.

For students in the University's other colleges — Science, Architecture and Engineering — more extensive major requirements reduce the amount of choices students have. As a result, individual advising is not always needed.

The School of Architecture has just one advisor, Father Richard Bullene, to whom students report sophomore year through their fifth year. Bullene said architecture students, like business students, have a varied response to the advising system.

"Some students just want the PIN and I need to use it to force

them to sit down and go over progress towards degree completion," Bullene said. "Others seek out advice on possibilities for minors and second majors, on career issues, particular study options, etcetera."

For students in the College of Science like senior biology major Mike Tallarico, the choosing may be relatively easy when looking to schedule classes. Tallarico said he only visits his advisor to add or drop classes or for mandatory meetings.

"For the most part advisors can answer my questions, but I usually do not have much to ask," Tallarico said. "They are helpful but if a student is self-sufficient he or she should not really have to go to the advisor."

Engineering students face a sim-

ilar situation. Freshman Jean Whitney, an aerospace and mechanical engineering major, does not plan to seek much advice before choosing classes, since she has few choices.

"Most of my classes are set as an engineer," Whitney said. "This semester I only got to choose which University seminar I took and what I wanted to do in [physical education class]. I think this does make an engineering advisor less necessary for freshmen and sophomore years."

Preacher said advisors at Notre Dame try to be problem solvers.

"I like to say that our office specializes in the art of the possible," Preacher said.

Contact Kathleen McDonnell at kmcdonn3@nd.edu

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MARKET RECAP

Stocks			
Dow Jones	11,141.33	+21.29	
Up: 1,386	Same: 167	Down: 868	Composite Volume: 1,918,702,740

AMEX	1,950.99	-3.60
NASDAQ	2,333.27	-5.75
NYSE	8,283.08	+12.43
S&P 500	1,296.60	+1.10
NIKKEI(Tokyo)	17,434.95	-21.63
FTSE 100(London)	6,067.00	+40.90

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
JDS UNIPHASE CP (JDSU)	-4.81	-0.19	3.76
NASDAQ 100TR SER I (QQQQ)	-0.14	-0.06	42.26
INTEL CP (INTC)	+0.62	+0.12	19.36
SUN MICROSYS INC (SUNW)	-2.48	-0.13	5.11
CIENA CORP (CIEN)	-7.28	-0.35	4.46

Treasuries			
30-YEAR BOND	0.00	0.00	49.63
10-YEAR NOTE	+0.11	+0.05	45.67
5-YEAR NOTE	-0.04	-0.02	50.36
3-MONTH BILL	-0.08	-0.04	48.89

Commodities			
LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl.)	+1.35	68.74	
GOLD (\$/Troy oz.)	+9.10	601.80	
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)	-1.43	78.60	

Exchange Rates			
YEN		118.4900	
EURO		0.8268	
POUND		0.5741	
CANADIAN \$		1.1487	

IN BRIEF

Wage increase ends transit strike

DENVER — Trains and buses started rolling again Monday to the delight of thousands of Denver-area commuters who had to find another way to get to work during a weeklong transit strike.

"I'm incredibly happy," said Rebecca Popowitz, 22, who does not own a car and had to walk or used the slower, pared-down bus service that still ran during the strike. "Grocery shopping was a bit of a pain because I had to lug it all back home."

The Regional Transportation District's 1,750 union mechanics, bus drivers and train operators walked off the job April 3 after rejecting a contract offer that their union leaders had recommended. The strike shut down all train service and more than half the bus routes in a seven-county area.

On Friday, the workers overwhelmingly approved a new contract with the same overall wage increase but a larger initial raise.

Market anticipates Alcoa earnings

NEW YORK — Stocks closed narrowly mixed Monday as investors looked past rising oil prices and awaited a sample of first-quarter earnings from Alcoa Inc. after the closing bell.

There were no new economic reports to feed the market's obsession with whether the Federal Reserve will extend its series of interest rate hikes to fight inflation. Recent trading has been skittish amid investors' split opinions on how much growth the economy can manage.

A fresh rise in crude oil pushed futures above \$68 a barrel, as the market grew nervous about mounting political tension over Iran's nuclear arms program. A barrel of light crude jumped \$1.35 to settle at \$68.74 on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

"I think one of the conundrums the market faces is that we continue to see energy prices go higher," said Arthur Hogan, chief market analyst for Jefferies & Co. "It's going to be hard to get the market to rally much this week with oil starting at \$68."

Hogan said the weakening bond market may also hinder investors' confidence, but added that Wall Street could see a lift from a solid corporate earnings. Alcoa led the way with a sharply better-than-expected quarterly profit.

Wal-Mart seeks corporate bank

Retail empire promises FDIC that it will not enter branch banking industry

Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Va. — An executive of Wal-Mart Stores Inc. on Monday defended to federal regulators the company's proposed expansion of its empire into banking as a parade of objectors prepared to make the case against the move.

The first-ever public hearings by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. on a bank application are drawing a wave of opposition to the move by the world's largest retailer. The company insists that consumers and retail banks have nothing to fear and is pledging to stay out of branch banking and consumer lending.

Some 300 institutions operate branches in 1,150 Wal-Mart stores and the company says it doesn't want to compete with them.

"Wal-Mart is absolutely and unequivocally committed not to engage in branch banking," Jane Thompson, president of Wal-Mart Financial Services, testified at the first day of the hearings. "In fact and in practice, Wal-Mart is clearly committed to supporting community banking, not undermining it."

Thompson said the parent company would buttress the new bank "and will formally commit to protecting the bank against loss and maintaining its capital."

Opponents are not convinced. They portray Wal-Mart's proposed in-house bank — which would handle the 140 million credit, debit card and electronic check payments the company handles each year — as leading eventually to full-



FDIC officers John F. Bovenzi, left, and Douglas H. Jones take their seats during the public hearings regarding the Deposit Insurance Application of Wal-Mart Bank.

scale banking with retail branches that would destroy local banks.

Bentonville, Ark.-based Wal-Mart already is too big, they say, with 3,900 stores nearly saturating the U.S. market and unrivaled dominance — accounting for 10 percent of the U.S. retail economy, according to some researchers.

"Wal-Mart is a company that does not play by the rules," Robert E. McGarrath Jr., a corporate governance official with the AFL-CIO, said in a statement prepared for Monday's hearing.

"That factor alone makes its proposed bank a threat to the taxpayers and the nation's banking system." Wal-Mart's

record in communities across America reveals a company that ruthlessly wipes out important community businesses," McGarrath said.

In an unusual alignment, the banking industry, unions and consumer groups have come together to make the case that a Wal-Mart bank would unfairly concentrate power over retail and small-business lending in one company that is already the biggest business in many small towns and rural communities.

But Wal-Mart's proposal has its supporters, too, including the American Financial Services Association, which represents credit card issuers

and other consumer lenders, and the Salvation Army and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, which receive donations from the retailer.

Supporters say a move by Wal-Mart into banking would benefit consumers by lowering fees and prices in an industry needing more vigorous competition.

Nearly 70 witnesses are testifying, both for and against Wal-Mart's application for federal deposit insurance for a state-chartered bank in Utah, in FDIC hearings on Monday and Tuesday in Arlington, Va., and on April 25 in Overland Park, Kan.

Bush asks China to deflate currency

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush on Monday urged Chinese President Hu Jintao to address the issue of China's currency system during his upcoming visit and said Hu must understand the issues raised by America's \$202 billion trade deficit with his nation.

Bush, labeling America's relationship with China "complex," said his agenda for the talks next week would include "fairness in trade as well as human rights and freedom of religion."

Hu will meet with Bush at the White House on April 20 during his first official visit to Washington. The administration is facing growing unhappiness in an election year over a record \$202 billion trade deficit with China, the highest ever recorded with a single country.

"The visit of Hu Jintao will be an

interesting and important visit," Bush told students during a question and answer session at Johns Hopkins' School of Advanced International Study.

"He's coming into a country where there's over a \$200 billion trade deficit and a lot of Americans are wondering where's the equity in trade," Bush said. "I think he could help the Americans understand the importance of a free-trading world if he were to maybe make a statement on his currency, for example."

The administration has been pressuring China for more than two years to allow its currency to rise in value against the U.S. dollar to help narrow the trade deficit. American manufacturers contend China is unfairly depressing the value of its currency by up to 40 percent against the dollar to make Chinese goods cheaper in America and U.S. products more expensive in China.

Bush also mentioned the issue of the widespread copyright piracy of American movies, music and computer software as another trade issue he would discuss with Hu.

In advance of Hu's visit, top economic officials from both countries will meet in Washington on Tuesday at the 17th annual meeting of the U.S.-China Joint Commission on Commerce and Trade, which was created to smooth trade problems between the two nations.

Commerce Secretary Carlos Gutierrez and U.S. Trade Representative Rob Portman will head up the U.S. delegation while Vice Premier Wu Yi will lead the Chinese delegation.

U.S. trade officials who briefed reporters Monday said they expected Tuesday's discussions would cover the areas of copyright piracy, where American companies claim they are losing billions of dollars.

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POLICIES

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Immigration realities

Multitudes of people across the nation marched Monday to support immigration reform. Immigration has proven to be a divisive and hard issue, but one that must be addressed. The Senate has stalled on a bill that would have allowed for "guest workers" to enter the country temporarily. The bill would also have opened up avenues for illegal immigrants currently living in the nation to pursue citizenship. The House has already passed a harsh bill that calls for the construction of a seven hundred mile wall and changing the status of illegal immigration from a civil infraction to a felony.

The stalled senatorial bill contains some very good practical logic. Illegal immigrants exist. They do so in great numbers and have a significant role in our economy — to the tune of eleven million workers. Many illegal immigrants have been already integrated into American society, and the only thing separating them from their legal colleagues is a piece of paper. It is often argued that to provide any sort of amnesty or road to citizenship for illegals is wrong, because it chooses to allow a law to go unenforced, lets people who violated the law get off unpunished and encourages more people to break the immigration laws of this country. This sounds theoretically valid and it is true that we should not encourage laws to be broken, but the point ultimately fails. The prior argument is one that applies theoretical reasoning to a practical problem.

In the purely abstract, one should not allow the laws of a nation to be ignored, should punish violators and prevent similar future transgressions; practically, we must deal with the fact that we have a very large number of illegal aliens working in this nation, with more coming, and that they are not going anywhere soon. A prac-

tical solution to the problem is to allow "temporary workers" to enter the country, in order to encourage immigrants to cross legally, and to allow illegal immigrants already in the country and working a chance to make themselves naturalized. As it is impossible to remove the vast number of illegal workers, this permits them to further integrate themselves into American society. If workers are intent on entering America, and are willing to do so illegally, it makes sense to offer them a way of doing so legally — hence the "guest worker" proposal. This way the government can exert more control over the nation's borders.

The House bill is entirely unethical. The erection of a security wall seven hundred miles long simply evolves from a siege mentality that is harming this nation. September 11 changed the way Americans viewed the world, and in many ways for the worse. It is important that we were made aware and more vigilant, so that such a tragedy can be guarded against. However, a sense of panic has attended the American population ever since and has caused many Americans to adopt a scarily insular view of the world, one that centers upon feelings of constant threat and danger imminent. Walls divide people and foster ill will. The creation of the proposed barrier would only promulgate the view that America cares nothing for poor third-worlders and is desperate to keep them out.

The proposal to make illegal immigrants felons is as appalling as it is cruel. This would create millions of felons overnight, who if caught would swell our already overcrowded penal system. Many children entered America illegally with their parents — are they to be felons too? Are they to suffer for obeying the commands of their parents, as any good child should? The felony proposal, as well as the wall one, is motivated by fear. America is seeking to protect herself by adopting overly severe measures. Harsh severity only belies vulnerability. America is only considering these options because she fears ter-

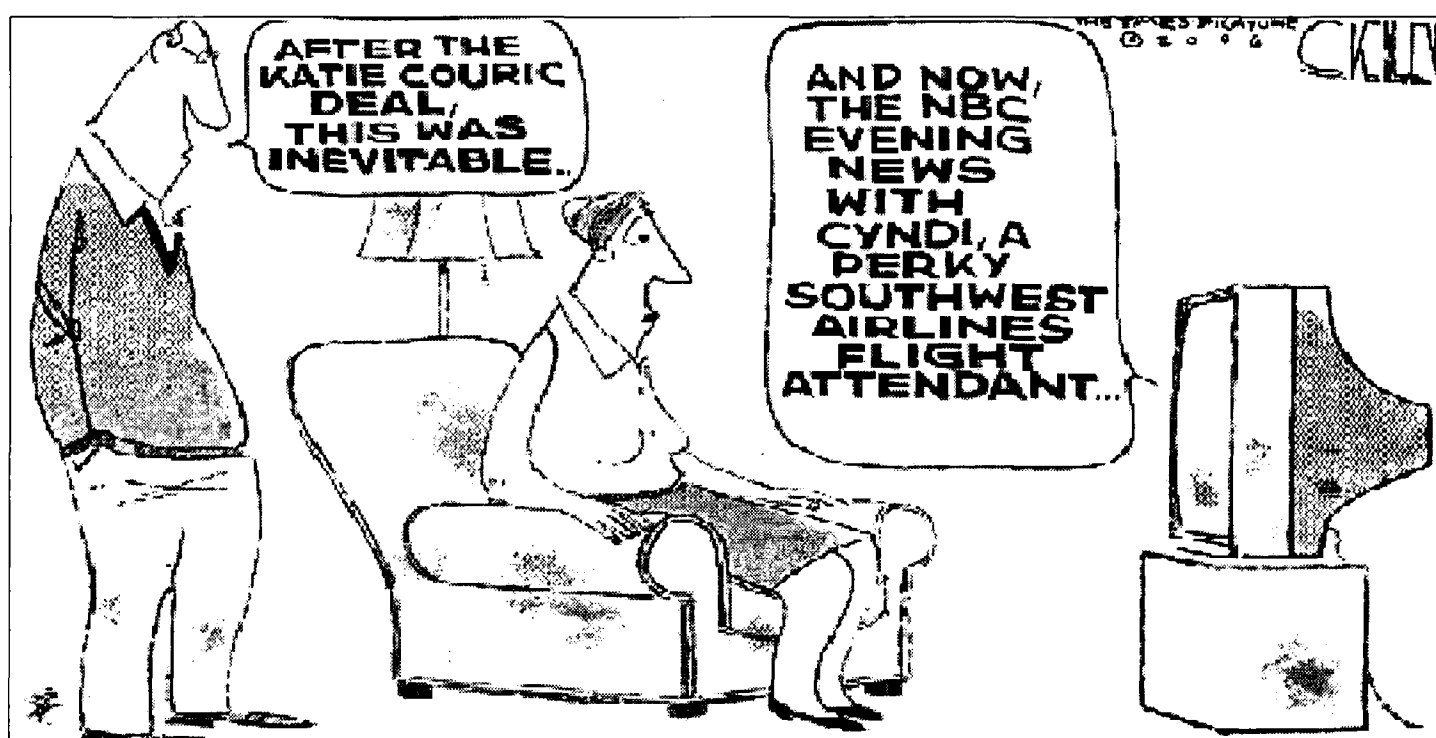
rorists entering the country or immigrants taking jobs.

Immigration is a good thing and should not be feared, but rather encouraged. The nineteenth century saw waves of Italian, German and Irish immigrants. They at first were despised and feared by segments of the population because they were different and would work for less. More than a century later, America has largely absorbed these immigrants and joined their culture to the existing one to create something very unique. That is the beauty of America — we are a collection of cultures and peoples that have synthesized to form something that belongs to no one ethnic group or culture. America is an idea. We should be excited to show it to the world and welcome its adherents to come join us. Sometimes changes to the established cultural or economic norm are unavoidable, but it would harm us more to close ourselves off like hermits. Open and friendly intercourse between nations and peoples leads to their mutual growth — just as it does in individuals. The Athenian statesman and orator Pericles delivered the following stunning lines on the openness of democracy during his moving funeral oration: "Our city is thrown open to the world though and we never expel a foreigner and prevent him from seeing or learning anything of which the secret if revealed to an enemy might profit him. We rely not upon management or trickery, but upon our own hearts and hands." Yet some in America would seek to manage and control our openness to the world using the treachery of fear.

Ian Ronderos is a senior majoring in the classics and a supplementary major in ancient Greek and Roman civilizations. Having retired from the College Republicans and adopted independent politics, he has entered the private life of peaceful contemplation. Ian can be contacted at irondero@nd.edu

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

EDITORIAL CARTOON



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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"He who joyfully marches in rank and file has already earned my contempt. He has been given a large brain by mistake, since for him the spinal cord would suffice."

Albert Einstein
physicist

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

An open letter to Father John Jenkins

I write to object to your decision to permit the continued regular production of "The Vagina Monologues" on our campus. I write in this public manner to alert our faculty, colleagues and our treasured students that not all members of the Congregation of Holy Cross, to which we belong, endorse your decision. Speaking for myself, I find the decision deeply damaging to Notre Dame and its mission as a Catholic university. It is a decision that I beg you to reconsider and to reverse.

When you were appointed president of Notre Dame there was hope that you might address and reverse the attenuation and drift in our Catholic mission that characterized our recent past. My own hope was that you would address urgently such crucial issues as faculty hiring, the development of a curriculum that truly conveys the richness of the Catholic intellectual tradition to our students and the insidious effects on teaching and learning of the increasing corporate ethos at Notre Dame. For whatever reasons, you chose to place your initial emphasis on the regular production and sponsorship by elements of the university of "The Vagina Monologues" and "The Queer Film Festival." You put forth the position that "an event which has the implicit or explicit sponsorship of the university as a whole, or one of its units, or a university-recognized organization, and which either is or appears to be in name or content clearly and egregiously contrary to or inconsistent with the fundamental values of a Catholic university, should not be allowed at Notre Dame." This was a position of such obvious good sense that I never considered that you would retreat from it. Sadly, you have done precisely that.

In asking why you would reverse a sound position, which you obviously had reached after much thought and prayer, one must conclude that you were influenced by those contributors to the debate who favored the continued production of "The Vagina Monologues." Presumably, you were influenced by the young women who produce this play and somehow see it as a contribution to the prevention of violence against women. Undoubtedly, you were influenced by the convictions of certain senior Arts and Letters faculty that any restriction on this play would damage our academic "reputation" — and especially among those "preferred peer schools" whose regard we crave. Whatever the reasons, I must tell you that your decision is being portrayed as involving your "backing down." Indeed, it is hard to understand it in any other terms.

You must know that in taking this decision you have brought most joy to those who care least about Notre Dame's Catholic mission. You have won for yourself a certain short-term popularity with some students and certain faculty but have done real damage to our beloved school and its distinct place in American higher education. By

your decision you move us further along the dangerous path where we ape our secular peers and take all our signals from them. Knowing you and having conversed with you on matters relating to Notre Dame's Catholic mission in the past, I suspect that you recognize this in your own heart. Yet, you seemingly have let the possibility of some protest cause you to back off your own stated position. You were called to be courageous and you settled for being popular. This is not your best self. This is not genuine leadership.

In your recent "Closing Statement" you reveal a level of naiveté about the process of a Catholic university engaging the broad culture that is striking and deeply harmful to our purpose as a Catholic university. We live at a time, as Yale Law School professor Stephen Carter pointed out some years ago, when the elite culture is programmed to trivialize religion. Furthermore, much of popular culture is deeply antithetical to religious conviction and practice. It offers a worldview completely at odds with any Catholic vision. It is a worldview from which none of us can be sequestered and, indeed, many of our students arrive here far more deeply influenced by the reigning culture than by faith convictions.

Amidst this larger context you are ready to permit the continued production and promotion of a play which, as our colleague Paolo Carrozza rightly put it, "seems to reduce the meaning and value of women's lives to their sexual experiences and organs, reinforcing a perspective on the human person that is itself fundamentally a form of violence." Dialogue with this point of view is ridiculous. It should be contested and resisted at Notre Dame but never promoted. Notre Dame must hold to a higher view of the dignity of women and men. Might I ask that if this play does not meet your criteria of an "expression that is overt and insistent in its contempt for the values and sensibilities of this University," then what would?

My fear is that you have been "spooked" by the fear of negative publicity if you were to "suppress speech on this campus." Here, it seems, you have a special opportunity to rethink your position. Know well that there is much hypocrisy abroad in the American academy on the issue of "academic freedom." Note that NYU had no difficulty recently in suppressing the "free speech" rights of the students who wanted to discuss and display the Danish cartoons. Note that folk at Brown University get by with a "speech code" that bans all "verbal behavior" that may cause "feelings of impotence, anger or disenfranchisement." In the American academy it is only certain kinds of speech that gets protected. And, as Professor Gary Anderson pointed out in his constructive contribution to this debate, a rather narrow range of politically correct views tends to prevail in the faculties of many institutions

which influences what that "speech" is. Notre Dame presently has a wider range of perspectives represented than most institutions who are forever prattling on about their diversity. (They are all "diverse" in the same predictable way!)

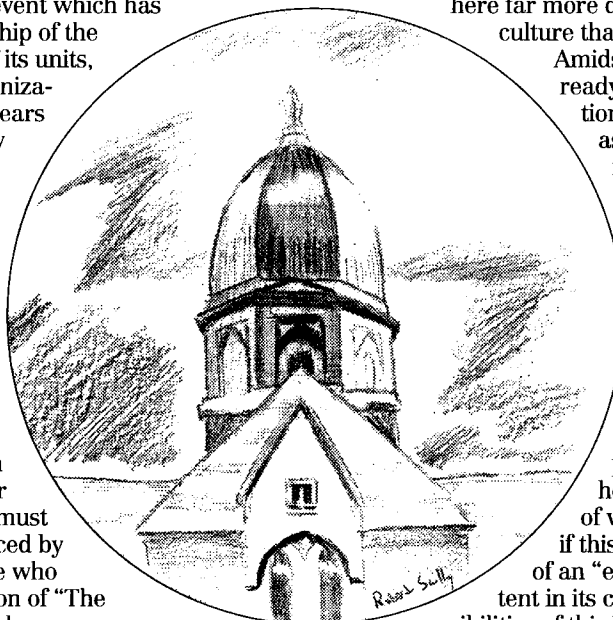
Please have the confidence to shape Notre Dame into a truly distinct institution. Take up the challenge to clarify for our secular peers that Notre Dame allows — as they do not — "classroom engagement with religious beliefs precisely as religious" (as Brad Gregory put it so well). Reveal to them with the eloquence of which you are capable that the very values and convictions which allow us to consider a whole range of questions that they cannot also necessitate us to restrict the repeated public performance and promotion of works which are deeply offensive to our values.

John, let me commend you for your admirable goal of seeking to find "ways to prevent violence against women." Over my years of teaching and pastoral service at Notre Dame I have sought to encourage my female students to appreciate their innate dignity and to truly respect themselves. I have been blessed to come to know some amazing women whom I now count as dear friends. Drawing on conversations with such women about the circumstances that they find at Notre Dame leads me to suggest that your rather elaborate committee formed to pursue this goal has the whiff of a public relations exercise about it. The painful reality is that much of the violence against women in our society results from a sick view that separates sex from love and genuine relationship, from the commodification of sex, from the portrayal of women as objects, from the blatant refusal of some men to treat women with dignity and respect. Yet how will the committee be able seriously to address such issues when you have approved the continued production of a play that reduces women to body parts? Surely you see the contradiction here? Could I request that this be an early item for consideration by this committee?

What I ask of you in this letter will require you to dig deep into your heart and soul and to re-open a matter of which I am sure you want to be well rid. I suspect you have had moments when you wished never to hear of "The Vagina Monologues" again, and we both know that there are many other important matters to which you must attend. But careful readers of works like George Marsden's "The Soul of the American University" know that similar decisions to yours which conformed religious schools to their secular peers inexorably led them down a dangerous path to the full surrender of their religious mission and identity. Regrettably, places like Georgetown University are well advanced on this course. Don't let us merely follow them. To do so you would be a betrayal of our forebears in Holy Cross. Instead, Notre Dame must lead the way in American Catholic higher education. Please go back to your best self and to your original instincts and position on this matter. Don't embarrass those of us who want to work with you to build a great Catholic university. Lead us.

Know of my prayers for you during this holiest of weeks.

Bill Miscamble, C.S.C.
associate professor of history
April 9



Dear Notre Dame student body

Hello. My name is Jason F.C. Laws and I am not a current member of MAC. I write to you as a minority Notre Dame student leader and in response to past articles about MAC (Minority Affairs Committee) and the Rob Lindley, Jr. article written last Friday, April 10.

I want to clarify my stance regarding the MAC amendment Senate meeting, at which I was in attendance. My disgust remains with the insensitivity expressed by Senate members during the discussion of the amendment to make MAC permanent. Thankfully, concrete examples of slipshod phrases such as "shut it down" or "it can wait" have been appropriately addressed already. Furthermore, Rhea Boyd's opening statement about the imperative nature of making MAC permanent, somehow and arbitrarily offended former offended members of Student Senate. At that point, I was perplexed and in complete disarray. Strangely, the significance of making MAC permanent was flooded out by political logistics, concerns for further amending the Constitution, unnecessary vouchers for individuals' character and integrity, Lindley's playful and clever reference to the Constitution as a "punching bag" and a desire to leave the meeting at a considerate time.

My challenge for those former Senators, our new Senators and all who read this article is that you begin to view MAC and the amendment to make the committee permanent as more than a simple document to be proposed, voted on and passed. See the faces of your fellow Domers, who are consistently underrepresented in our student body's voice. MAC members worked tirelessly this year to give a voice in Student Government to minority Notre Dame students. As Boyd stated at the Senate meeting, "this is the first year minority members of the student body have had an undiluted and uncompromised voice in Student Senate." Policy implementation such as the Cultural Competency Resolution and a talk by famed rapper Chuck D gave a first real glimpse of hope to minority Domers. We began to feel that Student Government desired to include the interests or affairs of minorities in the Notre Dame Student Government mainstream agenda. However, much of

that hope and trust in our student government was shattered as the MAC amendment was objectified and the minority members of the Notre Dame community were again marginalized.

Passing the amendment to make MAC permanent before the end of the Baron/Shappell administration could have sent a concrete message to all minority students and the student body that Student Government is committed to being accountable for and representing the affairs of all students and ensuring each student's voice is heard. In Lindley's testimony to the Viewpoint, he assures that "It may take a week, [or] it may take months," to address giving MAC permanent status. After three years of Student Government experience, I understand the fears of the former administration to be accountable for such an imperative task or to make more changes to the Constitution. I understand, as a former member of the 2003-2004 COR (Council of Representatives), which revised the Student Body Constitution to its current form, that a single amendment "can" wait. However, speaking as a minority student who faces the issues confronting Notre Dame's minority students everyday, the crucial changes to improve minorities' Notre Dame experience can wait no longer.

I trust the leadership that Lizzi Shappell and her new administration brings to office. I simply offer the suggestion of increased sensitivity from leaders around the issue of giving all students a voice on this campus. Realize that a deeper look at MAC and the progress it has made symbolizes the cry from minority Notre Dame students to believe and unite wholly in our famed proclamation that "We are ND!"

Jason Laws
junior
Fisher Hall
April 10

SCENE & HEARD

That's so
'Brokeback'

While "Brokeback Mountain" has generated significant media buzz even preceding its release, the film recently received a different kind of national attention when Gonzaga basketball fans chanted

'Brokeback' at the opposing team.

As it turns out, these were not rallying cries in support of gay rights and inclusion, nor were these students simply voicing their enthusiasm for Ang Lee's film. This incident cannot even be attributed to a rare, collective case of basketball-induced tourettes.

Instead the 'brokeback' chant in the Gonzaga basketball arena was a taunt meant to suggest that members of the opposing team were gay.

However, louder than these students' shouts is a message about our society. From this event it is important to acknowledge that even in a social atmosphere that allows a progressive film like "Brokeback Mountain" to enjoy critical and commercial success, Americans still harbor dangerous predispositions and apprehensions regarding homosexuality.

Even after the critics' acclaim marched across newspapers, film awards were distributed, and media coverage began to die down, "Brokeback Mountain" continues to hold a distinct place among college students' vernacular, with a decidedly negative connotation. The term 'brokeback' has now replaced the slang use of 'gay,' or refers to something of "questionable masculinity," as it is defined at urbandictionary.com.

Although the success of the film allowed many Americans to collectively pat themselves on the back for producing and consuming such a progressive piece of art, the extremely hostile way in which a word closely tied to homosexuality is wielded requires a reevaluation about what the reception of "Brokeback Mountain" really reveals about our society. Simply because it exists in the mainstream does not mean that our culture has evolved passed biases and close-mindedness.

One common reaction to the film is disassociation. In other words, people are quick to separate themselves from having seen the film or even desiring to see the film as if making this distinction reaffirms their ultimate heterosexuality and masculinity.

The primary fear appears to be that watching "Brokeback Mountain" is either

a glaring indication of one's own sexuality and masculinity, as if somehow the 134 minutes spent in the theatre will, second-by-second, drain one's heterosexuality.

However, it's not as if American audiences have never seen homosexuality portrayed in art or the media. The problem for most people seems to stem from the fact that in this film homosexuality creeps outside of its socially sanctioned world of stereotypes. As soon as representations of gay men stop being limited to the characters with impeccable fashion sense that we typically see in media representations, they suddenly become threatening.

Instead of subsequent variations of "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy's" Fab Five picking out a new wardrobe for some clueless bachelor or "Will and Grace's" Jack's affinity for Cher, "Brokeback Mountain" presents its viewers with a depiction of gay men that not only runs contrary to the images that are most prevalent, but associates homosexuality with America's ultimate guy's guy — the cowboy.

While this appears to be one of the most disconcerting aspects of the film for people who cannot reconcile homosexuality with a lifestyle outside of the stereotypes typically portrayed in the mass media, it is also the most important precisely because it challenges this notion society has about homosexuality.

Even among other films with prominent gay or lesbian storylines, "Brokeback Mountain" appears to be the most progressive in its ability to pull homosexuality out from under stereotypes, as well as put it in the context of an extremely passionate and tender romance. Within the film world similar movies have been limited to independent films that don't gain a large following.

Like television representations, the depiction of homosexuality among mainstream films is often limited to stereotypes of both gay men and lesbians. Additionally, typically homosexuality is represented just by one person — relationships outside of one-night-stands and college phases have not yet had a significant role in Hollywood films.

All this considered, 'brokeback' is more than just a slang term for homosexuality or a barb. Instead 'brokeback' represents an outlet for constructing representations of homosexuality away from stereotypes and a way to keep our own predispositions about it in check.

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

Contact Mary Squillace at msquilla@nd.edu



Mary Squillace

Scene Writer



Photo courtesy of movieweb.com

Heath Ledger, left, stars with Jake Gyllenhaal in Ang Lee's critically praised film "Brokeback Mountain." It represents a break from stereotypes in modern culture.

VIDEO GAME REVIEW

'Syphon Filter' sets P

By MARK BEMENDERFER

Assistant Scene Editor

Until recently, the Sony PSP lacked a defining gaming experience for the system — a sore spot for Sony's first foray into the portable gaming market. Every console requires one key game early on in its lifetime to drive sales and guarantee the system's success. For the Xbox — Microsoft's first foray into consoles — it was "Halo," an instant classic that kept the system alive in its rocky inaugural year.

But recently, the PSP's first true breakthrough title has arrived. "Syphon Filter: Dark Mirror" has splashed down in the PSP's dark waters, and provides a shining path towards the system's full potential.

The game is a third-person shooter and is set in the vein of previous titles in the "Syphon Filter" franchise. Situating the camera firmly over protagonist Gabe Logan's shoulders grants the player solid control over his varied actions while keeping the action in the forefront. Logan, a special-ops soldier who is brought in when things get hairy for foreign involvement, specializes in mixing stealth with Rambo-style tactics throughout

the course of the game. Action flies fast and heavy in the game, wasting no time. The first level alone features an immediate firefight, a sniper battle and several tense moments of sneaky, covert action.

Guiding Logan through the physical maneuvers in the game, such as climbing walls, sliding down zip-lines and crawling through tight corridors, is as simple as hitting a single key. The controls have been streamlined to fit the PSP's cramped control scheme, although they're still not perfect.

Switching weapons and performing some of Logan's signature moves in the middle of a heated firefight is simply a little complicated. Character movement is mapped to the left analog nub, while context-sensitive movements are done with the directional pad, also on the left side of the PSP. Unless the player has two left thumbs, it's going to be difficult, and potentially fatal, to switch weapons or try to climb out of harm's way when bullets fill the air.

The single-player experience is not dramatically different from past "Syphon Filter" efforts, but that's necessarily a bad thing. The makers of "Halo" built a gaming legend by recycling popular elements from first-person shooters. "Syphon Filter" does the same, borrowing instead from political

thrillers like "Splinter Cell" and "Metal Gear Solid." Fans of those games will find plenty to like in this portable offering.

Comparing once again to Microsoft's "Halo" powerhouse, this game's multiplayer capabilities drive its longevity. People with a wireless connection will find a live, robust gaming community to play against. The matches include up to eight

Syphon Filter:
Dark Mirror

Sony Bend



Disney, Square Enix

By NICOLE DORNER

Scene Critic

Many laughed at the thought of "Final Fantasy" characters such as Cloud Strife fighting alongside Donald and Goofy from the Disney stable. But after the shocking smash hit "Kingdom Hearts" took the gaming world by storm in 2002, Square Enix and Disney join forces once again for "Kingdom Hearts II."

The game starts off where "Kingdom Hearts: Chain of Memories" ended. Sora and his companions awaken from their yearlong slumber, and continue their quest to find King Mickey. Experience with the previous games is essential, as the player is thrust into this sequel with little explanation.

The player is given immediate control not of Sora, the young male protagonist of the original, but Roxas. He shares many characteristics with Sora with the exception that he wields dual-Keyblades. Roxas explores Twilight Town, and eventually discovers Sora and his slumbering companions in the basement of a mansion featured in "Chain of Memories." He disappears as they awaken, but continues to play a role through the rest of the story. His segment serves as a mere tutorial to the game ahead and to introduce new gamers to the "Kingdom

Hearts" control scheme.

At first glance, the controls are nearly identical to "Kingdom Hearts" — gamers command Sora's actions through a command menu in real time. However, KHII adds a few new abilities to Sora's lineup, mainly the Drive Gage. With it Sora can merge with one or two members in his party, becoming even more powerful and gaining some amazing abilities.

The Drive system adds depth of the battles, and is also fairly easy to control. The player is also given more control over how the teammates act during a battle. The exact tactics that the computer partners employ are up to the player's discretion.

The new Reaction Commands are an awesome addition to the "Kingdom Hearts" library of attacks — they force the player to pay attention to what's going on in the battle and adds a new dynamic to the battle. These commands allow the player to pull off visually stunning stunts that dramatically impact gameplay. For example, mastering Reaction commands is vital to defeating some bosses.

One of the biggest complaints with the original was the Gummi ship. Sora used this ship to travel to the different planets, and was a complete chore to control for gamers. This time around, it controls like a first person shooter and feels more like a natural extension of the gameplay as opposed to a forced, annoying mini-game.

However, some things were not improved from the original. While some of the voice acting is well done, some sound as if amateurs performed them and are very dull and monotone. The flow of the game is almost the

Kingdom
Hearts II

Square Enix



SP gaming standard



Photo courtesy of ign.com

Special operative Gabe Logan ducks behind cover in the PSP title "Syphon Filter: Dark Mirror." The game features a robust multi-player experience.

other players in various settings, such as deathmatch, team deathmatch and objective based games. Doing well in these games will boost the player's online rank and earn medals that in turn unlock new weapons for the player. These new weapons provide a dramatic boost to the player's online efficiency and level the playing field against veteran players.

Like most online games, "Syphon Filter" can be intimidating at first to newcomers. Players with the aforementioned unlocked weapons tend to use them indiscriminately against weaker newcomers, giving a stilted kill to death ratio. The locations of more

powerful weaponry are another key for success, which new gamers are left in the dark about.

But perseverance is key here, and players who stick with the online will find an enjoyable, rewarding experience.

"Syphon Filter" is the PSP's driving game at the moment, featuring a well-developed and satisfying multiplayer and single player campaigns. For people with — and even without — a wireless connection, a more enjoyable experience will be hard to find.

Contact Mark Bemenderfer at mbemende@nd.edu

reunites for 'Hearts'



Photo courtesy of ign.com

Captain Jack Sparrow, left, advises "Kingdom Hearts II" protagonist Sora in a world based on Disney's "Pirates of the Caribbean."

ame as KH1 — visit world A, defeat the heartless/Nobodies in world A, fight a boss, make everyone happy, go to world B, wash rinse repeat. And though some of the worlds are new (Space Paranoids, the amazing Tron world, Port Royal, Ride Land, etc.), they still brought back any of the same worlds from the first game (Agrabah, Halloween Town, 100 Cre Wood).

pared to other role-playing games on the market, with completion time ranging as low as 20 hours. The standard difficulty is quite easy, and button-mashing works as well as a refined strategy most of the time. However, fans of Disney and Square Enix will find plenty to like here, and even those casual gamers will find a cinematic, gripping experience.

Contact Nicole Dorner at ndorner@nd.edu

DVD REVIEW

'Gardener' a gripping experience



Photo courtesy of movieweb.com

Tessa Quayle (Rachel Weisz) shares a moment with her husband, Justin (Ralph Fiennes), in the movie "The Constant Gardener."

By MARY SQUILLACE
Scene Critic

In a world where popular cinema has become synonymous with the special effects-driven and action-packed formulaic plots of the Hollywood blockbuster, "The Constant Gardener" comes as an enormous relief. Unlike most contemporary dramas, this film is able to take the audience on a truly gripping journey without the "race against the clock" and "world on the brink of disaster" gimmicks that have become so familiar to moviegoers. Instead, "The Constant Gardener" replaces these conventions with a story that not only gets the viewers' adrenaline pumping, but is socially and emotionally engaging as well.

"The Constant Gardener" tells the story of Justin Quayle (Ralph Fiennes) and his wife Tessa (Rachel Weisz). When Justin's role as a British diplomat moves the two of them to Africa, Justin settles quietly into his position, occupying himself with his garden in his spare time. Tessa, on the other hand, picks up more perilous hobbies. Passionately invested in a variety of Amnesty International-esque organizations, she takes on a mysterious project that appears to culminate in her brutal murder.

Upon his beloved Tessa's death, Justin embarks on a quest to uncover his wife's secrets. As Justin begins to delve into details of his late wife's personal past, he finds himself rapidly confronted with the disturbing and dangerous truth behind one corporation's ascent.

The film, which begins with Tessa's death and then cuts between scenes from the past and present, is immediately engaging and maintains its momentum all the way to the final scene. Laced with tiny mysteries, "The Constant Gardener" requires the viewer's full attention and rightfully captures it with its narrative. Heightening the effects of the action-oriented side of the film — in which a seemingly omnipresent villain trails Justin as he races across two continents for answers — is the distinctly emotional aspect of the film.

Central to this emotional appeal is its focus on Justin and Tessa's relationship. The romance between the characters is more than a convention set-up in order to infuse the story with a sexy subplot. Here the character interactions emit a palpable chemistry and ultimately generate incredible sympathy for Justin, the protagonist.

The characters are also largely responsible for the fresh feel to this drama. Breaking with a convention of popular cinema, Justin is a somewhat accidental hero, lacking in the self-awareness and bravado of typical protagonists.

Fiennes approaches this role with subtlety in order to convey Justin's mild-mannered but emotionally complex personality. Though ultimately Justin exhibits courage, it is clear from Fiennes' performance that his every action is mediated not by the overwhelming sense of righteousness and masculinity that drives so many of Hollywood's heroes, but with the same sensitivity with which he tends to each one of his precious plants.

Likewise, Weisz, proving herself worthy of the Academy Award acclamation she received in March, brings Tessa to life. Her apparent comfort with this role allows her inhabit both Tessa's uncontained passion and down-to-earth attitude.

Nearly upstaging both actors' performances are the visual elements of "The Constant Gardener." Coming from director Fernando Meirelles and cinematographer Cesar Charlone — two of the minds behind the beautifully shot "City of God" — the stunning visuals of this film come

as no surprise. Sweeping pans and wide shots of the Kenyan landscape punctuate the film, enhancing the narrative's ability to captivate its audience.

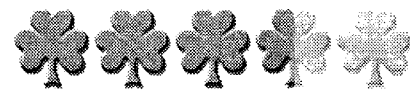
However, the constant

presence of Africa in the film's background is more than just eye candy. While the events in the film are fictional, "The Constant Gardener" fulfills its social responsibility to point out some serious issues plaguing Africa. Not only does the film succeed in garnering the viewers' compassion for its lead characters, but it also effectively draws the audiences into this distant culture. It provokes, at the very least, some consideration to the needs of those living on the continent we so often forget.

Ultimately, "The Constant Gardener" forces us to remember that it doesn't necessarily take a series of explosions and a rugged, muscled protagonist to put us on the edge of our seats and make our hearts pound. The film has an emotionally and socially significant story arc that builds to a satisfying and poignant conclusion, one that allows the film to make a lasting mark on the hearts and minds of its audience.

Contact Mary Squillace at msquilla@nd.edu

The Constant Gardener



Director: Fernando Meirelles
Writer: Jeffrey Caine
Starring: Ralph Fiennes, Rachel Weisz, Danny Huston, Daniele Hartford, Packson Nguigi

MLB

Mulder, Cards christen new home with win

Thome stays hot while White Sox big bats use three home runs to hand Detroit its second loss in their home opener

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Apparently, the new Busch Stadium is both a hitter's and pitcher's park. At least for Mark Mulder.

The Cardinals' left-hander threw eight strong innings and hit his first career home run to help the St. Louis beat the Milwaukee Brewers 6-4 Monday in the first major league game at the \$365 million ballpark.

Scott Rolen's two-run double in the fourth off Tomo Ohka (0-1) gave the Cardinals the lead for good and Albert Pujols hit his fourth homer, a drive to the left-center power alley estimated at 445 feet.

The day began on a festive note, with Pujols and Chris Carpenter, the NL MVP and Cy Young Award winners, throwing out dual ceremonial first pitches to retired Cardinals greats Willie McGee and Bob Gibson. It stayed festive most of the day for a sellout crowd of 41,936.

Bill Hall's two-run homer in the second was the only damage off Mulder (1-0). Hall was 3-for-4 with a pair of doubles for Milwaukee, which has lost two straight after a 5-0 start that put the Brewers in first place in the NL Central.

Mulder allowed seven hits in eight innings, struck out five and walked one. He also was 2-for-3 with a double on a hop off the center-field wall and a walk — coming in he had a .119 career average in 84 at-bats with four RBIs.

His home run, a two-drive off Jose Capellan in the seventh,

put the Cardinals ahead 6-2.

Mulder also started the final home opener at the old Busch Stadium last year in addition to pitching the final game at the 40-year-old park last fall in a Game 6 NLCS loss to the Houston Astros.

After Geoff Jenkins led off with a bloop single in the ninth, Braden Loeper came in and got Carlos Lee to ground into a double play. Hall then doubled and scored on a single by Rickie Weeks.

Astros 5, Nationals 4 (12)

Eric Bruntlett sat in the Houston Astros' dugout for hours on Monday wondering, as he usually does, whether he would play.

When manager Phil Garner finally called on his valued reserve in the 12th inning, Bruntlett produced a game-winning sacrifice fly that scored Craig Biggio in a win over the Washington Nationals.

"You've been sitting around for three-plus hours, and then you have to come in and get the job done," Bruntlett said. "It isn't easy."

Bruntlett is used to it. He won two games last season in the Astros' final at-bat, including a three-run homer that ended a 14-inning game in Washington last July.

"He's tremendous," Lance Berkman said. "The thing that makes him so good is he can sit over there for a week with almost no activity, and when you call upon him, he's always ready to go."

Biggio led off the 12th inning

with a double and advanced on Willy Taveras' bunt. Biggio was 0-for-5 before lining his 608th double off the metal scoreboard in left field.

"He didn't have a lot of good swings," Garner said of Biggio. "True to the Hall of Fame moniker he'll be wearing, he came through."

Dodgers 8, Pirates 3

Everything about the Dodgers-Pirates rivalry was how Jim Tracy remembered it. The Dodgers jumping out to an early lead. Olmedo Saenz getting an important hit. The offense being more than good enough.

Tracy's only problem is he's now in the opposing dugout.

Jason Repko homered and tripled to drive in four runs in the first two innings, and the Dodgers roughed up their former manager's new team, beating the Pirates Monday in Pittsburgh's home opener. The Pirates are 1-7 — their worst start since they had the same record in 1974, when they went on to win a division title.

"One-and-7 obviously isn't the way you want to start," Tracy said. "But the (Dodgers) team I managed last year started 12-2 and we won 71 games. So it's not a large enough sample size of games. It doesn't mean this is the kind of team we're going to be for the next six months."

Tracy's Dodgers were 427-383 in five seasons, or 44 games above .500. And nearly half of that edge came from being 20 games above .500 against the Pirates — 27-7. Los



Lance Berkman is greeted by third base coach Doug Mansolini after hitting a first inning home run in Houston Monday afternoon.

Angeles is 16-3 in Pittsburgh since 2001 and has won nine of 10 and 19 of 22 overall against the Pirates.

White Sox 5, Detroit 3

Jim Thome again provided the Chicago White Sox with power, and for a change his teammates gave him some help.

Thome and Joe Crede hit two-run homers and Paul Konerko added a solo shot, leading Chicago to a victory Monday in the Detroit Tigers' home opener.

When Thome made it 2-all in the third with his fourth home run, he remained the only White Sox player to clear the fences this season. In the sixth, Crede ended the non-Thome homer drought and put the White Sox ahead. Konerko restored their two-run lead in the eighth.

"I knew we were going to hit," said Freddy Garcia, who gave up three runs and five hits over six innings for his 100th win. "We have a great lineup."

Thome, who has been used solely as a designated hitter, was acquired from Philadelphia in November for outfielder Aaron Rowand and two pitchers. Thome hit just seven homers in 59 games last season, limited by elbow and back injuries.

"As long as Jim is healthy, we

know he can help this ballclub," Chicago manager Ozzie Guillen said. "Being a DH will help him because it keeps him out of the field."

The last time the White Sox played at Comerica Park was Sept. 29, when they clinched the AL Central en route to their first World Series title since 1917.

"I think that game set everything up for the playoffs," Guillen said. "People were talking a lot of stuff about us, about how we choke, but after we clinched here, it took a lot of pressure off the players."

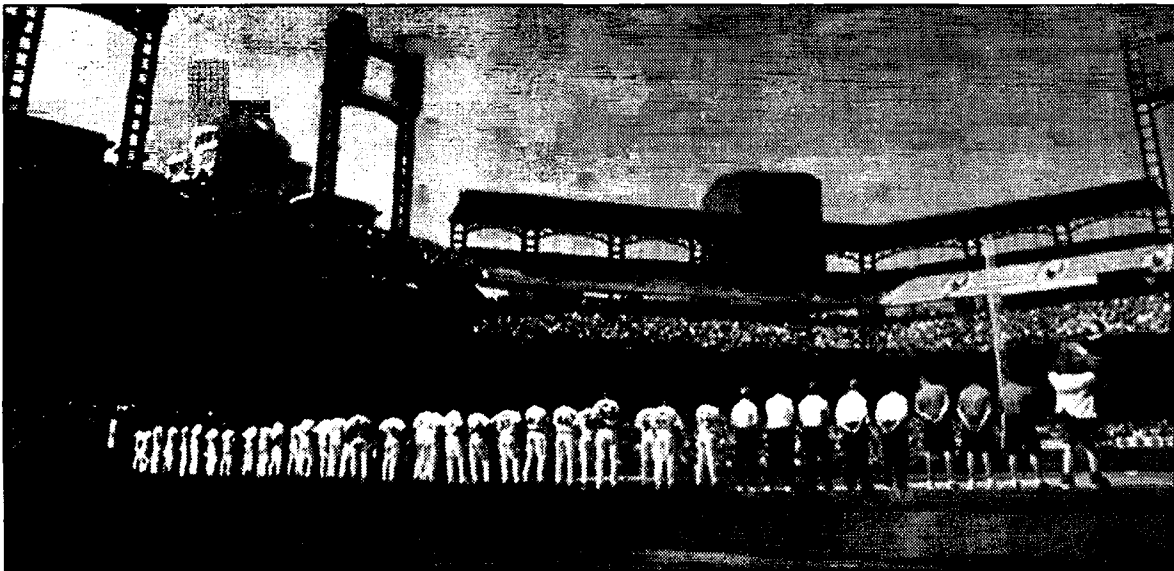
Garcia (1-1) bounced back with a solid outing after allowing seven runs and nine hits over four innings in his first start, a loss to Cleveland.

Chicago has won two straight after losing four in a row.

Jeremy Bonderman (1-1) allowed four runs and six hits in seven innings for the Tigers. Detroit has lost two straight following a 5-0 start under new manager Jim Leyland.

"It was a good ballgame — just a bad outcome," Leyland said.

Leyland, who led Florida to the 1997 World Series title and was a two-time NL manager of the Year in Pittsburgh, is back in the dugout for the first time since quitting in Colorado following the 1999 season.



The St. Louis Cardinals line up prior to the beginning of their home opener and the inaugural game in the new Busch Stadium. The Cardinals won the game 6-4.

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AROUND THE NATION

Tuesday, April 11, 2006

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

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NHL

Eastern Conference, Atlantic Division

team	record	OT	points
NY Rangers	44-22	12	100
Philadelphia	42-24	11	95
New Jersey	42-27	9	93
NY Islanders	34-38	5	73
Pittsburgh	20-44	13	53

Eastern Conference, Northeast Division

team	record	OT	points
Ottawa	50-19	8	108
Buffalo	48-24	6	102
Montreal	40-28	9	89
Toronto	37-32	8	82
Boston	29-35	14	72

Eastern Conference, Southeast Division

team	record	OT	points
Carolina	51-21	6	108
Tampa Bay	42-31	5	89
Atlanta	38-32	7	83
Florida	35-34	9	79
Washington	25-40	12	62

Western Conference, Central Division

team	record	OT	points
Detroit	54-15	8	116
Nashville	45-25	8	98
Columbus	32-41	4	68
Chicago	24-40	13	61
St. Louis	21-42	14	56

Western Conference, Northwest Division

team	record	OT	points
Calgary	44-24	10	98
Colorado	42-28	8	92
Edmonton	39-27	13	91
Vancouver	41-30	7	89
Minnesota	37-35	7	81

Western Conference, Pacific Division

team	record	OT	points
Dallas	51-22	5	107
Anaheim	41-24	12	94
San Jose	40-26	11	91
Los Angeles	40-34	5	85
Phoenix	36-36	5	77

Collegiate Baseball

Top 25

No.	team	record	points
1	Cal State Fullerton	26-8	494
2	North Carolina	27-7	491
3	Florida State	31-4	490
4	Nebraska	24-5	487
5	Rice	2-8	485
6	Texas	24-11	483
7	Clemson	24-8	482
8	Alabama	25-10	480
9	South Carolina	27-6	478
10	Mississippi State	25-6	477
11	Georgia Tech	25-8	475
12	North Carolina State	27-9	470
13	Arizona State	25-10	468
14	Miami Florida	24-12	465
15	Arkansas	25-8	463
16	Vanderbilt	21-11	462
17	Old Dominion	31-4	460
18	Southern California	20-14	459
19	Oregon State	21-9	458
20	Virginia	27-9	455
21	NOTRE DAME	22-8	449
22	College of Charleston	27-6	446
23	Fresno State	26-10	444
24	Ohio State	19-7	443
25	Kentucky	25-8	441

around the dial

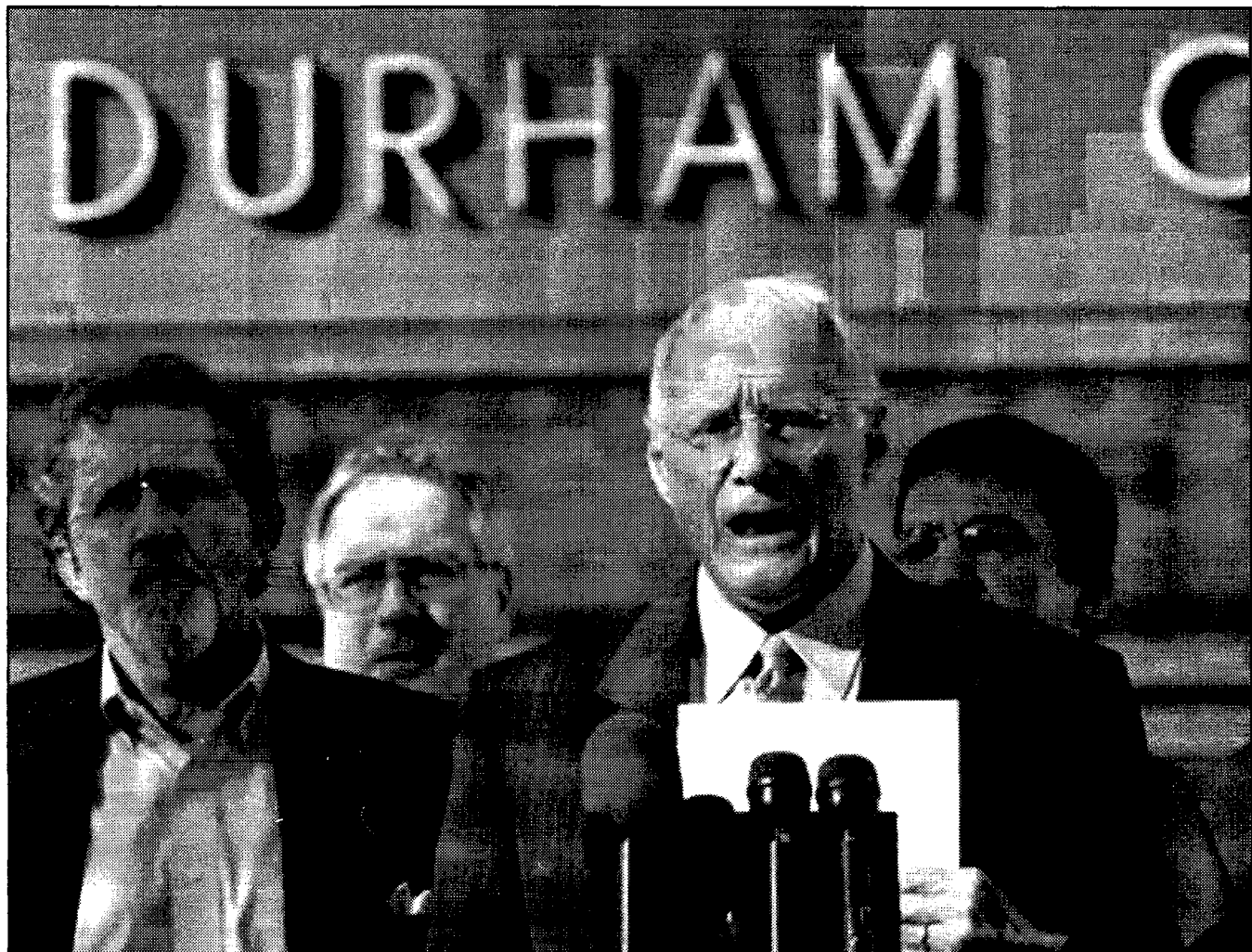
MLB

Reds at Cubs, 2 p.m., Comcast

NBA

Seattle at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m., NBATV
New Jersey at Chicago, 8:30 p.m., Comcast

NCAA MEN'S LACROSSE



Raleigh attorney Wade Smith speaks to the press about the Duke lacrosse team DNA result Monday outside the Durham County Judicial Building. DNA test results did not connect players to a March 13 sexual assault. AP

DNA tests prove negative in Duke case

Associated Press

DURHAM, N.C. — DNA testing failed to connect any members of the Duke University lacrosse team to the alleged rape of a stripper, attorneys for the athletes said Monday.

Citing DNA test results delivered by the state crime lab to police and prosecutors a few hours earlier, the attorneys said the test results prove their clients did not sexually assault and beat a stripper hired to perform at a March 13 team party.

No charges have been filed in the case.

"There is no DNA evi-

dence that shows she was touched by any of these boys," said Attorney Joe Cheshire, who represents one of the team's captains.

The alleged victim, a 27-year-old student at a nearby college, told police she and another woman were hired to dance at the party. The woman told police that three men at the party dragged her into a bathroom, choked her, raped her and sodomized her.

The Associated Press does not name alleged victims in sexual assault cases.

The allegations have led to the resignation of coach Mike Pressler, the cancel-

lation of the lacrosse season and the suspension of one player from school.

The case also led to days of protests on and off the Duke campus, and some of the players have moved for safety reasons.

According to court documents, only lacrosse team members were at the party. Authorities ordered 46 of the 47 players on Duke's lacrosse team to submit DNA samples to investigators, who compared them with evidence collected from the woman.

Because the woman said her attackers were white, the team's sole black player was not tested. It was

not known whether investigators tested for DNA other than the players'.

Cheshire said the report indicated authorities took DNA samples from all over the alleged victim's body, including under her fingernails, and from her possessions, such as her cell phone and her clothes.

"They swabbed about every place they could possibly swab from her, in which there could be any DNA," he said.

District Attorney Mike Nifong has said he would have other evidence to make his case should the DNA analysis prove inconclusive or fail to match a

IN BRIEF

Williams appeals drug suspension

NEW YORK — Ricky Williams and his lawyer met Monday with NFL counsel Jeff Pash, seeking to have the league overturn a positive drug test that could cost him the entire 2006 season.

The league, which doesn't acknowledge drug tests until there is a final determination, had no comment on the appeal. Williams' lawyer, David Cornwell, acknowledged that the hearing was taking place, but had no further comment.

The results of the hearing won't be made known immediately but if the positive test is upheld, it would be Williams' fourth violation of the NFL's substance abuse policy, meaning at least a one-year suspension.

Previous positive tests were for marijuana, which Williams acknowledged using. But the latest test apparently involved a drug other than marijuana.

Crisp out for 10 days with fractured hand

BOSTON — Boston Red Sox center fielder Coco Crisp has a fracture on the base of his index finger on his left hand and will be sidelined for at least 10 days.

Crisp's hand will be immobilized in a splint for 10 days and then reevaluated, team medical director Dr. Thomas Gill said Monday. No surgery is needed to treat the injury, sustained when he tried to steal third base Saturday in Boston's 2-1 victory at the Baltimore Orioles.

"Once sufficient healing has occurred, Coco can begin batting and return to baseball activities," Gill said in a statement.

The 26-year-old Crisp, a switch-hitter who throws right-handed, was acquired in January from Cleveland after Johnny Damon signed with the New York Yankees. Crisp is batting .333 (8-for-24) with a double, triple and six runs scored.

Lee signs with Cubs for \$65 million

CHICAGO — NL batting champion Derrek Lee and the Chicago Cubs agreed to a \$65 million, five-year contract, a deal expected to be announced Tuesday.

"It's fairly likely something will be worked out," agent Casey Close said Monday. "We still have to iron out some things."

The Cubs called a news conference for Tuesday but did not specify its subject, and Cubs general manager Jim Hendry declined comment.

Lee is making \$8 million in the final season of a \$22.5 million, three-year deal. His new contract calls for a \$13 million annual salary from 2006-10 and contains a no-trade clause, one person familiar with the agreement said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Late last week, Lee said he would break off negotiations for the rest of the season if the sides did not reach an agreement by last Saturday.

NHL

Kings' Robitaille to hang up skates

Los Angeles' all-time leading scorer set to retire at season's end

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Luc Robitaille, the highest scoring left wing in NHL history, will retire at the end of the season, the Los Angeles Kings said Monday.

Robitaille, the Kings' career leader in goals, will hold a news conference Tuesday to discuss his decision.

"Tomorrow is the opportunity for the Kings and Luc Robitaille to acknowledge his Hall of Fame-caliber career and give him an opportunity to address his decision to retire from the game of hockey," said Michael Altieri, the Kings' vice president of communications.

Altieri declined further comment.

Robitaille, who turned 40 in February, has 15 goals and nine assists in 62 games this season, his 19th in the NHL. He has 668 goals and 726 points for 1,394 points in 1,428 regular-season games with the Kings, Pittsburgh, the New York Rangers and Detroit. In 159 playoff games, he has 58 goals and 69 assists. He helped Detroit win the 2002 Stanley Cup.

"It came to a point after 19 years he felt it was time," said Pat Brisson, Robitaille's agent. "Some mornings he wakes up and says, 'Should I or should I not,' since he is so passionate for the game."

Robitaille has made a career of breaking records at his position. He scored the most goals in a season for a left wing, with 63 in 1992-1993. He is also the only one to record eight

straight seasons of at least 40 goals.

"He's going out on his own terms," Brisson said. "He is walking out with his head up."

The native of Montreal played on Canada's gold-medal winning team at the 1994 World Championship. Robitaille scored the winning goal in a shootout, giving his country its first world title in 33 years.

In January, the fan-favorite nicknamed "Lucky" broke the Kings' franchise record for goals with a hat trick in a win over Atlanta.

"He's given this organization so much, and an identity," Brisson said. "The L.A. Kings logo is right next to Luc Robitaille. His face is recognized in L.A. as being one of the best athletes in this town."

Robitaille broke in with the Kings in 1986 and was the NHL rookie of the year. He spent most of his career in Los Angeles during three stints with the Kings. He returned to the team for the 2003-04 season and had 22 goals in 80 games.

"This is where I started my career and this is where I believe I will end my career," Robitaille said in 2004. "This is where I belong. This is my home."

But he was benched for four games in December by former coach Andy Murray, who was fired last month.

And then he was held out again for three games last week by new coach John Torchetti. Robitaille was back in the lineup Saturday against Anaheim.

"When he was scratched this year, he was extremely frustrated and disappointed," Brisson said. "I don't know if he has it in him to go through another year where it could be more and more like that."

"It came to a point after 19 years he felt it was time."

Pat Brisson
Robitaille's agent

MLB

Big Papi signs new four-year deal

Ortiz signs \$52 million contract extension with Red Sox on Monday

Associated Press

BOSTON — David Ortiz agreed to a four-year contract extension with the Boston Red Sox on Monday, a deal that will guarantee the American League MVP runner-up about \$52 million.

The deal keeps his powerful bat, bright smile and sharp wit in Boston's clubhouse without the possibility of him departing after the 2007 season, when Ortiz could have become a free agent. But he loves Boston and didn't want to be besieged by suitors.

"You have a lot of people coming right at you," he said during a news conference at Fenway Park. "I feel this is my house and I've got to protect this house."

The designated hitter was in the last year of a \$12.5 million, two-year extension he signed in May 2004. That deal called for a \$6.5 million salary this year and gave Boston an option for 2007 that currently was valued at \$8.4 million with a \$1.4 million buyout.

While the final numbers of his new deal were not immediately available, the sides discussed an agreement that would include a \$2 million signing bonus, keep this year's salary the same and add annual

salaries of \$12.5 million from 2007-10. The Red Sox would get a \$12.5 million option for 2011 with no buyout.

"I want to finish my career as a Red Sox player," Ortiz said. "I'm going to be around for a while. I'm pretty sure New England is going to take this as good news."

Red Sox general manager Theo Epstein certainly did.

"I can't think of a player who contributes in so many ways," Epstein said. "He's a guy with a smile on his face. He sets the right mood for the team in our clubhouse. ... It was just an easy decision for us" to give the extension.

Had Ortiz become a free agent, Epstein said the player would have had a lot of options "that would have made it difficult for him to stay in Boston."

Epstein said the new deal was 98 percent complete during spring training.

Since Ortiz joined the Red Sox in 2003 as a free agent from the Minnesota Twins, he and Manny Ramirez have developed into perhaps baseball's top power duo. Ortiz led the AL with 148 RBIs last year.

They combined for 68 homers in 2003, 84 in 2004 and 92 in 2005, when Ortiz's career-best 47 were one fewer than New York's Alex Rodriguez, the AL

leader. Ortiz and Ramirez became the first teammates in major league history to each have 40 homers and 40 doubles in one season in 2004. Last year, they totaled 292 RBIs.

Ortiz is one of Boston's clubhouse leaders, smiling and joking with teammates. He also is one of baseball's top clutch hitters, leading the league last year with 21 game-winning RBIs, while 19 of his homers gave the Red Sox a tie or the lead.

In Boston's first six games this season, five of them wins, Ortiz has one homer, four RBIs and a .292 batting average. The Red Sox had Monday off before Tuesday's home opener against the Toronto Blue Jays.

Since joining the Red Sox, Ortiz has been the most productive addition at the plate since John Henry became owner in 2002 and Epstein took over as general manager in 2003.

Ortiz was fifth in the AL MVP voting in 2003 and fourth in 2004 before finishing second to Rodriguez in a tight vote last year.

In those three seasons, Ortiz leads the majors with 388 RBIs, is second with a .600 slugging percentage and fourth with 119 homers.

In the previous six years in the Twins organization, Ortiz spent just two full seasons in the majors, hitting .282 with 10 homers and 63 RBIs in 2000 and .272 with 20 homers and 75 RBIs in 2002.

"I feel this is my house and I've got to protect this house."

David Ortiz
Boston DH



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CLUB SPORTS

Men's rowing takes three of four from Purdue

Special to The Observer

The Notre Dame men took three out of four races from Purdue University at the April eighth State of Indiana Regatta. The racing, set on the turbulent waters of Eagle Creek Reservoir, included several school versus school challenges for men's and women's crews.

In the past five years no Notre Dame men's crew has taken a race from a Purdue boat in the annual ND-PU challenge. This year's racing paid witness to the dedication and preparation of each crew on Notre Dame's team. The racing began with Notre Dame's Novice 4 of coxswain Radhika Deva, (stroke) Craig Wiborg, Tomas Castillo, Johann deSousa and Matt Napierski defeating Purdue's four-man crew with a time of 7:24. Coming in third was (coxswain) Tara Morin's crew of Nick Kluesner, Dan Murphy, Brandon Carroll and Jordan Frankel, who at 7:39 finished just two seconds behind the Purdue 4. Notre Dame's powerful Novice 8 of coxswain Bryce Chung, (stroke) Karol Grzesiak, Thomas Mazzacavallo, Andrew Matasic, Ray Schleck, Brendan McNutt, Rob Bowen, Taylor Donaldson and Matt Degnan led from start to finish and crossed the line in 5:52 with open water and ten seconds between them and the best finisher of Purdue's three traditionally strong novice crews.

In varsity racing, Notre Dame's second Varsity 8 battled back and forth with Purdue's

second Varsity 8 and Lightweight 8 crews on an adjusted course. The race finished with (cox) Julie Lambe's crew of (stroke) Scotty Campbell, P.J. McAward, Evan Donoghue, Michael Lucci, Bill Blosky, Andrew Baker, Michael Lutkus and Michael Giordano finishing in 5:02 to outdistance Purdue's best finisher (5:05) by about a boat-length. Notre Dame's top boat, the first Varsity 8 of (cox) Gigi Gutierrez, (stroke) Dan Pearson, Nick Mathew, Jake Teitgen, Joe Blakely, Tedd Hawks, Steve Maher, Kane Pithey and bowman Nick Catella, suffered the only loss of the day against Purdue's highly regarded Varsity 8 crew. The Purdue V8 (5:51), which a week ago defeated nationally-ranked Temple University in San Diego, held off the sprint of the fast-charging Notre Dame crew (5:56) to win the race by just more than a boat-length.

Notre Dame's Varsity 8 stroke seat Dan Pearson commented, "We were greatly encouraged but not satisfied with our team results. Taking three of four races from a program like Purdue is a great step for us, but our Varsity 8 is hungry to catch Purdue's top boat. We will see them twice more this year, and we intend to do more than just give them a good race. We want to sweep Purdue by beating them with all four boats that we put out to race."

Notre Dame Varsity coach Kurt Butler and Novice coach J.P. Oleksiuk were similarly encouraged and remain optimistic for the second half of the

racing season.

Cycling

Eleven members of cycling team traveled to Kalamazoo, Mich. to compete in a pair of races at Western Michigan University this weekend. Building on last week's success, the Irish again claimed more wins and top finishes.

Saturday's race featured a long flat road race that finished with multiple loops. Three team riders competed in the 27-mile Men's D race, as sophomore Peter Nistler, in only his second race, unleashed a strong sprint and rode away with the victory. Three Irish riders started in the 40-mile Men's C race. Freshman Andy Steves once again won the race, claiming his fourth individual victory this season. The final four Irish riders on raced in the 55 mile Men's B race. Sophomore Matt Prygoski appeared as if he would win as he approached the finish line, but crashed hard after the rider in front of him slid out in the final corner. Tim Campbell was not far behind, taking fourth place overall, and Mike Lavery finished right on his wheel in fifth place out of 60 riders.

Sunday's circuit race, an extremely hilly 2.75-mile loop featured two hard climbs on every lap. In the 45-minute Men's C race, Andy Steves garnered his second win of the weekend as he sprinted clear of all other racers up the finishing climb. Steves has claimed five wins in nine races this season. The Mens B race was an hour

in duration. The team plan was to put Matt Prygoski in a situation where he could use his hill climbing power. Three laps into the race, Prygoski was able to breakaway from the main pack with an IU rider. The rest of the ND team worked with IU at the front of the main field, slowing the pace in Prygoski's favor, and chasing down any threatening attacks. Prygoski blazed up the final climb, taking his first NCAA win. Lavery, Gisler and Campbell came in one minute later at the front of the main pack, taking seventh, eighth, and 10th in the 45 rider race.

The team races again in two weeks at the regional competition, held at the University of Illinois. This will be the final race of the season, and the team hopes to take away a few more victories and finish the year ranked in the top 10 in the 35-team conference.

Men's Water Polo

The men's water polo team hosted its annual Alumni Tournament in Rolfs Aquatic Center this weekend. The Irish started off the weekend slowly, losing their first game to Michigan State 9-5. The Irish beat the second ranked Spartans earlier this year but were plagued with turnovers and defensive lapses in the tournament opener. There were shining moments in the losing effort, however, with Pat Connors, Matt McNicholas and Jay Nunez contributing to the goal count.

The Irish bounced back in a night game against the Alumni

team. A shaky first quarter led to an early Alumni lead, but the Irish staged a comeback with tough defense and opportunistic offense. The Irish took the lead late in the third quarter and kept it for the rest of the game, for a 13-11 victory. Greg Szweczyk, Zhanwei Khaw and Tom Fletcher all contributing to the solid win. The Irish played the "B" squad Sunday morning and used the game as a learning experience for the younger players on the team.

In the tournament finale, the Irish were matched against Chicago Club Team, who had beaten Michigan State earlier on Sunday. The Irish came out fired up and ready to play as the first half ended in a 2-2 draw. With stifling defense, a well-balanced offense and several pressure blocks from goalie Scott Tagwerker the Irish went on to win 7-4. Mike Silhasek, Colin Dunn and McNicholas had outstanding performances in the win.

Equestrian

Molly Schmiede claimed first place in intermediate fences at Zones this weekend and qualified for Nationals. Schmiede will join Kelsey Ostberg, who qualified earlier this year. The Nationals will be held May 4-7 in Harrisburg, PA.

In other Zone results, Heather LaDue and Alisha Wilkinson finished third and sixth respectively in advanced walk-trot-canter, and Alie Minnish took fifth in open flat. In team standings, Kansas State won the event, followed by Indiana and Wisconsin.

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TENNIS

Haas advances in U.S. men's clay court play

No. 5 seed won in two difficult sets against Spaniard Hernandez

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Fifth-seeded Tommy Haas started fast and then had to push hard in the second set before beating Oscar Hernandez 6-1, 6-4 Monday night in the first round of the U.S. Men's Clay Court Championships.

Third-seeded Robby Ginepri played Albert Monotonos in a later first-round match.

Haas, who won the title here in 2004, breezed through the first set in 25 minutes before Hernandez stepped up in the second set. He broke Haas in the sixth game to take a 4-2 lead, but the German broke back in the seventh game.

Haas took charge of the match when he went up 5-4 after he had Hernandez down love-40. The Spaniard fought off two break points but lost it at the third break point with a double fault. Haas then served for the match and won it at the second match point when Hernandez's return of serve sailed wide.

Haas, ranked 27th in the world, extended his match record to 21-5 this season. He played Hernandez for the first time.

"I didn't know what to expect from him," Haas said. "You could have put 20 players up there and I couldn't have picked him out. I asked a few friends and they said he was a typical clay-court player. I decided to play a little clay-court tennis at times and to get aggressive."

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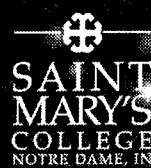
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Sandman

continued from page 20

was great."

In his first tournament of the season, the Administaff Augusta State Invitational, Sandman carded a three over-par 219, tying for 25th place in one of the nation's most competitive fields.

"I really can't imagine anyone playing better golf [than Josh] right now," Irish head coach Jim Kubinski said. "With everything he's gone through, in addition to making the transition to college, he's just been outstanding."

This weekend at the Boilermaker Invitational, Sandman got into a rhythm again, shooting a three under-par 69 in Sunday's final round to finish the tournament at four-over-par 220. That was good enough for a second place tie with fellow team member Cole Isban.

"I always felt pretty confident," Sandman said. "But I didn't think I would make as big a splash as I did."

In addition to dealing with his back, Sandman has also had to adjust to a new swing during the last year and a half, making his performance over the weekend all the more impressive.

"He has worked a great deal on swing changes suggested by his coach back home, along with an eye from me on occasion," Kubinski said. "I think we really saw what Josh is capable of with that 69 on Sunday."

In fact, the one thing that Sandman didn't do well — putt — is the thing that Kubinski feels he's best at now.

"Josh is a tremendous putter, he just didn't have it [at times this week]," Kubinski said. "He's very solid throughout the bag, but I think his strongest suit is his putting."

Despite the obstacles of being a freshman competing against upperclassmen, Sandman has been able to hold his own. In his six rounds this year, Sandman has a 73.17 scoring average. That places him just behind senior Mark Baldwin, junior Cole Isban and senior Scott Gustafson for the team lead.

Sandman said his practice with Baldwin, Isban and Gustafson has been the main reason he came out of the gate so strong.

"We've all pushed each other to get better," he said. "When we get out there [in practice], Cole and I will always play a match against the two seniors. There will always be pride on the line, and you never want to lose that."

Notre Dame returns to action April 23 in Dade City, Fla. for the Big East Championship.

For Sandman, it will be only his third collegiate tournament.

"I don't know what to expect right now," Sandman said. "I feel like I can compete with anybody right now. I just have to go out there and play my best."

Contact Joe Quinn at jquinn6@nd.edu

Cardinals

continued from page 20

Dame won the game 4-1 on April 7 last year thanks to a three-run homer off the bat of then-Irish senior Liz Hartmann.

The Cardinals arrive with an overall record of 9-16 (3-5 in the Mid-American Conference) after dropping a pair of games at Western Michigan. During the short series, Ball State had trouble getting to Broncos pitcher Krysten Shumaker. Notre Dame also struggled in its one meeting with Shumaker March 26, but the Irish won 2-1 in extra innings.

"She pitched really well and was able to shut us down for most of the game," Irish coach

Deanna Gumpf said.

Notre Dame senior pitcher Heather Booth will take the mound today. Booth had 11 strikeouts in her last appearance en route to a complete-game shut out of Pittsburgh. The rest of the staff has performed nearly as well as Booth, combining with the senior for a team ERA of 1.69.

"Our pitching needs to be as solid as it has been all year, and our hitting has to continue from last weekend," Ruthrauff.

The balanced attack has been the key to Notre Dame's

success all year long, Ruthrauff said. That balance has led the Irish to a second-place standing in the Big East. And it's a balance focused solely on Notre Dame's own squad, Ruthrauff said.

"It does not matter who we face, it is a matter of what we as a team bring to the ball field day in and day out," she said.

The Irish return to Big East action Thursday against DePaul at 4 p.m. on Ivy Field.

Contact Dan Murphy at dmurph6@nd.edu

"I am seeing the ball very well right now, and this is the most confident I have been with my swing all year long."

Meagan Ruthrauff
Irish first baseman

Sweep

continued from page 20

went before her aided her confidence at the plate.

"We had a lot of intensity from the bench," she said. "It also helped to have players on base ahead of me."

Saint Mary's coach Erin Sullivan said Fusaro's double was the turning point of the game and was emblematic of the type of big hits she'd like to see from her team.

"We had clutch hitting," Sullivan said. "When you have that, you win."

Amram finished off the game with a hitless top of the seventh.

Saint Mary's also took the first game 8-5 as Bethel committed six errors in the contest.

Heline tied the score at 2-2 in the bottom of the first on a sacrifice fly. The Belles jumped ahead 4-2 when right fielder Calli Davison singled and Smid scored. In the bottom of the fourth, Saint Mary's secured three runs to extend the lead to 8-2.

The Pilots caught a glimmer of hope in the bottom of the seventh when Hitch delivered an RBI base hit, but second baseman Katie Fornoff ground-

ed out to first to end the game.

Sullivan said the sweep over Bethel was bittersweet. Saint Mary's faced Belles' former head coach Anna Welsh.

Sullivan played under Welsh in 2004 when the Belles earned their first MIAA tournament victory. Sullivan also coached under Welsh in 2005.

"I wanted to beat her, but she is my mentor," Sullivan said. "The reason we won those games is because she taught me so well. She taught me to be better than she is."

Saint Mary's faces Calvin College today at 3:30 p.m. at home.

The doubleheader will bring an end to an eight-game run the Belles have battled through in four days. The stretch started with a sweep of defending MIAA champion Alma. Saint Mary's then split a doubleheader with Rockford Sunday.

Fusaro said Saint Mary's goal was to go at least .500 in the eight games. With the two wins Monday, the Belles have already assured achieving that goal, as they are 5-1 in the first six contests.

Sullivan said the set against Calvin is important for the Belles not only because they are the last two games but also because they are conference games.

Fusaro says that Saint Mary's will look to continue the success they have had in the past three days and finish off strong.

"Our goal was to stay intense and stay up," Fusaro said. "To be as intense and as loud in the first game against Alma as in the last game against Calvin."

Contact Deirdre Krasula at dkrasula@nd.edu

"We had clutch hitting. When you have that, you win."

Erin Sullivan
Belles coach

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Korpi

continued from page 20

"Against us, [Chicago State starter Jonathan Kohn] pitched pretty well and [Oakland] knocked him around," Mainieri said. "It doesn't matter who we're playing. We respect all our opponents, and we respect Oakland."

Kohn threw eight innings and allowed six runs on 11 hits in a 6-4 loss to Notre Dame April 4. He surrendered nine runs on 14 hits in 7.2 innings Sunday.

Mainieri said he is confident about Notre Dame's chances in the game because of the team's top two hitters in the lineup. First baseman Craig Cooper will lead off for the Irish and third baseman Brett Lilley will bat in the No. 2 hole.

"Cooper has been hot for a long time. Ever since we put him in that leadoff spot, he has sparked our team," Mainieri said. "He's playing like a top player in the conference should play — which is what we always thought he was."

Cooper is batting .429 on the season with a .612 slugging percentage thanks to three homers, seven doubles and a triple.

Lilley had his best series of the season this weekend

against South Florida. He was 9-for-13 with four runs and an RBI (7-for-7, three walks in his first 10 plate appearances) in Notre Dame's three-game sweep of the Bulls. The performance lifted his batting average on the season to .333.

In the series, Cooper and Lilley combined for 18 hits; the Bulls had 25 hits total in the three games. Cooper has an 11-game hit streak, and Lilley enters on a 10-game hit streak of his own.

"You've got two guys at the top of the order who are really setting the tone for us," Mainieri said. "Brett Lilley really fired up [against South Florida]. It just goes to show when Bret Lilley plays the way he's capable of playing, we've got a much better team."

Despite Oakland's record, Mainieri said Notre Dame must continue that hot hitting against Oakland today if it wants to earn the win.

"Every team that plays us, it's like the World Series for them," he said. "Our kids have to realize when you put on that uniform everyone's gunning for you. So we have to be ready to play against these guys."

After Oakland, Notre Dame faces Manchester College Wednesday at 5:05 p.m. at Frank Eck Field.

Contact Ken Fowler at kfowler1@nd.edu

SMC GOLF

Belles take third in Spring Fling

Meagan Mattia leads team with 162 in two-day tournament

By BECKI DORNER
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's captured third place this weekend in the annual Illinois Wesleyan Spring Fling.

Saint Mary's two-round total of 661 was only one stroke shy of second-place William Woods University, and the Belles edged out Wisconsin Eau-Claire for third place by only one stroke.

DePauw was largely unchallenged, beating the other 10 teams handily with a final score of 634. Sarah Gates of DePauw was the individual medalist with a 78 on round one and a 75 on day two that forced a playoff win against Jana Mosseson of Lindenwood.

Senior Megan Mattia was the top individual placer for the Belles, tying for seventh with a two-round total of 162 (80-82). Many of the returning Belles had played the Ironwood Course more than a few times, and Belles coach Mark Hamilton stressed consistency and course management.

"My advice was to play as

'clean' of a round as possible," Hamilton said. "Just try to stack up the pars."

Mattia was not the only Belle to stack up the pars.

Senior captains Kirsten Fantom and Nicole Bellino led the team by example on the first day, with scores of 84 and 83, respectively.

The Belles were able to keep their scores low despite a 23-degree wind chill Saturday and rain the previous day that made the course play much longer than its listed 5,842 yards.

"Playing tough conditions throughout this spring helped us the first day," Hamilton said.

Saint Mary's cut seventeen strokes from their first round total to record a 322 on day two. Freshman Alex Sei's second round four-over-par 76 from the five spot led the late charge. It marked the low round for the Belles for the tournament. Her birdie-birdie finish cemented her in a tie for 13th place overall.

Sei described her success as a combination of a few good rolls and good course management:

"I made a few great putts

and did my best to stay on the fairways," she said.

In addition to Mattia's 82 and Sei's 76 in round 2 play, the Belles were also bolstered by solid scores of 82 from sophomore Katie O'Brien and an 84 by Fantom Sunday.

Despite the third-place finish and recent successes, Hamilton stressed that his team still needs to work on a few areas before the NCAA Championships later this spring.

"We still need to tighten things up and be a little more precise around the greens in order to challenge the top three teams in the country," he said. "That will be our focus for the next couple of weeks."

Captain Kirsten Fantom echoed her coach's concerns.

"For our coming tournament we still need to work on our short game," Fantom said. "More practice will improve our confidence in our ability to make shots around the green, which is key."

The Belles return to action next with the SMC/Bethel Invitational on Wednesday, April 19.

Contact Becki Dornier at rdornier1@nd.edu

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IRLL 10101:04 Beginning Irish I MWF 8:30-9:20 Prof. Ó Conchubhair
IRLL 10102:01 Beginning Irish II MWF 1:55-2:45 Prof. MacLeod
IRLL 10102:02 Beginning Irish II MWF 8:30-9:20 Prof. MacLeod
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IRST 40311:01 Visits to Bedlam TR 9:30-10:45 Prof. Fox
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For further information, contact
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Dept. of Irish Language & Literature

Keough Institute for Irish Studies

HENRI ARNOLD
MIKE ARGIRION

Boy, that looks heavy

Wonderful player, but he can't sing

4-16

WHAT THE BASS FIDDLER FOUND TOUGH TO DO.

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



Yesterday's Jumbles: HITCH CHALK EXCISE TUXEDO
 Answer: What the angry witch gave the tax collector –
 A "HEX" HIKE

ADAM FAIRHOLM



DOWN

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13	
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69							70				71				

Puzzle by Jim Hyres

27 Pretentious	41 Andy Warhol's works	55 Stuff
30 Diamond who sang "America"	44 Fancy Buick	58 Phi ____ Kappa
31 Uncertain	48 N.Y. C. airport	59 Extremities
34 Inscribed pillar	50 Unprincipled	61 Work with a Singer
35 Trillion: Prefix	51 Macaroni, e.g.	63 Altar promise
37 Greek marketplace	52 Gets to	64 Persian, e.g.
38 Train stop	53 1961 Charlton Heston title role	65 Dash lengths

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

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R	A	W	E	R		J	A	I	L	S		G	M	C
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EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Haley Joel Osment, 18; Mandy Moore, 22; Ryan Merriman, 23; Steven Seagal, 55

Happy Birthday: The emphasis is on money this year and doing everything you can to make, save and invest it. Change is a given and, regardless whether you welcome it or not, it is heading your way. Accepting it can free you from the stalemate you've been experiencing for so long. Your numbers are 12, 19, 22, 27, 31, 44

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Cover your back and ensure you don't fall behind today. Your gift of gab will slow you down, especially if your conversations are trivial. It's time to make your personal environment better. ***
TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Do things that will help save a minority group you want to help. You can expect to have some problems with loved ones if you stick around the house. Someone you like will pay more attention to you. A love connection can be made. *****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Everything will be turned upside down today if you take on too much. Alterations in your life will surprise you and it will be difficult to control the outcome. Don't expect anyone to understand your actions or reactions.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Stop hesitating -- the sooner you get on with things, the better. Holding on to the past just won't cut it today. Once you begin to move with the times you will look back wondering what took you so long. You are in a high cycle regarding love and romance so don't waste it. ****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Someone may not be upfront with you so use your intuition. A chance to advance is looking good. A money matter can be resolved. Changes at home should be welcome. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You will be tested emotionally today. Someone you really care about will make you feel insignificant. Hold your own -- you can achieve what you want with persistence. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You can make a difference if you stand up for your beliefs. You should travel if necessary to bring about reforms or to help friends or family solve differences. An idea you have can be turned into a profit. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't divulge any secret information. An idea you have must be carried out. You stand a good chance of making something out of nothing if you pursue your creative dreams.****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Problems with in-laws, friends or neighbors can be expected. Talks will be the only way to resolve issues. You can't get your way all of the time so be prepared to be flexible. Take care of a financial concern.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Fix up around your home. Making a connection with someone you work with will lead to some very good moneymaking ideas. You will make a good decision regarding your professional direction. *****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You may be uncertain about personal issues today. Try to keep things in perspective. Time may be required to sort through past or ongoing troubles. Don't let yourself slip into depression. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Move forward instead of hanging on to something that is no longer of benefit to you. A problem at home will escalate if you become emotional. Take care of personal matters swiftly and move on. ***

Birthday Baby: You have so many ways of expressing yourself. You are bright, challenging and difficult to read. You are sensitive and compassionate toward others.

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

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BASEBALL

Rollin' home

12-game stand at Eck begins today with Oakland matchup

By KEN FOWLER
Sports Editor

No. 21 Notre Dame (22-8, 8-1 Big East) begins a 12-game home stand against Oakland today at 5:05 p.m. and looks to extend its winning streak to 13 in the mid-week non-conference matchup at Frank Eck Stadium.

"We'd like to just keep it going," Irish head coach Paul Mainieri said Monday. "We're playing extremely well."

Oakland senior right-hander Kevin Hale will throw for the Golden Grizzlies (7-20, 4-0 Mid-Continent Conference). Hale is 0-4 in 5 starts (12 appearances) with a 13.10 ERA. He has given up 46 hits and 14 walks in 22.2 innings.

Irish sophomore left-hander Wade Korpi will start for Notre Dame. Korpi is 2-1 on the season in five starts with an ERA of 2.53. He has 44 strikeouts in 32 innings.

Oakland enters on a six game winning streak of its own. After starting the season 2-20, Oakland topped Rochester in the second game of a doubleheader April 1 and won the rubber game of the three-contest set April 2.

Oakland swept Chicago State in consecutive twin bills Saturday and Sunday, beating the Cougars by a total of 33-9.

see KORPI/page 18

Weekend Series vs. South Florida

	At-Bats	Runs	Hits	RBI	Walks
Craig Cooper	13	4	9	1	3
Brett Lilley	13	7	9	4	2
Combined	26	11	18	5	5
South Florida	104	11	25	10	13

ALEXA ANTEKE/Observer Graphic



Notre Dame sophomore pitcher Wade Korpi delivers a pitch during his win over Ball State April 5. Korpi will start tonight for the Irish against Oakland.

ALLISON AMBROSE/The Observer

MEN'S GOLF

A new ring to 'Enter, Sandman'

Freshman makes a splash in his first two appearances for squad

By JOE QUINN
Sports Writer

In a matter of just two weeks, Notre Dame's Josh Sandman has gone from unknown freshman to one of the hottest golfers the Irish have seen in a decade.

Sandman, from Southeast Gilford High School in Greensboro, N.C., was forced to sit out the fall season due to an injured back, but in his two collegiate tournaments this spring he has shown why he was one of the top prep golfers in the nation last year.

"I was excited just to get the opportunity because I haven't really felt 100 percent," Sandman said. "The trainers finally cleared me to go, and it

see SANDMAN/page 17

ND SOFTBALL

Cardinal bats meet Irish pitchers

Booth returns to mound after throwing a complete-game shutout

By DAN MURPHY
Sports Writer

Notre Dame (23-12, 7-1 Big East) will take a brief break from its Big East schedule to play Ball State at 5 p.m. today at Ivy Field.



Notre Dame shortstop Sara Schoonaert makes a play at second base during the team's 4-2 win over Akron April 5 at Ivy Field.

ALLISON AMBROSE/The Observer

Irish senior infielders Meagan Ruthrauff and Sara Schoonaert lead a high-powered Notre Dame offense into the matchup. Schoonaert, who was 4-for-9 Sunday against Pittsburgh, played a key role in the weekend's onslaught, as the team posted 21 runs and

hit five homers in two games. Notre Dame won the first game 7-0 and the second contest 14-4.

Ruthrauff set two school records with three home runs and seven RBIs in Sunday's second game. Her third and final homer was a grand slam in the seventh that capped a perfect day at the plate. The unprecedented production also won her Big East Player of the Week honors Monday.

"I am seeing the ball very well right now, and this is the most confident I have been with my swing all year long," Ruthrauff said.

After racking up 30 runs on 50 hits this weekend, she said everybody on Notre Dame seems to be seeing the ball very well. Ball State's pitching staff will have to step up for the Cardinals to slow down the Irish offense and leave South Bend with a victory.

The Irish also used the long ball effectively the last time they met Ball State. Notre

see BOOTH/page 17

SMC SOFTBALL

Belles sweep Bethel with two 8-5 victories

Saint Mary's takes both games of teams' annual meeting at ND

By DEIRDRE KRASULA
Sports Writer

It seemed like Saint Mary's had lost its momentum in the top of the fourth inning of the second game of Monday's doubleheader with Bethel at Ivy Field.

Bethel freshman Staci Hitch homered for the Pilots, tying the game at two with her two-run blast. It got worse for Saint Mary's when Bethel jumped ahead in the top of the fifth with two RBI singles for a 4-2 lead.

But the Belles answered Bethel's call and came back to complete a sweep of the doubleheader, winning both contests 8-5.

In the second game, Saint Mary's fought back in the bottom of the fifth when Belles'

first baseman Katie Rashid singled in two runs, tying the score at four. The Belles' Sarah Meisle had reached on an error by Pilot shortstop Britny Beneker, and Saint Mary's Ashley Fusaro and Laura Helene followed with singles to load the bases.

Freshman right-hander Kristin Amram then helped her own cause, reaching base on another Bethel error as Saint Mary's took a 5-4 lead.

Bethel tied the game in the sixth, but Saint Mary's answered once again.

Fusaro gave the Belles the lead for good in the bottom of the sixth with a bases-clearing double in the gap that gave Saint Mary's the decisive 8-5 advantage. Saint Mary's Martha Smid started the inning off with a single, and the Belles' Audrey Gajor reached on another Bethel error. Meisle then walked to load the bases for Fusaro.

Fusaro said the batters who

see SWEEP/page 17

SPORTS AT A GLANCE

SMC GOLF

Megan Mattia led Saint Mary's to a third-place finish at this weekend's Illinois Wesleyan Spring Fling.

page 18

TENNIS

Tommy Haas advanced in the U.S. Men's Clay Court Championships Monday.

page 16

CLUB SPORTS

Notre Dame men's rowing won three of four races this weekend in the State of Indiana Regatta.

page 15

NHL

Los Angeles Kings' all-time leading scorer Luc Robitaille will announce his retirement tomorrow.

page 14

MLB

David Ortiz agreed to a four-year contract extension with the Boston Red Sox Monday.

page 14

MEN'S LACROSSE

Lawyers said Monday DNA testing failed to connect any members of the Duke University lacrosse team to the alleged rape of a stripper.

page 13