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Blue-Gold brings football weekend in spring

ND fans will kick off season at scrimmage

By KATIE PERRY
Assistant News Editor

Forecasters might predict clear skies and sunshine Saturday, but the Irish football team has plans all its own to shake down the thunder at its annual Blue-Gold game — a 77-year tradition that primes players and fans alike for the upcoming season.

BlueandGold.com editor Lou Somogyi said there will “absolutely” be fervor among Notre Dame fans on campus this weekend given the success of last season as well as the high expectations for the fall schedule. The Irish will likely be a consensus preseason top five pick and ESPN’s Kirk Herbstreit already favors them for the national title, he said.

“You can definitely feel a

see GAME/page 6



MARY KATE MANNIX/The Observer

Past versions of The Shirt — first sold in 1990 to raise funds for an injured student — are on display at the Hammes Bookstore.

County smoking ban will affect stadium

By MAUREEN MULLEN
News Writer

Notre Dame fans may breathe a little easier at Saturday’s Blue-Gold game — and not just because the Irish are guaranteed a win.

On April 10, a hotly debated St. Joseph County smoking ban went in effect in public places — restaurants, stores, malls, public places, private businesses and sports arenas — throughout the county. Notre Dame stadium will not be exempt from the ordinance, Assistant Athletics Director for Facilities Mike Danch said.

The Blue-Gold game will be the first time that the Notre Dame stadium will hold a crowd under the new “no smoking” regulations. Danch

see SMOKING/page 8

Pulitzer goes to ND grad

Times-Picayune staff, Krupa covered Katrina

By MADDIE HANNA
News Writer

When Hurricane Katrina rocked the Gulf Coast last fall, 2000 Notre Dame graduate and New Orleans Times-Picayune reporter Michelle Krupa was faced with the daunting task of covering the biggest domestic news story of the year, one devastating day at a time.

That dogged reporting won the 27-year-old Krupa — and the entire Times-Picayune staff — a Pulitzer Prize.

She’s the third Notre Dame graduate and Observer employee to win the award in the past six years.

The Pulitzer Board awarded the 2006 breaking news reporting prize to the Times-Picayune staff for “its courageous and aggressive coverage of Hurricane Katrina, overcoming desperate conditions facing the city and the newspaper.”

The paper won a second Pulitzer for public service “for its heroic, multi-faceted coverage of Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath, making excep-

see PULITZER/page 8

Color and design of The Shirt 2006 to be revealed today at Bookstore during noon ceremony

By KAITLYNN RIELY
News Writer

The Notre Dame community and Irish football fans around the country will see The Shirt for the 2006 football season when it is revealed today at the Hammes Bookstore — and decide whether it will usher

in a new collection of knock-offs or once more unify the student section under one shirt.

Junior Rich Fox, president of The Shirt committee, said he believes students will like this year’s color and design.

“I think this shirt will be received very well by the student body,” Fox said. “It’s something I think everyone

will be excited to wear.”

Fox estimates about 15 to 20 designs were submitted for The Shirt. From the beginning, a design created by junior Ryan Ricketts was the clear frontrunner.

“Ryan’s really stood out,” Fox said. “It really impressed me a lot.”

The Shirt committee decided as a group on the yet-

unannounced color of this year’s shirt. Notre Dame students greeted last year’s yellow color with a largely negative reaction, inspiring a string of knock-offs with different colors or alternate wording and design.

Sophomore David Mauro said he did not like last

see SHIRT/page 6

Weinberg speaks on rock gigs, tours

Drummer speaks about experiences with Bruce Springsteen, Conan O’Brien show

By PETER NINNEMAN
News Writer

Max Weinberg was the star on stage Thursday at 8 p.m. in DeBartolo Hall for a lecture on his experiences as drummer with Bruce Springsteen & the E Street Band and the Max Weinberg 7 on Late Night with Conan O’Brien.

Weinberg brought motivated his audience while evoking laughs in the process. The night started out with a short film of comedy skits from the Conan O’Brien show, including one with Weinberg reading a poem about murdering his neighbor and putting him through a wood chipper.

Weinberg also had some more serious words and spoke about the pursuit of dreams.

“Some people, and you bump

into these kinds of people sometimes, call dreams a waste of time,” Weinberg said. “Well, forget about those people.”

Weinberg recalled the moment in his life he knew he wanted to play drums. It was 1956 and he was a five-year-old waiting for Elvis’ debut on the Ed Sullivan Show with his teenage sisters. When Elvis’ band started to play “Hound dog,” Weinberg found himself playing along with the drums on the carpet, much to his sisters’ dismay.

“It was absolutely amazing to me, and still is today, how Elvis and his band took over our living room,” he said. “I’ve never been the same since.”

Weinberg went on to play every gig he could get, including strip

see WEINBERG/page 9

Trustees congregate at SMC

Closed meetings will include a student voting representative

By KELLY MEEHAN
Saint Mary’s Editor

Saint Mary’s students will notice a few changes and an influx of campus traffic this weekend as the Board of Trustees convene at the College for their annual April meeting.

According to College President Carol Ann Mooney, 28 of the 31 members will be in attendance at the weekend’s meetings, which are closed to the public.

While the meeting’s agendas are also private, students have an opportunity to interact with some trustees throughout the weekend, Vice President of Student Affairs Linda Timm said.

“Some trustees may be

see TRUSTEES/page 9



Observer File Photo

Board of Trustees chair Debbie Johnson Schwiebert speaks about her college experiences Feb. 22 at Saint Mary’s.

INSIDE COLUMN

Student teachers

My roommate this year is an education major, so was one of my roommates last year, and many of my other friends are as well.

This being said, I have witnessed a lot of home-work assignments and projects over the last few years which they have had to complete a lot of really pointless assignments and projects. I have never seen anyone have to do as much busy work as education majors, and while the work may not be the most challenging tasks at all times, they take an extreme amount of time to complete.

For example, education majors are frequently required to create what are referred to as "units," basically consisting of a month's worth of lesson plans. Now, this might sound like a quick and simple undertaking; however, it gets more complicated when you take into account that not only do they have to design these lessons they actually have to physically create them. This translates into one month's worth of worksheets, games, evaluations, explanations, etc.

What really gets me though is that my current roommate can make a mean game to teach children phonics and word blends, but when it comes to evaluating a student's writing she has no idea where to begin because this is a topic never covered in her coursework.

Personally, I'd rather know that the people who will be teaching my children in the future have a firm grasp on the English language and are well educated in the various subject standards students should be achieving at different stages of education rather than knowing that they've spent \$100,000 to spend four years learning how to cut up pieces of construction paper.

Of course, we must remember that the education majors are only doing what is asked of them by their professors, and they are doing it well. Creativity is certainly being fostered, however, maybe a bit too much. But then, I'm not an education major or a professor so how would I know.

What I do know is that these students put a lot of hard work and dedication into their work and receive quite a bit of ridicule from their peers because they aren't in a "real major."

However, there could not be anything more real about a major which requires you to take on the work of a professional for two years before you can meet graduation requirements. I tutored children in reading and math in the past, and I was only in charge of anywhere from one to four children, but I had a difficult time controlling them and keeping them on task. Education majors on the other hand are usually in charge of thirty children or teenagers depending on what grade they are assigned to for student teaching. I can only imagine the challenges they have to face in such circumstances.

So, I would like to salute you, the education majors who spend countless hours at "The Learning Tree" coping, cutting, pasting and laminating, and more hours hunched at computer screens typing fifty plus page case studies and lesson plans, all so you can deal with temperamental children, critical parents, and a tiny paycheck as thanks in the future.

Contact Laura Baumgartner at lbaum01@saintmarys.edu

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

Laura Baumgartner
Production Editor

QUESTION OF THE DAY: HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE SMOKING BAN IN THE STADIUM?



John Soltis
freshman
Morrisey

"It's preposterous!"



Joe Venturini
freshman
Morrisey

"As long as we still smoke Penn State, I don't care."



Mike Kaiser
freshman
Morrisey

"As long as it keeps Joe out, I don't care."



Connor Kelly
freshman
Morrisey

"I'm excited because now that creepy guy with the pipe in the stadium won't be staring at me."



Cathy Davis
freshman
Lyons

"Oookay."



Jene Emery
freshman
Lyons

"Faaantastic."



Ceramics technician Gabriel Brubacher, right, throws a clay pot in Club 23 Thursday night. In the background art professor Bill Kremer performs with his group ATM Band.

CLAIRE KELLEY/The Observer

OFFBEAT

Thought to be worthless, old cash gets the flush

A German pensioner flushed bundles of old banknotes worth a small fortune down the toilet because he thought they were now worthless.

"He flushed the cash down the loo because he didn't think it was worth anything," said police spokesman Uwe Voigt.

Police said he dumped some 60,000 deutschmarks — which the euro replaced in 2002 — into the bowl, unaware they could still be exchanged for about 30,000 euros (\$49,785).

Sewage workers recovered

about half the sodden currency from the 64-year-old's plumbing.

The remaining notes created a bottleneck in local sewers, where most were fished out.

"There may have been more cash that got away," Mr Voigt said.

Car becomes delivery room for second time

A woman in northern Portugal has given birth for the second time while being driven to a hospital delivery room, a daily newspaper reports.

The Jornal de Noticias says Maria Duarte, 35, was on

her way to a hospital in the city of Vila Real, some 400 kilometres north-east of Lisbon, when she went into labor in an emergency services vehicle.

The vehicle parked on the side of the highway and she then gave birth to a healthy 2.5 kilogram girl with the aid of a doctor, nurse and two young volunteer firefighters who were accompanying her.

"I was afraid she would die. I was even afraid to push," Ms Duarte told the newspaper.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

The SUB Movie of the Week, "King Kong," is showing in 101 DeBartolo at 10 p.m. today at 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Saturday. Tickets are \$3.

The 2006 design for "The Shirt Project" will be unveiled at 12 p.m. Friday at the Hammes Notre Dame Bookstore. Shirts will be available for purchase immediately after the event.

The Irish men's baseball team will face Rutgers Friday at 6:05 p.m. in Frank Eck Stadium.

The Riley Hospital for Children dance marathon will be today at 6 p.m. in the Saint Mary's Angela Athletic Facility. The event lasts until 6 a.m. tomorrow. On the spot registration is available.

Madeline Janis-Aparicio, co-founder and executive director of the Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy, will present two lectures on social justice and service on Friday. The first will be at 11 a.m. in 119 O'Shaughnessy and the second will be at 2 p.m. in 129 DeBartolo.

The Irish women's softball team will take on Villanova in a doubleheader Saturday at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. at Ivy Field.

Notre Dame will hold its second annual Eucharistic Procession on Divine Mercy Sunday. The procession will set out from the Basilica of the Sacred Heart immediately following the 11:45 a.m. Mass.

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

| | TODAY | TONIGHT | SATURDAY | SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY |
|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| LOCAL WEATHER | | | | | | |
| | HIGH 73 LOW 47 | HIGH 65 LOW 42 | HIGH 71 LOW 46 | HIGH 64 LOW 46 | HIGH 65 LOW 50 | HIGH 59 LOW 42 |

Atlanta 79 / 61 Boston 62 / 49 Chicago 68 / 47 Denver 64 / 27 Houston 88 / 67 Los Angeles 77 / 56 Minneapolis 56 / 43 New York 75 / 55 Philadelphia 78 / 50 Phoenix 93 / 63 Seattle 59 / 45 St. Louis 71 / 52 Tampa 85 / 67 Washington 79 / 52

Students slip on dance shoes to benefit cause

All-night marathon to raise funds for Riley Hospital for Children

By MEGAN O'NEIL
Senior News Writer

Students will don comfortable shoes and kick up their heels in Saint Mary's Angela Athletic Facility tonight in order to raise money for Riley Hospital for Children in the College's first dance marathon.

Organizers said 190 Saint Mary's, Holy Cross and Notre Dame students have already registered to participate in the marathon, which begins at 6 p.m. tonight and runs until 6 a.m. tomorrow. The 55 members of the dance marathon committee will also take to the floor.

"Everyone loves children and everyone hates to see children in pain ... so I think to do something for a hospital, that never turns away kids ... is a really great cause," freshman class president and marathon co-chair Francesca Johnson said.

Founded in 1991 in memory of AIDS victim Ryan White, the Riley Hospital dance marathon takes place at universities, colleges and high school throughout Indiana and raises hundreds of thousands of dollars annually for Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis. The only comprehensive children's

hospital in the state, Riley hopes to build a neonatal unit in the near future.

It was Johnson who first introduced the idea of staging the fundraiser at Saint Mary's.

After hearing about the Riley dance marathon through her brother, a student at Indiana University at Bloomington, Johnson hoped to get the event started at her high school. But as an outgoing senior, she ran out of time.

Instead, Johnson made the dance marathon the central component of her campaign platform when she ran freshman class president at Saint Mary's last fall. Immediately after she and vice presidential candidate Pauline Kistka won the election, they began planning.

The freshman class officers teamed up with Residence Hall Association (RHA) service chair Amy Dardinger to wade through the details of the dance marathon, including fundraising and insurance issues.

"[Initially] we were very nervous because here we are, freshman who know none of the red tape ... that was why it was such a comfort to be working with Amy," Kistka said.

The three women then had to sell the idea to Saint Mary's student government and to the wider student body.

"I think when we first went into [Board of Governance] and ask for \$5,000 dollars [the student government officers were] like 'We are going to give this

to freshman? Are they organized enough? Are they responsible enough?'" Johnson said.

The marathon is about much more than just dancing, Dardinger said, and it was difficult to describe to every curious student a night of games, food and personal interaction.

By October, Johnson, Kistka and Dardinger had assembled a committee of 55 dedicated students who were divided into seven different subcommittees including entertainment, publicity, alumni relationships and morale.

A string of fundraisers to help finance the dance marathon followed, including a freshman dance, sweatshirt sale and chapstick sale. At a campus Mass in February the collection was designated for the event and campus ministry then matched the amount with its own donation. They also received donations from RHA, Student Activities Board (SAB) and the senior class board. Johnson herself stood outside a Walgreens asking patrons for money as they entered the store and raised \$500.

Members of the committee went to see marathons at Butler and Purdue to gather ideas and absorb inspiration.

"Every time we went we came back with a new idea," Kistka said. "It just put more ambition in our blood."

A group also traveled to Riley Hospital in Indianapolis to tour the facility and see where the money raised would be going.

Working with hospital liaison

Katherine Cain the committee tailored the dance marathon to best fit the Saint Mary's community. Each hour of the evening will have a different theme and a different activity, Johnson said. Music, choreographed dancing and inflatable games will keep participants energized, she said. They will also have the chance to meet with children and families that have personally benefited from Riley Hospital.

Participants, who paid \$10 to enter, are not allowed to sit down, Johnson said, and must remain on the premise the entire 12 hours.

The committee, upon the recommendation of Cain, did not set a goal amount for tonight's 12-hour fundraiser. Participants and committee members together sent 450 letters home requesting financial support, Johnson said.

But while Johnson would not give a specific dollar amount, she did say the College appears to be on track to break the record for the most money raised by any school at its first dance marathon. The total will be announced at the closing ceremony tomorrow morning.

Johnson said the success of the last couple of months should be attributed to the enthusiasm and organization of the committee members.

"I can't believe it's been this successful, it's amazing," Johnson said.

Contact Megan O'Neil at onei0907@saintmarys.edu

Associate VP chosen as interim

Special to The Observer

Don Pope-Davis, associate vice president for graduate studies and professor of psychology at the University of Notre Dame, has been appointed the University's interim vice president for graduate studies and research, effective July 1, according to Provost Thomas G. Burish.

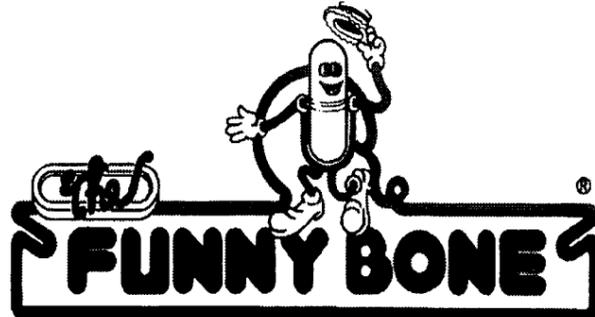
A member of the Notre Dame faculty since 2000, Pope-Davis will replace Jeffrey Kantor, who is leaving the position at the completion of his five-year term to return to full-time teaching and research. Kantor is a professor of chemical and biomolecular engineering. During his tenure, research awards to Notre Dame more than doubled, to over \$80 million in fiscal year 2005.

Reporting to the provost, the vice president for graduate studies and research is responsible for helping to develop and support all graduate programs in the University, and for the administration of all research, including externally sponsored programs, conducted by its faculty.

"We are blessed to have Don Pope-Davis lead our graduate studies and research division," Burish said. "Don's creativity, vision and experience will allow us to build upon the positive momentum that has been established under Jeff's leadership."

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POLLAK**
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GRUMPY OLD MEN/GRUMPIER OLD MEN

Comedian/Writer/Producer

He's appeared in over fifty films and television projects and has established himself as one of the first-stand-up comedians to go on to a successful dramatic film career.



**Kathleen
Madigan**
May 11/12/13

FROM LAST COMIC STANDING

She was the only comic on NBC's *Last Comic Standing* to go unchallenged by her peers. Voted Best Female Stand-Up at the American Comedy Awards- Kathleen's ability to talk about serious topics and draw insane conclusions is the reason she sells out comedy clubs and theaters across the country.

College welcomes, recognizes donors

By LISA GALLAGHER
News Writer

Saint Mary's College will host approximately 250 people this weekend for its 25th annual Donor Recognition Weekend in honor of those who have made significant monetary contributions to the College.

According to Melanie McDonald, director of public relations at Saint Mary's, guests include members of the Madeleva Society, who contribute \$1000 or more annually, members of the Mother Pauline Society, who designate gifts in their estate or financial plans and members of Donors of Endowment Priorities, whose donations support faculty positions, scholarships, the Cushwa-Leighton Library and programs that support a "richer intellectual life on campus."

"[The weekend] provides the opportunity to show donors the significance of their investment in our outstanding faculty and students, in our programming, facilities and resources, and in our overall academic excellence," McDonald said.

According to McDonald, some slight changes have been made to the weekend.

"We expanded the program to two full days of activities, enabling our donors to [better]

experience the impact of their investment," she said.

The event officially kicked off yesterday at 7:30 p.m. with a lecture in Moreau Hall by professor of theology at Loyola University of Chicago, Susan Ross, according to the Recognition Weekend Web site. It was followed by a reception and book signing at 8:30 p.m.

"These people believe in Saint Mary's and have invested in our present and future success," McDonald said.

Activities resume today and include an open house and campus tours, lectures and activities including "Be a Student for a Day" and an opportunity to attend an evening rehearsal of the upcoming Saint Mary's opera, "Witness."

On Saturday, donors will have the chance to further explore the Saint Mary's campus by visiting the Shaheen Bookstore, walking the College's Nature Trail or working out in Angela Athletic Facility.

McDonald said the weekend will officially end Saturday evening with Mass at the Church of Our Lady of Loretto, followed by a reception in O'Laughlin Auditorium and a gala dinner to be held in the Noble Family Dining Hall.

Contact Lisa Gallagher at lgalla01@saintmarys.edu

Student fast aims to raise awareness

By LAUREN LAVELLE
News Writer

More than 50 Saint Mary's students participated in a 12-hour fast on Thursday in effort to raise awareness about hunger in the local community.

Saint Mary's juniors Chelsea Gulling, Etienne Melcher and Amanda Meyer organized the fast as part of the College's first annual Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week.

"Last fall, we attended the National Student Campaign Against Hunger and Homelessness Conference in Seattle and really wanted to bring the issue back to our campus," Meyer said. "We wanted to raise awareness about the hunger and homelessness problem here in South Bend."

Fast participants wore white T-shirts with black lettering that read "Today I am Fasting For..." on the front and cited several statistics about hunger and homelessness on the back. The fast began at 6 a.m. and ended at 6 p.m. During that time, participants were encouraged to consume only water.

Melcher said participating in the fast was important for students because it allowed them to not only sympathize with the hungry, but to empathize with them as well.

"Most people know it is a problem but don't think they can do anything about it," Melcher said. "But we need to realize that we need to be socially conscious and try to understand the people who are affected by the problem."

At 6 p.m., participants gathered in the West Wing of the Noble

Family Dining Hall for dinner and an informal discussion about their experience with the fast. Meyer opened the discussion by emphasizing how important it was for students to take action against issues such as hunger and homelessness.

"It is important for people to realize how big the problem really is and that it isn't only a problem in other countries, but that it's right here in the local community," Meyer said. "I think by all of us wearing the shirts and fasting today, we helped make some people realize that."

Jenny Robbins, a senior at Saint Mary's, participated in the fast because she said she thinks it is an invaluable experience when trying to address the issue of hunger.

"I wanted to have the experience of wanting something to eat but not being able to have it because some people do this everyday, they don't have a choice," Robbins said.

"It was incredibly worthwhile to tell people 'I'm hungry' when they asked how I was doing. Saying that puts a face to hunger and that is what raises awareness and makes students take action."

Junior Kate Deitle said she participated because the fast forces students to pay attention the issues like hunger and homelessness.

"We are in a bubble here on campus and it is easy to ignore the problem," Deitle said. "Participating in the fast makes people realize they can make a difference."

Many students said the most difficult part of the fast was the effect their hunger had on their ability to focus and concentrate during the day.

"It makes you think about all the people who have to go to work or the kids who have to go to school hungry and are expected to do well and get good grades," Robbins said.

During the discussion, Melcher addressed criticism that participants have faced regarding the effect of their efforts. Some students said that wearing a T-shirt and fasting for a day does not help solve the overall problem, Melcher said.

"Recognizing the problem is only the first step and it will set the stage for things to come," Melcher said. "We will not fill every stomach today but we will empower students to make bigger changes that will hopefully encourage students to get involved in the local community."

Many participants said that while they knew they were not ending hunger, they were making small changes for the cause.

"Even if we can't prevent people from starving, we can stop how much we eat and how much food we waste," freshman Francesca Johnson said.

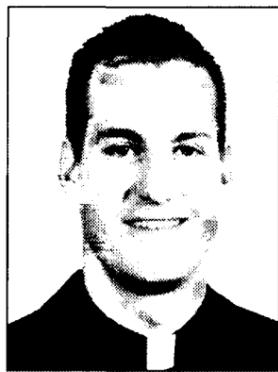
Meyer said she was pleased with the amount of students participating in the fast and the awareness it brought to campus.

"I know a lot of students stopped us today to ask about the shirts and it gave us a chance to explain what we were doing," Meyer said. "Our main goal was to act and to ignite the hope that we have the power to do something, and I think we did that today."

Contact Lauren Lavelle at llavel01@saintmarys.edu

Congregation of Holy Cross

Congratulations Fr. Nate



Rev. Nathan D. Wills, C.S.C.

*With joy and thanksgiving,
the Congregation of Holy Cross
and Daniel and Susan Wills
invite you to celebrate the ordination
of their brother and son*



The Sacrament of Holy Orders will be conferred by
The Most Reverend Daniel R. Jenky, C.S.C., Bishop of Peoria:
Saturday, April 22, 2006
2:30 p.m.
at Sacred Heart Basilica

"Our mission is the Lord's and so is the strength for it."
(Constitutions, II.20)

vocation.nd.edu

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Earthquake hits Russian East region

MOSCOW — A major earthquake hit a distant, sparsely populated region of Russia's Far East early Friday, causing unknown damage and possible casualties, an emergency official said. The U.S. Geological Survey and Japan's Meteorological Agency estimated the quake's magnitude at 7.7.

The quake hit around 12:45 p.m. local time in Koryak region, nearly 4,350 miles east of Moscow and some 600 miles north of the largest city in the area, Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky, said Oleg Kotosanov, a duty officer with the regional emergency situations ministry.

Kotosanov told The Associated Press by telephone that there were reports of damage in some villages of the Pacific region, and that emergency officials were flying by helicopter to several locations. Federal emergency officials in Moscow said they had no information about the quake.

Pakistan hunting for heroin on border

QUETTA, Pakistan — A small airplane with a heat-seeking camera flies over moonlit, craggy desert along the Pakistan-Afghan frontier, circling suspicious convoys of vehicles that appear with amazing clarity on a monochrome screen.

In an effort to improve border security and stanch the flow of heroin trafficked from top world producer Afghanistan, the U.S. has supplied Pakistan with 10 Huey helicopters and three Cessna Caravan planes with high-tech surveillance equipment.

But a chronic shortage of dedicated ground forces to pounce on smugglers limits their impact. And rampant corruption that a former Afghan trafficker says infects security forces and officials on both sides of the border helps fuel the booming narcotics trade to Pakistan, across Europe and the United States.

NATIONAL NEWS

Moussaoui prosecutors doubt claim

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — Prosecutors acknowledged on Thursday the government has no evidence to support — and actually doubts — part of Zacarias Moussaoui's dramatic courtroom confession that he was involved in the Sept. 11 attacks: His claim that shoe bomber Richard Reid was to be on his team.

Thanks to legal maneuvering outside court, the potentially damaging concession reached the jury in a decidedly undramatic way: It was part of a stipulation agreed to by the government and read to the jury in the monotone voice of defense lawyer Alan Yamamoto.

Test pilot Crossfield killed in crash

RANGER, Ga. — Scott Crossfield, the hot-shot test pilot and aircraft designer who in 1953 became the first man to fly at twice the speed of sound, was killed in the crash of his small plane, authorities said Thursday. He was 84.

Crossfield's body was found in the wreckage Thursday in the mountains about 50 miles northwest of Atlanta, a day after the single-engine plane he was piloting dropped off radar screens on a flight from Alabama to Virginia. There were thunderstorms in the area at the time.

The cause of the crash was under investigation. Crossfield was believed to be the only person aboard.

LOCAL NEWS

Stockelman gets life for girl's murder

BROWNSTOWN, Ind. — A man's courtroom offer to share any profits from a book about his abduction and murder of a 10-year-old girl with her family failed to win him any leniency Thursday as a judge sentenced him to life in prison without parole.

Anthony Ray Stockelman made the offer as he testified during his sentencing hearing for the January 2005 death of Katlyn "Katie" Collman, saying "If I could switch places with her, I would."

Protester interrupts Hu's speech

Falun Gong demonstrator's shouting insults Chinese President; Bush apologizes

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — It was supposed to be Chinese President Hu Jintao's moment in the sun.

But the sudden appearance of a banner-waving, screaming Falun Gong protester during a pomp-filled White House arrival ceremony for the Chinese leader distracted all attention away from Hu's speech — so embarrassing it prompted a personal apology from President Bush.

The woman had slipped in with media credentials and shouted at the leaders from a press stand directly in front of them, an awkward development for a White House that had been straining to choreograph the visit to give the status-conscious Chinese their due as a rising world power without affording Hu the ultimate perk of a state visit.

White House officials called the incident "a momentary blip" that didn't mar the talks between Bush and Hu.

Indeed, the two leaders just a while later decided to ditch protocol's dictates to sit together at lunch. The subject: North Korea, the area in which they seemed most in unison during a half-day summit that produced little measurable progress on other sticky problems such as a global nuclear standoff with Iran to America's record trade deficit with China.

The watchwords of the day were "candor" and "discussion" — not "agreement" and "announcement."

White House officials stressed the growing sophistication of U.S.-Chinese relations and the increased personal familiarity between Bush and Hu after five meetings in less than a year as summit achievements.

"We have made progress in building a relationship that is candid and cooperative," Bush said.



President Bush grabs the coat sleeve of Chinese President Hu Jintao as Hu walks down the stairs during an arrival ceremony on the South Lawn Thursday.

In opening remarks after a majestic arrival ceremony, Hu made clear he did not intend to do much more than reiterate past promises — and he did not. "I have come to enhance dialogues," said Hu from a sun-splashed South Lawn podium, speaking through an interpreter.

Hu had barely begun his speech when the woman began pleading with Bush to stop the Chinese president from persecuting the Falun Gong, a banned religious movement that accuses the Chinese government of torturing and killing its followers. Bush quietly encouraged his guest to resume talking — "You're OK," he said — as the woman's shouts contin-

ued even as Secret Service agents removed her.

The woman's complaints, however, were no different from those that were voiced all day outside the White House gates — and within earshot of those inside.

Falun Gong orchestrated loud protests that drew hundreds to the streets around the White House, only steps from the Blair House government guest quarters where Hu was staying. They banged gongs, waved American and Chinese flags and held banners denouncing Hu as a "Chinese dictator" responsible for genocide and other "crimes in Chinese labor camps and prisons."

Their chants could be heard during the quieter moments of the arrival ceremony. And as Bush feted Hu and nearly 200 others with a formal lunch of Alaskan halibut and fine wine in the pink-and-gold-adorned East Room, the demonstrators were visible through open curtains.

In a delicate balancing act, the White House greeted Hu with the full 21-gun salute, a traditional U.S. military honor guard in colonial dress and a formal luncheon. But the Chinese leader did not rate a glitzy black-tie state dinner, or even the honor of his country's flags flying beside American ones from the lampposts around the White House compound.

IRAQ

Leader abandons claim on term

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Bowing to intense pressure, Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari agreed Thursday to allow Shiite lawmakers to find someone else to head the new government, abandoning his claim on another term in the face of Sunni and Kurdish opposition.

Al-Jaafari's abrupt reversal was an apparent breakthrough in the months-long struggle to form a national unity government. The Bush administration hopes such a government will curb Iraq's slide toward anarchy and enable the U.S. to start bringing home its 133,000 troops.

Leaders in the seven-party Shiite alliance, the largest bloc in the 275-member parliament, were to meet Friday to begin choosing a replacement. But their field of candidates lacks stature and power, raising questions whether the new prime minister will be any more successful than al-Jaafari in confronting sectarian violence and the brutal insurgency.

It was unclear why al-Jaafari suddenly decided to relinquish the nomination that he won by a single vote with backing from radical anti-American cleric Muqtada al-Sadr during a ballot among Shiite lawmakers two months ago. Al-Jaafari had insisted Wednesday that

stepping aside was "out of the question."

But in a letter Thursday to the executive committee of the United Iraqi Alliance, the Shiite coalition, al-Jaafari wrote that he was prepared to "make any sacrifice to achieve" the organization's goals. "I tell you, you chose me, and I return this choice to you to do as you see fit."

"I cannot allow myself to be an obstacle, or appear to be an obstacle," al-Jaafari said in an emotional address on national television. He said he agreed to a new vote so that his fellow Shiite lawmakers "can think with complete freedom and see what they wish to do."

SMC lecture focuses on women, Church

By LIZ HARTER
News Writer

Saint Mary's Center in Spirituality presented its 21st annual Madeleva Lecture for Spirituality Thursday night with guest lecturer Susan Ross, who spoke of the role of beauty and women in the Church and in the world.

Ross, a professor of theology and faculty scholar at Loyola University Chicago in Ill., is the author of "Extravagant Affections: A Feminist Sacramental Theology," and has also authored numerous journal articles on the topics of feminist theology and feminist ethics.

The Madeleva Lectures in spirituality are named in honor of Sister Madeleva Wolff, the third president of Saint Mary's College.

They are meant to honor Wolff and her contributions to the college, especially her inauguration of the Graduate School of Sacred Theology, which was the first Catholic theological program that permitted women to earn a Ph.D.

The lecture, "For the Beauty of the Earth: Women, Sacramentality and Justice," began with an introduction from President Carol Ann Mooney and Sister Kathleen Dolphin, director of the Center for Spirituality.

Ross spoke of the role of beauty and how it related to the Church and the world, and the place of women in sacramentality and justice.

Ross stated that while in

church no women are viewed when one looks at the altar. The reason that women were not permitted to be in the same room as men during worship, and are now marginalized in the church is because women and their physical beauty in the church are said to distract or seduce men from focusing on God, she said.

"Women have nevertheless graced the presence of churches in ways that are trivialized," Ross said, citing that women are normally the ones who complete the "housework" of the church, cleaning stained glass windows and keeping pews free of dust and clutter.

"Having to choose between goodness and beauty is a false dichotomy."

Susan Ross
theology professor
Loyola University
Chicago

Ross pointed out that it is feminist theology shares a reverence for the Earth and the human body with Christian tradition.

"Having to choose between goodness and beauty is a false dichotomy," Ross said.

Real beauty signifies a depth beyond its appearance, Ross said. It has and elicits generosity and therefore there is no choice between justice and beauty.

To conclude the lecture Ross recited the lyrics to John Denver's "Bread and Roses." She said these words were poignant because they intertwined both beauty and faith, the Bread being the Eucharist.

"From birth until life closes, hearts starve as well as bodies," Ross quoted. "Give us bread, but give us roses."

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Shirt

continued from page 1

year's The Shirt.

"I'm not a big fan of yellow," Mauro said. "It doesn't really say football to me."

Mauro said he trusts The Shirt designers have come up with a design and color students will appreciate after hearing so many complaints last year. He said he would prefer a return to the green hue of past years.

"If not green, then blue, but not yellow," Mauro said.

The words and design of last year's shirt did not have much appeal for sophomore Phil Drendall either, who called the shirt "ugly." He said the words and the design did not represent Notre Dame well.

"I'm just really hoping it has more to do with Notre Dame," Drendall said. "I don't really care about the color too much."

The Shirt Project, the largest student fundraiser at Notre Dame, began in 1990 to help a seriously injured international graduate student cover medical expenses. Since the start of the program, sales of The Shirt has brought in over \$3.5 million. Half the revenue of The Shirt goes to The Shirt Charity Fund, and the remainder of the funds raised from sales contributes to student activity fees.

Jed Hanawalt, assistant director for operations at Hammes Bookstore, said though there was a negative student reaction to The Shirt last year, it was still the

best-selling edition of the shirt ever. He said he is confident The Shirt will be a popular purchase for next football season as well.

"It's something that I think this year will really build that spirit and that tradition and that desire to be a part

of this wonderful project," Hanawalt said. "I think it's going to be a very successful year for The Shirt."

The Bookstore has made an initial order of 55,000

shirts, which Hanawalt said should last through this weekend and up to the first home football game. Hanawalt estimates the Bookstore will sell 20,000 shirts during the Blue-Gold game weekend.

"The following of The Shirt program is just so strong that I don't foresee problems with it this year," Hanawalt said. "I just think the fans

are going to jump on board and really enjoy this year's design."

The unveiling ceremony, which starts at approximately noon today, will feature performances from the bag-

pipe band, the Notre Dame cheerleaders and leprechaun, the Glee Club and the Notre Dame marching band. WNDU sports anchor Jeff Jeffers will speak, and Coach Charlie Weis will make an appearance to talk

about the upcoming football season. At approximately 12:40 p.m., The Shirt will be unveiled.

Hanawalt expects about 5,000 people will attend the ceremony, depending on the weather.

"I think there's been more buzz for this unveiling than maybe in years past," Hanawalt said. "We get questions about it every day."

The Bookstore has been receiving orders for The Shirt through their website for the past several weeks.

Around campus, posters feature students in plain white T-shirts and

ask "What will it look like?" and "What is its color?" are creating mystery and getting people excited to see The Shirt, Fox said. He said he thinks people are highly anticipating seeing The Shirt for the first time.

"What's great about unveiling it on the Blue-Gold game weekend is there's a football feeling to the weekend in general," Fox said.

Sophomore Alison Frihart said she hopes she will like this year's color and design more than last year's. She said she brought last year's shirt "for nostalgia," but never wore it to a game.

"I think even though sales were still really high last year, [The Shirt Committee] kept in mind that the shirt was really not popular with students," Frihart said. "I hope they've tried to come up with something that students will like more than last year's shirt."

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Game

continued from page 1

sense of excitement for the season," Somogyi said. "People are talking about the Charlie Weis era and then looking at the Lou Holtz and Ara Parseghian eras. It's that whole, 'Hey, we found our guy and he's going to lead us back to the Promised Land' feeling."

Somogyi said the Blue-Gold game tradition began with Knute Rockne, but has not always followed the same format. From the 1930s through much of the 1960s, the scrimmage was known as the Old-timers game.

"Former players would play the current players," he said. "You used to have situations with guys in the NFL competing against college kids. You'd have David Givens coming back to play in the game or Arnez Battle or Luke Petitgout — that's how it used to be ... You couldn't even imagine agents allowing that in the professional ranks [today]."

Somogyi said the event changed under the direction of coach Ara Parseghian, who thought it would be "more worthwhile" to hold an intra-squad scrimmage in the spring. "For the most part [the games] were one sided, because you would have the No. 1 team going against the No. 3 team," he said. "You used to have

scores like 48-0."

For Somogyi, the 1975 Blue-Gold game was especially memorable.

"It was a rainy day, and out of nowhere — no one knew who this guy was — [a quarterback] completed seven of 12 passes and a couple touchdowns," he said. "That guy's name was Joe Montana."

Montana was on the seventh team the previous year, but in that one scrimmage he "skyrocketed up to No. 2," Somogyi said.

"You don't always put too much [thought] into Blue-Gold games, [but] now and then something happens," he said.

Somogyi does not expect any breakout performances of comparable magnitude Saturday, but said the event should draw a "pretty decent crowd" at Notre Dame Stadium.

"Charlie [Weis] only had about 17,000 in attendance last year, but even that was amazing because it was probably the coldest Blue-Gold game in history," he said. "Anytime you approach 20,000 — that's very good."

Somogyi said Weis is "getting there" in terms of popularity, but first year coaches historically draw the largest Blue-Gold crowds.

"The most attended Blue-Gold game happened to be in 1981 with first year coach Gerry Faust — 35,675 people were in attendance," he said. "It was called 'Faust Fever' because of his magnetic per-

sonality. He had everyone believing Notre Dame would never lose another game."

Lou Holtz's first game in 1986 boasted the second largest Blue-Gold attendance with 32,071 turning out for the event, which draws thousands of students, alumni and fans to campus each spring.

"It's more of a social, community event than anything. That's what it's become," Somogyi said. "You unveil The Shirt [and] it's sort of like a dress rehearsal for the fall. This is what we wear for the Blue-Gold

game, this is what we'll wear for the season."

Hammes Bookstore assistant director Jed Hanawalt said Blue-Gold weekend helps the store kickoff the 2006 season.

"We absolutely gear up for it," he said. "It's not quite like a football weekend, [but] it's a lot of fun. It's a much different atmosphere — much more lax and family oriented."

Hanawalt expects The Shirt unveiling ceremony at 12 p.m. today to draw big crowds — that is "as long as we don't have snow like we did last year." The bookstore — which is celebrating its 50th anniversary — will also sell schedule T-shirts and marquis game shirts throughout the weekend.

"I'm not a big fan of yellow ... it doesn't say football to me."

David Mauro
sophomore

"We expect a good sized crowd for this weekend's Blue-Gold [game] — probably larger than some recent years."

Phil Johnson
associate director
NDSP

"I think we're playing this little team called Penn State," he said. "We already have the shirts for that."

And the bookstore is not the only campus venue that anticipates increased business.

"We expect to see more people than usual on a Saturday, but not as many as if it were a home football weekend," Reckers manager Mike Davy said. "It's about 20 percent more business than on typical [non-football weekend] Saturday."

Legends general manager Aaron Perri said the restaurant will "go into football mode" for Blue-Gold weekend.

"Anything that happens in the stadium is a direct correlation to the amount of business we get here," he said. "Due to the fact that we exist in

the middle of the parking lot, we get a lot of business from people tailgating and passing through."

Perri said Legends will run extended hours and bring in more staff members to compensate for the increased patrons.

Local hotels are also making adjustments for the weekend. Lindsay Kling, guest service supervisor for the Inn at Saint

Mary's, said the hotel tends to get booked up for the event.

"We do get more business," she said. "It's going to be a busier weekend so we've prepared for it."

Notre Dame Security/Police associate director Phil Johnson said the unit, in tandem with other police agencies, will staff Notre Dame Stadium and patrol various parking areas to "promote a family friendly environment and to enforce laws."

"We expect a good sized crowd for this weekend's Blue-Gold [game] — probably larger than some recent years," he said. "In addition to the Blue-Gold, there are several other events planned this weekend including a baseball game. So, there's likely to be very heavy traffic in and around campus."

Johnson said the one-way traffic pattern typically implemented on regular home football games will not be utilized Saturday and thus "traffic may move a bit slower this weekend." Additionally, the closing of Douglas Road east of Juniper Road will also affect campus travel.

"We'll have staff deployed at key intersections to facilitate traffic flow before and after the game," Johnson said. "Fans should plan to allow extra time arriving to and departing from campus."

Kickoff for the game is scheduled for 1:35 p.m.

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MARKET RECAP

| Stocks | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------|---------------|
| Dow Jones | 11,342.89 | +10.34 |
| Up: | Same: | Down: |
| 2,590 | 103 | 714 |
| Composite Volume: 2,598,760,470.00 | | |

| | | |
|-------------------------|-----------|--------|
| AMEX | 1,995.59 | -15.54 |
| NASDAQ | 2,362.55 | -8.33 |
| NYSE | 8,422.13 | -9.12 |
| S&P 500 | 1,311.46 | +1.53 |
| NIKKEI(Tokyo) | 17,317.53 | 0.00 |
| FTSE 100(London) | 6,081.40 | -8.40 |

| COMPANY | %CHANGE | \$GAIN | PRICE |
|-------------------------|---------|--------|-------|
| INTEL CP (INTC) | -0.56 | -0.11 | 19.45 |
| NASDAQ 100 TR (QQQQ) | -0.35 | -0.15 | 42.50 |
| SUN MICROSYS (SUNW) | +1.82 | +0.09 | 5.04 |
| APPLE COMPUTER (AAPL) | +3.02 | +1.98 | 67.63 |
| JUNIPER NETWORKS (JNPR) | -10.10 | -2.05 | 18.25 |

| Treasuries | | | |
|--------------|-------|-------|-------|
| 10-YEAR NOTE | +0.33 | +0.19 | 50.39 |
| 13-WEEK BILL | 0.00 | 0.00 | 46.02 |
| 30-YEAR BOND | +0.16 | +0.08 | 51.37 |
| 5-YEAR NOTE | +0.39 | +0.11 | 49.19 |

| Commodities | | |
|--------------------------|--------|--------|
| LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl.) | -0.22 | 71.95 |
| GOLD (\$/Troy oz.) | -12.90 | 623.10 |
| PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.) | +0.98 | 78.48 |

| Exchange Rates | |
|----------------|----------|
| YEN | 117.5100 |
| EURO | 0.8119 |
| POUND | 0.5622 |
| CANADIAN \$ | 1.1402 |

IN BRIEF

Merck, Lilly and others post jumps

NEW YORK — Stocks made a modest advance Wednesday as strong earnings from Yahoo Inc. and United Technologies Corp. helped investors briefly set aside worries over inflation and rising oil prices.

The day's gains extended Wall Street's rally from Tuesday, when stocks surged on indications that the Federal Reserve may soon end its string of interest rate hikes as the pace of economic growth appears to slow.

But while investors received another round of upbeat first-quarter earnings reports, a bigger-than-expected jump in the core consumer price index last month renewed their inflation concerns and left them wondering whether the Fed might respond by extending its program of rate increases.

Meanwhile, crude oil also topped a record \$72 per barrel as gold prices climbed to a fresh 25-year high. Continued strength in commodities could soon pose an issue for inflation, said Peter Cardillo, chief strategist and market analyst for S.W. Bach & Co.

GM narrows loss, more work needed

DETROIT — General Motors Corp. managed to reduce the flow of red ink in the first quarter, significantly narrowing its losses as a major restructuring began to take hold, but the world's biggest automaker acknowledged it still has a long way to go before it returns to profitability.

"We're still burning cash. We're still not comfortable where we are with our cash flow," GM Chief Financial Officer Frederick "Fritz" Henderson.

Wall Street analysts said the results were better than expected, but they warned that GM faces significant headwinds, including rising gas prices that could hurt a new lineup of sport utility vehicles and ongoing negotiations over wages at Delphi Corp., GM's former parts division. GM is expected to be on the hook for billions of dollars in Delphi labor and pension costs.

GM reported a first-quarter loss of \$323 million, or 57 cents per share, on Thursday. While it was GM's sixth straight quarterly loss, it was an improvement over the January-March period of 2005, when GM lost \$1.3 billion, or \$2.22 per share, and stopped providing financial guidance.

Feds get tough on employers

Government cracks down on businesses hiring illegal immigrant workers

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The government plans to crack down ever harder on employers who harbor and hire illegal immigrants, pursuing companies that ignore the law so they can exploit cheap labor.

"We are going to move beyond the current level of activity to a higher level in each month and year to come," Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff said Thursday. He pledged to "come down as hard as possible" on violators.

Federal agents on Wednesday arrested seven current and former managers of IFCO Systems, a manufacturer of crates and pallets, on criminal charges, and more than 1,100 people were arrested on administrative immigration charges at more than 40 IFCO sites in the U.S.

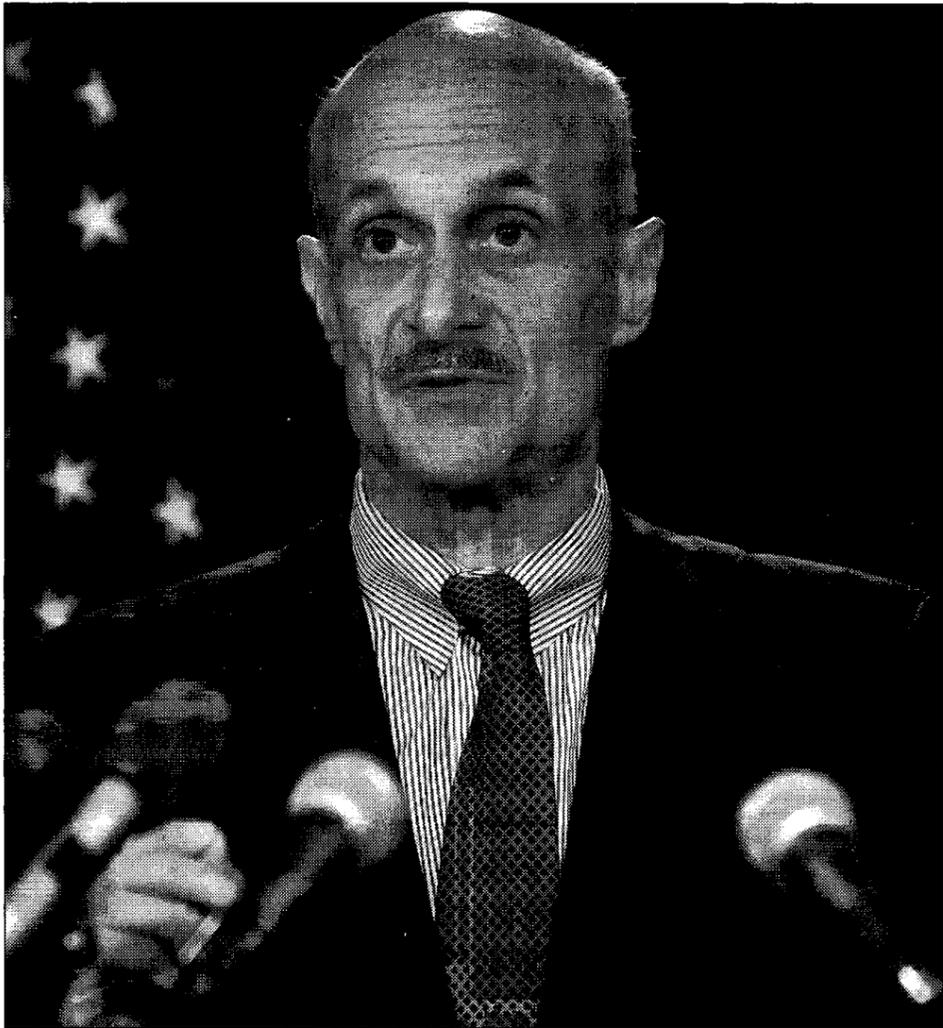
"Our nation's communities cannot be a wild frontier where illegal aliens and unscrupulous employees subvert our nation's laws," said Julie Myers, assistant secretary for Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Don Sherman, director of the Cincinnati Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice, an advocate for immigrant workers and their rights, was skeptical about the government's move.

"I think the timing is very suspicious because there are a number of rallies coming up around the country promoting immigration reform," he said.

Chertoff denied the timing of the stepped up enforcement had anything to do with recent immigration demonstrations, saying the investigations began more than a year ago.

Messages left with IFCO officials were not immedi-



Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff speaks at a news conference Thursday on immigration enforcement at the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement headquarters.

ately returned Thursday. In a statement Wednesday, the company pledged to cooperate with the investigation and comply with state and federal requirements.

The Netherlands-based company describes itself as the leading pallet services company in America. It reported \$116 million in profits last year on sales of \$576 million.

More than half of the company's roughly 5,800 employees during 2005 had invalid or mismatched

Social Security numbers, the government alleges.

The case began after officials got a tip that IFCO workers in Guilderland, N.Y. were seen ripping up their W-2 forms because they did not intend to file tax returns, Chertoff said.

Six of seven current and former IFCO managers charged with felony conspiracy to harbor illegal aliens were released on bond and are to appear May 4 in Albany, N.Y., where the criminal com-

plaint was filed and the investigation began at a suburban IFCO facility.

The managers could face up to 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine for each alien involved, as well as forfeitures.

"Just a small fine or a slap on the wrist is not a deterrent," Myers said.

Most of the 1,187 illegal immigrants arrested are being processed for deportation, said Assistant U.S. Attorney Tina Scicchetti in Albany.

Stocks mixed; GM, Merck lift Dow

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Stocks closed mixed Thursday after earnings reports from General Motors Corp. and Merck Co. Inc. pushed the Dow Jones industrial average up to a six-year high while the Nasdaq composite sagged along with eBay Inc.

Dow component General Motors' stock gained 10 percent after the automaker reported record revenues along with its sixth straight quarterly loss. Drugmaker Merck & Co., also a Dow component, reported an 11 percent jump in first-quarter profit.

Google Inc.'s first-quarter earnings, reported after the close of regular trading, sent the stock sharply higher in after-hours trading and pointed to greater investor enthusiasm Friday.

In economic news, new applications for unemployment benefits dropped by 10,000 to 303,000, according to the Labor Department. The figure was the best showing since the beginning of April, suggesting the labor market is

maintaining decent momentum, but reviving the fear of wage inflation.

Oil futures retreated from record highs. A barrel of light crude hit a record high of \$72.49 in trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange before falling to \$71.95, down 22 cents from Wednesday's record closing price.

"The message this week is pretty simple: People are looking for an excuse to buy stocks rather than sell stocks," said Ryan Larson, equity trader at Voyaguer Asset Management, a subsidiary of RBC Dain Rauscher. "A year ago, \$70 oil would have been the death of us; today, the market is able to digest it and look for positives."

The Dow rose 64.12, or 0.57 percent, to 11,342.89. That was the blue chips' best close since it settled at 11,351.30 on Jan. 20, 2000.

Broader stock indicators were mixed. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 1.53, or 0.12 percent, to 1,311.46, and the Nasdaq composite index fell 8.33, or 0.35 percent, to 2,362.55.

The advances masked underlying

weakness in the market. Declining issues led advancers by roughly 8 to 7 on the New York Stock Exchange.

Bonds were lower, with the yield on the 10-year Treasury note rising to 5.04 percent from 5.03 percent Wednesday. The U.S. dollar was higher against most major currencies. Gold prices were lower, retreating from 25-year highs.

Economic data continued to point to moderating growth. The Conference Board, a private research group, said its Index of Leading Economic Indicators dropped to 138.4 in March from 138.5 the previous month. The declines in the index, a closely watched gauge of future economic activity, followed four consecutive months of rising readings.

The day's earnings were, for the most part, strong. "The market was relieved about the earnings coming out and mildly surprised about GM," said Quincy Krosby, chief investment strategist at The Hartford Financial Services Group Inc., the Connecticut-based insurance company.

Pulitzer

continued from page 1

tional use of the newspaper's resources to serve an inundated city even after evacuation of the newspaper plant."

For Krupa, a city hall beat reporter who served as editor-in-chief of The Observer during the 1999-2000 academic year, the award is "bittersweet."

"We're thrilled to have been recognized for our work, but at the same time, there were reporters in our newsroom whose houses still are destroyed who are living in trailers or living with relatives," Krupa said Wednesday. "Our newsroom, our building, is sort of an island. ...

"It's the proudest moment in American journalism and so many of our staff will go home to a FEMA trailer."

Krupa and the Times-Picayune staff, who saw Katrina from a different perspective than reporters covering the story from vantage points around the nation, provided a crucial window into the unfolding disaster.

"At the very beginning a lot of big papers were telling these intellectual stories about the role that race might have played in the evacuation ... our job was to tell people from New Orleans what was happening inside New Orleans," Krupa said. "For a month our main task was to tell people, what does it look like inside the city?"

Krupa, who majored in American Studies and Spanish, said she chose Notre Dame precisely because it did not have a journalism program at the time. "I felt like to be a good journalist you should study lots of other things," she said.

But she joined The Observer almost immediately after arriving at school — the Sunday night before classes began freshman year. Her first night shift as assistant news editor lasted until 8 a.m. the next morning.

"I thought I was going to have a heart attack from all the coffee I had drank," Krupa said.

Later as editor-in-chief, she fought the University's ban on advertisements from the Gay and Lesbian Alumni/ae of Notre Dame and Saint Mary's (GALA-ND/SMC) in The Observer. The several-year dispute came to a head when Krupa decided to

run an ad for gay student group OUTreach ND in November 1999.

And she won, continuing to print advertisements for the gay and lesbian organizations — which prompted both on-campus support and favorable coverage in the local media.

Then-University President Father Edward Malloy appointed an internal ad hoc committee to examine the University's relationship with The Observer, but the committee never issued a public decision.

In the years since Krupa's stand, The Observer continued to operate as an independent newspaper without outside editorial influence.

While her leadership had a lasting impact on The Observer, the paper shaped Krupa's future as well.

"You stay up until three or four or five in the morning until everything gets done, and that was a really important training ground for me," Krupa said, "to be wholly responsible for something every day and seeing it through to the end and having people in the newsroom be your best friends and totally trusting them — and that's what we had to do [here at the Picayune]."

"We had to get in trucks and boats with our colleagues," she continued, "with colleagues carrying a gun to protect themselves. I have a lot of faith in journalism and the kind of people who become journalists. We're public servants, we're gathering information to tell somebody else and those are the kind of people I found at The Observer ... staying up till dawn and doing it to the end and that's what's expected."

"There's a long tradition and you walk into it and become a part of it and that's how I feel after this."

Walt Collins, a journalism professor who taught Krupa during her last semester at Notre Dame, said he was "not at all" surprised to hear of the Pulitzer.

"There's been half a dozen students in the past few years that wouldn't surprise me," Collins said, "and Michelle is

one of the preeminent."

He said he "vividly" remembers a story Krupa wrote for his Literary Journalism class that also appeared in The Observer on April 7, 2000. In "One Victim's Voice," Krupa leads readers through the crisis faced by "Emily," a Notre Dame junior and rape victim.

It was "a stunning piece of enterprise journalism," Collins said.

After graduation, Krupa — an Arlington Heights, Ill. native — went to work at the Beacon News in Aurora, Ill., a city 40 miles west of Chicago.

She continued her journalism education, spending one year in a University of Maryland graduate program before joining the staff of the Times-Picayune, where she has now worked for four years.

While the Pulitzers signify a concrete achievement for the Times-Picayune, in Krupa's eyes, the Katrina story is far from finished.

"I don't know if there's been a single story I've written since Aug. 29 that hasn't had the word 'Katrina' in it," Krupa said. "We're going to be writing this story for 20 years."

The other two recent Notre Dame Pulitzer winners are also former Observer staffers. 1995 graduate and Saint Paul Pioneer Press reporter George Dorchmann won the 2000 beat reporting award for a series on academic fraud within the University of Minnesota's men's basketball program, and 1994 graduate David Kinney was a member of the Newark Star-Ledger's Pulitzer-winning staff in 2005. The staff won for its coverage of the resignation of New Jersey governor James McGreevey after he admitted to appointing his extramarital male lover to a state security leadership post.

At least two other Notre Dame alumni have won individual Pulitzers, according to Assistant Vice President for News and Information Dennis Brown. 1939 graduate Edwin O'Connor won for fiction ("The Last Hurrah") in 1962, and 1927 graduate and sports columnist Red Smith won in 1976.

Mary Kate Malone contributed to this report.

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"We're going to be writing this story for 20 years."

**Michelle Krupa
Pulitzer Prize winner**

"That was really important training ground for me ... to be wholly responsible for something every day and seeing it through to the end and having people in the newsroom be your best friends."

**Michelle Krupa
Pulitzer Prize winner**

"I have a lot of faith in journalism and the kind of people who become journalists."

**Michelle Krupa
Pulitzer Prize winner**

Smoking

continued from page 1

said there will be signs posted throughout the stadium that will inform spectators of the rule. During regular season games, the signs will be accompanied by recorded announcements that will play over the sound system at the stadium. Ushers will personally inform anyone unaware of the new policy.

"We have had 'no smoking' signs put up, we have announcements on our message board, we have prepared announcements for the games, and our ushers will be enforcing the rule," Danch said.

Upon receiving their tickets, season ticket holders also received a booklet explaining stadium and University game day policies. Included in the booklet will be an explanation of the now-effective smoking ban, Danch said.

Any confusion concerning the ban may arise because Notre Dame has existing smoking regulations in the stadium that have been enforced. The original regulations barred smoking in the inner seating area of the stadium.

"Notre Dame previously forbid smoking in the seating areas of the stadium and permitted it in the outer and upper concourse," said Cappy Gagnon, coordinator of stadium personnel. "It will now be forbidden everywhere inside the stadium."

The ban will be enforced by personnel of the St. Joseph County health department, Gagnon said. Health department personnel are present at all home games, but in addition to their previous responsibility observing the handling of concession and food activities, they will now make sure Notre Dame is enforcing the ban. The health department has the ability to fine institutions if the ordinance is not adequately met.

"Like health officials monitoring a restaurant, the St. Joe County health department will make sure that we do a good job," Gagnon said.

"Like health officials monitoring a restaurant, the St. Joe County health department will make sure that we do a good job."

**Cappy Gagnon
coordinator
stadium personnel**

The majority of Notre Dame's game day responsibilities concerning the ban remain

with usher enforcement. "In the beginning it will be a bit of an educational program since smoking has been permitted in the past," Gagnon said. "Ushers who spot persons smoking will advise them of the ban and point out the signage on it. We will warn persons who do not follow instructions and treat them like any person who violates a stadium rule."

Concerning spectator response, Gagnon said that the expectation is that most people will comply when first informed of the ban. "Like we must do for cases of alcohol, ushers will escalate their response if people refuse," Gagnon said.

Contact Maureen Mullen at mmullen1@nd.edu

CAREER PERSPECTIVES: HEAR FROM NOTRE DAME ALUMNI

The Student Alumni Relations Group (SARG) invites you to participate in a career perspectives opportunity for Notre Dame Students. Current and former members of the Alumni Association's Board of Directors will be on campus to share their professional story with a limited number of students. The Career Perspectives Program will take place at McKenna Hall from 1:30-3:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 29, 2006.

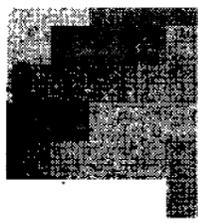
Registration forms can be accessed at <http://alumni.nd.edu/groups/sarg.html> and are due to SARG at 100 Eck Center, or by e-mail to rhurch12@nd.edu, no later than Tuesday, April 25, 2006. Dress is casual.

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IN THE MCKENNA HALL BASEMENT**



Questions? Please call the Alumni Association at 631-6000.

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7:00PM**

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Trustees

continued from page 1

having lunch in the dining hall on Friday and will likely eat with the students," Timm said, noting that several trustees will be unable to do so because they will be in meetings at the time.

Although students may have limited opportunities to interact with trustees during their on campus visits — which occur in October, February, April and June — they are able to voice their concerns and ideas to the newly named student trustee junior Julie Malone. Malone will replace previous student trustee senior Jill Vlasek, taking on a very prestigious student leadership position.

"Having a student trustee is a very special and honored position," Timm said. "It represents the College's belief in a shared governance system."

Like Vlasek, Malone will be

a "full voting member of the board, not just a voice at the table," said Timm — which is an "unusual aspect" when compared to other colleges and universities' definition of the position.

Malone, a biology major from Indianapolis, said she is excited to show Vlasek at this weekend's events to learn more about the full responsibilities of her position.

"I am honored to be appointed to this position and to go to a college where the students are held with such great respect that there would be a student on [the Board of Trustees] as a full voting member," Malone said.

After completing the vast application process — which included multiple essays, letters of recommendation and thorough interviews with

College faculty — Malone was chosen by Mooney to serve as the student trustee for the upcoming year.

"I am very excited," she said. "Since it has been such a long application process, it is nice to finally get things started see the Board of Trustees' dynamics and how they have such an impact on our college."

Timm said she is "confident that [Malone] will continue to provide the board members with insight from the student perspective" — something Malone stated as the primary goal and purpose of her position.

"I hope to actively seek student opinion and be the best representative of Saint Mary's students and what is important to them," she said.

Contact Kelly Meehan at kmecha01@saintmarys.edu

"Having a student trustee is a very special and honored position."

Linda Timm
VP of Student Affairs

Cab records support Duke player

Associated Press

DURHAM, N.C. — A cab driver who picked up a Duke University lacrosse player the night he's accused of raping a stripper appears to reinforce a timeline the defense says supports his innocence, but also casts doubt on claims that nothing happened at a team party.

When he returned to the off-campus party to pick up a second fare after dropping off Reade Seligmann, Moez Mostafa said he saw a woman leaving the party in anger, and overheard someone say, "She just a stripper. She's going to call the police."

Seligmann, of Essex Fells, N.J., and fellow sophomore lacrosse player Collin Finnerty, of Garden City, N.Y., are charged with first-degree rape, sexual assault and kidnapping. The accuser, a 27-year-old black student from a nearby college, told police she was attacked by three white men at a house where she and another woman were hired to dance at a March 13 lacrosse team party.

District Attorney Mike Nifong, who has not granted interviews about the case for weeks, has said he also hopes to charge a third suspect in the crime. According to defense attorneys, DNA tests of the team's players failed to connect any of them to the alleged rape.

The accuser, who told police she arrived around 11:30 p.m.,

said she and another dancer performed for a short time before getting angry and leaving the party, returning a short time later after receiving an apology. The accuser told police she was separated from the other dancer and assaulted for 30 minutes once back inside.

A member of the defense team, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the defense is working with players who could still be indicted, said time-stamped photos show the women dancing around midnight.

Mostafa's logs show a call for a cab at 12:14 a.m. A person close to the case told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity that cell phone records show Seligmann called for a taxi at that time.

The defense argues that if the dancers were performing around midnight, Seligmann would not have had enough time to have participated in the assault.

Mostafa, 37, told the AP on Thursday he had spoken with Seligmann's father, but no one from the police department or Nifong's office had contacted him.

Mostafa said Seligmann appeared to be calm and jovial during the cab ride. After dropping off Seligmann, he said, he returned to the house to pick up another fare. When he arrived, it looked like a party was breaking up, with people crowded on both sides of the street.

While waiting on the four passengers whom he would later drive to a nearby gas station, the Sudan-born driver saw a woman walking through a crowd of men toward a car, and heard someone say, "She just a stripper. She's going to call the police."

Mostafa said the woman, wearing jeans and a sweater, appeared to exchange words with some people in the crowd before getting into the driver's side of a car.

"She looked, like, mad," he said. "In her face, the way she walked, the way she talked, she looked like mad."

The Associated Press was shown four photos by a member of the defense team Wednesday, but none were the pictures that allegedly show the women dancing around midnight.

Three of the photos show the accuser smiling, dressed in a skimpy, revealing outfit, and looking through her purse. The fourth shows two young men helping a woman into a passenger seat of a car.

The car in the photo was black, while Mostafa said the angry woman got into a white car.

At 12:53 a.m., police received a 911 call from a woman complaining that she had been called racial slurs by white men gathered outside the home where the party took place. The defense has said it believes the second dancer at the party made that call.

Weinberg

continued from page 1

clubs and bar mitzvahs.

"Playing behind those strippers and bumping them, rimshotting bad comedians, that was good preparation for what I'm doing now," Weinberg said.

He caught a break in 1974 as a student at Seton Hall when he hit it off with Bruce Springsteen & the E Street Band in an audition that he found in want ad.

"This was the best band I had ever sat in with. I wanted that gig," he said.

The band soared in popularity with the 1975 album "Born to Run," the first actual album that Weinberg had ever played on.

Weinberg said the ten-year whirlwind of touring that he did with the band fulfilled his "rock n' roll dreams."

"I had the best seat in the house," he said.

To show the crowd what it was like to play in packed seats, Weinberg showed a video of concert footage set to "Born in the U.S.A."

"I had that Fu Manchu mustache," Weinberg said. "I offer that video as definitive proof that not everyone in the seventies looked like Ashton Kutcher."

In October 1989, Weinberg's life and career took a new direction when he got a call from Springsteen saying that he had been working on a new record and was going down a new path, and thanked Weinberg for his fifteen years of dedication.

"In retrospect... I probably shouldn't have been surprised it was over," Weinberg said.

He decided to go back to Seton Hall to finish his communications degree, which still

required twenty-one more credits. To his surprise, they still had his account open, which he said probably meant that they knew he would be back when "the rock n' roll thing was over" and he got "his act together." They gave him credit for a book he had written, so only eighteen credits remained until he could receive his degree.

"I figured that was certainly doable over two semesters," Weinberg said. "What are you laughing about?"

He took the LSAT after receiving his degree but claimed he got an "unbelievably low score." Daydreaming out the window one day in a property law class, he said he saw "visions of freedom," and proceeded to leave the classroom and withdraw from the college.

"I became a statistic... I'm very proud to say I'm a law school dropout," Weinberg said.

Weinberg then got a job at a mail order record store, and worked a variety of jobs there for three years, until he was called up to tour with the band "10,000 Maniacs."

"I was becoming a drummer again," Weinberg said.

A short while later, he auditioned for the Broadway show "Tommy." Twenty seconds into his audition, the conductor told him, "Alright, you can be the second alternate sub."

"That was OK with me, suddenly I'd gotten a job," Weinberg said.

He was so excited that he called his wife to come visit him in New York City. On a walk after dinner, he came across Conan O'Brien.

"You just never know," he said. "Even with my little kid dreams, I never thought I'd have my own band with my name on the bass drum, playing on the Late Show."

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Teens arrested for plotting rampage

Threatening MySpace message tips off police

Associated Press

RIVERTON, Kan. — Five teenage boys accused of plotting a shooting rampage at their high school on the anniversary of the Columbine massacre were arrested Thursday after a message authorities said warned of a gun attack appeared on the Web site MySpace.com.

Sheriff's deputies found guns, ammunition, knives and coded messages in the bedroom of one suspect, Sheriff Steve Norman said. Authorities also found documents about firearms and references to Armageddon in two suspects' school lockers.

"What the resounding theme is: They were actually going to do this," Norman said.

Four suspects were arrested at their homes; the fifth was taken into custody at the school. None of the names of the teens, ages 16-18, were released.

Attorney General Phill Kline, whose office took over the prosecution at the request of the county attorney, said charges are likely to be announced Friday, when the suspects are expected to appear in court.

No decision has been made on whether to charge the four suspects younger than 18 as adults, he said.

Deputies' interviews with the suspects indicated they planned to wear black trench coats and disable the school's camera system before starting the attack between noon and 1 p.m. Thursday, Norman said. The suspects apparently had been plotting since the beginning of the school year.

Officials at Riverton High School began investigating on Tuesday after learning that a threatening message had been posted on MySpace.com,

he said.

The message discussed the significance of April 20, which is Adolf Hitler's birthday and the anniversary of the 1999 Columbine High School attack in Colorado, in which two students wearing trench coats killed 13 people and committed suicide, the sheriff said.

"The message, it was brief, but it stated that there was going to be a shooting at the Riverton school and that people should wear bulletproof vests and flak jackets," Norman said.

School officials identified the student who posted the message and talked to several of his friends, Norman said.

But Riverton school district Superintendent David Walters said the significance of the threat didn't become clear until Wednesday night, after a woman in North Carolina who had chatted with one of the suspects on Myspace.com received more specific information that there would be about a dozen potential victims, at least one of whom was a staff member. She notified authorities in her state, who contacted the sheriff's department, Norman said.

Norman said that the potential victims were popular students and that the suspects may have been bullied.

"I think there was probably some bullying, name calling, chastising," he said. He also said investigators had learned the suspects were computer buffs who liked violent video games.

MySpace.com — a social networking hub with more 72 million members — released a statement declining to discuss the case because of the investigation, adding that it has provided users with mechanisms to report inappropriate content.

Kline said school would resume Friday. About 900 students in all grades attend the campus.

"I think there was probably some bullying, name calling, chastising."

Steve Norman
sheriff

FBI analysis suggests mistakes

Indictment alleges the withholding of photos

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A new FBI analysis of evidence in a bungled Detroit terrorism trial undercuts the recent indictment of the former prosecutor in the case, creating fresh conflict in a legal drama that has embarrassed the Bush administration.

The 13-page report by FBI Agent Paul George concludes that satellite photos of a Jordanian hospital closely match hand-drawn sketches found in 2001 inside the apartment of four Detroit men who the government claimed had surveyed the site as part of a terrorist plot.

The new analysis conflicts with the Justice Department's argument that photographic evidence did not match the sketches.

George testified at the 2003 Detroit terrorism trial and produced the new analysis around the time he was called to testify late last year before a grand jury that eventually indicted the prosecutor for wrongdoing in the case, officials said. The agent's report was obtained by The Associated Press.

Convictions of three of the four Detroit men — arrested shortly after the Sept. 11 attacks — were tossed out in 2004 after the Justice Department told the court its own prosecutors withheld photos from defense lawyers that could have helped prove the defendants' innocence.

Last month, former Assistant U.S. Attorney Richard G. Convertino and a State Department investigator were

indicted on charges they conspired at the trial to withhold the pictures because they would have shown that the drawings were not surveillance sketches of the hospital, as Convertino and trial witnesses had portrayed.

"The object of the conspiracy was to present false evidence at trial and to conceal inconsistent and potentially damaging evidence," the indictment alleges.

In an earlier court filing, Justice went further, claiming the photos disproved the sketches: "It is difficult if not impossible to compare the day-planner sketches with the photos and see a correlation."

Department officials said they were aware of George's report, but remained confident they could prove the ex-prosecutor and the State Department official lied about the existence of the photos, which were e-mailed to Convertino before the trial and were not turned over to defense lawyers. Convertino said he never saw the e-mail or photos.

"The pending prosecution is not about the guilt or innocence of the defendants" in the original terror case, Justice spokesman Bryan Sierra said. "This is about lies perpetrated by a federal prosecutor and a federal agent, as alleged in the indictment. It's about perjury and the integrity and fairness of the judicial system."

Justice officials also acknowledge they don't possess one of

the two sets of photos they believed were taken in the case and don't know if they exist. Aerial photos believed to have been taken by helicopter before the trial are missing, but prosecutors do have a second set of ground and helicopter photos of the Jordanian hospital they say were e-mailed to Convertino before the trial.

Convertino alleges he is being prosecuted solely because he sued then-Attorney General John Ashcroft in 2004, alleging mismanagement of the war on terror.

"This is about lies perpetrated by a federal prosecutor and a deferral agent, as alleged in the indictment."

Bryan Sierra
Justice spokesman

Convertino is due in court Friday. His lawyer said Thursday the new FBI analysis "disproves the indictment's preposterous allegations" and vindicates the original terrorism convictions.

"The government now agrees, after three years of inquiry and mil-

ions of dollars, that the evidence in the original case proves the terrorist convictions originally rendered by the jury," attorney Bill Sullivan said.

The criminal charges against Convertino are based on the principle that prosecutors must turn over to defendants all evidence that could help them prove their innocence.

Legal experts said the emergence of George's analysis could help Convertino's lawyer create reasonable doubt. Defense lawyers could argue that if photos matched the sketches — instead of disproved them — Convertino would have had no motive to hide them and no obligation to turn them over, experts said.

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BRAZIL

Enrichment program advances

Brazil's nuclear technology attracts less attention than Iran's

Associated Press

RESENDE — As Iran faces international pressure over developing the raw material for nuclear weapons, Brazil is quietly preparing to open its own uranium-enrichment center, capable of producing exactly the same fuel.

Brazil — like Iran — has signed the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, and Brazil's constitution bans the military use of nuclear energy.

Also like Iran, Brazil has cloaked key aspects of its nuclear technology in secrecy while insisting the program is for peaceful purposes, claims nuclear weapons experts have debunked.

While Brazil is more cooperative than Iran on international inspections, some worry its new enrichment capability — which eventually will create more fuel than is needed for its two nuclear plants — suggests that South America's biggest nation may be rethinking its commitment to nonproliferation.

"Brazil is following a path very similar to Iran, but Iran is getting all the attention," said Marshall Eakin, a Brazil expert at Vanderbilt University. "In effect, Brazil is benefiting from Iran's problems."

While Iran leads a war of words against nuclear-armed Israel and has defied a U.N. Security Council request to stop all uranium enrichment, Brazil is peaceful and democratic. It doesn't have border disputes, is not in an arms race, and strives for good relations with all nations. Its last

war ended in 1870.

"Brazil doesn't cheat on the Nonproliferation Treaty and it does not exist in an area of high tension," said David Albright, a former U.N. inspector who runs the Washington-based Institute for Science and International Security.

The U.S. Embassy in the capital, Brasilia, referred all questions to the State Department in Washington, where spokesman Sean McCormack dismissed any parallel between Brazil's nuclear program and Iran's.

"My understanding is they have a peaceful nuclear program," he said Thursday.

Still, Brazil's enrichment program — and its reluctance to allow unlimited inspections — has raised suspicions abroad.

"Brazil is beginning to be perceived as a country apparently wanting to reevaluate its commitment to nonproliferation, and this is a big part of the problem," said Jon Wolfsthal, deputy director for nonproliferation at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Washington.

The government-run Industrias Nucleares do Brasil S.A. has been conducting final tests at the enrichment plant, built on a former coffee plantation in Resende, 90 miles west of Rio de Janeiro. When it opens this year, Brazil will join

the world's nuclear elite.

Brazil has the world's sixth-largest uranium reserves, but until the plant becomes operational, it can't use the fuel for energy without shipping it to and from URENCO, the European enrichment consortium.

Brazil says its plant will be capable of enriching natural uranium to less than five percent uranium-235, an isotope needed to fuel its two reactors. Warheads need ore that has been enriched to 95 percent

uranium-235, a material Brazil says it can't and won't produce.

"If you can enrich to five percent, you're decades away from enriching to 90 percent," Odair Dias Goncalves, president of the Brazilian Nuclear

Energy Commission, told The Associated Press. "You need a whole new technology that we don't have."

But former U.N. inspector Albright said he worked with Goncalves at the Brazilian Physics Society on a project to show that the Brazilian centrifuges could be used to produce highly enriched uranium, even if that wasn't their intended use.

"Centrifuges are very flexible," he said. "Reconfiguring the cascades or recycling the enriched uranium multiple times can allow for the production of weapons-grade uranium."

"Brazil is following a path very similar to Iran, but Iran is getting all the attention."

Marshall Eakin
Brazil expert

NIGERIA

Car bombed kills at least two people

Dispute over oil revenue blamed for attack

Associated Press

PORT HARCOURT — Militants battling for a bigger cut of Nigeria's oil revenue exploded a car bomb inside a military base, ending weeks of relative calm with a blast that killed at least two people and sent a fireball into the night sky.

The Movement for Emancipation of the Niger Delta claimed responsibility for the blast late Wednesday at a barracks in the southern oil center of Port Harcourt.

The group's attacks on oil installations in Nigeria, Africa's leading oil exporter, had already helped drive up world oil prices. This country is the fifth-biggest source of U.S. oil imports.

But the movement had not carried out any major

attacks since February and never before used a car bomb. Its previous military targets were small military boats.

Wednesday's blast sent a fireball towering over Port Harcourt, a major population center and hub of Nigeria's oil industry.

"We suddenly heard one heavy bang and saw fire shoot up and

everybody fled," said Tekena Lawson, who lives near the barracks.

Brig. Gen. Samuel Salihu, commander of the base, confirmed that the explosion was a car bomb, saying it killed two people and critically injured six others.

Soldiers cordoned off the military barracks on Thursday, with heavily armed troops behind sandbags at the main entrance preventing people from entering.

The group claims to be fighting for the interests of the mainly ethnic Ijaw inhabitants of the Niger Delta, a 40,000-square-mile region of swamps, rivers and creeks that remains deeply impoverished despite sitting on most of Nigeria's oil resources.

Attacks on oil installations this year in the main

oil-producing Niger Delta claimed by the movement have cut more than 20 percent of Nigeria's daily oil exports of 2.5 million barrels.

The group also seized 13 foreign oil workers in attacks on installations operated by Royal Dutch Shell in January and February. All the hostages were later released unharmed.

"We suddenly heard one heavy bang and saw fire shoot up and everybody fled."

Tekena Lawson
witness

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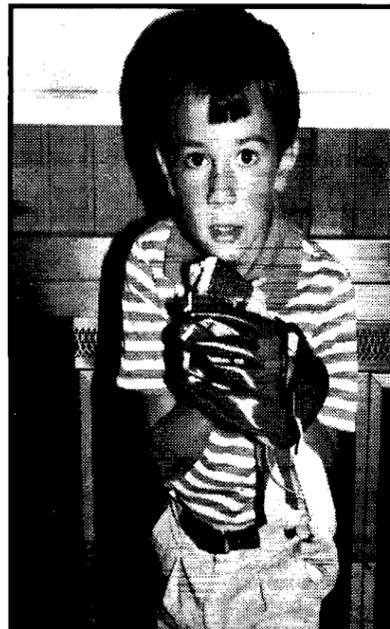
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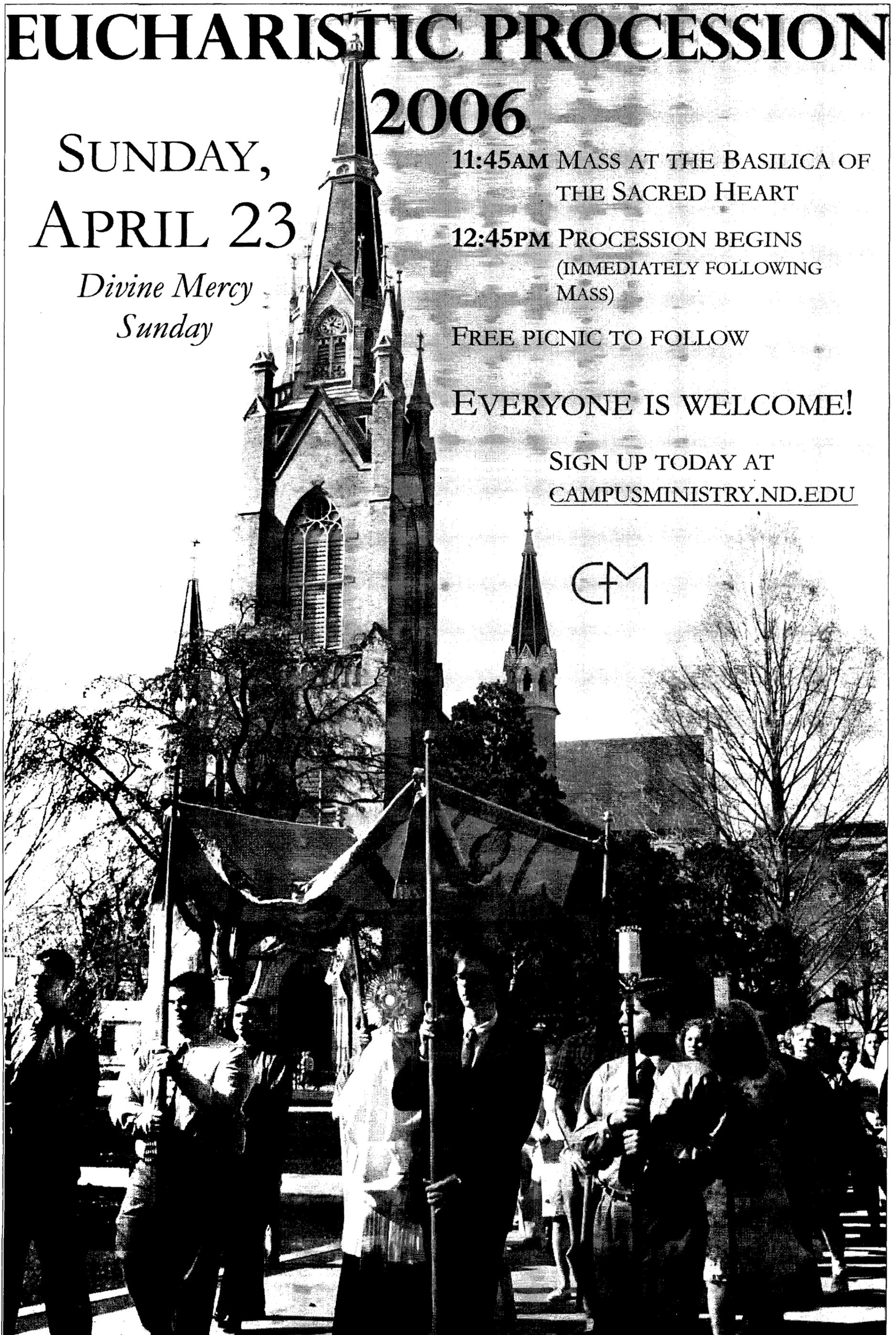
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NEPAL

Protest erupts in violence

Thousands gather in streets, throw rocks

Associated Press

KATMANDU — Tens of thousands of Nepalis defied a curfew to protest Thursday in the largest show of discontent with King Gyanendra since demonstrations against his royal dictatorship began more than two weeks ago. Security forces responded by fatally shooting three protesters.

The nearly two dozen demonstrations, which brought as many as 100,000 people into the streets around the capital Katmandu, ranged from festive pro-democracy rallies to angry riots of young men who lit bonfires and hurled bricks at police. Some demanded the death of the king, whose government appears increasingly unable to control the country.

By midday, soldiers were patrolling in armored vehicles, and at least one police post had been attacked, its windows smashed by bricks.

Gyanendra came under more diplomatic pressure on Thursday to cede the power he seized 14 months ago from an interim government.

Despite a curfew imposed to head off protests, an alliance of seven opposition parties that has organized 15 days of protests and a general strike managed to draw as many as 100,000 people into the streets, according to estimates by police, organizers and witnesses.

While there have been bloodier days since the protests began, much of Nepal's life — political and economic — is centered in Katmandu, and Thursday's demonstrations dwarfed all earlier ones in the capital.

Early in the day, residents in the city center — where a heavy police presence kept most protesters at bay — whistled and banged plates on their rooftops. Cell phone text messages encouraged Katmandu's 1.5 million residents to rally at

the city's edge.

Many of those protests turned violent as demonstrators parried with officers throughout the day, often tossing back tear gas canisters to cheers from supporters watching from rooftops.

The worst violence came on the city's western edge, where police trying to keep more than 10,000 protesters from reaching the ring road opened fire with tear gas, rubber bullets and finally live ammunition.

Witnesses said the shooting in Kalanki began when a senior police officer drew his pistol and shot a protester in the head, an act followed by gunfire from police and soldiers.

The senior offices "aimed straight for the (protesters)," said Ankul Shrestha, a 28-year-old throwing bottles at police in Kalanki.

Other witnesses confirmed his account, and protesters showed reporters fresh bullet casings.

Doctors at Katmandu's Model hospital said three people were killed in Kalanki, and that

police took the bodies away. More than 40 people were in critical condition, most with head injuries. Thursday's shootings brought the death toll to 13 since the demonstrations began.

Hundreds more were reportedly injured around the city, including 13 police officers whose clearly exhausted colleagues were, by the end of the day, being forced against demonstrators by senior officers swatting them with rattan poles.

The office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights in Nepal condemned the conduct of security forces, saying it was "without justification and inexcusable."

Elsewhere, security forces fired on violent demonstrators in the country's southwest, wounding at least 26 in the

town of Gulariya, the Defense Ministry said.

The strife around the capital lasted into the night.

"We are fighting in the republic of Nepal!" declared one student protester, Zap Sapkota. "We will kill the king!"

What comes afterward, most demonstrators seem unable to articulate — there's a hazy notion of democracy, but few have seen it at work.

Nepal's Hindu royal dynasty was once revered as godlike, and the recent chants of "Hang the King" are a major departure from past protests, like the 1990 uprising that led the king's older brother to introduce democracy.

Gyanendra ended that experiment last year, saying he needed to crush the communist insurgency.

"The way they've behaved in their own zones is frightening."

Brad Adams
Asia director
Human Rights Watch

The Maoist insurgents are backing the protests, but Brad Adams, the Asia director of Human Rights Watch, strongly questioned whether they would be any better.

"The way they've behaved

in their own zones is frightening," Adams said from London. "They've publicly said they've killed those who they believe to be political opponents of theirs. They don't allow free speech, they have involved child soldiers, they have a political policy that would not seem to allow plurality.

"Based on their record, if not their rhetoric, it's safe to say that if they come to power there would be a human rights disaster in Nepal."

With the unrest exposing Gyanendra's unpopularity, India's special envoy met with the king Thursday.

"I am very hopeful that very shortly some sort of announcement will be made by him which will help considerably defuse the situation," the envoy Karan Singh said after the meeting.

MEXICO

"Coyote" smuggling a lucrative business

Promise of crackdowns has little effect thus far

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — Sidling up to migrants who arrive at the Tijuana airport and cruising the streets in border towns, "coyotes" in gold chains and dark sunglasses openly find customers for nightly scrambles across the U.S. border.

Mexico's president offered to crack down on smuggling at a recent summit with President Bush. But close to 100 smuggling gangs are still operating, government officials say, in plain sight of Mexican law enforcement.

"While drug smugglers are invisible for the most part, people smugglers are visible, working right in front of authorities," said Tijuana border expert Victor Clark, who has studied the illegal trade for decades.

Smuggling people into the United States from around the world has become a \$10 billion-a-year industry, according to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials. Global crime networks use Mexican smugglers to sneak in Cubans, Brazilians, Iraqis, Africans and Chinese, according to Interpol, the international police network.

Border experts say the price for Mexican migrants has quadrupled from \$300 to more than \$1,200 since 1994, when the U.S. last tightened the rules. The price is higher for migrants from Central and South America — Brazilians said they pay \$10,000 to \$15,000 for a package that includes airfare to Mexico City and crossing the border into the U.S.

President Vicente Fox's administration has been caught between promoting itself as the migrants' protector and bowing to U.S. pressure to crack down on gangs sneaking migrants across the border.

Although smugglers have

been blamed for abandoning some migrants to their deaths in the desert heat, the Mexican government has been hesitant to move against them, knowing the death toll would climb if people crossed on their own, Clark said.

"Migrant traffickers have become a necessary evil," he said.

Corruption also taints Mexico's efforts to stop human trafficking. Clark, who heads the Tijuana-based Binational Center for Human Rights, said his group interviewed 50 detained smugglers and found 39 of them were simply migrants who were handed over to authorities after the real smugglers paid off police.

Human trafficking is not a priority for Mexican politicians more concerned with kidnappings, drug trafficking and murders, border experts say. Officials from five federal government entities, including the presidency, did not respond to repeated requests for comment for this story over several days.

Since taking office in December 2000, Fox has sought the passage of a migration accord as the centerpiece of his administration. Bush also expressed enthusiasm for such a measure until his attention turned to border security after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

At the summit last month in Cancun, Fox once again told Bush he would do more to prosecute smugglers, hoping to encourage Washington to legalize millions of migrants. Fox noted that his government already had strengthened enforcement on Mexico's southern border to stem the flow of U.S.-bound Central Americans.

But he made clear that Mexicans would not be stopped from heading to the border, because their right to travel within Mexico is constitutionally guaranteed. "We can't infringe upon the right of people to move freely within our territory," Fox said.

Critics say Mexico is using that argument as an excuse to turn a blind eye.

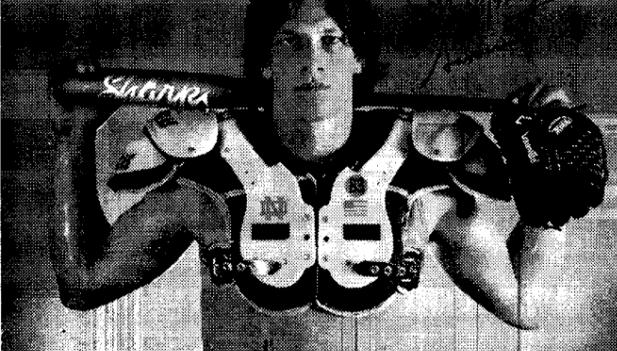
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THE OBSERVER VIEWPOINT

page 14

Friday, April 21, 2006

THE OBSERVER

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POLICIES

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

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

Questions regarding Observer policies should be directed to Editor in Chief Mike Gilloon.

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Honoring Pete Duranko

The Blue-Gold game, which traditionally draws upwards of 30,000 fans to the Stadium each spring, gives alums a whiff of the Irish football experience to come in the fall. Interest has peaked in this year's game, but there's another cause the Notre Dame faithful will support this weekend.

Pete Duranko deserves the benefit dinner his former teammates and classmates are hosting in his name Saturday at the Joyce Center. And those friends — and the Notre Dame athletic department — deserve praise for their efforts.

The motivation behind "For the love of Pete," a fundraiser for the Monogram Club's Catastrophic Relief Fund, is not that the ALS-stricken Duranko was on the national championship 1966 football team. Nor is it his selection as an All-American at defensive end.

The reason why hundreds of alumni and friends will pay \$125 a plate for dinner Saturday night is who Pete is — and that's the way it should be.

Duranko's former teammate David Martin recalls a young Pete as a hard worker who often lightened the mood on the sidelines of practices as part of "a bunch of really good guys from that 1966 team." That way of life earned Duranko respect. That respect earned him lifelong friends who want to help him now.

Six years after being diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis — better known as Lou Gehrig's Disease — Duranko maintains an upbeat attitude that inspires the people who know him best. In 2002, he was in South Bend singing the Notre Dame Victory March in what he claimed

to be Polish.

But as Lou Gehrig's Disease advances, things have gotten tougher for Duranko. His former teammates are hoping the Monogram Club directs a large portion of the money raised in his name — up to \$100,000 — towards their friend.

And the people who are helping him now are doing the right thing. Martin chose to dedicate time and organizational skills because he thought that was the best way to support Duranko. Former Notre Dame baseball player and author Cappy Gagnon joined with Dick Swatland to compile a contact list of a slew of Duranko's former teammates.

Martin credits deputy director of athletics Stan Wilcox and associate athletic director John Heisler for joining with athletic director Kevin White in offering support and resources

to the initiative. As soon as Charlie Weis was approached, he said he would do what he could to help the cause and named Duranko an honorary captain for this year's Blue-Gold Game.

Duranko's former teammate and fellow All-American Jimmy Lynch and 1953 Heisman Trophy winner Johnny Lattner agreed to come to support him.

Along with Lynch and Lattner, White and Weis, former Notre Dame standouts Bob Kuechenberg and Jim Seymour will be in attendance. So will alumni players like Kevin Hardy, Larry Conjar and George Goeddeke.

The outpouring of support for Duranko from so many people is a testament to who Duranko is — and who the supporters are.

The Observer Editorial

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Open 'The Shirt'



Call me impatient — but I couldn't wait to see this year's unveiling of "The Shirt." Whether or not you agree with the color used, "The Shirt" is a great way to show our solidarity each and every football game. Unfortunately, as much as "The Shirt" is a great way to show our unity, the process in which the design is selected is anything but unifying. In order for a shirt design to be considered during the annual contest, it must be made and submitted by an undergraduate student. This is ironic because "The Shirt" began in 1990 because of a graduate student.

In 1989, sociology graduate student Zhengde Wang was the victim of a hit and run automobile accident. Although not a single bone was broken, the impact to the back of his neck severed all nerve endings. Zhengde was left paralyzed for the rest of his life and basic skills such as chewing and swallowing had to be learned all over again. The first edition of "The Shirt" was created to help provide financial assistance to Zhengde and his family.

Money raised helped pay for his medical expenses, helped to support his family that came from China to visit him, and later helped Zhengde and his family go back to China. What is sad is that, if Zhengde were still a student today, he would be ineligible to submit a shirt design on the grounds that he'd be a graduate student. This is exactly what some graduate students living in Fisher-O'Hara Grace found out earlier last year as they tried to submit a shirt design.

Freshmen, sophomore, junior, senior or grad student — We Are ND. That should mean more than just dressing the same on game day.

Shawn Ahmed
Graduate Student
April 19

'Jockular' offensive

On Sunday, April 9, we, a group of Saint Mary's and Notre Dame students, faculty and administration, gathered to discuss your publication of the "Jockular" comic on April 6, 2006. Among this discussion was our consensus that the repetitious joke published in The Observer is deeply insulting and unacceptable. Despite the common history of pride and respect Saint Mary's College and the University of Notre Dame have shared over the years, animosity has grown between the schools, which is evident through White and Powers' comic.

It is distressing that Saint Mary's students help fund editors who choose to include degrading comments in our campus newspaper. Why didn't the current Notre Dame editors of The Observer understand how unacceptable this is in a professional publication? What is the deeper issue that Jockular poorly articulated with its "parasite" comic?

While this is not the first time Saint Mary's students have found "Jockular" offensive, we do not want to have our dignity as students, as an institution or as a community called into question again. As long as we continue to fund and support this publication — and are represented by it — we demand that you make a commitment to us, the Saint Mary's community, to avoid this issue in the future by holding yourselves to a higher standard and exercising greater editorial responsibility in the future.

Megan Osberger
and over 150 Saint Mary's supporters
Contact Megan at mosber01@saintmarys.edu
for a complete list of signatures.
April 9

Do you want to submit an
editorial cartoon to Viewpoint?

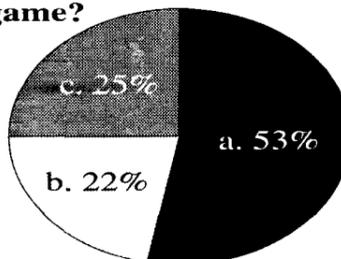
E-mail Joey at Viewpoint.1@nd.edu

OBSERVER POLL

Are you going to the Blue-Gold game?

- a. Yes, I go every year.
- b. Maybe, if the weather is okay and I can make it.
- c. No, I don't really care.

*Poll appears courtesy of www.ndsmcobserver.com and is based on 113 responses.



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"It is well to remember that the entire universe, with one trifling exception, is composed of others."

John Andrew Holmes
author

Celebrating an 'extra large' Observer milestone

Former and current newspaper staff are converging this weekend to celebrate four decades of publishing The Observer. Their reunion may not excite others as does the Super Bowl — coincidentally now marking

its fortieth year — but their pilgrimage is no less important. The victorious Steelers, led by former Notre Dame star Jerome Bettis, made reference to the Roman numeral "XL" as representing their "extra large" game. For Observer alumni returning to campus, this celebration is as extra large as any.



Gary Caruso

Capital Comments

It matters not what the first Observer headline shouted or first editorial preached, although it was a time of war and student death. Today we have come full cycle since that first printing. Whether the news be good or bad, the newspaper sought to speak the truth daily to the campus about America, the Church, college life and the war. And so it has, for 40 years — and so it shall for 40 years more.

I was most anxious to come here personally this weekend, because I place such great importance in the work that we specifically are doing. The Observer occupies a key part in the story of American Catholic life. What we do here on campus,

who we are and what we want to be, represent a great experiment in a most difficult kind of self-awareness. It is the organization, maintenance and development of progressively discovering how to unconditionally love others. Now it is our task, as the executives and participants in The Observer, to tell that story around the world through the Internet.

This can be an extremely difficult and sensitive task. On the one hand, we are an arm of the Roman Catholic Church and therefore an arm of Christianity. It is our task to bring our story around the world in a way which serves to represent Catholicism in its most favorable light. But on the other hand, as Americans who are supposed to represent the cause and arm of freedom, we are obliged to tell our story in a truthful way, to tell it, as Oliver Cromwell said about his own portrait, "Paint us with all our blemishes and warts, all those things about us that may not be so immediately attractive."

This presents an almost impossible challenge, and it is a source of satisfaction to me that in the last 40 years many have met that challenge so well through this publication. At the heart of the matter, of course, is the position of the individual — his importance, his sanctity, his relationship to his fellow men, his relationship to his God and country.

This is in essence the struggle to make a common effort to seek the truth. It is necessary, therefore, in these difficult days

when men and women with strong religious convictions are beleaguered by those who have none, or worse, by those who are only icy cold with certainty. We compete with adversaries who tell only their so-called good stories. But the things that go bad on campus, in the Vatican or America must also be told. And we hope that the bad and the good is sifted together by people of judgment and discriminating discretion and taste.

We who have contributed a little to telling the story do not realize the magnitude of reporting what become our personal "extra large" efforts. Last fall during President Jenkins' inauguration, a single editor wrote the Viewpoint editorial against coeducational dormitories, defending parietals. Any other university president could have cited those words as broad-based student sentiment to prevent discussions for campus change for decades.

Weeks ago this column exposed the plight of an alumnus who has more than honored the quite specific terms of his contract but is battling for his release from the U.S. Army rather than ship out to Iraq. It is humbling to think that a mere phrase I wrote may ultimately prevent injury abroad. Daily we strive to meet our responsibility as journalists, which carries with it an obligation to our faith, but in a larger sense carries with it an obligation to all who desire to live a life of freedom and a life which permits them to participate with their neighbors and with God in the way

they choose.

Some have always been critical of The Observer. But over the years, faced with a very difficult challenge, we have been able to tell our story in a way which makes it believable and credible. And that level-headed exchange is what I hope will continue for as long as The Observer and the Super Bowl share anniversary dates.

We welcome the views of others. We seek a free flow of information across international boundaries and oceans, across ideologies and brick walls. We are not afraid to entrust our readers with unpleasant facts, foreign ideas, alien philosophies and competitive values. For a nation or religion or campus that is afraid to let its own judge between truth and falsehood in an open market is one that is afraid of itself.

This is our touchstone and the code of The Observer. Congratulations to all who have at some time or another exerted an extra large effort at The Observer. You served as an inspiration in a quest for truth and deserve an extra large party this weekend.

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

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic university: commending Jenkins' position

Father Wilson Miscamble, C.S.C., has written an Open Letter disagreeing with the outcome of the recent Catholic Nature debate; specifically the decision to not ban "The Vagina Monologues" from campus ("An open letter to Father John Jenkins," April 11). I was profoundly offended, and write as a loyal son of Notre Dame to disagree.

I am personally offended by the assertion that those who happen to agree with University President Father John Jenkins "are those who care least about Notre Dame's Catholic mission." An Associate Professor of History betrays his profession by making such sweeping generalizations in the absence of at least some empirical evidence. I have been a part of the Notre Dame family since the mid-1950s, when Father Heshburgh would come to Indianapolis for the annual Mass and Communion Breakfast and stay at our house, to 1986 through my father's various activities, including permanent master of ceremonies for the Indianapolis Club, member of the Alumni Association's Board of Directors (and ultimately its President and Sorin Award recipient) and one of the founding members of the Board of Lay Trustees (and ultimately its second Chairman and Laetare Medal recipient). I have been a part of that family from 1963 to now as a student and an active member of both the Washington D.C. and the Lake County clubs, serving two years as President of the Lake County Club. And I have been party to that family since 1991 when my first son entered to begin a string of 15 consecutive years — and counting — with a son, nephew or niece on campus. So, yes, I am deeply offended that Miscamble so casually dismisses my concern.

But more importantly, I am offended by the dismissal of Jenkins' reasoned approach as cowardly. Jenkins does not need me to defend him, but for Miscamble to suggest that Jenkins can't really believe what he said, was concerned only about damage to our reputation, was "spooked" by the fear of negative publicity and "backed down" is simply degrading, and uncalled for. For Miscamble to complain that Jenkins actually may have been "influ-

enced by the young women who produce this play and somehow see it as a contribution to the prevention of violence against women" is absurd: isn't being open to the ideas of those who might actually know something about the subject an essential element of intellectual honesty? For Miscamble to suggest that Jenkins thought he would avoid controversy by this decision is to suggest that someone simply has not been paying attention.

Such dismissiveness is the stuff of political attack ads, not reasoned debate; it is possible to disagree with another's opinion without demeaning the personhood of the opinion holder — but not, apparently, for Miscamble. It is not that we care any less about the University's Catholic mission; it is that we have a different view of what that mission entails, what it allows and what it requires.

Having read Jenkins' opening statement, having followed the comments in The Observer and The Irish Rover and elsewhere, having read the closing statement, and having meditated on all of them and more, I believe Jenkins' conclusion is correct. But the issue is not truly academic freedom, for I would suggest that is too narrow and, in my view, too technical.

Rather, in my view, the debate is about the very essence of a Catholic university. What does it mean? Does the Catholic add something to the university, or subtract? Does it enhance or restrict the essence?

And I would argue that the Catholic university's function — Our Lady's University's function — is enhanced by its evangelical and magisterium obligations. A secular university may be able to get away with avoiding moral issues; we can't. A secular university may be able to get away with avoiding questions of the role of women in society; we can't. A secular university may be able to get away with ignoring violence against women, preemptive war, capital punishment, the misdistribution of resources, degradation of the environment, labor rights and all of the other attacks on the culture of life set forth in *Evangelium Vitae*; we can't.

To those who would suggest conflict between Catholic and university, the Church says no: the first three words of the

recent apostolic constitution on the relationship between university and church (Ex Corde Ecclesiae) teach us that the Catholic university arises out of the very heart of the church.

I wholeheartedly agree with Miscamble's analysis of the underlying moral problem: "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." I was married for 29 years, privileged to have been able to give of a total, committed love, and blest to have received the same. I am fully aware of the glories of that relationship, in which physical intimacy is a profoundly sacred manifestation of God's infinite love.

But, contrary to Miscamble's suggestion, there is no contradiction between that essential link between intimacy and love, and the approval of "the continued production of a play that [at least to Miscamble] reduces women to body parts." While such an interpretation of the play may involve certain Rorschachian elements, what if it were true? How do we address error?

Do we say no, Catholic teaching is clear and we can't have anything contrary on campus, as though it will not continue to exist, or the students will not find it? I think not, for that is parochial, not Catholic.

Rather, I would respectfully suggest that both the evangelism and the magisterium obligations of the Catholic university demand — not just allow — engagement; we must, after all, follow in the footsteps of Jesus, and He did not refuse to engage sinners because some might see it as endorsement of sin.

Christ suffered the unclean to touch Him; invited sinners to break bread with him; even, as the five times married woman at the well, to question Him. And to those who cried scandal, who challenged Him about the appearances of it all, who called upon Him to be concerned about what people would think, Christ did not back away: "Does the well man have need of the physician?" He suffered sinners to come to Him where they saw the truth and were saved.

Is the Catholic university to do less?

And it is not enough to say that the sick He cured, the unclean He touched, the sinners He engaged, had come already to believe, for the woman at the well had not. More importantly, even were it true, the question would remain: How did they come to believe? And the answer is both clear and on point: they came to believe because He came to them; He was among them, present to them and their needs — and their doubts — showing them the way. Should the University named in honor of His mother do less?

In short, I believe that everyone ought be welcome at a university, even (or, more precisely, especially) a Catholic university, because we have a special obligation to confront — to engage. The American Bishops have placed on all the Church's institutions an obligation to make clear the Church's social teachings. And truth is taught, at least in part, by examination of error. Just as light shines brightest when contrasted to the dark, the Light of the Word is made clear when set in contrast to erroneous views. But given the intensity of the criticism, I am left to wonder if the critics have actually read what Jenkins so carefully wrote, for setting those objectionable themes in the context of Catholic teaching is precisely what he proposes.

We have a message, and it is joyous. We should proclaim it, indeed, sing it — and not just to ourselves as in the shower, but to the world. And if the University's response here, precisely tailored to engage the errors of the world in the context of Catholic teachings, is not satisfactory, then nothing would be — short of abject abandonment of our role in the evangelical tradition, our prophetic mission, to present the truth of the Resurrection of Christ, both God and man, to the world, so that the world may see and believe, rather than cowering behind the stone, shielding under the bushel the full majesty of that which we believe.

Be not afraid, for Christ's sake.

Thomas P. Carney, Jr.
alumnus
Class of 1967
April 13

WASHINGTON HALL SPOTLIGHT

From king to don: a gangster take on 'Richard III'



Richard, Duke of Gloucester (Scott Wagner), left, woos Anne (Lena Caligiuri), right, while she mourns the passing of her husband in "Richard III."



Old Queen Margaret (Madison Liddy), second from left, chastises Richard (Wagner) at an Italian eatery while Anne (Caligiuri) and Hastings (Jake Imm) look on.

By GRACE MYERS
Scene Writer

The Not-So-Royal Shakespeare Company will perform "Richard III," a play which, contrary to the theater company's name, is all about royalty.

Taking place this weekend in Washington Hall, this powerful, classic play of a man starved for power and willing to manipulate or even kill those who stand in the way of the throne, is sure to engage and interest theater enthusiasts. Richard III is hated by many and feared by all and yet the audience still sympathizes with this cruel leader. A poignant tale of absolute corruption and a portrayal of the dangers of totalitarianism, "Richard III" is as gripping as it is powerful.

This production is sure to be entertaining for all, because of its original and interesting interpretation. Set in 1950s American gang country, "Richard

III" is directed by Jeff Eyerman, the Company Manager/Executive Director of Summer Shakespeare at Notre Dame.

"I honestly never really fancied myself a director, I like acting much more," Eyerman said, "but this summer I happened to watch 'The Godfather' in close conjunction with McKellen's 'Richard III,' and the similarities really struck me."

This interpretation makes the historical character of Richard III more accessible to the modern audience, as well as comments on the other instances of hatred and terror within history.

The audience sees how Richard resents his brother's power and happiness, suffers from a physical deformity and schemes to gain the throne of England. Using his deceptive personality, skills of political manipulation and ruthless will to kill those who stand in his way, Richard's reign of terror finally alienates him from the court and his own people.

Scott Wagner plays Richard III, giving an outstanding performance of an extremely complex character.

Eyerman explained the reasoning behind his decision to interpret Richard as a loathsome character.

"In the end, I think, it's just so much more fun to sit in the audience and look at this conniving, murdering, evil human being who wants to hear details about smothering children than it is to watch [him] grapple with his own humanity or some such tag line," he said.

Wagner is indeed capable of the role, having participated in several other Shakespeare performances at Notre Dame and in high school. Although he's headed for medical school, Wagner wanted the part of Richard for his last performance, stating how fun the rehearsals have been and his deep respect for all his fellow cast and crew.

"[Richard III's] one of the most difficult characters I've played. He's evil,

but there are sides that are very guilty and the audience has sympathy," Wagner said.

Eyerman's goal is for the audience "to leave the play feeling a bit like Lady Anne — walk in ready to hate the greatest villain in English history, but leave grossly captive to his honey words." Indeed, the entire cast of "Richard III" succeeds in bringing this about, as the audience can't help but wrestle with their mixed feelings about the volatile Richard.

This performance by the Not-So-Royal Shakespeare Company has a remarkable cast, crew and is an interesting and thought-provoking interpretation of a classic Shakespearean play.

"Richard III" will be performed on Friday and Saturday at 7.30 p.m. in Washington Hall. Tickets are available both through the LaFortune Box Office and at the door.

Contact Grace Myers at gmyers1@nd.edu

MOVIE REVIEW

Creepy-crawly movie 'Slithers' its way into theaters

By MARK BEMENDERFER
Assistant Scene Editor

"Slither" is must-see movie for true horror fans. Its success is derived not from the scares it creates, but from the atmosphere it inspires. A simple precursory examination of the movie wouldn't create very high expectations for the film. At first glance, the plot of space slugs and cannibalistic zombies seems hackneyed at best. However, the film pulls off the absurd premise beautifully, and the audience's sense of reality is never mocked.

In 'Slither,' town beauty Starla, played by Elizabeth Banks, is married to the town rich man, Grant Grant, played by Michael Rooker. Unfortunately, their marriage is less than perfect and after a spurned advance, Grant goes off on the town.

While at a bar, he meets Brenda, played by Brenda James, and they go off into the woods together. While there, they find an asteroid and an alien life form. The alien attacks Grant, entering his body, and over

the course of the next couple of days, it begins to transform him into something less than human, spelling trouble for the small town of Wheelers.

Written and directed by James Gunn, "Slither" pulls off the rare feat of being entertaining and engaging from beginning to finish. Whereas many modern horror movies lose their momentum about halfway through, "Slither" steadily builds to its inspired, grossed-out climax.

Part of this can be attributed to veteran screenwriter James Gunn. His screenwriting experience covers everything from the "Dawn of the Dead" remake to the live-action "Scooby Doo" films.

Part of the movie's success is also derived from the ensemble cast. Comprised of actors such as Nathan Fillion, Elizabeth Banks and the ever-excellent Gregg Henry, "Slither" manages a strong cast of smaller actors that work surprisingly well together. Fillion can be recognized from the television show "Firefly." He plays Sheriff Bill Pardy, a wise-cracking lawman who harbors a less-than-subtle crush on Starla.



Director: James Gunn
Writers: James Gunn
Starring: Elizabeth Banks, Michael Rooker and Nathan Fillion



Starla Grant (Elizabeth Banks) wields a shotgun against people-turned-zombies while town mayor Jack MacReady (Gregg Henry) looks on in horror.

Gregg Henry, an actor notorious for playing the jerk in movies, stays true to form as the arrogant Mayor Jack MacReady. Immediately amusing in his own way, Henry manages to become an incredibly sympathetic character despite the fact that a real-life equivalent would receive an opposite reaction.

Horror and sci-fi fans, the target audience for the film, will be the ones to get the most enjoyment out of it. Essentially an homage to an assortment of movies of both genres, the movie draws from others such

as "The Fly," "Night of the Creeps" and "Invasion of the Body Snatchers." While it helps to have a wide background in films such as these, "Slither" still proves entertaining for newcomers.

Gory and clever are the best words to describe "Slither." The sharp dialogue delivered by the cast, and extreme gore found within the film, should appeal to horror and sci-fi fans alike.

Contact Mark Bemenderfer at mbemende@nd.edu

MOVIE REVIEW

'Smoking' lights up debate



Photo courtesy of movieweb.com

As Nick Naylor, a tobacco spokesperson, actor Aaron Eckhart adopts a defensive position for big tobacco companies in the media war over smoking.

By MOLLY GRIFFIN
Assistant Scene Editor

Smoking is bad. Smoking is good. PR can paint tobacco in either light, as the satirical new film "Thank You For Smoking" reveals. The film takes shots at the tobacco industry, the anti-tobacco lobby and public debate in America in general. With a great cast, fresh directing and a unique satirical perspective, the film succeeds in making an entertaining film that questions just how fluid media debates can be.

The film's opening scene shows Nick Naylor (Aaron Eckhart) dressing down anti-smoking crusaders on a talk show. Naylor manages to make them look like 'the bad guys,' even in the presence of a bald teenage cancer victim. This scene, alternately uncomfortable and hilarious, sets the tone for the entire movie.

Naylor works as a spokesman for the Academy of Tobacco Studies, an organization funded by the tobacco companies themselves. Naylor's job basically consists of doing the impossible — making tobacco companies look good — but the film makes watching Naylor do his work enjoyable in an uncomfortable sort of way.

Naylor attempts to balance his relationship with his son Joey (Cameron Bright) with his morally ambiguous job. His two best friends, Polly Bailey (Maria Bello) and Bobby Jay Bliss (David Koechner), work for the Alcohol and Firearms companies respectively. The trio calls themselves the MOD, or the "Merchants of Death" squad, revealing the kind of satirical humor prevalent in "Thank You For Smoking."

Problems for Naylor begin when he attempts to fight an anti-smoking crusade started by Senator Ortolan K. Finisittre (William H. Macy), and he has an affair with journalist Heather Holloway (Katie Holmes). All of the work he has done for the tobacco companies falls apart, and they disown him when it becomes too complicated.

The plot of the film is fairly simple, but the real joy is watching different situations and seeing just how Naylor talks his way out of them. He does everything from sucking up to a tobacco baron (Robert Duvall), paying off a former Marlboro Man (Same Elliott) and dealing with a Hollywood agent (Rob Lowe) and his sycophantic assistant (Adam Brody).

The most noticeable thing about the film is the unique style of the film, which is quick, quirky and matches the spin technique perfected by the movie's protagonist. Jason Reitman, son of "Ghostbusters" director Ivan Reitman, gives the film a fresh feeling that balances its tongue-in-cheek approach with the seriousness of the topic.

The film also balances its criticism of the tobacco industry by pointing out the near-hysteria surrounding anti-smoking lobbying in a way that keeps it from feeling like a propaganda film or a lecture.

While the style of the film makes it unique, the cast of "Thank You For Smoking" allows the

film to balance its sensitive topic nature with the right blend of humor and satire. Eckhart is excellent as Naylor, and the supporting roles are played to perfection. Bello and Koechner are hilarious Naylor's counterparts. Macy, Duvall and Lowe are all great in small parts. Another notable player is "Spider-Man" actor J.K. Simmons, who plays Naylor's intense boss Budd "BR" Rohrabacher.

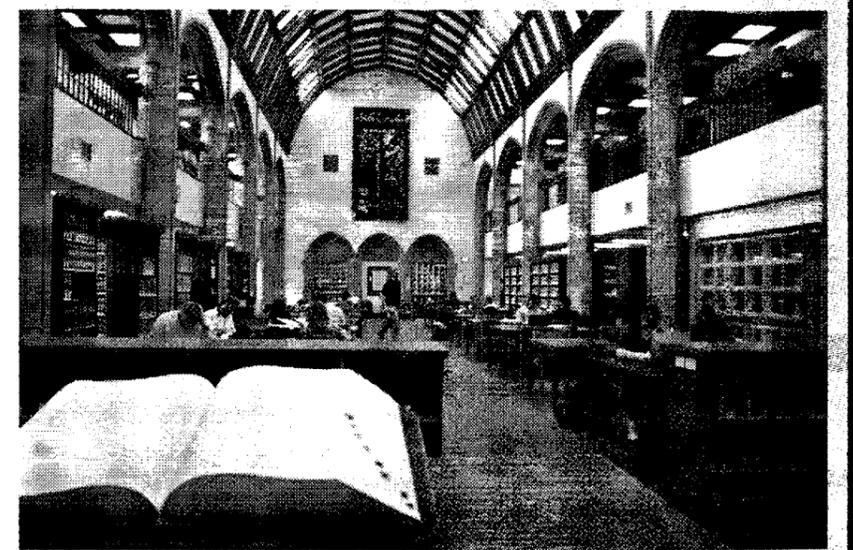
From an acting perspective, perhaps the only weak link in the film is Katie Holmes — not because she can't act, but because she doesn't seem to possess the right combination of seduction and manipulation needed to pull off her part.

"Thank You For Smoking" is a smart, funny look at how public debates take place in our society and just how ridiculous they can be. The movie's mix of a great cast, unique style and a balanced approach allow the film to pull off a satire, a notoriously difficult genre to get right.

Contact Molly Griffin at mgriffin@nd.edu

NOTRE DAME'S BEST... *Libraries*

BY OBSERVER PHOTO STAFF



SETTING THE "BAR": Spacious Kresge Law Library sports over 324,000 printed volumes and employs nine professional librarians, but is only open to law students — or daring undergrads.



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PILLARS OF KNOWLEDGE: An intellectual oasis for architecture students, the Bond Hall Library offers natural light from a skylight overhead and quiet study nooks. But remember — no pillows!

For next week: What are the best gargoyles on campus?
Send your suggestions to obsphoto@nd.edu

Contact Sean Sweany at ssweany@nd.edu

MLB

Oakland wastes Zito's best effort of season

Bedard continues his winning streak and Orioles cruise to win

Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Brandon Inge kept hacking away, trying to show fill-in closer Justin Duchschere he would not back down or be an easy out.

Inge walked after a 15-pitch plate appearance, then Curtis Granderson drew a free pass with the bases loaded to bring home the go-ahead run in the ninth inning, and the Detroit Tigers rallied to beat the Oakland Athletics 4-3 on Thursday.

Inge was determined to wear down Duchschere (1-1), who pitched in place of Huston Street because the A's regular closer has a mild strain of a muscle in his chest.

"I was battling absolutely as hard as I could," Inge said. "A pitcher would rather have a rocket hit off him than have someone stand up there and keep fouling off pitches. That's frustrating for a pitcher. He thinks this is the pitch and you foul it off. I know as a catcher I got frustrated. ... I think it was a great opportunity for a hit, a

walk, anything. Once I was three, four minutes into the at bat, I'm thinking 'I have to get on base some way.'"

Tigers skipper Jim Leyland joked that Inge stood in there so long he had enough time to smoke more than one cigarette.

"One-and-a-half Marlboros," Leyland said. "That was a tremendous at-bat. He showed great discipline up there. When people see that, they see the way it can be done."

A's manager Ken Macha opted to stick with Duchschere rather than immediately turn to reliever Kirk Saarloos, who had already been warming up for several minutes.

"I felt like I was in control," Duchschere said. "I made some pitches and he kept getting a little piece of them. I tried to battle and they just beat me today."

Fernando Rodney (1-0) pitched two innings, working out of a bases-loaded jam in the ninth to extend his scoreless streak at the season's start to 7 2-3 innings. He struck out pinch-hitter Adam Melhuse to end it.

Magglio Ordonez led off the ninth with a single, pinch-hitter Alexis Gomez doubled and Chris Shelton singled to make it 3-2 with no outs before Carlos

Guillen's tying single.

Orioles 9, Indians 4

Erik Bedard remained unbeaten, Miguel Tejada homered and drove in three runs and the Baltimore Orioles rallied for a 9-4 victory over the Cleveland Indians on Thursday.

Javy Lopez, Jeff Conine and Tejada each had two RBIs during a six-run sixth that erased a 4-3 deficit and gave Baltimore its sixth win in eight games.

Eduardo Perez and Victor Martinez homered for Cleveland. Martinez was 2-for-4, extending his hitting streak to 15 games, the longest in the major leagues this season.

Bedard (4-0) pitched six innings and joined Boston's Curt Schilling and Atlanta's Oscar Villareal as the majors' only four-game winners. Bedard allowed four runs — three earned — six hits and two walks, striking out seven.

Martinez's solo homer put Cleveland up 4-3 in the sixth, but rookie Fausto Carmona (1-1) couldn't hold the lead. The Orioles sent 10 men to the plate, the third time in two games they've batted around against the Indians.

Jay Gibbons led off with a double and scored on Lopez's one-out homer, his first of the year, for a 5-4 lead. Kevin Millar's walk. Corey Patterson's single and Brian Roberts' intentional walk loaded the bases.

Jason Davis relieved and gave up Jeff Conine's two-run, bloop single down the right-field line. Melvin Mora flied out and, after a double steal, Tejada lined a two-run single that made it 9-4.

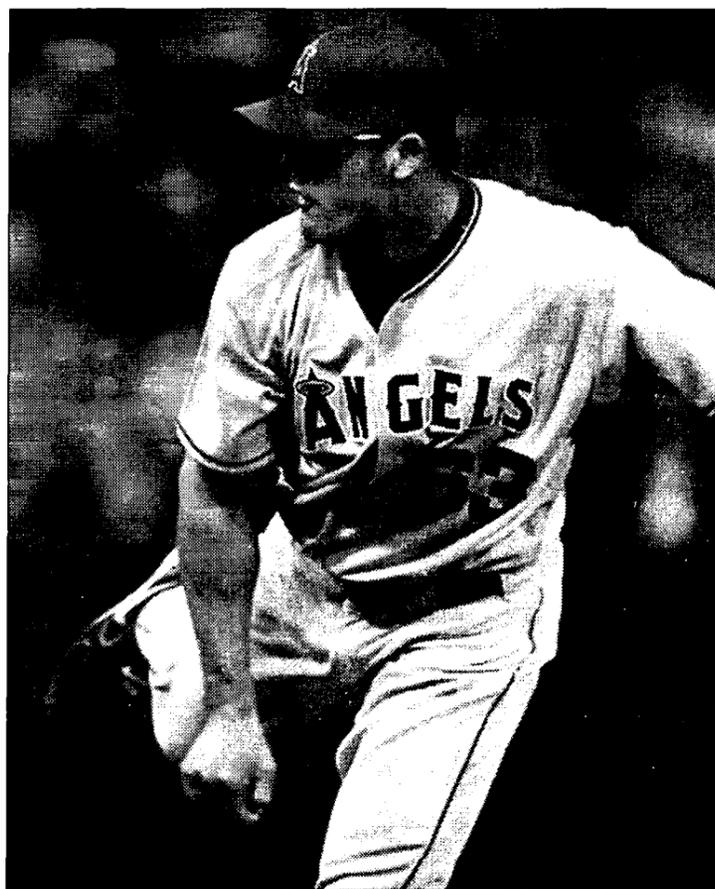
Carmona allowed eight runs, eight hits and three walks in 5 1-3 innings.

Cleveland went ahead in the first when Patterson bobbled Travis Hafner's single to center, allowing Jason Michaels to score. Patterson had an RBI single in the second and Tejada homered in the third for a 2-1 lead, but Perez hit a two-run homer in the fourth. Mora tied it 3-3 with a two-out RBI double in the fifth after Roberts tripled.

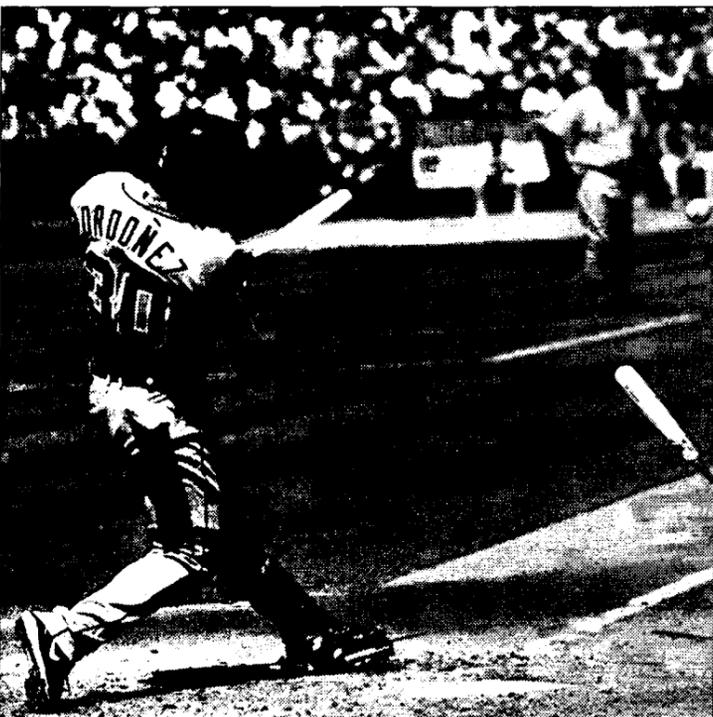
Angels 6, Twins 4

Francisco Rodriguez wasn't about to let the Angels leave with another loss.

A day after his club-record streak of 22 straight save conversions ended in a game his



Los Angeles reliever Kevin Gregg releases a pitch against Minnesota Thursday. Gregg was recently called up from Triple-A.



Detroit right fielder Magglio Ordonez breaks his bat against Oakland Thursday. The Tigers won 4-3.

team eventually lost, the Los Angeles closer was back in form — keeping the Minnesota Twins from another comeback.

Jose Molina's two-out double drove in pinch-runner Maicer Izturis to break an eighth-inning tie, Rodriguez got four outs for his fifth save and the Angels beat the Twins on Thursday.

"I felt confident. I went out there and threw hard and made the right pitches," said Rodriguez, who struck out Lew Ford with two runners on to end the eighth.

Minnesota rallied from a 9-4 deficit and forced extra innings by getting two hits, two walks and the tying run against Rodriguez in the ninth on Wednesday night. The Twins won it in the 10th.

Tony Batista, who went 3-for-4 with two RBIs, singled with two outs in the ninth against the hard-throwing Rodriguez, who effectively mixed his fastballs and sliders, striking out Torii Hunter to end it.

"He's tough," Batista said. "The movement he's got, it makes you surprised sometimes."

Jesse Crain (1-0) threw 2 2-3 scoreless innings until Edgardo Alfonzo singled with two outs in the eighth. Izturis entered, Molina hit him in with the double and then Adam Kennedy followed with an RBI single to make it 6-4 — after shortstop Nick Punto's throw home to get Izturis bounced away for an error and allowed Molina to move up.

Kevin Gregg (1-0), recalled from Triple-A Salt Lake the night before, threw four strong innings of relief and made a case to join the rotation next time with Bartolo Colon on the disabled list.

"They know what I can do. They know the stuff that I can offer. They know that I'm comfortable in that role. We'll see where it takes me," said Gregg, who gave up one run and three hits while walking two and stranding six runners.

CLASSIFIEDS

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

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Happy birthday Lenk. 22 is a magical age. I wish I had been able to see on your birthday. We should go out.

Chef's dead?!?!?

Yes, I love Tab.

The league is back. Hooray.

AROUND THE NATION

Friday, April 21, 2006

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

page 19

NBA Standings

Eastern Conference, Atlantic Division

| team | record | pct. | GB |
|--------------|--------|------|----|
| New Jersey | 49-33 | .598 | - |
| Philadelphia | 38-44 | .474 | 11 |
| Boston | 33-49 | .410 | 16 |
| Toronto | 27-55 | .329 | 22 |
| New York | 23-59 | .286 | 26 |

Eastern Conference, Central Division

| team | record | pct. | GB |
|-----------|--------|------|----|
| Detroit | 64-18 | .808 | - |
| Cleveland | 50-32 | .603 | 14 |
| Indiana | 41-41 | .487 | 23 |
| Chicago | 41-41 | .487 | 23 |
| Milwaukee | 40-42 | .474 | 24 |

Eastern Conference, Southeast Division

| team | record | pct. | GB |
|------------|--------|------|----|
| Miami | 52-30 | .654 | - |
| Washington | 42-40 | .500 | 10 |
| Orlando | 36-46 | .436 | 16 |
| Charlotte | 26-56 | .308 | 26 |
| Atlanta | 26-56 | .282 | 26 |

Western Conference, Northwest Division

| team | record | pct. | GB |
|-----------|--------|------|----|
| Denver | 44-38 | .564 | - |
| Utah | 41-41 | .494 | 3 |
| Seattle | 35-47 | .423 | 9 |
| Minnesota | 33-49 | .410 | 11 |
| Portland | 21-61 | .273 | 23 |

Western Conference, Pacific Division

| team | record | pct. | GB |
|--------------|--------|------|----|
| Phoenix | 54-28 | .662 | - |
| LA Clippers | 47-35 | .571 | 7 |
| LA Lakers | 45-37 | .532 | 9 |
| Sacramento | 44-38 | .519 | 10 |
| Golden State | 34-48 | .390 | 20 |

Western Conference, Southwest Division

| team | record | pct. | GB |
|-------------|--------|------|----|
| San Antonio | 63-19 | .769 | - |
| Dallas | 60-22 | .756 | 3 |
| Memphis | 49-33 | .582 | 14 |
| New Orleans | 38-44 | .487 | 25 |
| Houston | 34-48 | .415 | 29 |

NCAA Women's Softball Top 25

| No. | team | record | points |
|-----|-------------------|---------|--------|
| 1 | UCLA | 33-3 | 490 |
| 2 | Texas | 40-4 | 475 |
| 3 | Alabama | 36-4 | 459 |
| 4 | Arizona | 31-6 | 450 |
| 5 | Cal | 35-4 | 418 |
| 6 | Stanford | 29-7 | 386 |
| 7 | Tennessee | 36-6 | 367 |
| 8 | Oregon State | 29-8 | 355 |
| 9 | Arizona State | 38-5 | 339 |
| 10 | Georgia | 38-9 | 332 |
| 11 | LSU | 38-6 | 297 |
| 12 | La.-Lafayette | 32-7 | 269 |
| 13 | Michigan | 25-10 | 255 |
| 14 | Washington | 28-12 | 249 |
| 15 | Nebraska | 28-6 | 218 |
| 16 | Texas A&M | 27-11 | 201 |
| 17 | Northwestern | 25-10 | 196 |
| 18 | Baylor | 25-15 | 133 |
| 19 | Oklahoma | 26-14-1 | 122 |
| 20 | Louisville | 26-5 | 121 |
| 21 | Auburn | 26-12 | 119 |
| 22 | Fresno State | 24-13 | 66 |
| 23 | North Carolina | 37-11 | 38 |
| 24 | Florida | 33-15 | 37 |
| 25 | Southern Illinois | 26-7 | 26 |

around the dial

NHL

Edmonton at Detroit, 8 p.m.,
Outdoor Life Network
Anaheim at Calgary, 10:30 p.m.,
Outdoor Life Network

NFL



Former Minnesota Vikings running back Moe Williams leaves Hennepin County Government Center in Minneapolis Thursday. Williams was found guilty of disorderly conduct after a raunchy team boat party last season.

Jury convicts former Viking Williams

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Former Minnesota Vikings running back Moe Williams, charged last fall after a raunchy team boat party that tarnished the team's season, was found guilty of disorderly conduct Thursday.

A jury found him not guilty of two other misdemeanors — indecent conduct and lewd or lascivious behavior. Williams was accused of touching the breasts of a dancer in a public space during the boat cruise on Lake Minnetonka.

"I never intended to do

anything that would basically make anybody feel uncomfortable," Williams said after the verdict.

Hennepin County District Judge Kevin Burke fined Williams \$300 and ordered him to complete 30 hours of community service that benefits women or children. The exact program was not immediately determined.

In finding Williams guilty of just one charge, the jury determined he touched the woman in view of other people or where other people could see but that he hadn't intended to be lewd or indecent.

Afterward, Williams

complained about being treated unfairly, saying he wondered why the captain of the cruise, who is white, wasn't charged despite evidence that he kissed a dancer's breast. Prosecutor Steve Tallen denied that race was a factor in his decision about filing charges, and he has said the case against the captain was shaky. Williams is black.

The 32-year-old Williams was the first player tried on charges related to the Oct. 6 party, in which Vikings rookies arranged to take veterans out onto Lake Minnetonka on two boats. Tackle Bryant

McKinnie and cornerback Fred Smoot face the same charges and are set to go on trial in May. Charges against former Vikings quarterback Daunte Culpepper, who has since been traded to the Dolphins, were dropped.

Prosecutors described the party as "a floating orgy" in which women on the boat changed into thong underwear and bras, gave players lap dances and, in some cases, stripped naked. They said the crew was frightened and intimidated.

As one witness testified, "After we left the dock, it turned into a strip club."

IN BRIEF

Woods to take break while father battles illness

WELLINGTON, New Zealand — Tiger Woods will take time off from the PGA Tour while his father battles cancer, the world's No. 1 player said.

Woods said it was possible he would not make an appearance in a tournament before the U.S. Open in June.

He did not give specific details of his planned break, except to say he would not start playing "for a while," and the failing health of his father, Earl, would have a major influence on his future schedule.

"It's kind of up in the air with the situation back home, so I don't know what's going to happen," said Woods, who is in New Zealand to attend the wedding of his caddie Steve Williams. "I'm taking time off. I'm here for this event and for Steve, and to enjoy time off and be with my father, so I won't play for a while," Woods said.

Yankees first team to top \$1 billion, according to Forbes

NEW YORK — The New York Yankees became the first baseball team valued at more than \$1 billion in the annual estimates made by Forbes magazine.

The Yankees' value increased 8 percent to \$1.026 billion, the magazine estimated in its May 8 issue, which was released Thursday. New York had revenue of \$354 million last year before paying \$77 million in revenue sharing and \$34 million in luxury tax.

Forbes estimated the Yankees had a \$50 million operating loss before interest, income taxes, depreciation and amortization.

The Boston Red Sox were pegged with the second-highest value at \$617 million, followed by the New York Mets (\$604 million), Los Angeles Dodgers (\$482 million), Chicago Cubs (\$448 million) and Washington Nationals (\$440 million).

Kings set to name new GM in Friday news conference

LOS ANGELES — The Los Angeles Kings have called a news conference for Friday to announce their new general manager, with former San Jose Sharks GM Dean Lombardi the leading candidate to replace the fired Dave Taylor.

Lombardi worked this season as a scout for the Philadelphia Flyers.

Taylor was dismissed as president and general manager Tuesday after the Kings failed to make the playoffs for the third consecutive year. Taylor was asked to remain with the organization in a different capacity. Assistant GM Kevin Gilmore was assigned to a position with Anschutz Entertainment Group, which owns the team.

Also in the shakeup, interim coach John Torchetti and his staff were released. Torchetti will be interviewed for the coach's job by the new GM.

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NHL

Toronto fires coach Quinn

Coach spent seven years behind bench

Associated Press

TORONTO — Pat Quinn missed the playoffs for the first time in seven seasons as Maple Leafs coach.

Apparently that was enough to get him fired.

Quinn was let go Thursday, two days after Toronto's season ended without a postseason bid. The 63-year-old Quinn, who had one year remaining on his contract, missed the playoffs for only the second time in his stellar 19-year coaching career.

Longtime assistant Rick Ley was also fired.

"We did not achieve a chance to compete for the Cup," said general manager John Ferguson, whose Original Six club hasn't won the Stanley Cup since 1967.

Ferguson declined to answer when asked whether Quinn would have kept his job had the Leafs made the playoffs. A late season surge got Toronto back into contention but they were eliminated in the final

days of the season.

Quinn served as general manager of the Maple Leafs before Ferguson replaced him in that role in 2003.

Ferguson is expected to name Paul Maurice — who coached Toronto's minor league affiliate in the AHL this season — as the new coach, but he said he'll consider other candidates. Maurice last coached in the NHL with Carolina.

"We did not achieve a chance to compete for the Cup."

**John Ferguson
Toronto
general manager**

"We certainly have a proven, capable, successful NHL head coach as our head coach in the American Hockey League," Ferguson said. "Paul is an obvious prime candidate."

Ferguson wants a coach who will give younger players a more prominent role. Quinn was criticized for sticking with veterans who couldn't adapt to the quicker, new NHL.

"We're going to be quicker," Ferguson said. "We're going to rely on players who continue to improve. We'll have a new coach to lead us in that direction."

Overall, Quinn went 300-222-52 with 26 shootout and overtime losses as Leafs coach, twice leading Toronto

to the Eastern Conference final, losing to Buffalo in 1998-99 and Carolina 2001-02.

He's fourth all-time in coaching victories with 657 behind Scotty Bowman (1,244), Al Arbour (781) and Dick Irvin (692).

He never won a Stanley Cup as a coach although he led the 1980 Philadelphia Flyers and '94 Vancouver Canucks to the final.

He is perhaps best known for coaching Team Canada to Olympic gold in 2002.

"He has represented this organization in a first class manner for many years," Ferguson said.

Ferguson dismissed reports he and Quinn had been locked in a power struggle.

Richard Peddie, president and CEO of Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment, said Ferguson isn't in danger of losing his job, but they won't extend his contract this summer even though he only has one year left on it.

"Not everything he's done has worked out as well as we hoped, but there's been some great progress. I think he's got a lot of upside," Peddie said. "John has got a steeper learning curve than maybe some veterans would have, but he doesn't have much slack from the media or management."

MLB

Franco, Mets rally to knock off Padres, 7-2

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Julio Franco doesn't intend to slow down any time soon.

Franco became the oldest player in major league history to hit a home run when he connected for a two-run, pinch-hit shot in the eighth inning Thursday night to help the New York Mets rally for a 7-2 win over the San Diego Padres.

Franco, 47, drove a 1-0 pitch from reliever Scott Linebrink (1-2) into the home-run porch down the right-field line at Petco Park. That gave the Mets a 3-2 lead and Franco the spot in the record book that had been belonged to Athletics pitcher Jack Quinn, who was 46 years, 357 days old when he homered on June 27, 1930.

Franco already was the oldest player to hit a grand slam, a pinch-hit homer and have a multihomer game.

"That won't be the last home run I hit, and I hope I hit one when I'm 50," said Franco, who has four career pinch-hit homers.

He wasn't joking. "Why not? They signed me here for two years," said Franco, who turns 48 on Aug. 23. "God gave me the

great gift to play the game of baseball, and I want to play until I'm 50. If He gives me two more years, don't you think He's going to give me another one?"

If Franco lasts that long, he'll turn 50 during the 2008 season.

The fan who ended up with the ball gave it to Franco in exchange for a bat. Anticipating a call from the Hall of Fame, Franco said he'd send either the ball or the bat, but not both.

The Mets had as many hits in the six-run eighth as they did in their previous two games, when they were the victims of consecutive three-hitters by the Atlanta Braves.

Franco, in his 29th season in pro ball, signed with the Mets as a free agent on Dec. 9. The oldest player in the majors, his one-out homer came with former Padres player Xavier Nady aboard on a leadoff double.

"Losing those two games in a row, Peavy was throwing a great game," Franco said, referring to Padres ace Jake Peavy, who left with a 2-1 lead after seven. "We lost 2-1 yesterday, and it wouldn't be good to lose 2-1 today. It makes it more of an accomplishment."

WAKE UP THE ECHOES

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NCAA BASKETBALL

UCLA guards declare, but don't hire agents

Afflalo, Farmar can still return next year

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — UCLA guards Arron Afflalo and Jordan Farmar both declared for the NBA draft Thursday, but neither will sign with an agent, giving them the option to return to the Bruins for their junior seasons.

Afflalo and Farmar plan to hold individual workouts for specific teams that ask, with each player paying his own way to the workout sites.

"My goal as a basketball player is to play in the NBA," Farmar said. "I can always come back with a great team. It's a good situation for me to test it and see what people think about me and where I am."

UCLA coach Ben Howland said he talked to 17 or 18 NBA general managers, who projected Afflalo and Farmar would be selected late in the first round or early in the second round of the June 28 draft.

"Whether they both go this year or come out at the end of next year, they're both going to be in the NBA. That's a given," Howland said at a campus news conference. "I am totally 100 percent behind them, as is our whole UCLA basketball family in their

decision to test the waters."

Like Farmar, Afflalo said he would return to school if he wasn't assured of being a first-round pick.

"If it's not the smartest situation possible, I'm coming back to a great team," he said.

Farmar added, "A lot of guys don't have UCLA and the success we had to come back to."

The players have until June 18 to withdraw their names from the draft.

Afflalo's and Farmar's individual workouts won't begin before May 20, when they will be required to drop one of the three classes they're taking during the spring quarter and become part-time students. The quarter ends in mid-June.

At that point, the players will no longer participate in individual workouts with the UCLA team.

The duo said they wouldn't participate in the NBA pre-draft camp in Orlando, Fla., because it doesn't allow players to showcase their individual skills as much as solo workouts do.

Afflalo and Farmar were the first two recruits Howland signed when he took over in Westwood three seasons ago. The sophomores led the Bruins to a runner-up finish to Florida in the national championship game April 3 after helping them win the Pac-10 regular-season and tournament titles.

NFL

Johnson reworks contract

Associated Press

CINCINNATI — Chad Johnson got a minimum one-year contract extension Thursday as part of a reworked contract that substantially increases his pay and could keep him with the Cincinnati Bengals through 2011.

The Bengals also got a tentative deal with Anthony Wright to become the backup quarterback while Carson Palmer recovers from reconstructive knee surgery, leading an offense that counts heavily on Johnson.

The three-time Pro Bowl receiver had been under contract through 2009. The new deal runs through 2011, with a club option for 2011, and would give him \$10.75 million more than he would have made under the old contract, agent Drew Rosenhaus said.

"It's something we've been working on for over a year, and Chad has been very patient and went about this the right way," agent Drew Rosenhaus said. "There was nothing negative, he never missed any time."

There were concerns that Johnson would become

unhappy with his previous deal, which paid him far less than some of the game's top receivers. For instance, Terrell Owens — another Rosenhaus client — could make up to \$25 million on his new three-year deal with Dallas, if he stays out of trouble.

Owens got a \$5 million signing bonus and \$5 million base salary for 2006. By comparison, Johnson would have made a \$2.75 million salary this season under his old deal. The biggest annual salary Johnson could have made under the old contract was \$3.6 million.

Johnson led the AFC with a career-high 97 catches last season. He also set a club record with 1,432 yards, leading the conference in that category for the third straight year. He became one of the league's most noticed players with his touchdown celebrations.

The Bengals have been trying to lock up key parts of their offense. Fullback Jeremi Johnson got a six-year deal last Friday that will average about \$1.5 million per year.

"This is a key development

for our team," coach Marvin Lewis said. "It further secures our future with one of our top players, in the prime of his career, and I want to commend Chad for his efforts in making it happen. It shows his commitment to what we have going here."

Johnson didn't immediately return a phone message. During the season, he said he'd like to spend the rest of his career in Cincinnati, trying to set NFL passing records with Palmer.

Palmer had a breakout season in 2005, leading the NFL touchdowns and completion percentage. He led the Bengals to their first winning record and first playoff appearance in 15 years, but tore ligaments in his left knee during a first-round loss to Pittsburgh.

Palmer needed reconstructive surgery and is expected to miss most of training camp and, most likely, part of the season. With backup Jon Kitna gone to Detroit as a free agent, the Bengals have been trying to sign a backup who could start the season if Palmer isn't ready.

They had an agreement Thursday on a one-year deal with Wright, a free agent from Baltimore who was expected to come to Cincinnati to complete the contract in a day or so, agent Joel Segal said.

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ND WOMEN'S TENNIS

Top seed Irish battle No. 8 Rutgers

Team hopes to secure seventh Big East title

By DAN TAPETILLO
Sports Writer

The top-seeded and No. 2 Irish begin their quest to earn their seventh Big East title as they face eighth-seeded Rutgers in the quarterfinals today at 9 a.m. in Tampa, Fla. Notre Dame is not only looking to defend its title but to reach the finals — a feat they have never failed to achieve since joining the conference in 1996.

"[Notre Dame] has always done really well [in the Big East Conference Championship]," Irish junior Catrina Thompson said. "We are just looking to keep doing well here and build off all the success we had [in the regular season]."

Notre Dame earned the top

seed and a first-round bye in the 12-team competition after finishing the regular season 21-1. Despite its success, the team is not looking past any competitors.

"Even though we had a great year, you can never look past who you're playing," Irish junior Christian Thompson said. "Everyone on the team just needs to stay focused in every match. If we do this, we are going to do really well."

The Scarlet Knights enter the match after winning a close 4-3 contest over Marquette in the opening round of the championships on Thursday — their first Big East Tournament victory.

During the contest, the Golden Eagles took a 1-0 lead after win-

ning two of three doubles matches. However, Rutgers was able to bounce back in singles by claiming four wins to defeat Marquette. Critical wins came from No. 1 freshman Katrina Elder-Bush, who defeated the Golden Eagle's sophomore Beba Calbeto 7-6 (2), 7-5 and No. 2 freshman Dana Gordon, who clinched the victory for the Scarlet Knights after topping freshman Lauren Little 6-4, 2-6, 6-2.

"[Rutgers] is definitely going to be ready to compete against us because we're the top seed," Christian Thompson said.

"The top seed is always a target in big matches like the Big East."

Notre Dame enters the contest with last year's Big East Championship Most Outstanding Player Catrina Thompson. No.

31 Thompson enters the tournament as the highest ranked singles player in the conference. In addition to Thompson, the Irish have other players ranked — No. 80 sophomore Brook Buck and No. 99 Christian Thompson.

In doubles, Catrina and Christian Thompson are the highest ranked duo at No. 6. The Thompsons are followed by the No. 38 pairing of Buck and freshman Kelcy Tefft for the Irish.

"Our doubles is what has really set us apart from other teams this season," Catrina Thompson said. "We haven't lost a doubles point all season, and it has really made the difference in all of our 4-3 wins this season."

The winner of this contest will face either fourth-seeded DePaul or fifth-seeded St. John's on Saturday at 9 a.m. in the semifinals.

Contact Dan Tapetillo at
jtapetil@nd.edu

TRACK

Athletes travel all over U.S.

By CHRIS HINE
Sports Writer

In preparation for the upcoming Big East meet in two weeks, the Notre Dame track and field team will send four members this weekend to the Oregon Invitational at the University of Oregon and several sprinters to the Central Collegiate meet in Ypsilanti, Mich.

The University of Oregon is the former home of legendary Olympic sprinter Steve Prefontaine, whose career was cut short due to a fatal car accident. Prefontaine set the American record in the 5,000 meters.

Notre Dame junior runner Kurt Benninger, already an automatic NCAA qualifier in the mile and 3,000 meters, will try to channel the spirit of Prefontaine as he attempts to qualify for the Midwest Regional meet in the 5,000.

Sophomore Austin Wechter will compete in Ypsilanti in the 400-meter hurdles, hoping to improve his time by .15 seconds to qualify for the Midwest Regionals.

"I've really done nothing different from the beginning of the year. I've just kept working hard and I hope to get it," he said.

Also competing in the Central Collegiate meet are junior Maryann Erigha and the 4 x 100-relay team of Erigha, sophomore Dominique Manning, junior Okechi Ogbuokiri and sophomore Brienne Davis. Erigha pulled within .02 of a second of Midwest qualifying time in the 200-meters last weekend at the Mount San Antonio relays and will try to top that time this weekend.

The relay team is within .14 seconds of a Midwest qualification.

The majority of runners will attend the meets to stay in top form for the Big East meet in two weeks.

"You basically prepare for one or two meets on the year, but you try to prepare for the Big East like it's any other meet," sprint coach John Millar said. "You have to control your anxiety or else it becomes detrimental."

On the year, Notre Dame has dozens of Big East and 17 Midwest regional qualifications.

Anxiety will surely heighten in the weeks to come, especially for the women's team, as it has a possibility of executing the triple crown of winning the indoor, outdoor and cross-country portions of the Big East meet. No women's team has accomplished this feat since Villanova in 1987.

Contact Chris Hine at
chine@nd.edu

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SMC TENNIS

Saint Mary's falls in a 5-4 nailbiter to Bethel



CHELSEA GULLING/The Observer

Belles junior Calle Mulcahy backhands the ball during Saint Mary's 5-4 victory over Kalamazoo April 12.

By GREG ARBOGAST
Sports Writer

In its final tune-up before Saturday's conference finale against Calvin, Saint Mary's fell short against Bethel College 5-4 Thursday at Saint Mary's tennis center.

With the two teams tied at four wins each, senior Kristen Palombo battled back to win the second set of her match against Robin Braun.

With the sunlight rapidly fading, the two girls were forced to play an ultimate tie-breaker in place of the third set, and Palombo came up just short losing by a score of 6-4, 6-7 (5), 1-0 (10-8).

Before its match against Bethel, the team talked about its concern with winning the key points in close matches. The squad's inability to do so was a major reason it lost 9-0 to Albion. The same problem also plagued the Belles against Bethel.

In addition to Palombo's match, the team of junior Kelly McDavitt and junior Calie Mulcahy lost their doubles match to Robin Braun and Bree Oles by the score of 9-7, and the team of Palombo and junior Grace Gordon were defeated by Emily Lampert and Missy Vermillia by the score of 9-8 (3).

"We did better than we have in the past in the close games," Palombo said. "But, it was still very frustrating, because we weren't able to get over that final hurdle."

Saint Mary's also played Thursday's match without the services of sophomore Tara O'Brien, who has recently occupied the No. 5 singles spot for the Belles.

Freshman Melissa Dinger filled in for O'Brien and she won her singles match over Sherra Milendar 6-4, 6-0.

O'Brien's absence, however, meant that sophomore Cassie Quaglia, who had yet to play a singles match this season, was pressed into action at the No. 6 singles spot. Quaglia was competitive against Bethel's Jade Walus, but she ultimately fell by the score of 7-6 (5), 6-1.

MEN'S LACROSSE

Irish ready to battle Lehigh

By TIM DOUGHERTY
Sports Writer

After dropping from No. 9 to No. 19 in the USILA Coaches Poll with two losses last weekend out west in the Rocky Mountains against Denver and Air Force, Notre Dame (7-4, 3-2 GWLL) head to the eastern reaches of the Appalachians to climb out of their slump against the Lehigh (7-5, 3-2 Patriot League).

After a travel day Monday and an off day Tuesday, the Irish have only had two days of practice so far to prepare for Lehigh. But senior co-captain midfielder Drew Peters said their strenuousness more than made up for the number of days.

"Yesterday's and [Thursday's] practice was a little tough, but real good," Peters said. "It was good to have a day off and then go real hard for a few days. I think it was beneficial for our team. A lot of drills, a lot of running, but I think we did well yesterday."

Peters said the practices were just what the team needed to release leftover bitter emotions stemming from last weekend's loss to Colorado.

"[The intensity] was definitely very apparent yesterday and carried into [Thursday]," Peters said. "Everyone was kind of spent after two hard hours of practice. We're hoping for [the effort] to carry over going into the Lehigh game."

Irish coach Kevin Corrigan also expressed general satisfaction with his team's effort.

Though Notre Dame's tournament hopes suffered a major blow last weekend, Corrigan refuses to let the team's past games affect its ability to take care of the work ahead.

"I'm looking for guys that want to come out and compete against Lehigh," Corrigan said. "If we have guys sitting around and worrying about games that have already been played and worrying about things they can't control, than those guys aren't going to play for us."

Among the things the Irish hope to correct is their inconsis-



MARY KATE MANNIX/The Observer

Irish goalie Joey Kemp prepares to block a shot during Notre Dame's 11-5 win over Brown March 29.

tency due to fundamental mistakes like unforced turnovers on offense and losing track of assignments on defense — points of emphasis Corrigan has been harping on all season long. "The frustrating thing about it is how erratic we are," Corrigan said. "We play two shutout quarters against Denver, and then we give up four goals in the fourth quarter."

Though Corrigan said the mistakes aren't things he typically sees in practice, he hopes this week's grueling practices will serve to focus the Irish come game time.

"If you don't do it when the lights are on, it doesn't matter what you do [at practice]," he said. "We have to bear down on game days and not make those kinds of mistakes."

When Taylor Clagett takes the opening face-off for the Irish at 2 p.m., they will be looking at a team in its last tune up before it competes for an NCAA bid. Lehigh qualified for the Patriot League Tournament by defeating Holy Cross 13-6 last Saturday on Senior Day.

Sunday's game will be Notre Dame's first ever contest against Lehigh and from the video it has seen, the team expects a solid all-around showing from the

Mountain Hawks.

"They're a very well balanced team," Corrigan said. "I think the challenge they present is that they do a little bit of everything well."

Lehigh is No. 30 in the country in scoring offense at 8.42 goals per game and its defense has held opponents to 7.17 goals per game — No. 8 in the nation.

After looking at their film, Peters said the Irish do not expect Lehigh to throw anything at them style-wise they have not seen throughout the year.

One thing that sophomore goalie Joey Kemp is certainly used to seeing is the game's venue. A Georgetown Prep graduate, Kemp will return to the field on which he played for the nationally-ranked Hoyas for four years, including as team captain and MVP his senior season.

Corrigan said he likes to arrange games in the areas from which he draws his players, whenever possible.

"We wanted to play a game in the area," he said. "Joey's high school coach [Kevin Giblin] is a friend of mine so we worked it out to play it there."

Contact Tim Dougherty at tdougher@nd.edu

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SMC GOLF

Belles look for strong finish before NCAAs

Varsity golfers ready for the Grizzly Invite

By BECKI DORNER
Sports Writer

Although the SMC/Bethel Invitational took place Wednesday, the Franklin Grizzly Invitational this weekend will be the first

match in over a week for a majority of the traveling members of the varsity squad.

Most of the normal travelers on the squad did not compete in the tournament Wednesday co-hosted with Bethel College. Instead, the junior varsity tried its luck at the difficult Blackthorn Golf Club in nearby South Bend.

The most recent performance for the traveling squad

was the IWU Spring Fling in which the Belles placed third of 18 teams.

Saint Mary's senior Megan Mattia led the way for the Belles by finishing seventh with a 162.

Belles freshman Alex Sei had her best round under head coach Mark Hamilton, shooting a 77 during the second round to card a two-day 166 (tied for 13th).

The Franklin Grizzly

Invitational will be the last regular season match for the four seniors on the team — Mattia, Kirsten Fantom, Nicole Bellino and Erin McQueen. All four have been members of the team since their freshman years.

Some junior varsity players will also be traveling this weekend.

Senior captain Kirsten Fantom emphasized that the girls have been working hard

in their lay-off week for their final meet before the post-season, especially concentrating on greenside play.

"We're continuing to work on our short-game in preparation for the weekend," she said. The Belles continue to anticipate the NCAA Tournament at the end of the spring.

Contact Becki Dornier at rdornier1@nd.edu

NHL

GM Craig Patrick leaving the Penguins after 17 years

Jagr, Crosby, Francis all acquired in tenure

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Craig Patrick made some of the best trades in NHL history. He oversaw some of the best drafts, built some of the best teams and signed some of the best players and coaches.

Consider this Hall of Fame resume: Drafted Sidney Crosby and Jaromir Jagr. Traded for Ron Francis, Joe Mullen and Larry Murphy. Re-signed Mario Lemieux so one of hockey's greatest players could play his entire career in Pittsburgh. Hired coaches Scotty Bowman and Bob Johnson.

But it was obvious, after the Penguins sank into bankruptcy for a second time in franchise history and were forced to tear

apart a longtime contending team, their general manager lost his drive. Patrick's creative touch also disappeared, and many of the player and coaching decisions he made were bad ones.

Just as significantly, Patrick confided in few and hired fewer still — to the point the Penguins had a smaller front office staff than most low-level minor league teams. Patrick did all the hiring, firing and decision-making and, as a result, player personnel decisions seemed to be based more on hunches than reasoned thinking.

So, after four consecutive last-place finishes, the Penguins did what once would have seemed unthinkable: They let Craig Patrick go, failing to renew a contract that expires on July 1. That Lemieux, the team's primary owner and a

close friend of Patrick, would agree to such a move illustrates how far the Penguins have fallen since making the Eastern Conference final in 2001.

"It was a very difficult decision," team president Ken Sawyer said Thursday, about an hour after calling Patrick to deliver the news. "But we both stood back and did what's best for the team."

Despite averaging only 25 victories over the last four seasons, and the uncertainty over whether the team will get a new arena, the Penguins don't expect to have trouble finding a qualified replacement. Sawyer will conduct the search and make the hire, but has no timetable for making his decision.

The new general manager will be allowed to bring the Penguins up to NHL standards in the scouting and player per-

sonnel departments. But he won't hire a new coach — Michel Therrien, the former Montreal Canadiens coach hired by Patrick at midseason, will be brought back.

"This is a young team that is only going to get better," Sawyer said, pointing to the expected addition of former No. 2 draft pick Evgeni Malkin to a Crosby-led team next season. "We're very happy with the job Michel Therrien has done. He will be the coach next year."

After starting this season with a veteran team, the Penguins made a dramatic mid-season switch to mostly youth and, despite finishing 22-46-14, appeared to improve markedly over the final two months of the season. The 18-year-old Crosby became the youngest player in NHL history to reach the 100-point mark by scoring 102.

But it was another former No. 1 pick, Lemieux, who led the Penguins to their greatest successes under Patrick.

Patrick was hired to succeed Tony Esposito as the Penguins GM in December 1989 and, within 18 months, had built a team around Lemieux that would win the Stanley Cup in 1991 and 1992 and have the NHL's best record in 1993. His 1991 trade for Francis and defenseman Ulf Samuelsson is widely regarded as being the

final piece needed to transform what had long been one of NHL's worst teams into a Stanley Cup winner.

But after former ownership led by Howard Baldwin drove the team into bankruptcy, Patrick was forced to dismantle as stars such as Jagr, Alex Kovalev, Martin Straka and Robert Lang went elsewhere.

Still, Patrick's ultimate downfall may have been his inability to bring in a quality coach after his initial two hirings couldn't have been much better: Johnson in 1990 and, less than two years later, Bowman. Bowman moved from the front office to behind the bench after Johnson died of brain cancer only six months after winning the Stanley Cup in 1991.

Of his final five coaches, not counting interim coach Herb Brooks in 2000, Patrick fired four: Kevin Constantine, Ivan Hlinka, Rick Kehoe and Eddie Olczyk. Hlinka, Kehoe and Olczyk had no prior NHL head-coaching experience, yet were hired without Patrick considering other candidates.

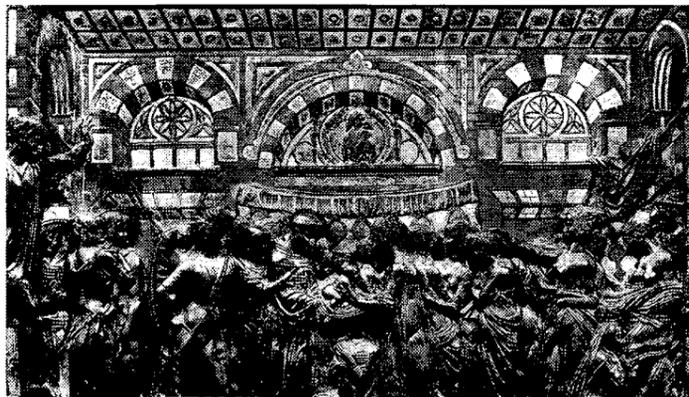
Despite making a long series of excellent trades, Patrick also made some bad ones, including what is often called the worst in NHL history — dealing future scoring star Markus Naslund for journeyman Alex Stojanov in 1996.

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AN ARMY OF ONE 

ND SOFTBALL

Irish hope to build momentum in Big East

Team set to host pair of conference rivals

By DAN MURPHY
Sports Writer

Notre Dame welcomes two Big East teams to Ivy Field this weekend as it continues its quest to reach the top of the conference standings. The team hopes to be able to rack up four more victories, as it will play doubleheaders against Villanova and Rutgers.

Both teams are currently in the cellar of the conference with only six wins between them. But an upset win over a top tier team could be uplifting for the struggling clubs.

"These games are very important, because they won't play like the bottom teams," Irish coach Deanna Gumpf said. "Rutgers and Villanova always tend to have their best games against us."

Notre Dame (27-14, 9-1 Big East) is currently in second place in the conference — one game behind the undefeated South Florida. With a

showdown against the Bulls next weekend, the Irish will look to build momentum against the weaker competition at home this weekend.

The Bulls (38-19) have totaled eight wins in Big East play so far this year. However, they are just entering the toughest part of their schedule. In the next week, USF will face off with Pittsburgh and Syracuse before coming to Notre Dame on April 29. All three of the teams are in the top half of the conference standings.

"Right now the only thing I am concerned about is winning this weekend."

Deanna Gumpf
Irish coach

"Right now the only thing I am concerned with is winning this weekend," Gumpf said.

The fifth-year skipper is not looking past Saturday's games with Villanova. The Wildcats have taken seven of their last 10 games and have exploded on offense in recent games. Freshman Meghan Morese has also been driving the ball out of the park — she leads the team with 10 home runs. Morese has played shortstop, third base and catcher for the Wildcats this season.

"We're not going to pitch around her, but we will definitely give her the respect

that she deserves at the plate," Gumpf said.

Junior catcher Cassie Koenig and sophomore second baseman Jackie Dempsey have also added to an offense that has posted 32 runs in its past four games. Both players have started all 41 games for Villanova and are both hitting over .300.

The Rutgers pitching staff — which Notre Dame will battle Sunday — was able to shut down the powerful offense for two wins (9-1, 4-3) on April 15. The Scarlet Knights pitchers have been able to keep their opponents off balance by consistently changing speeds.

"We just have to make early adjustments," junior Stephanie Brown said. "I tend to try to drive the ball the opposite way just so I don't get too far out in front."

When the Irish have been able to make the necessary changes early on, they have been successful. After starting out slow on Wednesday afternoon, the offense took off the second time through the order and ended up winning the game, 5-0.

"We can't let these teams stick around with us, we need a couple of big wins this weekend," Brown said.

Contact Dan Murphy at dmurphy6@nd.edu



ALLSION AMBROSE/The Observer

Irish freshman Linda Kohan stretches to catch the ball during Notre Dame's 6-0 win over Ball State April 11.

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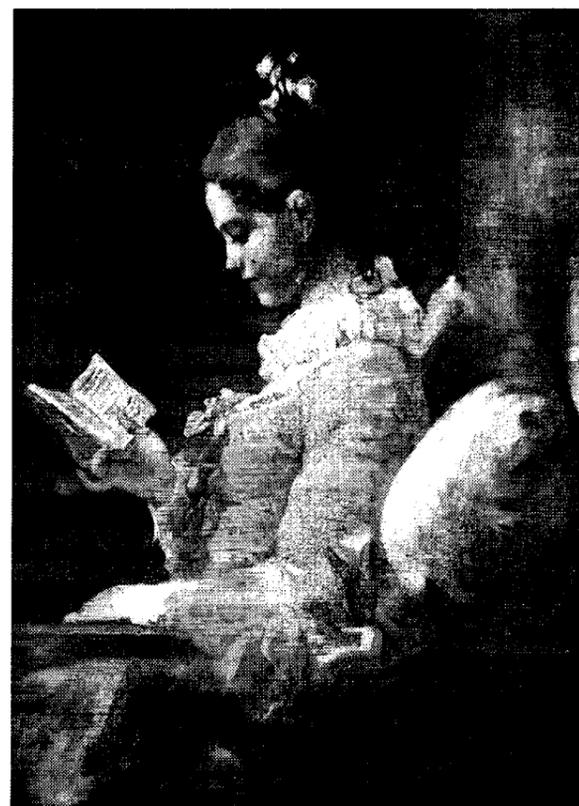
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BOOKSTORE BASKETBALL XXXV

Meyer, Sparkle Motion route Bird Flu, 21-3

Overrated also picks up victory, advances

By JAY FITZPATRICK and DAN MURPHY
Sports Writer

Despite an intense effort, Bird Flu could not overcome No. 20 Sparkle Motion's dominant play in a 21-3 loss Thursday.

Before the game, Bird Flu captain Colin Meyer was confident about his team's chances in the game — but Sparkle was the faster, stronger and overall better team.

Sparkle played tough defense throughout the game, forcing turnovers that led to multiple fast-break points for Sparkle.

Sparkle Motion was able to spread the ball around on offense, getting the whole team involved.

The Bird Flu guard Brogan Ryan led his team's offense.

"I think we played well today, and we were glad we scored as many points as lives we saved by giving blood," Ryan said.

Unfortunately for Sparkle, the team had trouble shooting the ball and was forced to make second and third possession shots in order to get its baskets.

"It was disheartening, but we still feel we played well," Meyer said. "We took comfort in the fact that they missed more shots than we took."

Although the score showed a very disparate game, Bird Flu still played hard. Bird Flu played tough defense and got defensive rebounds. But they also caught a lot of bad bounces on most of their shots.

But Bird Flu could not overcome Sparkle's speed, sending Sparkle to the round of 64.

"It was disheartening, but we still feel we played well."

**Colin Meyer
Sparkle Motion**

**Overrated 21,
Show Killers
13**

The Show Killers came close to knocking off No. 32 Overrated, but a 3-0 run before

halftime swung the momentum in Overrated's favor, leading to a 21-13 win.

Both teams came out strong in the first half, keeping the game close behind quick offense with good ball movement by both teams.

The Show Killers were able to drive the ball inside well in

the first half, getting off a lot of tough shots while also securing hard-fought rebounds.

The Killers also shot well from outside, especially guard Dan Klauer. Klauer brought the defense out with multiple long-range jumpers and then worked the ball back inside to keep the Killers out in front for most of the first half.

But Overrated would not be kept down, including a comeback just before the break to go into halftime with an 11-10 lead — one the squad would not relinquish the rest of the game.

The key to the win for Overrated was its defense, especially in the second half. Overrated used its height and speed advantages to block the Killers' inside shots while also quickly getting back outside to defend the long range shots.

Overrated captain Matt Young was proud of his team's effort in the win.

"[The Killers] were a good test for us, but we were able to get the quality win and make it to the round of 64," Young said.

We KNOW Where You Got Your Tan 21, Team Jorts 9

Team Jorts was slowed down by its overalls and flannels as it lost to We KNOW Where You Got Your Tan Thursday.

Tan, a group of O'Neill sophomores, used its speed to dominate the game as the team had three of its players register more than five points. Gabe Mascaro led the team with six. He also had the

highlight of the game when he leaped, caught a ball over his head with his back to the hoop and tapped it into the hoop from four feet out before landing.

"The shot was a special play we worked on in practice," Mascaro said.

Mascaro also made major contributions on the defensive side as he consistently disrupted the passing lanes and came up with five steals which led to multiple fast break opportunities.

Brendan Ryan and Tim Goldschmidt also had five baskets each. Goldschmitt

used his size to grab rebounds and finish plays. Ryan used his slashing ability and outside shooting to create his offense.

"When it rains, it pours," Ryan said.

Jorts was able to jump out to an early 3-2 lead but quickly faded as it was shutout for the remainder of the first half. John Furrey, the tournament's answer to Adam Morrison, had three early points for the team. Eric Powers also scored three for Jorts, despite suffering from mono.

The team made another late run, scoring six in the second half, thanks to the outside shooting of Patrick Hartendorp.

However, it was not enough to overcome the speed of Tan.

"[It] was a night game, we didn't take the lights into effect," Powers said. "Maybe if we had added some rhinestones to our jorts we would have done better."

The O'Neill sophomores seemed determined that nothing would have distracted them from coming away with a victory Thursday.

"We're here of a mission to find out where everyone in this tournament got their tans," Ryan said.

"[The Killers] were a good test for us, but we were able to get the quality win and make it to the round of 64."

**Matt Young
Overrated captain**

Contact Jay Fitzpatrick and Dan Murphy at jfitpz5@nd.edu and dmurphy6@nd.edu

FALL 2006 SPANISH COURSE LISTINGS

ROSP 20220 INTERMEDIATE GRAMMAR AND WRITING
9:35-10:25 MWF G. Ameriks

ROSP 20237 CONVERSATION AND WRITING
12:30-1:45, 2:00-3:15 TR M. Coloma

ROSP 27500 APPROACHES TO HISPANIC CULTURES THROUGH WRITING
Various Times MWF G. Ameriks, G. Maldonado, I. Menes

ROSP 30310 TEXTUAL ANALYSIS
Various Times MW, MWF K. Ibsen, Staff

ROSP 30710 SURVEY OF SPANISH LITERATURE I
11:00-12:15, 12:30-1:45 TR E. Juárez-Almendros

ROSP 30720 SURVEY OF SPANISH LITERATURE II
11:00-12:15 TR, 1:30-2:45 MW C. Jerez-Farrán, Staff

ROSP 30810 SURVEY OF SPANISH-AM LIT. I
11:45-1:00, 3:00-4:15 MW, 9:30-10:45 TR P. Boyer, Staff

ROSP 30820 SURVEY OF SPANISH-AM LIT. II
2:00-3:15, 12:30-1:45 TR, 1:30-2:45 MW H. Verani, Staff

ROSP 40615 STUDIES IN COLONIAL LITERATURE
12:30-1:45 TR J. Anadón

ROSP 40770 GLOBALIZATION AND THE INHUMAN
12:30-1:45 TR R. Ríos-Avila

ROSP 40780 MEXICAN LITERATURE
11:45-1 MW K. Ibsen

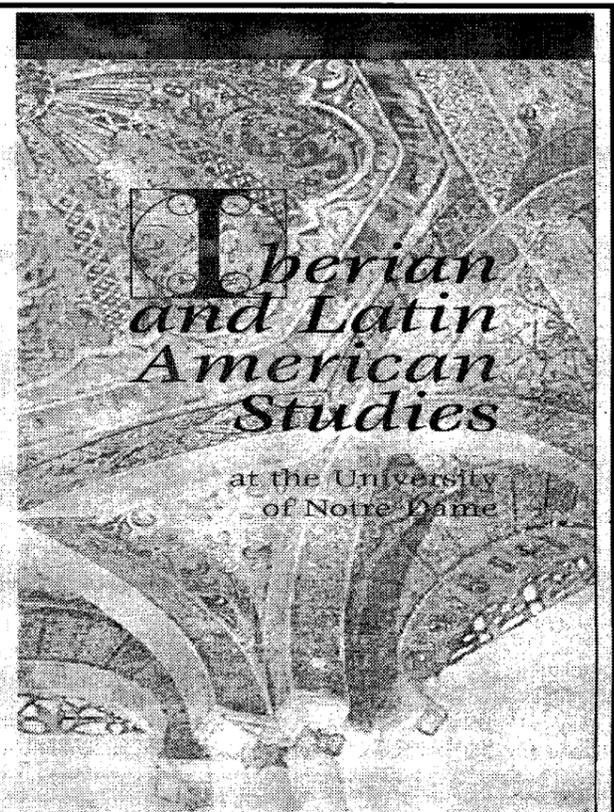
ROSP 40891 BEYOND THE ISLANDS: LATINO/A CARIBBEAN LIT. & CULTURE
9:30-10:45 TR M. Moreno-Anderson

ROSP 53490 SEN SEM. WOMEN WRITERS IN CONTEMPORARY SPANISH LIT.
9:30-10:45 TR C. Jerez-Farrán

ROSP 63110 FROM RECONQUEST TO RENAISSANCE: MEDIEVAL SPANISH LIT.
12:30-3:15 M D. Seidenspinner-Núñez

ROSP 63911 PSYCHOANALYSIS AND THE BAROQUE
3:30-6:00 T R. Ríos-Avila

ROSP 63970 SPANISH AMERICAN SHORT STORY
3:30-6:00 W H. Verani



For more information on any course, call 1-6886.

ND WOMEN'S GOLF

Irish looking for success at Big East championships

By **FRAN TOLAN**
Sports Writer

After being forced to withdraw from the James Madison University Invitational April 8 and 9 due to a flight cancellation, the Irish women's golf team looks to rebound next Monday and Tuesday at the Big East championships in Dade City, Fla.

The tournament is the final event of the spring season before the NCAA Regionals and will be important in determining whether the Irish earn an NCAA bid.

"We're a bubble team right now," Irish coach Debby King said.

"[The NCAA tournament committee] will certainly look at our scoring average."

The Irish will not have an opportunity to improve their NCAA head-to-head record because no other teams from the Midwest Region compete in the Big East.

Notre Dame expects stiff competition as the tournament will feature all seven Big East teams, whereas in the past only four qualified for the event.

"We're especially excited to face South Florida and Louisville," King said. "Those are both pretty strong teams."

The Irish are scheduled to

arrive in Florida Saturday afternoon and plan on playing a practice round Sunday.

The two-day event gets underway Monday at the Lake Jovita Golf Club.

"This is our biggest tournament of the year besides the NCAAs," King said.

Before the spring season began, King said that the team's long-term goal was to earn a spot in the NCAA tournament.

"A win [in the Big East Championship] sure wouldn't hurt us [in earning a spot]," King said.



Senior Suzie Hayes measures a distance during the Notre Dame Women's Invitational on Sept. 10. The Irish won the event.

Contact Fran Tolan at ftolan@nd.edu

Bookstore

continued from page 32

defense, we were able to get out and run the court very well."

Reckers rode that aggressive style of play to an 11-4 half-time lead while the View struggled to find its offensive groove.

Down 11-4 at the half, The View missed its first four shots before finally making a short, turnaround jumper.

Meanwhile, Reckers didn't miss a beat. Hitting a number of long-range jump shots and continuing to press the ball going up the court, Reckers quickly increased its lead to 17-6.

The View tried to make a run to get back in the game, but again struggled finding momentum on either end of the floor.

After trading buckets, Reckers was finally able to put the game away on a baseline jumper by Small.

"We lost," The View forward Jeff Mulin said. "That's all there is to it."

Indy Xperience 21, Khakis in the Dumpster 12

Indy Xperience, a team composed solely of executive MBA students, defeated Khakis in the Dumpster 21-12 on the

Bookstore courts.

Indy, whose players boast an average age of 38, relied on hot shooting to propel them past the younger, quicker Khakis.

Several times, it appeared as if Khakis was poised to make a run, but Indy was able to thwart each challenge. The win did not come without a price, though.

"We may have pulled some muscles tonight," guard Steve Champlin said. "We'll definitely get over it."

Now, Indy looks ahead to its next matchup — which will probably pit them against a ranked team.

"We may have to play a seeded team, but we have the experience edge," Scott Schreiber said.

"We may have pulled some muscles tonight, [but] we'll definitely get over it."

Steve Champlin
Indy Xperience guard

"They shot the ball really well in the first half," Clover Ridge captain Paul Hagan said.

Clover Ridge, however, took control in the second half, and quickly erased any hope of an upset.

"We just slowed it down and pressured the ball on defense," Hagan said of the keys to his team's turnaround.

The Clover Ridge size advantage also allowed the squad to wear down Naked toward the end of the game.

The size differential was made evident when Clover center John Carlson threw down a rim-rocking left-handed slam right after half-time.

"We just ran out of steam," Naked guard Andrew Litschi said.

Despite losing the game, the Naked players did not suffer from any self-esteem loss.

"They were the better team, but we were better-looking," Litschi said.

Litschi's teammate Benjamin Currie added a similar opinion about his team's superior appearance.

"In the beginning of the game, we offered to play shirts-and skins but they were too intimidated," Currie said.

Team 433 vs. Team 321

Before the game, Team 321 forward Bill Reimer joked with friends that he was going to score two points. After the game, friends were congratulating him on his eight-point game and a 21-13 victory over team 433.

Both teams started slow, but then quickly found their rhythm.

Team 321 used Reimer's surprising play to jump out to a 4-2 lead.

Team 433 responded behind the play of Nik Rodriguez, holding a 6-5 advantage midway through the first half. But from there, Reimer and team 321 went on a 10-0 run.

Playing from behind, Team 433 did everything it could to get back in the game but failed to finish on the offensive end. The squad missed a number of short lay-ups and jump shots and could not stop Team 321.

"It was a travesty, a sham, and a mockery.... a travshamockery!" Team 433 forward Aidan Fitzgerald said.

Team 321, on the other hand, used an aggressive defense to create a number of breakaway lay-ups to close out the game.

"All our training paid off," Reimer said. "We had a tough game in the first round, so we got out here and worked real hard."

Contact Joe Quinn and Fran Tolan at jquinn6@nd.edu and ftolan@nd.edu

Clover Ridge 21, Naked Without Shame 14

Despite looking poised for an upset throughout the contest, Naked Without Shame eventually fell to 21-14 to Clover Ridge Thursday.

Efficient shooting allowed Naked to jump out to a 5-2 lead. The team continued its steady play for the remainder of the first half and held an 11-8 advantage at the break.



DELUXE FOOTBALL PACKAGE

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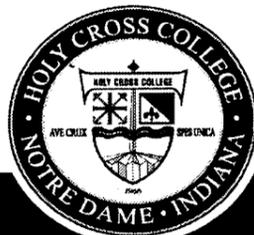
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Rebound

continued from page 32

for the Irish on themselves, something that has clearly worked thus far this season. The major focal points for Notre Dame in the days leading up to the match up with the Scarlet Knights have been their ability to re-defend once they have lost possession.

Also key in the Irish game plan will be their ability to run a successful fast break, avoiding going into their set attack plans until absolutely necessary.

Sophomore attack Heather Ferguson said the Irish need to focus not only on their tactics and play on the field, but also their mindset off it.

“Coach Coyne has told up to keep our heads up, because there is still the season ahead of us, and we need to get ready to make an impact on the tournament,” Ferguson said. “We need to buckle down and concentrate on the next three games.”

The Irish will also look for senior attack Crysti Foote to be heavily involved in the attack as she has all season — she is second in the nation in points-per-game. Foote’s performance this season has also led to her Tewaaron Trophy nomination.

The award is given to the nation’s best male and female college lacrosse players, making her only the second Irish player to be nominated.

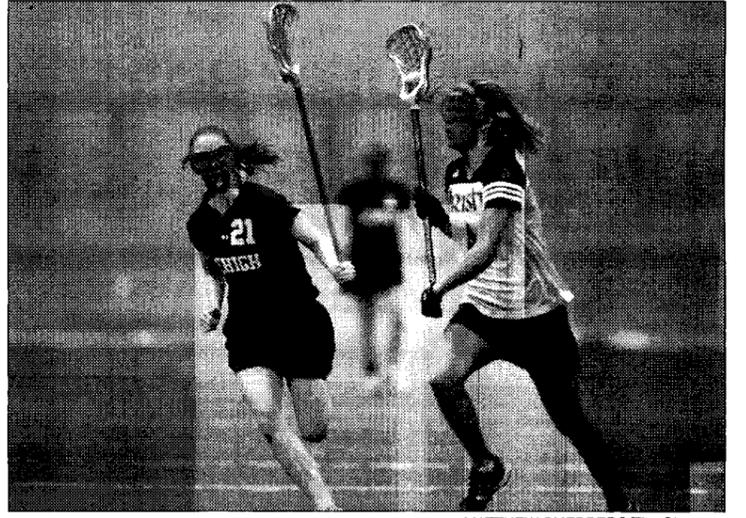
Freshman attack Jill Byers has played well all season and Notre

Dame will look for that to continue this weekend. Byers has already broken Irish freshman records for assists (16) and points (54) and is only one goal away from breaking Courtney Calabrese’s record of 38 goals in a freshman season.

Overall, the Irish feel confident about their contest with the Scarlet Knights, and believe that it will be a good win for the Irish after two of their toughest losses in recent memory.

“We should be very successful if we play our game,” Ferguson said. “We just need to continue playing the way we have and we should come out with a win.”

Contact Jay Fitzpatrick at jfitzpa5@nd.edu



MATTHEW SMEDBERG/The Observer

Notre Dame attack Jill Byers runs past Lehigh defender Heather McArthur at Loftus Sports Complex March 8.

Like to talk?

Love Notre Dame?

Pick up an Undergraduate Admissions Tour Guide application at the Reception Room (2nd floor) of the Main Building. Applications are due by 5 pm on Friday, April 21. Contact Son Nguyen at snguyen@nd.edu with questions.

NASCAR

Kyle Busch wins the pole for race in Phoenix

Associated Press

AVONDALE, Ariz. — Kyle Busch picked up where he left off at Phoenix International Raceway, winning the pole Thursday to put himself in prime position to win a second straight race in the desert.

Busch, who won at Phoenix last November, ran a lap at 133.745 mph to take the top qualifying spot for Saturday night’s Subway Fresh 500. His lap bested Greg Biffle, who qualified second with a lap at 133.383, and Tony Stewart, who was third at 133.299.

After crossing the line, Busch barked into his radio.

“I was just chomping at the bit,” said Busch, who was cited for reckless driving in Richmond, Va., last week and was booed by the Phoenix fans most of the day.

He then celebrated his first pole since February of last year by climbing onto the pit road wall and waving his arms in the air.

“Do snow angels,” Stewart said sarcastically of the celebration tactic Busch’s older brother, Kurt, has recently adopted.

Stewart can mock if he wants, but the Busch brothers are hot in Phoenix. Kurt won this race last year, giving the Busch brothers a sweep on the flat, mile-long oval.

“It seems the young Jedi has done well. He learns quick, he’s putting all his knowledge from his own team and what I’ve given him to work with.”

**Kurt Busch
NASCAR driver**

“It’s not whether you are getting boos or cheers, it’s who gets the most noise,” Kyle Busch said. “Right now it’s close between Jeff Gordon and Dale Earnhardt Jr., but the Busch brothers are steadily climbing that rope.”

No driver has ever won from the pole in the 19 Cup events at Phoenix, but Kyle Busch liked his chances in the Chevrolet he said was the “sister car” to November’s winning entry.

“We have a good race car,” he said. “It’s the sister car, so hopefully we can make it just as good, if not better.”

Matt Kenseth qualified fourth and was followed by Carl Edwards, who has a new crew chief this week after the shake-up at Roush Racing. Denny Hamlin was sixth, Kurt Busch qualified seventh and then boasted about how far his little brother has come in his short Cup career.

“It seems the young Jedi has done well,” Kurt Busch said. “He learns quick, he’s putting all his knowledge from his own team and what I’ve given him to work with.”

“He’s got the fastest car in the county today.” Clint Bowyer was eighth and Martin Truex Jr., and points leader Jimmie Johnson rounded out the top 10.

For Biffle, his qualifying run was perhaps a sign the bad luck that has plagued him through the first seven races of the season may be lifting. Accidents or mechanical failures have taken him out of contention several times this season and Biffle, who finished second to Stewart in the final standings last season, is currently 23rd in the points.

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SMC SOFTBALL

Belles look to rebound in game against Olivet

Saint Mary's lost both games of Wednesday's doubleheader to Albion

By DEIRDRE KRASULA Sports Writer

Saint Mary's hopes to get back on track this Saturday when it travels to Olivet. The Belles (23-9, 9-3) enter Saturday's game on the heels of a doubleheader loss to Albion, 3-0 and 6-2, Wednesday.

Belles coach Erin Sullivan said she wants her team to get back to the basics and pull its game back together after losing on Wednesday.

"I want our team to come back with the enthusiasm we had," Sullivan said. "Turn it around from Albion."

Sullivan said the team has been focusing on getting ahead early in the game.

Senior captain Bridget Grall said Saint Mary's would not underestimate its future opponents.

"It is important to play our

game and not underestimate our opponent," Grall said. "We play because we love the game, we need to show that love."

Olivet (4-6, MIAA) comes into the contest Saturday coming off of a long break. Its game scheduled for Thursday was cancelled.

Olivet has relied on freshman designated hitter Danielle Martin as a source of power at the plate. Martin leads the Comets with 20 RBIs this season.

The Belles will look to shut down Olivet early.

Coming off a loss, Saint Mary's will not be focusing its opposition, but rather, on improving its game.

"We are going in there ready to play whatever team is there,"

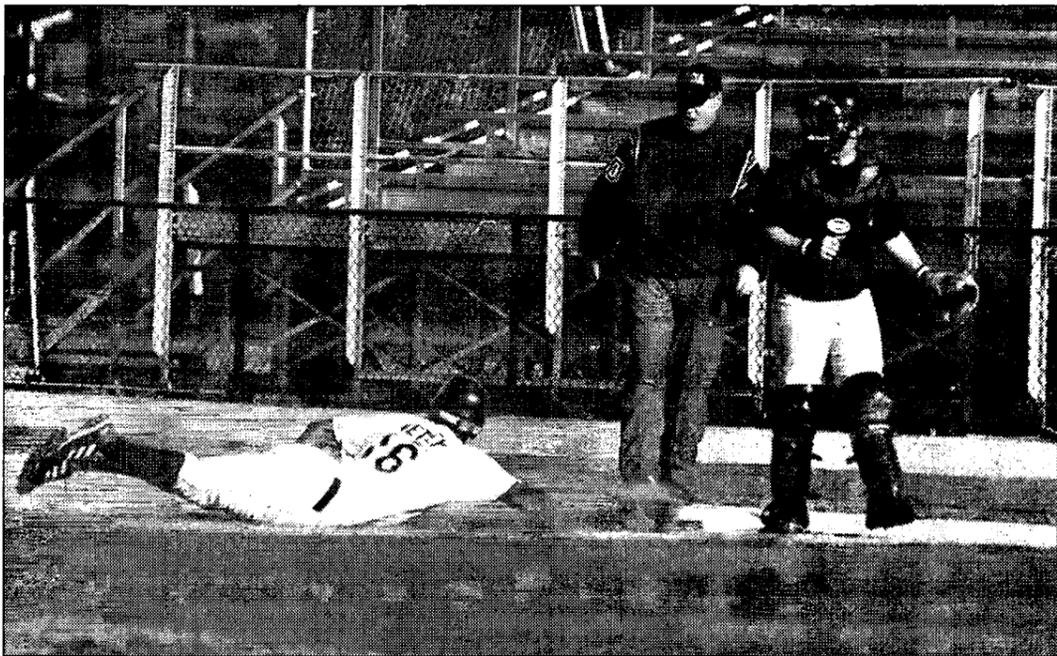
Grall said.

This is the second-to-last conference game the Belles play before heading to the MIAA tournament. Sullivan said the team has been focusing on the tournament all season.

Contact Deirdre Krasula at dkrasula@nd.edu

"I want our team to come back with the enthusiasm we had and turn it around for Albion."

Erin Sullivan Belles coach



DUSTIN MENNELLA/The Observer

Notre Dame senior outfielder Alex Nettey slides into first base on April 12 against Oakland at Frank Eck Stadium. The Irish won the game 8-2.

Knights

continued from page 32

In their last game, the Irish beat IPFW 4-3 in 10 innings. The close game did not surprise Mainieri.

"There've been a lot of close games in this [winning] streak," Mainieri said. "We've had some late game heroics. It gives the guys a greater amount of confidence that they can do what it takes to win."

The Irish have been bitten by the injury bug this past week, with third baseman Brett Lilley and second baseman Ross Brezovsky both missing time with shoulder injuries. Lilley took batting practice Thursday and is expected to play this weekend. Mainieri said Brezovsky will be a game-time decision for each of the contests with the Scarlet Knights.

Notre Dame junior righthander Jeff Samardzija will start today's game, which starts at 6:05 p.m. at Frank Eck Stadium. Samardzija is 5-

1 this year with a 3.83 ERA, 28 strikeouts and 23 walks.

Junior righthander Jeff Manship will take the hill in Saturday's game for the Irish, which will begin at 3:05 p.m. Manship is 4-1 on the season with a 2.04 ERA, 61 strikeouts and 14 walks.

Senior lefthander Tom Thornton will cap the weekend on the mound for Notre Dame, starting Sunday's 12:05 p.m. contest. Thornton has a record of 5-1 this year with a 3.78 ERA, 39 strikeouts and four walks.

Notes:

Notre Dame head football coach Charlie Weis is scheduled throw out the first pitch

Friday. Between Weis' appearance and the start by the popular Samardzija, Friday's attendance is expected to be among the largest of the season at Frank Eck Stadium. Mainieri said he will try to keep his team focused despite the hoopla.

"We're throwing a lot of gasoline on the fire," the coach said. "It's going to be a wild weekend."

Today's game sold out by 5 p.m. Thursday evening, marking the first-ever advance sellout in the 13-year history of Frank Eck Stadium.

Contact Chris Khorey at ckhorey@nd.edu

Titles

continued from page 32

The doubles have been another focus for the Irish. The team has only won three of its last ten doubles points, but upset two ranked teams against Louisville April 13 to restore confidence going into the postseason.

"We have worked pretty hard on our doubles," Bayliss said. "We went about three hours yesterday and today, we probably went just over two."

The No. 16 Irish are a virtual lock for the NCAA tournament, but are hoping to be one of the top 16 teams in order to be a host site.

"The top 16 teams will host so we know we need to win these matches," Bayliss said. "A couple of other schools are pretty close as well, like Texas A&M, and a couple of other schools are pretty close... For the teams that are right in that hunt, it depends on who has the best finish to their seasons."

The Irish (15-7, 1-1 Big East) face unranked Georgetown (4-13, 1-3 Big East) today at noon.

"I think the goal is to win it this week," Bayliss said. "We only can control a little bit of our destiny with regards to the NCAA tournament — I think that's the bigger goal."

Contact Kate Gales at kgales@nd.edu

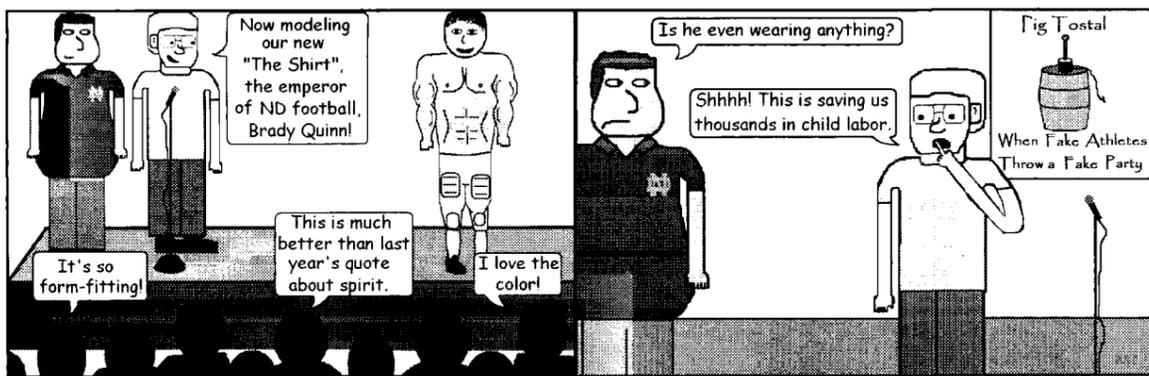
Lula's CAFE advertisement featuring a coffee cup, menu items like Gourmet Sandwiches, Salads & Soups, and two Lula BUCK coupons for one per visit, expiring May 2006.

JIMMY JOHN'S advertisement with the headline 'FANTASTISCHE SMAAK BEHOEFT GEEN VERTALING.*' and 'WORLD'S GREATEST SANDWICH DELIVERY'. It lists South Bend and Mishawaka locations with phone numbers and the website jimmyjohns.com.

encountering the OTHER advertisement for a discussion on religious arguments for tolerance and hospitality. It lists panelists Shomo Fischer, Asma Afaruddin, and David Burrell, and is scheduled for April 24 at 9am-6pm at the Hesburgh Center Auditorium.

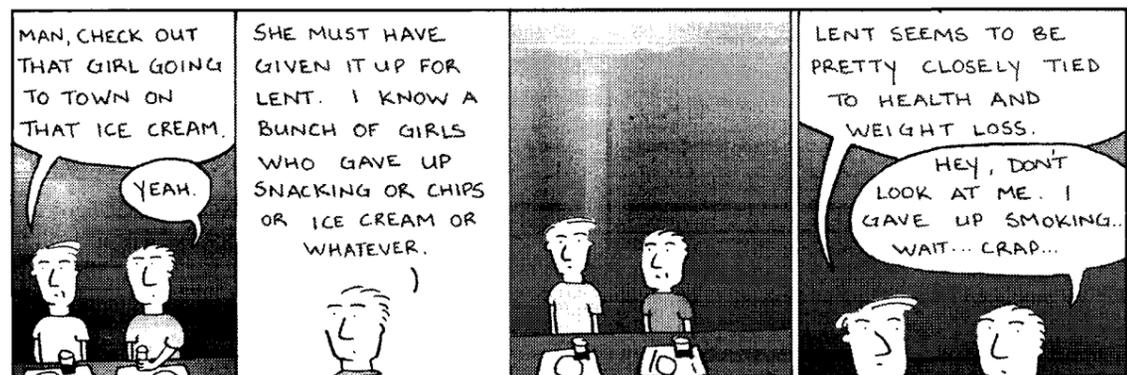
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Saturday's Jumbles: CAMEO SHEEP BETRAY HARDLY
Answer: When the best-selling biography became a movie, it turned into - THE "REEL" STORY



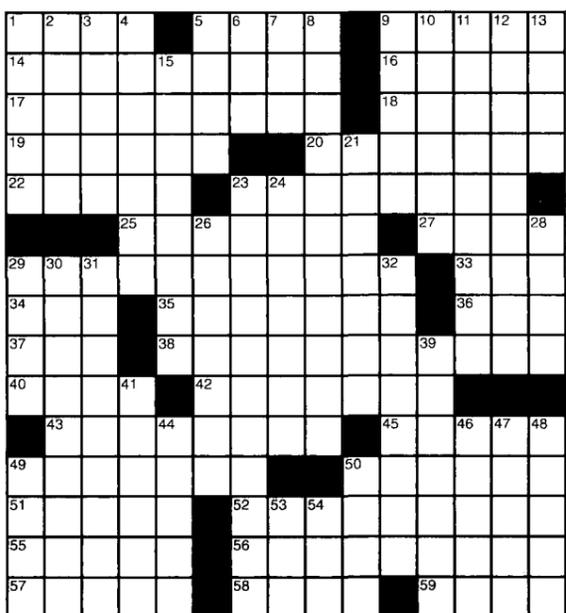
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

CROSSWORD

WILL SHORTZ

- ACROSS
- 1 Talk big
- 5 Five-digit extension
- 9 Hooverville home
- 14 Show disrupter, possibly
- 16 Pick-up line?
- 17 Quality of Bartók's music
- 18 Bar
- 19 Your first-grade teacher, now
- 20 Spheres
- 22 1950's marketing disaster
- 23 Tiger Woods's alma mater
- 25 The Pleiades, e.g.
- 27 Cardholder's problem
- 29 Match, e.g.
- 33 Long-jawed fish
- 34 Lubber
- 35 Gazebo wall
- 36 Together
- 37 Naval inits.
- 38 Spy satellite
- 40 Nautical day's beginning
- 42 French strawberries
- 43 Coal substitutes
- 45 Vaulted areas
- 49 See 53-Down
- 50 Bit of fine print
- 51 Suggest itself
- 52 Break one's word?
- 55 Tomb marker
- 56 Temporarily satisfied
- 57 1960 Everly Brothers hit
- DOWN
- 1 "I don't ___ you!"
- 2 Placed on a scale
- 3 Links in certain chains
- 4 Like composer Niccolò Paganini
- 5 Heaven-born
- 6 French ally
- 7 Take home
- 8 Clear orders
- 9 Stand against a wall
- 10 "Works and Days" poet
- 11 Very close friends
- 12 Bad weather portent
- 13 Slapstick group, briefly
- 15 Bishop who supported Richard II, in Shakespeare
- 21 Food for moles
- 23 Civil War issue
- 24 Certain wing feather
- 26 Stick around to see
- 28 It rarely takes anything
- 29 Woodland spirit
- 30 Automatically
- 31 Means of production
- 32 Like chronic injuries
- 39 Mexicans do business in it
- 41 Sci-fi author's award
- 44 Drawn
- 46 Not at all bumpkinish
- 47 Adlai's 1956 running mate
- 48 Future experts
- 49 Ranch animal, informally
- 50 "Suspect" star, 1987
- 53 With 49-Across, "The Wizard of Oz" lyricist
- 54 Right away



ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

ERNST AGES SALE
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GETALOAD OF THIS
ADULTERATED
HAUTE CUISINE
OPPC TN GRIME
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HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Joey Lawrence, 30; Carmen Electra, 34; Don Mattingly, 45; Clint Howard, 47; Jessica Lange, 57; Ryan O'Neal, 65; Nina Foch, 82

Happy Birthday: Look at all your options before you plunge ahead. You will have to learn to say no, and prepare to do things yourself if you want to achieve the goals you have set for yourself. Don't hesitate to delegate the jobs you can't manage. You only have to control what's most important in order to get ahead. Your numbers are 15, 19, 20, 26, 30, 43

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't take life too seriously today. Self-improvement programs started today will show good results. You can get things done but should go it alone and avoid anyone likely to slow you down. **

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Listen to what's being said and you will know how to handle the situations and people you face today. A change may not be welcomed but, in the end, it will be help you out. Pay close attention to detail. ****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Make a financial move based on knowledge and expertise, not emotions. A business partnership that will bring more to the table should be considered. Don't disappoint an older relative who is counting on you.***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Money matters can be resolved. A professional change may not be something you relish but it will be worth your while. Don't let emotional matters confuse you. Keep your mind clear so you can make the best decision possible. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You can make a difference if you get involved to bring about needed reforms. Your contribution will put you ahead of any competition you face and lead to advancement. Investments made today will be lucrative. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Expand your interests, your friendships and your outlook. You will discover you have far more going for you than you realized. By socializing with people who work in your industry, you will pick up valuable information. Romance is changeable but looking good. ****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Difficulties will interfere with loved ones if you shirk your duties at home. Don't let personal issues interfere with work or financial gain. You have the discipline to finish what you start, so don't let that lazy streak you have take over. **

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Good ideas will unfold if you communicate openly. Physical activity will get your motor running and will lead to a greatly-needed change. Traveling for business will lead to progress. **

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't let money matters get the better of you. Personal relationships must be dealt with even though you don't want to discuss the way you feel. Once you clear the air, you will be able to get on with what counts.***

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You will be feeling a little vulnerable if you have let an emotional matter drag on. A colleague or employer will upset you if you confront a situation you feel is unfair. It's best to keep your thoughts to yourself today. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You will be able to broaden your outlook today and become more accepting of others. Mingle with people who can teach you something you know little about. It will give you a different slant on something you must make a decision about. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Change is good and now is the time to follow through. A creative opportunity is present so take the initiative. Stop dreaming and start doing and you will get things going. ****

Birthday Baby: You are emotionally unpredictable but very practical about everything else. You are strong, aggressive and stubborn when you want something or are fighting for a cause.

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

THE OBSERVER

Published Monday through Friday, The Observer is a vital source of information on people and events in the Notre Dame and Saint Mary's Community.

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BASEBALL

Streak at stake

Game sold out by 5 p.m. Thursday night

By CHRIS KHOREY
Associate Sports Editor

It's going to be a busy weekend at Frank Eck Stadium.

Notre Dame heads into a three-game home series against Rutgers Friday, Saturday and Sunday riding a single-season school-record 19-game winning streak and looking to continue that success against a team that has been its arch-nemesis since both schools joined the Big East in 1996.

"We don't need any incentive when we play Rutgers," Irish coach Paul Mainieri said. "They've been our big rival since we've been in the Big East. We both entered the conference in the same year, and we've been pretty consistently the top two teams in the

league ever since." The Irish (29-8, 11-1 in the Big East) have not lost since March 25 against Georgetown. Mainieri said the team did not acknowledge the streak — the longest ever for Notre Dame in a single season and longest overall for the Irish since 1907 — until a team meeting Monday, and no one in the clubhouse has mentioned it since.

"The winning streak kind of snuck up on us since we've had so many big games along the way," Mainieri said. "We had big series against Pittsburgh and St. John's and a big game against Ball State. I decided to mention it on Monday, and our goal was to get those two victories and break the [single season] record."

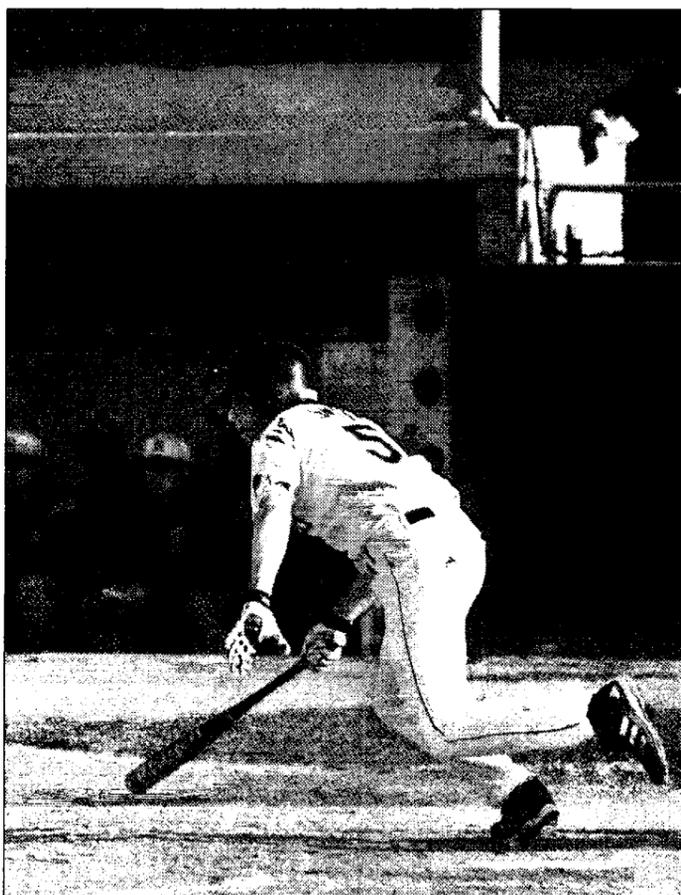
With the record in hand, Mainieri said the Irish are looking forward to Rutgers, not back at their last 19 contests.

"We accomplished what we wanted to do, which was break the record. Anything else is just gravy on top of that," he said. "We need to beat Rutgers for the fun of beating Rutgers."

see KNIGHTS/page 30



Mainieri



Senior Infielder Eddie Smith runs down the line after connecting in a game against Oakland on April 12.

DUSTIN MENNELLA/The Observer

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Rutgers next Irish opponent

By JAY FITZPATRICK
Sports Writer

Notre Dame hopes to rebound from two tough losses to ranked opponents Saturday against Rutgers.

The one-goal losses to No. 1 Duke and No. 3 Georgetown leave the Irish (10-3, 2-1 Big East) still ranked No. 7 — proof of the tough road the Irish have faced this season. The loss against Georgetown moved the Irish to second in the Big East.

Notre Dame wants to turn around this weekend and keep winning in the Big East, where it will face Rutgers (6-6, 1-3) to finish up a five-game road trip that started March 31. The Irish have faced the Scarlet Knights only six times, with Notre Dame holding the overall edge at 4-2. Rutgers won the two teams' last meeting April 25, 2004 in Piscataway, 7-6.

As always, Irish coach Tracy Coyne has tried to keep the focus

see REBOUND/page 28

BOOKSTORE BASKETBALL XXXV

Reckers All Americans advance

By JOE QUINN and FRAN TOLAN
Sports Writers

The Reckers All Americans used a selfless style of basketball to rout The View Tavern on the corner of Niles and Jefferson 21-9 Thursday.

Reckers jumped out to a 3-0 lead after forward Jimmy Small dunked on a breakaway. On that basket, Small cut his hand for the second time. Unfortunately for the members of the View, those cuts didn't slow him down.

After a quick turnaround jumper from the free throw line by The View, Reckers went on a 4-0 run to stretch the lead to 7-1.

Reckers used superior defense, and was able to run the court extremely well.

"We played very aggressive defense, maybe too aggressive at times," Small said. "Because of our

see BOOKSTORE/page 28



Team No. 75 player Vince Niou brings the ball upcourt during a bookstore basketball game Thursday. No. 75 won 22-20.

LAURIE HUNT/The Observer

MEN'S TENNIS

Bayliss aims for next Big East title

By KATE GALES
Associate Sports Editor

1996. 1999. 2002. 2004. 2005.

This weekend, the Irish hope to add another Big East title to the five they have won since joining the conference. The team has played in the finals every year and is undefeated in the finals since 2001 (the 2003 conference final was called due to weather).

"I think the main focus is to get tomorrow's match over," said coach Bobby Bayliss from Florida, where the team is practicing. "To win the match tomorrow and not be extended physically, and be ready to go for Saturday — we'll expect tougher matches on Saturday."

This year's tournament is in Tampa at the University of Southern Florida, and the Irish face Georgetown tomorrow at noon.

"The big thing now is [to]

acclimate to the heat," Bayliss said. "It's about 87 degrees today and very humid. That's something no matter what we do we aren't used to yet. As we stay down here you get a little more acclimated."

The team arrived in Florida Wednesday night.

"They key is, we only have two days to practice and prepare," Bayliss said. "We won't be here long enough to totally get acclimated to the heat, and at the same time, we don't want to overdo it so we're exhausted come Friday or Saturday or Sunday."

The other challenge for the Irish has been adjusting to new courts.

"It's been a balance of both," Bayliss said. "That's the biggest thing, just getting used to the speed of the courts and heat and humidity and trying to fine tune the things we need to do a little better."

see TITLES/page 30

SPORTS AT A GLANCE

BOOKSTORE

Sparkle Motion 21, Bird Flu 3

Despite shooting trouble, captain Colin Meyer and Sparkle Motion advance to the next round.

page 27

ND SOFTBALL

Irish set to host pair of struggling Big East foes in Rutgers and Villanova this weekend at Ivy Field.

page 26

SMC GOLF

After skipping the SMC-Bethel Invitational Wednesday, the Belles varsity squad is ready to play in Grizzly Invitational this weekend.

page 25

MEN'S LACROSSE

The Irish hope to rebound from a pair of tough losses to Denver and Air Force when they hit the road to face Lehigh Sunday at 2 p.m.

page 24

SMC TENNIS

Bethel 5, Saint Mary's 4

The Belles dropped a heartbreaker to Bethel Thursday afternoon.

page 24

ND WOMEN'S TENNIS

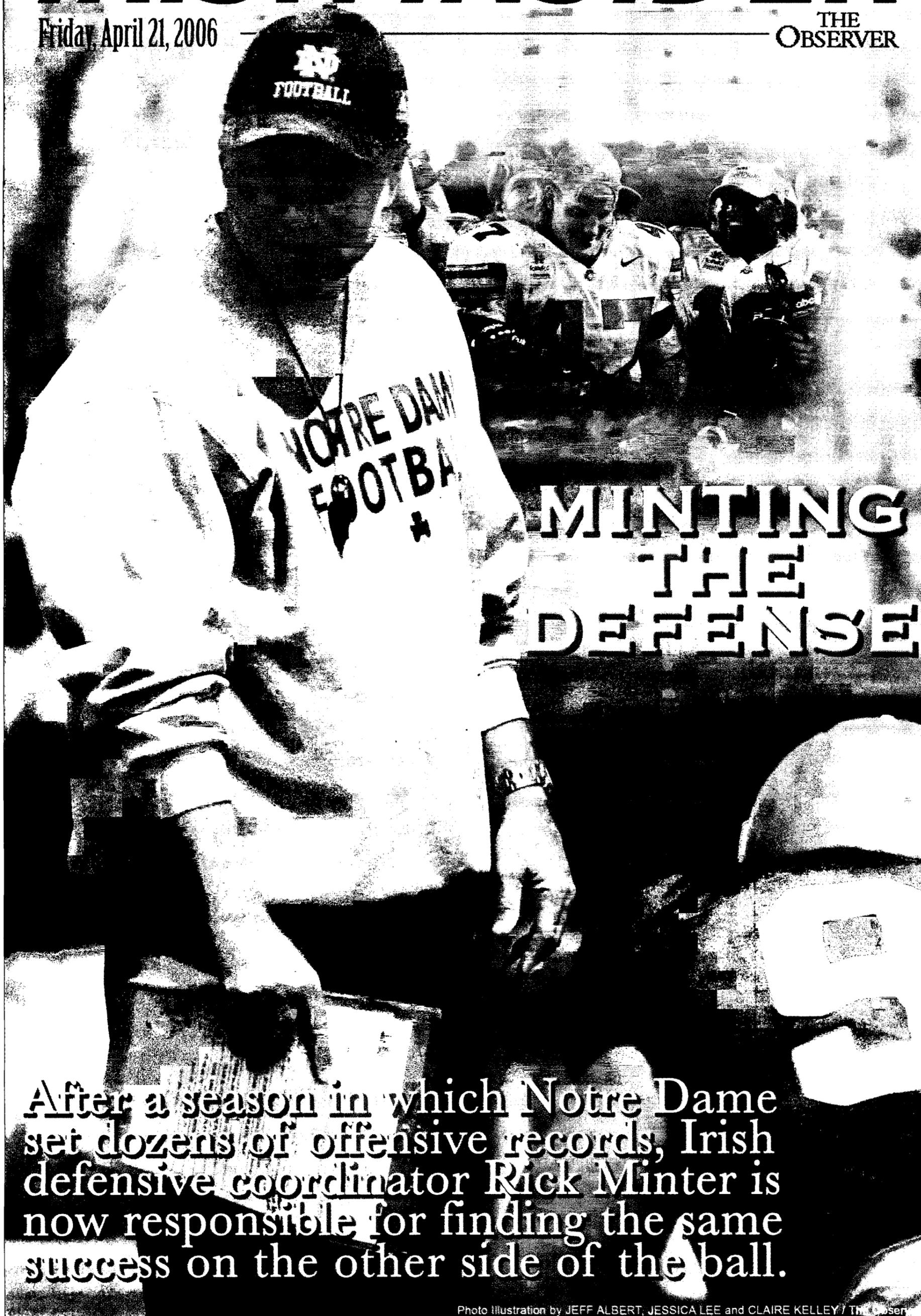
The No. 1-seed Irish play No. 8-seed Rutgers in the quarterfinals of the Big East Tournament at 9 a.m. today.

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IRISH INSIDER

Friday, April 21, 2006

THE
OBSERVER



MINTING THE DEFENSE

After a season in which Notre Dame set dozens of offensive records, Irish defensive coordinator Rick Minter is now responsible for finding the same success on the other side of the ball.

It's all for the love of Pete

Members of the 1966 national championship squad organize event to raise money for former teammate

By KEN FOWLER
Sports Editor

David Martin knew his time was more valuable than his checkbook to Pete Duranko, his former teammate from the 1966 national championship football squad who suffers from ALS, a debilitating condition more commonly known as Lou Gehrig's Disease.

So when he and his friend Pete Schulte were talking three months ago about the best way to help support Duranko, Martin said he'd dedicate his free time to organizing an event to raise money for the former All-America defensive lineman.

"In this case, I can't simply write a check to Pete to cover a lot of the costs," Martin said. "Honestly, I've spent more time than I ... really expected. But in this case, I'm using my time and resources as a labor of love."

Thanks in large part to Martin's initiative, Duranko's former teammates and friends will be hosting a dinner for the former star in the Joyce Center entitled "For the Love of Pete" Saturday after the Blue-Gold game. Duranko will also be a captain for the game.

Irish coach Charlie Weis said Duranko's personality is what fosters such sentiment among his former teammates.

"When you have guys who are involved in national championship teams that are as well-respected as

Pete ... I think the fact that of the people around him want to give him his just due is justifiably so," Weis said Wednesday.

Duranko's final year at Notre Dame was supposed to be 1965, but he earned a then-rare medical redshirt season to compete on the 1966 quad that beat USC en route to the Associated Press national championship.

Martin said his experience on the team with Duranko, including watching the 6-foot-4 255-pound lineman perform a back flip on the sidelines just to lighten the atmosphere,

was all the reason he needed to help out before ALS takes full control of Duranko's body.

"He's a terrific guy and he's terribly unselfish," Martin said. "What's happened to him ... it's just a real robber of ability."

Martin said his friend Dick Swatland and fellow Notre Dame graduate Russell "Cappy" Gagnon were able to contact alumni and former teammates to start the process of organizing the event. Martin contacted the athletic department, which

offered the use of the Joyce Center for the dinner.

"A couple of the guys approached me, and we didn't blink an eye," Weis said. "I think that the support of all the alums, especially his old teammates, [has] been great. The outpouring has been great."

Tickets to the event are \$125 and proceeds will go to the Notre Dame Monogram Club's Catastrophic Relief Fund, set up to defray the costs of people in extraordinary circumstances. Martin said he hopes the Monogram Club directs a large portion of the donations to Duranko himself.

All donations above the \$15 value for the dinner are tax deductible, Martin said.

He said that specification has helped bring unanticipated success to the fundraiser.

"Initially I was looking to raise hopefully around \$25,000 for Pete," he said. "We're now into a category where we're hopeful ... to come close to \$100,000."

Martin said that while raising money is the goal of the weekend, the "spirit" is something different.

"It's really for the love of Pete, as far as we're concerned," he said.

Contact Ken Fowler at kfowler1@nd.edu

"A couple of the guys approached me, and we didn't blink an eye. I think that the support of all the alums, especially his old teammates, [has] been great. The outpouring has been great."

Charlie Weis
Irish head coach

"He's a terrific guy and he's terribly unselfish. What's happened to him ... it's just a real robber of ability."

David Martin
Notre Dame alumnus

"But while the whole nation expects the soon-to-be-senior Irish quarterback to throw for a half mile per game this season — and rightfully so — the real issue heading into Saturday's Blue-Gold game is 'Who else is ready to play?'"

Ferrine and Maurice Crum, Jr.? Notre Dame's chances rest on players like them — guys with more toughness than talent who are aching for an opportunity to play.

Example A: Corey Mays. The Irish linebacker entered as a stud recruit out of Chicago in the fall of 2001, only to spend the next four years playing almost exclusively on special teams. Last season — his first and only as a starter — he finished second on the team in tackles and, along with Brandon Hoyte, comprised the fiery core of the Irish defense.

In a sense, he was a bonus in Weis' inaugural campaign.

Hoyte's contributions were expected when 2005 kicked off.

Mays' abilities weren't fully appreciated until the season ended.

The expectations haven't been this high for the Irish since David Gordon and that Jesuit college from Massachusetts kicked Notre Dame out of the No. 1 spot back in 1993.

And if the hopes of Notre Dame followers are to be fulfilled, another Corey Mays must blossom.

It could be James Aldridge. It could be Casey Cullen. It could be Terrail Lambert.

Who knows? But there's no reason to worry right now.

Of course it's nice to watch Trevor Laws beat up on the second string offensive line like he did during an MVP performance in last season's Blue-Gold game.

It'll be entertaining to watch Zbikowski flex and fly around the field.

And Quinn — red jersey or green jersey — is worth the price of admission and more.

But it's a practice — the 15th and final of spring football.

A fancy practice in front of a half full Notre Dame Stadium, yes.

But a practice nonetheless.

Spring games always seem to cause more teeth gnashing than watching the Clippers on NBA Draft day.

No one really wins.

For all the excitement to be had after a crisp Quinn-to-Samardzija touchdown pass Saturday, there will be an equal amount of grumbling over whether the Irish secondary is any better than it looked against Troy Smith, Ted Ginn and Ohio State.

For all the oohing and aahing over a pancake block by freshman behemoth Chris Stewart, there will be just as much complaining about the lack of a pass rush.

And for all the thrill of gold helmets gathering in the tunnel before the squad takes the field, there will be the frustration of waiting four and a half months to see just how good Notre Dame will be.

Contact Mike Gilloon at mgilloon@nd.edu
The opinions expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

Blue-Gold Game Schedule of Events

9:00 a.m.
VIP Brunch with players
Enter Joyce Center Gate 2

9:45 — 10:30 a.m.
Autograph session
Open to public via
Joyce Center Gate 3

10:00 a.m. — 1:30 p.m.
Fan Fest, Joyce Center
South Parking Lot

11:30 a.m. — 12:15 p.m.
Alumni Flag Football
Game, ND Stadium

1:30 p.m.
Blue-Gold Game Kickoff

Ticket Costs for
Blue-Gold Game:
Adults: \$12
Children (under 18): \$8
Students: Free

Irish look for help from new faces

The statisticians have their pencils ready. The Brady Quinn season preview show kicks off Saturday.

But while the whole nation expects the soon-to-be-senior Irish quarterback to throw for a half mile per game this season — and rightfully so — the real issue heading into Saturday's Blue-Gold game is "Who else is ready to play?"

Can running back James Aldridge add some smash to Darius Walker's spin?

Can strong safety Tom Zbikowski cover the deep ball as well as he stops the run?

Can Jeff Samardzija score more touchdowns than he did last season? The college football analysts can predict all they want.

But they might as well just draw straws with any of the top 20 teams in the nation — any one could find the spark that takes them deep into the BCS calendar.

Not many expected a young burner from Wilkes-Barre, Pa. named Raghieb Ismail would have made the impact he did for the national champion Irish in 1988.

Not many expected Kevin McDougal to steadily steer the 1993 Notre Dame squad to within a field goal of a national title.

Not many, that is, when the year began.

The Irish roster might as well be a dartboard right now.

Sure, Quinn, Samardzija, Walker, Zbikowski and the rest of last year's performers will take care of business.

But how about Travis Thomas, Leo



Mike Gilloon

Sports Writer

2005 Offense

Rushing Offense

| | | |
|-----|------|-----------------------|
| #1 | Navy | 318.67 yards per game |
| #55 | ND | 147.08 yards per game |

Median - Boston College - 145.00

Passing Offense

| | | |
|----|------------|----------------------|
| #1 | Texas Tech | 388.8 yards per game |
| #4 | ND | 330.3 yards per game |

Median - Colorado - 222.8

Total Offense

| | | |
|-----|-----|-----------------------|
| #1 | USC | 579.77 yards per game |
| #10 | ND | 477.33 yards per game |

Median - Florida State University - 376.62

Time of Possession

| | | |
|----|--------|------------------------|
| #1 | Nevada | 33:12 minutes per game |
| #3 | ND | 32:51 minutes per game |

Median - Stanford - 30:01

Quinn deals with life under pressure — from within

By KEN FOWLER
Sports Editor

It's all about winning games. Everything else will come later.

That's how Notre Dame quarterback Brady Quinn handles the hype surrounding his upcoming senior season. The early favorite for the Heisman Trophy, Quinn handles the pressure the way Irish coach Charlie Weis and quarterbacks coach Peter Vaas want him to — ignore it.

"[The Heisman hype] is obviously flattering, but at the same point in time, it's something that's handled after the season, so it doesn't really matter," Quinn said. "If everything goes well for us, good things will come."

Quinn said he knows the stat-tracking media and Heisman hype will be omnipresent during the 2006 season, but he's confident he can put the outside pressures aside and focus on game strategies and the offensive

playbook.

At the annual spring media day March 21, Vaas said Quinn's experience as a starter since freshman year has helped him learn to handle pressure.

"Obviously, the quarterback position at the University of Notre Dame is an extremely high-profile position," he said. "To be able to handle that on a daily basis is what's important. Handling it on a daily basis means you go out and you do your job with the expectation that you're going to get better."

For Weis, that's an imperative.

The coach who told his team "9-3 is not good enough" expects Quinn to hone his mental skills to accompany the 6-foot-4, 232-pound star's physical abilities.

"He has very few limitations physically," Weis said at the media day. "I think mental is what holds you back more than anything. [But] I think now we're at the expanding mode."

Less than a month later, Weis

was a little more forthcoming about Quinn's mental prowess.

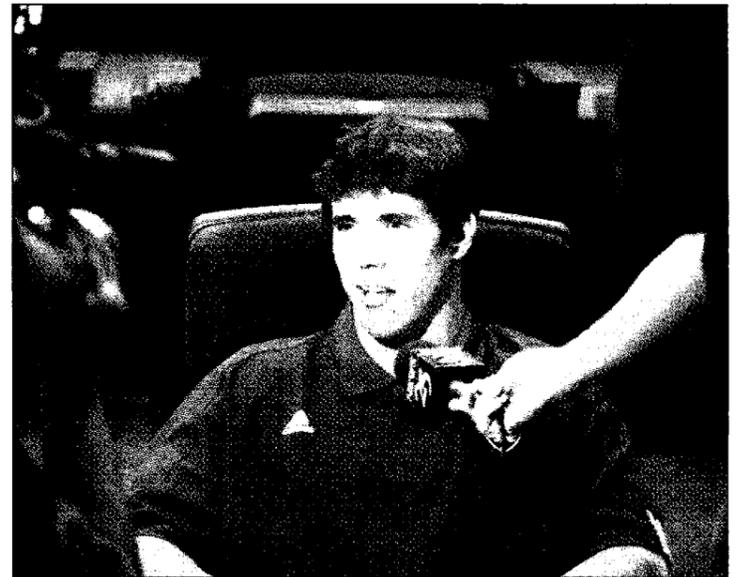
"If I slip up, he knows it," Weis said in a press conference April 12. "I can't hide if I make a mistake with him. If I call a play and I call it a little bit wrong, he'll say, 'You mean this.'"

Weis said part of Quinn's development mentally is attributable to the way the team critically assesses itself, even when it succeeds.

"Sometimes when you look at a play in the game and it's a completed pass, you'd say that's a nice job," Weis said. "I'll say to him, 'What's your first read? Was he open? Did you see him? Did you even look at him?'"

Quinn has taken that challenge from his coach to become a better quarterback — and he has also taken the challenge to become a better leader.

"Every team wants to have that in their quarterback — someone who understands the offense and how things are



ALLISON AMBROSE/The Observer
Quarterback Brady Quinn is front and center with the cameras at a press conference on April 19.

supposed to go," Quinn said. "If coach is saying that, then that's a good thing."

But Quinn's leadership style is different than his coach's, and he gives credit to some of his school courses for the way he handles himself.

"I'm a business major, so you go through a basic requirement of courses and ... you learn management and team building — ways to deal with people, not necessarily in a negative way," Quinn said. "You're not always trying to get down on people when they're doing something wrong. Maybe tell them what they're doing right."

Notre Dame running back Darius Walker said Quinn is an ideal leader by example in the locker room and in the huddle.

"Brady carries a certain aura about himself," Walker said. "He's [definitely] grown as a leader."

While Quinn will be examining his teammates this year as the offensive captain, he will be the one under the microscope most intensely in the national press. After throwing for 3,919 yards and 32 touch-

downs in the 2005 campaign, he knows people will be expecting him to top his record-setting season. But he also knows that worrying about high expectations and praises will only hinder his achievement of goals.

"If you're worrying too much about ... what people are writing or saying about you, you're going to waste too much time rather than preparing for the next week's game," Quinn said.

Vaas said that approach works for Quinn because of the source of his drive to improve. "One of the things that's nice about Brady is that he is an extremely self-motivated individual," Vaas said. "I wouldn't think he'd use [the attention] as a motivational tool, not at this point in time ... because that's him — he just works at [getting better] every single day."

For Quinn, every single day is a day not just for improvement — the days are for ignoring the hype.

Contact Ken Fowler at
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DUSTIN MENNELA/The Observer

Notre Dame quarterback Brady Quinn fields questions from more than half a dozen media members during a mid-week interview session April 12. After finishing fourth on the ballot in 2005, Quinn will enter his senior season as one of the early favorites for the Heisman Trophy.

Shark and McKnight are old faces with a new dual role

By KATE GALES
Associate Sports Editor

It's a tale of two stars sharing a marquee for the first time.

Jeff Samardzija, Notre Dame's All-American wide receiver, returns for his senior season as quarterback Brady Quinn's favorite target.

But Samardzija only emerged as an elite wide receiver after Rhema McKnight, who led the Irish in receiving for two straight years, went down with a leg injury in Notre Dame's 17-10 win over Michigan Sept. 10.

This spring, McKnight and Samardzija will take the field together again, leading one of the nation's top offenses. With Samardzija sharing time this spring with the baseball team, McKnight has worked to get back into a groove with Quinn and the offense.

"I think the best part with Jeff not being around here all the time, it's allowed Brady and Rhema to develop a little bit quicker than they would have if Jeff's getting as many balls as Rhema is," Irish coach

Charlie Weis said.

McKnight worked to overcome the physical and mental aspects of his injury last fall, for which he sustained a medical redshirt and retained eligibility to play another year.

"It's tough," he said. "You start taking baby steps just to make sure it feels right. ... You have to find a way to let go and just be free out there."

It is the psychological ramifications of the injury that have troubled McKnight the longest as he returns to full strength.

"As far as progressing mentally as well as how I'm feeling physically, I think we've been heading in the right direction and hopefully we can continue to build," he said.

McKnight and Samardzija have very different styles of play — just take a look at their size differential.

Samardzija stands 6-foot-5, several inches taller than the 6-foot-2 McKnight.

"Jeff obviously, he's a big guy," Quinn said. "He's got great hands, he kind of brings almost what [former Irish receiver] Maurice [Stovall] had last year, but he kind of has his own flavor to it. Rhema's more

of a shifty [receiver], he gets the ball in his hands and creates things. He runs great routes, finds ways of getting open."

McKnight had a chance to watch Samardzija as he spent the season on the sidelines recovering from his injury.

"I think Jeff has done a fantastic job," he said. "When I got hurt last year, he came in and he stepped his game up and he's one of the best receivers in the country. You can't ask for more from a player who basically went from being third guy to being this guy known all across the country. Hopefully he and I can come out and make things happen for next year."

After watching McKnight in practice, Weis said unequivocally that he would be a starter again this fall.

"He knows how to play the game [and] he's got exceptional quickness," Weis said. "He just doesn't have okay quickness, he has exceptional quickness and I even forget about it, because it's been so long since he's been out there now ... I think that he has all the skills to be a top line receiver."

McKnight is not apprehensive about returning to the gridiron with Samardzija, who earned a following among fans last season with his long hair and laid-back persona.

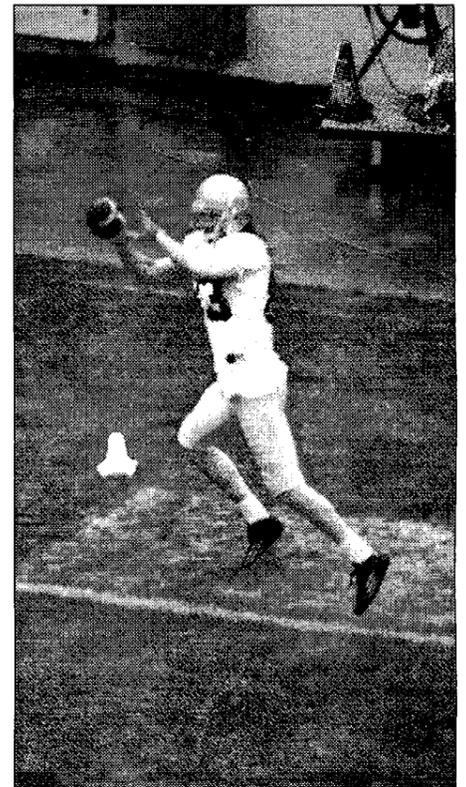
"I think one thing you learn, being in a program like Notre Dame, it's not so much about being in the spotlight," he said. "You have to know your role and know the things you can and cannot do."

He does not anticipate a clashing of egos for the two stars.

"You can't be concerned about losing the spotlight and who's number one and who's number two," he said. "You have to find a way to be a major contributor to this team and I think throughout our time here I have done that as well as Jeff."

Samardzija will take the hill for the Irish baseball team tonight against Rutgers at 6 p.m. at Frank Eck Stadium before taking the field with McKnight and the Irish for Saturday's 1:30 p.m. Blue-Gold game at Notre Dame Stadium.

Contact Kate Gales at
kgales@nd.edu



GEOFF MATTESON/The Observer

Irish wide receiver Jeff Samardzija reaches out to catch a pass along the sideline in an April 1 practice at Notre Dame Stadium.

A history of success,

Former and current coaches call Notre Dame's defense

By **BOBBY GRIFFIN**
Sports Writer

It was an unforgettable moment in a season where Notre Dame reestablished itself as a national power. Leading 27-20 with 1:46 remaining, Ohio State quarterback Troy Smith handed off to running back Antonio Pittman — hoping to kill time and keep the ball away from an Irish offense that found its groove late in the game. Instead, Pittman found a seam, took the ball outside, sprinted down the sideline and scored the game-sealing touchdown.

Ohio State head coach Jim Tressel celebrated on the sideline with his team's second Fiesta Bowl win in two years a virtual lock. His quarterback, Smith, had put his name on the list of players to watch for the upcoming season and his defense had manhandled the Irish offensive line.

But on the other sideline a far less cheerful figure loomed. Notre Dame defensive coordinator Rick Minter had seen his team give up its fourth big play of the game, and subsequently, its fourth touchdown. It was a reality, and a problem, that haunted Minter's unit all year.

On many occasions during the regular season, the Irish were able to compensate for a defensive lapse by forcing a turnover or outscoring opponents with their explosive offense.

But when the problem reared its ugly head one final time on Notre Dame's biggest stage of the year, the Irish never had a chance to cover it up. The numbers 85, 68, 56 and 60 were not those visible across either team's offensive line. Instead, they were the yardage on each Ohio State touchdown.

The game reaffirmed a pressing issue Minter had addressed all season — eliminate the big plays. His defense excelled in stopping opposing offenses and limiting them to small gains. But it would also allow 20-plus yard plays that kept games painfully close.

In Notre Dame's two regular season losses to Michigan State and Southern California, the defense gave up 11 touchdowns — six went for more than 20 yards.

Minter was accountable as the team's defensive coordinator. Irish head coach Charlie Weis spent much of his first season at Notre Dame working with the offense, creating a unit that set dozens of

school records. Much of the defensive work rested on the new coordinator's shoulders. And when the defense struggled as it did against Ohio State, Minter grew frustrated.

After all, allowing opposing teams to exploit his defense was not on Minter's résumé. The coach was brought up under former Notre Dame coach Lou Holtz and Tampa Bay Buccaneers defensive coordinator Monte Kiffin — and alongside Southern California coach Pete Carroll and Syracuse coach Greg Robinson.

Minter was responsible for taking Cincinnati, a program known more for its round ball than football, and leading the team to a Humanitarian Bowl victory in 1997. The Bearcats also played in the Motor City Bowl in both 2000 and 2001 and the New Orleans Bowl in 2002.

What's more, Minter sent 18 players from his 1992-93 Notre Dame defenses to the NFL after finding success as a defensive coordinator at Ball State in the 80s (his team played in the Raisin Bowl in 1989).

But with last season's defensive struggles, which were showcased in the Fiesta Bowl loss to Ohio State, Minter's biggest task is still in front of him. Weis has taken care of the offense and all that remains for the Irish is a top caliber defense. And those who know Minter are confident he is the right man to lead this process.

Minter philosophy 101

Talking defense with Minter is much more complicated than Xs and Os. Minter has football insight that goes beyond play calling and he understands the game on a level that inspires his fellow coaching staff and players.

It's a relatively simple philosophy from a football standpoint. Minter said in order for a team to be successful, a defense has to take away what its opponent does best. It has to force its opponent to move away from where it's comfortable in order to create the most problems.

But implementing this idea goes beyond

physical execution. Minter called it a "cerebral" process. A defensive unit has to be equally present mentally as it is physically to maximize its potential.

"The bottom line is it doesn't matter what I know, it's what I get them to execute," Minter said.

Minter stresses the importance of working with his group on a daily basis. He likes the constant interaction with his team, especially his linebackers — given his secondary role as linebacker coach.

That one-on-one aspect has paid off so far in cases like sophomore linebacker Maurice Crum's development. Crum earned a starting role last year as a redshirt freshman, and is now the leader of the unit that lost seniors Brandon Hoyte and Corey Mays to graduation.

"He's a great coach and he always prepares us well, and tries to put us in the right position to make plays," Crum said. "He's always teaching. ... He always has some bit of information."

His teaching ability isn't much of a surprise. After coaching for nearly 30 years at the college level, that is to be expected. Minter is used to spending time working with kids, helping them excel and pushing them to higher levels.

What can't be taken for granted, however, is Minter's exceptional football intelligence. Irish defensive backs coach Bill Lewis spent nine seasons with the Miami Dolphins. And with all the experience he has working with talented personnel — he still views Minter's as one of the best minds in the business.

"Rick is as good as anybody I've ever been around," Lewis said. "He's a brilliant individual and he's got a great understanding of the game of football, and he's got a great understanding of defensive football."

"He is so devoted and so dedicated to the game and to the defensive side of the ball ... it has been a pleasure for me to work with him."

But instilling a new defense in one season is a difficult job regardless of a coach's experience or intelligence. Minter was responsible for picking up the pieces of a 6-6 football team that gave up 37 or more points three times, and teaching it a new system.

"We all want the same thing ... in our case, defensive excellence at all times," Minter said.

Minter's development as a defensive coordinator did not take place over night. And in order to understand the improvement Notre Dame needs to make next season, and why Minter is capable of the task, it is also critical to understand the coach's roots.

Bright eyes to Golden Dome

Tampa Bay Buccaneers defensive coordinator Monte Kiffin met a 24-year old Minter when he was a graduate assistant at Arkansas. Kiffin quickly learned he was in the presence of a talented, hard-working football coach with loads of potential.

The 1978 Arkansas team, ranked No. 11 at season's end, went 9-2-1 and played in the Fiesta Bowl. Kiffin was the Razorbacks defensive coordinator, and when he took over at North Carolina State in 1980 he hired Minter as an assistant coach.

"He was so sharp," Kiffin said. "I could tell when he was a GA how sharp he was. He would sit in the back of a room and I would ask questions and boom, he was on it right away. It didn't take him very long to pick up a scheme."

The group Kiffin put together at North Carolina State was a role call of now well-

"Rick is as good as anybody I've ever been around. He's a brilliant individual and he's got a great understanding of the game of football, and he's got a great understanding of defensive football."

Bill Lewis
Irish defensive backs coach



Notre Dame defensive coordinator Rick Minter runs a 4-3 defensive scheme Wednesday. Minter runs a 4-3 defensive sche

known, astute defensive personalities. Minter was assigned to coach linebackers under Carroll (defensive coordinator). Robinson was also on this staff.

Things came full circle in the 2005 Notre Dame season as Minter coached against both Carroll and Robinson — losing to USC 34-31 and defeating Syracuse 34-10.

In hindsight, Minter had no idea as to what extent Kiffin would progress in football. He knew Kiffin was a good coach at the time but he could not have guessed his mentor would become a future Super Bowl defensive coordinator.

"Little did I know 25 years ago I was around what is now turned out to be one of the best defensive guys going in our business, which is Monte Kiffin," Minter said. "He just taught me a fundamental technique — a sound [way] of looking at how you defend."

Over the next decade, Minter combined his innate football sense with lessons he learned as Kiffin's assistant and began pursuing bigger jobs with more responsibility. In 1984, he took a spot at New Mexico coaching linebackers. From there, he accepted the defensive coordinator position at Ball State (Muncie, Ind.) from 1985-91.

"[North Carolina State was] probably where I gained my initial cutting edge of what I like to do, but nothing was better than becoming a coordinator on my own at 30 years old down at Ball State University," Minter said. "I had a chance for seven years to develop basically my own philosophy as a culmination of what I did over the past the six or eight years prior to that."

Minter did well enough at Ball State that he caught another prominent coach's eye further north in Indiana. Former Notre Dame coach Lou Holtz hired Minter as a defensive coordinator and inside linebacker coach in 1992.

"He was defensive coordinator at Ball State at this time, and when you go back and look at his track record, and ... if you look at the improvement his defenses make every single year, that's what sold me," Holtz said. "I thought he'd be a great representative for Notre Dame. ... There wasn't anything negative [about him]."

The Irish went 10-1-1 in 1992, beating Texas A&M in the Cotton Bowl and finishing No. 4 in the country. The following



JESSICA LEE/The Observer

Irish defensive coordinator Rick Minter reviews his notes during practice Wednesday at Cartier Field.

A mission to improve

Defensive coordinator a respected mind in the ranks



JESSICA LEE/The Observer

Minter watches players during practice.

ason Notre Dame finished 11-1 and again defeated Texas A&M in the same bowl. This time, though, Notre Dame finished runner up to Florida State for the national championship.

Minter is careful not to take too much credit for his success at Notre Dame in the early 90s. He complimented Notre Dame's ability to recruit during that time period and placed more emphasis on the skill playmakers than his coaching.

"We were getting very good players here during Lou's tenure," Minter said. "We had good players to work with."

Impact of Lou

But regardless of whether or not Minter deserves any credit for Notre Dame's success while he was a defensive coordinator from 1992-93, he learned valuable lessons from Holtz that catalyzed his development as a coach.

Holtz is widely regarded as one of the best program builders in college football history. Not only did he become the face of Notre Dame football

in the late 1980s and early 90s, he rebuilt several programs and turned them into bowl-winning teams.

He led William & Mary from 1969-71, North Carolina State from 1972-75, Kansas from 1977-81, Minnesota from 1984-85, Notre Dame from 1986-96 and South Carolina from 1999-2004. Each of these teams played in at least one bowl game.

"He has a standard of excellence he wants to set the bar at," Minter said. "That's what drives the man. He has a vision of envisioning his dream ... and he won't compromise what he wants that result to be."

Minter's eyes, this inability to compromise was one of Holtz's most definable qualities. And it was also what made him a great motivator throughout his coaching career. Minter absorbed many of Holtz's coaching techniques and added them to his already diverse background.

When he was in the limelight and success at Notre Dame didn't hurt either. Following the

1993 season where he was the defensive coordinator of the No. 2 team in the nation, Minter left Notre Dame and accepted the head coaching position at Cincinnati.

With the job came another change. Minter was now in charge of more than defense for this first time in his career. He said he adopted more of a "CEO" role during his time at Cincinnati, delegating defensive responsibilities to other coaches and becoming more hands on with the offense.

And — for the first time in Minter's career — he was learning defensive strategies from people working for him rather than people employing him.

"Really what it gave me a chance to do is, really up close and in person, learn that there really were a lot of ways to skin a cat," Minter said. "So I learned from those guys who really worked under me watching them coach defense their way."

The learning paid off. After coaching under Holtz — the man who made building teams his reputation — Minter was constructing his own program. Cincinnati became a recognizable name in college football in the late 1990s when the Bearcats went to three consecutive bowl games.

Minter became the winningest coach in school history during his 10 years at Cincinnati. In 2002, the Bearcats were co-champions of Conference USA and he led the team to four bowl games in six seasons. He produced an All-American in kicker Jonathon Ruffin and 26 first-team all-league players.

But like most things involving Minter, he is unwilling to accept full credit for his achievements, deferring his success to the quality of individuals he surrounded himself with over his career.

"I think today you're just a culmination of all the people you've come in contact with along the way," Minter said.

The year of the Irish?

With all Minter's achievements throughout his career, he now has the opportunity to make his most significant coaching impact. The Irish are a legitimate national championship contender. And if Notre Dame wins its first title since 1988, Minter will receive much of the credit.

The Irish have the offense with quarterback Brady Quinn, running back Darius Walker, receivers Jeff Samardzija and Rhema McKnight and a virtually untouched returning offensive line.

The athletes on defense are there too. Safety Tom Zbikowski returns as a third team All-American and defensive end Victor Abiamiri has been studying Michael

Strahan videos during the off-season.

What remains is how Minter will take a defense that struggled giving up big plays last season and turn it into a veteran unit that can be held in the same breath as its counterpart on offense. Weis thinks it's a matter of making sure everyone is on the same page mentally.

"The one thing that [Minter] brings to the table is that he has an

answer for most things that you could present," Weis said. "Now, the problem is making sure the players can be thinking on the same level."

Minter understands the pressure he will face come September. It's part of the game. In order to win a title everything has to come together perfectly. And for a man who preaches execution, he knows strong defensive production is the end result of hard work and dedication.

His training and experience are unquestionable. A coach does not garner as much praise as Minter from his players, assistants and former coaches without having

Defense

Rushing Defense

| | |
|----------------|------------------------------|
| #1 Ohio State | 73.4 yards allowed per game |
| #34 Notre Dame | 132.3 yards allowed per game |

Median — (U. Alabama- Birmingham) — 148.1

Passing Defense

| | |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| #1 Miami (Florida) | 152.17 yards allowed per game |
| #103 Notre Dame | 264.58 yards allowed per game |

Median — (Kansas) — 220.00

Total Defense

| | |
|------------------|-------------------------------|
| #1 Virginia Tech | 247.62 yards allowed per game |
| #75 Notre Dame | 396.92 yards allowed per game |

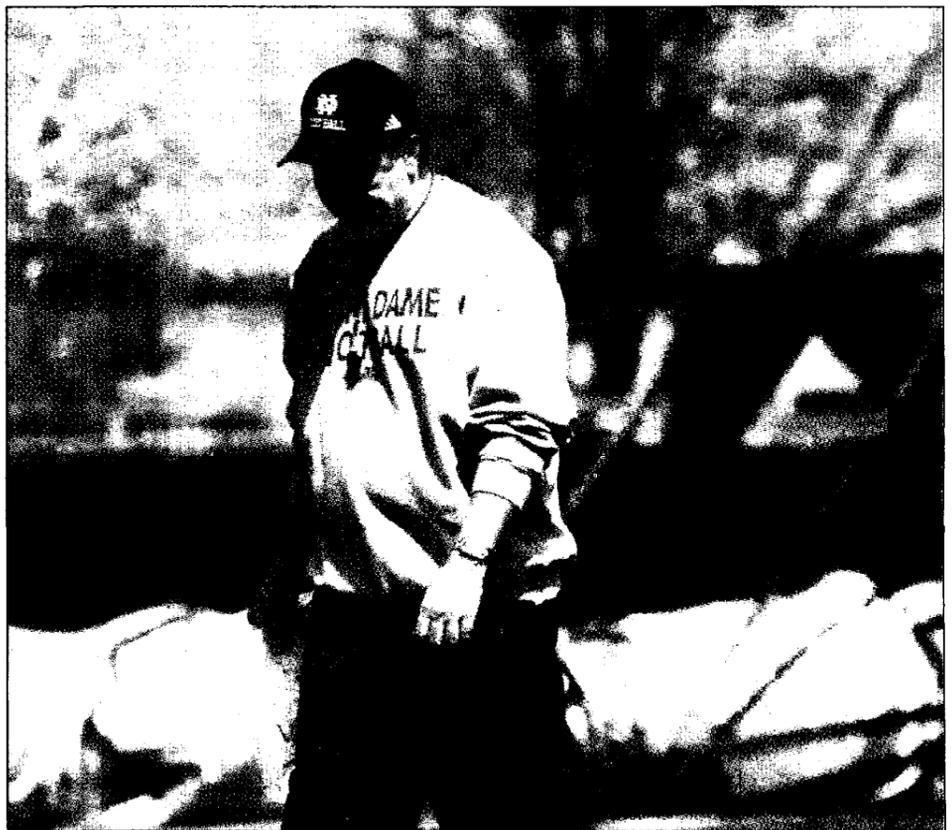
Median — (Utah) — 373.83

Turnover Margin

| | |
|--------------------|------|
| #1 Texas Christian | 1.75 |
| #34 Notre Dame | 0.83 |

Median — (Utah) — -0.08

Observer Graphic by JARRED WAFER



JESSICA LEE/The Observer

Irish defensive coordinator Rick Minter walks toward the sideline after watching the defense perform a drill during practice at Cartier Field Wednesday.

the built-in tools to put the pieces together. And maybe his biggest endorsement of all comes from the man who originally brought him to South Bend.

"As surprised as people were with the offense [last season] ... I think the same will be true with Notre Dame's defense [in 2006]," Holtz said. "I think Notre Dame is going to be an excellent football team."

Minter is a believer that a team is only as good as its last game. He is eagerly anticipating taking the field against Georgia Tech on Sept. 2 — a game that will provide Notre Dame with its first chance to bounce back from its Fiesta

Bowl loss.

It will also allow Minter to rinse his mouth of the bad taste left from that game and erase the memory of Ted Ginn accelerating on an end-around and Antonio Holmes stretching out for a long reception.

Because until that can happen, Minter will still be seeing red in the midst of his team's blue and white practice jerseys and the golden shine of Notre Dame's helmets, his own defensive brilliance and the team's unmistakable potential.

Contact Bobby Griffin at bgriffi3@nd.edu

Vacant spot looms large for returning kick specialists

By ERIC RETTER
Associate Sports Editor

Coming into spring practice, Notre Dame faced the unenviable task of replacing graduating senior D.J. Fitzpatrick — who had been the team's primary place-kicker and punter in each of the past two seasons — with players who lacked significant game experience.

"In terms of our kicking game this spring, I think it's pivotal that we get two or three specialists to step up and really take the bull by the horns and take one of those jobs," Irish special teams coach Bill Polian said at the team's spring media day March 21. "Having to replace D.J., you know, yeah, that's not an ideal situation to have one guy doing both and now he's gone, but we feel confident that there are guys in this program that will step up

and win one of those jobs."

As spring practice draws to an end a month later, Notre Dame is at least a step closer to filling those positions for the 2006 season.

Notre Dame coach Charlie Weis said junior Geoff Price had a strong spring at punter and the coaching staff has taken notice.

"Out of all the things on the special teams ... the thing I've been pleased the most about has been Price's punting," Weis said.

Weis calculated Price's average distance at 43 yards per punt, and was specifically pleased with both the distance and hangtime of his punts.

"The biggest problem [is that] there's been a couple times he's outkicked the coverage," Weis said.

Weis, however, isn't likely to officially name a starter at punter or kicker until after the team returns to begin the season in the

fall with the incoming freshman class — including kicker Ryan Burkhart.

"I don't know if we've got anything set in stone in terms of the depth chart, because we still have an entire August camp," Polian said.

What's more, the weather has kept the team indoors for nine of its first 13 practices.

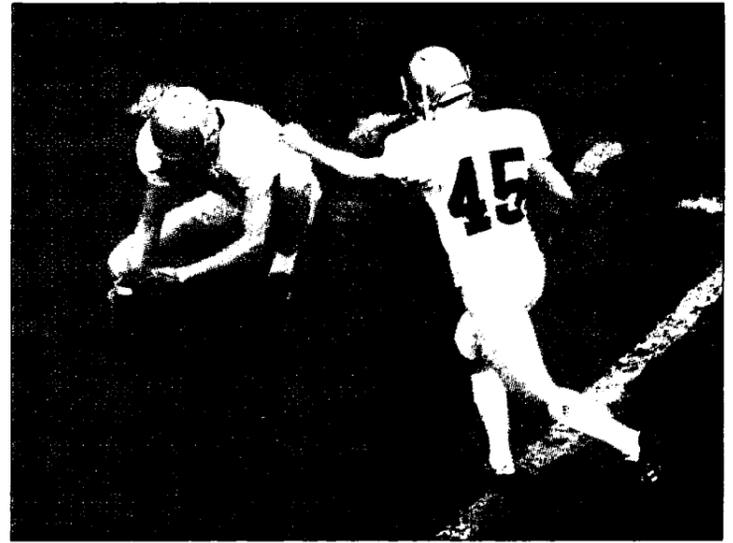
"Being outside [only] four times and not being able to really cut loose and hit the ball as hard as we want to hit it has been just a little bit of an annoyance, but I think our kids have done a pretty good job of overcoming that," Polian said.

Although the Irish have been inside more than anticipated this spring, the kickers and punters have been able to get substantial work in.

"We've had to try and get creative, and that's fine, that's part of it," Polian said. "What we end up spending a lot of time on is a lot of technique a lot of, 'Okay, were going to work on this one skill, this one phase of a skill and let's focus on that. For instance, we've spent a lot of time with [Price] on the footwork in his punting ... whether we're inside or outside, he can work on the consistency of his footwork or his drop."

At kicker, junior Carl Gioia has begun to distance himself from the pack, which included fifth-year senior Craig Cardillo and rising senior Bobby Renkes. However, he will also have competition from Burkhart in the fall.

"Right now, Carl is clearly the No. 1 guy, but we got this young leg [in Burkhart] coming round here pretty soon, and he's going to get a chance to beat him out," Weis said.



GEOFF MATTESON/The Observer

Notre Dame rising senior Carl Gioia prepares to kick a field goal during the team's practice April 1 in Notre Dame Stadium.

While Burkhart is highly regarded among the coaching staff, Polian stressed the difficulty of a player making an impact in his first year out of high school.

"I think it's difficult for any true freshman to start at any position just because the level of competition jumps up, especially at a place like this where you're constantly playing the best in the country," he said. "That being said, it happens, whether or not it'll happen here we have no idea. Time will tell — August will tell."

Although he is pleased about separating himself from the pack during spring practice, Gioia emphasized that the starting job won't be won or lost until Notre Dame gets closer to the start of the regular season in the fall.

"The real stuff won't come until after summer and into fall," Gioia said. "In terms of preparation it's just going to be just trying to

compete against myself up until then, trying to get better in the areas where I think I need to get better."

While Weis has been encouraged by what he has seen in the past month, he also underscored that this spring is only an indication of the possibilities for the fall.

"The jury's still out on this one, because right now it's not live rush, there's not 80,000 people there, we're not playing in Atlanta under the lights on September 2 [in Notre Dame's season opener against Georgia Tech]," he said. "But I'd say, of everything, [the concern about the specialists], which was one of my biggest concerns, right now, at this point, is not as much of a concern as it was at the start of the spring."

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GEOFF MATTESON/The Observer

Irish rising senior punter Geoff Price punts during the team's practice April 1 in Notre Dame Stadium.

Finding fifth starter is no small challenge for Irish

By KATE GALES
Associate Sports Editor

A 300-pound offensive lineman dangling off a cliff is a terrifying image.

Even more frightening is the idea that the only thing holding him up is a teammate.

But that's the picture that inspires Notre Dame's starting center Bobby Morton as he prepares to lead a depleted group of offensive linemen into Saturday's Blue-Gold game.

"There's a thing called holding the rope and we firmly trust everybody," Morton said. "Most of us have played together and the guys that haven't are starting to realize that what we need out of them is that we need to be able to trust them to hold that rope."

The Irish had three returning starters this spring along with Morton on the offensive line — left tackle Ryan Harris, guard Dan Santucci and guard John Sullivan.

As the Irish look to replace Mark LeVoi and Dan Stevenson on the right side of the line, the reserves are minimal. Paul Duncan emerged as a key contributor in spring practice, and Michael Turkovich will be in the mix as well as early-enrolling freshman Chris Stewart.

But Irish offensive line coach John Latina was unfazed by the low numbers.

"You get to focus more on the ones you have because you have more time to spend on individuals as opposed to a group of twenty kids," he said. "You take it as what it is and make the best of the situ-

ation."

Duncan said that the individual attention has helped him develop over the spring.

"It definitely helps," he said. "You don't have as many people, you don't have as many things to learn about everybody. ... I think I'm definitely growing."

In addition to the line becoming more cohesive as a unit, the extra repetitions have meant extra conditioning for the linemen in practice.

"Has it been a little tiresome going a lot of reps? It has, I'm not lying," Morton said.

"But it's not really a concern because of the development we've been able to make."

Morton said the physical aspect has been the most difficult part of the spring. For a center in particular, learning to snap to different quarterbacks has been particularly challenging.

"That's been the toughest things, taking different snaps with different quarterbacks," he said.

The development of Dan Chervanick, a former scout team defensive lineman, into a center has helped take the pressure off Morton.

Chervanick, who graduates in May but will return for a fifth year, is unfazed by his position change, attributing much of his development to Morton.

"After being in the program for

so long, being there for four years now, you know what to expect, so a position change — especially just from one side of the ball to another — is just learning the technique," he said. "Once you get that down it's all downhill from there."

Although Chervanick switched positions, Latina said the team is starting at a higher level than it did last year, having already worked for a full season in Irish coach Charlie Weis' system.

"Last year we had to coach so much in terms of assignments because it was all brand new," he said. "Now there should be a sense of understanding, now we can even take it another notch in terms of the physical play, the effort levels, and make great strides in fundamentals and things like that."

The number of returning veterans has given Weis more confidence as well.

"It's going to give some of those young guys a lot of opportunities to get involved in the mix with a number of the veterans," he said. "I think a key thing, though, with having Dan Santucci and Bobby Morton back, we have the makings of a very veteran offensive line."

Veterans or not, Morton was hesitant to call experience a strength on the line, pointing out that just because players have logged minutes on the field does

not necessarily equate to good play in a game situation. Latina used a similar analogy to Morton's "holding the rope" idea, although he expressed confidence in returning players who had not started.

"We do have some veterans coming back that I really like, I thought they did well," Latina said. "But you're only as strong as your weakest link, so we have to make sure we make great strides in those other positions."

Any progress will be evident in the spring game, as there will only be one offensive line unit playing. The linemen will play for both the Blue and Gold squads in Saturday's game, wearing green

jerseys, as will the specialists.

"I'm really excited for the green jerseys, to go both ways," Duncan said. "That will be real fun — it's sort of like the backyard football, all-time center sort of deal, going both ways."

Sam Young, Matt Carufel, Eric Olsen, Bartley Webb and Dan Wenger signed with the Irish in February and will arrive on campus this summer.

"Hopefully spring will give us an answer," Latina said. "We also know we have a lot of good football players coming in in the fall as well."

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"[H]aving Dan Santucci and Bobby Morton back, we have the makings of a very veteran offensive line."

Charlie Weis
Irish head coach



ALLISON AMBROSE/The Observer

Irish offensive linemen Brian Mattes, left, and John Sullivan participate in drills inside the Loftus Center March 22.

Young gun showdown

New faces compete for spots on roster that includes nine returning starters on both offense and defense

By KEN FOWLER and
CHRIS KHOREY
Sports Writers

While Notre Dame returns nine starters on offense and another nine on defense, new faces will likely contribute significantly to the team in 2006.

Paul Duncan right tackle

With the graduation of starting right tackle Mark LeVoi, Irish coach Charlie Weis will choose from among fifth-year senior Brian Mattes, sophomore Michael Turkovich and sophomore Paul Duncan for the new starter at that position.

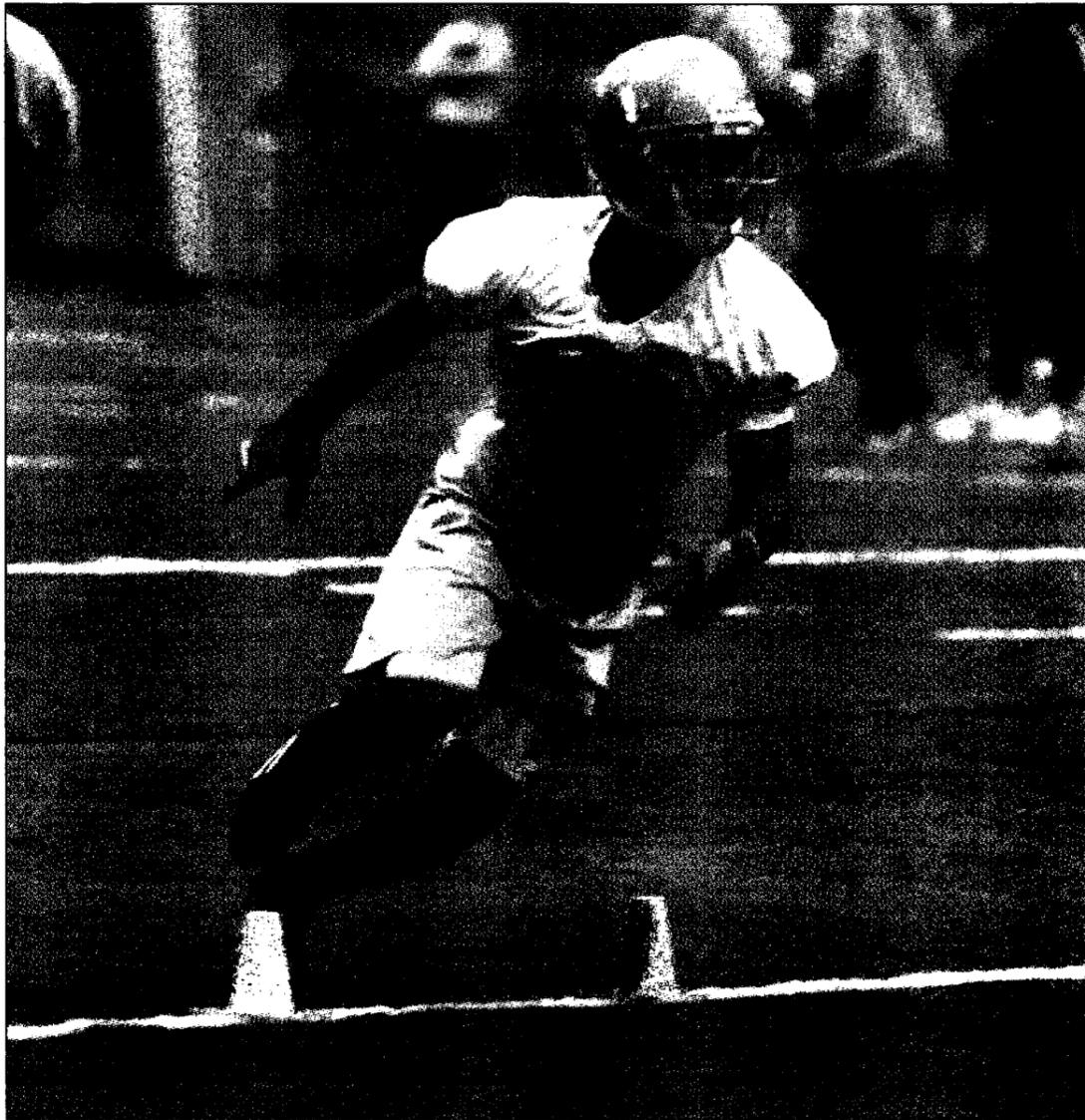
Although Weis has said that Duncan is the leading candidate after spring practice, he has been quick to point out that the position is still up for grabs. Duncan, a 6-7, 270-pounder from Dallas, Georgia, played in five games in 2005.

"[Right tackle] is going to be wide open," Weis said. "Somebody is going to have to take that position, whether it is Duncan, Mattes, Turkovich or a player that's not here yet."

But Duncan enters as the favorite not only because of his spring, but also his size. Among the returning players, his 6-foot-7 frame stands out. Duncan could use a little more muscle mass on his body to thicken up, but that won't be too difficult under Irish strength and conditioning coach Ruben Mendoza.

Duncan has the footwork necessary to patrol the outside of the line and the vision needed to see incoming blitzers. Irish offensive line coach John Latina said that communication among the young linemen has improved, which will make Duncan's possible transition into the starting five much easier.

So long as Duncan beats out incoming freshman Sam Young, a top-10 offensive line recruit, he will see considerable development throughout the course of the season.



Irish rising sophomore David Grimes cuts between cones during practice March 24. Grimes finishes the spring practice schedule as Notre Dame's No. 3 wide receiver.

David Grimes wide receiver

After serving as Notre Dame's No. 4 receiver for the majority of last season, Grimes will enter the 2006 campaign one spot up but behind a different 1-2 punch.

Grimes took the No. 4 slot in 2005 when Rhema McKnight suffered a season-ending knee injury against Michigan Sept. 10. Working behind Maurice Stovall and Jeff Samardzija, he caught just two passes for

19 yards but was on the field for a majority of the team's three-receiver sets in the latter part of the year.

Grimes will be in the shadows of Samardzija, a returning consensus All-American, and the fifth-year senior McKnight, who was Notre Dame's leading receiver for the two years prior to his injury.

Grimes is probably the fastest returning receiver and possesses the hands necessary to make catches in traffic

down field. He returned 15 kickoffs for an average of 22.8 yards and one punt for 17 yards last season.

James Aldridge running back

Aldridge entered spring practice as one of Notre Dame's three early-enrollee athletes, surrounded by the hype he gained as a top-10 running back recruit.

The 6-foot-1, 215-pound recruit out of Chicago suburb Crown Heights, Ind. is expect-

ed to see considerable time in the backfield this season behind the veteran duo of junior Darius Walker and senior Travis Thomas.

Aldridge brings a combination of Walker's patient outside running and Thomas' hard-hitting style to the table, a prospect that will allow Weis to use him in all game situations. Weis said Wednesday that Aldridge's presence will allow him to get "creative" with the playcalling.

Although Aldridge has seen slightly limited time in the spring, the 15 extra practices will quicken his learning curve compared to the rest of the freshman class.

George West wide receiver

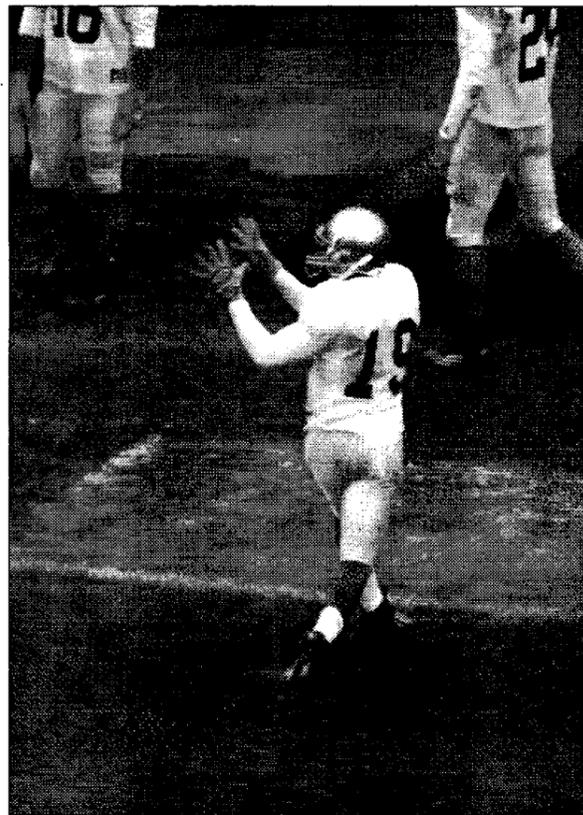
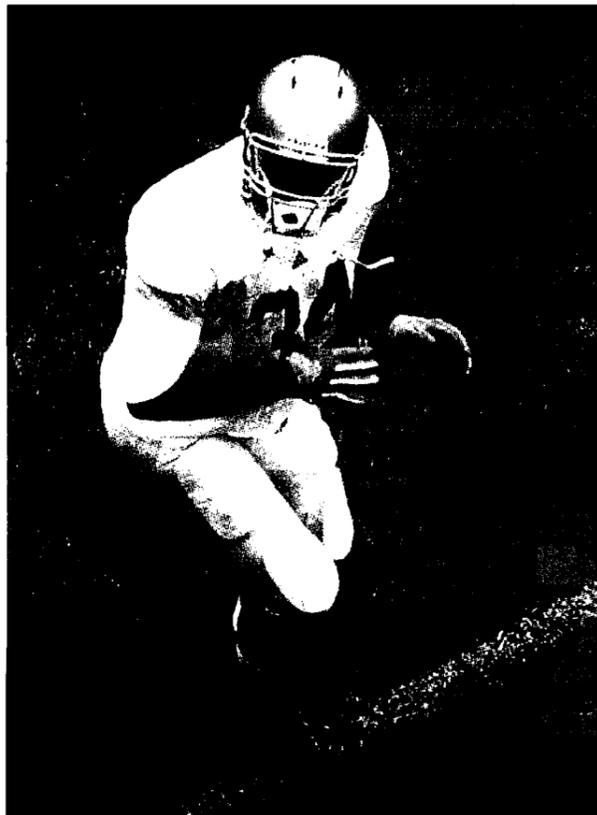
West joins Aldridge and offensive lineman Chris Stewart as the third of Notre Dame's early-enrollee freshmen this spring.

West has seen significant time returning kickoffs this year and likely will join Grimes deep during times next season. West has enough quickness to drastically increase Notre Dame's production on kickoff returns. Last season, the Irish averaged 19 yards per return in the category. West should be able to make an impact on special teams within the first few weeks of next season.

At 5-foot-8, 172 pounds, West is smaller and lighter than most receivers, but he possesses enough speed to make him the kind of deep threat Matt Shelton was for Notre Dame in 2004.

West, a native of Spencer, Okla., likely will be listed as the team's No. 5 receiver — behind Samardzija, McKnight, Grimes and rising sophomore D.J. Hord. But expect West to catch a considerable amount of passes when he gets in a game as defenses focus on the team's top-three receivers.

Contact Ken Fowler at kfowler1@nd.edu and Chris Khorey at ckhorey@nd.edu



Photos by PHIL HUDELSON and ALLISON AMBROSE/The Observer

Left, early enrollee James Aldridge looks toward the center during practice April 1. Center, Irish offensive line coach John Latina instructs rising sophomore Paul Duncan during practice March 24. Right, Notre Dame early enrollee George West catches a pass along the sideline during practice April 1.

2006 Projected Starters

OFFENSE

RUNNING BACK

DARIUS WALKER
JUNIOR



Walker rushed for 1,274 yards in 2005 and added another 374 receiving to become a true dual-threat back. He enters his junior year approaching 2,500 career yards and is one of the team's leaders.

QUARTERBACK

BRADY QUINN
SENIOR — CAPTAIN



As a junior and in his first year in Charlie Weis' offense, Quinn set 30 records for Notre Dame. Weis will expect continued development from the 6-foot-4, 232-pound Quinn as a senior.

FULLBACK

ASAPH SCHWAPP
SOPHOMORE



Schwapp started at fullback as a true freshman the second half of last season. Weis expects increased efficiency out of Schwapp, but his touches may be limited as Notre Dame adds James Aldridge to the backfield.

WIDE RECEIVER

RHEMA MCKNIGHT
SENIOR



McKnight was Notre Dame's leading receiver in 2003 and 2004 but suffered a season-ending knee injury last season. Charlie Weis likened his return to the pickup of a veteran free agent in the offseason.

TIGHT END

JOHN CARLSON
SENIOR



After serving as the team's No. 2 tight end behind Anthony Fasano last season, Carlson (and Marcus Freeman) will provide reliability for a first-year starter in 2006.

WIDE RECEIVER

JEFF SAMARDZIJA
SENIOR



Samardzija was a consensus All-American in 2005 with 77 catches for 1,249 yards and 15 touchdowns. His 6-foot-5 frame allows him to get inside position against defenders, and he is fast enough to scoot past the secondary.

TACKLE
RYAN HARRIS
SENIOR

GUARD
BOB MORTON
SENIOR

CENTER
JOHN SULLIVAN
SENIOR

GUARD
DAN SANTUCCI
SENIOR

TACKLE
PAUL DUNCAN
SOPHOMORE

Notre Dame's offensive line returns four starters in 2006 and likely will include rising sophomore Paul Duncan at right tackle.

In 2005, the offensive line was able to protect Brady Quinn with unparalleled success compared to the past three seasons. Behind left tackle Ryan Harris and left guard Bob Morton, the Irish allowed just 21 sacks in 12 games.

In 2005, Morton was part of the four-man rotation including himself, fifth-year senior Dan Santucci, senior John Sullivan and the now-departed Dan Stevenson that played



center and the two guard positions.

Sullivan joined the starting lineup in 2004, making all blocking calls for the Notre Dame offensive line. He started all 12 games that year, logging 367 minutes of playing time.

The final member of the offensive line will be Duncan, who checks in at 6-foot-7 and 270 pounds. The rising sophomore ends spring practice as the No. 1 right tackle but will face stiff competition from incoming freshman Sam Young, a 6-foot-8, 302-pound lineman.

DEFENSE

LEFT END
VICTOR ABIAMIRI
SENIOR

The Irish return four starters to the defensive line that had success against the run but not against the pass in 2005.

Left end Victor Abiamiri led the team in sacks in 2005 with eight, and Irish coach Charlie Weis said Abiamiri will be watching tapes of New York Giants left end Michael Strahan to help improve his tech-

TACKLE
DEREK LANDRI
SENIOR

In the middle, veteran seniors Derek Landri and Trevor Laws will be responsible for stopping the run in 2006.

Both Landri and Laws started all 12 games in 2005 and helped Notre Dame hold opponents to 132 yards per game on the ground — a total 16 yards less than the

TACKLE
TREVOR LAWS
SENIOR

Irish offense averaged.

On the right end, Chris Frome returns for his fifth year after suffering a season-ending knee injury against USC Oct. 15 last season.

Frome was replaced by rising junior Ronald Talley, who made 14 tackles in five games as a starter.

Frome made six tackles in six

RIGHT END
CHRIS FROME
SENIOR

games and recorded a sack for a loss of 10 yards against Pittsburgh in Notre Dame's 42-21 victory on Sept. 3.

After Notre Dame tallied just 31 sacks in 2005, Weis said his biggest goal for the defensive line was to increase the pass rush. He said he had a plan to do so but declined to disclose the specifics.

LINEBACKERS

Weis said Wednesday that he is not sure where Maurice Crum will play next season, but he is comfortable putting Crum at any of the three linebacker slots in Rick Minter's defense.

Playing with Brandon Hoyte and Corey Mays, Crum picked up 57 tackles (32 solo), including 3.5 tack-

les for loss. Limited due to an injury this spring, Crum has spent most of the team's 15 practices watching from the sidelines, evaluating the three linebacker slots — "Will," "Mike," and "Apache."

Joe Brockington is a natural linebacker who looks to be in the mix for one of the

two open spots that Crum doesn't fill in 2006. Brockington has served as a backup linebacker for the past two seasons after red shirting his freshman campaign.

Another option at linebacker is rising junior Anthony Vernaglia.

Vernaglia came to Notre

Dame as a defensive back but added muscle mass last season and saw limited action at linebacker. In 2006, Vernaglia could play the Apache position.

Other options for the Irish at linebacker include rising sophomore Steve Quinn and incoming freshman Morrice Richardson. Quinn played in

nine games — mostly on special teams — and recorded two tackles in 2005.

Richardson is a 6-foot-3, 235-pound prospect who likely will challenge for backup time. The linebacker battles will be the closest-watched competition in fall camp.

FREE SAFETY
CHINEDUM NDUKWE
SENIOR



Notre Dame returns four starters to the defensive backfield, a unit that was prone to giving up big plays in 2005.

Tom Zbikowski enters as the defensive captain and face of the secondary. As strong safety, he recorded

CORNERBACK
MIKE RICHARDSON
SENIOR

five interceptions last season and returned two for touchdowns. His hard-hitting style is something Weis hopes rubs off on the rest of the secondary, but his aggressiveness often makes him vulnerable to biting on play-action fakes.

Free safety Chinedum

CORNERBACK
AMBROSE WOODEN
SENIOR

Ndukwe will enter his second season as a starter. He recorded 50 tackles in 2005 and recovered four fumbles, made two interceptions and forced another fumble.

Notre Dame's cornerbacks will be watched to see if they can stay with opposing

STRONG SAFETY
TOM ZBIKOWSKI
SENIOR — CAPTAIN



receivers. Wooden is faster than Richardson, and both had mixed success in 2005.

Wooden saved the Irish several touchdowns with hustle plays in the red zone, and Richardson is the veteran of the group as a fifth-year senior.