

# THE OBSERVER

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## NCAA hockey costs jump for fans

\$55 increase Regionals passes since 2004 keeps some students away from weekend action

By KEN FOWLER  
News Writer

Three years and a 12-place jump in the polls apparently make a difference of \$55 for Notre Dame students hoping to travel to the NCAA hockey regionals beginning tonight in Grand Rapids, Mich.

Senior Johnny McDermott has fond memories of traveling in 2004 to then-No. 13 Notre Dame's only previous game in the NCAA hockey tournament. He got a bus trip, a box lunch

and a multi-game pass for \$10. But as the now-No. 1 Irish prepare for Alabama-Huntsville tonight, students will be paying more than six times the amount they paid three years ago for a chance to see the Irish on the ice.

"I was kind of surprised that they weren't doing something with regard to the [ticket] prices," said McDermott, who is driving to tonight's game.

The increase in cost is not the result of Notre Dame raising prices but rather the athletic department's decision not to subsidize the ticket cost

for students as it did in 2004.

"That would be something you'd have to do on your own," associate athletic director John Heisler said of a subsidy for student tickets. "We can do whatever we want, but for the tickets that we receive from the NCAA, there's only one price. It's not like they provide a routine student discount."

Nonetheless, Ticket Office director Josh Berlo said Notre Dame had sold 128 three-day passes to students for this year's action after selling 115 such passes in 2004. As a whole, the Notre Dame ticket

office has sold approximately 265 three-game passes at \$65 apiece for this weekend's events, said Matt McCormack, coordinator of athletic promotions.

But for sophomore Anna Jones, the cost was too steep.

Jones, who attended the team's conference playoff games and often lined up nearly two hours before Irish hockey home contests, said she immediately decided against going when she saw the dollar figure for the tickets. She said

see HOCKEY/page 4

## NDSP promotes Johnson

21-year veteran officer replaces Rex Rakow

By KEN FOWLER  
News Writer

It's a promotion that comes with the heaviest of hearts.

Two weeks after the death of Notre Dame Security/Police (NDSP) director Rex Rakow, longtime friend and current associate director of NDSP, Phil Johnson, was named Rakow's successor Thursday.

"I'm very humbled and honored by the appointment," Johnson said. "I think that Rex worked very hard through the years to form a wonderful group of people — a group of people I'm honored to lead. ... This department has had great leadership, and I've been lucky to be a part of a great leadership team for many years."

Johnson assumed Rakow's day-to-day responsibilities as head of the department when the former director became too sick to work and went on leave in January. Rakow battled cancer for 18 months before his death March 7.

Johnson joined NDSP as an assistant director in 1986 and was promoted to associate director in 2005. Before coming to Notre Dame, Johnson served as director of security at Carleton College in Northfield, Minn., and director of campus safety at Aquinas College in Grand Rapids, Mich. He said his years at Carleton and Aquinas were "formative," though his 21 years

see NDSP/page 4

## Holy Half benefits Helping Hands



Students race at the opening of last year's Holy Half Marathon. More than 375 students and faculty members registered to run Sunday.

By KATIE PERALTA  
News Writer

More than 375 students, faculty and staff members and South Bend residents will get ready, set and run Sunday at 10 a.m. in the third-annual Holy Half Marathon, a 13.1-mile race around the Notre Dame campus to benefit charitable organizations.

Holy Half director Kathleen Coverick, a junior, said the race raised more than \$6,000 last year to benefit Catholic Charities — a figure organizers hope to surpass this weekend.

Sponsored by the Class of 2008, Circle K and the Women's Running Club, the race will collect money to benefit Hurricane Katrina victims in Louisiana through Operation Helping Hands, a volunteer program under the umbrella of Catholic

Charities.

Jen Richard, president of the Women's Running Club, said the race promised to be a good time and for a good cause.

"The Holy Half is a fun, well-organized race," Richard said. "The Holy Half Marathon organizing committee does an amazing job, and they deserve a lot of credit."

Holy Half organizers said Operation Helping Hands' dedication to the continued relief of the Greater New Orleans area devastated by Hurricane Katrina made the charity an ideal destination for the race's funds.

The program organizes a large volunteer corps of several 10-15 person groups who travel to Louisiana to volunteer their time and labor for different time periods, ranging from a

see MARATHON/page 4

## Research office updates software, bookkeeping

By KAITLYNN RIELY  
Assistant News Editor

The Office of Research recently introduced two new initiatives — a change to the business process and the implementation of a new type of electronic research software — to streamline research procedures at Notre Dame.

For faculty researchers like chemical and biomolecular engineering professor Edward Maginn, these new systems will make filing research proposals and tracking grants much easier.

### A new business system

Under the new business system, which the Office of

Research started in December, Maginn has three research administrators assigned to his proposals — a pre-award research administrator, a post-award administrator and a research accountant.

This new team is helpful because the management and tracking of a research project can be a time-consuming process, Maginn said. The federal government requires that research proposals go through Grants.gov — "a really complicated software interface," Maginn said.

Just figuring out how to turn in the proposal can take several hours, he said.

"It requires a lot of expertise," Maginn said. "The nice

see RESEARCH/page 6

## Bruton discusses US-EU relations

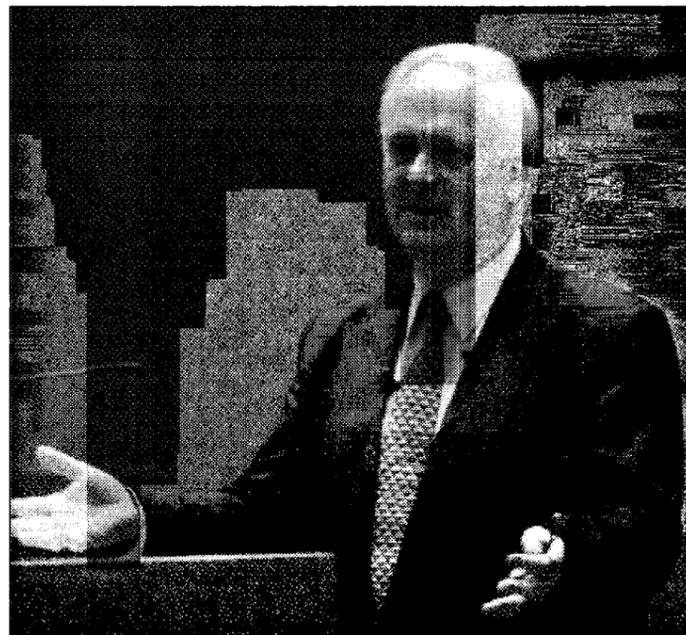
Ambassador speaks on peacekeeping, economy in Europe, America

By EVA BINDA  
News Writer

There wasn't an empty seat Thursday in the Jordan Auditorium as students and faculty members packed in to hear European Union (EU) Ambassador to the U.S. John Bruton deliver the lecture "The Future of Economic and Political Relations between the European Union and the United States." The lecture was as much an explanation of the nature of the European Union as it was an analysis of current political problems facing Europe and America.

Bruton, formerly the youngest

see EU/page 4



PHIL HUDELSON/The Observer

EU Ambassador to the United States John Bruton speaks to students and faculty in Jordan Auditorium Thursday.

INSIDE COLUMN

# Why I Hate Grey's

By now, if you're an undergraduate at Notre Dame and don't live in a cave (or perhaps Carroll Hall), undoubtedly you've seen an episode of "Grey's Anatomy," the worst show on television. There are several reasons for hating this medical drama, but for brevity's sake I'll start with the main reason I despise this show: George.

**Tae Andrews**

*Scene Editor*

George (T.R. Knight) is a simpering, fawning little twerp who spends much of his time growing out his hair, listening to Death Cab for Cutie and lamenting how hard his life is. Despite having lived with multiple attractive women throughout the course of the show, George has neither the guts nor the game to actually ask said women out and instead spends his free time onscreen trying to act cute and endearingly awkward. Quit whining, whimpering and generally acting like a little wuss, George.

The second reason I hate "Grey's Anatomy:" Dr. Meredith Grey herself, quite possibly the most annoying character of all time. In fact, when I heard the news that Grey had possibly died, I rejoiced. No more pretentious ending monologues about the meaning of life. No more whiny soliloquies about the pain of her unrequited love with "McDreamy," and no more on-again, off-again romance with "McDreamy," a.k.a. Dr. Shepherd.

Finally, there's Dr. Yang (Sandra Oh), who manages to irk me almost as much as George does through her neurotic, self-important state of perpetual PMS. As unattractive as she is obnoxious, Yang exists on the show only to detract from Dr. Burke (the homophobic Isaiah Washington) and to enrage the audience.

In addition, "Grey's Anatomy" never fails to deliver with the most ridiculous and inane plot lines. On one episode, a man is suspected of being pregnant before delivering a tumor baby. That's right, a tumor baby. As in a baby-shaped tumor, or perhaps a tumor-shaped baby. Take your pick. Then in another shining moment, two patients found themselves transfixed by a steel pole. Finally, in perhaps the best example of "Grey's Anatomy's" shining plot lines, one unfortunate patient found himself with a bomb stuck in his stomach. You heard me right. A bomb. In. His. Stomach. If only we would be so lucky as for a freak medical accident to wipe out all of the three characters mentioned above, I might even be induced to start watching this show again.

Even worse is the way "Grey's Anatomy" has affected the male population on campus. Friends of mine, good guys who normally spend their time reading the Sports Illustrated's (is it porn, is it not?) Swimsuit Edition, watching football, swearing and pursuing other manly pursuits, fastidiously set their clocks so they don't gasp miss an episode of "Grey's Anatomy." It's time for a gut-check, gentlemen. "Grey's Anatomy" is this year's "The O.C.": a dying show which needs to be put out its misery. It's about time we pulled the plug on this fiasco.

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

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## CORRECTIONS

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

## QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU TALKED TO YOUR PARENTS AND WHY?



**Jane Lee**  
*sophomore*  
*Pasquerilla East*

"Today because I love my mommy."



**Adebola Giwa**  
*sophomore*  
*Alumni*

"I called my mom to tell her I made it to Midway and my dad to tell my mom I made it to school."



**Adam Hipp**  
*junior*  
*Dillon*

"Today because my dad knows how to use AIM."



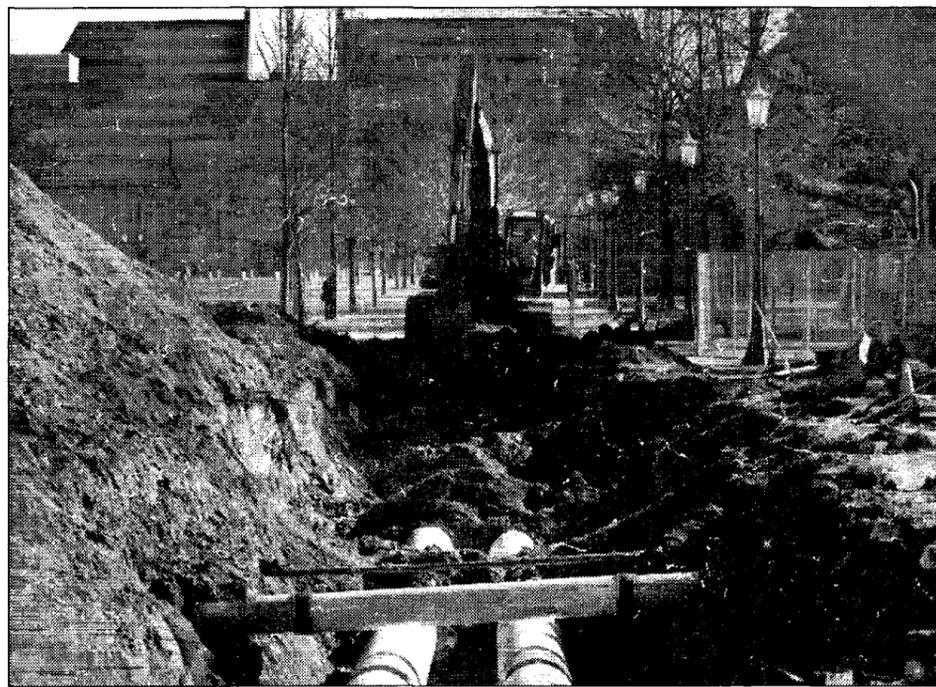
**Stephen Barbera**  
*juniors*  
*Alumni*

"Yesterday because I forgot my cell phone charger at home and need it mailed because I'm good like that."



**Joe Nava**  
*senior*  
*Alumni*

"Yesterday. My mom's freaking out because I'm finally graduating."



PHIL HUDELSON/The Observer

A back-hoe advances construction work across DeBartolo Hall Thursday. Since last month, water pipes across campus have been repaired and relocated in anticipation of the new Law School building.

## IN BRIEF

As part of the Clarke Family Medical Ethics Conference, keynote speaker Margaret Monahan Hogan, an ethics professor at the University of Portland will deliver the lecture "Bioethics and Its Gordian Knot" at McKenna Hall at 4 p.m. today.

The Notre Dame baseball team will play against South Florida at Frank Eck Stadium at 5:05 p.m. today.

The Browning Cinema at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center will present the film "Black Gold" at 7 and 10 p.m. tonight. Admission is \$3 for students.

Toby Foyeh & Orchestra Africa will play traditional African beats and rhythms with helpings of jazz, rock, pop, and Latin at Legends tonight at 10. Admission is free.

The Notre Dame baseball team will play against South Florida at Frank Eck Stadium at 1:05 p.m. Saturday.

The Browning Cinema at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center will present the film "Volver" at 7 and 10 p.m. Saturday. Admission is \$3 for students.

The Holy Half Marathon will kick off behind South Dining Hall at 10 a.m. Sunday. Registration cost is \$15 and proceeds will benefit Catholic Charities and Operation Helping Hands assisting hurricane relief in New Orleans.

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

## OFFBEAT

### Peeping Tom in hot water over shampoo camera

MANCHESTER, Conn. — A man landed in hot water after police say he hid a tiny camera in a shampoo bottle to watch two of his female roommates as they took showers.

A male roommate, curious why the shampoo wasn't moved for some time, found wires protruding from the back of the bottle, then called police, authorities said.

The camera recorded through a pinhole, and the images were sent to Steven Thibodeau's television, police said. Thibodeau, 25, had placed the camera to record

the women showering and made video of one of them changing clothes, according to police.

Thibodeau was arraigned Wednesday on 15 counts of voyeurism and one count of evidence tampering, which alleges he tried to delete some images.

### L.A. minister sues over marijuana bust

LOS ANGELES — A minister who was arrested on charges of marijuana possession has sued police for \$30 million, contending his civil and religious rights were violated because he heads a church that uses pot during

worship.

The Rev. Craig X Rubin, 41, is the founder of Temple 420, which holds that pot is a religious herb.

"Our congregation mandates members study the Bible, have faith in God and regularly burn the herb cannabis [The Tree of Life mentioned in the Bible] as sacrament," says the lawsuit filed Wednesday in court.

Rubin, his son and another man were charged last fall with two felony counts each of selling or transporting marijuana

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

|               | TODAY             | TONIGHT           | SATURDAY          | SUNDAY            | MONDAY            | TUESDAY           |
|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| LOCAL WEATHER |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |
|               | HIGH 57<br>LOW 40 | HIGH 52<br>LOW 38 | HIGH 62<br>LOW 45 | HIGH 65<br>LOW 48 | HIGH 63<br>LOW 45 | HIGH 57<br>LOW 38 |

## InFocus conference opens up

Conference caters to entire student body, highlights Asian culture

By ROHAN ANAND  
News Writer

The Asian American Association (AAA) is hoping it has found a signature event that will cross ethnic lines as it hosts the three-day InFocus conference this weekend.

One indication promising the potential success of the conference is its original theme, "mosaic," which will explore how people with different personalities "fit into communities at large," said junior Ashley Chan, a member of the conference's organizational team.

"We're hoping to bring together not only the Asian community but the entire campus to see how we all fit into the big picture," she said. "If you see America as a mosaic, we're many different people with different personalities."

AAA president Vince Niou was optimistic about the weekend, predicting the conference will put a positive spotlight on diversity issues at Notre Dame.

"If we cater the conference just for minority students, it adds to the stigma that we're just here for the benefit of minorities," said Niou, a senior. "Our main goal is to provide events and activities for the entire student body to enjoy as a whole."

Eliot Chang, a stand-up comedian from Comedy Central, will lead a workshop titled "Asians in the Media" in the Carey Auditorium of the Hesburgh Library today to

kick off the conference.

"He fits in well with the vision of our conference," Chan said. "American culture [like stand-up comedy] has influenced the Asian culture and vice versa, so his example shows how both societies benefit one another."

A mix of cultural presentations and lectures Saturday will cater to almost all interests and tastes, with speakers ranging from a professional chef and a plastic surgeon to a tae kwon do instructor.

During the first session, from 10:40 a.m. until lunchtime, Kim Lim, a chef at Penang Malaysian Restaurant in Chicago, will be hosting a cooking session titled "The Fusion of Asian and American Cuisines."

Simultaneously, Jacqueline Schmidt, a 2001 Notre Dame graduate, will be presenting a lecture called "Hapas." She will speak about being half-Asian and the hardships of trying to uphold her heritage between two worlds.

Lunchtime will bring a cultural fair presented by the Chinese Cultural Society, The Japan Club, and the Vietnamese, Indian Filipino, and Korean Student Associations. Ethnic foods and displays will be served to participants.

"It will really highlight the uniqueness of the smaller cultural groups of Asian descent," said junior Kathy Lee, another conference organizer.

The day will conclude with a presentation from Jesse Hsieh, a physician and president of the

South Bend Clinic, and a Martial Arts demonstration by Master Hong, an instructor of tae kwon do.

Additionally, guest speaker Josephine Det will fly in from New York to speak about Asian fashion in the business culture and her experiences running a company that outsources projects for Victoria's Secret and Calvin Klein.

All of the conference's sessions highlight popular fields of interest about Asian culture in connection with the Asian-American community's desire to blend in American society.

"Americans love Asian food and self-defense for all," Chan said. "But by and large ... we can see that there is still a huge complex in trying to fit in."

At midnight, the Indian Students Association will be hosting a Bhangra Bash at Legends, celebrating Indian dance and music.

"We're really stretching to recognize all of the demographics on campus and bridge the gaps between them," Lee said. "And we're hoping that through the use of pop culture, we're going to achieve that end and attract more participants."

Besides the AAA, other major sponsors of InFocus include Multicultural Student Programs and Services, the International Student Services Association and the Student Activities Office.

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## Midnight Madness offers prizes for all

By AMANDA SHROPSHIRE  
News Writer

With the slogan "Take it to the limit," Saint Mary's students will unwind at the Angela Athletic Facility tonight and let the free food, contests and prizes of the eighth annual Midnight Madness take over for four hours of spirited games.

In an office filled with the balloons and prizes for tonight's event, Athletic Director Lynn Kachmarik said she came up with the idea to offer students a way to celebrate school spirit at Saint Mary's.

"We are really fortunate because not only students but the administration love and support this event and do everything possible to keep it going," Kachmarik said.

The event's popularity at the College has spread in recent years with three-figure cash prizes, restaurant vouchers for free prizes, dinners and a trip to Chicago up for grabs.

But students told this year's organizational committee that they felt they did not always have a chance to win prizes, prize committee co-chair Julie DeMaio said Monday.

With more donations, however, from the community and campus groups — including the Board of Governance,

Sodexo Food Services and the department of Information Technology — and local businesses and faculty members, more than 200 students in each class will be eligible to win prizes, Kachmarik said.

"I would go out on a limb and say that everybody that wants to participate in an event is going to be able to and will walk away with some kind of prize, and that is probably the biggest change we've had," she said.

Besides more prizes, students at Angela tonight should expect participation by the alumni board, entertainment from Chicago City Limits improvisational comedy group and the presentation of popular communication professor John Pauley as this year's master of ceremonies.

The event will carry on the tradition of color-coded class T-shirts, a tug of war, obstacle courses, relays and musical chairs — but it will also incorporate less traditional games, including rounds of "Fear Factor" challenges and a big surprise for those who stay all night, Kachmarik said.

"I want it to be about Saint Mary's and I would say for the majority of women that come, that is what it is about," Kachmarik said.

Contact Amanda Shropshire at  
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## NDSP

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of experience at Notre Dame will be the key to his success as director of NDSP.

"We have a really good sense of

our mission and our values, and I think we have a very good vision of the future," Johnson said.

Notre Dame officials praised Johnson Thursday in a news release.

"I am grateful that Phil has accepted our offer to assume the leadership of Notre Dame

Security/Police," vice president for Student Affairs Mark Poorman said. "His service, especially over the last few months, has been a genuine inspiration to the department, and he is an eminently respected professional in the law enforcement community."

Vice President for Residence Life Bill Kirk called Johnson "the natural choice" to replace Rakow.

"He is an excellent administrator, an outstanding police officer, and a person truly committed to serving our students well," Kirk said.

Johnson is currently the direc-

tor-at-large of the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators and serves on the board of the Family Justice Center of St. Joseph County.

Contact Ken Fowler at [kfowler1@nd.edu](mailto:kfowler1@nd.edu)

## Marathon

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handful of days to several weeks, the Catholic Charities Web site said.

Volunteers help some of the 20,000 homeowners in the area without flood insurance to rebuild their lives by reconstructing some of the 200,000 homes destroyed by Katrina.

And while the prospect of contributing to disaster relief is the race's appeal to many runners, other participants find the athletic challenge daunting.

Sophomore Denise Pineda participated last year to support the charitable effort, but her commitment to Holy Half was also triggered by a desire to get in shape after indulging in too many baked goods, she said.

"One night after eating a lot of a very tasty carrot cake, I was on a sugar rush," Pineda said. "Tommy, a very good friend of mine, and I decided to go running like at 9 p.m. That was how we started running. We saw the Holy Half fliers in the dining hall and thought that it would be fun."

Pineda and her friend, sophomore Tommy Osberger, will compete again this year.

Freshman runner Meghan Shaughnessy said she signed up for the Holy Half because she loves to run and thought it would be an enjoyable experience to share with her sister, a fellow runner Saturday.

"My sister asked if I wanted to do it with her, so I thought it would be something fun we could do together," Shaughnessy said. "And I also ran in high school and have missed that, so I thought this would be a good chance to get

involved with that stuff again."

Shaughnessy said she has been training for the marathon for approximately two months.

The 13.1-mile course will take the sisters, and the rest of the Holy Half participants across campus, with the starting line located behind South Dining Hall, outside McGlinn Hall.

The running path will loop around campus, from the Main Gate down Edison Road, up the newly reconstructed Twyckenham Avenue and past Hammes-Mowbray Hall, organizers said.

Runners will then conclude the half-marathon jog around Saint Joseph's and Saint Mary's Lakes.

In preparation for the race Sunday, the Holy Half Task Force will host a mass Saturday evening at Dillon Hall, followed by a carbo-loading pasta dinner in the Coleman-Morse Lounge for participants.

Though 375 runners have already signed up, there is always room for more participants, Richard said.

Students who may be interested in running the Holy Half marathon who have not registered may do it Sunday morning between 8:30 a.m. and 9:45 a.m. behind South Dining Hall. The entry fee is \$15, and checks can be made payable to the Class of 2008, organizers said.

If the desire to help Katrina victims, get in shape and have a good time is not enough motivation to sign up, Richard said maybe the free T-shirt all registered participants will receive may encourage more students to join the Holy Half effort.

Contact Katie Peralta at [kperalta@nd.edu](mailto:kperalta@nd.edu)

## EU

continued from page 1

prime minister in Ireland's history, began his address by providing background information about the European Union. Founded 50 years ago this Sunday, the EU is composed of 27 member nations and is the only multi-national democracy in the world, he said.

"The 700 members of the Parliament are elected directly by the European people," Bruton said. "It's without precedent and proving to be a very good model."

In addition to direct elections, Bruton said, the EU Parliament requires "full agreement of each member" before any measure is passed. This means that if one country does not agree to a treaty, it will not be approved, he said.

"We've created a political union that has expanded with the agreement of its members at every stage," the ambassador said proudly.

Bruton also discussed certain requirements of membership in the EU. A country must "pass 80,000 pages of legislation" that includes everything from environmental regulations to workplace safety standards, he said. The country must also be a democracy and not allow the death penalty.

In return, countries reap the economic benefits of a common market. For example, a citizen from any EU country can work anywhere in the EU and goods from any member country can be sold anywhere in the Union. Bruton said Ireland, a rapidly

growing economy known as the "Celtic Tiger," would never have transformed itself into an economic power if it had not joined the EU.

Bruton, however, said the United States should not view the EU as a rival because both bodies are heavily invested in each other.

"We're not rivals. We own part of the United States, and you own part of the EU," he said referring to the fact that the U.S. is the largest investor in the EU and the EU is the largest investor in the U.S.

"U.S. companies make more profits in the EU than anywhere else," Bruton said. "American companies make three times more from investments in Ireland alone than in China."

But he didn't deny there is a feeling of natural competitiveness from both sides.

"Europeans may feel superior when things go badly for the U.S.," Bruton said. "You sometimes have the same feeling about Europe, but it's important that we get on."

Not only are the EU and United States conjoined by economic interests, but also by other issues such as the proliferation of nuclear weapons, the conflict between Israel and Palestine and global warming.

Bruton said the EU and U.S. are "working very closely" to deal with the issues of nuclear proliferation and the Israel-Palestine conflict.

"If we can work together with energy, commitment and vigor, we can find the answers," Bruton said.

Regarding global warming, Bruton said the EU and the United States needed to accept responsibility for past actions that may have contributed to the crisis.

"The bulk of the greenhouse gases that are causing problems haven't been put there by the Chinese, by the Indians, the Africans or anyone other than us — the U.S. and Europe," he said.

Bruton stressed the importance of taking the lead and making sacrifices to solve environmental problems.

The ambassador also said Europeans would be willing to strive for lower greenhouse gas emissions if the United States agreed to the same standards.

Finally, Bruton said the period during which Europeans and Americans have the steering wheel and can set their agenda probably won't last more than 20 or 30 more years.

"After that, other countries will be sharing the predominance with us," he said.

Bruton challenged students to make a difference during the remaining supremacy of the EU and U.S.

"Your generation has a choice. Are we going to use our power to make sure everyone has the same chance to be free, to live in a world with peace?" he asked his audience. "We, Europeans and Americans working together, can do more than any people in history to change things in the next 20 years."

Contact Eva Binda at [jbinda@nd.edu](mailto:jbinda@nd.edu)

## Hockey

continued from page 1

the \$65 price tag was too much, especially since a second Notre Dame game isn't guaranteed.

Although Notre Dame won't be contributing toward the cost of student tickets, it will provide transportation and food for students as it did three years ago. McCormack stressed that the buses and the meals come at a significant cost to Notre Dame.

"We won't even come close to breaking even since there are two buses going up without anybody paying — which is great," McCormack said. "The main thing is to just get a good contingent ... of students, who have been great supporting the team all year."

The promotions office will send three buses to Friday night's action and, if the Irish win in the first round, to Saturday's game. Although students could reserve seats on the bus through Thursday for free, the cost for the general public was \$25 per person per day, McCormack said.

McCormack said the cost of each bus would be approximately \$1,000 per trip, plus gratuities. He said the promotions office has filled one bus

with 56 fans from the general public, while about 50 students have reserved seats for Friday and 70 have done it for Saturday.

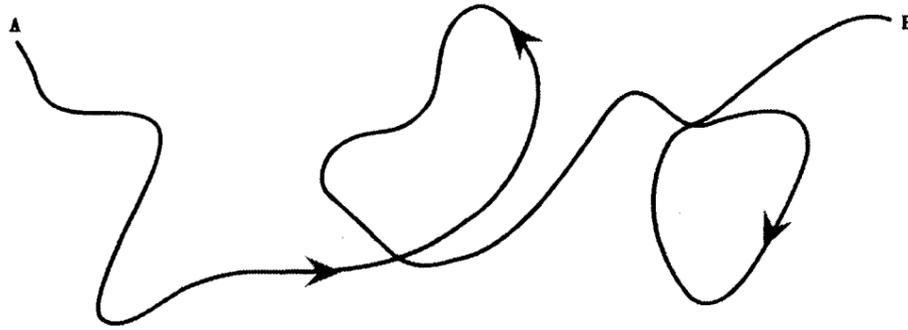
And while most of the contingent of Irish fans heading up to Grand Rapids on the buses has bought the three-day passes, fans could also buy single-game tickets for \$35 through the Van Andel Arena ticket office, where the teams will meet.

The buses will leave from Gate 4 of the Joyce Center at 2 p.m. today and 5 p.m. Saturday, provided the top-seeded Irish win their first contest. Notre Dame plays at 5 p.m. today, and McCormack said the buses likely would return after the second game tonight, so fans could watch Notre Dame's opponent for Saturday's second round game. But if there is enough demand to return immediately, McCormack said, one bus may return after Notre Dame's game.

McCormack said Notre Dame initially received 200 tickets from the arena to sell to students and the public, but the promotions office quickly asked for additional passes because the demand exceeded the supply.

Contact Ken Fowler at [kfowler1@nd.edu](mailto:kfowler1@nd.edu)

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## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### Three arrested in London bombings

LONDON — Counter-terrorist police arrested three men Thursday in the 2005 suicide attacks on the London transit system, the first major development in the investigation in months. Two of the suspects were detained as they prepared to board a flight to Pakistan.

The third man was arrested in Leeds — the northern city that was home to three of the four bombers. Police also raided five properties in the city — at least one on the same street where one of the bombers lived.

"Anybody who imagined that this had simply been treated as four lone wolves or a lone pack of wolves on July 7, 2005 is very wrong," Lord Carlile, the government's independent reviewer of terror laws, told the British Broadcasting Corp. "There is a lot of work going on."

### Archbishop urges Zimbabwe protest

HARARE, Zimbabwe — An outspoken Catholic archbishop urged Zimbabweans to fill the streets to protest a surge in state-orchestrated violence, saying Thursday he was willing to lead a campaign of peaceful resistance to force President Robert Mugabe out of office.

Mugabe's opponents reported that a hospitalized activist had died of injuries suffered when police fired tear gas, live ammunition and water cannons to stop a March 11 prayer meeting protesting his rule. Police did not confirm the death of Itai Manyeruki, who would be the second activist to die as a result of violence. Gift Tandare, 31, was fatally shot as the meeting was dispersed.

## NATIONAL NEWS

### House postpones vote on DC seat

WASHINGTON — Legislation to give the District of Columbia a full vote in the U.S. House stalled Thursday when Republicans unexpectedly injected the volatile issue of gun control.

Apparently fearful they might lose control of the proceedings, Democrats decided to put off action indefinitely on the voting rights measure, which had appeared to be moving toward passage.

Republicans protested the delay and sought a quick vote on their attempt to repeal the capital city's ban on handguns. Democratic leaders "shamefully exploited a rule to kill debate and postpone the vote indefinitely," said Republican leader John Boehner of Ohio.

### Senate defeats Medicare measure

WASHINGTON — The Senate easily defeated conservative Republicans' efforts to curb the Medicare program's spiraling growth as debate on a \$2.9 trillion budget outline for 2008 entered a third day Thursday.

And a vote is likely Friday on a bid by Sen. Gordon Smith, R-Ore., to increase tobacco taxes to pay for a big boost in a popular program providing health insurance for children from low-income families.

On Medicare, the Senate voted 74-23 to dismiss a bid by Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, to trim \$34 billion from the program's \$2.2 trillion budget over the next five years. His plan was aimed at reducing payment increases to Medicare providers and was roughly half the size of the cost curbs President Bush proposed in February.

## LOCAL NEWS

### Lawmakers discuss mass transit

INDIANAPOLIS — Public transportation systems need to be explored further as Indiana deals with traffic, pollution and energy challenges in the near future, lawmakers said during a hearing on the subject Wednesday.

"It's all a matter of priorities," said Rep. Matt Pierce, D-Bloomington. "We control our own destiny."

Rep. Terri Austin, D-Anderson, who helped organize the meeting, said much attention has been focused on Gov. Mitch Daniels' latest roads proposals, but not much time had been devoted to the topic of public transportation.

## IRAQ

# Rocket welcomes U.N. chief to capital

*Ban's first visit to Baghdad marred by insurgent attack near Green Zone*

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — The U.N. chief ducked, as if to find shelter behind the red and white flowers on the podium. He narrowed his eyes, and looked left and right.

Beside him, Iraq's usually dour prime minister didn't even flinch, and managed a slight smile at the startling welcome to Baghdad for U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

The U.N. leader was standing next to Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki when a Katyusha rocket exploded about 50 yards from the building in the capital's high-security Green Zone where they were answering questions from reporters.

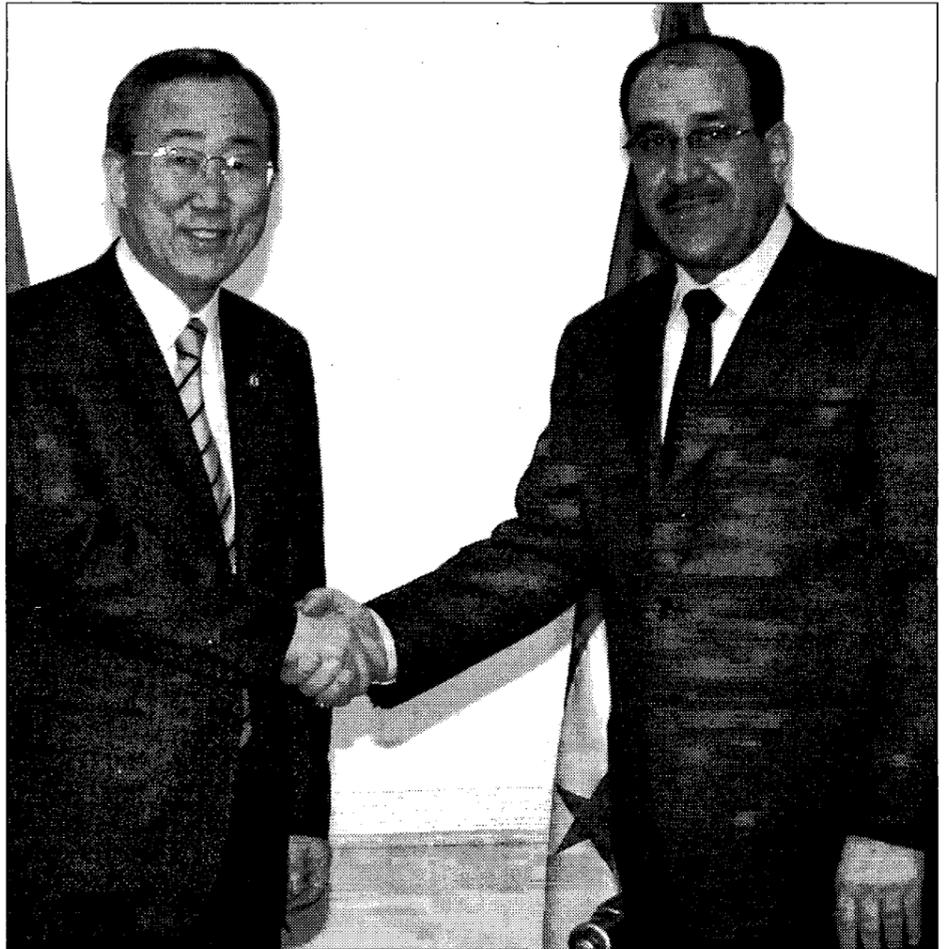
Al-Maliki hardly blinked, but Ban — seemingly less accustomed to the tumult of war — quickly crouched, and appeared shaken. The blast came just minutes after al-Maliki said Ban's visit showed Baghdad was "on the road to stability."

The rocket was fired from a mainly Shiite area on the east bank of the Tigris River, not far from The Associated Press office. The heavily guarded Green Zone on the opposite bank is home to the U.S. Embassy, Iraq's government and the parliament.

Ban's unannounced stop in the Iraqi capital was the first visit by a U.N. secretary-general since Kofi Annan, his predecessor, came to Baghdad in November 2005. The U.N. Security Council issued a statement strongly condemning the rocket firing as an "abhorrent terrorist attack."

The U.N. presence in Iraq has been much smaller than planned since militants bombed the organization's Baghdad headquarters on Aug. 19, 2003, and killed 22 people, including the top U.N. envoy, Sergio Vieira de Mello.

That was one of the first major attacks as Sunni Arab insurgents began ral-



Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, right, shakes hands with U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon Thursday. Ban was startled by a rocket blast during his first trip to Baghdad.

lying against American forces and other foreign troops after the U.S.-led invasion. Foreign U.N. staff withdrew from Iraq in October 2003 after a second assault on its offices and other attacks on humanitarian workers. A small staff has gradually been allowed to return since August 2004.

Iraq's Shiite-dominated government has been quietly pushing for a greater U.N. role and was banking on decreased violence in the capital to show that it was returning to normal six weeks into a joint security crackdown with American forces.

"We consider it a positive message to [the] world in which you confirm that Baghdad has returned to playing host to important world figures because it has

made huge strides on the road toward stability," al-Maliki told Ban moments before the rocket attack.

Ban's presence was broadcast after he arrived, but the trip had been kept so secret even his press spokeswoman didn't know he was in Iraq. His public schedule had called for Ban to leave New York on Thursday for a trip to Egypt, Israel and an African Union summit in Saudi Arabia.

The U.S. military announced three Americans died in combat Wednesday — an Army soldier slain in Baghdad and another soldier and a Marine killed in Anbar province. At least 44 Iraqis were killed or found dead Thursday, including 25 bodies dumped in the capital, all showing signs of torture, police said.

The military also reported a major breakthrough in the campaign against rogue Shiite militants, saying it captured two brothers responsible for a sneak attack Jan. 20 that killed five U.S. soldiers guarding the provincial headquarters in Karbala, a city 50 miles south of Baghdad.

Qais al-Khazaali, his brother Laith al-Khazaali and several other members of their network were rounded up over the past three days, the military said.

Gunmen speaking English, wearing U.S. military uniforms and carrying American weapons killed one American soldier during that attack, then carried off four captured soldiers and later shot them to death about 25 miles from Karbala.

# Edwards presses on with campaign

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Democrat John Edwards said Thursday that his presidential campaign "goes on strongly" in the face of a repeat cancer diagnosis for his wife, Elizabeth, a somber development that thrust his White House bid into uncharted territory.

The couple revealed that Elizabeth Edwards' breast cancer had spread to her bone during a news conference designed to reassure the public about the prognosis for her health and his candidacy.

"The bottom line is, her cancer is

back," said John Edwards, the 2004 vice presidential nominee and former senator, at a news conference in their hometown of Chapel Hill, N.C. "We are very optimistic about this, because having been through some struggles together in the past, we know that the key is to keep your head up and keep moving and be strong."

The Edwardses suffered through the death of their teenage son, Wade, in 1996 and Mrs. Edwards' breast cancer diagnosis the day after John Kerry and John Edwards lost the 2004 election. She was treated with surgery and several

months of radiation and chemotherapy.

The recurrence of the cancer presents a setback for the couple, both personally and politically.

"Getting these results was not a good day for us," John Edwards allowed.

Elizabeth Edwards' illness and treatment are certain to affect her husband's campaign schedule and may raise questions about the viability of his campaign, especially among financial donors wondering whether he will be in for the long haul. The first fundraising deadline is fast approaching on March 31.

## Research

continued from page 1

thing about this [new system] is that people with this expertise are being dedicated to that," he said.

Each faculty researcher works with a pre-award administrator, a post-award administrator and a research accountant at different stages in the development of research projects.

The pre-award administrator helps the researcher with the parts of the proposal that do not directly involve the "science." Once the grant is obtained, the post-award administrator takes over and aids the researcher in the administration of the project. The accountant takes charge of managing the money that the researcher obtains from the grant.

Now that the Office of Research assigns administrators to be "partners" with the faculty — rather than overseers of their progress — it is relieving the faculty from much of the burden of handling the administrative aspects of their research projects, Maginn said.

"Any time you can take some of the administrative burden off the faculty and let the faculty do the research part and not have to do the administrative part, you are going to be more productive," he said. "The idea is, if you can make the faculty more productive, they can spend more time with students and doing research and not doing accounting and book-keeping."

Since the new business system was started, Maginn said he has submitted six proposals for research grants — including three in the past week. And, he said, the process of submitting these last six "definitely" went much faster than before the implementation of the new business system.

### New software

The second new initiative is the implementation of a new software program from InfoEd, a company that makes an integrated software package that can manage the whole research process, Maginn said. The research administrators can use InfoEd for several steps of the process to ensure that researchers win grants and comply with the guidelines of the grants, he said.

InfoEd is currently used by leading research universities like Columbia, Northwestern, Duke and UCLA. The idea for bringing this new system to Notre Dame developed from discussions about how "to streamline the process and become paperless," said Michael Edwards, director of the Office of Research.

Since many federal government agencies have converted — and many are planning to convert — to an electronic format for grant proposal submissions. Notre Dame needed to implement a new system to adjust to this change, he said.

The Office of Research began the 18-month long implementation process at the start of the

year for an InfoEd program. It should be fully operational by June 2008, Edwards said.

These two new initiatives signal a step forward in Notre Dame's ambitious effort to join the ranks of top-tier research institutions, an objective University President Father John Jenkins described in his address to the faculty last fall and which Provost Tom Burish echoed in a subsequent address.

Jenkins told faculty members that Notre Dame has made significant strides in research in the past several years but said the University has the potential to rise much higher in the rankings of top research universities.

Now that the Office of Research operates under this new business model and with the scheduled implementation of new software, Edwards said he is confident that the number of research grant proposals will increase.

Every research administrator in the Office of Research can handle 200 proposals a year, Edwards said, so the office will be able to process up to 1,200 proposals a year. This year between 800 and 900 proposals will be submitted, he said.

"We fully expect that the number of proposals will increase," Edwards said. "We expect the number of awards to increase."

Maginn said the new initiatives streamline the administrative aspects of the research process — an improvement to the infrastructure that is vital for Notre Dame to improve its reputation as a research university.

"The analogy is that if we want to have a good football program, we need to have good facilities for the football team," he said. "If you want to have a great research university, you have to have great research infrastructure. A big part of that is supporting the people who get the grants to pay for the research."

Terri Hall, the associate director of pre-award teams, said since the new business process was started in December, the reaction from faculty members has been "very, very encouraging."

"We did a couple of faculty surveys a year or so ago, and that was one of the things that they pointed out — that the paperwork burden of the proposals ... took up so much of their time," Hall said.

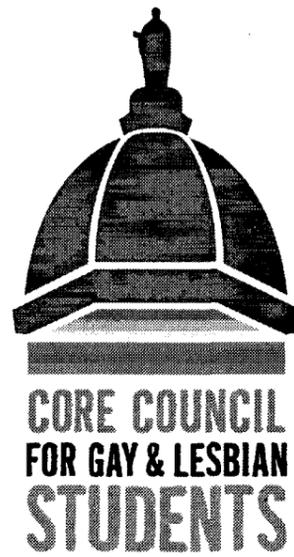
Now that the Office of Research has assumed a lot of the non-science and scholarly activity of the process, the faculty members can focus more on their research projects — a business process Edwards called "revolutionary."

"From an industry standard ... this is a very different way of handling proposal submission," he said.

Edwards said he believes this is the best process because it creates a closer relationship between faculty members and research administrators.

"It's a very important relationship," he said. "Researchers need as much support as we can give them."

Contact Kaitlynn Riely at [kriely@nd.edu](mailto:kriely@nd.edu)



The Core Council is seeking new undergraduate student members, regardless of sexual orientation.

Applications are available in the Office of Student Affairs (316 Main Building)

or on the Core Council web site

<http://corecouncil.nd.edu/>

Applications are due by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday,

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**MARKET RECAP**

| Stocks                          |                  |               |
|---------------------------------|------------------|---------------|
| <b>Dow Jones</b>                | <b>12,461.14</b> | <b>+13.62</b> |
| Up:                             | Same:            | Down:         |
| 1,652                           | 143              | 1,588         |
| Composite Volume: 3,184,479,692 |                  |               |

|                         |           |        |
|-------------------------|-----------|--------|
| <b>AMEX</b>             | 2,156.01  | -8.49  |
| <b>NASDAQ</b>           | 2,451.74  | -4.18  |
| <b>NYSE</b>             | 9,313.82  | -3.91  |
| <b>S&amp;P 500</b>      | 1,434.54  | -0.50  |
| <b>NIKKEI(Tokyo)</b>    | 17,453.53 | +34.33 |
| <b>FTSE 100(London)</b> | 6,318.00  | 61.20  |

| COMPANY                   | %CHANGE | \$GAIN | PRICE |
|---------------------------|---------|--------|-------|
| ORACLE CORP (ORCL)        | +1.76   | +0.32  | 18.49 |
| SIRIUS SATELLITE R (SIRI) | -0.89   | -0.03  | 3.34  |
| MICROSOFT CP (MSFT)       | -0.88   | -0.25  | 28.27 |
| NASDAQ 110 TR (QQQQ)      | -0.36   | -0.16  | 44.26 |
| INTEL CP (INTC)           | -0.93   | -0.18  | 19.16 |

| Treasuries   |       |        |       |
|--------------|-------|--------|-------|
| 10-YEAR NOTE | +1.57 | +0.071 | 4.589 |
| 13-WEEK BILL | +0.20 | +0.01  | 4.92  |
| 30-YEAR BOND | +1.83 | +0.086 | 4.782 |
| 5-YEAR NOTE  | +1.52 | +0.067 | 4.482 |

| Commodities              |       |        |
|--------------------------|-------|--------|
| LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl.)    | +2.08 | 61.69  |
| GOLD (\$/Troy oz.)       | +4.20 | 664.20 |
| PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.) | +1.33 | 104.20 |

| Exchange Rates |          |
|----------------|----------|
| YEN            | 118.0550 |
| EURO           | 0.7504   |
| POUND          | 0.5093   |
| CANADIAN \$    | 1.1544   |

**IN BRIEF**

**Blackstone Group plans to go public**

NEW YORK — Blackstone Group LP, one of the world's biggest private equity firms, on Thursday said it seeks to raise up to \$4 billion in a highly anticipated initial public offering.

The New York-based firm, known for multibillion dollar takeovers like February's \$23 billion buyout of Equity Office Properties, announced its intentions to go public in a filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The firm plans to list on the New York Stock Exchange.

Blackstone — founded in 1985 by banker Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc. bankers Stephen Schwarzman and Pete Peterson — said the initial public offering will allow it to tap new sources of capital for buyouts. In addition, it helps extend Blackstone's brand name and gives management a way to profit from the increased value of their stakes.

**Stocks mixed, investors await data**

NEW YORK — Wall Street finished mixed Thursday, nudging the Dow Jones industrials higher for a fourth straight session but moving cautiously as investors awaited new data to assess whether their hopes for an interest rate cut are justified.

A surprise warning that cell phone maker Motorola Inc. will post a loss for the first quarter also made the market uneasy as it looked ahead to earnings reports that begin next month.

Investors seemed uncertain about where to take stocks a day after the Federal Reserve issued an economic assessment interpreted as opening up the possibility of a reduction in short-term rates. The statement unleashed a wave of buying that boosted the Dow by 159 points Wednesday, but Thursday's session was erratic, with the Dow weaving in and out of positive territory throughout the day.

Investors remained optimistic about the statement but reined in their buying as they took note of climbing energy costs, which made it look unlikely that inflation will cool enough to provoke a rate cut, and as market experts debated whether the Fed's slight change in language truly suggested a shift in policy.

"At the end of the day, I don't think it means a heck of a lot," said Stephen Massocca, president of Pacific Growth Equities. "The market received it very, very well, but ultimately the Fed is well."

**EU backs aviation deal with U.S.**

*"Open Skies" deal will open up restricted trans-Atlantic routes March 2008*

Associated Press

BRUSSELS, Belgium — The European Union approved an aviation deal with the United States on Thursday that opens up restricted trans-Atlantic routes to new rivals, but bowed to British concerns in delaying when the agreement takes effect.

The "Open Skies" deal will allow airlines to fly from anywhere in the EU to any point in the U.S., shedding limitations that also discourage them from charging what they like or combining with other carriers.

The EU said its 27 nations had unanimously voted for the deal, which will take effect at the end of March 2008. European negotiators will now have to secure U.S. agreement to delay the pact, originally scheduled to begin Oct. 28, and want to push on with new talks to eliminate remaining barriers on airline ownership.

Britain won its demand for extra time before opening up London Heathrow, the EU's busiest airport, to more carriers.

Only four airlines — British Airways PLC, Virgin Atlantic Airways Ltd., AMR Corp.'s American Airlines and UAL Corp.'s United Airlines — currently have the right to fly from Heathrow to the U.S., a lucrative route that represents around a third of all EU flights to the United States.

EU governments also stipulated they could suspend parts of the deal — curtailing U.S. airlines' new rights in Europe — if further talks don't lead to more concessions from the United States within three years.

The only nation likely to do this is Britain, which protested opening up Heathrow when the U.S. had not made concessions the Europeans had asked for.

"I have ensured that the



A British Airways flight takes off from Heathrow Airport in London Thursday. The EU agreed to an aviation deal with the U.S. which will open up restricted routes.

U.K. will have the right — in 2010 — to re-impose some or all of the restrictions that U.S. carriers face today," said British Transport Minister Douglas Alexander. "I hope very much that this will not be necessary. But this sends a very clear signal to the U.S. that we are serious about making early progress to a second-stage deal."

EU Transport Commissioner Jacques Barrot said he did not believe such sanctions would ever be levied because by 2010 both the EU and U.S. would be moving toward total liberalization for the aviation industry.

"The idea behind this clause is to bring pressure

to bear on the U.S.," he said.

British Airways CEO Willie Walsh, however, said Britain had to stand by its pledge to withdraw traffic rights if the U.S. did not open up to EU airlines. He claimed the EU had already given away its most valuable negotiating asset by opening up Heathrow.

"So far the U.S. has made no meaningful concessions," he said. "American carriers can now fly into Heathrow, Europe and beyond while their own backyard remains a no-go area for EU carriers and foreign ownership of their airlines remains unchanged."

U.S. carriers, for example, will now be able to fly

from New York to London, where they can pick up passengers and fly on to Stockholm — offering competition on trips within the EU. But EU airlines will still not be able to operate domestic American routes.

Virgin Atlantic was satisfied, though, saying it wants to expand the number of its flights from key European hubs to New York in the next two years, adding 500 jobs.

EU officials have repeatedly said they were disappointed with the U.S. failure to lift a rule that bars foreign investors from owning more than 25 percent of an American airline's voting shares — the key precondition it set for a deal.

**Regulators blamed for risky market**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Charges of blame were flying Thursday for the meltdown of the high-risk mortgage market as pressure mounted for Congress to do something about rising foreclosures among homeowners unable to meet high payments.

Under fire from lawmakers, federal regulators said they lacked full authority to prevent the crisis spawned during the soaring housing boom of 2003-2005.

Sen. Christopher Dodd, D-Conn., chairman of the Senate Banking Committee, laid out what he called a "chronology of regulatory neglect" as banks and other lenders loosened their

standards for making riskier mortgage loans during the boom.

"Our nation's financial regulators were supposed to be the cops on the beat, protecting hardworking Americans from unscrupulous financial actors," Dodd said. "Yet they were spectators for far too long."

Many mortgage lenders haven't come under the Federal Reserve's supervision because their primary regulators are state banking authorities. However, Dodd and others maintain, the central bank does have authority under federal law to exert jurisdiction over those companies and broaden lending regulations to cover them.

Some of the biggest companies in the so-called subprime mortgage market

were called to account before the banking panel.

The distress in subprime mortgages — higher-priced home loans for people with tarnished credit or low incomes who are considered greater risks — has roiled financial markets and stoked anxiety that it could spill over into the broader economy.

Company executives said they had tightened their lending practices and eliminated some higher-risk types of mortgages and urged Congress not to rush in and overreact.

"We take the situation very seriously and we're taking strong steps" to correct problems, testified Brendan McDonagh, the chief executive of HSBC Finance Corp.

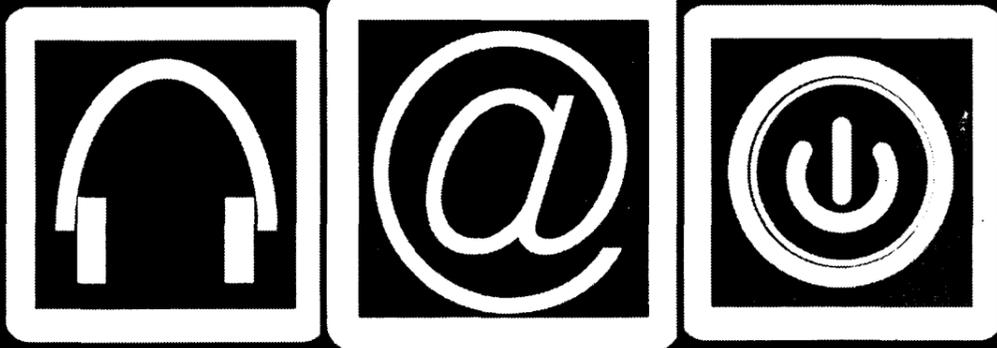
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Jessica Hedrich  
Derry Herlihy  
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Cecilia Jou  
Will Joyce  
Kimberly Kukurba  
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Peter Lobaccaro  
Grace Loppnow  
Theresa Lyons

Danielle Mai  
Kyle Mallinak  
Andrew Matas  
Sean McGee  
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Stephen Motter  
Brian Murphy  
Claire Naus  
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## RUSSIA

# U.S. developer to be fifth space tourist

Associated Press

STAR CITY — Decades before helping to write the programs that led to Microsoft Word and Microsoft Excel, Charles Simonyi learned the basics on a clunky, Soviet-era computer called Ural-2.

Next month, the U.S. billionaire programmer will carry a paper-tape memento from that first computer and put his faith in the heirs to that Soviet-era technology when he blasts into space aboard a Soyuz rocket to become the world's fifth space tourist.

"I will take one of those paper tapes with me to remind me where it all started," Simonyi told reporters Thursday at Russia's Star City cosmonaut preparation center.

Simonyi's skill at computers and his work in helping to develop the world's most commonly used word processing and spreadsheet programs earned him enough money to spare more than \$20 million to become the world's fifth "space tourist," set to blast off early next month.

Simonyi, 58, will travel to the international space station aboard a Soyuz TMA-10 capsule together with Russian cosmonauts Fyodor Yurchikhin and Oleg Kotov and return to Earth 11 days later with its current crew — Russian cosmonaut Mikhail Tyurin and Spanish-born U.S. astronaut Miguel Lopez-Alegria.

U.S. astronaut Sunita Williams is expected to remain on board the station until June, when she is replaced by Clayton Anderson.

Since beginning training at Star City in October, Simonyi, like the other "space tourists" before him, has had to learn to walk and breathe in a cumbersome space suit, use special gas masks, practice helicopter rescues in case of a water landing, and other tasks.

The hardest thing of all, he said, has been spinning in a high-speed rotating chair to help train against dizziness in space — along with learning some Russian. Now that he is finished training, he says he is sure the trip will go without a hitch.

"I am nervous about public appearances and press conferences, but I think that about the flight I am not nervous at all," the soft-spoken Simonyi said. "I've learned about the system and the more I learn, the more sure I am about the backups ... and I think it's perfectly safe."

His mother needed some reassuring, however, he said.

"My mother is very worried, but very understanding and I think we'll be all right," he later told The Associated Press in an interview.

At the station, he will conduct a number of experiments, including measuring radiation levels and studying biological

organisms inside the space station.

"He will work responsibly and with full dedication," said Kotov, who said Simonyi was well-qualified for the trip. "If you look at the program of his flight, he practically doesn't have spare time."

Born in Communist Hungary, Simony first leaned computer programming on a Soviet-built computer called Ural-2 — he said he has kept the paper tapes from the computer all this time as a reminder of how dramatically technology has changed. He left his homeland when he was 17 to work as a computer programmer in Denmark and moved to the United States in 1968.

After working for the Xerox Corp. in California for eight years, he moved to Microsoft in 1981, where he worked until leaving to found Intentional Software Corp. in 2002 in Bellevue, Wash.

Simonyi follows in the footsteps of Dennis Tito, Mark Shuttleworth, Gregory Olsen, and Anousheh Ansari — all "space flight participants" who have also traveled to the international space station aboard Russian rockets in trips brokered by the U.S.-based company Space Adventures Ltd.

Like all crew members on the orbiting station, Simonyi will be able to phone relatives, write e-mails, contact his support team and even write an

*"I am nervous about public appearances and press conferences, but I think that about the flight I am not nervous at all."*

**Charles Simonyi**  
future space tourist

Internet blog. He also plans to treat five crew members to a gourmet dinner including wine-roasted quail, duck breast and rice pudding — specially prepared to be consumed in space.

The dinner, which Simonyi said cost him "like a meal at the

Four Seasons in New York," will take place on April 12, when Russia celebrates Cosmonauts Day.

While Simonyi will spend just a few days on the station, the two Russians will spend 190 days in space. Yurchikhin played down the fact that he had never ridden a Soyuz capsule before and that Kotov had never been in space before, saying they were perfectly qualified for the job.

"The answer to that question is very simple — neither Yuri Alekseyevich Gagarin, nor German Stepanovich Titov ... nor the others had had any flight experience," Yurchikhin said referring to the Soviet cosmonauts who were the first humans in space. "But they fulfilled their task wonderfully."

Interested in space since childhood, Simonyi hopes the trip will help popularize space science among others, especially children. But he also said he is hoping for an unforgettable experience.

"Space is very much on our minds," he told AP. "You can fly ... the sky is black instead of blue, you can see the globe."

# THE OBSERVER VIEWPOINT

## THE OBSERVER

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

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### TODAY'S STAFF

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| Becky Hogan     | Jay Wade        |
| Viewpoint       | Scene           |
| Kara King       | Analise Lipari  |
| Graphics        |                 |
| Tom Hanculak    |                 |

## Jenkins, Senate to be commended

Student government meetings are often a lot of words and little action, but at Wednesday's session of Student Senate, that was the goal — and it was a positive conversation, not a frustrating imbalance.

University President Father John Jenkins stopped by for a question and answer session with the senators, a visit he first made during last spring's debate about academic freedom and Catholic character and a practice that hopefully will be repeated many times during his presidency.

The two organizations — the University administration and student government — like to talk about dialogue, but on Wednesday there actually was some, and both sides did their part. Jenkins took time out of his day to meet with senators, but the students also asked tough questions — and the president responded sincerely.

Senators peppered Jenkins with queries ranging from why sexual orientation has not been added to the University's anti-discrimination policy to why tuition continues to rise. To their credit, the senators were persistent, asking follow-up questions after Jenkins had given his original answer.

And on the president's side, Jenkins did his best to explain

certain policies, clarifying, for instance, that the University does not promote discriminating against homosexuals but is worried about what a blanket statement in its non-discrimination policy would commit it to.

Jenkins should not have answered concerns about the cost of tuition by implying that the high salaries many Notre Dame students expect after graduation justify the ever-increasing price tag, but he even managed to recover from that after Morrissey senator Greg Dworjan explained how that attitude discourages graduates from going into community service.

The problem of post-graduation debt needs to be addressed, Jenkins responded — an admission that meant Dworjan effectively made his point without creating antagonism. The administration may or may not take steps to try to reduce debt in the future, but it was important that students brought the issue to Jenkins' attention in an atmosphere of mutual respect.

That respect is essential, and the openness and candor from the administration and student government is refreshing. If both parties continue to engage in constructive dialogue, the entire campus community will benefit.

### The Observer Editorial

### EDITORIAL CARTOON



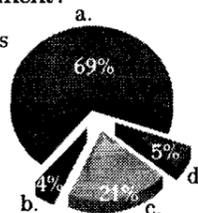
Submit a Letter to the Editor or Guest Column to [viewpoint.1@nd.edu](mailto:viewpoint.1@nd.edu) or online at [www.ndsmcobserver.com](http://www.ndsmcobserver.com).

Letters to the Editor should be no more than 350 words in length. Guest Columns should be no longer than 800 words and must include a byline with name, year, and major. All submissions must include the author's name and contact phone number.

### OBSERVER POLL

How far will Notre Dame go in the NCAA Hockey tournament?

|                                  | % of votes | # of votes |
|----------------------------------|------------|------------|
| a. National Championship         | 69%        | 354        |
| b. 2nd place                     | 4%         | 23         |
| c. Frozen Four                   | 21%        | 107        |
| d. Won't advance beyond regional | 5%         | 28         |



This poll is based on the result of 512 votes at <http://www.ndsmcobserver.com/>

### QUOTE OF THE DAY

*"It is fortunate to be of high birth, but it is no less so to be of such character that people do not care to know whether you are or are not."*

Jean de la Bruyere  
French moralist

## Our reputation: a sobering reality

Eight. Four. One.  
 Initially, it seems as if you might have fallen asleep and are dreaming that your math professor is asking you to write out answers to a series (if only math problems here were that easy).

**Megan Rybarczyk**

*Guest Columnist*

Unfortunately, that is not the case, and this bad dream is actually a nightmare. Eight is the number of students (to the best of my knowledge) who paid their respects to the Emergency Room in a local hospital last semester in one night due to intoxication. Four is the number of times I nearly stepped in vomit on various sidewalks on campus one Sunday morning a few weeks ago. And one? One is a number I hope we can avoid.

I recently had two discussions, one with a local health care employee who works in the emergency room where I

volunteer on Saturday mornings and one with an alumnus of the university. Like any other student, I was proud to say that I am attending Notre Dame. Unfortunately, while I was expecting the usual congratulations and admiration, what I received may have been likened to disgust and disappointment. I would like to say that I was shocked to learn of our notoriety on account of the extracurricular activities on campus, but after volunteering in that particular Emergency Room for a third semester, I was not. Employees at this particular facility strongly dislike (I believe the word "hate" was actually used ...) students from Notre Dame due to their frequent presence in that establishment as a result of intoxication. You know, it really is quite difficult to adequately take care of legitimately ill individuals when there are eight intoxicated students to deal with throughout the night as well.

Now that I have addressed the disgust

(I will spare you my own personal disgust experienced during my Sunday morning walk), I will discuss the disappointment I encountered. My conversation with the alumnus also revealed a great deal about how we are viewed from the community. This person informed me of his disappointment of the toleration of alcohol on campus and the lack of adequate surveillance and disciplinary action for intoxication to such extremes. It disappointed him to see our reputation falling and such intelligent student make such decisions to place their lives and the lives of others at risk.

For example, when a friend told me that some alcohol that he/she had consumed was absolutely terrible and I inquired as to his/her reasons for continuing to consume it in large quantities in light of that fact, the unfulfilling response I received was, "I don't know." Yes, I understand that the majority of

the students here take on a great amount of stress, and, for some reason, many think that alcohol is a way to relieve stress, have fun, open up, to be more social, etc. But, what kinds of reasons are these for such dangerous extremes? Will these be adequate to explain the fate of the one?

You may say that I am exaggerating, but the odds favor this potential fate as a result of the direction in which we are heading. I have brought up the issue of our reputation, but so much more is at stake. Please be responsible and do not make me encounter the one in the Emergency Room who will never be able to answer my question, "Why?"

*Megan Rybarczyk is a sophomore biological sciences major. She can be contacted at [mrybarcz@nd.edu](mailto:mrybarcz@nd.edu)*

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

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## Thank you, Coach Jackson

It shouldn't be any secret by now that Jeff Jackson has worked wonders for our hockey program. To refresh your memory, he has taken a team that won five games two years ago to a program record for wins, our first conference championship and the No. 1 ranking in the national polls. Oh yeah, and the team went 3-0 against Michigan this year, too. But, unlike the old Lombardism, winning ISN'T the only thing to coach Jackson, as he recently made a very generous gesture. Because only a fraction of the hockey band is allowed to travel to the NCAA regional this weekend, coach has offered to provide tickets and transportation to those members

who aren't able to make the trip with the band — out of his own pocket. Kudos to you, Coach Jackson — you obviously understand the "Notre Dame spirit." I hope I speak on behalf of the student body when I thank you, your assistants Paul Pooley and Andy Slaggert and the rest of the hockey program for everything you've done and will continue to do for us. And one more thing: Brown for Hobey.

David Heroux  
 sophomore  
 Zahm Hall  
 March 21

### U-WIRE

## A princess of our time

At this month's news release in New Orleans, Disney announced its first-ever black princess. According to the Disney Web site, the movie, *The Frog Princess*, will be set in New Orleans where Maddy, the princess, will be living amid the charming elegance and grandeur of the fabled French Quarter.

Maddy will be added to the list of the other Disney princesses and also used at the theme parks and in consumer products. Not only is this a first for the company, with a black princess as the main character, but they have also announced the return of the hand-drawn animation rather than computer animated.

It's nice that Disney is going back to its hand-drawn style for this film. This way it'll be easier to group this film with the older "original" movies. And looking back on this film years from now, hopefully people will also consider it a classic.

This new movie idea was sparked when parents began putting pressure on the company to make a character that was not white like the majority of other princesses in the past, with the exceptions of Pocahontas and Jasmine.

It's hard to say though if children know, or even care, about the color of the character's skin. Most children are interested in the story line and not so much with what the characters look like.

Given the choice though, a young black girl could be more likely to choose a black doll over a white one at the Disney Store, which she could more easily relate to because of the similar skin color.

While this push for a black princess came from mostly parents wanting equal time for the races in these movies, we too agree that it's about time. We live in a world where diversity is a huge issue.

And because Disney has one of the biggest influences on kids today, it is important that they have made this choice.

The company already has shows on television that feature black characters, such as "That's So Raven," and we are sure that most kids watching the show aren't thinking, "She's black."

Even some of the cartoons they have produced feature black characters, so the release of the movie shouldn't be such a big deal right?

One of the things that could spark further debate or questioning is the setting for this film. While other Disney classics have a broader setting and aren't really clear, this one has a defined place for the action to happen.

We're hoping that the issues of race are not one this princess will have to face in her movie, and it will be interesting to see what kind of problems they give this young girl to overcome. It's just kind of strange to see this movie coming out so soon, after all the events that have taken place in New Orleans in the past years.

Hopefully most families will enjoy this movie and see it as a classic story rather than a movie about the struggles of a black princess.

*This column first appeared in the March 22 edition of The Daily Vidette, the daily paper of Illinois State University.*

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

### Staff Editorial

*Illinois State  
 The Daily  
 Vidette*

### EDITORIAL CARTOON



DVD REVIEWS

# 'Bicycle Thieves' gets new DVD treatment

By RAMA GOTTUMUKKALA  
Scene Writer

Following World War II, hopefulness was in short supply across Europe. The continent was in ruins, and countries could no longer afford to entertain their citizens with escapist cinema. Out of this despair came a movement that irrevocably changed global cinema — Italian neorealism.

From the many notable films of this movement, one in particular — "Bicycle Thieves," Vittorio De Sica's masterful 1948 tale — has withstood the test of time. Its intimately detailed story of a father and son chasing down their stolen bicycle remains as powerful today as it was nearly 60 years ago. Tales of impoverishment, a popular topic in Hollywood and world cinema at this time, had never felt this raw or palpable.

The story of "Bicycle Thieves" is a simple one, but its deep emotions keep it from ever becoming simplistic. Antonio Ricci (Lamberto Maggiorani) struggles to provide for his family at a time when jobs were scarcer than hope. Against all odds, he gets a coveted position putting up posters around the city, a task that requires a bicycle. Scrapped for money, Ricci's wife even

sells the family bed sheets to buy the cycle. Hope seems just around the corner.

But when a pack of thieves steal the bike, the family's livelihood, Ricci enlists the help of his young, impressionable son Bruno (Enzo Staiola). Together, they scour the streets of Rome in a frantic search.

The pioneers of Italian neorealism followed one mantra: "We must capture life as it is." They used amateur actors like Maggiorani and Staiola to invest true emotion into their pieces, shooting on location in every corner of Italy and telling stories about the working class. Minimalist storytelling revealed the truest of feelings.

As with most socially conscious fare, "Bicycle Thieves" is not an entertaining film. But that never diminishes its power. Unlike the self-importance that seeps from many Best Picture winners, "Thieves" never feels like a morality play. Part of this stems from its simplicity, but mostly it's because Ricci and Bruno captivate our emotions.

Like many films from the period, "Bicycle Thieves" has suffered in its video releases. The Criterion Collection recently released a beautiful two-disc set of the film, complete with a 75-page commemorative booklet. The first DVD of "Thieves"

suffered from horrible video quality, marred by scratches, dirt and general wear. With this release, Criterion has drastically improved the audio and video quality. Although some segments still suffer from scratches, it's unlikely the material can ever look better on a DVD release.



Photo courtesy of moviediva.com

"Bicycle Thieves," a classic of post-war Italian neorealism cinema, tells the story of a father and son in search of a stolen bicycle — and hope — in Rome.

As for the supplements, Criterion has assembled three impressive documentaries for the second disc. Collecting interviews from actors, screenwriters and scholars, they offer a glut of information about De Sica, screenwriter Cesare Zavattini, the Italian neorealist movement and the film's place among the best films of that era. The only regrettable omission is a commentary.

Criterion recruits top scholars to comment on some of the most significant films ever made, but not "Bicycle Thieves". It seems incomprehensible that a scholar couldn't be found to shed light on this film. Critics of the movie often complain that

nothing happens in "Bicycle Thieves." What they don't realize is the payoff to "Thieves" isn't whether Bruno and Ricci catch the thieves. More than just a bicycle, father and son are chasing down a far more tenuous commodity in these lean times — hope. Hope for the future and for their lives, however small they may seem after the destruction of the war.

Like so much of life, it's the journey in "Bicycle Thieves" — not the destination — that matters most.

Contact Rama Gottumukkala at [rgottumu@nd.edu](mailto:rgottumu@nd.edu)

**Bicycle Thieves**

The Criterion Collection

# Cohen amuses, challenges Americans with 'Borat'

By MARTY SCHROEDER  
Assistant Scene Editor

Two words describe the "Borat" DVD — "very niice." The DVD release of the film that took the United States by storm marks the entrance of Sacha Baron Cohen's Borat into the homes of America. The over-the-top "Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan" is a hilarious, campy and subtly intelligent film that comes in a decent package.

When the case of the "Borat" DVD is opened, it's obvious that Cohen (or the maker of the DVD) is up to his old tricks. The actual DVD resembles a homemade copy, with "Borat" written out in what looks like Sharpie marker (complete with backwards 'R'). Aside from the creative packaging, the menu is one of the most original and clever in recent memory.

With a full chorus belting out (Cohen's version of) the Kazakh National Anthem, the menu looks like something made in a basement video production house. Sporting dancing bear heads, the menu looks fuzzy and grainy — exactly what an American audience thinks of when the words "Soviet

Propaganda" are mentioned. It is the rare DVD that warrants commentary on its menu, but "Borat" certainly deserves laurels for its creative presentation.

The film itself is the DVD's real gem. The character of Borat was created by Brit Cohen for his television program, "Da Ali G Show." Along with gangsta Ali G and flamboyant Austrian fashion reporter Bruno, Kazakh journalist Borat forms the comedic trinity of Cohen. He first released a film based around Ali G entitled "Ali G Indahouse." "Borat," the second film released by Cohen, follows the eponymous journalist around the United States as he tries to learn what makes America great.

The anti-Semitic and misogynistic Borat causes quite a stir wherever he goes. In particular, one of the most entertaining — and mind opening — parts of Borat occurs when he angers a crowd at a small town rodeo. Falling right into his ploy, the local NBC affiliate actually covered the story before the release of the film, thinking that Cohen was serious.

The newscast can be accessed in the extras as part of the deleted scenes. While it probably would have detracted from the film, this scene epitomizes what "Borat" is trying to do.

The main trajectory of the film is one of criticism and exposition of the ills of American society. Borat may make us uncomfortable — or make us laugh uncomfortably. In the end, America needs Borat to show us what we can change and make better.



Photo courtesy of sportsblah.com

British comedian Sasha Baron Cohen stars as the title character in the 2006 film "Borat." Cohen's Kazakh journalist comes to America to find "cultural learnings."

The DVD is a single disc with some rather good extras. The "National P.R. Tour" section includes the appearance of Borat at film premieres and on both Conan O'Brien and Jay Leno's late night shows. The "Jay Leno" bit includes a scene where Martha Stewart tries to teach Borat how to make a bed. Needless to say, the scene ends with Borat in the bed sans undergarments.

Other deleted scenes round out the extras on the DVD. This film, however, deserves a larger version.

The video transfer is very good and the

5.1 audio mix performs well. This isn't a film that needs the expansive 5.1 mix, but it's good nonetheless.

What makes Cohen's work so great is its ability to make Americans howl with laughter at themselves. Even though he did face legal repercussions regarding some of the scenes, he shows America a side of itself that it rarely sees — or rarely wants to see. But, as "Borat" shows, we might as well laugh while we see it.

Contact Marty Schroeder at [mschroel@nd.edu](mailto:mschroel@nd.edu)

**Borat**

20th Century Fox

SCENE & HEARD

Literary counterparts could use a little advice

A Note to a Select Group of Literary Figures:

Greetings, my dears. My name is Analise, and I have been a faithful reader of your respective works for quite some time. I'm writing to you not as a critic, but as a friend. We've had some great times together — lazy summer afternoons in the sun, indoor recesses of yore, even whole rainy days spent in each other's company. I love you all for various reasons, but I'm of the opinion that in every good, loving relationship, one needs honest and open communication to keep things running smoothly. In that light, I have to tell you guys the truth.



Analise Lipari

Assistant Scene Editor

It's not me — it's you.

As awesome as you are, each in your own way, you have some issues that need to be addressed. Therefore, I've taken it upon myself to enlighten you as to how you've been frustrating me and other readers with bad decisions and general naiveté.

Call them instructions, tips or nuggets of wizened advice, but I suggest that you pay close attention. Your future fans will thank me.

I have to say, Jane Eyre, that I do love your novel. That, however, doesn't excuse your general lack of a personality. Yes, you're a vivid personification of Victorian morality, and you're a nice person, sure,

but even those strengths don't excuse the fact that you almost married your cousin because you couldn't speak up for yourself. Also, I suggest investing in some fireproof belongings — you and your Byronic-Hero-of-a-husband will thank me later.

To Elizabeth Bennett of "Pride and Prejudice," I only have one suggestion. Nip the Mr. Collins issue in the bud as quickly as possible. Nothing says "romance-killer" like a nervous clergyman with a penchant for accidentally insulting people.

And to Mr. Collins himself, "no" actually does mean "no," especially in the case of a proposal of marriage. Save yourself the humiliation, man. It's for your own good. Now shoo.

A general point of advice to Dostoevsky's Raskolnikov, Shakespeare's Hamlet and other loquacious leading men — stop talking. Or at least cut back a bit on the excessive speeches that you all feel compelled to make. To Raskolnikov, especially, I suggest a little less introspection. You should get out more.

The same goes for you, Emily Dickinson. The sun is a good thing. As is proper punctuation, but we can deal with that later.

Disney's Thumper got it right the first time, Emma Woodhouse — if you can't say something nice, don't say anything at all.

And Beowulf. Fighting beasts at your age? Shame on you. I understand that you have ego issues that even Freud didn't see coming. But the Geats need you.



Photo courtesy of bbc.co.uk

Colin Firth, left, and Jennifer Ehle star in a film version of "Pride and Prejudice." Elizabeth Bennett's dealings with Mr. Collins are a source of frustration for readers.

Or, at least, they need you to stay alive for another few months without being fatally scorched by dragon breath.

Also, just because Moby Dick emasculated you so cruelly by taking your leg, Captain Ahab, doesn't mean you have the right to risk the lives of everyone else you know by rabidly following the Great White Whale. I suggest some sort of grief counseling or anger management seminar.

Lastly, as a general announcement to Gilbert Blythe of "Anne of Green Gables" — what do you think of jumping off of the page and into the three-dimensional world? You'd be surprised at what sci-

ence can accomplish these days.

I hope that these tips can help you all deal with your issues, and I wish you the best in your future literary endeavors. Just no badly-written sequels or pre-sequels, please. I don't need to see "The Scarlet B" in my local bookstore anytime soon.

Faithfully yours in reading,  
Analise Lipari

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

Contact Analise Lipari at [alipari@nd.edu](mailto:alipari@nd.edu)

DVD REVIEW

Wayne, 'Searchers' shine in two-disc release

By BRIAN DOXTADER  
Scene Editor

When "The Searchers" was released over 50 years ago, it was seen as just another John Ford western. Starring John Wayne and featuring the Southwest's iconic Monument Valley, it didn't seem overly different from other Ford features like "Stagecoach" or "Fort Apache."

Yet years after its release, "The Searchers" can be regarded as not only Ford's finest film, but one of the greatest and most influential pictures of all time. Available for years only as a single-disc DVD, it has recently been re-mastered and released by Warner Bros. in a special edition to commemorate its 50th anniversary.

French New Wave directors such as Jean-Luc Godard and Francois Truffaut cited "The Searchers" as an example of exemplary American filmmaking, and it remains one of Ford's most enduring works. It was also a major thematic basis for "Taxi Driver," and its dark undercurrent and technical mastery won it many supporters

in the years after its release.

"The Searchers" is the story of Ethan Edwards (John Wayne), a Civil War veteran who sets off with his nephew Martin (Jeffrey Hunter) and a search party to rescue his niece, who was kidnapped by a Native American tribe. The trip takes years; and as it progresses, Martin begins to see the depth of Ethan's obsession.

Ethan Edwards is perhaps the greatest of all of John Wayne's roles — an erstwhile war veteran and anti-hero whose vigilante-like obsession drives him to complete his quest, no matter how futile it seems.

He anchors the picture throughout, which is especially evident in the final iconic shot of Wayne in a darkened doorway, overlooking the endless desert. The shot serves to emphasize the differentiation between Edwards and the ordinary folk who populate the rest of the film.

Warner's special edition of "The Searchers" has been long overdue, though it was released last year specifically to coincide with its 50th anniversary. A major step up from the original single-disc release, the new edition is superior to the old in every way.

Foremost, the picture quality is stunning — Warner has taken major steps to restore the film, and it shows. Ford shot "The Searchers" in "Vistavision" and Technicolor, and the image pops off the screen. This is the best that "The Searchers" has looked

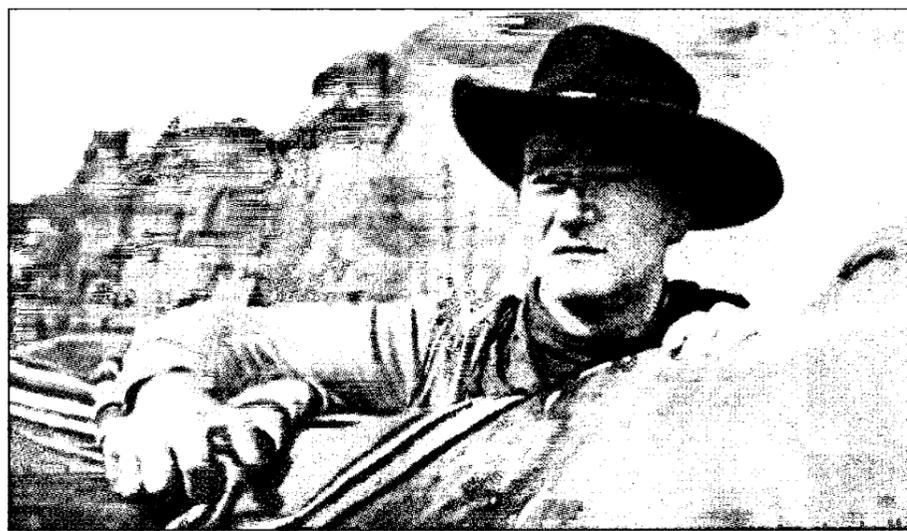


Photo courtesy of tylerzander.com

John Wayne stars as Civil War veteran Ethan Edwards in John Ford's iconic film, "The Searchers." Wayne's performance is considered one of the best of his career.

since its original release, and it accentuates the film's cinematography. The sound comes in the original mono, which is a solid track — often these are re-mastered in a digital 5.1 version, but Warner wisely retained the sound as it was first heard.

The extra features include a commentary by director Peter Bogdanovich. Unfortunately, both Ford and Wayne have passed on, but the remaining features showcase both prominently.

There are three documentaries featured: "The Searchers: An Appreciation," "A Turning of the Earth: John Ford, John Wayne and The Searchers" and "Behind the Cameras: Meet Jeffrey Hunter, Monument

Valley, Meet Natalie Wood, Setting Up Production." All three are insightful and extensive, with a surprising amount of background detail.

Fifty years after its original release, "The Searchers" has only grown in stature. As an iconic piece of American cinema, and perhaps the greatest western of all time, its reputation will surely continue to grow over the next half century. Warner has finally given the film the release it deserves, which makes it a rich and important addition to any film library.

Contact Brian Doxtader at [bdoxtade@nd.edu](mailto:bdoxtade@nd.edu)

**The Searchers**  
Warner Home Video

NCAA BASKETBALL

# Tigers make Elite 8 with tight win over Aggies

Late free throws propel Memphis over Texas A&M; Led by Rush, Kansas advances with win over Southern Illinois

Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — Visualize this: The Memphis Tigers are one win away from the NCAA Final Four.

Forget those season-long struggles from the free throw line. The Tigers are making them when it counts, with Antonio Anderson hitting two with 3.1 seconds left Thursday night for a 65-64 victory over Texas A&M in the NCAA South Regional semifinal.

Anderson came in shooting 64 percent from the free throw line and was 1-for-4 when he went to the line after being fouled at the end of a wild sequence in which the Tigers missed three quick shots.

The Tigers have been one of the nation's worst free throw-shooting teams all season. They were so bad that coach John Calipari quit having them shoot in postseason practice and told his players to visualize making them instead.

Memphis (33-3) stretched its winning streak to 25 games and advanced to a regional final for the second straight year. The Tigers, who last went to the Final Four in 1985, will play Ohio State or Tennessee on Saturday.

Texas A&M (27-7), three seasons with coach Billy Gillispie removed from an 0-16 record in the Big 12, had one final chance, but Dominique Kirk's

shot from just inside half-court was woefully short.

Kirk took the final shot instead of "Captain Clutch," senior Acie Law, who had 13 points. He was only 6-of-17 from the field in his final game for the Aggies — and blew a layup with just under a minute left after he took a long inbound pass.

That was the last good shot the Aggies got.

Texas A&M was unable to take advantage of a partisan crowd, the stands in the Alamodome filled mostly with maroon-clad fans providing a football-like atmosphere and waiting to celebrate another big victory.

Instead, it was the small contingency of fans in blue behind the Memphis bench — including former Tigers star Penny Hardaway — who were cheering at the end.

After Law's blown layup, Jeremy Hunt missed a 3-pointer for the Tigers. But Anderson got the rebound and they called timeout with 26 seconds left.

Andre Allen missed a 3-pointer with 11 seconds left and Hunt and Robert Dozier missed follow-up attempts before Anderson grabbed another rebound — and was fouled by Donald Sloan while trying his own putback.

Texas A&M outrebounded the Tigers 36-31, but didn't get the ones at the end that mattered

the most, and might have created a different outcome.

Hunt, the Tigers' sixth man, had 19 points. Chris Douglas-Roberts, wearing a brace to support his sprained left ankle sustained last weekend, scored 15 points on 5-of-8 shooting.

Antanas Kavaliauskas had 17 points and eight rebounds for the Aggies, who played in their first regional semifinal since 1980. Joseph Jones scored 14 points.

Now there will be questions about if Gillispie remains at Texas A&M. The coach is already being mentioned as a possible replacement at Kentucky after Tubby Smith left the Wildcats to become Minnesota's coach.

**Kansas 61  
Southern Illinois 58**

The Kansas Jayhawks knew they had to abandon the beautiful game they usually play to beat Southern Illinois. The Jayhawks admit they don't like winning ugly — but they like losing even less.

When the Salukis slowed their NCAA tournament run to a crawl, Brandon Rush and his Kansas teammates stooped down into the grit for a win that put them on the brink of the Final Four.

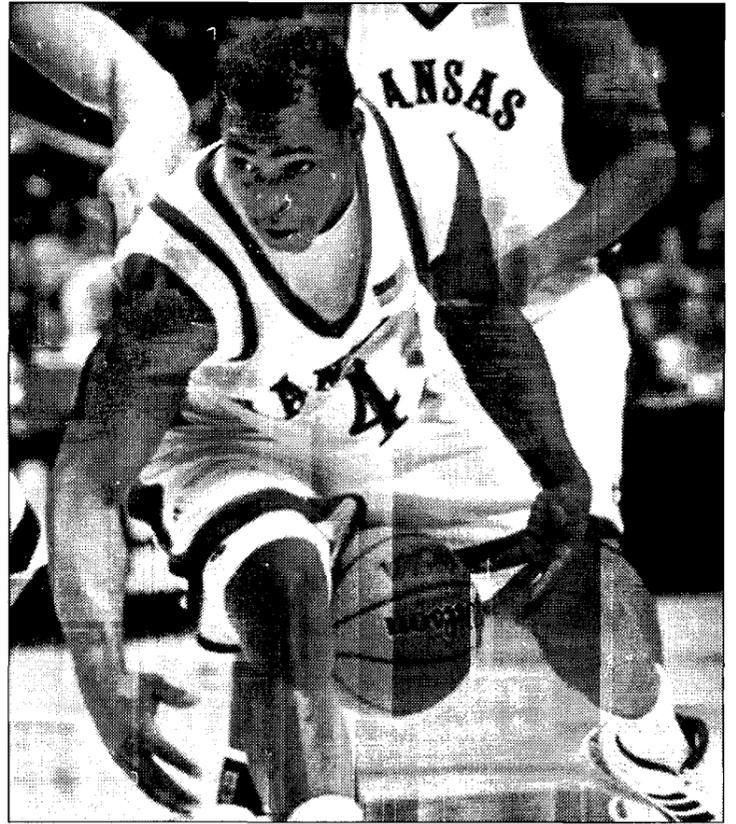
Rush scored 12 points without missing a shot, and Kansas eked out a 61-58 victory over Southern Illinois in the West Regional semifinals Thursday night.

Darrell Arthur and Russell Robinson scored nine points apiece to help the Jayhawks (33-4) barely avoid yet another Saluki surprise and another disappointing exit from the tournament.

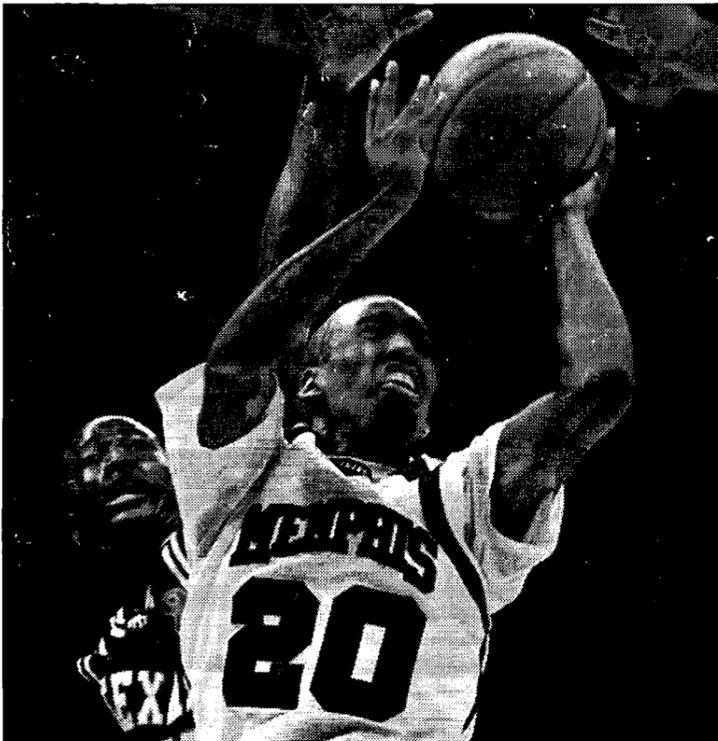
Kansas went into the locker room bickering and muttering at Southern Illinois' tenacity, yet still won its 14th straight game by nursing a small lead through the final minutes against a defense that made the Jayhawks' future NBA stars work exceptionally hard for every basket.

"It shows that we can win whatever the circumstances are," said Kansas guard Mario Chalmers, who scored just nine points. "Everyone knows we like an uptempo game in the 80s, but we can take our time and slow it down with the best of them, too."

When Tony Young missed a desperate 3-point attempt from half-court at the buzzer, Kansas dodged its second straight tournament loss at



Kansas guard Sherron Collins dribbles during the Jayhawks' 61-58 win over Southern Illinois Thursday.



Memphis guard Doneal Mack shoots through tough defense during the Tigers' 65-64 win over Texas A&M Thursday.

the hands of the Missouri Valley Conference, which takes the "mid" out of mid-major with each passing year. Bradley beat the Jayhawks last season, but Kansas advanced to face the winner of UCLA's late game against Pittsburgh.

Southern Illinois decisively won the matchup's clash of styles, forcing a deliberate tempo on the high-flying Jayhawks while keeping the possessions long and the score low. The Salukis' defensive aggression and offensive rebounding were complemented by just enough big shots from its struggling scorers to keep it close.

But Kansas adjusted with a maturity that wasn't present in coach Bill Self's last two teams. Nine players got a field goal for the Jayhawks, who patiently waited for holes in the Salukis' defense — and then threw themselves into defending the other end.

It was elemental basketball, and Kansas put all the elements together.

"Whoever plays Southern isn't going to look good offensively," Self said. "It just isn't going to happen. ... I was disappointed how some guys handled the heat, but when the

game was on the line, we handled it pretty well."

Jamaal Tatum scored 19 points in his final college game for the fourth-seeded Salukis (29-7), who couldn't get the break they needed to reach the round of eight for the first time in school history with just their second loss in 17 games.

Julian Wright's free throw with 1:23 left put Kansas up 58-53, but Tatum hit a 3-pointer moments later. Chalmers hit a free throw, and Tatum added another jumper to cut the Jayhawks' lead to 59-58.

But Rush confidently drove the lane with 25 seconds left and flicked home a basket with the poise that might someday make him the best of his three basketball-playing brothers.

"Somebody had to step up down the stretch and make a good play, and I'm glad I did," Rush said.

Rush's layup provided the game's final points, but Tatum missed a chance to tie it on a 3-pointer with 8 seconds left.

"The shot I took is a shot I've practiced numerous times in the gym at night (and) in between classes," Tatum said. "It felt good. I don't know what to say."

## CLASSIFIEDS

The Observer accepts classifieds every business day from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Notre Dame office, 224 South Dining Hall. Deadline for next-day classifieds is 3 p.m. All classifieds must be prepaid. The charge is 5 cents per character per day, including all spaces. The Observer reserves the right to edit all classifieds for content without issuing refunds.

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# AROUND THE NATION

Friday, March 23, 2007

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

page 15

## USCHO.com/CSTV Top 25 Hockey Rankings

|    |                   | Record  | Points |
|----|-------------------|---------|--------|
| 1  | NOTRE DAME        | 31-6-3  | 727    |
| 2  | Minnesota         | 30-9-3  | 714    |
| 3  | Clarkson          | 25-8-5  | 637    |
| 4  | Boston College    | 26-11-1 | 625    |
| 5  | New Hampshire     | 26-10-2 | 581    |
| 6  | North Dakota      | 22-13-5 | 567    |
| 7  | St. Cloud State   | 22-10-7 | 518    |
| 8  | Michigan          | 26-13-1 | 484    |
| 9  | Boston University | 20-9-9  | 465    |
| 10 | Michigan State    | 22-13-3 | 399    |
| 11 | St. Lawrence      | 23-13-2 | 356    |
| 12 | Massachusetts     | 20-12-5 | 340    |
| 13 | Miami             | 23-13-4 | 285    |
| 14 | Maine             | 21-14-2 | 207    |
| 15 | Denver            | 21-15-4 | 204    |
| 16 | Quinnipiac        | 21-14-5 | 150    |
| 17 | Wisconsin         | 19-18-4 | 148    |
| 18 | Dartmouth         | 18-12-3 | 128    |
| 19 | Michigan Tech     | 18-17-5 | 126    |
| 20 | Colorado College  | 18-17-4 | 54     |

## USA TODAY/ ESPN Division 1 Baseball Coaches' Poll

|    |                     | Record |
|----|---------------------|--------|
| 1  | Vanderbilt          | 21-1   |
| 2  | Florida State       | 23-0   |
| 3  | South Carolina      | 17-3   |
| 4  | Oregon State        | 20-3   |
| 5  | Virginia            | 19-4   |
| 6  | North Carolina      | 18-3   |
| 7  | Clemson             | 14-4   |
| 8  | Rice                | 17-7   |
| 9  | Texas               | 19-7   |
| 10 | Texas A&M           | 20-3   |
| 11 | Arkansas            | 16-6   |
| 12 | Pepperdine          | 17-7   |
| 13 | Arizona State       | 19-7   |
| 14 | Wichita State       | 16-5   |
| 15 | Cal State Fullerton | 13-9   |
| 16 | Kentucky            | 20-2   |
| 17 | Costal Carolina     | 19-3   |
| 18 | Mississippi         | 15-7   |
| 19 | Oklahoma State      | 17-5   |
| 20 | Long Beach State    | 12-7   |

## ESPN.com/USA Softball Division 1 Rankings

|    |                     | Record |
|----|---------------------|--------|
| 1  | Tennessee           | 28-2   |
| 2  | Alabama             | 28-1   |
| 3  | Oklahoma            | 33-2   |
| 4  | Texas A&M           | 25-3   |
| 5  | Arizona             | 21-7   |
| 6  | Michigan            | 23-3   |
| 7  | Arizona State       | 29-5   |
| 8  | Northwestern        | 19-5   |
| 9  | LSU                 | 28-4   |
| 10 | Stanford            | 21-5   |
| 11 | Texas               | 23-6   |
| 12 | Baylor              | 27-8   |
| 13 | Oregon              | 30-3   |
| 14 | UCLA                | 22-6   |
| 15 | Louisiana-Lafayette | 28-7   |
| 16 | Washington          | 20-7   |
| 17 | Illinois State      | 23-6   |
| 18 | DePaul              | 16-6   |
| 19 | Georgia             | 26-9   |
| 20 | Georgia Tech        | 27-7   |

## NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL



Kentucky coach Tubby Smith kneels on the sideline during the Wildcats' 67-58 NCAA basketball tournament win against Villanova March 16 at the United Center in Chicago. Smith left Kentucky Thursday to coach at Minnesota.

## Smith leaves Kentucky for Minnesota

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — With Kentucky fans dogging him after another disappointing finish, Tubby Smith is bolting the bluegrass for Minnesota.

Smith will be introduced as the 16th coach of the Golden Gophers at a noon press conference Friday, ending a 10-year tenure in Lexington that seemed to be nearing an end even before Minnesota contacted him.

The Wildcats went 22-12 this season and made it to the NCAA tournament, but lost to top-seeded Kansas in the second round, turning up the heat on the coach of

college basketball's winningest program.

Smith led Kentucky to the national championship in his first season in 1998, but the Wildcats haven't been back to the Final Four since, their longest drought since the NCAA tournament began. The team has lost 10 or more games in a season five times under his watch, prompting the demanding fan base to nickname him "10-loss Tubby."

"On behalf of the University of Kentucky, I'd like to express sincere appreciation to Tubby Smith, his family and his staff," Kentucky athletic director Mitch Barnhart

said in a statement. "We wish him the very best at the University of Minnesota. They are getting a solid coach and a great person."

Minnesota was 9-22 this season, the most losses in the 111-year history of the program, and averaged just 60.6 points a game, its lowest in 56 years. Former coach Dan Monson was forced to resign seven games into this season with a 118-106 record in eight seasons.

Thursday morning, Minnesota asked for Barnhart's permission to talk to Smith, said Kentucky basketball spokesman Scott Stricklin.

Smith never was able live

up to the standard set by the man he replaced at Kentucky. Rick Pitino became a legend in Lexington, leading the Wildcats to three Final Fours, including the 1996 national title and the 1997 championship game, before leaving to coach the Boston Celtics.

Wildcats fans grew even more restless when Pitino returned to the state of Kentucky, leading rival Louisville to the 2005 Final Four.

"In our league, we have passionate fans that want to see success," said SEC commissioner Mike Slive about the expectations at Kentucky.

## IN BRIEF

### Artest pleads not guilty to charges of battery

AUBURN, Calif. — Sacramento Kings forward Ron Artest pleaded not guilty Thursday to misdemeanor charges stemming from a domestic dispute with his wife earlier this month.

A Placer County Superior Court judge also ordered him to stay at least 100 yards away from his wife and children until further notice.

Artest's attorney, William Portanova, entered pleas of not guilty to charges of battery and corporal injury to a spouse, false imprisonment and dissuading a witness from reporting a crime.

The former Indiana Pacers player sat in the audience section of the small courtroom among other defendants and members of the media. He spoke only when asked direct questions by Judge Francis Kearney, responding no when asked if he owned firearms and yes when asked if he understood the conditions of the restraining order.

### Peyton Manning to star on "Saturday Night Live"

INDIANAPOLIS — "Saturday Night Live" is just another game for Peyton Manning.

He'll dress up, work with his teammates and audible at every opportunity. Then the Super Bowl MVP hopes it all works in perfect concert — which, of course, it never does on live television. Or minus receivers Marvin Harrison and Reggie Wayne.

"The only thing I've done live is play football, and that's the best thing I do," Manning said. "I've told everyone those commercials are very taped and very edited, but being live is kind of like a game."

Manning has dared to dress up before, donning wigs and mustaches to poke fun at himself. Thankfully, the straight-laced Indianapolis Colts quarterback with a mind that always seems immersed in football has always had someone there to protect his polished image.

This week, Manning must do it himself.

### Papelbon returns to Red Sox bullpen as closer

The Boston Red Sox suddenly have a closer again. Same one as last season.

Jonathan Papelbon is switching back to the bullpen, filling a major void for Boston after spending most of spring training preparing to be a starting pitcher. But he said the move has nothing to do with the fact that Mike Timlin's injury left the Red Sox in dire need of late-inning relief.

"This is something I want to do for the rest of my career," Papelbon said Thursday. "It has nothing to do with Timlin's health or us not having a closer or my shoulder. I broke into the league as a closer. They drafted me as a closer. In college, I learned to pitch in the bullpen. It's where my heart is."

## around the dial

### NCAA BASKETBALL

Florida vs. Butler  
7:10 p.m., CBS

Georgetown vs. Vanderbilt  
7:25 p.m., CBS

Oregon vs. UNLV  
9:40 p.m., CBS

## CRICKET

# Pakistani coach killed after loss in World Cup

Cricket coach's death may be gambling-related



Pakistani Cricket captain Inzamam-ul-Haq, right, and manager Talat Ali mourn their deceased coach, Bob Woolmer.

Associated Press

KINGSTON, Jamaica — Pakistan's cricket coach Bob Woolmer was strangled in his hotel room after the team's shocking World Cup loss to Ireland, police said Thursday.

Police Commissioner Lucius Thomas said in a statement that the pathologist report found Bob Woolmer's death was due to "asphyxia as a result of manual strangulation."

The statement, which was read by a police spokesman at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel where Woolmer was killed on Sunday, said police were now treating the case as a murder investigation. Police said they were reviewing security cameras at the hotel and seeking witnesses to the crime.

"It is our belief that those associated with or having access with Mr. Woolmer may have vital information to assist this inquiry," Thomas said in the statement.

Woolmer, 58, was found unconscious in his blood- and vomit-splattered hotel room in Jamaica on Sunday, a day after his team's upset loss to Ireland on St. Patrick's Day sealed Pakistan's ouster from the tournament. He was later declared dead at a hospital.

Pakistan cricketers were fingerprinted and interviewed on Thursday by police investigating his death. They were allowed to leave the hotel in the afternoon and travel to Montego Bay.

No arrests have been made and there are no suspects in the case, police said.

It was not clear if the team would be asked to remain in Jamaica pending the investigation, but Mark Shields, a deputy police commissioner at the press conference, said the players have pledged full cooperation whether they are on the Caribbean island or back home in Pakistan.

Earlier Thursday, Assistant Police Commissioner Les Green, formerly of Scotland Yard, said the team was fingerprinted as part of standard procedure "to eliminate persons from fingerprints which would be found in the room."

"After a thorough investigation, fingerprints not belonging to Mr. Woolmer were found in the room," he told The Associated Press.

On Wednesday, a forensics team spent hours combing Woolmer's room on the 12th floor of the hotel in Kingston.

Investigators had called in an American pathologist to help determine the cause of death amid local media reports that Woolmer had been strangled. An initial autopsy was inconclusive.

Shields declined to comment when asked about media reports describing the condition of Woolmer's body. "There are some issues surrounding marks on his body, but for the moment I would rather we stick to the cause of death, which is asphyxia," he said.

Woolmer's wife, Gill, said Thursday in an interview from South Africa with Britain's Sky TV that she had not ruled out that her husband was murdered.

"I mean some of the cricketing fraternity, fans are extremely volatile and passionate about the game and what happens in the game, and also a lot of it in Asia, so I suppose there is always the possibility that it could be that (murder)," she said.

Former Pakistani player Sarfraz Nawaz speculated earlier in the week that the coach was killed by gambling interests.

But his widow said her husband had not recently mentioned anything about match fixing. He had been South Africa's coach in the 1990s when the team's captain, Hansie Cronje, admitted taking money to fix matches and was banned for life. Woolmer was never implicated.

Lord Paul Congdon, head of the International Cricket Council's anti-corruption unit, will investigate if corruption played a role in Woolmer's death, ICC chief executive Malcolm Speed said.

Woolmer's death has caused a sensation in the proper world of cricket and left the Pakistan national team in tatters and tears. Team captain Inzamam-ul-Haq announced his resignation and retirement from one-day cricket after Woolmer's death, then led Pakistan to an emotional victory Wednesday against Zimbabwe. A fan at the match hoisted a sign saying: "Do it for Bob."

The burly, bearded team captain left the field weeping after the victory he dedicated to Woolmer. "He's not in this world now and every Pakistani and every cricket lover is sad," he said.

Woolmer, who is British, was born in India, played for England and recently split his time between Pakistan and South Africa.

## NCAA BASKETBALL

# Oden seals Ohio State win

Buckeye center's block as time expires gives OSU 85-84 victory

Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — Maybe now folks will realize there's more to Ohio State than Greg Oden.

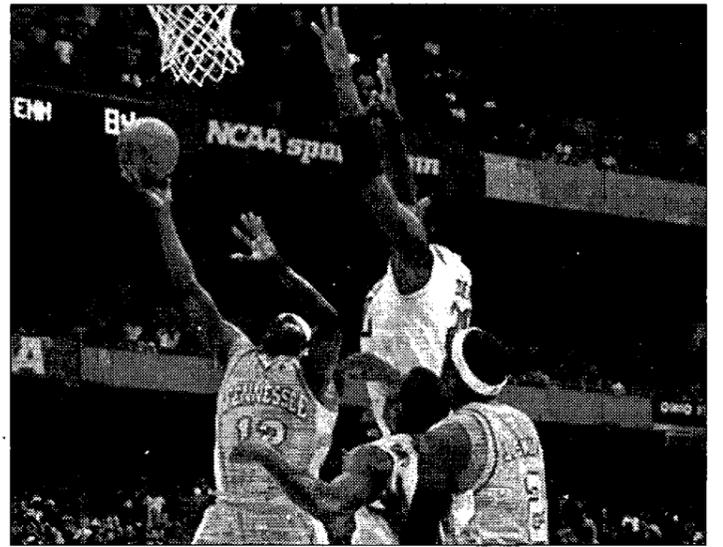
The big man finally looked like a freshman, getting mired in foul trouble as the top-seeded Buckeyes fell behind by 20 points before halftime. But senior Ron Lewis and fellow freshman Mike Conley bailed out Oden and lifted Ohio State past Tennessee, 85-84 Thursday night in the semifinals of the NCAA South Regional.

"In this tournament, the two most important words are 'survive' and 'advance,' and we've been very, very fortunate the last couple of games to do those things," said Buckeyes coach Thad Matta, whose club needed a furious final minute and overtime to get past Xavier in the second round.

Lewis, who hit the big 3-pointer in the Xavier rally, scored 18 of his 25 points in the second half and Conley had nine of his 17 from the foul line — including the winner with 6.5 seconds left.

But Conley missed a second shot, giving Tennessee one last chance. Lamar Smith grabbed the rebound and went all the way to the rim with Conley defending him. They went up together and time expired with his ball in the air.

Then it was Oden to the rescue, swatting the ball into the Volunteers' cheerleaders and dropping back to earth himself with his biggest smile of the



Ohio State center Greg Oden blocks Tennessee's Lamar Smith's last-second shot during the Buckeyes' 85-84 win Thursday.

night, while Smith planted himself facedown in front of the Tennessee bench.

The Buckeyes (33-3) won their 20th straight game, keeping alive their longest run in the tournament since reaching the Final Four in 1999. They can get there again with a victory Saturday against Texas A&M earlier Thursday.

For the Volunteers (24-11), this was a second straight heartbreaking loss to one of the nation's top teams. The first was a 68-66 defeat in Columbus, Ohio, in mid-January when Oden had the first breakout game of his career.

"We played about as well in the first half, I think, as we can

play," Tennessee coach Bruce Pearl said. "We're terribly disappointed. We've proven we can beat some of the best teams in the country. We've also proven we can come close to beating some of the best teams in the country."

The 7-foot, 270-pound Oden scored only nine points, matching his lowest in 15 games, and set a season-low with three rebounds. He never fouled out, though, needing quick substitutions in the final few minutes to avoid getting disqualified. He played only nine minutes in each half, a season-low total of 18.

After the game, Oden needed stitches in his chin because of a collision during the second half.

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## MLB

# Prior's latest start positive

*Oft-injured pitcher throws four innings, gives up four hits*

Associated Press

PEORIA, Ariz. — Mark Prior had his best outing of the spring. Whether he'll start the season on the Chicago Cubs' active roster is still unclear.

With the rotation pretty much set a week before the Cubs break camp and with Wade Miller the top candidate to be the fifth starter, there might not be a spot for Prior. At least not right away.

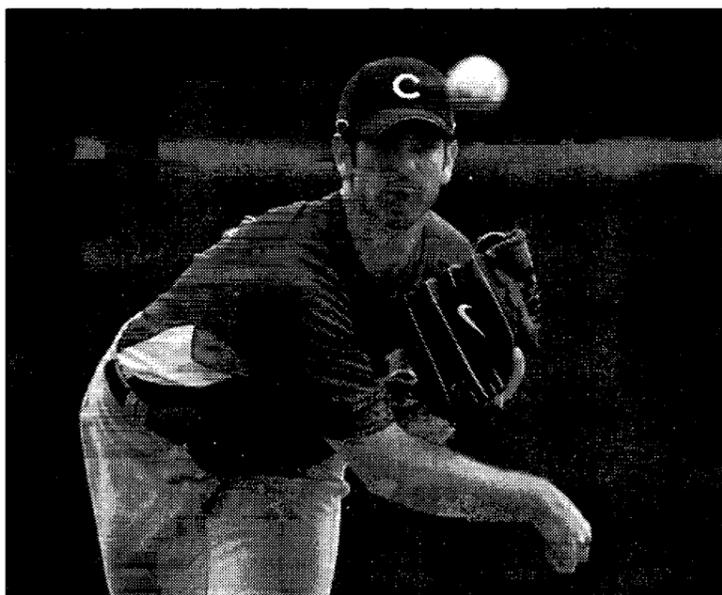
"He threw the ball better, that's the most important thing. A really nice step forward for him," manager Lou Piniella said after Prior's four-inning outing Thursday in a 1-0 loss to the San Diego Padres. "I think the idea of not rushing him, giving him time, it's the right tonic."

Prior gave up four straight two-out singles in the first — the only four hits he allowed. But he surrendered only one run, thanks to a nice throw to the plate from left fielder Matt Murton to cut down a runner.

Prior threw 59 pitches, walked two and struck out three. He whizzed a fastball by Khalil Greene for the final out in the third. He hit 89 mph with his fastest pitch in a game called after five innings because of rain.

Prior was making just his third appearance and second start of the spring and has now worked only 7 1-3 innings. That's well below the 25 to 27 innings Piniella said he wanted to give his starters.

"I felt good and the arm feels great," Prior said. "There weren't



AP  
Mark Prior pitches during a spring training start against San Diego Thursday. Prior pitched for four innings and gave up one run.

too many good swings off me and they didn't really hit too many balls hard."

When Prior completed his fourth inning by slipping a called third strike past former teammate Greg Maddux, he walked off the field and was greeted by a handshake and pat on the back from pitching coach Larry Rothschild. Prior entered the game with an 0-1 record and 18.90 ERA in two short outings. He'd also pitched four innings last week in an intrasquad game.

Maddux was sharp in his first start against a major league lineup since March 8. The right-hander held the Cubs to three hits in five shutout innings. Maddux pitched against Texas Rangers minor leaguers on Saturday. He skipped his previous start with a

lower abdominal strain.

"I felt pretty good," Maddux said. "You'd like to get a little better each time out."

Prior's performance Thursday came after Piniella said before the game that Miller was pretty much — but not 100 percent — set as the No. 5 starter, joining the rotation of Carlos Zambrano, Ted Lilly, Jason Marquis and Rich Hill.

But not so fast. "We'll see where we go from here. But obviously it was an improvement and I'm happy to see it," Piniella said after the game, adding that Prior was able to get his breaking pitch over and also looked more comfortable on the mound.

Piniella said he didn't know if Prior would pitch again this spring.

## NCAA BASKETBALL

# UCLA defeats Pitt, advances to Elite 8

*Bruins hit 23-of-26 free throws in 64-55 win*

Associated Press

SAN JOSE, Calif. — Ben Howland set the tone early, crouching into a defensive stance with his arms in the air, yelling out assignments.

And he's only UCLA's coach. His players paid just as much attention at the defensive end in a style all-too-familiar for Pittsburgh. The style Howland employed in four years at Pitt ended up

knocking the Panthers out of the NCAA tournament when the Bruins won the West Regional semifinal 64-55 Thursday night.

"It starts with our coach," point guard Darren Collison said. "He emphasizes defense all year long and we showed it pays to be physical."

The second-seeded Bruins (29-5) never trailed in the grind-it-out game that matched Howland against his best friend and former assistant, Jamie Dixon. With teams using the same tight defensive style, sometimes the only way to score was when the shots weren't contested.

That's just what Arron Afflalo and the Bruins did. Afflalo made all 10 of his free throws and UCLA shot 23-for-26 from the line, scoring 12 of its final 18 points on foul shots.

"We did a great job to knock down free throws, and it's a good thing we did because we weren't scoring a lot," forward Josh Shipp said. "I think we're just getting down to business and focusing on free throws."

Third-seeded Pitt (29-8) cut a 12-point lead down to five when LeVance Fields hit a pair of 3s and Ronald Ramon added another in an 88-second span, but Michael Roll's baseline jumper with 51.5 seconds left put the Bruins up 58-51.

"We never really pulled away," Afflalo said. "That team kept competing and they did a great job staying in the game. We were very fortunate tonight."

The Bruins advanced to play Kansas (33-4) in Saturday's regional final in a matchup of two of college basketball's most storied teams. The top-seeded Jayhawks beat Southern Illinois 61-58 in the first game in San Jose.

Afflalo finished with 17 points, going 3-for-11 from the floor in another poor shooting night. Shipp added 16 and Collison had 12 as the Bruins advanced to regional finals in consecutive years for the first time since 1979-80.

Ramon scored 12 points to lead the Panthers, who lost in the regional semifinals for the fourth time in six seasons. They haven't been to the round of eight since 1974, when it took only two wins to get there. Fields added 11

and Aaron Gray was held to 10 in his final college game.

"They're a very good defensive team," Gray said. "Obviously we knew that going in. We knew it wasn't going to be an up-and-down game. You got to give them a lot of credit. They did a great job forcing us out of our stuff. At the same time, we missed a lot of shots that we're accustomed to making."

The Panthers shot just 2-of-12 to open the second half, missing more than a dozen layups as UCLA's big men allowed nothing easy underneath. They never really threatened UCLA after that and finished the game at 36 percent shooting.

"Our defense was spectacular tonight. It had to be or we weren't going to win this game."

**Ben Howland**  
UCLA coach

was spectacular

tonight," Howland said. "It had to be or we weren't going to win this game."

Shipp, who missed the Bruins' run to the title game a year ago because of a hip injury, hit two key 3-pointers early in the half. The rest was done at the foul line. Even Lorenzo Mata got into foul shooting rhythm, making a pair in the second half despite being a 37 percent foul shooter on the season. That got a big round of applause from the pro-Bruins crowd that filled the arena.

This matchup between coaches who are also best friends could only have happened in the NCAA tournament. The two have said they would never schedule a regular-season meeting because they saw no benefit to playing a close friend.

"It's emotional for me," Howland said. "I've got a lot of good friends over there. I hope we never have to play again."

The relationship between the coaches runs deep, dating to when Howland recruited Dixon to play at UC Santa Barbara in the early 1980s. The two then worked together at UCSB, Northern Arizona and Pitt over the years before Howland left for UCLA following the 2002-03 season and Dixon replaced him.

"There were a few instances when I recognized the play calls and the motion that they were running," Afflalo said. "That probably worked to our advantage, but maybe they could say the same thing."

The Panthers opened the game 5-for-19 shooting, unable to get open looks against UCLA's stifling man-to-man defense. Pitt went more than 5 minutes without a field goal in one stretch, but only trailed by seven because of their own defense and ability to get to the foul line.

"I can't remember another game where we missed that many layups or easy looks," Pitt forward Levon Kendall said. "I don't know what it was. Just one of those things."

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## ND SOFTBALL

## Bargar leads team to victory

*Sophomore throws complete game with four hits and three Ks*

By MICHAEL BRYAN  
Sports Writer

Notre Dame snapped a three-game losing streak Thursday with a 6-1 win over IUPUI in its home opener.

Right-hander Brittney Bargar pitched a complete game for the Irish, picking up the win to improve to 7-7 on the year.

"Right now, we're going to take the wins as they come," Bargar said. "We always shoot for a shutout, but we'll take the win."

Bargar allowed only four hits while striking out three in her league-leading 11th complete game of the season.

The offense got started early for the Irish (10-12), putting up two runs in the bottom of the first inning. Third baseman Heather Johnson doubled home senior Stephanie Brown with two outs to drive in the first run of the game and shortstop Katie Laing fol-

lowed with a double of her own to give the Irish the 2-0 lead. Johnson picked up three hits and two RBI in the first home game of her career.

Notre Dame picked up another two-out run in the third after second baseman Linda Kohan walked. Junior Sarah Smith pinch-ran for Kohan, and scored all the way from first on another double by Johnson.

With the Jaguars (5-13) still scoreless in the sixth, the Irish put the game out of reach with three more runs. Center fielder Stephanie Brown earned an RBI, beating out an infield single with two outs that scored a run, followed by left fielder Beth Northway scoring on an error. Notre Dame senior Gessica Hufnagle singled home Brown for the sixth and final run for the Irish.

Brown also picked up two hits and scored two runs, increasing her team-leading batting average to .444.

IUPUI finally got on the board in the seventh inning when pinch hitter Susan Jones hit into a fielder's choice, driving home center fielder Sarah Needy for the

Jaguars' only run of the day.

Irish Coach Deanna Gumpf said the team's tough losses in the Judi Garman Classic over spring break may have helped the team.

"In California, we saw some girls who were really throwing hard and with a lot of movement," Gumpf said. "Now we can come back and see some girls who are good, but they don't look so tough anymore."

Sophomore Breanna Howell gave up four earned runs over 5 2/3 innings to take the loss for IUPUI.

While the Irish have had their early season struggles, Gumpf believes the most important part of the season begins in conference play.

"Right now, our record doesn't mean anything," she said. "The only thing that matters is how well we prepared ourselves to play in the Big East."

Notre Dame will begin its conference schedule this weekend with doubleheaders at home against St. John's Saturday and Seton Hall Sunday.

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## SMC SOFTBALL

## Belles return home after 10 road games

By REBECCA SLINGER  
Sports Writer

After 10 road games — all in Florida — Saint Mary's is finally playing in front of its home crowd.

The Belles (9-1) take on Rose-Hulman (7-5) Sunday at 2 p.m. in their home opener.

"There's always apprehension for the first game, and the weather is different here from Florida," Belles coach Erin Sullivan said. "But in general, the team is just excited."

Even though the Engineers don't quite have the Belles record, their offense features four players hitting above .400. Switch-hitting second baseman Ashley Montgomery leads Rose-Hulman at the plate with a .488 average, 16 runs and 21 hits.

Sullivan is confident Belles pitchers Calli Davison and Kristen Amram will be able to shut down the Engineers strong offense.

"We'll just mix it up. We stay away from hitters' strengths," Sullivan said.

Davison and Amram have a combined ERA of 1.42. By comparison, the Engineers staff has a team ERA of 4.41.

Last year, the Belles easily took a doubleheader against the Engineers, 10-1 and 15-1. But Sullivan knows that last year's performance won't have a big impact this time. This season, the Engineers are in first place in the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference.

"We can't assume we're going to win. We're such a different team this year," Sullivan said. "We expect to beat everybody — that's our goal."

The Belles will also need to adjust to the weather change, having only played in sunny Ft. Myers, Fla., during spring break. Forecasts have called for isolated thunderstorms at game time.

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## CREW

## Irish travel to Ann Arbor to compete in 4-team regatta

By DANIELLE KELLER  
Sports Writer

After an impressive performance last Sunday against Alabama and Cincinnati, the No. 11 Irish take on Clemson, Michigan and Michigan State Saturday in Ann Arbor, Mich.

The Wolverines and Spartans have both started off strong this season and are ranked No. 15 and No. 14, respectively, in the US Rowing/Collegiate Rowing Coaches Association poll.

The Irish novice-eight crew looks to extend its undefeated season, while the other varsity and novice boats will look for a strong finish. Saturday's regatta marks Notre Dame's second match of its spring season.

Irish coach Martin Stone declined to comment on the team's upcoming competition.

After claiming the Big East title last year, this year's team has high hopes of clinching its fourth-consecutive team title.

The Irish are off to a good start this season. They finished first in four of five races

Sunday, and they put up a strong showing against No. 13 Minnesota and No. 9 Tennessee Saturday.

Clemson has been active already this spring, winning five of six races Saturday at the Clemson Challenge. Clemson took the first, second and third varsity-eight races, winning the first-team race by two boat lengths against Indiana.

The Tigers and Spartans have already squared off once this season in a scrimmage March 9. Despite losing the first varsity race, Michigan came back to

win the second varsity and the novice races to take the event.

Michigan State raced well in the fall but lost in its most recent regatta — an exhibition March 10 with Virginia. The Spartans finished their fall season on a high note by winning the American Heritage Regatta Nov. 5 against Michigan and Eastern Michigan. Michigan State took first and second in that race, with the novice finishing one spot behind the varsity squad.

Michigan State was scheduled to scull against the Irish

Oct. 28, but the race was cancelled due to inclement weather.

Michigan also had a strong showing in the American Heritage Regatta. Its three varsity-eight boats finished second, third and sixth in the race. In the varsity-four event, the Wolverines placed second, fourth and sixth.

The four-team event takes place all day Saturday.

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## SMC TENNIS

## Squad travels to face IW after fast home start

By ELLYN MICHALAK  
Sports Writer

After crushing Olivet 8-1 in its home opener, Saint Mary's (5-4, 1-0) will travel this weekend to take on Indiana Wesleyan University.

The Belles got off to a good start this season with the Olivet victory Wednesday — the team's first conference match.

"Though we struggled a little bit in doubles, we did very well in singles," Belles coach Dee Stevenson said.

But Saint Mary's will face a much tougher opponent Saturday against the Wildcats.

Indiana Wesleyan had a perfect season last fall, with a conference record of 8-0 and an overall record of 13-0 — outscoring opponents 106-9 in dual matches.

"It'll be a tough match," Stevenson said. "They're probably one of the top schools in our division throughout the Midwest."

Saint Mary's will look to avenge

last year's 8-1 loss to Indiana Wesleyan, as well. Belles senior captain Kelly McDavitt leads the team at the No. 1 singles spot and freshman Camille Gebert plays behind her in the second spot. The duo also comprises the Belles' top doubles team.

Indiana Wesleyan boasts three All-conference players for the fall season in junior Sarah Bauss, junior Kristi Haddad and sophomore Julia Hedgebeth.

"This year we're going into the season with a new attitude," McDavitt said. "Since Indiana Wesleyan is not in our conference, we are focusing on going into the match with a positive attitude. Though they are a strong team, we hope that it will give us good practice and prepare us for the rest of our conference season."

The match will take place Saturday at noon at Indiana Wesleyan.

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## SMC GOLF

## Clubbers go for warmth

*Team makes trip to Kentucky to play in multi-school event*

By BILL BRINK  
Sports Writer

Five Saint Mary's golfers will travel to Perry Park, Ky., to compete in the Northern Kentucky Invitational, which takes place Saturday and Sunday.

In just their second spring tournament appearance, the Belles hope to improve on their previous performance at the Fairfield University Invitational.

Junior Katie O'Brien, sophomores Perri Hama and Meredith Fantom, and freshmen Theresa Tonyan and Meaghan Fountain will all travel south. O'Brien led the Belles last week by shooting a two-round total of 191 strokes, good for 47-over.

Saint Mary's coach Mark Hamilton said that the team has some improving to do.

"They're really more deter-

mined to show the rest of the country that the scores we shot were a little inflated," he said. "They can play much better, and they're excited to come out and prove themselves."

For players like O'Brien and Fantom, who remained in contention all of last weekend, the key to vaulting to the next level may not lie in the physical aspect of the game but in the mental portion.

"They need confidence, knowing that they can do it, and they're capable," Hamilton said. "Some fine-tuning and mechanical things. But really, getting on a roll out there, getting some pars under your belt, and believing in yourself that they can do it."

The team's play last week exposed areas of improvement the team worked on this week. Long-range chip shots weren't landing close enough to the pin, and with the course it will play this weekend, the team has focused on shots in the 20-40 yard range.

"We've worked on a lot of long

chip shots this week simply because this golf course is designed quite a bit differently than a lot of the courses we play down south," Hamilton said. "There are a lot of big greens at this course, so we'll tend to have a few more chips than pitches."

With the nice weather this week, the Belles have been able to practice outside. The course the Belles use to practice opened a couple of days ago, and the team has also hit balls at their outdoor facility.

The team will likely face tough competition in Perry Park. DePauw, the No. 2 Division III team in the nation, will compete in the Invitational as well. The competition doesn't get any easier after DePauw.

"There will also be quite a few Division II and some smaller Division I schools there too," Hamilton said. "It will be pretty stiff competition, probably just as stiff as we faced down south."

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**ND MEN'S TENNIS**

# Bass, Irish take on Purdue

*Irish ranked in top-5 for the first time since March of 2002*

By DEIRDRE KRASULA  
Sports Writer

Notre Dame takes on Purdue Sunday, while ranked nationally in the top-five for the first time since the Irish were No. 4 in the Intercollegiate Tennis Association poll in March 2002.

Despite breaking into the top-five, Notre Dame coach Bobby Bayliss said he prefers not to think too much about rankings.

"I really don't put a whole lot of credence into the rankings at this point," he said. "There's still a lot of tennis to be played."

Even though Bayliss is not focused on the rankings, he is still proud of the way the team is performing this season.

"It's a tribute to the fact that our guys have made big commitments this year and have stayed together as a team and have performed

when it mattered," he said. No. 1 singles player, senior Stephen Bass, also rose in the rankings from No. 12 to No. 8 — his highest career ranking.

Bayliss said that Bass deserves the ranking and has been determined since he first stepped foot on Notre Dame's courts. As a freshman, Bass struggled with his serve and forehand but never gave up, Bayliss noted.

"He was a guy that made you hit a lot of balls, and you had to beat him because he wasn't going to beat himself," he said. "He has really maximized his abilities and should be extremely proud of what he's been able to achieve."

*"I really don't put a whole lot of credence into the rankings at this point. There's still a lot of tennis to be played."*

**Bobby Bayliss**  
Head coach

Bass defeated Tulsa's No. 5 Arnau Bruges in the semifinals of the Blue/Gray Classic March 17. Bayliss said the victory was one of the best the senior has ever played.

"When he beat Bruges, he did it by attacking and anybody that knew Stephen a couple of years ago prob-

ably wouldn't have recognized his play," Bayliss said.

Being able to play tough competition outdoors at the Blue/Gray Classic last week has allowed the Irish an insight into the rest of their season. Notre Dame knocked off No. 14 Alabama in the finals of the Blue/Gray Classic to take the title.

"We had ten straight days of play outdoors," Bayliss said. "And that's something that has given us a lot of confidence."

Notre Dame dropped the doubles points in both the semifinals and finals of the Blue/Gray and will look to regain that strength against Purdue, Bayliss said. The No. 7 duo of senior Ryan Keckley and junior Sheeva Parbhu will likely take on Purdue's Branko Kuzmanovic and Paul Rose. Notre Dame's top duo dropped their last match 8-3 to Alabama's Dan Buikema and Mathieu Thibaudreau.

Bayliss feels that Purdue will present the Irish with a challenge but is confident that team is up for the task.

"I'm most concerned with our ability to play well and to simply continue to show improvement as the year goes on," he said.

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**ND WOMEN'S TENNIS**

# Squad defeats Wisconsin, extends win streak to 11

By DAN MALOOF  
Sports Writer

Fresh off victories over two top-25 opponents last week, No. 3 Notre Dame stretched its winning streak to 11 matches and improved its overall record to 16-1 with a dominating 7-0 win over the Wisconsin Badgers on Thursday.

"We played really well," Irish coach Jay Louderback said. "It's a combination of the fact that their confidence is down since they haven't been playing well, and our confidence is up since we have been playing well."

Both teams were dealing with injuries as Notre Dame was without junior Brook Buck and freshman Colleen Rielley, who were unable to play with undisclosed injuries. The Badgers' best player, No. 18 Caitlin Burke, was just returning from an injury that had kept her sidelined for two months, forcing her to play only in the No. 2 doubles match.

With neither team at full strength, the Irish stepped up their level of play.

"It gave some of our other kids who haven't played much singles a chance to play, and we played well," Louderback said. "We only lost three games in the singles and ... I just kept waiting to see us miss some balls and no one was missing any."

Freshmen Cosmina Ciobanu and Kali Krisik controlled the No. 3 doubles match with an 8-1 triumph

over Wisconsin's Chelsea Nussock and Kim Roberts. No. 4 ranked doubles team Christian and Catrina Thompson shut out the Badgers' tandem of Kaylan Caiati and Elizabeth Carpenter 8-0 to clinch the doubles point.

After gaining the doubles point, the Irish singles easily won all six singles points. Kali Krisik, playing in her first singles dual action, got the first singles point in straight sets beating Wisconsin freshman Kim Roberts 6-1, 6-0.

Sophomore Katie Potts continued Notre Dame's rout in her first singles since Feb. 14 by defeating junior Morgan Tuttle 6-1, 6-1.

Sophomore Kelcy Tefft clinched the match with a 6-0, 6-0 shutout of junior Chelsea Nussock.

No. 62 Ciobanu and No. 19 Catrina Thompson emerged victorious with 6-0, 6-0 triumphs while Christian Thompson won for the first time in her last four matches, defeating Elizabeth Carpenter 6-0, 6-1.

Louderback was pleased with Christian Thompson's ability to put her previous defeats behind her to emerge victorious against one of Wisconsin's top players.

"She played with a little more confidence and very positively and she wasn't worried about losing a few points," Louderback said.

Next up for the Irish is No. 21 Wichita State on March 30.

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# Loyola

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players scored a point in the victory. Sophomore Jane Stoeckert and senior Meghan Murphy had four points apiece.

The Irish hounded the Buckeyes defensively, forcing 16 turnovers on the game. Notre Dame also out-shot Ohio State 33-16.

"It was a very good game Wednesday, but we're not happy with just a win over Ohio State" Coyne said. "We have to go game by game, and we have

to win. With the goals we have, losing is not an option."

Against Loyola Sunday, the Irish will key its defense on Greyhounds junior Maura Kenny, leading her squad in scoring for the second season in a row.

On the offensive end, Notre Dame will look to take advantage of the sophomore Byers and junior McKinney. Both goal-scorers were recently named to the Tewaaron Trophy watch list for the best player in women's lacrosse.

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## MLB

# La Russa faces DUI charges

### Cardinals manager registered BAC of 0.093 Thursday night

Associated Press

JUPITER, Fla. — St. Louis Cardinals manager Tony La Russa was arrested Thursday on a drunken driving charge after police said they found him asleep inside his running sport utility vehicle at a stop light.

La Russa gave two breath samples and had a blood alcohol content of 0.093 percent, Jupiter police said in a statement. Florida's legal driving limit is 0.08 percent.

"I'm not sure what type of statement to give," La Russa said after his team's 2-1 spring training loss to the Florida Marlins on Thursday. "I've been scribbling stuff."

"Last night's situation is the opposite of feeling good. It was an embarrassment, so I apologize to anyone who is close to me, members of the

Cardinals organization, our fans. I regret it, take responsibility and I'm not sure there is anything else I can say."

Undercover officers saw La Russa's SUV sitting partially in an intersection around midnight and not moving despite two green lights, police said. Officers knocked on the window and La Russa did not initially respond.

The SUV was in drive and running, with La Russa's foot on the brake, police said. When he woke up, the officers asked him to get out of the SUV. La Russa was cooperative during his arrest, police said.

The 62-year-old La Russa was booked into the Palm Beach County jail on the misdemeanor count about four hours later, according

to police and jail records. He was released about 8:30 a.m. after posting \$500 cash bond, said Paul Miller, a Palm Beach County sheriff's office spokesman.

When La Russa walked onto the field before Thursday's game, many fans stood and applauded.

"That was a really nice gesture when the game

started," La Russa said. "I guess because over the years, you've done things so you don't want it to go in the other direction and that's a couple steps last night, so."

The Cardinals said in a statement that the team takes "these matters very seriously" and apologized for any embarrassment and distractions. "The Cardinals organization remains supportive of Tony," the team said.

*"Last night's situation is the opposite of feeling good."*

**Tony La Russa**  
Cardinals manager

## NBA

# Thomas' last second tip-in gives Bulls win

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Tyrus Thomas wasn't quite sure what happened. The details were a little fuzzy, so he might want to save the video because this one is worth another look.

The rookie looked on a tip-in with two-tenths of a second left after Ben Gordon's missed jumper, giving the Chicago Bulls a 109-108 victory over the Denver Nuggets on Thursday night.

"I don't know what happened," Thomas said. "I am just glad we got the win. Now, I just have to put this game behind me."

Allen Iverson's drive along the right side gave the Nuggets a 108-107 lead with 13.1 seconds left, but the Nuggets saw their five-game win streak end in a wild finish.

The Bulls immediately called a timeout, and Kirk Hinrich lost the ball off a Nugget player along the baseline with 9.8 seconds left.

Gordon got trapped in the right corner after catching the inbounds pass and threw a weak pass toward P.J. Brown on the wing. The ball got deflected, and a diving Brown beat the Nuggets' Eduardo Najera. Gordon got it back and missed a jumper from the corner, but Deng — battling with Carmelo Anthony — kept it alive for Thomas.

"I told P.J. he had a nice tackle on the play," coach Scott Skiles said. "I felt like we were fortunate to come up with a shot from Ben Gordon, that he could get the ball and get the shot right there. That set off the series of events, and Tyrus was in the right spot and active on the glass."

Gordon finished with 25 points to lead the Bulls, who had lost two straight to Memphis and the Los Angeles Clippers.

Deng had 22 points and 14 rebounds, and Hinrich scored 21 points. Brown added 16 points and seven rebounds, and

Thomas finished with nine points and 11 rebounds.

"I told P.J. I was going to take him to dinner," Gordon said. "He was the one who kept the play alive. I think Luol got a finger on it, and Tyrus took it home for us."

Iverson led Denver with 31 points, Anthony added 28, and Nene had 18 points and 12 rebounds.

"I'd rather lose by 100 points than lose by a tip-in like that," Anthony said. "We can't let this shatter our confidence."

He thought the outcome might have been different had Marcus Camby not left with back spasms in the third quarter.

Either way, it was a much-needed victory for the Bulls after losing to two teams with losing records.

One of the Bulls' goals is to finish with fewer than 10 losses at home, and it's still within reach — barely. They're 26-9, with six games left at the United Center. Two of those are against Detroit and Cleveland, so achieving that goal will be difficult.

More important for the Bulls is securing home-court advantage in the first round of the playoffs. That could be the difference between a postseason run and an early exit, given their 14-21 road record.



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# NCAA

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teams set to square off in the first round today, it's time to take a broader look at how the Tournament will project and how fortunate the Irish, in fact, are.

Alabama-Huntsville is not only on the fringes of college hockey geographically, but the Chargers play in a five-team conference — College Hockey America — that has been rumored to be in the process of disbanding. The CHA is awarded one automatic bid into the tournament for its play-off winner — one of six leagues turn earn an auto-bid — but many across the country feel, rightly, that it is not deserved.

Michigan State coach Rick Comley told USCHO.com after the tournament field was announced that he was not satisfied that the NCAA continued to award the CHA a bid.

"What I would like to see is a play-in game," he said. "The CHA should not have an automatic bid under any circumstance whatsoever. They should have a play-in opportunity."

Anything can happen when it comes to tournament time — evidenced by fourth-seeded Holy Cross' upset of top-seeded Minnesota last year — but the Chargers are not Holy Cross. Alabama-Huntsville made the Tournament because they made an underdog playoff run against four teams that can barely be found on the college hockey or geographical map — go ahead, point out where Bemidji State is.

With Atlantic Hockey Association champion Air Force

and its Hobey Baker candidate Eric Ehn, and traditional mainstays Miami and Massachusetts in the other tourney four-spots, Notre Dame has, by far, the easiest first-round opponent of anyone in the field.

And things in the other half of the four-team Grand Rapids regional have shaped up more favorably for the Irish than if the team had been sent to any of the other three locations — Denver, Rochester, N.Y., and Manchester, N.H.

Notre Dame will face the winner of a Boston University-Michigan State pairing. The Spartans squeaked out a third-place finish in the CCHA playoffs last weekend with a 7-6 overtime win over Lake Superior State, but not before they surrendered 11 goals in two games to the Lakers and Michigan. Michigan State looked overmatched, out-worked and just plain sloppy in the two games, and Spartans goalie Jeff Lerg was beaten more times than an Irish secondary.

Boston University is a defensive team along the lines of Notre Dame but lacks some of the firepower up front that the Irish provide with their "little-guy line" of Ryan Thang, Kevin Deeth and Erik Condra. The Irish defense would provide more than enough time for the forward lines to penetrate the Terriers defense and their former walk-on — and now Hobey Baker finalist — goaltender John Curry.

With Michigan State or Boston University the prize for beating cupcake Alabama-Huntsville, the Grand Rapids regional must seem like a trip to Disney World for overall No. 1 seed Minnesota. The Golden Gophers were

placed at the top of the Denver regional — a bracket so stacked that it brings to mind the World Cup's "Death Groups" that combine four of the world's most dangerous teams into one deviously sinister trap. In the Mile High City, Minnesota will be joined by offensively stacked Michigan and the Fighting Sioux of North Dakota, along with an Air Force squadron that will enjoy a near-home ice situation.

Whichever team emerges from that quagmire will be the most seasoned and capable team to advance to the Frozen Four — and, yet again, the Irish pull the long straw and avoid a matchup with the deadly victor if they advance to St. Louis.

The Grand Rapids winner is bracketed to face whoever emerges from Rochester, N.Y. — a watered-down regional with no dominant team. Top-seeded Clarkson could easily be upset in the tournament's opener with Massachusetts and second-seeded St. Cloud will face Maine in a battle of two teams who lost twice in their league tournaments to end their pre-tourney season. In short, if there was a choice before the tournament of which region's winner to face in the Frozen Four, any Vegas odds-maker would finger Rochester.

And what about the ultimate step — the National Championship?

Well, let's save that one for later. It's time will come.

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

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# UAH

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when they erased a 4-0 deficit to defeat Robert Morris 5-4 in overtime.

"They never quit. That's the way [Alabama-Huntsville coach] Doug Ross is — he's retiring, his kids are all motivated," Irish coach Jeff Jackson said. "They're going to play right to the final buzzer regardless of the score."

Ross' retirement has certainly been an added source of motivation for the Chargers. The coach, who played his college hockey at Lake Superior State, has been behind the bench for Alabama-Huntsville for the past 25 years.

Ross has won two Division II national championships with the Chargers, but, like the Irish, he is still looking for his first victory in the Division I tournament.

On the ice, the Chargers are led by their top scoring line of seniors Brett McConnachie, Grant Selinger and David Nimmo. Nimmo, the center, leads the team in scoring with 35 points, while his two linemates are close behind in second and third.

Alabama-Huntsville plays a loose, offensive-minded style of hockey similar to what Notre Dame saw against Michigan in the CCHA finals last Saturday.

"We just have to do what we do," O'Neill said. "We shut down a pretty good offensive

team in Michigan, limiting them to one goal. We just have to do the same thing against these guys."

With the top defense in the country, Notre Dame has shut down potent scorers all post-season, but the Irish backliners have also contributed on the offensive end. O'Neill, who failed to score during the regular season, has netted three goals in the playoffs.

"We just have to pick our spots and jump in when we get the opportunities," he said.

If Notre Dame makes it past Huntsville tonight, it will play again Saturday against the winner of Michigan State and Boston University for a chance to move to the Frozen Four.

Both the Spartans and Terriers play a defensive style of hockey, similar to the Irish.

"There is a big difference between the styles of play," Jackson said. "All I know is that both teams are very capable of being in the Frozen Four."

Boston University goaltender John Curry and the Spartans' Jeff Lerg both have been terrific in net all season. Curry is currently ranked third in the country in goals-against average at 1.92. Only Notre Dame's Dave Brown and Vermont's Joe Fallon have done better this year.

Saturday's game starts at 8:30 p.m., and all of this weekend's games can be seen on ESPNU.

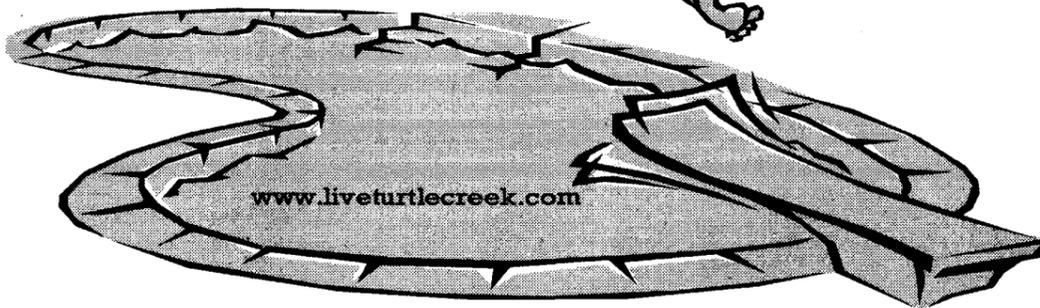
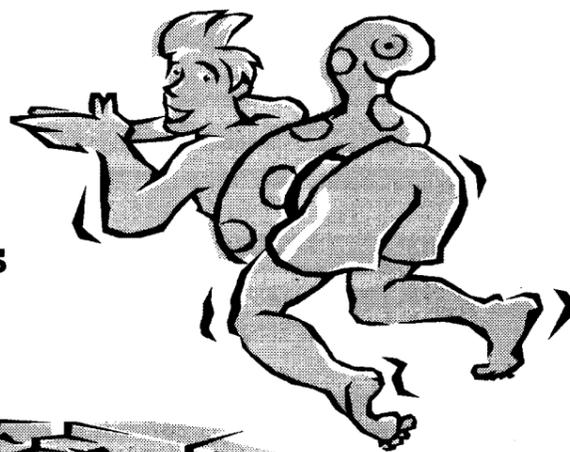
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# Bulls

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16-7 record, the top in the Big East.

Irish junior shortstop Brett Lilley and freshman A.J. Pollock have led the Irish offensively so far. Pollock and Lilley lead the team with .390 and .370 averages, respectively. Most recently, Pollock had five hits against Western Michigan and Lilley drove in five runs.

After posting a season-high 17 runs against Western Michigan, Notre Dame is prepared to sharpen the defensive end of its game this weekend, Pollock said.

"Going into the Big East, we have to limit teams to fewer base runners," he said. "Not give them a chance to get runs off or give them errors."

Irish pitchers David Phelps, Wade Korpi and Dan Kapala will lead Notre Dame from the mound this weekend. Phelps has been a force, boasting a 1.20 ERA in 30 innings. The right-hander helped Notre Dame defeat top teams Texas Christian and Nebraska.

"[Phelps has] been great all season, he's been the most consistent starter," Irish coach Dave Schrage said.

Schrage said the team is aware of the strong pitchers they will be facing this weekend. Right-handers Danny Otero, Daniel Thomas and Chris Delaney head up the Bulls' staff. Thomas leads the three-man rotation with an ERA of 1.27 and is 2-1 in five appearances. Otero has a team-high 32 strikeouts.

"It's going to be a tough series," Schrage said. "[The Bulls] have very good pitching. We are going to face some

great arms this weekend. It will be a real challenge to our offense."

Pollock said the team will look to counter South Florida's strong pitching by focusing on cutting down on errors.

"[Schrage] always stresses less mistakes on defense, don't give other teams more opportunities to get runs, don't give them free bases," Pollock said. "So if we can cut that down we will definitely be a very good team."

Schrage also noted the advantage Notre Dame will have playing at home. South Florida has yet to play a game outside of the Sunshine State and likely will have some difficulty adjusting to the northern climate. Beyond the weather advantage, the Irish are ready to take on the Bulls and see how they will match up against a top team.

"It will be great for us to open with [South Florida]," Schrage said. "I think it will be a good test to see where we are at."

Contact Deirdre Krasula at [dkrasula@nd.edu](mailto:dkrasula@nd.edu)

## CRADLE TO THE GRAVE



LAURIE HUNT/The Observer  
Irish midfielder Bill Liva cradles past Knights midfielder Bryan Brown during Notre Dame's 11-3 win over Bellarmine Tuesday.

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# Big East Doubleheaders

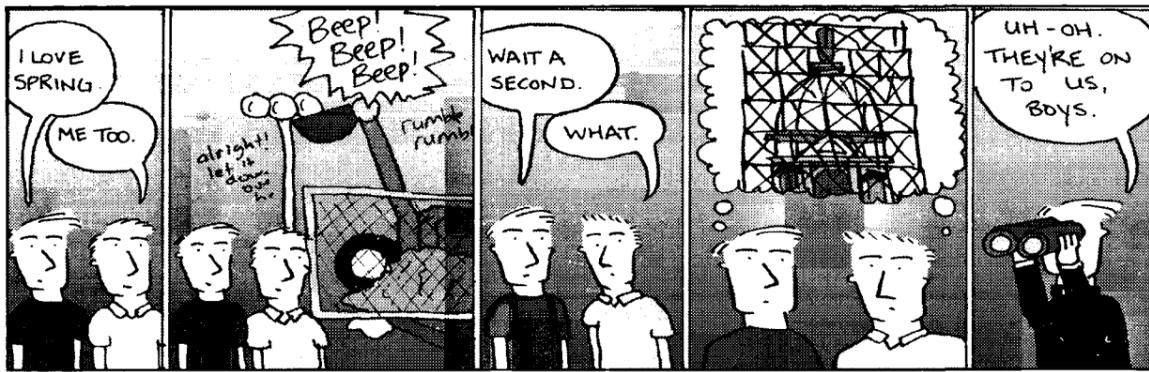
**SATURDAY, MARCH 24**  
**VS. ST. JOHN'S**  
**12:00PM & 2:00PM**

**SUNDAY, MARCH 25**  
**VS. SETON HALL**  
**11:00AM & 1:00PM**

# NOTRE DAME SOFTBALL

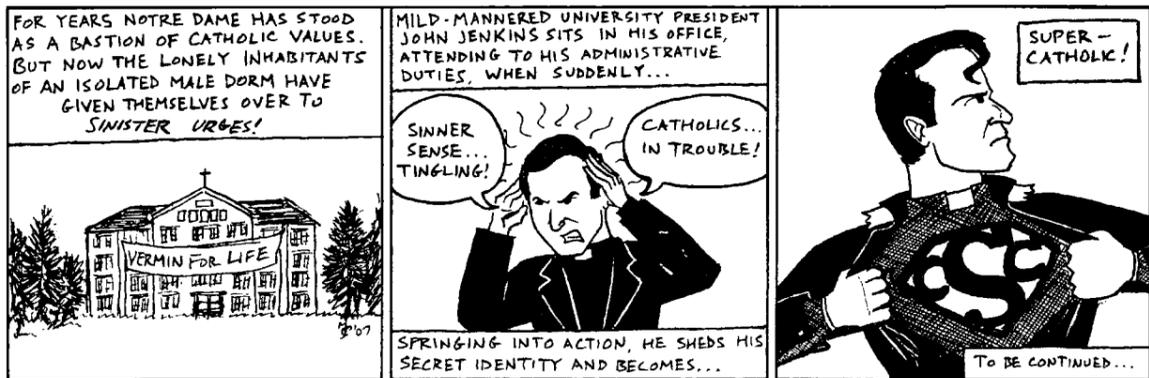
CROISSANTWORLD

ADAM FAIRHOLM



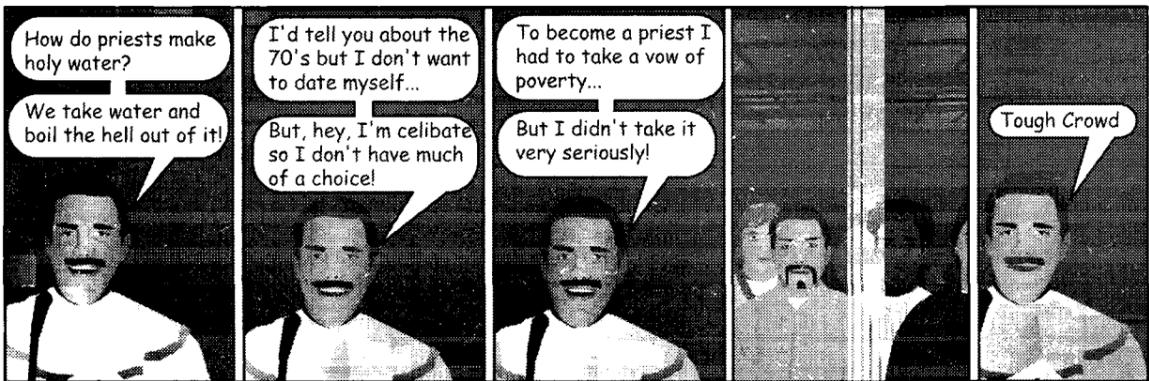
BLACK DOG

MICHAEL MIKUSKA



KALEIDOSCOPE McDANIELS

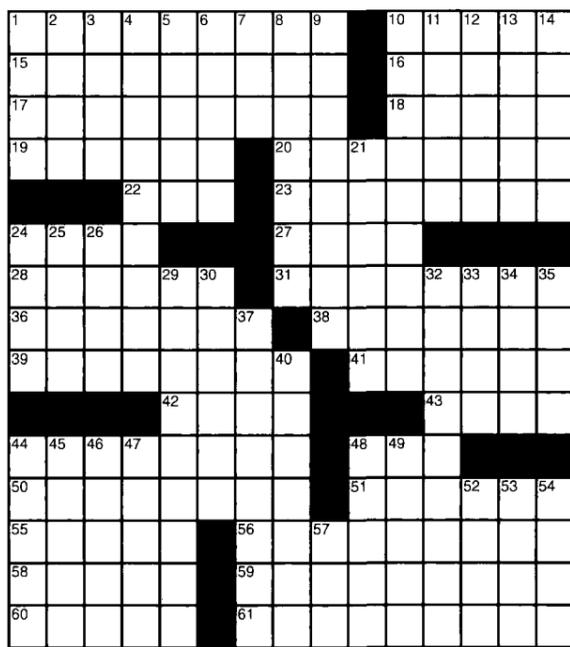
LIAM MORAN



CROSSWORD

WILL SHORTZ

- ACROSS: 1 Steps up, 10 Treasured instrument, 15 Strike out, 16 Goes down, 17 Polka heard frequently on "The Benny Hill Show", 18 Part of a chronicle, 19 Frustrate, 20 1950's political slogan, 22 A, B or C, often: Abbr., 23 Part of a telephone worker's routine, 24 Baseball's Vizquel, 27 Hunter of literature, 28 Part of CORE, 31 Marks off, 36 Doesn't puff idly, 38 Subject of the biography "All or Nothing at All", 39 Develops anacusis, 41 Spurs, 42 Pollster Roper, 43 \_\_\_ the Great (detective of kids' books), 44 One end of a canal, 48 Chemical ending, 50 Frequent area of auto damage, 51 Symbols, 55 Lord's realm, 56 Boeing employee, 58 "He seemed like such \_\_\_ boy", 59 Chance, 60 When to see la luna, 61 Votaries, DOWN: 1 Country rocker Joe and others, 2 You might run for it, 3 Forming clumps, 4 Parts of some services, 5 Admit, 6 "I understand now", 7 Set-\_\_\_, 8 Like spam, 9 Masters topics, 10 Realization, 11 "Un bar aux Folies-Bergère" artist, 12 "Maybe" musical, 13 Durable woods, 14 Dot on a map, maybe, 21 How a snake may be caught?, 24 Before being retitled: Abbr., 25 War preceder, 26 Flu symptom, 29 Bearer of catkins

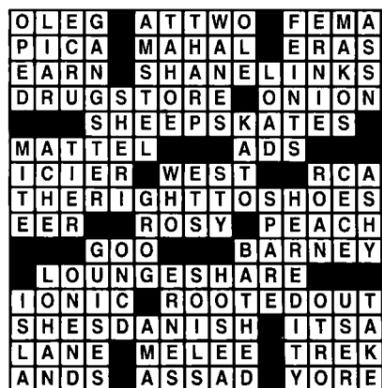


Puzzle by Eric Berlin

- 30 Actress Sobieski, 32 Make attractive, 33 Words with shame or boy, 34 Order at a horse show, 35 Levelheaded, 37 TV witch, 40 A bad way to be left, 44 "The Rights", 45 Heavens: Prefix, 46 Nervine, for one, 47 Methuselah's father, 48 \_\_\_ least, 49 Like some stocks, 52 Brio, 53 Cartoonist Walker, 54 Criteria: Abbr., 57 Geom. figure

For answers, call 1-900-285-5656, \$1.20 a minute; or, with a credit card, 1-800-814-5554. Annual subscriptions are available for the best of Sunday crosswords from the last 50 years: 1-888-7-ACROSS. Online subscriptions: Today's puzzle and more than 2,000 past puzzles, nytimes.com/crosswords (\$34.95 a year). Share tips: nytimes.com/puzzleforum. Crosswords for young solvers: nytimes.com/learning/xwords.

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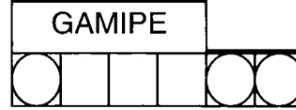
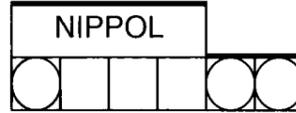
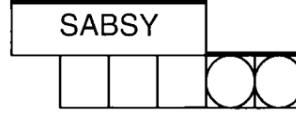
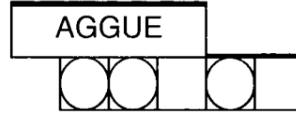


JUMBLE

HENRI ARNOLD MIKE ARGIRION

JUMBLE

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



A: A " " WAS

Yesterdays Jumbles: CHOK STOK TRUISM CIPHER Answer: What she experienced when she shopped for a cactus plant — "STICKER" SHOCK

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME



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

HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Reese Witherspoon, 31; Elvis Stojko, 35; Matthew Modine, 48; Andrew Lloyd Webber, 59. Happy Birthday: You will be tempted to splurge this year but overindulgence must be kept in check. ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't get upset about something you can't change. TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Pamper yourself or spend the day with someone you are into. GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You may think you know what's going to happen but someone you least expect is likely to make a change. CANCER (June 21-July 22): Focus on what you can do for others. LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You can't count on anyone today. VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You are in the driver's seat. LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't be fooled into thinking something has more value. SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Take a closer look at what's going on in your own back yard. SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): There isn't anything that you can't accomplish. CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Put time aside for family. AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't be too concerned about what others think. PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Take a look at the possibilities. Birthday Baby: You have plenty of charisma and charm.

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. Join the more than 13,000 readers who have found The Observer an indispensable link to the two campuses. Please go to www.ndsmcobserver.com/subscriptions and sign up to receive The Observer in your home.

HOCKEY

# The puck drops here

## Icers take on UAH in NCAA first round

By DAN MURPHY  
Sports Writer

No. 1 Notre Dame will attempt to make history once again tonight by winning their first-ever NCAA Tournament game. The Irish face off with College Hockey America champion Alabama-Huntsville at 5 p.m. in the first round of the regional in Grand Rapids, Mich.

The Irish have made only one appearance in the tournament in their 37-year history. Three years ago they lost 5-2 to No. 1 seed Minnesota in the opening round.

"We're just focused on going up there and making a step in Notre Dame history — winning a game in the NCAA Tournament," senior defenseman Wes O'Neill said.

The Irish are heavily favored in the contest, but Alabama-Huntsville brings a boatload of motivation and momentum into the regional with them. The Chargers arrived in Grand Rapids after they went on a Cinderella run through the CHA tournament, twice coming from behind to knock off higher seeds along the way. Their most impressive victory came in the championship game

see UAH/page 21



VANESSA GEMPIS/The Observer

Bulldogs goalie Mitch O'Keefe, right, makes a save in front of Irish center Christian Hanson during Notre Dame's 5-2 loss to Ferris State Feb. 23. Notre Dame starts NCAA play today.

## Notre Dame has clear path to Frozen Four

No draw is an easy draw, but Notre Dame may very well have gotten the freshly Zambonied path to the National Championship when the NCAA Selection Committee announced the four regional brackets Sunday.

The No. 1 Irish were saved the week-long burden of traveling by plane to the Rockies or Northeast

after the icers were shipped two hours up the road to be the one-seed in the Grand Rapids regional. The decision put to rest more than a month of controversial and disputed hockey bracketology over which teams will be sent where and who will fall off the bubble in the 16-team NCAA Tournament.

When the snow spray settled, the Irish were given the second-overall ranking in the tournament and a matchup with the only college hockey team south of the Mason-Dixon line — the sub-.500 Alabama-Huntsville Chargers. And with the two



Kyle Cassily

Sports Writer

see NCAA/page 21

BASEBALL

## Squad has 3-game set with USF

### Young arms lead staff in Big East opener

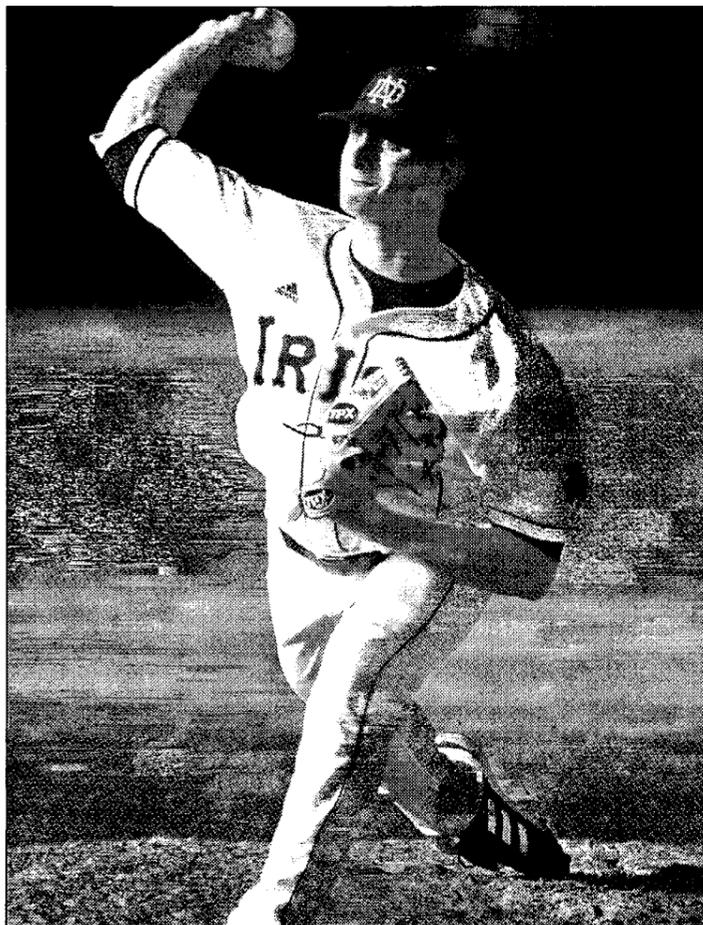
By DEIRDRE KRASULA  
Sports Writer

The three-game series against Notre Dame this weekend could be a cold wake-up call for South Florida. The series — which kicks off today at 5:05 p.m. — is the first time the Bulls will travel out of state this season, as well as the first Big East game for the Irish.

Despite struggling in early non-conference games with a 10-9 record, the Irish have had a strong burst coming into their series against South Florida. Notre Dame defeated Cleveland State 5-3 in its home opener Tuesday and went on to rout Western Michigan 17-9 Wednesday. Notre Dame has won six of its last seven games.

The Irish have a successful history with South Florida, going 4-1 all-time against the Bulls. This season could prove to be more of a challenge as South Florida arrives in South Bend with a

see BULLS/page 22



PHIL HUDELSON/The Observer

Irish right-hander Brett Graffy delivers a pitch during Notre Dame's 12-1 win over Cleveland State May 2, 2006.

ND WOMEN'S LACROSSE

## Irish try to bounce back in Baltimore

### After falling to Orange Sunday, team travels to meet Greyhounds

By MICHAEL BRYAN  
Sports Writer

No. 12 Notre Dame will look to earn its first Big East victory of the season Sunday in Baltimore against Loyola.

The Irish (6-2) will face the struggling Greyhounds (1-5) in the conference opener for Loyola. Notre Dame opened its Big East schedule with a 16-13 loss at Syracuse Sunday.

The Greyhounds, who finished 7-8 last season, have started the season slow after the loss of several seniors from the 2006 campaign. Facing No. 10 Princeton Wednesday, Loyola fell 14-6 on the road despite three goals from junior Kate Flippelli.

The only win of the season so far for the Greyhounds came in a 10-9 victory over mid-major Maryland-Baltimore County.

Notre Dame coach Tracy Coyne said despite Loyola's

recent struggles the Greyhounds are still a dangerous team.

"It's scary because I don't think they've played up to their full talent level," Coyne said. "They have too much tradition and history not to turn their season around — we're just making sure it won't happen on Sunday."

In last year's matchup, the Irish defeated the Greyhounds 13-9 in Florida. Caitlin McKinney and Jillian Byers scored three goals each in the victory.

Notre Dame is coming off a dominant performance Wednesday at home against Ohio State, routing the Buckeyes 16-9. After several games in a row where the Irish trailed early, Notre Dame stormed out of the gate to take a 9-1 halftime lead.

After the half the Buckeyes made a quick run to cut the deficit to 9-5, but Notre Dame quickly responded to put the game out of Ohio State's reach.

In a balanced offensive attack, nine different Irish

see LOYOLA/page 20