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Football distribution system to change

Online ticketing will allow students to bypass multiple lines, registration to start Monday

By CHRIS KHOREY and
CHRIS HINE
News Writers

The chaotic fall tradition of multiple trips to Notre Dame Stadium to buy football ticket booklets is being replaced by an online-based ticket system the Ticket Office hopes is more convenient for students and employees alike.

Ticket Office Director Josh Berlo said Tuesday all students currently enrolled at Notre Dame or Saint Mary's who plan to buy student ticket booklets for the fall 2007 football season will have the opportunity to register online starting

Monday.

Under the previous system, students waited in line at Notre Dame Stadium twice each August — once to pick up a lottery number and again to get the actual ticket booklet.

Fisher Hall sophomore Mike Moriarty said he was excited for the change.

"That was kind of a hassle having to go back and forth and all that," he said.

But other students, including Lyons Hall freshman Claire Connell, said the system was just fine how it was.

"I don't think it's that big of a deal," Connell said. "I wouldn't mind walking over to the stadium to do it."

In order to sit with friends, students will be able to create groups online, Berlo said. Each group will be seated together.

"[Students] can set up a group and they can have the system e-mail their friends the name of the group or they can just pass on the information for the group themselves," Berlo said. "As long as they purchase their tickets and specify which group they'd like to be in by the deadline, they should be all set."

Cavanaugh Hall sophomore Kaitlyn Clarke said the old system allowed students to have some say over where they sat, whereas the online distribution might be more randomized.

"[Under the old system,] you know if you go early to the stadium you know you're going to get the best lottery numbers because even though they say they're random, they're not actually random," she said. "They do give them in order. But, going online, maybe that will make it more random."

Berlo said that while a deadline has not been set yet, students returning next fall who wish to buy tickets will have to do so some time this spring. Students will be notified of the deadline by e-mail, he said.

The ticket office has used online procedures for several

see TICKETS/page 4

Philosophy professor leaves ND

Ramsey picks UNLV for lifestyle, location

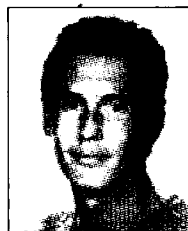
By KATE ANTONACCI
Associate News Editor

After teaching thousands of first-year students during his 18 years at Notre Dame, Associate Professor of philosophy William Ramsey has resigned and will be leaving to teach at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

"For me it came down to weighing incommensurable factors," Ramsey said. "That is, a career in a well-established, prestigious department at a school with excellent students versus living in a place that allows for the kind of lifestyle I find rewarding and that is closer to my family. I chose life."

The decision was still a difficult one, but one Ramsey said he'd been considering for a while — especially in the winter "when there are many days that I don't see the sun," he said.

Regarding rumblings — some within the philosophy department — that the University "dropped the ball in trying to retain me,"



Ramsey

University: No kickbacks from lenders

Notre Dame's Preferred Federal Stafford and PLUS Loan Lenders

Citibank Student Loans

College Board Education Loans

Chase

Nellie Mae

Notre Dame Federal Credit Union*

Wells Fargo

*separate from, and independent of the University of Notre Dame
Source: Office of Student Financial Services

JEFF ALBERT/The Observer

By KAITLYNN RIELY
Assistant News Editor

Suspensions about improper relationships between colleges and student loan companies have fueled an investigation by the New York State attorney general, and more recently a congressional inquiry, but at Notre Dame there are no kickbacks, a University representative in the Financial Aid office said.

Joseph Russo, the director of Student Financial Strategies, said Notre Dame has not been contacted regarding the investigations.

"I think we have a pretty good reputation," he said. "Anyone's welcome to come and investigate."

Anthony M. Cuomo, New York's attorney general, questioned the relationship between student loan companies and colleges, the New York Times reported Tuesday. Colleges frequently created preferred lender lists so their students can contact them for loans to pay for school. Cuomo believed these loan companies were giving universities payment in exchange for any increases in the company's number of student loans at the institutions.

Russo said Notre Dame does not accept any form of kickbacks from the lenders on its preferred lender list.

"The University of Notre Dame stands for quality and integrity, and to suggest that we would be

see LENDERS/page 4

English department denies religious focus

By KATHLEEN McDONNELL
News Writer

While junior English students in need of a senior writing seminar may have been surprised to see three of the four fall seminars focusing — to some degree — on elements of religion, the content of these classes has more to do with individual professors' areas of interest or expertise rather than a push to include more "Catholic" classes, said Susan Harris, chair of the Undergraduate Studies committee for the English department.

While discussions about Notre Dame's Catholic character may result in an increased focus on Catholic issues in the classroom,

Harris said that does not translate into direct pressure from the administration for curriculum changes.

Instead, Harris attributed the number of religiously-themed courses to the English faculty, which boasts a number of professors with particular specializations in religion and literature, Harris said. Additionally, she said some areas of study require religious query. Harris said it is difficult to assess the literature of the Middle Ages without taking Christianity into account.

Even when there isn't a direct religious connection, she said, questions along theological lines may result from literature's inquiries into the

see ENGLISH/page 3

COUNCIL OF REPRESENTATIVES

Candidates approved to posts

By SONIA RAO
News Writer

Newly inaugurated student body president Liz Brown and student body vice president Maris Braun began their administration of Council of Representatives (COR) meetings Tuesday as COR approved candidates for various leadership positions for the 2007-08 term.

The appointments included a policy branch controller, director of communications, chief controller for the Student Union Board (SUB), co-directors of programming for SUB, director of operations for SUB and director of publicity for SUB.

COR approved junior

see COR/page 6



CHRISTIAN SAGARDIA/The Observer

From left, chief executive assistant Sheena Plamootil, president Liz Brown and vice president Maris Braun sit at the COR meeting Tuesday.

INSIDE COLUMN

JC

Superstar

In honor of Easter, I'd like to talk about one of my favorite retellings of the Passion. No, it's not "The Passion of the Christ" or "Jesus of Nazareth." It's "Jesus Christ Superstar," which I consider not only one of the best tellings of the last days of Jesus' life, but one of my favorite albums.

Brian Doxtader
Senior Staff Writer

The problem with "Jesus Christ Superstar" (or "JC Superstar" as we call it in the biz) is that it's been so watered-down through countless incarnations — the West End and Broadway versions, the awful 1973 Norm Jewison film version, the revivals featuring Sebastian Bach. In the beginning, "Superstar" was written and conceived by a then 22-year-old Andrew Lloyd Webber, who collaborated with a young lyricist named Tim Rice. Both Webber and Rice were coming off the success of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," which was first performed when Webber was only 19. Designed as a rock opera akin to The Who's groundbreaking "Tommy," "Superstar" far outstripped that album in terms of musicality and depth.

Unlike the Broadway and film versions that followed, the original 1971 concept album really rocks — in fact, it sounds a lot like any other 1970s prog album, except the musicianship, singing and songwriting are a lot stronger. It features one of rock's best vocalists in Ian Gillian (of Deep Purple fame) in the lead role and some of the best songs Webber would ever write. In my opinion, it was all downhill after this (the mere mention of "Cats" makes me cringe) as Webber became infatuated with his own fame, making more and more pretentious shows as time wore on.

"Jesus Christ Superstar" works best as a capsule of its time — the gospel updated for hippies, with a rock-and-roll foundation. Note that I call it an album — it's easier to just pretend the later versions of it don't even exist. It's the gospel story told largely through the eyes of Judas, which itself was a radical idea — it paints Judas as misunderstood, and Jesus as a flawed savior who struggles with his destiny — both hard things to swallow back in 1971, though largely accepted nowadays.

It's easy to not take the lyrics seriously — "one thing to say for him, Jesus is cool" growls one of the Pharisees — but the fact is that the album is filled with irony and wordplay, despite being surprisingly faithful to the Gospels — the "Superstar" theme itself comes back right after Jesus has been condemned, and it's sung by an already-dead Judas. While some of Rice's lyrics are admittedly juvenile at best, the music overcomes many of those shortcomings — like opera or operatic musicals ("Les Mis," for example), "Superstar" makes use of repeated themes or motifs and, in all actuality, the weakest of these may be the main theme.

I think "Superstar" gets a bad rep and it's really a shame — anyone who gives the original album a chance might be legitimately surprised. The fact is that Webber was once a brilliantly talented young man, and "Superstar" is evidence of this. It's an ambitious and engaging work, and best of all, it brought Jesus to a whole new generation of music fans.

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Brian Doxtader at bdoxtade@nd.edu

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: WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE CARTOON GROWING UP?



Chris Lee
senior
off campus

"Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, because April's hot and Casey's a baller."



Brian Dolinar
freshman
Siegfried

"Garfield, because I love lasagna."



Jessica Stouffer
sophomore
Howard

"Thundercats ho!"



Matt Lucci
junior
Morrissey

"Duck Tales, because Uncle Scrooge is a cash money millionaire."



Tom DeGregoris
freshman
Siegfried

"Captain Planet. He's a hero, gonna take pollution down to zero."



CHRISTIAN SAGARDIA/The Observer

The Easter Bunny dances in LaFortune Student Center Tuesday to help Sorin College on its Easter basket drive. The drive was organized to benefit the Boys and Girls Club of St. Joseph Valley.

OFFBEAT

Honey bear flees zoo, bites bus passenger

MEXICO CITY, Mex. — A kinkajou, also known as a honey bear, that escaped from a Mexico City zoo boarded a bus and attacked a passenger, officials said Tuesday. The kinkajou, which is about the size of a small dog, got on the bus at about 11 p.m. Monday after escaping from the San Juan de Aragon Zoo.

The animal sat next to the bus driver for almost an hour as he drove through the city, and scratched and bit a 20-year-old female passenger when she tried to hold it, the Mexican news agency

Notimex said.

There was some initial confusion about the animal's identity. While Red Cross spokesman Jair Martinez initially identified the creature as a monkey, and some local media referred to it as a lemur, Aleli Mayorca of the city's main Chapultepec Zoo said it was a "martucha," or kinkajou, a nocturnal animal native to Central and South America.

Keith Richards: "I snorted my father"

LONDON — Keith Richards has acknowledged consuming a raft of illegal substances in his time, but this

may top them all. In comments published Tuesday, the 63-year-old Rolling Stones guitarist said he had snorted his father's ashes mixed with cocaine.

"The strangest thing I've tried to snort? My father. I snorted my father," Richards was quoted as saying by British music magazine NME.

"He was cremated and I couldn't resist grinding him up with a little bit of blow. My dad wouldn't have cared," he said. "It went down pretty well, and I'm still alive."

Information compiled by the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

Notre Dame women's softball will play Valparaiso today at 5 p.m. at Ivy Field.

The Ballroom Dance Club will be teaching the Hustle and Mambo in 205 Rockne Memorial from 8 p.m. to 10:30 tonight. All Notre Dame, Saint Mary's and Holy Cross students are invited with a valid ID. The cost is \$4 a night.

The Lord's Supper Mass will be held for Holy Thursday at 5 p.m. in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart.

Classes will not be held Friday through Monday in observance of the Easter holiday. Classes will resume Tuesday.

Good Friday Mass to celebrate the Lord's passion will be held at 3 p.m. Friday in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart.

Ben Hur will be shown as a silent film with piano accompaniment by Dave Drazin on Friday at 7 p.m. in DPAC's Browning Cinema. The cost is \$3 for students.

The Notre Dame women's lacrosse team will play against the University of California Saturday at 1 p.m. in Moose Krause Stadium.

The Paschal Vigil Mass to celebrate the Lord's passion will be held at 9 p.m. Saturday in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart.

Easter Mass will be held at 8 a.m., 10 a.m. and noon Sunday in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart.

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

	TODAY	TONIGHT	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
	HIGH 38	HIGH 32	HIGH 38	HIGH 35	HIGH 36	HIGH 39
	LOW 27	LOW 22	LOW 25	LOW 20	LOW 17	LOW 25

Atlanta 70 / 58 Boston 39 / 34 Chicago 38 / 33 Denver 59 / 28 Houston 74 / 67 Los Angeles 73 / 55 Minneapolis 33 / 25 New York 49 / 43 Philadelphia 61 / 48 Phoenix 92 / 64 Seattle 57 / 41 St. Louis 52 / 42 Tampa 82 / 66 Washington 69 / 56

Young Executives help local charity

College club to help Children's Dispensary generate business plan for expansion, funding

By MANDI STIRONE
News Writer

Saint Mary's Young Executives Club will use its business expertise in a humanitarian effort, teaming up with the Children's Dispensary — a local service organization — to provide the charity with a new business plan.

Young Executives hopes to help the Children's Dispensary develop new marketing and fundraising strategies, spread the charity's name in the community and help the organization recruit new volunteers, said Lindsay Niemiec, the Young Executives vice president of marketing. Niemiec is heading the marketing management committee for the Children's Dispensary project.

The Children's Dispensary was founded in 1909 and originally handed out medication to children, but in 1920 it switched to helping children and families with special needs, she said.

"It falls between the cracks," Niemiec said. "We found it was a really great organization. They do such great things for kids with special needs around

here and [for] the community."

The organization has since instituted different programs to cater to the different needs of its community, which range from autism to Down's syndrome to learning disabilities and emotional impairments, the organization's Web site said.

Besides Niemiec's committee, Young Executives also created a finance and accounting committee to work on the project, she said.

Some of the Saint Mary's participants will investigate ways in which the organization can expand and receive more grants and funding, Niemiec said. The students will also propose methods to cut down costs at the Dispensary.

Young Executives has talked with different Saint Mary's clubs, and the group is planning to contact some Notre Dame clubs as well to recruit volunteers for the Dispensary, Niemiec said.

Niemiec said the project could give students the opportunity to volunteer at a lesser-known, yet admirable organization.

Contact Mandi Stirone at
astiro01@saintmarys.edu

English

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meaning of existence.

"Even courses that don't necessarily advertise [as specifically Catholic] can still connect to those theological questions," Harris said.

Following the debate that University President Father John Jenkins' "Closing Statement" on academic freedom sparked in January of 2006 and the announcement of increased efforts to recruit more Catholic faculty last September, the question of the role that Catholicism will play on an intellectual level for Notre Dame has been a topic for much discussion.

The discussions on Catholic character "are playing a role but not one that is easy to summarize" for building academic curriculum, Harris said.

"It often comes up in faculty meetings," she said. "We are talking about what Catholic character means for the University and what it might mean for the department."

The department, however, has never felt any pressure to tailor offerings to the administration's preferences, Harris

said.

"There has never been any micromanagement from the top," she said.

The department, she said, does not steer its classes toward a particular direction in which the University may be heading, but it is "trying to get involved in the conversation" and is using the discussions of the University's character and mission to engage its students.

"It is something that students are interested in," she said. "[The academic freedom debate] sparked discussion in all of my classes."

Since Notre Dame has had religion and literature as a specialization historically — it is even its own interdisciplinary minor — it is difficult to determine whether there has really been an increase in Catholic courses and if it's specifically due to increased discussion about Notre Dame's Catholic character, Harris said.

Several English students

who were asked said they did not notice an increase in the number of courses with a religious affiliation offered for next semester.

The primary concern for the English department, Harris said, is ensuring all majors can fulfill the requirements to graduate.

In the English major, students have four required classes, five elective classes and one senior seminar. The content of the electives and the senior seminar is "more or less up to the individual professors," she said.

In the long term, Harris said the department has been

discussing putting together "a more organized set of offerings on religion and literature." However, the Undergraduate Studies committee does not count creating courses with obvious connection to strictly Catholic ideas as its first priority.

Contact Kathleen McDonnell
kmcaddon3@nd.edu

"We are talking about what Catholic character means for the University and what it might mean for the department."

Susan Harris
English professor

Recycle The Observer.



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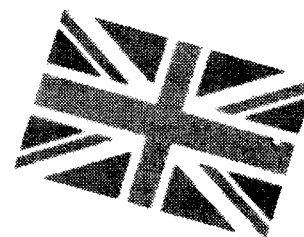
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Lenders

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putting a lender on the list because they give us donuts on Friday morning — come on, this is Notre Dame,” Russo said.

How Notre Dame selects its lenders and why they are on the list is made public, Russo said.

Citibank controversy

The New York Times reported Tuesday that Citibank and five universities agreed Monday to pay a combined \$5.2 million to students and the New York attorney general to resolve the investigation into the relationship between student loan companies and colleges.

Citibank, a preferred lender at Notre Dame, will pay \$2 million into a fund to educate students and their parents about college loans. New York University, Syracuse, St. John's, Fordham and the University of Pennsylvania will pay \$3.2 million to student borrowers who received loans from companies that provided money as incentive for the institutions to encourage the students to use the lenders, the Times reported.

Neither Citibank nor the universities admitted any wrongful actions but nonetheless all will adopt a code of conduct regarding relationships between lenders and the institution.

Citibank is one of six preferred lenders for Notre Dame. Russo called Citibank a “quality lender.”

“We have nothing but the highest respect for them,” he said.

And Notre Dame does not receive kickbacks for putting Citibank or any other lending company on their preferred lender list, he said.

History of the list

The University has a preferred lender list that it developed in the early 1980s, Russo said. This list can be found on the Office of Student Financial Services' Web

site and is available to students and their parents in a booklet entitled “Affording a Notre Dame Education.”

The lenders on the list are Citibank Student Loans, College Board Education Loans, Chase, Nellie Mae, Notre Dame Federal Credit Union and Wells Fargo.

Russo said he worked to develop a list of preferred lenders before creating such lists were common at colleges.

Notre Dame was on the forefront of the movement to recommend lenders to students because the University draws students from around the country, and the wide variety of loaning companies that students were using proved to be “a real challenge” for the Financial Aid office at Notre Dame, Russo said.

“[We] wanted to look for some standardization, simplification, efficiencies and of course wanted the best lenders who had the best products and services,” he said.

So Russo identified about 25 of the best lenders and sent out a questionnaire about each company's products and services.

Each company returned their answers to the surveys, and Russo then picked the seven best lenders who met every criteria. Over four years, the University phased in this preferred lender list, “which didn't demand, but encouraged students to consider these lenders who we have evaluated have the best products and services,” Russo said.

Russo said students are not limited to just these lenders, and said the Financial Aid office can, and does, process applications from lenders that are not on the list.

For the 25 years since the list was created, the lenders have remained the same for the most part, although two of the original seven merged, one was removed from the list and the College Board was added to the list in the 1990s.

The lenders were chosen based on several factors of excellence, Russo said, including their

commitment historically, their reputation for holding onto a loan instead of selling it, their rates and their service to customers.

These lenders were not just evaluated once, but are continually evaluated to make sure they measure up to high standards, Russo said.

Russo said the University once took a lender off the list because it failed to show the commitment they had promised after leadership of the company changed hands.

Attracting lenders

Most lenders want to get on Notre Dame's preferred lender list, Russo said, because the University's credentials attract them. The lenders are impressed by Notre Dame's statistics, Russo said, including its retention rate, graduation rate and alumni satisfaction with their college experience.

Lenders know that Notre Dame students also borrow a lot of money, Russo said, and they know they are responsible about paying it back.

“I could probably go to lunch every day of the week with a bank that wants to tell me about their products and services,” he said. “They want to get on this list.”

Just how much lenders want to get on a university's list is an issue that has Cuomo and now Congress concerned.

Russo called Notre Dame a “national leader” in creating the preferred lender lists.

“We were one of the first schools in the country to do this — only because we had no choice,” he said. “It was overwhelming to deal with fifty different ways of doing business from thousands of lenders.”

Russo said 85 percent of Notre Dame students now receive loans from one of the six preferred lenders, taking out tens of millions of dollars a year in total.

Contact Kaitlynn Riely at kriely@nd.edu

Ramsey

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Ramsey said the rumors simply aren't true.

“There was some miscommunication, but they did move to make a strong counter-offer,” he said, noting that the chair of the department made a concentrated effort to retain him.

“I certainly appreciate that,” Ramsey said. “As it turns out, relocating the university wasn't an option, though I suspect I'm not the only one who wishes that it was.”

For Ramsey, his life passion of rock climbing was actually a huge motivation.

“Here, the nearest climbing is 400 miles away. Out there, it's 15 miles away; in fact Las Vegas is one of the main climbing hubs in North America,” he said. “I also enjoy mountain-biking and trail-running, and [Las Vegas] offers plenty of that as well.”

Though Ramsey is an atheist — and generally recognized as such on campus — he said his departure really has nothing to do with religion.

“I have always felt welcomed at Notre Dame, and that says a lot about the place,” Ramsey said. “I've come to appreciate much of what Notre Dame stands for and is trying to do, and I think that the administration deserves credit for understanding the difference between education and indoctrination.”

The recent discussion about the Catholic character of Notre Dame's faculty and the desire of some to have a majority of Catholic faculty have raised other questions about the best way to make Notre Dame distinctively Catholic, Ramsey said. Specific concerns, he said, focus on sacrificing scholarship for religious affiliation.

“Imagine if similar restrictions were placed on football recruiting,” he said. “I have always believed that world-class Protestant or secular

scholars working on things like, say, the political views of Augustine, do much more for the Catholic character of Notre Dame than having a certain percentage of Catholic faculty working on things unrelated to a Catholic intellectual tradition.”

Still, Ramsey said there are many religious schools that would not allow someone like him to teach, and students should appreciate Notre Dame's recognition that “becoming an intellectual grown-up requires exposure to a range of different views and also having your own beliefs challenged.”

“If they ever lose sight of that, it will make Notre Dame not just a poorer university, but a poorer Catholic university,” he said.

Ramsey said he sees the change as a good one, especially because his appointment in Notre Dame's

philosophy department has been his only academic position after graduate school.

Ramsey will be entering the University of Nevada, Las Vegas philosophy department as one of the more senior people in a “very young, but smart” department.

“It has a lot of potential for building, and I find that exciting,” Ramsey said. “They are going to have me initiate a large introductory class, and I'm hoping it will be as gratifying and stimulating as the one I've been teaching here.”

Though teaching at a large, secular, public university will be “very different in many ways,” Ramsey said he hopes his new post will be as rewarding and “downright fun” as his job at Notre Dame.

Often rated among the best teachers at the University, Ramsey won the Thomas P. Madden Award for outstanding teaching of freshmen 1999. He was also awarded the College of Arts and Letters Sheedy Award for excellence in teaching in 2005.

Contact Kate Antonacci at kantonac@nd.edu

Tickets

continued from page 1

years now, Berlo said, but waited to switch the student lottery over until they felt the process was as perfected as possible. This patience, he said, would ensure the new system will not experience the same problems that other paper-to-online transitions have encountered.

“We launched online ticketing a little over three years ago, but

given how important student ticketing is, we wanted to make sure that our online system had been tested and that it was working well before we moved it online,” he said.

The Ticket Office spent the last few years researching online ticketing procedures at other schools before finally deciding on one that worked for Notre Dame, Berlo said.

“We tried to figure out the best way to emulate what they did at those institutions,” he said.

Ticket prices have gone up \$3 per game this year. Ticket books will cost \$217 for Notre Dame students and \$291 for Saint Mary's students.

Notre Dame will play seven home games next fall — against Georgia Tech Sept. 1, Michigan State Sept. 22, Boston College Oct. 13, Southern California Oct. 20, Navy Nov. 3, Air Force Nov. 10, and Duke Nov. 17.

Contact Chris Khorey at ckhorey@nd.edu and Chris Hine at chine@nd.edu

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WORLD & NATION

Wednesday, April 4, 2007

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Britain wants dialogue with Iran

LONDON — Britain called for direct talks with Iran over 15 captive Britons Tuesday after speaking for the first time with the chief Iranian negotiator. The announcement followed the sudden release of an Iranian diplomat in Iraq that raised new hope in resolving the standoff.

In a statement late Tuesday, Prime Minister Blair's Downing Street office said "both sides share a desire for an early resolution to this issue through direct talks."

Hours after Foreign Secretary Margaret cautioned against expecting a swift resolution to the crisis, Downing Street struck an upbeat note, announcing there had been "further contacts" between the two countries, including with chief negotiator Ali Larjani.

"The prime minister remains committed to resolving this by diplomatic means. The UK has proposed direct bilateral discussions and awaits an Iranian response on when these can begin," Blair's office said.

National strife starts in Zimbabwe

HARARE — Trucks of riot police drove through Zimbabwe's capital and military helicopters flew overhead Tuesday on the first day of a national strike to protest deepening economic hardships blamed on the government of President Robert Mugabe.

Soldiers armed with automatic rifles stood at intersections in Harare's main industrial district where some factory gates were closed, along with several banks, shops and fast food stands. Most downtown shops were open, and commuter buses were full of passengers.

Zimbabwe's main trade unions called the two-day strike to protest an economic crisis that has brought 80 percent unemployment, the world's highest inflation rate and acute shortages of food, hard currency and gasoline.

NATIONAL NEWS

Former FBI agent disappears in Iran

NEW YORK — An American who mysteriously disappeared in Iran while on a business trip is a former FBI agent in New York and Florida known as a meticulous investigator and an expert in busting Italian and Russian mobsters.

The retired agent was identified as Robert Levinson, 59, of Coral Springs, Fla., a U.S. official familiar with the case told the Associated Press on Tuesday.

He was last heard from around March 11 while in a coastal area of southern Iran, where he was working for an independent filmmaker, said the official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak publicly about the situation. Levinson was reportedly near or on Kish Island, a resort area in the Persian Gulf.

Democrats tell Justice aide to testify

WASHINGTON — House Democrats on Tuesday asked a top Justice Department aide to come to Capitol Hill for a private interview in the next week on the firing of federal prosecutors, arguing that she cannot simply refuse to testify on the matter.

Monica Goodling, who has said she would assert her Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination to avoid appearing at Senate hearings, must tell Congress which specific questions she's refusing to answer, Democrats said in a letter to her lawyer.

LOCAL NEWS

Military: 2 more Hoosiers die in Iraq

A West Point graduate from northern Indiana and an Indiana National Guardsman both died in Iraq, military officials said Tuesday.

Army 1st Lt. Neale Shank of Fort Wayne died Saturday in Baghdad, and National Guard Staff Sgt. Bradley King of LaFontaine died Monday.

The death of 25-year-old Shank was not related to combat and was being investigated, the Department of Defense said Tuesday. King, 28, was fatally injured by an improvised explosive device during combat operations in Al Amiriyah, National Guard officials said.

IRAQ

Safer Baghdad pushes back curfew

Iraqi government eases restrictions as violence falls in capital city but rises elsewhere

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Citing improved security in the capital, the Iraqi government said Tuesday it was shortening the Baghdad curfew by two hours and would allow citizens to be on the streets until 10 p.m.

The easing of the ban on movement around the city coincided with a one-day sharp drop in the number of people known to have been killed in sectarian violence nationwide. According to police and morgue reports, 18 people were killed or found dead Tuesday.

Violence in the capital has declined since the latest U.S.-Iraqi joint security operation began on Feb. 14, though there have been spectacular attacks.

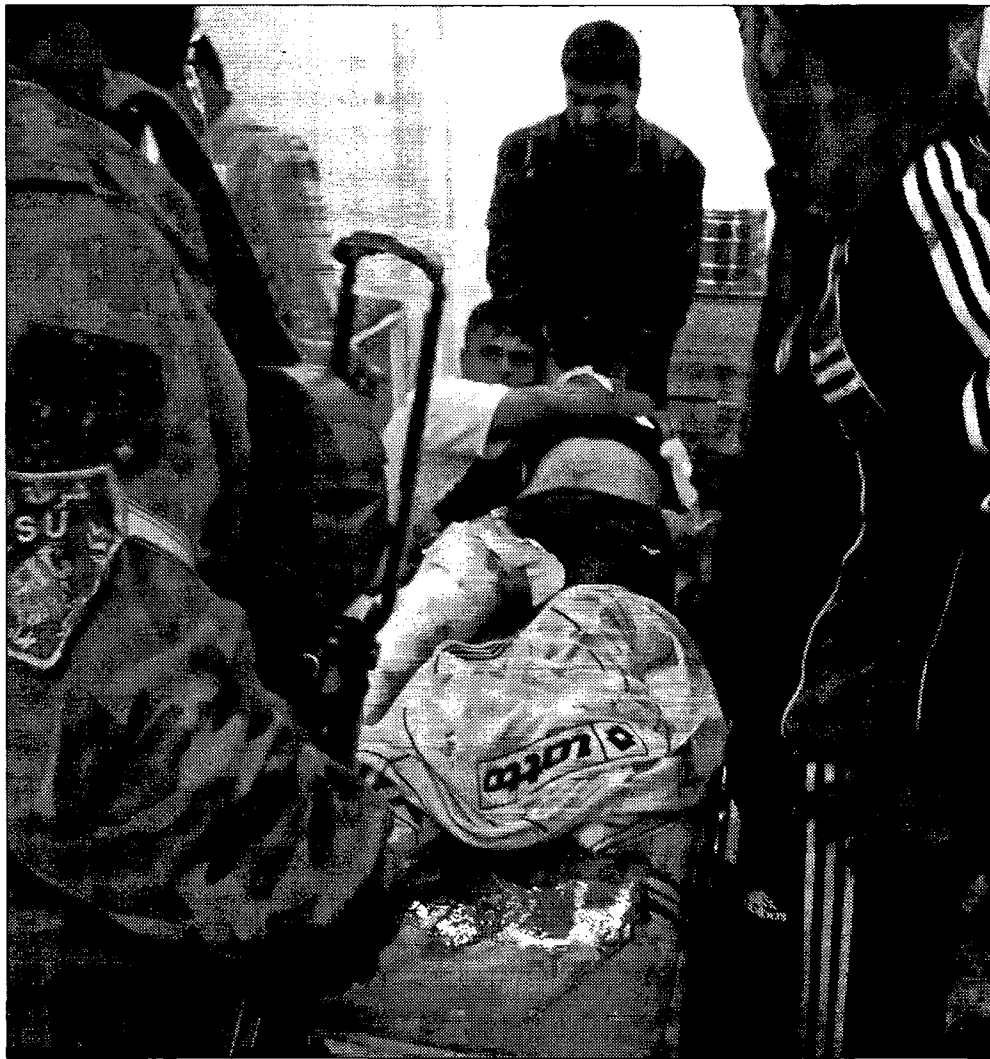
But bloodshed has increased elsewhere in Iraq after insurgents and militia-men moved operations out of the capital in advance of the security crackdown. Last week more than 600 people were killed nationwide in sectarian attacks, mainly truck and suicide bombings thought to be the work of Sunni insurgents or al-Qaida in Iraq.

Brig. Gen. Qassim al-Moussawi, the spokesman for the Baghdad security operation, said the curfew had been shortened in the capital "because the security situation has improved and people needed more time to go shopping."

Since the start of the security operation, the military had enforced a 8 p.m. to 5 a.m. ban. Before that, the curfew had been 11 p.m. to 5 a.m.

Police in Samarra, however, said U.S. and Iraqi forces had taken up positions around the city, 60 miles north of Baghdad, and imposed an indefinite curfew starting at 7 p.m. Tuesday.

Samarra was the scene of an al-Qaida bombing of a Shiite holy shrine in February 2006. Many blame that attack for the eruption



A man embraces his friend at a hospital in Kirkuk, Iraq, 180 miles north of Baghdad. The man was one of 11 civilians wounded in an explosion in central Kirkuk Tuesday.

of sectarian violence that subsequently swept Baghdad and surrounding regions.

Shiite lawmakers, meanwhile, said the government decision that likely will hand the oil-rich city of Kirkuk to Kurdish control was forced on Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki when Kurds threatened to walk out of his ruling coalition and bring down the government.

The threat and al-Maliki's capitulation dramatically outlined the prime minister's tenuous hold on power and further emphasized the possibility, some say the likelihood, that Iraq could break into Kurdish, Shiite and Sunni regions with little or no central government control.

A government collapse likely would have brought chaos to the 7-week-old Baghdad security operation with al-Maliki a lame duck premier and commander in chief of Iraqi forces.

"The Kurdish coalition exerted enormous pressure on us. One of them was a threat by Kurdish lawmakers to boycott parliament and by ministers to quit the government," said Haidar al-Abbadi, a member of al-Maliki's Dawa party. He described the Kurdish pressures as "blackmail."

At issue was Article 140 of Iraq's constitution that calls for a referendum in Kirkuk on the city's status by year's end. The government agreed Thursday, presumably on al-

Maliki's orders and after the Kurdish threat, to a plan to resettle to their home regions Arabs who had been moved into Kirkuk after Saddam Hussein's Baath party came to power in 1968.

The plan is said to be voluntary and Arabs who agree would be paid \$15,500 and given a piece of property in their regions of origin, according to former Justice Minister Hashim al-Shibli, who oversaw the committee on Kirkuk's future.

While the decision avoided what Shiite lawmaker Sami al-Askari said would have been "a major political crisis," he said the plan would "cost the government about \$4 billion and that is a huge number."

SYRIA

Bush denounces Pelosi's Syrian trip

Associated Press

DAMASCUS — House Speaker Nancy Pelosi mingled with Syrians in a market and made the sign of the cross at a Christian tomb Tuesday during a visit to pursue dialogue with the country's leader. President Bush denounced the trip, saying it sends mixed signals to Syria's government.

Pelosi's visit to Syria was the latest challenge to the White House by congressional Democrats, who are taking a more assertive role in influencing policy in the Middle East and the Iraq war. The Bush

administration, which accuses President Bashar Assad's government of supporting terrorism, has resisted calls for direct talks to help ease the crisis in Iraq and make progress in the Israel-Palestinian peace process.

Soon after Pelosi's arrival in Damascus, Bush criticized her visit.

"A lot of people have gone to see President Assad ... and yet we haven't seen action. He hasn't responded," he told reporters at a Rose Garden news conference. "Sending delegations doesn't work. It's simply been counterproductive."

Pelosi, a California Democrat, did

not comment on Bush's remarks before heading from the airport to Damascus' historic Old City. She was scheduled to meet Assad on Wednesday.

Wearing a flowered head scarf and a black abaya robe, Pelosi visited the 8th-century Omayyad Mosque, shaking hands with Syrian women inside and watching men in a religion class sitting cross-legged on the floor.

She stopped at an elaborate tomb, said to contain the head of John the Baptist, and made the sign of the cross. About 10 percent of Syria's 18 million people are Christian.

COR

continued from page 1

Dominic Debonis as policy branch controller, after Brown nominated him, noting that he spent last summer "garnering real world experience in finance, interning with Intel Software's Finance Department."

Junior Will Kearney was approved as the new director of communications.

"I am confident that Will is qualified for the position due to his impressive writing abilities and unique flair," Brown said. "His sense of humor and enthusiastic personality will positively influence the office and transform students' perception of student government."

Kearney said one area he plans to improve is Stall Notes.

"I felt that they were a little on the boring side and tedious to read," he said. "I think we could spice them up a little bit."

Junior Sarah Schmall was approved as the chief controller for SUB. Board manager Phil Ross said Schmall "has the technical skills and knowledge of programming necessary to serve with other members of the Executive Board."

Meghan Kelly and Peter Biava were approved as co-

directors of programming for SUB. Kelly is a junior psychology student from Walsh Hall and Biava is a junior finance student from Keough Hall.

Sam McDonald was approved as the director of operations for SUB. McDonald is a sophomore marketing and economics student, and in the past he has organized various events including Fall Mall and exam stress relievers.

Laura Fox was approved as the director of publicity for SUB. Fox, a junior English student, was the Notre Dame Literary Festival programmer and worked with the current director of publicity on other projects throughout the year.

Brown also noted that she wanted members to start thinking about goals for COR's upcoming year.

"COR dealt with the off-campus ordinance and its effects on community relations two years ago, and most recently COR has talked about fiscal policies including the recently created student endowment," she said. "That being said, we'd be open to anything that anyone would like to talk about."

Further discussion on possible initiatives will continue next week.

Contact Sonia Rao at srao1@nd.edu

Shots fired in CNN offices

Associated Press

ATLANTA — In the same atrium where panic had scattered witnesses just moments before, large-screen televisions showed CNN's coverage of a fatal shooting in the complex that houses the network's headquarters.

"We heard the shots, pop, pop, pop," said Victoria Opalach, who was at a Starbucks coffee shop in the building's main atrium when the shooting occurred Tuesday in a nearby hallway. "Everybody stood up and started running."

Hundreds of diners and tourists rushed in a human wave away from the sounds of gunshots. Sandwiches were dropped in mid-bite, and a few people ducked under tables. Lines of people waiting for CNN studio tours quickly fell apart as police officers rushed to the scene.

Soon afterward, an injured man and woman were carried out on stretchers, just feet from the televisions and the crowds watching. Police say a domestic dispute led a man to pull a gun on a woman and shoot her just before 1:30 p.m.; a security guard then shot the man.

The woman died on arrival at a downtown hospital. The man, whose face was covered in blood when he was carried out on a stretcher, was in critical condition.

Police spokesman James Polite described the man as the woman's ex-boyfriend.

The woman worked at the attached Omni Hotel, officials said. She was Clara Riddles, 22, of College Park, said Caryn Kboudi, a spokeswoman for the hotel chain, based in Texas.



Emergency workers prepare to transport a wounded person outside the CNN Center in Atlanta Tuesday.

She did not know what Riddles did at the hotel, and said the company was not aware of any of the woman's domestic troubles.

Minutes after the shooting, an announcement over the building's public-address system said there had been gunfire "with potential casualties." Police cordoned off an area by the escalators near the main entrance of the building, facing Centennial Olympic Park. The park is where a bomb exploded during the 1996 Summer Olympics, killing a woman and wounding more than 100 people.

"I heard four or five shots. I really didn't see it. I got out of there quick," said Jas Stanford, 27, who had been helping take down a temporary stage in the park used for college basket-


ball's Final Four festivities.

Besides the Omni Hotel, the complex includes restaurants, a bookstore and souvenir shops. It's connected to Philips Arena, home of the NBA's Atlanta Hawks and NHL's Atlanta Thrashers.

Jacques Richard, 60, of Paris, was part of a group touring the CNN studios when he heard the gunfire. He said the group was immediately brought down an elevator and dispersed. "We had our guide with us and everyone was calm," he said.


In the food court, Trina Johnson, 44, of Atlanta, was with her daughter on a family outing.

"All of a sudden we heard a big boom. We thought it was an explosion," she said. "We didn't see the gun. Everybody just started running."




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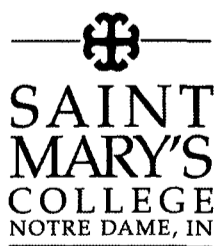
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MARKET RECAP

Stocks
Dow Jones 12,510.30 +128.00

Up: 2,380 Same: 124 Down: 873 Composite Volume: 2,985,480,929

AMEX	2,190.09	+9.82
NASDAQ	2,450.33	+28.07
NYSE	9,381.46	+75.91
S&P 500	1,437.77	+13.22
NIKKEI(Tokyo)	17,508.65	+264.60
FTSE 100(London)	6,366.10	+50.60

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
FIRST DATA CP (FDC)	-0.37	-0.12	32.33
NASDAQ 110 TR (QQQQ)	+1.31	+0.57	44.16
SUN MICROSYS (SUNW)	-0.17	-0.01	5.79
S&P RECEIPTS (SPY)	+1.08	+1.53	143.69

Treasuries			
10-YEAR NOTE	+0.47	+0.022	4.664
13-WEEK BILL	0.00	0.000	4.905
30-YEAR BOND	+0.21	+0.010	4.846
5-YEAR NOTE	+0.64	+0.029	4.562

Commodities		
LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl.)	-1.30	64.64
GOLD (\$/Troy oz.)	-1.80	669.70
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)	-0.08	101.28

Exchange Rates	
YEN	118.7550
EURO	0.7499
POUND	0.5066
CANADIAN \$	1.1586

IN BRIEF

Southwest Airlines reaches settlement

CHICAGO — Southwest Airlines Co. has reached a settlement with the family of a 6-year-old Indiana boy who was killed when one of the airline's jets skidded off a runway and slammed into a car in which he was riding.

Joshua Woods' parents filed a wrongful death lawsuit against Southwest and Boeing Co., the plane's manufacturer, in Cook County Circuit Court nearly a year ago. The suit alleged that both companies made mistakes and missteps that led to the Dec. 8, 2005, accident at Midway International Airport.

A spokeswoman for Dallas-based Southwest said Monday that the airline and the Woods family were the only parties to the settlement reached in February. Calls to the family's attorneys and Chicago-based Boeing were not immediately returned Monday evening.

Financial details of the settlement were not released.

Stocks rise as house market rebounds

NEW YORK — Stocks surged Tuesday on signs of resilience in the housing market and the U.S. consumer, with falling oil prices giving investors an extra reason to rally. The Dow Jones industrials gained more than 120 points to reach a five-week high.

The National Association of Realtors' index for pending sales of existing homes rose in February at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 0.7 percent. The index is well below where it was a year ago but stronger than investors expected, reassuring them that the housing sector, while weak, is not being pummeled by the struggling subprime mortgage sector.

Fears that lending problems will spill over into the rest of the economy have been a major factor behind the market's volatility of the past several weeks. The uptick in home sales was slight but came as a pleasant surprise to investors who had been bracing for the worst.

"That says people are getting mortgages, people are buying houses, people have incomes, jobs, all that good stuff," said Kim Caughey, equity research analyst at Fort Pitt Capital Group. "You'd never go out and buy a house if you think you're going to get laid off. Consumers are optimistic about the future, and as we all know, the consumer drives this economy."

Toyota pickup sales on the rise

Ford still leads nation in total truck sales, but sales down sharply since March 2006

Associated Press

DETROIT — The fight over the key pickup truck market played out in automakers' March sales figures, with Toyota making some gains.

But Ford, GM and Chrysler continued to hold their own against the latest competition from the Japanese. And GM says Toyota is drawing from a very loyal customer base for its Tundra buyers, not from owners of GM's trucks.

"We're not seeing a lot of cross-shopping occurring," said Paul Ballew, GM's executive director of global market and industry analysis.

Toyota sold 13,196 Tundras in March, up 11.8 percent from a year ago. The redesigned Tundra, Toyota's first true full-size pickup, is a sign of the company's ambitions in a lucrative sector dominated by American automakers.

"Competition has ramped up considerably since we introduced this product in February," said Don Esmond, senior vice president of automotive operations for Toyota Motor Corp.'s U.S. arm, in a conference call.

Ford Motor Co. regained from General Motors Corp. the claim to having the nation's top-selling pickup truck last month. Even though F-series sales fell 15.1 percent from March 2006, the industry's best month of the year, the company still sold 71,481 last month. And it says increasing availability of the 2008 Super Duty should help future F-series sales.

Overall, the best monthly sales performance ever for Toyota and gains by fellow Japanese automakers American Honda Motor Co. and Nissan North America Inc. helped the industry in March top last year's best month for U.S. sales — despite declines by GM,



A potential buyer checks the undercarriage of an unsold 2007 Tacoma pickup truck at a Toyota dealership in Centennial, Colo., March 25, 2007.

Ford and DaimlerChrysler.

Toyota reported Tuesday that its U.S. sales jumped 11.7 percent compared with a year ago, boosted by record hybrid sales and strong overall car sales. Industrywide, light vehicle sales by major automakers rose 0.8 percent to 1.54 million, Autodata Corp. said.

The overall rise in U.S. sales came despite GM and DaimlerChrysler's sales falling about 4 percent each and Ford posting a 9 percent drop. Ford still held off Toyota for the No. 2 U.S. sales spot for the month.

The numbers come as the

Detroit Three have seen Asian rivals led by Toyota capture growing shares of the U.S. market. Autodata's figures show GM, the world's largest automaker, had 22.4 percent of the U.S. market in March, with Ford holding 17.1 percent and Toyota with 15.7 percent. Still, GM and Ford said sales of their newer vehicles generally improved.

In all, Toyota sold 242,675 Toyota and Lexus vehicles in the U.S., including 140,009 cars, up 19.4 percent from the same month a year ago, and 102,666 trucks, a 2.7 percent

increase. So far this year, Toyota has sold 61,635 hybrids in the U.S., up 68 percent from the first three months of last year. That includes 28,453 hybrids last month.

Toyota's previous best sales month was last July, when it sold 241,826 vehicles in the U.S.

Detroit-based GM, whose fleet sales dropped for the month as it works to cut low-profit sales to rental car companies, sold 345,418 light vehicles, including 136,866 cars, up 2.3 percent, and 208,552 trucks, down 7.7 percent.

Justice tries to close 125 tax stores

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The government said Tuesday it is trying to shut down more than 125 Jackson Hewitt tax preparation stores in four states for systematic "tax-fraud schemes."

The Justice Department accuses the franchises of bilking the government out of more than \$70 million through fraudulent practices such as using phony W-2 forms, bogus deductions and fuel tax credits and false claims regarding the earned income tax credit.

Jackson Hewitt Tax Services Inc. is the nation's second largest tax preparer. The franchises were either totally or partially owned by Farrukh Sohail, the Justice Department said, and involved "a pervasive and massive series of tax-fraud schemes," according to court filings.

Sohail and other defendants "created, directed, fostered, and maintained a business environment" at the Jackson Hewitt franchises "in which fraudulent tax return preparation is encouraged and flourishes," according to court documents.

Employees were encouraged to ignore telltale signs of fraudulent information and to file claims even when it was obvious customers were using fake W-2 forms or false deductions.

A sample of returns prepared by franchises connected to Sohail found 31 percent contained false information such as phony earned income tax credit claims, bogus deductions and fraudulent W-2 forms.

The suits, filed in federal courts in Chicago, Atlanta, Detroit and Raleigh, N.C., also allege that managers and employees at the Jackson Hewitt franchises took kickbacks for filing fraudulent

returns.

Managers at the franchises repeatedly told tax preparers that "we are not the IRS" and that it is not their responsibility to prevent customers from filing bogus returns.

Many of the stores catered to customers seeking refund anticipation loans based on phony returns.

In one instance, a Jackson Hewitt franchise customer claimed a fuel tax credit so absurd that the tax filer would have had to drive almost 1,400 miles a day.

The suits seek court orders shutting down the franchises.

"I am deeply disturbed by the allegation that a major franchisee of the nation's second-largest tax preparation firm is intentionally preparing improper tax returns with inflated refunds," said IRS Commissioner Mark W. Everson.

Giuliani visits Iowa for race

Presidential candidate stops in Hawkeye state

Associated Press

CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa — GOP presidential hopeful Rudy Giuliani, the consummate New Yorker, sought on Tuesday to convince conservative Iowa Republicans he has plenty in common with them.

"We're all much more similar than we think, whether you're in Iowa or you're in New York, or California or somewhere else, you've got the same issues," the former New York mayor said on his first visit to the important early-voting state since becoming a presidential candidate.

"This is no different than campaigning in New York," he added. "You walk around. You talk to people. You listen to what they have to say."

Giuliani backs abortion rights and gay rights, stances that may hurt him among the state's conservative GOP voters, who will help choose the Republican nominee. Those positions — and his previous absence in Iowa — have fueled speculation that he may bypass the leadoff caucus state as GOP rival John McCain did in his unsuccessful 2000 bid.

However, Giuliani indicated he would compete in Iowa, telling reporters: "It looks very, very good for us. It's a place where we're competitive. It looks like a place where we would have good chance."

Still, it wasn't clear to what degree he would focus on Iowa. He was holding just two events on his inaugural visit to the state, a walking tour of a Cedar Rapids neighborhood and a question-and-answer session in West Des Moines.

GOP caucusgoers in Iowa tend to be more conservative than the Republican Party as a whole. Giuliani, however, supports domestic benefits for gay couples and believes individuals have the right to decide whether to get an abortion.

As he campaigns, Giuliani tries to allay conservatives' concerns on both fronts. He emphasizes his opposition to gay marriage. He also maintains that he personally opposes abortion and insists that he would appoint conservative judges who would "strictly interpret" the Constitution, which some conservatives take as a reference to overturning *Roe v. Wade*.

Some leaders in Iowa believe he must do more.

"The campaign has not made any overtures to sit down with some of the key activists," said Steve Scheffler, president of the Iowa Christian Alliance, who is staying neutral in the race. "He's going to have to discuss specific issues where we want specific answers."

Giuliani made no apologies for his positions. "I am who I am. People have to evaluate the whole record," he said.

A national hero in the aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, Giuliani leads all other Republican contenders in national popularity polls despite his deficiencies in the eyes of conservatives.

Forecaster predicts busy storm season

Associated Press

DENVER — A top researcher predicted a "very active" 2007 Atlantic hurricane season Tuesday, with at least nine hurricanes and a good chance one will hit the U.S. coast.

The forecast by William Gray predicts 17 named storms this year, five of them major hurricanes. The probability of a major storm making landfall on the U.S. coast this year is 74 percent, compared with the average of 52 percent over the past century, he said.

The forecast, issued two months before the hurricane season starts, is virtually identical to the one Gray issued before the 2006 season, which turned out far quieter than he and others had feared.

"Our forecast skill does improve as we get closer to the start of the season," said Phil Klotzbach, a member of Gray's team at Colorado State University. "Stay tuned."

Last May, Gray's team forecast 17 named storms in 2006, including nine hurricanes, five of them major ones, and an 81 percent chance that at least

one major hurricane would hit the U.S. Scientists with the National Hurricane Center and two other National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration agencies issued similar predictions.

Instead, there were 10 named storms in 2006 and five hurricanes, two of them major ones, in what was considered a "near normal" season. None of those hurricanes hit the U.S. Atlantic coast — only the 11th time that has occurred since 1945.

Gray's team said a late, unexpected El Nino con-

tributed to the calmer season last year. El Nino — a warming in the Pacific Ocean — has far-reaching effects that include changing wind patterns in the eastern Atlantic, which can disrupt the formation of hurricanes.

Over the past winter, a weak to moderate El Nino occurred but dissipated rapidly, Klotzbach said.

"Conditions this year are likely to be more conducive to hurricanes," he said. In the absence of El Nino, "winds aren't tearing the storm systems apart."



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EPA revives request to set emission standards

Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — The Bush administration has reopened California's stalled petition seeking to control greenhouse gases after the Supreme Court's ruling this week that the government can regulate emissions from cars.

The action by the Environmental Protection Agency breathes life into California's effort to become the first state to cut tailpipe emissions from cars, light trucks and sport utility vehicles. It also could influence the outcome of an auto industry lawsuit in California to block the state regulations, contained in a 2002 state law.

"We've reviewed the issues within the waiver request," EPA spokeswoman Jennifer Wood said Tuesday. "We're moving forward to the next steps of the process."

The agency next will schedule a public comment period and public hearing.

At stake is California's 2005 petition to gain an exemption from the federal Clean Air Act, which does not regulate greenhouse gas emissions from cars. The state law passed in 2002 would reduce the emissions from cars and light trucks by 25 percent and from sport utility vehicles by 18 percent starting in 2009 — and requires the waiver for implementation.

Ten other states have since adopted California's standard, while Maryland is considering a bill that would enact it.

The EPA had argued that the agency could not regulate greenhouse gas emissions from vehicles because to do so would require an increase in fuel economy standards, something only the U.S.

Department of Transportation can set.

But in its 5-4 decision Monday, the Supreme Court ruled that the EPA had such authority.

"It's clear EPA has to consider California's waiver request now," said Sean Hecht, executive director of the environmental law center at the University of California, Los Angeles. "That doesn't mean it's a foregone conclusion with respect to the waiver request."

California has special authority under the federal Clean Air Act to set its own vehicle pollution standards because it began regulating air pollution before the federal government did in the 1970s. Other states that want to adopt California's standard cannot implement it until the EPA grants California a waiver.

Monday's court ruling also prompted movement Tuesday in a separate lawsuit brought by the auto industry to prevent California from moving forward with its regulations if it receives the waiver.

The California Air Resources Board, along with several environmental groups, officially notified U.S. District Judge Anthony Ishii of the Supreme Court's decision. In January, he placed the lawsuit on hold pending a decision by the court.

It's unclear what the next step will be in the case, which is being heard in federal court in Fresno. But both sides said the Supreme Court's decision favors their argument.

"The case will affect all of the pending litigation that California has with both the auto companies and Midwestern energy companies," California Attorney General Jerry Brown said in an interview Monday with The Associated Press.

SOLOMON ISLANDS

Tsunami victims receive aid

Associated Press

HONIARA — The first boatloads of international aid reached survivors of a devastating tsunami in the Solomon Islands on Tuesday, but officials warned of a dire food shortage if supplies don't quickly get to hundreds of people camped on remote hill-sides.

At least 28 people died in Monday's tsunami and quake, measured at a magnitude of 8.1 by the U.S. Geological Survey. The victims include a bishop and three worshippers killed when a wave hit a church and a New Zealand man who drowned trying to save his mother, who remains missing.

Disaster officials said the toll was expected to rise as rescue crews reached outlying villages that were flattened by the waves. Bodies could be seen floating in the water by authorities conducting aerial surveys of the destruction; there was no official count of those missing.

Some of more than 2,000 people who spent Monday night camped on a hill behind the town of Gizo returned Tuesday to look for supplies or loved ones. Others were too afraid to venture to the coast amid more than two dozen aftershocks, including at least four of magnitude-6 or stronger.

Julian Makaa of the National Disaster Management Office said more than 900 homes had been destroyed around Gizo and about 5,000 people affected.

Boats reached Gizo on Tuesday from the Solomons'



A house in the western province of Gizo in the Solomon Islands crumbles onto a road Tuesday after a tsunami hit the town on Monday.

capital, Honiara, carrying food and other supplies, some of which was distributed to survivors. But officials said shortages would become dire without more help.

"There is no food available" in Gizo and Noro, a nearby town, said government spokesman Alfred Maesulia. "Some settlements have been completely wiped out by the waves."

Australia, New Zealand, the International Red Cross and the United Nations were among those offering aid, but no formal relief plan was announced after a day of meetings by senior government officials. Makaa said the airport had been cleared of debris and would reopen Wednesday.

Six doctors and 13 nurses would be among the first flown to the towns of Munda and Gizo, where the region's only hospital was inundated with water, he said.

Disaster teams that flew over the coast around Gizo reported the "destruction was massive and widespread," said Fred Fakarii, chairman of the National Disaster Management Council.

Aerial TV footage showed

tin- and thatched-roof buildings collapsed along the muddy shore. Other structures leaned awkwardly on broken stilts as men picked through the debris.

"There are some very ragged, remote areas and there's no connecting roads, (just) isolated villages," Deputy Police Commissioner Peter Marshall told Australian Broadcasting Corp. radio.

Makaa said officials could only guess at the numbers of dead in the most remote villages, where two-way radio is the usual mode of contact with the outside world.

The earthquake, which struck about six miles beneath the sea floor and 25 miles from Gizo, set off alarms from Tokyo to Hawaii, testing procedures put in place after the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami that left 230,000 dead or missing in a dozen countries.

But because of Gizo's proximity to the epicenter, the destructive waves — up to 16 feet high — hit before an alarm could be sounded. The disaster has rekindled debate about whether the multimillion-dollar warning systems installed after the 2004 tsunami are worth the cost.

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THE OBSERVER VIEWPOINT

page 10

Wednesday, April 4, 2007

THE OBSERVER

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No money, mo' problems

Over spring break technology dropped a massive bomb on me. Not only is my year-and-a-half-old Mac iBook on its last leg, but my iPod's hard drive is damaged, and my dog ate my digital camera. No lie. She really did.

Needless to say, I am in dire need of some technological replacements. With the help of a gentle reminder from my parents, I unfortunately realized I am a little light on cash flow. Considering I haven't received a paycheck since August, the bi-weekly "Rocco's money" sent to me by Nana is spent — albeit very well — at Rocco's and my birthday is not until October, I am going to have to hold off on replacing my beloved iPod and will just have to make do with my the-T-key-doesn't-work-laptop for the time being.

Unfortunately, Babs and George Sr. didn't give their son George the same gentle reminder my parents gave me before he decided to go to war. The United States was deficit spending before the war even began, constantly fighting the rising costs of Social Security and health care. While I sympathize with the President in making financial decisions, the difference between deciding whether or not to buy a new pair of designer jeans when your funds are already low and deciding whether or not to go to war with another country is stark. Perhaps the President rushed into making this world-altering decision, and perhaps he should have done some research before doing so.

If Bush had done a little financial investigating, he would have undoubtedly noticed that the United States couldn't afford to go to war. America

can barely afford to function as it is, relying too heavily on our China-issued MasterCard. And with Baby Boomers on the verge of eligibility for Social Security and healthcare, the country will soon be on a downward spiral towards bankruptcy.

While Social Security and healthcare are in dire need of reform, they are both necessary and manageable. The war in Iraq, however, has come to be perceived as not so necessary and quite unmanageable. Because of the current war and because of lack of funding, Social Security and health care have not received the attention they deserve during the shift of the Baby Boomers. The war is eating up the United States' already limited funds, leaving social welfare, education and healthcare programs by the wayside.

Not only are Social Security and healthcare suffering from war costs, but post-war expenses are also being neglected. Many people fail to realize that we are going to be paying for these honorable soldiers long after their tour is complete. Soldiers are coming back with physical and mental healthcare needs, and those needs deserve the highest level of care.

So you may be wondering how we are going to pay for this. It's obviously not going to come from taxes — taxes remain low despite the current rise in spending. While taxpayers may be happy now, their children and grandchildren will soon be paying for their stinginess. Usually when a country goes to war, all the citizens are in some way affected, such as through the draft or through an increase in taxes. American citizens have yet to feel the repercussions of this war. It seems unfair to have such a small percentage of citizens involved. But because taxes have not been adjusted and because there is no draft, many Americans remain unaffected. It would only be fair then, nonetheless rational, to have an

increase in taxes during wartime. Higher taxes seem like such a small price to pay when soldiers are losing their lives and family and friends are losing their loved ones.

Eliminating tax cuts, however, will never happen. Not with this administration, at least. While already fighting declining approval ratings, a tax increase is unlikely to be seen. However, an increase in taxes could be the answer to the country's financial problem. If some financial rearranging does not happen soon, you and I are going to be the ones suffering the consequences. My generation, as well as future generations, will undoubtedly be paying the costs of the country's current financial insufficiency. Not only will we be paying off financial debts, but also a debt to society. Over the past several years, the United States has created many enemies, and it will be up to my generation to mend those broken relationships.

Along with occasionally reminding me of my poor spending habits, my parents always advised me to never bite off more than I can chew. While not completely broke, I just can't swallow the price of a new Mac and digital camera right now. But in time, I will hopefully have the resources. The United States, although already suffering from a severe deficit, can be capable handling the situation. We just need to take it one bite at a time. The more people become aware of and express America's financial problem, the more likely change will take place, and thus the more likely current U.S. citizens and future generations will be saved from financial burdens.

Katie Palmitier is a sophomore political science major. She can be contacted at kpalmi@nd.edu

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



Katie Palmitier

A Word to the Wise

EDITORIAL CARTOON



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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"A person may cause evil to others not only by his actions but by his inaction, and in either case he is justly accountable to them for the injury."

John Stuart Mill
English economist

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

America the [censored]

Twenty years after the greatest American of all-time, Ronald Reagan, defeated Communism with his bare hands, traces of Communism are starting to creep back right here at Notre Dame. As Bookstore Basketball kicks off, I can't help but notice that the censorship of team names closely resembles the same censorship that defined Soviet Russia during the Cold War.

"5 Guys that Love Tim Hardaway ... But in a Totally Hetero Way," now known as "Team 51," are simply five guys who admire the basketball skills of anyone who can average 17.7 points per game and a staggering 8.2 assists per game over 15 years in the NBA. We are just trying to show our support for an NBA legend, regardless of how the liberal media portrays him off the court.

A friend of mine's team, "The Sticky Bandits" was censored and replaced with "Team 201." As many of you do know, and all of you should know, the Sticky Bandits were the bad guys from Home Alone 2 and also a sequel to this guy's team from last year, "The Wet Bandits" (from the original Home Alone). After a week of confusion over his censored name, my buddy hopped on UrbanDictionary.com to find that the Sticky Bandit is also a vulgar sexual act,

the details of which I will leave out of this letter.

I know that Student Activities has started using UrbanDictionary to try to stay on top of all the new, hip lingo kids are using nowadays, but anyone can post a definition, regardless of whether or not it is actually common slang. I myself have added the definition for "Rock the Cashbox," even though I am pretty sure no one outside a handful of people have ever used the phrase. Completely appropriate teams such as "Kittens and Puppies," "Sunshine," and "The Little Engine That Could" are all names that were unjustly censored this year for unknown reasons.

Just as our Forefathers believed when they founded this great nation of ours, it is a much worse evil to censor the freedom of innocent people than to allow those with wrong intentions to speak freely.

Student Activities, open this gate.

Student Activities, tear down this wall.

Tom Martin
junior
Siegfried Hall
April 3

Sacrilegious leprechaun?

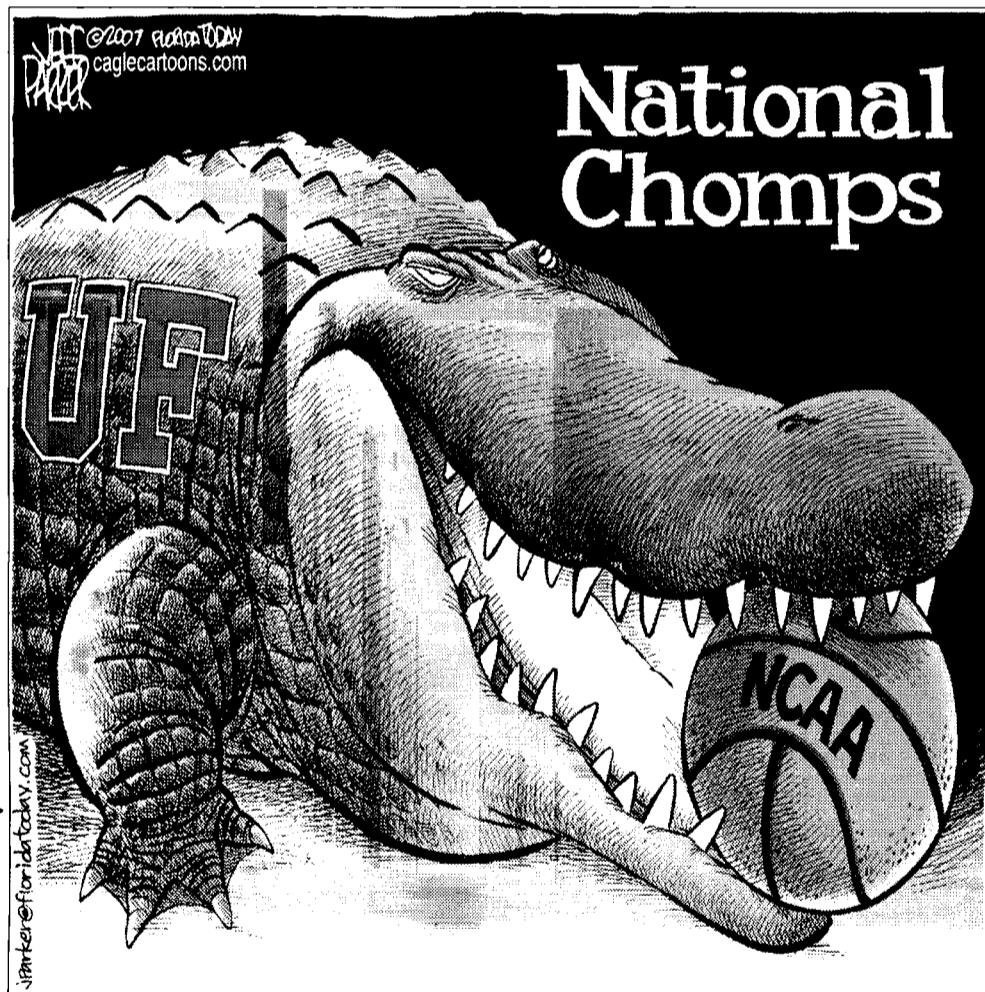
In light of the recent theological debates taking place in Viewpoint these past few weeks, and with religious issues on people's minds, now seems the perfect time to broach this subject. I believe that our mascot, the leprechaun, should be removed and replaced by another figure, one that more closely fits with this school's Catholic teachings and tradition.

The leprechaun, while great for stirring up crowds, is an idol which draws worship away from the Lord. I propose to replace this pagan idol, which engenders belief in the so-called "luck of the Irish" and draws attention away from the faith of the Irish, with a Catholic figure like St. Francis of Assisi. Such a figure would be a mascot that students and fans alike could rally behind, while not taking away from the Catholic nature of this great institution. Should the luck of the Irish really be the message that this school sends to everyone who views our sports teams? This could be a great opportunity to spread God's message in a forum that so often ignores it. Should this university really say no to a previously untapped forum such as this?

Yours in Christ,

Michael J. Scully
sophomore
Zahm House
April 2

EDITORIAL CARTOON



U WIRE

Google Maps misleads users with old photos

It may be time to break out the whitewash, at least if you're Google, Inc. The Associated Press recently reported that Google Maps has replaced its most recent images of New Orleans with satellite photos taken before Hurricane Katrina devastated the city more than a year ago.

The news of the apparent switch has left many in the city stunned and angry.

Though New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin says there's no conspiracy, that the city did not encourage Google to remove the "rebuilding" images in order to promote tourism, the question must be asked: Were Google's intentions pure?

If not, what's next?

Could we soon look at New York and see images of the city pre-Sept. 11? Many movies since September 11 have gone to great lengths to remove imagery of the Twin Towers, so what's to stop Google Maps from rewriting history by putting them back in?

Better yet, we should be asking ourselves why Google would think history needs to be messed with at all.

New Orleans was devastated by Katrina. The world knows it; it's been ingrained in our consciousness. So what is to be gained by eliminating the images of people rebuilding the city?

Google spokesman Chikai Ohazama told the AP that the pre-Katrina images were the best it has to offer. "Numerous factors decide what goes into the databases," he said, "everything from resolution to quality, to when the actual imagery was acquired."

It's difficult to believe, however, that there's any good reason for Google to have jumped back 18 months to highlight a New Orleans that no longer exists.

Flashing back to photos of a city that existed in August 2005 isn't going to boost tourism for the city in April 2007. So if the city applied pressure to Google to "backdate" its imagery they did so under a misguided and embarrassing plan.

And if Google Earth is looking to truly be "the ultimate research, presentation and collaboration tool for location-specific information," as it implies on their Web site, what is accomplished by visually traveling back in time and providing the world with images of a world that does not exist?

Last week the Daily News exposed flaws in the Wikipedia database, which students frequently use for class work. Wikipedia, however, is controlled by a non-profit organization and a network of volunteer contributors who work to keep material up-to-date. Any flaws in their database are because of outright vandalism or mere ignorance on the part of contributors.

Google, however, is a multi-billion-dollar corporation attempting to control as much of the Internet pie as it can get its hands on. With Google Earth it has an opportunity to provide the world with a wealth of satellite imagery at the click of a mouse.

Instead it chooses to either cater to the whims of city governments hoping to boost tourism, or worse, it would rather direct surfers to the New Orleans that featured more "searchable monuments," a way to direct traffic.

Google Earth therefore creates the world Google wants us to see, the world that brings more hits and looks prettier and more palatable to the consumer. That, my friends, is much worse than any threat Wikipedia imposes.

This column first appeared in the April 3 edition of the Daily News, the daily paper at Ball State University.

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

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Submissions must be in by 3:00 p.m. to be considered for publication the next day.



BLADES OF GLORY

Ferrell & Heder serve

REVIEW BY TAE ANDREWS

"Gosh!"

"Do the chickens have large talons?"

"I spent it with my uncle in Alaska hunting wolverines!"

"Nunchuck skills, bowhunting skills, computer hacking skills..."

"What's a liger? It's pretty much my favorite animal."



Film critics have pointed out that a secret cabal exists which runs the majority of Hollywood comedies these days. This group, known as the "Frat Pack" as both a play on Frank Sinatra's "Rat Pack" and a reference to the group's collaboration on the smash comedy Old School, has members including Will Ferrell, brothers Owen and Luke Wilson, Vince Vaughn, Ben Stiller and Jack Black.

This elite comedy circle has had collaborations on films such as "Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy," "Old School," "Dodgeball," "Starsky & Hutch," and "Zoolander" — in other words, most of the funniest films to come out in the last decade.

These same haters have criticized that the comedy from this Frat Pack has become a bit formulaic — the fraternity brothers seem to just mix and match pairs for buddy comedies and sprinkle in impromptu cameos for added measure. Which might be a problem — if that formula wasn't so damn funny.

"Blades of Glory" starts with a base of Frat Pack ringleader Will Ferrell, pairs it with Jon "Napoleon Dynamite"'s Heder, then throws the two of them on skates as a male-on-male doubles team and lets hilarity ensue.

As he did in "Anchorman" and "Talladega Nights," Will Ferrell celebrates the mediocrity of the American male in "Blades of Glory" to hilarious effect. With his signature deadpan delivery of dimwit lines, penchant for inappropriate remarks and tendency to get naked, Ferrell scores again as Chazz Michael Michaels, a former singles skat-

ing champ who is banned from the sport for life after a fracas with Jimmy MacElroy, played by Jon Heder.

At this stage of his career, Ferrell's acting is pretty much plug-and-play: throw him into any role as any professional and he'll deliver. Ferrell is more or less the same in all of his performances (read: hilarious), but with a few subtle nuances. "Anchorman's" Ron Burgundy was known for his blundering buffoonery and sexist remarks, whereas "Talladega Nights" saw Ferrell adding a twist to the usual routine with a Southern drawl as Ricky Bobby.

The common thread between all of his characters is their stupidity, immaturity and paranoid homophobia, which often becomes ironic as his characters engage in homoerotic interplay. Chazz Michael Michaels is much the same, with a few new twists: he's still dumb as a brick and shows off far too much pasty man thigh, but boasts a rock star mentality and is a self-confessed sex addict.

By all accounts Jon Heder plays the "straight man" to Ferrell's clownery, but this is ironic given the emasculating tendencies of his character, pretty boy Jimmy MacElroy, who sports a variety of flamboyant costumes throughout the movie. (At one point, Michaels and MacElroy have their coach tell them that MacElroy is to be the "female" in their male-on-male skating partnership.)

Who says typecasting is a bad thing? After the smashing success of Napoleon Dynamite, actor Jon Heder has more or less

been rehashing that same persona in the few roles he's had to date. "Blades of Glory" is more of the same, but also allows Heder the comedic edge of only having to chime in now and again as Ferrell carries the comedic tune.

By pulling in fellow comedians Will Arnett and Amy Poehler as brother-sister doubles skating pair Stranz van Waldenberg and Fairchild van Waldenberg, in addition to Jenna Fischer (of "The Office" fame) as their reluctant sister, screenplay writers Jeff and Craig Fox give the cast enough snappy lines to keep the laughs coming. The quotability factor is definitely in play here, as you will undoubtedly soon begin hearing people parrot some of the many hilarious lines from the film.

A common criticism of "Blades of Glory" is that it's basically just the movie "Dodgeball" on ice (right down to a pair of side-splitting sportscasters). Well, "Dodgeball" went on to earn \$114 at the box office (and perhaps more importantly, the much-coveted "Fresh" rating on rottentomatoes.com).

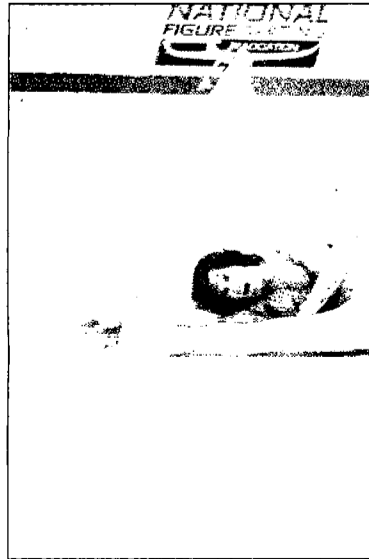
Does "Blades of Glory" have the same time-and-time-again re-watchability of Anchorman? No. But then again, how many comedies do? Is it full of one-liners and worth plopping down a few bucks to see at the local Cinemark? Yes.

In the end, the joke may be on all of us. After "Blades of Glory" kicked off with an opening weekend of \$33 million, one thing's for sure: Ferrell and his Frat Pack are laughing all the way to the bank.

Contact Tae Andrews at tandrew1@nd.edu



Stranz (Will Arnett), left, Katie (Jenna Fischer), center, and Fairchild Van Waldenberg (Amy Poehler) are rival skaters.



Chazz Michael Michaels (Will Ferrell) and Jimmy MacElroy (Jon Heder) perform many un-



JEFF ALBERT | Observer Graphic

SCENE & HEARD

"Ladies and gentlemen, can I please have your attention. I've just been handed an urgent and horrifying news story. I need all of you to stop what you're doing and listen. ... Cannonball!"

While this is only a quote from "Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy," an urgent and horrifying news story to go along with it is how conversation in our society is slowly disintegrating from intellectual dialogue into a constant stream of quotes gleaned from Hollywood's most successful comedies.

I'm not necessarily saying this is a bad thing, but that could be because I was sucked into the trend and began quoting movie lines many years ago. I am saying those not familiar with the above quote should pick up a copy of "Anchorman," lest they have no material to use in everyday conversation.

The phenomenon is actually quite amazing. No longer do movie quotes serve as filler material or as examples to use in the midst of a "real" conversation, but they now make up entire conversations by themselves, sometimes just starting with a simple "I love lamp."

It seems this trend started becoming popular earlier this decade with nostalgic comedies like "Old School" and "Super Troopers." Incantations of "I see Blue, he looks glorious," or repetitions of "Littering and ...," quickly proliferated thanks to their hilarious associations within the respective films, making each an instant classic.

Fans quickly memorized other lines in the movies and had quotes appropriate for any situation ready at their fingertips.

Have a section-mate who misses the weekly section dinners?

Quote "Anchorman": "It's the section dinner. We do it every week."

Mystified by all the time your mother spends in the kitchen?

Quote "Wedding Crashers": "I don't even know what she does back there!"

Having a philosophical debate about the intrinsic

properties of nature?

Quote "Super Troopers": "Nobody owns the water, man, it's God's water."

These films provided perfect source material for the eager "quoters" because of their outrageous, memorable one-liners and fun plots.

Financial success led actors like Will Ferrell, Vince Vaughn, Steve Carrell, the Wilson brothers and Ben Stiller — the so-called "Frat Pack" — to make dozens of other films in a similar vein to their early hits. The best lines from films such as "Wedding Crashers," "The 40-Year-Old Virgin" and "Anchorman" — and even smaller films like "Harold and Kumar go to White Castle" — entered into the popular vocabulary, expanding the base from which people could draw to speak in quotes.

This craze is not understood by everyone. Why do we (and by this I mean the college-age generation) speak in quotes? Maybe we are not imaginative or funny enough on our own. Or perhaps the writing of comic geniuses like Ferrell and Vaughn are so good and applicable to our own experiences that we feel compelled to use it in order to express ourselves, even if we are in a "glass case of emotion."

The most hardcore "quoters" can hear a quote and continue reciting a particular scene from memory or conduct an entire conversation in quotes, plucking and pulling from different films as is necessary. I like to think of this not as a mindless way to avoid serious conversation, but an opportunity to display a skill in textual analysis by determining which quotes are appropriate for which conversational situations.

With more people jumping on the quoting bandwagon with each Frat Pack film, those who refuse to quote movies are quickly getting lost in translation. With no middle ground in this situation, all it takes to be able to converse in the modern world is the time to watch these films — and a good memory.

So start memorizing, but most of all, "Stay classy San Diego."

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

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Sean Sweany

Assistant
Scene Editor

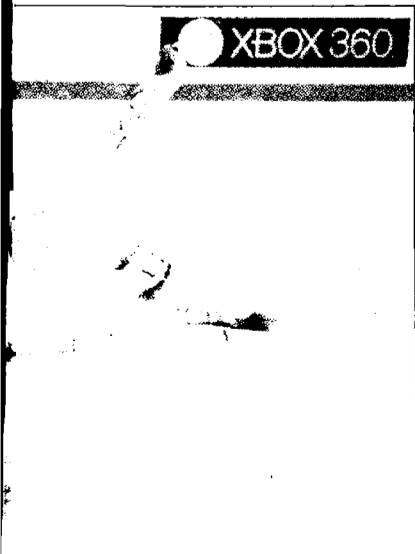


Photo courtesy of movieweb.com

Ferrell), left, and Jimmy MacElroy
ue maneuvers in their routines.



Photo courtesy of movieweb.com

Bitter enemies, Chazz, left, and Jimmy must learn to work
together in "Blades of Glory" if they wish to win skating gold.

"I'm Ron Burgundy?"

"It's so damn hot. Milk was a bad choice."

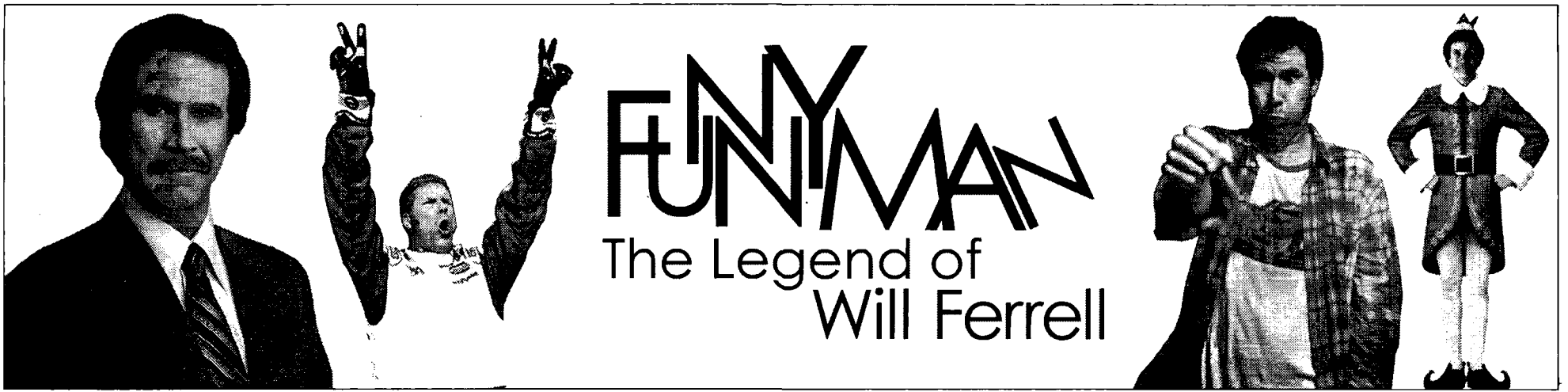
"I don't know how to put this, but I'm kind of a big deal."

"You know I don't speak Spanish."

"I immediately regret this decision."

"I believe it's an old, old wooden ship."





JEFF ALBERT | Observer Graphic

By ERIN MCGINN
Assistant Scene Editor

Everyone has a personal favorite Will Ferrell moment. Whether it's his appearance as Frank the Tank in "Old School," bopping his head through a car window in "A Night at the Roxbury" or stuck in his glass case of emotion in "Anchorman," Ferrell has managed to irrevocably touch the lives and hearts of college students everywhere.

Even in his younger years, Ferrell found ways to make his name known. He was a kicker for his high school football team, where he still holds the school record for most field goals made. He graduated from the University of Southern California with a degree in Sports Information, and it was only six years later that he would receive the biggest break of his life.

In 1995, Will Ferrell joined the cast of NBC's "Saturday Night Live," where he quickly became one of their more popular comics. He is fondly remembered by fans for his portrayals of President Bush, as well as Alex Trebek in the "Celebrity Jeopardy!" sketches. Another popular character was night clubber Steve Butatbi, who was then brought to the big screen in the 1998 film, "A Night at the Roxbury." Ferrell remained a member of the SNL cast through 2002, when he turned to focus on his film career.

Ferrell, as well other members of the "Frat Pack," rocketed to fame with the smash hit "Old School." Ferrell went on to enjoy back-to-back box office successes with the feel-good "Elf" and "Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy." "Anchorman," arguably Ferrell's most popular film, stars Ferrell as a 1970s news anchor. Supported by such cast members as Steve Carrell and Vince Vaughn the film is regarded as a gold-standard of modern comedy.

After the high-flying success of "Anchorman" Ferrell went through a relative dry-spot with the box-office flops "Kicking and Screaming" and "Bewitched." As the Frat Pack members started going their own separate ways, fans worried that Ferrell had lost his comic magic.

Ferrell might have been down, but he certainly wasn't out. He came back last year with the hit "Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby." Starring Ferrell, John C. Reilly and Sacha Baron Cohen, the film enjoyed a lot of success and put Ferrell back in the spotlight as America's funny man.

Striving to succeed outside of the younger, college crowd, Ferrell starred in the dra-medy "Stranger Than Fiction." In the film, he plays an IRS agent who hears a narrator in his head plotting his death. Much like Jim Carrey with "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind," Ferrell proves that his acting talents can go farther



Photo courtesy of movieweb.com

News anchor Ron Burgundy (Will Ferrell), who "had suits so fine they could make a wolverine purr" stays classy for the city of San Diego in "Anchorman."

than drinking and crotch jokes.

Even though he was excellent in "Stranger Than Fiction," it's the low-brow humor where Ferrell truly shines, and he recently returned to the big screen with Jon Heder in "Blades of Glory." Impatient fans can already begin to look forward to his next

film, "Semi-Pro," which looks to the intricacies of the basketball world, in the same vein that he has already done racing and figure skating.

Contact Erin McGinn at
emcginn@nd.edu

ACTOR FEATURE

Quirky 'Napoleon' launches Heder to success

By MARTY SCHROEDER
Assistant Scene Editor

Some think Jon Heder is the funniest thing since "Animal House." Other claim he is nothing more than a mumbling idiot who may or may not be good with the Bo staff. Whatever you think, there is no denying that Heder, with his breakout role in the smash indie success "Napoleon Dynamite" and his most recent role opposite the comedy king Will Ferrell in "Blades of Glory," is on his way to his own brand of comedy stardom. The only question is whether he can keep it up.

Born in the college town of Fort Collins, Colo., Heder grew up in a large family of six children alongside a twin brother, Daniel. Fluent in Japanese after spending time at a Mormon mission in Japan, Heder attended Brigham Young University where he befriended the future director of "Napoleon Dynamite," Jared Hess.

This friendship would become a boon for Heder after he was cast in the short film "Peluca," which would become the basis for "Napoleon Dynamite."

With his monotone delivery and obsession with ligers, Heder's Dynamite became a national darling. Shot in Preston, Idaho on a \$400,000 budget, "Napoleon Dynamite" took the American film scene by storm. The title character had a little bit of everything geeky, nerdy and awkward — something just about

everyone could relate to. With other comedies offering loudmouth jokes about topics better fit for the gutter, Heder infused "Napoleon Dynamite" with a humor that made any topic funny. Standing proud with his "Vote for Pedro" buttons and his immortal dance attack to the tune of Jamiroquai's "Canned Heat," Heder stopped traditional comedy in its tracks and put himself on the map.

With the release of "Just Like Heaven," Heder landed a role next to the prominent Reese Witherspoon and Mark Ruffalo. Although the film was generally poorly received, it was a welcome addition to Heder's résumé. Following this, he starred in "The Benchwarmers." Produced by Adam Sandler, it was panned by critics and saw Heder returning to the "Napoleon Dynamite" style of humor that was brilliant the first time but was becoming cliché. Looking for a new outlet, Heder found a comedic role that still allowed him to explore his craft opposite Billy Bob Thornton in "School for Scoundrels." Even though Todd Phillips' script was accused of being sloppy and not up to the standard of Billy Bob Thornton's stature, it garnered attention for Heder.

"Blades of Glory," starring both Heder and Ferrell, marked the biggest success for Heder since his debut in "Napoleon Dynamite." Unlike his more recent comedies, "Blades of Glory" is loved by critics and doing very well at the box office. Propped by the star power of Ferrell, "Blades of Glory" still allows



Photo courtesy of funtalking.com

Napoleon Dynamite (Jon Heder) munches on one of his famed tater tots in the low-budget 2004 film "Napoleon Dynamite," which became a popular cult hit.

Heder to shine.

Being able to keep up with the energetic Ferrell is a feat in and of itself. But to be noted as funny while starring with Ferrell is quite an achievement. The future looks bright for Heder provided he keeps picking roles akin to his Jimmy MacElroy in "Blades of Glory."

His next film, due out this year, is entitled "Moving McAllister." Starring opposite Rutger Hauer and "That '70s Show"

star Mila Kunis, Heder seems to be delving into some roles that move away from the clueless funny-man stereotype that he has to fight in order to be successful. Heder is a talented actor and it would not be surprising if he moved on to bigger and brighter things in the not so distant future.

Contact Marty Schroeder at
mschroe1@nd.edu

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Ben Hur (1926)

Directed by Fred Niblo

NR, 143 minutes

35mm Print

Live piano accompaniment by Dave Drazin

Thu, Apr 5 at 7 pm

Who Needs Sleep? (2006)

Director Haskell Wexler is scheduled to be present

Directed by Haskell Wexler

NR, 78 minutes

35mm Print

Wed, Apr 11 at 7 pm

Medium Cool (1969)

Director Haskell Wexler is scheduled to be present

Directed by Haskell Wexler

R, 110 minutes

35mm Print

Thu, Apr 12 at 7 pm

The Devil's Backbone (2001)

Directed by Guillermo Del Toro

R, 106 minutes

Spanish language with

English subtitles

35mm Print

Fri, Apr 13 at 7 pm and 10 pm

FILM LINE: 631-FILM



THU. APR. 19 AT 7 PM

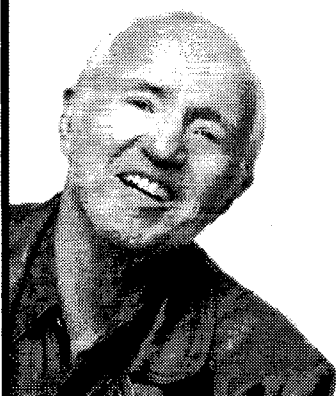
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MLB

Peavy's solid outing gives Padres their first win

Olsen's performance on mound and at plate gives Marlins win over Nationals, varied offense lifts Twins over Orioles

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Jake Peavy upstaged both superstar Barrys — and his former manager.

Peavy sparkled in six shutout innings and the San Diego Padres beat the San Francisco Giants 7-0 on Tuesday in the season opener for both clubs, giving rookie skipper Bud Black a win in his debut against predecessor Bruce Bochy.

"That's the way you draw it up," Peavy said. "Put some zeros on the board and make it hold up. That's a good day. I feel healthy. That's the biggest thing for me."

Barry Bonds resumed his pursuit of Hank Aaron's home run record with a single, stolen base, walk, groundout and fly ball to the warning track in a 1-for-3 showing on a day when the Giants matched their most lopsided loss in an opener in 75 years. The Padres earned the first opening-day shutout in team history.

San Francisco was shut out on opening day for the first time since a 6-0 defeat against Bob Gibson and the St. Louis Cardinals in 1967. The Giants haven't lost by more than seven runs in an opener since falling 13-5 to the Philadelphia Phillies in 1932.

"They pretty much shut us down," Giants shortstop Omar Vizquel said. "It was terrible. We should be able to put on a

better show than that."

Barry Zito, San Francisco's new \$126 million left-handed ace with the nasty curveball, was outpitched by Peavy in his National League debut after spending his first seven seasons across San Francisco Bay with the Oakland Athletics.

"When you're going against Peavy, you have to keep the game close. ... He's tough when he is on top of his game, and he was today," Bochy said. "Zito threw all right. He was just up there in pitches."

Bonds waved and tipped his cap in every direction to the sellout crowd of 42,773 when introduced before the game, then No. 25 walked out hand-in-hand with his godfather, Hall of Famer Willie Mays, when he was honored with a group of San Francisco's former All-Stars. The 42-year-old Bonds needs 22 home runs to break Aaron's career mark of 755.

The closest the Giants came to scoring was when Bonds tried to come around from second on a throwing error by shortstop Khalil Greene and was easily nailed at the plate by first baseman Adrian Gonzalez in the first inning. Bonds had stolen second base.

Zito (0-1), who signed the richest contract ever for a pitcher during the offseason, allowed two earned runs and four hits in five innings. The 2002 AL Cy Young Award winner struck out two and walked two.

Gonzalez hit an RBI single in the first. Mike Cameron drew a leadoff walk in the fourth and Jose Cruz Jr.'s bases-loaded walk gave San Diego a 3-0 lead before Peavy (1-0) hit into an inning-ending double play.

"I've just got to be a little more aggressive on first-pitch strikes," Zito said. "Opening day is always kind of a zoo out there. You have to lock in. ... I was pretty comfortable out there."

Marlins 9, Nationals 3

Scott Olsen was as good at the plate as he was on the mound.

Olsen had a double, a single and an RBI, all while taking a two-hit shutout into the sixth inning Tuesday night and helping the Florida Marlins beat the Washington Nationals to improve to 2-0 for only the second time in their 15 seasons.

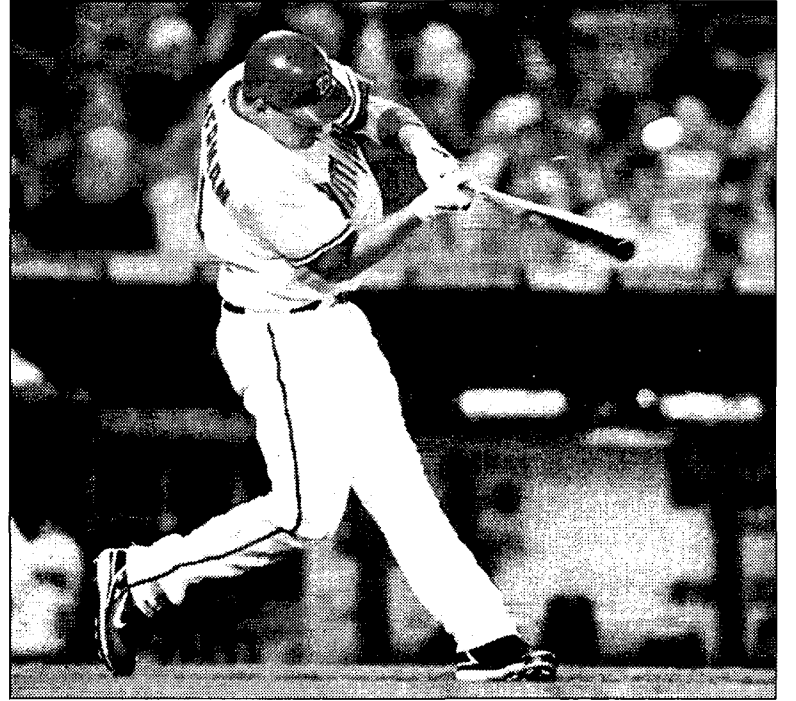
"If he can pitch like that every time out, we'll be in business," Marlins manager Fredi Gonzalez said.

How about Olsen's work with the bat?

"We've got a little more respect for him as a hitter, I guess," Gonzalez said.

The Nationals, meanwhile, could take solace from this: No one got hurt.

Before the game, Washington put two starters on the 15-day disabled list because they were injured during Monday's 9-2 loss to Florida — center fielder



Washington third baseman Ryan Zimmerman hits a broken-bat RBI single in the Nationals' 9-3 loss to the Florida Marlins.

Nook Logan (left foot) and shortstop Cristian Guzman (left hamstring).

So Washington called up Kory Casto, who never had played above Double-A, and started him in the outfield. Josh Wilson played shortstop, his first big league start since appearing in 11 games with Florida in 2005.

Wilson made one of the Nationals' two errors, part of a series of miscues that drew scattered boos from the announced crowd of 20,894, about half as big as opening day. Wilson also made an ill-advised attempt at a shovel pass with his glove (a play that was ruled a hit for Dan Uggla), first baseman Dmitri Young let a ball go through his legs for an error, and reliever Ray King failed to cover the bag at first on a possible double play.

"It takes more than that to frustrate me. We've just got to play better defense," Washington manager Manny Acta said. "We've just got to keep on working. We'll get better at it."

Twins 3, Orioles 2

The Minnesota Twins have shown the Baltimore Orioles a well-rounded offense. First it was power, then the "piranhas."

Jason Bartlett's broken-bat single drove in the go-ahead run in the seventh inning, and the Twins ran past Daniel Cabrera to beat the Orioles on Tuesday.

"We love it. We hit the long

ball last night, and tonight we're stealing bases and hitting balls in the infield. It's great. We play the game," said starting pitcher Boof Bonser, who left with the score tied after six innings.

After back-to-back home runs by Justin Morneau and Torii Hunter highlighted a 7-4 win in the opener, Minnesota played an extra-speedy version of small ball against Cabrera (0-1).

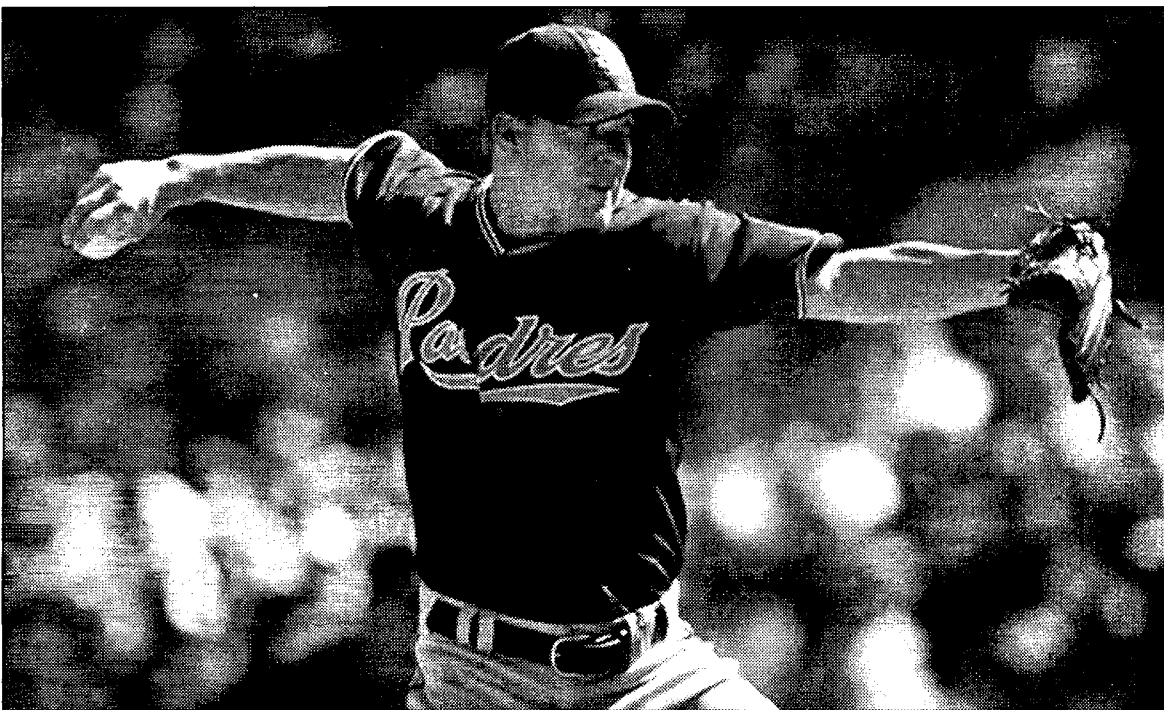
Rondell White walked to start the seventh, and pinch-runner Jason Tyner stole second after stumbling into the base to barely beat a way-wide throw by catcher Alberto Castillo.

Tyner then came home on the blooper by Bartlett, one of the scrappy contact hitters who frustrated Chicago White Sox manager Ozzie Guillen so much last year he nicknamed them the "piranhas" — after the pesky, exotic fish featuring dangerously sharp teeth.

"It's just a good team," Tyner said. "We can hit for power. We can manufacture runs."

Pat Neshek (1-0) pitched a scoreless seventh for the victory, and Joe Nathan earned his second save after three relievers worked out of a two-on jam in the eighth.

Bonser endured a rough stretch with two outs in the third, when Melvin Mora homered, Nick Markakis doubled, Miguel Tejada walked and Aubrey Huff hit an RBI single to make it 2-0.



San Diego pitcher Jake Peavy throws during the Padre's 7-0 victory against San Francisco Tuesday. Peavy threw six shutout innings, gave up three hits, walked two and struck out six.

CLASSIFIEDS

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NBA Standings

Eastern Conference

team	record	last 10
x-Detroit	47-26	6-4
x-Cleveland	44-30	5-5
x-Toronto	41-32	7-3
Washington	39-33	5-5
x-Chicago	44-31	7-3
Miami	39-34	5-5
New Jersey	34-39	6-4
Orlando	34-40	5-5
Indiana	32-41	3-7
New York	31-42	2-8
Philadelphia	29-44	4-6
Charlotte	28-46	5-5
Atlanta	27-47	2-8
Milwaukee	25-47	2-8
Boston	23-50	5-5

Western Conference

team	record	last 10
x-Dallas	61-12	9-1
x-Phoenix	55-18	6-4
x-San Antonio	52-21	7-3
x-Utah	48-25	5-5
x-houston	47-27	8-2
L.A. Lakers	39-34	6-4
Denver	36-36	5-5
L.A. Clippers	36-37	7-3
Golden State	35-49	6-4
New Orleans	33-40	5-5
Minnesota	31-42	3-7
Sacramento	30-42	2-8
Seattle	30-43	5-5
Portland	29-44	3-7
Memphis	19-56	3-7

x-clinched playoff spot

NCAA Men's Tennis
FILA Collegiate Rankings

	team	avg.
1	Georgia	96.83
2	Ohio State	90.82
3	Virginia	89.23
4	Baylor	84.69
5	North Carolina	79
6	NOTRE DAME	78
6	Mississippi	72.31
8	Illinois	71.3
9	USC	70.98
10	UCLA	68.75
11	Wake Forest	65
12	Alabama	63.64
13	LSU	62.99
14	Oklahoma State	62.1
15	Texas	60.13
16	Duke	57.79
17	Pepperdine	55.14
18	Florida	54.13
19	Michigan	48.68
20	NC State	48.16
21	Boise State	47.78
22	Tennessee	46.67
23	Old Dominion	44.52
24	Rice	42.72
25	Florida State	40.23

NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL



Former West Virginia coach John Beilein is expected to fill the open coaching position at Michigan. He recently came off a 27-9 record and an NIT Championship with the Mountaineers.

Beilein accepts offer from Michigan

Associated Press

ANN ARBOR — Michigan hired John Beilein to coach its men's basketball team, a person close to the Wolverines program told The Associated Press on Tuesday.

The person spoke on the condition of anonymity because the school wants Beilein to have the opportunity to inform his Mountaineer players that he's leaving before Michigan publicly announces the hiring.

West Virginia player Darris Nichols said Beilein planned to meet with his players Tuesday.

Beilein will be introduced

at a news conference on Wednesday in Ann Arbor, the person close to the program said.

Media reports linked Beilein with the Wolverines just days after he led the Mountaineers to the National Invitation Tournament championship. It will cost Michigan \$2.5 million to buy out Beilein at West Virginia, plus perhaps about \$1 million a season in a multiyear contract.

Beilein's West Virginia teams made deep runs in the NCAA tournament the previous two seasons. Despite graduating their top four scorers from a year ago, the Mountaineers went 27-9, including a 78-

73 win over Clemson in the NIT title game on Thursday.

The 54-year-old Beilein, under contract through the 2011-12 season, earns at least \$740,000 per season with annual increases of \$20,000.

He takes over for Tommy Amaker, who was fired last month following six seasons without an NCAA tournament appearance.

Wherever he's coached, Beilein has been a success, taking teams without great talent to five NCAA tournaments and six NIT appearances in 29 seasons. His 1-3-1 defense gives opponents fits and his offense ranked second in the coun-

try with 10 3-pointers made per game this season.

In only one of his five previous coaching jobs has Beilein stayed more than five years. He spent nine years at LeMoyne, then five apiece at Canisius and Richmond before coming to West Virginia, where he just completed his fifth season.

In 2005, after taking the Mountaineers to the NCAA regional finals, Beilein received a contract extension to derail a possible courtship from Virginia.

Last year North Carolina State came calling, but a \$3 million buyout clause in Beilein's contract derailed negotiations.

IN BRIEF

Drunk driver injures officer during Gator celebration

GAINESVILLE — A drunken driver slammed into a police officer who was clearing Florida Gators fans from the streets early Tuesday, critically injuring him, then ran two motorcycle officers off the road before he was stopped, authorities said.

The Florida Highway Patrol said Austin John Wright, 21, of Atlantic Beach, had a blood-alcohol level more than twice the legal limit.

The Gainesville Police officer, Lt. Corey Dahlem, was hospitalized in critical condition, police spokesman Keith Kameg said. None of the other officers was injured.

Police had been clearing the streets early Tuesday of the nearly 25,000 fans celebrating the University of Florida's 84-75 win over Ohio State for the Gators' second straight NCAA basketball title.

Goodell meets with players to discuss suspensions

NEW YORK — NFL commissioner Roger Goodell and league officials met with Adam "Pacman" Jones Tuesday as the Tennessee Titans' cornerback attempted to avoid a long suspension following a series of arrests.

Goodell and his staff also met with Cincinnati wide receiver Chris Henry and members of the NFL Players Association executive board as he prepared a tougher policy on NFL players who violate the law.

Goodell has said he will announce his decision on suspensions or other disciplinary action before the draft on April 28 and perhaps in the next 10 days.

The NFL had no comment and lawyers for the players had no immediate response. The meeting with the players was held away from the NFL offices where six television cameras stationed themselves with no one to interview.

Duke women's basketball coach takes job at Texas

DURHAM — Gail Goestenkors accomplished just about everything she could at Duke, from winning five Atlantic Coast Conference championships to reaching four Final Fours.

The only thing that eluded her is a national title. She's off to Texas to find it.

The coach who built a powerhouse during her 15 seasons coaching the Blue Devils' women's team resigned Tuesday to take over at Texas, replacing Hall of Famer Jody Conradt.

"In the end, it came down to her seeking a new challenge at this stage in her career and her life," Duke athletic director Joe Alleva said in a statement. "While we are disappointed that she has chosen to leave, we have to look forward now and search for the best women's basketball coach for Duke University."

around the dial

NBA
Bulls at Pistons
7:30 p.m., ESPN

MLB
Mets at Cardinals
8 p.m., ESPN2

NCAA WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Volunteers beat Scarlet Knights for seventh title

Tennessee wins 59-46 in Summitt's 947th career victory, Parker scores 17 points and Anosike grabs 16 rebounds

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Everyone is gazing up at good ol' Rocky Top again.

After a nine-year title drought, Tennessee and coach Pat Summitt are NCAA champions.

The Lady Vols captured an elusive seventh national title Tuesday night, beating Rutgers to the ball for second and third shots in a 59-46 win to reclaim their customary place above all other programs.

Rutgers coach C. Vivian Stringer had hoped to win her first title, 25 years after her first national title appearance. Instead, Summitt won her seventh, 20 years after her first.

"I can't even describe it," said Tennessee's All-American Candace Parker. "This is what everyone came to Tennessee to do, and we did it."

Parker scored 17 points to lead the Volunteers (34-3), but the most outstanding player got plenty of help from Shannon Bobbitt and a supporting cast of less-heralded teammates, who too often this season stood around and watched her.

Not this time.

The Lady Vols, trophy-less in their past five tournament visits, wanted this title — badly. Almost from the outset, they outworked the young Scarlet Knights (27-9), who waited until the final game of an improbable tournament run to show their inexperience.

"Maybe we read the headlines

or realized it was a national championship game," Stringer said. "We looked like a deer stuck in headlights."

After building a 16-point lead and then holding off a late push by Rutgers, the Lady Vols could finally celebrate, dribbling out the final 30 seconds under the Rutgers basket. When the final horn sounded, Dominique Redding flung the ball high enough to hit the scoreboard as Tennessee's players, some in tears, danced at midcourt as orange, blue and gold confetti fell from above.

"To win anything you have to be a tight team," Summitt said. "They believed in each other and they all had one goal, to be here in Cleveland and cut down the nets. I'm real, real proud of this team."

Rutgers, which knocked off No. 1 Duke earlier in the tournament, was attempting to become the third straight first-time winner following Baylor in 2005 and Maryland in 2006.

Summitt's 947th career win could be one of her sweetest. The Hall of Fame coach — joined on the floor afterward by her mother, Hazel Head, in a wheelchair — had captured six national titles from 1987-98, but had been shut out for No. 7 despite having some of her most talented teams.

"I think when we lost to LSU in the SEC tournament it was the best thing that happened to us," Summitt said. "You never like to lose, but we really came together as a team. I'd say they



NCAA president Myles Brand hands Tennessee players the championship trophy after the Volunteers' 59-46 victory over Rutgers Tuesday. The win was Tennessee's seventh championship.

held each other accountable. They called each other out."

Parker, too, had been looking to solidify her place among the best to ever wear UT's orange and white. She knew only a title would fulfill her legacy and allow her to be mentioned along with Chamique Holdsclaw, Tamika Catchings and Bridgette Gordon.

She belongs in their class now. And she's not going anywhere.

"Why wouldn't I? Why wouldn't I?" said Parker, when asked if she would wear orange next season. "I just wanted to win a national championship, and this team did that. Our banner is going to be in the rafters forever, and we left our mark at Tennessee."

Bobbitt scored 13 points — 9 of them on three 3-pointers in a lightning-quick span in the second half — and Nicky Anosike, who made her teammates sign a pact in January to reinforce their commitment to winning it all, had 16 rebounds for the Lady Vols, who had 24 offensive boards.

Kia Vaughn had 20 points and 10 rebounds to pace Rutgers. But the Scarlet Knights made far too many mistakes to challenge the Lady Vols down the

stretch.

Several times, Stringer, back in the championship game for the first time since leading Cheyney to the 1982 game, put her hands to her head in disbelief at seeing unforced turnovers and lackluster defense.

Stringer had called her senior-less squad of five freshmen, three juniors and two sophomores, a "team of destiny."

As it turned out, only Tennessee will leave Cleveland fulfilled.

Trailing by 11 at halftime, Rutgers, trying to become the lowest-seeded team to win the women's tourney, settled down early in the second half by matching Tennessee's intensity and closed to 35-28

on Vaughn's putback with 13:33 left.

That's when Bobbitt, a 5-foot-2 bundle of New York City playground moves and energy, hit the first of three 3-pointers in a span of 2:43. The first one came after two offensive rebounds by the Lady Vols.

After a Rutgers turnover, Bobbitt drained another 3. As the Scarlet Knights brought the ball up the floor, Bobbitt was waiting for them. She forced a

turnover that led to a layup by Alexis Hornbuckle, and for the first time all evening, Tennessee's fans sensed this might be the Lady Vols' night.

They were feeling even better one minute later when Bobbitt hit another 3.

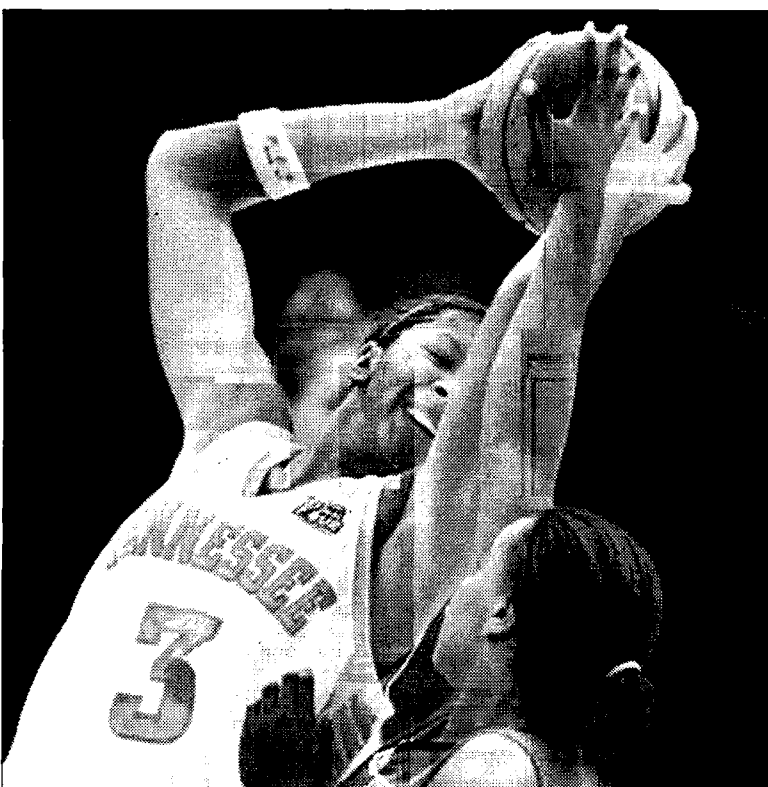
Still, the Scarlet Knights weren't going to quit on Stringer, who earlier this season kicked her team out of their locker room and took away anything with "Rutgers" written on it because she felt they weren't playing up to the school's standards.

A 3-pointer by Matee Ajavon ended a 7-0 run that brought Rutgers to 50-42, but Parker made six straight free throws in 37 seconds to make it 56-44 with 1:08 left. As she went down the floor, Parker looked at the bench where senior Sidney Spencer was crying, knowing all the hard work during the off-season would end the best way possible.


Seconds later, Stringer, who dropped to 0-6 in NCAA tourney matchups against her close friend Summitt, began clearing her bench.

"I still love my team, and I think they did a wonderful job," Stringer said. "This was no doubt the most rewarding year I've had in so long."

Still, this tournament ended the same way it has nearly one-third of the time since it started — with Tennessee setting up ladders to cut down the nets.




Tennessee forward Candace Parker looks to pass the ball while Rutgers guard Epiphany Prince plays tough defense.



WOMEN'S TENNIS

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BOOKSTORE BASKETBALL

White guys bring noise against 446

By ELLYN MICHALAK and
JAY WADE
Sports Writers

It was a neck-and-neck race between Team 446 and Five White Guys Bringin' in the Noise, but ultimately the collaborative effort and team spirit of the noise-bearing sophomores from Keenan clinched the 24-22 win over the freshman team from Carroll.

Dan "The Noise" Hussey summed up Five White Guys strategy succinctly.

"The duck flies south — we shall take the west," he said.

But the strategic mastermind was the team's coach, manager and friend — sophomore Scott McBride.

"Well, you see, plan number one is don't lose, but plan number two is just as awesome — the three tall kids stand in the middle and let the fast kids control the ball. With a plan this sweet, I think we can win," he said prior to the game.

The competitive Carroll team went into the game with a different mindset.

"We expect it to be a long, hard struggle and a test of perseverance," guard Tom Bybic said. "Team 446 is all about heart."

From the first play of the game, it was obvious that these teams meant business.

Five White Guys Bringin' in the Noise had a signature play, dubbed "Computer Blue," that, combined with numerous fast break lay-ups by Jordan DelPalacio, allowed the team to gain control and have the half-time lead of 11-10. Deep into the second half, key shots by top scorer Jon Sarna allowed Team 446 to gain a lead of 18-16, but a problematic eye injury to player Chris Weinacht ultimately slowed the team down.

Despite the win, White Guys' manager McBride hopes his team can play even tougher in the next game.

"Our team seems to have had trouble finding the backboard today," he said.

Team Wu Tang Clan 21 Team 597 19

In a classic battle between two teams from the second floor of Stanford, the Wu Tang Clan topped Team 597 Tuesday.

In a game that lasted more than an hour and 10 minutes, this rivalry was more of a marathon than a sprint. Because the two teams knew each other well, they jawed back and forth constantly.

The talk was silenced, however, when Wu Tang Clan's Tamba Samba, who was the most athletic

and energetic player on the court, won the game on a long jumper from the side of the basket.

"Wu Tang Clan ain't nothing to [mess] with," Samba said in celebration over the hard-fought victory.

The two teams were evenly matched, trading baskets the entire game. For the first hour of the game, the score went back and forth. After the hour mark, though, it became clear that the Wu Tang Clan was the better-conditioned team, as they started to out-hustle Team 597 towards the end.

While Samba was a big factor in the game for the Wu Tang Clan, he was not a one-man wrecking crew. Martin Quintara, the self-proclaimed "best-looking player on the team," ended up not being just a pretty face. He led the Wu Tang Clan in scoring with eight points.

When asked what they would do after their hard fought victory, Andrew Baroody shouted a response.

"We're on our way to Disneyland!"

Team America 21, Team Nevernudes 17

In a game that sported way more than its fair share of short shorts, oddly taped helmets and even a mullet, Team America pulled away after halftime to defeat the Nevernudes.

At the start of the game, it was clear that both teams meant business, as demonstrated by their flexible, tight-fitting shorts, which gave both teams the range needed to play their hardest.

The Nevernudes played a fast, up-tempo style that featured many full-court heaves to players on the other side of the court. In contrast, Team America chose to slow down the pace and pick the Nevernudes apart with their leading scorer, Ted Grossestreuer.

At halftime, Team America led 11-10, but after the break Nevernudes could not maintain their up-tempo style, slowing down the game and playing at Team America's pace. Team America took advantage of this, scoring in bunches with their strong post play and suffocating defense.

It also seemed that Team America was better equipped to handle the distraction of short shorts than were the Nevernudes.

"We felt bad about our short shorts until they took off their pants," Team America member Arthur Kinsey said.

Contact Ellyn Michalak at emichala@nd.edu and Jay Wade at jwade@nd.edu

NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL

Hawkeyes hire new coach

Lickliter signs a seven-year contract worth \$1.2 million per year



Iowa head coach Todd Lickliter signs autographs during a pep rally introducing him to Hawkeyes fans Tuesday. Lickliter was 131-61 during his six seasons at Butler.

Associated Press

IOWA CITY, Iowa — Iowa athletic director Gary Barta had no idea the man he was about to ask to be his new basketball coach had won a national coach of the year award the night before.

In three meetings with Iowa officials at the Final Four, Todd Lickliter never mentioned the honor. That show of humility cinched it for Barta, who moved quickly to bring the architect of Butler's recent success to Iowa.

"That told me a lot about the person we had been meeting with," Barta said.

The 51-year-old Lickliter was introduced as Iowa's coach Tuesday, having agreed on a seven-year deal worth \$1.2 million annually.

Lickliter was 131-61 in six years at Butler, leading the Bulldogs to a pair of appearances in the NCAA tournament's round of 16 and 29 wins last season. He takes over for Steve Alford, who left for New Mexico on March 23 after eight up-and-down seasons.

"I'm thrilled," Lickliter said. "It had to be an awfully good resume to catch Iowa's attention."

It's hard to escape the parallels between Lickliter's arrival and Alford's back in 1999. Both were Indiana-born, mid-major coaches who used an appearance in the NCAA tournament run to the regional semifinals as a springboard to Iowa.

That's where the similarities end.

Lickliter worked as a high

school coach in Indiana for well over a decade, even spending part of one season coaching in Saudi Arabia. He got back in college ball by taking a job as an administrative assistant under Barry Collier at Butler in 1996, and produced immediate results upon being elevated to head coach in 2001.

He led the Bulldogs to 26 wins and the Horizon League regular season title in his first season, then guided them to two NCAA tournament victories as a No. 12 seed a year later.

This season, Lickliter and the Bulldogs proved early on they were too good to be considered underdogs.

Butler knocked off Notre Dame, Indiana, Tennessee and Gonzaga to win the NIT Season Tip-off championship and earn a spot in the Associated Press Top 25. Butler then beat Old Dominion and Maryland in this year's NCAA tournament before falling to eventual national champions Florida.

For his efforts, Lickliter was honored as Division I Coach of the Year by the National Association of Basketball Coaches.

"I felt like I had a good job," Lickliter said. "I would not have left there unless it was a unique and special opportunity."

Iowa had initially turned to Tennessee's Bruce Pearl, who was an assistant with the Hawkeyes from 1986-92. The Hawkeyes received permission from Tennessee to formally interview Pearl, but Pearl quickly turned them down.

Lickliter is Barta's first major hire at Iowa since succeeding Bob Bowlsby, who left last summer to take the AD job at Stanford.

"I had a plan, and I'm very happy to say that the plan worked well," Barta said. "Everybody I was interested in already had a very good job."

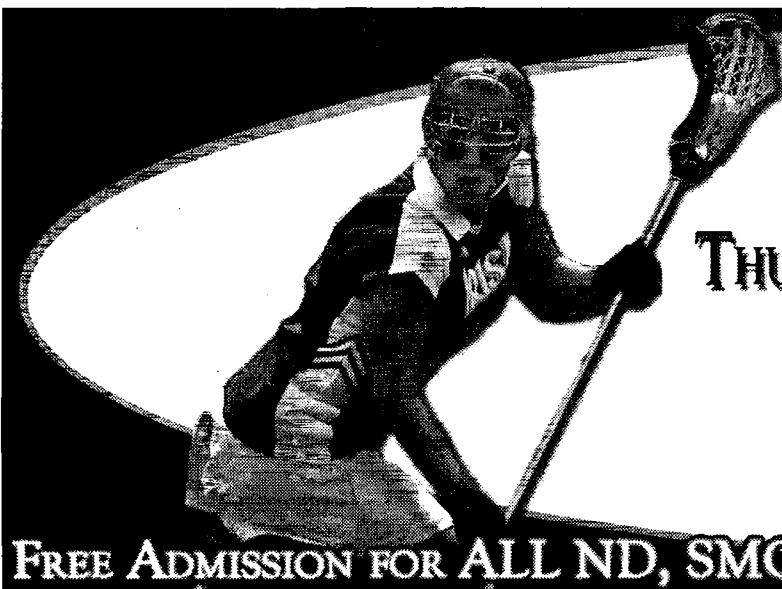
Barta, who said the only offer he made was to Lickliter, is hoping the former Butler coach can jolt a program that sorely needs it. Asked what brand of basketball he planned to bring to Iowa, Lickliter said simply, "a winning" one.

"Our style is opportunistic. We want to seize opportunities. We want to attack with poise and great ball-handling. We're not concerned with tempo. We're going to take what's given to us," Lickliter said.

Iowa won just one NCAA tournament in eight seasons under Alford, whose tipping point at Iowa just may have been the desperation buzzer beater by Northwestern State's Jermaine Wallace that beat the third-seeded Hawkeyes in the first-round of the 2006 tournament.

Attendance has been on a steady decline at Carver-Hawkeye — despite Iowa's 31-2 home record over the last two years — as the relationship between Alford and Hawkeyes fans soured. Alford even hinted upon his arrival in New Mexico that Iowa favored football over basketball.

Lickliter dismissed that notion, adding that he was so excited about getting to Iowa his car is still in Atlanta.



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SMC SOFTBALL

Belles to battle Hope for first conference win

League leaders face Saint Mary's at home

By REBECCA SLINGER
Sports Writer

The Flying Dutchmen of Hope College in Holland, Mich., may not sound like a force to be reckoned with, but their record over the Belles says differently.

Hope (11-5) is tied for first with Alma in the MIAA with a 4-0 league mark — and the Belles (13-3) lost to Alma Saturday 9-1 and 4-0. In the past two seasons, Saint Mary's has lost three out of four games to the Dutchmen, the Belles only victory coming 1-0 last season.

Saint Mary's sophomore pitcher Kristin Amram said this league game will not turn out like their losses to Alma,

"We got our bad day out of the way," Amram said. "We're not going to let it happen again."

Amram also said the Belles want to avenge their past losses, but the team is not focusing on those games.

"Our main focus is this season," she said. "We feel that we're better ... than last year. We're going out against them just like they're any other team. We're going to play our game and not worry about anything

else."

If sophomore pitching duo Calli Davison and Amram can pitch with their usual control against Hope's strong hitting, the Belles could compete with the Dutchmen. Hope junior outfielder Jessica Regnerus enters with a .512 batting average, and junior catcher Kylee Brouwer is hitting .510. But Hope could have a difficult time with its powerful hitting when they face Amram (0.72 ERA) and Davison (3.22).

The Belles also will look to take advantage of Hope's pitching. The Dutchmen's best pitchers are freshmen Deidra Enochs (1.92) and Sara Fisher (2.65). Belles freshman outfielder Ashley Peterson — entering the contest batting .455 — will pose the biggest obstacle for Hope. The Belles also will look to their power — senior shortstop Sarah Miesle, who has a slugging percentage of .800, Amram (.714) and sophomore catcher Ashley Fusaro (.808).

"[Hope] can definitely hit, but we have a different team," Amram said. "We have different pitching. They have not seen this pitching staff before. I think we're completely ready for this team tomorrow."

The Belles face Hope at 3:30 p.m. today on their home field.

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SMC TENNIS

Team stays perfect in MIAA

Saint Mary's drops just one game to Adrian, improves record to 7-6

By ELLYN MICHALAK
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's added a third win to its already perfect conference record Tuesday by defeating MIAA foe Adrian College 8-1.

The Belles (7-6) dominated, winning every singles match in straight sets and prevailing in the first two doubles matches.

"The competition was not very strong," Coach Dee Stevenson said in regards to the Adrian squad.

In the first match of the game, senior captain Kelly McDavitt controlled the pace, defeating Adrian junior Lindsey Eshelman 6-1 and 6-2. At No. 2, Belles standout freshman Camille Gebert shut out sophomore Sandy Towler 6-0 in the first set and polished off the win with a score of 6-2 in the second set.

In the third match of the day, freshman Lisa Rubino set the pace, defeating Adrian freshman Kristina Baker 6-1, 6-1. Belles freshman Caitlin O'Brien defeated Bulldogs senior Karen Kruisenga in straight sets, 6-3 and 6-0, in the fourth match.

Competing in the fifth singles spot, junior Cassie Quaglia prevailed, beating Adrian sophomore Leann Brooks 6-1, 6-1. In the final singles competition of the day, senior Grace Gordon dominated the match and defeated sophomore Ellen Kroll 6-1, 6-2.



KATE FENLON/The Observer

No. 2 singles player Camille Gebert prepares to receive a serve against Olivet March 21. Gebert won her match, 6-0, 6-3.

In doubles competition, the powerhouse duo of Gebert and McDavitt crushed Eshelman and Kruisenga 8-3 in the first spot. While senior Tara O'Brien and Gordon defeated Baker and Brooks 8-2 in the second doubles spot, Belles players Rubino and Caitlin O'Brien fell 8-6 to Kroll and Towler in a tight match.

The team will go on to compete next at the Midwest Invitational Friday and

Saturday. The Belles will play first against Wisconsin-Lacrosse, a team that the Belles lost to earlier this season.

"We have improved since the beginning of the year," Stevenson said. "I think we have a chance at beating them. It will be a tough match, but we definitely have a chance at winning."

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Oakland

continued from page 24

stranded three runners when designated hitter Tony Langford struck out looking with the bases loaded.

Notre Dame left 14 runners on base Tuesday, continuing a trend that dates back to the South Florida series March 24-26. Including that series, the Irish have stranded 9.6 runners per game over the last two weeks.

"The top of our order is doing a great job of getting on, but we have to drive them in," Schrage said.

Notre Dame got another run in the third when a double by left fielder Ross Brezovsky scored second baseman Jeremy Barnes, but once again the Irish couldn't plate a second runner.

Catcher Matt Smith grounded out to third, and right fielder Brayden Ashdown flied out to strand Barnes.

Boleski had a rough start to his outing, allowing three runs on five hits while walking four batters in the first three innings. He also threw two wild pitches and balked once.

But starting in the fourth, Boleski settled down, allowing just two base runners and no hits or runs before being pulled with two outs in the bottom of the sixth.

Oakland (8-16) scored its first run in the top of sixth on an RBI single by third baseman Andy Shepherd. The Golden Grizzlies threatened to score more, putting runners on second and third with two outs, but left fielder Drew Jenison grounded out to

retire the side.

Notre Dame responded in the seventh, scoring three runs against Oakland reliever Ben Darga to take a 6-1 lead. Langford singled and got to second on a sacrifice bunt by Dressman, then advanced to third on a single by Barnes and scored on a base hit by Brezovsky.

Ashdown advanced the runners with a bunt, and Lilley drove in Barnes with a single. With the bases loaded,

Pollock got drilled in the knee with a pitch to force in Brezovsky.

Oakland got two runs in the eighth against Irish reliever Mike Dury. First baseman Ryan Heath and center fielder Justin

Wilson reached on errors and then scored on consecutive singles by Shepherd and Jenison to make the score 6-3.

Right-hander Kyle Weiland then replaced Dury on the hill and got pinch-hitter Andrew Stafford to bounce back to the mound to end the threat.

Weiland then showed he could contribute offensively as well, singling to lead off the bottom of the eighth and scoring on a ground out by Smith to put his team up by four.

"That was the first time I've been up since high school," Weiland said. "There was no pressure on me. [Running the bases] was weird. I wasn't sure what I was doing out there."

Weiland went back to the mound in the ninth and allowed two runners to get on, but managed to get three outs to end the game and earn the save.

Contact Chris Khorey at ckhorey@nd.edu

Outdoor

continued from page 24

team we were three or four weeks ago," Louderback said.

Tuesday's match featured the return of Irish freshman Colleen Rielley from injury. Rielley had not played in Notre Dame's previous three matches but came back strong, posting a 6-2, 7-5 victory over Purdue's Neela Vaez.

"[Rielley] was a little rusty. She won the first set, got down 4-1 in the second," Louderback said. "But then, she got back in it and played well."

Rielley paired with freshman Cosmina Ciobanu in her first doubles match of the season. The duo made quick work of Purdue's Anya Dzeva and Alejandra Boeker in an 8-0 victory.

"We're always weak on doubles. Every kid on the team, we work on it all the time. They wonder sometimes, 'I'm not playing, why am I doing this?'" Louderback said. "But they have to be ready for days like this. [Rielley] played a lot of doubles in practice and the time comes when you're going to get the shot at playing, and she was ready."

Ciobanu and Rielley's victory helped Notre Dame capture the doubles point. The No. 8 nationally-ranked duo of Christian and Catrina Thompson overcame a deficit of 4-3 to capture an 8-5 win over No. 45 Brook Beier and Mallory Voelker. Notre Dame's No. 2 doubles team of freshman Kali Krisik and sophomore Kelcy Tefft downed Vaez and Cigdem Duru 8-3 to complete the doubles sweep.

In singles play, No. 26

Catrina Thompson fell to Voelker 6-4, 4-6, 1-0 (11-9) in the No. 1 singles slot.

"She let the wind bother her a little bit," Louderback said of Catrina Thompson.

Krisik played No. 6 singles in place of injured junior Brook Buck and cruised to a 6-1, 6-1 victory over Boeker.

"She can do a lot of everything. She's very solid, is good off the ground, makes a lot of balls when she's on the baseline. But she can also come in. She can volley well when she needs to come in and she plays probably as good of defense as anyone I've ever had," Louderback said of Krisik. "When she gets in trouble and someone has her on the run, she lobs really well and gets herself out of trouble well. The defense she plays in a match is exceptional."

Ciobanu stayed perfect in dual-match play with a 6-1, 6-0 win over Dzeva. Christian Thompson posted a victory at No. 2, 6-3, 6-2, over Beier and improved to 11-8 in dual match play.

"Christian played well. [Beier] beat her last year when we played Purdue. So, I think for her, she definitely wanted to win it," Louderback said.

Tefft rounded out the scoring with a 6-0, 6-3 defeat of Duru at No. 4.

Louderback said he still is not sure when Buck can return to the lineup.

"She's kind of day-to-day right now as to when she's going to start practicing again," Louderback said. "At this time, right now with our schedule, it's a good time not to push it."

Notre Dame takes on Indiana in Bloomington Saturday at 10 a.m.

Contact Chris Hine at chine@nd.edu

Ten

continued from page 24

fielder Davey Leach. Leach found the net by firing a deep shot with less than a second to go in the third quarter.

"It was definitely a good win," Irish junior goaltender Joey Kemp said. "We left [Villanova] in the game a little bit, and they are a good comeback team. Earlier this year, they were down by five against Towson, and they came back to only lose by one. It felt good to put that kind of team away and win 15-5."

Other Irish scorers included senior midfielder Lucius Polk and freshman attack Will Yeatman. Polk netted two goals and added an assist, while Yeatman scored one and racked up two helpers. Hubschmann also added an assist to his late second-quarter goal.

Sophomore attack Peter Christman and freshman midfielder Grant Krebs each tacked on a score, while senior attack John Greaney (one goal) and junior attack Alex Wharton (two assists) notched points.

Kemp made seven saves in over 51 minutes of play. Sophomore goaltender Scott Rodgers played the last 8:48 of the game, in which he made four stops without allowing a goal.

"I was a little slow in the first half, but I played a lot better in the second," Kemp said.

Notre Dame held a slim margin over Villanova on shots, 39-33. Irish junior midfielder Taylor Clagett went 14-of-20 in faceoffs for the game.

"It has been rocky so far on faceoffs," Clagett said. "However, during the past few games it has gotten a little better."

Villanova's offense was led by senior midfielder Andy German, who netted two goals and added an assist. Junior attack Jay Foley (two goals), junior attack Chris MacDonald (one goal), sophomore attack Tim Langan Jr. (one assist) and senior defensive midfielder Mike Hass (two assists) each scored points for the Wildcats.

Sophomore goalkeeper Andrew DiLoreto earned the loss, allowing 13 goals with five stops.

The Irish will try to push their winning streak to four games when they play league-rival Air Force Friday at 5 p.m. at Moose Krause Stadium.

Contact Pat O'Brien at pobrien2@nd.edu

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MEXICAN GRILL

MAIN & DOUGLAS

Ballin'

continued from page 24

responding to the challenges he posed at the break.

Ben Mertz, playing center for Chorale, began to dominate in the post and proved to be too much of a physical specimen for Team 432 to handle.

In addition, Andrew "Blevins" Walker began to dominate the boards, while Jesse Goliath continuously knocked down open jumpers to maintain the lead.

In the end, the aggressiveness of Chorale proved to be the key.

Wilt Chamberlain's Illegitimate Children 21, Team 449, 8

After a strong defensive effort, Wilt Chamberlain's Illegitimate Children were able to triumph in their first-round matchup with Team 449.

The Illegitimate Children, led by team captain Brandon Faus (11 points), seized an early lead and never looked back, excelling at both ends of the court.

"It made for a great day despite an oncoming thunderstorm," Faus said. "It was run-and-gun, we were pretty much up the whole way. We just pushed it and had fun on these nasty courts."

After the game, though, Faus was humble and refused to take any individual credit for the victory.

"We played very well as a team," Faus said. "I give all the credit to 'Bo' Badke and 'Wild' Dean Fernandez."

The Illegitimate Children were able to contain Team 449's best player, Matt Belton (seven points and eight blocks), and the lack of a second scoring option hurt 449 when Belton struggled.

The Children were able to spread the ball around with relative ease. Mike Dowdall and last-second replacement Alvin Reynolds each contributed to the blowout with solid performances.

As the Illegitimate Children jumped out to a commanding 13-4 lead just after halftime, it was evident Team 449 lost confidence as they began to hang their heads with every missed shot.

With the dominating 21-8 victory, Wilt Chamberlain's Illegitimate Children will look to carry their momentum into the second round.

You've Never Seen Ballin' Like This Before 21, Purple Rain 8

After an even start, You've Never Seen Ballin' Like This Before pulled away from Purple

Rain for a 21-8 win.

Purple Rain, dressed like they had just stepped off a Prince and the Revolution tour, started the game with hot outside shooting and took a 4-2 lead. Ballin', dressed in NBA jerseys, quickly responded to tie the game at four.

Ballin' then went on a 7-0 run to take an 11-4 lead at halftime.

While his team struggled in the second half, Purple Rain coach Hank Jenkins remained positive.

"We're trying to stay purple out here and make it rain," Jenkins said.

Led by Brett Berceau's mid-range shooting, Ballin' closed out the game on a 10-4 run for the win. Ballin' consisted of team members Anthony Bencivenga, Jim Murphy, Jeremiah Herman, Brett Berceau and Pat Cassidy.

Ballin' coach Andy Pauwels was not satisfied with his team's performance, however. "My summary of the game is this — what are we thinking?" Pauwels said. "If they want to win next round they better get their heads in the game."

Random Engineers With No Particular Talent 21, You Think We're Bad But You Have No Idea 5

The Random Engineers With No Particular Talent had enough ability to take a 21-5 win over You Think You're Bad But You Have No Idea.

Applying full court defensive pressure, team members Marie Sydlík, Tyler Emptage, Adam Cunningham, Patrick Kosciuk and Marcin Morys were able to collect easy baskets underneath against a much

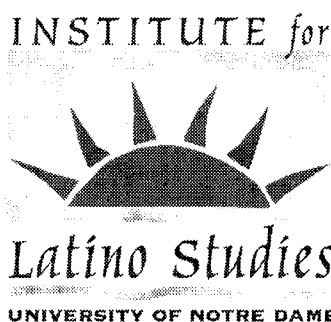
shorter No Idea team. No Idea, a team of senior girls with a self-described lack of talent at the game of basketball and an overwhelmed captain in Kate Gales, made a strong effort in the loss and were very happy with the performance.

"It was very fun — what Bookstore Basketball is all about," Gales said. "We're all proud to be part of this great tradition."

No Talent showed great sportsmanship in the last minutes of the game. Ahead 20-1, the team allowed four No Idea team members to score in their final Bookstore Basketball game.

This season was a drastic improvement for No Idea, since the team was shut out 21-0 in its first-round game last year.

Contact Dan Maloof at dmaloof@nd.edu and Michael Bryan at mbryan@nd.edu



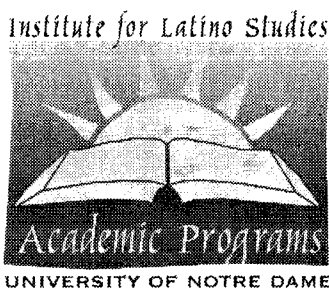
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Streak

continued from page 24

Senior Stephanie Brown received the conference's highest honors, being named Big East player of the week for the first time in her career. The veteran center fielder scored five runs and knocked in four more while going 13-for-18 at the plate last week.

Brown and the rest of the Irish bats will face a tough test when they face off against Crusader hurler Chris Halstead this afternoon. Halstead is 4-0 in her first eight appearances, averaging five strikeouts per contest.

The Crusaders (14-8) come to South Bend with a 4-3 record on the road and have struggled to put up big offen-

sive numbers all year. Valparaiso has only scored more than five runs in five of its first 22 games. On the season, the Crusaders are hitting .244 as a team.

The South Bend weather may also play a key role in slowing down the offense for both teams this afternoon. The local forecast is calling for high temperatures in the 30s and a possibility of scattered snow showers throughout the day. After a month in sunny California, followed by two unseasonably warm weekends in the Midwest, neither team will be prepared for the drastic change in temperature.

If the snow holds off, the opening pitch is scheduled for 5 p.m.

Contact Dan Murphy at dmurphy6@nd.edu

Recycle The Observer.

MEN'S LACROSSE

Declawing the Cats

Notre Dame wins 10th straight at home 15-5

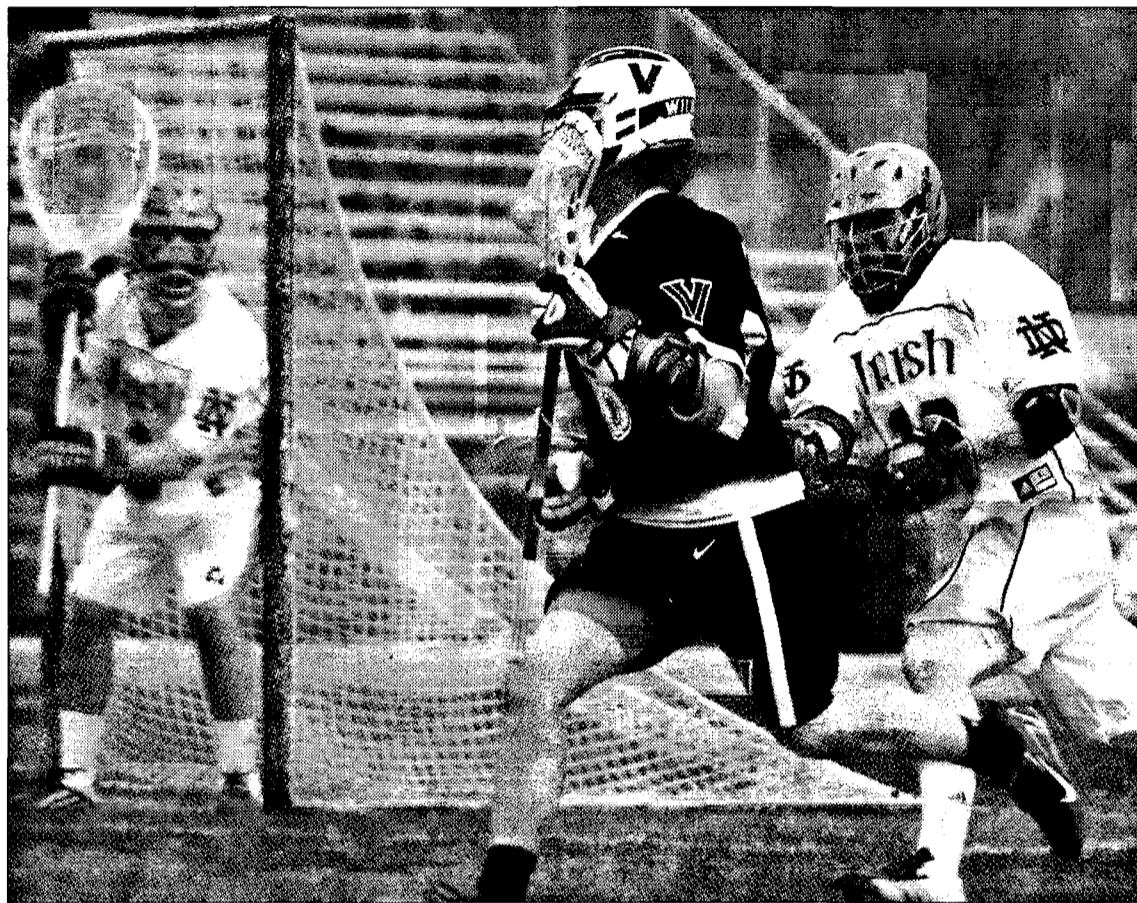
By PAT O'BRIEN
Sports Writer

Sophomore attack Ryan Hoff scored five goals and junior mid-fielder Michael Podgajny added three tallies and four assists as No. 13 Notre Dame cruised to a 15-5 victory Tuesday over Villanova.

The win is the 10th-straight victory at home for the Irish, dating back to 2005 and their third in a row.

The Irish (6-3) played strong out of the gate, taking a 5-0 lead early in the second quarter. However, Villanova (4-4) did not quit. The Wildcats netted four of the next five goals to cut the score to 6-4. Irish senior attack Brian Hubschmann stopped the bleeding by netting his only goal to give Notre Dame a 7-4 lead at the half.

After the halftime break, the Irish never looked back, closing the game on an 8-1 run. This streak included the first career goal scored by sophomore mid-



Irish midfielder Kelly McKenna and goalie Joey Kemp try to prevent Villanova attack Chris MacDonald from scoring in Notre Dame's 15-5 win over the Wildcats Tuesday.

see TEN/page 21

BASEBALL

Irish stop slide with 7-3 victory

By CHRIS KHROREY
Sports Editor

Second baseman Jeremy Barnes and left fielder Ross Brezovsky scored two runs each as Notre Dame recovered from a two-game slide at Pittsburgh over the weekend with a 7-3 non-conference victory over Oakland Tuesday at Frank Eck Stadium.

"After last weekend, we needed something," Irish coach Dave Schrage said. "Every day, we have to play like there's no tomorrow."

Notre Dame (13-14, 1-4 Big East) got on the board first, seeing 31 pitches from Golden Grizzlies hurler Scott Boleski in the first inning and plating a run by shortstop Brett Lilley on a sacrifice fly by center fielder Danny Dressman.

The Irish scored again in the second on an RBI single by third baseman A. J. Pollock, but

see OAKLAND/page 21

ND SOFTBALL

Win streak at stake against Valpo at Ivy Field

By DAN MURPHY
Associate Sports Editor

Notre Dame will put its 10-game win streak on the line this afternoon against the Valparaiso Crusaders at Ivy Field.

The team's last loss was an 8-0 shutout at the hands of

Pacific March 17 in the Judi Garman Classic. Since then, the Irish have won their first eight Big East matchups, as well as two non-conference victories over IUPUI and Toledo. All 10 wins have been a part of an 11-game home stand for Notre Dame that ends with this afternoon's game.

The Irish (19-12) started off the 2006 home season in similar fashion, winning their first seven games at Ivy Field while the 2005 club reached double-digits in home wins before surrendering their first loss in the white jerseys.

During this year's opening tear, the offense has cranked out 57 runs since the shutout

against Pacific, and the pitching staff has given up only six runs during the stretch — including five shutouts in conference play.

Sophomore ace Brittney Bargar has led the staff with three goose eggs to bring her season earned-run average to 2.00. Bargar was named to the Big East honor roll this

week after giving up only one run and six hits in three wins. She also recorded her first career home run when she launched a game-winning, three-run blast to break a 1-1 tie in the bottom of the seventh inning against Toledo.

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BOOKSTORE BASKETBALL

Strong play takes backseat to style

By DAN MALOOF and
MICHAEL BRYAN
Sports Writers

In a hard fought battle Tuesday at the Lyons basketball courts, Chorale emerged victorious in their first round match up with the formidable Team 432, 21-13.

At the beginning of the game, the ladies of Team 432 were able to control the tempo, hitting big shots when they needed to and keeping the score relatively close.

However, Thomas DeGregoris proved to be an unstoppable force and quickly took the game into his own hands, despite failing to convert on a "360-windmill dunk" early in the first half.

DeGregoris made his pres-

ence felt on the defensive end with two steals that lead to fast-break lay-ups, as well as a Greg Oden-esque block that almost brought down the house.

With a halftime score of 11-5, DeGregoris brought his team together and gave a halftime speech.

"We have to stop playing timidly," DeGregoris said. "We have to take it to the house a little more and stop making stupid fouls. We started looking good toward the end of the first half after a rough start, but we just have to understand that we're big boys, and we just have to slip and slide and take it to the house."

As the second half began, it was clear that his team was

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ND WOMEN'S TENNIS

Boilers become 14th-straight victim

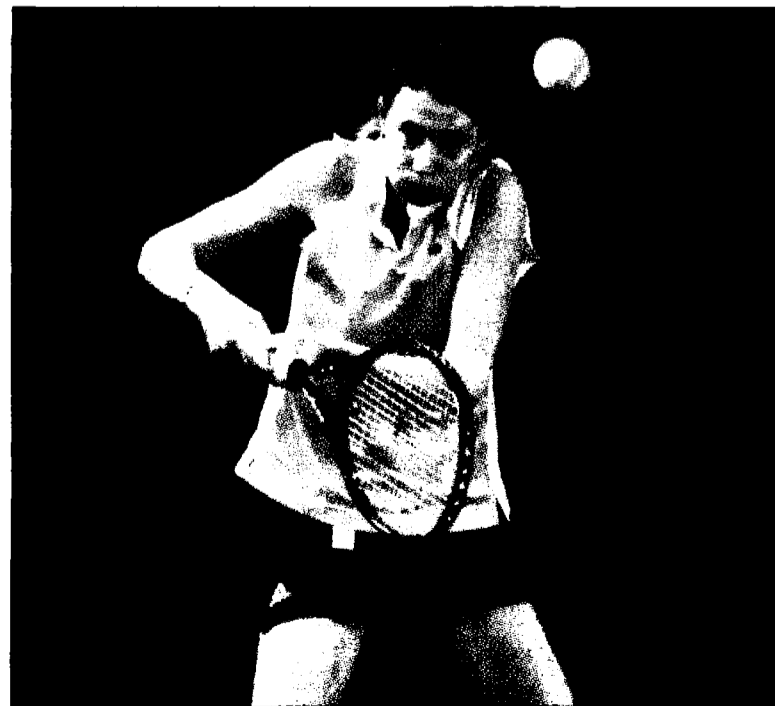
By CHRIS HINE
Sports Editor

Ignoring the ominous weather forecast, Notre Dame coach Jay Louderback insisted his squad play Tuesday's match against Purdue outdoors.

"When we decided to go outdoors I think everybody thought I was crazy because it was calling for rain," Louderback said.

But there was nothing crazy about No. 2 Notre Dame's methodic 6-1 victory over the No. 46 Boilermakers. The Irish (19-1) extended their dual-match winning streak to 14 with the win. Purdue fell to 10-4.

"We've been just kind of getting through the last matches and I thought today we got outdoors, played well, and I thought we looked like the



Irish freshman Colleen Rielley returned to the lineup Tuesday to lift Notre Dame to a 6-1 win over Purdue.

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