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Committee selection starts provost search

Jenkins, five faculty members, one student assemble to find Hatch's successor

By CLAIRE HEININGER
News Editor

Notre Dame took its first official step towards hiring a new provost Tuesday when the University's Academic Council selected a seven-member committee to direct the search process.

Chaired by University President-elect Father John Jenkins, the committee is now charged with finding the successor to current Provost

Nathan Hatch, who will leave Notre Dame July 1 to become the president of Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, N.C.

The provost, the second-ranking officer in the Notre Dame administration, oversees the direction, coordination and

development of the University's academic affairs.

Hatch, who took over the post in 1996, is the third person to serve as provost since the office was created in 1970.

After a "cumber-some" process that required each of the 46 voting

Academic Council members to nominate three candidates for the search committee, the council chose five faculty members and one student, said Jean Ann Linney, vice president and associate provost.

The committee will immediately open a "full and extensive" search for both internal and external candidates for the post, but must be careful to keep those candidates' identities confidential, Linney said.

"One of the challenges in a committee like this ... is that any candidate we look at already has a pretty big job," she said. "The committee members have to do most of their work out of the public eye."

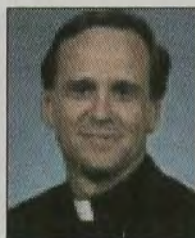
They will also have to do their work quickly.

The University would like to find a new provost "as soon as possible without sacrificing the depth and quality of

see SEARCH/page 6



Hatch



Jenkins

SMC grad oversees major trial

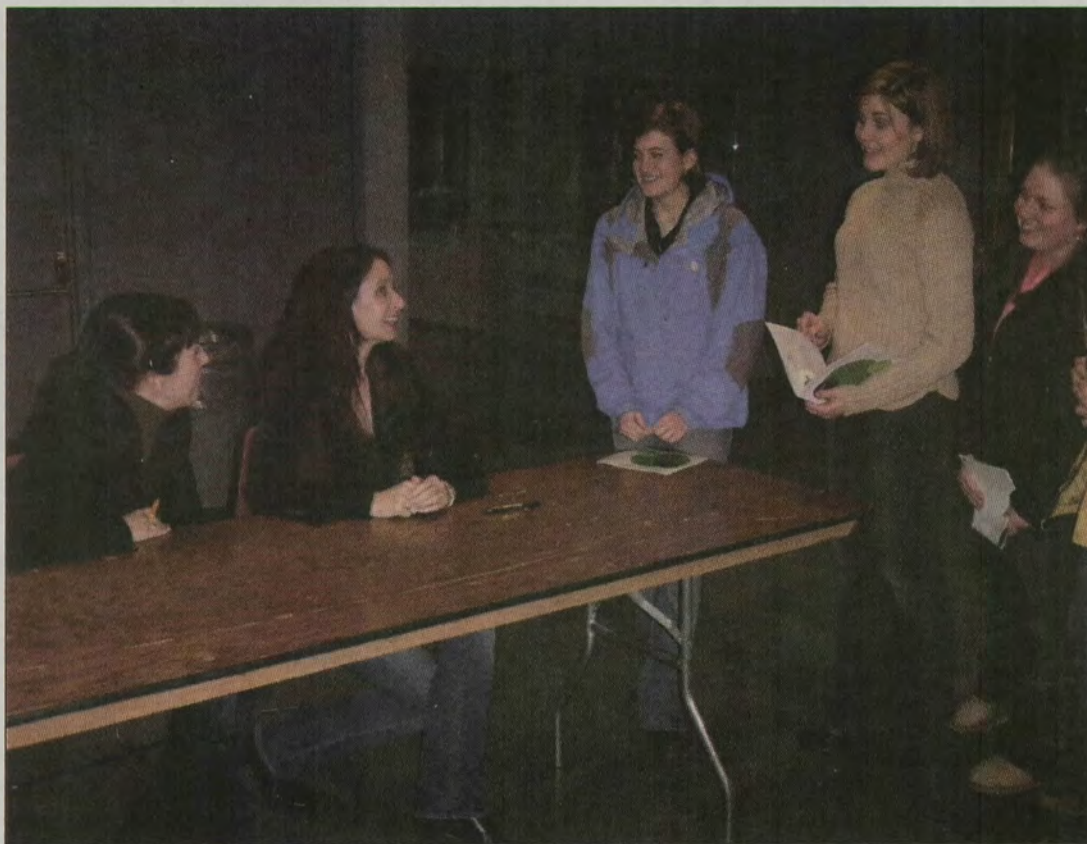
By MEGAN O'NEIL
Assistant News Editor

United States District Court Judge and Saint Mary's alumna Denise Cote will make history once again during the next few months while presiding over the WorldCom accounting fraud trial in Manhattan, one of the largest ever security cases.

Cote, 58, set the tone for the high profile court battle early in pretrial hearings by ordering settlement negotiations to begin just one month after the lead plaintiff, the New York State Common Retirement Fund, filed its class action complaint. She also limited each side 60 days to present their depositions.

see COTE/page 4

NANNY LIT



CLAIRE KELLEY/The Observer

Writers Nicola Kraus, sitting left, and Emma McLaughlin, sitting right, chat with students and sign copies of their book, 'The Nanny Diaries,' Tuesday. The event was part of the 38th annual Notre Dame Literary Festival which runs through Thursday and features distinguished writers.

Grad prep underway on campus

By JARRETT LANTZ
News Writer

With graduation just three months away, many behind-the-scenes groundwork for commencement are already underway at Saint Mary's and Notre Dame.

Seniors busy with résumés and job searches now have added senior week preparation and graduation anticipation to their schedules.

Members of this year's graduating class at both schools have numerous requirements to complete in order to make their May commencement ceremonies a success. Each senior, among other tasks, must order and mail invitations, reserve ceremony tickets and have caps and gowns fitted.

Traditionally, students at

see PREP/page 4

Study abroad decisions eminent

Students wait, hope for acceptance letters to most popular programs

By PETER LEAHY
News Writer

For most students who applied to Notre Dame's study abroad programs, the wait is almost over.

Within the next few days, students who applied to the most popular programs — London, Dublin, Australia, Italy, Spain or France — should receive a decision regarding their applications.

Director of International Study Programs Thomas Bogenschild said students

who applied to the most popular programs will receive notice before the less popular programs.

"We tend to focus on the programs that are most highly subscribed," he said. "About 70 percent of applicants [will find out] at once."

Bogenschild said the overwhelming number of applicants caused a delay in notifications, which originally were supposed to be sent last week.

"It's a long process [of] 1,300 applications that you have to read, and we only

have a staff of six," he said.

Bogenschild said financial reasons delayed the decisions as well.

"The Board of Trustees met on the 4th [and] it's a week later so we need to accommodate our load to budget realities," he said.

Students are eager to find out whether they will be spending next year at Notre Dame or overseas.

Sophomore Emily Kane, who applied to Dublin and Australia, expressed doubt

see ABROAD/page 4



Observer File Photo

The London program is one of the most sought after programs for students studying abroad.

INSIDE COLUMN

Hefty eaters unite

Let's all take a moment, if you will, to recognize those among us who possess the incredible ability to out-eat everyone around us.

I used to be kind of embarrassed about this, but then I realized that it should be a source of pride, because then all of us hefty eaters could band together and eat pans of brownies. Last week I was at Boracho Burrito, reveling in my spectacular ability to eat an entire two-pound burrito in one sitting, so I went over to my friends at another table to brag about my stunning accomplishment. After making my announcement, I discovered that everyone at their table had already done the same thing, even my skinny friend Mary.

People who eat too much aren't always so accepted, though. Maybe you've gone to CJs and the rest of your friends were talking about how they couldn't finish their giant burgers, just as you were handing your empty plate back to the waitress and asking them if they were going to finish their fries. Also, maybe sometimes other people will want to dance at the Backer, and nobody keeps you company as you slowly edge toward the popcorn machine, just to tide you over until you can convince everyone to go to IHOP.

Luckily we live in a society today where girls aren't really expected to survive on salad and carrot sticks, although we still have a long way to go before we achieve eating-expectations equality. Going out to dinner with someone can be an internal struggle, because the truly hefty eaters always have the uncontrollable urge to cash in on free food, but most of us want to win people over with our sparkling personalities and not our horrifying intake of breadsticks. When an appetizer intended to serve a party of six is mere child's play, sometimes you prefer dining with your closest friends who are required to like you anyway.

With the Lenten season upon us and Spring Break lurking around the corner, sometimes it's easy to revert back to feelings of guilt as a hefty eater, when it seems like everyone else is swearing off chocolate or trying out Atkin's for bikini season. Don't let remorse get you down, though. I used to count calories in high school, but then I finished my math requirement during my first semester in college and forgot how to add up numbers. I can assure you that it is a liberating experience to have no idea how fat you are getting.

So if you're almost done with your Breakfast Sampler plate before your friends have finished stirring Equal into their coffee, please come over and we can hang out. Hefty eaters will always be accepted in my presence.

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Christie Bolsen at christie.b.bolsen.1@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 IS YOUR FAVORITE BOOK?



Alexandra Pennington
junior
Pasquerilla East



Caitlin White
sophomore
Badin



Packy Cain
sophomore
Stanford



Peter Hadley
freshman
Carroll



Rosa Jimenez
junior
Lewis



Sheena Bowman
junior
Breen-Phillips

"Little Women,"
'nough said."

"Into Thin Air"
by John
Krakaur. It's
about
climbing Mt.
Everest. It's a
true story —
very exciting."

"Monster Blood
II
[Goosebumps]. I
enjoyed the
character
development
and the short
chapters."

"The Bible,
because I'm
holy like that."

"I can't think of
one because I
have yet to read
a good math
book."

"A Tale of Two
Cities' because
they chop
people's heads
off."



KERRY O'CONNOR/The Observer

'Breaking the silence' T-shirts, part of an effort to demonstrate support for victims of sexual assault, hang from a clothesline in the Great Hall of O'Shaughnessy Hall.

OFFBEAT

Artist hits road to eat meal with ... you

NEW YORK — A phone message to the nation: Please call 510-872-7326, Marc Horowitz wants to meet you for dinner.

Go ahead — dial it. If he doesn't answer, just leave him a message. That's what thousands of people have done after seeing his number scrawled on a dry-erase board in a Crate & Barrel catalog photo last fall.

Horowitz, a conceptual artist in San Francisco, was working as a photo assistant on a shoot for the catalog when he came up with an idea for an art project that

would question social barriers and maybe make the world a little smaller.

The dry-erase board looked too blank, so he decided to write his cell phone number on it — and, if anyone called, maybe take a road trip to meet them.

"It's about illuminating the importance of conversation between strangers," Horowitz said. "We just plug into our computers and think that's the way to live, but old-fashioned face to face is what it's about."

Intruder found at the piano

NEW RIEGEL, Ohio — The police chief woke up in the

middle of the night to discover a man playing Beethoven on his piano.

Chief Steve Swartzmiller grabbed his gun and went to investigate the noise. He found 19-year-old Shawn Chadwell drunk at the keyboard.

Swartzmiller said Chadwell had been looking for a friend's house when he mistakenly wandered in. He was charged with underage drinking and burglary.

The chief added that Chadwell played perfect Beethoven.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

Campus faith group Four:7 will hold a meeting of interdenominational praise, worship, scripture and reflection tonight in the Coleman-Morse Lounge from 10 p.m. to 11 p.m. The event is sponsored by Campus Ministry.

Ron Koperski from Bradley University will be giving a lecture on "Sports and the Media: An Examination of the Ethical Elements" at 12:30 p.m. Thursday in Giovanni Commons in Mendoza. The lecture is part of the Mendoza College of Business' Ethics Week.

Former WWE superstar and acclaimed author Mick Foley will present "An Evening With Mick Foley" Thursday as part of the 2005 Notre Dame Literary Festival. The presentation will begin at 8:00 p.m. in Washington Hall.

Father Joseph Komonchak from the Catholic University of America will be giving a lecture entitled "Vatican II: Historical Relevance for 21st Century Believers" at 7:30 p.m. in the Stapleton Lounge in Le Mans Hall at Saint Mary's on Thursday. The lecture is sponsored by the Center for Spirituality.

The Nanovic Institute for European Studies will be sponsoring the 2002 Irish film "Bloody Sunday" as a part of its "European Cinemas, European Histories" series. The film will be shown at 10 p.m. at ND Cinema in the Performing Arts Center.

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 34 LOW 19	HIGH 30 LOW 15	HIGH 25 LOW 17	HIGH 35 LOW 18	HIGH 34 LOW 18	HIGH 33 LOW 15

Atlanta 71 / 51 Boston 49 / 39 Chicago 46 / 27 Denver 40 / 26 Houston 77 / 61 Los Angeles 65 / 52 Minneapolis 31 / 16 New York 56 / 41 Philadelphia 58 / 40 Phoenix 71 / 54 Seattle 47 / 29 St. Louis 58 / 35 Tampa 78 / 58 Washington 63 / 46

Food services director wins culinary award

Prentkowski honored at international level

Special to the Observer

David R. Prentkowski, director of food services at Notre Dame, has been awarded the prestigious International Foodservice Manufacturers Association's (IFMA) Silver Plate Award in the college and university division. He will be honored at the IFMA's 51st annual Gold and Silver Plate Celebration on May 23rd [Monday] at the Sheraton Hotel and Towers in Chicago.

The Silver and Gold Plate Awards are considered the highest honors in the food service industry. An independent jury selects Silver Plate winners who are outstanding operators in nine categories based upon nominations from colleagues, supplier-partners, and employees. The jury will announce one Silver Plate honoree as the Gold Plate winner at the award celebration.

The criteria for the awards

are: strong leadership in food quality and menu, creation of successful employee training programs and providing superior career development opportunities, utilization of strong financial and operational management techniques, promotion of the food service industry, and community service.

"People in the industry often say that Dave is a progressive thinker who has created numerous benchmarks for excellence," said one nominator about Prentkowski.

A native of South Bend, Prentkowski was appointed Notre Dame's director of food services in 1990 after previously directing food service operations for the University of Utah and the University of Michigan's housing division. He holds bachelor's and master's degrees in restaurant, hotel, and institutional management from Purdue University.

JAPAN

World unites to control climate

Associated Press

TOKYO — Two centuries after the dawn of the industrial age, the world on Wednesday took its first concerted step to roll back the emission of "greenhouse gases" believed linked to climate change with the enactment of the Kyoto global warming pact.

The agreement, negotiated in Japan's ancient capital of Kyoto in 1997 and ratified by 140 nations, calls on 35 industrialized countries to rein in the release of carbon dioxide and five other gases from the burning of oil and coal and other processes.

Its impact, however, will be limited by the absence of the United States, the world's leader in greenhouse gas emissions.

Proponents say the stakes are high: the gases are believed to trap heat in the atmosphere, contributing to rising global temperatures that are melting

glaciers, raising ocean levels and threatening dramatic and potentially damaging climate change in the future.

"The tools for keeping climate change under control, such as

renewable energy sources and energy efficiency measures, are developed and ready to use," said Greenpeace International official Stephanie Tunmore.

"There is now a price on climate pollution and penalties for polluters."

Stephanie Tunmore
Greenpeace International official

on climate pollution and penalties for polluters. The switch to a carbon economy begins here."

Implementation of the agreement was delayed by a struggle to meet the requirement that countries accounting for 55 percent of the world's emissions ratify it. That goal was reached last year — nearly seven years after the pact had been negotiated — with Russia's approval.

The Clinton administration signed the protocol in 1997, but the U.S. Senate refused to ratify it, citing potential damage to the U.S. economy and insisting that it also cover countries with fast-growing economies such as China and India.

"We have been calling on the United States to join. But the country that is the world's biggest emitter has not joined yet, and that is regrettable," Japan's top government spokesman, Chief Cabinet Secretary Hiroyuki Hosoda, told reporters.

In Japan, the host to the 1997 conference and a tireless supporter of the pact, the enactment was being met with a mixture of pride and mounting worry that the world's second-largest economy is unprepared to meet its emission reduction targets.

Under Kyoto, the targets vary by region: The European Union is committed to cutting emissions to 8 percent below 1990 levels by 2012; the United States agreed to a 7 percent reduction before President Bush denounced the pact in 2001.

NORTH KOREA

Leader celebrates 63rd birthday despite nuclear tensions

Associated Press

SEOUL — North Korea marked the 63rd birthday of its "dear leader" Kim Jong Il on Wednesday with feasts of pheasant and venison for the capital's elite amid heightened tension on the Korean peninsula after the communist state declared it had nuclear weapons and would boycott disarmament talks.

Kim's birthday is a national holiday in the communist state, and festivities for residents of Pyongyang — the chosen elite allowed to live there only by being approved as loyal citizens to the regime — also were to include performances by circus and theater troupes, the North's state-run TV reported Tuesday evening, monitored by South Korea's Yonhap news agency.

North Korea flaunted the will of the international community last week by announcing it had nuclear weapons and was staying away from international nuclear talks where China, Japan, Russia, South Korea and the United States all urged it to abandon its atomic weapons development.

North Korean officials heralded Kim's birthday with more defiant rhetoric at a meeting Tuesday of top communist party members and military officers.

"If the U.S. recklessly opts for a war of aggression despite the repeated warning of the (North), our army and people will mobilize all potentials ... and deal merciless crushing blows at the aggressors and achieve a final victory in the confrontation with the U.S.," said Choe Thae Bok, a

secretary of the Workers' Party Central Committee, according to the North's official Korean Central News Agency.

Meanwhile, South Korean Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon said Wednesday that he has told U.S. officials that his country has no plans to begin "large-scale" economic cooperation with the North before the dispute over the nuclear weapons programs is resolved.

Ban, who returned from a weeklong trip to Washington, said South Korea would continue to provide fertilizer and rice to the poverty-stricken state out of "humanitarian concern" despite North Korea's recent statement that it has nuclear weapons.

In meetings with U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and U.S. Defense Secretary

Donald H. Rumsfeld, Ban also explained the importance of the construction of a joint economic zone in Kaesong in North Korea, which he said was only in the pilot stage.

"We don't have any plans to launch large scale inter-Korean economic cooperation" as the North Korean nuclear issue is yet to be resolved, Ban told reporters Wednesday.

North Korean public transportation will operate late until 10 p.m., the North's TV said, to ensure birthday celebrations aren't cut short. Parks and other cultural facilities will be free of charge, and traditional food such as cold noodles and alcohol will also be served.

In the run-up to Wednesday's celebration, there have also been festivals across the country of

the Kimjongilia — a flower cultivated to blossom around Kim's birthday.

Ahead of the holiday, the North's state media has been filled with claims of Kim's birthday being celebrated across the world, from Bangladesh to France, Poland to Pakistan.

Kim's regime tolerates no dissent, and has isolated itself from the world behind the last standing Cold War frontier that divides it from the capitalist South.

There were reports last year that some of Kim's portraits had been removed from public buildings, suggesting possible cracks in his hold on power, but South Korean officials have insisted the North's government is nowhere near collapse and warned that such talk could push Pyongyang to desperate moves.



The Student International Business Council invites you to a group recently created to assist the country of

Romania

The group will establish a school in Romania teaching local entrepreneurs essential business skills necessary to bring their products to market.

If you have an interest in developing valuable business skills while working toward a worthy goal, or simply in helping those most in need, we encourage you to join. Students from all majors are welcome!

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Project Leader

Patrick Riveron [priveron@nd.edu]
Director, Global Development

Student International Business Council
"Peace through Commerce"



Want to write for News? Call Claire at 1-5323 for more info.

Prep

continued from page 1

Saint Mary's begin graduation preparations in February by ordering their caps and gowns.

"This year, however, the schedule was pushed up because of the inauguration of Dr. Mooney," said Bob DeZenzo, Saint Mary's bookstore manager. "We ordered in October and the students and faculty had their regalia by December 1."

Saint Mary's students must still order their invitations. Each graduating woman receives generic announcements at no charge, or she can choose a personalized announcement for a fee with her name and degree.

The commencement proceedings at Saint Mary's are a community effort, with each campus group — such as security or food services — assuming specific tasks. The Office of Special Events commencement committee oversees each group to make sure that work between them is running smoothly. This committee, chaired by the Assistant to the President, includes members from campus groups as well as a student representative. While Saint Mary's women are well on their way in planning their May ceremony, members of Notre Dame's graduating class have yet to receive details regarding their commencement.

"I've received no information on graduation preparation or when we're supposed to have anything done," Keenan fifth-year Tim Gibeau said. "I think a lot of the seniors feel in the dark. All we know is that we graduate on May 15." Although some seniors might be feeling nervous about the lack of concrete details, the Office of the Registrar says information is on its way.

According to the registrar, Notre Dame students can access a detailed schedule of commencement events through the office's Web site by the end of this week. Each senior will receive a packet with important information regarding the fitting of caps and gowns, invitations and ticket requests before spring break.

Contact Jarrett Lantz at jlantz2@nd.edu

Pacific Coast Concerts
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South Bend, Indiana

Tickets Go On Sale
This Saturday
February 19
at 10:00 a.m.!

Tickets available at Morris Box Office
Charge by phone 574/235-9190
or 800/537-6415
on-line at www.morriscenter.org



Cote

continued from page 1

The case, which includes prominent defendants such as auditor Arthur Anderson and investment banks J.P. Morgan Chase and Deutsche Bank, originally involved 42 class-action suits which have since been consolidated into one. The case is scheduled to begin Feb. 28.

Since being nominated to the United States District Court in 1994 by former President Bill Clinton, Cote has presided over major headline cases.

Most recently, a class action sex discrimination case brought against Morgan Stanley was settled for \$54 million under Cote's presiding.

In a 1998 case involving sweat shop labor in the

New York area, Cote ruled clothing companies were responsible for ensuring their subcontractors pay their employees legal working wages including overtime pay. The decision impacted the entire clothing industry, forcing contractors to monitor working conditions closer.

The New York Times, in a Jan. 30 article titled "The Sisterhood Judging WorldCom," featured Cote and fellow District Court Judge and Mount St. Mary's College graduate Barbara Jones. Former colleague and attorney Otto Obermaier called Cote an "iron magnolia" who is "quite forceful."

"I always had great confi-

dence in her abilities," Obermaier told The New York Times. "She didn't bring every detail to me. I felt comfortable in delegating to her enormous amount of responsibility."

"She didn't bring every detail to me. I felt comfortable in delegating to her enormous amounts of responsibility."

Otto Obermaier
former colleague

Legal struggles surrounding WorldCom were set into motion in 2002 when the company filed for bankruptcy, making WorldCom the largest company ever to do so in the United States.

The estimated \$11 billion in accounting fraud at WorldCom cost thousands of jobs and hundreds of millions of dollars lost in investment money. The criminal trial for WorldCom chief executive Bernard Ebbers has already

begun in another New York courthouse.

Born in St. Cloud, Minn., Cote graduated from Saint Mary's in 1968. She studied history at Columbia University and taught at the Convent of the Sacred Heart, a school in Manhattan.

Cote returned to Columbia and in 1975 graduated with her law degree. She began clerking for District Court Judge Jack Weinstein in Brooklyn and later became an assistant U.S. attorney and the first female chief of the criminal division for the Southern District of New York.

Cote spent a decade working as a federal prosecutor and had a brief stint in legal defense before Clinton appointed her to the United States District Court.

Contact Megan O'Neil at onei0907@saintmarys.edu

Abroad

continued from page 1

about the news she will receive today.

"I think a lot of people applied to Australia and Dublin," Kane said.

Sophomore Kyle Wilson had similar feelings of uncertainty about his application, yet remained excited about the prospect of studying abroad.

"I think my chances are all right. I've got to get out of South Bend for a semester," he said.

Wilson is among those who received word through email from Peggy Webber that their decision would be in the mailbox this morning.

Webber is the Assistant Director of Operations for the International Studies Program.

Students who are accepted today, and in the coming week, must confirm their decision by Feb. 21 so students on the waiting list have the opportunity to fill in.

Some students couldn't wait until today to find out. Thanks to her rectress Candace Carson, Welsh Family sophomore Kelsey Miller already found out that she was accepted to the Santiago,

Chile program. Unlike Kane and Wilson, she was confident throughout the whole application process.

"I think my chances are all right. I've got to get out of South Bend for a semester."

Kyle Wilson
sophomore

"Almost everyone who applies to Chile gets in because it's not that popular of a place to go," Miller said.

The abroad programs are open to all applicants, but Bogenschild said there are specific qualifications he and his staff look for in applicants.

"Everything we ask on the application [counts]," he said. "A lot depends on the nature of the program, the

academic rigor, the student's academic background."

Statistics show more women than men are accepted into Notre Dame's abroad programs because more women apply. The school's ratio between women and men abroad is consistent with national averages of 55 percent women to 45 percent men, Bogenschild said. A student's major can have an effect, as well.

"There are programs that fit certain majors better, but most of our programs accommodate," he said. "It becomes more difficult in engineering and finance."

Contact Peter Leahy at pleahy@nd.edu

Watch Concerts = Get Paid
Watch Movies = Get Paid
Watch Comedy = Get Paid
Work at Legends = Get Paid

APPLY NOW! All applications due by the end of this week!

Legends is currently hiring for the following positions for next year:

Club Staff

Disc Jockey

Marketing Assistant

Web Designer

Sound Tech

Graphic Designer

View job descriptions and apply online at
www.nd.edu/~legends



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Chinese miners killed in explosion

FUXIN, China — Three years after a promised overhaul of China's workplace safety system, an explosion deep in a coal shaft killed 203 miners and left 12 more missing, the government said Tuesday in its worst reported mining disaster since communist rule began in 1949.

Dozens of rescuers worked through the night in freezing temperatures to try to reach the miners who may have been trapped by Monday's blast in the Sunjiawan coal mine in northeastern Liaoning province.

The cause of the gas explosion, which went off about 794 feet below the surface, was under investigation, state media said.

A thick cordon of men in matching dark coats and helmets stood side by side blocking the entrance to the mine late Tuesday, as cars full of paramilitary police patrolled the site. A line of vans waited to transport any wounded to hospitals in Fuxin, a gritty soot-covered city where mining is the main industry.

Venezuela and Columbia end fight

CARACAS, Venezuela — The presidents of Venezuela and Colombia said Tuesday they have smoothed over a diplomatic dispute that erupted when a Colombian rebel was seized on the streets of Caracas, agreeing to reinstate trade agreements and improve security along their common border.

Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez said after a four-hour meeting with President Alvaro Uribe that the two "decided to turn the page, to clear things up."

Uribe said the two countries were committed to bolstering border security. "This implies cooperating so sovereignty is not affected."

NATIONAL NEWS

Supremacists arrested by feds

SEATTLE — Federal agents arrested three men on gun and explosives charges Tuesday, including a white supremacist who once served time for plotting to kill Martin Luther King Jr.

Keith Gilbert, 65, a former associate of late Aryan Nations founder Richard Butler, was arrested at his Seattle home, FBI spokeswoman Robbie Burroughs said.

William D. Heinrich, 50, a former aide to Butler, and John P. Hejna, 44, were also arrested.

Heroin ring runs out of power

WASHINGTON — Federal authorities said Tuesday they have broken up a drug smuggling ring that shipped heroin from Guatemala to the United States hidden in car batteries.

Operation Jump Start has resulted in 100 arrests since October 2003, including those of the drug ring's leaders on Tuesday, Drug Enforcement Administrator Karen Tandy said. Authorities arrested 19 people in Colombia, Guatemala and New York.

The heroin was produced in Colombia, then placed in car batteries in Guatemala, Tandy said. From there, the cars were driven through Mexico and across the U.S. border.

"We brought an entire operation that was using this route to move Colombia heroin to a dead end," Tandy said. Colombia is a major supplier of heroin to the United States.

LOCAL NEWS

Women arrested after caning cops

SOUTH BEND — Prosecutors have charged a 79-year-old woman who police say injured two officers when she struck them with a wooden cane.

The officers, both of whom were treated for their injuries at area hospitals, were hurt after they arrived at Betty Chambers' home south of South Bend to check on her welfare. One officer had a separated shoulder and hand injury while the other might have suffered a mild concussion, said Jaimee Thirion, a spokeswoman for St. Joseph County police.

Israel ready to begin peace talks

But violence and rebellion continue to threaten Palestines' relations with Israel

Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said Tuesday that Israel is prepared to make "painful compromises for peace," and has begun coordination with Palestinians on Israel's planned pullout from the Gaza Strip.

However, violence could undermine the tentative steps being taken toward peace. After Sharon spoke, Israeli troops shot and killed two armed Palestinians seen approaching a West Bank settlement, the Israeli military said. The military said the incident occurred next to the settlement of Bracha, near the Palestinian city of Nablus, and both the Palestinians were carrying assault rifles.

Palestinian militants said the two belonged to an Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades cell financed by the Lebanese Hezbollah guerrillas, who oppose any truce with Israel.

Al-Aqsa members in Balata said the two were guarding an abandoned building, and soldiers shot them with no provocation. The militants said the incident "will not pass lightly," indicating that they would retaliate, possibly endangering the cease-fire.

Earlier, Palestinian security officials reported that Israeli troops on patrol in the West Bank village of Beitunia shot and killed a 14-year-old Palestinian boy who threw stones at them. The teenager, Ala Hani, was killed when he was shot in the neck, the officials said. The Israeli military had no immediate comment.

Addressing the Foreign Press Association in Jerusalem, Sharon said last week's summit showed that there can be progress toward peace if violence is ended.

At the summit, Sharon and Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas declared a truce to end more than four



Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas pauses during a meeting Sunday. Abbas and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon declared a truce to end bloodshed.

years of bloodshed. Since then, five Palestinians have died in sporadic violence.

Alongside measures to cement the truce, Sharon is also dealing with increasingly harsh opposition to his plan to dismantle all 21 Jewish settlements in Gaza and four in the West Bank in the summer. Extremists have sent death threats to some Israeli Cabinet ministers.

"We needed to take painful steps" toward peace, Sharon said, referring to his pullout plan, but he hoped to prevent a rift among his people. He said Israel is prepared to make "painful compromises for peace, but it will not make any compromises with ter-

ror."

He said he hoped that after the Israeli pullout, Gaza would be under the control of the Palestinian Authority and not Hamas or Islamic Jihad. He said coordination of the pullout with Palestinian officials has begun.

"Disengagement from Gaza will be coordinated with the Palestinians," Sharon said, in his clearest statement yet on the subject.

Sharon said his plan would solidify Israel's grip on main settlement blocs in the West Bank, which "will be part of the Jewish state in the future."

Sharon also said Russia informed him that it would

sell advanced missiles to Syria, despite Israel's objections.

"I understand that they are going to sell this kind of weapon to the Syrians," Sharon said.

"We of course worry about that, and don't think that should have happened." He warned that such weapons could "fall into the hands of the terrorist organizations," despite Russian President Vladimir Putin's assurances.

In spite of Sharon's positive assessment of the peace process, Israeli and Palestinian negotiators were locked in a dispute Tuesday over a withdrawal from the West Bank town of Jericho.

Thousands attend U.S. nun's funeral

Associated Press

ANAPU, Brazil — Thousands of people, from peasants to politicians, converged on this remote Amazon town Tuesday to bury the bullet-ridden body of an elderly American nun killed in the struggle to protect the Amazon rain forest and its poor residents from loggers and ranchers.

After an all-night vigil, mourners filed slowly past the simple, flag-draped coffin holding the remains of Dorothy Stang in the small shingle-roofed church of Anapu, the jungle town of 7,000 residents that Stang adopted as her own.

"I feel like a river without water, a forest without trees. It's like losing a mother," said Fernando Anjos da Silva, who said Stang helped him get medical care after a logging accident that left him in a wheelchair.

Nearly 1,000 miles to the southeast in the capital of Brasilia, Cabinet ministers compared Stang to Chico Mendes, the celebrated defender of the rain forest who was gunned down in 1988.

"Chico died for the same reason, killed by people with no respect for life or the law," said Environment Minister Marina Silva.

Brazilians have tried for centuries to conquer the Amazon, which cov-

ers more half the country. But the jungle frustrated ventures even by Henry Ford and German billionaire Daniel Ludwig, and some Brazilians call it "the green hell."

Brazil's 1964-85 military government built the Trans-Amazon Highway and gave people free land in an attempt to populate the region. The plan drew settlers from the arid northeast as well as land speculators who took control of much of the rich stands of timber — mahogany, massaranduba and ipe.

Loggers and ranchers grew strong by backing local politicians, and by hiring gunmen to eliminate opponents.

Search

continued from page 1

the [search] process," Linney said. "We don't want too big of a gap [after Hatch leaves]."

The provost is elected by the Board of Trustees. According to Notre Dame's academic articles, the search committee must announce the position publicly and ask for nominations from the faculty, with additional nominations possible from the University president and the Board. After consultations within the committee about potential candidates, the president reports the results to the Board and offers a personal recommendation before the Board makes its choice.

Hatch's involvement in this process remains to be seen, Linney said, but added the provost certainly has high expectations for his successor.

"He's been at Notre Dame 30 years — I know that he cares a great deal about what happens and who will replace him," she said.

The faculty committee members who were chosen at the Academic Council meeting include Panos Antsaklis, an electrical engineering professor and the director of the Center for Applied Mathematics, Sunny Boyd, an associate professor of biological sciences, Cornelius Delaney, a philosophy professor, Brad Gregory, an associ-

ate professor of history and a fellow of the Nanovic Institute and Teresa Phelps, a Law School professor and a fellow of the Kroc Institute, Linney said.

"They are trusted colleagues ... [who] have been at the University a long time and probably have a broad perspective on the University," Linney said. "It's an honor to be elected to the committee."

The student committee member is senior Jeremy Staley, who serves as an academic delegate to the Council.

Staley, who was also on the search committee for the new dean of the First Year of Studies program, said he expects to gain exceptional experience as the sole student on the provost committee.

"You really get to see how the upper echelons of the University work," Staley said, adding he will seek input from many other undergraduates in order to best represent the student voice.

"I want to try to get the broadest representation," he said. "'What would you like to see in a provost?' is a hard question ... 'what direction would you like to see Notre Dame go in?' ... you want someone who's going to have this vision, understand the University's mission — it's kind of a formidable post."

The Academic Council meeting was closed to the press.

Contact Claire Heininger at cheining@nd.edu

"They are trusted colleagues ... [who] have been at the University a long time."

Ann Linney
associate provost

"I want to try to get the broadest representation."

Jeremy Staley
student committee member

Hackers breach computer files

California-based company warn potentially effected consumers

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — A company that collects consumer data warned thousands of Californians that hackers penetrated the company's computer network and may have stolen credit reports, Social Security numbers and other sensitive information.

ChoicePoint Inc., which sells such data to government agencies and a variety of companies, acknowledged Tuesday that several hackers broke into its computer database and purloined data from as many as 35,000 Californians.

Last fall, hackers apparently used stolen identities to create what appeared to be legitimate businesses seeking ChoicePoint accounts, said Chuck Jones, a spokesman for Alpharetta, Ga.-based company. They opened about 50 accounts.

The attack appears to have resulted in at least six cases of identity theft in Los Angeles County. It's unclear whether data of people outside California were exposed. But law enforcement agents, who have arrested one person on six counts of theft, say hundreds of thousands of Americans elsewhere may be at risk.

ChoicePoint has not notified consumers in other states, nor is it working with law enforcement agents elsewhere, Jones

said.

"California is the focus of the investigation and we don't have any evidence to indicate at this point that the situation has spread beyond California," Jones said. "If at some point in time we get information that it's in other areas, we'll revisit the disclosure."

Security experts dismissed the notion that hackers would limit their attack geographically.

"I've never heard of a hacker doing something just to make a company comply with a state

statute — that's ridiculous," said Nick Akerman, partner and co-chair of the computer fraud division of law firm

Dorsey & Whitney. "It'd be like robbing a bank that wasn't FDIC insured so the robber wouldn't have to be prosecuted by the FBI."

When ChoicePoint discovered the crime in October, it closed the suspect accounts, restricted access, strengthened site verification, informed law enforcement agencies and cooperated in their investigation.

On Oct. 27, California sheriff deputies arrested Olatunji

Oluwatosin, 41, when the Nigerian national went to his office to receive a fax ostensibly from ChoicePoint. Police were waiting for the North Hollywood resident at his office in Los Angeles. He's been in jail since then and is scheduled to appear in Los Angeles County Court on Thursday.

Robert Costa, the lieutenant in charge of Southern California's High Tech Task Force Identity Theft Detail, said agents believe several other people were involved.

ChoicePoint sent e-mail notifications to Californians last week. State residents were the only Americans notified because the state has a unique law requiring companies that do business with residents to warn them when they've had holes in corporate computer networks.

Since the law went into effect in July 2003, organizations have alerted customers whenever "unencrypted personal information was, or is reasonably believed to have been, acquired by an unauthorized person."

Identity theft is the country's fastest-growing crime, and more than 9.9 million Americans were victims last year. The crimes cost a total of \$5 billion, not including lost productivity, according to the U.S. Postal Inspection Service.

"California is the focus of the investigation."

Chuck Jones
Alpharetta spokesman

"I've never heard of a hacker doing something just to make a company comply with a state statute."

Nick Akerman
law-firm partner

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Stocks			
Dow Jones	10,837.32	+46.19	
 Up: 1,782	Same: 182	 Down: 1,513	Composite Volume: 638,619,200
AMEX	1,493.20	-8.91	
NASDAQ	2,089.21	+6.30	
NYSE	7,303.96	+23.59	
S&P 500	1,210.12	+3.98	
NIKKEI(Tokyo)	11,638.50	-7.99	
FTSE 100(London)	5,058.90	+17.10	
COMPANY			
%CHANGE		\$GAIN	PRICE
NASDAQ 100 TR (QQQQ)		+0.66	+0.25 38.12
INTEL CORP (INTC)		+0.66	+0.16 24.47
MICROSOFT CP (MSFT)		0.00	0.00 25.93
CISCO SYSTEMS (CSCO)		-0.28	-0.05 17.92
APPLIED MAT (AMAT)		+2.10	+0.36 17.49
Treasuries			
30-YEAR BOND		+0.74	+0.33 44.81
10-YEAR NOTE		+0.61	+0.25 40.98
5-YEAR NOTE		+0.46	+0.17 37.09
3-MONTH BILL		+2.01	+0.50 25.32
Commodities			
LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl.)		-0.25	47.77
GOLD (\$/Troy oz.)		0.00	427.30
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)		-1.60	86.13
Exchange Rates			
YEN			104.69
EURO			0.7688
POUND			0.5281
CANADIAN \$			1.2325

IN BRIEF

3 plead guilty in insurance probe

NEW YORK — A former senior executive at Marsh & McLennan Cos. and two employees at American International Group Inc. pleaded guilty Tuesday in the state's probe of bid-rigging and price-fixing in the insurance industry.

Joshua Bewlay, a former managing director at Marsh; John Mohs, a vice president in a unit of AIG; and Carlos Coello, an AIG underwriter, entered their pleas in state court.

New York Attorney General Eliot Spitzer said the defendants are expected to testify in the broadening case.

Bewlay and Mohs pleaded guilty to scheming to defraud, which carries up to four years in prison. Coello pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor count of the offense, punishable by up to a year in jail. Their sentences will depend on their level of cooperation with prosecutors.

Microsoft to give away spyware

SAN FRANCISCO — Microsoft Corp. will give away software to battle spyware, adware and other privacy-invading pests, company co-founder Bill Gates said Tuesday.

In a speech to security experts, Gates said spyware and other invasive programs are becoming a major threat to the future of computing. Users often unknowingly accept spyware when they install free software without reading its accompanying licensing agreements.

Last month, the company released a free test version of Microsoft AntiSpyware, which was based on technology from a firm it acquired in December. But it had not announced whether the technology would be free in the final release.

"Spyware ... is something we need to nip now," Gates said. "We made the decision that all of our Windows licensees should have that [antispayware] capability. I'm excited we got this technology and it addresses a burning need for our users."

The program also includes a feature where users can submit information back to Microsoft so that it keeps up with the latest threats. This option proved to be incredibly useful during the test run, Gates said.

Tribes' casino profits soaring

Nevada's gambling industry no match for tax-free casinos on reservations

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Indian tribes took a gamble on the casino business, and it's paying off.

Tribes that were mired in poverty 10 or 20 years ago are enjoying newfound prosperity as Indian casino revenues far outpace the take from Nevada's gambling industry.

Indian gambling pulled in \$18.5 billion in 2004, according to a report Tuesday, a 10 percent increase that extended more than a decade of double-digit growth for the nation's Indian casinos.

Tribal casinos have mushroomed since Congress passed a law creating the legal framework in 1988. There now are 411 Indian casinos in the United States, operated by 223 tribes in 28 states. More than half of the 341 federally recognized Indian tribes in the continental United States operate casinos.

Because tribes are sovereign nations, they don't have to pay state or local taxes and are exempt from most zoning and other laws, a special status that can cause conflict with neighbors. Tribal casinos have encountered opposition from some local communities that don't want the traffic or strain on resources.

To head off opposition, tribal leaders have grown more aggressive about asserting benefits. National Indian Gaming Association officials said Tuesday that tribal gambling has directly or indirectly created 553,000 jobs, mostly for non-Indians, and that it generated \$5.5 billion in federal taxes in 2004.

Tribal leaders say gambling has allowed them to lift their reservations out of poverty.

"We had to overcome insurmountable odds to



Slot machines are a major attraction for gamblers. Tribal casinos experienced greater profits than government operated casinos last year.

turn our economy around. We looked to casino gaming as a way to do that," said Dee Pigsley, chairwoman of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz, which has a casino in Oregon. "No other development could return the kind of profits that a casino could offer."

Major Nevada resorts took in \$9.88 billion in gambling revenue in the 2004 fiscal year. Overall, revenue at Nevada resorts, including from hotels and restaurants, was \$19.59 billion in 2004. That figure for Indian casinos was \$21 billion.

"We are creating economic activity that bene-

fits our communities and surrounding communities," said Mark Van Norman, executive director of the National Indian Gaming Association.

The growth of the industry has been "completely unexpected and spectacular," said I. Nelson Rose, who teaches gambling law at Whittier Law School in Costa Mesa, Calif. He and other experts predicted it could continue at the same level for some time.

"At a certain point it may level off because we'll have more of the tribes built out," Van Norman said in an interview. "But we're still seeing tribes that are looking

to develop new projects so we're going to see continued strong growth for some time."

Tribal officials said the biggest growth areas are California and New York. California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has sought to tap tribal casino revenue to close the state's budget deficit, while Gov. George Pataki wants to bring five Indian casinos to the Catskills as part of a deal to settle tribal land claims.

Nevada officials have occasionally expressed concerns that tribal casinos could eat into their profits, but Nevada casinos are generating record profits, too.

Marketers targeting older women

Associated Press

Sue Ellen Cooper thought she would enter her golden years quietly, working on her garden and cooking. Instead, the former graphic designer accidentally launched a rapidly growing social network for older women which has caught the eye of businesses eager to tap the buying power of an age group long neglected by marketers and advertisers.

The Red Hat Society traces its roots to 1998, when Cooper gave a friend a red hat along with a copy of a poem called "Warning," which begins: "When I am an old woman, I shall wear purple / With a red hat which doesn't go, and doesn't suit me. / And I

shall spend my pension on brandy and summer gloves."

Cooper found that other friends wanted red hats too, and soon they were going out, having a ball and attracting attention from others who wanted to join.

The groups started to proliferate, and today the Fullerton, Calif.-based Red Hat Society counts more than 800,000 members and 36,000 chapters in the United States. The women, who are mainly over 50, go to the theater, have tea, play cards and generally have a good time.

The 60-year-old Cooper, who has dubbed herself the Exalted Queen Mother of the Red Hat Society, said she still thinks of her flock as a play group

for adults. "I have worked for my kids' school, my church, raised money for the local children's center, and of course we love to do those things. But someone has got to give these women permission to take a whole day or a weekend and just goof off," she said.

The business ventures started small, as the group found that new members wanted to buy official Red Hat regalia, including pins, boas, and, of course hats, to mark their membership. But soon the Red Hatters found themselves entertaining offers from companies eager to reach older women through the powerful means of a word-of-mouth social network, which happens to be a hot topic among marketers these days.

U.S. pulls presence from Syria

Ambassador removed due to assassination

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The United States pulled its ambassador from Syria on Tuesday, expressing "profound outrage" over the assassination of a Lebanese leader who had protested Syrian influence in his country.

In Lebanon, noisy street processions mourned former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri a day before the funeral that will bring international leaders to Beirut. Angry Lebanese attacked Syrian workers in his hometown of Sidon, injuring several and shattering the windows of a Syrian-owned bakery.

Many Lebanese are pressing Syria to withdraw its 15,000 soldiers — in the country for more than a decade.

"We believe the Lebanese people must be free to express their political preferences and choose their own representatives without intimidation or the threat of violence," State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said in announcing the imminent return of U.S. Ambassador Margaret Scobey.

Administration officials stopped short of directly accusing Syria of carrying out the murder. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said the assassination was the "proximate cause" of the ambassador's recall.

Asked if the United States would punish Syria with new economic sanctions, Rice said, "We will continue to consider other options."

"The Syrian problem is a serious problem," Rice said. "Our problems with the Syrian government are not new."

Among the problems, Rice said, were support for terrorism and for insurgents in Iraq. "The Syrian government is, unfortunately, on a path right now where relations are not improving but are worsening," she said.

Scobey's return does not break diplomatic relations with Syria, a country the United States has accused of exporting terrorism. Syria took no immediate reciprocal action, such as recalling its own ambassador from Washington.

Meeting results in drug monitoring board

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The government is setting up a special monitoring board to keep checking on medicines once they're on the market, responding to complaints that officials reacted too slowly to reports linking prescription painkillers to heart attack and stroke.

Plans for the board were announced Tuesday on the eve of a three-day scientific meeting on the safety of painkillers such as Vioxx and Celebrex, drugs that blossomed into a \$5 billion-a-year business before risks from potential side effects

came to light.

Meanwhile, a medical journal questioned whether continued use of such products was justified.

Vioxx was pulled from the market in September after a study showed an increase in heart attacks and strokes among people using it. Other studies have also raised questions of heart problems with the similar drugs Celebrex and Bextra.

"Because there are well-established options for treatment of all the approved indications for these drugs, it is reasonable to ask whether the use

of the drugs can now be justified," Dr. Jeffrey M. Drazen, editor of the New England Journal of Medicine, wrote in an editorial published online.

That is the question facing the Food and Drug Administration's arthritis and drug safety and risk management advisory committees at their meeting beginning Wednesday.

The new drug safety board was announced by Health and Human Services Secretary Mike Leavitt, who said it has become clear that people want more oversight and openness from the FDA.

"They want to know what we know, what we do with information and why we do it," Leavitt said, promising to create "a new culture of openness and enhanced independence."

The board will recommend what information and updates to put on the government's Drug Watch, resolve disputes over drug safety issues, and oversee the development of a drug safety policy. It will include FDA employees and medical experts from other government agencies and will consult with outside medical experts as well as consumer and patient groups.



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LEBANON

Officials suspect suicide bomber as assassin

Lebanese mourn in streets after death of ex-premier, many blame attack on Syrians

Associated Press

BEIRUT — Lebanese mourned their slain ex-premier Tuesday with noisy street processions, while the country's interior minister suggested a suicide bomber aided by "international parties" may have been behind the assassination of Rafik Hariri. Lebanon's government, still in shock from the bombing that left Hariri and 16 others dead, came under mounting pressure to bring the assassins to justice. Many in Lebanon blamed the attack on Syria.

International leaders are expected to join tens of thousands at Hariri's funeral on Wednesday as the outpouring of grief and anger following the billionaire tycoon's death continued.

Dozens of angry Hariri supporters attacked Syrian workers in the former leader's hometown of Sidon, in south-

ern Lebanon, lightly injuring five and shattering the windows of a Syrian-owned bakery. Syria has denied involvement and condemned the attack, but many Lebanese have increased demands on Damascus to withdraw its 15,000 soldiers from the country.

Syria deployed its forces to Lebanon during the 1975-90 civil war to stop the country from falling apart and remained after the conflict ended. Its continued presence is a source of frustration for many Lebanese and for the international community, particularly Washington.

Interior Minister Suleiman Franjeh suggested a suicide

bomber may have targeted Hariri's heavily protected motorcade as it cruised through Beirut's Ein-Mreisseh neighborhood. He said the location of the crater in the middle of the road indicated the bomb-laden car was approaching the motorcade, attempting to ram it or to bypass it.

"He could be a suicide bomber who blew himself up."

**Suleiman Franjeh
Interior Minister**

"For sure, someone was driving the car. He could be a suicide bomber who blew himself up," the minister said, hinting of a network behind the assassination.

Franjeh, however, said he could not confirm the suicide attack theory and was awaiting DNA results from those killed.

While most suspicion has fallen on Syria or its support-

ers here, possibilities include rogue Syrian intelligence operatives, or even factions among Lebanon's myriad religious groups. Responsibility claims by previously unknown Islamic militants were not considered credible, with Justice Minister Adnan Addoum warning they could be an attempt "to mislead the investigation."

At the bomb scene, explosives experts combed rooftops and the street, searching for evidence as residents cleared debris from their balconies.

Thousands of mourners marched through Beirut's streets in separate processions to pay tribute to Hariri and condemn his killers. "Syrians Out!" chanted several hundred protesters wearing business suits, while motorcades of supporters elsewhere honked car horns while driving through the capital in cars pasted with Hariri's pictures.

Influenza puts trial on hold

Jackson's visit to ER delays jury selection

Associated Press

SANTA MARIA, Calif. — Michael Jackson was taken to an emergency room with flu-like symptoms Tuesday, delaying jury selection in the pop star's child-molestation case for a week.

The entertainer was being treated for a "flu-like illness with some vomiting," Dr. Chuck Merrill said during a brief news conference at Marian Medical Center about five hours after Jackson's illness was announced in court by the judge.

"He's in stable condition and we expect a full recovery," said Merrill, who would not answer questions.

Jackson's brother Randy told reporters the entertainer would spend the night in the hospital.

Earlier, as potential jurors filed into the courtroom — including a few who were scolded by bailiffs for being late — Jackson's seat remained empty. Nearly 20 minutes after the singer was scheduled to arrive, Judge Rodney S. Melville announced that Jackson had been taken to a hospital.

He said the 46-year-old singer would need three or four days to recover and noted that several members of the jury pool were out with the flu and that it appeared to be going around.

The judge said Jackson had been on his way to court but was taken to a hospital emergency room instead.

Outside the hospital, about two miles from the courthouse, a growing crowd of about 50 fans and reporters gathered. Police officers guarded all entrances, stopping anyone who appeared to be with the news media, while hospital officials put up white fabric to hide what was going on in the emergency room.

Jury selection had already been delayed for a week because of the death of a defense attorney's sister.

The two sides are selecting 12 jurors and eight alternates who will decide whether Jackson molested a teenage cancer patient at his Neverland Ranch and plied the youngster with alcohol. The trial could last about six months.

Jackson carried tissues and was wiping his nose when he arrived at court Monday — the first day of questioning of prospective jurors. Jackson's lawyers also announced they may try to call such stars as Elizabeth Taylor, Jay Leno, Quincy Jones and Kobe Bryant to the stand.

Defense attorney Thomas Mesereau Jr. told the judge that Jackson was feeling ill Monday and that the symptoms continued Tuesday morning en route to the courthouse. Leaving court, another Jackson attorney, Brian Oxman, said: "He's doing OK. He's been admitted to the hospital."

Before the court session ended Tuesday, the judge rejected a request from Mesereau to question jurors for more than 10 minutes, saying that was plenty of time.

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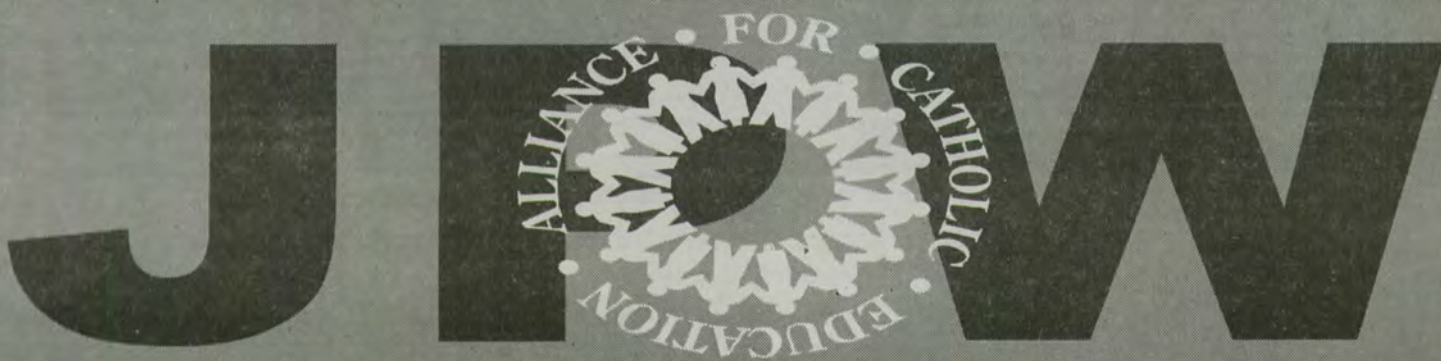
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Questions regarding Observer policies should be directed to Editor in Chief Matt Lozar.

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Can you say it?

Can you say it? Vagina.

Every year around this time, that curiously absent anatomical word floats across campus like a fad, a discovery and then disappears into the cave of annual campus events.

However, this is the exact opposite of the mission of the Vagina Monologues and V-Day. Talking to Notre Dame's diverse group of Vagina Warriors, one sees beyond the clouded debate and controversy to find an energizing play, a socially vital movement and a beloved community of sisters working for a better world.

The Vagina Monologues sprang from the depths of the unspoken. Discussions surrounding female bodies, sexuality and rape are deemed either inappropriate for open discussion or unimportant. We lack spaces for discussion for these issues and for V-Day activists; this is a serious problem. The statistics are appalling — one in three women worldwide will be victims of some form of violence (battering, rape and harassment to name a few), one of four college women will experience sexual assault — attempted or completed — and more than half of these violations go unreported. V-Day Student organizer junior Kaitlyn Redfield comments, "After three years of being involved, I've come to understand that being silent on this issue is perpetuating the problem." By denying the pervasiveness of sexual assault, we isolate the victims and fail to combat the problem.

At Notre Dame, our illusions of being a "family", parietals and rules against premarital intercourse seem to erase from our consciousness issues of sexuality in general and sexual assault specifically. Junior Halle Kiefer sees the Monologues as a forum for victims, friends and all peo-

ple concerned with violence against women to find healing and seek answers. She says, "People say rape and assault doesn't happen here, but it does, behind closed doors and people have to deal with it." It is the women and men (one of seven men experience a sexual assault) suffering in silence the Monologues aims to console and give a voice for their pain and frustration. Redfield sees Notre Dame as having a strong "culture of silence" around these issues. The Vagina Warriors in response plan awareness events, fundraisers for local sexual assault response centers and the Vagina Monologues to combat that silence and aid victims.

V-Day also is a celebration of femininity and builds solidarity among the people involved. It is completely student planned and based. Redfield was inspired seeing "college women taking action" to end sexual assault. The community created through performing the show and planning events sustains its members. Kiefer and others find a chance to meet new friends, connect more with current ones and build a positive community around important issues. V-Day meetings are chalk full of laughter, camaraderie and support, which in such a diverse group of women is revolutionary. We can learn much from the model of the vagina warriors. As they endeavor to make themselves into a focused community of respect and peace, they remake the world around them and battle a grave injustice.

To their critics, V-Day participants speak respectfully and seriously. Their mission, to end violence against women and girls worldwide, has been misconstrued in outrageous ways. Some associate their purpose with pro-choice groups. To this, Redfield says we must "divorce discussions of violence against women and abortion debates. Just because they both deal

with women, it does not equate them." Notre Dame's Vagina Warriors have nothing to do with any pro-choice groups, for they are sponsored by University departments and the money they raise goes to SOS and YWCA in their ministries to victims of rape and domestic abuse. Junior Jackie Clark sees the binding of V-Day and abortion issues as a major problem. For her, "The goal of the Monologues is to promote awareness. It's a shame they are associated inappropriately."

The recurrent attacks on V-Day seem to be rooted in general misconceptions of feminism. The struggle for equality and dignity for women in public and private relationships continues. Redfield believes the boundaries between orthodox Catholicism and feminism wrongly hinder finding shared values. She holds that, "At the heart, feminism and Catholicism both share the common goal of fostering peace and promoting the recognition of dignity of women and men." Women in the movement assert their dignity through celebrating their gendered identity, releasing frustration over shared oppression and inviting men and other women to know their joys and pains.

Now, can you say it?

The Vagina Monologues are here to educate, liberate and agitate us all to be more proactive actors in the fight to end violence against women and girls. As sophomore Casey Stanton wrote in poetic verse, "we are all responsible, we all must take up the fight, it's time to defend, a Female's Right to Life." See the show and engage the issues until the violence stops.

Kamaria Porter is a junior history major. She can be contacted at kporter@nd.edu.

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

EDITORIAL CARTOON



OBSERVER POLL

Do the Vagina Monologues belong at Notre Dame?

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

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"We cannot change anything until we accept it. Condemnation does not liberate, it oppresses."

Carl Gustav Jung
psychologist

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

What it means to be Conservative Catholic

In recent days, Conservative Catholics have been bashed because of their stance on the Queer Film Festival and the Vagina Monologues. I would like to clarify a few things so that people do not solidify in their minds wrongful stereotypes of what it means to be a Conservative Catholic.

First of all, it should be clarified what "conservative" means. The word is used so much that the meaning of it tends to be lost. In the context of Catholicism, being "conservative" is generally construed as believing in the traditional teachings of the Catholic Church. Since Vatican II, there have been many theologians who have dissented from Church teachings, especially in matters of sexual morality, and Conservative Catholics seek to defend the Faith in the face of these opposing theologies.

Secondly, I think many people need to realize that Catholic teaching is not a composition of arbitrary

decisions, opinions or regulations picked randomly out of a hat and subsequently passed down through the ages. The Church is not against homosexual marriage, contraception, pornography or anything else simply because it has had a tradition of doing so. There is a beautiful logic to it all that many tend not to understand nor appreciate, and it is a truth that does not become obsolete over time. I would truly be interested to know how many people who disagree with the Church really understand its teachings on human sexuality. Sure, you know that the Church thinks homosexuality is "disordered," but do you understand this teaching in the full context of the Christian meaning of sex? If you don't understand what the Church says, then how can you disagree with it?

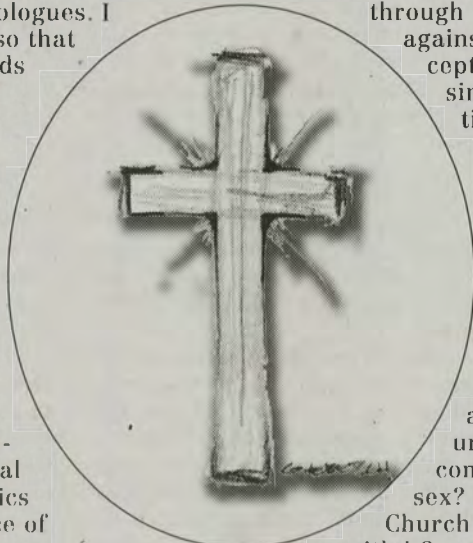
Thirdly, Conservative Catholics are of the mindset that the "love" commonplace in our American socie-

ty is a false love and an incomplete love. If Conservative Catholics are criticized for being close-minded or intolerant, it is because we do not accept the misguided ideal of love posited by our society. The message "you do what you want to do and I won't criticize you for it" is not the message that Jesus communicated to us in the Gospels. To settle for being nice and tolerant of everyone falls grossly short of the love Jesus has called us to.

Finally, I hope that people get out of their heads that if you defend Church teaching that you necessarily hate those who disagree with it or do not live up to it. We are all sinners; to hate others for sinning would be completely hypocritical. And if you meet someone like that, then you are not talking to a Catholic.

In the spirit of love and understanding, I hope that you do not dismiss all the Conservative Catholics so quickly when you see us praying outside during the Monologues. Come say hi; we don't bite.

David Cook
senior
Morrissey Hall
Feb. 15



Moderator clarifies discrepancy

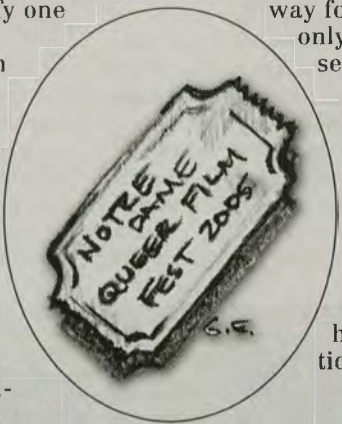
As the moderator of the panel on same-sex marriage at the recent second Annual Queer Film Festival, I would like to clarify one discrepancy that keeps rearing its head and was used by Bishop John D'Arcy as a major reason for his objection to the festival. The organizing committee (and I personally) have a serious commitment to academic integrity, freedom and dialogue. We were dedicated to having all viewpoints, including the Church's stance on same-sex marriages and homosexual activity, accurately represented and defended.

We, the planning committee, contacted representatives from the University's theology department, campus ministry and administration, asking for someone to please add this additional perspective to the panel. For various reasons, all of those

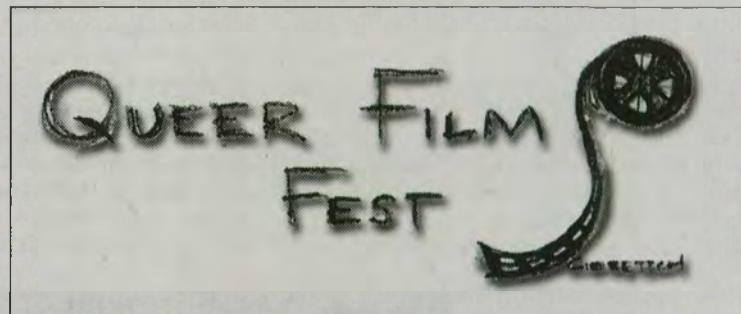
who were asked, declined. We were very saddened by that response because there is no way for viewpoints to be discussed if only similar perspectives are presented.

On Friday, when a very courageous member of Courage agreed on the spot to speak from the Church's perspective, we were delighted to offer that viewpoint to those assembled. His willingness to speak allowed for a much more insightful discussion to occur, and we are grateful for his and all the other speakers participation.

David E. Pais
co-chair
Gay and Lesbian Alumni/ae of the University of Notre Dame
and Saint Mary's College
Feb. 15



Revealing inaccuracies



This letter is in response to Bishop John D'Arcy's Feb. 10 piece regarding the second annual Queer Film Festival. While we have tremendous respect for the bishop, his office and his opinion, we believe that there are a few inaccuracies in his statement that need to be addressed.

D'Arcy claims that "no place has been made at this seminar for the clear and accurate presentation of Catholic teaching." In reality, the festival staff made numerous attempts to have members of the Catholic community speak on our panels and represent Church teaching. However, nobody was willing to do this.

Ultimately, we did find a layperson that agreed to present the Catholic viewpoint in our "future of gay marriage" panel. The Notre Dame Queer Film Festival welcomes people from all viewpoints to come together and engage in an academic discussion. Next year, the bishop is certainly invited to present the Church teachings in our panels, or he can appoint someone to do so for him.

Secondly, the four-time Tony award winning playwright that the bishop refers to, Terrence McNally, screened a film adaptation of his play, "LOVE! VALOUR! COMPASSION!" The piece is about a group of friends who give each other love and support in the face of many of life's challenges — including AIDS.

The compassion the men show each other is consistent with the catechism of the Catholic Church community to be treated with "respect, compassion and sensitivity".

The theme of the festival was one of tolerance and education, not a promotion of some sort of gay agenda. Our films were carefully selected to incorporate historical elements, award-winning filmmaking and religious issues. The purpose of a university education is to be presented with various viewpoints and to be able to have an honest open discussion about difficult issues.

For the bishop to claim otherwise or to state that something of this sort should not happen at the University of Notre Dame because the students need to in some way be shielded from such things subverts the true meaning of education.

This year we enjoyed a tremendous amount of success and it would not have been possible without the support of the entire South Bend community and the University. We especially commend the hard work of the Department of Film, Television and Theater for their tireless energy. Thanks to everyone who came out to see the films and we look forward to seeing you all next year!

Liam Dacey
Director of Operations
Notre Dame Queer Film Festival 2005
Feb. 14

U-WIRE

Federal cuts hurt students

Whether you love or hate the Bush administration, most students should be able to agree on one thing: They should stop cutting educational grants.

The latest assault on federal financial aid comes in cutting Perkins Loans and requiring stricter eligibility standards to receive Pell Grants. The administration has championed the cuts as student-friendly because the maximum Pell award increased by about \$100 per recipient. But this one positive aspect does not counteract all the downsides.

It will be significantly harder to qualify for a Pell Grant, so while the students who do receive them will get slightly more money — although, we should note, \$100 won't even cover textbooks for the semester — many other needy students will be left with nothing.

Several thousand NYU students and millions of youths across the country depend on Pell Grants to help finance their educations. Now, they will be forced to seek monetary assistance elsewhere, and NYU's financial aid program simply doesn't have deep enough pockets.

Staff Editorial

New York
University
Washington
Square News

The negligible Pell Grant increases have another price as well: Cuts to the low-interest Perkins student loan, which helped about 600,000 students pay for college last year. Slashing this loan program will have a profoundly negative effect on students whose financial situations necessitate some extra time to pay off their school debts.

While the president claims to have made grant increases his top priority, it's hard to see his budget as anything less than an assault on low-income students. In addition to cutting Perkins loans, he has also slashed mentoring and tutoring programs that help low-income students prepare for college.

NYU students are already in a financial crunch trying to pay for our \$40,000-a-year education. Now, those of us who need financial aid the most are being pushed aside when we get to college, if we're able to get there at all. Partisan politics aside, these cuts hurt the neediest students, and this administration and this president should be ashamed of themselves. In our ideal world, every qualified person would be able to afford a college education. But then again, in our ideal world, we'd also get into Yale University with a C average — but that privilege seems reserved for a select few.

Chicago Auto Show gets

97th exhibit puts impressive cars on display at M

By RICHARD FRIEDMAN
Scene Writer

CHICAGO — With almost 1,000 cars spread over 1.2 million square feet of land, this year's 97th Chicago Auto Show held at McCormick Place in downtown Chicago became the largest in North America.

After entering McCormick Place and the main Auto Show level, one was immediately struck by the dazzle and shine of all the cars parked in seemingly haphazard arrangements, the strong flashes and streaks of color from the walls and the huge projection screen that all make up the various surrounding exhibits.

Upon entering the show, it seemed as if the Ford Motor Company had received the luckiest location. With its placement right at the entry of the show, no one can help but be wowed by the line of 2005 Mustangs. Exhibiting five different Mustang models including the Cobra, the Saleen and the GT, the line of low, sporty coupes that seem ready to race at any minute provided a perfect beginning to a day full of automobiles.

Leaving the Ford exhibit behind, a natural path to the right leads through some nice but not very interesting exhibits provided by Subaru, Saturn and the Explorer van division of Ford.

Next came one of the best exhibits at the show — provided by Buick. While it's true Buick is not exactly the most interesting of cars, the exhibit was one of the classiest with a fountain of dancing water, free coffee and hot chocolate, and some very well displayed Lucerne CXS models. These sporty family cars are making their world debut in Chicago, and the setup certainly seems to befit such an honor.

Unless a person is interested in everyday cars, it is easy to go quickly through the majority of the exhibits set up by Chevy, Pontiac, GMC and Dodge, stopping only to look at some of their sportier models such as the Corvette and Viper. The Vipers are displayed on the regular show floor so it is possible to get in and see what it feels like to sit in a nearly \$90,000 car. Seeing the new Corvette Z06 is also a great experience, and the thought of the new, most powerful Corvette engine ever (500 horsepower) really does have a magical effect.

The Chryslers, Jeeps, Mitsubishi's, Nissans, Hondas and Toyotas also provide little in the way of entertainment with the exception of a few new models like the Nissan Z Roadster that caught my eye. One exciting thing Jeep and Chrysler do provide, however, is a test track. The track provides an opportunity to ride in the new model cars as they are driven over a terrain

that has imitated potholes, noise zones, huge puddles, steep inclines and heavy rain so one can experience the handling of the car under all those conditions.

The second large room of the show consisted of more upper-level cars such as Porsche, Mercedes, VW, Audi, BMW, Bentley, Ferrari and Maserati, as well as more specialty vehicles such as International Truck, Mini Coopers, Scions and Smart cars. While it is impossible to talk about all of the cars in this room, some of the most significant are the International MXT Concept Truck, which was basically a \$100,000 pickup truck capable of towing 14,000 pounds, the 5axis Scion tC, which was a basic Scion tC model that had been upgraded by 5axis.com to include six TV monitors, a 48-inch flat screen TV in the rear and a huge, powerful stereo system by Pioneer, a convertible Mini Cooper, a Ferrari 612 Scaglietti and two Bentley Arnage models affordably priced at around \$250,000.

A return to the center of the main room allows a stop at the highlight of the Auto Show, the Shell Exotic Cars. Within the carefully roped off and guarded Shell exhibit sit some of the nicest cars ever made, including two Lotus Models, a Lamborghini Galardo and the greatest car in the entire show, the brand new Lamborghini

Murcielago. Priced at just more than \$319,000, the Murcielago may not be the most practical of cars, but one look at it and any person, car enthusiast or not, is sure to fall in love. The only sad thing about this display is it must be viewed from such a distance — a distance that cannot even be crossed despite begging and trying to bribe the guards. But just being even that close to those cars is well worth it.

A final trip around reveals one of the most unique exhibits in the entire show sitting directly across from the Shell cars. This exhibit features a Volvo XC90 made entirely out of LEGOs. Weighing 2,930 pounds and containing 201,425 LEGOs, the car took three LEGO designers three weeks to design and five builders two months to build working fulltime.

The Auto Show runs through the 20th and is open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. every day except Sunday when it will close early at 8 p.m. Regular price tickets are a relatively high \$10 a person given that parking is an additional \$14 a car, but discount tickets can be bought at most new car dealers. Even the regular price tickets are well worth it, however, as the show is sure to provide a full day's worth of entertainment.

Contact Richard Friedman at
rfriedma@nd.edu



This line of 2005 Mustangs, part of the Ford Motor Company exhibit, greets people at the entrance of the Chicago Auto Show. On display are five different models, including the Cobra and the Saleen.

RICHARD FRIEDMAN/The Observer

The
Inte

into gear McCormick Place



RICHARD FRIEDMAN/The Observer

Lamborghini Murcielago, top, the 5axis Scion tC, middle and the International MXt concept truck are part of the exhibit.

Vagina Monologues returns for fourth year

By MARIA SMITH
Scene Editor

There was a point in Notre Dame history when V-Day might have meant candy and cards. That day is rapidly fading in memory. "The Vagina Monologues" and other events promoted by V-Day, an organization that works to stop violence against women in countries around the world, are becoming a spring tradition. Tonight's performance of the play will mark its fourth year on campus, and interest does not yet seem to be fading.

Since its first performance the play has moved up in the Notre Dame world, from DeBartolo Hall to Washington Hall to the Stepan Center. This year the performance will be held in the Leighton Concert Hall at the DeBartolo Center for the Performing Arts, its most prestigious location to date. Student participation in the show has also grown. Skits performed by single actresses in the past, such as "My Short Skirt," have been restructured for several performers to accommodate the number of students interested in participating in this year's show.

This year, Notre Dame's performance has drawn the particular attention of "The Vagina Monologues" author Eve Ensler. Ensler arrives on campus today in the last visit of her college tour, which has included universities such as Yale and the University of Chicago.

Ensler will be part of a panel discussion with history professor Gail Bederman and English professor Glenn Hendler, moderated by film, television and theatre professor Jessica Chalmers. The panel will be held in the Leighton Concert Hall at 3 p.m. The author plans to participate in the performance of "The Vagina Monologues" at 7 p.m. and will be present for a book signing after the show around 9:30 p.m.

As student interest in "The Vagina Monologues" has grown, organizers have also increased their efforts to integrate other awareness-raising events promoted by V-Day with the performance. This year students from the play organized Project Black: Confronting the Silence, in which students stood in silent protest outside DeBartolo Hall and North Dining Hall in protest of violence. Students also sold T-shirts and hung posters in honor of V-Day.

Few students or administrators would argue against the goals of an organization that seeks to stop violence against women. "The Vagina Monologues" themselves, however, have not been received happily by many students and organizations on campus. As some students and organizations voice their support for the play, others protest its messages on sexual issues and its use of language and situation that is often deemed taboo.

The content can be both meaningful and difficult for the actresses in the play, who are not always cast in the skits they hoped for when they auditioned. The most controversial skits especially can be hard for some actresses to connect with and perform.

Senior Erin Clarke decided to audition for the play after seeing the performance and getting interested in the organization during her sophomore year.

"I was really interested in what the movement was about," Clarke said. "I saw the show and decided it was a good thing."

However, being cast in one of the play's most controversial skits about a sexual encounter between a formerly sexually abused teenager and a 24-year-old woman was not easy.

"At first I didn't know [about performing the skit]," Clarke said. "But the way I think about it, it's a true story. As I've thought about it, it's a positive experience."

Other participants have found skits that speak to them more directly. Sophomore Beckie Rodriguez got involved with the play after seeing fliers and the website for an organization that spoke to her own personal experiences.

"This organization can contribute a lot, not just to society as a whole, but to Notre Dame," Rodriguez said.

Rodriguez was cast in a skit entitled "The Memory of Her Face," which focuses on violence against women in different countries. The segments of the skits are set in Baghdad, Islamabad and the Mexican border town of Juarez. The town has lost around 300 young women in unexplained murders over past decade, and was the site for last year's V-Day events.

Rodriguez, who lives in the southern Texas border town of Weslaco, was asked to perform the skit in last year's show and requested it again this year. The skit focuses on a woman named Esther, who keeps a scrapbook of the women who have died.

"I'd like to say I've enjoyed the skit," Rodriguez said. "Not in that it's fun or uplifting, but because it's important to me."

Many actresses seem to be attracted not to particular skits and characters but to the entire goal of the play. Senior Molly Savage decided to audition for the show with her roommate, Student Body Vice President Karla Bell. Savage had seen the play for three years, and during the third performance made the decision to audition as a senior.

"There are certain things no one really talks about but every single woman can relate to," Savage said. "The play is all about bringing all these issues to light and making people comfortable with them. Between laughing and crying, we said we absolutely had to do this."

Savage was cast in "My Short Skirt," a skit that asserts that a skirt, no matter how short, is not an invitation or a provocation for unwanted advances. The skit takes on a taste of reality, since the actress appears in her own very short skirt that made its first appearance at the Alumni Wake.

"I've felt a ton of sexism on this campus, that you are judged from the moment you come in the door," Savage said. "My connection to the skit is that it shouldn't matter what you wear, people need to take a little time to discover what's inside, to discover the truth. Being a woman is so much more than wearing a short black skirt."

As the only remaining class to witness the beginning of "The Vagina Monologues" at Notre Dame prepares to graduate, the organization is welcoming new members. Many freshmen and sophomores auditioned for this year's performance and seem ready to carry on the torch. For better or worse, it seems "The Vagina Monologues" are here to stay.

"The Vagina Monologues" will be performed at the DeBartolo Center for the Performing Arts at 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$8 for students, \$10 for faculty and staff and \$12 for the general public. Tickets for the panel discussion are free and available at the door.

Contact Maria Smith at msmith4@nd.edu

NCAA BASKETBALL

South Carolina stuns No. 3 Kentucky in 71-63 win

Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. — Tarence Kinsey scored 17 points and Carlos Powell had 12 in the second half to lead South Carolina to a rare victory over No. 3 Kentucky.

It was the first home win for the Gamecocks (14-8, 6-5 Southeastern Conference) over the Wildcats (19-3, 10-1) since 1997, and it was just South Carolina's sixth victory in 41 meetings against Kentucky, which never looked in synch.

Fans poured onto the court after the victory, arguably South Carolina's best in coach Dave Odom's tenure, and Kinsey stood on press row, slapping high-fives with celebrating students.

The Wildcats, who had won 19 straight games against SEC opponents, had a season-high 21 turnovers and Chuck Hayes was held to just one point. Kelenna Azubuike led Kentucky with 16 points — five in the second half.

The near capacity crowd finally had something to cheer about after the Gamecocks' disappointing 74-71 home loss to Auburn on Saturday. South Carolina added a high-profile win as it attempts to build its NCAA tournament resume. The Gamecocks were 0-4 against ranked opponents coming into Tuesday's matchup, but they still have a game against No. 18 Alabama.

South Carolina built a 58-45 lead with 4:16 left after an 8-0 run and the Wildcats never seriously threatened again. The run featured a three-point play and dunk from Carlos Powell, the Gamecocks' leading scorer who had been held to just two points in the first half.

But South Carolina pounded the ball inside to Powell and Kentucky had no answer.

The Gamecocks had built a 12-point lead on some key long-range shooting by Kinsey, who was averaging 9.5 points a game. His fourth 3 of the game, a career-high, brought the crowd to its feet midway through the second half. Kinsey finished with five 3s, a career-high.

Connecticut 94, Providence 89

Charlie Villanueva had 18 points and nine rebounds after halftime to help No. 18

Connecticut turn back feisty Providence in double overtime.

Villanueva, a sophomore forward, finished with 22 points and 10 rebounds. He had four points and a key rebound while the Huskies (16-6, 8-3 Big East) scored seven consecutive points to start the second overtime. Rudy Gay had a 3-pointer in the run while Providence (11-14, 1-10) missed two 3-pointers to guarantee itself another close loss.

Providence's Herb Hill scored in heavy traffic in the lane on a pass from Ryan Gomes to make it 69-69 at the end of regulation. UConn's Denham Brown made a basket with 24 seconds left in the first overtime to tie it 78-78.

But the Friars, who have managed to lose close games all season, ran out of gas in the second overtime.

Villanueva scored on a putback and then, after Gomes missed a 3-pointer, Gay hit a 3 to make it 83-78. Donnie McGrath missed a 3 for Providence and Villanueva got the rebound; at the other end, he made a hook shot to give the Huskies a seven-point lead.

Providence never got within four points again.

Gomes, a first-team All-America last season as a junior, scored a career-high 37 points — including all of the Friars' 11 in the second overtime — to go over the 2,000-point milestone in his career. The Friars had beaten UConn twice in a row and were trying to beat a defending national champion for the second consecutive season.

Wake Forest 68, Miami 63

Wake Forest overcame a sub-par offensive performance Tuesday night, holding Miami to 33 percent shooting in the second half to win and retain its lead in the Atlantic Coast Conference.

The fifth-ranked Demon Deacons enjoyed their biggest lead at 61-53 with 4 1/2 minutes left. Miami rallied and had one shot to tie, but Anthony Harris' 22-footer fell short with 5 seconds to go.

Wake Forest (22-3, 10-2) earned its sixth straight win. The streak includes two victories over Miami (15-8, 6-6).

The Demon Deacons reached



Kentucky's Randolph Morris blocks South Carolina guard Tarence Kinsey's shot during Tuesday night's game.

10 conference victories for only the second time in the past eight seasons. The latest win came even though Wake Forest had its lowest point total since December, 18 points shy of its average of 86 per game.

Eric Williams and Chris Paul each scored 13 points for Wake Forest, and Justin Gray added 11.

Guillermo Diaz led the Hurricanes with 20 points, and Harris had 14. Robert Hite totaled six, 12 below his average.

The Hurricanes shot 47 percent in the first half but finished at 39, shooting 12-for-36 in the second half. They finished 3-for-18 from 3-point range.

Ohio St. 57, Indiana 44

J.J. Sullinger scored 14 of his

17 points in the second half to spur Ohio State to a win over Indiana on Tuesday night.

Terence Dials added 14 points and Jamar Butler scored a career-high 13 for the Buckeyes (18-8, 7-5 Big Ten), who have won six of their last seven. The Buckeyes took over fourth place in the conference with the win.

D.J. White had 17 points and Robert Vaden 14 for Indiana (11-11, 6-5), which dropped to 1-7 on the road.

Villanova 89, Bucknell 51

Villanova temporarily eased the sting of its worst loss of the season with its biggest blowout victory.

Allan Ray made four 3-pointers and scored 23 points to lead the 25th-ranked Wildcats to a victory

over Bucknell on Tuesday night.

Mike Nardi, who also hit four 3-pointers, and Curtis Sumpter each had 14 points and Jason Fraser grabbed eight rebounds to help the Wildcats (15-6) bounce back from a 15-point loss to No. 9 Syracuse.

"It was more of a wake-up call," Nardi said. "As fast as the Top 25 and everything comes, as quickly it goes. That's why you don't focus on things like that. You just worry about the team and where you're trying to go."

Villanova made 21 of its first 33 shots overall, including nine of its first 18 3-point attempts, and turned this one into a run-away early.

The Wildcats' 38-point win topped their 33-point victory at Rutgers last month.

Chris McNaughton led Bucknell (17-8) with 17 points and Charles Lee had 11. McNaughton made his first five shots from the field and the Bisons of the Patriot League — who upset then-No. 10 Pittsburgh last month — tied the game at 17-all.

The Wildcats took over from there, getting a three-point play from Fraser and a 3-pointer from Randy Foye that kicked off an 18-2 run and put them up 43-28 at halftime.

Bucknell certainly had Villanova's attention thanks to wins over Pittsburgh and Saint Joseph's.

"In our little Villanova world, this was a good accomplishment for us — to get up and not take possessions off," said coach Jay Wright, who played at Bucknell and was co-captain of the 1982-83 team.

The Wildcats got a scare midway through the first half when Foye took a hard fall on his back when he was fouled on a break-away layup attempt, landing on the floor and the base of the basket support. Foye, Villanova's second-leading scorer at 14.9 points, was face down for several minutes while his concerned teammates stood nearby.

Foye was helped up and wobbled as teammates carried him into the locker room. The junior starting guard did not return but was on the bench for the second half.

CLASSIFIEDS

LOST & FOUND

LOST: Clip-on earring, silver flower with light purple rhinestones. Lost on Sunday after 11:45 mass between Basilica and Coleman Morse or between Coleman Morse and the circle. Reward. Call Lori 233-3436.

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Tails--thanks for a sweet V-day -Smalls

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MLB

Defending champions prepare for fresh start

After satisfying fans with title, Boston is hungry for another.

Associated Press

FORT MYERS, Fla. — Banners proclaiming the Red Sox as World Series winners finally hung from lampposts outside their spring training ballpark 86 years after their last championship.

Inside, the winning pitcher in the game that clinched the title prepared to leave for his new team.

Change was all around City of Palms Park on Tuesday — from Derek Lowe's departure for the Los Angeles Dodgers camp in Vero Beach to decorations that represent challenges as well as congratulations.

Can Boston win consecutive titles?

"I'm a greedy person. I want as many as I possibly can get," right fielder Trot Nixon said. "I want to be one of those guys also that has an opportunity to take a picture and have four or five rings on my finger with this team."

Even Lowe, who was disappointed with the way his seven full seasons with the Red Sox ended without a solid offer from the club, wished them well.

"You root for the guys," he said. "You hope they stay healthy. You hope they have a good year. You hope they get to the World Series. There's no bitterness toward the players because these guys are great guys."

"It wasn't their decision why [I'm] not here, so why wish bad things upon them?"

Lowe, who lives in Fort Myers, thanked the Red Sox for letting him work out in their stadium. He planned to go to Vero Beach on Wednesday, one day before Boston's pitchers and catchers are due to report. The entire team is due in Monday, with the first full-squad workout next Tuesday.

Lowe won the clinching game of each of the three postseason series — "I was really proud of him," manager Terry Francona said Tuesday. But he knew Lowe's days were numbered back in July when the Red Sox shopped him around before the trading deadline.

When he was left out of the playoff rotation he had more incentive to finish his Boston days on a high note.

"In any profession, when somebody tells you can't do something, it motivates you to go out there and prove that you can," Lowe said.

That's something he shares with his former teammates.

The Red Sox swept St. Louis in the World Series, but baseball magazines have picked them to finish second in the AL East behind the Yankees for the eighth straight season. On paper, their rebuilt rotation seems weaker than New York's. Perhaps Boston's comeback from a 3-0 deficit to the Yankees in the AL championship series was just a fluke.

It may have been if Red Sox players report to camp with inflated egos and stomachs

resulting from too much time in the offseason spotlight and too little in the gym.

"I'd be real disappointed if guys came in thinking" they could slack off, Nixon said. "Once January came around you should realize that, hey, this is my profession. This is what I love to do. I don't want to play and then retire after winning a championship."

He was the only returning player from last year's championship team at the ballpark on Tuesday. Pitchers Wade Miller and Matt Mantei, acquired in the offseason, also have been working out. Miller is coming back from an injury-plagued season.

Francona sees Mantei as a pitcher who can make a strong middle relief corps even stronger.

"If there's the bases loaded in the seventh inning and we need a strikeout, I think Matt Mantei's going to have a pretty good chance of being successful," Francona said.

Two new starting pitchers, David Wells and Matt Clement, hadn't arrived by the time players, including minor leaguers, had finished working

out on Tuesday.

The heightened emphasis on steroids is another addition to spring training.

Nixon is Boston's player representative and said the attention won't last long on Jose Canseco's book released this week in which he alleges steroid use by certain players.

"I don't care about Jose's book," he said. "It's another black eye for baseball a little bit but I think it's just a black eye before spring training and

the minute the boys start showing up for camp, it's going to be long gone and not talked about anymore."

For Lowe, there still will be thoughts of his place in the history of one of the most successful Red Sox teams — especially on opening day.

"I'm going to be sitting in San Francisco watching them play on TV," Lowe said. "Now I'm a fan watching these guys play. Now you've got to watch [Curt] Schilling and [Randy] Johnson, opening night, Yankees-Red Sox, and not be part of it ..."

It won't be the same, just like the rest of the new season.

"I'd be real disappointed if the guys game in thinking [they could slack off]."

**Trot Nixon
Boston outfielder**

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PGA

Pro golfers demonstrate talent, staying power

Unlike past seasons, this year's tour has had an exciting start

Associated Press

Be careful not to judge a PGA Tour season by the first few months.

It was only three years ago that Tiger Woods went 10 weeks without winning and endured endless questions about a slump. By summer, he had become the first player in 30 years to capture the first two legs of the Grand Slam.

Or look at Vijay Singh last year.

He won just one tournament (Pebble Beach) through the Masters, and had only three trophies heading into August. By the end of the year, Singh became only the sixth man in PGA Tour history with at least nine victories.

This promised to be a grandiose year in golf with so many top players either hitting or regaining their stride.

So far, it has not disappointed.

The first six winners are all ranked in the top 20. All but one (Stuart Appleby) are major champions.

Singh got off to such a strong start that he should have won

the Mercedes Championships and did win the Sony Open. It looked as though he would be No. 1 for the rest of his life, or until retirement, whichever came first.

Then it was Woods' turn.

His victory the following week at Torrey Pines was his first stroke-play title on the PGA Tour in about 16 months, and most people figured it was only a matter of time before Woods established himself anew as the player to beat.

But that was before Phil Mickelson won back-to-back at Phoenix and Pebble Beach, setting a slew of records along the way. He tied the course record on the TPC at Scottsdale (60), broke the record at Spyglass Hill (62) and became the first wire-to-wire winner over 72 holes in the 68-year history of Pebble Beach.

"I don't know what specifically is driving everybody to play so well," Mickelson said. "But I think it's exciting for the game to see all the top players contending."

Next up is Riviera, which also has some intriguing possibilities.

The Nissan Open is the first PGA Tour event Woods played, as a 16-year-old, and it remains the only tournament he has played at least four times without winning. He

returns to Riviera this week needing only to finish fourth to take the No. 1 ranking away from Singh.

Plus, Mike Weir has a chance to become the first player to win three straight years at the Nissan Open. Canada's Lefty is coming off one of the best rounds of the year, hitting every fairway and missing only one green in the rain and wind at Pebble Beach.

With so many players doing so well, Mickelson has high hopes for rare drama at the Match Play Championship, where two players from the top 10 have reached the finals only once since it began in 1999.

"I think there is a good chance this year a lot of the top guys will win the first few matches and square off later in the final rounds," Mickelson said.

The only player missing from the mix is Ernie Els, in more ways than one.

He hasn't won, although the

Big Easy has finished in the top 10 every time he has played. And after three stops on the PGA Tour, he departed for his global travels and won't return to the PGA Tour until the middle of March.

"Many of the big names on tour ... are off to great starts in 2005," Woods said in his monthly newsletter. "That's good for golf and should make the Masters even more exciting."

How long it lasts is another story.

And one thing to keep in mind as the West Coast Swing wraps up over the next two weeks is how many of the top players will be around when the Tour Championship arrives.

Two years ago, Els won the first two PGA Tour events, then Woods won in his first start after knee surgery. By the end of the year, Ben Curtis was the British Open champion, and Shaun Micheel won the PGA

Championship.

Not until after the Masters, probably the U.S. Open or maybe as late as the British Open will anyone be able to get a firm grasp on how this season is shaping up.

The No. 1 spot in the world ranking could change every week from now through the end of March, with the two-year system favoring Singh during that stretch.

Right now, the only sure thing looks to be Mickelson.

Woods won at Torrey Pines, but the way he nearly whiffed a 2-iron on the 18th hole left some questions about how confident he is with his swing changes. Perhaps those will be answered in the next two months.

Despite his hot start, Singh is using a new driver and has a different caddie. He has gone three straight finishes out of the top 10, and last week he missed the cut for the first time in a year.



Japan's Shigeki Maruyama follows through on his swing on the 16th hole of the TPC Stadium Course in Scottsdale, Ariz., during the FBR Open Pro-Am Feb. 2.

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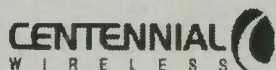
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NBA

Hill 'magical' against Clippers in 99-94 win

Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — Grant Hill heads to the All-Star Game this weekend with a feeling he hasn't had in five years. He's playing — and he's playing well.

Hill, who will start in Sunday's game in Denver after missing most of the last four seasons with an ankle injury, scored a season-high 39 points to help the Orlando Magic to a 99-94 victory over the slumping Los Angeles Clippers.

It was the Magic's third win in four games, while Los Angeles has lost six straight.

It was Hill's highest points total since he scored 40 for Detroit on

Jan. 8, 2000 against Minnesota. Hill hit 12 of 16 shots from the field and 15 of 16 free throws while playing a season-high 42 minutes.

"I don't expect to do that all the time anymore, but it's nice to know I can still do it once in a while," Hill said. "I really felt like, for the first time, I could do what I want out there, and it's obviously been a long, long time since that happened."

Clipper coach Mike Dunleavy was impressed.

"Grant was in an attack mode most of the game," Dunleavy said. "We tried multiple guys guarding him, but we just couldn't get the job done."

As good as Hill was for the first 47 minutes, the Magic turned to Steve Francis when they had to close out the game.

Clippers guard Bobby Simmons, who had 20 points, made two free throws to cut what had been a nine-point deficit in the fourth quarter to 91-89 with 59 seconds left.

Francis then made back-to-back jumpers, the second with 17 seconds remaining to give his team a 95-90 lead. Francis finished with 16 points and seven assists in just 29 minutes.

"Grant put us in position throughout the game, but Steve has been making the clutch shots for us all season," Magic coach

Johnny Davis said. "He was out of sorts because of foul problems for most of the game, but again, late game, Steve found a way to get it done."

Denver 100, Atlanta 96

Carmelo Anthony's jump shot with nine-tenths of a second to play gave the Denver Nuggets their first victory in Atlanta since 1988 over the Hawks.

Anthony led the Nuggets with 22 points as Denver ended a 14-game losing streak in Atlanta.

After leading by 15 points in the third period, the Hawks faltered and lost the lead early in the final quarter.

With 2:29 left to play, Tony Delk missed two free throws for Atlanta and Obinna Ekezie was called for a foul in a scramble for the ball after the second miss. Marcus Camby hit two free throws to give Denver a 96-95 lead.

Ekezie made one of two free throws with 2:11 left to tie the game at 96.

Following a miss by Denver's Andre Miller, the Hawks got the ball and Atlanta coach Mike Woodson did not call a timeout. Antoine Walker fired an air ball on a fallaway jumper. Denver rebounded and called timeout with 6.8 seconds left. Then Anthony launched the winning shot from the left wing.

The Hawks threw away their inbound pass. Earl Boykins added two free throws for the final margin.

Walker led the Hawks with 22 points and 12 rebounds. Delk followed with 19 points.

Camby had 17 for Denver, and Kenyon Martin and former Hawk DerMarr Johnson each added 16.

The Nuggets had not won in Atlanta since Dec. 10, 1988. Overall, the Nuggets snapped the Hawks' eight-to winning streak in the series, dating to Feb. 24, 2001.

The Hawks led 59-47 at half-

time and stretched the lead to 64-49 early in the third quarter on Josh Smith's jam, a two-hander on a pass from Josh Childress.

The Nuggets opened the final period with a 10-2 run to catch the Hawks. A three-point play by Camby pulled Denver even at 81, and Bryon Russell's free throw 30 seconds later gave Denver its first lead since the opening quarter.

Minnesota 82, New Jersey 71

Kevin McHale earned his first coaching victory and Michael Olowokandi had 17 points and 12 rebounds in Minnesota's victory over New Jersey.

Kevin Garnett, who shot 0-for-5 from the floor in the first half, scored 17 points. Wally Szczerbiak added 14 for Minnesota, which won for just the second time in the last 10 games and set season bests in points allowed (71) and opponents' field goal percentage (31.0).

Vince Carter had 25 of his 32 points in the first half for New Jersey, which got a season-high 18 points from Ron Mercer, but little else from anyone else after halftime. After taking a 19-5 lead midway through the first quarter, the Nets scored at a rate barely better than a point per minute.

As Minnesota's vice president of basketball operations, McHale fired Flip Saunders on Saturday, the first action taken by management in response to this highly disappointing season.

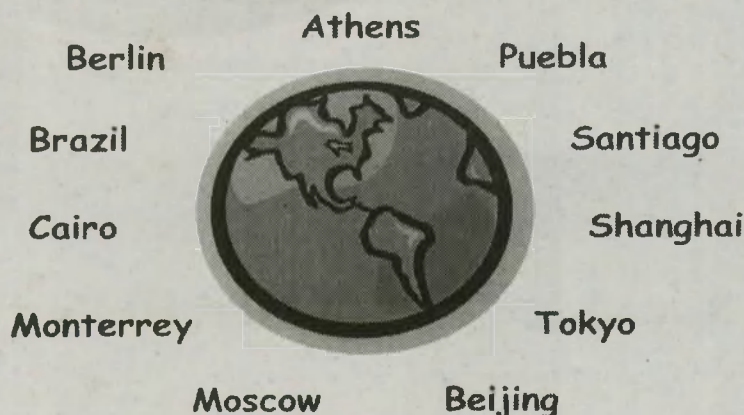
The Timberwolves' various problems have included rebounding, effort and shot selection, but they boxed out consistently, played hard and moved the ball well against the Nets.

Olowokandi, whose production at center has been largely missing since signing with Minnesota before last season, epitomized the renaissance.



Steve Francis, left, of the Orlando Magic is blocked by Lionel Chalmers of the Los Angeles Clippers in the second quarter of Tuesday night's game. The Magic won 99-94.

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MLB

Steroid discussion dominates spring training

With 45 days until their season opener, players are defensive

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Usually, the start of spring training is a time of clean slates, sun-splashed fields and endless hope.

Not this year.

Steroids were the No. 1 topic Tuesday, when the new Washington Nationals, the New York Yankees and the Cincinnati Reds opened camp.

"It doesn't go away, unfortunately," Yankees manager Joe Torre said in Tampa, Fla.

Pitchers and catchers on seven more teams report Wednesday, and workouts begin Thursday, 45 days before the World Series champion Boston Red Sox and Yankees play the major league opener April 3. The Minnesota Twins will be the last team to report, on Sunday.

Ken Griffey Jr. ran for the Reds' medical staff in Sarasota, Fla., showing how far he has recovered from surgery on his torn right hamstring. Pedro Martinez, an early arrival at the New York Mets' camp, worked out in Port St. Lucie, Fla. And Trot Nixon kept up the Yankees-Red Sox sniping, saying of Alex Rodriguez: "He can't stand up to [Derek] Jeter in my book or Bernie Williams or [Jorge] Posada."

The Nationals had the most complicated journey to spring training. After 36 seasons as the Montreal Expos, the team morphed into Washington's first major league team since the expansion Senators became the Texas Rangers after the 1971 season.

Owned by major league baseball since early 2002, the team was uncertain of its fate for three seasons before the move to the nation's capital was finalized in December.

As camps opened, there was a new steroid report. The New York Daily News said Tuesday that an FBI agent in Ann Arbor, Mich., told baseball security head Kevin Hallinan about 10 years ago that Jose Canseco and other players were using illegal anabolic steroids.

"I alerted Major League Baseball back in the time when we had a case, that Canseco was a heavy user and that they should be aware of it," Special Agent Greg Stejskal was quoted as saying. "I spoke to the people in their security office, Hallinan was one of the people I spoke to."

Calls to Stejskal's office in Ann Arbor and to FBI headquarters in Washington were referred to the Detroit FBI office, where spokeswoman Agent Dawn Clenney said Stejskal and the agency would have nothing to say.

Hallinan was traveling and did not return telephone calls seeking comment. He told the News he never was contacted then about steroid use.

"I have absolute confidence in his integrity," said Sandy Alderson, executive vice president for baseball operations in the commissioner's office. "We are looking into the situation described by the agent to see if we can figure out what exactly took place. There may have been someone else he talked to.

There are a number of possibilities. We want to see if there is some reasonable view of his explanation and Kevin's."

Canseco's autobiography, published this week, accused the Yankees' Jason Giambi and others of using steroids.

"I think that the problems that are out there are coming to the surface, which I think is good for baseball," Red Sox manager Terry Francona said in Fort Myers, Fla.

Still, baseball's new drug-testing agreement — calling for harsher penalties and more frequent testing — remains in the drafting phase. Baseball management expects the new rules to be in place by the mandatory reporting date, March 1.

"I know that we were well on our way to having serious steroid testing, drug testing, and we still are and we didn't need a book to come out and tell us that we needed to do

something," Nixon said.

Baltimore shortstop Miguel Tejada, among the players accused by Canseco, denied that he used steroids.

"Any inference made by Jose Canseco that I used steroids is complete false," Tejada said in a statement. "I barely knew Jose during his career, so it is ridiculous for him to suggest we ever had discussions regarding their use. I work very hard to keep in shape and any sugges-

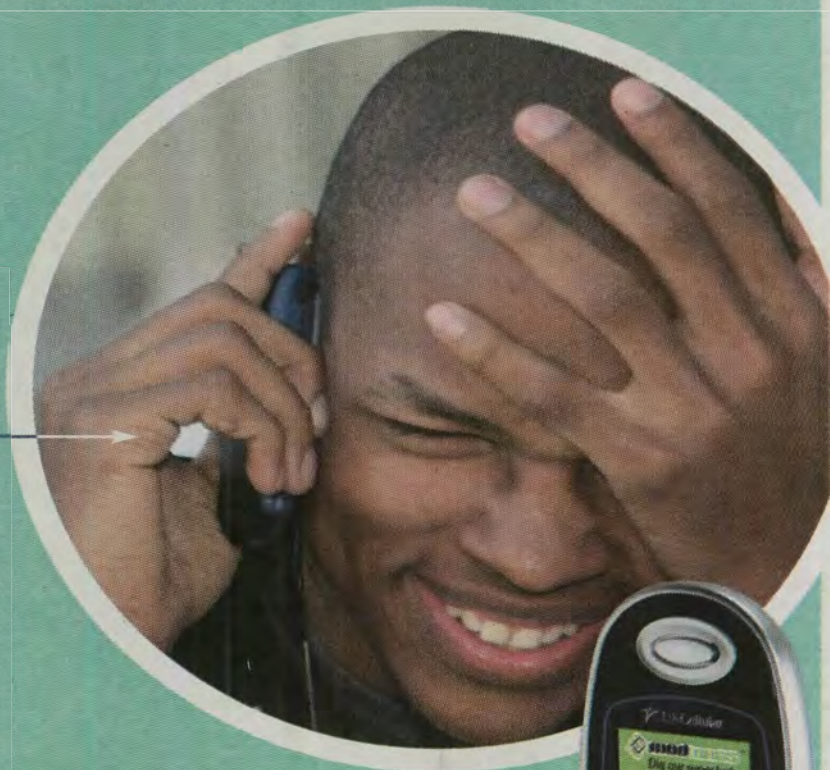
tion that I use steroids, or any banned substance, is insulting and not worth discussing further."

At Boston's camp, Nixon wasted little time in adding some boil under baseball's most heated rivalry, joining Curt Schilling in the criticism of Rodriguez.

"He's done some great things on the field. He's one of the best baseball players in the game and probably will be when it's all said and done," Nixon said.



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SMC BASKETBALL

Belles hungry to get back in playoff race

Team hopes to recover from five-game losing streak at Kalamazoo

By KEVIN BRENNAN
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's needs to stop the bleeding.

Just three weeks ago, the Belles stood in a three-way tie for fourth place in the MIAA. The team's main concern was finishing alone in the coveted fourth position and hosting a first-round tournament game. After losing its next five contests, however, Saint Mary's now must finish the season strong to even ensure an appearance in the first round.

The Belles (9-14, 4-10 MIAA), currently tied with Adrian College for seventh place in the nine-team league, face a must-win game tonight at Kalamazoo 7:30 p.m.

Since the teams that finish in eighth and ninth places must participate in a tournament play-in game to earn the right to play the top seed in the first round, the Belles see tonight's game and every subsequent regular season game as crucial to their postseason hopes.

"This game is extremely important along with our game on Saturday," guard Bridget Boyce said. "We all have positive attitudes and are really looking for this win. Right now we aren't even thinking about that play-in game."

Saint Mary's takes confidence from its earlier defeat this season of Kalamazoo. On Jan. 19, the Belles outlasted the Hornets 64-63 in a fierce battle at the Angela Athletic Center. Saint Mary's feels it learned a great deal about Kalamazoo in that game and can use that knowledge to its advantage tonight.

"They really overplay four

players] down low and the guards on the wings," Boyce said. "We need to concentrate on taking them to the basket and pushing the ball down floor because we can definitely score some easy points off them that way."

Belles freshman Allison Kessler remembers Kalamazoo for its aggressive style of play.

"I think we can exploit them because they are so aggressive," Kessler said. "We just need to play our game and not be forced into turnovers."

If Saint Mary's hopes to win, though, it must reverse a recent trend of poor play. Players admit the team's performance in the last five games has been unacceptable.

"We just haven't been playing well," Kessler said. "We are definitely looking to turn that around [today] at Kalamazoo and come out and play a solid 40 minutes, play a whole game."

Boyce feels the Belles' problem has been finishing off teams.

"In the second half we just aren't closing the deal," Boyce said. "In the last five or 10 minutes of the game we usually have the lead, and we are just letting it slip away."

If Saint Mary's does manage to defeat the Hornets and then beat last place Olivet on Saturday, it could make a huge jump in the close MIAA standings. If the Belles win out and receive some help, the team could potentially finish the regular season in fifth place. Saint Mary's would then likely face fourth place Tri-State in the first round of the tournament.

"We have beat them twice already so we would be very confident heading into that game," Kessler said of a matchup with Tri-State.

Contact Kevin Brennan at
kbrenna4@nd.edu

"This game is extremely important along with our attitudes. We all have positive attitudes and are really looking for this win."

Bridget Boyce
Belles guard

"We just haven't been playing well. We are definitely looking to turn that around tomorrow at Kalamazoo and come out and play a solid 40 minutes, play a whole game."

Allison Kessler
Belles guard

MLB

Nationals arrive at camp

Washington's new baseball franchise is ready to start season

Associated Press

VIERA, Fla. — Their dispositions were as sunny as the Florida day that greeted them, their outlook as bright as the immaculate red practice jerseys that hung in neat rows along the lockers. Pitchers, catchers and assorted other players reported for spring training at Space Coast Stadium on Tuesday, flush with relief and satisfaction that they are something new called the Washington Nationals.

"It's been a long journey," catcher Brian Schneider said. "We've wanted this for a while, and it's here now. We're ready for it, that's for sure."

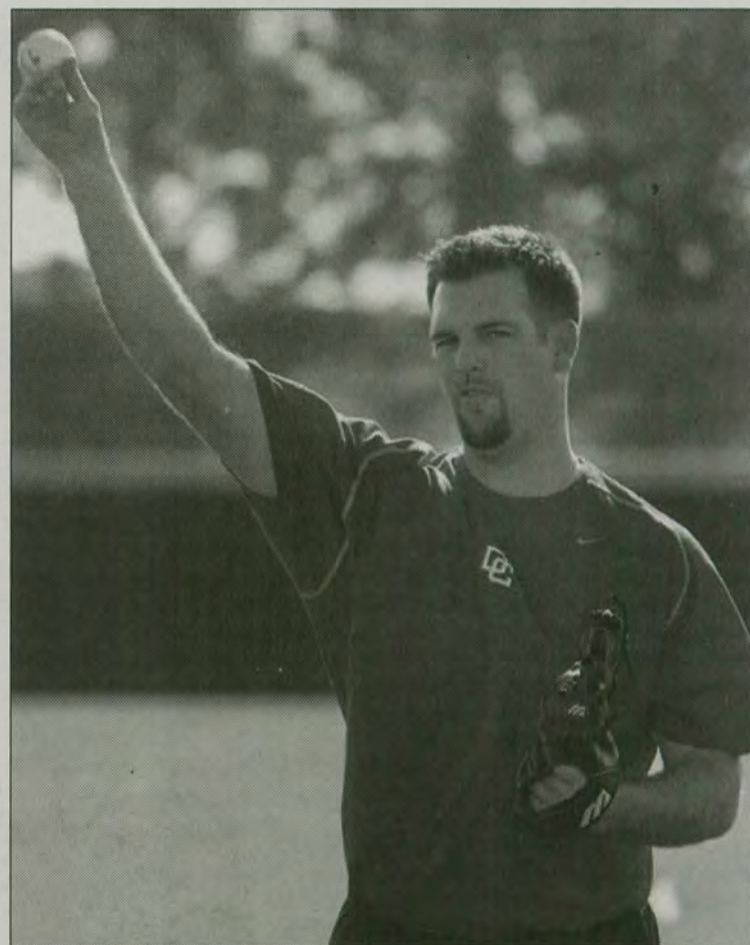
The vagabond days of the Montreal Expos are over. Sure, the players said all the right things and persevered as best they could as they dealt with the threat of contraction and then two years of "home" games in Puerto Rico. But no one came close to remembering the last three years as good ol' days now that they're done.

"Last year was even worse," pitcher Zach Day said. "Because we actually knew what we were going to have to go through. The year before, we didn't know. So going into last year, we were already down before we even started."

No such negative feelings this year, even if the team is expected to finish last again in the NL East. At least six position players — including big bats Brad Wilkerson, Nick Johnson and Jose Vidro — were among those reporting, checking in five days earlier than required.

"No team in major league baseball's ever done what we did," Wilkerson said. "It was very tough on us, physically and mentally. To say we were going to compete through the whole season was very tough, and I think it was unrealistic. But now we've got a home. There's no more excuses. We go out there and play baseball and try to win ball games."

The first player to report was pitcher T.J. Tucker, who surveyed the lockers and nameplates amid the sea of red jerseys and asked, "Where am I? Did they release me already?"



Dan Smith, a pitcher for the relocated Washington Nationals, warms up at spring training Tuesday.

"It's a little different," said manager Frank Robinson, returning for a fourth year with the team. "It's a little brighter, seeing that red in there. Sometimes you say, 'Am I in the Cardinals' clubhouse?' But it's great. I like the uniforms."

The Nationals logo appears throughout the stadium, although the word "Expos" still appears on a couple of signs and the seats remain teal from the facility's days as the Florida Marlins' spring home. Several players still carried their gear in big blue "Expos" bags. All were buoyed by the news that the Nationals are approaching the equivalent of 20,000 season tickets sold, far exceeding the sparse crowds in Montreal.

"It hasn't hit me as much as it's going to hit me when we get there for opening day," Wilkerson said. "To see those people in the ballpark, and then you come the next night, and you're going to see just as many people. Anybody can sell out opening day, but that next night, there's probably going to be just as many. We're used to it tapering off pretty good after the opening night."

The pitchers, catchers and staff will have their physicals

Wednesday and take to the field Thursday. During camp, the players will get a briefing on the Washington area, offering advice on how to get around and where to search for places to live in an area that most have rarely, or never, visited.

"It's a fresh start," Robinson said. "What we're looking at now is we have an even playing field, like everybody else. We have a permanent home. We have our fans that will be supporting us, and the schedule is the same as everyone else. They always said, 'Well, those are home games in Puerto Rico,' but we were on the road."

The sheer energy and better attitude created by the move to Washington should mean more wins this year, along with the return of several injured players and the additions of new ones. Interim general manager Jim Bowden's offseason haul included Vinny Castilla, Cristian Guzman, Jose Guillen and Esteban Loaiza, and he's probably not done.

"I expect this team to play better baseball than 83 wins," said Robinson, referring to the surprising 83-79 records of 2002 and 2003 before last year's plummet to 67-95.

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Happy 21st Birthday Mark

AROUND THE NATION

page 20

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

team	record	perc.	GB	L 10
Philadelphia	26-26	.500	-	7-3
Boston	26-26	.500	-	6-4
New Jersey	22-29	.431	3.5	7-3
Toronto	21-31	.404	5.0	3-7
New York	20-32	.385	6.0	2-8

Central Division

team	record	perc.	GB	L 10
Detroit	31-19	.620	-	8-2
Cleveland	29-20	.592	1.5	5-5
Chicago	24-23	.511	5.5	6-4
Indiana	24-26	.480	7.0	4-6
Milwaukee	20-29	.408	10.5	5-5

Southeast Division

team	record	perc.	GB	L 10
Miami	39-14	.736	-	9-1
Washington	30-21	.588	8.0	4-6
Orlando	27-24	.529	11.0	5-5
Atlanta	10-39	.204	27.0	2-8
Charlotte	10-39	.204	27.0	2-8

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Northwest Division

team	record	perc.	GB	L 10
Seattle	35-14	.714	-	7-3
Minnesota	25-27	.481	11.5	2-8
Denver	23-28	.451	13.0	6-4
Portland	21-29	.420	14.5	5-5
Utah	17-34	.333	19.0	3-7

Pacific Division

team	record	perc.	GB	L 10
Phoenix	41-12	.774	-	8-2
Sacramento	33-18	.647	7.0	5-5
L.A. Lakers	25-24	.510	14.0	3-7
L.A. Clippers	23-28	.451	17.0	4-6
Golden State	14-37	.275	26.0	2-8

Southwest Division

team	record	perc.	GB	L 10
San Antonio	40-12	.769	-	7-3
Dallas	33-16	.673	5.5	6-4
Houston	31-21	.596	9.0	8-2
Memphis	30-22	.577	10.0	7-3
New Orleans	11-41	.212	29.0	3-7

USFCA Fencing Polls

Men

1	Ohio State
2	Penn State
3	St. John's
4	NOTRE DAME
5	Columbia
6	Princeton
7	Pennsylvania
8	Harvard
9	Stanford
10	Air Force

Women

1	Ohio State
2	NOTRE DAME
3	Penn State
4	Harvard
5	Columbia
6	Northwestern
7	St. John's
8	Pennsylvania
9	Princeton
10	Temple

around the dial

NBA

Golden State at Seattle 9 p.m., ESPN

MEN'S NCAA BASKETBALL

Virginia at North Carolina 7 p.m., ESPN

Georgetown at NOTRE DAME

8 p.m., ESPN Classic

Nebraska at Oklahoma 9 p.m., ESPN2

MLB



Jose Canseco talks with Los Angeles Dodgers senior vice president Tommy Lasorda during spring training last March. Canseco's controversial book documenting steroid use in baseball was released Monday.

Canseco's book third on best seller list

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Jose Canseco's autobiography that accuses several top players of steroid use and charges baseball management long ignored performance-enhancing drugs got off to a fast start on its first day of publication.

Amazon.com listed "Juiced: Wild Times, Rampant 'Roids, Smash Hits, and How Baseball Got Big" as third on its best seller list Monday.

The book had an initial printing of 150,000 copies but it was unclear how many copies were bought. Regan Books does not disclose sales figures, spokeswoman Jennifer Suitor said.

"I don't think it's a good thing, obviously, because it's bringing a bad light to the game," New York Yankees

captain Derek Jeter said Monday. "This is a time, obviously, baseball is in a negative light and Jose is not helping out. In terms of his accusations, the only people that know are him and whoever he is accusing. The unfortunate thing is, if it's not true, you're looking at guys having to defend themselves over something they haven't done."

Mark McGwire, one of the former teammates Canseco accused of using steroids, issued a written denial.

"The relationship that these allegations portray couldn't be further from the truth," McGwire's statement said. "I also worry how these false allegations will taint the accomplishments of the Oakland Athletics' coaches, players and executives who worked so hard to achieve success during the

era in question, along with the other players and organizations affected by this book.

"Most concerning to me is the negative effect that sensationalizing steroids will have on impressionable youngsters who dream of one day becoming professional athletes. Once and for all I did not use steroids or any other illegal substance."

McGwire was not available for interviews.

In the book, Canseco is an unabashed advocate of performance-enhancing drugs.

"By the time my 8-year-old daughter, Josie, has graduated from high school, a majority of all professional athletes — in all sports — will be taking steroids. And believe it or not, that's good news," he writes.

IN BRIEF

NHL makes last offer to players' union

NEW YORK — The NHL made its final offer just hours before it was set to cancel the season.

The league bumped its salary-cap proposal from \$40 million to \$42.5 million Tuesday and gave the players' association until 11 a.m. Wednesday to accept. If they reject it, the season would be canceled two hours later, according to a letter sent by commissioner Gary Bettman to players' association executive director Bob Goodenow.

"This offer is not an invitation to begin negotiations — it's too late for that," Bettman said. "This is our last effort to make a deal that's fair to the players and one that the clubs [hopefully] can afford. We have no more flexibility and there is no time for further negotiation."

In the final bargaining session between NHL chief legal officer Bill Daly and players' association senior director Ted Saskin, the league

dropped its longstanding demand for a link between revenues and player costs.

In return, the union came off its reluctance to a salary cap — and proposed one.

The cap the players offered was a soft cap of \$52 million, a source close to the negotiations told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity. Teams would be allowed to spend up to 10 percent above that three times in six years, but would be subject to an escalating luxury tax on anything above \$40 million.

Judge rules against Williams in appeal hearing

MIAMI — An arbitration ruling that ordered Ricky Williams to repay the Miami Dolphins \$8.6 million was upheld Tuesday by a federal judge, who rejected arguments that the award disregarded Florida law and was excessive.

U.S. District Judge James Cohn ruled arbitrator Richard Bloch was "well within the scope of his authori-

ty" in his interpretation of the case.

Williams breached his contract when he retired abruptly last July. Bloch ruled in September that under the terms of the contract, he was required to repay the Dolphins \$8.6 million in bonus money he had received.

Academic information will be released by NCAA

INDIANAPOLIS — Colleges and universities will begin receiving information about their teams' academic performance within the next week, a move that could lead to some schools losing scholarships next fall.

The reports will be made available to the public on Feb. 28.

NCAA officials said Tuesday they believe about 20 percent of men's basketball teams and 30 percent of football teams risk immediate penalties based on data collected from the 2003-04 school year. But penalties will not be imposed until after officials collect data from 2004-05.

Big East

continued from page 24

"Our focus for the season has been to see if we could win our first Big East Championship," coach Tim Welsh said. "For the next week, we need to focus only on what we can control and [that is] our performance. We're paying no attention to the scoreboard and trying to race as well as we can in the morning and again at night."

The Big East Championships involve a rigorous schedule spread out during the next four days. Starting with one session on Wednesday night, the Irish then will compete in two ses-

sions per day on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. The morning sessions determine which swimmers advance to the evening's final events with the opportunity to score points.

"The biggest challenge is to swim fast seven sessions in a row," Welsh said. "We have to qualify in the right positions in the morning and then win the places at night."

The stiffest challenge for Notre Dame will come from Pittsburgh, the eight-time defending conference champion. Last February, the Irish posted their highest-ever point total and finished second to the Panthers.

"Obviously we look at Pittsburgh as the defending champion, and they have been

the mark of excellence in our conference," Welsh said. "But we don't want to make the mistake of assuming this is a two-team race because maybe someone else is going to swim great. We want to swim as fast as we can seven times in a row and then say, 'This is the best we can do. Can anybody beat this?'"

The Irish edged out the Panthers in their only meeting during the regular season. Winning by a score of 155-145, Notre Dame edged Pittsburgh in the 400-yard freestyle relay by 0.4 seconds for the victory.

The team's depth that kept them close in the Pittsburgh win will again be a crucial factor in this week's competitions.

"What makes us a contender is

that we have a balanced set of entries in every swimming event and every diving event," Welsh said. "If we're going to swim well seven sessions in a row, it's going to take every one of us and that's the way it's been all year."

While winning the Big East title is their main goal, the Irish also would like to qualify swimmers for the NCAA Championships, which take place in March. Both goals of team and individual success intersect with the team's performance over the next days.

"We have a team goal to win the Big East but we also want to send some swimmers to the national championships as well," Welsh said. "And the road to both of them is the same. We

only get to do one or both of them by swimming faster than we ever have in our lives."

The wait is over. A year's worth of hard work has put the Irish in position to compete for the Big East title.

"It's exciting to do something you've been preparing to do for a long time and we are fired up about that," Welsh said. If it doesn't work — if we swim faster than we ever have in our lives — and someone swims faster, we'll say 'Congratulations, nice going and we'll try again next year.' But swimming faster than we ever have in our life is what this meet is all about."

Contact Rama Gottumukkala at rgottumu@nd.edu

Attention First-Year MBAs

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- Must exhibit attributes such as scholarship, talent, leadership qualities, character and community involvement.

All First Year MBAs are eligible, excluding those that are already receiving a full tuition fellowship.

DEADLINE: Applications are due in the MBA Office by Friday, February 25, 2005

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American Cancer Society

Tradition

continued from page 24

at least 40 points ahead of the competition in both events.

Also leading the Irish charge will be sophomore Katie Carroll and junior Christel Bouvron.

Carroll is the defending Big East Champion in the 200 individual medley, and has posted NCAA cuts in both the 200 and 400-meter individual medley. Her 200 IM time of 2 minutes, 3.75 seconds against Michigan earlier in the season is the fastest in the Big East this year.

Bouvron also owns one of the fastest Big East times this year. Her mark of 2:02.95 in the 200-meter butterfly — also against Michigan — was by far the best in the conference. Bouvron is a two-time Olympian for her native Singapore, and she finished 32nd

in the 200 butterfly at the 2004 Olympics Games in Athens.

The Irish and their Big East opponents will swim the 200-meter medley and the 800-meter freestyle relay the first day. Last year, Notre Dame took fourth and second-place finishes respectively in those events last year.

On Thursday the Irish will swim the 500-meter freestyle, 200 IM, 50 free and 200 free relay.

The Irish will compete in the 400 IM, 200 freestyle, 100 butterfly, 100 breaststroke, 400 medley relay and 100 backstroke on Friday.

And on the final day of competition, the 1,650 and 100 freestyle, the 200 backstroke, breaststroke and butterfly, as well as the 400 freestyle relay will take place.

"It's going to be pretty interesting," Weathers said.

Contact Mike Tennant at mtennant@nd.edu

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Duo

continued from page 24

take it to the basket and be aggressive I was going to try it."

Notre Dame struggled shooting the ball early, making just one of its first 12 shots, which allowed Boston College to take a 16-3 lead at the 9:12 mark. Batteast and LaVere each missed their first three shots, while Kindyll Dorsey drained two 3-pointers to help push the Eagles to a double-digit advantage.

Boston College opened a 26-11 lead on Dorsey's third 3-pointer with 1:57 remaining. But the Irish ended the half with four much-needed points when Batteast hit a jumper and Borton sank two

free throws to trim the Eagles' advantage to 26-15. The Irish scored a season-low 15 points on 5-of-23 shooting in the opening 20 minutes, which was five fewer points than their previous futile mark, set against Rutgers Jan. 23.

Notre Dame cut the Boston College lead to 32-26 when Megan Duffy hit a baseline bankshot, drew the foul and

sank the ensuing free throw at 16:58. Duffy, who was scoreless in the first half, caught fire after the break, with eight points and three assists during the first three minutes of the second half.

But the Eagles came storming back and scored seven of the next nine points to regain their halftime edge of 11. Notre Dame refused to fold and cut the lead back down to just five, at 39-34, when Duffy assisted Tuylah Gaines on a layup.

The teams battled back and forth for the next several minutes until the Irish took the lead 43-42 on a Charel Allen layup. It was Notre Dame's first lead since 3-2.

Boston College responded with a field goal, but the Irish took the lead for good when Duffy sank two free throws with 2:23 left to put Notre Dame ahead 44-43.

The Irish held Boston College to just 21 second-half points, forcing the Eagles to take tough shots.

"I think defensively we played a pretty good game, especially in the second half," McGraw said. "That's what we have to do. We just have to play solid defense."

"I think defensively we played a pretty good game, especially in the second half. That's what we have to do. We just have to play solid defense."

Muffet McGraw
Irish coach

Contact Joe Hettler at
jhettler@nd.edu

Offense

continued from page 24

emerge from its toughest four-game stretch with a 2-2 record.

"I think the one thing you can say right now is we improved our NCAA tournament resume, even though we didn't go 4-0," Brey said. "Two of those wins really jumped us."

But against the Panthers, the Notre Dame frontcourt managed just four points. Though the Irish can rely on their guards, Brey prefers the balance begin down low.

"It needs to start inside," he said. "You start with low post touches. You can always kick it back out for a shot, but at least put some pressure on the defense and throw it in there so they have to respect the big guys."

The Irish offense must remain patient, however, because it cannot give the ball back immediately to a patient and poised Hoya offense, Brey said.

Georgetown is led by forward Brandon Bowman, who averages a team-high 15.3 points and 6.7 rebounds per game.

Cook, Jonathan Wallace and either Darrel Owens (seven starts) or Hibbert (15 starts) join Bowman in the starting lineup, along with 6-foot-8, 225-pound freshman Jeff Green.

Green (13.2 points, 7.2 rebounds) earned Big East Rookie of the week honors for the fifth time this season last



CLEMENT SUHENDRA/The Observer

Senior guard Chris Thomas attempts a layup in a game against Boston College Feb. 8.

week, with 21 points and nine rebounds in a 67-60 win over West Virginia Saturday.

Notre Dame had beaten Georgetown four straight times before losing at the MCI Center in January.

The Irish, who have played five of their last seven games

on the road, will play four of their last six regular season games at home starting tonight.

The Irish and Hoyas tip off at 8 p.m.

Contact Pat Leonard at
pleonard@nd.edu

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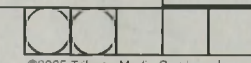
JUMBLE

HENRI ARNOLD
MIKE ARGIRION

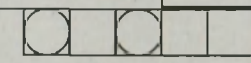
JUMBLE

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

DORRA



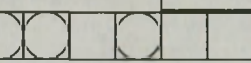
THRIM



YOCKEJ



DINCAR



A: " " IN HIS " " (Answers tomorrow)

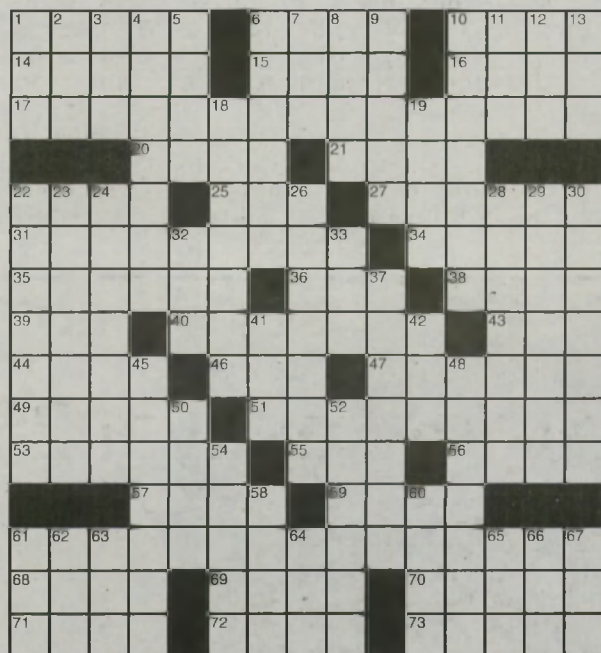
Yesterday's Jumbles: NUDGE DOWNY POTENT ANYWAY
Answer: What the children did when Mom brought home cookies — PUT THEM "AWAY"



CROSSWORD

WILL SHORTZ

- ACROSS**
- 1 Blast from the past?
 - 6 Artsy Manhattan area
 - 10 Pest control brand
 - 14 —off coupon
 - 15 Pizazz
 - 16 It's west of the Isle of Man
 - 17 Ad come-on #1
 - 20 Suffix with buck
 - 21 The Virgin Is., e.g.
 - 22 Lace into
 - 25 Washington's Stadium
 - 27 Moon of Mars
 - 31 See 23-Down
 - 34 Left Bank locale
 - 35 Fine arbitrarily
 - 36 Fair-hiring abbr.
 - 38 Show off one's biceps
 - 39 Fallen Russian orbiter
 - 40 Men's accessories
 - 43 Young newt
 - 44 "How sweet —!"
 - 46 Cable Superstation
 - 47 Arrow poison
 - 49 Israeli desert region
 - 51 With 29-Down, ad come-on #3
 - 53 Lover of Aphrodite
 - 55 Mouse's place
 - 56 2.0 grades
 - 57 Knotted, scorewise
 - 59 Grow tiresome
 - 61 Ad come-on #4
 - 68 "Hold it —!"
 - 69 Shade provider
 - 70 Nary a soul
 - 71 Carol time
 - 72 Short hours of operation?
 - 73 Ohm's symbol
- DOWN**
- 1 Coolers, for short
 - 2 Sri Lanka export
 - 3 Ltr. container
 - 4 Clambake clam
 - 5 Mikhail Romanov, e.g.
 - 6 Detonate
 - 7 "That ___ Devil Called Love"
 - 8 Doe's mate
 - 9 Right turn ___
 - 10 Get intelligence from
 - 11 Intelligence grp.
 - 12 Table scrap
 - 13 Born in France
 - 18 Surrender
 - 19 "___ Tu" (1974 hit)
 - 22 Endurance
 - 23 With 31-Across, ad come-on #2
 - 24 Explorer Vespucci
 - 26 Stays current
 - 28 Car rental info
 - 29 See 51-Across
 - 30 Hockey teams, e.g.
 - 32 School mo.
 - 33 Louis XIV, e.g.



Puzzle by Michael Shteyman

- 37 Makes unreadable, in a way
- 41 Fall back
- 42 Catch some rays
- 45 Get older
- 48 Ping-Pong locale
- 50 In ___ (occurring naturally)
- 52 Opened wide
- 54 Navratilova rival
- 58 Fargo's state: Abbr.
- 60 "___ extra cost!"
- 61 Roll-call call
- 62 Buckeyes' sch.
- 63 Rolodex no.
- 64 "___ got an idea"
- 65 Underwater eggs
- 66 It's east of the Isle of Man: Abbr.
- 67 Bounding main

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

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ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



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Happy Birthday: Don't go looking for trouble this year. Do whatever is necessary to keep the peace and engage in activities that will bring you in contact with people who can help you forge ahead. This can be a productive year for you as long as you don't spread yourself too thin. Your numbers are 10, 22, 31, 33, 38, 42

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Concentrate on what you can do, not what you can't. You will discover that someone who interests you will want to include you in something he or she is working on or doing. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't let anything get to you today. You may be a little emotional, and that could lead to trouble if you take what others say to heart. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Take full advantage of whatever is being offered today. The chance to try something totally different will spark an idea that can turn into a prosperous venture. Someone who interests you will give you something to think about. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): There will be plenty going on in your neck of the woods. Patience will pay off and bring you that much closer to getting what you want. As long as you stay within reason, you will not be let down, turned down or passed by. ****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Be careful what you wish for. You may have far more to contend with if you aren't willing to compromise. An offer that sounds too good to be true probably is. Today, less will definitely be more. Remind yourself of what you have, not what you don't have. **

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You can't go wrong today, so take a bit of a chance. Look for a new job, ask for a raise or even consider picking up some additional skills. ****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): The responsibility will be on you -- especially if you have overspent or been overindulgent. You can make changes to ensure that you are more efficient, leading to a much better future. Love is apparent even if you have made someone upset or angry with you. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Focus on communication and getting ahead work-wise. Regarding personal matters, you may be in the doghouse if you forgot to do something for a friend or lover. You can make it up if you do something that is very special and unique for this person. **

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Take a moment to appreciate your peers. The praise given will pay off when you need a favor. You may feel a little under the weather. Take time out to relax and recuperate. ***

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You will be in a loving mood. Make plans to engage in a fun activity. Expand your horizons through the people you meet today. ****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You have way too much running through your head. Don't take too much for granted or take on too much. Concentrate on what you know you can handle, and do it well. **

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Someone may attempt to derail what you are trying to accomplish. Keep your thoughts and ideas to yourself and do your very best, and you will succeed regardless. ****

Birthday Baby: You are very capable of doing something extraordinary with your life. You are a humanitarian who will always go the extra mile for a cause you believe in. You are a true visionary.

Check out Eugenia's Web sites at astroadvice.com and eugenialast.com.

THE OBSERVER

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ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Dynamic duo

Batteast, Duffy lead team to 54-47 victory after trailing by 15 points in first half

By JOE HETTLER
Sports Writer

After Boston College dominated Notre Dame in the first half of Tuesday's game, coach Muffet McGraw turned to the team's top leadership for help.

Jacqueline Batteast and Megan Duffy responded.

Batteast's 15 points and seven rebounds, combined with Duffy's 14 second-half points, helped the Irish overcome a 15-point first half deficit to down Boston College for the second time this season — this one by a 54-47 score.

"I thought we came out of

the locker room with a little different attitude," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said. "I thought we played harder and more aggressive, and I thought that was the difference."

"But it started with Megan and Jackie."

Batteast carried the Irish in the first half, scoring eight of the team's 15 points. She continued to hit critical shots during the second 20 minutes, but it was Duffy who ignited Notre Dame. The junior tri-captain made all eight of her free throw attempts and had all her points in the second half.

"I had some words at half-time with the team and told them, 'We have to get our act together,'" Duffy said. "We only have three games left in the season, and this is a huge one that we need to get. I was just like, if no one is going to

see DUO/page 22



Junior guard Megan Duffy races past Boston College's Kindyll Dorsey to recover the ball in Tuesday night's game. Duffy chipped in 14 points in the 57-47 Irish victory.

MEN'S SWIMMING

Team races for the Big East title

By RAMA GOTTUMUKKALA
Sports Writer

The hours of laps in early morning practices and heated swim meets are over. The light at the end of the tunnel is visible for the Notre Dame men's swimming and diving team.

The No. 22 Irish (10-2) begin their pursuit of the Big East Championship title today, taking their show on the road for four days of competition at the Nassau County Aquatics Center in East Meadow, N.Y.

While the Irish sense their goal of a league championship in reach, they understand the challenges of competing on such a stage.

see BIG EAST/page 21

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Irish look to contain Hoya offense

Brey prepares team for Georgetown's use of the patient Princeton offense

By PAT LEONARD
Associate Sports Editor

Fans in the Joyce Center may catch themselves rubbing their eyes tonight.

When Notre Dame (14-7, 6-5 Big East) meets Georgetown for the second time this season, the visiting third-place Hoyas (16-6, 8-3) will run the methodical Princeton offense, a series of backdoor cuts and perimeter passes.

The offense, new to the Big East, slows down games and creates a tempo uncommon to the often up-and-down style characteristic of the conference's play.

"If a team wants to play in the 50s, they're gonna play in the 50s," Irish coach Mike Brey said. "We've got to get our guys mentally ready to understand that we can win the game 57-55, and it still counts."

"Georgetown is every bit as powerful a game for our resume as Connecticut, Villanova or Boston College."

In the first meeting between the Irish and Hoyas on Jan.



GEOFF MATTESON/The Observer

Senior forward Dennis Latimore guards Boston College forward Jared Dudley in a 68-65 Notre Dame upset on Feb. 8.

23, Notre Dame lost 55-54 on a buzzer-beating dunk by Georgetown center Roy Hibbert. Colin Falls hit a 3-pointer seconds before to send the Irish up one, but Hoyas guard Ashanti Cook went the length of the court and dished to Hibbert for the bucket and the win.

Notre Dame has won its share of close games, beating Seton Hall (Jan. 5) with a Falls 3-pointer, St. John's (Jan. 15) with late-game defense and Connecticut (Jan. 30) with steady play down the stretch. But the Irish are coming off one of a few tough close defeats after losing to Pittsburgh, 68-66, on

Saturday.

"You look at all our Big East games and almost every one of our games has been down to game situations," Irish guard Chris Quinn said. "It's not necessarily one thing that's hurting us this year. It's little things that we've got to improve on."

Quinn led Notre Dame with 25 points on 10-of-15 shooting against Pittsburgh, combining with Chris Thomas to provide the majority of the team's offense.

Brey is pleased the Irish offense has become more balanced after seeing the team

see OFFENSE/page 22

ND WOMEN'S SWIMMING

Notre Dame hopes to continue tradition

Team seeks ninth straight Big East Championship title

By MIKE TENNANT
Sports Writer

This is what they have been working for all year.

Today, Notre Dame begins its quest for a ninth straight Big East Championship in East Meadow, N.Y.

Standing in the way of a ninth straight title is a much-improved Big East conference, including foes Pittsburgh and Rutgers.

"Rutgers has improved a lot,

so has Pittsburgh," Weathers said. "I think this one's going to be pretty hard."

Leading the way for the Irish in their championship charge will be senior All-American diver Meghan Perry-Eaton and a host of young and talented swimmers.

Perry-Eaton has won three conference titles for the Irish, taking the 3-meter board title last year and the 1-meter board each of the last two years. She was also named the Big East Championship's Most Outstanding Diver in the last two years.

Last year Perry-Eaton dominated the competition, finishing

see TRADITION/page 21



SOFIA BALLON/The Observer

Sophomore Kiley Gooch competes in the Dennis Stark relays earlier this season. The Irish are expected to be contenders for their ninth Big East Championship title this year.

SPORTS AT A GLANCE

MLB

Steroid tell-all tops best-sellers

"Juiced," Jose Canseco's inside tale, raced off shelves beginning Monday.

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SMC BASKETBALL

Saint Mary's at Kalamazoo

The Belles are looking to turn around a five-game losing streak.

page 19

MLB

The Washington Nationals, baseball's recently relocated franchise, is ready for their first season.

page 19

NBA

Magic 99 Clippers 94

All-Star Grant Hill powered Orlando over the struggling L.A. team with 39 points.

page 17

PGA

Golfers prepare for championship

After an exciting few months, golfers are ready for the tour championships.

page 16

NCAA BASKETBALL

South Carolina 71 Kentucky 63

Tarence Kinsey and Carlos Powell lead the Gamecocks to an upset of the No. 3 Wildcats.

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