

THE OBSERVER

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Death Penalty Week continues

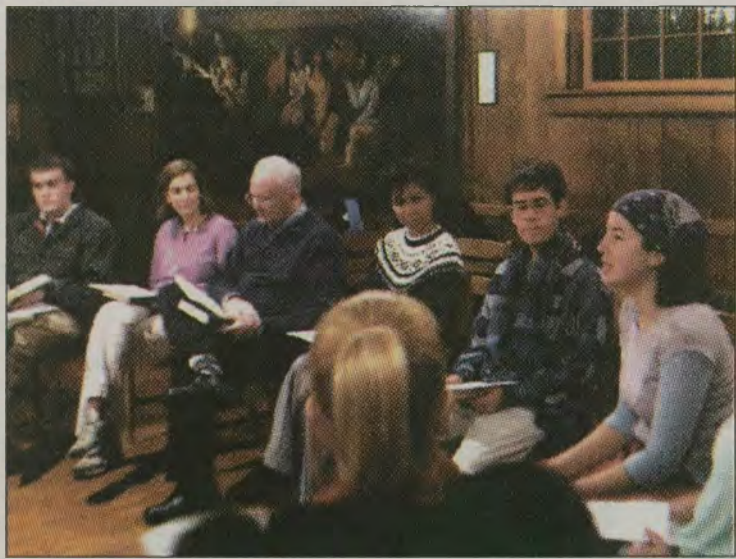
Events on capital punishment organized

By MADDIE HANNA
Assistant News Editor

With an awareness week on the subject underway, organizers say the death penalty's contentious nature gives it special significance on Notre Dame's Catholic campus, a sentiment echoed by professors who attest to the issue's controversy.

"It is important for any Catholic institution — university, school, parish — no matter how big, to put the matters of life and death front center," said Jay

see AWARE/page 6



A prayer service was held Thursday in the Log Cabin Chapel for those sentenced to the death penalty.

GEOFF MATTESON/The Observer

Former Governor Ryan will give lecture

By KATIE LAIRD
News Writer

George Ryan, former Illinois governor, will speak tonight at the DeBartolo Center for the Performing Arts at 7 p.m. about his decision to commute the sentences of all inmates of the state on death row.

Once an advocate for capital punishment, Ryan changed his position on the issue after being convinced that the justice system is broken and therefore should not be able to take a human life.

see RYAN/page 4

AP: Bush will visit University

Observer Staff Report

President George W. Bush plans to visit Notre Dame Friday, according to the Associated Press.

A White House news release quoted by the Associated Press said the president intends to speak about Social Security reform.

Notre Dame Security/Police assistant director Philip Johnson could not confirm a Bush visit, and said in an e-mail

see BUSH/page 4

Bengal Bouts raises money for Bangladesh



Sophomore Nate Dyer trains for Bengal Bouts Sunday in the Rolfs Sports Recreation Center. He will fight in the 165 lbs. division.

CHUY BENITEZ/The Observer

By LISA SCHULTZ
News Writer

Members of the Notre Dame Boxing Club have been training for weeks in preparation for the Bengal Bouts, a boxing tournament celebrating its 75th anniversary this year.

All boxers have been training at least two hours a day five to six days a week for the past seven weeks.

"I just figured it'd be something to keep me in shape, and it's something I wanted to try," said Zahm freshman Sean Wieland.

Preliminary rounds begin today at 6 p.m. in the Joyce Center Fieldhouse. The tournament culminates with the finals on Mar. 19.

The original boxing club began in 1920s under guidance of former football coach Knute Rockne. Bengal Bouts, founded

by coach Dominic "Nappy" Napolitano, got its name when the club began fundraising for the mission work of the Holy Cross priests, brothers and sisters in Bangladesh.

Napolitano once said, "Strong bodies fight, that weak bodies may be nourished." This has become the motto of Notre Dame boxing.

"It's cool to be a part of something bigger than yourself," said Wieland.

All profits from the Bengal Bouts are donated to the Holy Cross Missions for the missionary work in Bangladesh. Besides tickets sales, money is raised through program advertising, program sales, T-shirt sales and donations. A general admission pass for all days is \$10.

Father Basil Moreau, CSC, began missionary work in Bangladesh in 1853 at the

see BOUTS/page 6

Events heighten GLBQ awareness

Diversity Committee organizes week with lectures and films

By MADDIE HANNA
Assistant News Editor

Notre Dame's first Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Questioning (GLBQ) Awareness Week begins today. The events kick off with a local speaker and continue throughout the week.

The week is designed to foster a more open-minded attitude among members of the campus community.

"I feel this week is important for Notre Dame as a first step towards greater tolerance and respect for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people in the University and community as a whole," said Chris Vierig, organizer and member of the Senate Diversity Committee responsible for the week.

Vierig said the week would be significant because of Notre Dame's tendency not to discuss matters surrounding homosexuality.

"This is the first time that gay, lesbian and bisexual issues have been brought to the forefront and recognized by the University," Vierig said.

Senate Diversity Committee chair Nicholas Coleman said this week would try to counter the perception that members of the Notre Dame community can be blind to homosexuality.

see GLBQ/page 4

Students present pieces in SMC Monologues

By DANIELLE LERNER
News Writer

Members of the Saint Mary's College community spoke out this weekend with a presentation of SMC Monologues, an effort to end the silence surrounding violence against women. The event, compiled from anonymously submitted pieces from students, faculty and Sisters of the Holy Cross, entertained nearly 500 people and raised over \$1,000 for the SOS Rape Crisis Center of St. Joseph County.

While the inspiration behind SMC Monologues stems from Eve Ensler's *The Vagina Monologues*, this year's event catered specifically to members of the Saint Mary's community. The mono-

logues told stories regarding sexual violence, sexuality and what it means to be a woman.

"The fact that people at this school experienced these things really opened my eyes to what women face," said junior Nicole Kusack. "You always hear these stories and never think it will happen to you or those around you, but this event really put a face to the issues of violence and sexuality."

Many students felt that the SMC Monologues brought the issue of violence against women into the forefront of women's minds.

"The way they presented them [the monologues] really made you think about relationships in general," said junior Kristin



Saint Mary's students read about sexual violence and sexuality in the SMC Monologues during the weekend.

KELLY HIGGINS/The Observer

see PLAY/page 4

INSIDE COLUMN

High profile

At Notre Dame, perfection is a dirty word.

On a campus teeming with strivers — where every roommate captained his high school baseball team, every professor earned six diplomas and every classmate boasts a wad of AP credits in her silver-ringed fist — the pressure to live up to an ideal is daunting.



Claire Heininger
Editor in Chief

The pursuit of Notre Dame-brand perfection leads students to do everything in extremes. Ace the midterm Wednesday, sneak into the bar

Thursday. Do eight hours of community service Friday, tailgate endlessly Saturday, attend 10 a.m. Mass Sunday. Constantly aiming for perfection wreaks mental and physical tolls that far outweigh the satisfaction of temporarily — and it is always temporarily — reaching it.

But we're talking newspapers. Here perfection seems a little less daunting. After all, our ultimate job is just to tell the truth — how hard can it be?

Very. If there's one thing I've learned during my two and a half years at The Observer, it is that perfecting the truth means different things to different people. To some readers, it's as simple as spelling their names right or capitalizing the third word of their professional title — truth about identity. To others, it is printing a story rife with bias — truth as they see it. To others, it is including perspectives from every single angle in every single article — truth in its impossible entirety. And while I've encountered all these truths and more — through readers' anger and praise, through my own mistakes and triumphs — one instance of one woman's truth sticks out in my mind.

It was early October. Her 68-year old husband died at a home football game on Saturday, and The Observer ran a short story about his collapse on Monday. In my attempt to tell readers the truth, that the man was not famous or affiliated with Notre Dame, I wrote that he "was not a high-profile figure."

It was the worst phrase I have ever written.

I didn't realize it at the time. But two months later, when his wife looked up my address and sent me a Christmas card detailing the man's long, full life — and her immense pain upon reading that her love of 40-plus years was "not high-profile" — I was hit with the weight of my words. Ever since, "true" has taken on a different meaning.

So has "perfect." As I take over today as Editor in Chief, it is tempting to look at The Observer's talented pool of staff and ideas — and at Notre Dame's perfectionism, and my own — and expect to put out a flawless paper every day for the next year. But I have to stop and remind myself that if we are shooting for extremes, there are far more important ones — fairness, consistency, accountability, quality, transparency, compassionate truth — to concentrate on first.

Perfection doesn't even come close.

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

Contact Claire Heininger at cheining@nd.edu

CORRECTION

In the staff editorial in the Feb. 25 edition of The Observer, it incorrectly stated that former players would return to the Joyce Center for the 100th anniversary of men's basketball at Notre Dame on Sunday against UCLA.

That celebration will take place Saturday at the Centennial Gala. The Observer regrets the error.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: IF YOU COULD FIGHT ANYONE IN BENGAL BOUTS, WHO WOULD IT BE AND WHY?



Amber McMillin, Eric Kimbuende
freshman juniors
St. Edward's Farley, Stanford

"Each other, and I would win!"



John Henry III
freshman
St. Edward's

"Charlie Weis — just to see what he's made of!"



Meg Boyle
junior
Badin

"Rachel Polinski! Consider this a challenge. P.S. Craig is coaching me!"



Prince Lowe
junior
Carroll

"Lee Regner because he could not get Carlos Beltran to the Cubs."



Danielle Stealy
junior
Walsh

"Martin Stone, the women's rowing coach. After last week, a swift uppercut would do him some good."



Andrew Collier
junior
Knott

"I would fight a zebrafish because they start talking when you punch them."



CLEMENT SUHENDRA/The Observer

Head football coach Charlie Weis thanked students at the basketball game Sunday for their school spirit. Weis had more than 80 football recruits in town this weekend touring the campus.

OFFBEAT

Japan claims longest overland tunnel

TOKYO — Japan created what engineers here call the world's longest overland tunnel on Sunday, when railway workers blasted through a final layer of rock with a governor and other dignitaries looking on.

The 16.4 mile Hakkoda Tunnel will become part of a new bullet train line under construction to link Tokyo with the northern city of Aomori about 360 miles to the north. The tunnel burrows under Mount Hakkoda in Aomori prefecture.

Local television showed

600 or so people sitting in the ribbon-festooned tunnel as they watched officials press a button to clear the last yard of rock with two large explosions. "This is an incredible feeling, it's an incredible memory," Aomori Gov. Shingo Mimura said.

Coroner wins approval for shrink-wrap machine

BOSTON — Wait 'till next year, Jeter. A New York Yankees fan whose \$2,325 bid won an eBay auction giving him the one-day naming rights to the FleetCenter in Boston wanted to call it the "Derek Jeter Center," after the

Yankee shortstop and captain.

But instead, Manhattan lawyer Kerry Konrad agreed Friday to call it the "Jimmy Fund Center," after a Boston friend and Red Sox fan donated an additional \$6,275 to the charitable effort.

Boston real estate developer Jerry Rappaport Jr. offered to trump his buddy's bid. The total of \$8,600 is in recognition of 86 years between Boston's World Series victories.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

Alan Bewell, professor of English at the University of Toronto, will be giving the lecture "Traveling Natures" Monday from 4:15 p.m. to 5:30 in 220 Malloy Hall. The talk is cosponsored by the Department of English and Nineteenth-Century Contexts: An Interdisciplinary Journal.

Susan Maxman will be giving the lecture "Taking the Long View: Designing for a Sustainable Future" from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 in 104 Bond Hall Monday. The talk to sponsored by the School of Architecture.

Former Illinois Governor George Ryan will give the talk "The Death Penalty: A System of Justice & Reconciliation?" Monday from 7 p.m. to 8:30 in the Decio Mainstage Theatre in the DeBartolo Center for the Performing Arts. Ryan's talk will be followed by the panel discussion "The Death Penalty in Indiana."

Bud Welch, president of Murder Victims Families for Human Rights, will give a presentation entitled "Oklahoma City Bombing: Two Fathers & Forgiveness" Tuesday from 12 p.m. to 1:15 in the Coleman-Morse lounge.

Marvin D'Lugo of Clark University will hold a seminar Thursday in 207 DeBartolo Hall from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30. This seminar is in conjunction with the screening of "La Mala educación/ Bad Education" at 7 p.m. the same evening.

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	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
	HIGH 35 LOW 30	HIGH 25 LOW 19	HIGH 29 LOW 19	HIGH 24 LOW 15	HIGH 35 LOW 22	HIGH 36 LOW 28

Atlanta 53 / 32 Boston 35 / 31 Chicago 37 / 25 Denver 47 / 30 Houston 66 / 47 Los Angeles 67 / 50 Minneapolis 27 / 11 New York 35 / 32 Philadelphia 35 / 31 Phoenix 72 / 52 Seattle 50 / 39 St. Louis 38 / 25 Tampa 72 / 54 Washington 37 / 30

LaVoi studies athletic trends

Director of sports education develops programs for coaches

Special to the Observer

News from the world of sports can be downright depressing these days.

Accusations and confessions of steroid use have run rampant through professional baseball — from New York Yankee first baseman Jason Giambi's reported admission to a grand jury that his once bulky body was artificially acquired, to the unsettling, unsubstantiated and — often — unbelievable charges made by former big-leaguer Jose Canseco in a new book titled "Juiced."

In the NBA, members of the Pacers and Pistons traded punches with each other as well as with Detroit fans, who themselves behaved like barbarians.

And in the league formerly known as the NHL, the greed and short-sightedness of both owners and players has led to a season-long strike.

These and other instances of (mostly) boys behaving badly are enough to make many wonder if the games people play are worth their time and attention.

But not Nicole LaVoi, an assistant professor of psychology and director of sports education programming at Notre Dame. To her, the trouble on and off the fields of play is a challenge.

"As an educator," she says, "I think we can do better, and that we have a responsibility to educate."

For LaVoi, that means developing programs to help adults — primarily coaches and parents — create a positive atmosphere in youth sports leagues. After all, if kids today learn proper sporting behavior from well-trained coaches and parents with perspective, they're less likely to act out in future

athletic endeavors.

"Athletes are in a flawed system, because there is little to no training given to youth coaches for how to provide a nurturing climate for kids," LaVoi said. "If you want to build character and sportsmanship, you have to intentionally create a climate that fosters those attitudes and behaviors. Most youth coaches have no idea how to do that."

"There's a real lack of quality coach education based on social science research in this country. It's amazing, especially when you look at the training given to other people who deal with kids, and then look at the lack of training for coaches."

Parental training is equally important, LaVoi emphasized.

"Spectator behavior is the greatest predictor of good or bad sportsmanship among kids in grades five through eight," she said. "Behavior isn't predicated on what kids believe or think, it's based on what they observe among spectators, and at that age, the spectators are parents."

To address these areas of concern, LaVoi has developed several programs in an educational series called Play Like A Champion Today. One such program is PACT — Parents And Coaches Together — an initiative based on the latest research from developmental and sports psychology. Created in association with the Minnesota Youth Soccer Association, PACT provides coaches and parents with the tools necessary to help young athletes develop character, well-being, satisfaction and — not to be forgotten — strong athletic skills.

"Coaches and parents create a climate that influences young athletes' sport enjoyment and participation," LaVoi said. "Unfortunately, sometimes the climate is toxic, rather than positive and nurturing, which can lead to burnout, dropout, competitive anxiety, loss of self-esteem, and poor sportsmanship."

PACT and other Play Like A

Champion programs emphasize the development of young athletes who pursue winning by focusing on competence in the sport, care and concern for teammates and others, and making good choices.

LaVoi's scholarly interests were borne of her own extensive participation in athletics. A three-sport athlete in high school, she played tennis collegiately at Gustavus Adolphus College in Minnesota, where she was part of the Division III national championship team in her junior year. She went on to coach tennis for six years at Carlton and Wellesley Colleges, then began her pursuit of a doctorate in kinesiology with a focus on sport psychology and sociology.

"I felt strongly that I wanted to coach coaches to do their jobs more effectively," she said. "That became my passion."

LaVoi earned her master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Minnesota and joined the Notre Dame faculty in 2002. She teaches and conducts research in association with the University's Center for Ethical Education and Development, which focuses on educational ethics from the perspectives of sport, schools and media and is a part of the Institute for Educational Initiatives.

In order to keep her own competitive fires burning, LaVoi plays in local women's recreational ice hockey and tennis leagues. She also served as the girls' tennis coach at St. Joseph High School in South Bend in spring 2004, a position that helped her stay on top of the coaching profession as a practitioner.

"I felt that I was losing my edge as to what it's like in the trenches," she said of taking on the coaching duties at St. Joe. "I felt I was becoming irrelevant."

"I strive to keep one foot on the practical side and the other in research. I believe that everything we do needs to have a practical application to it. I don't want to do research just for the sake of research."

Easterday wins Slavic studies regional essay

Special to the Observer

Shelece Easterday, a 2004 graduate of the University of Notre Dame, has been named the Midwest winner of a graduate student essay contest, sponsored by the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies (AAASS).

AAASS is a private, nonprofit organization dedicated to the advancement of knowledge about Russia, Central Eurasia and Eastern Central Europe. There are four AAASS graduate student essay competitions annually, covering the New England, Mid-Atlantic, Midwestern and Rocky Mountain/Western regions.

Each regional competition selects one winner for an outstanding essay by a graduate student in Slavic studies. The con-

test is open to essays that focus on languages, linguistics, history, politics, culture or literature.

Easterday's essay, "Murdering the Muse: The Romantic Poet's Rebellion against the Source of His Inspiration," examines subliminal violence in the male muse in works by John Keats and several Russian Romantic poets. Although the contest's winning essays most often are chapters of dissertations in progress or recently completed by graduate-level students, Easterday composed her essay for an undergraduate course, "Russian Romanticism," in the fall semester of 2003.

The other three winners of the 2004 regional competitions were students of Boston College and Brandeis and Columbia Universities.

Scholarships go up by 10 percent

Special to the Observer

The amount of scholarship aid awarded to undergraduate students by Notre Dame for the current academic year is nearly 10 percent more than what was distributed the previous year and has more than doubled over the last five years, according to an annual report prepared by the University's Office of Student Financial Services.

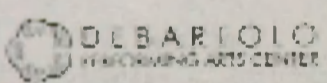
University-administered scholarships — which, unlike loans, are funds that are provided free and clear to students from Notre Dame's financial aid endowment — amount to approximately \$59.4 million this year, some \$5.7 million more than what was awarded to undergraduates in 2003-04. University scholarships for undergradu-

ates have increased by more than 150 percent in the last six years while tuition has grown by 39 percent over the same period.

This year's undergraduate total is 53 percent more than the amount of aid provided in 1999-2000, and 10 times more than the \$5.4 million distributed 15 years ago when scholarship enhancement was targeted by Notre Dame's officers and trustees as their top priority.

Forty-five percent of the current freshman class receives University scholarships amounting to a total of \$15.9 million, representing almost \$2 million above the amount awarded to the previous freshman class.

Notre Dame is providing \$36 million in scholarship support to graduate students, a \$2.4 million increase from the previous year, bringing the total for University-awarded scholarship aid for undergraduate and graduate students to \$95.5 million, an \$8 million increase over 2003-04.

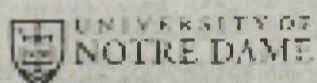


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The 1998 murder of Matthew Shepard has become an icon of intolerance. In response to the brutal event, *The Laramie Project* explores the turbulent sentiments of the residents of Laramie, Wyoming, haunted by the reality that collectively they had raised the sons who could show such hate. It is a story of great sadness, great beauty and, perhaps most importantly, great revelations.

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Keynote Address by former Governor George H. Ryan of Illinois
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Ryan

continued from page 1

In January 2000, Ryan instituted the nation's first moratorium on state executions. He then commuted the sentences of all 167 Illinois death row inmates just before leaving office in 2003.

Many students are anticipating the former governor's visit to campus.

Junior Christy Hanofee believes that Ryan's speech is a good opportunity for students and faculty to gain understanding on the issue of the death penalty.

"At a Catholic university it's good to show support for someone who shares our ideals," Hanofee said.

Freshman Alex Hale, a supporter of the death penalty, does not protest Ryan's lecture. He believes everyone is entitled to their own opinion about the matter.

"Everybody's given their right to decide, and that's fine that [Ryan] chose that," Hale said.

Ryan's lecture, called "The Death Penalty: A System of Justice & Reconciliation?" is part of a series titled "Life in the Balance: Death Penalty Perspectives."

Events continue Tuesday and Wednesday as Bud Welch, president of Murder Victims Families for Human Rights, whose daughter was killed in the Oklahoma City bombing, will speak in the Coleman-Morse lounge at noon Tuesday. A panel discussion entitled "National Debate on the Death Penalty" will take place Wednesday at 4:15 p.m. in the Hesburgh Center Auditorium. Speakers will include Madison Hopley, Dick Dieter and Bill Pelke.

Contact Katie Laird at klaird@nd.edu

Play

continued from page 1

Vokaty. "It was really an eye-opening experience and really makes me realize that these things happen everywhere."

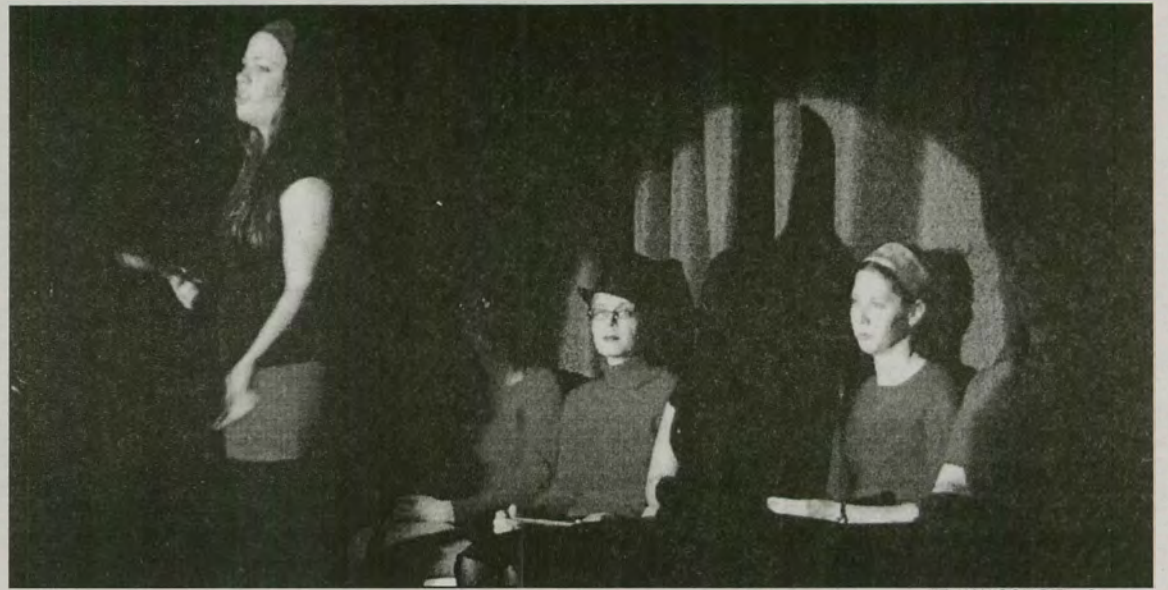
Many audience members were unsure of what to expect from the performance.

"I was a bit nervous going into it because I didn't know what my reaction would be," said Vokaty. "Overall, it just makes you think about real people's experiences and the reality of these serious issues."

The Monologues were met with support from students and administration, Ginger Francis, president of Campus Alliance for Rape Elimination (C.A.R.E.) said.

"It was an emotional roller-coaster, but one that needed to take place," said Francis. "We've heard nothing but positive feedback, and I feel it really brought people closer together."

Although the future of the SMC Monologues is still unknown, there has been interest in publishing the pieces of



KELLY HIGGINS/The Observer

SMC Monologues were met with support on the Saint Mary's campus. Inspiration for the play came from *The Vagina Monologues*, which were performed at Notre Dame last week.

this weekend's performances.

"There has been an overwhelming response to publish the monologues," said Francis. "They really show how amazing Saint Mary's women are; they are intelligent, beautiful and passionate."

An upcoming open panel discussion will allow members of the community to express their own opinions and give feedback to those involved.

"So many people were really impressed and happy with how it turned out," said Francis. "It's

so hard to put the experience into words. It was bigger and better than I could have ever dreamt for."

Contact Danielle Lerner at lern6311@saintmarys.edu

GLBQ

continued from page 1

"It seems as though a lot of people do not realize that homosexuality is present at Notre Dame, and they need to be aware of that," Coleman said.

The events planned were not intended to promote homosexuality, but as the term "awareness week" implies, simply to raise awareness, Coleman said.

"Students will most likely encounter homosexuality in their lives after Notre Dame. Whether they are OK with it or

not, they need to be aware of it," Coleman said.

Both Coleman and Vierig said that while the campus has the reputation of not being overly welcoming to homosexuals, the situation seems to be improving.

"The administration, by allowing this week and the gay film festival, seems to be open to encouraging discourse about this issue and that is encouraging," Coleman said.

The planning committee hopes the week will challenge students to evaluate their beliefs.

"I personally feel that Notre Dame students generally have neutral feelings towards gay,

lesbian and bisexual peers," Vierig said. "We want everyone to feel a welcome part of the Notre Dame family. Holding a certain belief is worthless unless you've challenged it. I hope this week will give students that opportunity — to challenge their beliefs and realize the richness of cultures that make up Notre Dame."

As part of GLBQ week, Michiana performer Bradley Bogaert will speak tonight about his experiences and challenges as a gay man at 7 p.m. in 119 DeBartolo Hall.

On Wednesday, students will wear orange to show support

and solidarity for gay, lesbian, bisexual and questioning students. Theology on Tap will discuss homosexuality within a Catholic context at 10 p.m. at Legends.

Thursday's event will feature free Chinese food in LaFortune Student Center starting at 6 p.m. followed by a screening of the film "In and Out."

The Laramie Project will be performed Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in the DeBartolo Center for the Performing Arts.

Contact Maddie Hanna at mhanna1@nd.edu

Bush

continued from page 1

that NDSP does not comment on "security measures for any special events nor security for any dignitaries."

In his weekly radio address to the nation, the president said he

will be visiting Indiana this week, according to a transcript on the White House Web site.

Bush last visited the state during his presidential campaign in May, when he spoke in South Bend as part of a Michigan-Ohio swing. The president served as Notre Dame's commencement speaker in 2001, and has visited the area six times since 2000.

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The Riley Prize in Art History and Criticism

The Department of Art, Art History and Design is pleased to announce its annual competition for the Riley Prize in Art History and Criticism.

Current Notre Dame undergraduate and graduate students are invited to submit essays on any topic in the history of art or art criticism for consideration in the competition. Essays must deal with the visual arts. They may have been written in conjunction with a course taken at the University, but need not have been.

Rules governing the competition are available in the Art Department Office, 306 Riley Hall.

Two copies of the submission must be delivered to the Art Department Office by 3:00 PM, Monday, March 21st to be eligible.

A student may only submit ONE entry.

WORLD & NATION

Monday, February 28, 2005

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

page 5

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Fourteen die in rebel ambush

KATMANDU, Nepal — Suspected communist rebels in southern Nepal ambushed an army truck, shot a police chief and attacked villagers Sunday, killing at least 14 people a day after lifting a highway blockade that crippled the flow of essential supplies in protest of the king's recent power grab.

The rebels ambushed an army truck carrying soldiers on patrol near Patlaiya, about 160 miles south of Katmandu, killing eight of them, police said.

Another 10 soldiers were injured and taken to hospitals, a spokesman at the army headquarters in Katmandu said.

In nearby Butwal, suspected rebels fatally shot the town's police chief and his assistant before escaping.

Saddam's half-brother handed over

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Iraqi officials said Sunday that Syria captured and handed over Saddam Hussein's half brother, a most-wanted leader in the Sunni-based insurgency, ending months of Syrian denials that it was harboring fugitives from the ousted Saddam regime.

Iraq authorities said Damascus acted in a gesture of goodwill.

Sabawi Ibrahim al-Hassan, who shared a mother with Saddam, was nabbed along with 29 other fugitive members of the former dictator's Baath Party in Hasakah in northeastern Syria, 30 miles from the Iraqi border, the officials said on condition of anonymity. The U.S. military in Iraq had no immediate comment.

NATIONAL NEWS

Hahn's re-election bid tainted

LOS ANGELES — Mayor James Hahn's re-election bid has suffered — along with the image of honesty he worked hard to cultivate — amid accusations he let corruption and fraud flourish at City Hall.

County prosecutors have been investigating allegations that Hahn supporters shook down companies that wanted to do business with the city by tying public contracts to political contributions.

Federal prosecutors have opened their own inquiry.

Hahn has not been implicated and denies knowledge of any potential wrongdoing, but the investigations touch whole segments of city government — from members of Hahn's inner circle to Los Angeles International Airport and the water and power department.

Police arrest suspected BTK killer

PARK CITY, Kan. — Dennis Rader, the man police believe is the BTK serial killer, hid for more than 30 years in plain sight.

He lived in this suburb of Wichita, the city he is suspected of terrorizing, with a wife and two children. He led a Cub Scout troop and was active in his Lutheran church.

As an ordinance enforcement officer for the local government, he once measured grass in a front yard with a tape measure to see if it was too long, a neighbor said.

On Saturday, police identified Rader as a suspect in the BTK killings and announced an end to their 31-year manhunt.

LOCAL NEWS

Bidders snag pieces of the good life

A cigar cutter shaped like a guillotine sold for \$250. A 1956 Ford Thunderbird convertible once owned by Madonna was the biggest sale at \$53,500.

They were among items from the land of the wealthy up for grabs Saturday at the Hilbert auction in Carmel. Hundreds of bidders ratcheted up prices while competing against one another and an Internet audience.

The day's auction attracted more than 1,000 people and unfolded in the sports barn and on the grounds of the \$25 million estate of Stephen Hilbert, co-founder and former chief executive of Conseco Inc.

ISRAEL

Sharon to halt peace efforts

Palestinians must take action against terror or peace moves will not progress

Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said Sunday that peace efforts with the Palestinians would be frozen if they do not crack down on militant groups in the wake of a weekend suicide bombing that killed four Israelis outside a Tel Aviv nightclub.

Friday's attack and its aftermath broke two weeks of relative calm and strained recently warming relations between the Israelis and Palestinians following the election of moderate Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas last month. Dozens of people were wounded in the bombing.

There were conflicting accounts as to who was responsible for the attack. Islamic Jihad, a Palestinian militant group with leadership in Lebanon and Syria, claimed responsibility Saturday after first denying any connection to the bombing.

Abbas blamed the attack on a "third party," which other Palestinian officials said was the Lebanese guerrilla group Hezbollah, which is backed by Syria and Iran. Hezbollah denied the accusation.

A senior Israeli military official said Hezbollah had nothing to do with the attack but was vigorously working to carry out other attacks on Israel. Police remained on heightened alert throughout the country Sunday.

Sharon blamed the attack on Islamic Jihad militants, working on the orders of their leaders in Syria. Syria denied involvement.

Abbas has resisted Israel's previous demands to crack down, saying he preferred instead to use persuasion to end the militant attacks.

Israeli officials had said they would not pressure him as long as things



Mourners gather around the casket of Yael Orbach during her funeral. Orbach, 28, was killed on Friday by a Palestinian suicide bomber.

remained quiet, but Sharon demanded Sunday that Abbas carry out an immediate operation against Islamic Jihad.

"The state of Israel is interested in moving toward an agreement with the Palestinians, but there will be no progress politically, and I repeat no political progress, until the Palestinians carry out a determined campaign to destroy the terrorist groups and their infrastructure," Sharon said.

Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qureia said the Palestinians want to continue the track begun earlier this month at a regional summit in Egypt's Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheik, where both sides

declared a cessation of violence.

"If Israel wants to cut off contacts with the Palestinians it will be its own decision and we will not cry," Qureia said. "But we say that there is an opportunity begun in Sharm el-Sheik and we want to develop this effort."

In Ramallah, Palestinian leaders decided Sunday to postpone an upcoming meeting in Egypt with radical Palestinian groups, which was to focus on firming up a cease-fire with Israel and on Palestinian reforms, Palestinian Deputy Prime Minister Nabil Shaath said.

The meeting, with eight radical groups, was originally scheduled for March

5. Shaath did not give a reason for the delay, saying only that it was postponed "due to domestic issues" and "we are now working to set a new date."

Islamic Jihad was one of the groups invited to the conference.

Israeli military officials said Sunday they received information a month ago that the cell behind Friday's bombing was planning an attack and passed it along to Palestinian officials, who did nothing.

Israel also threatened Syria, with Deputy Defense Minister Zeev Boim saying Israel would not hesitate to target its longtime enemy if it believed that would stop Damascus-based groups from attacking.

Opening statements set for Jackson trial

Associated Press

SANTA MARIA, Calif. — More than a year after stunned fans watched authorities arrest Michael Jackson and charge him with molesting a 13-year-old boy at his Neverland Ranch, prosecution and defense lawyers on Monday finally get to outline their cases to a jury.

Opening statements will preview the essence of the trial — whether Jackson gave wine to the young cancer patient and then touched him inappropriately.

Both sides have compelling stories to tell, but the credibility of the boy, now 15, and his family likely will

determine the outcome.

"You will see two different trials in opening statements," said Loyola University law professor Laurie Levenson, "the prosecution's case against Michael Jackson and the defense case against the boy's mother."

The prosecution's story depicts a poor family whose stricken son wanted to meet one of his idols.

The child's wish was granted, but the prosecution claims it turned into a nightmare of sexual abuse and imprisonment at Jackson's fairy tale home in the coastal mountains 170 miles north of Los Angeles.

The defense narrative casts Jackson

as the target of a money-hungry mother who coached her son to spin stories when it looked like their celebrity benefactor would cut them off.

The defense will present evidence that the mother has sued others with claims of abuse.

"The bigger the star, the bigger the target," Jackson said during a recent television interview with Geraldo Rivera, suggesting his defense.

Though Jackson's star has waned on stage, his legacy and showmanship still generate a global audience.

Jackson's lawyer suggested to jurors that celebrities such as Elizabeth Taylor and Stevie Wonder would testify on behalf of the pop star.

Bouts

continued from page 1

request of Pope Pius IX. Now the Holy Cross missionaries are responsible for many projects including school construction and maintenance of wells and other sanitary facilities. The hallmark of the Bangladesh missions is education programs. Missionaries build village schools and provide education for catechists and village teachers in a predominantly Muslim

state.

Returning boxing alumni have a series of scheduled events for the finals weekend. A welcome reception in the stadium press box kicks off the weekend on March 18. On Saturday, a boxing room open house, mass in the JACC auxiliary gym, cocktails in the JACC concourse and a banquet in the JACC monogram room all lead up to the final rounds starting at 8 p.m.

Contact Lisa Schultz at lschultz@nd.edu

Aware

continued from page 1

Freel Landry, pastoral associate at Little Flower Parish involved in organizing the awareness week.

Landry said that the death penalty debate was tied deeply to Catholicism.

"To be human, in the deepest part of our hearts, is to seek reconciliation. I believe that's the mission of the Church, to seek reconciliation with all people and with God," Landry said.

Kate Leahy, chair of Notre Dame Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty and member of the week's planning committee, said the week was crucial in order to stimulate discussion and critical thought among students.

"I think we all see some kind of 'cosmic' sort of justice in the death penalty," Leahy said. "I think events like this are important to show that there are all kinds of reasons we should get rid of it — moral, economic and legal."

Regarding the Catholic perspective, Leahy said that recent events where Pope John Paul II has spoken out against the death penalty directly impact Notre Dame students.

"I personally consider these events part of our duty to build that consensus [to end the death penalty]," Leahy said.

According to theology professor Todd David Whitmore, the Pope's statements regarding the death penalty have become increasingly "rigorous."

"While the prospect of the death penalty isn't closed outright, the Pope says he can't see any situation when it would be necessary," Whitmore said.

Whitmore said that with the possibility of life without parole, "it seems that society is duly protected."

Although the Pope has made his opinion on the death penalty clear, Whitmore said that he feels many Catholics simply ignore his beliefs.

"I think most Catholics are aware of the Pope's stance — I think they just fail to live up to

their Christian vocation," Whitmore said. "Vengeance is still winning out."

A Gallup Poll in October 2004 found 66 percent of Americans in favor of the death penalty, a drop from 80 percent in 1994.

This drop in support is primarily due to new DNA testing techniques that found some people innocent after being sentenced to death row, political science professor David Campbell said.

"Public opinion on most issues doesn't really change much over time, but the death penalty happens to be an exception to that," Campbell said.

Campbell said there has been a fair amount of variability in public opinion towards the death penalty in the past 50 years, largely related to crime rates.

However, despite these shifts in opinion, Campbell noted that at no point were a majority of Americans not in favor of the death penalty, which is currently practiced in 38 states.

"I would be surprised if public opinion in the U.S., at least in our lifetimes, changes against the death penalty," Campbell said.

In the near future Americans could expect to see greater protections instilled making it more difficult to execute and changes to the appeals process, Campbell said.

Whitmore said that while the death penalty is contentious, there is not as much debate on the topic as he thinks there should be.

"In some respects, I wish it [the death penalty] were more contentious," he said. "I wish more Catholics would follow the Pope in his judgment about the lack of any need for the death penalty and be more vocal about that."

According to Death Penalty Awareness Week organizers, this is the first time an event like this has occurred on campus. Speeches and panel discussions featuring the death penalty will continue through Wednesday.

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Pope makes surprise appearance



While Pope John Paul II made a surprise appearance at Rome's Gemelli Polyclinic hospital, Palestinian Christians receive communion at the Church of the Nativity, the said birthplace of Christ.

Associated Press

VATICAN CITY — Touching his throat fitted with a breathing tube, Pope John Paul II on Sunday made a surprise first public appearance after surgery, appearing at his hospital window just moments after a Vatican official stood on the steps of St. Peter's Basilica to read the pontiff's appeal for prayers.

The 84-year-old pope did not speak during his one-minute greeting from Rome's Gemelli Polyclinic hospital, but sent an implicit and powerful message about his determination to maintain continuity in the church.

The appearance — in which the seated pope waved and appeared alert — raised hopes he was making progress following a tracheotomy Thursday to ease a breathing crisis. The Vatican had previously announced John Paul would skip his weekly blessing — a 26-year tradition he did not miss even after he was shot in 1981 and recovered from an opera-

tion in 1992.

The Vatican's undersecretary of state, Archbishop Leonardo Sandri, read a message from the pope while standing between the towering statues of St. Peter and St. Paul outside the basilica.

"Dear brothers and sisters, once again I address you from the Agostino Gemelli Polyclinic," Sandri told about 5,000 people in the square, relaying the pope's message as a chill wind picked up. White drapes were drawn over the window where the pope often gives his weekly address.

"I thank you with affection and feel you all spiritually near," Sandri said on behalf of the pontiff. "I think of you gathered in St. Peter's Square, alone and in groups that have come, and to all those from every part of the world who are interested in me. I ask you to continue to accompany me, above all with your prayers."

Minutes later — at the hospital 2 1/2 miles away — curtains were pulled back from the pope's 10th-floor suite. He was wheeled to the closed window

as the Vatican's No. 2 official, Cardinal Angelo Sodano, stood alongside. A Vatican photographer in the room snapped pictures.

The pope, wearing his usual white robe, waved with his right hand and made signs of the cross to about 200 people on the hospital grounds. He then touched his throat, but neither the tube nor other signs of the operation were visible. His gestures were strong and he appeared in good form.

"Suddenly, I saw a flash and then his hand that was making a blessing," said Elena Marzullo, of Rome.

Young Catholics chanted "JP Two, we love you!" Among them was 4-year-old Rocco Casillo, who carried a heart-shaped drawing with the words, "Go for it, granddad Karol," using the pope's Polish first name.

The appearance was the clearest sign the pope has made strides since surgery. But how far and lasting a recovery remain central questions. The next official health update was expected Monday.



Finlen, you're 21. No need to secret drink anymore. See you in the Shaggin' wagon.

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S&P 500	1,211.37	+11.17
NIKKEI(Tokyo)	11,658.25	+127.10
FTSE 100(London)	5,006.80	+37.40

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
NASDAQ 100TR SER I (QQQQ)	-7.71	+0.21	37.62
MICROSOFT CP (MSFT)	-0.47	-0.12	25.25
INTEL CP (INTC)	+1.65	+0.39	24.09
YAHOO INC (YHOO)	+0.79	+0.25	31.73
CISCO SYS INC (CSCO)	+0.12	+0.02	17.20

Treasuries			
30-YEAR BOND	-0.45	-0.21	46.42
10-YEAR NOTE	-0.21	-0.09	42.72
5-YEAR NOTE	+0.15	+0.06	39.01
3-MONTH BILL	+1.44	+0.38	26.75

Commodities		
LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl.)	+0.10	51.49
GOLD (\$/Troy oz.)	+0.40	436.10
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)	+0.85	88.60

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YEN	105.2200
EURO	0.7548
POUND	0.5200
CANADIAN \$	1.2385

IN BRIEF

Paper shredding to see new growth

FORT WAYNE, Ind. — Northeastern Indiana companies that shred documents are looking forward to a federal law designed to prevent identity theft that takes effect this summer.

The Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act of 2003 requires businesses to destroy employee and consumer records containing personal information instead of simply tossing documents in the trash.

Martin Yale Industries Inc., a Wabash company that manufactures shredders and other office supplies, expects its shredder business to increase 10 percent to 15 percent this year, said Mark Knuth, executive vice president of operations.

The company, a subsidiary of Wabash-based Escalade Inc., had \$81 million in worldwide sales in 2004. Martin Yale employs 115 in Wabash and about 250 worldwide.

Knuth expects the growth to come primarily from small businesses and consumers buying smaller, less expensive shredders. Most large companies already had a shredding system in place or prepared in advance for the law, which takes effect June 1.

The law is designed to help reduce identity theft, which victimizes about 10 million Americans each year, according to the Federal Trade Commission.

Wal-Mart workers reject union

LOVELAND, Colo. — Nearly 20 Wal-Mart workers voted against union representation Friday, rejecting a proposal that would have established the first union inside any of the retailer's stores in the country.

A union spokesman who announced the 17-1 vote said the group will ask to have the results thrown out, saying no union member was allowed to observe the election at a Wal-Mart Tire & Lube Express. The spokesman said Wal-Mart added employees to the unit to dilute the strength of union supporters.

Wal-Mart had objected to even holding the vote, saying the Tire & Lube Express was not a stand-alone operation but only a department of the larger store.

The vote by workers in Loveland was supervised by the regional office of the National Labor Relations Board, which rejected an appeal by company executives to prevent it.

Wall Street no longer favors radio

iPods and commercial-free satellite broadcasts slow profits and growth of industry

Associated Press

NEW YORK — For years, investors loved the radio business. Its sky-high profits margins were among the best in the media industry and changes in ownership rules a decade ago triggered a wave of merger deals. Prospects for growth seemed great.

These days, Wall Street would rather hear something else. Growth in advertising has slowed, listeners seem to be switching off their radios in favor of iPods, and a new threat is emerging from commercial-free channels offered by satellite radio.

This week, media giant Viacom Inc. disclosed that it wrote down the value of its radio business by \$11 billion and the nation's largest radio chain, Clear Channel Communications Inc., said it lost \$4.7 billion in the fourth quarter, mostly due to an accounting charge.

Industry observers say many of the problems reflect the industry's focus on profits and Wall Street, rather than consumers. Specifically, they point to cost-cutting that compromised the quality of programming, and a tendency to put more advertising on the air, alienating listeners with what's known as advertising "clutter."

In the boom years of the late 1990s, radio stations benefited from the surge in advertising from Internet companies, and many increased the amount of ad time, or "inventory," as it's called in the industry, to accommodate the surging demand.

"It was a boom time," said Tom Taylor, the editor of Inside Radio, an industry magazine owned by Clear Channel. "Then came the bust." Despite a big dropoff in demand for radio ads since then, Taylor says, "There's way too much inventory out there."

Radio revenues are now



San Antonio-based Clear Channel reported a loss of \$4.7 billion in the fourth quarter of 2004. All losses were due to an accounting change to comply with federal regulations.

edging higher, but nothing like the growth they enjoyed in the 1990's. Last year, radio advertising inched up 2 percent, and in 2003 it rose just 1 percent, according to figures from the Radio Advertising Bureau.

In order to beef up its own radio portfolio, Viacom, which had come under criticism for running its stations too leanly, is selling off stations that aren't in the top 20 markets and investing more money into the ones that it's keeping. Viacom also owns CBS, MTV and the Paramount movie studio.

Meanwhile, San Antonio-based Clear Channel is trying to curtail clutter by

reducing ads each hour by about 20 percent, cutting the amount of traditional 60-second spots and selling more 30-second spots, and charging more for them.

Clear Channel acknowledges that it will likely take a short-term financial hit for its "Less Is More" program, but it says the strategy will pay off in the long run by bringing listeners back. "We know that shorter-length commercials work," John Hogan, chief executive of Clear Channel Radio, told analysts on a conference call Friday to discuss the company's quarterly earnings.

A federal rule change in 1996 led to a wave of merger activity, leaving

2,000 of the nation's 12,000 stations — many in large markets — concentrated in the hands of a small group of public companies.

"The industry started running its business for the analysts and investor community, rather than its listeners," said Ed Christian, the CEO of Saga Communications Inc., a publicly held company in Grosse Pointe Farms, Mich.-based that owns about 80 stations. "It led to buying because you were rewarded for buying."

Yet even as Clear Channel and Viacom address their own issues, external threats are creeping closer.

Bank of America loses data tapes

Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Bank of America Corp. has lost computer data tapes containing personal information on 1.2 million federal employees, including some members of the U.S. Senate.

The lost data includes Social Security numbers and account information that could make customers of a federal government charge card program vulnerable to identity theft.

Sen. Pat Leahy, D-Vt., is among those senators whose personal information is on the missing tapes, spokeswoman Tracy Schmalzer said.

"There were some senators' Visa credit card accounts involved,"

Schmalzer said. "We don't know how many, but he was one of them."

The bank issued an apology.

"We deeply regret this unfortunate incident," said Barbara Desoer, who is in charge of technology, service and fulfillment for the Charlotte-based bank.

"The privacy of customer information receives the highest priority at Bank of America, and we take our responsibilities for safeguarding it very seriously."

Leahy has been a leader of calls this week for a Senate Judiciary Committee inquiry into whether more regulation of companies that buy and sell personal data is needed.

That came after the disclosure that

ChoicePoint Inc., a data warehouse, had learned that as many as 140,000 consumers may have had their personal information compromised.

"I hope this latest incident at least will bring the issue closer to home so Congress will pay better attention to the rapid erosion of privacy rights that ordinary Americans are facing as more and more of their personal and financial information is collected and sold on databases that too often have too few privacy protections," Leahy said in a statement Friday.

U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., said he was told the data backup tapes were likely stolen off of a commercial plane by baggage handlers in December.

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Bush's media policy mirrors Putin's

President George W. Bush and Russian President Vladimir Putin may have finally found something in common.

Anyone who tuned in to last week's diplomatic talks between the two world leaders at the Eastern European "oasis" of Bratislava, Slovakia, would have probably noticed the cold, sober tone with which both men conducted themselves, due in large part to the long history of disagreement between the two nations in most areas of global policy. However, in his now-customary efforts to advocate the proliferation of American democracy throughout the world, Bush may have accidentally stumbled upon one area of domestic policy in which Russia and America actually bear striking similarities — "freedom" of the press.

On Thursday, Bush offered a vague attack on the democratic values of Putin's state when he said, "Democracies have certain things in common. They have a rule of law and protection of minorities, a free press and a viable political opposition." All gripes over proper definitions of democracy aside, though, these hypocritical comments did at least prompt a Russian journalist to ask Putin why he didn't challenge Bush and "talk a lot about violations of the rights of journalists in the United States, about the fact that some journalists have been fired."

How, then, did our noble president respond to this attack on the integrity of the democratic ideals of his proud nation? As far as I'm concerned, he lied. "I don't know what journalists you are referring to," he said, then turned toward the American reporters in the audience and disrespectfully joked, "Any of you still have your jobs?"

I guess he was lucky that Matt Cooper of Time magazine and Judy Miller of The New York Times were not in the audience. Thanks to conservative pundit Robert Novak and a Justice Department infringement upon freedom of the press, they certainly don't still have their jobs. I guess he was lucky that Mary Mapes of CBS News was not present either. This hero of the

Abu Ghraib prison scandal is now collecting unemployment checks because she and Dan Rather questioned the president's dubious military history. Without a doubt, these were the journalists to whom the Russian reporter was referring, and unless Bush hasn't been keeping up on the news in his own country, I'm pretty sure he was aware of this, too.

It's unfortunate, though, that the criticisms of Putin's direct control over the Russian news were not met with a similar question about the White House's authoritarian involvement in the American media. Perhaps this would have helped strengthen ties and further peace between the two world leaders, because it certainly would have highlighted an issue in which they have something in common. While Putin puppeteers news organizations like Channel One, Russia TV and NTV, Bush controls a few media marionettes of his own — namely Armstrong Williams, Maggie Gallagher, "Jeff Gannon" and probably a few more to be named later.

In case you have forgotten, Williams is the syndicated columnist and television commentator who was bribed \$240,000 by Bush's Department of Education to promote the president's learning initiatives to the public. Likewise, Gallagher is the syndicated columnist who was bribed \$21,500 by Bush's Department of Health and Human Services to endorse the president's traditional-marriage proposals. Finally, "Gannon" is the alias-using, softball-tossing conservative "reporter" who was repeatedly admitted entrance into White House press briefings under a false name so that he could ask Bush easy

questions that would not challenge the poor president's Yale-educated intellect. If you ask me, this kind of authoritarian media manipulation would be enough to get even Stalin, Castro and Mussolini: to admit, "This Bush guy is GOOD!"

How, then, can the president of the United States of America justify dropping bombs around the world over innocent civilians in the name of democracy? He himself admitted that the key to a democratic state is the preservation of "a free press," yet while he was busy dipping the fingers of free Iraqi voters in purple ink, he was also restricting the freedoms of American voters by regulating what was printed in the black ink of their newspapers. And there you have it. Only in America could a man wage a war in the name of democracy abroad while simultaneously waging a war against democracy at home ...

and get away with it. Kim Jong-Il of North Korea never had the world's respect because of the nonexistent free media of his home country. Putin continues to lose the same respect because his iron fist is squeezing tighter and tighter around the last remaining vestiges of free and independent news in Russia. And Bush? He was rewarded with a resounding reelection victory and an overwhelming mandate for a second term in office.

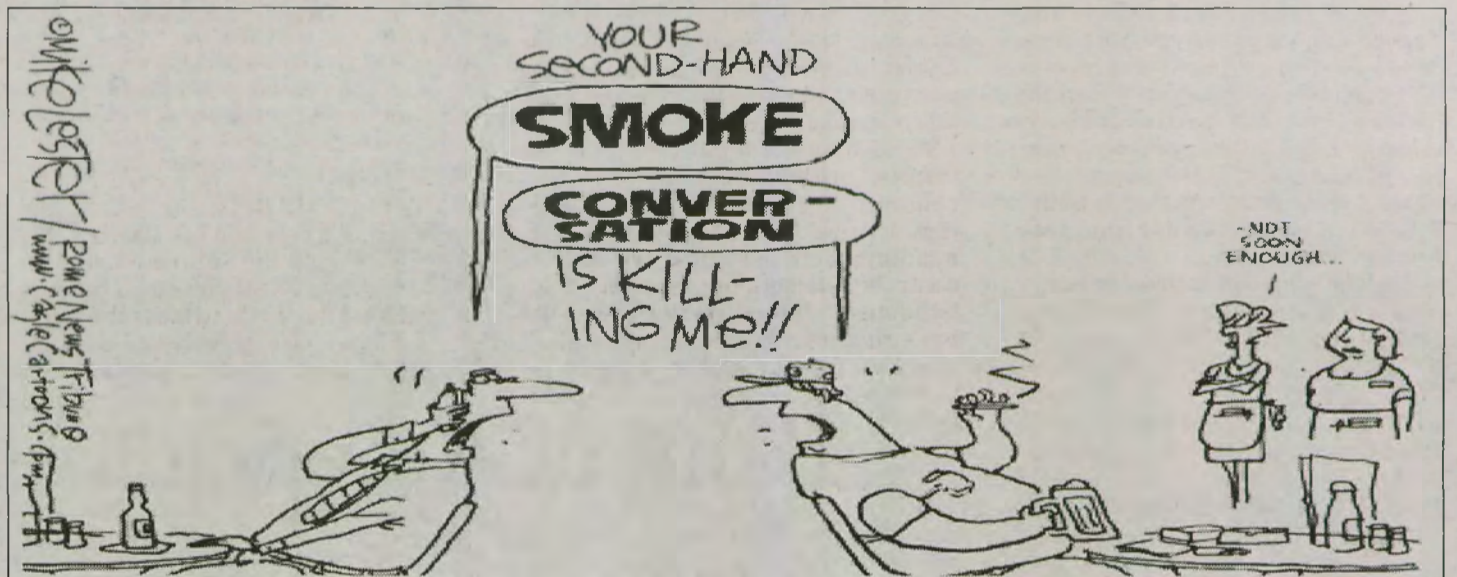
Or at least that's what I heard on Fox News.

Joey Falco is a sophomore American Studies major. He can be contacted at jfalco@nd.edu.

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



EDITORIAL CARTOON



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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"True heroism is remarkably sober, very undramatic. It is not the urge to surpass all others at whatever cost, but the urge to serve others, at whatever cost."

Arthur Ashe
professional athlete

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ND civil engineer dispels 'myths'



The destruction of the World Trade Center (WTC) towers had an emotional impact on everyone. As structural engineers, we too felt the pain of the lives taken, those who gave their lives in service and the loss of a great achievement. It has come to our attention that "conspiracy theories" regarding the collapse of the WTC are being perpetuated on the Internet by individuals who are not structural engineers. As students of the art, we would like to present a few facts to dispel some of these "myths."

On Feb. 23, Leslie Robertson, structural engineer for the WTC, gave a presentation entitled "The Merging of Structural Engineering and Architecture." The WTC was not the subject of his talk, though he generously answered a question regarding tall structures and terrorism. In his opinion, modern structures should not be designed to withstand intentional aircraft impacts. No amount design would yield a structure that is both 100 percent indestructible and cost effective.

The following comments are our response to the letter to the editor entitled "Sept. 11 collapses not explained," which appeared on Feb. 24.

The WTC was constructed according to national standards and codes in place during its design. The original analysis considered the impact of a Boeing 707. However, the assumption was that the plane would not be fully fueled, would be low flying and would not have the intent of crashing into the building (as in 1945 when a B-25 bomber crashed into the Empire State building under similar circumstances).

The fires that occurred in the WTC were initially sparked by jet fuel, which ignited other sources (desks, carpet, etc.). In 2004, NIST recreated the conditions and found temperatures reaching 1800 degrees Fahrenheit. The steel used in construction was tested under ASTM E119 (a controlled laboratory test, not a certification procedure) and could withstand such temperatures without melting. However, temperatures of

this magnitude would cause the steel to undergo thermal expansion, deforming under the existing load. Deformations from thermal expansion create extremely large stresses in the entire assembly, which would cause connections to fail.

The design of the WTC was revolutionary. It consisted of an outer tube around an inner core. The inner core was not designed to withstand wind loads. It was designed to carry gravity loads from the floor system. This "truss theory" supposedly states that the floor system rigidly connected the outer tube to the inner core. In reality, the floor system was not rigidly connected because the core was not designed to withstand the loads imparted on the outer structure. The failure of the WTC was a result of the compromised outer tube undergoing large thermal stresses.

The collapse of the WTC was a result of progressive failures. Many believe visual evidence of the buildings collapsing vertically indicates the buildings were brought down by a controlled demolition. In reality, the buildings collapsed vertically because the structure could no longer withstand the force of gravity. There were no other forces on the building at the time to cause it to fall any other way.

The FEMA report is comprehensive and does not represent a government conspiracy. Conspiracy theorists who state that the FEMA report is wrought with lies serve only to harm the reputation of engineers who went beyond the call of duty on Sept. 11 and since. What should be remembered about the WTC is that it withstood the initial impact so that thousands of people could evacuate.

The FEMA report can be found at <http://www.fema.gov/library/wtcstudy.shtm>.

The NIST report can be found at <http://wtc.nist.gov/>.

Kyle Butler
 Graduate Student
 Structural Engineering Graduate Students of Notre Dame
 CE 461/561 Structural Systems Class
 Feb. 27

Academic controversies merit discussion

An important, revealing and highly entertaining pair of controversies has recently erupted in the world of academia recently, and from what I can tell, there has been little mention of either so far in these pages, so I would like to take the honor myself.

The first involves a professor at the University of Colorado, a man named Ward Churchill. He teaches in one of the "studies" departments, home of all that is serious, intellectually rigorous and objective. It turns out he lied to get his job and is quite unqualified even to teach in a "studies" department, but that is not the story. Churchill made some comments likening the victims of the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11 to "little Eichmanns," as well as some other quite noxious and hurtful remarks. He did not quite say "God bless those terrorists" — no good liberal would say "God bless" in regard to anyone, even terrorists. But he made it clear that between the terrorists who hijacked the planes and the people who died at their jobs that terrible morning, the bad guys were the folks in the towers, not the ones in the cockpits.

Meanwhile, one Lawrence Summers, president of Harvard, was participating in a discussion about women in the sciences. He suggested some possible reasons why the very highest level in the fields of math, science and engineering are so male-dominated. He dared to cite innate differences of aptitude as one of the possible reasons. He did not say women are dumber, less stable or inferior in any way, though the hysterical reaction of feminists to his comments might make one think they are.

What I find so amusing and so telling is not either of these controversies alone (though watching

Summers grovel and abase himself is sort of fun), but rather the contrast in reactions to them within academia. Around Churchill, the faculty wagons have circled. Some schools have actually invited him to come speak. Professors warn of a "chilling effect" if Churchill is disciplined at all for his hateful rhetoric. Meanwhile, Summers is being torn to pieces, not only at Harvard, but in the New York Times and other liberal outlets. He will probably lose his job. So the lesson seems to be: praise terrorists and insult their dead victims, fine — academic freedom, after all; suggest there may be some natural differences between men and women, and you are unspeakably evil and ignorant. So what if there is ample scientific evidence validating the idea that while women are in general better at verbal skills (somehow nobody throws a temper tantrum at this suggestion), men tend to be better at the sort of abstract reasoning central to fields like math and physics. Never mind — the modern American university is no longer a place where the truth is sought, but where agendas are forwarded. I noticed that this paper did a recent series of excellent reports on faculty bias. I encountered too many examples of such bias as an undergraduate to remember, certainly too many to list here. This bias is also one issue conservatives have been whining about for years. This parallel set of controversies could not have been dreamed up any better by any arch-conservative to reveal the depth of that bias. It is certainly relevant to anyone considering an academic career, and it should be of interest to anyone in college.

David Morse
 Class of '99
 Feb. 27

Democracy grows in Middle East

While reading Gary Caruso's column in an Army Morale, Recreation and Welfare (MWR) facility in Baghdad, I could only chuckle at his indignation at a camera angle and his offering of a couple of now-tired jabs at the states of Florida and the Supreme Court.

Caruso, I wish you could be over here right now to see what I'm seeing. It was my honor to witness the birth of democracy in Iraq when on Jan. 30, 8 million Iraqis bravely and proudly stood in line to tell the insurgents that a new Iraq was born. I wish you could see the new hospitals, schools, and businesses that are springing up daily. But mostly, Caruso, I wish you could see the hope of the Iraqi people. It's infectious. It's the dream that life will be better, that the era of fear is headed for the history books, that Iraq will finally be able to regain its place in the pantheon of nations that it has been prevented from entering for so many decades — often because of the complacency or outright collusion of the Europe you so desperately want us to mend fences with.

Amazingly too, this hope has not been confined to Iraq. In the last several weeks, we have been watching the embers of democracy catch hold throughout the Middle East. These are tenuous fires to be sure and they might still be blown out, but from Egypt to Saudi Arabia to Lebanon to Palestine, people are looking to Iraq and saying, "If they can do it there, why can't we do it here?" In each of those countries, we have seen the people demand from their governments greater freedoms and a seat at the table of democracy. The Middle East is at a crossroads and those crossroads do not run through Paris.

If the price of this historic and amazing shift towards democracy throughout the Middle East is a few insulted Europeans, that's a price I'm willing to pay. More importantly, the people of the Middle East are showing us that it's a price they are willing to pay as well.

Christopher J. DesBarres
 Class of '03
 Baghdad, Iraq
 Feb. 27

DEAD MAN WALKING

By CHRISTIE BOLSEN
Scene Writer

After committing heinous crimes and sauntering around the Philbin Studio Theatre without remorse, it's hard for a death row inmate like Matt Poncelet to gain the sympathy of a nun. It's even harder for audience members to muster any sympathy.

So why were so many of them crying at the end of "Dead Man Walking?"

The experimental performance, based on the novel and movie by Sister Helen Prejean and adapted by Tim Robbins, plunges the viewer into a morass of emotions in two intense hours. The play is performed as a semi-staged reading where the cast members sit in a circle of chairs, with the audience seated around them. The format emphasizes the raw human emotions of everyone involved in capital punishment cases.

"Dead Man Walking" is being performed as part of the Spring ArtsFest: Tolerance and Reconciliation, a two-week presentation of music, film, theatre and discussion. The ArtsFest also includes the production of "The Laramie Project."

Prejean (Siiri Scott) begins by talking about how she came to be a penal for death row inmate Poncelet (Mike Dolson). Prejean's work with the disadvantaged makes this a natural extension of her work, since the death row inmates are all too poor to be able to afford good legal counsel. The lights go down as Poncelet's letter in response to Prejean is read. In the letter he describes how he doesn't receive letters or visitors.

Poncelet's first appearance when Prejean visits him in his cell is an unpleasant scene. Dolson perfectly captures his character, who is unlikely from the start. The audience has vague information about his crimes of murder and rape. As the story unfolds more of the grisly details are revealed, but even before the bodies of the young victims are described there is a disturbing and horrible quality about Poncelet.

Dolson felt that this was an essential aspect of presenting the conflict in the debate, and that it is better for viewers if they're not quite sure how they feel in the end.

"You wouldn't have learned in the same way if you came and it was just an attempt to be very sympathetic," Dolson said of his character's relationship with the audience. "You

should be torn about the character at the end."

Given the publicity surrounding his case, Prejean is understandably bombarded from all sides by people who question her motives for becoming involved with such a brutal convict. She herself admits to feeling trapped in a way, and is not able to explain fully why she has to help him. His first appearances evoke no sympathy—even when he speaks of his young daughter in foster care, his offensive language about her mother and his frequent racial slurs turn the audience away emotionally.

"Do I scare you?" he asks Prejean. He might as well be addressing the audience too.

The more explicit description about his crimes that follows drives the point home about what kind of person Poncelet is. Words and lines overlap and mingle as several readers speak at once about the violent killings of a 17-year-old girl and an 18-year-old boy. The lives of the young couple, who were shot in the head, raped, kidnapped and repeatedly stabbed, seem not to affect him.

The first time Poncelet lets down his guard is when the state begins to usher in an age of lethal injection as opposed to the electric chair. He calls Prejean because she is all he has, raising the issue about the fairness of a legal system where it seems poor people accused of crimes don't stand a chance in court. His concern for his mother is another gradually revealed indication that he has a heart—he insists that she cannot be in court because it will tear her apart.

Lucille Poncelet (Mary Ann Moran) plays one of the most effective supporting characters, a mother who is embittered by the dubious celebrity her son has earned her. At first she is

defensive and suspicious, but relents eventually. She speaks angrily about being the "mother of a killer," where people recognize her and make cruel comments, but becomes sad when showing a picture of her son as a young boy and wants to know what she did wrong.

The scene in which the two lawyers present their cases for and against Poncelet highlights the complexity of moral issues such as capital punishment. Both sides are persuasive and logically presented, until the two men are speaking at the same time with equally emphatic tones and neither can be heard over the other. Adding to the conflicting sides of the debate are the appearances of the parents of the victims. Prejean must face opposition to her involvement from many people, but is deeply affected by the families of the victims. Scott said that one of the hardest aspects of her character was her need to balance both sides.

"Everything is very gray, there is not black and white," Scott said. "What he did was horrible, nobody's saying it wasn't, and you look at the parents' pain, and you don't know what to do.

There's a line in the play, 'Every person is worth more than his worst act.'"

Earl Delacroix's (Paul Berrettini) description of his and his wife's grieving process after the murder of their son is one of the many touching moments in the

play. Also eliciting sympathy at this point, however, is Poncelet himself in his concern for his mother when he says he doesn't want her to have to plan his funeral. Both sides are given a chance to win the audience's favor, although the horrific details of the crime are not glossed over.

In the end, there is no tidy conclusion because there cannot be with such an intricate debate. There are more victims than winners, although there is a certain satisfaction with the way events are played out. Especially moving are Poncelet's hesitant acceptance of faith, and his interactions with his family toward the end. His relationship with the nun who couldn't stay uninvolved has become deeper at this point, and his open display of emotions, which was absent at first, connects him even more with the audience.

A post-show discussion focused on the themes of the play, going along with the ArtsFest aim of discussion.

Bryce Cooper portrays lawyer Hilton Barber, who fought against

Poncelet's execution, and said that there is a place for this type of discussion at Notre Dame.

"I think there are a lot of things that Notre Dame people in particular just accept without thinking about it, and don't ever challenge their views," Cooper said.

Scott, who co-directs with Jay Skelton as well as playing a leading role, agreed about the play's potential for discussion.

"I think that the death penalty is an issue that is political as well as religious," Scott said. "It's important as well for students to start to get involved and start to form their opinions on their own. They're out of their parents' homes, they're ready to start looking at things that we do in this country and judging them for themselves."

She emphasized the fact that the goal of the play was not to promote one side over another in the debate.

"I think those two sides are the ones that should get into conversations about the death penalty because we don't learn about the other side until we engage or confront the opposite opinion," Scott said.

Dolson pointed out also the play's Catholic perspective in the death penalty discussion.

"It's sort of a side of Catholicism that's sometimes overlooked, a more compassionate side," Dolson said. "The outstanding compassion that Christ asked for ... it just allows you to think about that."

Cooper thought that the format of a semi-staged reading fit into this play in particular.

"I don't think a staged reading would work with everything, but I think it works with this because of the kind of way it's made—I think Tim

Robbins is used to doing things with movies so he has these flash-in, flash-out things that you couldn't really do onstage as easily," Cooper said. "I think it's easier to do with this where you can just change the lights a little bit or just make it a little more dramatic ... it's better in this type of situation."

"Dead Man Walking" will be performed Tuesday and Wednesday night at

7:30 p.m. in the Regis Philbin Studio Theater. Tickets cost \$8 for students, \$10 for faculty, staff and seniors and \$12 for the general public.

Contact Christie Bolsen at cbolsen@nd.edu

"You look at the parents' pain and you don't know what to do. There's a line in the play, 'Every person is worth more than his worst act.'"

Siiri Scott
director

Dead Man Walking



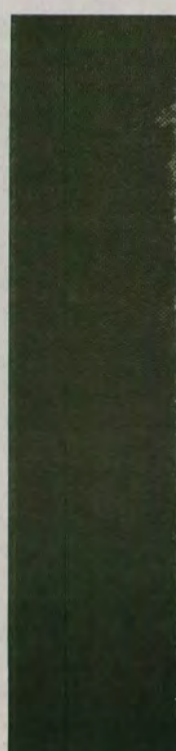
Director: Siiri Scott, Jay Skelton
Writer: Adapted by Tim Robbins from "Dead Man Walking" by Sister Helen Prejean
Starring: Siiri Scott, Mike Dolson, Mary Ann Moran, Paul Berrettini, Bryce Cooper

"You wouldn't have learned in the same way if you came and it was just an attempt to be very sympathetic. You should be torn about the character at the end."

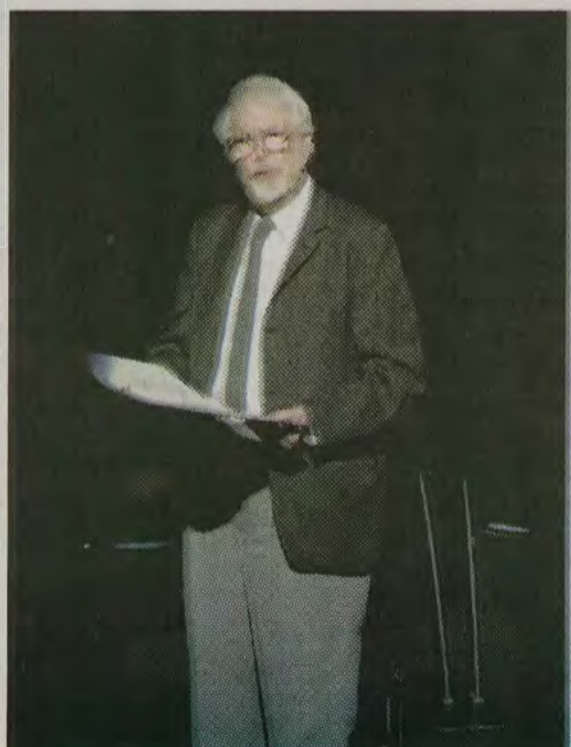
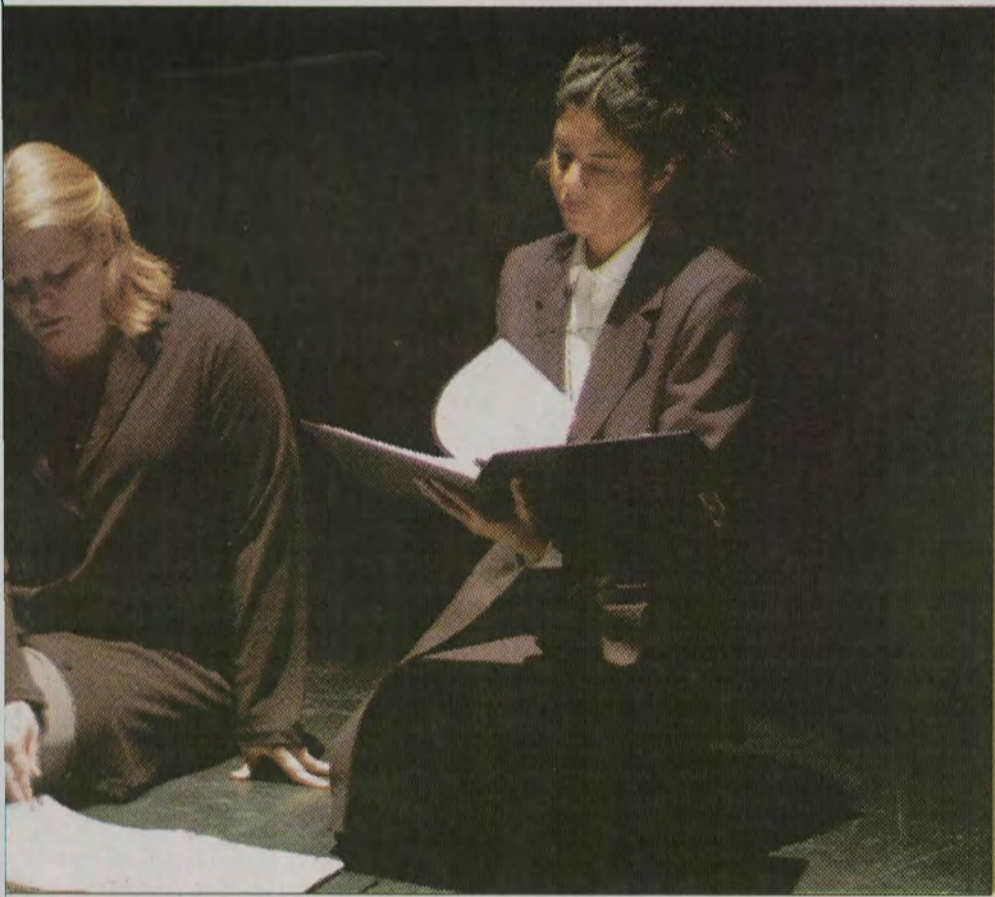
Mike Dolson
actor

"It's important for students to start to get involved and start to form their own opinions. They're ready to start looking at things we do in this country and judging for themselves."

Siiri Scott
director



"Dead Man Walking" staged reading



'Diary of a Mad Black Woman' hits top of box office

Surprise smash hit pushes 'Hitch' to No. 2

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — "Diary of a Mad Black Woman" got its revenge against mixed critics' reviews by earning \$22.7 million and taking first place at the weekend box office.

The drama-comedy is based on a script by Tyler Perry from his play of the same name and also features him cross-dressed as a gun-toting grandmother and in two other supporting roles. The film's strong debut pushed Will Smith's romantic comedy "Hitch" to the second spot with a weekend haul of \$21 million, according to studio estimates Sunday.

Films contending for top honors at the Academy Awards also continued to draw healthy audiences with best picture nominees "Million Dollar Baby," "The Aviator" and "Sideways" ranked among the top 11 films.

Final figures were to be released Monday.

"Diary of a Mad Black Woman" follows Kimberly Elise's character, Helen, who is kicked out of her house by her husband on their 18th wedding anniversary so his longtime mistress can move in. Helen recovers from heartbreak by reconnecting with her cantankerous grandmother Madea, played by Perry, and by relying on her faith.

The film received some poor reviews, with The Associated Press giving it a single star in its four-star rating system and National Public Radio describing it as "half inspired and half really, really terrible."

Showing in 1,483 theaters, "Diary of a Mad Black Woman" averaged a healthy \$15,307 a cinema.

Perry, who has gained a strong following among blacks with his plays, should be given credit for the film's success, said

Tom Ortenberg, president of Lions Gate Films Releasing.

"The performance of the film is really a testament to Tyler Perry," Ortenberg said. "He's a cultural phenomenon that is taking America by storm. In the next few weeks, those unfamiliar with Tyler will become familiar with Tyler."

Audiences in exit polls gave the film an A-plus rating and the vast majority said they would recommend the PG-13 rated film to others, Ortenberg said.

"Every once in a while there is a film that comes out of nowhere and grabs the No. 1 spot and certainly 'Diary of a Mad Black Woman' has done that," said Paul Dergarabedian, president of box-office tracker Exhibitor Relations. "It shows the power that the urban audience wields at the box office."

"Hitch," another PG-13 rated film, played widely in 3,571 theaters and its \$122 million over three weeks made it the first film in 2005 to crack the \$100 million mark.

"Million Dollar Baby," which stars best-actress nominee Hilary Swank as a bull-headed boxer, ranked sixth with an estimated \$7.2 million. Fellow best-picture nominees "The Aviator," a biopic about Howard Hughes, finished in ninth with \$3.9 million, while the drinking road-trip movie "Sideways" ranked 11th with \$3.5 million.

The latest Wes Craven horror film, "Cursed," debuted in fourth place with \$9.6 million, while the weekend's other new film, the action-comedy "Man of the House" starring Tommy Lee Jones, opened in fifth place with \$9 million.

Revenues from the top 12 movies were estimated at \$105.4 million, down 24.6 percent from the same weekend last year. The comparison was skewed because Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ" debuted last year with \$83.8 million.



Helen (Kimberly Elise) is shocked to discover that her husband wants to leave her for her best friend near their 18th wedding anniversary.

Photos courtesy of Patrick Ryan

Photos courtesy of www.movies.go.com

ing," adapted from the book by Sister Helen Prejean, is performed as a series of The performance explores issues surrounding the death penalty.

BASEBALL

Irish drop two of three to Dayton

By TOM DORWART
Sports Writer

The Irish defense and pitching hit a cold stretch in hot Arizona.

Notre Dame (4-3) suffered back-to-back losses this weekend for the first time since a two-game series at Pittsburgh last April 25th and 26th. Previously dominant, the Irish pitchers failed to close out the final two games against the Dayton Flyers (5-3) after junior pitcher Tom Thornton allowed just two runs on six hits in six innings and 92 pitches of work in the opener — which the Irish won 10-2.

Notre Dame lost 13-9 in 11 innings in the second Saturday game and fell again Sunday in a nail-biter 11-10.

"There were a lot of guys that just didn't throw well. That's the cold facts of it. And we get a good win in the opener, and, then, in the second game of the doubleheader, we took a 7-5 lead into the ninth inning despite the fact that we had had a couple of rocky performances from Jess Stewart and Derik Olvey," coach Paul Mainieri said.

In a back-and-forth game, the Irish turned to Ryan Doherty, their reliable and commanding closer.

"A guy that had been pretty consistent for us, Ryan Doherty, just didn't get the job done. We blew the lead in the ninth and still had a chance to win it in the 10th and 11th."

With the bases loaded and two outs in the 10th, center fielder Craig Cooper flew out, stranding the winning run 90 feet from home. The Flyers took advantage of third baseman Ross Brezovsky's fielding error in the 11th to put the winning run on base.

Things snowballed from there.

Dayton plated five runs — enough cushion to hold off the

Irish.

Notre Dame's offense continued to roll in the Sunday rubber match. Ten runs crossed the plate for the Irish in another offensive battle.

Ten was not enough.

"Whether we had 16 hits or 12 hits or however many hits we had, you've got to hit enough to help your team win, and even though there were a lot of key hits, there were some key at bats throughout the course of the weekend where we didn't come through. And it cost us the ballgame," Mainieri said.

"So in some ways you're excited about the way that guys are swinging the bats, but, on the other hand, you don't let yourself get too excited because they didn't do enough to win."

Shortstop Greg Lopez now leads the Irish with a .421 batting average after a solid weekend, and Brezovsky comes in a close second, batting .414.

While most students relax during spring break, the Irish will do anything but take time off.

Though it's early, the squad enters one of the toughest stretches of the season during the break. The Irish head to Texas to face perennial powers Rice (10-2) and Texas A&M (7-4) as well as Texas State — who defeated Rice last year in the opening game of the Houston Regional — (10-3), Southwest Missouri State — a 2003 College World Series qualifier — (1-5) and Oral Roberts (5-3) — the 25th ranked team in the nation.

Mainieri knows his team is up to the challenge.

"There were a lot of things that went wrong [against Dayton], and we didn't overcome them," he said. "We've got a lot of things to address in order to get better, but it's a long season."

Contact Tom Dorwart at tdorwart@nd.edu

ND WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Foote leads Notre Dame past OU

Attack notches five goals as team wins by half a dozen

By MATT PUGLISI
Sports Writer

Flooded with questions regarding who will replace the goal-scoring prowess of graduated All Americans Meredith Simon and Abby Owen, current Irish teammates Crysti Foote, Caitlin McKinney and Meghan Murphy provided some answers—and career highs—Sunday afternoon. The trio combined for 13 goals in a 16-10 vic-

tory over Ohio University in Athens, Ohio. Foote netted five goals and three assists while McKinney and Murphy scored four times each.

The 16 total Notre Dame goals are the most tallied by the No. 20 Irish since a 17-7 thrashing of Big East rival Boston College last March.

The Irish didn't waste time jumping out to an early lead on the host Bobcats, finding the back of the net four times in the game's opening five minutes.

The quick start didn't last, however, as Ohio netted three consecutive goals to pull within 5-4 with 7:22 remaining in the first half before trimming the Irish lead to one at 6-5 with just

over four minutes left.

"We came out really strong in the opening 10 minutes of the game — we were definitely dominating," coach Tracy Coyne said. "There was a period there in the first half where I think we allowed them to get back into the game — we didn't control the tempo and some other things as well as we wished that we would have."

The temporary lapse in the first half never came back to bite Notre Dame as a three-goal run to start the second half put some distance between the Irish and Bobcats.

Contact Matt Puglisi at mpuglisi@nd.edu

Urgency

continued from page 20

ule: UCLA, Rutgers and Pittsburgh. They knew they were playing all three games on their home floor, where they were 12-2 and confident before Sunday. Though almost a week had passed, Notre Dame players and coaches also had the memory of an 88-74 Connecticut whooping fresh in their minds.

Apparently, that wasn't enough to create a sense of urgency for Notre Dame Sunday.

"It was like punch after punch that they were throwing at us, and we didn't have any response," Thomas said. Both literally and figuratively, that comment could not be more accurate.

UCLA set the tone with physical play. Freshman guards Arron Afflalo and Jordan Farmar hand-checked Notre Dame's guards and fought through screens on defense. Irish players inside and out had a difficult time moving with or without the ball.

When UCLA had the ball, Notre Dame did not reciprocate the contact or the attitude.

"It starts with me. It starts with the point," Thomas said. "I just need to get into people more like I was earlier in the season."

By the time Notre Dame did get physical in the final 10 minutes of the game, the Irish were called for fouls UCLA had gotten away with earlier. But this was only because the timing and circumstance of the game dictated calls to be so. If a team expects consistent referee calls, it must play at a consistent tempo and level.

Maybe Notre Dame has 100 percent confidence in beating Pittsburgh and Rutgers and earning the necessary 10 conference wins to strongly contend for a tournament birth. But quite simply, on Sunday, Notre Dame waited too long to establish itself.

For the second straight game, an underclassman point guard received player of the game honors against the Irish.

Six days after Connecticut sophomore Marcus Williams went for 17 points, 12 assists and nine rebounds against Notre Dame, Farmar scored 12 points and dished seven assists to cut up the Irish defense.

Coach Mike Brey attributed the Irish defensive struggles to his team's inability to deal with on-the-ball screens and other movement the Bruins created. Notre Dame also failed to capitalize on UCLA's inexperience.

At the 12:22 mark of the second half, Thomas crouched into a defensive stance and played hard man-to-man defense on Farmar for about four seconds. The result was a chest pass from Farmar to Irish guard Chris Quinn, who led the break the other way.

The problem was the Irish waited until the 12:22 mark of the second half to do this — or to mount any sort of resistance against a Pac-10 team who probably didn't expect things to be this easy.

"We just should have set the tone earlier with those two and really with the whole team," Thomas said.

But towards the end of the first half, an increasing UCLA lead just didn't seem to be enough of a big deal.

Even with 14:10 remaining in the second half, Quinn was restarting an offensive possession with the ball at mid-court and seven seconds on the shot clock.

The coaches and players know they had almost a week off after the Connecticut loss. They know, despite constant reporters' questions about being tired, that fatigue was not the main reason Sunday's game turned out this way.

"I think UCLA made us look tired," Brey said. "We chased and they really executed, and we were always kind of behind the eight-ball a little bit."

But by the time Brey found the combination of Thomas, Quinn, Jordan Cornette, Russell Carter and Torin Francis deep into the second half, the Bruins' lead was invincible.

"It's not a horrible loss from [an NCAA tournament] standpoint," Brey said. "It is [a horrible loss] as far as some of the things we need to do better ... It would have been a very good win added to the resume."

It would have. Even though there's a chance this loss may not drastically hurt this team's chances at a tournament bid, coaches and players had every right to shake their heads and remain near-silent in the locker room following the game.

And that's just what they did.

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

Contact Pat Leonard at pleonard@nd.edu

Write Sports. Call 1-4543

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NDBA

goodnight

MEN'S LACROSSE

Notre Dame destroys Penn State in opener

A trio of Irish players turn hat tricks while Walsh hits milestone

By **MIKE GILLOON**
Sports Writer

Playing on the road against a top-25 team is not an easy way to start a season. So when No. 10 Notre Dame defeated No. 21 Penn State 14-6 Sunday, Irish coach Kevin Corrigan was impressed.

"Yes, I was surprised," Corrigan said about his program's largest margin of victory ever against a ranked team on the road. "The history of this series is close. It's a positive start for us."

Notre Dame's defense keyed the victory. Led by goalie Stewart Crosland, who tallied 18 saves, the Irish held Penn State scoreless for the final 25 minutes.

"Our defense executed really well," Corrigan said. "[Crosland] played well and we did a great job on ground balls."

Leading 8-5 at halftime, the Irish allowed a goal by Nittany Lion attack Nate Whitaker with 25:17 left in the second period. Notre Dame struck back quickly, padding its lead 53 seconds later as returning All-American Pat Walsh netted his first goal of the year.

The score pushed Walsh's career point total to 100. The junior reached the century mark in only 27 matches, faster than any Irish player except all-time leading scorer Randy Colley, who achieved the mark in 21 games.

"He's a terrific player," Corrigan said. "Pat is the glue that holds that end of the field together."

Walsh and the other starting attacks — Matt Karweck and Jim Morrison — each recorded three goals.

Karweck is making a habit of playing well against the Nittany Lions, with his hat trick raising his goal total to seven in the past two games against Penn State.

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ND WOMEN'S TENNIS

'Hawks' downed by renewed Irish

Thompson twins get back to winning ways Sunday against Iowa

By **DAN TAPETILLO**
Sports Writer

Despite losing 4-3 to No. 13 Texas on Friday, it took little effort from No. 20 Notre Dame (5-5) to bounce back with a 7-0 shutout over No. 57 Iowa (4-3) Sunday at the Eck Tennis Pavilion. The win marked the third consecutive Big Ten opponent the Irish have defeated this season after topping No. 49 Ohio State 6-1 and No. 20 Michigan 7-0.

From the beginning of the contest, Notre Dame found little difficulty securing the doubles point with wins at the No. 1 and No. 3 positions.

After losing their first doubles match of the spring season to Texas on Friday, the top-ranked doubles team in the country — sophomore twins Catrina and Christian Thompson — defeated the No. 59 ranked Meg Racette and Hillary Mintz 8-3.

"When we played Texas, it was one of our worst matches. We weren't getting returns and making a lot of unforced errors," Christian Thompson said. "But today we were just going out positive and ready to play and it turned out 10 times better."

Notre Dame also won at No. 3 with senior captain Sarah Jane Connelly and junior Kiki Stastny over Jacqueline Lee and Morgan Tuttle 8-2.

However, Iowa did manage to find a win at No. 2 from the team

of Hillary Tyler and Anastasia Zhukova over the Irish's Brook Buck and Lauren Connelly 9-7.

In the singles matches, No. 32 ranked Catrina Thompson defeated Racette 6-7 (6-8), 7-5, 1-0 (10-6) after dropping a first-set tiebreaker. Thompson improved to 7-3 this spring.

"I knew the team had already won during my match, so it made me a little more relaxed out there," Catrina Thompson said.

No. 60 ranked Buck, who played at No. 2 for the Irish, topped No. 78 Hillary Mintz 6-2, 6-2. Following Buck at No. 3 was Christian Thompson, who broke a three-match losing streak after defeating Zhukova 6-1, 6-2.

"I felt like I served well today and that made the difference," Christian Thompson said.

Playing at the No. 4 for the first time since her freshman year was Stastny who topped Zhukova 6-2, 6-3. Stastny's win improved her singles record to 16-6 this season.

Lauren Connelly played at the No. 5 position for the Irish, topping Tyler 6-2, 6-1.

Completing the shutout at No. 6 was junior Liz Donohue who defeated Jacqueline Lee 6-2, 6-0.

On Friday, Notre Dame lost another close 4-3 decision to Texas despite winning the early doubles point. In the loss, the Thompson's also lost their first match this spring to No. 26 ranked Katie Ruckert and Kendra Strohm 8-5 just after becoming the No. 1 ranked doubles team in the country.

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FENCING

Teams do well at MWCC's

Zagunis, Kryczalo skip tourney, rest before region meet

By **ERIC RETTER**
Sports Writer

The Irish believe that team success is more important than individual glory — or at least they act that way.

After Saturday's team competition in the Mid-Western Collegiate Championships, some of Notre Dame's top fencers, including senior epeeist Alicjo Kryczalo and freshman sabre Mariel Zagunis, sat out of Sunday's individual tournament in order to heal injuries and rest before the NCAA regional meet, which begins this weekend.

As it turns out, Notre Dame triumphed in both events, as both the No. 1 women's team and the No. 4 men's squad swept Sunday's individual competition, taking all six events. Meanwhile, the women also took first place in Saturday's team contest as the men finished in second behind top-ranked Ohio State.

"I don't know if it is the moment to celebrate. I know that we have big events coming up, [but] good results are good results," he said. "I won't say that I'm not happy."

Preparing for these big events, the NCAA regionals and finals, Kryczalo and Zagunis did not compete in the individual championship — an event both of them would have had a good chance of winning.

"They competed in the most important bouts, [but] we didn't want to risk the NCAA position of [Kryczalo and Zagunis]," Bednarski said. "It's the end of the season, and bouting brings a toll."

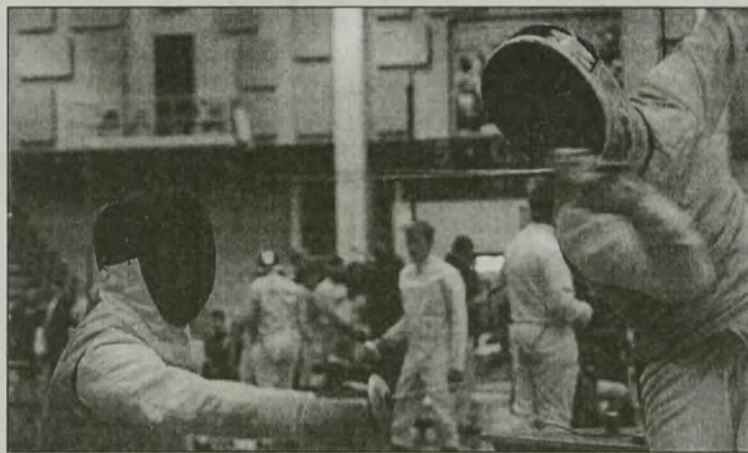
The most important bout each of them competed in were in the team finals, as both led their respective weapons against Ohio State. Kryczalo and two-time NCAA runner-up Andrea Ament both fell to the Buckeyes' All-American Hanna Thompson. Then both rallied to beat her twin sister, Metta, and lead the Irish to a 5-4 win in the women's foil final. The women's sabre team, on the other hand, fell to Ohio State by the same score despite an undefeated performance by Zagunis.

"Zagunis was beautiful in her bouts with Northwestern and Ohio State," Bednarski said.

Despite their overall victory, the foil was the only event Notre Dame won as a team. The Irish finished 3rd in women's epee, losing their semifinal match to a strong Wayne State team led by Anna Vinnikov and defending NCAA champion Anna Garina, both of whom swept the top Irish pairing of senior Kerri Walton and sophomore Amy Orlando.

In the men's division, Notre Dame was undefeated except for losses to Ohio State in each of the three weapons, finishing second in sabre and third in foil and epee.

The loss in the semifinals marked the first loss of the season for the Irish epee team. Ohio State clinched the 5-3 victory when All-



Irish foil Jakub Jedrkowiak, right, duels during the Mid-Western Collegiate Championships Saturday.

American Dennis Tolkachev defeated senior Michal Sobieraj 5-2, marking the first time Sobieraj had lost to his rival.

Freshman Jakub Jedrkowiak led the Irish in the men's foil, going 7-1 on Saturday before losing to defending champion Boaz Ellis of Ohio State in the semifinals, a match the Buckeyes won 5-2. After the loss, Notre Dame topped Northwestern 5-2 to take third place.

In the sabre, the Irish again lost to Ohio State — this time in the finals. Notre Dame showed lots of promise in their 5-2 loss, as sophomores Patrick Ghattas and Matt Stearns each registered victories against strong Buckeyes opponents, beating two-time defending NCAA champ Adam Crompton and All-American Jason Paul, respectively.

On Sunday, the Irish had a much easier path, as their team tournament nemesis Ohio State withdrew from the individual competition.

"When Ohio [State] left, the competition was much weaker, but our kids fenced well," Bednarski said. These strong performances began in women's epee, as Walton and Orlando both defeated their Wayne State opponents Garina and Vinnikov in the semifinals to set up an all-Notre Dame final, which Walton won 15-14.

"Our fencers are strong and Wayne State is strong. If we

fenced Monday maybe results would be different again; it's tough to predict," Bednarski said of the budding rivalry.

Two other Notre Dame seniors, Ament and Sobieraj, triumphed as well in their final career performance in the Joyce Center. Ament pulled off an impressive comeback in the final, falling behind 8-1 to Northwestern's Jessica Florindo before rallying for a 15-11 victory.

Sobieraj took his victory in another all-Irish final, defeating teammate Jesse Laeuchli 15-9.

"He has to learn to be better at the beginning of the day, but he was very focused Sunday," Bednarski said.

The sweep was completed by victories by sophomore Frank Botempo in men's foil, and by Ghattas and Valerie Providenza in each sabre final.

"We won everything that was possible to win. It was a good tournament for us," Bednarski said.

The Irish will now turn their attention to maximizing success in next weekend's NCAA regionals.

"We hope to cure our bruises from this competition. Our goal will not be losing the confidence we've built but keeping the attention that in sports, you can't say I am good, but [realize] that the opponent wants to beat you," he said.

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MEN'S GOLF

Bayou beckoning Kubinski and Co.

Irish travel to Tulane Invitational today to take on watery links

By KEN FOWLER
Sports Writer

Whether it be a Green Wave or a Rip Tide, the Irish will try to stay out of the water for the next two days, as the team competes in the Bayou with a dozen other schools in the Tulane Invitational.

In action for the first time since Nov. 2, the Irish travel to New Orleans today to kick off the spring season with the two-day tournament at the water-laden English Turn Golf and Country Club.

The Tulane Invitational also marks the beginning of a new coaching era for Irish golf. Exactly one month after his hiring as new Irish head coach, Jim Kubinski will lead the team in his first competition at the new position.

After former coach John Jasinski resigned Dec. 7 for personal reasons, Notre Dame contacted the former Duke assistant for the vacancy. Athletic director Kevin While introduced Kubinski as new coach on Jan. 28.

For Kubinski and the Irish, competition in New Orleans begins with thirty-six holes today, followed by a single round tomorrow.

Among the thirteen teams in the field, Ole Miss enters the Invitational on the heels of a first-place finish at the All-South Collegiate Invitational two weeks ago. The University of New Orleans captured second in its own tournament, the River City Classic. In addition, UNC-Wilmington placed second in the Feb. 14-15 UCF/Rio Pinar Intercollegiate tournament.

The Irish, on the other hand, have gone nearly four months since last swinging in intercollegiate competition.

Though home to a more palatable climate for February golf than South Bend, both Southern Miss and Southeastern Louisiana also join Notre Dame in making this tournament the first of their spring season.

Despite the disadvantage of coming off the winter break to face teams that have already gotten their swings back, the Irish have reasons to be confident heading into the tournament.

By winning the Big East Championship on the Warren Golf Course last year, the 2003-04 squad was the first Irish men's golf team to qualify for NCAA post-season play since 1966.

That success continued into this fall, when the squad posted a 298.67 stroke average — third best in Irish history.

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ND WOMEN'S SWIMMING

Team unsatisfied with results at Purdue meet

Stephens, Thompson 'on bubble' to make field at NCAA meet

By MIKE TENNANT
Sports Writer

The Irish achieved numerous personal bests this weekend in the Boiler-Make-It Invitational at Purdue, but they left the pool disappointed.

The meet was scheduled as an end-of-the-year goal for several younger swimmers, while also giving the swimmers on the edge of qualifying for the NCAA Championship one last chance to post a top time. Unfortunately, those in the latter group were not able to improve their chances.

"We had some good swims," head coach Bailey Weathers said. "But I don't think we helped anyone on the bubble for NCAA's."

Sophomore Jessica Stephens and freshman Caroline Johnson both had already posted "B" times for the NCAA Championships, but only faster "A" times are guaranteed spots in the meet. Neither used this weekend to her advantage and both swimmers remain on the

bubble for the Championships.

"For [Stephens] and [Johnson], we'll have to wait and see. But all of them gave a great effort," Weathers said.

Stephens has "B" times in the 200-yard individual medley and the 200 breaststroke, while Johnson already posted "B" times in the 50 and 100-yard freestyles as well as in the 100 backstroke. Both swimmers were named all-conference after posting these marks in the Big East Championships.

The meet was a success for several younger swimmers who swam personal bests in their final meet of the year.

Freshman Georgia Steenberge posted a time in the 1650-yard freestyle that would have been fast enough to qualify for the Big East Championships last week. Sophomore Meghan Linnelli did the same in the 50 free.

"I think that was a goal at the start of the season for them," Weathers said. "It was a big goal."

For Steenberge, Linnelli, and several others, this was their rest-meet. Meaning it was their chance to compete with a longer period of rest beforehand.

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MEN'S TENNIS

Cavaliers just too tough for Irish

By RAMA
GOTTUMUKKALA
Sports Writer

If Sunday's tennis showdown proved anything, it's that national rankings mean nothing in a hotly-contested match.

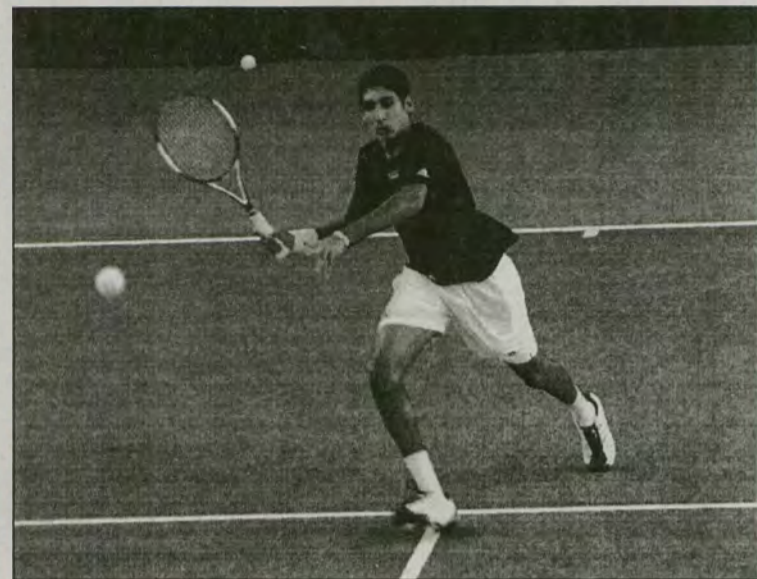
Playing with determination, the No. 24 Notre Dame men's tennis team took No. 2 Virginia (10-1) to the limit before falling in a 4-3 decision.

Playing on the road for just the third time this season, the Irish (10-3) stayed in the match from the start. Notre Dame split two early singles matches and won the doubles point to take an early 2-1 lead. It took a grueling three-set singles match at the No. 2 slot to decide Virginia's narrow margin of victory.

With the match score tied 3-3, sophomore Stephen Bass and Virginia's Ryan Rizza, ranked No. 38 in the nation, played a lengthy match that ended with Rizza's 6-3, 6-7 (4-7), 6-3 win. Bass dropped the opening set but battled back in the second, setting up the crucial third set.

Rizza jumped out to an 3-0 lead before Bass closed the gap to 4-2 and a break point in the seventh game. Bass forced Rizza to serve out the match before finally falling to the Virginia junior 6-3 in the last set.

"Stephen Bass was the last one out on the court," Irish coach Bobby Bayliss said. "He was down a set and down 4-2. To his credit, he fought back very hard and won the second set in a really exciting tie-breaker. We had chances ... Stephen won some big points at



Notre Dame's Sheeva Parbhu returns a shot during a 5-2 Irish win over Northwestern Feb. 18.

the net, which is a good move for him and shows a lot of progress in his game. He lost but he played very hard and very well. He's a guy we definitely wanted out there at that point in the match."

Although the Irish have dropped the doubles point in four of their last six matches, they came out strong against Virginia. Senior captain Brent D'Amico and sophomore Ryan Keckley posted a 9-7 victory over Virginia's duo of Rizza and Nick Meythaler. The Irish also won the pivotal doubles match at the No. 2 slot, as junior Eric Langenkamp and freshman Sheeva Parbhu upset the No. 23-ranked team of Somdev Devvarman and Treat Huey in an 8-5 decision.

"We played really well at the No. 1 and No. 2 doubles, about as well as we've played all

year," Bayliss said. "We won those two doubles and it was great to take the 2-1 lead with four matches remaining. We knew what we were up against but we still had to make the best of it."

Notre Dame's two singles victories came from the heart of their lineup, in the No. 4 and No. 5 slots. In the No. 5 slot, Sophomore Irackli Akhvediani put the Irish on the board first while also posting the team's top individual victory. He upset Virginia's Darrin Cohen, ranked No. 36 in the nation, 7-5, 7-6 in his first collegiate victory over a nationally-ranked opponent.

"They were both really good matches and we had chances in both of them," Bayliss said. "Irackli played very well."

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The Office of Student Affairs is now accepting nominations for the

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Candidates must be seniors who exemplify the qualities for which Denny Moore was known, including personal integrity and character, commitment to Notre Dame, and writing ability.

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AROUND THE NATION

Baseball Big East Conference

team	conf.	overall
Rutgers	0-0-0	4-1-0
Villanova	0-0-0	3-1-1
NOTRE DAME	0-0-0	4-3-0
Connecticut	0-0-0	1-1-0
Georgetown	0-0-0	2-3-0
Pittsburgh	0-0-0	1-2-0
West Virginia	0-0-0	2-5-0
St. John's	0-0-0	1-4-0
Boston College	0-0-0	0-3-0
Seton Hall	0-0-0	0-3-0

Softball Big East Conference

team	conf.	overall
Syracuse	0-0-0	4-2-0
Villanova	0-0-0	6-4-0
St. John's	0-0-0	4-3-0
Boston College	0-0-0	6-6-0
NOTRE DAME	0-0-0	5-6-0
Seton Hall	0-0-0	4-5-0
Connecticut	0-0-0	1-2-0
Pittsburgh	0-0-0	3-6-0
Providence	0-0-0	0-0-0
Rutgers	0-0-0	0-5-0

ESPN.com/USA Softball Collegiate Top 25

team	record	prev.
1 Arizona (13)	9-0	1
2 California (7)	5-0	2
3 Texas	5-0	4
4 UCLA	8-2	4
5 Stanford	10-1	6
6 Louisiana-Lafayette	12-1	5
6 Tennessee	13-0	7
8 Alabama	15-1	8
9 Michigan	8-1	9
10 LSU	6-1	10
11 Baylor	17-2	12
12 Washington	7-3	11
13 Georgia Tech	13-0	16
14 Oklahoma	9-4	13
15 Florida	13-2	14
16 Texas A&M	11-1	21
17 Nebraska	7-1	23
18 Oregon State	6-5	19
19 Fresno State	1-1	18
20 Pacific	6-1	22
21 Oregon	6-4	17
22 Florida State	7-5	15
23 Georgia	6-6	20
24 Missouri	8-1	NR
25 Long Beach State	7-3	24

MEN'S NCAA BASKETBALL



Kansas forward Wayne Simien celebrates his team's 81-79 victory over the Oklahoma State Cowboys as he walks off James Naismith Court at Allen Fieldhouse. He had a career-high 32 points.

Kansas nips Oklahoma State for Big 12 lead

Associated Press

LAWRENCE, Kan. — If this game does not ultimately decide the Big 12 championship, it should have.

No. 8 Kansas shot 66 percent from the field, No. 4 Oklahoma State hit 59 percent and both old rivals played almost flawlessly in key stretches Sunday before the Jayhawks finally emerged with an 81-79 victory.

"Certainly, for me, it was an honor to coach in this game," Kansas' Bill Self said. "This will go down as one of the great ones to ever be played in this building."

Wayne Simien had a

career-high 32 points and Aaron Miles hit a running layup with 37 seconds to go for the Jayhawks (21-4, 11-3), who have a one-game lead over Oklahoma State (20-5, 10-4) and No. 22 Oklahoma with two games to play.

Simien had 12 rebounds and was 10-of-11 from the foul line, breaking the school record with 34 consecutive free throws as the Jayhawks snapped their first three-game losing streak in 11 years.

"I think you could make a case that for today at least, there was not a better player in America," Self said.

John Lucas, one of four

senior starters for Oklahoma State, hit his first nine shots but he missed a long 3-point attempt seconds before the final buzzer.

"What a great college basketball game," Oklahoma State coach Eddie Sutton said. "When both teams play like that, it is a shame that one has to lose."

Lucas' first miss came with 1:31 to go and the game tied at 78. With 37 seconds left, Miles, the Big 12 assists leader, scored the go-ahead basket for an 80-78 lead.

"Christian [Moody] did a good job setting a screen," Miles said. "Dub [Simien]

cleared out the lane and I hit the shot."

Oklahoma State freshman James On Curry was fouled by Moody and went to the line with 25 seconds left. He made the second free throw to make it a one-point game. Miles was fouled with 19 seconds to go and he hit the second for the 81-79 lead.

After dribbling between the circle for a few seconds, Lucas launched the 3-point attempt that hit the rim.

"When it left his hand it was like it was in slow motion," Simien said. "I thought he was going to make it. He seemed like he all day long."

around the dial

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

- Pittsburgh at Boston College, 7 p.m., ESPN
- Southern Illinois at Indiana State, 7 p.m., Comcast
- Oklahoma at Texas, 9 p.m., ESPN
- Northern Iowa at Wichita State, 9 p.m., Comcast
- New Mexico at UNLV, midnight, ESPN

NBA

- New Orleans at Dallas, 8:30 p.m., CST

IN BRIEF

Dynamic Toms wins Match Play Championship

CARLSBAD, Calif. — David Toms played the best golf of his life, put his name in the record book with the biggest blowout in the Match Play Championship and barely broke a sweat while earning \$1.3 million.

All he lacked was an explanation. A major champion but hardly a juggernaut, Toms rolled through Phil Mickelson and Adam Scott to reach the semifinals, then beat Ian Poulter with the most dynamic stretch of golf ever seen at La Costa Resort.

He found an ever higher gear Sunday in the 36-hole final against Chris DiMarco, beating him so badly that Toms caught himself rehearsing his victory speech with 11 holes left in the match.

"I can't explain why I felt like I did all week," Toms said. "I just felt very, very comfortable with myself and the golf that was in front of me. I don't know that I've ever really felt like that."

Toms delivered the most dominant performance in the seven-year history of this fickle tournament, winning eight out of nine holes to put away DiMarco before lunch, then pouring it on in the afternoon.

Tar Heels win fifth straight, maintain ACC lead

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — Raymond Felton made the tiebreaking layup with 19 seconds left and Sean May blocked a shot just before the buzzer as No. 2 North Carolina weathered a furious comeback bid by Maryland before escaping with an 85-83 victory Sunday.

May had 22 points and 11 rebounds for the Tar Heels, who remained alone atop the Atlantic Coast Conference with their fifth straight win.

Jawad Williams scored 21 points to help the Tar Heels (24-3, 12-2) beat the Terrapins on the road for the first time since 2001. North Carolina remained one game ahead of Wake Forest, which defeated Virginia 90-

68 earlier Sunday. Yankees, Matsui struggle with contract discussions

TAMPA, Fla. — Yankees left fielder Hideki Matsui doesn't expect talks on his possible contract extension to be completed during spring training.

Arn Tellem, Matsui's agent, and Yankees general manager Brian Cashman started negotiations Saturday.

Matsui is due \$8 million in 2005, the final season of a \$21 million, three-year deal. He has a clause in his contract that requires the Yankees to put him on waivers unless a new contract is agreed to by Nov. 15.

"Probably not going to be anything that's going to happen prior to the beginning of the season," Matsui said through an interpreter Sunday. "My original plan was to play through my three years and then decide where to go from there. That was my original plan when I came here, and that still is."

Seniors

continued from page 20

their four-year journey together. Borton and Batteast have done just that — acting as the catalysts in returning Notre Dame to college basketball's elite class.

"They built our program back to where it was when they came in as freshman, which was a monumental task," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said. "That was something, for freshmen to come in and have that burden on them and they did a really great job getting to senior year."

Appropriately on Senior Day, Borton and Batteast led the Irish to victory. Borton had 18 points, nine rebounds and five blocks, while Batteast added 15 points and four rebounds in the 82-57 win over West Virginia. Like so many other games during their careers, the duo was simply too much for their opposition. The Mountaineers had no answers for either.

And while fans have cheered the two for their outstanding game performances, it's been the intangibles — the unseen things — that Borton and Batteast do to make the Irish successful.

"They've done so much more than statistics," McGraw said. "I think just the enthusiasm and the chemistry — a lot of it has to do with Teresa and Jackie. They're so unselfish and they work hard and all the things you need a leader to do, they do for our

team."

During Borton and Batteast's careers, Notre Dame has reached the NCAA Tournament three times, with a fourth certain for this season, and played in two Sweet 16's. They've led the Irish to a 24-4 record in 2004-05, positioned the team for a high seed in the NCAA Tournament and have Notre Dame legitimately contending for a national title.

Four years after beginning their careers in the silhouette of championship players and a championship team, Borton and Batteast leave Notre Dame knowing they set their own footprints in the history books. With just one regular season game remaining, Notre Dame's players and fans will look toward the two seniors for the performance and leadership needed to be successful in postseason play.

Borton and Batteast hope and expect to meet those high expectations. They hope and expect to challenge for a national title. And they hope and expect to make the key plays at the key moments.

No matter the outcome of this season, McGraw knows life won't be easy without Borton and Batteast next season.

"It's going to be very difficult to replace both of them," she said.

Just like four years ago.

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

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Shooters

continued from page 20

ing out and doing everything they could to make their last game a fun one."

The Irish struggled early, giving up five 3-pointers in the first half as they fell behind 12-6 early. After Notre Dame fought back to go up six, the Mountaineers went on a 9-0 run to reclaim a 28-25 lead with 6:29 to play in the first half after a jumper by Meg Bulger.

But Notre Dame wasn't finished, as the Irish went on a 13-0 run, led by Borton's six points, two rebounds and one block to go up by 10 points and put the game away.

"I thought that was huge," McGraw said. "We got good momentum coming into the locker room."

The second half was all Notre Dame. The Irish went on a 10-4 run to start the half behind two layups from Borton, and were on their way to a blowout victory. Notre Dame outscored West Virginia 46-22 in the paint and the Irish out-rebounded the Mountaineers 39-30.

"We're starting to look sharp," McGraw said. "We're starting to peak."

Notre Dame shot 8-for-11 from the field in the first 8:15 of the second half, a scorching 72 percent.

"They just dominated us the second half," Mountaineer coach Mike Carey said.

Notre Dame held Bulger, the Big East's leading scorer, to just nine points on 4-for-19 shooting. Her season average coming into the game was 20.5 points per game, but Notre Dame switched on screens in its man-to-man defense, preventing her from getting any



GEOFF MATTESON/The Observer

Jackie Batteast jumps in the air for a layup after driving between the Mountaineer defense. For Batteast and Teresa Borton, Saturday marked the seniors' last home game.

good looks at the basket.

"They made it difficult by switching on everything," Bulger said. "We just had nothing on offense by not moving."

Meanwhile, Borton narrowly missed a double-double with nine rebounds and five blocks, while shooting 8-for-9 from the field. Notre Dame point guard Megan Duffy had a double-double with 12 points and 10 assists, just one game removed from a double-digit turnover performance at Rutgers.

"I lost about a half a week's sleep over it," Duffy said of her game at Rutgers. "I watched the film twice and I learned a lot from it, and I know that I don't want that to happen again."

For West Virginia, Sherell Sowho finished with 16 points and five rebounds, including four 3-pointers, all in the first half. Yolanda Paige, the nation's leading passer finished with just five assists, four below her average, but had 16 points.

With the win, Notre Dame is tied for second in the Big East with No. 11 Connecticut,

behind No. 9 Rutgers. The Irish finish the regular season Tuesday night on the road against Seton Hall (14-12, 6-9 Big East). Then they go to Hartford, Conn., for the Big East Tournament.

NOTRE DAME 82, WEST VIRGINIA 57 at the JOYCE CENTER

NOTRE DAME (24-4, 12-3)
Batteast 6-14 3-5 15, LaVere 3-6 2-2 8, Borton 8-9 2-5 18, Duffy 4-6 1-2 12, Gray 1-2 1-1 3, Gaines 2-3 4-4 8, Allen 4-8 0-0 8, Powers 0-0 0-0 0, Tsipis 1-1 0-0 2, D'Amico 1-2 0-0 2, Erwin 2-4 2-2 6.

WEST VIRGINIA (16-10, 7-8)
Sanni 6-11 1-3 13, Bulger 4-19 0-1 9, Paige 5-14 5-5 16, Sowho 6-12 0-2 16, Cole 0-2 0-0 0, Glusko 0-0 0-0 0, McGee 0-0 0-0 0, Lee 0-1 0-0 0.

	1st	2nd	Total
NOTRE DAME	38	44	82
West Virginia	31	26	57

3-point goals: Notre Dame 3-6 (Batteast 0-1, Duffy 3-4, Allen 0-1), West Virginia 7-20 (Bulger 1-6, Paige 1-3, Sowho 4-8, Cole 0-1, Owens 1-2). Fouled out: Cole. Rebounds: Notre Dame 39 (Gaines 9, Borton 9), West Virginia 30 (Bulger 6). Assists: Notre Dame 24 (Duffy 10), West Virginia 14 (Paige 5). Total fouls: Notre Dame 13, West Virginia 15.

Contact Heather Van Hoegarden at hvanhoeg@nd.edu



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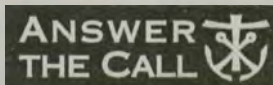
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ND SOFTBALL

Irish top Volunteers to end weekend slide

By RYAN DUFFY
Sports Writer

Though most of the weekend didn't go as planned, Notre Dame proved once again they still have the talent to go out with a bang.

The Irish opened the Palm Springs Classic with four losses on Friday and Saturday, but came back on Sunday to post a 5-2 upset win over No. 5/6 Tennessee. It was the third time this season that Notre Dame had knocked off a nationally ranked team, with wins over No. 21 South Florida and No. 19 Florida in the GRU Classic earlier in the year.

The Irish handed Tennessee their first loss of the tournament thanks in large part to a three-run homer from junior Meghan Ruthrauff in the third inning. Heather Booth pitched well against the Lady Vols to earn her third victory of the year.

The loss was only Tennessee's second in the last 18 games, and improved the Irish record to 5-6. Tennessee is the highest-ranked team Notre Dame has defeated since April 23, 2002, when they took down No. 4 Nebraska 3-2 in Lincoln.

The win served as an important recovery for the Irish, who were looking to rebound from losing the first four games of the tournament, including a rough 2-1 loss to Arizona State (11-2) the previous night.

After starting off the tournament with three straight losses, coach Deanna Gumpf decided to change things up by switching

her defensive lineup back to the 2004 starting team. Sara Schoonaert moved from second base to shortstop, Stephanie Brown moved from right to second base, where she was replaced by Nicole Wicks in her first start of the season and Mallorie Lenn moved behind the plate after playing the first nine games of the year as the designated hitter.

The switch sparked the Irish defense, allowing them to run their second double play of the year and allowing only one error. Unfortunately for Notre Dame, their one error came at a most inopportune time. Leading 1-0 heading into the sixth, third basemen Liz Hartmann bobbled a grounder trying to throw out the Sun Devils' leadoff hitter. Arizona State's Valerie Sevilla, the next batter up, slammed a two-run homer than turned out to be the game-winner.

Despite allowing the deciding home run, senior Steffany Stenglein kept Notre Dame in the game, getting out of trouble when she needed to and giving up eight hits while striking out five. After allowing the sixth-inning home run, she struck out two batters and got a groundout to keep the Irish within a run.

Notre Dame took an early lead in the contest when Megan Ciolli crushed a home run in the third inning. Ciolli, a Player of the Year candidate, is now hitting .355 with a home run, six RBIs, and four stolen bases for the season.

Contact Ryan Duffy at rduffy1@nd.edu

Bruins

continued from page 20

screens.

"We obviously have to get better before we play Rutgers. We talked about that, being better defensively, and we've been pretty good defensively.

"I can't answer that right now."

Meanwhile, the Irish offensive flow never got going as the Bruins built a 15-point half-time lead — the largest half-time deficit the Irish have faced this season. Notre Dame's outside shooters had problems getting open looks in the first half en route to shooting 2-of-11 on 3-pointers during the first 20 minutes.

The Bruins extended that lead to a high-water mark of 59-39 with 9 minutes, 59 seconds remaining on a 3-pointer from Brian Morrison. The Irish implemented a full-court press after that and tried to get back into the game. The press forced some steals, but the Irish were never able to get closer than eight.

The Bruins had six players

in double figures, led by Arron Afflalo's 17 points. UCLA forward Dijon Thompson struggled with his shot but ended up with 16 points and 10 rebounds.

Chris Quinn led the Irish with 17 points, while Chris Thomas and Torin Francis were the only other Irish players to end up in double figures.

Brey went deep into his bench playing nine, with eight seeing at least 10 minutes of playing time.

Notes:

◆ Thomas became the third player in college basketball history to accumulate 2,000 points and 800 assists in his career. His 800th assist came on a Francis dunk in the second half.

"I really don't have any thoughts about it. It is what it is. It's something to be proud of, more proud of if you get the win," Thomas said. "I

think it's a good achievement. I don't know if it's a milestone at point guard to look to get to.

"I'm in the company of two other great guards, and it's an honor to be up there with them."

Syracuse alum Sherman Douglas and Oregon State

"We came out flat, especially on the defensive end. To their credit, they moved the ball and got open looks."

Chris Quinn
Irish guard

"We obviously have to get better before we play Rutgers."

Mike Brey
Irish head coach

alum Gary Payton are the other two players to accomplish the feat.

◆ Notre Dame football coach Charlie Weis gave a halftime speech during Sunday's game geared toward the Irish student body. It was the first time Weis publicly talked to the students.

"This isn't about a bunch of egomaniacs anymore," Weis said. "This is about being on the same team, and that's what we're trying to start here."

Sunday was "Junior Day" for the football program as Weis said 85 juniors came to South Bend.

UCLA 75, NOTRE DAME 65 at the JOYCE CENTER

NOTRE DAME (16-9, 8-6)

Cornette 0-1 0-0 0, Francis 5-7 0-2 10, Thomas 4-17 0-0 10, Quinn 7-19 1-2 17, Falls 1-6 4-5 7, Isreal 1-3 3-4 5, Cornett 1-2 0-0 2, Latimore 4-5 0-3 8, Carter 2-3 0-0 6.

UCLA (16-9, 9-7)

Thompson 4-15 5-11 16, Shipp 2-3 0-0 6, Fey 5-10 0-0 10, Afflalo 4-5 6-8 17, Farmar 5-10 0-1 12, Morrison 4-9 0-0 12, Hollins 0-0 2-2 2, McKinney 0-0 0-0 0.

	1st	2nd	Total
NOTRE DAME	26	39	65
UCLA	41	34	75

3-Point Goals: Notre Dame 7-22 (Carter 2-2, Quinn 2-7, Thomas 2-7, Falls 1-5, Cornette 0-1), UCLA 14-23 (Morrison 4-7, Afflalo 3-3, Thompson 3-8, Shipp 2-2, Farmar 2-3). Fouled Out: None. Rebounds: Notre Dame 34 (Francis 8), UCLA 42 (Thompson 10). Assists: Notre Dame 18 (Thomas 7), UCLA 20 (Farmar 7). Total Fouls: Notre Dame 16, UCLA 15. Technicals: Notre Dame Bench.

Contact Matt Lozar at mlozar@nd.edu



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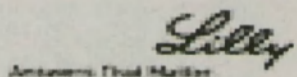
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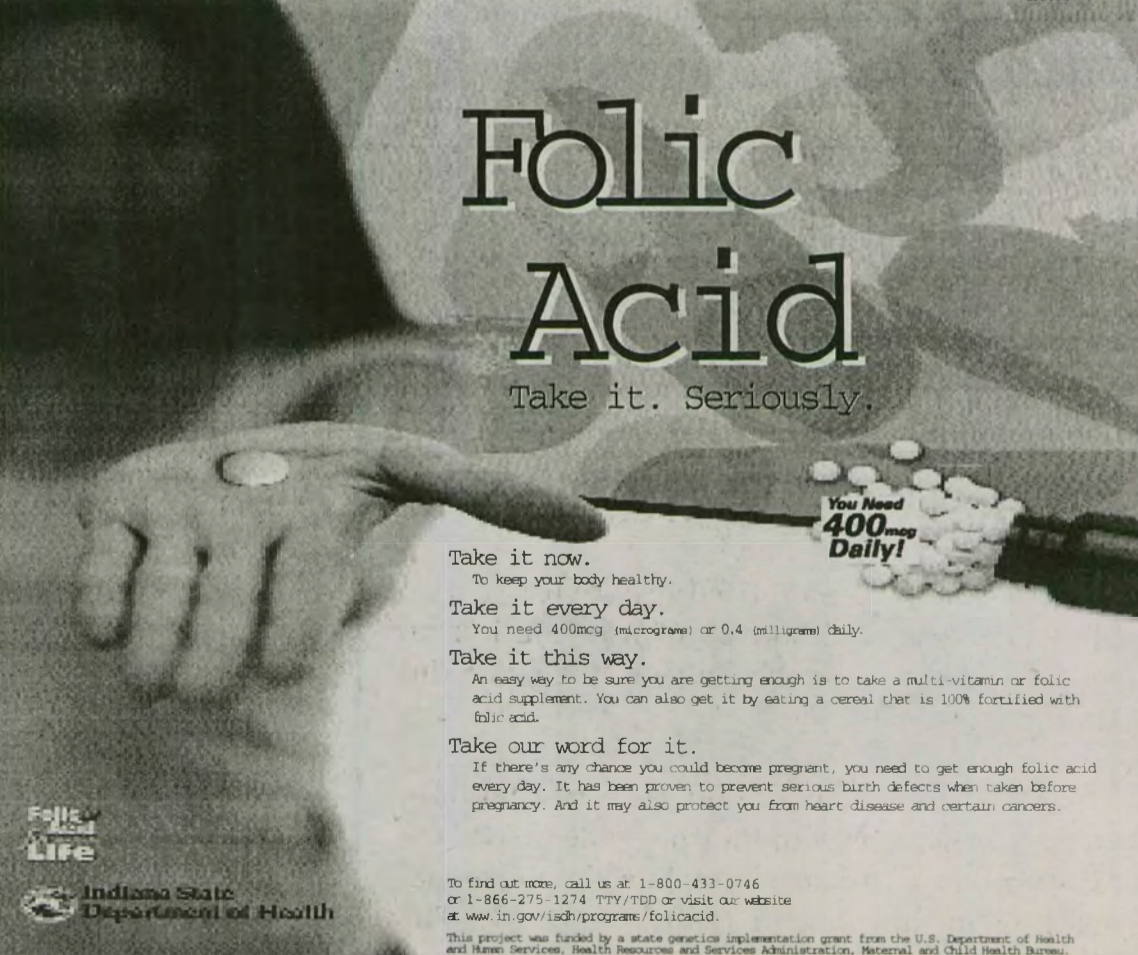
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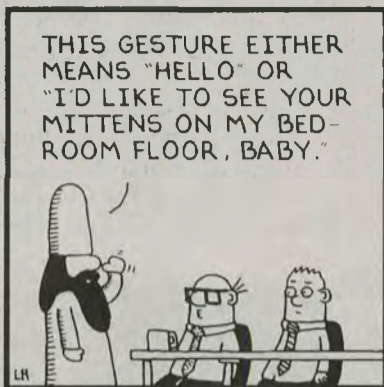
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This project was funded by a state genetics implementation grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau.

DILBERT

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PEANUTS

CHARLES SCHULZ

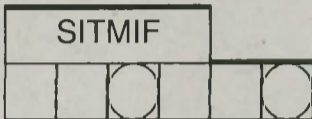
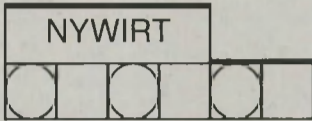
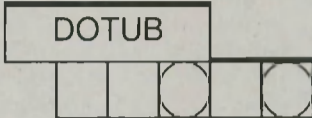
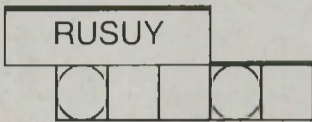


JUMBLE

HENRI ARNOLD
MIKE ARGIRION

JUMBLE

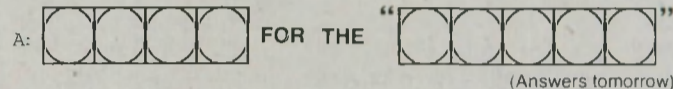
Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion



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

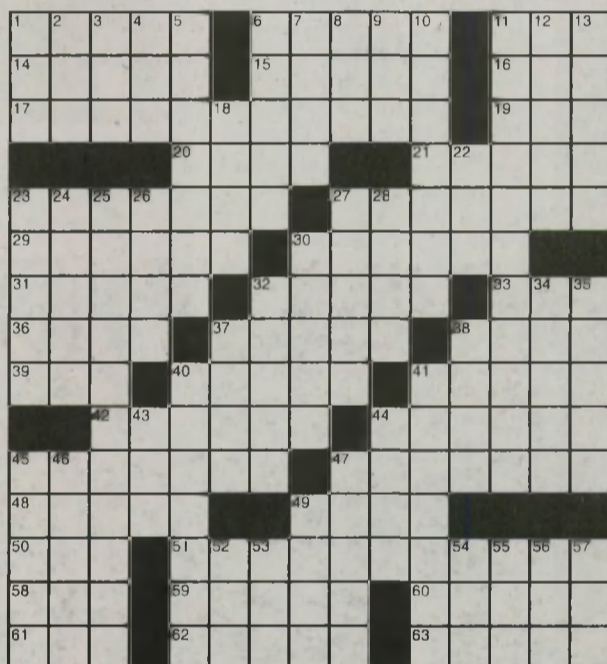


(Answers tomorrow)
Saturday's Jumbles: GIVEN CARGO DAHLIA CLERGY
Answer: What the detectives did when they spotted the credit card thieves — "CHARGED"

CROSSWORD

WILL SHORTZ

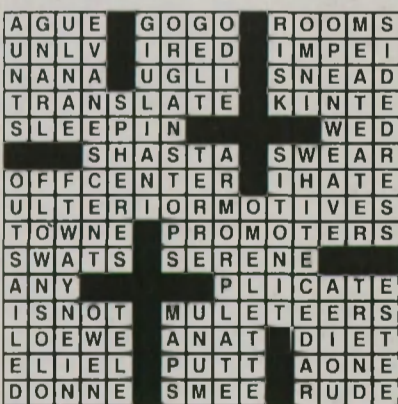
- ACROSS: 1 Jazz style, 6 Reclusive actress Greta, 11 Sandwich initials, 14 Tehran native, 15 Perfect, 16 Karel Capek play, 17 Rooming house offering, 19 Whiz, 20 Tints, 21 Tasteless, 23 Large monkeys, 27 Happy-face symbols, 29 Peter of "Lawrence of Arabia", 30 Cuban dance music: Var., 31 Make up (for), 32 Rent, 33 ___ King Cole, 36 "___ Lama Ding Dong" (1961 nonsense hit), 37 Nullifies, 38 Author Ferber, 39 Mrs., in Madrid, 40 Like the weather around lighthouses, often, 41 Open, as a package, 42 Ed of "The Honeymooners", 44 Carve, 45 Golf attendants, 47 Prayer book, 48 Country bumpkins, 49 Et ___ (and others), 50 Part of a college e-mail address, 51 Like a native, 58 Bro's sibling, 59 Tape deck button, 60 Ham it up, 61 Asian holiday, 62 Cosmetician Lauder, 63 Dork, DOWN: 1 Baby's mealtime garment, 2 Afore, 3 Naughty, 4 ___ case-by-case basis, 5 Tiny puncture, 6 Scoffs, 7 Fussess, 8 Stephen of "The Crying Game", 9 Drinker's place, 10 Antiquated, 11 Drilling tool, 12 Like a rabbit's foot, supposedly, 13 Deuce toppers, 18 Sand hill, 22 Priest's robe, 23 Wild swine, 24 ___ of roses, 25 Economic cycle, 26 Mrs. Chapin, 27 Disreputable, 28 Rumble, 30 King's time on the throne, 32 Apple's apple and Chevron's chevron, 34 Win by ___, 35 Levy imposer



- 37 Cast a ballot, 38 Letter accompanier: Abbr., 40 Toy loved by dogs, 41 Without assistance, 43 Wordsworth creation, 44 "The proof ___ the pudding", 45 Toothpaste brand, 46 War hero Murphy, 47 Dish, 49 Suffix with accept, 52 Breakfast drinks, briefly, 53 No longer working: Abbr., 54 Mercedes competitor, 55 Fish eggs, 56 Summer on the Seine, 57 Belle of a ball

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ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Chelsea Clinton, 25; Howard Hesseman, 65; Elizabeth Taylor, 73; Joanne Woodward, 75

Happy Birthday: Let everyone see how passionately you feel about your beliefs, direction and lifestyle. Once you walk the walk, everyone will look up to you for taking the position that suited you best. You are only a stone's throw away from achieving your goals. Personal validation will be yours. Your numbers are 10, 14, 21, 24, 33, 39

ARIES (March 21-April 19): It will be a waste of time to get angry with someone. Back off and get things done instead, and you will feel better about yourself and leave a good impression on someone who has been watching to see how you will handle yourself today. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You really must take a little time out to reorganize and redefine. Whatever you haven't been happy with in the past must be put to rest so that you can start anew. Someone you like will give you the go-ahead. An opportunity will be present. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You'd be surprised who you can meet through church or a function you attend today. A trip to a new destination will inspire you to do something you put on the back burner a long time ago. A change to your appearance will result in compliments. *****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Not everyone will be thinking the same way you are today. Give everyone the option to do as he or she pleases and spare yourself a lot of grief. For those who are like-minded, offer an incentive that will ensure you will get the help you need. **

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): A friendly get-together or a short trip to visit old friends will lead to something quite inspirational. Someone from your past will remind you of your dreams, hopes and wishes from days gone by. Take a chance and do something out of character. ****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Your plans should be in place and ready to execute. Do a final check to make sure you haven't left out something important. Every detail will contribute to how well you will do in the future. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Not everyone will understand what it is you are trying to do. Take baby steps to ensure that you get everyone's support. Don't argue; it will only slow you down and make others lose patience. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Take time out to have fun with friends or family. You owe it to yourself to put all your trials and tribulations on the back burner. You will have a fresh new perspective on old problems once you've had a chance to distance yourself. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Partnerships will be what count today. Bend over backwards to make everyone around you feel comfortable. Diplomacy will bring good results. If you become demanding, expect to have people turn on you. ****

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): When it comes to emotional matters, you may be way out of line. Stay calm and find out what's really happening before you decide to make critical comments. Listening to what others have to say will allow you more time to assess the situation. **

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): An opportunity to take part in a function will lead to an interesting chance meeting. Someone special will attract your attention. Your love life will take a turn in your favor. *****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Take care of personal business. Getting involved more actively with an older member of your family will bring you added wisdom. Look over important papers. Pamper yourself. ***

Birthday Baby: You have the capacity to make things happen. You are passionate, intense and in tune with what you want and how to get it. You are adaptable and engaging.

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

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

Trouble's Bruin

Since last season's disappointing NIT appearance, Mike Brey and his team have emphasized defense.

It let them fatten up on the non-conference cupcakes during the early-season shooting woes. It kept them in games throughout the rugged Big East schedule. It put them in position to make a run at the CAA tournament.

Now it's failing them at the wrong time of the season.

Getting blown out on its home court from the opening tip, Notre Dame never held a lead and fell behind by as many as 20 points in the second half in UCLA's 75-65 win at the Joyce Center Sunday afternoon.

"We have to concentrate on the defensive end. We did that early in the season when we weren't shooting well," Chris Quinn said. "We came out flat, especially on the defensive end. To their credit, they moved the ball and got open looks."

At Connecticut, the Irish (16-9) played their worst defensive

game of the season — giving up a season-high 88 points to the Huskies. On Sunday, the Irish let the Bruins (16-9) shoot the lights out as UCLA made 14-of-23 3-pointers.

The Bruins were able to shoot such a high percentage from behind the arc by getting into a comfortable offensive flow that saw their outside shooters get wide-open looks coming off screens.

"Fourteen 3-point shots kind of staggers you, that's not something they've been doing, but I give them credit," Brey said. "I thought defensively, I was disappointed we weren't guarding the ball screen and guarding shooters off stagger screens."

"We obviously have to get better before we play Rutgers. We talked about that, being better defensively, and we've been pretty good defensively."

"I can't answer that right now."

Meanwhile, the Irish offensive flow never got going as the Bruins built a 15-point halftime lead — the largest



Above, Chris Thomas takes a needed break.

At right, Dennis Latimore dunks.

PHOTOS BY
CLEMENT
SUHENDRA



Notre Dame lacks a sense of urgency as season comes to close

It is difficult to qualify a non-conference loss to a top-50 RPI team as a "bad loss." Even on Sunday, Notre Dame eventually found an effective lineup and showed signs of life down the stretch.

While the loss to UCLA does not affect Notre Dame's post-season status, the 10-point defeat does show that these Irish lack a sense of urgency in one of the most crucial segments of the season.

This week, Notre Dame knew they had only three opponents left on the regular season



Pat Leonard

Associate Sports Editor

see URGENCY/page 12

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Senior Day success for Irish

Borton and Batteast win their final game at Joyce Center

By HEATHER VAN HOEGARDEN
Sports Editor

In their last game at the Joyce Center, Teresa Borton and Jacqueline Batteast didn't let their emotions get the best of them — or for that matter, West Virginia.

Borton had 18 points to lead the Irish and Batteast added 15 as the only two remaining seniors of what started as a class of six led No. 10 Notre Dame to an



Jackie Batteast, left, and Teresa Borton battle for a rebound during Notre Dame's 82-57 win over West Virginia.

82-57 rout of West Virginia Saturday afternoon.

"I was really pleased with the game today," Irish coach Muffet

McGraw said. "I thought our two seniors did a great job com-

see SHOOTERS/page 17

Senior duo finish Notre Dame home careers as winners

After post-game interviews

Teresa Borton walked back into the Joyce Center arena, quietly moved to the side of the other players and began signing autographs for fans.



Joe Hettler

Sports Writer

A few moments later, Notre Dame's other senior, Jacqueline Batteast, emerged from the tunnel and was immediately swarmed by young boys and girls armed with pens and Irish memorabilia.

That's how it's been the past four years — Borton in the shadows, Batteast in the spotlight. The former doing the little things, making the unnoticed contributions and the latter scoring, rebounding and ulti-

mately developing into one of the greatest in program history.

The combination has worked. Entering the program in 2001-2002 — the season after Notre Dame's national championship — the duo had the unappealing challenge of somehow replacing five graduating players, including All-American Ruth Riley, and sustaining Notre Dame as a top-tier program. Through

see SENIORS/page 17

FOOTBALL

Powlus may return for front-office position

By JUSTIN SCHUVER
Associate Sports Editor

Former Irish signal caller Ron Powlus could replace Jimmy Gonzales as director of personnel development for the Irish football team, according to Bluandgold.com and Irisheyes.com on Sunday.

Powlus would take over for Gonzales, who left to accept a job with Oklahoma State shortly after Irish head coach Charlie Weis replaced Tyrone Willingham.

As director of player development, Powlus would be responsible for recruiting administration and player development for the Irish, along with additional duties associated with the team.

"From what I have learned talking to past personnel directors, the job is primarily an organizational one," Mike Frank of Irisheyes.com said. "This is the person who's responsible for organizing travels for the recruits, junior days, campus visits and maybe even also collecting transcripts and phone numbers."

Powlus is one of a handful of recent former Irish standouts that have discussed the possibil-

ity of returning to the school in some capacity, including former Irish receiver Tim Brown and ex-Irish running back Jerome Bettis. But elected to remain involved in professional football.

Powlus was one of the most highly recruited quarterbacks in the country when he signed with Notre Dame as a freshman in 1993. A broken collarbone postponed the start of Powlus' career with the team, but the quarterback assumed the starting role in 1994 and played until 1997.

By the time of his final game in an Irish uniform, Powlus held the Notre Dame career marks for passes attempted (969), passes completed (558), yardage (7,602) and touchdown passes (52).

But despite the statistical accolades, Powlus and his teams had a difficult time maintaining consistency. During his career, the Irish amassed a 30-17-1 record, and did not contend for a national championship.

Powlus was signed by the Philadelphia Eagles and spent several years in that organization, but never saw the field in a regular-season NFL game.

Contact Justin Schuver at jschuver@nd.edu

SPORTS AT A GLANCE

NCAA BASKETBALL

Kansas 81, Oklahoma St. 79

After losing three straight games, the Jayhawks rebound with a win over the Cowboys.

page 16

PGA TOUR

Toms takes Match Play title

David Toms beat Chris DiMarco 6 and 5 for 1.3-million-dollar winner's purse.

page 16

MEN'S GOLF

Tulane Invitational

Notre Dame looks to kick off the spring season on the right foot in New Orleans.

page 14

ND WOMEN'S TENNIS

Irish 7, Hawkeyes 0

Coming off a three-match losing streak, Notre Dame shut out Iowa Sunday.

page 13

MEN'S LACROSSE

Notre Dame 14, Penn State 6

No. 10 Irish handily defeated No. 21 Nittany Lions Sunday to start the year.

page 13

BASEBALL

Dayton 2, Notre Dame 1

The Flyers take two of three from the Irish in a weekend series, including a wild one Sunday.

page 12