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Jenkins to address academic freedom

Queer Film Festival, Vagina Monologues are starting points for discussion

By MADDIE HANNA and
MARY KATE MALONE
News Writers

University President Father John Jenkins will discuss the interplay between academic freedom and Notre Dame's Catholic character in three open dialogue addresses next week, a decision spurred by recent heightened debate about the Queer Film Festival and Vagina



Jenkins

Monologues.

"Academic freedom is an essential value in any university community, and our Catholic character is essential to Notre Dame," Jenkins said in a statement Tuesday. "I want to address both these central values, and seek comment and discussion from the University community. I believe such discussion is an important one for Notre Dame and Catholic higher education in general."

Jenkins will not make a policy announcement in favor or against certain productions during his addresses, but will simply initiate dialogue, University spokesman Dennis Brown and vice president of Public Affairs

and Communication Hilary Crnkovich said.

Professors and students said they were encouraged by Jenkins' decision to speak publicly about two contentious and central aspects of the University's identity.

James Collins, associate chair of the Film, Television and Theatre Department, which has traditionally co-sponsored the Queer Film Festival and Vagina Monologues, said the addresses have already built anticipation.

"I'm delighted he's giving the talk on where he stands on all of this. Right now I think clarification of where he stands is really important," Collins said. "A lot of people are imagining

he's going to be for or against it and he hasn't said anything one way or another. With people so polarized on this campus, each convinced that Jenkins is on their side, it is very useful for him to articulate where he stands."

While the Queer Film Festival and Vagina Monologues — the former entering its third year at Notre Dame, the latter its fifth — have particularly polarized the campus, Brown said the two events would serve as examples rather than focal points in the address Jenkins will deliver to faculty on Monday, students on Tuesday and alumni on

see JENKINS/page 4

Timm hired as head of Mount Mary

By MEGAN O'NEIL
Saint Mary's Editor

Saint Mary's Vice President for Student Affairs Linda Timm announced last week she will leave the College in June in order to assume the presidency at Mount Mary College in Milwaukee, Wis.



Timm

As a vice president at Saint Mary's for 11 years, Timm interacted closely with students, overseeing various departments on campus including athletics and recreation, student activities, counseling and career development, health and wellness services and residence life.

"This is the next move in my life," Timm said of the job change. "In lots of ways, this will be a new beginning for me — a new beginning professionally and a new beginning personally."

Timm began to consider the possibility of a presidential position in recent years, she said, and was first contacted by the Mount Mary search committee as a potential candidate in late July. Timm said that institution's mission as a Catholic women's liberal arts college resonated with her from the very beginning.

One of six candidates initially interviewed, Timm visited the Milwaukee campus in mid-September where she met with the search committee — a body which included

see TIMM/page 6

Off-campus student residences burglarized

Locked doors, alarm systems fail to stop winter break thefts

By MARY KATE MALONE
Assistant News Editor

Several off-campus houses occupied by Notre Dame students were burglarized or vandalized during Christmas break in a series of crimes that students said caused serious damage to their homes.

Ten students living at 825 East Washington St. estimated the damage to their 10-bedroom house at about \$10,000. Burglars entered the house Dec. 27, stealing everything from DVDs and



CLAIRE KELLEY/The Observer

Residents of 524 Corby Street discovered their house was vandalized during break. Houses on East Washington Street were also hit.

see THEFTS/page 6

Renters disturbed, but not surprised by recent break-ins

By KATIE PERRY
Assistant News Editor

Off-campus students victimized by burglaries during Christmas break said they were not surprised by the events — just shocked they did not happen sooner. And some feared the crimes would increase already-inflamed tensions between Notre Dame students and the South Bend community.

"I was feeling like we were going to get broken into, even during

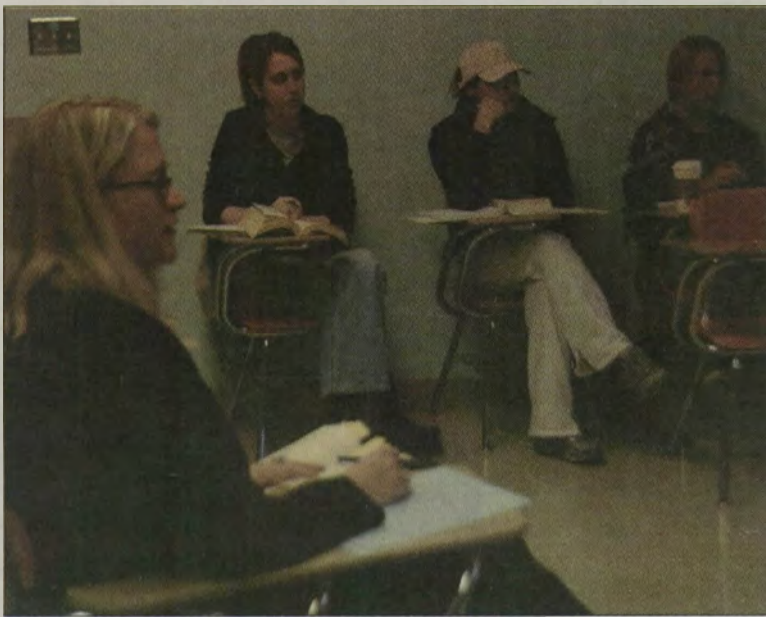
see SECURITY/page 8

College starts semester day early

By KELLY MEEHAN
Assistant News Editor

Saint Mary's students' winter break came to an abrupt end Monday when they found themselves sitting in a classroom on a day previously reserved for enrollment, purchasing books and schedule changes.

The College Academic Affairs Council voted in April 2005 to resume class on the first Monday of the spring 2006 semester and every semester thereafter. The council opted to begin a day earlier in order to achieve an equal meeting time between classes that convene on Monday, Wednesday and Friday and those that met on



KATE FENLON/The Observer

Saint Mary's students listen in class, which started on Monday at the College — a day before classes at Notre Dame began.

see CLASS/page 4

Former trustee pleads guilty to misdemeanor

Observer Staff Report

Former Notre Dame football captain and NFL Super Bowl winner Dave Duerson, who resigned from the University's Board of Trustees last February, pleaded guilty Tuesday to a misdemeanor charge of domestic battery.

Duerson, 45, of Highland Park, Ill., appeared Tuesday in the traffic and misdemeanor division of Superior Court in South Bend and pleaded guilty to one of four misdemeanor counts against him.

The charges stemmed from an argument between Duerson and his wife, Alicia, that took place last February in their hotel room at the Morris Inn on

the Notre Dame campus, police said. The two were on campus for the winter Board of Trustees meeting. Duerson pushed his wife out the door of their room and she hit the wall, and she was treated and released from a local hospital, police said.

Duerson agreed to plead guilty to the domestic battery charge in return for three other counts against him being dismissed. Catherine Wilson, a spokeswoman for St. Joseph County Prosecutor Michael Dvorak, told the Associated Press. The former football star is scheduled to be sentenced March 14 and faces up to a year in jail and a \$5,000 fine.

see DUERSON/page 9

INSIDE COLUMN

Obligatory resolution

It's the beginning of a new semester, and also still the beginning of a new year. Although the festivities of New Year's Eve are in the past, for many people New Year's resolutions are very much a part of the present.

Laura Baumgartner

It has only been about 17 days, give or take a few hours, since these resolutions were made and I hope most of you can still honestly say that you are living up to yours.

Wire Editor

However, if you didn't choose to converge with the masses and resolve to improve your life in some way this year I think that's OK too. Based on my experiences, I haven't encountered many people who were able to sustain their goals for the New Year throughout the month of January, let alone the entire year.

Personally, I don't even remember what my past resolutions may have been. This makes me fairly confident that I did not continue with my resolve to improve myself for very long.

I think the problem with New Year's resolutions is that a lot of the time people don't really commit to them. They make up a resolution whether it's to start working out on a regular basis, to quit smoking, or to spend more time doing volunteer work not because they truly want to do these things but because they feel obligated too.

New Year's resolutions are a tradition that dates back to Babylonian times, and because they are still so popular in society today who wants to be the oddball who doesn't make one. However, if you really want to change something about yourself or your life, shouldn't you be able to do it any day of the year?

Life is complicated enough as it is; do we really need to have the added pressure of New Year's and its dreaded resolutions looming over our heads on top of all the daily stressors we encounter?

If you really are dedicated to changing yourself for the better or resolving to change something else that you think could use improvements and just need that extra push to get started, then I think New Year's was created for you. However, I don't think we should need a set day to encourage us to make changes. If you want to change something I think you should just go out and do it, take the initiative and start whenever you feel like it.

There's no reason to wait until next year to make a resolution, so if you missed the deadline of midnight on New Year's Eve this year, don't worry about it, start today.

I didn't start my resolution until returning to campus. In fact, I wasn't even going to make one simply because I couldn't think of anything that I thought I wanted to change. Once I had moved in and worked up an appetite after struggling with my luggage however, my resolution came to me.

I'm going to eat in the dining hall this semester. There will be no more spending money on snacks at Meijer or Target, no more ordering Jimmy John's at all hours of the day. I'm going to use the meal plan I paid for instead of spending extra money on food.

I've been here for three days now and I've been to the dining hall three times. At least it's a step in the right direction.

I hope you all find success with your resolutions as well. Good luck.

Contact Laura Baumgartner at lbaum01@2saintmarys.edu

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

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT WAS THE BEST PART OF WINTER BREAK?



Jeff Paone
junior
Dillon

"Watching 'The Aristocrats.'"



Jorie Reger
junior
Welsh Family

"When my friend became my friend with benefits."



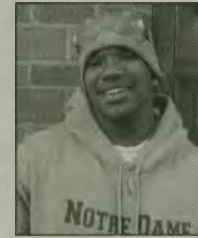
Jon Kearney
freshman
Alumni

"Hugging the White Sox World Series trophy."



Bill Buzaid
freshman
Alumni

"Frolicking in the snow with Kearney."



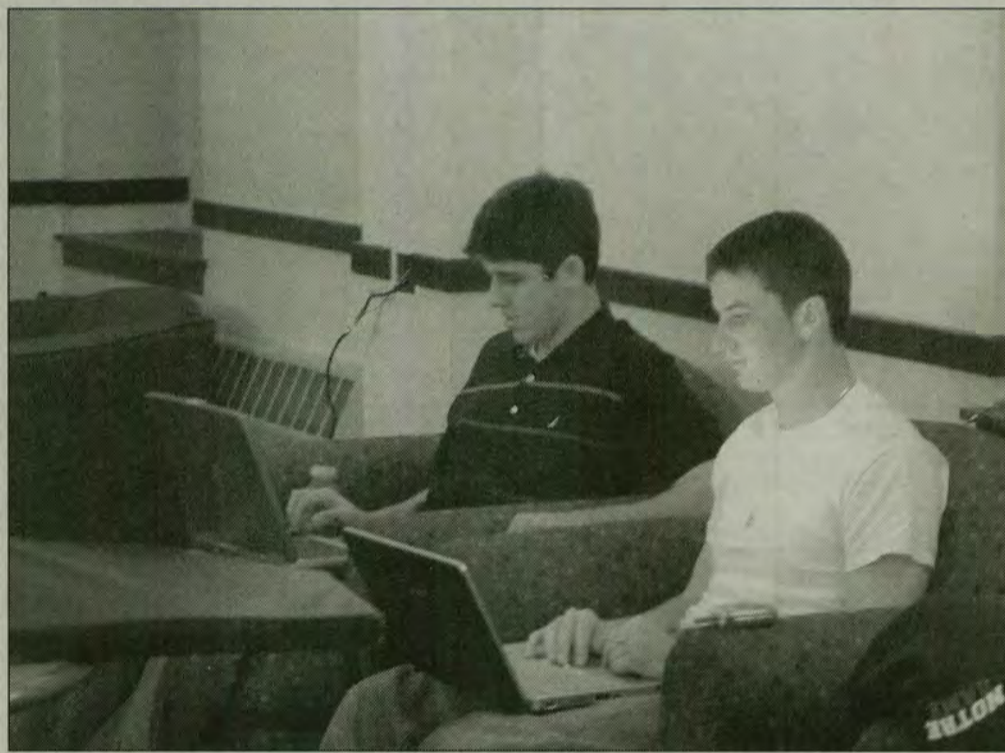
Kevin Washington
freshman
Knott Hall

"The warm weather."



Brian Desplinter
freshman
Alumni

"Sobriety."



HY PHAM/The Observer

With Morrissey not having Internet or cable for the next couple of weeks during dorm installation, students have been forced to go elsewhere for their online needs. For most, like these two students Tuesday, the Internet refuge is the basement of Morrissey, where many cables line the hallway ready to be installed.

OFFBEAT

Airport becomes hot spot to tie the knot

STOCKHOLM — A busy international airport may not seem like the most romantic setting for a wedding, but it is an increasingly popular venue for exchanging vows in Sweden.

Last year, 488 couples tied the knot at Arlanda airport outside Stockholm, up from 348 in 2004. It was the second consecutive yearly increase, airport spokeswoman Helena Miller said.

The weddings took place in the airport chapel or, more commonly, in a VIP

room, where the bride and groom can check in their luggage, order champagne and catering, and when the ceremony is over, be driven straight up to the aircraft.

Father traps himself in washer playing with kids

SYDNEY, Australia — A man had to be rescued after becoming wedged in a washing machine while playing a game with his children, a newspaper reported Tuesday.

A fire officer pulled Robin Toom, 38, out of the machine after Toom became trapped while

playing hide-and-seek, according to Sydney's Daily Telegraph.

"I just hopped in there and couldn't even get the lid down and the kids came in and said, 'Ha, ha! We found you,'" Toom told the newspaper.

Toom, of the Queensland city of Townsville, waited for an hour with his knees pressed to his chest before being rescued by local fire squad member Dave Dillon, the paper reported.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

The film "The Breakfast Club" will be shown Thursday at 11:55 p.m. as part of the Brew and View at Legends. Free breakfast will be served.

The Notre Dame Student Film Festival begins Friday at 7 p.m. in the DeBartolo Center for the Performing Arts. The Festival will feature 12 short films made as class projects during the past year and will include dark comedies and documentaries.

Bill O'Connell's Chicago Skyliners, a swing band, will perform Friday at 10 p.m. at Legends.

The Saint Mary's swim team will compete against Kalamazoo College in its final home meet of the season Friday at 6:30 p.m. in Rolf's Aquatic Center.

The Saint Mary's first year board is sponsoring Battle of the Bands 2006 Saturday at 6:30 p.m. in the Saint Mary's Student Center. The event will feature Notre Dame bands "Somersaults," "Slap Bracelet Suicide," "Robbie Hazen," "Ryan Connaughton" and "Patrick the Unlikely Genius." Proceeds benefit Riley Hospital for Children.

Tim Reynolds, a collaborator with the Dave Matthews Band, will perform at Legends Saturday at 10 p.m. ND/Saint Mary's/Holy Cross ID required.

Mission IMPROVable, a Chicago-based improv comedy group, will perform Saturday at 9 p.m. in Washington Hall. Admission is free.

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

	TODAY	TONIGHT	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
	HIGH 32 LOW 28	HIGH 30 LOW 25	HIGH 46 LOW 38	HIGH 43 LOW 38	HIGH 44 LOW 26	HIGH 38 LOW 29

Atlanta 61 / 44 Boston 32 / 10 Chicago 46 / 30 Denver 37 / 26 Houston 72 / 63 Los Angeles 63 / 48 Minneapolis 33 / 28 New York 32 / 16 Philadelphia 31 / 20 Phoenix 58 / 42 Seattle 43 / 41 St. Louis 44 / 38 Tampa 68 / 44 Washington 42 / 32

University to honor Martin Luther King, Jr.

By PETER NINNEMAN
News Writer

Notre Dame has not yet held any campus events to honor Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, observed Monday, but it has plans to do so. In addition, University leaders also participated in some community and off-campus events for the holiday.

Richard Pierce, chair of the University's department of Africana studies and associate professor of history, led a discussion at Notre Dame Downtown, located on South Michigan Street, which focused on lesser-known civil rights activists.

Dean of First Year of Studies and theology professor Hugh Page was the keynote speaker at the "King Day" gospel program at the Century Center in South Bend. Page discussed the relationship between religion and social change at the annual program.

In recent years, celebrations of Martin Luther King Day at Notre Dame have included prayer services, a "peace quilt" made by students of Notre Dame and local elementary schools and an artistic showcase by students of Notre Dame, Saint Mary's, and Holy Cross.

As in 2004, this year Notre Dame will be holding a town hall meeting. "A Call for Your Voice: The Responsibility of Every Man and Woman," will take place Jan. 24 and will discuss topics

such as politics and global humanitarian interests, economics, education, gender relations and cultural diversity at the University and Catholic social teaching. Faculty members on the panel will include Anthony Burrow, a researcher associate in the department of psychology, and Reanna Ursin, a visiting fellow in the department of Africana studies. Student members of the King Day committee, which organized the event, will also share the microphone during the meeting.

The meeting is sponsored by Campus Ministry and Multicultural Student Programs and Services and will be held at 7 p.m. in the student lounge of the Coleman-Morse Center. In addition to Tuesday's event, there will be a similar discussion by selected student leaders and members of the King Day committee on Jan. 23, in the Main Building.

Students understood why the University did not hold any events honoring King this week.

"It would have been nice for the University to have done something because he really changed the way the country works, but it's understandable that nothing happened because we all just got back from break," freshman Eileen Helmer said. "Organizing and advertising any type of event would've been pretty hard."

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pninnema@nd.edu

Students trek to Tempe over break



CLAIRE KELLEY/The Observer

Domers cheer on the Irish in the Fiesta Bowl on Jan. 2 after flocking there from across the country.

By RYAN SYDLIK
News Writer

Notre Dame and Saint Mary's students traveled from all over the United States to Tempe, Ariz., in large numbers over the break to see the Irish take on the Ohio State Buckeyes in the Fiesta Bowl. Despite the loss, students enjoyed the game and the experiences that came with it.

Senior Chris Christensen of Knott Hall made the trip to the Sun Devil Stadium from Virginia with friends and family.

"I had a good time," Christensen said. "I really enjoyed seeing all my friends there, and being in the student section made it almost like a home game."

However, Christensen was not a big fan of Sun Devil Stadium. It was disconcerting to him because, he said, due to the stands' red color, it looked like there were more Ohio State fans than Notre Dame fans.

Kevin Clock, also a senior from Knott Hall, made his way to Tempe and said the weather was ideal for a football game.

"Aside from the loss, I had a great time," Clock said. "It was

good to see [all my friends] for a game one last time."

Clock was able to go because a friend secured him a game ticket and because he received a plane ticket as a special gift from his grandfather. He knew some people that were not as well prepared, however.

"One girl I know didn't initially have a game ticket, but she made all the flight arrangements before she even was able to get one," he said.

Clock also mentioned that he knew a few people who were upset they didn't win the lottery.

"Seniors were mad that underclassmen got tickets while they were unable to go to what would be their last game as a student," he said.

Saint Mary's senior Tai Baird waited in line for several hours in the College's Student Center to buy one of the 100 tickets allotted to Saint Mary's students and then flew from Georgia to watch the Irish face off against the Buckeyes.

"It was really neat meeting so many different people from all across the United States that traveled just to see the game," Baird said.

Will Kurtz was another senior

who attended the game.

"It was a lot of fun," Kurtz said. "I really thought we were coming back in the last 5 minutes, but our defense just couldn't stop them."

Kurtz also had positive experiences with Ohio State fans and said they were really amiable.

"I didn't see any fights or arguments," Kurtz said. "I expected a little bit more animosity, but there really wasn't any at all."

A native of Scottsdale, it was the fourth Notre Dame bowl game loss in Arizona Kurtz attended.

"I'm still waiting for a victory," Kurtz said. "And hopefully, the fifth time is the charm."

Ed Kummerer, a sophomore who is also an Arizona native, went to the game with his family. "It was painful at times, but it was fun to go and support the team," Kummerer said.

Saint Mary's student Becky Feauto flew from Iowa to Vegas and then drove to Tempe to tailgate with friends and watch Notre Dame take the field.

"I enjoyed the game despite being disappointed by the loss," Feauto said.

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The Observer

is currently accepting applications for the

2006-07 Editor-in-Chief

Applicants must submit BOTH a resume and at least a 10-PAGE proposal explaining their interest in the position and their plans for running the newspaper.

Applications are due Sunday, January 22 by 5 p.m.

COMPLETED APPLICATIONS CAN BE SUBMITTED TO
THE OBSERVER'S OFFICE
IN THE BASEMENT OF SOUTH DINING HALL.

Contact Editor-in-Chief Claire Heiningger
at 1-4542
for more information

Jenkins

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Thursday.

Brown said he did not believe a decision had been reached about whether to change the name of the Queer Film Festival, a possibility raised in December.

Each address' audience will be allowed a chance to respond with comments or questions, an open discussion concept that quickly generated a positive response from the Notre Dame community.

"It's important that Father John is telling us what his thoughts are because [the academic freedom issue] has caused a lot of discord in the community," said anthropology professor James McKenna, whose department has previously sponsored the Queer Film Festival. "What's important is the ability of these issues to be addressed by all constituencies of the campus."

But he also expressed uncertainty — a feeling he believes many professors share.

"I think all of us are thinking the same thing, [that is] we don't have a sense of what he's going to say," McKenna said. "It is interesting because everyone is interested in it. Everyone thinks this has a lot of implications in order for our University to be great."

Crnkovich said the new year provided a good opportunity for new University leadership to initiate discussion on important topics such as academic freedom.

"A university setting is a wonderful place to encourage points

of view and discussions of importance," she said.

Jenkins prioritized student involvement in the discussion through an invitation Executive Assistant to the President Frances Shavers extended to student body president Dave Baron during winter break. On Jan. 2, Jenkins, Shavers, Baron and student body vice president Lizzi Shappell met while in Arizona for the Fiesta Bowl to discuss the possibility of a dialogue involving students, Baron said.

"I appreciate and respect the approach [Jenkins] is taking with this, especially his effort to include as many people as possible in the discussion," Baron said. "That's

extremely respectful of us, as students in particular."

Baron said he believes there will be a sizeable student turnout at Tuesday's discussion.

Jenkins has no choice but to confront an issue of this magnitude, said Charles Rice, law school professor emeritus, who has previously opposed both the Vagina Monologues and the Queer Film Festival.

"I think that's part of his responsibility as president to address this issue," Rice said. "I did not expect it but I think it's an indication that he is taking

this very seriously, which is a very good sign."

Philosophy professor Ed Manier, who has in the past been outspoken in defense of academic freedom issues, including the Queer Film Festival, said predictions about what the president will reveal are at this point speculative.

"My initial reaction is more in the wait and see mode," Manier said. "Jenkins is a serious man and this is an important talk. I think it will be a good idea to listen to the talk with something like an open mind ... I certainly plan on attending."

Students involved with the Vagina Monologues production are also anxious to hear what Jenkins has to say, director

Madi Liddy said.

"We just discussed that we're going to keep an open mind," Liddy said. "Although there's a lot of drama about the Vagina Monologues, we're also really willing to hear what he has to say about academic freedom ... We all want to go."

The co-chairs of this year's Queer Film Festival were not available for comment Tuesday.

Contact Maddie Hanna at mhanna1@nd.edu and Mary Kate Malone at mmalone3@nd.edu

"I think all of us are thinking the same thing, [that is] we don't have a sense of what he's going to say. It is interesting because everyone is interested in it. Everyone thinks this has a lot of implications in order for our University to be great."

James McKenna
anthropology professor

Class

continued from page 1

Tuesday and Thursday. Some students who utilized the class-free Monday for readjusting to college life after a four-week winter break did not welcome the earlier starting date.

"I liked having the extra day to get organized, buy books and catch up with friends before we start in with classes," junior Catherine Reinert said. "I arrived on Sunday night and had class all day [on Monday] so I haven't had a chance to buy my books yet."

The College made adjustments in attempts to accommodate the early start to the semester. Representatives from each academic department were available on Sunday afternoon to address students' scheduling problems, and the bookstore remained open from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m.

College residence halls, however, did not reopen until 9 a.m. on Sunday, which proved to put a time constraint on many students who desired extra time to move back into their dorm rooms.

"I felt a little rushed, especially since they didn't open the dorms until Sunday morning," junior Mary Meier said. "I was also surprised that the bookstore closed at 6 p.m. I figured they would stay open later to accommodate students."

As a junior resident advisor, Jessica Stoller returned to her dorm room on Saturday and said that the situation became frustrating when some students snuck back into their dorm

rooms on Saturday evening. "Some [students] had already bought plane tickets to come back without to school on Saturday rather than Sunday, and we had to allow housing and make special exceptions," she said. "The change was just frustrating for residents, RAs and residence life staff to have to deal with on a fairly short notice."

Sophomores Erin Hogan and Natalie Grasso faced the challenge of having a very limited time to move into their dorm rooms after studying in Rome last semester.

"We just really hit the ground running," Grasso said. "We had to move in quickly, which gave us no time to stop and think about the readjusting process."

Hogan agreed and said that it was difficult to find time to reunite with friends after being away from the campus since last May.

"I have just been going non-stop since I got here, and have not even had time to think about being back," she said.

Communications studies professor Colleen Fitzpatrick said she felt students did not seem quite as prepared on Monday as they did on the first day of class last semester.

"Very few students had the textbooks yet ... I also heard of a few students who missed Monday's class because they assumed the semester started [Tuesday]," she said. "But overall, the students seemed to be enthusiastic about starting, even if there were a few grumbles about starting on Monday."

Contact Kelly Meehan at kmecha01@saintmarys.edu

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Countries disagree over Iran

VIENNA, Austria — Pressure on Iran intensified Tuesday, with key European countries and the United States moving ahead with plans to refer Tehran to the U.N. Security Council and Israel vowing not to let the Iranians develop nuclear weapons.

But Russia and China — Iran's past backers — urged negotiations instead of confrontation, casting doubt on whether next month's International Atomic Energy Agency meeting will demonstrate a unified political will.

A meeting Monday in London produced no agreement among the United States, France, Britain and Germany and Moscow and Beijing on whether to refer the dispute over Iranian nuclear enrichment to the Security Council, which could impose sanctions.

U.S. strike strains Pakistani relations

PESHAWAR, Pakistan — Pakistani provincial authorities said Tuesday four or five foreign terrorists were killed in the purported U.S. missile strike that has severely strained relations with this Muslim nation, a key ally in President Bush's war on terror.

Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz, on the eve of a trip to Washington, said that despite the importance of ties with the United States, attacks inside Pakistan "cannot be condoned."

"Pakistan has committed to fighting terrorism, but naturally we cannot accept any action within our country which results in what happened over the weekend," Aziz said, referring to the missile strike Friday in the border village of Damadola.

Eighteen residents, including women and children, were also killed in the strike, the

NATIONAL NEWS

Court rules to remove life support

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. — The state's highest court ruled Tuesday that an 11-year-old girl who was allegedly kicked and beaten with a baseball bat could be taken off life support. The move could lead to murder charges against her stepfather.

State officials had asked that Haleigh Poutre's ventilator and feeding tube be withdrawn after doctors said she was in a vegetative state with no hope of recovery.

Her stepfather, who is already charged with beating the girl, fought the move, but the Supreme Judicial Court ruled against him.

No immediate date was set for the removal of life support, said Denise Monteiro, a spokeswoman for the Department of Social Services. Doctors have said Haleigh would die within a few days without the feeding tube.

Senators: Katrina recovery slow

NEW ORLEANS — Progress rebuilding the Gulf Coast is still overshadowed by the devastation brought by Hurricane Katrina, senators said Tuesday, promising more federal help as they viewed broken levees and the shattered homes of victims trying to restart their lives.

Four months after the Aug. 29 storm, lawmakers said they were surprised to see how little progress has been made in places like Gulfport, Miss., where churches were gutted and trees uprooted, and in New Orleans, where piles of boards and rubble sit where homes used to stand.

LOCAL NEWS

Legislature reviews highway plan

INDIANAPOLIS — Gov. Mitch Daniels' major highway plan got several plugs during its first hearing before lawmakers Tuesday, with proponents calling it a bold proposal that would create jobs and boost economic development by funding numerous road and other transportation projects.

The plan would allow the state to lease the Indiana Toll Road in northern Indiana to a private venture for an up-front sum the administration hopes would be \$2 billion or more.

Court upholds doctor-assisted suicide

Without Roberts' support, Supreme Court backs Oregon's assisted suicide law

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The first major ruling of the Roberts era at the Supreme Court was missing something: the support of new Chief Justice John Roberts.

Roberts joined the court's most conservative members, Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas, in backing the Bush administration's challenge to Oregon's unique doctor-assisted suicide law.

They were outvoted, however, by moderate and liberal justices who said Oregon doctors can help terminally ill patients die without fear of punishment from the federal government.

The 6-3 decision found that the Bush administration improperly tried to use a federal drug law to pursue Oregon doctors who help people die under the law.

Although Roberts did not write his own dissent, his vote signals how he may change the court.

He replaced William H. Rehnquist, a states' rights supporter who was against the Bush administration in another state-federal government clash last year, over federal authority to override state medical marijuana statutes.

Justice Anthony M. Kennedy said the latest dispute, between Oregon and social conservatives in the Bush administration, was part of a "political and moral debate" over doctor-assisted suicide.

The ruling could encourage other states to consider copying Oregon's law, used to end the lives of more than 200 seriously ill people in that state. The decision, one of the biggest expected from the court this year, also could set the stage for



Charlene Andrews, 68, plaintiff and terminally ill breast-cancer patient, second from right, celebrates after the U.S. Supreme Court announced its decision Tuesday.

Congress to attempt to outlaw assisted suicide.

"Congress did not have this far-reaching intent to alter the federal-state balance," Kennedy wrote for the majority — himself, retiring Justice Sandra Day O'Connor and Justices John Paul Stevens, David Souter, Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Stephen Breyer.

With this decision Kennedy showed signs of becoming a more influential swing voter after O'Connor departs. He is a moderate conservative who sometimes joins more liberal members on cases involving such things as gay rights

and capital punishment.

The case was argued in October on Roberts' second day on the bench, and he strongly hinted that he would back the Bush administration. Some court watchers had expected O'Connor to be the decisive vote, which could have delayed the case until her successor was on the court. The Senate is set to vote soon on nominee Samuel Alito.

Justices have dealt with end-of-life cases before, most recently in 1997 when the court unanimously ruled that people have no constitutional right to die.

That decision, by Rehnquist, left room for states to set their own rules.

The Tuesday ruling, and dissents, were tinged with an understanding about the delicate nature of the subject. The court itself is aging and the death of Rehnquist this past September after a yearlong fight with cancer was emotional for the justices.

Scalia said in his dissent that the court's ruling "is perhaps driven by a feeling that the subject of assisted suicide is none of the federal government's business. It is easy to sympathize with that position."

IRAQ

Tape of U.S. hostage aired on Iraqi television

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Hostage American reporter Jill Carroll appeared in a silent 20-second video aired Tuesday by Al-Jazeera television, which said her abductors gave the United States 72 hours to free female prisoners in Iraq or she would be killed.

The tape showed the 28-year-old reporter sitting in front of a white background and speaking, but her voice could not be heard. On the tape, Carroll is pale and appears tired, and her long, straight, brown hair is parted in the middle and pulled back from her face.

Al-Jazeera would not tell The Associated Press how it received the tape, but the station issued its own statement calling for Carroll's release. An Al-Jazeera producer said no militant group's name was attached to the message that was sent to the station with the silent

tape on Tuesday.

However, a still photograph of Carroll from the videotape that later appeared on the Al-Jazeera Web site carried a logo in the bottom right corner that read "The Revenge Brigade." The group was not known from previous claims of responsibility of violence in Iraq.

Carroll was a freelance reporter for The Christian Science Monitor, and the newspaper released a statement from her family pleading with her captors to set her free.

"Jill is an innocent journalist and we respectfully ask that you please show her mercy and allow her to return home to her mother, sister and family," the statement said. "Jill is a friend and sister to many Iraqis and has been dedicated to bringing the truth of the Iraq war to the world. We appeal for the speedy and safe return of our beloved daughter and sister."

In its own statement appealing for Carroll's release, the newspaper said she arrived in Iraq in 2003 and began filing stories for the Monitor early last year.

The kidnappers "have seized an innocent person who is a great admirer of the Iraqi people," the newspaper said. "She is a professional journalist whose only goal has been to report truthfully about Iraq and to promote understanding. As an intelligent, dedicated, open-minded reporter, she has earned the respect of her Arab and Western peers."

The State Department responded to the videotape with a statement that U.S. officials were doing everything possible to win Carroll's freedom.

"We continue to make every effort we can, working with Iraqis and others, to see Miss Carroll is returned safe and sound," spokesman Sean McCormack said.

Thefts

continued from page 1

Playstation consoles to food and a bed comforter, the occupants said. Desktop computers and television sets were spared.

Senior John Noell, who lives at the house, said he and his roommates locked every window and door before leaving for break.

"But we have big windows and doors that aren't sturdy and locking your room isn't good either [because] those can get kicked easily, too," Noell said. "I was prepared [against burglary], but I wasn't surprised [our house was broken into]."

Nearly every door of the house was broken down — including the 10 bedroom doors — all of which were locked.

The tenants didn't find out about the robbery until one of the roommates, who lives in Granger, drove by the house and realized what had happened.

The damage was not as severe at 821 East Washington St., where residents said the burglars were caught in the middle of their stealing spree, thanks to a friend who drove by the house and noticed people inside. The burglary was reported on Dec. 28.

"The house is equipped with an alarm, which apparently was not triggered during the break-in," said one of the residents, a male senior who wished to remain anonymous. "The speaker for the alarm was ripped out of the wall. We are frustrated that the alarm did not go off, but are very thankful that our friend was in the area during the time of the burglary."

The South Bend Police Department did not return phone calls seeking comment Tuesday.

Mark Kramer, who owns both houses on Washington Street, said alarm systems are essential to preventing break-ins. He said he sent out an e-mail to all his tenants before the holiday encouraging them to take special precautions to ensure that their houses were safe.

Despite his instructions, this year's crimes were the worst he's ever seen.

"That's the problem ... this is the prime time that something is going to happen, but we don't have a lot of break-ins," Kramer said. "In all my years of doing this I can count them on one hand."

Kramer said every house he owns has an alarm system, but it's up to the tenants to make sure it's connected and working properly.

A break-in was also reported at 524 Corby St. on Dec. 28, where vandals splattered walls with profane graffiti — causing between \$500-\$1,000 worth of damage, resident Ray Jarosz said.

The vandals broke through a window on the second floor using a futon from a neighbor's porch.

"[There was] writing on pictures and on walls, [and also] feces on a chair," said James Yesnik, who also lives in the house.

The house's alarm system was not connected, allowing the vandals to cause serious damage without the threat of getting caught. The only item stolen was an old Notre Dame I.D. card.

Contact Mary Kate Malone at mmalone3@nd.edu

Timm

continued from page 1

representatives from the corporate board, the School Sisters of Notre Dame, the Board of Trustees, faculty, administration, staff, students and alumnae.

"When I met with the search committee it felt really good. I thought, 'This could be a really good fit for me,'" Timm said.

Timm was invited back to Mount Mary in late October for a weekend of extensive interviews, which she described as "intense." She was notified she had been selected as the College's 10th president just before Christmas.

"I've very excited," Timm said. "I was feeling confident throughout. I just felt throughout all the interviews I communicated who I am and what my skills are and my interests in the best possible way that I could."

Timm will take the helm at a college that has made notable progress in the past few years. Outgoing College President Patricia O'Donoghue increased enrollment this year to a record-high 1,722 students. A recent capital campaign raised \$28 million, far surpassing the original goal of \$16.5 million and enabling the institution to build two new buildings.

However, while Mount Mary mirrors Saint Mary's as a Catholic women's college, it is quite different

when it comes to student life. The school is largely a commuter college, with fewer than 200 students residing on campus. Further, the average age of the students at Mount Mary is 24, meaning many are working while simultaneously pursuing a degree.

Timm said she is looking forward to serving a different type of student body and working to create sense of campus life.

"It think that is going to be a really interesting change," Timm said.

She said her immediate goals as president are to ensure the College's financial stability by increasing its endowment and to pay careful attention to enrollment numbers.

"As we are here [at Saint Mary's], you are always going to be very attentive to your enrollment and how you are going to attract students to your institution," Timm said.

Timm is the second Saint Mary's vice president to step down from the College's administration this academic year.

In August, Pat White, vice president and dean of faculty, announced he would leave his position in May to take a yearlong sabbatical and then rejoin the English department as a faculty member.

Leaving Saint Mary's will be difficult, Timm said, but turnover is part of the "natural transition" at any school.

"I think at any institution there is a circle of change," Timm said. "You always want to continue to assess you contributions [to the institution], and bringing in new blood is good."

Colleagues at Saint Mary's have been very supportive of her decisions, Timm said.

In a statement released by the College, President Carol Mooney praised

Timm for her contributions to Saint Mary's.

"Linda's selection is a great personal achievement for her and a fitting outcome for an exemplary career in higher education," Mooney said. "During her tenure she has shown a consistent level of professional competence and complete devotion to our students. We will miss Dr. Timm at Saint Mary's."

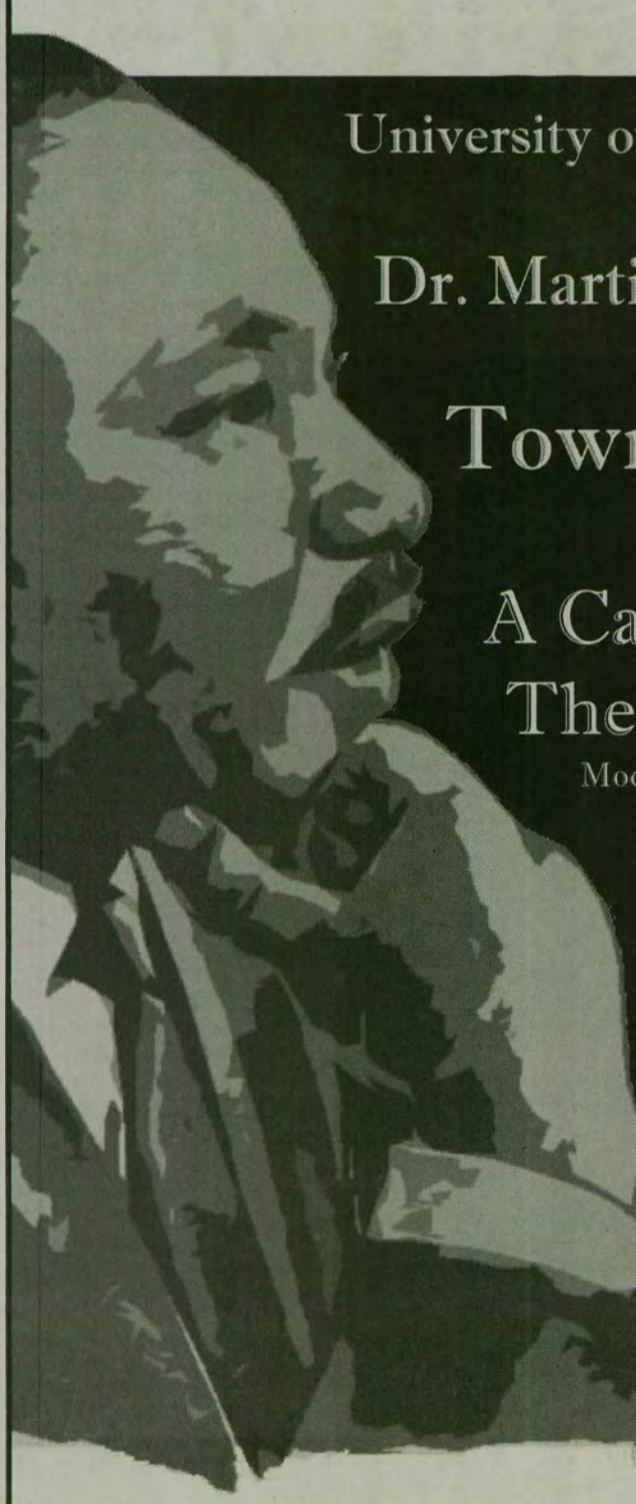
The College should have no problem attracting a strong replacement for her, Timm said.

"I am certain there will be a great pool of candidates," Timm said. "This is a great job with great people to work with."

Contact Megan O'Neil at onei0907@saintmarys.edu

"I think at any institution there is a circle of change."

Linda Timm
SMC vice president of student affairs



University of Notre Dame

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Celebration

Townhall Meeting

A Call for Your Voice:
The Responsibility of Every Man and Woman

Moderated by Dr. Anthony Burrow, Department of Psychology
and Ms. Reanna Ursin, Departments of English and Africana Studies

Tuesday, January 24, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Hammes Student Lounge, Coleman Morse Center

All are welcome!

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MARKET RECAP

Stocks		
Dow Jones	10,896.32	-63.55
Up: 1,194	Same: 118	Down: 2,140
		Composite Volume: 2,182,435,970

AMEX	1,813.32	-2.14
NASDAQ	2,265.16	+7.52
NYSE	7,992.60	-33.34
S&P 500	1,282.93	-4.68
NIKKEI(Tokyo)	15,395.66	-410.29
FTSE 100(London)	5,699.00	-41.20

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
INTEL CP (INTC)	-1.05	-0.27	25.52
NASDAQ 110 TR (QQQQ)	-0.65	-0.28	42.70
MICROSOFT CP (MSFT)	-0.74	-0.20	26.99
SUN MICROSYS INC(SUNW)	-2.12	-0.10	4.61
CISCO SYS INC (CSCO)	-1.27	-0.24	18.68

Treasuries			
30-YEAR BOND	-0.31	-0.14	45.11
10-YEAR NOTE	-0.41	-0.18	43.32
5-YEAR NOTE	-0.30	-0.13	42.69
3-MONTH BILL	+0.28	+0.12	42.32

Commodities		
LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl.)	+2.36	66.94
GOLD (\$/Troy oz.)	-2.70	554.30
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)	-0.30	83.65

Exchange Rates	
YEN	115.6000
EURO	0.8264
POUND	0.5668
CANADIAN \$	1.1627

Guidant accepts Boston Scientific offer

\$27.2 billion may end bidding war between Johnson & Johnson and Boston Scientific

Associated Press

BOSTON — For Boston Scientific Corp., the third time was a charm — even if the price it must pay for a rival medical device maker is nearly \$3 billion more than when it sparked a bidding war.

Guidant Corp. spurned Boston Scientific's first two buyout offers in favor of Guidant's standing deal with Johnson & Johnson.

So instead of bidding higher by another few hundred million dollars, Boston Scientific ponied up in a big way Tuesday, raising its offer from about \$25 billion to \$27.2 billion.

Less than nine hours later, Boston Scientific got the change of heart it wanted. Guidant embraced Boston Scientific's proposal as superior to J&J's latest offer, which is about \$3 billion smaller but could offer a speedier route to a completed deal.

J&J now must decide whether to bid higher or walk away with a \$705 million break-up fee. The fee had been set at \$625 million, but has been increased twice in the most recent J&J offers.

Tuesday's price hike, and other new enticements, left some observers surprised at the lengths Boston Scientific is going to buy Guidant and acquire its lucrative business in implantable heart defibrillators and pacemakers.

Some considered it a last-ditch effort to quickly unseat J&J rather than draw out the process with additional modest boosts.

"I didn't expect a knock-your-socks-off bid," said Nancy Havens, manager of Havens Advisors, a New York-based hedge fund and Guidant investor. "This has gone higher than anybody ever anticipated."

"But I think this is a very, very smart move for Boston Scientific ... They've taken the



Guidant Corp., pictured above, has been the commodity of a bidding war between Johnson & Johnson and Boston Scientific.

upper hand in this."

J&J and Boston Scientific are close rivals in the market for drug-coated heart stents. But they face increasing competition in that niche and are dueling to move into defibrillators and pacemakers, a fast-growing \$10 billion business in which neither suitor is a player.

The bidding war began Dec. 5 when Boston Scientific made an unsolicited \$24.6 billion offer — a move that came after J&J reduced its price from the original \$25.4 billion to \$21.5 billion because of safety problems

involving Guidant products. Since June, Guidant has recalled or issued warnings about 88,000 heart defibrillators and almost 200,000 pacemakers, leading to lawsuits and regulatory investigations.

Guidant said in a brief statement Tuesday that its board determined that Boston Scientific's revised offer is "superior" to its standing deal with J&J.

Johnson & Johnson responded by saying Boston Scientific's proposal would hurt the earnings potential of the combined company and

leave it saddled with too much debt. J&J also said the proposal was based on "extremely aggressive business projections."

"The company will consider its alternatives under the existing merger agreement with Guidant," said New Brunswick, N.J.-based J&J.

Shareholders are to vote on J&J's offer Jan. 31. But with Indianapolis-based Guidant declaring Boston Scientific's bid superior, J&J now has five business days — until the end of business Jan. 24 — to counter it under the terms of its agreement with Guidant.

IN BRIEF

Stocks fall accordingly with Japan

NEW YORK — Stocks fell moderately Tuesday on the heels of a steep drop in Japan's Nikkei stock average, rising oil prices and disappointing bank earnings.

U.S. investors sold off equities after Japan's main stock index fell 2.84 percent, its biggest loss in nearly two years. Japanese stocks slid after Tokyo-based Internet company Livedoor Co. was raided Monday evening over suspected securities violations, news that sparked a selloff of other Internet companies and pushed down auto and electronics stocks.

Rising oil prices also spooked investors. Crude oil futures rose on concerns about Iran's nuclear program and an attack on an oil platform in Nigeria. A barrel of light crude was quoted at \$65.39, up \$1.47, in trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Disappointing bank earnings also spurred selling. Wells Fargo & Co. missed analysts' expectations, saying a spike in personal bankruptcies in the fourth quarter hurt its results. Cincinnati-based Fifth Third Bancorp said its margins are narrowing and its net interest income fell 2 percent from the year-ago period.

Dana Corp. suffers substantial loss

TOLEDO, Ohio — Auto parts maker Dana Corp. on Tuesday reported a third-quarter loss of nearly \$1.3 billion as a slumping automobile industry forced it to realign its business, triggering massive charges during the period. Its shares tumbled more than 20 percent.

The company, which makes brakes, axles and other parts, reported a loss of \$1.27 billion, or \$8.50 per share, for the three months ended Sept. 30 compared to a profit of \$42 million, or 28 cents per share, a year earlier. Sales edged higher to \$2.4 billion from \$2.11 billion last year.

"Obviously, our results are far from acceptable, particularly the operating loss," said Chairman and Chief Executive Mike Burns in a statement. "Many of the challenges we are facing on the automotive side, including higher material costs and lower production levels, are industrywide issues."

The company said in October that it was delaying the release of the statement as it worked to restate previous earnings reports because of improper accounting.

Safety questions arise with hemophilia drug

Associated Press

CHICAGO — A hemophilia drug has been linked to deaths, strokes, heart attacks and other complications in patients given the medicine for other types of out-of-control bleeding, such as cerebral hemorrhages, according to FDA researchers.

The medicine, NovoSeven, is a clotting drug that was introduced in 1999 after being approved by the Food and Drug Administration to stop bleeding in hemophiliacs. But it has also shown promise in treating cerebral hemorrhages, a potentially lethal type of stroke involving bleeding in the brain.

Most of the reported complications followed off-label use—that is, uses for which the drug was not specifically approved by the FDA. Off-label use is legal, but doctors have less information on possible side effects of such uses.

The report on the complications

appears in Wednesday's Journal of the American Medical Association.

The authors, including Dr. Kathryn O'Connell of the FDA's Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research, called for rigorous safety studies of new uses for the drug, which is made by the Danish pharmaceutical company Novo Nordisk.

NovoSeven got fast-track approval as an orphan drug, which means the company received financial incentives to develop it because it treats a rare condition and was seen as having little potential for profit.

Novo Nordisk AS said in a statement that off-label use of NovoSeven has resulted in complications in older people and those with underlying heart disease and acute injuries. The risk for approved uses "is thought to be low," the company said.

The company changed the warning in the package insert in October to include information on side effects in

patients without hemophilia. Novo Nordisk said it is conducting studies on the safety of NovoSeven in such patients.

The researchers analyzed 431 reports to the FDA of adverse events, ranging from nausea to death, during the first five years of the drug's use. Drug makers are required to report such side effects when they happen during research on the drug after its approval. Doctors report them voluntarily.

In 185 cases, the drug's clotting action may have led to problems such as strokes and heart attacks, according to the study. Most of those problems followed off-label uses and happened within 24 hours of the last dose.

When it was introduced, NovoSeven was thought to be helpful for only the 10 percent of hemophilia patients who do not respond to standard treatments. The genetically engineered drug cost about \$7,500 per dose.

Security

continued from page 1

Thanksgiving break [because of] the reputation of the area," said senior Bill Kiolbasa, a neighbor of the 524 Corby St. residents whose house was vandalized during winter break.

Senior Stephen Muto — a resident of the 825 Washington St. home robbed during break — said though he was "upset" his house was broken into, he was "almost expecting" the crime.

"I was surprised that we weren't broken into [last year]," he said. "I expected it to happen."

Derek Gelcich, a senior who also lives at 825 Washington St., said he and his roommates were warned of potential crime in the area by previous home renters.

"We had talked to people who lived [here] last year, and talked to people at Washington Street about how they got robbed," he said. "At some point we knew some houses would get robbed — we were just hoping it wasn't ours."

Senior John Noell, who lives with Muto and Gelcich, said he was "prepared" for such a break-in and was not surprised given the reputation of their 10-man residence.

"Our house is known as a student house and people know where it is and we figure it had a decent shot of getting broken into," he said.

Students said their status as Notre Dame undergraduates caused them to be sitting ducks for criminals who knew no one would be inhabiting the homes for more than a month during winter break.

"The [intruders] know who we are and saw that our house was empty," said senior Ray Jarosz, whose 524 Corby St. home was vandalized.

Off-campus president Matt

Wormington, also a victim of the 825 Washington St. break-in, said there are "always" crimes in off-campus housing while students are home between semesters.

"Landlords, student government and probably parents, as well, have gone through the proper precautions with students, but if someone wants to break into a home they usually can, especially knowing that police forces are already quite busy and no one will be in the home for over a month," he said.

Phil Johnson, associate director of Notre Dame Security/Police (NDSP) said criminals target student houses because they "know full well what [students'] schedules are."

Turtle Creek Apartments representative Sarah Johnson said the company takes special precautions during the vulnerable time between semesters.

"[Our methods of security] have definitely been effective," she said. "As far as I know, [other housing communities] have had more instances of theft and vandalism than us."

Johnson said "to her knowledge" no thefts or vandalisms were reported in the housing units during winter break.

Turtle Creek has one courtesy staff member living on campus with a pager on him at all times who watches the property at night, Johnson said. Additionally, employees who live throughout the housing complex serve to thwart potential criminals. Kramer Properties owner Mark Kramer, who

rents out the 825 Washington St. and 821 E. Washington St. homes robbed during break, said he warns tenants each year of potential crimes during this "prime time" — even though he doesn't usually experience this magnitude of crime at his residences.

"We send out a notice [for] tenants to call the police and set up a neighborhood watch [and] we urge them to leave

the lights on and turn alarms on," he said.

Kramer said after students leave, all houses are "checked" and those with activated alarms are turned on.

"We're aware students are targeted over break and we try to be diligent and proactive in checking. They all have alarm systems but I don't know if they're actually hooked up," he said.

Jarosz said when intruders entered and vandalized his Anlan Properties-owned home, police were not notified because the alarm system was disconnected.

"No signal was sent to the police, but the alarm's motion detectors were tripped when they went into the basement," he said. "This definitely stopped them from taking anything, because you don't just break into a house and not take electronics, or something."

Kramer encourages tenants to activate their alarm systems as they "prevent catastrophic damage and the loss of belongings" for an affordable price — less than \$30 a year per person, he said.

"At 821, the alarm was on [and] not as much was taken," he said. "I've been told [the residents of 825] refused to set up the alarm system ... I don't know why they wouldn't."

But Muto said he and his roommates called their alarm company "a million times" to activate their system.

"I blame [Safeguard Company]," he said. "We set up four or five appointments and they never came out."

Noell said the company "messed around" with him and his fellow tenants.

"I think it's a scam," he said. "I wonder if [Kramer] affiliates himself with them. If you're trying to be a good landlord, why would you affiliate yourself with a bad security company? Safeguard Company ... is worthless to me. I'd rather get ADT."

Kramer said he has used

the same alarm company for years without difficulty.

An resident of 821 Washington St. who wished to remain anonymous said although the house was equipped with an alarm system, it was "apparently not triggered during the break-in."

"We are frustrated the alarm did not go off," he said. "A more secure and reliable security system would be appreciated, [but] I cannot hold our landlord liable for the criminal

acts of others in this community."

Wormington said he has heard "a lot" of negativity from students affected by the crimes — ill will that might place further stress on Notre Dame's relationship with the

South Bend community.

"A lot of students are upset because they feel their neighbors have been calling the police on them with noise complaints ad nauseam, but failed to notice that people were in their homes kicking down doors while they were supposed to be empty," he said.

Muto said his neighbors "aren't the biggest fans," and would not call the police if their house were robbed.

Wormington said the neighbors should not be blamed from the crimes, but thinks the students' response is "a reflection of the growing tensions between students and the community."

"I hope students and neighbors can begin to see this issue from both sides and come to an understanding of one another," he said. "[Student body president] Dave Baron and I still believe the developing dialogue between the two groups will serve to alleviate this tension — but it isn't going to happen overnight."


Contact Katie Perry at kperry5@nd.edu

"A lot of students are upset because they feel their neighbors have been calling the police on them with noise complaints ad nauseam, but failed to notice that people were in their homes kicking down doors while they were supposed to be empty."

Matt Wormington
off-campus president

"Landlords, student government and probably parents, as well, have gone through the proper precautions with students, but if someone wants to break into a home they usually can, especially knowing that police forces are already quite busy and no one will be in the home for over a month."

Matt Wormington
off-campus president




3
EVENTS

**BASKETBALL
GAME WATCH
VS. MARQUETTE**

**FREE PIZZA
TASTING**

**FAMILY GUY
EPISODES 1, 2, 3**



1
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Duerson

continued from page 1

Following his Notre Dame football career, Duerson played 11 seasons in the NFL, earning Pro Bowl honors four times and winning Super Bowl titles with the Chicago Bears in 1986 and the New York Giants in 1991. He also played for the Phoenix Cardinals.

Duerson, a 1983 Notre Dame graduate, had been a University trustee since 2001 and the president of the Monogram Club since 2003. He also resigned his position in the Monogram Club following the February charges.

Duerson had been outspoken

about Notre Dame football during his tenure as a trustee. In the spring of 2004, the Monogram Club wrote a response to a letter written by a group of Notre Dame alumni that criticized the way the football program was managed. In the Monogram Club's letter, the group claimed that the alumni letter should have never been released to the media because it hurt the University's image, impeded the overall administration of the University and athletic department and negatively affected revenue resources.

Duerson spoke out most recently after former Notre Dame football coach Tyrone Willingham was fired in November 2004 after a 6-5 sea-

son, describing a decision that was made with great "dissension."

"With all the other things going on at the University, the least of the problems was wins and losses," he told the Associated Press last December. "There's greater dissension in some other things at the University that need to be corrected and dealt with."

Duerson, president and CEO of Duerson Foods, LLC, was a two-time All-American defensive back at Notre Dame, where he played from 1979-83. He served as tri-captain of the 1982 Irish.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

CHINA

Government pledge will help combat flu

Associated Press

BEIJING — The United States intends to pledge \$334 million to the fight against bird flu, according to an official statement shown to The Associated Press Wednesday ahead of a pledging ceremony at an international donors conference.

That is significantly more than the conference organizers were anticipating.

The gathering in Beijing has taken on a new sense of urgency after the first deaths from the virus were recorded outside Asia and there were hopes it would raise at least \$1.5 billion.

That is the minimum amount needed to avert a possible pandemic, the World Bank and the United Nations have said.

"We're talking about a tremendous amount of money here for an issue that is clearly of global importance. The stakes are very high," said James LeDuc, a viral illness expert at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The U.S. pledge, in grants and technical assistance, includes \$56 million for animal and human health supplies, said the statement announcing the pledge. It was

to be released at the ceremony later Wednesday.

Conference organizers had expected the United States to make one of the largest pledges, somewhere between \$200 million and \$300 million.

The pledge would also include \$36 million to support international health organizations, \$15 million for non-governmental organizations and the private sector, and \$41 million for international research, the statement said.

On Tuesday, the European Union and drug maker Roche sharply increased their commitment to combatting bird flu.

The EU pledged about \$121 million, \$20 million more than it initially announced last week to combat bird flu and the risk of a potential pandemic. The increase came after Turkey recently announced a fourth child had died from the deadly H5N1 strain of bird flu.

Most of those who died had been in close contact with infected birds, but health officials fear the virus could mutate into a form easily transmissible among humans.

Overall the pledges could reach \$1.7 billion, representatives from international agencies said on the sidelines of the conference.

LEBANON

Protest builds near U.S. Embassy

Associated Press

BEIRUT — Thousands of pro-Syrian Lebanese chanting "Death to America" protested Tuesday near the U.S. Embassy against what they called American meddling in the country's affairs.

Three days ago police violently broke up a similar demonstration that coincided with the visit of a key U.S. envoy to the Middle East.

Tuesday's protest occurred during a visit to the Middle East by Vice President Dick Cheney, who made stops in Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

Students and political activists from 18 pro-Syrian groups, including the militant Hezbollah organization, chanted in unison "Death to America!" and "Beirut is free! Free! America get out!"

During the peaceful one-hour protest, demonstrators also chanted support for Syria and Iran — the United States' main opponents in the Middle East.

About 150 riot police held the protesters behind a barricade of barbed wire about 500 yards from the fortified embassy compound in Aukar, northern Beirut.

Police estimated the crowd

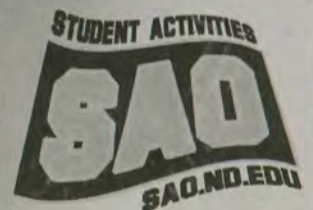
at 17,000. A Hezbollah official put the number at 25,000.

Pro-Syrians accuse the United States of trying to influence Lebanon since Syria was forced to withdraw its troops from the country last April after international and Lebanese pressure over the assassination of former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri.

The United States is one of several Western countries that backed a U.N. Security Council resolution in 2004 that demanded an end to Syrian interference in Lebanon and the disarming of all militias in the country — a reference to the pro-Syrian Hezbollah.

TEXAS HOLD'EM TOURNAMENT

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School district suspends 'intelligent design' course

Associated Press

FRESNO — Under legal pressure, a rural school district Tuesday canceled an elective philosophy course on "intelligent design" and agreed never to promote the topic in class again.

A group of parents had sued the El Tejon school system last week, accusing it of violating the constitutional separation of church and state with "Philosophy of Design," a high school course taught by a minister's wife that advanced the notion that life is so complex it must have been created by some kind of higher intelligence.

In the federal court settlement, the district agreed to halt the course at Frazier Mountain High next week and said it would never again offer a "course that promotes or endorses creationism, creation science or intelligent design."

"This sends a strong signal to school districts across the country that they cannot promote creationism or intelligent design as an alternative to evolution, whether they do so in a science class or a humanities class," said Ayesha N. Khan, legal director for Americans United for Separation of Church and State,

which represented the parents.

In a landmark lawsuit, Americans United successfully blocked the Dover, Pa., school system last month from teaching intelligent design alongside evolution in high school biology classes. U.S. District Judge John E. Jones III ruled that intelligent design is religion masquerading as science.

However, some activists contended that Jones' ruling opened the door to teaching intelligent design in philosophy or religion classes.

The settlement in the El Tejon school district was announced

just before a judge was scheduled to hold a hearing on whether to halt the class midway through the monthlong winter term.

All five of the cash-strapped district's trustees voted to settle the potentially expensive case, said Pete Carton, the district's attorney. The class started Jan. 3 with 15 students.

El Tejon Superintendent John Wight said the subject was proper for a philosophy class. But Americans United argued the course relied almost exclusively on videos that presented religious theories as scientific ones.

District officials were encouraged to settle by the Discovery Institute, a Seattle-based think tank that supports intelligent design and which had filed a court brief in favor of the Dover school board.

The El Tejon class "was misconceived," said John West, a senior fellow at the institute. "It was almost all about Biblical creationism, not intelligent design."

Sharon Lemburg, a social studies teacher and soccer coach who taught "Philosophy of Design," defended the course in a letter to the weekly Mountain Enterprise.

Oklahoma City bombing witness to be released

Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — Michael Fortier, the prosecution's star witness in the Oklahoma City bombing trials, is scheduled to be released from federal prison Friday, victims' relatives said.

The Federal Bureau of Prisons has notified family members of several bombing victims of Fortier's impending release, the relatives said Tuesday. He still must serve three years of supervised release.

Fortier served in the Army with bombing conspirators Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols. He was sentenced in 1998 to 12 years in prison for knowing about the bomb plot and not telling authorities.

He also pleaded guilty to helping McVeigh and Nichols move and sell stolen guns, and for lying to federal authorities after the Oklahoma City bombing. The 1995 attack destroyed the Alfred P. Murrah Federal

Building and killed 168 people.

Fortier, 37, formerly of Kingman, Ariz., has been in federal custody since the year of the bombing.

"I think he's served enough time," said Bud Welch, whose daughter Julie, a Social Security office staffer, was killed in the blast. "I think Michael was probably involved in some of the stuff that was going on in Arizona, but I hope he's in line to be a good citizen now."

Welch and other victims' family members received a one-page form letter from the Bureau of Prisons this week listing Fortier's release date.

Neither the form nor the bureau's Web site indicated where Fortier was being held.

Messages left with the bureau after hours were not immediately returned.

Jim Denny, whose two children were seriously injured in the bombing, said he also believes Fortier should be released.

"McVeigh already got his punishment, and Nichols will be in prison for the rest of his life," Denny said. "Let this guy get out and get on with his life."

McVeigh was executed in 2001 at the U.S. Penitentiary in Terre Haute, Ind., for his role in the bombing. Nichols was convicted on both federal and state charges and is serving a sentence of life without parole.

Jannie Coverdale, whose two grandsons were killed in the blast, said she doesn't believe

that Fortier's testimony was needed to convict McVeigh and Nichols.

"I am very angry," Coverdale said. "I feel like Fortier should've gotten life in prison without parole."

Fortier and his wife, Lori, both testified against McVeigh and Nichols during their federal trials and acknowledged helping the pair in their plan to blow up the building, said McVeigh's attorney, Stephen Jones.

"It's intellectually indefensible to say that they weren't conspirators, because they were. Their own testimony indicates that," Jones said. "They knew the date, time and place of the bombing and both of them assisted materially."

Lori Fortier testified that she helped make a false ID card that McVeigh used to rent the truck used in the bombing, Jones noted. She was granted immunity for her testimony and never served any prison time.

"It's intellectually indefensible to say that they weren't conspirators, because they were."

Stephen Jones
Timothy McVeigh's
attorney

Bookstores seek to confirm work as 'fiction'

Oprah's choices face scrutiny in wake of James Frey's 'A Million Little Pieces' controversy

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Another Oprah book club pick has raised the issue of fact vs. fiction.

Barnes & Noble.com and Amazon.com both said Tuesday that they were making changes to certify Elie Wiesel's "Night" as nonfiction. Barnes & Noble.com is removing the book from its fiction list, while Amazon.com is also changing the categorization of "Night" and revising an editorial description to make clear that it does not consider the book a novel.

"We hope to make these changes as quickly as possible," said Jani Strand, a spokeswoman for Amazon.com.

Wiesel did not immediately return a call from The Associated Press seeking comment.

On Monday, Winfrey announced that Wiesel's classic account of his family's placement in the Auschwitz death camp was her latest choice. "Night" quickly topped the best seller list on Amazon.com, displacing Winfrey's previous selection, James Frey's "A Million Little Pieces."

Frey's story of substance abuse has been widely disputed, with the author acknowledging that he had embellished parts of the book, as reported by the investigative Web site, The Smoking

Gun. Frey and Winfrey have defended "A Million Little Pieces," saying any factual problems were transcended by the book's emotional power.

No such allegations are being made about "Night," but there has long been confusion over how to label it. While Wiesel and his publisher, Farrar, Straus & Giroux, call it a memoir, "Night" is frequently listed as fiction on course syllabuses and was called a novel in a 1983 New York Times review of a Wiesel biography. "Night" is described in an Amazon.com editorial review as "technically a novel," albeit so close to Wiesel's life that "it's generally — and not inaccurately — read as an autobiography."

Wiesel first wrote the book in the 1950s in Yiddish, then translated it into French. Hill & Wang, which Farrar, Straus now owns, published the original English-language edition in 1960. Wiesel's wife, Marion Wiesel, has translated the current English version.

Amazon.com has been categorizing the new edition of "Night"

under "literature and fiction," but is switching the book to "biographies and memoirs," blaming the problem on its "data source."

"Amazon.com's data source for the Oprah's Book Club edition of 'Night' inaccurately classified the book as fiction," said Strand, who declined to offer details.

Meanwhile, Amazon's editorial description of an earlier edition, published by Bantam in the 1980s, is being edited "to make it explicitly clear that 'Night' is non-fiction," Strand said. The Bantam version, which is already classified under "biographies and memoirs," was No. 3 on Amazon.com as of Tuesday afternoon.

Strand described such changes as "unusual," but not rare.

Also Tuesday, "Night" topped both the "biography" and "fiction" best seller lists on Barnes & Noble.com. Barnes & Noble spokeswoman Carolyn Brown says "some initial data that was supplied to us" classified the book as fiction and was now "being corrected."

"Amazon.com's data source or the Oprah's Book Club edition of 'Night' inaccurately classified the book as fiction."

Jani Stran
Amazon.com
spokeswoman

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Sept. 11 workers die of illnesses

Direct link between ground zero, fatalities unclear

Associated Press

NEW YORK — James Zadroga spent 16 hours a day toiling in the World Trade Center ruins for a month, breathing in debris-choked air. Timothy Keller said he coughed up bits of gravel from his lungs after the towers fell on Sept. 11, 2001. Felix Hernandez spent days at the site helping to search for victims.

All three men died in the past seven months of what their families and colleagues say were persistent respiratory illnesses directly caused by their work at ground zero.

While thousands of people who either worked at or lived near the site have reported ailments such as "trade center cough" since the terrorist attacks, some say that only now are the consequences of working at the site becoming heart-breakingly clear.

"I'm very fearful," said Donald Faeth, an emergency medical technician and officer in a union with two of the ground zero workers who died last year. "I think that there are several people who died that day and didn't realize that they died that day."

Some officials say it is too early to draw that conclusion. Doctors running different health screening programs say it will take decades to get a clear picture of the long-term health effects of working at ground zero.

The city Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, which is tracking the health of 71,000 people exposed to Sept. 11 dust and debris, said last week that it is too soon to say whether any

deaths or illnesses among its enrolled members are linked to trade center exposure.

But Robin Herbert, who directs a medical-monitoring program at Mount Sinai Medical Center for more than 14,000 ground zero workers, said "certainly it is not inconceivable" that a person could die of respiratory disease related to Sept. 11.

Karin DeShore said she does not need scientists to tell her what caused the death of her friend Keller, 41. DeShore was a Fire Department captain who took Keller to the trade center on Sept. 11, and barely escaped the south tower's collapse.

"He came back coughing" two days later, she said. Faeth said that Keller told him that he coughed up debris so violently he could barely breathe on Sept. 11, and later developed emphysema.

Keller went home to Levittown on medical leave in March. He died on June 23 of heart disease complicated by bronchitis and emphysema, the Nassau County medical examiner's office said.

Felix Hernandez, 31, worked on rescue and recovery work at ground zero following the attacks, said his former supervisor, Lt. Regina Pellegrino. In 2002, "it started with a cold he couldn't shake ... and it kept getting worse and worse and worse," she said.

Hernandez was diagnosed with various respiratory diseases and was told by doctors

at one point that he may have cystic fibrosis, Pellegrino said. He left the job in 2004 when he became too weak to climb stairs, and died Oct. 23 of respiratory ailments in Florida, said colleagues who spoke with his family.

Both Keller and Hernandez, each with a decade on the job, were nonsmokers and had no previous health problems before Sept. 11, Faeth said.

"This is just the tip of the iceberg. Many, many more people are going to die from the aftermath of the toxicity."

David Worby
attorney

Zadroga, a 34-year-old New York detective, logged 470 hours at the site in 2001, including Sept. 11, and died Jan. 5. Family members and co-workers said he had contracted

black lung disease and had high levels of mercury in his brain. Autopsy results have not been released.

David Worby, an attorney representing more than 5,000 plaintiffs suing those who supervised the cleanup over their illnesses, said 21 of his clients have died of Sept. 11-related diseases since mid-2004. He said he was not authorized to release their names, but represented people who toiled at ground zero, at the Fresh Kills landfill in Staten Island where trade center debris was moved, and at the city morgue.

"This is just the tip of the iceberg," Worby said. "Many, many more people are going to die from the aftermath of the toxicity."

Corzine sworn in as governor of N.J.

Associated Press

TRENTON, N.J. — Jon Corzine was sworn in Tuesday as New Jersey's 54th governor, promising ethics reform and an end to "fiscal gimmicks" that have papered over the state's financial problems.

The former Wall Street titan turned Democratic U.S. senator took the oath of office during an early afternoon ceremony. His swearing-in ended a tumultuous period in state politics that began in 2004 when Gov. James McGreevey resigned after acknowledging a gay affair. State Senate President Richard Codey had been acting governor since then.

"All New Jerseyans should know my resolve is to govern the state of New Jersey as one community with one future," Corzine told the crowd.

Corzine, 59, beat Republican businessman Douglas Forrester by 10 points in November. The two spent more than \$75 million, much of it their own money, making their contest the most expensive New Jersey governor's race ever.

In his inaugural speech, Corzine said the state faces "tough choices" and that "every dollar squandered in violation of the public trust is a book not bought for a class-

room, a prescription drug with a higher co-pay, meals-on-wheels not delivered, a road or science lab not built."

He has estimated that the state will face a \$6 billion gap in the coming fiscal year budget that must be approved by July 1.

"Too often, for too long, under both parties, fiscal gimmicks have been invented, recycled, and reapplied to mask fiscal realities," he added.

Corzine also stressed ethics reform, a common refrain during his campaign and one embraced by both parties following a series of scandals.

"I call on all my fellow public servants to join in an historic effort to end the toxic mix of politics, money and public business — at every level of New Jersey

government. Let's award public contracts by competition and quality, not contributions," he said.

There is a year left on Corzine's Senate term, and he selected Rep. Robert Menendez to succeed him. Menendez, 52, is to be sworn in Wednesday.

Corzine went into politics after being ousted from Goldman Sachs, where he had been CEO, in a power dispute in 1999.

He was elected to the Senate the following year.

"All New Jerseyans should know my resolve is to govern the state of New Jersey as one community with one future."

Jon Corzine
governor of New Jersey

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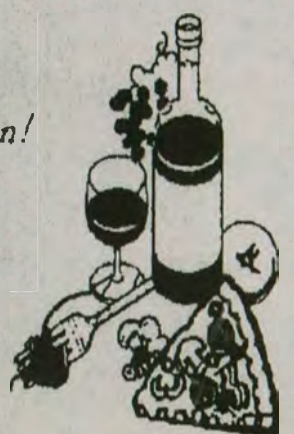
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THE OBSERVER VIEWPOINT

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Wednesday, January 18, 2006

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Defining personhood

Because a zygote lacks a mind, there are only three ways to define personhood so as to extend it to the not-yet-born. The first two are similar: one can claim that some common physical attribute (probably DNA) conveys personhood, or one can claim that it is conveyed by an immaterial soul. This line of reasoning has given rise to the popular battle cry: "Life begins at conception!"

Many who follow this rallying cry probably used the soul argument.

Therefore, saying "life begins at conception" is roughly the same as saying "souls arise at conception." Unfortunately, this last statement suffers from serious flaws, not the least of which is that it cannot be tested empirically. In my opinion, a nontrivial number of those who have been convinced of the pro-choice argument probably noticed some of the weaknesses in believing that human life beings at conception, and concluded that the rest is bunk.

As rallying cries go, "life begins at conception" was useful, but it does more harm than good, and it is past time that pro-lifers abandoned the idea and its flaws and found a more useable alternative. The trick is to do so without compromising any of the ethical conclusions that follow from the pro-life philosophy.

One such an alternative (and the third way of defining personhood) is not to define it at all, and instead to evoke an ethic of potentiality. The premise of this ethic brushes the entire question of the personhood of an embryo aside and creates an inde-

pendent ethical (and legal) category of potential sapient life with its own specific rules. In general, one always treats this class of life with reference to what it could become, because it has the active potential (as opposed to the passive potential of sex cells) to indisputably become a person, and until personhood is assured, this potential is what is most important. The moral conclusion that killing a zygote is wrong follows from this.

I don't propose to justify the ethic here, because my knowledge is not extensive, but I will point out two problems where the ethic succeeds and the "life begins at conception" argument fails: "zygote genocide" and "human chimeras."

The zygote genocide problem is based on statistical evidence. It is estimated that the vast majority of all fertilized eggs (50 percent to 70 percent) die before implanting in the uterus. If a human soul arises at conception, then it follows that hundreds of millions of unborn humans die undetected each year of natural causes, many tens of billions since the genesis of the human species. It may, in fact, be the case that far more human souls die than are ever born.

Theologically speaking, it is certainly possible that there are vast herds of human souls, of which we are almost totally unaware, continually migrating into the afterlife. At least, nothing prevents it from being so. However, is this situation plausible? Does it make sense that God would be so naturally wasteful of human lives? The thesis that human souls originate at conception seems to fall to Ockham's razor — it is much more reasonable to place soul genesis (as Aquinas did, point of fact) some time after implanting, and to rely on the ethic of potentiality for the rest.

The chimera problem is subtler. A

human chimera is caused by an incredibly rare event (with less than 10 known cases) where two fertilized zygotes fuse into one human person. At the most extreme, a chimera can be split down the center — male on one side, female on the opposite. Others appear normal, with cells of each zygote spread throughout the body, and most probably pass undetected. (One chimerical woman was not discovered until she failed a maternity test for her own children).

However, chimeras become a problem when one tries to work a soul into the equation. Surely it cannot be the case that two souls are cooperating in a single physical body. Nor does it seem plausible to regard each set of cells as a separate body, which happens to work intimately with another, since there is only one mind. It could be claimed that one soul has died, but why should that be when its body is alive in every sense of the word, and many hold that the soul remains in the body after brain death (c.f. Terri Schiavo)? Again, the most reasonable conclusion is that fusion occurs before souls are generated.

Hopefully I have sown the seeds of doubt in your mind that "life begins at conception" is the best route, logically and apologetically, to a sound pro-life ethic. For my part, I am certain that it does more harm than good and effort needs to be focused on find its replacement. The ethic of potentiality may not be the best solution, but it points in the right direction.

Lance Gallop is a 2005 graduate of Notre Dame. Comments should be e-mailed to comments@tidewaterblues.com. More of his opinions can be found at www.tidewaterblues.com

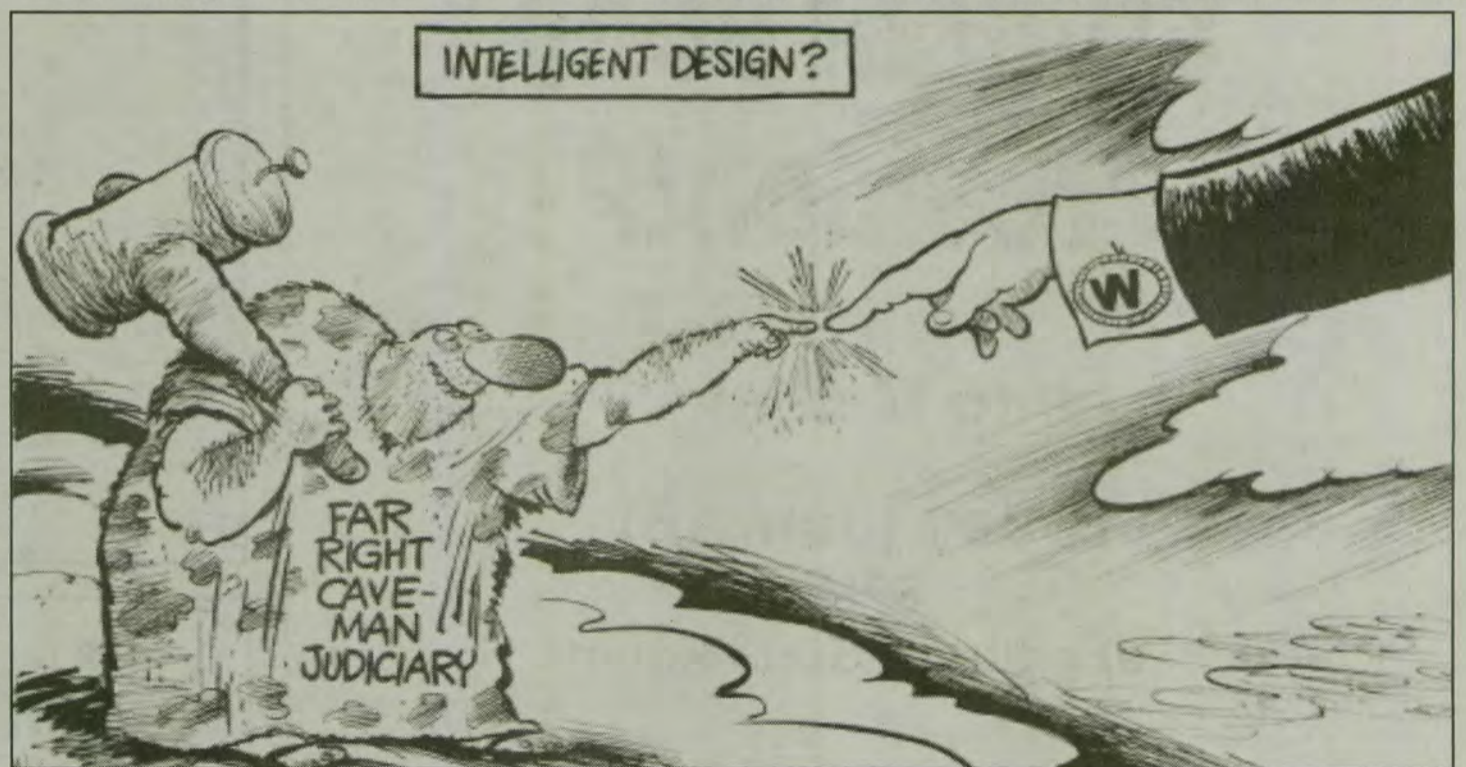
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Lance Gallop

Tidewater Blues

EDITORIAL CARTOON



QUOTE OF THE DAY

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Horace Walpole
fourth earl of Orford

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"No one can go back and make a brand new start, my friend, but anyone can start from here and make a brand new end."

Dan Zadra
American author

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Examining Alito's record

I imagine that the number of Notre Dame students who gathered around CSPAN to watch hours of Judge Samuel Alito's confirmation hearings over winter break is fairly small — one might say miniscule. Most students view winter break as a needed vacation from the cerebral. However, in the renewed spirit of academic interest at the beginning of a new semester, we should all take a moment to consider the ramifications of Alito's nomination to the Supreme Court. The Senate Judiciary Committee rescheduled the vote on Alito's nomination for Jan. 24, making this the perfect time to closely examine Alito's judicial record and testimony from the confirmation hearings.

The first thing to keep in mind about Alito is that he was nominated to replace Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, a truly moderate and evenhanded justice who was the swing voter in controversial and influential cases including the separation of church and state, civil rights and abortion. I find it both frightening and illuminating how the same far right that bemoaned nominee Harriet Miers as not conservative enough has rejoiced in Alito's nomination, claiming him to be a "mainstream" conservative. Analysis of Alito's rulings as a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals reveals a consistent pattern of radically conservative decisions, a pattern we can only assume Alito would continue to follow if confirmed to the Supreme Court.

Make no mistake, Alito's decisions on reproductive privacy, firearms, federalism, discrimination and executive branch authorities show him a wholly conservative judge masquerading as an even tempered moderate like O'Connor. In *United States v. Rybar*, Alito dissented to block legislation regulating the transfer and possession of machine guns at gun shows. In 1996, Alito was the only judge in a court of ten to dissent from the majority that voted to strike down a law making it extremely difficult for women to allege workplace discrimination (*Sheridan v.*

E.I. DuPont de Nemours and C.). Furthering his record as a judge who rarely sides with defendants alleging discrimination, Alito rejected discrimination claims by an African American convicted by an entirely white jury. That ruling was overturned because African Americans were illegally barred from the jury due to their race (*Riley v. Taylor*).

Alito dissented to uphold a Pennsylvania law requiring women to notify their husbands before having an abortion (*Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania v. Casey*) and refused to answer Senators who asked him if the

Constitution protects the right to an abortion. During the confirmation hearings, Alito's only response regarding *Roe v. Wade* was that he would keep an "open mind" if the issue came before the court again.

Considering his previous rulings, I sincerely doubt that Alito has an open mind regarding abortion. It's especially important and pertinent to current events to examine Alito's

defense in 1984 for Attorney General John Mitchell's illegal domestic surveillance. If you are troubled by the thought of the National Security Administration eavesdropping on your phone calls, you should be equally troubled by Alito's nomination.

The constitutionality of abortion, free speech, discrimination, domestic spying and other such issues are certain to come before the Supreme Court in the time that Alito would serve as a Justice. These issues concern the hard won freedoms of all Americans and, given his record, Alito simply cannot be trusted to protect those freedoms.

John Trippi
Notre Dame College Democrats
sophomore
Zahm Hall
Jan. 17

I find it both frightening and illuminating how the same far right that bemoaned nominee Harriet Miers as not conservative enough has rejoiced in Alito's nomination.

U-WIRE

A King's legacy

Because he dared to dream, we all continue to dream. Monday marked Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday, and the nation celebrated by remembering this remarkable man and everything for which he stood.

His concept of "somebodiness" symbolized the importance of the worthiness of humans. This idea inspired millions of African Americans to rise above the racism and oppression they were facing in America.

Staff
Editorial

King stood for equality and peace for everyone. His nonviolent approach to marching and demonstrating proved his love for all people.

In his famous "I Have a Dream" speech, King dreamed "that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal' ... that one day on the red hills of Georgia the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at a table of brotherhood ... that one day even the state of Mississippi, a desert state, sweltering with the heat of injustice and oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice ... that my four children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character."

King's dream lives on today. Though we have come a long way, there is still more distance to be traveled.

We should all remember King's words as we celebrate his birthday, and every day.

We should all continue to strive to reach King's dream.

Yesterday was a day off for many workers, but we shouldn't consider it just another day off.

We should use such a day to remember King's many accomplishments and to challenge ourselves to become better citizens.

We should live up to and beyond King's dream.

Educate yourself about King and about how to make this world a better place for yourself and for others. It will continue to make this world better for your children and for future generations.

Peace and equality for everyone is a goal we can achieve.

This editorial originally appeared in the Jan. 17 issue of the Daily Mississippian, the daily publication at the University of Mississippi.

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

Daily
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U-WIRE

Dangerous times unify

The world is often said to be shrinking. Sadly, smaller does not equate to safer.

The international story of the moment is how to deal with the Middle Eastern nation of Iran.

Placed between the hotbeds of Iraq and Afghanistan, what Iran does internationally can potentially affect tens of thousands of coalition troops in the region.

Right now, Iran's focus is developing nuclear weapons.

It is not an Arab country, but it still sits with an aggressive stance against Israel. It is almost universally agreed on by the world that Iran should not get these weapons.

The European Union, United States and Russia have finally found a common ground based on fear. The tragedy of a potential nuclear disaster is shared by all of us, regardless of nation or religion. Celebrating the unity of the moment would be ideal. Unfortunately, what we are unified against is danger-

ous to the extreme.

In this situation, it speaks volumes to how far diplomacy has come. After a World War that left countries like Iran shattered, we still struggle to agree. Now the First World is accused of hypocrisy for holding nuclear arms but not allowing others to do so.

The history and status of Iran cannot be avoided. The fundamentalist Islamic Revolution has given us an Iran that hangs homosexuals and allows brutal violence against women. The question we need to ask is where we distinguish cultural and morality relativity.

Danger is not something we should be forced to live in. There is no moral code that should allow for a nation like Iran to bully and threaten neighboring countries. If we want to live in a small world, we need to stop alienated countries like Iran being able to destroy it.

This editorial originally appeared in the Jan. 17 issue of The Gamecock, the daily publication at the University of South Carolina.

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

Staff
Editorial

The Gamecock
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A case for open dialogue

Confirmation hearings for Supreme Court nominee Samuel Alito wrapped up Friday. While we learned much about Alito's legal acumen, personal character and judicial temperament, even the most careful observer would have been unable to ascertain much about his judicial philosophy.

Frankly, this board finds this state of affairs disappointing.

This criticism is not necessarily directed at Alito. Confirmation hearings for judicial nominees have degenerated into little more than opportunities for grandstanding senators to appeal to their respective special interests. And during the moments in which senators are not playing to their bases, they are busy trying to find some "smoking gun" with which to derail the judicial nomination.

Indeed, the nature of last week's hearings was the result of a frustrating cycle: When faced with tight-lipped nominees, some senators begin to ask questions designed to elicit an incriminating sound-byte. Knowing this, nominees are encouraged to say as little as possible of substance in response to questions. This cycle seemed to be in full swing as Alito's relationship with Concerned Alumni of Princeton, a controversial conservative alumni group that has become defunct, drew a considerable amount of attention but brought little new information to light.

This state of affairs should be troubling for aspiring law students across the country. If the new standard for picking federal judges becomes selecting those without a

discernible record on key legal issues, many qualified candidates, particularly law professors, will inevitably be passed over. While a nominee like Alito will have a long legal track record and thus discernible legal views, it is possible for such a candidate to wiggle out of those views during Senate hearings. A well-established law professor simply could not do that. It is worrisome to think that future legal students may have to decide early on between a career in the academy and a career on the bench. This inevitably discourages students interested in serving in the courts from also contributing their talents to the academy, while at the same time eliminating thoughtful and talented scholars from the pool of potential judicial nominees. This situation cannot be good for our students or for our country as a whole.

The concept of open and honest intellectual discourse is one to which the senators of the Judiciary Committee should aspire. In doing so, not only will they learn more about the individuals who seek to make the legal judgments that will affect millions of Americans, but also they will help to reverse the trend of nominating judges with no background. This can only benefit the judicial process, particularly for those students who hope to become productive members of the judicial branch in the future.

This editorial originally appeared in the Jan. 17 issue of The Daily Princetonian, the daily publication at Princeton University.

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

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GOLDEN GLOBES RECAP

Golden Globes offers surprises, laughs

By CASSIE BELEK
Scene Writer

"Brokeback Mountain" surprised no one when it won four categories at Monday night's 63rd Annual Golden Globe Awards, but the evening was still filled with plenty of pleasant surprises and humorous acceptance speeches. The latter may be attributed to the free booze at the awards, an aspect that distinguishes the ceremony from the Oscars.

Unlike the more formal and traditional Academy Awards, the Golden Globes are presented during a dinner party — the food and alcohol give the affair a more festive tone than its counterpart. Presenter Harrison Ford even brought his drink on stage and made co-presenter Virginia Madsen hold it.

Ford's behavior certainly was not the oddest event of the evening. S. Epatha Merkerson, winner for her role in the made-for-TV movie "Lackawanna Blues," openly declared she was having a "major hot flash." Steve Carell, winner for his role in "The Office" on NBC, read a speech he said his wife wrote and was filled with multiple praises and thanks to none other than his wife. And finally, Geena Davis who won for her role as the President of the United States in "Commander In Chief," told a touching story of a little girl who said that because of her, she wanted to be president. Actually, Davis said, she made the whole thing up, but not before the story garnered admiring applause.

"Brokeback Mountain" took home Best Motion Picture — Drama, and Ang Lee won Best Director for the movie. On the other side, "Walk the Line" won Best Motion Picture — Musical or Comedy, and its stars, Reese Witherspoon and Joaquin Phoenix, both won for Lead in a Musical or Comedy. Felicity Huffman lost for "Desperate Housewives," but won Best Actress in a Drama for "Transamerica," and Philip Seymour Hoffman won Best Actor in a Drama for "Capote," beating out perennial favorite Russell Crowe and breakout stars Heath Ledger and Terrence Howard.

The television part of the awards offered some shocking upsets, most notably Mary-Louise Parker winning Best Actress in TV Series — Musical or Comedy over four "Housewives" for her role in the Showtime series "Weeds." Sandra Oh, who got lost on her way to the stage, won for her supporting role in "Grey's Anatomy" and Hugh Laurie got a win for Fox for his lead in "House." It was no surprise when "Lost" won Best TV Series — Drama and "Desperate Housewives" won Best TV Series — Musical or Comedy, even though the competition was exceptional in both categories.

With the Globes over, the entertainment industry can now focus on the grand-daddy of them all — the Academy Awards. The Globes often successfully predicts Oscar winners, but too much can happen between now and March 5, as was seen last year when "Million Dollar Baby" beat both Golden Globes winners "Sideways" and "The Aviator."



Photo courtesy of hfpa.org

The "Brokeback Mountain" table celebrates its Best Picture Golden Globe win with a bottle of champagne. The picture also won Best Director for Ang Lee.

Oscar nominees are announced January 31, and two films that were missing from the Globes' best picture categories — "Crash" and "Capote" — are expected to be among the nominees for the Academy Awards. "Brokeback" may be the current favorite, but the addition of those nominees would put it into a whole new competition that it may not win.

However, the Globes may be dead on for the best actor categories. As of now, Best Actress competition boils down to Reese Witherspoon and Felicity Huffman, and Best Actor comes down

between Philip Seymour Hoffman and Joaquin Phoenix. Now that all four actors have won the Globe, there is no doubt they will be among the Oscar nominees.

Hollywood has only a few weeks to regroup and decide who it wants to crown with Oscar gold, but Monday night was all about the Globes, which has gained significant prestige over the years. Movie and television stars gathered for one night to honor the year's best and take advantage of the open bar.

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MOVIE REVIEW

'Chronicles of Narnia' a charming, faithful book adaptation

By MOLLY GRIFFIN
Assistant Scene Editor

"The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" has received a great deal of press, but most of it hasn't actually dealt with the film itself.

Most press has focused on how the film compares to the massively popular "Harry Potter" franchise or analyzed how much of author C.S. Lewis's Christian themes made it into the movie.

Fortunately for viewers, director Andrew Adamson's adaptation of "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" surpasses these narrow categories and can be enjoyed by all audiences, including fans of the entire Narnia series.

"The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" chronicles the adventures of the Pevensie children, who discover the magical realm of Narnia in the back of a wardrobe. The four children, Peter (William Moseley), Susan (Anna Popplewell), Edmund (Skandar Keynes) and Lucy (Georgie Henley), soon find themselves embroiled in a battle between the forces of good and evil in a land they never knew existed.

Narnia has been in a state of perpetual winter under the rule of the tyrannical White Witch, Jadis (Tilda Swinton), who maintains her power

through a mix of spies, treachery and evil magic. She fears the arrival of the children, because they are an integral part of the prophecy that foretells the return of Aslan the lion (Liam Neeson), who possesses the power to overthrow the witch. The children find themselves drawn into the battle for control over Narnia, and in the process, the four children learn a great deal about themselves and the relationship they have with each other.

The four actors who portray the Pevensie children do a decent job in the film, considering that they have to shoulder much of the acting burden in the movie. They aren't quite as adept at acting as their peers in the "Harry Potter" films,

but they still manage to hold their own in a multi-million dollar movie, especially considering how much green screen work was involved in the film's production.

Tilda Swinton manages to steal the movie

with her portrayal of the White Witch. Her distinctive appearance, coupled with a convincing portrayal of evil, makes her an extremely effective villain and allows her to steal every scene in which she appears. She manages to create a terrifying bad guy that still manages to be appropriate for a children's film.

The film's most impressive scenes between the forces of good and evil are entertaining, but they seem very remi-



Photo courtesy of movieweb.com

The four young leads of "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe" enter a strange new world in the film based on books by C.S. Lewis.

niscent of similar scenes in the "Lord of the Rings" films. It is admirable, though, that the makers of the film managed to pull off a convincing battle sequence with no blood and very little on-screen violence, which keeps it acceptable for children.

All of the CGI in the movie, especially the digitally-created characters like Aslan, is very impressive. It is good enough to create the magical atmosphere necessary for the film to work, but it is real enough so that it doesn't detract from the beautiful scenery in

the movie.

Overall, "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" manages to prove what critics expected wrong. It isn't simply a "Harry Potter" rip-off, and it doesn't push a Christian agenda, as many expected. It is an entertaining film that is appropriate for all viewers, and, as a bonus for the studios, will probably prove to be a very lucrative franchise in the future.

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The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe



Director: Andrew Adamson
Writer: Ann Peacock
Starring: Georgie Henley, Skandar Keynes, Anna Popplewell and William Moseley

IRISH INSIDER

Wednesday, January 18, 2006

THE
OBSERVER

Ohio State 34, Notre Dame 20

Ohio statement

Irish lose 2006 Tostitos Fiesta Bowl, 34-20, as Buckeyes' offense rolls

By PAT LEONARD
Sports Writer

TEMPE, Ariz. — Notre Dame scored in only six plays on the opening possession of the 2006 Tostitos Fiesta Bowl Jan. 2, but Ohio State's response was just as quick and even more emphatic.

The Buckeyes (10-2) scored three touchdowns before half-time and did not surrender points again until the 4:25 mark of the third quarter, as No. 4 Ohio State earned a 34-20 win over No. 6 Notre Dame (9-3) on Jan. 2 at Sun Devil Stadium before 76,196 fans, the largest Tostitos Fiesta Bowl crowd in a non-championship game.

"They definitely were the better team today," Irish coach Charlie Weis said matter-of-factly following the game.

The common theme in the post-game Notre Dame locker room was that there was nothing else to say. Ohio State posted 617 yards of total offense, almost 300 more than Notre Dame's 348. Irish quarterback Brady Quinn was held without a touchdown pass for the first game all season, while Buckeyes signal-caller Troy Smith completed 19-of-28 attempts for 342 yards and two touchdowns.

The Buckeyes dominated the box score, but the Irish still were just one down away from setting up their offense to complete a late-game comeback.

Scoring twice in the second half and holding Ohio State to two field goals, Notre Dame was down 27-20 with 4:45 remaining when the Buckeyes began their final drive.

Ohio State started on its own 15-yard line and got a first down to the 26, but Notre Dame's defense tightened, holding the Buckeyes to -1 yards on first and second down.

"We thought we were gonna stop them," Irish strong safety Tom Zbikowski said. "We worked a lot on the four-minute kind of drill trying to stop their offense."

But Smith escaped the grasp of Irish defensive end Ronald Talley on 3rd-and-11 and hit wide receiver Anthony Gonzalez for the first down. Then Ohio State tailback Michael Pittman (21 carries, 136 yards) took the next play from scrimmage 60 yards for the touchdown to seal a Buckeye victory.

"Looking at film, our coaches got us very prepared," Zbikowski said. "We kind of saw everything they were going



CLAIRE KELLEY/The Observer

Ohio State quarterback Troy Smith stiff-arms Notre Dame defensive end Victor Abiamiri on a pass rush during the 2006 Tostitos Fiesta Bowl. Smith threw for 342 yards and two touchdowns.

to throw at us, but they just outplayed us today."

Notre Dame nevertheless found itself in position to tie the game late, and a crucial third quarter call also prevented the game from being even closer.

Down 21-7 at the half, the Irish scored the first second half points on a 10-yard Darius Walker touchdown run, his second of three on the day. Place-kicker D.J. Fitzpatrick missed the extra point to make the score 21-13. And Ohio State seemed unfazed with a 44-yard completion to wide receiver Ted Ginn, Jr. (8 catches, 167 yards, one touchdown) on first down to the Notre Dame 21-yard line.

But three plays later, Buckeyes wide receiver Anthony Gonzalez fumbled a completion on 3rd and 12 deep in Notre Dame territory. Irish strong safety Tom Zbikowski scooped up the fumble and scampered the field's full length for the score.

Not so fast, said the referees — first by throwing a flag, then by reversing the play entirely.

"I think everyone who saw

the scoreboard saw what happened. I guess everyone has their own opinion," Irish wide receiver Jeff Samardzija said. "I guess the refs have their own opinion, too."

First, Notre Dame defensive back Leo Ferrine was called for a block in the back, negating the touchdown. But then the referees reversed the original call, deciding upon further review that Gonzalez had not established possession prior to the fumble.

The ruling was incomplete. Ohio State settled for a 40-yard field goal and also escaped retaining just a one-point lead heading into the fourth quarter.

"That was the play," Weis said. "What I said to the official on the field is I hope your guy upstairs was right because that changed the whole complexion of the game."

The Irish were counting their blessings to even be in the game when the fourth quarter arrived. Ohio State's defense held strong almost all game, led by 12 tackles (nine solo) from star middle linebacker A.J. Hawk. And Irish receivers dropped several passes early that stalled drives.

Notre Dame senior linebackers Corey Mays and Brandon Hoyte led their team in tackles in their final game with 12 and 10, respectively. But in the first half, the Buckeyes offense also never

missed a beat.

Ginn scored on a 56-yard touchdown pass on the Buckeyes' first possession of the game, sneaking by what cornerback Ambrose Wooden called a "busted coverage" deep down the left sideline with 10:02 remaining in the first

quarter.

Ginn scored again at the 14:16 mark of the second quarter on a 68-yard end-around down the left sideline, beating Talley to the end and coasting the rest of the way.

Then the Buckeyes forced a punt and appeared poised to score again when Smith and Ginn could not connect on a pitch, and Notre Dame's Wooden recovered the fumble on the Irish 9-yard line.

But the Irish were forced to punt again, and four plays later, Ohio State wide receiver Antonio Holmes caught an 85-yard touchdown pass (2:21 remaining) from Smith, who also gained 66 yards rushing in addition to his near-flawless passing numbers.

"As you watched Troy throughout his career, every day in practice, he learns a little something and gets better, and he learns from every ball game," Ohio State coach Jim Tressel said.

The Irish again could mount no offensive momentum when they began the next drive with 2:16 remaining, and Ohio State then drove downfield to set up a 28-yard field goal attempt as time expired.

Notre Dame free safety Chinedum Ndukwe blocked the attempt — the first of two by the Irish — to prevent a larger deficit than the 21-7 halftime Ohio State lead, but the Irish went into the locker room still aware they had gotten their "butts kicked" for the game's first 30 minutes, Wooden said.

The second half effort was not enough, leaving all Irish players in the post-game locker room despondent despite the season's success in comparison to recent years.

"We did have a great season, but it just doesn't feel as good when you don't execute in the last game," Walker said.

Irish tight end Anthony Fasano, who a week later would declare himself eligible for the 2006 NFL draft, put the loss in perspective.

"This team has a lot of character," he said. "It went against what a lot of people were saying in the beginning of the year. And even though we've had some disappointing losses and coming out here with a disappointing loss, I think the season is still a success."

"I think we made some great strides. We're back on the map, and we set up a lot for the future."

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player of the game

Troy Smith

Ohio State's quarterback completed 19-of-28 passes for 342 yards and two touchdowns, rushed for 66 yards and directed the offense to 617 total yards

stat of the game

275-62

Ohio State's net rushing total compared to Notre Dame's, an indicator of the deficit the Irish faced and the dominance of the Buckeye offense

play of the game

Incomplete ruling on Ohio State wide receiver Anthony Gonzales' fumble

Irish strong safety Tom Zbikowski's return would have given the Irish possession and a chance to tie

quote of the game

"We were lucky for it to be 21-7 at halftime. It very easily could have been a three-score game."

Charlie Weis
Irish coach

report card

- C+** **quarterbacks:** Quinn threw no interceptions and dealt with uncontained pressure and dropped passes, but the junior also did not throw a touchdown pass and the offense scored just 20 points.
- A-** **running backs:** Notre Dame ran the ball well when it could afford to. Walker was the only bright spot on the offense, scoring three touchdowns and gaining 93 yards on just 16 carries.
- C-** **receivers:** Stovall caught nine passes for 126 yards and Shelton showed up late, but Samardzija dropped a few passes and Fasano was a non-factor. The receivers could not get open when it mattered.
- C-** **offensive line:** The unit run-blocked well, especially early on, but the line did not protect Quinn and never found a consistent rhythm. Ohio State's front seven dominated throughout the day.
- F** **defensive line:** The Irish had zero pressure on Buckeyes quarterback Troy Smith, and when they did, they couldn't tackle. Antonio Pittman gained 136 yards rushing, as well, as Notre Dame surrendered record yardage.
- C** **linebackers:** Mays and Hoyte each finished with double-digit tackles, but Ohio State ran the ball well and did whatever it wanted on the offensive end.
- F** **defensive backs:** Even if Notre Dame had scored more points, the Irish secondary proved it could not contain Ginn and Holmes. Zbikowski's negated fumble return almost swung the momentum, but not quite.
- B+** **special teams:** The unit blocked two field goals and did not surrender any big returns. Fitzpatrick missed one extra point, but it didn't hurt the Irish much.
- C** **coaching:** Notre Dame seemed prepared and determined for the first 2:01 of the game, then the wheels came off. Whether it was due to Weis or personnel, the Irish didn't get it done.

1.86 **overall:** The Irish performed well consistently in the 2005-06 season. The team that showed up Jan. 2 was a mere shadow of itself.

adding up the numbers

- Total yards of Ohio State offense, the most ever gained against Notre Dame in a single game. The previous record was 610 yards, set by USC in 2002. **617**
- Percentage of successful Ohio State third-down conversions. The Buckeyes were 8-for-12. **66.66**
- Average yards per completion from Buckeyes quarterback Troy Smith to his receivers. **18**
- Total combined receiving yards by Ohio State wideouts Ted Ginn, Jr. (eight catches, 167 yards) and Santonio Holmes (five catches, 124 yards). **291**
- Number of touchdowns scored by Notre Dame sophomore running back Darius Walker, one short of the Tostitos Fiesta Bowl record held by Arizona State's Woody Green (1972 vs. Missouri). **3**
- Number of touchdown passes thrown by Notre Dame quarterback Brady Quinn, the only time all season the junior was held scoreless. Quinn's previous season-low had been his lone touchdown pass against Michigan on Sept. 10. **0**
- Number of starters the Irish will lose to graduation and/or the NFL draft. **7**
- Attendance of the 2006 Tostitos Fiesta Bowl, the bowl's largest in a non-championship game. **76,196**



The Leprechaun and cheerleaders join the team in saluting Notre Dame fans after a 34-20 Irish loss in the Fiesta Bowl Jan. 2. Defensive tackle Derek Landri (66) returns next season to a defensive line that gave up 275 rushing yards to the Buckeyes, including 138 from tailback Antonio Pittman.

Bucks can't bury Irish optimism

TEMPE, Ariz. — It might not have felt like one, but Notre Dame left Tempe with a win.

No, the Irish didn't earn a victory over Ohio State in the Tostitos Fiesta Bowl. Troy Smith, Ted Ginn, Jr. and A.J. Hawk made sure of that.



Mike Gilloon
Sports Editor

But Charlie Weis' team came away from Arizona with something more important than a victor's trophy and a tan — motivation.

All that was needed for Notre Dame to be everyone's preseason No. 1 pick in 2006, besides the early departures of Vince Young and Reggie Bush, was a convincing Irish victory over the Buckeyes in the final Fiesta Bowl to be played at Sun Devil Stadium.

But Weis' first season didn't end like it was supposed to.

Maurice Stovall's final game came to a conclusion without a touchdown.

Mark LeVoir and Dan Stevenson's dedicated careers hit a scarlet-and-gray dead end.

Despite the frustration of many underclassmen for not giving the seniors a better going-away party, this loss could be the best thing to happen to the Irish.

With Brady Quinn, Jeff Samardzija and most other starters returning, the team will be as talented as any in college football

next season.

After the loss, that talent is much hungrier — 617 yards hungrier, in fact.

That's the amount of total offense Jim Tressel's Buckeyes racked up on Notre Dame.

The Irish coaches' task of keeping egos under control suddenly became a little easier after Ohio State blew past Notre Dame in a game that wasn't as close as the score indicated.

Irish strength and conditioning coach Ruben Mendoza should send a few thank-you notes to Columbus, Ohio, especially to Hawk and Ginn, Jr., who reminded Notre Dame that simply showing up doesn't win football games.

It will take a passionate performance to march into Atlanta in the 2006 season opener on Sept. 2 and beat Georgia Tech. It will take plenty of execution to topple Joe Paterno and Penn State one week later. And Reggie Bush or no Reggie Bush, winning at USC in next year's regular-season finale will require intense focus.

Regardless of how well Smith ran the Buckeyes' offense and how effectively Hawk stopped the Irish running game, it was the lack of passion, execution and intensity that clouded Notre Dame's experience in the Valley of the Sun.

As he has insisted all season,

Weis says the play of the team rests mostly on his shoulders. He is not a genius, a miracle worker or a messiah — just a few of the names for the coach thrown around by Notre Dame fans in 2005.

Weis is a football coach, a very good football coach, but too often the media and fans tag Weis and others in his business as miracle workers before a miracle is performed.

There was no miracle in Tempe. Instead, one team was outplayed by another in a game that could have had a different outcome if the Irish had played like they know they can.

Now they have a spring and summer to think about the loss and re-dedicate themselves to playing up to their potential every week.

They have just over seven months before their next game. That's 227

days the Irish have to work toward a 2006 season with a happier ending than 2005 — a long time to wait for a team hungry for a chance to show it's better than it looked on Jan. 2.

Weis will surely give them plenty of food for thought.

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

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With Brady Quinn, Jeff Samardzija and most other starters returning, the team will be as talented as any in college football next season. After the loss, that talent is much hungrier — 617 yards hungrier, in fact.

Walker upset for outgoing seniors

Sophomore running back maintains solid Irish rushing game

By PAT LEONARD
Sports Writer

TEMPE, Ariz. — Darius Walker has two more years of eligibility in a Notre Dame uniform. D.J. Fitzpatrick, Brandon Hoyte, Mark LeVoir, Dan Stevenson, Corey Mays, Maurice Stovall and a slew of others don't even have one.

The sophomore running back was experiencing mixed emotions in the post-game locker room, none of them pleasant. But he was learning from the experience, disappointed he could not honor the seniors with a victory but also aware he will be in their position one day.

"It really hurts to not be able to send the seniors out right, to not send the seniors out on top," Walker said. "So I know the underclassmen are hurting for that. But I guess we can use this to help prepare us for going into the offseason next season, and maybe we'll have a little more drive and determination to not feel like this next year."

Walker was not necessarily blaming himself. He personally did everything he could on Jan. 2 to prevent such a feeling for his elders.

The junior carried the ball 16 times for 90 yards and three touchdowns against Ohio State, which came into the game ranked No. 1 nationally in run

defense.

His three touchdowns fell one score short of tying the Fiesta Bowl record set by Arizona State's Woody Green against Missouri in 1972.

Though Irish quarterback Brady Quinn had no touchdown passes, Quinn also threw no interceptions and gave Walker the room he needed to operate early on.

"They've got a great defense. They really do," Walker said. "We really wanted to come in to run the ball, even though we were going against the No. 1 rush defense, the goal was to run the ball. We did have some success early, but ..."

The Irish were forced into limiting rush attempts.

Notre Dame coach Charlie Weis did not feel the Buckeyes ever actually contained Walker.

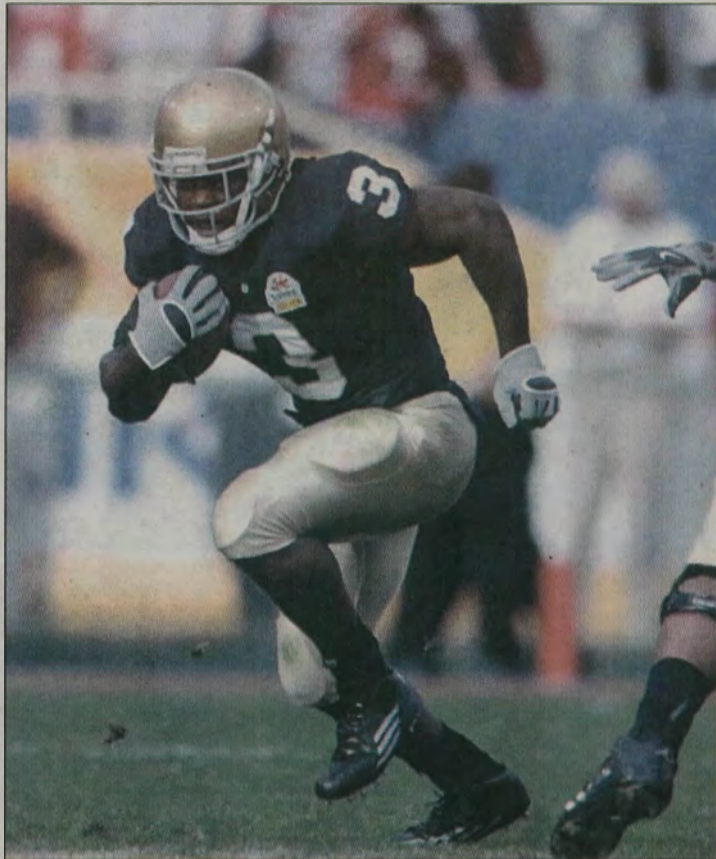
"We really didn't get shut down [running the ball]," Weis said. "We had to start throwing. That's really what happened. What I decided at halftime was I was not going to allow the tempo of the game to stay the way it was."

Notre Dame's defense could not find a consistent answer for Troy Smith, Antonio Pittman, Ted Ginn and company on Ohio State's offensive end.

That meant fewer carries for Walker and more passes to mount a comeback from the 21-7 halftime deficit.

But the game didn't start that way.

Walker carried the ball three times on Notre Dame's opening drive, which ate up 72 yards in six plays and only 2:01. Walker's third carry was a 20-yard touchdown run.



CLAIRE KELLEY/The Observer

Notre Dame running back Darius Walker strides forward for several of his 93 rushing yards Jan. 2 against Ohio State.

The Irish were able to block and contain Ohio State's aggressive linebackers on the play, despite solid penetration by Hawk and others.

"It seemed like the first drive we got a chance to execute and we were clicking on all cylinders," Walker said. "And somewhere along the line it just didn't, and we really never regained our composure."

Walker finished the season with 1,196 yards rushing, averaging 4.7 yards per carry and 99.7 yards per contest.

He accounted for nine of the team's 21 rushing touchdowns and 68 percent of its offense on the ground. Add that to his 43 catches for 351 yards and two touchdowns, and it creates a productive and efficient

ground game that balances an offense.

But when the opposition forces Notre Dame into passing situations like Ohio State did in the Fiesta Bowl, the strength in the running game is negated.

"It depends on us," said Irish defensive back Ambrose Wooden, a member of the secondary that surrendered two long touchdown passes leading to the early deficit.

"We didn't play like Notre Dame has this entire season," Walker said. "So that's what really hurts about losing this game is that we lost to a team but we really didn't come to play."

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scoring summary

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total
Ohio State	7	14	3	10	34
Notre Dame	7	0	6	7	20

First quarter

Notre Dame 7, Ohio State 0
Darius Walker 20-yard run (D.J. Fitzpatrick kick) with 12:59 remaining
Drive: 6 plays, 72 yards, 2:01 elapsed
Notre Dame 7, Ohio State 7
Ted Ginn, Jr. 56-yard reception from Troy Smith (Josh Huston kick) with 10:02 remaining.
Drive: 7 plays, 82 yards, 2:57 elapsed

Second quarter

Ohio State 14, Notre Dame 7
Ginn, Jr. 68-yard run (Huston kick) with 14:16 remaining.
Drive: 6 plays, 86 yards, 2:16 elapsed
Ohio State 21, Notre Dame 7
Santonio Holmes 85-yard reception from Smith (Huston kick) with 2:21 remaining.
Drive: 4 plays, 98 yards, 2:16 elapsed

Third quarter

Ohio State 21, Notre Dame 13
Walker 10-yard run (Fitzpatrick kick failed) with 4:25 remaining.
Drive: 10 plays, 71 yards, 2:53 elapsed
Ohio State 24, Notre Dame 13
Huston 40-yard field goal with 2:20 remaining.
Drive: 5 plays, 42 yards, 2:05 elapsed

Fourth quarter

Ohio State 27, Notre Dame 13
Huston 26-yard field goal with 10:12 remaining.
Drive: 10 plays, 60 yards, 4:22 elapsed
Ohio State 27, Notre Dame 20
Walker 3-yard run (Fitzpatrick kick) with 5:27 remaining.
Drive: 13 plays, 80 yards, 4:45 elapsed
Ohio State 34, Notre Dame 20
Antonio Pittman 60-yard run (Huston kick) with 1:46 remaining.
Drive: 7 plays, 85 yards, 3:41 elapsed

statistics

total yards

ND	348
OSU	617

rushing yards

ND	62
OSU	275

passing yards

ND	286
OSU	342

return yards

ND	23
OSU	71

time of possession

ND	29:16
OSU	30:44



28-62	rushes-yards	36-275
29-45-0	comp-att-int	19-28-0
6-42.3	punts-avg. yards	1-40
1-0	fumbles-lost	2-2
6-48	penalties-yards	7-53
22	first downs	27



Careers end with proud performances

By MIKE GILLOON
Sports Editor

TEMPE, Ariz. — The sun set on Notre Dame's senior class when the Tostitos Fiesta Bowl ended in a 34-20 loss to Ohio State on Jan. 2. But that's not without several players making significant contributions during their final games in an Irish uniform.

Maurice Stovall and Matt Shelton paced the Irish receivers by combining for 14 catches for 178 yards.

All of Shelton's five catches came in the second half, with three coming on a third-quarter drive resulting in a Darius Walker touchdown run to bring the Irish within eight at 21-13.

Linebackers Brandon Hoyte and Corey Mays were the top two tacklers for the

Irish as Mays tallied 12 stops and Hoyte racked up 10. Mays also forced a fumble, sacked Ohio State quarterback Troy Smith once and had two tackles for loss.

The season didn't end as they would have preferred, but the seniors were optimistic about the end of their careers at Notre Dame.

"I learned a lot [during my time at Notre Dame]," Hoyte said. "I learned a lot from the coaches about the game of football and things aside from football."

Kickin' It

One of the few highlights for the Irish against the Buckeyes came on special teams as Irish free safety Chinedum Ndukwe and defensive tackle Trevor Laws each blocked a field goal.

Ndukwe's deflection came at the end of the first half as

Ohio State aimed to extend its 21-7 lead as Buckeyes' kicker Josh Huston lined up for a 28-yard field goal.

But Ndukwe slipped through the line to block the kick and keep the deficit at 14 points.

Laws' play came after Ohio State's second drive of the second half and with the Irish still trailing 21-7.

Huston lined up for a 46-yarder after Ohio State had driven from its own 41 down to the Irish 29 when Laws got enough of his hand on the ball to turn back the Buckeyes once again.

The blocks were the second and third of the season for Notre Dame, as Laws blocked a 44-yard attempt by Purdue's Ben Jones during a 49-28 Irish victory over the Boilermakers on Oct. 1.

Packin' 'em in

The attendance at Sun Devil Stadium for the Fiesta Bowl was 76,196 — a record crowd for a non-championship BCS game.

It was also the last Fiesta Bowl ever played at Sun Devil Stadium, as the bowl will move across the Phoenix metropolitan area to the new Cardinals Stadium in Glendale, Ariz. next year.

The Fiesta Bowl has been played in Tempe's Sun Devil Stadium for 35 years and hosted five national championship games, including Notre Dame's 34-21 win over West Virginia on Jan. 2, 1989 to give the Irish the national title.

Captains

Captains for the bowl game were Hoyte for the defense, Quinn for the offense and Mays for special teams.

Coln flip

Ohio State won the toss and deferred to the second half. Notre Dame chose to defend the north end zone and received the opening kickoff.

Contact Mike Gilloon at mgilloon@nd.edu

"I learned a lot ... about the game of football and things aside from football."

Brandon Hoyte
Irish linebacker



CLAIRE KELLEY/The Observer



CLAIRE KELLEY/The Observer

Sunburned



CLAIRE KELLEY/The Observer

A season that many believe brought a spark back to the Notre Dame football program ended with a thud on Jan. 2 when the Irish fell to Ohio State 34-20 in the Fiesta Bowl. A.J. Hawk and the No. 1-ranked Buckeyes rushing defense held Darius Walker and Notre Dame to 62 total yards on the ground. Quarterback and Dublin, Ohio native Brady Quinn realized a childhood dream when the Irish were paired with the Buckeyes. But Quinn threw no touchdowns for the first time all season and Ohio State sacked him five times — two courtesy of his sister's boyfriend Hawk. Though Quinn received most of the attention before the game after setting nearly every Notre Dame passing record this season, it was the Buckeyes' Troy Smith who shined under the desert sun as he went 19-for-28 for 342 yards and two TDs, including an 85-yarder to Ohio State speedster Ted Ginn, Jr. Irish coach Charlie Weis was frustrated that his team was only down 27-20 late in the game but couldn't force Ohio State to give the ball back, as running back Antonio Pittman streaked 60 yards down the Buckeyes' sideline with 1:46 remaining to cement the victory. Notre Dame has now lost eight consecutive bowl games, with the last win a 24-21 victory over Texas A&M in the 1994 Cotton Bowl when Quinn was nine years old.



CLAIRE KELLEY/The Observer



CLAIRE KELLEY/The Observer

Irish wide receiver Jeff Samardzija stiff-arms Ohio State cornerback Ashton Youboty, top left. Notre Dame running back Darius Walker sprints away from Buckeyes free safety Nate Salley, top right. Irish quarterback Brady Quinn is dragged down by Ohio State linebacker A.J. Hawk on one of Hawk's two sacks, bottom right. Ohio State flanker Ted Ginn, Jr. eludes Notre Dame's Marcus Freeman during a return, bottom left. Irish coach Charlie Weis shouts orders to his team, middle left.



KINGKONG



'KING KONG' A GRAND, WILD RIDE

By MARTY SCHROEDER
Scene Critic

With his "Lord of the Rings" masterpiece behind him, Peter Jackson returns to the screen with another epic of kingly proportions. The release of "King Kong" brings together a motley mix of proven actors, one known for his comedy and the giant simian himself, Kong.

The film brings the audience to an unknown island filled with natives and stories of wonders too great to be spoken of. Jackson takes viewers on a ride filled with a mysterious sea captain, a woman in love with acting and looking for a paycheck, a fame-starved movie director and the plethora of oversized fauna that only a long-lost island could provide.

The first hour of this three-hour carnival ride involves director Carl Denham (Jack Black) bringing his cast and crew to an uncharted island on a map he discovered to film what he believes will be his ticket to fame and fortune. Jack Black adeptly plays Denham, giving the right amount of crazed genius to the character

without going over the top. Naomi Watts stars as Ann Darrow, an actress who goes along for the ride, literally, as Denham promises her she will be a star and finally get the credit she thinks she (more humbly than Denham) deserves. Adrien Brody, as a writer whom Denham takes to write his script, and Thomas Kretschmann, as the mysterious and opportunistic Captain Englehorn, fill out the rest of the cast.

Once they arrive at the aforementioned island, the situation begins to come apart at the seams, as the natives capture Darrow and offer her to Kong. The oversized gorilla takes her away into the forest, which is when the audience begins to have fun. The island where Kong abides is filled with some of the most wonderful creatures seen on the

silver screen in a long while. Viewers, along with the characters, happen upon giant, skin-crawling insects, leeches the size of lions and centipedes as long as an arm. There are giant bats and, most impressively, dinosaurs that stampede

Pro 'Kong'



- ◆ Jackson brings a sense of fun and excitement to his "Rings" follow-up
- ◆ The special effects, especially the CGI Kong himself, are spectacular
- ◆ "King Kong" is grand entertainment anchored by a strong cast

through the valleys of island and T-Rexes whose only purpose in life, it seems, is to eat Darrow. All of the strange animals that are encountered on this long-lost island create a fun-filled ride that Jackson seems to have had a blast directing and creating.

The real star of the show, however, is the giant gorilla Kong. Using motion-capture technology, Andy Serkis brings his Gollum acting chops to this gargantuan behemoth of a gorilla. The gymnastic movement employed by Serkis gives a life to Kong that would be otherwise impossible. This is most vividly expressed when

he fights three Tyrannosaurus Rexes while managing to keep them away from Darrow. There is perhaps no more enjoyable moment in the film than watching Kong battle three dinosaurs through the canopy of the island's forests and then down onto a plain where he finally defeats the final one in a glorious, bone-crunching moment.

The film's plot revolves around Kong falling in love with Darrow and how she conflicts with her growing fondness for him and her desire to get away from him and back to the humans. This may seem conceited or pretentious to some, but if disbelief is suspended for three hours and audiences allow themselves to be wowed by the strange encounters in the film, this is one of the most fun and entertaining films one can see this year.

After finishing "Lord of the Rings," Jackson said he wanted to have some fun and with this film, he gives us an adventure where seeing a giant gorilla on top of the Empire State building seems credible.

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'KONG' AN ILLOGICAL, SELF-INDULGENT BORE

By BRIAN DOXTADER
Assistant Scene Editor

There is a scene midway through "King Kong" that may be one of the worst in recent major motion picture history: Adrien Brody and Jack Black are chased by staggeringly unconvincing CGI dinosaurs and ward them off by (and this is not being made up) hitting the raptors in the face.

Such is the stuff of "King Kong," Peter Jackson's long-awaited follow-up to his Academy Award winning "Lord of the Rings" trilogy. Critical consensus on the movie would indicate that the director has delivered a phenomenal film in the same epic mold as his previous pictures.

Critical consensus would be wrong. "King Kong" isn't a great film, or even a good one. Instead, it is a misguided, over-bloated, self-indulgent picture posing as quality cinema. Sadly, "King Kong," rather than the grand entertainment it wants to be, is a train wreck on par with the "Star Wars" prequels and the "Matrix" sequels, a disappointing but effective reminder of what happens when directors let success go to their heads.

Conventional wisdom dictates that good

sequels are rare and good remakes even rarer. Peter Jackson adds his name to the notorious list of great directors who have fallen victim to the remake bug, a surprisingly high-profile list that includes Gus Van Sant (1998's "Psycho") and Tim Burton (2002's "Planet of the Apes").

To its credit, "King Kong" starts out as an impeccable period piece, but once the plot sputters to a start, it becomes far more problematic. At the heart of Jackson's remake is the retooled love story. Now it's a bizarre and highly modern love triangle between Adrien Brody, Naomi Watts and King Kong himself. While in the original Anne was terrified of Kong, here she's kind of attracted to him.

Who wouldn't love a giant gorilla, especially one who can take down more than one T-Rex dinosaur at the same time? So Anne falls in love with Kong (and vice-versa, obviously) while Jack Black schemes, Adrien Brody fumes heroically

and pretty much everyone else becomes horror-movie-esque fodder.

In a strange twist of fate, "King Kong" feels undeveloped in many ways, despite a massively overblown running time of 186 minutes. The plot finds no true cohesion, which means the whole enterprise is fitfully paced throughout. "King Kong" should feel adventurous and spontaneous (as the original classic was), not heavy and labored-over. Resolution rarely derives from the plot, and instead stems from either convenient deus ex machina or sudden character shifts.

Though Kong himself is easily the most interesting character in the picture, that's really not saying much. None of the others get much to do except run from dinosaurs and fight giant insects. Character arcs are started, then abandoned and, despite a plethora of great actors, no humans in the film generate much interest. It's not a question of

talent, though — it takes some serious skill to reduce Academy Award winner Adrien Brody and Tenacious D singer/Golden Globe nominee Jack Black to non-entities, but Jackson somehow manages to pull it off.

Plot holes are big enough to drive a bus through, leaving a metric ton of unanswered questions like: Where do the island natives go? Or how is it that Anne and Kong are able to have a moment in the instantly-empty streets of New York? Or how do Adrien Brody and Co. get chased by dinosaurs and giant bugs on the way inland on Skull Island, yet manage to waltz right out when plot necessitates?

Peter Jackson may be a good director, but King Kong is not a good film. It's a waste of money, a waste of potential and a waste of talent. He needs to take a step back and reconsider what made him so successful in the first place, something he must have forgotten — otherwise, how could he ever possibly in his right mind think that a chase scene in which Academy Award winner Adrien Brody and Tenacious D singer Jack Black hit CGI dinosaurs in the face is a good idea?

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Photo courtesy of movieweb.com

King Kong, the eponymous character of Peter Jackson's latest epic, is a CGI creature whose body movements were acted out by Gollum actor Andy Serkis.



Photo courtesy of movieweb.com

Despite its flaws, "King Kong" is an impeccable period-piece that recreates Depression-era America, when the original "Kong" (1933) was actually made.

MOVIE REVIEWS

McCarthyism exposed in Clooney's new film

By LAURA MILLER
Scene Critic

George Clooney's "Good Night, and Good Luck" catapults the audience back into the 1950s and, despite the presence of many contemporary faces (including George Clooney, Robert Downey, Jr. and Jeff Daniels), is successful in achieving an authentic aura.

Clooney and cinematographer Robert Elswit photographed the entire picture in black and white, which creates a strikingly unique film that is both entertaining and informative. However, while the style and flow of the film make it cinematically exceptional, at times it interferes with the narrative and its comprehensibility.

Instead of presenting the audience with a history of McCarthyism, Clooney immerses in the story and makes it his own. The film mixes vintage television broadcasts from the 1950s with a corresponding storyline of the inner workings of CBS.

As the story progresses, it becomes less and less apparent which shots are contemporary and which are from the vaults.

This artistic blending is made seamless through the excellence of the acting. Clooney and Downey are able to leave

behind remnants of their more typical suave/romantic typecasting and fully inhabit the CBS executives they portray. Daniels is a superb contribution to the cast — he and David Strathairn (who plays Edward Murrow) are a crucial element in bridging the gap between the modern and historical film clips.

As a whole, the film is well written, but screenwriters Clooney and Heslov sometimes forget that not all of their audience members are familiar with McCarthyism. Although it is a famous event in American history, those who have little specific knowledge or experience about the original broadcasting and events may be slightly confused at the beginning of the film. Despite this, the film's focus is clear, and once the audience adjusts to the style of the movie, it is easy to follow. However, this initial

confusion presents one major artistic flaw — while any audience member will learn from this film, those who have some previous knowledge on the subject will

both enjoy the film more and extract more meaning from it.

The story is very different from a typical Hollywood movie in that it does not have the exciting plot line of many modern films. Instead, it is much more reflective of real life. It has many char-



Fred Friendly (George Clooney), left, and Edward R. Murrow, right, are reporters in the age of McCarthyism in George Clooney's "Good Night, and Good Luck."

acters that each have their own individual story. It is a compilation of everyday events in the lives of everyday people that unexpectedly create something extraordinary.

This style is to the story's advantage. The down-to-earth quality of the characters and television blurbs allow the audience to connect to the story and understand its pertinence to life as an American. The story is so authentic to the 1950s styles, manners of speech, behavior and life that it feels completely non-fictional. It becomes apparent that it is Clooney's goal to record a story, not to write one.

Like no other movie that is out in theaters, "Good Night and Good Luck" addresses the importance of American heritage. It leaves behind the typical themes of drama to address the issue of the common man and his role in our country. The tagline for the movie states, "We will not walk in fear of one another," emphasizing the need for Americans to confront issues valiantly at a grassroots level. "Good Night, and Good Luck" inspires change in a country filled with fear and provides a hopeful outlook for the future.

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Moss grows fat on 'The Family Stone'

By KATIE BARON
Scene Critic

Every year, theaters are flooded with holiday films that emphasize the importance of family. "The Family Stone," which, like its predecessors, is both comedic and bittersweet, is a contemporary take on this American staple. Although the thoroughly modern family dynamic and the subtle manner in which the film deals with serious family issues are unique and worthy of note, overall the film is unremarkable.

On the surface, "The Family Stone" is reminiscent of "Meet the Parents." Meredith Morton (Sarah Jessica Parker), an up-tight executive, travels to boyfriend Everett's (Dermot Mulroney) idyllic childhood home to celebrate Christmas with his family. Although the Stone family welcomes her, it is very clear that they do not like her. Sybil Stone (Diane Keaton), Everett's mother, is particularly resistant to Everett's plans to present Meredith with the family wedding ring. This seemingly light film departs from the comedic genre with its somber undertones, which become increasingly apparent throughout the course of the movie.

The script has a few schmaltzy lines, but for the most part, it avoids the saccharine sentimentality that runs rampant in other films of the romantic-comedy/family-drama variety. The Stones are fairly convincing as a real family with real problems, and the cast conveys a sense of familial cohesiveness.

The family's modern dynamic is particularly evident in a scene in which the homosexuality and deafness of the youngest son become a topic of conversation at the dinner table. Although perhaps a bit overdone, the acknowledgement of the diversity in today's world adds interest to the film. Also, the understated scenes in which no words are spoken quietly inform the audience that all is not right with the Stones. Unfortunately, unimpressive performances and weak writing overwhelm these strengths.

While Sarah Jessica Parker is generally a strong comedic actress, in this role, she is downright irritating. Meredith is obviously "quirky," but while writer/director Thomas Bezucha intends for this quirkiness to be endearing, Parker never transcends her character's annoying traits.

Whether this is a result of poor writing or poor acting is difficult to say — most likely it is a result of both. The same can be said for the character of Everett Stone. Though the movie attempts to raise audience sympathy for his confused and introspective character, Mulroney instead

comes across as whiny and a bit immature.

The two strongest performances are given by Diane Keaton as Sybil Stone and Rachel McAdams as youngest daughter Amy. This mother-daughter pair particularly dislikes Meredith, and although they are merciless in their treatment of her, both Sybil and Amy are extremely likable. The audience gets the sense that they behave badly not because they are catty by nature, but rather because they care



Amy (Rachel McAdams), left, and her mother Sybil (Diane Keaton), right, get into a messy situation in Thomas Bezucha's holiday movie "The Family Stone."

about Everett. Both actresses are skilled at balancing their cutting remarks with genuine expressions of concern for Everett's well being.

The plot becomes somewhat ridiculous when Meredith convinces her sister Julie (Claire Danes) to join her for support. Chaos ensues, and a supposedly surprising, yet tiresomely predictable swapping of partners takes place. This plot development reveals a major weakness in the film — the romantic relationships between the characters are not believable. Not only do

the actors lack chemistry, but the writing in most of the romantic scenes sounds as though it were stolen from a bad episode of "Dawson's Creek."

Unfortunately, the film's redeeming qualities cannot save it from the destructive influence of its other much weaker elements. "The Family Stone" has its moments, but more often than not audiences will find themselves hoping for more.

Contact Katie Baron at kbaron@nd.edu

Good Night, and Good Luck.



Director: George Clooney
Writers: George Clooney and Grant Heslov
Starring: David Strathairn, Jeff Daniels, George Clooney and Robert Downey Jr.

The Family Stone



Director: Thomas Bezucha
Writer: Thomas Bezucha
Starring: Sarah Jessica Parker, Diane Keaton, and Dermot Mulroney

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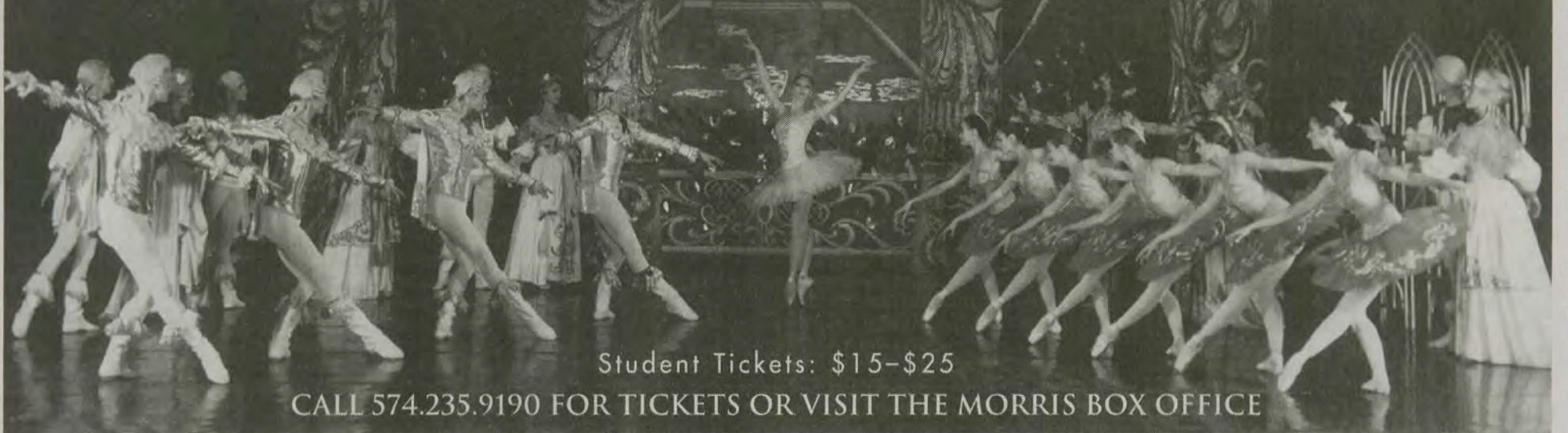
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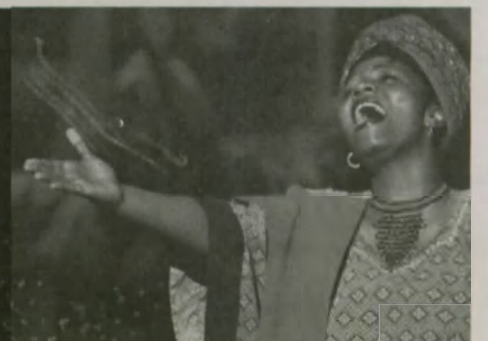
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NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL

Killingsworth leads Hoosiers over Illinois

Pittsnogle scores 18 as West Virginia dominates Providence; Villanova erases halftime deficit, beats Seton Hall 73-64

Associated Press

BLOOMINGTON — Marco Killingsworth scored 20 of his 23 points in the second half to help No. 13 Indiana beat No. 7 Illinois 62-60 on Tuesday night.

Indiana (11-3, 3-1 Big Ten) won for the seventh time in eight games and became only the fourth team to beat the Fighting Illini in the regular-season since Jan. 24, 2004. The victory set off a wild celebration as Indiana extended its home winning streak to 11 against Big Ten teams.

Illinois (16-2, 2-2) was led by Shaun Pruitt's career-high 17 points, but lost for the second time in three games. Brian Randle added 15 points, but leading scorer Dee Brown, who averaged 15.6 points, had just five.

Roderick Wilmont tied his season high with 17 points for the Hoosiers. Illinois jumped to a 14-3 lead.

Wilmont sparked an 18-0 run as Indiana held Illinois scoreless for nearly six minutes late in the first half. The spurt ended when he scored the final four points to make it 27-19.

The Illini closed to 28-24 at the half when Brown connected on a 3-pointer before the buzzer — his only basket of the night.

Indiana used a 15-6 run in the second half to make it 55-40 with 8:23 to go.

The Illini rallied with 12 straight points to close to 55-52 when Randle completed a three-point play with 4:52 left. Brown missed a 3-pointer with 4.5 seconds left that would have tied the game. Jamar Smith tipped in the miss to make it 61-60.

Robert Vaden then made one of two free throws with 3.6 seconds left, and Rich McBride's half-court heave at the buzzer was off the mark as fans raced onto the court.

West Virginia 64, Providence 48

Providence was No. 12 West Virginia's final tuneup before a nationally televised matchup at No. 18 UCLA. It looked like it.

Kevin Pittsnogle scored 18 points and grabbed 11 rebounds to help No. 12 West Virginia win its 11th straight game, beating Providence on Tuesday night.

"We didn't shoot as well as we did [against Marquette] and still won by 15 or something," Pittsnogle said. "It's a great confidence builder for our defense."

The 11 straight wins are the school's most since the Mountaineers won 22 in a row

during the 1988-89 season.

"It's really good news that we're not living or dying by the three," West Virginia coach John Beilein said. "And now we can look at the next game. Everybody knows who we play."

West Virginia (13-3, 5-0 Big East) is also off to its best start in the league since joining 11 years ago.

"The schedule is a little bit different this year," Beilein said. "Don't give us too much credit yet."

Mike Gansey added 18 points for West Virginia. Pittsnogle and Gansey are the Big East's leading scoring tandem, averaging 22.8 and 21.8 points, respectively. The two also rank first and second, respectively, in Big East 3-point shooting percentage.

The game was the finale of a three-game homestand for the Mountaineers. West Virginia travels to California to face UCLA on Jan. 21.

Pittsnogle could miss the game because his wife, Heather, is more than eight months pregnant with their first child, a boy. Pittsnogle said he will fly back or stay behind if she begins contractions. The Feb. 1 due date has tempered his enthusiasm for the game.

"She can go anytime, that's why I am kind of nervous about it," Pittsnogle said of the trip. "Hopefully it doesn't happen when I'm out there. I'll be thinking about it. But when I'm on the court, basketball is all I think about."

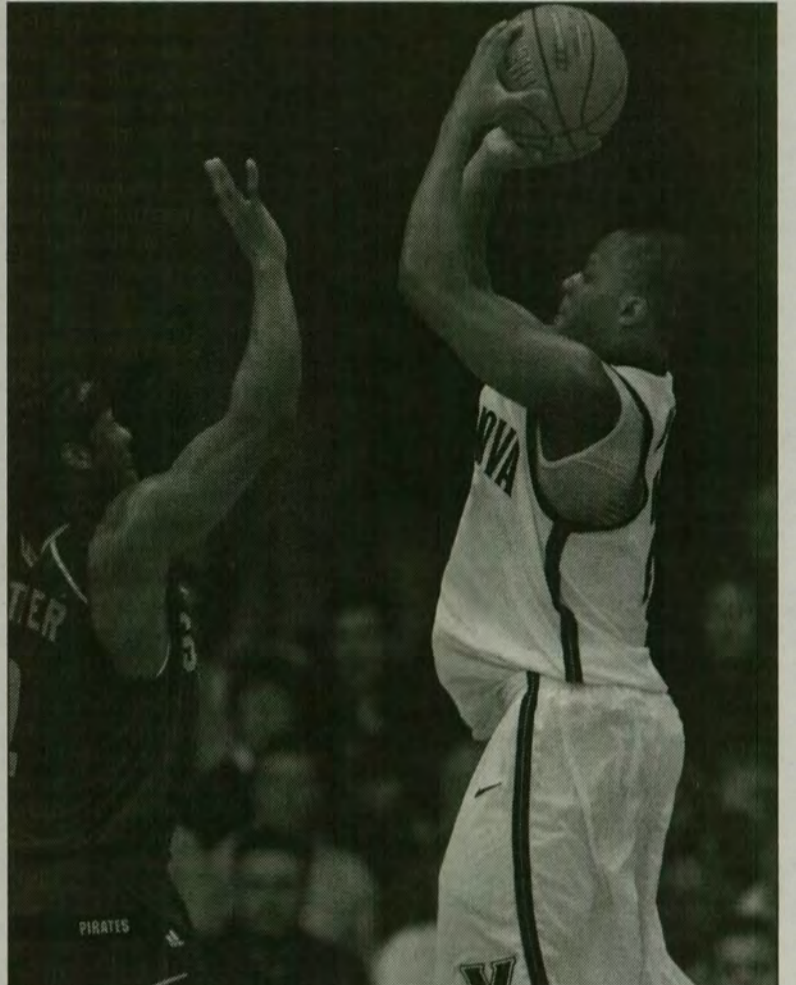
West Virginia led the last-place Friars (7-8, 0-4) 33-21 at the end of the first half. The Mountaineers used a 12-3 run early in the second half to extend their lead.

Providence pulled within eight points before Pittsnogle and Gansey combined for nine straight points. Frank Young added four points in the push. He finished with eight.

Randall Hanke led Providence with 14 points. Donnie McGrath added nine.

West Virginia's biggest lead was 56-37 on Young's tip-in with 7:58 remaining. Providence never got closer than 11 points afterward. The Mountaineers have not trailed in two games after having to rally from double-digit deficits in their first two Big East games.

Providence started 0-4 in conference play for the second straight season. It lost its first seven conference games last year.



Villanova guard Randy Foye shoots over Randall Hanke of Seton Hall in the Wildcats' nine-point win Tuesday.

Villanova 73, Seton Hall 64

After Villanova played one of its worst 20 minutes of the season, Allan Ray and Randy Foye took over — only this time it was in the locker room and not on the court.

There was no ranting, only a simple message to get with the defensive program or get ready to lose to Seton Hall.

"We've got to get it together," Foye said he told his teammates. "We can't wait for them to role over and die."

Foye scored 19 points, Kyle Lowry had 14 and No. 8 Villanova did pull it together in the second half and survived another tight one in a win over the Pirates on Tuesday night.

The Wildcats (12-2, 3-1 Big East) sorely needed this one after their roughest week of the season. They sandwiched a tougher-than-expected overtime win at Rutgers between losses against then West Virginia and Texas and tumbled five spots in The Associated Press Top 25.

"You have to go out there and give a great effort because if you don't, you're on a losing streak," Foye said.

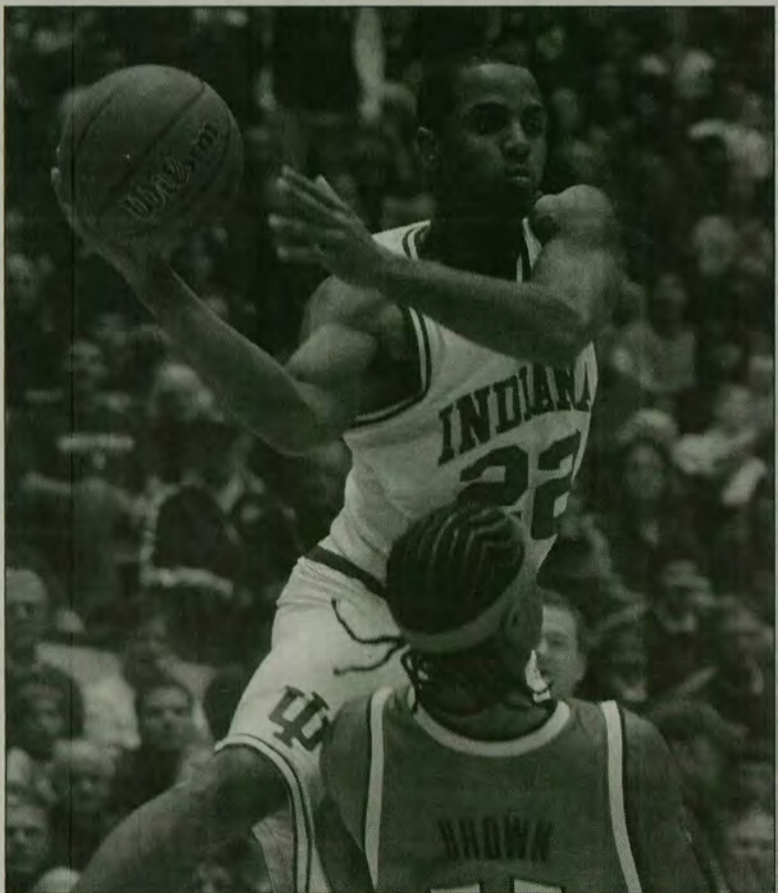
After shooting a miserable 27 percent against the Longhorns on Saturday, the Wildcats rebounded with a decent 43 percent and had five players in double digits.

Villanova got 12 points from Will Sheridan, the only true frontcourt player in its four-guard starting lineup. Often left to do the little noticed dirty work — like setting screens and boxing out — the 6-foot-8 Sheridan worked hard for tough baskets inside and got to the free-throw line seven times.

"He played like a veteran tonight," coach Jay Wright said. "He's the most consistent guy we have. That's what we count on him for."

He also had two big blocked shots that deflated Seton Hall's offense. Nearly unstoppable while building a 13-point first-half lead, the Pirates (9-6, 1-3) came crashing back and shot only 31 percent in the second half.

"For some reason in the first half, it was like our feet were frozen," Wright said. "I've got to watch the film to understand it."



Indiana guard Marshall Strickland makes a pass around Dee Brown of Illinois during the Hoosiers' 62-60 win Tuesday.

CLASSIFIEDS

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WORLD BASEBALL CLASSIC

Rodriguez unsure which country to represent

Yankees third baseman eligible to suit up for United States, Dominican Republic, says he doesn't want to offend either

Associated Press

Alex Rodriguez was among 60 players on the Dominican Republic's preliminary roster for the World Baseball Classic, but it wasn't immediately clear whether he would play.

The AL MVP, eligible to play for the United States and the Dominican Republic, said last month that he intended to play for the Dominican team, then said he wouldn't play at

all because he didn't want to offend either country.

His agent, Scott Boras, said last week that Rodriguez had not made a decision. Gene Orza, the No. 2 official of the players' association, said he would attend to persuade A-Rod to participate.

After submitting the roster Monday, Dominican general manager Stan Javier said he was unsure whether the New York Yankees third baseman would play. Final 30-man ros-

ters for the 16-team tournament, scheduled for March 3-20, are due five days before each team's opener.

After the Dominican announcement, U.S. general manager Bob Watson said he will inquire whether Rodriguez also could be included on his team's preliminary roster.

"I don't know what the rules are, but we'll be checking on those," Watson said Tuesday during a telephone conference

call. "If we have the capability to add him to ours, we definitely will do that."

A player can be on multiple 60-man rosters but only one 30-man roster, Major League Baseball Players Association spokesman Greg Bouris said.

The Dominican roster includes pitcher Pedro Martinez (New York Mets), first baseman Albert Pujols (St. Louis), designated hitter David Ortiz (Boston), left fielder Manny Ramirez

(Boston), outfielder Vladimir Guerrero (Los Angeles Angels), shortstop Miguel Tejada (Baltimore), pitcher Bartolo Colon (Angels), second baseman Alfonso Soriano (Washington), third baseman Adrian Beltre (Seattle) and infielder Aramis Ramirez (Chicago Cubs).

Free agent outfielder Sammy Sosa is on the Dominican roster but hasn't said whether he intends to play.

NFL

Cowher unwilling to criticize officials after Polamalu call

Controversial replay overruling almost cost Pittsburgh game

Associated Press

Following a trying weekend filled with reversals, replays and reprimands, NFL officials got a strong show of support from an unlikely source: Pittsburgh Steelers coach Bill Cowher.

Cowher not only refused to criticize the officials for reversing upon review a possible game-clinching interception by Steelers safety Troy Polamalu against the Colts — the NFL later said the reversal was wrong — he gave them a vote of confidence on Tuesday.

"Our officials are doing the very best that they can do. Obviously, at times, there's going to be mistakes made," Cowher said. "To me, those guys are human like the rest of us, and we're moving on."

Cowher also dismissed linebacker Joey Porter's angry comments that the officials were determined to get Indianapolis into the AFC championship game, calling them "ridiculous."

Porter criticized the officiating repeatedly during postgame interviews, saying, "At one point, I didn't think the refs were going to let us out of here with a victory."

Cowher, no doubt trying to temper Porter's unusually strong comments, said that the Steelers

have a 15-minute cooling off period for players but that, "we've got some guys who could probably use a little longer than that."

"Joey's comments at the end of the game were certainly made out of frustration," Cowher said. "But there's no conspiracy, or things of that nature, that's ridiculous."

The call that most upset the Steelers during their dramatic 21-18 win Sunday over the top-seeded Colts in Indianapolis came when Polamalu made a diving interception of a Peyton Manning pass with Pittsburgh trying to preserve a 21-10 lead with 5 1/2 minutes remaining.

After Polamalu made the catch, he rolled over with the

ball in his hands and fumbled as he was getting up to run, then fell on the ball. The call on the field was an interception, but referee Pete Morelli reversed it after the Colts challenged, ruling Polamalu had not completed the catch.

The call stunned the Steelers — numerous replays showed Polamalu controlling the ball throughout and fumbling only upon getting up to run — and the Colts went on to score a touchdown and a 2-point conversion to make it 21-18 with 4 1/2 minutes remaining.

Mike Pereira, the NFL's vice president of officiating, said in a statement Monday that

Morelli misinterpreted the rule determining a catch, and that the call on the field should have been upheld.

Cowher declined Tuesday to talk about that call or any others.

"I know a lot of talk has taken place with the officiating," he said. "The biggest thing to

understand is that all of our questions have been answered. The league got back to us about that. It's important now that we move on."

The Polamalu play was one of only a series of disputed rulings during the NFL's four divisional playoff games last weekend. Two touchdowns were reversed in the Panthers' 29-21 win over the Bears in Chicago, and there was considerable debate whether Champ Bailey fumbled out of bounds at the end of his pivotal 100-yard interception during Denver's 27-13 victory over New England on Saturday night.

Patriots tight end Ben Watson ran from one corner of the field to another to knock the ball out of Bailey's hands just as Bailey was about to score. If the officials had determined the ball crossed the goal line before going out of bounds, it would have been a touchback and New England would have gotten the ball at its own 20.

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OLYMPICS

American fans confused over host city's name

The northern Italian city of Torino, commonly anglicized to 'Turin,' will host Winter Olympics in February

Associated Press

It's the Olympic version of "You say tomato, I say tomah-to."

The city in northern Italy that's hosting the Winter Olympics next month is "Torino" to the locals and NBC. For most of us non-Italians, it's always been Turin.

"I believe readers are seeing it on television with the NBC logo, it says 'Torino,' the Olympic Games," Ron Fritz, sports editor at The News Journal in Wilmington, Del., said Tuesday. "And then they see it in the paper, 'Turin,' and they're thinking we got it wrong."

The explanation for the different versions is simple. Sort of.

"Turin is the English translation of the Italian word Torino," said Clara Orban, a professor of Italian at DePaul University. "Standard practice in the United States is if a city name has been translated differently, go with the English translation."

That's what The Associated Press is doing. Its policy — and it was around long before Turin was awarded the Olympic Games — is to use the English version of foreign cities. It's Rome, not Roma. Munich, not Muenchen. Moscow instead of Mockba or Moskva.

And Florence isn't going to be called by its Italian name, Firenze. At least not without an accompanying map so people would know what city that is.

"We use Turin in accordance with our long-standing style to use English names on English-language wires," said Terry Taylor, AP sports editor. "It's the Shroud of Turin, for instance, not the Shroud of Torino. And when the World Cup comes to Germany this summer, we will write that games will be played in Munich, not Muenchen."

"Of course, in the interest of accuracy, we will not Anglicize the name in full references to the Olympic organizing committee, which uses Torino, and we will not change Torino to Turin in quotations."

The New York Times, Sports Illustrated and many other news organizations follow similar policies. Travel writers at the Times, for example, have been calling cities by their English names for years.

"For us, it's a pretty simple style rule," said Tom Jolly, sports editor at the Times. "We follow Webster's and The World Fact Book as our guide. Generally those are spelled in an Anglicized fashion."

Even the Italians go with English translations sometimes. One of their top soccer teams is AC Milan, not AC Milano, and

it's supposedly because when the club was founded, the namers wanted to stick with the sport's English roots.

So why the linguistic confusion?

The official name of the games is "Torino 2006," and the International Olympic Committee refers to the city by its Italian name. When the games were awarded in June 1999, then-IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch announced, "The hosts of the 2006 Games will be Torino."

After NBC Sports chairman Dick Ebersol took a trip to Turin, he decided the network would go with Torino, too. NBC has the U.S. broadcast rights to the games.

"Dick was hearing the way the locals were saying Torino, and how it's so magnificently Italian how it rolls off the tongue," said Mike McCarley, vice president of communications and marketing for NBC Sports.

"He decided on that trip that we would call it Torino."

And with as many as 200 million people tuning in to watch the games, that means there'll be a lot of Americans speaking at least one word of Italian for a few weeks.

USA Today also went with Torino because that is the official name, said Monte Lorell, the paper's managing editor for



A torchbearer carries the Olympic Torch on a Gondola on a Venice Canal. The torch will arrive in Turin Feb. 10 for the Opening Ceremonies.

sports.

"We had to decide what is the least confusing to our readers. You could say the Torino Olympics in Turin, but that just leads to confusion," Lorell said. "We decided to just make it uniform all the way throughout."

"I feel a little bit better that NBC is using Torino," Lorell

said, "because that's what readers will be seeing on TV."

So, Turin or Torino.

Either way, the Winter Olympics will simply call the city home next month.

"I think," Jolly said, "people will be able to figure it out."

Until they do, confusion is sure to be the rule.

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ND WOMEN'S SWIMMING

Irish ride five-meet winning streak into new year

By GREG ARBOGAST
Sports Writer

The Irish continued to make a splash during Christmas break, extending their winning streak to five.

With their 1,120-to-1,111 defeat of No. 15 Michigan in last weekend's tri-meet that also included Illinois, the Irish extended a streak that includes two dual meet victories, two invitational championships and now a tri-meet victory.

This win was especially impressive given that the Irish

had to come from behind to catch the Wolverines. Notre Dame trailed Michigan by 42 points after the first day and 45 points heading into the final events Saturday night, but the Irish came through when it mattered most.

Katie Carroll and Casey Wagner secured a one-two finish in the 200 butterfly to give the Irish the lead. After the 200 butterfly, Notre Dame needed at least a second place finish in the 400 freestyle relay to win the meet. The team of Christa Riggins, Casey Wagner, Meghan Linnelli and Rebecca Grove was

up to the challenge, securing a second-place finish in the event with a time of 3:29.81 and a first-place overall finish for the Irish.

"I think that this meet showed we're a great dual meet team," coach Carrie Nixon said. "It really showed that we can rally when our backs are against the wall."

Last weekend's victory gets the new year off to a good start for the Irish, as they are picking up where they left off before winter break. While most students spent winter break in the harsh weather of winter, the swimming

and diving team spent two weeks in warm Las Vegas. The two weeks were spent in the most intense training of the season with breaks to compete against UNLV and North Carolina.

"Over break, you don't have other worries such as school," said Nixon. "The point of the trip was to maintain the training, get some competition in, and give the team some bonding time. We reminded the girls that this is the home stretch, and we want them to refocus on our goals."

Goals remaining for the Irish include wins in the final two

dual meets the next two weekends. After that will come the Big East Championships and NCAA championships. Nixon hopes that as many as 10 swimmers will qualify for the NCAAs, for one of the team's best performances ever.

"Our performance until now has been expected," Nixon said. "I think the people who are surprised by our performance are those on the outside looking in. We expected this to be a special year."

Contact Greg Arbogast at garbogast@nd.edu

SMC SWIMMING

Saint Mary's falls to Alma

Belles win just three events en route to conference defeat

By BECKI DORNER and DEIRDRE KRASULA
Sports Writers

Alma defeated Saint Mary's 119-60 Tuesday, and won nine of 11 events in the first MIAA meet for both teams. This was also the first meet for the Belles after a long winter training break. The Belles performed well in the swimming events, but lack of divers led to a forfeit in those areas.

The Belles picked up three first-place finishes on the

night, with two by Kelly Nelis. Nelis won the 500-yard freestyle with a time of 5:44.51 and the 1,000 yard freestyle, touching at 11:32.01. Karla McGough took first in the 200-yard freestyle, finishing in 2:19.34.

The Scots' Emily Smith took first in the 200 IM, touching out in 2:24.43. Katie Dingeman and Katie Carroll took second and fourth in the race, respectively. Smith's teammate Sara Swanton was first in the 200 fly in a time of 2:33.32, but Dingeman took second with 2:36.76.

Alma's Trzeciak was first in the 100 free with a time of 1:00.36, but Kelly Tighe posted a second-place finish for the Belles.

Coe took first place in the

200 back while Dolan was first in the 200 breast stroke. The Scots wrapped up with a 200 free relay win — Coe, Smith, Dolan and Trzeciak recorded a time of 1:52.37 en route to the team victory.

The next meet for the Belles is at Rolfs Aquatic Center versus Kalamazoo on Friday. The Women Hornets of Kalamazoo beat Alma 158-78 a few weeks ago. The Belles will certainly look again for leadership to Dingeman, their senior captain who has said previously that the team is in high spirits and strives everyday to improve swimmers' individual times.

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SMC BASKETBALL

Belles play .500 ball over Christmas break

By TIM KAISER
Sports Writer

Before Christmas break, the Belles were 1-5 and preparing to face MIAA rival Alma on Dec. 7.

The Belles won that game and split their 10 games during finals and winter break to run their record to 6-10. This puts them at fifth place in the MIAA coming into tonight's showdown with conference rival Albion College. A win against the Britons would push the Belles up to fourth place in the standings, a position now held by Albion.

The Belles are pleased with their play in their last 10 games but know they have to improve even more.

"We've made tremendous progress," coach Steve Bender said. "Our inexperienced post players have come long way, and our freshmen."

Bender believes his team is as good as anybody but is puzzled about why it can't win at Saint Mary's.

"I'm really proud of ability to play well on road," he said. "We've got to solve the mystery of why we play poorly at home. We need to step it up at home, starting [tonight]."

Despite the difficulties while playing on their home court, the Belles had plenty of memorable games during the winter break.

"We can't shoot much better than we did at Kalamazoo — 12 threes is a school record," Bender said. "We had a great game at Calvin and a great game at Alma."

When asked which players had

carried the team to its recent 5-5 stretch, Bender pointed to his captains, as well as other role players.

"We have great veteran leadership. [Bridget] Boyce, [Bridget] Lipke, [and Alison] Kessler, have shown really great leadership ... and Nicole Tucker has been shooting the ball well coming off the bench," he said.

The Belles face a challenge in Wednesday night's matchup against Albion College. The two teams each have a 4-3 record in the MIAA, but despite the post-season implications, the Belles think that they can beat the Britons to notch just their second win at home.

Bender described practices this week as "just great," adding, "We're starting to practice like a veteran team."

The Belles will need to have a good week of practice to win against Albion, a tough team with a 12-4 record overall.


"We've got to execute offensively tomorrow and cut down on turnovers," Bender said. "They are a great team defensive team."

Bender believes he has developed a game plan for victory, however.

"It has to be our ability to stop their inside game," he said. "They have great ball movement, great defensive court coverage. We've got to make them work for it."

The Belles know that a win tonight would help them shake off their troubles playing at home, and will certainly help their conference record.

Contact Tim Kaiser at tkaiser@nd.edu

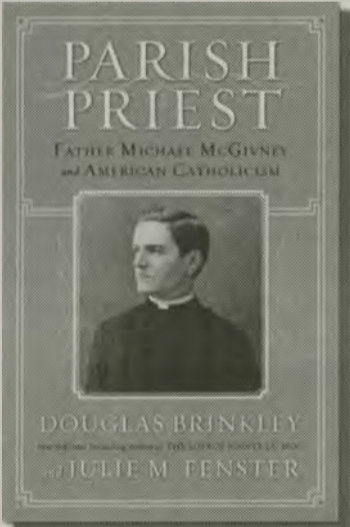


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AROUND THE NATION

Wednesday, January 18, 2006

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

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Men's College Basketball AP Top 25

	team	record	points
1	Duke	16-0	1,799
2	Florida	16-0	1,715
3	Connecticut	14-1	1,616
4	Memphis	15-2	1,490
5	Texas	14-2	1,459
6	Gonzaga	13-3	1,389
7	Illinois	16-1	1,370
8	Villanova	11-2	1,350
9	Pittsburgh	14-0	1,291
10	Washington	14-2	1,051
11	Michigan State	14-4	959
12	West Virginia	12-3	952
13	Indiana	10-3	808
14	NC State	14-2	788
15	Wisconsin	14-2	757
16	George Washington	12-1	728
17	Louisville	13-3	716
18	UCLA	14-3	687
19	Ohio State	12-2	483
20	Syracuse	15-2	423
21	Boston College	12-4	333
22	Maryland	12-4	260
23	Iowa	13-4	250
24	North Carolina	10-3	221
25	Oklahoma	10-4	94

Women's College Basketball AP Top 25

	team	record	points
1	Tennessee	17-0	1,138
2	Duke	16-0	1,108
3	LSU	14-0	1,064
4	North Carolina	16-0	1,014
5	Connecticut	15-2	918
6	Maryland	14-2	915
7	Ohio State	13-2	851
8	Baylor	12-2	792
9	Rutgers	12-2	790
10	DePaul	16-1	742
11	Purdue	13-2	723
12	Michigan State	13-5	561
13	Georgia	12-4	551
14	Stanford	11-4	543
15	Arizona State	14-3	527
16	Minnesota	11-4	495
17	Oklahoma	13-4	461
18	Virginia Tech	14-1	322
19	Vanderbilt	13-4	251
20	New Mexico	13-4	244
21	Temple	12-4	165
22	Boston College	12-5	154
23	BYU	13-1	108
24	NOTRE DAME	10-5	97
25	George Washington	11-4	78

MIAA Women's Basketball

	team	conf.	avg.	overall
1	Hope	7-0	82.4	14-1
2	Calvin	6-1	61.9	12-2
3	Olivet	6-1	72.7	10-6
4	Albion	4-3	69.9	12-4
5	Saint Mary's	4-3	61.4	6-10
6	Alma	3-4	68.4	8-6
7	Kalamazoo	1-6	56.1	4-10
8	Tri-State	1-6	58.3	2-14
9	Adrian	0-8	53.0	4-11

around the dial

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

NC State at Duke 7 p.m., ESPN
Wisconsin at Ohio State 8:30 p.m., ESPN 2
Northwestern at Michigan 8 p.m., ESPN U

NBA

Cavaliers at Nuggets 9 p.m., ESPN

NFL



Mangini surveys a Patriots practice on Jan. 12, where he served as New England's defensive coordinator prior to accepting the New York Jets' head coaching position on Tuesday. He is expected to ink a five-year deal.

Mangini takes over tarnished Jets franchise

Associated Press

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. — Eric Mangini has worked for Bill Parcells and Bill Belichick, learning from two of the greatest coaches in the NFL.

The Jets are banking on that pedigree to lead them back into the playoffs.

Despite his youth and relative inexperience, the organization hired Mangini as its coach Tuesday. The former Patriots defensive coordinator, who turns 35 on Thursday, becomes the youngest head coach in the league.

Terms of the deal weren't known but it is

believed he will get between \$2 million and \$2.5 million per year over five years.

"Being compared to Bill Belichick is one of the highest compliments you can be paid," Mangini said. "I am not Bill Belichick, I am not Bill Parcells. I am Eric Mangini. I'm going to approach it my way. I'm going to take the experiences and the lessons that I learned from those guys and I'm going to apply that to my team."

The baby-faced Mangini won't be confused with former coach Herman Edwards, who left for

Kansas City last week. Mangini was reserved and low key at his introductory news conference, hardly exhibiting any of the fire and energy that is Edwards' trademark.

But this is a new era for the organization, which hopes Mangini can instill a different attitude after the Jets finished 4-12 last season.

Much of those expectations have to do with the people Mangini has worked under.

While Mangini was going to Wesleyan, he figured he would be an investment banker. But he spent two summers studying in

Australia while coaching a semipro football team. It was there he realized he wanted to go into coaching permanently.

Mangini took a job as a ball boy with the Cleveland Browns, then went to work in the public relations department.

He then met Belichick, who gave him a few assignments to do. Belichick liked his work and gave him a job as an assistant in 1995.

From there he worked for Ted Marchibroda in Baltimore in 1996, then for Parcells and Belichick with the Jets from 1997-99.

IN BRIEF

Seahawks prepare to face tenacious Panther defense

KIRKLAND, Wash. — Two weeks ago, Seahawks coach and former high school history teacher Mike Holmgren gave his assistants some homework for their playoff bye week — start studying the other NFC post-season teams and compile preliminary scouting reports on each.

Soon, the coaches were scribbling notes on large dry-erase boards in their offices.

But when Washington became Seattle's first-round foe, the assistants erased all of the other teams' information.

Thankfully for Holmgren, offensive quality-control coach Gary Reynolds copied the notes on the Panthers.

"Bless his heart," Holmgren said. "So we did get a bit of a start on Carolina."

He's glad they did.

What Seattle's assistants saw during their extra studies — and what

Holmgren saw on television — was a staunch Panthers defense led by athletic 6-foot-7 defensive end Julius Peppers and former Seahawk Ken Lucas in the defensive backfield. It's a unit that is sure to provide a stern challenge for Seattle's offense, which led the league in points scored (452) this season.

Teixeira inks \$15.4 million contract with Rangers

ARLINGTON, Texas — All-Star first baseman Mark Teixeira agreed to a \$15.4 million, two-year contract Tuesday with the Texas Rangers, avoiding salary arbitration this year and next.

Teixeira hit .301 with 43 home runs and 144 RBIs last season. The RBIs were the most for a switch-hitter, breaking the record set by George Davis, who had 136 RBIs for the New York Giants in 1896.

The Rangers also agreed to one-year deals with right-hander Adam Eaton (\$4.65 million) and outfielder

Brad Wilkerson (\$3.9 million), avoiding arbitration with two players acquired in separate trades last month.

Teixeira will get \$6 million this season and \$9.4 million in 2007.

Hingis wins first round of the Australian Open

MELBOURNE, Australia — Martina Hingis looked as if she'd never been away.

Playing on the center court where she won three of her five Grand Slam titles before retiring for three years, the Swiss star was right at home in the first major of her comeback effort, routing 30th-seeded Vera Zvonareva 6-1, 6-2 Tuesday in the first round of the Australian Open.

Hingis' victory was all the more impressive in that she had so little trouble with Zvonareva, who became increasingly irritated with everything from Hingis' winners to disputed line calls, repeatedly spiking her racket and smashing balls in anger.

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MEN'S SWIMMING

Irish see hard work pay off in Dallas, Evansville

By JACK THORNTON
Sports Writer

The Irish took advantage of the break from classes with a grueling training schedule, which paid off with a road win against Evansville and a fifth-place finish in the 24th annual Dallas Morning News Classic.

Coach Tim Welsh said the training went well for his team.

"The weather was beautiful, and when you're training outdoors, good weather makes for good training," Welsh said of his team's two-week stay in Boca Raton, Fla. "We did a great deal of training, and I think we got a lot accomplished, so from an athletic point of view, it was great."

Following a 10-day hiatus after finals, the team reconvened on Dec. 27 to train at St. Andrew's

High School for 15 days of brutal work.

"We had a lot of sunscreen on," said senior Patrick Davis. "A couple of people got burned, but we knew what to expect."

Still, the No. 19 Irish weren't there to relax.

"We were training four hours a day, every day, and we had something like 39 straight practices," he said. "I don't remember the exact number, but Sunday was first day off since Christmas."

The team makes the trip to Florida annually, but this is the first time the Irish have been invited to the prestigious Dallas Morning News Classic. The meet's format had each school sending eight swimmers and one diver.

In addition to the Irish, this year's field featured No. 7 Florida, which took first, followed

by No. 16 Northwestern, No. 14 Florida State, host Southern Methodist, Notre Dame and Washington.

"The field was extremely tough," Welsh said. "It was a great field, and with a small format, it was probably the fastest field we've raced against."

Though the Irish finished 120 points behind Florida and more than 100 points behind Northwestern, Welsh expressed no displeasure with his team's effort.

"I thought our swims were very strong, and especially strong considering where we were in our training phase," Welsh said. "The guys that swam there trained every day since the 27th ... they had a right to be tired. They were tired and they still raced well."

Among the highlights were

freshman diver Michael Bullfin capturing second place in the three-meter diving, while junior Ted Brown took fourth in the 500-yard freestyle and sixth in the 200-yard butterfly with a season best time of 1:51.76.

The team was split, however, as last Friday had the Irish competing in both the Dallas meet and a dual meet in Evansville. Assistant coach Matt Tallman went with nine members of the swim team to Texas, while Welsh coached the remainder of the squad across the state. Despite missing many of the team's top swimmers, the Irish pounded their in-state foes 163-73 while capturing first in nine of 13 events.

With the win, the Irish improved to 3-1 in dual meets on the road and 5-1 overall. Davis was one of three Irish swimmers

to win in two events.

"It was good because you could see people who don't normally win events step up and score a lot of points," Davis said. "Also it was good because everyone was tired after training so long in Florida, and yet we still posted good times after that."

The team has developed since the beginning of the year, as swimmers have matured and grown into their roles.

"The most important part is [having two road meets] gave us a chance to race on the road right after a training period, and it forced new people to step up in unfamiliar roles," Welsh said. "I think we'll be better this weekend and next weekend because we raced last weekend."

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TRACK AND FIELD

Team begins indoor season with solid showing at Purdue

Irish send a select group of runners to West Lafayette in preparation for Notre Dame Opener this Saturday

By JORDAN BELTZ
Sports Writer

While most of the student body was returning back to campus after Christmas break, a select group of Irish track and field team members competed in the Purdue Invitational, held Jan. 14 in West Lafayette.

After the four-week holiday break, the Irish turned in a good performance, earning two first-place finishes and six second-place finishes. Although both sides notched solid starts to 2006, both first-place finishes were earned on the women's side.

The jumpers and throwers turned in the best performances of the weekend, with the Irish women sweeping the high jump competition. Freshman Lauren Biscardi took home top honors, clear-

ing 1.68 meters to lead the way. Emily Loomis and Cassie Gullickson also were able to clear 1.68 meters, which meant the final order was determined by a jumpoff.

Freshman Mary Saxer, fresh off of her NCAA qualification in the pole vault that she earned at the Blue and Gold Invitation in December, took home the pole vault title with a vault of 3.80 meters.

"I'm pretty happy with how it went," Saxer said after qualifying for the NCAA Tournament. "It wasn't my best jump, but being my first college meet, and looking at where I am at this point in the season, I'm pleased."

Other notable performances on the women's side of the ledger were turned in by Alyssa Hasan, who earned a berth in the Big East Championship with a long jump of 5.43 meters, and sen-

ior Meghan Horn, who was the runner up in both the shot put and weight throw events.

While the women turned in a stellar performance, the men showed a marked improvement from their first meet as well. The men saw their biggest improvement take place in the weight throw, with all four participants in the event bettering

their marks from the last meet.

Junior Gareth Koxlien lead the way, finishing second with a throw of 16.45 meters, followed by sophomore Kyle Annen in third.

After Saturday's event, the Irish have now qualified 29 athletes for the Big East Championships in 20 different events, along with the spot that Saxer has locked up for

the NCAA Championship to be held in May.

The Irish will return to action this Saturday for the Notre Dame Opener, to be held in Loftus. The Opener marks the first of three consecutive home meets on the indoor track and field schedule.

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Observer File Photo

Irish runners compete in the 2005 Notre Dame Invitational. The team will host the Notre Dame Opener at the Loftus Center Saturday.



Notre Dame
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Hoops

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session with his own 3-point play. Falls led all scorers with 26 points on 8-of-13 shooting. He was 6-of-11 from 3-point range.

Pittsburgh 100, Notre Dame 97

Quinn scored 37 points and led the Irish back from a nine-point deficit with less than a minute remaining to force overtime, but Pittsburgh guard Ronald Ramon hit a game-winning 3-pointer in double overtime to keep the Panthers undefeated Jan. 4.

Thirty of Quinn's 37 points came after halftime, as the Irish point guard hit big shots down the stretch to keep his team in the

game. He scored 16 consecutive points during the second half.

Pittsburgh forward Aaron Gray scored 25 points, and guard Carl Krauser scored 22 in front of a Peterson Events Center crowd.

Notre Dame 74, Wofford 71

In Notre Dame's final game before Big East play, the Irish escaped with a win after Torin Francis hit two free throws with 12.6 seconds remaining at the Joyce Center Dec. 30.

Wofford had a chance to tie the game when it moved the ball up the court following Francis' free throws. Wofford forward Howard Wilkerson had a look from 3-point range, but his shot hit off the front rim. Wilkerson led all scorers with 27 points.

The Irish were well balanced on

the offensive end with four players finishing in double figures. Guard Russell Carter led Notre Dame with 16 points, Falls and Quinn each had 12, and freshman guard Kyle McAlarney finished with 10.

Notre Dame 85, Fordham 49

Notre Dame outplayed its opponent from the tip, dominating Fordham at the Joyce Center Dec. 28 and earning its sixth consecutive victory in the process.

Leading by 12 at halftime, the Irish exploded in the second half, outscoring the Rams 44-20.

The Irish had five players in double figures. Quinn led the Irish with 14 points, freshman forward Luke Zeller had 11 and Carter, McAlarney and forward Rob Kurz had 10.

Notre Dame shot 55 percent

from the field while limiting Fordham to 28 percent shooting.

Notre Dame 75, Columbia 68

Despite being outscored 44-16 in the paint by the Lions, the Irish escaped with a victory led by their impressive free throw shooting Dec. 23 at the Joyce Center.

Notre Dame outscored Columbia 28-6 from the free throw line.

The Irish trailed the Lions for much of the first half, but managed to take a 34-33 lead into halftime.

Quinn led the Irish with 18 points — 15 of which came in the second half. McAlarney added 14 points in the victory.

Notre Dame 80, Niagara 59

Notre Dame shot 55 percent from the field and made a season-

high 12 shots from 3-point range to defeat Niagara Dec. 21 at the Joyce Center.

Falls scored 19 points for the Irish and McAlarney added 16. The two Irish guards were 5-of-10 and 4-of-6 from being the arch, respectively.

Francis played strong inside, scoring 14 points on 6-of-7 shooting. The Irish forward also grabbed nine rebounds.

Notre Dame 65, IPFW 63

Notre Dame narrowly avoided a big upset at Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, but Francis' 24 points and 11 rebounds saved the game Dec. 18.

Francis scored the final six points for the Irish.

Freshman forward Ryan Ayers came up with a big defensive stop when IPFW had the ball with 3.3 seconds left, knocking the ball loose at the buzzer.

Notes:

♦ Big East commissioner Mike Tranchese announced Wednesday that the Big East Tournament, to be held March 8-11 at Madison Square Garden in New York City, has sold out in advance for the first time ever. The Big East has played its postseason conference tournament at the Garden for 24 years. All tickets were sold to "fans and constituents" of the 16 member institutions, Tranchese said.

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Fencing

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specific school," junior Valerie Providenza said. "So [the North American Cup] is used to determine the top fencers in the U.S., and those who earn the most points at the end of the season go on to make the national team. But others go just to prepare for the NCAAs or the World Cup. It all depends on your skill level."

In the Division I Men's Epee competition, junior Patrick Gettings led the Irish at 34th, and freshman Mark Kubik placed 28th in the men's foil. The Division I Sabre competition was led by junior Patrick Ghattas, 18th, and freshman Bill Thanhouser, 24th, who recently earned the No. 1 ranking in the USAFA under-21 men's sabre rankings.

"The men fenced well, it was just tough competition," Providenza said. "There are many more events for us to perform well in."

Junior captain Amy Orlando agreed.

"Fencing is a mental sport that varies from day to day. There are so many little aspects and technical [elements]," she said. "We just see it as a bad day for both the men and the women and it doesn't dictate what we should expect for the rest of the season."

In the Division I Women's portion of the competition, Orlando finished 19th and fifth-year Becca Chimahusky took 21st. Freshman Adi Nott led the Irish in the women's foil in 21st place. The sabre competition showcased sophomore Mariel Zagnis and Providenza, placing sixth and tenth overall, respectively.

In the junior men's portion of the competition, Kubik finished 15th in men's foil and Thanhouser placed 11th in the men's sabre.

For the women, Montoya placed 15th in the epee and Nott and Prot placed third and 54th in the foil.

The Irish return to action on Jan. 22 at the NYU Duals.

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ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Duffy is fearless leader of scrappy Irish squad

Just seven minutes into the second half, Tuesday's game looked to be well on its way to being decided. After playing what coach Muffet McGraw called its best half of basketball all year, Notre Dame seemed about to fold. Down 51-39 after an 18-0 DePaul run, things were not looking good for a struggling Notre Dame team.



Heather
Van Hoegarden
Sports Writer

But the Irish didn't give up. In fact, they responded by playing like they hadn't all year, coming back from 12 down and going on a run of their own while holding DePaul

scoreless for 8:29 and coming away with a hard-fought 78-75 victory over the No. 10 Blue Demons. It was the first win over a top-10 team this year for No. 24 Notre Dame after the brilliant second-half comeback.

"We've had a lot of practice getting behind big," McGraw said somewhat sarcastically after the game.

The Irish, after all, had lost three of their last four Big East games before Tuesday night, two by at least 10 points, and all three to unranked teams.

But this time was different, thanks to Megan Duffy.

The senior point guard took this team on her shoulders for the entire 39 minutes she played. And for the minute she was out of the game in the first half, the Irish looked dazed and confused, forcing McGraw to put her star point guard and leader back in the

game.

Duffy played some of the best basketball she's played all year. Hitting shots when the shot clock was winding down, making key shot after shot. The 5-foot-7 guard even rebounded, pulling down a career-high eight boards. She just missed a triple-double, adding 23 points and nine assists to her game to go along with three steals and just two turnovers.

She was the glue this Irish team needed to win the game. She set the tone, she played the way her team needed to play and they followed her without missing a beat.

The normally offensively quiet Breona Gray hit two big threes while scoring 10 points on the night, Lindsay Schrader hit big shot after big shot good for nine points and Crystal Erwin brought the attitude and physical presence to the post to help Courtney

LaVere contain DePaul star Khara Smith.

But it began and ended with this team's fearless leader.

When she dove for a loose ball and was in obvious pain, she played through it. After the game, in typical style, she shrugged it off as nothing. Just like the Irish shrugged off DePaul's 18-0 run and kept playing hard.

"I took a hard foul and two people fell on me," Duffy said nonchalantly when asked about the injury and the pain she appeared to be in. "I was fine after a few minutes of collecting myself and shaking it off. I was fine after that."

As Megan Duffy does, this team does. And Tuesday night, the senior point guard found a way to take Notre Dame all the way back to being a team capable of beating a top-10 DePaul squad that had only lost one game before

Tuesday, after the Irish had lost to inferior St. John's, Seton Hall and Louisville in previous Big East games. Duffy reminded this team what it is like to be the elite team it was a year ago.

"And Megan, what can you say about Megan?" McGraw said at the end of her opening remarks. "Almost a triple-double. That's the best point guard in America right there."

And for those remarks to come from the ever-demanding Muffet McGraw, a former point guard herself — well, that speaks volumes for just how well Megan Duffy not only led but played on Tuesday night.

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

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Upset

continued from page 28

East losses to St. John's, Louisville and Seton Hall, losses that dropped Notre Dame from No. 12 to No. 24 in the Associated Press poll.

"I think everybody's got to feel pretty confident after that game knowing we can beat a ranked team," Notre Dame head coach Muffet McGraw said.

The Irish at times still looked like they were struggling team. After center Melissa D'Amico's layup gave Notre Dame a 39-33 lead early in the second half, DePaul went on a 4:28, 18-0 run to give the Blue Demons a 51-39

lead with 13:30 to play in the game.

"During that stretch we had just some communication breakdowns because we were switching defenses so much," senior point guard Megan Duffy said.

The Blue Demon run was started and led by guard Jenna Rubino, who had the first nine points of the stretch, all of them from behind the arc.

Rubino's standout performance was aided by Notre Dame's commitment to stopping All-American center Khara Smith from dominating inside the post.

"We were trying to get someone down there so she couldn't get the ball," McGraw said. "We were trying to limit her touch-

es."

Ultimately, just as the Joyce Center crowd was on the verge of sighing a collective "here we go again," Notre Dame regained the form it had displayed at times early in the game. With 13:06 left to play and the game quickly slipping away, guard Breona Gray hit a 3-pointer that ignited the Irish to their own 18-0 run, giving them a 57-51 lead with 6:46 to go.

"I wasn't really sure if I was going to take it or not, but I was wide open, so I thought, 'Why not just take it?'" Gray said. "I'm used to shooting wide open shots."

During the game-changing run, five different Notre Dame players scored, including fresh-

man guard Lindsay Schrader, who finished with nine points despite coming off the bench backing up Charel Allen, which has been an unfamiliar role for her this season.

"It bothered me. I just wanted to prove to [McGraw] that I belonged in the starting line up," Schrader said. "Charel's an excellent player, you can't doubt that. She deserves to be in the starting lineup right now."

With 2:40 left in the game, DePaul was able to cut the Irish lead to 63-61 after forward Rachel Carney hit a 3-pointer, but the Blue Demons were never able to regain the lead. Down the stretch, Duffy took over in the clutch, scoring six points in the final 2:11, includ-

ing going 4-4 from the free throw line with less than a minute left to help ice the Blue Demons. Overall, she finished with 23 points, nine assists and eight rebounds, the latter tying a career high set back in 2003 against Villanova.

In the end, McGraw somewhat sarcastically credited the Irish's recent struggles for the comeback win.

"I don't think [falling behind big] really bothered us because we've been here before," she said. "I thought the preparation over the last couple weeks for that particular moment really helped us."

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Hockey

continued from page 28

some bad bounces."

The Irish and Redhawks tied 2-2 Friday at the Joyce Center.

Saturday night, in front of a sellout crowd including Notre Dame's hockey alumni and several pro scouts, the Irish had early chances to open up a commanding lead on the CCHA-leading Redhawks but couldn't find the net on several breakaway opportunities.

Then, 4:08 into the second period, Miami defenseman Andy Greene was called for hooking, and just over a minute later, teammate Matt Christie was sent to the penalty box for high sticking.

Irish coach Jeff Jackson said he was frustrated by the early missed opportunities.

"We're in there chirping the same things the fans are," he said. "Shoot the puck, get to the net. I can't score for them."

Still, after playing yet another close game against a top-ranked opponent, Jackson said he saw improvement in his squad.

"I think our team's playing better than [our record]," he said. "Our four games against Miami were all decided in the last five minutes."

The winning goal came with 4:32 left on Saturday, despite the Irish coming back to full strength.

The game was marked by several after-the-whistle skirmishes, including one in the third period that sent five players to the penalty box — three from Notre Dame.

"The fact is that they're playing on the edge," Jackson said of his

players' emotions. "I'm happy that they're playing on the edge, but they have to keep from going over the edge."

The Redhawks took a 1-0 lead soon after killing off the Irish 5-on-3 early in the second period.

Notre Dame responded after two more Miami penalties left them with their second 5-on-3 of the game at 10:40 of the second period. This time they capitalized as O'Neill rocketed home a shot from the point.

"I just got a good pass from [freshman Erik] Condra, and the puck found the net," the junior said.

The Redhawks took the lead again two minutes later, which lasted until the 9:54 mark of the third period when Irish defenseman Noah Babin slapped a long rebound in from the point to tie the game at two.

The loss dropped the Irish to 7-12-3 overall and 5-8-3 and seventh in the CCHA. Their 2-2-2 mark during Christmas break included a four-game unbeaten streak bookended by frustrating losses.

The break began with a 4-0 home defeat to Lake Superior State Dec. 17, but Notre Dame bounced back the next day to beat the Lakers 4-3.

After heading home for Christmas, the Irish were next in action Jan. 6 and 7 at Nebraska-Omaha. Notre Dame went home with a 4-1 win and a 2-2 tie.

The Irish stretched their unbeaten streak to four games with the 2-2 tie against Miami Friday before falling to the Redhawks the next day.

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ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Defeating the Demons

Irish overcome deficit, upset No. 10 DePaul

By ERIC RETTER
Sports Writer

For No. 24 Notre Dame, defeating a top-10 ranked opponent is always a big win. When that victory comes after losing four out of five, it can be a momentous one.

See Also

"Duffy is fearless leader of scrappy Irish squad" *page 26*

The Irish found themselves in that position Tuesday night, topping No. 10 DePaul 78-75 in what could prove to be the watershed win of the season. The win over DePaul ended a rough stretch that included disappointing Big

see UPSET/page 26



HY PHAM/The Observer

Courtney LaVere goes for the put-back after grabbing a rebound in Notre Dame's game against DePaul Tuesday. The Irish defeated the No. 10 Blue Demons, 78-75.

FENCING

Duelers struggle in Texas

By DAN TAPETILLO
Sports Writer

The Irish sent 14 of their top competitors to the non-NCAA North American Cup in Houston, Texas last weekend to help measure themselves against the nation's top fencers. The event took place at the Brown Convention Center — the same venue where the Irish won the 2005 NCAA Combined Fencing Championship last season, and this year had 6 of the 11 fencers from that squad.

However, this tournament was not a team-scoring event.

"You only go to compete individually and are not representing a

see FENCING/page 25

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Close losses tell story of ND conference games

By BOBBY GRIFFIN and PAT LEONARD
Sports Writers

Notre Dame won five straight non-conference games prior to the new year, but the Irish have gotten off to a rocky 1-3 start in the Big East.

Though all three losses were by six points or fewer, the Irish have surrendered an average of 84.5

points per game thus far in conference, dead last in the 16-team Big East.

Notre Dame has averaged an identical 84.5 points in those four games and ended its conference-opening 3-game skid on Saturday with a 92-77 win over Providence at the Joyce Center.

Irish point guard Chris Quinn led all scorers with 31 points on 11-of-14 shooting. Guard Colin Falls added 24, combining with Quinn to

make 10-of-16 shots from behind the arc. Quinn is tied for second with Villanova's Randy Foye in scoring average, netting 24 points per game in the team's first four conference appearances.

Syracuse 88, Notre Dame 82

Syracuse relied on steady scoring from guards Gerry McNamara and Eric Devendorf to beat Notre Dame at the Joyce Center Jan. 11. It was the fifth consecutive time

Syracuse defeated Notre Dame.

McNamara scored 25 and Devendorf added 22 for the Orange, who led by five points at the half.

Quinn's 3-pointer with 1:29 remaining in the second half cut the Syracuse lead to four points, but McNamara and Devendorf were 4-of-4 from the line in the final 1:21 to seal the victory.

Falls finished with 18 points to lead all Irish scorers.

DePaul 73, Notre Dame 67

The Irish could not overcome a 17-point halftime deficit, as they dropped their second Big East game of the year at Allstate Arena Jan. 7.

Notre Dame tied the game at 53 with 10:54 remaining in the second half when Quinn nailed a 3-pointer, but DePaul guard Sammy Meija responded on the next pos-

see HOOPS/page 25

FOOTBALL

Gridiron seniors will play in all-star games

By MIKE GILLOON
Sports Editor

The season isn't over just yet for several Notre Dame football players. The University's athletic Web site announced Monday that five departing Irish seniors — kicker D.J. Fitzpatrick, wide receiver Maurice Stovall, offensive lineman Dan Stevenson and linebackers Corey Mays and Brandon Hoyte — have been selected to play in postseason all-star games taking place during the next two weeks.

Fitzpatrick and Mays will participate for the East team in the Hula Bowl Saturday at 7 p.m. in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Hoyte and Stevenson will play on the same day at 4 p.m. in the East-West Shrine game in San Antonio, Texas. The pair will suit up for the East squad as well.

Stovall will head south to Mobile, Ala., to play in the Senior Bowl on Jan. 28 at 4 p.m.

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HOCKEY

Irish finish break at 2-2-2

By CHRIS KHOREY
Sports Writer

So close and yet so far. Notre Dame had its chances to upset No. 3 Miami University (Ohio) Saturday night at the Joyce Center, but the Irish couldn't turn enough opportunities into goals as they dropped a 3-2 decision to finish Christmas break 2-2-2.

"The difference [between us and Miami] is finding a way to win," Notre Dame forward Wes O'Neill said. "Miami's a good team, but we let it slip away [Friday] and [Saturday]. We had

see HOCKEY/page 26



JENNIFER KANG/The Observer

Goalkeeper Dave Brown sets up against Bowling Green in a 9-4 victory on Nov. 11.

SPORTS AT A GLANCE

MEN'S SWIMMING

No. 19 Irish split team over break

Notre Dame sent swimmers to Evansville and Texas for meets.

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TRACK AND FIELD

Team earns two first-place finishes

On Jan. 14, the Purdue Invitational sent the Irish home with two first and six second place wins.

page 24

SMC BASKETBALL

Belles hold onto fifth in MIAA

Saint Mary's started 1-5 but improved to 6-10 going into tonight's game against Albion.

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WOMEN'S SWIMMING

Irish extend win streak to five

A victory over No. 15 Michigan capped a long training period.

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20 IRISH INSIDER 034
Ohio State's offense overwhelmed Notre Dame in the Tostitos Fiesta Bowl.