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Absent at ND, Greek system thrives elsewhere

Despite deadly hazing incidents and poor pop culture image, fraternities and sororities exist on some Catholic campuses

GREEK LIFE BY THE NUMBERS

0.496

The blood-alcohol level of a 19-year old fraternity pledge at Chico State University in California in 2005. He was hospitalized and placed on life support.

75.1

The percent of fraternity members likely to engage in "heavy drinking," according to a 2001 Harvard School of Public Health study.

85

The percentage of Fortune 500 executives with Greek ties. Of the 50 largest North American corporations, 43 are headed by former fraternity members.

20,000

The total number of fraternity and sorority chapters in the Greek letter system.

500,000

The total number of undergraduate students in the United States and Canada who are affiliated with a fraternity or sorority.

By KATIE PERRY
Assistant News Editor

Editor's Note: This is the first of a three-part series examining the absence of fraternities and sororities at Notre Dame.

"Fat, drunk and stupid is no way to go through life, son." Fraternities and sororities have long been a staple on college campuses across America — even before becoming a cult phenomenon with the release of "Animal House" in 1978 — but never at Notre Dame. Indeed, a visitor would be hard-pressed to find a Victorian-style mansion proud-

ly donning a set of Greek letters among the University's grandiose buildings, colossal stadium, prominent monuments and lush quads.

In the context of college life, the words "fraternity" and "sorority" connote large-scale single-sex social organizations with a network of nationwide chapters. Though founded on principles of charity, tradition and membership, today's image of frats and sororities is largely dominated by togas, kegs and hazing.

Pop culture portrayals in films like "Animal House" and "Old School" might have dirtied the reputation of the Greek



Photo courtesy of albion.edu

An Alpha Tau Omega fraternity house graces the Albion College campus in Michigan.

see GREEK/page 4

Large pool enables ACE to be selective

Notre Dame students make up one-third of the 87 applicants accepted to program



LAURIE HUNT/The Observer

Alliance for Catholic Education director John Staud prepares for a meeting with accepted applicants Tuesday.

By KAITLYNN RIELY
News Writer

Senior Jessie Maciejewski opened her mail Monday to discover her post-graduation plans have been sealed — she will have a teaching job for two years after graduation and, at the end of that period, a master's degree in education.

Maciejewski is one of 87 people who have been accepted into the competitive Alliance for Catholic Education program. This year 380 people applied — four people for each spot.

One-third of those accepted are Notre Dame students and their letters, mailed March 15, were waiting for them in their

mailboxes when they returned from spring break. The remainder comes from other universities. Staud expects to fill three more spots before the close of the acceptance process.

Through ACE, college graduates earn a tuition-free master of education degree and spend two years teaching at underprivileged Catholic schools throughout the country. Staud makes selections for ACE with a specific placement in mind for every applicant accepted.

"When we accept people at ACE, they know exactly where they're going, what they'll be teaching, what grade level, so that they can make a complete-

see ACE/page 6

Facility to help abuse victims

University will play major role in Center

By KELLY MEEHAN
Saint Mary's Editor

Continuing the tradition of giving back to the greater South Bend community, Notre Dame students may soon have additional volunteer opportunities to help those in need at the proposed Family Justice Center of Saint Joseph County.

Approximately 75 community members gathered Tuesday night in the Carey Auditorium of the Hesburgh Library to discuss the proposed center, which would be located in the First Source Bank Building on the corner of Main Street and Jefferson Street in South Bend.

Casey Gwinn, the director of the Technical Assistance Project of the President's Family Justice Center Initiative, was the evening's keynote speaker and he stressed the necessity of a center such as this one in the South Bend community.

"These centers fulfill a common vision ... it is not just for kids, not just adults, but a center where the whole family can come to combat criminal justice and receive the help they need," Gwinn said.

Gwinn is the founder of the San Diego Family Justice Center, which is one of the most successful domestic violence support centers in the country and serves as a model for the creation of similar programs throughout the nation.

see CENTER/page 8

Survey examines relationship obstacles

By AMANDA MICHAELS
News Writer

With March Madness betting in full swing, constant streams of instant messages and an ever-expanding Facebook universe — high school students now included — it's undeniable Notre Dame students face a great deal of distraction from their classes, work and even traditional social lives.

And now, the University is looking into it.

This week, the University Cyber Vice and Gambling task forces sent 1,000 students a "Healthy Relationships Survey" in order to examine how certain behaviors, such as instant messaging and viewing pornography, could negatively affect interaction among Notre Dame undergraduates.

Survey recipients — chosen at random, according to assistant director of the Office of Institutional Research Mark Gunty — were asked to go through six pages of questions that mainly focus on the student's observations on or personal experiences with activities like instant messaging, browsing Facebook and the Internet, viewing on-line and print pornography, playing "graphically violent" video games and various forms of gambling.

A final write-in section is available for the student to detail his or her opinion on the positive and negative effects the listed activities can have on a person's ability to form healthy relationships. Responses are kept anonymous, according to the survey's introduction.

see SURVEY/page 8



LAURIE HUNT/The Observer

Freshman Casey McNeill, left, and Laura Schwartz look at a personal profile on Facebook.com in Cavanaugh Tuesday.

INSIDE COLUMN

Youngstown, Ohio

Long before Jim Tressel became notorious amongst Notre Dame fans for leading the Buckeyes to a Fiesta Bowl victory, or even before he won the 2002 National Championship for The Ohio State University, he was a hometown hero for a city nestled on the border of Ohio and Pennsylvania. This is a city that was put on the map after he led the Penguins to five national championships ... or was this city already on the map for other reasons?

Kelly Meehan

Saint Mary's Editor

If you travel 300 miles east on 80/90 you will arrive in Youngstown, Ohio. A place nationally known to some as "Mob-town U.S.A." or the Steel City; Youngstown is a very special place securely located between the two more well-known cities of Cleveland and Pittsburgh. Its convenient location allows residents an easy shopping or sporting escape to either of these cities.

But is an escape really necessary? Upon arrival in Youngstown, you will immediately notice its striking skyline of rusted out steel mills from its more economically booming days of yesterday. Chances are, however, you know someone from Youngstown, own something from Youngstown, or the city has in some way touched your life.

The name DeBartolo obviously rings a bell or two, but did you know this family of donors hails from the great steel city? Or do you remember that kooky Congressman Jim Trafficant? The fashion police would have arrested him for his animal like faux hair if the government hadn't gotten to him first, and although he was expelled from Congress and went to jail for taking government bribes, he was my state representative.

Natives have a special place in their heart for two penguins named Pete and Patty. Mention these two names and everyone knows who you are talking about, the infamously well-known Youngstown State University mascots. Yes, the penguin proves to be an intimidating choice for a mascot. Perhaps it was chosen in light of our frigid winters or because it ever so slightly edged out the more popular Ohio State Buckeye in fierceness.

Youngstown's large Italian population guarantees that citizens will never go hungry. With a vast array of authentic restaurants, going out to eat becomes more of a hobby than a means of filling your stomach. The city is most well known for its one of a kind wedding soup. You may think that you have consumed this spinach and dough ball laden soup, however I promise that if it was not prepared in the Youngstown vicinity it was a mere imitation.

Shopping cart? I don't think so. In Youngstown these plastic grocery-holding crates on wheels are simply called a buggy. This is not in reference to a horse and buggy, nor is it implying a sighting of the city's nearby Amish neighbors. Youngstownians always refer to them as buggies, always. My friends think it is weird, others find it funny, but I will never change my ways, it is always a buggy.

Youngstown may not be a prime destination, but hey it is the title and subject of a Bruce Springsteen song (which I personally find very impressive). So maybe Youngstown is no New York City, Chicago or even Cleveland, but that does not mean it is not a special place.

Contact Kelly Meehan at kmeeha01@saintmarys.edu
The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: DO YOU THINK NOTRE DAME NEEDS A GREEK SYSTEM, WHY OR WHY NOT?



Patrick Lopez
freshman
St. Ed's

"Yes, to further tradition."



Andrew Knutson
freshman
Stanford

"No, because it goes against our Catholic identity."



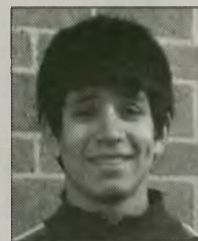
Jorge Castro
freshman
St. Ed's

"Yeah, because it's somewhere we could relax with brothers."



Jim Harig
freshman
Morrissey

"No, because all the dorms are pretty close to Greek life."



Victor Saenz
freshman
Knott

"No, because the dorms provide that environment and that's what sets ND apart."



Eileen Zander
freshman
Lewis

"Yes, because I think it would be a fun addition to campus."



LAURIE HUNT/The Observer

Student participate in the Freshman Class Council's "Rock, Paper, Scissors" tournament Tuesday in the LaFortune ballroom. All the proceeds from the event will go to Father Thomas Strelt's fund for Haiti.

IN BRIEF

Haitian writer and musician Jean-Marc Pasquet will discuss his latest novel, "Libre toujours" in a lecture titled "Shamanic Poetry: Magical Realism, Voodoo, and Creole Literature in Haiti" today at 3:30 p.m. in C-103 Hesburgh Center.

A conference titled "The Liturgy of the Hours: Public Prayer of the Church as Foundation for Christian Spirituality" will take place from 2 - 4:30 p.m. Wednesday in rooms 100-104 of McKenna Hall.

The film "The Rocky Road to Dublin," which documents daily life in Ireland, will be shown at 7 p.m. Thursday in room 129 DeBartolo Hall. A discussion, led by English professor Luke Gibbons will follow.

"Harry Potter and The Goblet of Fire" will be shown Thursday at 10 p.m. in room 101 DeBartolo Hall.

The Chicago-based country band, Strait Southern, will perform at Legends Friday at 10 p.m. Admission is free with a ND, SMC or HCC student ID.

The Notre Dame Accountancy Department will host a Recruiting Workshop for faculty from 3 - 4:30p.m. Thursday in room 339 of the Mendoza College of Business.

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

OFFBEAT

Cross-dressing robber given away by nylons

MONTEREY, Calif. — A man's pantyhose led to his arrest, authorities said. An unshaven man wearing a black evening gown, fishnet stockings, calf-high boots and a black wig robbed a USA Gas station Monday morning, authorities alleged.

The armed man stuffed \$290 in cash into an ensemble-matching black purse.

"I've been with the department for 22 years, and this is the first time I've heard of this happening anywhere here," police Lt. Phil Penko said.

About 35 minutes after the

robbery, police Officer Chad Ventimiglia spotted a black Saab with fishnet pantyhose hanging from the front driver's side door, dragging on the ground, investigators said.

Student volunteers find stash in New Orleans home

NEW ORLEANS — Trista Wright was spending her spring break cleaning out hurricane-damaged homes when she discovered some unusual papers among the moldy plaster board and debris.

"I started raking it out of the air conditioner vent. I thought it was garbage and I

was going to shovel it up, but I bent down to pick it up, and it was a stack of \$100 bills, and then more and more kept coming," the 19-year-old said Tuesday on CNN.

By an unofficial count, it was more than \$30,000.

Wright and fellow students notified the organizers of their church mission, who told the St. Bernard Parish Sheriff's Office.

The woman who owned the house, who has asked that she not be identified, was as shocked as Wright.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

	TODAY	TONIGHT	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
	HIGH 40 LOW 26	HIGH 36 LOW 24	HIGH 40 LOW 29	HIGH 39 LOW 28	HIGH 42 LOW 27	HIGH 45 LOW 33

McCafferty family members organize first Father Mike Run

Event commemorates former law school professor, University presidential candidate Father Michael Dillon McCafferty

By RYAN SYDLIK
News Writer

Notre Dame students, faculty and administrators will lace up their running shoes Saturday to honor the memory and contributions of Father Michael Dillon McCafferty in the first-ever Father Mike Run.

The run will be held in conjunction with the Fr. Mike Show on Friday, a sketch comedy and talent show pro-

duced by Notre Dame Law School students.

McCafferty was serving on the law school faculty when he died at the age of 40 in 1987 of lymphatic cancer. He was a 'triple Domer' having received a bachelor's degree in government and international studies in 1969, a juris doctor in 1973 and a master's degree in theology in 1974 from the University. He was ordained a priest in 1974, and he was appointed assistant dean of the law school in

1979 after joining the law school faculty in 1978. He was also responsible for the Sunday evening Law School Liturgies, and he was even a finalist to succeed University President Emeritus Father Theodore Hesburgh as University President before his death.

The run is a three-mile race that snakes through campus, beginning and ending at Notre Dame Stadium. Registration for the event can be done online by e-mailing

bveith@nd.edu or by showing up at the stadium at 9 a.m. Saturday morning.

The Father Mike Run was started by members of his own family, off-campus junior Brian Veith, Welsh Family sophomore Tricia Cronin and Farley freshman Courtney Dorger. Veith is McCafferty's nephew while Cronin and Dorger are his nieces. Six other of McCafferty's 22 nieces and nephews are Notre Dame graduates.

Veith said many of their

family members will participate.

"We felt we should get something together to celebrate all of [McCafferty's] gifts," Veith said.

Veith said he hoped at least 200 people will show up.

"We realize that it might start small," Veith said. "Hopefully, we get the snowball rolling and maybe it will just get bigger."

Veith, Dorger, and Cronin also expressed that they intend for the run to become a yearly event.

"It is nice to have a potential tradition to remember him," Veith said.

Because most current students are not familiar with McCafferty, Dorger viewed the event as a way to introduce him to a new generation of students.

"I think it's nice that someone like that is still going to be recognized," she said.

Veith, Dorger, and Cronin were all very young when their uncle died and they see the run as a way to become closer to him.

"We never actually got to know him personally," Cronin said.

University administrators, including University President Father John Jenkins, Senior Executive Assistant and counselor to the President father Jim McDonald and Law School Dean Patricia O'Hara, all lent their support in organizing the event, Veith said.

Contact Ryan Sydlik at
rsydlik@nd.edu

Perry to be 'knighted'

Special to The Observer

Catherine Perry, associate professor of Romance languages and literatures at Notre Dame, will be decorated with the insignia of the Ordre des Palmes Academiques at a presentation ceremony at 1 p.m. Wednesday at the Morris Inn.

Richard Barbeyron, French consul general from Chicago, will conduct the ceremony.

Perry was appointed a Chevalier ("knight") in the Ordre des Palmes Academiques earlier this year by the French Ministry of National Education.

Created in 1808 by Napoleon I, the Palmes Academiques originally was designed to honor outstanding members of the faculty of the University of Paris. Membership later was expanded to include people beyond the French university system, including other nationals and French scholars living outside the country whose work promotes French language, culture and educational activities.

Perry, who specializes in French literature of the 19th and early 20th centuries, also serves as undergraduate advisor for the Program in French and Francophone Studies at Notre Dame. She is a faculty fellow in the Nanovic Institute for European Studies and in the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies.

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Greek

continued from page 1

system in recent years — but Belushi and Blue are not entirely to blame. Incidents like the February 2005 hazing tragedy at Chico State University, in which a 21-year-old student died while pledging for the Chi Tau fraternity, has led to the diminished integrity of fraternities and sororities throughout the years.

Although paddles and parietals may not go hand-in-hand under the Golden Dome, fraternities and sororities are alive and well at several comparable institutions of higher learning. Nonexistent at Notre Dame, organizations like Alpha Delta Phi and Delta Delta Delta exist — if not thrive — at other Catholic universities.

At Villanova University, a Catholic college located outside of Philadelphia, approximately one third of all female students are members of one of the school's nine sororities. The college ranked 50th in the 2006 U.S. News & World Report list of "Most Students in Sororities."

Fraternities are also prevalent — though somewhat less popular — with 12 percent of the male population affiliated with one of 10 fraternities.

Seton Hall University, St. John's University, St. Joseph's University of Pennsylvania, DePaul University and Creighton University are other Catholic colleges with officially-recognized Greek systems.

A Greek critique

Georgetown University has refused to recognize fraternities and sororities since the 1960s, but this has not stopped such organizations from flourishing there. A Sept. 19, 2000 article in The Hoya said though unofficial, "local chapters of nationwide and international fraternities still draw hundreds of Georgetown students."

The foreign service fraternity Delta Phi Epsilon, the business fraternity Delta Sigma Pi and the community service fraternity Alpha Phi Omega are all widely popular on campus, in addition to African American, Latino, Christian and other specialized fraternities and sororities. Since the organizations have no official affiliation with college, they are entirely funded by dues and alumni donations.

"Our relationship with the university is a gray area," Delta Phi Epsilon president Robert Dunphy told The Hoya, which is Georgetown's student-run newspaper.

A Feb. 25, 2005 column in The Hoya by theology professor Father Christopher Steck slammed Delta Phi Epsilon and other Greek organizations, asserting they have no place at a Jesuit institution like Georgetown. Steck singled out Delta Phi Epsilon because it had recently attempted to become an official social fraternity at the University.

Steck described his own experiences with fraternities and sororities as an undergraduate at Louisiana State University to argue why "Georgetown students don't need the Greeks." Adolescent sexuality, racial exclusions, elitism and wild partying exemplified "the worst stereotypes" of the Greek system at LSU, he said.

"Of course, many of these same groups pulled themselves out of bed on the weekends to engage in community service," Steck said in the column. "That was always the enigma for me: so much human dysfunctionality bound together with genuine humanitarian concern."

Steck said he knew of students who were "genuinely wonderful people on their own," but underwent a negative "transformation" when placed in the context of a Greek social arrangement. Once members of fraternities and sororities, Steck said these students

turned to snobbery, cliquishness, conformity, intolerance and the desire to "escape life" through alcohol and sex.

"It was almost like the fraternities were plagued by some innate gravitational pull — drawing their members away from high ideals towards social baseness," he said.

Though many social fraternities and sororities engage in altruistic endeavors and service projects — which do correlate with Jesuit ideals — there are other aspects of Greek organizations which are not aligned with such standards, Steck said.

"The Jesuit ideal of cura personalis, or care for the person, refers to two ideas: educating the whole person in body, mind and spirit, and educating each person in his or her unique individuality," he said in the column. "Can the kind of social cohesion that fraternities require ... really allow the individual person, as an individual, to flourish?"

Absent and abolished

On March 22, 2001, Santa Clara University announced a two-year plan to completely "phase out" its entire Greek system by June 2003 — a decision that affected fewer than 10 percent of the student population but mirrored a growing trend of increased administrative scrutiny of fraternities and sororities on college campuses nationwide.

According to a 2000 study in The Chronicle of Higher Education, fraternity and sorority membership had decreased by approximately 30 percent since 1990.

The decision at Santa Clara followed a five-month study of the university's Greek organizations by a committee with faculty, staff and student representation. The task of the group was "to determine whether the presence of fraternities and sororities contributes positively to building a vital community of scholars whose members collaborate as partners in learning and scholarship to provide an integrated educational experience."

In an official statement, SCU president Paul Locatelli said the college had a distinct obligation to support priorities to benefit the greatest number of students, encourage friendships and strategically use finite resources to meet its goals. Locatelli and other committee members decided fraternities and sororities

were a hindrance to the overarching aims of Santa Clara, and thus its Greek system was officially abolished.

In a Feb. 2, 2006 article in The Fairfield Mirror, University President Father Jeffrey von Arx explained Fairfield University's disaffiliation with Greek organizations as a consequence of Roman Catholic tradition.

Jesuit qualms about fraternities may stem from the Masonic associations of fraternities — the Masons were disliked by the early Church for being Protestant secret societies — and subsequent secret societies in the 19th and 20th centuries were also scorned upon in Rome, he said.

"It wasn't just the Jesuits — it was the Catholic Church that opposed fraternities at Catholic

universities," Arx said in the article. "There are relatively few Catholic colleges that have them."

Boston College is another Jesuit university that refuses to recognize fraternities and sororities. According to articles in the student newspapers at both BC and Fairfield, undergraduates share a common misunderstanding about why the policy against Greek systems is in place at their respective schools.

"It is a misconception that BC policy on fraternities and sororities is due to a strict rule that the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities (AJCU) has against Greek organizations," said a June 1, 2004 article in BC's student newspaper, The Heights.

The AJCU mission statement maintains that "each institution is separately chartered by the state and is legally autonomous under its own board of trustees" — and the same is true for all Catholic institutions of higher learning.

The "Land O' Lakes" statement reached in 1967 by an assembly of Catholic university leadership said colleges aligned with the Church require "a true autonomy and academic freedom in the face of authority of whatever kind, lay or clerical, external or the academic community itself." The statement emphasized the need for Catholic character at the universities, but left individual administrations to come to their own independent decisions.

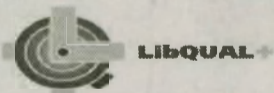
The College of the Holy Cross, Fordham University and Notre Dame join Georgetown, Fairfield University and Boston College as Catholic schools that do not recognize fraternities and sororities as official and affiliated institutional organizations.

Contact Katie Perry at kperry5@nd.edu

"It was almost like the fraternities were plagued by some innate gravitational pull — drawing their members away from high ideals towards social baseness."

Father Christopher Steck
theology professor
Georgetown University

WE WANT YOUR INPUT!



SPRING 2006 LIBRARY SURVEY

In March, the University Libraries of Notre Dame, along with many other academic and research libraries, will be participating in LibQUAL+, a national web-based survey project designed to assess library service quality.

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME PARTICIPATION

On **Tuesday, March 21**, an invitation to participate in the survey will be sent to all undergraduate students, graduate students, and faculty. On **Monday, March 27**, these same students and faculty will receive an e-mail message, with the survey URL embedded, asking them to complete the survey. Participants should be able to complete the survey in about 15 minutes.

WHY SHOULD I ANSWER THE SURVEY?

The survey contains questions that will help the University Libraries evaluate the effectiveness of library services in meeting the needs of students and faculty and to identify opportunities for improving services. Also, as an incentive to participate, students and faculty will be given the option to sign up to win one of six video iPods.

WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW TO ANSWER THE SURVEY?

No special knowledge is required to complete the survey. However, as part of completing the survey, participants will provide data about themselves such as graduate or undergraduate, faculty rank, main discipline of study or teaching, etc.

NEED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION?

For more information about LibQUAL+, see the LibQUAL+ home page at <http://www.library.nd.edu/libqual/> or contact Sherri Jones (631-4034), University of Notre Dame's liaison for the LibQUAL+ project.

University Libraries of Notre Dame



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CONGRATULATIONS!

Professor Catherine Perry

Nanovic Fellow and Associate Professor,
Romance Languages & Literatures



On March 22, Professor Perry
will be awarded
the insignia of Chevalier (knight)
in the Order of the Palmes académiques
for her contribution to the development of
French Culture and education
in the world.

www.nd.edu/~nanovic

WORLD & NATION

Wednesday, March 22, 2006

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Iran agrees to talk with U.S. on Iraq

TEHRAN, Iran — Supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said Tuesday that he approves of talks between U.S. and Iranian officials on Iraq, but warned that the United States must not try to "bully" Iran.

It was the first confirmation that Khamenei, who holds final say on all state matters in Iran, is in favor of the talks.

His comments came hours after President Bush spoke in favor of such a meeting, saying American officials would show Iran "what's right or wrong in their activities inside of Iraq."

Khamenei said that "if the Iranian officials can make the U.S. understand some issues about Iraq, there is no problem with the negotiations."

"But if the talks mean opening a venue for bullying and imposition by the deceitful party [the Americans], then it will be forbidden," he said in a speech in the northeastern city of Mashhad, aired on state television.

Protesters defy Belarus authorities

MINSK, Belarus — Several hundred defiant demonstrators who have camped out in a central square endured freezing temperatures for a third day Tuesday to protest the re-election of authoritarian Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko.

Opposition leader Alexander Milinkevich, who has denounced the election that gave Lukashenko a new five-year term as a fraud and called for a new vote, urged demonstrators to keep up daily protests and called for a major show of strength Saturday.

"Come here every day to speak of freedom," Milinkevich said, speaking in the glow from TV cameras after the lighting on Oktyabrskaya Square was shut off, plunging protesters into darkness and adding to concerns of a crack-down by security forces.

NATIONAL NEWS

Dog handler guilty on six counts

FORT MEADE, Md. — An Army dog handler at Abu Ghraib was convicted Tuesday of tormenting prisoners with his snarling animal and competing with a comrade to make the Iraqis soil themselves.

Sgt. Michael J. Smith, 24, of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., was found guilty at a court-martial of six of 13 counts. The judge later dismissed one of those six counts, saying it duplicated another.

A sentencing hearing began in the afternoon, and will conclude Wednesday. The five charges carried up to 8 1/2 years behind bars.

Prosecutors said Smith let his unmuzzled black Belgian shepherd bark and lunge at several prisoners for his own amusement.

Missing children case concludes

NEW ORLEANS — The largest child-recovery effort in U.S. history is complete after more than six months, with 5,192 children missing after hurricanes Katrina and Rita reunited with family members, officials said Tuesday.

The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children worked with the FBI, Federal Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Postal Service, Red Cross and other agencies to find the thousands of children separated from their parents or guardians when Hurricane Katrina hit Aug. 29 and Hurricane Rita hit just a few weeks later.

LOCAL NEWS

Three hurt in detonator accident

CRANE, Ind. — Several hundred detonators exploded prematurely at Crane Naval Surface Warfare Center Tuesday, injuring three civilian workers who were unpacking them.

The injuries were not life-threatening, but two of the workers were taken to Bloomington Hospital for treatment of cuts and burns. The other suffered puncture wounds to the face and hands and first-degree facial burns and was treated at Crane's medical clinic.

Troops to stay in Iraq for years

President Bush expects American involvement in Iraq to continue indefinitely

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush said Tuesday that American forces will remain in Iraq for years and it will be up to a future president to decide when to bring them all home. But defying critics and plunging polls, he declared, "I'm optimistic we'll succeed. If not, I'd pull our troops out."

The president rejected calls for the resignation of Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, chief architect of wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. "Listen, every war plan looks good on paper until you meet the enemy," Bush said, acknowledging mistakes as the United States was forced to switch tactics and change a reconstruction strategy that offered targets for insurgents.

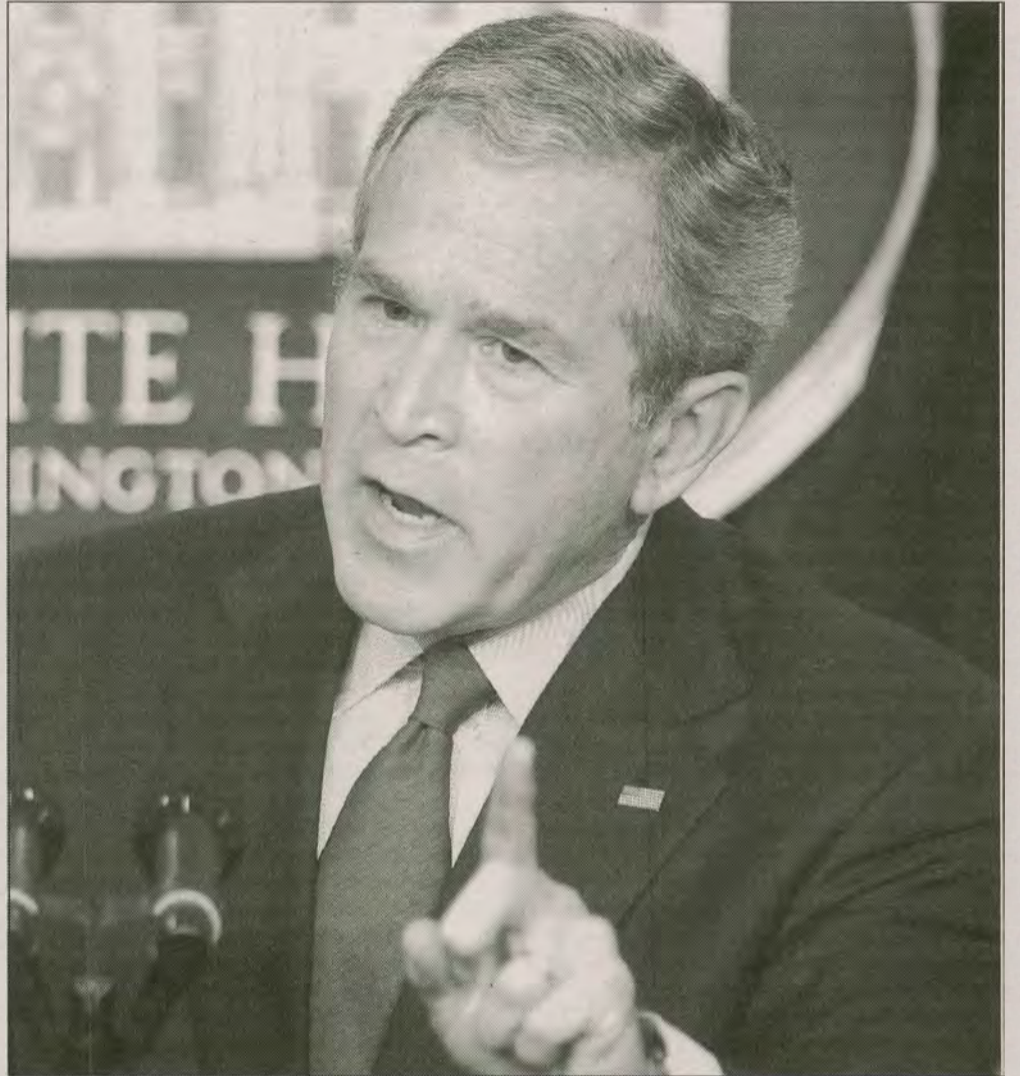
He also rejected assertions by Iraq's former interim prime minister that the country had fallen into civil war amid sectarian violence that has left more than 1,000 Iraqis dead since the bombing last month of a Shiite Muslim shrine.

"This is a moment the Iraqis had a chance to fall apart and they didn't," Bush said, crediting religious and political leaders with restraint.

The president spoke for nearly an hour at a White House news conference, part of a new offensive to ease Americans' unhappiness with the war and fellow Republicans' anxiety about fall elections. He faced skeptical questions about Iraq during an appearance Monday in Cleveland, and plans another address soon on Iraq.

Public support for the war and for Bush himself has fallen in recent months, jeopardizing the political capital he claimed from his 2004 re-election victory. "I'd say I'm spending that capital on the war," Bush said.

The White House believes that people appreciate Bush's plainspoken



President Bush speaks during a news conference Tuesday in the Brady Press Room at the White House. Bush said there will be 'more tough fighting ahead' in Iraq.

approach even if they disagree with his decisions.

"I understand war creates concerns," the president said. "Nobody likes war. It creates a sense of uncertainty in the country."

Bush has adamantly refused to set a deadline for the withdrawal of U.S. forces from Iraq. Asked if there would come a day when there would be no more U.S. forces in Iraq, Bush said, "That, of course, is an objective. And that will be decided by future presidents and future governments of Iraq."

Pressed on whether that meant a complete withdrawal would not happen during his presidency, Bush said, "I can only tell you that I will make decisions

on force levels based upon what the commanders on the ground say."

White House officials worried Bush's remarks would be read as saying there would not be significant troop reductions during his presidency. They pointed to comments Sunday by Gen. George W. Casey, commander of U.S. forces in Iraq, who said he expected a substantial troop reduction "certainly over the course of 2006 and into 2007."

The Pentagon announced last December that U.S. force levels would be reduced from the baseline figure of about 138,000 to about 131,000 by the end of March. The total currently is 133,000. In late February the Pentagon told Congress

that "it will be possible to consider" additional reductions as the political process moves forward and as Iraqi security forces gain experience. No timetable has been set for deciding on additional cuts.

More than 2,300 American troops have died in Iraq. At home, nearly four of five people, including 70 percent of Republicans, believe civil war will break out in Iraq, according to a recent AP-Ipsos poll.

"I am confident — I believe, I'm optimistic we'll succeed," the president said. "If not, I'd pull our troops out. If I didn't believe we had a plan for victory I wouldn't leave our people in harm's way."

IRAQ

100 gunmen storm Iraqi jail, kill 20

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — About 100 masked gunmen stormed a prison near the Iranian border Tuesday, cutting phone wires, freeing all the inmates and leaving behind a scene of devastation and carnage — 20 dead policemen, burned-out cars and a smoldering jailhouse.

At least 10 attackers were killed in the dawn assault on the Muqadiyah lockup on the eastern fringe of the Sunni Triangle, police said. The raid showed the mostly Sunni militants can still assemble a large force, capable of operating in the region virtually at will

— even though U.S. and Iraqi military officials said last year that the area was no longer an insurgent stronghold.

The insurgency's strength, spiraling sectarian violence and the stalemate over forming a government in Iraq have led politicians and foreign policy experts to say Iraq is on the brink or perhaps in the midst of civil war.

In all, 33 prisoners were freed, including 18 insurgents who were detained Sunday during raids by security forces in the nearby villages of Sansal and Arab, police said. It was the capture of those insurgents that apparently prompted Tuesday's attack. The

15 other inmates were a mix of suspected insurgents and common criminals.

In an Internet posting Tuesday night, the military wing of the Mujaheddin Shura Council, a militant Sunni Muslim insurgent group, purportedly claimed it carried out the operation. The posting said the group killed "40 policemen, liberated 33 prisoners and captured weapons."

The claim was posted on the Iraqi News Web site. Neither the higher casualty toll among policemen nor the captured weapons could not be independently verified.

ACE

continued from page 1

ly informed decision," Staud said.

Assistant Director of ACE Colleen Garvey said an applicant's talents and skills are strongly considered in the application process.

"Let's say Nashville calls us up and says, 'I need a math teacher, who will also coach basketball and help out with an after-school Spanish program,'" Garvey said. "So then we go through every single applicant and whoever best fits that match is who we select."

Jessica Maciejewski will be teaching at a Catholic school in Rio Grande City, Texas next year. She believes her placement is based on her experience studying abroad in Chile, her ability to speak Spanish and her interest in working with the Latino community.

In addition to possessing certain skill sets, Staud considers it necessary for ACE teachers to have a desire to be teachers in a Catholic school setting.

"Ultimately, we are looking for people ... who are passionate about serving through teaching, who want to change the world one child at a time," Staud said.

Maciejewski, who has spent many years in Catholic school and whose mother is a Catholic school teacher, wanted to begin her teaching experience in a Catholic school.

"It's more of a service aspect I think — I want to give back because I know a lot of the Catholic schools are understaffed right now," Maciejewski said.

Notre Dame graduate Jim Kilroy is currently working as an ACE teacher. He too was eager to take advantage of the opportunity to serve as a teacher in a Catholic school after a lifetime of Catholic education.

"ACE was more attractive than Teach for America, for example, because its mission serves Catholic schools, which I had attended all my life," Kilroy said. "You can say that I felt compelled

to give back to the system which had the greatest influence on my life outside of my parents."

Students accepted this year will begin eight weeks of education classes at Notre Dame on June 2. During this time, they will also student-teach at schools in the South Bend area. When the school year begins in August, the new ACE teachers will go to their respective locations and teach for one year, while they continue to take on-line courses. The following summer, students take additional classes at Notre Dame and then return for a second year of teaching.

During the school year, ACE teachers live together in houses of four to seven people.

Notre Dame graduate John Bacsik, who teaches second grade at Saint James School in Savannah, Ga., said the living situation gives him a chance to share his initial teaching experiences with others who face similar challenges.

"Living in a community of teachers provides a unique sense of support," Bacsik said. "Every day, you know that

you have people who are ready and willing to listen to your stories and have great advice to share."

Staud said that many people coming into the program are not sure whether or not they want to make teaching their career. The experience of teaching, plus a master's of education degree can be a benefit in most fields, Staud said, but he estimates about 60 percent of ACE teachers stay in the education field.

Maciejewski believes the ACE program will be a good stepping-stone to the opportunities she will pursue when the two-year program ends.

"I definitely want to teach for a while," Maciejewski said. "But I can definitely see myself going on a different career path for a while and then maybe coming back to it and ... maybe getting another degree and teaching at the college level or something like that."

Contact Kaitlynn Riely at kriely@nd.edu

"Ultimately, we are looking for people ... who are passionate about serving through teaching, who want to change the world one child at a time."

John Staud
director
Alliance for Catholic Education



CORE COUNCIL FOR GAY & LESBIAN STUDENTS

The former "Standing Committee on Gay and Lesbian Student Needs" is expanding and seeking new undergraduate student members, regardless of sexual orientation. The newly structured council, the

Core Council for Gay and Lesbian Students
is now accepting applications.

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

or on the Core Council web site

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

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

March 28, 2006, and can be submitted to the

Office of Student Affairs.

Please visit our web site for more information.

2005-2006

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AMEX	1,896.20	-28.70
NASDAQ	2,294.84	-19.27
NYSE	8,198.69	-56.95
S&P 500	1,296.99	-8.09
NIKKEI(Tokyo)	16,624.80	+285.07
FTSE 100(London)	5,991.30	-0.40

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
ORACLE CORP (ORCL)	-0.87	-0.12	13.60
NASDAQ 110 TR (QQQQ)	-1.01	-0.42	41.13
INTEL CP (INTC)	+1.22	+0.24	19.86
SUN MICROSYS (SUNW)	-1.66	-0.08	4.75
MICROSOFT CP (MSFT)	-0.50	-0.14	27.75

Treasuries

10-YEAR NOTE	+1.31	+0.61	47.17
13-WEEK BILL	+0.82	+0.37	45.67
30-YEAR BOND	+0.87	+0.41	47.41
5-YEAR NOTE	+1.74	+0.80	46.87

Commodities

LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl)	+0.38	62.34
GOLD (\$/Troy oz)	-2.90	553.20
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)	-0.38	84.15

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EURO	0.8270
POUND	0.5724
CANADIAN \$	1.1646

U.S. ethanol supply insufficient

After much good fortune, fuel industry braces for some unwanted attention

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — After a spurt of good fortune, the fledgling U.S. ethanol industry is anticipating some growing pains that could bring it unwanted attention this summer.

Ethanol's public profile rose significantly for the better last July when Congress passed an energy bill that mandates the doubling of biofuels output by 2012. In January, President Bush gave the industry a further boost with a strong endorsement in his State of the Union speech. And with the imminent phaseout of a petrochemical added to gasoline to reduce tailpipe emissions, more U.S. motorists will depend on the corn-derived fuel than ever before.

But there's trouble looming: The ethanol industry might not be ready to satisfy the expected summertime jump in demand. And by crimping the overall supply of motor fuel, this could contribute to a spike in gasoline pump prices at the start of the country's peak driving season.

That, at least, is the view of the Energy Department, which issued a report last month detailing the challenges midwestern ethanol producers will have in getting their fuel to key markets along the East Coast because of railroad, trucking and other distribution bottlenecks. The report also highlighted concerns about the limited output capacity of an industry still in its infancy.

The Renewable Fuels Association, a trade group representing ethanol producers such as Archer Daniels Midland Co. and Pacific Ethanol Inc., says the industry's challenges and their influence on gasoline prices are being overblown. The association sent an angry letter to the Energy Department last week, questioning the overall thoroughness of its research and accusing it of creating "unnecessary fears



An E85 fuel pump is shown Friday, March 3 at the Ohio Department of Agriculture in Columbus, Ohio. The fuel consists of 85 percent ethanol and 15 percent petroleum.

in the marketplace."

Still, ethanol-related worries hang over the U.S. market, contributing to a 42-cent-per-gallon increase in unleaded gasoline futures since mid-February. There are other factors behind the recent wholesale gasoline price spike, including soaring oil prices, strong demand and persistent strains on the U.S. refining system.

The average retail price of gasoline in the United States is \$2.51 a gallon — the highest level since October — and some analysts say \$3 is a possibility by summer.

Wholesale prices for ethanol, meanwhile, have surged to roughly \$2.75 a

gallon, or about 50 cents per gallon higher than usual, according to the Oil Price Information Service of Wall, N.J. Because ethanol makes up one-tenth of every gallon of unleaded gasoline with which it is blended, this windfall for ethanol producers ends up costing motorists an extra 5 cents per gallon at the pump.

High prices will spur more ethanol production — there are 33 new plants under construction — but some minor near-term complications can be expected due to the rapid increase in demand, said Bob Dinneen, president of the Renewable Fuels Association and the author

of the letter sent to the Energy Department.

Dinneen said the industry is taking steps to mitigate the problems, such as filling ethanol storage tanks on the East Coast before summer arrives and contracting barges that can ship ethanol down the Mississippi River and then up the Atlantic seaboard.

Energy analysts said it is unclear whether ethanol producers can manufacture and distribute enough supply once U.S. refiners phase out the use of a petrochemical called methyl tertiary butyl ether, or MTBE, which enables gasoline to burn more completely, and thus more cleanly, but carries some public health risks.

IN BRIEF

Microsoft to delay release of Vista

SEATTLE — Microsoft Corp. will delay the consumer release of its new Windows operating system until January 2007, missing the holiday sales season and throwing some PC makers and retailers into turmoil.

The delay in Windows Vista — caused by Microsoft needing more time to enhance security and other functions — will come as a blow to Microsoft partners who were looking forward to a new operating system to boost holiday sales.

Windows Vista is Microsoft's first major update to the company's flagship operating system since Windows XP was released in late 2001.

"It's not the optimal situation, to be launching the next-generation version of Windows right after the big holiday sales season," said analyst Joe Wilcox with Jupiter Research.

The company will release some versions of the new operating system for big businesses by November as planned, but the consumer version will be postponed until January, said Jim Allchin, co-president of the Microsoft division that includes Windows.

Energy costs depress wholesale prices

WASHINGTON — A huge drop in energy costs helped push prices at the wholesale level down last month by the largest amount in nearly three years. But with the cost of gasoline rising again, the reprieve could be short-lived.

The Labor Department reported Tuesday that wholesale prices fell by 1.4 percent in February as food and energy both recorded big declines.

But analysts cautioned against reading too much into the February decrease, saying it was heavily influenced by a warmer-than-normal winter, which cut demand for home heating fuel and helped energy producers rebuild inventories that had been depleted after last fall's hurricanes.

The government reported Monday that the average retail price of gasoline soared by 13.8 cents last week to \$2.50 per gallon for regular grade. Unleaded gasoline futures are up by 42 cents per gallon since mid-February.

Supreme Court blocks investor suits

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court made it harder Tuesday for investors to join forces to file high-stakes fraud lawsuits against companies.

The 8-0 decision blocks state class-action lawsuits by stockholders who contend they were tricked into holding onto declining shares.

Justice John Paul Stevens, writing for the court, said that to rule otherwise would allow "wasteful, duplicative litigation."

The decision does not shut the door to lawsuits filed by individual stockholders, but rather to suits brought on behalf of large groups.

"There had been some upswing in these after the Enron and WorldCom

scandals," said Columbia Law School professor John Coffee, who believes it will be too expensive for individual stock owners to pursue such suits.

It was a major victory for Merrill Lynch & Co., which faced a spate of lawsuits prompted in part by New York Attorney General Eliot Spitzer's 2002 probe into the investment banking firm's practices.

Spitzer uncovered records showing that Merrill Lynch analysts publicly recommended that investors buy stocks that were described privately as a "disaster" or "dog." Merrill Lynch agreed to a \$100 million fine.

Former Merrill Lynch brokers said in the Supreme Court case that the company's overly positive appraisals caused them to give bad advice — and eventu-

ally lose customers and money in their own investments.

The case required the court to consider a 1995 federal law, passed over a presidential veto after Republicans took control of Congress, and a follow-up law approved three years later intended to restrict investor class-action lawsuits.

The Merrill Lynch brokers filed a class-action suit under state law in Oklahoma, but the justices said in Tuesday's decision that Congress intended to prevent their claims and others like them.

"Public companies no longer have to fear the threat of securities class-actions in 50 different states under potentially 50 different sets of laws," said Jay Kasner, a New York attorney who represented Merrill Lynch.

Survey

continued from page 1

Gunty, who also sits on the Cyber Vice Task Force, said the purpose of the survey is to provide the task forces with a grounding in the empirical evidence of student experience in regards to the issues each group is addressing.

Led by Office of Residence Life and Housing director Jeff Shoup, the Task Force on Gambling is an informal group housed under the Office of Student Affairs that is examining the problem of Internet and in-person gambling at Notre Dame, according to Associate

Vice President for Student Affairs Bill Kirk.

Kirk said the group is using the survey results to supplement the information about gambling on campus gathered over the semester at several rector and student focus groups.

The Cyber Vice Task Force, formed under the Gender Resource Center by GRC director Heather Rakoczy, will meet three times during the next month with the aim to "increase awareness, education and dialogue by addressing high-risk on-line behaviors that can be obstacles to healthy relationships," Rakoczy said.

Its almost 30 members — composed of equal numbers of

men and women, and faculty and students, Rakoczy said — plan to discuss the nature of the "high-risk on-line behaviors" like viewing pornography, instant messaging and using sites like Facebook, and come up with strategies for solutions.

Both Kirk and Rakoczy said the groups hope to provide Student Affairs with a report or recommendation on how best to deal with their respective researched problems, potentially by the end of the semester.

Gunty said the similar interests of both task groups allowed him to combine their questions into one survey.

"As I understand it, both conversations are basically about how to promote healthy rela-

tionships and have a focus on doing something about these things that are obstacles to healthy relationships," Gunty said. "On the one hand, there's gambling, which is not only unhealthy to relationships but to individuals, and the other group sees that so much of relating now has some component on the Internet that they're just wondering what effect this has on relationships."

Gunty said he received an e-mail from one of the survey recipients who called its "Healthy Relationships" title a misnomer, because respondents were not given time to talk about gender relations on campus.

Gunty defended the survey

title, saying that while it might be "a little misleading" because of the heavy connotations the phrase "healthy relationships" carries at Notre Dame in terms of gender relations, he still chose the name "because the ultimate concern about these behaviors is their effect on relationships, so we're taking the term ['healthy relationships'] in a much broader sense."

Gunty said he will present a set of preliminary results to the Cyber Vice Task Force at the group's first meeting Friday. As of Tuesday, only 25 percent of survey recipients had responded.

Contact Amanda Michaels at amichael@nd.edu

Center

continued from page 1

The Family Justice Center of Saint Joseph County would serve as a comprehensive center that unites all the services — such as psychological, physical and spiritual aid — needed by domestic abuse victims under one roof.

Gwinn said research has shown when family violence occurs, victims must go to 32 different agencies to receive necessary help.

"The hope is that the [Family Violence Center] will end the cycle of family violence," he said.

Notre Dame will maintain a strong connection with the new project as the Robinson Community Learning Center, Notre Dame Security/Police and the Center for Social Concerns will be three of the 22 local organizations that will make up the center.

According to Chair of the Family Justice Center of Saint Joseph County Peter Morgan, approximately 12 Notre Dame faculty members have also already expressed interest in arranging student internships with the center.

Gwinn said the center runs on employees who work there everyday, caring for those who experience domestic abuse.

"So many aspects of this community are rallying around this vision ... including the academic community, much like you have here with Notre

Dame," he said.

As part of the President's Family Justice Center Initiative to create comprehensive domestic abuse centers throughout America, South Bend was chosen as one of 15 communities nationwide out of 400 applicants to receive federal aid to create a local family justice center.

Local statistics show police respond to over 8,000 domestic abuse calls each year. However, the Department of Justice estimates only 54 percent of partner violence is reported which means it is estimated over 16,000 instances of abuse actually occur.

Gwinn said it is important to stay united as a community and advancing a common goal to create the center in Saint Joseph County and work to end the violence.

"Fear becomes the enemy to this vision ... the people here get it, they are good people and there are so many local agencies that support it," he said. "The challenge is to stay together to get this to happen."

Gwinn said the opening of each new center is a step in breaking the chain of family violence, and if this center does not open the abuse will continue in this community.

"If you can come together ... around a common vision to help families in need and break the trend of family violence we can change the world," he said.

Contact Kelly Meehan at kmeeha01@saintmarys.edu

Bank ownership under review

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke is raising concerns about a legal provision that lets companies own a certain kind of bank, including one Wal-Mart Stores Inc. wants to operate in Utah.

The Fed chief's comments were aimed at an exemption in federal law that allows companies to own such banks, called industrial loan companies.

"The question of whether, or to what extent, the mixing of banking and commerce should be permitted is an important issue and one that we believe should be made by Congress," Bernanke said. "The decision has important ramifications for the structure of the American financial system and the economy, particularly because any widespread combinations of banking and commerce likely would be irreversible."

Bernanke's comment came in a written response to questions on that and other issues raised by Rep. Brad Sherman, D-Calif., during a February hearing. Bernanke's response, dated Monday, was released to The Associated Press on Tuesday.

"It is for these reasons that the (Fed) board has encouraged Congress to review the exemption in current law," Bernanke wrote.

The Fed chief addressed the matter in broad terms. He didn't mention Wal-Mart specifically.

Wal-Mart, the nation's largest retailer, has filed an application to operate an industrial loan company in Utah. The Bentonville, Ark.-based retailer is seeking to set up such a bank so it could process credit card, debit card and electronic check transactions from its retail locations.

Former Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan, who retired at the

end of January, had urged Congress to close the legal loophole. Bernanke took the helm of the central bank Feb. 1.

On other matters, Bernanke again urged Congress to trim the budget deficit, especially in light of the need for the government to prepare for the retirement of the baby boom generation. "I believe that reducing the federal deficit is very important," he said. "I urge the Congress to proceed on that effort in a timely manner."

Bernanke also said that although the country's massive trade deficits — which set record highs four years in a row — "cannot continue to widen forever," these deficits need not trigger a "precipitous decline" in the value of the U.S. dollar. Were such a decline in the dollar to occur, it wouldn't necessarily disrupt financial markets, production or employment, he said.

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BPGA0033

United States bugged Filipino leader's phones

American authorities suspected former president Estrada was receiving government secrets from FBI agent



Former Philippine president Joseph Estrada takes an oath at the beginning of his plunder trial at an anti-graft court in Quezon City Wednesday. A popular revolt removed Estrada from power in 2001.

Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — Former President Joseph Estrada said Tuesday he has been notified by an American court that U.S. authorities bugged his telephone conversations with an FBI analyst accused of revealing U.S. government secrets.

The New Jersey court indicated it authorized the wiretapping as part of an investigation into Leandro Aragoncillo last year, Estrada said, adding that there was no suggestion he was under investigation.

Estrada, who was toppled by a popular revolt in 2001, previously acknowledged receiving

American government assessments of Philippine political events from Aragoncillo, a 21-year Marine veteran who became an FBI intelligence analyst in 2004.

"The notice said that my telephone calls with Aragoncillo were wiretapped," Estrada told The Associated Press in a telephone interview. "The wiretapping was authorized by the court."

Aragoncillo was arrested in the United States last year. He has been charged with conspiring to reveal government secrets, acting as a foreign agent and improperly using FBI computers. Those charges carry a maximum sentence of

25 years.

He has not been charged with espionage, which carries a maximum penalty of capital punishment.

Michael Drewniak, spokesman for the U.S. Attorney's Office in Newark, N.J., has refused to comment on the alleged wiretapping, which was first reported by the Philippine Daily Inquirer, citing government sources.

"Even if that were so, I would not comment on it," Drewniak said last week.

Estrada is under house arrest while on trial for corruption charges and was to testify on Wednesday. Prosecutors say he amassed

\$77 million in illegal gambling payoffs, tax kickbacks and commissions stashed in secret bank accounts under an alias.

"There will be nothing extraordinary in my testimony because I only have to tell the truth," Estrada told The Associated Press by phone Tuesday. "I'm confident that history will vindicate me from these charges by a conspiracy of the elite, church leaders and thieving politicians."

In the Aragoncillo case, Estrada has acknowledged speaking by phone with the FBI analyst and receiving U.S. government documents on the political situation in the Philippines. But he has played down their value, saying the assessments were similar to those being reported by Philippine newspapers.

Asked about the wiretapping, Estrada said: "My reaction is nothing, because even before this, I have admitted that I've talked with him ... (and) that those details were nothing more than newspaper accounts of what's happening in the country."

Estrada has insisted that Aragoncillo passed on information to the Philippines not in exchange for money but out of his concern for his impoverished homeland.

Aragoncillo became a natu-

ralized U.S. citizen in 1991. He worked at the White House on the security detail for vice presidents Al Gore and Dick Cheney in 1999-2002 before joining the FBI as a civilian intelligence analyst at Fort Monmouth, N.J.

Estrada said he met Aragoncillo when he visited the United States while he was still president and was introduced to him and other White House staffers of Filipino descent. Their friendship blossomed, with Aragoncillo visiting him

at the Malacanang presidential palace and in a hospital where Estrada was once confined.

Washington has invoked its Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty with Manila to get files on a number of Filipinos who might have received information from him, a Philippine investigator has said.

Meanwhile, a lawyer for Aragoncillo's co-defendant wants to question the former president and Philippine Sen. Panfilio Lacson, an opposition leader, as part of the defense.

Mark Berman, who represents Michael Ray Aquino, asked U.S. District Judge William Walls on Monday to approve the depositions. The U.S. Attorney's office in Newark opposes such a move.

"I'm confident that history will vindicate me from these charges by a conspiracy of the elite, church leaders and thieving politicians."

Joseph Estrada
former Philippine president

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Castro welcomes back Cuban baseball team

Japan defeated Cuba in global baseball event

Associated Press

HAVANA — Cubans lined the streets by the thousands Tuesday to welcome their national baseball team home, waving flags, roaring cheers and clutching flowers. Despite Cuba's loss to Japan in the final, even Fidel Castro was in a jovial mood.

"There was almost an electrical crisis in this country with all the television sets turned on," the 79-year-old leader joked in his address to the several thousand fans assembled for the homecoming.

The day after Japan beat Cuba 10-6 to win the inaugural World Baseball Classic, players' wives, children and other relatives greeted them with hugs and kisses on the tarmac as their flight arrived Tuesday from San Diego.

"We'll be back," promised Yadel Marti, who was honored as the tournament's best pitcher, despite playing for a team with no major league players.

Looking somewhat sad, teammate Frederich Cepeda said, "those of us in baseball don't like to lose. Victory was so close, but we didn't achieve it."

The players then embarked on a ride through Havana's streets

in a convoy of olive green military Jeeps. With wailing police sirens, thousands of school children, workers and other baseball fans cheered as they streamed by.

At the homecoming celebration, Castro personally greeted each player, giving each a commemorative wooden bat manufactured in their team's honor. The players, in turn, returned to Castro the huge Cuban flag he entrusted to them before their departure, as well as two baseballs signed by all team members.

Castro said he had personally watched every single game they played, and "enjoyed, along with millions of citizens, of your feats over there."

The communist leader celebrated their participation in the Classic as "a victory against the unfair exclusion" of the team. It initially appeared that tightened U.S. restrictions would prevent Cuba from playing.

It took an appeal by Major League Baseball and a promise by Cuba that any winnings would go to Hurricane Katrina relief to change the U.S. government's mind.

But even bigger than winning the right to participate was that there were no defections as some had predicted early on, said Angel Iglesias, vice president of Cuba's National Institute of Sports.

THE OBSERVER

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Suicide of academic isolationism

It just so happens that the finest professor I ever had while I was a student at Notre Dame taught the two-semester Arts and Letters Core course. Not coincidentally this course was also the occasion of significant and lasting personal and intellectual growth on my part (you know, the kind that is always advertised in admissions brochures, but that no one honestly expects to experience).

That professor no longer works for the University — to its loss — nor does Core now exist as anything but a fading echo of its prior aims. It has since been molested into submission by a coalition of shortsighted students unable to understand its value and of professors lacking the skill and insight to teach it properly. What passes for Core these days (the "College Seminar") is really just an excuse for professors to once again teach to their own disciples and perhaps a few pet interests.

This is very much a sign of the times, because Core in its uncompromised form was one of the University's most demanding courses in terms of professorial ability. It required a special kind of instructor — one able to step outside of the narrowness of his own discipline, possessing an appreciation for and skill with interrelationships and holding no small amount of life-wisdom. But what should have been an occasion for the University's greatest minds, those who incarnate Notre Dame's mission, to step forward (the late Robert Vacca, who was among these and who did teach Core, notwithstanding) more often fell on the shoulders of those who happened to be

of lowest departmental rank.

The rape of Core is regrettable (and a sore point for me, as you may have noticed), but I draw your attention to it now because it is indicative of the greater and self-exacerbating trend of academic specialization, where each disciple strictly isolates itself from its neighbors (due in no small part to their steep learning curves) and of the consequential losses to our society and culture.

Computers, and their maintainers, are an excellent practical case study of the phenomena since almost everyone interacts with computers on a daily basis, but rarely thinks twice about it. Consider programmers — the men and women whose chosen task it is to mediate between the world of information, communications and algorithms and the normal people who try to use these processes to improve their daily lives.

Programmers are typically trained in advanced math, computer architecture, methodology, a half-dozen programming languages (ideally) of varied properties and (if they are lucky) project management and team coordination. With hard work and about seven years of practical experience, a programmer with this foundation can become adept enough to produce very high quality work — as long as its intended audience is another programmer.

You will never find a Computer Science student — even at the most advanced schools — studying art, architecture, psychology, sociology and politics as part of her primary training. Even in schools that take a stab at requiring courses in other disciplines — like Notre Dame with its philosophy and theology — there is almost no one in the Computer Science department who makes any attempt at linking these ideas. So colleges churn out programmers who are very good at the mechanics of their art, but who nonetheless

miss the point of the entire endeavor. After all, how can someone design software for humans lacking a sound understanding of how people relate to the world around them?

It is any wonder, then, that most software programs create more problems than they solve? Or that so many user interfaces — for all the quality the code beneath them — are garbage? I have encountered individuals who feared their computers, because the machines behaved in ways that they could not understand, and demanded that users bend to their needs rather than the other way around. And so, while the computer does indeed have the potential to completely reshape the way we work with information, because almost no one in the field the vision to take it to this point, the modern computer is stagnating as a glorified electronic desk.

Of course, the program of study that I have outlined above is impractical in the unforgiving business of higher education. If we acknowledge the problem, then we must also acknowledge that some influencing factors will change more readily than others and that the threat of runaway specialization is too difficult and far reaching to propose a simple solution to it. However, we must nonetheless demand that the University cease to ignore it, and that the rich resources of this institution and of its many departments be put to the task of seeking a better way to embrace interdisciplinary study, lest the quality of a higher education itself altogether perish.

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

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



Lance Gallop

Tidewater Blues

EDITORIAL CARTOON



OBSERVER POLL

How do you feel about the absence of Greek life on campus?

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Imagination is the beginning of creation. You imagine what you desire, you will what you imagine and at last you create what you will."

George Bernard Shaw
Irish author

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

'Fighting Irish' moniker found offensive

An open letter to Dr. Myles Brand and the Executive Committee of the NCAA —

On Feb. 3, 2006, the Tribune Wire Services reported that when Dr. Myles Brand was "asked why Fighting Irish is acceptable at Notre Dame but Fighting Sioux at North Dakota is not, Brand said, "We've never had any Irish people come to us and say, 'We find that offensive.'"

Let this letter serve then as your official notice that some of the Irish (I am one) are indeed offended by a mascot dressed as an undignified leprechaun, flitting and prancing all around the football field or basketball court. Beyond that, we take particular offense with the moniker "Fighting Irish." As an Irish-American Catholic and citizen of both the U.S. and the Republic of Ireland, I am truly insulted by these portrayals of my race, heritage, creed and culture.

The term "Fighting Irish" harkens back to the

many past oppressions suffered by Irish Catholics, first in the Emerald Isle at the hands of British aggressors and then when Irish immigrants reached these U.S. shores. They experienced oppression and bigotry as they tried to assimilate into American culture. They not only felt extreme prejudice, but many were also victims at the hands of the Ku Klux Klan and similar hateful groups.

If, as you, Mr. Brand, have also stated, "the NCAA objects to institutions using racial/ethnic/national origin references in their intercollegiate athletics programs," then the NCAA should disallow Fighting Irish and their leprechaun mascot. By taking this stand against Notre Dame, the NCAA will demonstrate that "hostile and abusive" references will not just mean "hostile and abusive (with exemptions allowed)," but will truly attempt to meet its stated goal of no racial, ethnic or national origin references in their intercollegiate programs.

As a graduate of the University of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign, I find the NCAA's current ambiguous stance incomprehensible and an anathema to all reasoned persons. If Florida State's Chief Osceola is deemed to be "non-offensive," then how can you possibly rationalize that Chief Illiniwek, for instance, is hostile? Logic dictates that if one Indian Chief is approved then all should be allowed.

At this point, the NCAA only appears to be undeniably hypocritical. Let's correct that impression. It is unfathomable to think that "Fighting Sioux" is offensive and, somehow, in the eyes of the NCAA, that "Fighting Irish" is not.

Please do the right thing and either ban all references to racial/ethnic/national origins or just leave them all be.

Paul L. Richards
 March 21

U-WIRE

Feingold motion creates divide

Stunt is irrational

Last week, Sen. Russ Feingold of Wisconsin brought a resolution to the floor of the United States Senate asking for the censure of President George W. Bush. Feingold cited the president's "illegal use of wiretapping" as the main reason for bringing the resolution to the Senate floor. To censure the president for something that helps maintain the security of this country is absolutely ridiculous. Feingold is merely Don Quixote fighting his imaginary giants, when in reality they're just windmills.

Censure is a congressional procedure, which reprimands either the president of the United States or a member of Congress. No loss of power occurs when one is censured; it is merely used as a political tool to publicly condemn someone's actions. Only one president has been censured, Andrew Jackson, and his censure was overturned once Democrats assumed control of Congress.

Sen. Joseph McCarthy was censured following his reckless attempts to identify and expose Communists or Communist sympathizers in America. While on the surface the McCarthyism of the 1950s and President Bush's use of the NSA to conduct domestic surveillance might appear similar, the intent behind their actions are drastically different. McCarthy sought to use his position as a U.S. senator to tend to his own personal views without any thought of the consequences. President Bush, on the other hand, used his domestic spying program to protect this country from those who would seek to destroy it and its citizens. The intelligence collected by the NSA as part of this program only benefits the national security interest of this country and was not used for personal reasons or abused in any way. Do you really think President Bush's approval rating would be hovering in the mid-30s if he truly had access to his political opposition's communications?

If Feingold really believes this is the correct time to call for censure, and that he has a chance of succeeding in his resolution, he must really be nuts. It's perplexing that someone, let alone a senator, would drag this issue up again. Democrats are on the heels of their biggest victory — which was largely self-appointed — in national security in quite a long time. The Democratic Party, as of late, has been notoriously weak on national security. Perhaps that's what

happens when you choose flowers over guns, but that's the subject of another column. Not even a month ago, though, the Democrats were condemning the decision to allow Dubai Ports International to manage several ports here in the states. Their use of covert bigotry and casual ignorance of American interests and international relations won over the American public, and Democrats finally had a victory in a national security matter.

Rehashing the topic, however, will do nothing more than help mobilize a faltering Republican base. After Feingold presented his resolution, the Republican National Committee subsequently sent it out to more than 15 million Republican supporters across the nation. Support for the president was wide reaching and might help the Republicans gain some momentum in the coming months as the mid-term elections near.

I'm frankly astonished at the amount of time our Congressional members have on their hands. Evidently the problems of education, health care, crime, pollution, declining family values, the war on drugs, worldwide terrorism and a \$9 trillion dollar national debt all have been solved so Congress can frivolously spend their time slapping wrists around Washington. I'd suggest his constituents in Wisconsin send him a few Sudoku books and a big block of cheese to help him pass the time until this session of Congress is over.

Besides the timing of his actions, I still find it absurd the lengths Democrats will go to hinder our national security. The domestic spying program was used to intercept communications from those in this country that contacted members or suspected members of al-Qaida. Haven't talked to any terrorists lately? Then you have nothing to worry about, so sit down and shut up. Republicans are against any repeat of the attacks of Sept. 11. Do we have to step on a few toes to maintain our security? I say, as does President Bush, that we should do whatever it takes to keep America safe. The time has come for Democrats to realize that as well. Sen. Feingold, you and your party have beat this horse too many times. Enough is enough.

This column originally appeared in the March 21 issue of the Daily Toreador, the daily publication at Texas Tech University.

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

Bush's actions warrant censure

Sen. Feingold is right. The president ought to be censured. It is a reasonable, just and measured response. It is not impeachment. A censure is a rebuke issued by a legislative body to a government official for misconduct. It carries no legal weight, only the force of public condemnation. But that's enough. Andrew Jackson got one in 1834. That was his time. This is Bush's.

I urge the approval of Feingold's resolution. Bush ordered wiretapping of American citizens in 2002. Apart from violating the Fourth Amendment, the president ran afoul of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978.

FISA was set up as a way to give the executive branch a regulated and legal way to wiretap terrorists. Our laws clearly state FISA "shall be the exclusive means by which electronic surveillance ... and the interception of domestic wire, oral and electronic communications may be conducted." The act set up a court consisting of seven federal district court judges appointed by the chief justice. They have staggered terms, and come from different circuits (50 U.S.C.A. § 1803). Through the Department of Justice's Office of Intelligence Policy and Review, the attorney general submits sealed tapping requests for the special court's consideration. You're even allowed to spy right away — as long as you go to the court within three days after. And the court almost never refuses a request.

But Bush? He went ahead and did it anyway — spied on American citizens by executive order in 2002. Courts be damned.

And here's the thing — he admits that he did it. Bush must be the first chief executive in history to publicly confess to an impeachable offense — I can do what I want to. Mission accomplished. Bring it on.

Nobody denies the necessity of spying on our enemies. But at the end of the day, Bush broke the law. The president's Constitutional charge is to "take care that the laws be faithfully executed;" not to make them, to negate some portion of them based on his mood. "All legislative powers herein granted" flow to Congress.

The White House disagrees. War silences law, they say. The basic argument of this administration? In war, the president can do as he damn well pleases.

Bush's court theorist, ex-Deputy Assistant Attorney General John Yoo, wrote "Neither statute, however, can place any limits on the president's determinations as to any terrorist threat, the amount of military force to be used in response or the method, timing and nature of the response. These decisions, under our Constitution, are for the president

alone to make." From what stone comes this miraculous water? There's nothing in the "Authorization for Use of Military Force" that grants Bush such power, certainly no revocations of FISA. Indeed, Bush could have asked for "less" of FISA in the Patriot Act, but didn't.

Does Article I, Section 8 not give Congress the authority to define and punish piracies and felonies committed on the high seas, and offenses against the law of nations; to declare war; to raise and support armies, but no appropriation of money to that use shall be for a longer term than two years; to provide for calling forth the militia to execute the laws of the union, suppress insurrections and rebel invasions; to provide for organizing, arming and disciplining the militia, and for governing such part of them as may be employed in the service of the United States? If all war powers were meant for the president, then why are so many of them given to Congress? Curious.

Yoo has missed his calling. The pen of such a gifted weaver of fantasy might have spawned tales of speaking unicorns defending rainbow bridges, had it not been yoked to the more mundane task of defending dynastic prerogative. It is a loss to children everywhere. Did the president always agree with Yoo's delusions? Here's Bush on wiretapping: "Law enforcement officers need a federal judge's permission to wiretap a foreign terrorist's phone, a federal judge's permission to track his calls or a federal judge's permission to search his property."

How very curious that the president would say such things while fully aware of his executive order two years prior!

Crimes like Bush's were the fears of James Madison, main drafter of the Constitution: "War is in fact the true nurse of executive aggrandizement." He also wrote: "In no part of the Constitution is more wisdom to be found, than in the clause which confides the question of war or peace to the legislature, and not to the executive department." He was president once, too.

Sandra Day O'Connor wrote for the Supreme Court: "A state of war is not a blank check for the president when it comes to the rights of the nation's citizens."

What could be more clear? Neither the Constitution, nor war, nor history justify the president's actions. He knew what he was doing and did it anyway. He broke the law. Censure him.

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'MATRIX' MASTERMINDS

Filmmaking duo redefines action genre boundaries

By TAE ANDREWS
Assistant Scene Editor

The boys are back in town. Like lyrics made famous by the rock band Thin Lizzy, the hotshot duo of brothers Larry and Andy Wachowski made their triumphant return to the big screen with the recent release of "V for Vendetta."

Known for both the intellectual nature and show-stopping action sequences of their films, the Wachowski brothers exploded onto the filmmaking scene with the 1999 release of the critically-acclaimed film "The Matrix." Written and directed by the two brothers, "The Matrix" was an incredibly complex film that somehow managed to pair philosophical overtones with did-you-just-see-that action sequences.

In this manner, the Wachowskis cooked up a recipe to deliver the epistemology of Plato and Descartes to the dot-com generation — start with a base of thumping techno music, stir in generous amounts of bullet shells and explosions and top off with some special-effects wizardry. Add in some sunglasses to taste, and presto — behold the intellectual blockbuster.

While thought-provoking philosophical elements might provide the staple fare of the "Matrix" films, let's be honest — everyone prefers dessert. And when it comes to shooting action, no one puts the icing on the cake better than the Wachowski brothers. They are to action what Emeril is to the cooking channel: the pair consistently manage to kick it up a notch with unbelievable fight scenes. The revolutionary minds invented bullet-time, a film technique in which lightning-quick sequences are shown by filming the action in slow-motion. Fans have grown accustomed to watching people dodging bullets, running off of walls and knocking skulls together with the Wachowski brothers' incredible visuals, which combine poetic martial arts and staccato gunplay.

Andy and Larry followed up their breakthrough hit with two sequels, "The Matrix: Reloaded" and "The Matrix: Revolutions." Despite the fact that the philosophical undertones of the sequels felt contrived to many, the Wachowskis managed to rake in cash flows resembling the streaming lines of emerald computer coding which make up the Matrix. According to the International Movie DataBase, the two films combined to make over \$400 million at the box office.

All of their commercial success has allowed the Wachowskis to have the best of both worlds — the brothers have been able to reach a rare happy medium in which they can make high-octane movies that are smashing successes both at the box office and with the critics. In doing so, the pair has crafted an entirely new genre — the thinking man's action flick. After their joint "Matrix" hits, the

Brothers Wachowski again teamed up with another famous pair of WBs — the Warner Bros. — in creating "V for Vendetta."

In keeping with their revolutionary nature, the Wachowski brothers wrote the script and produced "V for Vendetta," which follows a one-man rebellion against a Big Brother-like government. While they may have missed the mark in terms of philosophy in the "Matrix" sequels, V marks the spot with their latest offering. Although the Wachowskis ceded the director's chair on "Vendetta" to James McTeigue, they wrote the script and produced the film. "V for Vendetta" is sprinkled with their indelible fingerprints.

Also, McTeigue was the first assistant director on both of the "Matrix" sequels, and is undeniably schooled in all things Wachowski when it comes to standing behind the lens.

In addition to their penchant for breathtaking fight scenes, the

Wachowskis' obsession with the antihero is another emerging theme throughout their films — in "The Matrix," the brothers somehow managed to turn professional mannequin Keanu Reeves into "The One," the black-clad, messianic figure who saves all of humanity from virtual-reality enslavement through his mastery of kung-fu.

In "V for Vendetta,"

Hugo Weaving plays the controversial V, a Machiavellian insurrectionist who uses terrorist tactics to undermine a fascist government. After starring opposite Keanu Reeves as Agent Smith in the Matrix trilogy, Weaving makes the transition from antagonist to protagonist here and is tremendous as the masked V.

In addition, Natalie Portman stars as Evey, a woman whose chance encounter with V inextricably winds their fates together. In a humiliating torture sequence, Evey's long locks of hair are shorn off. While most would question the decision to shave Natalie Portman's head, the gambit pays off in the apt hands of the Wachowskis. Portman turns out to be the hottest star to rock a shaved dome since Demi Moore in "G.I. Jane."

The distinctive features of Wachowski cinema are all over "V for Vendetta." The brothers create action movies that challenge the audience to think a little bit more than usual.

The pair is famously mysterious. For the "Matrix" movies, they had a contract clause that precluded their having to do any press interviews, saying they preferred their films to stand for themselves. While audiences can't be certain of when the pair will film next, one thing is for certain — when the Wachowski brothers are in the kitchen, something smells good.

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THE AMAZING ALAN MOORE: A PORTRAIT

By BRIAN DOXTADER
Scene Editor

Alan Moore stands with Frank Miller as one of the pioneers of the modern graphic novel. Before their respective seminal 1986 works "Watchmen" and "The Dark Knight Returns," comic books were regarded as trifling children's fare.

Moore's sophisticated and literate approach, however, elevated them into the status of genuine art and brought critical acclaim and commercial success to comic books. He remains one of the medium's most respected writers and continues to produce work to this day.

Moore started as a writer for DC Comics by lifting one of the company's most obscure heroes, Swamp Thing, out of the muck and grime of obscurity. His work on the series elevated its status and brought the maverick writer critical acclaim, which allowed him to branch out into new ideas. 1981's "V for Vendetta" was among his first major works, bringing to life a dystopian vision of the future that Moore would explore in depth throughout the 10-part series. Like "Swamp Thing," "V for Vendetta" was essentially a serial, though it was one of the writer's first forays into a more defined narrative.

Moore's most famous and well-renowned work is undoubtedly 1986's "Watchmen," which was originally released as a monthly 12-part series. Often cited as the "Citizen Kane" of comic books, Moore's complex work set a new standard in depth, sophistication and social awareness, altering the public perception of what a comic book could be.

At the same time that Miller was returning atmospheric brooding to the character of Batman (in "The Dark Knight Returns"), Moore was creating a startling well-conceived and executed work — "Watchmen" combines cross-media style (like fake newspaper clippings) and filmic tendencies in its complex, arching narrative. Each chapter is bookended by passages from everyone from Nietzsche to Bob Dylan to Einstein, demonstrating the breadth of Moore's cultural (and pop cultural) knowledge. "Watchmen" remains the gold standard of graphic novels, and remains a powerful and pertinent work two decades later.

Since then, Moore has worked on various projects. He has written stories featuring

mainstream characters like Batman ("The Killing Joke," a disturbing but insightful reinterpretation of the Joker's origin) and Superman ("Whatever Happened to the Man of Tomorrow?"). He has also released original pieces like "The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen," which casts various famous characters from literature as a superhero group.

His most substantial work since "Watchmen" is probably "From Hell," a heavily researched examination of Jack the Ripper. A massive work that runs well over 500 pages, "From Hell" is annotated throughout, demonstrating the depth of Moore's study.

Unfortunately, none of Moore's graphic novels have been satisfactorily been translated into a film version. Up until "V for Vendetta," the Hughes brothers' take on "From Hell," the 2001 film starring Johnny Depp, was probably the best of them. But even that film lacks the consistent narrative focus and depth of research evident throughout Moore's work.

Most egregious, however, was 2003's "The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen," directed by Steve Norrington and starring Sean Connery. Though the literary conceit and basic concept of the original graphic novel is present, much of the creativity and irony that Moore infused was stripped away in favor of standard summer blockbuster trappings.

Moore has since washed his hands of all film translations of his works, including "V for Vendetta." Since much of his early work is the property of DC Comics, he has little control over whether or not his work gets turned into films.

Unlike Miller — who was credited as a co-director on Robert Rodriguez's "Sin City" due to his hands-on involvement in the project — Moore dislikes and distrusts Hollywood, refusing to attend even the premieres of movies based on his work.

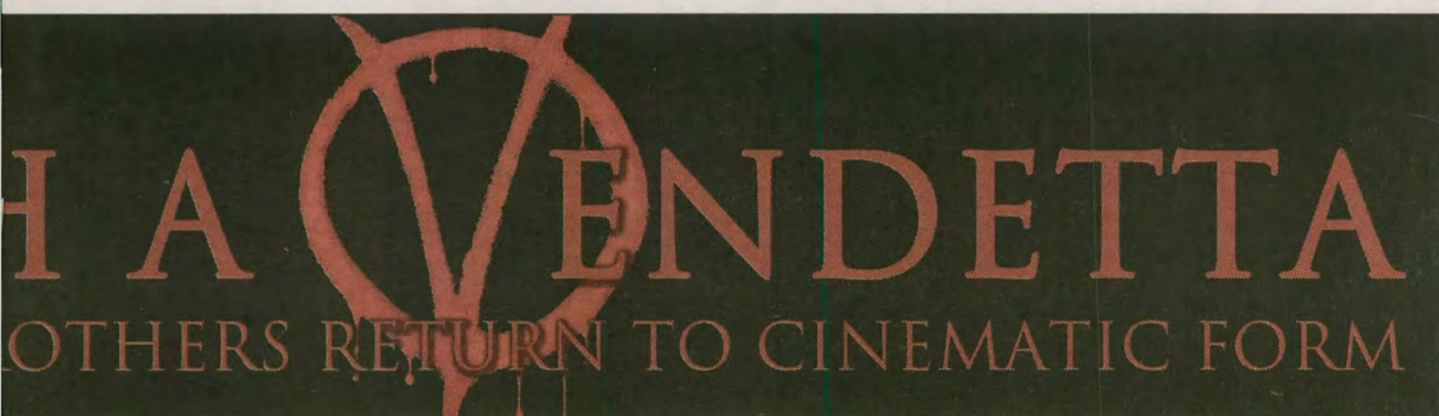
Regardless of his disinterest in Hollywood adaptations of his books, Moore remains one of the torchbearers of the modern graphic novel and one of the medium's most respected scribes.

Contact Brian Doxtader at
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See Also
"Scene Feature"
"V For Vendetta"
in Context



Life's a stage for V and this is his dressing room as envisioned by writer Alan Moore in the original 10-part graphic novel "V for Vendetta," published in 1981.



Graphics by GRAHAM EBETSCH/The Observer

MOVIE REVIEW

By RAMA GOTTUMUKKALA
Scene Critic

Imagine a world in which the most powerful country of its age, asks — nay, demands — complete obedience from its citizens. Strict curfews are under order every night.

“Those caught breaking curfew will be prosecuted without leniency or exception,” barks High Chancellor Adam Sutler, the totalitarian regime’s leader, over giant video screens and televisions wired into every home in the country.

This world is the reality faced by citizens of Great Britain in director James McTeigue’s “V for Vendetta,” a film architected by Larry and Andy Wachowski — the masterminds behind “The Matrix” and its two sequels. Based on a graphic novel of the same name written by Alan Moore, “V for Vendetta” offers a dark, dystopian vision of a corrupt government that wills its subjects to act, think and feel in line with their ruler’s iron fist.

In exchange, Sutler (John Hurt) and his underlings offer a land devoid of poverty, pestilence and crime for England’s civilians. But at least one Brit refuses to cooperate — a shadowy vigilante named V (Hugo Weaving). Garbed entirely in black save for his ghostly white, porcelain mask, he attacks government operations and recedes into the shadows. And each time V accomplishes his mysterious goals, Sutler counters with a flood of propaganda, attempting to cover up the truth behind the demolished buildings and hacked television signals.

But one fateful night, V meets his match when he rescues Evey Hammond (Natalie Portman) from the British secret police and takes her back to his lair. A timid but open-minded girl, Evey was orphaned as a young girl when her parents were murdered for speaking out against Sutler’s rising regime. Evey is perceptive enough to realize that the government is wrongly holding the freedoms of its people hostage. But she fears repercussions and remains mired in the only

world she knows — just like the rest of the English landscape.

As she struggles to stay afloat in V’s strange new world, Evey realizes there’s more to her savior than his expressionless mask. V is hardly a ruthless killer, though he will advance his one-man mutiny mission by any means necessary, in the words of Malcolm X. But will Evey — and in turn, the rest of the English people — open their eyes and consider him a freedom fighter? Or simply the dangerous terrorist vilified by Sutler’s media?

Perfectly cast as the two protagonists, Portman and Weaving both shine in their respective roles and share an undeniable chemistry. Portman’s character exudes intelligence and strength, yet maintains a naively innocent touch. This is her story as much as it is V’s, and she never once lets the audience forget that.

Easily one of her best roles, “V for Vendetta” is a milestone for a young actress that has already established herself at the forefront of her generation. Long gone is the wooden dialogue and awkwardness that plagued Portman in the “Star Wars” prequels. Given the right material, she proves herself just as capable in an intelligent blockbuster like “V for Vendetta” as she was in her quietly poignant role in Zach Braff’s “Garden State.”

Remarkably, Weaving channels every fiber of V’s emotionality solely through his powerful voice — and still manages to command every scene he appears in. The film never reveals V’s true face, trapping Weaving behind a fearsome version of a Greek comedy/tragedy mask. Fortunately, the script grants Weaving’s character plenty of meaty lines and he capitalizes on every opportunity.

In one segment early in the film, V launches into a conversational salvo, dropping every imaginable word beginning with the letter “v” into a string of prose to explain his presence and his motivations. It’s enough to make a lesser man’s head spin, but Weaving delivers it with such eloquence that the audience

can’t help but gawk and strain to make out every word of the speech.

Weaving’s V is charming, erudite and cultured in a country where conformity is the only valued attribute. He quotes Shakespeare, swashbuckles against a suit of armor while watching “The Count of Monte Cristo” and triumphantly plays the “1812 Overture” while blowing up a building — a renaissance man if there ever was one.

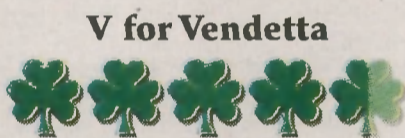
The Wachowski brothers’ screenplay has been deemed one of the closest interpretations of Moore’s 1988 graphic novel. Self-proclaimed fans of Moore’s work, the Wachowskis wrote a first draft of the script in the 1990s, before starting work on “The Matrix.” Several changes — mostly in the third act — have been made to the plot to update it for the early 21st century, as well as for purely dramatic reasons when translating the original story to the screen.

And while David Lloyd, the graphic novel illustrator, has voiced his support for the project, Moore has retreated and asked for his name to not appear in the film’s closing credits — just as he did for the overly commercialized interpretations of his previous works, including “From Hell” and “The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen.”

“V for Vendetta” was originally slated for a Nov. 5, 2005 release date, exactly 400 years to the day from Guy Fawkes’ plot to blow up Parliament. But it was pushed back, presumably to create some separation from the July London bombings. Although the film’s producers denied this speculation, controversy still surrounds the film’s apparent glorification of terrorist actions. It’s hard to watch the events unfold on screen without associating them with those of 9/11 or the London bombings.

But the Wachowskis and McTeigue — previously the first assistant director on “The Matrix” films — have succeeded in delivering a no-holds-barred, visceral film experience. “V for Vendetta” is thought-provoking and succeeds as much on the strength of its characters as its impressive set pieces — enough to be remembered as a rarity among modern action films.

Contact Rama Gottumukkala at
rgottumu@nd.edu



V for Vendetta

Director: James McTeigue
Writers: Andy and Larry Wachowski
Starring: Hugo Weaving, John Hurt, Natalie Portman and James Purefoy



MOORE AND THE MOVIES

From Hell (2001)

A well-intentioned effort from Albert and Allen Hughes and starring Johnny Depp and Heather Graham, this gothic horror film only marginally resembles the original graphic novel. Framed against real historical events, it follows Scotland Yard investigator Fred Abberline’s (Depp) search for the mysterious serial killer Jack the Ripper, though it lacks the rigorously researched evidence of Moore’s original.

The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen (2003)

Steve Norrington’s train wreck of an adventure film was a disappointment for casual and devoted fans alike. Though the original concept of literary characters as a superhero group is kept intact, poor plotting and pacing meant that even the presence of Sean Connery couldn’t save this one.

Constantine (2005)

Francis Lawrence’s horror-action hybrid starring Keanu Reeves was based on the character John Constantine, whom Moore created during his tenure writing “Swamp Thing.” Neither satisfying as a horror film nor as an action film, Moore disowned the picture, as he has done with all movies based on his work.

Watchmen (20--?)

“Watchmen” has a troubled production history. At one time sought by “Brazil” director Terry Gilliam, it eventually became attached to “Requiem for a Dream” director Darren Aronofsky. Aronofsky detached himself and the film rights were picked up by Paramount, director Paul Greengrass (“Bourne Supremacy”) and screenwriter David Hayter (“X2”). Paramount lost the rights to Warner Bros., who are forging ahead without Greengrass or Hayter. “V for Vendetta” director James McTeigue has expressed interest, though no director is currently attached.



Photo courtesy of vforvendetta.com

The shadowy vigilante V (Hugo Weaving) crosses swords with a dystopian government in the pursuit of liberty in “V for Vendetta.” Natalie Portman stars opposite Weaving as Evey Hammond, a woman sympathetic to his cause.

SCENE FEATURE

Cinematic crusaders leap from comic page to screen

By SEAN SWEANY
Scene Writer

Some of the most popular films and movie franchises of all time find their origins in comic books. When superheroes and villains leap from the comic page to the silver screen, stories develop that all can enjoy, whether they're comic fans or not.

Batman (1989)

This Tim Burton film is often described as cheesy, but it remains important because it ushered in the modern era of comic book films. Michael Keaton plays a respectable Batman, but Jack Nicholson's performance as the Joker makes this film truly memorable. The box office success of the caped crusader set the stage for numerous Batman sequels and sparked the genesis of many other comic book movies to take advantage of the new market. Burton's imagination keeps the proceedings enjoyable, and his talent at proceeding to life the varied aspects of the comic book world makes the film worth seeing.

X2: X-Men United (2003)

This adaptation of the Marvel Comics franchise is the second in the series, which concerns the struggle between mutants and humans. Director Bryan Singer crafted "X2" into a fine film by combining extraordinary fight scenes with an intelligent, coherent story. Well known characters like Wolverine and Professor X are well acted by Hugh Jackman and Patrick Stewart and a large group of supporting actors adds interesting subtleties and nuances to the complex story. "X2" stands out as a good

comic book film because it blends action and story into a serious movie, and because it prompts thought and discussion about treatment of those different from everybody else.

Sin City (2005)

An adaptation of Frank Miller's graphic novels, "Sin City" is a movie with a very distinct, violent style that is hard to forget. The movie has a large cast of talented actors, including Jessica Alba, Clive Owen, Benicio Del Toro, Bruce Willis, Mickey Rourke and Elijah Wood. The stories of all these characters intertwine almost seamlessly thanks to Frank Miller's writing and the directing abilities of Robert Rodriguez. Almost completely in black and white film except for certain moments, "Sin City" has such a unique style and method of storytelling that it becomes a must-see in the genre.

Batman Begins (2005)

The most recent Batman adaptation, this film depicts the Dark Knight in a different light for a new generation. Christian Bale gives a dark, troubled performance as Bruce Wayne and forces audiences to sympathize with the conditions that shape his path towards becoming Batman. Overall, this is a much darker film than any of the previous Batman installments and brings a serious, adult tone to the series. Director Christopher Nolan is already planning a sequel to follow the same lines of realism set forth in "Batman Begins."

Superman (1978)

This film version of the Man of Steel stands out as one of the great comic book movies of all time. Filmed in an era before



Photos courtesy of fantasfilm.com and sg.hu

Michael Keaton, left, first donned the cape and cowl in the original "Batman," (1989) while Christian Bale, right, starred in the prequel "Batman Begins" (2005).

digital effects, "Superman" withstands the test of time and remains a benchmark for the genre. Christopher Reeve put on one of the best superhero performances ever as both Clark Kent and Superman. Reeve became the face of Superman and embodied truth, justice and the American way for countless fans. "Superman" spawned three sequels starring Reeve and a new adaptation coming to theaters this summer.

Spider-Man (2002)

Rising above all the rest of the comic book films to set the bar for any future movies is "Spider-Man." This film gets it right on every level and is truly what a comic book film should be. Director Sam

Raimi gave attention to every detail to create a fantastical world for the comic book characters to inhabit. Tobey Maguire stars as Peter Parker/Spider-Man and earns the sympathy of the audience for the fate that befalls him. The film's slick combination of action, humor, drama, and tragedy leaves the audience craving more of the web-slinging hero.

These big screen versions of popular comic books are some of the most loved and successful movies. Films adapted from comic books will continue to dominate the box office, sparking the imaginations and inspirations of viewers both young and old.

Contact Sean Sweany at ssweany@nd.edu

'V FOR VENDETTA' IN CONTEXT

Remember, remember Fawkes day in November

By MARTY SCHROEDER
Scene Writer

The tagline for "V for Vendetta" implores moviegoers everywhere to, "Remember, remember the 5th of November." The 5th of November? As many American audiences have probably asked, "what happened on the 5th of November?" One only needs to look across the Atlantic Ocean to Great Britain to find the answer. The date celebrates a United Kingdom holiday known as Guy Fawkes Day.

The aforementioned holiday commemorates the day that Guy Fawkes and his band of conspirators attempted to blow up the Palace of Westminster, more commonly known as the Parliament building. The day chosen for this incendiary action was to take place on the official State Opening of Parliament in 1605. Not only would both the House of Commons and Lords be full, but the then King James I of England (VI of Scotland) would also be present.

This was Fawkes' way of protesting the Protestant religion of England and promoting his own Catholicism. But who was Guy Fawkes?

Fawkes was born in England in 1570 in York and, according to his interrogation after his capture in 1605, converted to Catholicism at the age of 16. He enlisted in the army of the Archduke of the Netherlands and fought in the Protestant United Provinces. During his career in the military, he gained experience in explosives. This knowledge — coupled with his general military experience — would allow him to become the main organizer behind what would come to

be known as the infamous "Gunpowder Plot."

This "Plot" was intended to blow up Parliament during its official opening. Fawkes, along with other English Catholics, was angry about the English government's persecution of Catholics in England and violence was their answer. The plan was to rent an undercroft below the House of Lords, place barrels of gunpowder in this room, wait for the State Opening and set off the gunpowder. Before their cover was blown, the group had placed 36 barrels of gunpowder in this room, which came in at an estimated 2.5 tons.

Obviously the plan did not work as expected — the Parliament building is still standing almost 400 years later. For fear that prominent Catholic politicians would be killed in the explosion, a conspirator notified Lord Montague — himself a Catholic — of the plot. Montague then told the then-Secretary of State Robert Cecil, setting off a search of the area. Fawkes was found nearby with a watch, matches and touchpaper. He was arrested, interrogated and finally hanged for treason and attempted regicide on Jan. 31, 1606.

The day of his arrest, Nov. 5, 1605 has since become a holiday celebrated in the UK, parts of Canada and other parts of the world. The day's festivities include some of the largest professional and amateur fireworks shows, accompanied by bonfires and the eating of bonfire toffee. Until recently, children used to go door to door before the 5th and ask for "a penny for the guy."

The holiday no longer has any political or sectarian motivations and every one in the UK joins in the celebrations as a chance to shoot fireworks and



GRAHAM EBETSCH/Observer Graphic

The Parliament building, shown above, was the object of Guy Fawkes' attempted bombing. The traditional British poem was written to commemorate the event.

revel with the rest of the country — in essence, much of the original meaning of the holiday has been lost.

V, Hugo Weaving's anti-hero in "V for Vendetta," operates within a similar mentality, as the now infamous Guy Fawkes. Violent action, in the mindsets of both V and Fawkes, is the only way to succeed in promoting their agendas — this obviously takes on a different context due to the current geo-political climate. Though it should be noted that "V for Vendetta" is a fictitious story

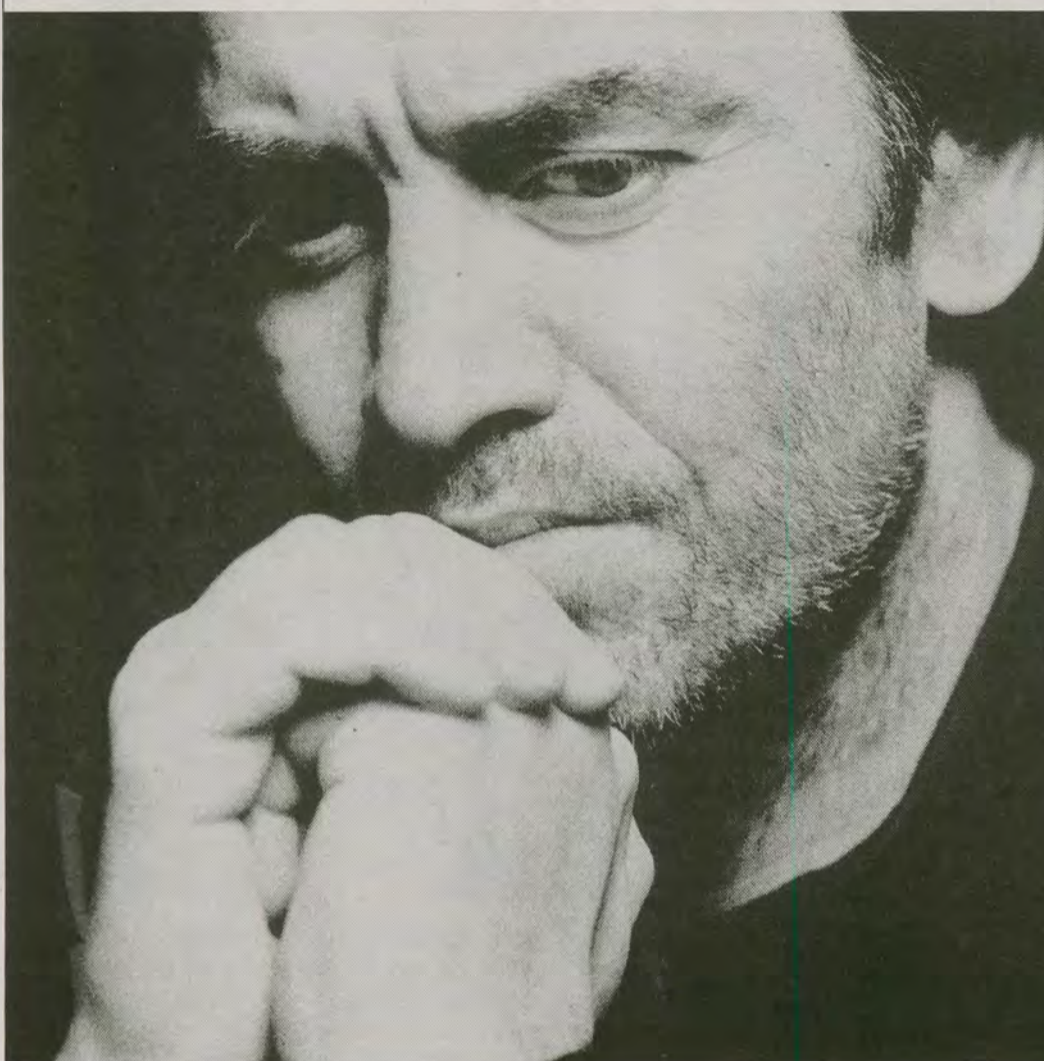
meant to be taken as entertainment, it still deals with complex socio-historical context.

As V implores people to "remember, remember, the fifth of November," so too should audiences remember the infamous day in 1605 — its importance resonates as strongly as ever four centuries later.

Contact Marty Schroeder at mschroel@nd.edu

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NBA

Timberwolves squelch Heat's 5-game winning streak

Double-doubles by Davis, Garnett lead Minnesota to 100-96 triumph; Shaq sits out contest due to sore thumb

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Ricky Davis had 26 points, a season-high 10 assists and seven rebounds Tuesday night to lead the Minnesota Timberwolves to victory over an undermanned Miami team, snapping the Heat's five-game winning streak.

Shaquille O'Neal was held out because of the sore right thumb he injured on a dunk attempt Sunday night and missed a physical game featuring 48 total fouls.

Kevin Garnett had 23 points and 11 rebounds for Minnesota, which has won two straight games. Marko Jaric, Marcus Banks and Mark Blount each scored 12 points.

New York 114, Toronto 109

In a season where little has gone right, chalk up one huge wrong for the New York Knicks.

Rookie Channing Frye left the Knicks' loss to the Toronto Raptors on Tuesday night with a sprained left knee ligament — an injury caused when teammate Nate Robinson seemed to knock Andre Barrett into him.

Barrett was racing upcourt with the ball with a little more than 9 1/2 minutes left when Robinson, chasing him from behind, appeared to try to swipe the ball away. Barrett lost his balance and fell into Frye's left leg.

New Jersey 112 Washington 100

Richard Jefferson scored 21 of his 27 points after halftime, and the New Jersey Nets broke open a tight game in the fourth quarter, beating the Washington Wizards on Tuesday night for their sixth consecutive victory.

Jefferson shot 11-for-15 overall, including 4-for-4 in the final period when New Jersey outscored Washington 41-30. That's the most points the Wizards have allowed in a quarter this season.

Vince Carter scored 28 points — topping 20 for the 11th game in a row — while Jason Kidd had 14 points, nine assists and seven rebounds in his matchup with Washington's All-Star point guard, Gilbert Arenas.

New Orleans 120 LA Clippers 108

Rasual Butler scored a career-high 32 points, hitting seven 3-pointers, and the New Orleans Hornets snapped an eight-game losing streak with a victory over the Los Angeles Clippers on Tuesday night.

New Orleans hit 12 3-pointers in all, the last at the final buzzer when Butler heaved the ball at the hoop in celebration and it went in.

Butler shot well from the outset, hitting seven of his first 11 shots, including three from long range, to help the Hornets take a 63-49 lead at halftime.

Charlotte 108, Orlando 102

After the Orlando Magic set a dubious team record, coach Brian Hill indicated changes could be on the way.

Gerald Wallace scored 27 points and the Charlotte Bobcats sent the Magic to their team-record 16th straight road loss with a victory on Tuesday night.

Raymond Felton added 16 points and 13 assists and Primož Brezec scored 22 for the second-year Bobcats, who snapped a four-game losing streak and won their 19th game, one more than all of last year.

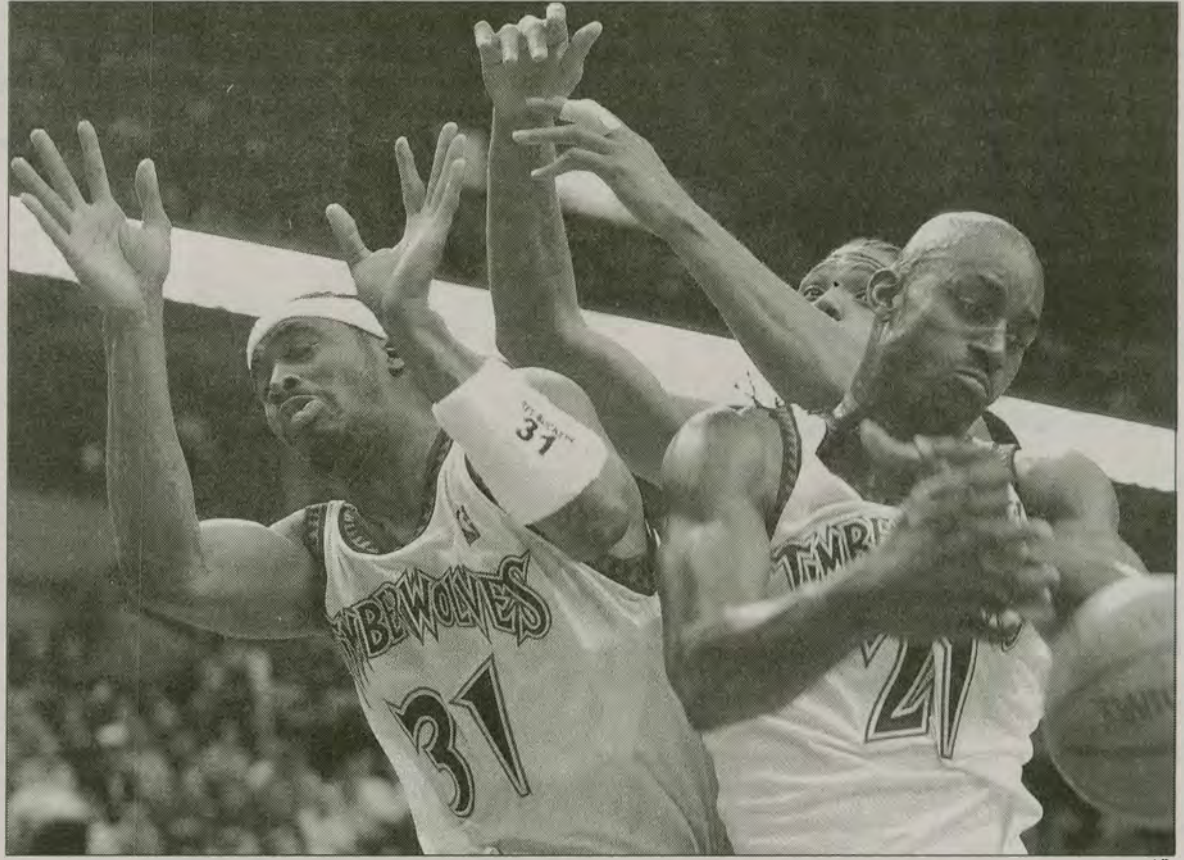
Hedo Turkoglu scored 24 points and Dwight Howard had 17 points and 15 rebounds for the Magic, who never led. Orlando, which hasn't won on the road since Jan. 26 at Philadelphia, broke the team record for consecutive road defeats set in the 1989-90 season.

Dallas 88, Houston 72

Dirk Nowitzki scored 28 points and the Dallas Mavericks harassed Yao Ming into his worst game in a month in victory over the Houston Rockets on Tuesday night.

The Mavericks rebounded from an 11-point loss in New Jersey and a slow start to break the game open in the second quarter. They were hardly challenged again, easily capping a season sweep over a team that took them seven games in the first round of last year's playoffs.

Dallas won for the fourth time in five games to remain no worse than a half-game behind San Antonio for the best record in the Western Conference. The



Minnesota guard Rickey Davis, left, and forward Kevin Garnett, right, battle Miami forward Udonis Haslem for a rebound during the second quarter of the Timberwolves' 100-96 victory Tuesday in Minneapolis.

Spurs were at home against Golden State on Tuesday night.

Houston barely surpassed its season low of 70 points while losing its sixth straight since a four-game winning streak. The Rockets struggled so badly that they never even scored on three straight possessions.

Memphis 105, Indiana 75

Pau Gasol had 23 points, eight rebounds and seven assists to help the Memphis Grizzlies beat the Indiana Pacers Tuesday night.

Six players scored in double figures for the Grizzlies, who won their fourth straight game. Memphis increased its lead to double digits in the second quarter and led 84-60 after three quarters.

Jeff Foster and Anthony Johnson each scored 15 points for the Pacers, who had only three points in the first 8 minutes of the fourth quarter. Peja Stojakovic and David Harrison had 13 points and 11 rebounds apiece.

The Grizzlies closed out the first half with an 8-0 run to take a 50-36 lead at the break. Gasol, who had 10 points in the

half, finished off the surge with a tip-in with 19 seconds left.

San Antonio 107 Golden State 96

Tony Parker scored 29 and Tim Duncan had 21 points and 13 rebounds to lead the San Antonio Spurs to victory over Golden State on Tuesday night.

San Antonio has a half-game lead over Dallas in the Southwest Division and owns the best record in the Western Conference.

Derek Fisher scored 27 points to lead the Warriors, who have lost 15 of 17 road games.

Spurs coach Gregg Popovich drew two quick technical fouls and was ejected by referee Scott Foster for arguing and leaving the bench area 4:54 into the second half. Foster also called a technical on Duncan, which led to a 63-58 lead for the Warriors with 5:59 left in the third quarter.

Sacramento 105, Seattle 96

Ron Artest scored a season-high 34 points and the Sacramento Kings beat the Seattle SuperSonics Tuesday

night for their 14th straight home win.

The Kings' home-winning streak is the second longest in franchise history. Since Artest joined the team in late January, the Kings are 11-0 at home with him in the lineup and 16-9 overall.

Artest made 10 of 18 shots, hit 11 of 15 free throws and added eight rebounds and six assists.

Utah 107, Phoenix 99

Andrei Kirilenko had 22 points, a career-high 18 rebounds and blocked four shots in the second half as the Utah Jazz rallied from a 15-point deficit to beat the Phoenix Suns Tuesday night.

Deron Williams finished with 17 points and 11 assists and Carlos Boozer and Mehmet Okur also had double-doubles for the Jazz, who avoided a season sweep by the Suns.

Steve Nash had 20 points and 10 assists to lead the Suns.

Phoenix was just 12-for-46 from the floor in the second half and lost consecutive games for the first time in almost two months.

CLASSIFIEDS

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

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I think Bigfoot is blurry, that's the problem. It's not the photographer's fault. Bigfoot is blurry. And that's extra scary to me, because there's a large, out-of-focus monster roaming the countryside. "Run. He's fuzzy. Get outta here."

I had a stick of Carefree gum, but it didn't work. I felt pretty good while I was blowing that bubble, but as soon as the gum lost its flavor, I was back to pondering my mortality.

What the Deuce? Air Pump and WC. Nat's what I'm talking about.

Upside down stool

AROUND THE NATION

Wednesday, March 22, 2006

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

page 17

NBA Standings

Eastern Conference, Atlantic Division

team	record	pct.	GB
New Jersey	37-28	.569	-
Philadelphia	31-35	.470	6.5
Boston	28-40	.412	10.5
Toronto	24-42	.364	13.5
New York	19-46	.292	18

Eastern Conference, Central Division

team	record	pct.	GB
Detroit	53-13	.803	-
Cleveland	38-29	.567	15.5
Indiana	33-31	.516	19
Milwaukee	34-33	.507	19.5
Chicago	29-38	.433	24.5

Eastern Conference, Southeast Division

team	record	pct.	GB
Miami	45-21	.682	-
Washington	34-31	.523	10.5
Orlando	24-42	.364	21
Atlanta	21-44	.323	23.5
Charlotte	18-49	.269	27.5

Western Conference, Northwest Division

team	record	pct.	GB
Denver	38-30	.559	-
Utah	31-35	.470	6
Minnesota	27-39	.409	10
Seattle	26-39	.400	10.5
Portland	20-47	.299	17.5

Western Conference, Pacific Division

team	record	pct.	GB
Phoenix	45-20	.692	-
LA Clippers	39-26	.600	6
LA Lakers	35-34	.507	12
Sacramento	33-33	.500	12.5
Golden State	28-37	.431	17

Western Conference, Southwest Division

team	record	pct.	GB
San Antonio	52-14	.788	-
Dallas	52-15	.776	0.5
Memphis	37-29	.561	15
New Orleans	31-33	.484	20
Houston	29-38	.433	23.5

NCAA Men's Lacrosse Geico/STX Coaches Poll

team	record	previous
1 Johns Hopkins	12-0	1
2 Duke	14-2	2
3 Navy	11-3	4
4 Maryland	9-5	6
5 Cornell	10-2	3
6 Virginia	9-3	5
7 Massachusetts	12-2	8
8 Georgetown	9-4	7
9 Syracuse	7-5	9
10 Towson	11-4	11
11 Penn State	9-5	15
12 Army	11-5	10
13 Albany	10-5	T17
14 Dartmouth	8-4	13
15 Fairfield	11-4	T17
16 Delaware	11-5	16
17 Bucknell	8-5	14
18 Denver	9-5	12
19 NOTRE DAME	7-4	NR
20 Hofstra	8-8	19

around the dial

NBA

Miami at Detroit, 8 p.m., ESPN
Sacramento at Lakers, 10:30 p.m., ESPN

NFL



Adam Vinatieri, right, signs autographs following Patriots training camp practice in Smithfield, R.I., in this Friday, July 26, 2002 photo. Vinatieri agreed in principle to a deal with Indianapolis according to sources close to the Colts.

Vinatieri close to signing with Colts

Associated Press

The Indianapolis Colts are switching from the NFL's most accurate kicker to the best in the clutch.

Taking a key piece from its rival New England, Indianapolis agreed in principle to a deal with Adam Vinatieri, a person close to the Colts said Tuesday night. Vinatieri, who twice hit winning kicks in the Super Bowl for the Patriots, replaces former Pro Bowl kicker Mike Vanderjagt.

Terms of the deal were not immediately available.

The source confirmed the signing with the AP on

condition of anonymity because an official announcement had not yet been made. Messages left with the Patriots and agents for Vinatieri by The Associated Press were not immediately returned Tuesday night.

The Patriots allowed Vinatieri to test free agency rather than putting a franchise designation on him, which would have cost the team \$3 million next season.

"It just didn't feel like the right thing to do," coach Bill Belichick said last week at the NFL Combine in Indianapolis. "We considered all our options and decided not to

tag anybody."

Vinatieri, 33, had been named the team's franchise player twice, including last year, when he was paid \$2.5 million.

Vanderjagt spent all eight of his NFL seasons with the Colts after playing in the Canadian Football League. He scored a franchise record 995 points and made 217 career field goals in 248 attempts, the highest accuracy rate (87.5) in league history.

In 2003, Vanderjagt made all 37 of his field goal attempts, all 46 of his extra point attempts and set the NFL record by extending his consecutive

field goals streak to 42.

But twice in his career he missed critical field goals in the playoffs. In January, he badly missed a 46-yarder in the closing seconds, which would have forced overtime with eventual Super Bowl champion Pittsburgh.

At Miami, in January 2000, he missed a 49-yarder wide right that would have won the game and sent the Colts into the second round of the playoffs.

Team president Bill Polian acknowledged last month it was unlikely the Colts would re-sign Vanderjagt, an unrestricted free agent.

IN BRIEF

Iowa State hires McDermott as new hoops coach

AMES, Iowa — Northern Iowa coach Greg McDermott was hired Tuesday by Iowa State, jumping from the Missouri Valley Conference to the Big 12 after three straight NCAA tournament appearances with the Panthers.

McDermott, 41, was at Northern Iowa for five seasons. Before his arrival in 2001, Northern Iowa had made one appearance in the Division I NCAA tournament.

McDermott replaces Wayne Morgan, who was fired Friday after the Cyclones missed the postseason with a 16-14 record. The terms of McDermott's contract were not immediately available.

Iowa State athletic director Jamie Pollard interviewed two candidates: Wisconsin-Milwaukee's Rob Jeter and McDermott.

McDermott is a native of Cascade, Iowa, and played at Northern Iowa.

Abraham sent to Falcons in three team trade

NEW YORK — John Abraham finally got what he wanted Tuesday night when the Jets traded the Pro Bowl defensive end to the Atlanta Falcons in a three-way deal with Denver.

The Broncos had to get involved for the much-anticipated trade to finally take place. Denver and Atlanta swapped No. 1 picks, with the Broncos getting the 15th overall selection and the Falcons getting pick 29. Then the Falcons sent that pick to the Jets in exchange for Abraham, the player's agent told The Associated Press.

Atlanta also got middle-round picks in 2006 and 2007.

The Jets had placed the franchise tag on Abraham for the second straight year. Both sides made it clear they wanted to part ways.

Last week, the Jets and Falcons started working on a trade, but Atlanta was only willing to give up a second-round pick.

Germany anxious to take on the U.S.

DORTMUND, Germany (AP) - It's only an exhibition soccer match, with the undermanned United States squad as the opponent.

Still, Germany is filled with angst.

German fans, stinging from a 4-1 loss to Italy, are antsy heading into Wednesday's World Cup warmup against the Americans. So Germany coach Juergen Klinsmann and his players — who have been heavily criticized on several fronts — are treating the game in bumblebee-colored Signal Iduna Park as more than a prep match.

"It's a very important game for us," said German forward Michael Ballack, who scored the goal that eliminated the United States from the 2002 tournament. "It's a decisive game for our confidence, for the mood in the team."

NCAA WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

Eagles oust first No. 1 seed in second round of tournament

Dorsey hits six three-pointers, matches BC record in NCAA play

Associated Press

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. — Boston College made Ohio State the first No. 1 seed to exit the NCAA women's tournament.

Kindyll Dorsey set a school record for an NCAA tournament game by hitting six 3-pointers and finished with 24 points, leading eighth-seeded Boston College to a 79-69 second-round upset of top-seeded Ohio State.

It was the biggest surprise of the tournament as the Buckeyes (29-3), a much-debated pick for the No. 1 seed, became the first top-seed to lose in the second round since Texas Tech in 1998.

Despite getting 21 points and seven rebounds from Big Ten player of the year Jessica Davenport, Ohio State fell one win short of tying the school record for wins in a season.

The Big Ten regular-season and tournament champs also saw the nation's longest winning streak end at 20 in the same venue the Buckeyes have endured much misery over the past 12 years — Mackey Arena.

Georgia 73, Hartford 54

Sherill Baker scored 26 points and Tasha Humphrey had 24, helping Georgia blow the game open in the second half to defeat Hartford Tuesday night in the second round of the Bridgeport regional.

Humphrey had 17 rebounds for No. 3 seed Georgia (23-8), which reached the round of 16 for the 16th time in 23 NCAA appearances.

The Bulldogs will face either second-seeded Connecticut or No. 7 seed Virginia Tech, who played later Tuesday.

The inside-outside combination of the 6-foot-3 Humphrey and the 5-8 Baker was too much for No. 11 seed Hartford (27-4), which had upset No. 6 seed Temple Sunday for the first NCAA tournament win in school history. Erica Beverly led the Hawks with 13 points.

Tennessee 66

George Washington 53

Candace Parker showed she doesn't have to dunk to be dazzling, and Tennessee is heading to the regional semifinals for the 25th straight year.

Shanna Zolman scored 19 points and Parker had 15, and the No. 6 Lady Vols started fast and led throughout in victory over George Washington on Tuesday night.

Tennessee advanced to the semifinals of the Cleveland Regional against Rutgers or TCU.

The Lady Vols (30-4) also reached 30 victories for the 16th time in Pat Summitt's 32 years as coach, and looked like contenders for a seventh national championship.

Purdue 61, UCLA 54

UCLA's high-scoring offense couldn't produce when it mattered most.

The Bruins were held to one point in the final 7:21 as Purdue defeated UCLA in the second round of the NCAA women's tournament on Tuesday night.

UCLA, ranked in the top 10

nationally in scoring offense, set a season low in points and tied a season low by shooting 32.3 percent from the field.

Its self-titled triple threat backcourt of Noelle Quinn, Nikki Blue and Lisa Willis shot a combined 16-for-49 as Purdue snapped the Bruins' six-game winning streak.

Maryland 81, St. John's 74

Crystal Langhorne and Maryland couldn't shake St. John's until the final minutes of the game.

Langhorne capped a 30-point effort with two late inside baskets and St. John's went cold from the field as the second-seeded Terps defeated No. 7 seed St. John's Tuesday night in the second round of the NCAA tournament.

The Terps (30-4) advanced to the regional semifinals after losing in the second round the previous two seasons thanks in large part to Langhorne, who also had nine rebounds. Maryland will play defending champion Baylor in the Albuquerque Regional.

Rutgers 82, TCU 48

Cappie Pondexter scored 24 points to lead Rutgers to victory over TCU in the second round of the Cleveland Regional on Tuesday night.

Matee Ajavon led four other players in double figures with 18 points and also had 13 assists for No. 3 seed Rutgers (27-4), which will face Tennessee on Sunday.

The second-seeded Vols, who defeated George Washington earlier Tuesday, beat Rutgers by 10 points in last year's regional final in Philadelphia.

Rutgers' win was the 750th for coach C. Vivian Stringer in her 1,000th game spanning 34 years at Cheyney State, Iowa and Rutgers.

Duke 85, USC 51

If a second consecutive blowout win is any indication, No. 4 Duke seems to have solved any confidence issues it brought to the postseason.

Alison Bales scored a career-high 22 points and blocked six shots and the top-seeded Blue Devils took command early

against Southern California, on their way to victory in the second round of the women's NCAA tournament.

Monique Currie added 14 points, nine rebounds and four assists for Duke, and fellow senior Mistie Williams had nine points and eight rebounds. Both rested plenty.

Eshaya Murphy led Southern Cal with 16 points and Chloe Kerr had 13. The Women of Troy shot just 30 percent and missed 17 of their 20 3-point attempts.

**Connecticut 79
Virginia Tech 56**

Connecticut's star seniors came up big to get the Huskies back to the NCAA regional semifinals in a familiar place: back in their home state.

Ann Strother had 22 points and six 3-pointers, and Barbara Turner dominated inside with 18 points and 16 rebounds as the second-seeded Huskies routed No. 7 seeded Virginia Tech 79-56 on Tuesday night in the second round of the NCAA tournament.

The win sends the Huskies (31-4) into the regional semifinals for a 14th straight season. UConn stands a good shot at getting to a ninth Final Four because the Huskies will play their next game, against Georgia, in Bridgeport, Conn., about a 90-minute drive from the UConn campus in Storrs.

UConn led by double digits for most of the game thanks to a pivotal 20-2 run in the first half that included three 3-pointers, and seven turnovers by Virginia Tech.

Wednesday, March 22


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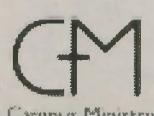
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SMC GOLF

Defending conference champs tee off season

Mattia caps with final round 74, places 20th overall in tournament

By BECKI DORNER
Sports Writer

The Saint Mary's golf team shot a final round 339 to finish 13th this past weekend at the Shamrock Invitational hosted by Winthrop University.

The tourney, which took place at the Par 72, 5842 yard Tega Cay Country Club in South Carolina, was the first of six spring events for the Belles, who won the 2005 MIAA championship during the fall season with an average of 342.6 and placed sixth in last year's NCAA Championships.

Elon's Samantha Widmer shot an individual best 228 (+12) in the 72-player field, leading Elon to the overall team victory with a combined score of 934 (+70).

The Belles' Megan Mattia shot a team best 243 with rounds of 82, 87 and a low round of two-over par 74 to finish tied for 20th in the three-round event.

"[Mattia's performance was] the finest round I have ever seen a Saint Mary's player have when considering the conditions and time of year," coach Mark Hamilton said.

Mattia was named MVP of the entire MIAA League in the fall for her third all-conference appointment.

Nicole Bellino, Kirsten Fantom and Katie O'Brien were named to the all-MIAA

second team as well.

Despite a below average result for the team based on past performances, Hamilton acknowledged the strength of the rest of the field.

"The competition level was high," Hamilton said, noting that quite a few of the teams were in Division I. "The golf course was very penal. Once we got comfortable and figured out how to attack the course we played much better."

One individual who displayed marked improvement over the course of the tournament was Bellino, whose 81 on the third day earned her 50th place — the second highest finish for the Belles.

The Belles' next contest is a dual meet versus Northern Kentucky this weekend at NKU's home track Perry Park Golf Course, a long par 72.

Hamilton stressed the need for the team to work on its short game, especially green-side play. This is one aspect of their game that the Belles have not been able to work on thus far due to the recent cold weather.

Mattia, one of four graduating seniors joined by Bellino, Fantom and McQueen, emphasized the need for the team to have the "confidence to go out and perform the way we know that we can."

The seniors hope that confidence helps them perform well enough to earn the Belles' fourth consecutive berth to the May NCAA Championships in Orlando.

"[Mattia's performance was] the finest round I have ever seen a Saint Mary's player have when considering the conditions and time of year."

Mark Hamilton
Saint Mary's head coach

Contact Becki Dorner at
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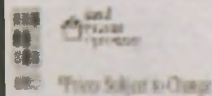
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Media

continued from page 24

new restrictions for media covering Notre Dame sports.

Notre Dame assistant athletic director John Heisler called the policy change part of a larger plan to increase the quality and traffic of Notre Dame's official athletics Web site.

But Jack Freeman, publisher of IrishIllustrated.com, saw the policy change differently.

"Their issue is that ... Irish Illustrated is making money by showing this, and [Notre Dame] wants to make money by showing this, too," Freeman said.

On both IrishIllustrated.com and IrishEyes.com, a member of the Scout.com recruiting network, most videos are limited to only those users who pay a monthly or annual fee.

Subscribers to both IrishIllustrated.com and IrishEyes.com pay \$99.95 a year or \$9.95 a month. Freeman said the athletic department was trying to direct traffic away from his and other Web sites toward the official Notre Dame site (und.com), which offers viewers an "All-Access Pass" for \$6.95 a month that allows subscribers live streaming video and audio of Notre Dame sporting events.

At issue specifically is the emergence of recruiting Web sites that record entire press conferences and offer them to subscribers on the Internet, Heisler said. Now, those same sites will be limited to three minutes of "highlights" of all Notre Dame athletics press conferences, including Weis' press conferences that occur three times per week during football season.

Heisler said the move was less about public relations in regard to potential recruits and the recruiting sites and more about the University's rights to

the press conferences.

"I'm not sure we think that people should just be able to come in and copy and essentially duplicate any sort of a press conference and just throw it up [on the Internet]," Heisler said. "There ought to be some journalism involved here."

The athletic department released notice to media Jan. 31 — prior to national signing day — that there would be new restrictions on the ability of recruiting Web sites and traditional media outlets to reproduce videos and transcripts of Irish press conferences. Tuesday's annual spring football media day was the first major press event since national signing day.

"Any media entity collecting any sort of video or audio materials ... from University of Notre Dame Athletics press conference events may use that material only within a seven-day period following the event ... with a limitation of up to three minutes in length from any single event," the Jan. 31 statement said.

Response

The statement sparked criticism and concern among members of the Internet media who cover the press conferences, who feel their subscribers will miss out on important and relevant information.

"We're disappointed that they're not allowing all their fans to watch [the press conferences] on our site," said Freeman, whose site began uploading Weis' press conferences in 2005. "The second thing is, it sort of strikes me as a bad PR move on Notre Dame's part because they're limiting putting out one of their greatest spokesmen, Charlie Weis, in front of recruits and fans on our site."

But if the video is available on und.com, as Heisler said may happen, Notre Dame will be able to profit from the video as well as offering it to Irish fans.

Heisler said the University likely will not enforce the seven-day rule, but it specifically wants to apply the rules governing the broadcast rights television stations withhold to Notre Dame press conferences.

"Our feeling is in the same sense NBC has some rights to our football games in the video end, I don't know if that's any

different for a thing like a press conference," Heisler said. "That's kind of a Notre Dame event; it's a Notre Dame athletic event. ... There may be some rights issues in these things that nobody ever really thought of before."

He said full video of one-on-one interviews with players and coaches are exempt from the new limitations.

Mike Frank, who runs IrishEyes.com, the first site to offer video downloads of press conferences in 2004, said he understands where the University is coming from, as press conference clips have become a staple in sports journalism and on recruiting Web sites.

"I think like everybody, you're a little disappointed; but at the same time, I fully understand why they did it," Frank said. "I tend to agree with him [on extending the principle of the 3-minute rule to the press conferences]."

Freeman saw the issue differently. "Prior to this change in policy, they were selling access to ... sporting events," Freeman said, referring to the "All Access Pass" on und.com that allows subscribers to watch live streams of Irish sports games in conjunction with College Sports Television Network. "Now they're taking a press conference to essentially a news gathering event. And I think that's what the problem is. ... I think on one hand limiting access to a sporting event is fine obviously once the policy is in place, but a news event or a press conference, I can't agree with applying the same logic."

Heisler said the athletic department focused on the competition between und.com and other Web sites when making the decision.

"With these other events, there's a commodity of some sort," Heisler said. "We're running a Web site as well, so we would like to drive traffic there. Our feeling is, particularly in terms of a press conference, ... everybody is welcome to cover it, but if you want to see the full-blown transcription or if you want to watch the whole thing, then our site ought to be the place to find that."

Frank said the athletic department is probably implementing a policy that many schools eventually will.

"Notre Dame is probably just thinking ahead of the curve on this, and pretty soon you're going to see [most other colleges] doing something very, very similar — because [press conference video] is a product, and it's a good product."

Freeman said he did not know of other schools that had a similar policy but figured many would follow suit.

Kenny Mossman, associate athletic director for communications at Oklahoma, said that his department has limited what recruiting Web sites can and cannot reproduce from press conferences for over a year.

"Like Notre Dame, we need to protect our media rights," he said in a telephone interview

with The Observer. "I think you have to stay ahead of the curve."

Unlike Notre Dame and several other schools, however, Mossman said Oklahoma does not view recruiting Web sites in the same light as traditional print, television and radio media.

Justin Dougherty, director of sports information at the University of Wisconsin said Wisconsin classifies the recruiting Web sites in the same category as newspapers and television stations.

"Those organizations cover our football programs on a regular basis, they cover our home games, travel [to away games], and interview our players," Dougherty said. "I view them as a legitimate media outlet in that regard."

Dougherty said no television stations or Web sites have attempted to record and distribute entire press conferences, but he expects that might change in the future.

"It hasn't been an issue here," he said. "The conversation hasn't even taken place."

Wisconsin's situation is similar to that of Boston College. Chris

Cameron, associate athletics director for media relations at Boston College, said the issue has not arisen there either and that his staff has not discussed the possible ramifications of Web sites redistributing entire press conferences.

"The Internet has created both new opportunities and challenges for everyone in intercollegiate athletics," Cameron said in an e-mail. "I'm sure the Notre Dame staff has been challenged more than most. We all must re-evaluate our priorities and policies from time to time. The ND staff has to do what they feel is in the best interest of the program."

At Southern California, the athletic department has not had to deal with recruiting Web sites recording video of press conferences, but sports information director Tim Tesselone said the school has a general policy in place.

"With the institutional Web sites and premium services, a lot of the content that goes up there is press conference [material]," Tesselone said.

Whereas Notre Dame's new policy prohibits re-broadcasting but allows for live feeds with the written consent of the athletic department, Tesselone said USC might ban both. He said Southern California often has small portions of football press conferences broadcast live on channels run by ESPN, but the issue of full broadcasts has not arisen.

"If someone wanted to do the whole press conference live, I think we would have an issue with that," he said. "That's why we put it up on our Web site on a live stream."

Freeman said he worries that Notre Dame's policy may become the standard across the NCAA.

"I think if Notre Dame is successful in generating revenues from this, people will jump on it," he said.

Tesselone did not say if Notre Dame's case would be used as a precedent, but he did predict

other universities to institute similar policies.

"What Notre Dame is doing makes perfect sense," he said. "What Notre Dame is doing is what I expect a lot of places to do in the future."

Decision-making process

Freeman said he agreed and worried that other schools will follow suit because of his doubts about the legal logic behind the policy change.

Heisler said the athletic department did not consult with University lawyers specifically about this issue but based its decision on past discussions between colleges and the legal field over the issue of protected content.

"There's an awful lot of people who are more experts from the legal end and the rights end that are sort of telling institutions that historically we haven't done a good enough job at protecting our own rights to certain things," he said.

Heisler said Notre Dame has worked mainly with Collegiate Images, a Florida-based company whose objective is to become a clearinghouse of photographs and video from collegiate athletic events, in regard to issues of legality and rights.

"They have helped us extensively as far as some of the language [we use] to make it clear what ability you have to use material that you obtain at a game," Heisler said. "We wrote it, and we ran it past them just to ask for some advice. It was more a matter of just trying to set the table and figure out how we can work this out."

Freeman said he will continue to produce full video of player interviews and clips from spring practices, as well as abridged versions of the press conferences.

"I don't think it's every opportunity for us that's being taken away; it's mainly just those press conferences," he said. "We'll also be able to videotape our interviews we have with players, and so as long as we are able to do some of those things, I think that's a good thing."

Heisler said those videos are not being restricted because the athletic department was mainly concerned with the unabridged nature of the press conference videos.

"I think we're looking at mostly the large settings, especially with Charlie Weis," Heisler said. "Those are the things we were seeing pop up in their entirety."

"These guys who are doing a one-on-one interview with somebody, we're not worried about that. That's their own enterprise."

Though he disagrees with the policy, Freeman said IrishIllustrated.com will continue to work in good spirit with the athletic department.

"We've expressed concerns, and we understand the policy," Freeman said. "We fully intend, of course to go along with those policies."

Freeman said he did not know of other schools that had a similar policy but figured many would follow suit.

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ND WOMEN'S SWIMMING

Irish squad unlucky in NCAAs

Swimmers battle injuries and tough competition in tournament

By GREG ARBOGAST
Sports Writer

There was no extra luck for the Irish on St. Patrick's Day when they competed in the NCAA championships held in Athens, Ga. from March 16-18.

On the famed Irish holiday, two of the team's three swimmers who qualified for the championships, junior Katie Carroll and freshman Claire Hutchinson, fell victim to a virus that spread throughout multiple teams at the tournament. It couldn't have come at a worse time for Notre Dame.

Carroll was forced to swim two of her three events, including her best event — the 400-meter IM — under the influence of the virus. Carroll was a favorite to earn All-America honors in the 400-meter IM and with good reason as she held the fifth seeded time in preliminaries. The effect of the sickness was obvious, however, as Carroll's final time was over 16 seconds slower than her preliminary time, dropping her all the way to 38th place.

"To train all year for one event and then get so sick the night before was really frustrating," Carroll said. "It was frustrating knowing that going into the event I wouldn't be able to perform at my best. It was tough not just for me, but it was tough because I didn't represent the school as best I could."

Carroll did not walk away from the event empty handed as she garnered All-America honorable mention honors, her third straight year to earn at least All-America honorable mention. Thursday evening, Carroll finished the 200-meter IM in 13th place with a time of 2:00.48, the fastest time in school history on a yard-measured course. Carroll also earned All-America honors in the 200-meter IM when she finished in 14th place in 2005 and ninth place in 2004.

Hutchinson, competing in her first ever NCAA championships, was also forced to swim two of her three events after she got sick. After finishing 38th in the 500-meter freestyle on Thursday evening with a time of 4:51.91, only .16 seconds behind her season best, Hutchinson competed in both the 400-meter IM and 1,650-meter freestyle while under the weather. Hutchinson, however, did not let the virus stop her from posting the sixth fastest time in school history in the 1,650-meter freestyle as she took 25th place with a time of 16:34.92.

"The virus affected the girls tremendously," coach Carrie Nixon said. "Katie had a shot to win the whole thing, and for her to come out 13 seconds slower is devastating especially because her focus all year has been on that event. As for Claire, for her to turn around on Saturday [in the 1,650-meter freestyle] and swim so well

was amazing."

Although it was clear that the virus affected Carroll and Hutchinson's performance, both swimmers showed their desire and toughness just by competing on Friday and Saturday. After spending Friday afternoon in the hospital, the two swimmers returned Friday evening to finish their events. Carroll and Hutchinson were the only swimmers affected by the virus to get in the pool on Friday and Saturday.

"Tough is the perfect word to describe what they did, and it really shows the quality of their character," Nixon said. "It was a very inspiring thing, and it got a lot of compliments from other coaches and swimmers."

Julia Quinn, the only Irish swimmer not affected by the

virus, turned in an impressive performance as she finished in 20th place in the 200-meter breast stroke with a time of 2:15.24. Her time was the seventh fastest for the event in school history and just off her season best time of 2:14.27. Quinn also finished in 33rd in the 100-meter breast stroke with a time of 1:03.63.

Although Notre Dame was hoping for a better performance at last week's NCAA championships, they walk away from it knowing they can improve and are motivated to show just that.

"We're capable of so much more than we showed last weekend," Carroll said. "I think we're going to show a lot of people that next year."

Contact Greg Arbogast at garbogas@nd.edu

Lacrosse

continued from page 24

Wildcat standouts included Lindsey Munday, who had two goals and five assists, Aly Josephs, who scored six goals, and Kristen Kjellman, who added four goals and two assists for Northwestern.

The goalies on both sides of the ball, Irish keeper Carol Dixon and the Wildcats' Morgan Lathrop, had stellar performances, with 12 and six saves, respectively.

Senior attack Crysti Foote extended her scoring streak with four goals.

"I know this is my final year to play," Foote said. "I have been more confident and being a captain, I know that my teammates are always looking to me to make plays and get the team going, so I have a lot more responsibility [this year]. Basically, I have been taking more risks and just letting the game come to me."

Despite their loss to the Wildcats Sunday, Notre Dame fared well in its previous two contests against James

Madison and Loyola Maryland.

The Irish showed physical and mental vitality with their March 12 win over No. 16 James Madison as they rallied in the final minutes of the game to secure a 12-11 win. Foote scored three crucial second half goals against the Dukes.

The 13-9 victory over No. 19 Loyola Maryland March 14 was less harrowing, as the Irish swept through the Greyhounds in front of a crowd of 1,492 at CSTV's annual "Spring Fling" tournament. Caitlin McKinney led the Irish assault with three goals and two assists. Freshman Jillian Byers tallied three goals in the contest.

"It was awesome," Byers said after the game. "I mean, to play the way we did, with such heart in front of two thousand people and on TV, it was just a great way to end our week in Florida."

The Irish face Canisuius on Saturday at 1 p.m. at home.

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Baseball

continued from page 24

dipped into the twenties and many of the 1,842 fans who braved the cold had left early.

"The conditions were really difficult for both teams to play in," Mainieri said. "It was really cold and windy out there."

Notre Dame struck first, scoring a run in the bottom half of the first inning. First baseman and lead-off hitter Craig Cooper doubled to right center field, moved to third on a sacrifice bunt by designated hitter Danny Dressman and scored on a wild pitch by Wright State starter Erich Schanz.

The lead would not last. The Raiders scored three runs in the top of the second, all with two outs. With one out, Korpi walked centerfielder John Kopilchack, then struck out shortstop Justin Parker. First baseman Jeremy Hamilton then doubled to left, where Irish outfielder Matt Bransfield misplayed the ball and allowed Kopilchack to score from first.

"When there's a runner on first base and two outs, your outfielder's only job is to keep the runner from scoring from first on an extra base hit," Mainieri said of the play. "He got to the ball okay, but then he just dropped it. Maybe his hands were cold."

Leftfielder Justin Wilson drove in Hamilton with a single, then stole second and scored on a single by second baseman Ross Oeder to increase the lead to 3-1.

The Raiders increased their advantage again in the seventh inning. Third baseman Dan Biedenharn led off the inning against Notre Dame reliever Joey Williamson and walked. Then, designated hitter Brian Shoup laid a bunt down the first base line. Both Williamson and Cooper went for the ball, leaving first base uncovered and, although second baseman Ross Brezovsky tried to cover the bag, Williamson's throw ended up bounding into right field. Biedenharn advanced to third on the error.

"We had a miscommunication between our first baseman and our pitcher, which created a bad situation," Mainieri said.

The next batter, rightfielder Amin Abusaleh, singled, driving in Biedenharn and putting the Raiders up 4-1.

The Irish got a run in the bottom of the eighth on a sacrifice fly by Brezovsky that drove in catcher Sean Gaston, but were unable to get anything going in the ninth inning against Raider reliever Joe Smith.

"He's really good. There were a lot of pro scouts here to see him. He pretty much over-matched us," Mainieri said of Smith.

The Irish will be back in action today at Frank Eck Stadium against Central Michigan. Freshman David Phelps is expected to start for Notre Dame. The weather is expected to be slightly warmer, possibly reaching the lower 40s.

Contact Chris Khorey at ckhorey@nd.edu

Football

continued from page 24

As a coaching staff and as a team, we have to do a much better job of playing to our strengths and minimizing our weaknesses."

His final major objective is to fill in lingering questions about the depth chart, made more complicated by several injuries to returning players.

Weis said starting outside linebacker Maurice Crum and reserve linebacker Joe Brockington will see significantly limited repetitions in the spring after each underwent back procedures after last season ended.

Weis said that while the injuries will limit the depth of the linebacking corps during the spring, they also open new doors for evaluating young talent. After senior linebacker starters Corey Mays and Brandon Hoyte both exhausted their eligibility this fall, Weis said freshmen and sophomores on the defense will have the chance to earn a spot in the starting lineup.

"I think this is an opportunity for some of those guys that backups to make a statement for themselves," Weis said. "If they don't make a statement for themselves this spring, when the new guys get here, they're going in."

Notes:

◆ Six starters and two backups will return to Notre Dame next fall for a fifth season, Irish coach Charlie Weis announced Tuesday.

Defensive tackle Derek Landri, right end Chris Frome and cornerback Mike Richardson return on the defensive side of the ball, as all three started for the Irish in 2005.

Frome started six games for Notre Dame before suffering a knee injury in the team's 34-31 loss to USC Oct. 15, 2005. Landri and Richardson started all 12 games for the Irish.

On offense, Notre Dame's group

of returnees is highlighted by veteran receiver Rhema McKnight, who suffered a knee injury in week three against Michigan State and was awarded a medical red-shirt season. McKnight led the Irish in receptions in 2003 and 2004 with 47 and 42 catches, respectively. He has 103 receptions for 1,370 yards in 38 career games played.

McKnight is joined by offensive line starters Bob Morton and Dan Santucci, backup tight end Marcus Freeman and reserve lineman Brian Mattes.

◆ Weis said several Irish players are injured and will see limited repetitions in the spring or be held out of practices altogether.

Freshman receiver D.J. Hord had an abdominal surgery and likely will miss all of spring practice, Weis said.

"He might be back by the end of the spring," Weis said. "But he's not going to be back for a while, so I figured I'd just go ahead and list him as a doubtful for the spring."

Frome's knee injury will keep him out of spring practices, and sophomore reserve linebacker Abdel Banda also suffered a knee injury that will prevent him from practicing.

Starting left end Victor Abiamiri had a minor knee surgery after the Fiesta Bowl, and Weis said he is "close to 100 percent."

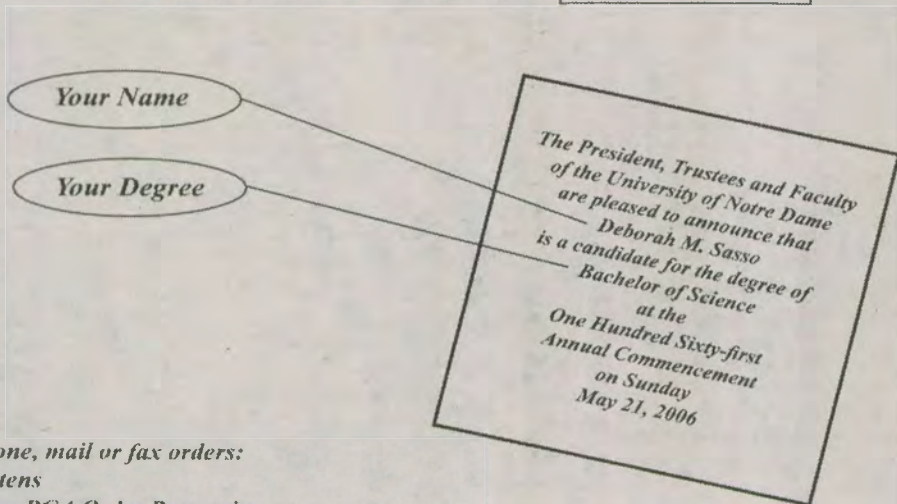
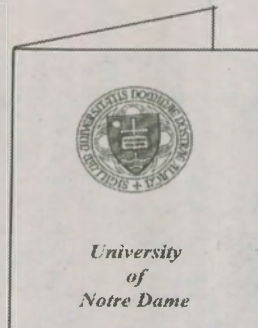
"I might pull off of him a little bit, but he's ready to go," Weis said of Abiamiri.

Weis said he will keep offensive lineman John Sullivan out of contact drills after the junior underwent a shoulder operation in the offseason.

Sophomore running back Justin Hoskins and freshman cornerback Kyle McCarthy will be limited by shoulder injuries, and Mattes has a foot injury that will limit his practice time.

Contact Ken Fowler at kfowler1@nd.edu

Personalized Notre Dame Graduation Announcements



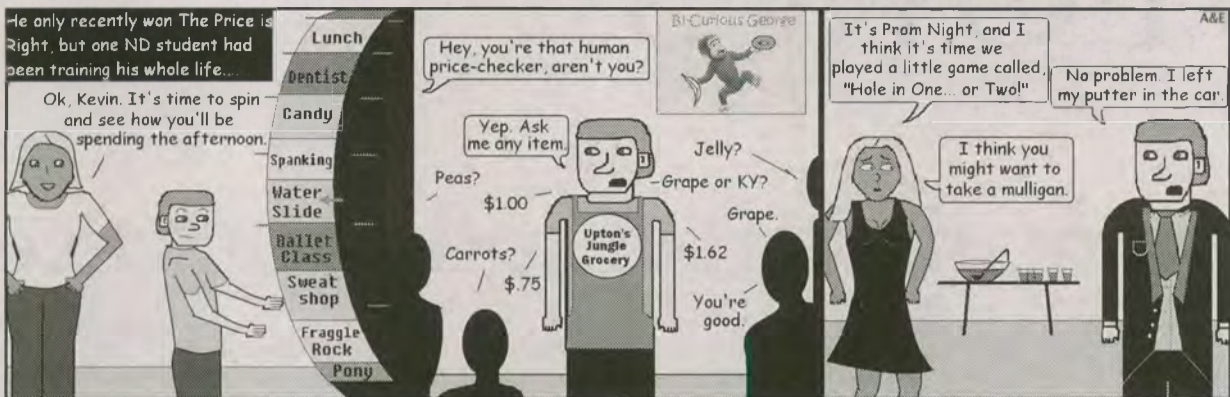
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THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

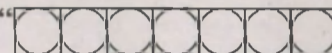
Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

Four word puzzles: BOINS, HIWSS, TANNIE, GLUBIN with letter grids.



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

Print answer here:



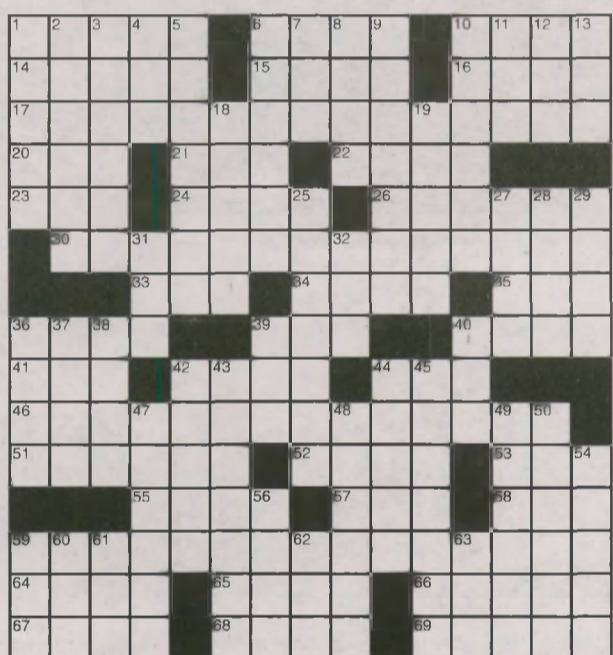
(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: JULEP PATIO BUSHEL TOUCHY Answer: How she felt when her cobbler recipe won the blue ribbon — JUST "PEACHY"

CROSSWORD

WILL SHORTZ

- ACROSS 1 President before Jefferson, 6 Couch, 10 "Picnic" Pulitzer-winner William, 14 Performing poorly in, 15 Knocks for a loop, 16 Gas in advertising lights, 17 With 59-Across, lyric from "America, the Beautiful", 20 Bro's counterpart, 21 U.N. working-conditions agcy., 22 Molecule part, 23 Guinness suffix, 24 Dict. info, 26 For adults, as films, 30 Lyric from "The Star-Spangled Banner", 33 Numbskull, 34 Perلمان of "Cheers", 35 Society newcomer, 36 These break the silence of the lambs, 39 Derisive laugh, 40 Huff and puff, 41 Prints, pastels and such, 42 Hollywood's Ken or Lena, 44 Nasdaq debut: Abbr., 46 Lyric from "America", 51 Lunatic, 52 Japanese wrestling, 53 Smallish batteries, 55 Thick slice, 57 Band booking, 58 Air conditioner meas., 59 See 17-Across, 64 "Garfield" dog, 65 Talk wildly, 66 Etc. and ibid., e.g., 67 Magician's stick, 68 Jazz singer James, 69 Unlike a rolling stone?



- DOWN 1 Humiliate, 2 Breakfast roll, 3 Extends, 4 Apple computer, for short, 5 Large steps, 6 Took to the airport, say, 7 Confess, with "up", 8 Greek salad cheese, 9 Wood source for a baseball bat, 10 Director Bergman, 11 Newcomer, briefly, 12 Moo ___ gai pan, 13 Finish up, 18 Bread spreads, 19 ___ Linda, Calif., 25 Leaves in the lurch, 27 "Look what I did!", 28 Fifty-fifty, 29 Borrower's burden, 31 Apron wearers, traditionally, 32 L.B.J.'s veep, 36 Soothing ointment, 37 Neck of the woods, 38 Env. notation, 39 Get a move on, quaintly, 40 Luau paste, 42 Toothbrush brand, 43 Spy novelist John, 44 Shooting marble, 45 Write computer instructions, 47 Dropped a line in the water, 48 Should, informally, 49 Bigwigs, 50 Swamp swimmers, 54 Like dishwasher, 56 Dinghy or dory, 59 "I'm impressed!", 60 Rhoda's TV mom, 61 10th-anniversary metal, 62 Blasting stuff, 63 "The Sopranos" network

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

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HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: A.J. Trauth, 19; Adam Lamberg, 21; Callum Keith Rennie, 45; Joey Heatherton, 61. Happy Birthday: These are changing times for you. The desire to move in a new direction in at least one area of your life is very apparent. Don't sit around waiting for things to happen. Recognize what you want in your life and move forward toward that goal. Your numbers are 3, 4, 7, 8, 14, 29. ARIES (March 21-April 19): Get involved. Be a participant -- active and aggressive in going after your goals. You will get the help you need to follow through with your plans. ** TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Take part in anything that can further your career. A course or a project that offers an opportunity to show your worth and talent should be considered. You will impress people with your versatility. ** GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You may have too many choices, but that's OK as long as you don't try to do everything. Follow your heart and your intuition. You can make a strong statement that will make people take notice. **** CANCER (June 21-July 22): Money, legal and health concerns should be where you put your efforts today. The more you can do to resolve such matters, the more likely you will benefit from them. ** LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Be resourceful if you want to stay in front of the competition. Someone from your past may have knowledge that will help you advance. You are likely to be deceived by a partner. ** VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You can have a good working relationship with your colleagues if you exercise patience and refrain from criticism. Compassion and understanding will be your ally in gaining the respect, admiration and trust you require. ** LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Everything should be about fun, travel and doing what's best for you. A little romance, excitement and playtime should be scheduled. You will attract people who look up to you. **** SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): This is likely to be a rather emotional day for you if you've neglected the people most important in your life. It will be OK to share a longtime secret. An investment opportunity will be enticing. ** SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You will have the discipline to follow through with a new idea. Someone can make a difference to your future. Accepting a favor may not be easy for you, but it will turn your life around. **** CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Money matters can be resolved if you go back to your original plan. Your ideas are just a little ahead of the times. Rethink your concept and come up with a way to make it work now. ** AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): No one will be sure of your intentions if you let your emotions get in the way. Don't waffle or let anyone change your mind. An opportunity to learn something new is apparent. ** PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Different living arrangements, redecorating or even a move will be good for your morale. Someone in an authoritative position may lead you astray. Find out what your rights are. **

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FOOTBALL

Questions, optimism mark start of spring practice

By KEN FOWLER
Sports Editor

Irish head coach Charlie Weis kicked off the beginning of the spring football schedule Tuesday at Notre Dame's annual spring media day, saying his main objective for the coming weeks will be to raise the team's expectations.

"I think that last year the football team just didn't know at this

point whether they were going to be any good or not," Weis said. "I'm hoping they're not satisfied with the season they had last year. I know that I'm not satisfied with the season that we had last year."

Weis said he installed a large banner in the Guglielmino to help motivate the Irish players. The sign reads, "9-3 is not good enough."

"I'm hoping this time around that raising the expectations

should be a rather simple task," he said. "We return 17 guys that are basically starters — nine on defense and eight on offense. We should expect a much higher level of performance this spring."

The goal was one of four Weis highlighted for the team's 15 practices over the next month leading up to the annual Blue-Gold game April 22. The first practice begins today at 5 p.m. at Cartier Field.

He began by saying he will con-

centrate on dividing his time equally between different aspects of the game in the coming weeks, not solely focusing on the offense.

"I probably didn't do a very good job being a head coach [last] spring," he said. "I think I did a pretty good job being an installer of the offense, but I don't think I did a very good job as a head coach. This year, I think I'll be able to spend more time on special teams and more time on defense

than I did last year."

Weis said his second goal is to "self-scout" his own team to eliminate unnecessary plays and improve in several areas.

"We've analyzed our 2005 season, and there's some obvious deductions that slap you in the face," he said. "We have to fix the problems we had last year. We also have to expand our packages."

see FOOTBALL/page 22

ND ATHLETICS

Changing regulations

Athletic department restricts outside media

By KEN FOWLER
Sports Editor

Subscribers to Notre Dame recruiting Web sites used to enjoy the privilege of downloading unabridged, 60-minute press conferences with Notre Dame football coach Charlie Weis. But as spring football practices begin today, an hour with Weis has become "Three Minutes with Charlie."

IrishIllustrated.com, a member of the Rivals.com recruiting network, is calling video highlights from press conferences just that, as Web sites are now packaging highlights of Weis' press conferences into condensed versions for viewers after the University announced

see MEDIA/page 20



Notre Dame football coach Charlie Weis addresses the media at a press conference marking the start of spring football practice Tuesday in the Notre Dame Stadium press box.

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Irish take first loss of season

Team registers wins over JMU and Loyola

By CHRIS WILLIAMS
Sports Writer

All good things must come to an end.

On Sunday, the Irish felt the pain of defeat, as they succumbed to the Northwestern Wildcats 21-12 in their first loss of the season.

The Irish came out of the gate fired up, quickly gaining 6-2 and 8-4

leads early on in the game. It seemed that the Irish were ready to exorcise the ghosts of seasons past — most notably last season — and win against one of the nation's top teams.

But the tables turned soon as the Wildcats showed the world why they are the defending NCAA women's lacrosse champions.

After Notre Dame and Northwestern played a very close game in the first half, the Wildcats outplayed the Irish in the second stanza. Northwestern unleashed an offensive fury during the latter part of the game, executing their offense flawlessly.

With their win over the Irish, the Wildcats extended their winning streak to 27 consecutive games.

see LACROSSE/page 21

BASEBALL

Team falls in home opener to Wright State



Infielder Brett Lilley waits in position during Tuesday's game against Wright State, a 4-2 Irish loss.

Irish leave eight men on in close loss; veteran Cooper extends hitting streak to eight games

By CHRIS KHOREY
Associate Sports Editor

The Irish dropped their home opener Tuesday 4-2 to Wright State at Frank Eck Stadium. Notre Dame (9-7) mustered only four hits in the contest, wasting a solid outing from starting pitcher Wade Korpi. The sophomore allowed three runs in 6-plus innings, including none after the third frame.

Irish coach Paul Mainieri

credited the Raider pitchers for shutting down his team, which had scored nearly eight runs per game over spring break.

"I thought they pitched unbelievable," Mainieri said. "I told their coach 'you keep pitching like that you'll win a lot of games this year.'"

The weather at the start of the 5:05 game was a brisk 34 degrees. By the time darkness fell, the temperature had

see BASEBALL/page 22

SPORTS AT A GLANCE

WOMEN'S SWIMMING

Illness holds Irish back in NCAAs

The Notre Dame women struggled in their quest for a national title in Athens, Ga. March 16-18.

page 21

SMC GOLF

Belles take 13th in tournament

The defending MIAA champions placed 13th in the Shamrock Invitational over the weekend.

page 19

NCAA WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Tennessee 66 GWU 52

Tuesday's win over the Colonials put the Vols in the regional semifinals for the 25th straight year.

page 18

Duke 85 USC 51

The Blue Devils topped the Lady Trojans for their second big win in the postseason Tuesday.

page 18

NFL

Vinatieri may move to Indy

The kicker of Super Bowl fame is expected to go the Colts, although the decision is not yet official.

page 17

NBA

Minnesota 100 Miami 96

Double-doubles by Ricky Davis and Kevin Garnett led the Timberwolves over a Shaq-less Heat team.

page 16