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NDSMCOBSERVER.COM

Jenkins returning to classroom for Lenten course

Cunningham to join University President for five-time, one-credit Sunday afternoon theology class

By KATE ANTONACCI
News Editor

On the first Sunday of Lent, University President Father John Jenkins will step back into the classroom to co-teach the newly-offered one-credit theology course "Know Your Catholic Faith: God is Love."

"It will be on Sunday afternoon and I'm teaching it with [theology professor] Larry Cunningham," Jenkins said Wednesday.

Composed of "around 35

students," the course was open to individuals of all levels in the University, from undergraduates to law students to Saint Mary's students. Students were able to register at the end of last semester and early this semester, Jenkins said.

The course gains its name

from Pope Benedict XVI's first encyclical "God is Love," which is the focus of the five Sunday sessions.

"It's simply a kind of look at encyclical, at the themes and issues that it raises," Jenkins said. "It's a chance to understand the encyclical."

The course will meet from 6 to 7 p.m. in the Coleman-Morse Center and will then participate in Sunday Vespers together in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, according to the InsideND course description.

Though there are just five

classes, Jenkins said that he may have to "miss a class or two" because of travel engagements.

A short reflection paper each week and attendance at all five sessions is required to earn the course credit. The Office of the President is also holding an essay competition and a student conference about the same encyclical this spring.

As for future plans, Jenkins said he will "certainly be teaching more classes," but it is just a question of finding time in his busy schedule.

"It will be a juggling of the various demands of my time ... to find a way to teach," he said.

Jenkins will be making another effort to carve out time from his busy schedule this semester by offering open office hours to "any undergraduate or graduate student who is interested," said Frances Shavers, the executive assistant to the president.

"One of the great joys of when he was teaching was

see COURSE/page 4



Jenkins

Record numbers to flock to ND Career Fair

Employers, recruiters plan to attract career-seeking students

By EVA BINDA
News Writer

Many seniors believe they have a chance to squelch pre-graduation jitters today by attending the Winter Career Fair.

Representatives from over 100 employers representing more than 18 industries will flood the Joyce Center from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. intending to recruit Notre Dame students.

Career Center Associate Director Anita Rees said the fair, which she organized, is "one of the largest and most diverse career events in the history of Notre Dame."

The Career Fair will be preceded by a Diversity Reception from noon to 2 p.m. in the Monogram Room of the Joyce Center — an event intended to allow students to introduce themselves to employers.

"The Diversity Reception provides an opportunity to more casually talk to employers and make an initial connection with the employer when they see them at the fair," said Latonia Ferguson, Career Center counselor and

see FAIR/page 6



KERRY O'CONNOR/The Observer

Senior Katie Lacz reviews her options at the Career Center last February.

Underclassmen look for summer alternatives, pre-professional work

By EVA BINDA
News Writer

Instead of relaxing on the beach this summer, many Notre Dame students will suit up to work in corporate offices as interns, testing out careers and establishing contacts in the business world before they graduate. Today's Winter Career Fair will open the door to many students to network with potential employers and explore internship possibilities.

Career Center counselor Latonia Ferguson, the organizer of the Diversity Reception — a prelude to the Career Fair — invited all students to the fair to talk to potential employers, including those who may feel unsure of their majors and future career paths.

It may be difficult for freshmen to get internships as oftentimes employers are more interested in hiring upperclassmen, she said. However, Ferguson still encouraged freshmen to start the process early to establish the contacts they'll eventually need in the internship search process that awaits in their sophomore

see INTERN/page 4

Students shed clothes to benefit homeless

By STEVE KERINS
News Writer

As temperatures plunge it becomes exceedingly rare to see a student sporting sandals, but onlookers should not be surprised to see sophomore Robbie Bernardin sprinting across campus in shorts and flip-flops today.

Bernardin will be joined by fellow Siegfried residents, including Hall president junior Tom Martin, in their parade against the harsh elements as part of the first annual Day of Man — an effort of solidarity

intended to raise awareness of those who cannot afford a winter coat.

"[Bernardin] was doing a jog around campus wearing his shorts and a T-shirt and he said, 'Hey, it's cold out, but I feel pretty manly,'" Martin said.

It wasn't long before Martin transformed his idea into an effort to aid those in need.

Bernardin and Martin posted a flyer in Siegfried asking residents to participate by agreeing to wear only shorts, flip-flops and the event's T-shirt as

see DAY/page 6

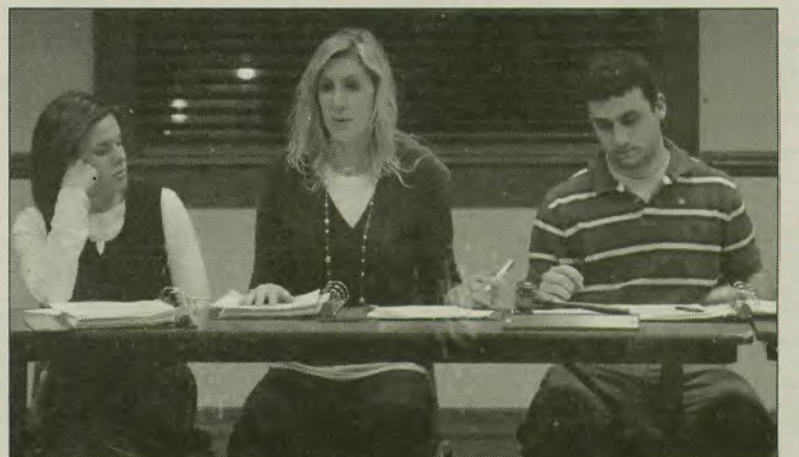
STUDENT SENATE

Group discusses budget details

By KAITLYNN RIELY
News Writer

Discussion of Student Union Board (SUB) manager Patrick Vassel's proposal at Tuesday's Council of Representatives meeting continued over to the Student Senate Wednesday, when senators spent about 30 minutes debating two possible budgetary adjustments to the constitution.

Vassel said the part of



CASEY CARNEY/The Observer

Chief executive assistant Liz Brown, left, student body president Lizzi Shappell and student body vice president Bill Andrichik look over their notes during Wednesday's Senate meeting.

see SENATE/page 6

INSIDE COLUMN

South Asian suave

No, it isn't the pungent odor of curry or an over-abundance of semi-obnoxious Bollywood films all containing pretty much the same plot. Forget tales about Ali Baba, magic carpet rides or spitting camels. Visiting India is so intriguing, not because the society is exotic, but actually chaotic. And I love it.

Rohan Anand
News Wire Editor

You can watch Bend-It Like-Beckham or feast on Indian Cuisine to get a vicariously second-hand experience of what Indian culture is somewhat like. But I, a first-generation Indian-American citizen, cannot deny myself the pleasure of visiting the motherland only to return with humorous anecdotes to share with my American friends.

So my Christmas break entailed a three-week vacation to New Delhi, the hometown of my parents and extended family. I braced myself for the culture shocks that would inevitably occur.

The havoc commenced at Chicago's O'Hare airport. Indians are notoriously impatient, particularly in the context of travel. At 8:45, the expected departure time of our Air India flight, the gate agent was nowhere to be seen. A throng of Indian passengers had already lined up to board. When one employee nonchalantly appeared and called one passenger to reconfirm their seat, all 400 passengers stood up in anticipation. Upon hearing that the flight wasn't ready to board yet, uproar ensued amongst passengers. What a zoo.

Exiting the arrivals lounge at Delhi Airport some 24-nebulous hours later, I searched for my driver to retrieve me, and the first sight that caught my eye was a man publicly urinating outside the terminal. Lovely. On the freeway to my relative's home, a bus had broken down, and all the male passengers had been ordered to push it to the nearest gas station. Classic.

Sleeping off jet lag at the house, I awoke to an explosion resonating in the street. I panicked, fearing that the India-Pakistan tension had reached the brink, until I realized it was just a car wreck. Relief.

My Indian family didn't fail to entertain me either. My grandfather greeted me by asking, "so, how's the sex life?" Can you say awkward? And just how feeble were my cousins' attempts to sing "Smack That" by Akon or imitate Borat? Comical.

Still, nothing beat "the massage" that my uncle treated me to. I envisioned beautiful Indian women soothing my aching muscles from my long journey. To my unpleasant surprise, I instead received a full-body b

eat-down from a short Indian man. Not memorable.

When I left Delhi, I longed for red meat, hot showers, and a little personal space. But not without a bit of grace: it's true that my heritage adds dimension to my life. I'll admit the saying, "you can take the dude out of India, but you can't take India out of the dude," applies to me especially.

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

Contact Rohan Anand at ranand@nd.edu

CORRECTIONS

The Observer regards itself as a professional publication and strives for the highest standards of journalism at all times. We do, however, recognize that we will make mistakes. If we have made a mistake, please contact us at 631-4541 so we can correct our error.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT IS YOUR IDEAL SUMMER INTERNSHIP?



Erin Maxwell
freshman
McGlinn

"Camp counselor."



Luis Crespo
sophomore
Alumni

"Male model."



Kate Erdle
sophomore
Lewis

"Photographer of male models."



Meagan Davis
sophomore
Welsh Family

"Lifeguard."



Molly Conway
freshman
Cavanaugh

"A circus performer."



Aileen Villarreal
freshman
Breen-Phillips

"A cage dancer."



CHRISTIAN SAGARDIA/The Observer

Acclaimed pianist Timothy Cheek, left, and visiting assistant professor of opera Mark Beudert, a tenor, perform selections from Dvorak's Opus Gypsy Melodies Wednesday night at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center, as part of the music department's faculty recital series.

OFFBEAT

Man, dog travel on riding mower

GARDEN CITY, Utah — Joined by his dog Yoda, Paul Woods travels by day and sleeps in a tent at night. His vehicle: a riding mower. "You've got to be pretty strange and pretty weird to be driving a tractor mower across country," Woods, 44, said.

The Herald Journal of Logan caught up with Woods in the parking lot of Beaver Mountain ski resort, 107 miles north of Salt Lake City, near the Idaho border.

Woods' ultimate destination is Virginia, where he

claims his late mother left him a house. He said he took care of her in Alaska until her death.

Woods said he left Alaska in 2005 and has been riding his mower and getting rides from sympathetic pickup drivers who hoist his vehicle in the back of the truck.

The mower's maximum speed is 15 mph, but it's weighted down by tools, snacks and the dog.

Student tries to "rent" a girlfriend

BELJING, China — A desperate Chinese university student wants to "rent" a girlfriend for 10 days so he

can show her off to his parents over the Lunar New Year holiday, state media reported Wednesday.

The physics student, who gave his name as Zhu Lijie, posted a notice on a bulletin board at Peking University offering 1,000 yuan (\$130) to a woman who would pose as his girlfriend for the trip home for the holiday, Xinhua News Agency reported.

The advertisement said the woman should be "an honest, kind and similar-aged girl with a diploma."

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

Kroc Institute visiting fellow John Heathershaw will deliver the lecture "Subject to Success: Critical Insights from the Evaluation of Peacebuilding Programs" in Room C-103 of the Hesburgh Center today at 12:30 p.m. Students and faculty are welcome.

The Winter Career and Internship Fair will be held today from 4 to 8 p.m. in the Joyce Center Field House.

Sabine MacCormack, the Rev. Theodore Hesburgh, C.S.C. Professor of Arts and Letters Chair, will deliver the lecture "The Worlds of José de Acosta (1540-1600)" Thursday at 4:15 p.m. in Room C-103 of the Hesburgh Center.

The student group, Pasquerilla East Musical Company (PEMCO), proudly presents "Ragtime" on Friday at 7:30 p.m. in Washington Hall. "Ragtime" will also be playing Feb. 3, 9 and 10. Tickets available at LaFortune box office and are \$6 for seniors and \$8 for adults.

The Late Night Olympics will be held from Friday at 6 p.m. to Saturday at 4 a.m. in the Joyce Center. The event raises money for St. Joe County Special Olympics.

The Notre Dame Scrabble Club will host a Scrabble Tournament Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the LaFortune Ballroom. There is an entry fee of \$50. There will be different divisions for players of all skill levels.

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

	TODAY	TONIGHT	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
HIGH	27	22	15	8	7	5
LOW	12	7	0	0	-2	-8

Senior retreat aims to ease anxieties, stress

By JOHN-PAUL WITT
News Writer

As graduation nears for nostalgic yet anxious seniors, many may find refuge and spiritual guidance in this weekend's senior retreat.

"We try to help the seniors think about the challenges they face when leaving Notre Dame — challenges in relationships, their spiritual life, and living outside of the Notre Dame community," said

retreat director Fr. Joe Carey.

The senior retreat will serve as the capstone on a year of assorted Campus Ministry retreats — including the freshman retreat, sophomore road trip and Notre Dame Encounter with Christ — Carey and Campus Ministry graduate intern John Paul Lichon said. The retreat has been a University tradition for more than 30 years, but it only became an annual event in the last decade.

"I can remember senior retreats thirty years ago, but we've made it consistent in the last few years, once a year every first weekend in February," Carey said.

He said the retreat team — a "diverse cross-section" of the senior class that unites a varsity athlete, a member student government, a student in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) program and members of various campus organizations under one banner — will build on the tradition.

Carey and Lichon said the diversity in the retreat's leadership was not serendipitous but rather a conscious effort to attract an

assortment of participants. Seniors in attendance this weekend will converse with a panel of young alumni, who will share challenges they faced when they left Notre Dame — from finding a new faith community to long-distance relationships in the working world to maximizing their last semester under the Dome.

Although the deadline for applications has passed, the retreat will squeeze in any additional participants that meet at the Coleman-Morse Center Friday at 2:30 p.m.

Contact John-Paul Witt at jwitt1@nd.edu

"We try to help the seniors think about the challenges they face when leaving Notre Dame."

Fr. Joe Carey
retreat director

Driehaus awarded to Robertson

Special to The Observer

Jaquelin T. Robertson, a New York-based architect and urban planner whose work is found worldwide, has been named the recipient of the Notre Dame's fifth annual Richard H. Driehaus Prize for Classical Architecture. He will receive \$100,000 and a model of the choregic Monument of Lysikrates in Athens during ceremonies March 31 in Chicago.

A partner in the firm Cooper, Robertson & Partners, Robertson founded the New York City Urban Design Group. He served under former New York City Mayor John Lindsay as director of the Mayor's Office of Midtown Planning and Development and worked as a New York City planning commissioner. In 1975, he directed the design of Iran's new capital center, Shahestan Pahlavi.

Committed to introducing "human values into urban plans," Robertson founded

the Jeffersonian Restoration Advisory Board and the Mayor's Institute on City Design. He has been a consultant to the Ford Foundation, the government of Jamaica, the Federal Highway Administration, and the National Capitol Development Commission in Canberra, Australia.

To "learn more about the DNA of American architecture," Robertson accepted an appointment as dean and a chaired professor of architecture at the University of Virginia in 1980, a position he held for eight years.

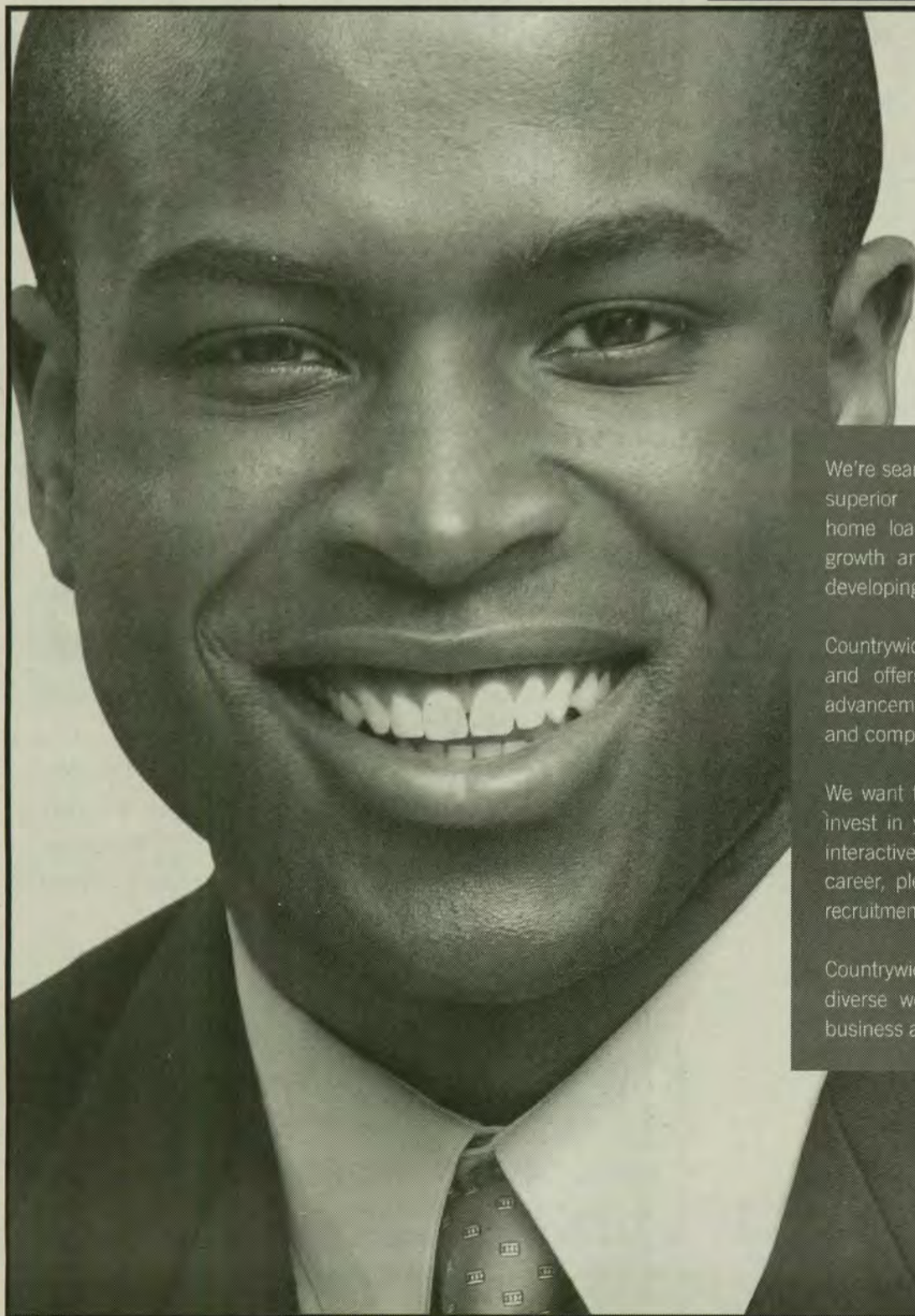
Robertson has received numerous design awards, including the 1998 Thomas Jefferson Foundation Medal in Architecture and the 2002 Seaside Prize for his contributions to American urbanism. A Richmond, Va., native, Robertson earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from Yale University and was a Rhodes Scholar at Magdalen College, Oxford.

Edward Perry Bass, president of Fine Line Inc., a pri-

vate diversified investment and venture capital firm in Fort Worth, Texas, will receive the \$25,000 Henry Hope Reed Award in association with the Driehaus Prize. Bass is recognized as a leader in one of the most successful urban revitalization efforts in the nation. He and his family developed Sundance Square into a successful mixed-use urban core in Fort Worth. As chairman of Performing Arts Fort Worth, Bass led the development of the Nancy Lee and Perry R. Bass Performance Hall, which opened in 1998 to international acclaim.

Richard H. Driehaus, the founder and chairman of Driehaus Capital Management in Chicago, endowed both awards through the Notre Dame School of Architecture because of its reputation as a national leader in incorporating the principles of traditional and classical architecture into the task of modern urban development.

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Course

continued from page 1

just the connection with the students," Shavers said. "You don't have as much natural opportunity [to meet with students] as you do if you were a teacher."

There will be open visiting hours in the Office of the President in 75-minute blocks on three dates to start out — Feb. 19, Mar. 20 and Apr. 2.

Shavers said the time can be used by students who want to discuss a certain issue with Jenkins, who just want to introduce themselves or who may just want to see the office.

Shavers said that there will also be the option of reserving a time to meet with

Jenkins during his office hours on the president's Web site.

"He's definitely looking forward to it and is excited about it, but we have no idea whether one person will show up or whether twenty people will show up," she said. "It's definitely sort of a trial this semester and we'll see if it's responded to well."

Shavers also said that Jenkins will be visiting a different dorm each month. Student Body President Lizzi Shappell will be going around to dorms to "get names of anyone who is interested," Shavers said.

"I am excited about [the office hours]," Jenkins said. "It's just a chance to talk to students and listen to their concerns and interests."

Contact Kate Antonacci at kantonac@nd.edu

Intern

continued from page 1

and junior years.

"It would be beneficial for freshmen to attend the Diversity Reception to network and meet employers so that when they're sophomores, they're more prepared for the whole process of landing an internship," she said.

The Diversity Reception and Career Fair will gather a variety of employers ranging from PriceWaterhouseCoopers to Abercrombie & Fitch to the Central Intelligence Agency.

"This fair is so diverse that I don't see one particular internship that all the students are applying for," Career Center Associate Director Anita Rees said. "We have a representation of at least eighteen different industries and within those industries, there are different divisions. For example, we have an energy firm that is hiring for a supply and trading position."

In addition to narrowing a wide range of employers and

industries, students will also have to decide whether to stay close to home or live in a new place.

"It depends on the student and their situation," Ferguson said. "Some students want positions in their hometowns and others want to explore other opportunities."

For students that may even want to intern abroad, the Career Fair may be a good starting-off point. Several of the employers attending today's fair — such as Goldman Sachs and KPMG — have international offices.

"I want to intern away from home so I can get the experience of actually working in the real world," said freshman Patrick Bears, a psychology and Italian major with plans to intern in Italy in the near future.

Sophomore Patrick Voll echoed Bears' enthusiasm about traveling.

"I want to get an internship in the engineering field away from home," the mechanical engineering student said. "I've looked into interning with an international corporation."

In addition to the Career Fair, students interested in internships abroad can explore opportunities on campus through the Nanovic Institute for European Studies, the Kellogg Institute for International Studies and the Students in International Business Council. All of these organizations sponsor internship opportunities around the globe.

The Career Center also offers help to students trying to find internships through GOIrish — its career online database — and various workshops and seminars throughout the semester.

"We talk to students about what they are passionate about, what they've already explored, enjoyed," Rees said. "If it's an internship, we ask them about the kind of experiences would they like to garner while they are undergraduates. We take them from that point to learning to network, to interviewing to learning etiquette."

Contact Eva Binda at jbinda@nd.edu

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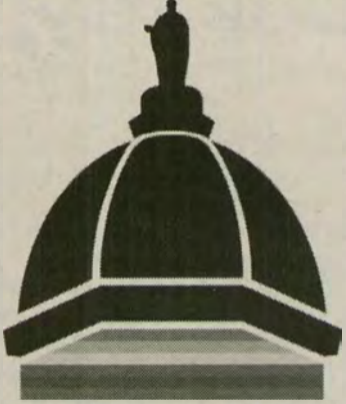
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(Information, education, and resources)
Contact: Sr. Sue Dunn, OP, 1-5550, or Andy Magee, amagee@nd.edu

Office of Campus Ministry
(Annual retreat for gay/lesbian/questioning students and their friends; pertinent library resources in 304 Co-Mo; discussion and support)
Contact: Fr. Joe Carey, CSC, at 1-7800

University Counseling Center
(Individual counseling)
Contact: Dr. Maureen Lafferty at Lafferty.3@nd.edu

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Venezuelan president gains power

CARACAS, Venezuela — President Hugo Chavez was granted free rein Wednesday to accelerate changes in broad areas of society by presidential decree — a move critics said propels Venezuela toward dictatorship.

Convening in a downtown plaza in a session that resembled a political rally, lawmakers unanimously gave Chavez sweeping powers to legislate by decree and impose his radical vision of a more egalitarian socialist state.

The law gives Chavez, who is beginning a fresh six-year term, more power than he has ever had in eight years as president, and he plans to use it over the next 18 months to transform broad areas of public life, from the economy and the oil industry in particular, to "social matters" and the very structure of the state.

Iraq implements new security plan

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Iraq indefinitely halted all flights to and from Syria and closed a border crossing with Iran as the government prepares for a new security crackdown aimed at crushing violence in the capital and surrounding regions, a member of parliament and an airport official said Wednesday.

The airport official said flights to and from Syria would be canceled for at least two weeks and that service had been interrupted on Tuesday. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to reveal the information.

Hassan al-Sunneid, a legislator and member of the parliament Defense and Security Committee, said the move "was in preparation for the security plan. The state will decide when the flights will resume."

NATIONAL NEWS

Five hospitalized in gas explosion

GHEENT, W.Va. — The West Virginia state fire marshal on Wednesday retracted his statement announcing the death of a fifth person injured in a propane blast that destroyed a convenience store.

State Fire Marshal Sterling Lewis initially said the manager of the Flat Top Little General Store had died in the explosion Tuesday that reduced the store to a pile of splintered debris and twisted metal.

Lewis later retracted that statement, saying five people remained hospitalized with burns and other injuries.

Lewis attributed the mistake to erroneous information from hospital officials. "I requested that it be confirmed at four different times, and they confirmed it each time," he said.

Senator censured for groping page

PIERRE, S.D. — The South Dakota Senate on Wednesday refused to expel a lawmaker accused of fondling an 18-year-old legislative page in a motel bed, but voted to censure him instead.

Democratic Sen. Dan Sutton had admitted sharing a bed with the page last winter but denied groping him.

The censure amounts to a public reprimand that has no effect on Sutton's legislative powers.

The motion to expel Sutton failed 14-20, and the censure vote was 32-2.

LOCAL NEWS

Gay marriage amendment advances

INDIANAPOLIS — A proposed constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage advanced out of committee Wednesday after three hours of debate and a group of gay-rights activists being escorted from the Senate gallery for singing "We Shall Overcome" in protest.

Proponents said the amendment was needed to protect the sanctity of traditional marriage from lawsuits and activist judges. Some opponents argued that it was simply discriminatory, but others said a provision could have unintended consequences on laws and policies that affect all unmarried couples.

UNITED KINGDOM

British terrorism plot foiled

Police arrest nine suspects in alleged kidnapping attempt in Birmingham

Associated Press

BIRMINGHAM — Police foiled a major kidnapping plot, the first of its kind in Britain, with the arrests Wednesday of nine terror suspects who reportedly planned to torture and behead a British Muslim soldier and broadcast the killing on the Internet.

The alleged plot, said by British media to mirror the brutal executions of foreign hostages in Iraq, was in its final stages and uncovered during a six-month surveillance operation by anti-terror officers in this city of more than 1 million in the heart of England. The arrests came in a pre-dawn raid on homes and businesses in several Birmingham neighborhoods, which were mostly Pakistani.

"The threat from terrorism remains very real," said Assistant Chief Constable David Shaw, who would not confirm reports from the British Broadcasting Corp. and other media outlets that the intended victim was an army soldier to be killed in an "Iraqi-style" execution and broadcast on the Internet.

Britain has been at the heart of several thwarted alleged terror plots, including a scheme by a British Muslim to blow up the New York Stock Exchange and other landmarks, and a plan by Muslim extremists to use liquid explosives to blow up as many as 10 flights between the United States and Britain.

But the Birmingham kidnapping plot raised fears that a new type of terrorism has reached Britain, one which uses individual victims to send a message through kidnappings and publicized beheadings. Although the motive in the new plot was not disclosed, the announcement coincides with other indications that young British Muslims are becoming increasingly



British forensic police officers search through waste bins following the arrest of nine men in an alleged kidnapping plot Wednesday in Birmingham, England.

angry over this country's involvement in the American-led wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, and the U.S. detention camp in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

The four British Muslims who attacked London's transit system in Europe's first suicide bombings had expressed rage over Britain's role in the wars. Their attack at rush hour on July 7, 2005 killed 52 people.

In the past year, the object of that anger has spilled over to the 330 Muslims who serve in the 180,000-strong British armed forces.

The potential victim of the latest plot was reportedly a

British Muslim soldier who was under police protection, British media reported, though the Defense Ministry would not confirm this.

Britain's first Muslim soldier to be killed in Afghanistan last year was from Birmingham, where the death prompted militant Islamist Web sites to denounce Cpl. Jabron Hashmi, 24, as a traitor. One site — that of extremist British sect al-Ghurabaa — posted an image of the soldier surrounded by flames.

Non-Muslim servicemen are also being targeted.

Last year, a London street vendor was sentenced to six years in prison in a plot to

kill a decorated British soldier. Abu Baker Mansha was accused of targeting Cpl. Mark Byles, whose address and other materials were found in Mansha's apartment.

Byles was awarded a military cross for bravery following an attack in which several Iraqi insurgents were killed — exploits covered by British newspapers. One of the articles with Byles' name was circled and found in Mansha's apartment.

Twelve houses and four business — including two Muslim book stores and an Internet cafe — were cordoned off in Wednesday's raids.

Suspicious devices cause scare

Associated Press

BOSTON — Nine blinking electronic devices planted at bridges and other spots in Boston threw a scare into the city Wednesday in what turned out to be a marketing campaign for a late-night cable cartoon. At least one of the devices depicts a character giving the finger.

Highways, bridges and a section of the Charles River were shut down and bomb squads were sent in before authorities declared the devices were harmless.

"It's a hoax — and it's not funny,"

said Gov. Deval Patrick.

Turner Broadcasting, parent company of Cartoon Network, said the devices were part of a promotion for the TV show "Aqua Teen Hunger Force."

"The packages in question are magnetic lights that pose no danger," Turner said in a statement. It said the devices have been in place for two to three weeks in 10 cities: Boston, New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Atlanta, Seattle, Portland, Ore., Austin, Texas, San Francisco and Philadelphia.

"We regret that they were mistakenly thought to pose any danger,"

the company said.

Police said only that they were investigating where the device came from. The Department of Homeland Security said there are no credible reports of other devices being found elsewhere in the country.

An angry Mayor Thomas Menino said a stiff penalty will be pursued against whoever was responsible for the devices.

"It's about keeping a city on edge. It's about public safety," he said.

Authorities said some of the objects looked like circuit boards or had wires hanging from them.

Fair

continued from page 1

organizer of the Diversity Reception.

Rees said students should be prepared for the fair, and she suggests reviewing the list of employers and positions available on the GOIRISH website.

"Pick three to five employers that you want to know a lot about so that when you meet the representative, you'll ask the right questions and make a good impression," she said.

Expecting the unexpected is also part of the fair, Rees said, who suggests students should check out employers that catch their attention.

"If someone has a fascinating display, go talk to [that person]," she said. "Some students talk to employers they never planned and ended up landing a job with that employer."

It's a three-pronged approach: employers you

researched, some you know, some you just try out."

Underclassmen should not feel excluded from the fair, which offers them opportunities for internships, Ferguson said.

Landing the perfect job is an "ongoing process that is never too early to start," she said.

"If someone has a fascinating display, go talk to [that person]. Some students talk to employers they never planned and end up landing a job with that employer."

Anita Rees
associate director
Career Center

"Different companies and where they fall in the market makes a difference when they hire for full-time jobs and internships," Rees said. "It hinges a lot on what size of employer you're trying to land."

And today's record breaking fair might

be the start of students' professional success.

"This fair breaks all records amassed over the past 14 years for a career event," Rees said. "Registration was sold out in this fair which has not happened in eight years — three weeks before the event we had to tell employers there was no room."

Contact Eva Binda at
jbinda@nd.edu

Senate

continued from page 1

SUB's budget that allots to "policy-based programming" could be moved so it falls under the student government's budget. Student body president Lizzi Shappell said student government was already using the fund.

"It's our money," Shappell said. "We ask for an allocation, then whenever we are using it, we go over to [SUB's] comptroller. It's basically our fund to use."

Vassel also brought up a section of the constitution that states that any events with budgeting costs that exceed \$5,000 must be approved by the Financial Management Board (FMB).

He suggested raising the approval limit to \$10,000 because, he said, SUB often books events that cost more than \$5,000 and they need to move fast to reserve the act or the performer. The delay incurred when SUB has to notify the FMB of its request, though not a substantial one, may prevent SUB from booking the event, Vassel said.

Senators offered their opinions on these two points before sending the issue to Chris Hollon, chair of the Senate Oversight Committee, for further review.

This was the only new

business Senate discussed.

However, the Senate was informed of a new initiative at the start of the meeting when Notre Dame Millennium Development Initiative Assistant Director Tim Lyden addressed the senators to describe an upcoming program to facilitate discussions about Notre Dame's Millennium Village Project in Uganda and development in general.

Lyden said a student advisory council — made of approximately 20 students, most of whom have experience in sub-Saharan Africa — will visit residence halls this semester to answer questions about the project.

"We want these groups of students to lead discussions about economic development," Lyden said.

The dorm discussions will take place during the last three weeks of February, he said.

"It's very informal and it's open to any level of knowledge," Lyden said.

In another effort to expand knowledge, Academic Affairs chair Jim Grace said he was exploring ways to connect students through a tutoring program. Grace said he was researching whether students can use insidEND to post tutoring requests.

Community Relations chair Josh Pasquesi announced March 2 as the date for the community summit that will take place

between Notre Dame students and local college, university and city representatives. The summit will take place at Notre Dame Downtown, Pasquesi said.

In another area of community relations, he said he has been in contact with Mikki Dobski, director of communications and special projects for the office of the mayor of South Bend about sponsoring a freshman bus tour of South Bend next year.

"We want to make sure this becomes an annual event, hopefully run by the city," Pasquesi said.

Walsh Hall senator Karen Koski announced that the Senate Social Concerns committee will be conducting research on the best way to publicize the presence of ombudspersons at the University.

"We've been working on promoting ombudspersons because there is a lack of knowledge of what an ombudsperson does or is," Koski said.

In other Senate news:

♦ Shappell, student body president Bill Andrichik and Chief Executive Assistant Liz Brown will present an update on their initiatives to the Student Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees today.

Contact Kaitlynn Riely at
kriely@nd.edu

Write News.
Call 631-5323.

Day

continued from page 1

they go about their business today.

The underdressed Ramblers will each carry a cup to solicit donations for the South Bend Center for the Homeless.

"We're also setting up a booth in front of Siegfried," Martin said. "We're hoping that students will see what [we're] doing and pitch in a few dollars to help the homeless."

Today at 6 p.m. the Center for the Homeless will send a representative to give a presentation about the organization's mission and accomplishments for Day of Man participants.

"We want for [participants] to get noticed by others, but also know what they're benefiting and realize how blessed we are," Bernardin said.

Bernardin said the Day of Man has received attention and support from the residence hall since its inception.

"There were almost 100 guys who signed up the first day," he said. "Now it's almost 120."

Martin said Siegfried's rector and hall staff also plans to participate in the Day of Man events.

"We've had a lot of support [from Siegfried's staff]," Martin said. "It's not just something the kids are doing, so that gives us hope."

Sales for Bernardin's Day of Man T-shirt have been high, and friends of participants — including many from other residence halls — have also been generous with moral and financial support.

"The word spread pretty quickly. For quite a while, Siegfried has been one of the

manliest dorms on campus," Martin said. "We wanted to get an event together to showcase our incredible manliness," he said. "Once people heard about that, it kind of publicized itself."

The Day of Man organizers also sent e-mails to service commissioners in each residence hall to let interested students know in advance the cause their contributions will support. Martin and Bernardin were both optimistic Wednesday for a positive reaction to the Day of Man on campus and hoped the event will continue in the future.

"We'd definitely like to try to make it at minimum an annual thing for Siegfried,

"[Bernardin] was doing a jog around campus wearing his shorts and a T-shirt and he said, 'Hey, it's cold out, but I feel pretty manly'"

Tom Martin
junior

and maybe campus-wide," Martin said. "I think a big reason this event has really taken off is that there aren't many things manlier than being cold and helping out the less fortunate."

Bernardin agreed but cited the need for greater publicity to guarantee desired results.

"If it goes well this year, then we'll be able to put out a bigger and better ad campaign next year," he said.

Day of Man participants will be accepting donations for the South Bend Center for the Homeless throughout the day, and checks made out to Siegfried Hall with the memo "Day of Man" will be accepted in 100 Siegfried.

Contact Steve Kerins at
skerins@nd.edu

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- Sr. Sue Dunn, OP, Student Affairs, 1-7819
- Sylvia Dillon, Campus Ministry, 1-7163
- John Dillon, Campus Ministry, 1-7163
- Dr. Susan Steibe-Pasalich, Counseling Center, 1-7336
- Ann E. Kleva, Health Services, 1-8286

South Bend Community Resources:

- Women's Care Center, 234-0363
- Catholic Charities, 234-3111

MARKET RECAP

Stocks			
Dow Jones	12,621.69	+98.38	
Up: 2,208 Same: 125 Down: 1,068 Composite Volume: 2,990,615,228			
AMEX	2,123.71	+7.98	
NASDAQ	2,463.93	+15.29	
NYSE	9,254.73	+48.34	
S&P 500	1,438.24	+9.42	
NIKKEI(Tokyo)	17,493.41	+109.99	
FTSE 100(London)	6,203.10	-38.90	
COMPANY %CHANGE \$GAIN PRICE			
MOTOROLA INC (MOT)	+1.38	+0.27	19.85
SUN MICROSYS (SUNW)	+3.27	+0.21	6.64
S&P DEP RECEIPTS(SPY)	+0.67	+0.96	143.75
NASDAQ 100 TR (QQQQ)	+1.01	+0.44	44.07
Treasuries			
10-YEAR NOTE	-1.01	-0.049	4.826
13-WEEK BILL	-0.40	-0.020	4.975
30-YEAR BOND	-1.12	-0.056	4.926
5-YEAR NOTE	-0.84	-0.041	4.819
Commodities			
LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl.)	+1.17		58.14
GOLD (\$/Troy oz.)	+7.70		657.90
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)	+3.00		101.50
Exchange Rates			
YEN			120.5750
EURO			0.7670
POUND			0.5090
CANADIAN \$			1.1761

Bush visits NY stock exchange

President criticizes extravagance in executive compensation packages

Associated Press

NEW YORK — President Bush challenged corporate America Wednesday on the lavish salaries and bonuses paid to chief executives, saying their pay should be tied to how much they help their companies' shareholders.

"America's corporate boardrooms must step up to their responsibilities," Bush said in a speech on Wall Street addressing the state of the U.S. economy. A few executives' extravagant pay packages, recently in the news, have disgusted millions of U.S. workers who will never come near such deals.

"You need to pay attention to the executive compensation packages that you approve," Bush said. "You need to show the world that American businesses are a model of transparency and good corporate governance."

Bush's comments came during a White House push to get people focused on the economy at a time when other issues command attention — including the Iraq war and all the candidates running for his job.

He spoke at Federal Hall, a venerable site just blocks from where terrorists destroyed the World Trade Center. Bush caused a frenzy with an unannounced stop on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, joining Ronald Reagan as the only presidents to do so during trading hours.

On executive pay, Bush was prodding the business community to act on its own. He offered no promise of federal intervention — in fact, he said government should stay out of it.

But the president clearly hoped to send a message that would resonate with the public.

His immediate listeners, a dark-suited New York business audience, react-



President Bush leaves Federal Hall in Washington with New York Stock Exchange CEO John Thain for a visit to the NYSE floor Wednesday.

ed with silence. But the invited crowd offered applause when Bush talked about cutting taxes and improving education.

Attention to corporate pay has been fueled by some notable cases. Recently, Home Depot chief executive Bob Nardelli was earning an average of \$25.7 million a year — excluding stock options — before he was forced out in a furor over his compensation. He left with a severance package worth about \$210 million.

The New York Stock Exchange faced an uproar over former CEO Richard Grasso's \$187.5 million severance package. Former New York

Attorney General Eliot Spitzer, now governor, sued members of the NYSE board over the package given to Grasso when he quit as chairman in 2003.

Beyond targeting golden pay packages, Bush reiterated the themes of his economic message these days — trade, health care, energy and education. All require help from a Democratic Congress, which is fashioning its own plans for a mainstream domestic agenda.

"Criticizing CEO pay won't do anything to raise the wages of average Americans," said Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., the new chairman of

the Joint Economic Committee. "Middle-class families would be best served if the president joined us in crafting bold policy solutions that address the real insecurity they feel in our changing economy."

Bush touted new federal rules that give investors access to clearer and more detailed information from public companies on their top executives' pay packages and perks.

Yet in a nod to the business community, Bush said his administration was working to improve how those rules are being enforced so that the burden is not oppressive on industry.

IN BRIEF

Google triples fourth-quarter profits

SAN FRANCISCO — Google Inc.'s fourth-quarter profit nearly tripled amid another burst of breathtaking growth that enabled the online search leader to sprint past analyst expectations — a habit that has helped propel its stock price above \$500.

The Mountain View-based company said Wednesday that it earned \$1.03 billion, or \$3.29 per share, during the final three months of 2006. That compared with net income of \$372.2 million, or \$1.22 per share, at the same time in 2005.

If not for expenses for employee stock compensation and gains from tax benefits, Google said it would have earned \$3.18 per share. That figure easily exceeded the average analyst estimate of \$2.92 per share among analysts surveyed by Thomson Financial.

US Airways drops \$9.8 bil. Delta bid

ATLANTA — US Airways Group Inc. dropped its \$9.8 billion hostile bid for Delta Air Lines Inc. on Wednesday after a key group of the bankrupt carrier's creditors said Delta would be better off emerging from Chapter 11 on its own.

With the dual decisions, Atlanta-based Delta cleared a big hurdle in its effort to exit bankruptcy by the middle of this year as a stand-alone company.

But it isn't out of the woods yet. Smaller creditors could ultimately vote not to approve Delta's reorganization plan, and some have already filed objections to the disclosure statement to the Delta plan.

A Feb. 7 hearing in bankruptcy court in New York is scheduled to discuss the disclosure statement. If the statement related to Delta's operations is approved, Delta could begin soliciting votes for approval of its reorganization plan. Delta hopes to hold a confirmation hearing on its plan in April.

US Airways disclosed its initial hostile bid for Delta on Nov. 15. US Airways later raised its bid by nearly 20 percent in hopes of swaying Delta's official committee of unsecured creditors.

Delta's official unsecured creditors committee said in a statement it reached its decision after a lengthy review of both Delta's proposal and US Airways' proposal.

Dell Inc. founder to return as CEO

Associated Press

DALLAS — Dell Inc., battered by battery recalls and disappointing earnings, said Wednesday that Chairman Michael Dell will return to run the company he had built into one of the world's largest makers of personal computers.

Dell's appointment is effective immediately. He replaces Kevin Rollins, who also resigned as a member of the board.

Dell shares, which fell 7 cents to close earlier Wednesday at \$24.22 on the Nasdaq Stock Market, jumped 98 cents, or 4 percent, in aftermarket activity.

During Rollins' tenure, Dell was bat-

tered by a recall of 4.1 million potentially flammable notebook batteries made by Sony Corp. and by disappointing earnings. The company on Wednesday forecast fourth-quarter profit and sales below analysts' consensus estimates of 32 cents per share on sales of \$15.30 billion.

The company's accounting practices also are the subject of federal scrutiny. The U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York has subpoenaed documents related to Dell's financial reporting from 2002 to the present.

Dell has served as chairman since founding the company in 1984 and was chief executive until 2004, when he hand-picked Rollins as his successor. Dell defended the beleaguered executive in September, saying Rollins

wasn't solely responsible for the company's recent missteps.

Rollins joined Dell in 1996 and had a variety of roles before becoming CEO, including chief operating officer, vice chairman and president of Dell Americas. Before Dell, he was vice president and partner of Bain & Co. management consultants.

"Kevin has been a great business partner and friend," Dell said in a statement. "He has made significant contributions to our business over the past 10 years. I wish him much success in the future."

Dell's direct sales model, which allows business and consumers to buy equipment directly from Dell, turned the company into a leading computer manufacturer.

Orlando sparks trend with anti-homeless laws

Dallas, Gainesville and Atlanta among cities with laws restricting or prohibiting the feeding of homeless

Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — At Lake Eola park, there is much beauty to behold: robust palms, beds of cheery begonias, a cascading lake fountain, clusters of friendly egrets and swans, an amphitheater named in honor of Walt Disney.

Then there are the signs.

DO NOT LIE OR OTHERWISE BE IN A HORIZONTAL POSITION ON A PARK BENCH ... DO NOT SLEEP OR REMAIN IN ANY BUSHES, SHRUBS OR FOLIAGE ... per city code sec. 18A.09 (a) and (o).

Visit the park's restrooms, and you'll find this sign on the wall above the hand dryers:

BATHING AND/OR SHAVING IN RESTROOM IS PROHIBITED ... per city code 18A.09 (p) ... LAUNDERING CLOTHES IN LAKE EOLA PARK IS NOT PERMITTED.

Since joggers and dog walkers tend not to snooze in flower beds, and because employees at the glittering office towers around Lake Eola don't scrub laundry in park sinks, it's clear, says Monique Vargas, at whom the notices are targeted.

"They're talking to us, to the homeless," says Vargas, 28, who says she has lived on the streets, in parks or under overpasses, since age 16. "It's a way of saying, 'Your kind isn't wanted in our city.'"

Orlando, population 200,000, works hard to conjure the image of a true-life Pleasantville: a safe, welcoming place where visitors can soak up year-round sunshine and devour choreographed experiences at palm-ringed theme parks. But its spotless sidewalks, sparkling lakes and twinkling skyline belie a real city with real maladies — most notably, a surging homeless population that authorities are struggling to control.

After a law that banned panhandling was struck down by

the courts, the city tried to discourage aggressive beggars by obliging them to carry ID cards, and later by confining them to 3-by-15-foot "panhandling zones" painted in blue on sidewalks downtown.

Despite these laws, the number of people living on the streets of the Orlando metro area swelled, from roughly 5,000 in 1999 to an estimated 8,500 today, dwarfing the city's shelter capacity for 2,000 people.

So in July, the city commission tried a "supply-side" approach: It passed an ordinance regulating the feeding of large groups of people in Orlando's downtown parks.

Those who wished to feed more than 25 hungry individuals at parks within a 2-mile radius of City Hall could do so, but only if they obtained a "Large Group Feeding Permit" from the parks department —

and no one would be granted more than two feeding permits a year.

No exceptions. For the first time anyone in Orlando could remember, not only would panhandlers find themselves in the crosshairs of the law, but so would

those trying to help them.

"It's now illegal to feed the homeless in Orlando, Florida," Jay Leno, host of NBC's "Tonight Show," told a studio audience last summer in Burbank, Calif., during his opening monologue. "Have you seen the fat people walking around Disney World? We should make it illegal to feed THEM."

But when the Orlando Sentinel posted Leno's wisecrack on its Web site, local bloggers weren't laughing.

"Feeding the homeless only encourages more homelessness," one resident, with the moniker "Justin Credible," wrote. He then summed up his argument in an equation. "Less Homeless Less Problems Better Place to Live."

"Feeding the homeless only encourages more homelessness."

"Justin Credible"
blogger

transient in a city park.

In August, the American Civil Liberties Union filed suit challenging the Las Vegas ban, saying it violated constitutional protections of free speech, right to assembly and right to practice one's religion. A federal court in Nevada has prohibited the city from enforcing the ordinance until a final ruling is issued.

Advocates for the homeless feared it wouldn't be long before other cities passed similar laws. As it happens, they

were right.

Already, the cities of Dallas, Fort Myers, Fla., Gainesville, Fla., Wilmington, N.C., Atlanta, and Santa Monica, Calif., have laws restricting or outright prohibiting the feeding of the homeless. In Fairfax County, Va., homemade meals and meals made in church kitchens may not be distributed to the homeless unless first approved by the county.

Other cities, including Miami, are considering similar anti-feeding measures.

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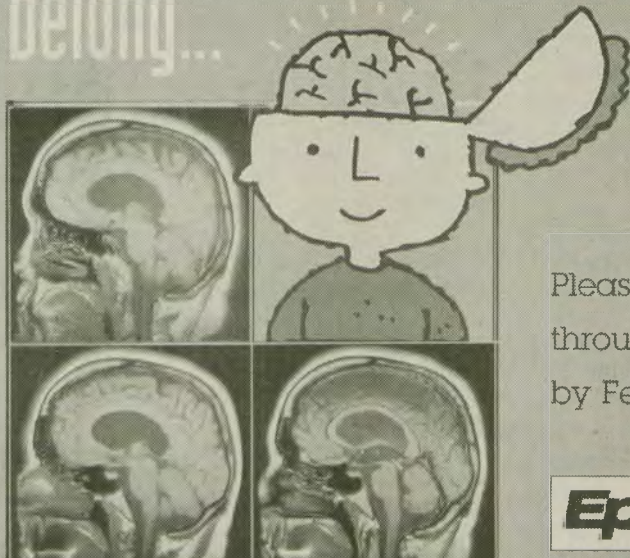
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ITALY

Berlusconi pleads for his wife's forgiveness

Associated Press

ROME — Former Premier Silvio Berlusconi, challenged in an open letter by his wife over flirtatious comments he reportedly made to other women, publicly apologized to her Wednesday, saying he never meant to hurt her dignity.

"Forgive me, I beg you. And take this public show of my private pride giving in to your fury as an act of love. One of many," said the letter from Berlusconi released by his Forza Italia party.

"Your dignity has nothing to do with it. I treasure it as a precious good in my heart, even when I make carefree jokes," said Berlusconi, 70.

His wife, Veronica Lario, wrote an open letter published Wednesday in La Repubblica — a left-leaning daily and a fierce opponent of Berlusconi — to voice her complaints over what she said was behavior that damaged her dignity as a woman.

"If I weren't married, I would marry you immediately," Berlusconi told one woman at a VIP party after a TV awards ceremony broadcast by one of his channels, according to reports widely carried in the Italian press.

He reportedly told another, "With you, I'd go anywhere."

The famously private Lario wrote in the open letter: "I see these statements as damaging my dignity."

"To both my husband and the public man, I therefore demand a public apology, since I haven't received any privately," she

wrote. "I have faced the inevitable contrasts and the more painful moments that a long conjugal relation entails with respect and discretion."

Lario, 50, saying her husband's comments were "unacceptable" and could not be reduced to mere jokes.

Berlusconi, who has boasted of his success with women in his youth and says he has a sense of gallantry, has a reputation for galling comments that some women find inappropriate.

In a separate interview, Berlusconi said his wife is a "special woman."

"Veronica has been an absolute passion; when we met, she made me lose my mind," he told the women's magazine A, which released excerpts of the interview Wednesday.

"She has been and is a wonderful mother. She has never embarrassed me, never," Berlusconi said. "And she is so lenient. ... What more could I want?"

Lario largely kept out of the public eye during Berlusconi's five-year premiership, which ended with the defeat of his conservative coalition in April elections.

But she occasionally expressed positions that were not in line with her husband's, such as defending pacifists protesting the war in Iraq, which Berlusconi supported.

Berlusconi and Lario were married in 1990, but had been together for a decade before then. A former actress, she is Berlusconi's second wife. The two are rarely seen together.

Simon follows father's path

Councilwoman carries former senator's legacy into mayoral run

Associated Press

CARBONDALE, Ill. — Sheila Simon has come a long way since her first speech at a political picnic.

"Thanks for the hot dogs," she recalls muttering as a teen after being prompted to say a few words by her father, popular U.S. senator and former presidential hopeful Paul Simon.

Since then, she said, "public speaking has been pretty natural for me." Now at 45, Simon wants to be mayor of her southern Illinois hometown, taking a baby step in the footsteps of the bow-tied family patriarch.

At least for now, Simon has no aspirations to turn the family into the latest Illinois political dynasty, like the Daleys or the Stevensons. She is unwilling to uproot her children — one a high school junior, the other in seventh grade — in a quest for a state or federal post.

"People have been speculating about my political career for a very long time," she says. Come Feb. 27, Simon hopes to be one of the top two vote-getters in the four-person non-partisan primary that includes first-term Mayor Brad Cole, who's seeking re-election. Voters in this 25,597-population city will decide the winner April 17.

While insisting he's taking Simon no more seriously than

the other two candidates — one a political novice, the other a community activist who hosts a radio talk show — Cole wonders if the free publicity Simon gets because of her lineage is fair.

"My dad was a great man, too. It's just that people didn't know him," Cole said. His late father — a former banker — was "just an everyday working American, a family man."

Even if Sheila Simon doesn't evoke her father's name during her campaign, his shadow still looms large.

By the time Paul Simon retired in 1997 — he died six years later — his resume was the story of great political ascent: muck-raking newspaper publisher, Democratic lieutenant governor, congressman, U.S. senator and, in 1988, presidential candidate. Squeaky clean, he was known in Springfield as "Reverend."

Paul Simon and his wife, Jeanne, met on the Illinois House floor when both were state representatives. In 1960, they honeymooned at the Democratic National Convention; Jeanne Simon gave up her seat to raise a family.

A young Sheila attended her dad's rallies. Years later when he ran for lieutenant governor, she and her brother, Martin, went along for the ride

through Illinois in a station wagon.

"It was real easy to campaign for dad," Sheila Simon said. "I can think of very few things dad and I would disagree about. He had a very optimistic outlook, not wanting to brush over the bad things but always assuming things can be made better."

Four years after graduating from a Maryland high school in 1979, she earned a political science degree from Ohio's Wittenberg University. Simon later got a law degree from Georgetown and returned to Illinois.

She spent years as a legal aid attorney in divorcing and housing matters, then worked in private practice before spending four years as a Jackson County prosecutor.

For the past 10 years, she's taught law at Southern Illinois University here while raising a family, doing her best to shun special treatment because she was Paul Simon's daughter.

She delayed political pursuits until 2002, when a neighbor suggested she parlay her passion in a community dispute over how to reuse an abandoned school — Simon wanted to ensure it didn't fall into disrepair or get torn down — into a seat on the Carbondale City Council that was being expanded.

"My dad was a great man, too. It's just that people didn't know him."

**Sheila Simon
Carbondale, Ill.
councilwoman**

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Medical costs result in taxable deductions

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — What do doctors' visits, Navajo healing ceremonies and clarinet lessons have in common? All can qualify, under the right circumstances, as tax-deductible medical expenses.

It's not that easy to take the deduction — medical expenses must exceed 7.5 percent of adjusted gross income before they can be deducted. On the other hand, taxpayers can cast a wide net to reach that threshold, so it may be easier than you think.

Costs for elastic hosiery, seeing-eye dogs, stop-smoking and weight-loss programs, lead paint removal, special mattresses for relief of arthritis or spine problems, reclining chairs prescribed by a doctor — all have been permitted by either the Internal Revenue Service or the U.S. Tax Court, where tax disputes are heard.

"If it was prescribed for a medical purpose, or to alleviate a condition, you have a good chance of getting it through," said Donna LeValley, a tax attorney and contributing editor of the J.K. Lasser tax publications.

The key is whether the expense involves the diagnosis, cure, treatment or prevention of a disease or health condition for you, a spouse or a

dependent.

Don't stretch it too far. Health clubs, therapeutic lessons, marriage counseling, tattooing, sex-change operations and diaper services don't qualify as medical expenses. Costs of divorce, even if recommended by a psychiatrist, don't qualify; neither does a hotel room used for sex therapy.

Also not deductible: funeral and burial expenses, toothpaste, toiletries, cosmetics and most cosmetic surgery, unless necessary to improve a disfigurement from disease, birth or accidental injury.

Still, legitimate expenses do add up. They can include air conditioners for relief of allergies or breathing problems, hearing aids, eyeglasses, contact lenses, Braille books, adapters for closed-caption service for the deaf, orthopedic shoes, crutches, wheelchairs, wigs for those who've lost hair through disease, and legal fees for guardianship of a mentally ill spouse.

Deducting clarinet lessons was permitted because a dentist recommended them for treatment of tooth defects, LeValley noted.

"You can see how that might be a little iffy, but it made sense once you see what the dentist was trying to achieve," she said.

Dems push budget toward vote

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Democrats say they are making the best of a bad situation as they bring to the House floor a massive bill cobbling together \$463.5 billion in unfinished budget business.

The bill, combining the budgets of 13 Cabinet agencies, won praise Tuesday from Democratic Party allies such as activists pressing the fight against AIDS overseas and advocates for boosting education funding.

Lawmakers in both parties hailed the bill for freeing highway construction funds, even as the White House complained that the bill will slow aid to communities harmed by a 2005 round of military base closings and cut a request for basic scientific research.

Still, the White House signaled that President Bush would sign the bill into law once it reaches his desk.

The House debate on Wednesday promises to be bitter, and the measure appears likely to pass on a largely party-line vote. But Republicans in the Senate appear unlikely to place procedural hurdles in its path.

The harshest criticism came

from House Republicans, who complained that they were shut out of any chance to offer changes to the bill — and had barely any time to read it.

Rep. Jerry Lewis of California, the Appropriations Committee's top Republican — displaced as chairman last fall — ripped into the Democrats for rushing the bill to the House floor "without any prior debate whatsoever and without the opportunity to offer even one amendment on the floor."

Republicans also took issue with Democrats' claim to have "scrubbed" the bill free of homestate projects. They pointed to, for example, \$50 million to match last year's funding for the Denali Commission, which funds rural road, sanitation, energy and other infrastructure projects in Alaska. Then there was the Senate's refusal to kill \$45 million in funding for an indoor rainforest project in central Iowa, even though local backers have yet to come up with their required share of funding.

Democrats sought to focus attention of numerous — albeit generally small — funding increases they managed to provide in favored accounts, even while living within tight limits set by Bush and last year's GOP-domi-

nated Congress.

The powerful veterans lobby won a \$3.6 billion increase for medical care, earning praise from veterans groups and the White House, while low-income college students would receive a \$260 boost in the maximum Pell Grant, to \$4,310.

"After five years of broken promises from the administration, this is an important down payment by Democrats on our commitment to help families with high college costs," said Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass.

State and local law enforcement agencies, meanwhile, won increases in grants for new equipment and hiring new officers.

Community development block grants, however, were frozen at current levels, as was Amtrak. But advocates for those programs took them as a victory relative to Bush's budget submitted a year ago.

Activists pressing for big boosts to combat AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis overseas won a \$1.3 billion increase — to \$4.5 billion. That's enough to fund the president's \$225 million initiative to fight malaria and increase the U.S. contribution to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria to \$724 million.

Solar home plays host to Va. senator

Eco-friendly home designed, built by students

Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. — State Sen. Frank Wagner is staying warm at his temporary address, even in below-freezing weather and without a traditional power supply or fireplace.

The Virginia Beach Republican, a proponent of alternative energy sources, is living for a week outside the Science Museum of Virginia in a solar-powered house designed and built by Virginia Tech students. He moved in Wednesday.

Using a remote control and a computer, Wagner is testing whether the award-winning home can generate enough electricity from the sun to run everyday home appliances — and still have enough left over to send to Richmond's power grid or charge an electric car.

"The house is designed to be self-sufficient, but there's a lot of things that could be adapted into existing houses today," he

said Friday, after spending his second almost glitch-free night in the 800 square-foot home.

The house is warmed by heat that comes up through the floor, and has a rainwater harvesting system and automated mood lighting. It also features a wide-screen TV and kitchen appliances chosen for their energy efficiency.

These features can be manipulated while sitting on a couch and tapping on a tablet computer connected to the building's control system. All of it is powered by the sun's energy, which is gathered by rooftop photovoltaic panels and stored in the home's battery system.

"We want to show that you don't have to huddle around candles and be dressed in all your clothes to be comfortable in a house powered by solar energy," said Robert Schubert, associate dean of research for the College of Architecture and Urban Studies at Virginia Tech.

It's a ladies game too: Football faithful not solely male

Associated Press

MIAMI — Super Bowl Sunday, once the manliest of annual celebrations, is getting a shot of estrogen.

Sports-savvy ladies are brushing up on their football lingo and planning couples activities to reconnect with their men, while other game widows will revel in a night of freedom.

"For single people, this has gotten as big as, 'Do I have a date for New Year's Eve?' There is hardly a soul that doesn't say what are you doing for the Super Bowl," sports lecturer Paula Duffy said.

The author of an audio book series, which includes the "Woman's Guide To Football," Duffy says her Long Beach, Calif.-based business is swamped once the playoffs start. She travels the country speaking at Tupperware parties, holding seminars at The Learning Annex, appearing on radio shows and even teaching private lessons, which cost upward of \$250.

Duffy demystifies the rules of the game for clients, a mix of single and married gals and business ladies looking to connect with their colleagues, with graphics and cheat sheets.

"Sports and entertainment have blended. Coaches like Phil Jackson are rock stars. There's red carpet events," Duffy said of the glamour surrounding sports. "It's Access Hollywood meets ESPN, and it's a genuine topic of gossip."

And a great way for single

women to snag a guy, said Duffy, who estimates about 60 percent of her clients fall into that category.

Several professional and college football teams are also giving women the play by play. The Buffalo Bills host NFL 101 during preseason camp, which includes lessons on how to catch and throw and a tour of the locker room.

Jan Wannstedt, wife of University of Pittsburgh's coach Dave Wannstedt, leads Football University, a one-night introductory class for women. The Cincinnati Bengals and the Green Bay Packers also hold Football 101, where attendance is in the hundreds.

Gwen Arafiles, 23, was one of 600 women who attended the University of California at Berkeley's women's football huddle led by head coach Jeff Tedford last August.

"It was definitely fun. They had us practice kicking field goals from five different spots on the field," said Arafiles, a public relations executive from Berkley. "Afterward, I could say this is what a safety does. I can understand how a running back gets stripped of the ball."

But what about the women who don't care as much about the game, but still want the camaraderie?

Christine Cheng hosts a couples football and cooking party and hires a gourmet tailgating chef. The ladies learn to make mini Kobe beef burgers, salmon quesadillas, homemade sweet potato fries

and crab cakes which they later serve the boys.

A Brooklyn spa is looking to keep the sparks flying long after the coin toss with four plasma screen TVs, food and a full bar for the men and chocolate massages and facials to entertain the ladies. When the game is over, cou-

ples can reunite in Body by Brooklyn's thermal hot tub or Turkish steam room.

Then there are the gals who are happy to thumb their nose at football's most sacred day. Seattle restaurant The Pink Door is throwing a "Superbelle event" in their honor, which includes a man-

icurist, Tarot card reader, trapeze artist and chick flicks.

DIYNetwork.com is planning a marathon airing "Knitty Gritty" and encouraging knitters to trade tips over the Internet as they make shawls and blankets for charity.



Would you like to work with kids after graduation?

SINCE 1887



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For more information contact the MercyWorks Program Manager at 312-738-6369 or visit www.mercyhome.org

Representatives will also be at the ND Winter Career Fair on 2/1 from 4-8pm.

International travel into U.S. loses popularity

Sept. 11 attacks, long lines at customs, visa difficulties, subsequent security policies cited for drop in American tourism

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Visiting the United States isn't as popular as it used to be mainly because of delays and difficulties in getting visas, long lines at customs and aggressive promotional campaigns from other countries.

Travel executives told a Senate panel Wednesday that people are going elsewhere for those reasons. And long lines at Customs were blamed for the U.S. losing out on the 2007 Pan American Games to Brazil and a big concern for the U.S. Olympic Committee as Chicago and Los Angeles compete for the 2016 Olympics.

Fewer international visitors are coming to the United States since

the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks, despite an initiative announced a year ago by top government officials.

In 2000, the United States was the destination for 7.5 percent of all international travelers. After the terrorist attacks, tourism plummeted. Four years later, only 6 percent of international visits were to the United States, according to the Commerce Department.

Lawmakers and travel executives are working on strategies to boost international tourism, which contributes \$1.3 trillion and 7.3 million jobs to the U.S. economy, according to the Travel Industry Association.

"It's a significant part of the economy and we're losing our share," said Sen. Byron Dorgan, the North

Dakota Democrat who chairs a Senate panel investigating the issue.

The decline is especially notable since the weak dollar has made visits to the U.S. cheaper for foreign tourists.

Stevan Porter, an executive with Intercontinental Hotels and chairman of the travel group Discover America Partnership, told the Senate Commerce Committee on Wednesday that getting through Customs has become a daunting experience.

"The policies implemented —

well-intentioned — over the past five years, appear to have strengthened our security," Porter said.

"It's a significant part of our economy and we're losing our share."

**Sen. Byron Dorgan
D-North Dakota**

"Lost, however, were efficiencies and a semblance of customer service."

Also lost, he said, were the 2007 Pan American Games, which were awarded to Rio de Janeiro over San Antonio.

"The U.S. Olympic Committee ... recognizes this as a similar concern pursuing award of the 2016 Olympics to either Chicago or Los Angeles," Porter said.

Jonathan Tisch, chief executive of

Loews Hotels, told the committee that potential tourists to the U.S. have to wait so long and travel so far to get a visa that some are choosing to go elsewhere.

Since shortly after the Sept. 11 attacks, people who need a visa to visit the United States must apply in person so a consular official can conduct a face-to-face interview.

But in large countries like Brazil, Russia, China and India, would-be tourists have to travel quite far just to apply for the right to travel to the U.S. sometime later.


The average wait time for a visa appointment in Rio de Janeiro is 38 days, according to the State Department. In the southern Chinese city of Guangzhou, the wait is 22 days.


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THE OBSERVER VIEWPOINT

page 12

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Walking to do

When Dean Kamen unveiled his Segway Personal Transporter in December 2001, much of the grandiose hype and bloated expectations surrounding the invention focused on how the new device would revolutionize the way modern cities are built. Pretty lofty goal, sure, but no one accuses Kamen of downplaying his work. When the device was officially unveiled, people discovered that it was a motorized scooter. A pretty sweet scooter that can balance itself, true, but still ... a scooter.



James Dechant

Foregone Conclusion

The Segway is a really nifty device, true. It's fast, clean, easy to charge and use, and it almost erases pollution when compared to a car. For the average American city-dweller, the machine really serves all your daily needs, provided it can reach the workplace and nearby stores. But Kamen's ballyhooed invention underestimates the sterling and durable method of transportation that humankind has possessed ever since evolution propped us upright: walking.

The human gait is a fine thing when you think about it. You just push your legs forward and go, one foot in front of the other. As the steps add up, feet turn into yards, yards into miles, and miles into ... many miles. There are no emissions besides your exhaling breath, and none of the noise that clogs up otherwise serene cities. The footprint of the average human person is decidedly less than an automobile, and even the Segway can't best a person for space-savings. The speed may not be quite as great as a Segway or car, but it gets the job done. The energy supply lasts a lot longer than a charge on

Kamen's brainchild, and fuel is remarkably cheaper than what Ford's offspring demands (even if you prefer fine dining). All those years of planning and inventing, and here the whole time we've been sitting — or standing — on the most efficient vehicle of all. Until our descendants colonize the moon and start scooting around in hover cars, it's the best means of travel we've got.

Kamen's vision did bring to mind a regrettable aspect of modern life: we design our cities and neighborhoods around transportation, and that transportation is always a car. Older cities were built with narrower streets, where buildings hunched closer together, and they gave you an easier walking experience. In our time, however, everything modern is subject to where a car can go. This means our more state-of-the-art cities possess a great deal of convenience for us, but that convenience comes at a price. Cars are the de facto method of traveling, even within cities and suburbs, and we're left with little choice. Just think about getting around in South Bend and Mishawaka. Walking around campus or close to it does not trouble us, but try walking to Meijer and carrying back your purchases. Sure, you can do it, but it's a pain.

That pain, however, may be worth it. Living in a city may not provide the healthiest lifestyle in many aspects, but it beats suburban sprawl when it comes to weight and daily exercise. A national study published in American Journal of Preventative Medicine last December found that teenagers who grow up in suburban neighborhoods walk far less in their daily routines — relying instead on a car to get to and from school, work and friends' houses — and therefore are far more prone to obesity. They are, in fact, more than twice as likely to be overweight when compared to city teenagers.

I'm studying in Rome this semester, and

as my first long-term city living situation, it has definitely changed my habits. When you're here, it's true, there's a whole lot of walking to do. Just going from our residence to school and back and nowhere else probably adds up to four or five miles every day. The plight of suburban dwellers seems much more credible to me, because I now understand how little walking I used to do. Once you get used to walking everywhere, though, the convenience of it really becomes apparent. You're mobile, independent and environmentally-friendly.

Most European cities are built on the same premise — they existed long before cars, and the largest thing the streets had to accommodate was an occasional horse and carriage. Here, walking is your best option for getting around. Modern cities have tons of advantages — better city plumbing and waste disposal, more suitable land, easier transportation of goods — but they force you to hop in your car whenever you need a carton of milk or a loaf of bread.

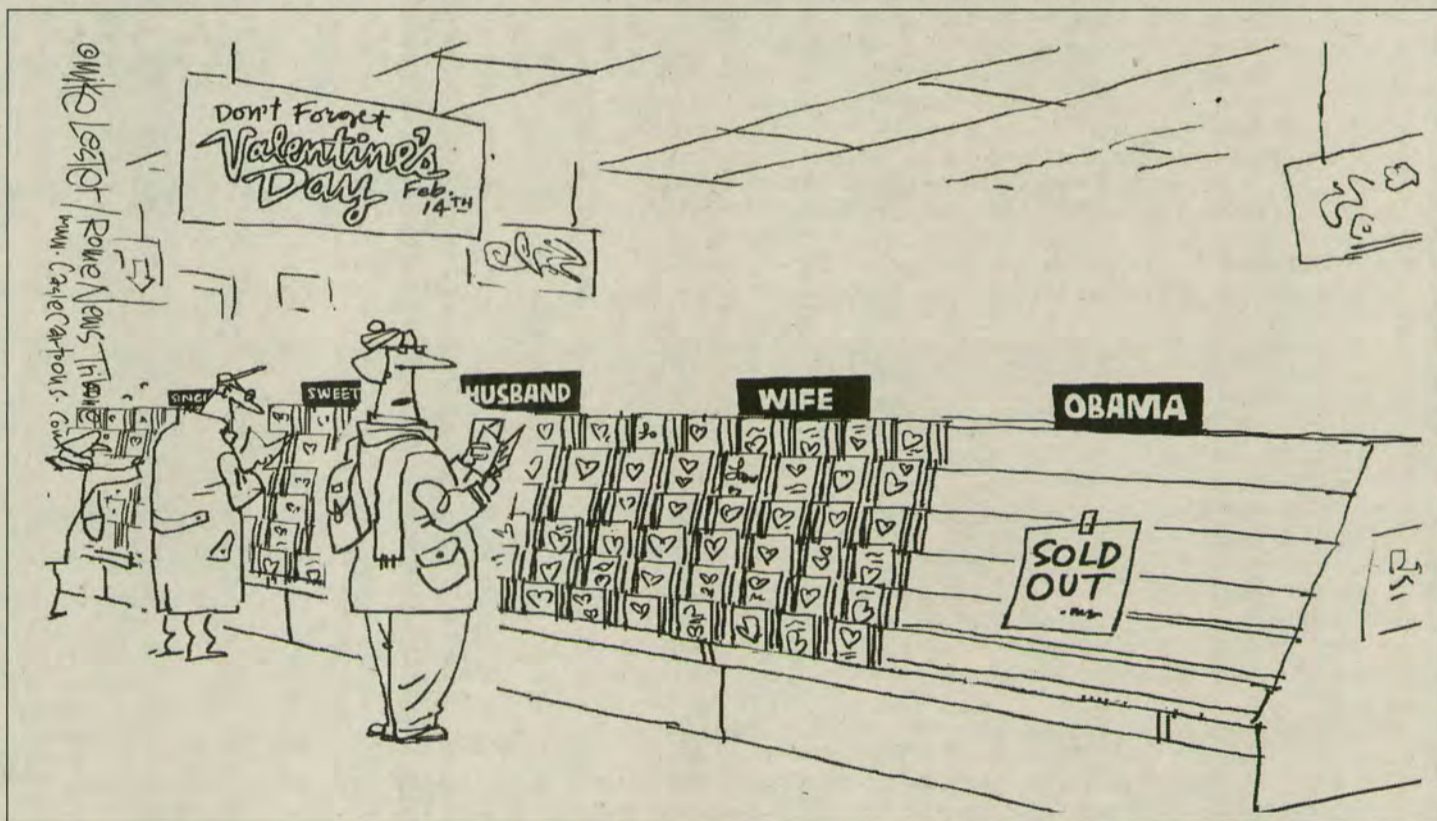
Fighting our handicapping modern city design isn't an easy task. Residential areas don't spring up overnight, so we can't expect our neighborhoods to change their layout that quickly. We can, however, choose to walk to the store or work whenever we can. In the process, you can save energy, get a workout, create less noise and just enjoy your town.

You could buy a Segway, but why waste the money? Use what you already have, and try walking. Your grandchildren living in redesigned moon-cities may thank you one day.

James Dechant is a junior studying abroad in Rome this semester. Questions, complaints, and rude remarks can be sent to jdechant@nd.edu

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

EDITORIAL CARTOON



OBSERVER POLL

Did the University handle Kyle McAlarney's case fairly?

Vote by Thursday at 5 p.m.
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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"A great memory is never made synonymous with wisdom, any more than a dictionary would be called a treatise."

John Henry Newman
former cardinal

Live in the moment

Guess how many school days remain until the end of the semester. Any ideas? The correct answer is, of course, "It depends on how you count." Some possibilities include 108 days until commencement for those of you who are seniors; 99 calendar days until the end of exams; 62 actual class days, a number which you, having gained acceptance to Notre Dame, should be able to break down even further into your own personal tallies for your M-W-F and T-Th classes.

Kate Barrett
FaithPoint

Now, though you may have a particular course which cannot come to an end quickly enough (hmmm, what a bummer if you already have this attitude on the first of February), hopefully you are not eagerly, anxiously, foot-tappingly, finger-drummingly awaiting the end of the semester. I mean, what's not to like? You have access to the best professors; a wide selection of good and plentiful food (which you must do nothing more than carry a tray around the dining hall to receive ... just wait till you have to cook it yourself!); beautiful churches and chapels where you can pray and attend Mass about 458 times a week; free NOMAD wireless almost everywhere on campus; the use of fitness facilities you'd pay big bucks for in the "real world;" opportunities to attend retreats, spring break service proj-

ects and world-renowned music and theater presentations. This is a pretty good life. Rather than rushing ahead to whatever's next, it seems reasonable to live it with gratitude.

Unfortunately, circumstances seem to conspire to make "an attitude of gratitude" difficult. We face disappointments in love, academics or employment; we worry about ailing family members far away. Perhaps underlying all these others, we worry about the future. The obligation to choose a major, figure out a career, obtain summer jobs — or for those of you facing commencement, real jobs — weighs heavily on our minds.

From beautiful and classic prayers by saints and holy men and women to the scores of self-help books on the Amazon or Barnes & Noble Web sites you can find endless suggestions, from profound to insipid, for how to "live in the now." How about just living each day with gratitude? Why not try to find something to be grateful for each and every day — something about being here, now, for which you give thanks? If you're a senior looking forward to Commencement (in 108 days), perhaps you especially will want to try the "daily gratitude" plan. For example, one of your classmates has returned to campus this semester after battling cancer and looks forward to graduating in May, cancer-free. That seems to me to be worth a big heap of gratitude.

We may create countdowns or spend all our time waiting for the future to happen out of worry or anxiety. We may also do it because we've just come to take our present situation for granted. If you feel like you've used up all Notre Dame has to offer, then it's time to make a new friend; go to a Mass or prayer service you've never been to before; make a retreat (see below!); attend a lecture or concert you never thought you'd try; or best of all, find some small, new way to give something back to this community.

If you're one of those seniors counting down the 108 days until commencement, consider tossing your countdown in the trash — unless, of course, you're using it to find "108 Ways to be Grateful During My Last Semester Here." Additionally, how about going on the senior retreat this weekend (Feb. 2 and 3; see campusministry.nd.edu)? It starts tomorrow but you can still sign up — and no one will make fun of you for having no previous plans for the weekend. Hey, you're living in the now!

This week's FaithPoint is written by Kate Barrett, director of resources and special projects in the Office of Campus Ministry. She can be reached at kbarrett@nd.edu

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Border patrol is not what we need

This is a country that has a love-hate relationship with its immigrants. We love when they build our homes, pick our fruit, landscape our suburbs or clean our kitchens. But we hate when they've earned a place in the suburbs, when their kids "steal" our kids' spot at the university or even, perhaps, when their daughter marries our son.

In defending the Minuteman Project, Geoff Spiess made some hasty speculation about the group's vigilante behavior ("Bigot" an unfairly applied term, Jan. 29). In their Web site, the group is frank, explaining that the "nation is [being] devoured and plundered by the menace of tens of millions of invading illegal aliens." They describe how "future generations will inherit a tangle of rancorous, unassimilated, squabbling cultures with no common bond to hold them together, and a certain guarantee of the death of this nation as a harmonious 'melting pot.'" These lines reveal that the Minuteman Project is not simply concerned with illegal immigration, but ALL immigration. After all — "legal" immigrants are just as likely to ruin the "harmonious melting pot" as illegal ones. An immigrant is an immigrant — differentiating some as legal will not create harmony.

Spiess also posits a mistaken notion that better protection along the U.S.-Mexican border equals better protection from terrorism. In *The Wall Street Journal*, Daniel Griswold explains that "before Sept. 11, the government had stationed more than four times as many border enforcement agents on the Mexican border as along the Canadian one, even though the Canadian border is more than twice as long and has been the preferred border of entry for Middle Easterners trying to enter the United States illegally." Thus, if the United States wants results in its war on terror, it should build a more efficient and fair system of immigration, not fences. The current regulations make legal immigration impossible for millions worldwide trapped in extreme poverty — not coincidentally, the same group willing to accept the jobs that the average American worker does not.

Lastly, for those who decry the "burden" that illegal immigrants place upon social services — immigrants pay taxes too! Legal immigrants or not, they pay sales taxes when they shop, they pay property taxes when they buy homes and they pay income taxes when they work.

Catholic Social Teaching principles can also contextualize immigrant use of social services. The principle of Option for the Poor and Vulnerable encourages Catholics to place the needs of the poor and vulnerable ahead of economic concerns. The principle of Solidarity urges Catholics to promote justice through the recognition that all belong to one human family, regardless of race, class or even citizenship. And the principle of Participation reminds Catholics that all persons have the right to access those institutions necessary for their human fulfillment.

The issue of illegal immigration will not be resolved until the U.S. accepts responsibility for its intermeddling political actions throughout the world. It will require future leaders to fight global conditions of extreme poverty that are creating millions of immigrants. Are we up to that challenge, Notre Dame?

Michelle Muñoz
 senior
 off-campus
 Jan. 30

Support the team — let 'the box' live

College sports' fans stand out from the crowd, so to speak, in their passion for the team and willingness to travel great distances in support of that team, and consume their lives knowing the high school stats of a junior tailback in North Dakota, who may or may not go to their school someday. And if you look around in the students' section of most college games, you can see spectators dressed extravagantly and borderline loony. The leprechaun isn't the only mascot that Notre Dame basketball has. Many have seen him, but few understand the simple brilliance until getting a closer look. Right in front of Notre Dame's biggest games this season has been "the box." That blob of white down in the first row next to the center aisle is not a marshmallow but one crazy fan.

Willing to camp out sometimes 12 hours before game time for the coveted seat, "the box" garners a bad rap from the security staff worried about the younger audience. (Mind you, "the box" is short for the Halloween costume "box of wine" which comes complete with a spigot.) They fear that small children will think of the spigot as a phallic symbol. And although it is important to protect our children, honestly, how many kids are old enough to know what it symbolizes, but young enough to still be offended? With the costume turned inside out, people only see a foam blob or as one ESPN commentator recently called him, "the bubble boy."

"The box" must be set free and allowed to be worn in good harmless fun. There are three Irish home games remaining and in order to keep the streak alive and keep the Leprechaun Legion as great as it is, let the box live.

Jim Young
 freshman
 Keough Hall
 Jan. 30

EDITORIAL CARTOON



DVD REVIEWS

Jaa's 'Protector' ruined by Americanization

By TAE ANDREWS
Assistant Scene Editor

Tony Jaa burst onto the scene with 2003's "Ong Bak," an instant classic that flew at audiences like an elbow strike to the face and cemented his status as a bona fide martial arts superstar. Utilizing vicious elbow and knee strikes in the Muay Thai martial art style, Jaa dispatched onscreen enemies with panache and flair reminiscent of (dare we say it) the late and great Bruce Lee, the greatest kung fu movie star of all time. Along the way, he even managed to make the movie title a verb in the popular slang, as in, "Oh man, he just got Ong Bak'd right in the face!"

Jaa is like a real-life version of "The Matrix," performing impossible flips, somersaults and aerial acrobatics, usually ending with one bad guy or another receiving massive punishment to the face from one of Jaa's many limbs and joints. Throwin' 'bows in the distinctive Muay Thai style, the sheer creativity of Jaa as a martial artist matches pretty much anything Quentin Tarantino could dream up short of Pai Mei's Five-Point Exploding Heart Technique.

The high-flying Thailander is like the

Tazmanian devil, a whirling dervish of fists, feet, elbows and knees unleashed upon enemies everywhere. And the best part of all is that Jaa is the real deal. As the DVD proudly proclaims, Tony Jaa has "no stunt doubles, no wires, no CGI." In other words, what you see is what you get.

Normally, watching Jaa in action is a kick in the pants, or more accurately, a flying knee strike to the dome. So naturally, Jaa's next movie should have been as sure of a thing as one of his signature monster elbows to the face, right?

Wrong. Enter "The Protector," one of the worst put-together movies of all time. Somewhere, Bruce Lee is doing backflips in his grave after the release of this sloppy jalopy. The original Thai film, entitled "Tom Yum Goong," is a fine piece of cinema. Unfortunately, the various clowns at the Weinstein Company headquarters decided to cut a different version of the film for its release in the U.S.

Perhaps the studio was trying to simplify the film for American audiences, but ironically enough, the plot is very standard fare. Jaa reprises his role from "Ong Bak" as a Thai country boy done good. This time around, he finds himself risking life and limb in pursuit of pachyderm protection, guarding a venerable line of elephants from evil poachers.

Dumbed down and sped up for American audiences, the movie was apparently cut



Photo courtesy of movieweb.com

Tony Jaa stars in his latest high-flying martial arts film, "The Protector," where he exhibits his mastery of Muay Thai, a fighting technique native to Thailand.

and spliced together by a glue stick-eating first grader with construction paper, chewing gum and Scotch tape. The editing is just awful — it's choppy, devoid of any coherent structure and makes the plot impossible to follow. "The Protector" skips from fight scene to chase sequence back to fight scene regardless of plot.

Amazingly, the fight scenes remain breathtaking, with audiences sure to ooh and ah at Jaa's many insane moves. Jaa still sizzles and dazzles, delivering a scintillating performance almost in spite of the atrocious editing.

Throughout its confusing and distorted narrative, the film even manages to jump between dubbing and subtitles

seemingly at whim, which is just adding insult to injury. Even for a film genre known for its cheesy dialogue and worse acting, "The Protector" manages to disappoint at every turn.

The sole redeeming feature of the DVD set is that the generous folks at Dragon Dynasty DVD decided to add a second disc of the original film, "Tom Yum Goong."

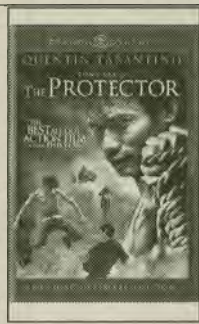
Although there is plenty of Tony Jaa inflicting his typical pain on heads, shoulders, knees and toes, all that bone-breaking and name-taking is ultimately wasted, as not even the talented Mr. Jaa can save "The Protector."

Contact Tae Andrews at tandrew1@nd.edu

The Protector

Two-Disc Collector's Edition

Weinstein Company



'Iron Man' falls far short of invincible namesake

By TAE ANDREWS
Assistant Scene Editor

For those college students socially adept enough to have never picked up a comic book in their lives, Iron Man doesn't carry the same superhero name recognition as a Batman or a Spider-Man. As such, most undergraduates may be unaware that Marvel recently released "The Invincible Iron Man," a reboot of the Iron Man mythos, for the faithful in the form of a straight-to-DVD animated classic. At least, that's what the goal was.

Sadly, even Iron Man's rocket shoes can't launch this clunker of a flick off the ground. Although the DVD features pretty good animation, bad dialogue and the typical convoluted plot associated with animated movies put a whole lot of chinks in Iron Man's armor.

Iron Man's alter ego is billionaire playboy Tony Stark, the founder of Stark Enterprises, a multi-billion dollar tech company. Basically, imagine Bill Gates with game: a computer technology nerd with the suave skills of Justin Timberlake, plus a pretty sweet Fu Manchu mustache

(granted, this is not an easy thing to imagine, but that's why it's based off a comic book). Plus, with all of his mechanized joints, Iron Man can do "The Robot" just like JT. In fact, it seems like he's always doing "The Robot" as he clunks and clanks his way through the DVD.

After an early attack leaves him with a damaged heart, Tony Stark manages to soldier on. Despite his bum ticker, the tin man still has a heart of gold, an iron will and a steel resolve to fight crime (and evil supernatural beings).

As these things tend to go, the plot is pretty far out there. Stark Enterprises has a project to raise an ancient buried city in China. However, midway through the project, evil magical demons called Elementals pop up like supernatural Whack-A-Moles. Obviously, the next logical step for these dark forces of nature is to try to raise the Mandarin, the evil and all-powerful leader of an ancient dynasty. With the world in peril, a man in a robot suit is called upon to save the day. In other words, standard comic book fare as far as the plot goes.

Although the use of Chinese mysticism is an interesting angle to take in the retelling of the Iron Man story (a similar Eastern influence worked well in "Batman Begins," another superhero re-launch movie), here it seems as though Iron Man's GPS navigation system went haywire and he accidentally landed himself in "The Last Samurai."



Photo courtesy of myspace.com

Iron Man has been a popular superhero since his first incarnation in the comic book world during the early 1960s and in 2008 will star in his own feature film.

Iron Man fans will no doubt enjoy the appearance of Tony Stark's best friend James "Rhodey" Rhodes. However, perhaps the most disappointing thing about the movie is that Tony Stark doesn't even spend the majority of time as Iron Man in his usual red and yellow get-up. No, instead he plods around in a grey bucket of bolts with a microwave oven for a helmet.

Unfortunately, by the time The Invincible Iron Man saddles up and reaches its "climax," Tony Stark's palm blasters are firing blanks: the bizarre plot makes the final showdown somewhat less than epic. Animated classics aside, the film's

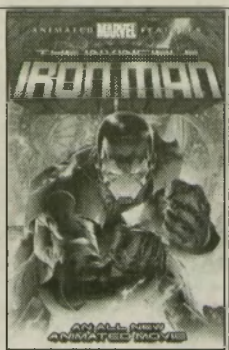
bad dialogue and worse vocal performances cause the whole movie to ring more hollow than an empty suit of armor. Fortunately for the diehard tin can head fans out there, this is only Marvel's first try at making an Iron Man movie. Although this first stab at the character can be considered an unqualified swing and a miss, unsatisfied fans are still better off waiting for the live action version, directed by Jon Favreau, due out sometime in 2008.

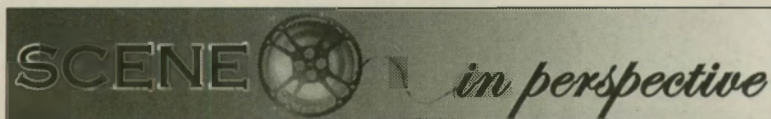
Here's to hoping the second time is the charm.

Contact Tae Andrews at tandrew1@nd.edu

The Invincible Iron Man

Lions Gate





The legacy of Time's latest 'Person of the Year'

Looking at the future of user-generated sites like YouTube

By BRIAN DOXTADER and
MARTY SCHROEDER
Scene Writers

Time Magazine recently declared "you" to be the "Person of the Year," primarily because of the Internet phenomenon of YouTube. YouTube is a Web site that allows web surfers to post and watch Internet videos at no cost, and is one of the biggest and most well-known Web sites.

"Every video ever is on YouTube," joked comedian Dane Cook on SNL (in a clip that was, ironically, removed from YouTube at NBC's request). Cook may not have been far off. The site is now home to countless videos, ranging from simple home movies to complex commercial endeavors.

YouTube was founded by Chad Hurley, Steve Chen and Jawed Karim — three former PayPal employees — in 2005. By summer of 2006, it was one of the world's most popular Web sites, and in October 2006 it was sold as a subsidiary of Google.

Easy cop-out remarks aside, Time Magazine's selection raises some serious questions. "You" may be the director of your own destiny and YouTube video, but how long is it going to be before advertisers catch wind of this and reach their tentacles into this supposedly egalitarian and personally driven Internet phenomenon? A look into where websites like YouTube were and where they are now reveals much about where they will probably be going.

This may be cynical, but is there any industry in the United States that has not been taken over by corporations? YouTube is our generation's Mom and Pop store; we know who our friends are and we all come together to make media for each other. However, the commercials are on the way.

YouTube has, in many ways, revolutionized Internet video by compiling most of it within the confines of a single Web site. There is a ton of copyrighted material like music videos, sporting events and television show clips, though some studios, like NBC, have begun to crack down.

What's truly bizarre about Internet video is the way it has made minor



Photo courtesy of seancoon.org
"Saturday Night Live" cast members Chris Parnell and Andy Samberg star in the digital short *Lazy Sunday*, which has repeatedly been pulled from YouTube by NBC.

celebrities and cultural icons out of so-called "viral videos." Accidental clips like the Star Wars Kid (YouTube search: star wars kid), Leeroy Jenkins (YouTube search: leeroy jenkins) and the Numa Numa video (YouTube search: numa numa) contrast with "real" videos like the "Shoes" video (YouTube search: shoes) or the SNL digital shorts. Whether they know it or not, these "common people," who have not gone through the traditional flaming hoops to stardom, are the latest fads without being in their own film or on "Oprah." This is not to say that Tom Cruise jumping around on "Oprah" was not one of the most watched clips on Internet video sites, but who knows what the real Leeroy Jenkins looks like, or who the Star Wars kid is? We may not know, but the Star Wars kid was parodied on former Fox hit "Arrested Development" — he became a pop culture icon to millions who don't know his name. These characters, who act a little out of the ordinary, are the people Time is talking about when they made "you" the "Person of the Year" — not to mention the YouTube users with the foresight to put these videos up in the first place.

Another phenomenon is the "remix-

ing" of popular media. Everything from the old "X-Men" cartoon — redubbed as the "Juggernaut" video (Google video search: juggernaut) — to the "G.I. Joe" Public Service Announcements (YouTube search: gi joe psa) have been altered, usually to comic effect. These movies have proven immensely popular, but are problematic because they use copyrighted materials. Though these materials have been altered (often drastically) some videos, like the aforementioned "Juggernaut" clip, have been removed because of infringement laws.

One of the positive side effects for advertisers, however, are the commercials available on YouTube. With the impending Super Bowl XLI commercials, everyone, including "you," will be able to go back to YouTube the next morning and watch their favorite commercials over and over and over again — a boon for whoever's marketing department creates the cleverest commercial. The 1984 "1984" Apple commercial (YouTube search: apple 1984) or Reebok's "Terry Tate: Office Linebacker" (YouTube search: terry tate) are now available long after their initial airdate. While all the music

recording companies and entertainment companies are clamoring for more control over the media content on the internet, Web sites such as YouTube are the mother lode for advertisers, provided they make a connection with their consumers. Create a plot within a group of commercials — something Taco Bell has attempted to do with its current Carmen Electra commercials — put the whole storyline, once completed, to Web sites like YouTube and have your potential customers watch your commercials over and over again. Machiavellian tactics like this may not be ethical, but this is the way of commercial advertising with devices like TiVo and others eliminating the television advertisement.

A side effect of this could be advertising competitions similar to the focus groups companies use to know how to market to certain demographics. The freelance advertiser wouldn't be holed up in a cubicle, but instead be able to submit commercials to companies by posting them on websites like YouTube. Consumers and companies could vote for their favorite and by the time you've won, everyone has seen so many advertisements from a single company. The possibilities for corporations to use (read: abuse) these Web sites are endless.

All in all, the Google buy-out of YouTube could be one of the most damaging things to happen to "you." As a publicly owned company, the shareholders will be the ones who determine the direction that the Web site takes.

Any form of creative community that could have come out of YouTube will have to go someplace else and the website that bore "Shoes" and the Star Wars kid will be a hunting ground for advertisers trying to get "you" to spend "your" money.

Time said we are the "Person of the Year" because we are creative, original and exactly what corporations are not. If we want to live up to the legacy Time has given us, we need to find more men like Leeroy Jenkins.

Contact Brian Doxtader at bdoxtade@nd.edu and Marty Schroeder at mschroe1@nd.edu
The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of *The Observer*.

This may be cynical, but is there any industry in the United States that has not been taken over by corporations?

Time said we are the "Person of the Year" because we are creative, original and exactly what corporations are not.



Photo courtesy of johnlebey.canalblog.com
Ghyslain Raza became widely known on the Internet in May 2003 as the "Star Wars kid" when a video clip he recorded of himself was leaked online.



Photo courtesy of aestheticsofplay.org
Leeroy Jenkins, the World of Warcraft character created by Ben Schulz, is the star of this video, causing the deaths of his teammates and gaining cult status in the process.

NCAA BASKETBALL

Hoosiers erase Badgers' 17-game win streak

Ratliff scores season-high 20 points, White adds 16 as Indiana upsets No. 2 Wisconsin 71-66 in Big Ten battle

Associated Press

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. — A.J. Ratliff's scariest moment came after the game was over.

Ratliff scored 18 of his season-high 20 points in the second half and Indiana held off No. 2 Wisconsin on Wednesday night, ending the Badgers' 17-game winning streak. But before Ratliff and the rest of his teammates could get off the court, several thousand delirious fans stormed out of the stands and onto the floor in celebration.

"I'm claustrophobic anyway," said Ratliff, who was quickly mobbed by the Indiana fans. "I was just trying to get to the locker room. It was funny, but it was kind of scary at the same time."

Ratliff was even scarier for the Badgers during the game. He had a pair of 3-pointers during a 13-1 run and another 3-pointer that gave the Hoosiers (16-5, 6-2 Big Ten) a 53-43 lead with under 10 minutes remaining.

A rebound basket by Alando Tucker, who led Wisconsin (21-2, 7-1) with 23 points, and two 3-pointers by Kammron Taylor helped the Badgers tie the game at 59. But Ratliff scored six of Indiana's next eight points, including two free throws with a minute to go for a 70-66 lead, and the Badgers never recovered.

Ratliff, a junior guard who has been the Hoosiers' top scorer off the bench in the past three games and in five of the past six, hit 6-of-7 shots, including four 3-pointers, in the second half.

"I felt somebody had to step up and make a play," he said. "I felt like I was hitting all my shots and I was open, so I had all the confidence in the world."

D.J. White added 16 points for the Hoosiers, who beat their highest-ranked opponent since an NCAA tourney upset of No. 1 Duke in 2002.

"This was a tremendous college basketball game," Indiana coach Kelvin Sampson said. "When you get down to a possession game, you've got to make baskets."

Sampson, the former Oklahoma coach who took over at Indiana for Mike Davis this season, said he wasn't worried about the crush of fans as the game ended.

"I have security guys," he joked. "I have a lot of confidence in my offensive line."

Still, he wasn't exactly comfortable.

"In the last five or six years, I was always on the other side of that," he said. "We (Oklahoma)

would lose and because we were so highly ranked the other fans would rush the court. I can't remember having fans (at home) rush the court like that."

After Ratliff's final basket, Tucker missed the first of a one-and-one free throw opportunity and the Hoosiers rebounded as the Assembly Hall crowd began chanting "A-J-Ratliff."

Tucker also missed a 3-point try with 10 seconds left, and Earl Calloway iced the game by hitting one of two free throws.

"The crowd definitely was a key for them, gave them a lot of energy, gave them a boost," Tucker said. "But it's always tough to play here. And the way they're playing here, they're doing a tremendous job here at home."

Tucker, second in the Big Ten in scoring at 19.6, had 14 points in the first half, but the Badgers never pulled away despite Indiana's poor shooting early in the game.

"We knew from the start it was going to be tough to pull this out. I don't think we came out with a lot of energy from the start, and that was the tale of the game," Tucker said.

North Carolina 105, Miami 64

The margin kept growing with each possession, whether by 3-pointers or transition dunks that provided the only spark for an otherwise listless crowd that ultimately headed home early.

Such is life for third-ranked North Carolina these days — a team so talented that it can't even keep its own fans in the seats for an entire game.

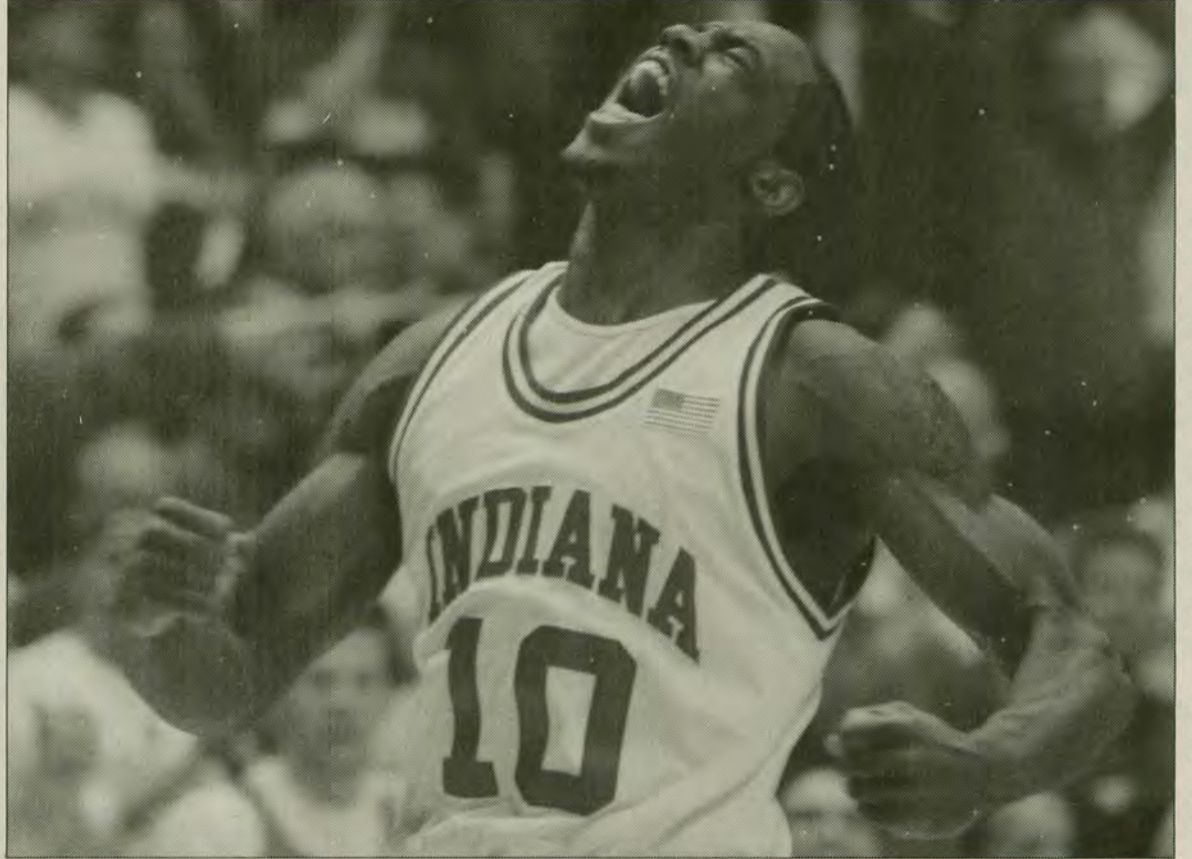
Tyler Hansbrough scored 22 points and grabbed 13 rebounds Wednesday night to lead the Tar Heels past Miami, giving them five straight wins by lopsided margins as they head into a pair of road games against instate rivals.

Wayne Ellington scored 14 points for the Tar Heels (20-2, 6-1 Atlantic Coast Conference), who look like they feel a little invincible each game.

"I wouldn't say invincible at all," said freshman Brandan Wright, who had eight points as one of 12 players to score for North Carolina. "We've got a lot of guys who are playing well and contributing."

Indeed.

North Carolina overwhelmed the Hurricanes (9-13, 2-6), who upset the Tar Heels here last season. North Carolina shot 56 percent, including 61 percent after halftime. The Tar Heels hit 12 of 24 3-pointers. They had 26



Indiana guard Roderick Wilmont yells after making a steal in the second half of the Hoosier's 71-66 upset Wednesday of No. 2 Wisconsin. Hoosier fans rushed the court after the win.

assists on 36 baskets. They took a 49-24 rebounding advantage. They matched their season-high scoring output and cracked the 100-point mark for the sixth time this year.

Ty Lawson had 13 points, while Danny Green added 12 and Reyshawn Terry had 10. Wright finished with seven rebounds and four blocks, while senior reserve Quentin Thomas had a career-high eight assists with one turnover.

The Tar Heels also got a boost with the return of sophomore guard Bobby Frasier, who had missed the past four games with a right-foot injury. Frasier was scoreless with two assists in 9 minutes.

It was quite a way to follow up their most impressive performance of the season, a 92-64 win at then-No. 17 Arizona despite playing without three top players. The Tar Heels didn't look quite that efficient early on, but they still head into games at North Carolina State and eighth-ranked Duke brimming with confidence.

"I'd rather go in playing well than playing sorry," coach Roy Williams said. "I think the kids understand in this league it's got to be every game. You've got to be ready to play in this league every night."

And Williams won't let his

team back off now.

"Sometimes you can lose focus," Wright admitted of the big leads. "But Coach emphasizes every timeout, 'Keep your foot on the gas.'"

At the other end, the Hurricanes could do little to slow them. Anthony Harris scored 18 points and hit three 3s to lead Miami, which shot 36 percent and fell behind by as many as 43 points late to lose its fifth straight league game.

Miami coach Frank Haith was ejected after being whistled for his second technical foul after reacting to a no-call on a block by Hansbrough with 7:48 left. The call came just before an official timeout and the Tar Heels leading 73-51, allowing Haith to walk to the Tar Heels huddle and shake Williams' hand before leaving the court.

"I think they're the best team in the country," Haith said. "They come at you in waves. ... He's got a team. Trust me, he's got a team."

Butler 71 Youngstown State 58

Butler coach Todd Lickliter looked at the box score and shook his head over his team's 10 turnovers.

Maybe it's that kind of perfectionism that's led to the Bulldogs' best three months of basketball

in school history.

Mike Green scored a season-high 23 points, Pete Campbell added a season-high 20 and No. 13 Butler won its seventh straight, beating Youngstown State on Wednesday night.

The Bulldogs were playing their fourth game in seven days but didn't look like it. They dominated the Penguins with their 3-point shooting in the first half, then attacked the rim in the second half with the same result.

With the victory, Butler (21-2, 9-1 Horizon League) surpassed the 20-win mark for just the third time. With No. 2 Wisconsin falling to Indiana, the Bulldogs are tied with the Badgers for the most wins in the nation.

Lickliter didn't want his players to find out.

"We probably won't be able to fit on that plane — big heads," he said.

The Bulldogs had managed to go unscathed through one of the toughest portions of their schedule — four games in four states in seven days.

But Lickliter was still worrying about the 10 turnovers — a lot for a team that entered the game leading all Division I schools in fewest turnovers per game (9.7).

"We had lapses where we struggled, but we would on top of those build and so we didn't collapse," Lickliter said.

CLASSIFIEDS

The Observer accepts classifieds every business day from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Notre Dame office, 024 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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PERSONAL

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Three tickets needed to ND Men's Basketball game against Marquette on Feb. 24.

Will pay cash. Call 570-362-1905

Sean Fox = Best dressed guy at ND

Smile, Thomson. Not everyone in this world hates you.

Dearest Fritz, We write this letter to let you know how much we enjoy relaxing on our two new couches. We ask that you please refrain from ever sleeping on or around Rm. 404 in the future. The freshmen still don't know what terrible things you did to them the day after you deflowered it. That's our little secret. Feel free to exploit Garrett's couches. He can afford new ones anyway.

Love, The Society for the Protection of Friends' Furniture (SPFF)

AROUND THE NATION

Thursday, February 1, 2007

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

page 17

NCAA Hockey

USCHO.com/CSTV Top 25

team	record	points	previous
1 New Hampshire	19-4-1	795	2
2 NOTRE DAME	21-5-2	734	3
3 Minnesota	21-5-3	731	1
4 St. Cloud State	17-5-4	684	4
5 Denver	19-9-2	631	5
6 Michigan State	16-8-1	515	9
7 Boston University	13-5-7	499	7
8 Clarkson	16-6-4	494	10
9 Maine	16-7-2	471	6
10 Miami (OH)	18-9-3	458	8
11 Michigan	19-9-0	428	12
12 North Dakota	15-11-2	374	15
13 Boston College	14-9-1	339	13
14 Vermont	14-8-4	308	11
15 Colorado College	14-10-2	222	14
16 Niagara	17-8-3	209	16
17 St. Lawrence	14-10-2	165	17
18 Quinnipiac	12-8-4	74	20
19 Massachusetts	12-8-4	69	NR
20 Cornell	10-8-3	56	18

Inside College Hockey Power Rankings

team	record
1 New Hampshire	19-4-1
2 NOTRE DAME	21-5-2
3 Minnesota	21-5-3
4 St. Cloud State	17-5-4
5 Denver	19-9-2
6 Boston University	13-5-7
7 Clarkson	16-6-4
8 Michigan State	16-8-1
9 Miami (OH)	18-9-3
10 Michigan	19-9-0
11 Maine	16-7-2
12 Vermont	14-8-4
13 Boston College	14-9-1
14 Niagara	17-8-3
15 North Dakota	15-11-2
16 St. Lawrence	14-10-2
17 Colorado College	14-10-2
18 RIT	16-8-2
19 Lake Superior St.	14-11-3
20 Massachusetts	12-8-4

USA Today/USA Hockey Magazine College Hockey

team	record	points	previous
1 New Hampshire	19-4-1	507	2
2 NOTRE DAME	21-5-2	466	3
3 Minnesota	21-5-3	442	1
4 St. Cloud State	17-5-4	411	4
5 Denver	19-9-2	375	5
6 Boston University	13-5-7	287	6
7 Michigan State	16-8-1	265	8
8 Clarkson	16-6-4	264	10
9 Maine	16-7-2	222	7
10 Michigan	19-9-0	219	11
11 Miami (OH)	18-9-3	212	9
12 North Dakota	15-11-2	136	15
13 Boston College	14-9-1	112	14
14 Vermont	14-8-4	82	12
15 Niagara	17-8-3	42	NR

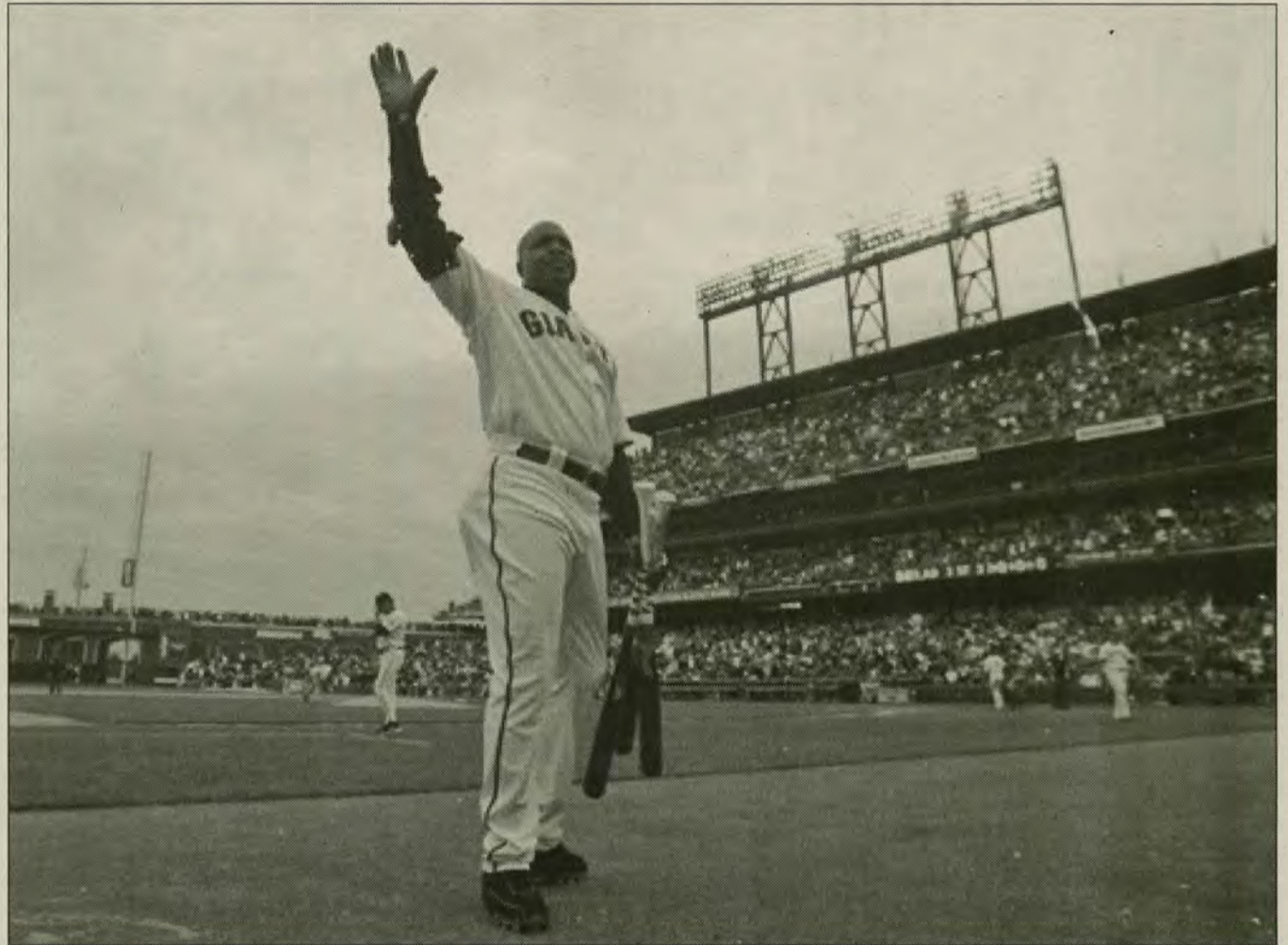
around the dial

NCAA BASKETBALL

Georgetown at Saint Joseph's
7 p.m., ESPN

Duke at Virginia
9 p.m., ESPN

MLB



Giants outfielder Barry Bonds had his contract sent back by the Commissioner's office. Major League Baseball opposed additional language in the contract related to a personal-appearance provision. AP

League rejects Bonds' contract

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Barry Bonds' contract with the San Francisco Giants isn't final yet.

After the commissioner's office rejected Bonds' \$15.8 million, one-year deal because it contained a personal-appearance provision, the team sent revised documents to his agent, Jeff Borris.

"At this time, Barry is not signing the new documents," Borris said.

Baseball's Uniform Player Contract states a player "agrees to cooperate with the club in any and all reasonable promotional activities." Bonds' contract had

additional language that the commissioner's office rejected.

Borris did not detail the provisions in dispute, but a baseball executive, speaking on condition of anonymity because these details had not been made public, said they dealt with personal appearances.

Giants executives did not immediately return telephone calls seeking comment.

Bonds and the Giants, who agreed to financial terms Dec. 7, said Monday the drawn-out agreement had been finalized.

Still, they disagree on the meaning of an unusual provision in the deal relating to

Bonds' potential legal problems. In the contract, a list of criminal acts is spelled out in a section.

"Player acknowledges and agrees that an indictment for any criminal act under (that section) ... is proper grounds for termination of this contract," Bonds' contract states.

The language in the contract was read to The Associated Press by a person with a copy of the agreement.

"Player also acknowledges and agrees that he will not grieve, appeal or otherwise challenge any club action to terminate this contract as a result of player's indictment for any criminal acts (speci-

fied) ... nor will he cause or authorize any third party, such as the Major League Baseball Players Association, to grieve, appeal or otherwise challenge any club action to terminate this contract as a result of player's indictment for any (specified) criminal acts."

The Giants wanted to protect themselves if Bonds is charged in the federal government's steroids investigation. Bonds' personal trainer, Greg Anderson, is in a California federal prison because he has refused to testify whether Bonds committed perjury when he told a 2003 grand jury he never knowingly used performance-enhancing drugs.

IN BRIEF

Cowboys will wait until after Super Bowl to name coach

IRVING, Texas — The Dallas Cowboys won't name Bill Parcells' replacement until after the Super Bowl.

In his first public comments since Parcells retired Jan. 22, owner and general manager Jerry Jones said Wednesday he wouldn't have a decision on a new coach until next week. Jones has already interviewed eight candidates, and said he might add to that list.

"We've got a good football team, and I've got to get this right," Jones said. "We've got to make a good decision when we select the next coach. We're going to have the opportunity and a plan in place that will allow us to do that."

Hall of Fame linebacker Mike Singletary, the assistant head coach for the San Francisco 49ers, interviewed Tuesday. That came two days after 49ers offensive coordinator Norv Turner.

Super Bowl air security tight, high-tech

HOMESTEAD AIR RESERVE BASE, Fla. — Pilots who stray into a no-fly zone around the Super Bowl on Sunday can count on an immediate, robust response from F-16 fighter planes, helicopters and lots of high-tech gadgetry aimed at countering any threat.

"We'll be prepared to handle anything like that," said Julie Torres, chief of the Miami office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the federal security coordinator for the Super Bowl.

When flight restrictions are violated, most of the time it's because of a communications problem or a pilot isn't aware of the rules. But even so, the Air Force, U.S. Customs and Border Protection and numerous other agencies are ready to intercept such aircraft, escort them to the ground and interrogate the pilots on Super Bowl Sunday.

NASCAR changes provisional qualifying spot rule

CONCORD, N.C. — NASCAR changed its Nextel Cup past champions provisional Wednesday to limit it to only six uses per season.

There had previously been no limit to how many times a past Cup champion could use the provisional to ensure a spot in the field each week. The provisional was set aside for the 43rd spot in the race to the most recent former champion who did not qualify based on speed.

Now, a driver can only use the spot six times in a year, and the limit also applies to the entire team so that a car owner can't use multiple past champions in the course of one season.

"As NASCAR seeks to place more emphasis on competition, we have decided the time is right to limit the number of provisionals allowed," said Robin Pemberton, NASCAR's competition director.



FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF ALL FIRST ROUND GAME TIMES FOR LATE NIGHT OLYMPICS TEAMS. ADDITIONAL TIMES WILL BE PROVIDED AT THE END OF EACH ROUND.

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Keough/Welsh Family

Volleyball	Team A	7:00	Men's Racquetball	CALL 1-6100
	Team B	7:50	Women's Racquetball	CALL 1-6100
Men's Basketball	Team A	7:00	Co-Rec Broomball	8:30
	Team B	7:30		
Women's Basketball		8:20	Kickball	12:50
			Wiffleball	Team A 8:15
Ultimate	Team A	7:30		Team B 10:55
	Team B	8:30	Monster Dodgeball	12:00
Target Golf		9:00	Innertube Water Polo	8:00
Co-Rec Soccer	Team A	6:30	LNO Obstacle Course	Team A 10:45
	Team B	8:35		Team B 10:30
Kayaking		10:15	Table Tennis	CALL 1-6100
			Dance Marathon	NA

O'Neill/Lyons

Volleyball	Team A	7:00	Men's Racquetball	CALL 1-6100
	Team B	7:50	Women's Racquetball	CALL 1-6100
Men's Basketball		7:15	Co-Rec Broomball	9:30
Women's Basketball		7:40	Kickball	12:10
Ultimate	Team A	8:10	Wiffleball	9:35
	Team B	8:50	Monster Dodgeball	12:00
Target Golf		9:20	Innertube Water Polo	Team A 8:00
Co-Rec Soccer	Team A	7:45		Team B 10:30
	Team B	9:50	LNO Obstacle Course	Team A 9:15
Kayaking		9:15		Team B 10:15
			Table Tennis	CALL 1-6100
			Dance Marathon	10:00

Dillon/Walsh

Volleyball	Team A	7:25	Men's Racquetball	NA
	Team B	7:25	Women's Racquetball	NA
Men's Basketball		7:30	Co-Rec Broomball	12:00
Women's Basketball	Team A	9:00	Kickball	11:10
	Team B	7:00	Wiffleball	Team A 8:15
Ultimate		NA		Team B 9:55
Target Golf		9:40	Monster Dodgeball	12:00
Co-Rec Soccer	Team A	8:10	Innertube Water Polo	10:05
	Team B	9:50	LNO Obstacle Course	Team A 9:00
Kayaking		NA		Team B 10:15
			Table Tennis	CALL 1-6100
			Dance Marathon	NA

Alumni/Lewis

Volleyball		NA	Men's Racquetball	NA
		NA	Women's Racquetball	NA
Men's Basketball		NA	Co-Rec Broomball	NA
Women's Basketball		7:20	Kickball	NA
Ultimate		7:50	Wiffleball	NA
Target Golf		9:40	Monster Dodgeball	12:00
Co-Rec Soccer		8:05	Innertube Water Polo	NA
Kayaking	Team A	11:30	LNO Obstacle Course	NA
	Team B	11:45	Table Tennis	CALL 1-6100
			Dance Marathon	NA

Knott/Pasquerilla East

Volleyball		7:00	Men's Racquetball	NA
		NA	Women's Racquetball	CALL 1-6100
Men's Basketball	Team A	7:00	Co-Rec Broomball	12:00
	Team B	7:30		
Women's Basketball		8:00	Kickball	12:10
Ultimate	Team A	9:30	Wiffleball	9:55
	Team B	8:50	Monster Dodgeball	12:00
Target Golf		10:40	Innertube Water Polo	8:25
Co-Rec Soccer	Team A	10:15	LNO Obstacle Course	Team A 9:30
	Team B	8:35		Team B 10:00
Kayaking	Team A	9:00	Table Tennis	CALL 1-6100
	Team B	10:45	Dance Marathon	NA

Fisher/Howard/Regina

Volleyball		7:25	Men's Racquetball	CALL 1-6100
			Women's Racquetball	CALL 1-6100
Men's Basketball	Team A	7:45	Co-Rec Broomball	2:00
	Team B	7:15	Kickball	10:50
Women's Basketball		NA		
Ultimate		9:10	Wiffleball	8:55
Target Golf		9:00	Monster Dodgeball	12:00
Co-Rec Soccer		6:30	Innertube Water Polo	8:25
Kayaking		8:30	LNO Obstacle Course	9:45
			Table Tennis	CALL 1-6100
			Dance Marathon	NA

Siegfried/Pasquerilla W.

Volleyball	Team A	7:50	Men's Racquetball	CALL 1-6100
	Team B	7:00	Women's Racquetball	CALL 1-6100
Men's Basketball	Team A	7:00	Co-Rec Broomball	8:00
	Team B	7:30		
Women's Basketball	Team A	7:00	Kickball	10:50
	Team B	9:20	Wiffleball	Team A 8:35
Ultimate	Team A	8:10		Team B 10:55
	Team B	8:30	Monster Dodgeball	12:00
Target Golf	Team A	10:20	Innertube Water Polo	9:40
	Team B	10:00	LNO Obstacle Course	NA
Co-Rec Soccer	Team A	7:45		
	Team B	10:15	Table Tennis	CALL 1-6100
Kayaking		9:45	Dance Marathon	10:00

Sorin/Pangborn

Volleyball		NA	Men's Racquetball	NA
			Women's Racquetball	NA
Men's Basketball		NA	Co-Rec Broomball	1:30
Women's Basketball		7:40	Kickball	NA
Ultimate		NA	Wiffleball	9:35
Target Golf		NA	Monster Dodgeball	12:00
Co-Rec Soccer		6:55	Innertube Water polo	9:40
Kayaking	Team A	9:30	LNO Obstacle Course	NA
	Team B	11:15	Table Tennis	NA
			Dance Marathon	10:00

Keenan/Farley/LeMans

Volleyball		8:15	Men's Racquetball	CALL 1-6100
			Women's Racquetball	NA
Men's Basketball	Team A	7:45	Co-Rec Broomball	8:30
	Team B	7:45		
Women's Basketball		NA	Kickball	NA
Ultimate		NA	Wiffleball	10:15
Target Golf		NA	Monster Dodgeball	NA
Co-Rec Soccer		NA	Innertube Water Polo	NA
Kayaking		NA	LNO Obstacle Course	NA
			Table Tennis	CALL 1-6100
			Dance Marathon	NA

Morrissey/B.P./Holly Cross

Volleyball		7:25	Men's Racquetball	CALL 1-6100
			Women's Racquetball	NA
Men's Basketball		NA	Co-Rec Broomball	8:00
Women's Basketball		NA	Kickball	11:30
Ultimate		7:50	Wiffleball	8:35
Target Golf		NA	Monster Dodgeball	12:00
Co-Rec Soccer		NA	Innertube Water Polo	NA
Kayaking		NA	LNO Obstacle Course	NA
			Table Tennis	CALL 1-6100
			Dance Marathon	NA

Carroll/Zahm/McGlenn

Volleyball	Team A	7:00	Men's Racquetball	CALL 1-6100
	Team B	7:25	Women's Racquetball	CALL 1-6100
Men's Basketball	Team A	7:15	Co-Rec Broomball	9:30
	Team B	7:15		
Women's Basketball		8:00	Kickball	11:50
Ultimate	Team A	7:30	Wiffleball	Team A 9:15
	Team B	9:10		Team B 8:55
Target Golf		10:00	Monster Dodgeball	12:00
Co-Rec Soccer	Team A	6:55	Innertube Water Polo	Team A 9:15
	Team B	9:00	LNO Obstacle Course	Team B 8:50
Kayaking	Team A	8:45	Table Tennis	CALL 1-6100
	Team B	11:00	Dance Marathon	10:00

Stanford/Badin/McCandless

Volleyball		8:15	Men's Racquetball	CALL 1-6100
			Women's Racquetball	CALL 1-6100
Men's Basketball	Team A	7:15	Co-Rec Broomball	12:30
	Team B	7:00		
Women's Basketball		NA	Kickball	11:30
Ultimate		9:30	Wiffleball	Team A 9:15
Target Golf		N/A		Team B 10:35
Co-Rec Soccer		8:10	Monster Dodgeball	12:00
		10:40	Innertube Water Polo	Team A 9:30
Kayaking	Team A	8:10	LNO Obstacle Course	Team B 10:00
	Team B	10:40	Table Tennis	CALL 1-6100
		NA	Dance Marathon	NA

St.Edward's/Cavanaugh

Volleyball		7:25	Men's Racquetball	CALL 1-6100
			Women's Racquetball	NA
Men's Basketball	Team A	7:30	Co-Rec Broomball	9:00
	Team B	7:00		
Women's Basketball		8:40	Kickball	12:30
Ultimate		NA	Wiffleball	NA
Target Golf		NA	Monster Dodgeball	12:00
Co-Rec Soccer		7:20	Innertube Water Polo	NA
Kayaking		NA	LNO Obstacle Course	9:15
			Table Tennis	CALL 1-6100
			Dance Marathon	NA

MBA Association

Volleyball		7:00	Men's Racquetball	CALL 1-6100
			Women's Racquetball	CALL 1-6100
Men's Basketball	Team A	7:15	Co-Rec Broomball	9:00
	Team B	7:00		
Women's Basketball		7:20	Kickball	11:10
Ultimate		9:50	Wiffleball	10:35
Target Golf		9:20	Monster Dodgeball	12:00
Co-Rec Soccer	Team A	7:20	Innertube Water Polo	8:50
	Team B	9:25	LNO Obstacle Course	10:30
Kayaking	Team A	10:00	Table Tennis	CALL 1-6100
	Team B	10:30	Dance Marathon	10:00

OLYMPICS

Olympic athletes will now be tested for HGH

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Olympic athletes soon will have their blood tested for human growth hormone, but the NFL and baseball officials instead are embracing the unproven concept of urine testing in their bid to stop use of the performance-enhancing drug.

Critics question whether the pro leagues truly are intent on rooting out HGH, thought to be widely abused because no one currently is testing for it. But baseball and football officials say they are stymied by union contracts that prohibit taking blood from players, and they cite privacy concerns and doubts about the accuracy of blood tests.

The two leagues recently awarded grants worth a combined \$1 million to develop a urine test, but even the scientist who received most of the research money concedes an effective urine screen is years away, meaning players can continue using HGH with little fear of getting caught.

"It's a difficult proposition," said Don Catlin, chief of the Olympic Analytical Laboratory at UCLA. "It's going to take a while."

This blood feud over how to root out cheaters has opened a deep schism at the highest levels of amateur and professional sports.

The World Anti-Doping Agency plans to test the blood of elite amateur athletes by the end of this year. The agency's chief, Dick Pound, dismissed efforts by the NFL, Major League Baseball and their unions as "a piddling little amount" spent on unproven technology to combat a major problem.

"Our view is that it's out there being used with impunity because of the lack of testing," Pound said.

Anti-doping agencies that police amateur athletes around the globe have spent nearly \$10 million over the past decade to develop a blood test to detect synthetic growth hormone.

"All the experts we have consulted told us to forget about urine tests," said Olivier Rabin, the anti-doping agency's top scientist. "In urine you will find less than 1 percent of human growth hormone than you will find in the blood."

Human growth hormone occurs naturally in the body and synthetic versions taken by injection are chemically identical, making detection difficult. The new blood tests are designed to find higher-than-normal hormone levels that can be reached only by taking synthetic versions.

Rabin said the blood test can detect the presence of synthetic growth hormone for about two days after it's injected, which requires the agency to conduct unannounced, random samplings.

Some 300 athletes at the 2004 Olympics in Athens underwent blood testing without a positive result. But Rabin says testing deterred human growth hormone use because athletes knew the tests were coming.

An NFL official, however, said that proves the tests were unreliable.

"Our indication is that there are outstanding issues with respect to the availability and

the reliability of the blood test," league spokesman Greg Aiello said.

Donald Fehr, head of the baseball players' union, said: "We would have nothing to say about it until it came out and we had an opportunity to review it."

Human growth hormone is produced in the pituitary gland, a pea-sized structure at the base of the brain that controls growth and other functions. In the mid-1980s, scientists at the biotechnology pioneer Genentech Inc. figured out how to produce the hormone by genetically engineering human genes into bacteria.

Since then, the global market for human growth hormone has reached nearly \$1 billion annually with seven companies, including Eli Lilly & Co., Pfizer Inc. and Novartis, producing similar versions. Its uses include treating pituitary gland tumors and growth disorders in children.



Dr. Donald Catlin, professor of molecular and medical pharmacology at UCLA, sits in the UCLA Olympic Analytical Laboratory Jan. 23. The lab will begin to test Olympic athletes for the hard-to-detect human growth hormone.

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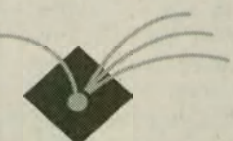
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MLB

Yankee Stadium to go out with All-Star salute

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Yankee Stadium is going out with an All-Star salute.

The beloved old ballpark will host the 79th major league All-Star game on July 15, 2008, the final season before the New York Yankees move into a new stadium being built across the street in the Bronx.

Baseball commissioner Bud Selig and New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg were on hand Wednesday at City Hall for the announcement, which had been expected for months.

"When you think of Yankee Stadium it is the most, in my opinion, famous cathedral in baseball — and I think the most famous stadium in the world," Selig said. "So we really believe that this is the way we can honor a cathedral that has meant so much to this sport for so long."

It will be the fourth All-Star game at Yankee Stadium, which opened in 1923 and underwent an extensive renovation in the mid-1970s. The most recent summer showcase in The House That Ruth Built was in 1977, when the National League won 7-5 for the sixth of 11 consecutive victories over the AL.

Now, the American League has nine wins and a tie in the past 10 All-Star games going into this year's contest July 10 in San Francisco. The 2009 game will be played in St. Louis.

"We're excited," Yankees general partner Steve Swindal said. "It just seemed appropriate."

Yankees owner George Steinbrenner did not attend the news conference. Swindal said The Boss had a scheduling conflict but was feeling well in Tampa, Fla., and was working hard to get ready for spring training.

Steinbrenner offered his comments in a news release from the commissioner's office.

"It is always a great honor for a team's home stadium to serve as host for the All-Star game, and the Yankees are proud and delighted to have been selected for the honor in 2008," he said. "It will be one of many historic moments in the 2008 season as we say goodbye to a great facility and look forward to our new ballpark, where the heritage of the Yankees and Major League Baseball will be extended for decades to come."

Selig said one of the primary reasons Yankee Stadium was selected was to honor Steinbrenner for the owner's many years in baseball. Bloomberg also had kind words for The Boss.

"I was impressed and touched by both of their comments about me," Steinbrenner said through spokesman Howard Rubenstein.

Yankee Stadium also was the site of All-Star games in 1939 and 1960. All three seasons in

which the game has been played there, the Yankees have reached the World Series.

New York shortstop Derek Jeter, a seven-time All-Star, said he would be honored to play in an All-Star game in his home ballpark.

"I'm sure it would be special for anyone, whether you're a Yankee or not. It would be more special for a Yankee," Jeter said at the team's complex in Tampa.

Bloomberg said the city esti-

mates that the 2008 All-Star game and its related events will generate about \$150 million for New York — in addition to providing valuable exposure.

"Great news for the city. Finally my big chance to enter the Home Run Derby," Bloomberg said, drawing laughs.

"Nobody stages big events like the Big Apple," he added. "We'll put on the best All-Star game in baseball history."

It will be the eighth All-Star

game in New York. The Polo Grounds hosted the event in 1934 and 1942, Ebbets Field in 1949 and Shea Stadium in 1964. Selig said the crosstown Mets are "on the radar screen" to be awarded the Midsummer Classic once they get their new ballpark, which is slated to open in 2009.

"I cannot tell you the intensity of competition for All-Star games," Selig said. "Ten years ago that wasn't true. Now I have a long list."

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FOOTBALL RECRUITING

Irish nab linebacker from Iowa, kicker from Louisville

By KEN FOWLER
Sports Editor

Poaching season reached its apex for Notre Dame this week as the Irish stole two prospects from schools that had received verbal commitments from the players.

Players cannot sign binding letters of intent until National Signing Day Feb. 7, but the

cycle of recruits renegeing on oral promises and going elsewhere continued the past two days. For Notre Dame, it included linebacker Brian Smith of Overland Park, Kan., and kicker Brandon Walker of Findlay, Ohio, committing to Irish coach Charlie Weis.

Smith, a 6-foot-3, 230-pound prospect out of St. Thomas Aquinas High School, originally committed to Iowa over the

summer. But Notre Dame made a late surge and nabbed the son of a former Irish full-back.

Smith had 100 tackles, three fumble recoveries and an interception return for a touchdown as a junior.

Mike Frank, who covers Notre Dame recruiting for Irisheyes.com, said Smith wanted to go to Notre Dame all along and the Irish only

recruited him late.

"Ultimately, that's what he wanted to do," Frank said. "He thought that ND wasn't an option for him, so he closed that door. ... I think he probably really appreciated Iowa and the opportunity that Iowa offered him."

Smith's father, Chris, played at Notre Dame from 1981-84 and then suited up for two seasons in the NFL with the

Kansas City Chiefs. Originally from Cincinnati, the elder Smith is a member of the Monogram Club board of directors and CEO and president of Divine Cleaning LLC, a commercial cleaning contractor.

"He's a very good player," Frank said of the younger Smith. "He was very, very close

see RECRUITS/page 26

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Scratched and clawed

Cagers fumble third straight to Panthers

By ERIC RETTER
Sports Writer

Pittsburgh defeated Notre Dame for the first time in 17 tries Wednesday.

The Panthers (16-5, 4-4 Big East) erased a nine point deficit to beat the Irish (13-8, 4-4 Big East) 71-62 in Pittsburgh Wednesday.

The loss gives Notre Dame its third loss in a row, all of them on the road. The Irish lost to Connecticut 65-47 Saturday and fell to Marquette 71-62 on Jan. 23.

"We're just incredibly inconsistent offensively right now," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said.

The Irish came out strong early and looked to be in control during most of the first half.

Behind eight points from freshman center Erica Williamson, who finished with 10 points and eight rebounds for the game, Notre Dame jumped to a 22-13 lead with 5:51 to play in the opening period.

"Erica's been playing really well ... [and] she's doing exactly what we're asking her to do," McGraw said. "Right now, she's somebody we can really count on, [and] for a freshman I think she's doing great."

The Irish lead, however, evaporated within the next three minutes, as Pittsburgh went on a 9-0 run to tie the game at 22 before the Irish recovered and went into half-time with a 28-26 lead.

The Panthers opened up the second half with another big run, going on a 15-5 stretch over the opening 10 minutes to give themselves a 41-33 lead. Center Jania Sims scored six of

see PITT/page 26



ALLISON AMBROSE/The Observer

Irish guard Charel Allen takes it to the basket against Syracuse's Cintia Johnson in Notre Dame's 83-55 win Jan. 20 at the Joyce Center.

ND WOMEN'S TENNIS

Tough test on tap at ITA Indoor

By CHRIS HINE
Sports Writer

For the first time in five years, Notre Dame will take part in the prestigious ITA National Indoor Championships in Madison, Wis.

The tournament — which runs today through Sunday — features 16 of the top teams around the country, four of whom lie ahead for the No. 4 Irish (2-0) in their dual match schedule.

"This is the second best tournament of the year besides the NCAA," Notre Dame coach Jay Louderback said. "This is a preliminary, or dress rehearsal, to prepare us for the NCAA Tournament

see ITA/page 25

HOCKEY

O'Neill keys icers' defense

By DAN MURPHY
Sports Writer

Last season the Notre Dame defensive unit opened up the year by allowing five or more goals in three of its first five games. After an 8-5 home loss Nov. 4 to No. 3 Michigan, Irish coach Jeff Jackson decided he had seen enough and benched his top defenseman, Wes O'Neill.

The next night was the first — and only — time that the Ontario native was not on the Irish lineup card in his hockey career. Now a senior, O'Neill has played in 140 of a possible

see O'NEILL/page 25



JESSICA LEE/The Observer

Irish defenseman Wes O'Neill passes during Notre Dame's 4-0 win over Michigan State Nov. 17 at the Joyce Center.

SMC BASKETBALL

Belles stay red hot, triumph over Olivet

By DAN COOPER
Sports Writer

There may be a blizzard in South Bend, but no one told the Belles.

Saint Mary's has caught fire of late, convincingly winning its fourth straight game when beating Olivet 81-72 last night.

With the win, Saint Mary's improves to 9-10 on the year and 8-4 in the MIAA, Olivet falls to 9-9 and 6-5 in league play. The victory means the Belles will maintain their third place stand-

ing in the MIAA, and their lead over Olivet in the conference standings is now one and a half games.

The Belles built a strong lead throughout the first half and held on in the second half for the victory. Entering the locker room at half the Belles led the Comets 43-31, and it was a lead they would not surrender.

The Comets made a run with 12:58 remaining to pull within seven, but the Belles responded with a 15-

see OLIVET/page 24

SPORTS AT A GLANCE

MLB

Congress threatens to intervene in Major League Baseball's steroid investigation if the league does not cooperate.

page 24

BASEBALL

Former Irish star Craig Counsell will speak with Detroit manager Jim Leyland at the opening night dinner at the Joyce Fieldhouse Feb. 12.

page 23

MLB

Yankee Stadium will host the All-Star game in July of 2008, in the historic stadium's final season.

page 21

OLYMPICS

Olympic athletes will now be tested for the hard-to-detect performance enhancing drug human growth hormone.

page 19

NCAA BASKETBALL

Indiana 71 Wisconsin 66

Hoosier guard A.J. Ratliff scores 20 points in upset of No. 2 Badgers.

page 16

NCAA BASKETBALL

North Carolina 105 Miami 64

Tar Heels forward Tyler Hansbrough scores 22 points and grabs 13 rebounds in lopsided win.

page 16

Recruits

continued from page 28

to getting an offer.”

Brian Smith's best asset, Frank said, is his long history at linebacker.

“In this guy, what you've got is a guy that plays linebacker,” he said. “That's what he does, and that's what he's always done.”

Frank said the Irish waited until star linebacker prospects Malcolm Smith of California and Chris Donald of Tennessee announced they would go elsewhere before offering a scholarship to Brian Smith.

The Observer was unable to contact St. Thomas Aquinas Athletic Director Sarah

Burgess Wednesday.

Walker visited Notre Dame this weekend before de-committing from Louisville and giving Weis his verbal assurance that he would go to Notre Dame.

Frank said former Louisville coach Bobby Petrino's departure from the Cardinals opened up the Findlay High School product's recruitment. Walker is expected to serve primarily as a place-kicker, Frank said. “He's got a really strong leg,” Frank said. “He can get it to the end zone [on kick-offs].”

Findlay High School coach Clifford Hite did not return phone calls from The Observer Wednesday.

Contact Ken Fowler at kfowler1@nd.edu

“In (Smith), what you've got is a guy that plays linebacker. That's what he does, and that's what he's always done.”

Mike Frank
Irisheyes.com



ALLISON AMBROSE/The Observer

Notre Dame guard Tulyah Gaines drives for a layup against Syracuse's Cintia Johnson Jan. 20 at the Joyce Center. The Irish beat the Orange 83-55, but have dropped their last three games.

Pitt

continued from page 28

her nine points on the game during the run, and guard Shavonte Zellous, who finished with a team-high 17 points, contributed four.

“I think we didn't play as well defensively [to start the second half],” McGraw said. “We turned the ball over, gave them a couple of easy shots.”

A Zellous jumper with 4:15 to play gave Pittsburgh its largest lead of the game at 56-46, but the Irish fought back and cut the lead to four with just under two minutes to play. With just over one minute to play, Notre Dame made it a one-possession game after 3-pointers on back-to-back possessions from freshman

guard Ashley Barlow and Allen made it 63-60.

The Irish couldn't cut it any closer, however, as they allowed Pittsburgh to pull down the offensive rebound after missed Panther free-throws down stretch. Perhaps the most damage came after Sims missed both of her free throws with 1:04 to go, grabbed her own rebound, got fouled again and then sunk both shots from the line to give Pittsburgh a 62-57 lead.

“We have a very small margin for error, and we can't afford to not be boxing out every time,”

McGraw said. “It's how we lost the game.”

McGraw was not pleased with the play of most of her veteran players.

“We're not getting production from the people we need to be getting it from.”

Muffet McGraw
Irish coach

“We're not getting production from the people we need to be getting it from, and I think our veteran players — with the exception of Tulyah [Gaines] and Charel [Allen] — really aren't contributing right now,” she said.

“You got to be able to depend on your seniors and right now we've just been inconsistent.”

Contact Eric Retter at retter@nd.edu

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BOSTON UNIVERSITY
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O'Neill

continued from page 28

141 games since coming to Notre Dame in 2003 — a stat matched only by fellow senior Jason Paige.

O'Neill, now an alternate captain, called his night off a "wake-up call" from Jackson that allowed him to stay focused throughout the rest of the year.

"It was the first time I've ever been benched," O'Neill said. "But it was good because after that game I played pretty good for the rest of the year."

Since then, he has only helped to anchor the No. 1-ranked defense in the nation, as well as collect his second consecutive Bill Nyrop Award, given to the top defensive player on the team each year. Nyrop was an All-American defenseman during his four-year career at Notre Dame. He later went on to win three Stanley Cup Championships on the dominant Montreal teams of the late '70s before passing away due to cancer in 1995 at the age of 43.

"Anytime you win an award

named after a guy like that, it's pretty prestigious," O'Neill said. "We have a lot of great defensemen on our team, and any one of us could win it any year."

O'Neill is a serious candidate to collect his third trophy at the conclusion of this year. He would be the first Irish blueliner to ever achieve the honor three years in a row.

O'Neill has also been an offensive threat throughout his career.

He was second on the team in scoring his sophomore year, with six goals and 14 assists. The following year he buried another six pucks while adding 19 helpers.

The highly decorated lefty attributes his success to hard work, his vision on the ice and the 40 pounds that he has added to his 6-foot-4 frame since his freshman year.

"Putting on that extra weight has really helped me be able to dominate in front of the net," O'Neill said.

The 235-pounder has made a living by punishing forwards parked in front of Irish goaltender Dave Brown, especially when his team needs him most.

O'Neill has played his best

games in blue and gold against top-tier opponents. This year he played a big role in wins over then-No. 1 Boston College, Michigan and Miami.

Against the RedHawks last weekend, O'Neill took a low, hard shot from the point, which was deflected past Miami goalie Jeff Zatkoff for a goal when the Irish trailed 2-0. Zatkoff had looked invincible the entire game, but the goal sparked an Irish rally to tie the contest and take a crucial point in a key CCHA series.

"Wes has the ability to be the most dominant defenseman in this league," Jackson said. "It's just a matter of him being as intense and motivated against every opponent, because if he did that he would dominate."

Although both O'Neill and Jackson expressed concerns about his consistency, neither can be upset about the contributions he has made to the team so far this year as the Irish will make a bid to be the No. 1 squad in the country this weekend against Bowling Green.

Contact Dan Murphy at dmurphy6@nd.edu



LAURIE HUNT/The Observer

Irish defenseman Wes O'Neill and Alaska forward Curtis Fraser battle it out in Notre Dame's 3-1 win over the Nanooks Dec. 2.

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ITA

continued from page 28

at the end of the year."

The Irish will face No. 18 Clemson (2-0) today in first-round action. Leading the Tigers is No. 72 junior Carol Salge and Frederica van Adrichem, who finished the 2006 season ranked No. 55 in singles play.

Clemson is a young team with freshmen comprising half of their 10-player roster, with only one senior — Maria Brito. But the team's success in recent years offers an exciting challenge for Notre Dame.

"We're really excited to get a chance to play Clemson," Louderback said. "We haven't played them for quite a while. They've done well in the NCAA Tournament the last few years."

Notre Dame began its spring season with a 7-0 win over Illinois and a 4-3 victory over No. 12 Vanderbilt, who is also one of the 16 teams in the tournament this weekend. This year's team relies on its highly touted doubles teams of No. 11 Catrina and Christian Thompson and No. 5 Brook Buck and Kelcy Tefft to gain the doubles point and give the Irish a 1-0 start in each match. After that, Notre Dame looks to at least split singles matches to claim victory.

"We'll be happy to win it. We're the two seed this year, but eight to ten teams have a chance to win it," Louderback said.

Should the Irish defeat the Tigers, they will play the winner of No. 10 Baylor and No. 37 BYU. If Notre Dame makes it all the way to the finals, they will most likely face No. 1 Stanford.

"Everybody's looking forward to playing Stanford. There are seniors on the Stanford team who have never lost a dual match," Louderback said. "Any chance to play them is going to be fun ... but we have a lot of other matches we have to play before them."

Win or lose, Louderback said his squad should get some quality competition against other elite programs around the country.

"We should get three matches against top-20 teams, which is going to be good for us," he said. "This is good preparation for when we play top-flight teams at the end of the year in the NCAA Tournament."

Contact Chris Hine at chine@nd.edu

MLB

Congress monitoring steroid investigation

House presses League for better cooperation

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Congress is monitoring George Mitchell's investigation of steroids in baseball and could intervene if he doesn't get more cooperation, two lawmakers told the former Senate Majority Leader.

The leaders of a House subcommittee that held hearings on steroids in 2005 pledged their support for Mitchell in a letter sent to him Tuesday and released to the media Wednesday.

"We sincerely hope that all relevant parties will work constructively to facilitate the completion of your investigation and your ongoing efforts to clean up the sport," wrote House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade, and Consumer Protection chairman Bobby Rush, a Democrat from Illinois, and ranking Republican Cliff Stearns of Florida.

"We sincerely hope that all relevant parties will work constructively to facilitate the completion of your investigation and your ongoing efforts to clean up the sport."

Bobby Rush
Chairman of House Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade and Consumer Protection

Stearns proposed the Drug Free Sports Act in April 2005. That bill called for a two-year suspension for a first offense and a lifetime ban for a second, while leagues that failed to comply would have been fined at least \$5 million.

It was one of several pieces of legislation about steroids in pro sports that lawmakers stopped pushing after baseball introduced wider-ranging and more stringent drug rules in November 2005.

"Hopefully, similar legislative initiatives will remain unnecessary," Rush and Stearns wrote.

Mitchell told baseball's owners on Jan. 18 that he intends to interview active players and raised the possibility that Congress could compel testimony — something he can't do. Mitchell was hired by commissioner Bud Selig last March after more than a year of allegations against Barry Bonds, Mark McGwire and other stars.

Olivet

continued from page 28

2 run to make it 67-47 and never looked back.

On paper the Comets and Belles played an even game. Olivet turned the ball over two more times than Saint Mary's (14-12) but out-rebounded the Belles 35-33. The Comets shot 43 percent from the field compared to Saint Mary's 45 percent.

Free throws ended up being the key to Saint Mary's victory. The Comets shot a higher percentage from the charity stripe, but the Belles were able to get to the line more often. The Comets made 80 percent of their 20 free-throw attempts, while the Belles made 72 percent of their 36 shots.

Junior guard Alison Kessler scored a career-high 34 points, recording three steals and hitting a career high 14 free throws on 15 attempts from the line.

Unlike last game, Kessler was not alone in her success. Senior point guard Bridget Lipke stepped up and dropped 16 points and dished a team best five assists.

Sophomore forward Erin Newsome continued her hot streak, posting her second straight double-double with 16 points and 11 rebounds. Freshman guard Patty Duffy was impressive off the bench contributing eight points in 20 minutes.

The Belles have now won four consecutive MIAA games for the first time



KATE FENLON/The Observer

Saint Mary's guard Alison Kessler eyes a free throw while fellow guard Bridget Lipke looks on in the Belles 81-72 win over Olivet Wednesday

since they joined the league during the 1998-1999 season.

Senior forward Audrey Graham led the Comets with 17 points in the losing effort.

The Belles travel to Grand Rapids, Mich., to face the

Calvin Knights — 18-1 overall and 11-0 in the MIAA — at 3 p.m. Saturday. Calvin won a close game at Saint Mary's 53-52 in its last contest with the Belles Jan. 6.

Contact Dan Cooper at dcooper1@nd.edu



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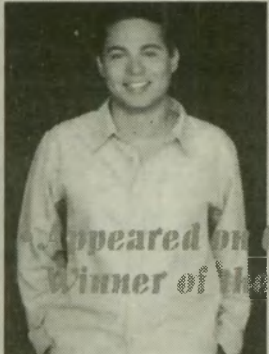
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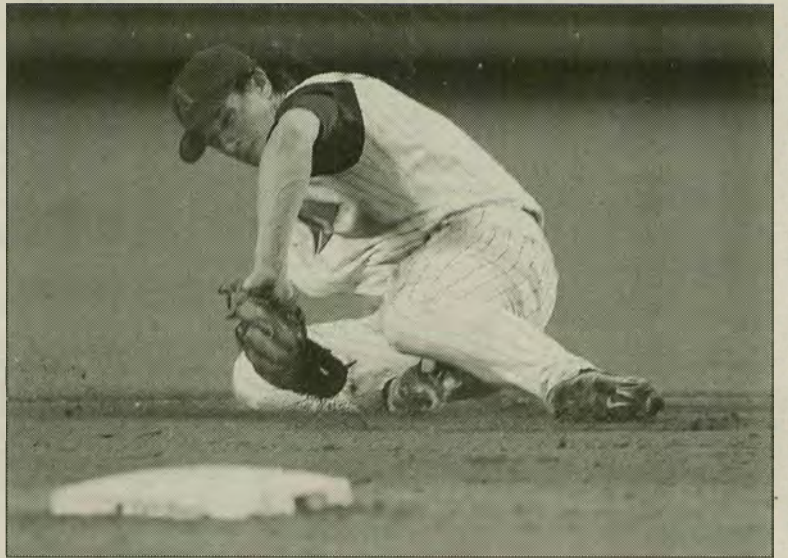
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BASEBALL

Leyland, Counsell to speak at opening dinner



Former Irish star Craig Counsell will speak Feb. 12 at the Joyce Center Fieldhouse with Detroit manager Jim Leyland.

Special to The Observer

The Notre Dame baseball program's sixth annual Opening Night Dinner will be held in the Joyce Center Fieldhouse on Monday, Feb. 12 — with 2006 Major League Baseball manager of the year Jim Leyland and former Notre Dame standout Craig Counsell (a two-time World Series champion) to serve as the keynote speakers at the popular event.

As in recent years, fans are encouraged to purchase tickets early to ensure their spot at the special night, which provides attendees the opportunity to visit with members of Notre Dame's nationally-ranked baseball team. The \$40 admission price (\$25 for students, youth and seniors) includes a Notre Dame baseball 2007 season ticket (a \$50 value, covering 27 regular-season games), a 2007 media guide (\$15 value), autographed 8x10 photographs of each speaker, and several other advance promotional items. A special "fan pack" price of \$100 also is available, providing admission and the other dinner benefits for two adults and two youth.

The "ballpark-style" dinner will begin at 7:00 p.m., in the Joyce Center Fieldhouse. The night's festivities include the opportunity to win a variety of baseball and sports-related door prizes and introduction of the Notre Dame team members, who will be seated at tables with the rest of the attendees and will be available for autographs prior to the dinner, from 5:45-6:45. The ballpark atmosphere also will include big-screen video highlights and game tapes from previous Notre Dame seasons, plus a musical selection of traditional and contemporary baseball songs. The night again will conclude with a special question-and-answer session that will allow attendees to interact with Leyland and Counsell.

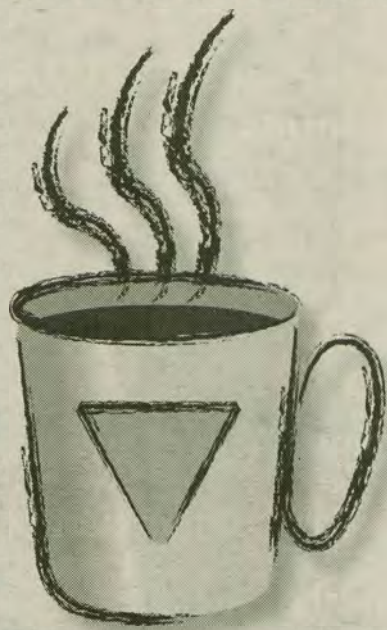
Leyland is a self-proclaimed Notre Dame fan and a long-time friend of the University's former sports information director, Roger Valdiserri. His nephew Chris Leyland is a 1999 Notre Dame graduate while Leyland's brother, Father Tom Leyland, is a Catholic priest who performed the wedding service for Jim

and Katie Leyland.

The keynote speakers have a connection going back to the 1997 Major League season, when Leyland was the manager and Counsell one of the heroes for an upstart Florida Marlins team that won the World Series title. Leyland's 33 total years in professional baseball have included 15 previous seasons as a big-league manager, amassing nearly 1,200 career wins during stints with the Pittsburgh Pirates, Florida Marlins, Colorado Rockies and now the Detroit Tigers. He holds the rare distinction of guiding wild-card teams from both leagues — the 1997 Marlins and 2006 Tigers — to the World Series and he was named the National League's manager of the year for the 1990 and '92 seasons, during which time the Pirates won three straight National League East Division titles (he also was a NL manager-of-the-year honoree in '88).

Counsell — whose father John was a player and assistant coach with the Irish during the 1960s and early '70s — was among the top players who led the Notre Dame baseball program to national prominence in the early 1990s, with his four-year career including a .306 batting average, 204 runs scored, 166 RBI, 50 doubles and twice as many bases on balls (166, still most in the ND record book) as strikeouts (82). As a senior, the versatile infielder was named MVP of a 1992 Irish squad that included 14 eventual professional draft picks, with his impressive final season including a .339 batting average, 63 RBI (nearly doubling his previous career-best), twice as many home runs (12) as he had hit during the previous three seasons combined (6), 45 walks and 13 stolen bases. Counsell was named to the 1992 NCAA all-Atlantic Regional team, after captaining the Irish to within a game of the College World Series.

It is recommended that ticket orders for the 2007 event be placed by Jan. 26 to ensure the attendee a media guide and eligibility for the prize drawings. For dinner ticket information, please contact the Notre Dame ticket office at (574) 631-7356. Online order may be placed via the "Tickets" link on und.com.



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