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'Monologues' return to campus amid controversy

Eve Ensler's much debated play sees walkout protest after first act at DeBartolo

By JOSEPH McMAHON
Assistant News Editor

"The Vagina Monologues," Eve Ensler's controversial play exploring female sexuality, returned to campus last night in DeBartolo 101 despite cries of protest from students, alumni and local bishop John D'Arcy. The performance was followed by a panel discussion featuring three University professors, a representative of D'Arcy's office and a surprise appearance by president of the Alumni Association Richard Nussbaum.

The play, which was performed by Notre Dame stu-

dents and sponsored by the University's departments of anthropology, political science and sociology, protests violence against women and argues that a woman's vagina is not dirty but rather an inherent part of her identity.

"We were worried about vaginas," producer Lisa Rauh said in her introduction. "Violence against women is a common day occurrence."

Several Notre Dame students, however, saw the play as an affront to the Church's teachings on sexuality, which they believe has no place at a Catholic University.

After the first monologue,

see PROTEST/page 8



Stephanie Elise Newsome performs in Wednesday's Vagina Monologues performance.

Lyons Hall sees theft of property

By KEN FOWLER
Senior News Writer

A suspect stole a total of three laptop computers and one wallet from two unlocked rooms in Lyons Hall Wednesday, police said.

Dave Chapman, assistant director of Notre Dame Security/Police, said the burglaries occurred between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Chapman did not know how much money was in the wallet and could not provide a description of the wallet or the laptops.

Police did not have a description of a suspect but encouraged residents who may have seen suspicious activity to call NDSP's general phone line with information.

Chapman said police are working under the belief that the crimes are connected. Two of the laptops were taken from the same room, and the other stolen laptop was in the other room.

"That's one reason we're asking for help," Chapman said. "They [the suspect] had to be carrying them in a bag."

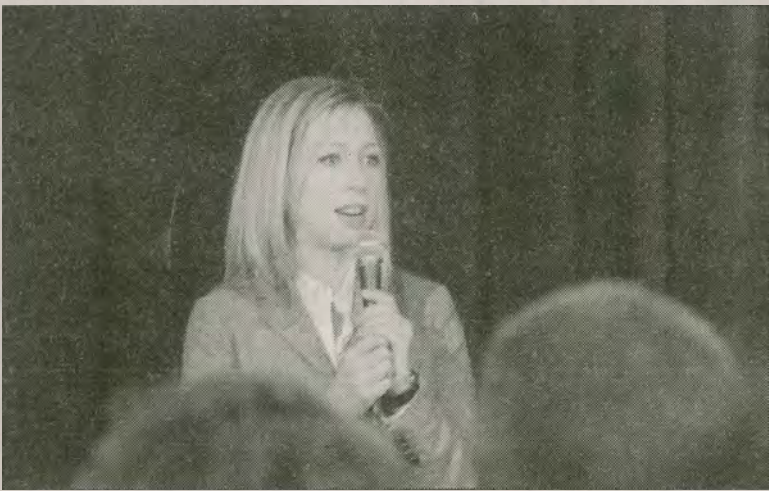
Students should lock their rooms whenever they leave, "no matter how long they're going to be gone for," Chapman said.

Chapman said police received no reports of other, similar crimes on campus Wednesday, and the two burglaries were the only ones in residence halls in recent days.

Contact Ken Fowler at
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Clinton, Astin advocate for senator

Presidential candidate's daughter and "Rudy" actor speak to students about election



Chelsea Clinton speaks to the audience about her mother at Legends on Wednesday.

By JOSEPH McMAHON
Assistant News Editor

With the Indiana Democratic primary approaching on May 6, each of the presidential candidates have been focusing their efforts on winning as many of the states delegates as possible and have made several recent trips to Indiana to do so.

Representing Hillary Clinton, Chelsea Clinton supported her mother and fielded the questions of students and faculty from Notre Dame, Saint Mary's, Holy Cross College, the

Indiana University of South Bend, Bethel College and Ivy Tech as part of a question and answer session sponsored by the Northern Indiana Student Democrats Wednesday at Legends.

"I passionately believe in my mom as a young woman, a young voter and a young Democrat," she said.

Clinton was accompanied by actor Sean Astin, best known for his roles as the title character in "Rudy" and as Samwise Gamgee in "The Lord of the Rings" trilogy.

see CLINTON/page 4

Donnelly expands pro-life definition

By BILL BRINK
News Editor

Congressman Joe Donnelly expanded on the meaning of "pro-life" to include supporting post-birth care — such as health care, insurance and school lunch programs — in his address to the Notre Dame Law School Wednesday.

Donnelly, the Democratic representative of Indiana's second district said despite people's impressions of the Democratic Party, the party is not inherently pro-choice.

He told a story of a question he received during a candidate night in his 2006 cam-

paign. A woman asked why it was his business if she and her pregnant daughter decided an abortion was the best option for the child and family.

Donnelly responded that the issue became one of what is necessary to define human life. Since he defines an unborn baby as a human, he said, he is constitutionally required to protect it.

"That was the end of questioning on that subject for the night," he said. "The point is to protect that child."

A "working majority" of Congress, Donnelly said, is

see DONNELLY/page 6

SMC webmail to be revamped

IT blueprint addresses Zimbra issues, among other major electronic issues

By MANDI STIRONE
News Writer

Saint Mary's students have recently been unable to log in or send and receive e-mails with Zimbra, the College's e-mail system, and also have noticed the system shutting down unexpectedly.

"It's really inconvenient because I have a lot of professors who e-mail assignments in and it's really hard to get those when it's down a lot of the time," sophomore Michele Peterson said.

Many have been getting frustrated with the inconsistency and how much the system's problems appears to

interfere with their everyday life.

"It's just really frustrating since everything around here revolves around e-mail ... and then family and things like that," sophomore Tracy Chuckas said. "It can be bad when you need to e-mail your professor a paper and it's down again."

Other students have set their e-mail to forward messages to other programs so when Zimbra does go down, they are still able to access their e-mail through other avenues.

"It seems like it goes down at 2 a.m. and it's usually right when you're finishing something," said sophomore

Rachel Eisterhold, who set up a forwarding program with the help of her father so that she can always get her mail regardless of when Zimbra is down. "I set it up right before coming back this semester."

Dough McKeown, Systems and Networks Administrator for the Department of Information Technology (IT), said Zimbra was applied to the Saint Mary's network about a year ago.

It was chosen specifically to replace Aegis Webmail which was "dying," he said. At the time, they had not budgeted to change the e-mail system, so Zimbra was chosen mainly

see WEBMAIL/page 6

INSIDE COLUMN

Spring Fever

Are you like me, finding yourself looking out the windows of DeBartolo wishing the snow would melt and the temperature rise? Have you been waiting one too many weeks for the bitter cold, wind, and constant precipitation to subside? Are you ready to put away your sweaters and winter coats; eager to break out the short-sleeves and flip-flops?

If you can't resist putting off homework to toss a football around on the quad the moment it reaches fifty degrees, longing for the days when you can walk from your dorm to LaFortune without a hat and gloves, you may have a case of Spring Fever.

Blair Chemidlin

Graphic designer

You are not alone.

I feel the only cure for this malady, no matter what your age, is to go outside and play. It seemed a lot of students on Notre Dame's campus were feeling the same way that first really warm day, a week ago last Friday. As soon as classes were finished I grabbed my roommate and lacrosse stick and headed out to South Quad.

Much like the first snow had brought masses of students out onto the quads, the warm weather enticed guys and girls from every dorm outside to play football, frisbee, lacrosse, baseball, even some golf on the grassy quads while the sidewalks on campus and around the lakes were busy with people running, walking, riding bikes, and feeding the ducks.

We all must have known it wouldn't hang around for long because so many of us took advantage of the beautiful weather while it lasted. Who could blame us after such a long, snowy winter in South Bend?

And what is it about the spring we love so much; why does this particular season make us feel the way we do? Poets have been writing about the phenomenon for years but now scientists can explain the symptoms of Spring Fever with scientific evidence about our brain's chemical reactions to the light, warmth, and scents of the spring season.

Just as decreased sunlight can put people into a depression during the winter, (now called Seasonal Affective Disorder - SAD), the increased sunlight that comes with springtime leads to more release of serotonin, making us happier. The chemical ingredients of sexual attraction are engaged with a special intensity in the springtime thanks to warmer weather, less clothing, and the flowery aromas of the season, giving us a greater desire to socialize and even, perhaps, fall in love.

Seems we were right to seize that sunny day because unfortunately that one and the other few nice days surrounding it tricked us with a "false spring" that quickly vanished with the arrival of more cold, wet weather. The 20th was technically the first day of spring if you go by the calendar, but it looks like we'll still have to wait a little while before the last traces of winter fade away.

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Blair Chemidlin at bchemidl@nd.edu.

CORRECTIONS

The Viewpoint letter "Boycott Beijing" on March 26 stated that Beijing was awarded the 2008 Winter Olympics. Beijing was awarded the 2008 Summer Olympics.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT MUSICAL ARTIST WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE COME TO NOTRE DAME AND WHY?



Natalie Stitt
sophomore
Welsh Family

"Jason Mraz, because he's all about the word play."



Lindsay Williams
sophomore
Lyons

"Kenny Chesney, because I think everyone is ready for 'Summertime.'"



Morgan Cullen
junior
McGlenn

"Spice Girls, because they add spice to my life."



Jennifer Henzler
freshman
Welsh Family

"The Police, because Stephanie DePrez told me so."



Jenny Lewis
junior
Badin

"That French guy who played the music for 'Pride and Prejudice' ... so nice!"



Lauren Buck
junior
Pasquerilla West

"Miley Cyrus, because she has to redeem herself after the last time she freaked out."



DAN JACOBS/The Observer

The Notre Dame chorale rehearses for their performance on Wednesday, April 2 at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center Wednesday.

IN BRIEF

"The Vagina Monologues" will be performed Thursday and Friday in 101 DeBartolo at 7 p.m. A panel discussion will follow the performance.

BCAC is looking for volunteers to help with BCAC Fashion Show 2008. The show takes place April 5 at 8 p.m. Please email BCAC@nd.edu if you are interested.

Amanda Anderson, Caroline Donovan Professor of English Literature at Johns Hopkins University, will speak at the 2008 Annual Ward-Phillips Lecture Series. Her lecture is titled "Bleak Liberalism" and will continue through Friday at 5 p.m. in 100 McKenna Hall. A reception follows the lecture.

The Student Union Board will show the movie "Atonement" in 101 DeBartolo at 10 p.m. Thursday, 8 and 10 p.m. Friday and 8 and 10:30 p.m. Saturday. Tickets are \$3.

Siegfried Hall will host the Rambler Scrambler, a miniature golf tournament, Saturday at Stepan Center at 8 p.m. Free pizza, pop and Jimmy John's will be available. The event benefits Lou Gherig's Disease research, and iPods, cameras and iTunes gift cards will be raffled off.

The Notre Dame baseball team will play Cincinnati Friday at 5:05 p.m.

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

OFFBEAT

Rancher who sold snake vodka bottles arrested

SANTO, Texas — A rattlesnake rancher who calls himself Bayou Bob found a new way to make money: Stick a rattler inside a bottle of vodka and market the concoction as an "ancient Asian elixir." But Bayou Bob Popplewell's bright idea appears to have landed him on the wrong side of the law, because he has no liquor license.

Popplewell, who has raised rattlesnakes and turtles at Bayou Bob's Brazos River Rattlesnake Ranch for more than two

decades, surrendered to authorities Monday. He spent about 10 minutes in jail after the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission obtained arrest warrants on misdemeanor charges of selling alcohol without a license and possessing alcohol with intent to sell.

Drunk driver found with marijuana, pants off

YONKERS, N.Y. — Suburban New York police say a drunken driver had a suspended license and had marijuana in her car. Oh, they also say she didn't have

any pants on.

Yonkers police say 22-year-old Long Island resident Angelica Buchanan was found Saturday standing bottomless in a street near her car. They say she was so drunk she had to be hospitalized.

Police say she claimed she wasn't wearing pants because she needed to use the bathroom. They've charged her with driving while intoxicated, unlicensed operation of a vehicle and marijuana possession.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

	TODAY	TONIGHT	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
	HIGH 44 LOW 37	HIGH 37 LOW 30	HIGH 42 LOW 28	HIGH 48 LOW 32	HIGH 51 LOW 36	HIGH 53 LOW 32

Atlanta 73 / 47 Boston 50 / 36 Chicago 40 / 30 Denver 54 / 33 Houston 82 / 64 Los Angeles 71 / 52 Minneapolis 36 / 25 New York 49 / 33 Philadelphia 48 / 41 Phoenix 85 / 59 Seattle 48 / 34 St. Louis 63 / 46 Tampa 81 / 58 Washington 63 / 46

STUDENT SENATE

Senate passes resolutions, proposes technology committee

New organization would allow for increased communication between Student Senate and the student body

By CLAIRE REISING
News Writer

In the last meeting of the current administration's term, the Student Senate passed three resolutions and discussed the possibility of creating a Committee on Campus Technologies.

Senators Carol Hendrickson and Ryan Brellenthin of the Committee on Academic Affairs proposed the addition of this committee in response to the number of technological issues that Academic Affairs addressed this year, such as e-reserves and student print quotas. Brellenthin added that these issues have also affected other areas of the Senate.

"While there are certain committees that do tend to have technological issues come up in them, it really cuts across boundaries," he said. "It has the benefit of being

something that is really present in the everyday life of students here."

This committee would also allow Senate to increase communication between students and the Office of Information and Technology (OIT), Brellenthin said. He explained that currently, one student, the University Council on Academic Technology Representative, communicates with OIT.

"It's very difficult for one person to be proactive for the entire student body," he said.

Hendrickson said having a committee solely devoted to technology would allow senators the time to initiate innovative ideas, instead of just addressing issues as they arise.

"It would be innovative in terms of coming up with technology that other committees might not be brainstorming about," she said.

Despite the potential bene-

fits of a committee on technology, student body President Liz Brown expressed concern that the Senate may be "stretched" with a new committee, since members would be spread over more committees.

Additionally, student body vice president-elect Grant Schmidt said the new administration may create another committee, the Student Outreach committee. This committee would get campus feedback through a census surveying the student body once a semester on issues that student government is addressing.

"We're going to get feedback — concrete numbers — for students to be able to see and for us to be able to see what's bothering students," he said.

Besides discussing tentative committees, the Senate passed the resolution supporting the addition of sexual orientation to Notre Dame's non-

discrimination clause, which was debated at last week's meeting. Also, senators discussed the outcome of the student survey, town hall meeting and dorm sessions concerning the hiring of Catholic faculty.

The student government report stated that "the majority of students seems to value academic credentials more than religious affiliation when hiring faculty but do care about maintaining Notre Dame's Catholic character." Hendrickson said the report will be sent to the Office of the Provost and the Faculty Senate, and the Student Senate passed a resolution asking the faculty and administration to keep students informed about the issue and involved in dialogue.

"Basically what this resolution does it emphasize the importance to communicate about issues [like this] ... and take seriously our efforts to

have a dialogue," Hendrickson said.

In other senate news:

◆ The Senate passed a resolution from the Committee on Academic Affairs with suggestions for future in-dorm study spaces. Farley Senator Victoria Perez, who drafted the resolution, said as new dorms are built, rooms that were originally study spaces will be converted back. Suggestions include white boards, more outlets and more lighting.

◆ Judicial Council President Ashley Weiss said the Student Union Ethics Committee selected Bridget Keating, the senior class president, for the Michael J. Palumbo Award. The award honors an undergraduate student for "outstanding dedication and service to the Notre Dame Student Union."

Contact Claire Reising at creisin2@nd.edu

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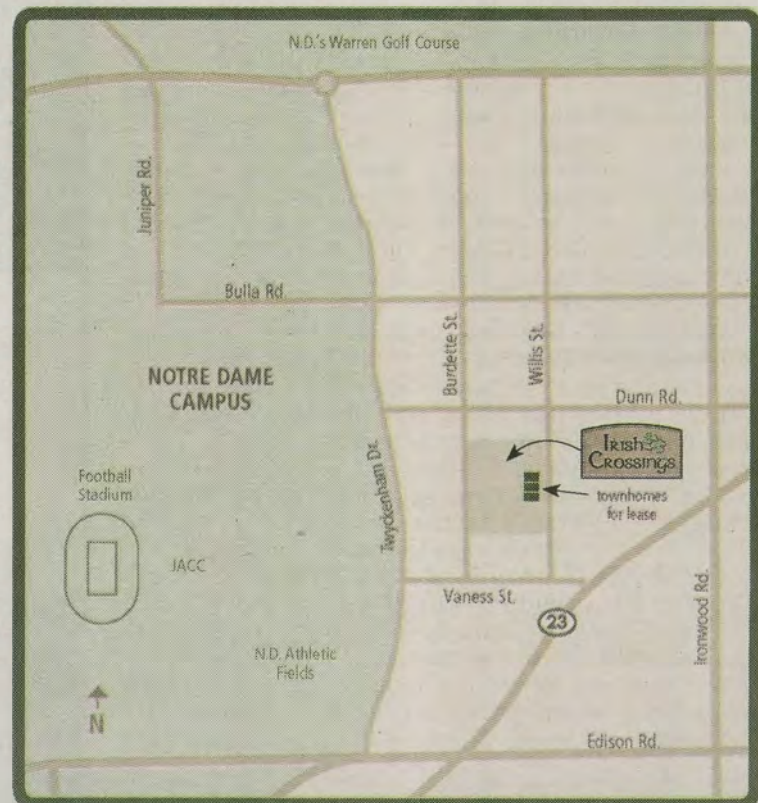
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Please recycle The Observer.

Clinton

continued from page 1

Astin said he was endorsing the elder Clinton based on his own life experiences.

"I like her and I think she'll do the best job," he said.

Clinton said that she was proud of her mother's platform, which she described as "the most progressive agenda."

The questions were focused mostly on her mother's various policies, with health care reform being a major issue for some students. In particular, students were interested in how Clinton's new plan would differ from the unsuccessful "Hillary Care" that she proposed during her term as First Lady in the early 1990s.

"I think my mother's position is consistent in that she has been fighting for universal health care since the early 1990s," she said. "What she is proposing now is informed by the lessons she learned [then]."

Senator Clinton's current health care proposal would allow uninsured Americans to buy into the federal government employee's health care plan, which she claims will increase the size of the pool and thus lower premiums. Americans that cannot afford that would be covered by Medicare.

"Average premium cost would be 50 to 55 percent cheaper because of the larger pools," Chelsea Clinton said. "You're more likely to die in America if you don't have health care. I think that's immoral."

She also said government-sponsored health care can help make some American companies, such as automobile manufacturers, more competitive by allowing them to cut their costs.

"You can never have a true unleashing of America's competitive power with these health care costs," she said.

In addition, Clinton said her mother would support scientific research, rather than stifling it like the current administration.

"One thing that unfortunately has happened under the current administration is the cut of certain scientific research," she said.

The next question posed asked how the decision making process would work in the Clinton White House, and what role former president Bill Clinton would play.

Clinton said while her father would be willing to serve whomever the next president is, he is currently content doing his charity work.

"I'm proud of my father's administration and I'm proud of the work that he does today, and that's what he wants to keep doing," she said. "However, he'd be willing to serve whoever the next president is."

The audience also asked about Senator Clinton's current plan to deal with the housing crisis. The burst of the housing bubble could see one to two million families lose their homes to foreclosures this year.

"My mother has been talking about the housing crisis for more than a year, before any of the other candidates and before the current administration," she said. "We need to do the morally

right thing to help keep people in their homes."

Senator Clinton's plan would include a possible bailout of homeowners, similar to the ones used to rescue Wall Street financial firms over the past several years.

Clinton answered questions on her mother's foreign policy stance, in particular on the Iraq War. While she doesn't support troop withdrawal, Clinton said her mother has been a leading figure in demanding accountability from the Pentagon.

"I'm proud that my mom was one of the first Senators to ask the Pentagon what its plans to end the war in Iraq were," she said.

Clinton said it is necessary to remember the safety of Iraqi civilians, but at the same time the country must start making its own political decisions.

"We have a moral obligation to the men and women who have helped keep our troops safe," she said. "But we need to send a message to the Iraqis that they need to make political choices for themselves."

Moreover, Clinton said her mother would focus on strengthening diplomatic ties with the Middle East, including engaging countries that the Bush administration has refused to talk to.

"My mother was the first person to say that she would open diplomatic relations with every country in the region," she said.

Although she is often pegged as a divisive figure, Clinton said her mother had a strong record of bipartisanship. She cited her mother's work with conservative Republican Senator Lindsay Graham and former Speaker of the House and long-time Clinton nemesis Newt Gingrich.

When asked what her mother's appeal to younger voters was, who tend to be attracted to Barack Obama, Clinton said her mother's plans for making college more affordable should make her the premier choice for young voters.

"One area where my mom is more progressive is college and graduate school affordability," she said.

Her plans include expanding Pell Grants, federal higher education grants funded by the Department of Education, and the reinstatement of low-interest direct federal lending. Senator Clinton also plans to establish a national public service academy similar to the military academies.

Although Clinton said she strongly believed her mother is the best candidate, she concluded by stressing the need for a Democrat in the White House and urged the audience to support whomever the party nominates.

"I hope that you'll vote for whoever the Democratic nominee is," she said. "I believe that we need a Democratic administration."

In his introduction, Astin said he is supporting Senator Clinton for three reasons: her commitment to the issues, the poignancy of the issues that she has included in her platform, and her wealth of experience.

"First lady of the United States is a sacred position," he said.

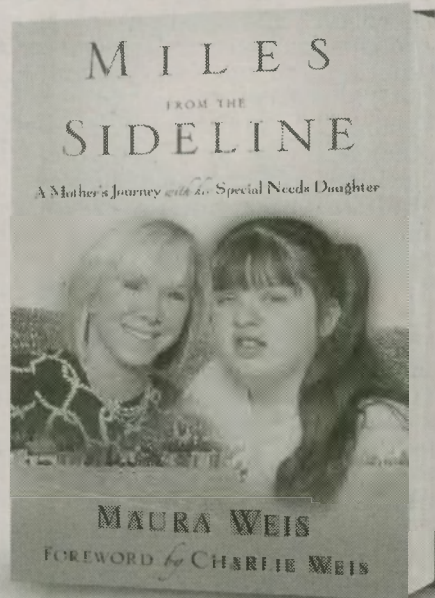
Contact Joseph McMahan at jmcmaho6@nd.edu

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—Lou Holtz



Miles from the Sideline

A Mother's Journey with Her Special Needs Daughter

With Jessica Trobaugh Temple

Foreword by Charlie Weis

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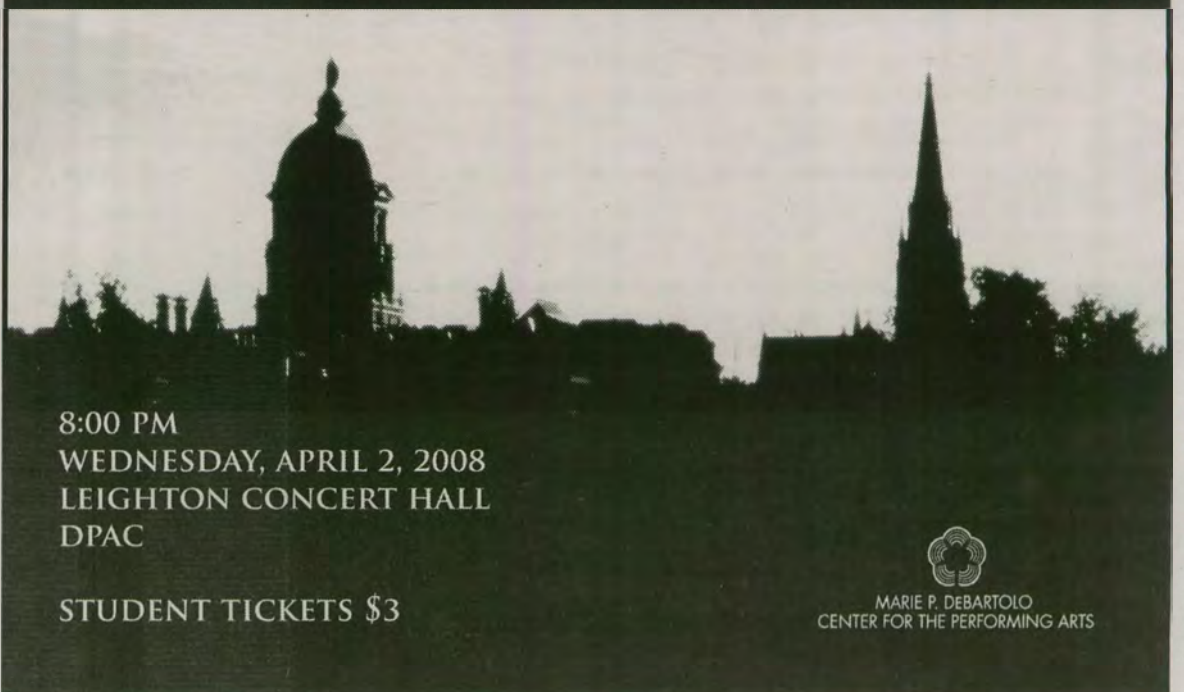
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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

U.S. patience wears thin with N. Korea

WASHINGTON — The United States and South Korea said Wednesday that patience is wearing thin among international negotiators pressing North Korea to hand over a promised declaration of nuclear weapon efforts.

A spat over the North's declaration, which was due by the end of last year, has deadlocked six-nation nuclear talks. Disarmament negotiators insist that it address claims of a secret uranium enrichment program and allegations that the North transferred nuclear technology to Syria.

"Time and patience is running out," South Korean Foreign Minister Yu Myung-hwan said at a news conference with U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

Rice, after a private lunch meeting with Yu, told reporters that "it is really time now for there to be movement on the declaration."

Fireworks warehouse blast kills two

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — A massive explosion at a fireworks warehouse sparked a raging fire that raced through an industrial zone in Dubai on Wednesday, killing at least two people.

When the fire first erupted, ambulances and fire engines struggled to the scene through the city's dense morning rush hour, while helicopters hovered above the ruined warehouse in Dubai's al-Qouz Industrial Zone.

Heavy winds spread the flames quickly, engulfing at least 20 other warehouses and raising a pall of smoke visible for miles.

Five hours later, Dennis Boll, training manager for Quick Intervention Firefighting units, said "the fire was getting worse." After nightfall, the fire was still raging.

NATIONAL NEWS

Clouds delay space shuttle's return

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — Clouds moved in at virtually the last minute and thwarted NASA's effort to bring the space shuttle Endeavour and its crew of seven back to Earth early Wednesday evening.

Mission Control instructed the astronauts to take another swing around the planet and aim for a later, nighttime landing, in hopes that the sky would clear. It will be NASA's second and last shot of the day at bringing Endeavour home.

"Unfortunately, the weather trend did not improve as we had hoped," Mission Control radioed. "We're looking for some improvement," it added.

Arkansas sees historic flood levels

CLARENDON, Ark. — Arkansans sandbagged their front doors and pumped out their flooded basements Wednesday as a historic crest on the White River moved downstream, and a flooding expert said the state will have to deal with high water for weeks.

Residents and county officials along the river's path in east-central Arkansas worried that the river flows would hit an already swollen Mississippi River on the state's eastern border and flow back into their cotton and wheat fields.

"I don't think anybody knows how much higher it's going to get," said Monroe County resident Marlin Reeves as overcast skies threatened rain.

LOCAL NEWS

Job issue heats up in governor's race

INDIANAPOLIS — The major party candidates for governor have left no doubt that jobs and the state's economy will be top issues in their campaigns.

Democratic hopeful Jim Schellinger announced a jobs plan Wednesday that focuses on work force training, supporting small business and creating jobs tied to new environmental technologies. The announcement came on the same day that Republican Gov. Mitch Daniels began airing a new television commercial touting economic gains during his first term.

The other major-party candidate in the race, Democrat Jill Long Thompson, had earlier announced a plan that focuses on such proposals as expanding tax incentives to businesses, helping more of them provide health insurance to their employees and updating Indiana's technology infrastructure.

ENGLAND

Sarkozy pledges to deploy troops

French President promises Britain more soldiers to fight Taliban in Afghanistan

Associated Press

LONDON — French President Nicolas Sarkozy and his supermodel wife swept into Britain on Wednesday, mixing elaborate pomp with his impassioned warning that the West must beat the Taliban in Afghanistan no matter the cost.

Sarkozy played the statesman as he began his state visit — the first by a French president to Britain in 12 years. Gone were his trademark shades and ubiquitous cell phone as he greeted Queen Elizabeth II and inspected rows of cavalrymen.

After a round of ceremonial duties, Sarkozy gave a fiery speech to a joint sitting of the House of Commons and House of Lords. He followed a powerful tribute to Britain's role in countering the threat of fascism in Europe with a promise to stand by London as it fights the Taliban.

"We cannot afford to lose Afghanistan," Sarkozy said, speaking in French. "Whatever the cost, whatever the expense, we cannot afford it."

Without specifying numbers, he pledged more French troops for NATO's mission in Afghanistan if Afghans also get more responsibility and there is better coordination of non-military efforts.

The pledge underscores his determination to revitalize relations with Britain and the United States and put aside differences over the Iraq war.

Canada has warned that it will pull its 2,500 soldiers out of Afghanistan if other allies do not offer more help. It wants 1,000 more soldiers for anti-Taliban efforts.

Sarkozy won a standing ovation for his 45-minute speech, in which he called for Britain and France to cooperate more closely in Europe and to work together to press the U.S. on cli-



Nicolas Sarkozy, second right, and his wife Carla Bruni-Sarkozy are welcomed to the Windsor castle by Queen Elizabeth II, right, and her husband Prince Philip, left, Wednesday.

mate change.

"Who better than its closest, sincerest friends to remind the U.S. of its responsibilities?" he said.

The pomp — and the opportunity to appear dignified — are important to Sarkozy amid a sagging approval rating at home and questions about his attitude.

British Prime Minister Gordon Brown plans lengthy discussions Thursday with Sarkozy on Afghanistan, a possible joint nuclear energy project, climate change and the international response to unrest in Tibet.

But Wednesday's schedule focused mainly on pageantry — and the public's gaze was fixed on Sarkozy's glamorous wife,

the model-turned-singer Carla Bruni-Sarkozy, who curtsied to the queen and chatted animatedly with her at Windsor Castle.

Bruni-Sarkozy, in a demure belted gray Christian Dior coat and pillbox hat, smiled as Prince Charles kissed her gloved hand in greeting as he met the visitors at London's Heathrow Airport.

"It was like a French Catholic schoolgirl meets Jackie O," said Lucy Yeomans, editor of Harper's Bazaar, likening Bruni-Sarkozy's outfit to the famously stylish Jacqueline Kennedy.

Britain's tabloids, however, greeted Bruni-Sarkozy in typical style — printing a nude photograph she posed

for in 1993. The original print is to be auctioned in New York by Christie's auction house.

The queen has bestowed Sarkozy with the Order of the Bath, a ceremonial British honor, and given him a framed book of British stamps, her office said. In return, the French leader offered her a copy of "Perfect Knowledge Of Horses," a book published in France in 1743.

On previous foreign trips, Sarkozy casually checked his cell phone for SMS messages and was last month caught making an undignified outburst at a French agriculture fair, chastising a member of the crowd with expletives.

Retrial begins in Miami terrorism case

Associated Press

MIAMI — War with the U.S. government was at the heart of a terrorist plot to destroy Chicago's Sears Tower and bomb FBI offices, a prosecutor said Wednesday during closing arguments in the retrial for six Miami men accused of conspiring with al-Qaida.

Alleged ringleader Narseal Batiste and the others in the "Liberty City Seven" conspired with an FBI informant who pretended he was from al-Qaida with the hope of starting an anti-government war, Assistant U.S. Attorney Richard Gregorie said.

"It's really not a complicated case," Gregorie said. "These are terrorists

inside the United States. They are going to try to take over the United States."

Batiste's attorney, Ana M. Jhones, accused the Bush administration and FBI of looking to "set people up" on overblown charges in their zeal to make a high-profile terrorism case. She said Batiste faked interest in terrorism to con a government informant posing as an al-Qaida operative out of \$50,000.

His lawyers also claim he was entrapped by two FBI informants who orchestrated the entire plot.

"Money was at the heart of Mr. Batiste's intent here," Jhones told jurors. "It wasn't about explosives. It wasn't about weapons. It wasn't about going to Chicago."

The second trial came after a jury in December could not agree on verdicts for the six men. The first jury did acquit one of the original seven, but immigration officials are seeking to deport him to Haiti anyway because of the terrorism allegations.

Gregorie said Batiste and the others would have pursued a terrorism attack no matter what, noting that they were captured on FBI videotapes taking an oath to al-Qaida in March 2006.

"All you have to say is no — walk away, don't do it," Gregorie told jurors.

Jhones countered that Batiste is overheard repeatedly on the FBI tapes saying his men knew nothing about the terrorism talk.

Webmail

continued from page 1

for cost, he said. Former Chief Information Officer, Keith Fowlkes, chose Zimbra, McKeown said.

One major issue is that the program was operating in unnecessary areas, which was slowing it down, McKeown said.

"It was trying to do stuff that is built into the product that had nothing to do with mail that's purely statistics and things like that. We've since disabled that," he said.

It was disabled over the weekend of February 22-24, he said.

Another problem has to do with a bug built into the system when they purchased it, he said.

"It doesn't matter, we have a buggy e-mail system currently. It works,"

McKeown said. "I have yet to see mail get lost. Zimbra may lock up when you're typing mail and you lose it, that's one thing, but sending and receiving, it all eventually goes through."

He added that every time the e-mail goes down he gets a message and he is being constantly updated on the problems with Zimbra.

In order to fix the entire problem, new CIO Janice Thomasson is presenting an IT blueprint to the Cabinet,

which includes the college Zimbra goes down, she said.

president and vice presidents, today, she said.

"E-mail and many other technology items will be approved [in the blueprint] and vetted to the entire Saint Mary's community," she said.

Soon after it is approved it will be made available for the students to read on the IT website.

Zimbra is being addressed in the blueprint, but the main problem might not be Zimbra itself, Thomasson said.

"Zimbra often gets a black eye with the Saint Mary's community and it may not be Zimbra," she said.

The main problem is with the amount of "all user" e-mails that are sent out to the students, she said.

"Anybody on campus can send out an e-mail to everybody. If just one of us does that, it clogs the network," she said.

The number of e-mails that the entire campus receives every day contributes dramatically to the amount of time

"It doesn't matter, we have a buggy e-mail system currently. It works. I have yet to see mail get lost. Zimbra may lock up when you're typing mail and you lose it, that's one thing, but sending and receiving, it all eventually goes through."

Dough McKeown
systems and network administrator

able to send mass e-mails to the entire campus community.

"Is it fair to let just anybody send out anything to all of us?" she said.

Something that brought this problem to her attention was the accidental false tornado warning that was sent out to Saint Mary's last week, she said.

"It just surfaced since we had the tornado e-mail and Doug [McKeown]...he came to me and said, 'you know yesterday Zimbra really took a beating.' It was an immense load on the network...when you see something like that you immediately address it. You don't take five years to address it," she said.

Contact Mandi Stirone at
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Donnelly

continued from page 1

pro-life. That contingent is committed, he said, to more than just preventing abortion. Health care, education and nutrition also require attention.

He cited a bill that provided temporary assistance for needy families which helped pregnant women get the help they need during pregnancy. He also said he supported a bill which prohibited tax dollars from assisting institutions in foreign countries that perform or support abortions.

Stem cell research is another area where pro-life supporters can have an influence, he said.

"Stem cells are tough because everybody wants good outcomes," he said.

He said pro-life supporters need to convince families who have children with diabetes, and other diseases which may be helped by stem cells, that there are other options available.

"We need to show them how we can achieve the same goal without going down that road," he said, referring to stem cell research.

He called for increased funding for placental, chord and embryonic cell research as well as skin cell research. He made an analogy to fishing; the Democrats can throw 10 lines, or treatments, in the water, but they cannot cast

the stem cell line.

Another of Donnelly's post-birth facets of pro-life ideology included improving school lunches. Some students in the district, he said, had no stable home life and sometimes the only solid meals they eat comes from school. At Brown School in South Bend, he said, 85 percent of students were on a federal lunch program.

The best way to improve family life, Donnelly said, was to create jobs. Jobs provide income and allow people to spend time with their families, pay their mortgages and foster a good home environment, he said. Donnelly was optimistic about jobs in the area.

"We think we're creating unbelievable job opportunities," he said.

Healthcare is an issue for Donnelly himself, he said. His daughter has rheumatoid arthritis, which is treated by a drug that costs \$1,800 a month. He can afford it because his wife, who works for Notre Dame, falls under the University's insurance policy, but many others without insurance policies cannot.

"We have to come up with how a child in the red house can get the same insurance and health care as the child in the green house," he said.

Donnelly graduated from Notre Dame in 1977 and the Notre Dame Law School in 1981.

Contact Bill Brink at
wbrink@nd.edu

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Followed by Keynote Address:
Dr. Steven Ridgely (University of
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Video in Japanese Film and Anime"

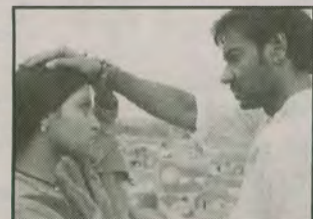


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Introduction and Q&A
following the film by Emily Liu,
Notre Dame alumna and the
film's producer and actress



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MARKET RECAP

Stocks			
Dow Jones	12,422.86		-109.74

Up: 1,413 Same: 107 Down: 1,928 Composite Volume: 4,065,461,184

AMEX	2,219.77	-3.64
NASDAQ	2,324.36	-16.69
NYSE	8,881.55	-54.68
S&P 500	1,341.13	-11.86
NIKKEI (Tokyo)	12,706.63	0.00
FTSE 100 (London)	5,660.40	-28.70

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
S&P DEP RECIEPTS (SPY)	-1.22	-1.65	133.20
FINANCIAL SEL (XLF)	-3.61	-0.96	25.62
POWERSHARES (QQQQ)	-0.29	-0.13	44.70
CITIGROUP INC (C)	-5.85	-1.37	22.05

Treasuries			
10-YEAR NOTE	+0.06	+0.002	3.494
13-WEEK BILL	+1.20	+0.015	1.270
30-YEAR BOND	+0.72	+0.031	4.330
5-YEAR NOTE	-1.93	-0.050	2.543

Commodities		
LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl.)	+4.58	105.80
GOLD (\$/Troy oz.)	+14.20	952.50
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)	-3.00	73.40

Exchange Rates	
YEN	99.0500
EURO	0.6311
CANADIAN DOLLAR	1.0178
BRITISH POUND	0.4980

IN BRIEF

Small TV stations fear switch to digital

WASHINGTON — The low-power television industry is facing a "death sentence" because of a flaw in the government's plan to force broadcasters to shift to digital broadcasting and have asked a federal judge for a reprieve.

The Community Broadcasters Association, which represents owners of small television stations, wants the Federal Communications Commission to ban all digital set top converter boxes that are not equipped to receive an analog signal, a request that has the potential to derail the biggest broadcasting transition since color television.

As of Feb. 18, 2009, all full-power television stations in the U.S. are required to stop broadcasting an analog signal. Anyone who gets programming through an antenna and does not have a newer-model digital TV set will need to buy a box that converts the digital signal to analog. The government is providing two \$40 coupons per household that can be used to buy these boxes.

Stocks retreat with report prediction

NEW YORK — Wall Street pulled back Wednesday after a drop in February's durable goods orders injected more pessimism about the economy into the stock market. The Dow Jones industrial average fell nearly 110 points.

Investors who have been worried about the financial health of U.S. companies and individuals were disappointed to see a 1.7 percent dip in last month's orders of durable goods, or big-ticket items that range from refrigerators to cars to computers. The Commerce Department's durable goods report is indicative of business spending and consumer demand, so two straight months of declines were worrisome to Wall Street.

Meanwhile, investors found another reason to be cautious after the Commerce Department said sales of new homes slumped in February. The 1.8 percent decline was a bit narrower than economists surveyed by Thomson Financial/IFR had anticipated, but it still dragged down sales for the fourth consecutive month to a 13-year low.

Considering that the Dow has added more than 425 points in the past three sessions, a pullback does not come as a surprise.

Eli Lilly settles in Alaskan lawsuit

Drugmaker pays \$15 million settlement in state's case over Zyprexa drug

Associated Press

ANCHORAGE — The drugmaker Eli Lilly and Co. and Alaska announced a \$15 million settlement Wednesday in the state's lawsuit over the use of the drug Zyprexa in its Medicaid program.

The deal ensures that Alaska will be treated as well as any other state that may settle with Lilly over similar claims involving the drug, which is used to treat schizophrenia and bipolar disorder.

The state sued for hundreds of millions of dollars to cover costs to Medicaid for treating what it says are Zyprexa-related health problems. Attorneys for the state said Lilly failed to warn doctors and patients adequately that using the prescription drug could lead to severe obesity, elevated blood sugar and diabetes because company officials worried that consumers would pick an alternative.

"We believe this is a good result for the state of Alaska and the Department of Health and Human Services," Alaska Attorney General Talis Colberg said in a prepared statement.

The agreement included no admission of wrongdoing by Lilly, which is based in Indianapolis.

Nina Gussack, who headed the Lilly trial team, called the settlement a "very positive resolution."

"It certainly, in light of the state's initial views about what this case was valued at, represents an extraordinary resolution for Lilly," Gussack said.

Court-ordered mediation had been begun before jurors heard opening statements March 6 and culminated with the settlement Tuesday night. The company was confident in the



Nina Gussack, left, and George Lehner, center, attorneys for Eli Lilly and Co., talk with Tommy Fibich, attorney for the State of Alaska, during a break in court Wednesday.

defense it had presented so far, Gussack said, and the state likely recognized the value of Zyprexa and how it continues to be prescribed.

"I think against that background, resolving cases for relatively modest amounts, given the history here, is always a good thing for litigants," she said.

Alaska sued Lilly two years ago. Lilly officials say the drug helps tame the most serious mental illnesses by eliminating hallucinations and allowing patients to function in society.

The state had presented

its case over eight days and Superior Court Judge Mark Rindner last week denied Lilly's request for an immediate favorable verdict. Without lawsuits like the one Alaska brought against Lilly, claims that drugs cause health problems "might well go unaddressed," Rindner said last week, when jurors when out of the room.

As Rindner dismissed jurors Wednesday, he praised the settlement for bringing certainty to both sides. It spares the expense of a possible second trial to

determine damages and inevitable appeals, he said.

Analysts say the settlement will not grab a lot of attention on Wall Street. Lilly shares rose 2 cents to \$50.19 in trading Wednesday.

"It's not going to raise anybody's eyebrow," said Tony Butler, who covers Lilly for Lehman Brothers. "I wouldn't call it a positive, but I would say I think the average person on Wall Street says, 'Well, good thing they settled. Could have certainly been much larger.'"

India's Tata buys Jaguar and Land Rover

Associated Press

DETROIT — After spending billions of dollars on Jaguar and Land Rover, Ford Motor Co. gave up on the storied British automakers Wednesday and unloaded them to India's Tata Motors Ltd. for a mere third of the original purchase price.

The deal is another sign of the growing economic muscle of India and something of an economic role reversal, with two icons of British industrial might expanding the global reach of a premier conglomerate in the former British colony.

Ford nets about \$1.7 billion, a far cry from what it paid for the properties — \$2.5 billion for Jaguar in 1989 and \$2.7 billion for Land Rover in 2000. Counting losses and product development, analysts figure Ford spent more than \$10 billion on the brands.

Those acquisitions, like General Motors' purchase of Saab and

Chrysler's entanglement with Mitsubishi, came when cash was rolling in at the U.S. automakers as drivers snapped up cars and pricey pickup trucks and sport utility vehicles.

But Ford's fortunes have changed, with slumping U.S. sales and billions in losses. The fire-sale price comes as the Dearborn, Mich.-based automaker concentrates on its main brands.

"You have to cut your losses at some point," said Erich Merkle, vice president of auto industry forecasting for the consulting firm IRN Inc. in Grand Rapids. "It's been draining them of cash and resources."

Tata is India's oldest and largest conglomerate, with holdings in steel, information technology and autos. It should have the cash to save Jaguar and Land Rover and develop new products to better compete with luxury automakers, Merkle said.

The proceeds of the deal aren't

enough to rescue Ford's finances, but the sale will allow the company to focus on restructuring its core brands, Merkle said. Ford does not break out financial results for its individual brands, but Merkle said Jaguar has never made a profit in the nine years Ford has owned it.

"They were a long time coming to the realization that this thing wasn't working," said Burnham Securities analyst David Healy.

Tata said Ford will continue to supply engines, transmissions and other components for five to nine years. The Indian company said it expects no significant changes for Jaguar and Land Rover's 16,000 workers, and its statements said it would preserve the heritage of the brands.

Indeed, British Labour Party lawmaker Richard Burden said Tata appeared to recognize the importance of "retaining the essential Britishness of the Jaguar and Land Rover brands."

Protest

continued from page 1

"Hair," ended, 20 to 30 students rose from their seats and exited the room, creating a slight disturbance. In their empty seats they left letters explaining their decision.

"We have chosen to attend, and immediately depart from, this performance of 'The Vagina Monologues' in order to protest its performance on campus for seventh out of the past eight years (sic)," the letter explained. "Upon leaving the play, we are headed as a group to the Grotto, where we will pray for the students, faculty, and administration of the University of Notre Dame, and particularly that our institutional participation in such a demeaning cultural fad will come to an end. As loyal sons and daughters of Our Lady, we are confident that she will hear our prayer."

Nussbaum said he disagreed with many elements of the play and the protesters were not wrong for walking out, but still made him uncomfortable.

The organizers of the monologues did not protest this departure, and instead welcomed audience members in the back to fill the empty seats up front.

The play included several new additions, including monologues about women in Iraq, Pakistan, Mexico and New Orleans.

"New Orleans is the vagina of America, and if you want

to know how some people feel about vaginas, just look at New Orleans after the storm," performer Naomi Mlynski said.

The play also poked fun at Notre Dame's discomfort. Producer Jordy Brooks held a sign reading "V*gina" when explaining how many at Notre Dame feel about that part of the female anatomy.

Performer Maureen Mullen, who played a lesbian dominatrix in the segment, entitled "The Woman Who Makes Vaginas Happy," also added the "Notre Dame moan" and the "Notre Dame moan (after parietals)" to her skit.

Following the play, theology professors Ann Astell and Mary Rose D'Angelo, peace studies professor Susan StVille, and co-director for the Offices of Family Life in the diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend Lisa Everett offered their opinions on "The Vagina Monologues" and fielded questions from the audience.

Astell began by relating the story of author Virginia Woolf's sexual abuse and argued that the sexual nature of the play drowns its message of stopping violence against women.

"The overall, too simple message seems to be this: the physical violence that women suffer at the hands of men can be remedied through women's enjoyment of their own and each other's bodies, pleasure healing pain," she said, referring to a

part of the play entitled "The Little Coochie Snorcher That Could" where a girl is raped by a man as a 10-year-old and then indulges in lesbian sex as a 16-year-old with a 24-year-old woman.

Instead, Astell said shame is an important part of sexuality, "which calls us all to responsibility for ourselves and others."

Astell was followed by D'Angelo, who said "The Vagina Monologues" are rooted in 1970's feminism and are not intended as an attack on Roman Catholic sexual doctrine.

According to D'Angelo, the play explores the different ways women consent to sex and how that consent is used in society.

"The Monologues' offer an exercise in listening," she said.

D'Angelo criticized the timing of the play, however, arguing that it should be held during V-Day in April so that the University could protest violence against women with the entire world.

"I really find it disturbing that the University permits 'The Monologues' but at the cost of disassociating them with V-Day," she said.

Everett, who did not attend Wednesday's performance but was present for Tuesday's dress rehearsal, adopted a much more conservative stance, saying the play was in complete violation of Catholic sexual and moral teachings and had no

place on the University's campus.

"A Catholic university should not stand for anything that desecrates the dignity of women and promotes the culture of shamelessness," she said. "Even Enslar's play has made a significant contribution to the culture of shamelessness."

Everett said "The Vagina Monologues" portrayal women indulging in sexual escapades was more shameful that its portrayal of raped women.

"The desecration that we freely choose violates our dignity much more than the desecration that is forced upon us," she said. "When we desecrate ourselves, that damages the soul much more deeply."

StVille provided the perspective of someone who has counseled a number of sexual abuse victims over the years.

"It is not a perfect play, but it is an important vehicle," she said. "A woman who is violated sexually experiences herself being radically silenced."

StVille was critical of the style of the play, and said Enslar, who was herself a sexual abuse victim, lost some important elements of the feminine experience when she took over 200 interviews and rewrote them as monologues.

"[The monologue style] gives them the ability to evoke empathy," she said. "But something is lost when you encapsulate an interview in monologue form."

Moreover, StVille said sexual abuse victims are often more successful in healing their wounds when they make it a religious experience.

"Catholicism and other

churches have incredible resources," she said. "If survivors can put their healing in a divine plan, they are much more likely to be healed."

At the end of the panel discussion, Nussbaum praised University president Fr. John Jenkins for his judgment, but said he was worried about the divide between the diocese and the University and that "The Vagina Monologues" prevented the play from accomplishing its goal of raising awareness of violence against women.

"I thought some of the things were totally inappropriate if the end goal is stopping violence against women," he said.

Nussbaum, however, recognized that sexual abuse is a huge problem and related his experiences as a prosecutor specializing in sexual abuse cases.

"It's a huge problem, and if people don't think it's a problem, then they have their head in the sand," he said.

Nussbaum asked the panel what he should tell the members of the Alumni Association.

StVille, who is herself a University alumnus, said simply removing the play from the campus would not help create any awareness about sexual violence.

"The issue of whether or not to have this at a Catholic University has taken attention away from sexual violence," she said. "I would disagree that

the way to reach them is to stop doing the play, because all that will do is give students the message that we are not going to talk about this here. And no matter what else would substitute, you're not going to get over that affront to the women who have been raped."

Contact Joseph McMahon at jmcmaho6@nd.edu

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Naomi Mlynski
performer

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State Dept. employees view famous passports

Workers examined Anna Nicole Smith's records

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — State Department workers viewed passport applications containing personal information about high-profile Americans, including the late Playboy playmate Anna Nicole Smith, at least 20 times since January 2007, The Associated Press has learned.

That total is far more than disclosed last week with the news that presidential candidates Hillary Rodham Clinton, John McCain and Barack Obama had been victims of improper snooping.

An internal department review has found the additional instances of department employees or contractors looking at computerized passport files of politicians and celebrities, according to preliminary results.

It has not been determined if the new cases also involved improper peeking, officials familiar with the review said Wednesday. Smith's case, however, seems legitimate, the officials said. The review is not complete and the exact number of cases was not yet clear.

They spoke on condition of anonymity because the review is going on at the same time as the department's own watchdog investigates passport record security related to the breaches involving the White House candidates.

Smith, 39, died in February 2007 death from an accidental overdose in Florida and was buried in the Bahamas, where she had moved in 2006. The review of her passport file appears to have come after a legitimate request from the U.S. Embassy in the Bahamas for information needed to complete her death certificate, the officials said.

Supervisors recorded each instance a file was viewed because the applications in question belonged to members of a select group of several hundred citizens whose passport files were "flagged" for extra protection due to their visibility, the officials said. Among these people are government leaders, movie stars and athletes, the officials said.

The list maintained by Bureau of Consular Affairs has included as many as 500 people at any one time, they said. The list is kept secret partly to deter workers from making unauthorized inquiries into high-profile records. Although there are no formal criteria for inclusion, people on the list are deemed to warrant special consideration because of their public status, the officials said.

The investigation begun by the department's inspector general after last week's disclosure covers some of the same ground as the internal review but also will examine whether the searches of the candidates' records were politically motivated. Thus far, officials say they believe that snooping resulted from "imprudent curiosity."

Two contractors were fired

and a third disciplined for breaching Obama's records three times and McCain's records once. A department employee who looked at Clinton's file as part of a training exercise was reprimanded.

The companies that provided the contractors — Stanley Inc., of Arlington, Va., and The Analysis Corp., or TAC, of McLean, Va. — have said their employees' actions were unauthorized and not consistent with company policies.

Accessing any of the flagged files triggers an automatic notification that the record has been viewed. That allows supervisors to check whether it was done for a legitimate reason, such as an official request for verification of information contained in an actual passport.

The review being conducted by Patrick Kennedy, under-secretary of state for management, is expected to result in increased security measures for the passport files of flagged individuals, the officials said.

The most likely step would mean special security for those records, making them accessible to passport employees only after they get permission to view them from a supervisor, the officials said.

That restriction now applies to the files of the three candidates. Kennedy hopes to have it cover all high-profile records before the inspector general's report is completed and ahead of congressional hearings on passport security, the officials said.

In addition, Kennedy wants to expand the list to more than 500 individuals, they said.

But that is unlikely to preempt calls for a separate Justice Department investigation into whether the breaches of the candidates' files violated federal laws. Nor would it address concerns that the files of millions of people not considered high-profile enough for the extra protection may also have been improperly accessed.

It is unclear what the contractors might have seen in the candidates' records. Passport applications typically contain only basic personal information such as name, citizenship, age, Social Security number and place of birth. The files generally would not list countries the person has traveled to.

But Passport Services maintain other records that can include information such as marriages overseas, court orders, arrest warrants and medical and financial reports. Further, outside "users" — including other government agencies and foreign governments — may be given certain information.

But the department says extraneous information would be included in passport application files only under rare circumstances, such as suspected fraud. Also, foreign governments are not given access to the U.S. electronic system that contains the files, it said.

Leaders call for more reports

Joint Chiefs fear troop levels in Iraq hurt abilities to handle other crises

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Behind the Pentagon's closed doors, U.S. military leaders told President Bush Wednesday they are worried about the Iraq war's mounting strain on troops and their families. But they indicated they'd go along with a brief halt in pulling out troops this summer.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff did say senior commanders in Iraq should make more frequent assessments of security conditions, an idea that appeared aimed at increasing pressure for more rapid troop reductions.

The chiefs' concern is that U.S. forces are being worn thin, compromising the Pentagon's ability to handle crises elsewhere in the world.

In the war zone itself, two more American soldiers were killed Wednesday in separate attacks in Baghdad, raising the U.S. death toll to at least 4,003, according to an Associated Press count. Volleys of rockets also slammed into Baghdad's Green Zone for the third day this week, and the U.S. Embassy said three Americans were seriously wounded. At least eight Iraqis were killed elsewhere in the capital by rounds that apparently fell short.

Wednesday's 90-minute Pentagon session, held in a secure conference room known as "the Tank," was arranged by Defense Secretary Robert Gates to provide Bush an additional set of military views as he prepares to decide how to proceed in Iraq once his troop buildup, which began in 2007, runs its

course by July.

"Armed with all that, the president must now decide the way ahead in Iraq," said Pentagon press secretary Geoff Morrell. The discussion covered not only Iraq but Afghanistan, where violence has spiked, and broader military matters, said Morrell, who briefed reporters without giving details of the discussion. Some specifics were provided by defense officials, commenting on condition of anonymity in order to speak more freely.

The Joint Chiefs are particularly concerned about Afghanistan and an increasingly active Taliban insurgency.

The United States has about 31,000 troops in Afghanistan and 156,000 in Iraq.

U.S. forces in Iraq peaked at 20 brigades last year and are to be cut to 15 brigades, with a total of about 140,000 combat and support troops, by the end of July. A key question facing Bush is whether security conditions will have improved sufficiently by then to justify more reductions.

One of the leading advocates of Bush's troop buildup last year, military historian Frederick Kagan of the American Enterprise Institute, said in an interview Wednesday that security conditions in Iraq, while better, are not good enough to justify any commitment to troop reductions beyond July.

"The military reality is that it's virtually inconceivable that it will make sense to draw down below 15 brigades this year," Kagan said.

Gates has said he would like to see the total drop to 10

brigades by the end of this year, but that now looks unlikely.

Gen. David Petraeus, the top U.S. commander in Iraq, has proposed what is commonly called a "pause" to assess the impact of having withdrawn five combat brigades since December. He has argued that it would be reckless to shrink the American force so rapidly that the gains achieved over the past year are compromised or lost entirely.

Bush is expected to endorse Petraeus' approach. If, as expected, Petraeus is given until August or September to weigh the effects of the current round of reductions, then it is unlikely that the force would get much below 15 brigades by the time Bush leaves office in January.

Bush is unlikely to announce his decision until after Petraeus and the top U.S. diplomat in Baghdad, Ryan Crocker, return to Washington next month to report to Congress.

The Joint Chiefs, who do not command troops but are legally responsible for ensuring the fitness of the forces they provide to commanders, have grown increasingly concerned that the weight of five-plus years of war in Iraq could create severe, long-term problems, particularly for the Army and Marine Corps.

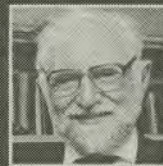
In their session with Bush, the chiefs laid out their concerns about the health of the U.S. force, several defense officials said. Bush was accompanied by his chief of staff, Joshua Bolten; his national security adviser, Stephen Hadley, and Vice President Dick ShShir.

SHAKESPEARE AT NOTRE DAME

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THE OBSERVER VIEWPOINT

page 10

Thursday, March 27, 2008

THE OBSERVER

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It's good to be male

At a lunch on Monday, a mother of four told me why her oldest daughter didn't go to Notre Dame. A teacher at her prestigious all-girls Connecticut prep school told her, with some certainty, that Notre Dame was "sexist."

The mother continued: the teacher's statement was outrageous, evidence of her non-Catholic, East Coast bias and her narrow-minded belief that Notre Dame is a football team first and a school second.

The mother was probably right. Still today, most New York suburbs — particularly wealthy, WASPy New York suburbs — don't view Notre Dame the same way most Chicago suburbs do.

But as the mother dismissed the assertion of sexism as mere ignorance, I cringed and kept my mouth shut, only nodding and smirking and shoving enough snap peas in my mouth that I wouldn't have to respond.

Because, in at least one sense, the teacher was right too. There is an embarrassing gap between the treatment of women and men at Notre Dame even today. Admitting women, adding a gender studies program and showing the Vagina Monologues on campus shouldn't be trumpeted as signs that we're a place that treats male and female students equally. We don't.

In many ways, we're still a boys club. The evidence seems almost too obvious, too often whined about among students around campus, to merit a column. Among students, this observation is tired. But we don't talk about it publicly, we never demand a change.

There are different standards in men's and women's dorms. Sure, the DuLac in Farley is the same as the DuLac in Fisher, but students know the

rules aren't the same in practice.

Any male dorm — and, yes, that includes Morrissey — is far less harsh than is any female dorm on campus. While it varies case-by-case and individual-by-individual — there are lenient RAs and Rectors in women's halls, there's the occasional jerk in men's (you know who you are) — the experience of getting caught vomiting in Alumni is less serious than the experience of getting caught in PE. And this can't be dismissed as necessary dorm autonomy. There is a consistent difference in treatment and discipline between male and female dorms.

I don't know why the difference exists. There is something of a boys-will-be-boys side to it, I'm sure. There's also a practical concern: as a general rule, men taking shots aren't as quick to become a liability (though there are plenty of lightweight exceptions). Most importantly, there's also still a sense of paternalism to it. A Frosh-O sign half-joking reassures freshman parents that a particular women's dorm has been "protecting your daughters from Zahm" since its inception.

Walk through campus on a Friday night at 10 and you'll see the perverse effects of this protect-the-girls sensibility. The harshness of women's halls forces girls to go off-campus or to men's halls for parties. And while I don't have any hard data to back this up, it sure seems like this causes more girls to drink more (male-purchased) alcohol and discourages them from returning (plastered) after parties.

This is a bad thing. And not just because it costs me more money. To vastly over-generalize something that too many Notre Dame students know from experience, pushing freshmen girls to Turtle Creek never ends well.

Put simply, women's dorms don't actually protect their residents by being harsher on alcohol and parties. Instead, they push them to more dangerous situations over which hall staff has less control. The means undermine the end. The halls take worse care of

their residents precisely because they try to take better care of them.

Our women's halls ought to treat our women the same way our men's halls treat our men. (Treating the men as we now treat women isn't an option — it would just force more kids to go off-campus and compound the problem). It's not a change in policy, per se. It is a change in culture and attitude.

It means less draconian punishment in women's halls. It means the willful ignorance towards underage drinking that pervades men's halls. It means hiring the sort of hall staff who can enforce rules without being judgmental, who care more about the overall person than the rule they break, and, most importantly, who demonstrate that care by staying lenient when possible and understanding that female Notre Dame students are best served if they are treated similarly to male Notre Dame students.

And for students, it means actually publicizing the double standard. Everybody knows it, yes. But we never hear about it in a public forum. Rather than only whining behind the scenes when they get in trouble, students need to proactively make an issue of it.

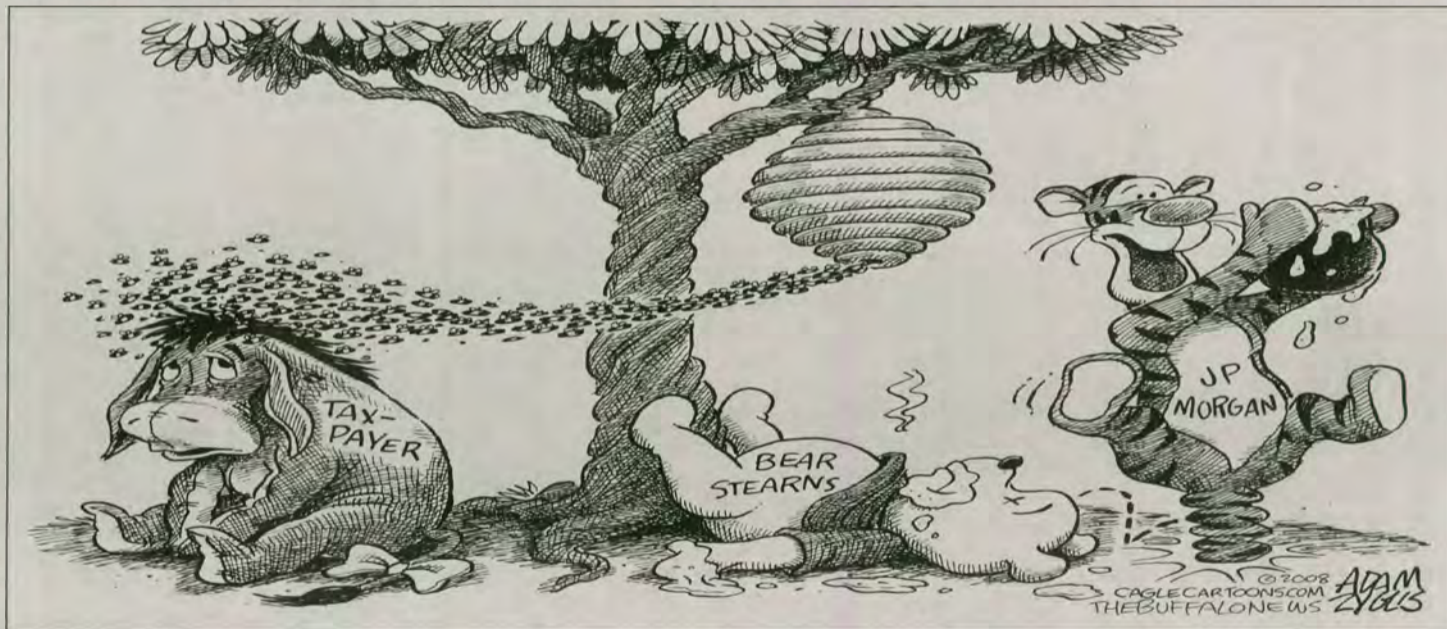
Until then, though, the high school teacher's analysis of Notre Dame as a sexist place seems embarrassingly accurate. No doubt, this sexism manifests itself in ways I can't see; ways that are apparent only to a female eye. But I don't need to be a girl to watch, and experience, the double standard our men and women face.

We're thirty-five years into our co-ed experiment and at Notre Dame, it's still a good thing to be a male.

Andrew Nesi is a junior American Studies major from Fairfield, Conn. This weekend, his five-year-old sister told him that she was "cheering for Obama for President" because he could "bring more rainbows." He can be reached at anesi@nd.edu.

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

EDITORIAL CARTOON



OBSERVER POLL

Are you in favor of the "Vagina Monologues"?

Yes
No

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

Submit a Letter
to the Editor at
www.ndsmcobserver.com

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Peace can only last where human rights are respected, where the people are fed, and where individuals and nations are free."

Tenzin Gyatso
14th Dalai Lama

Have you ever had "the thought"?

One of my sons has a recurring problem with what he calls "the thought." Every so often, usually as he tries to fall asleep at night, "the thought" comes to him and absolutely terrifies him. He comes to find me and knows that all he needs to say is, "I'm having the thought." And what is it? Simply the understanding, with painful clarity, that someday he will die. This has been happening to him for years; at least for as long as he's been able to articulate it to me aloud — not too often, thankfully, but about every month or two.

Kate Barrett

Faithpoint

Ironically, this happened most recently on the night of Easter. While I was reading in bed, I could hear him start gasping in his room; and sure enough, he came pounding in a few seconds later and jumped up next to me. I tried to tease him a little: "You're having the thought on Easter night? This is the day of all days you're not supposed to be afraid of death!"

Maybe that wasn't fair — after all, the Gospels tell us again and again that most of Jesus' disciples (whom he

had repeatedly told that he would rise from the dead) were still slow to believe he had risen even when presented with physical evidence or the testimony of angels. Even this week, as we continue to celebrate Easter day, we hear that Mary Magdalene looked right at Jesus, thought he was the gardener, and asked him to return the "stolen" body of the Lord — and this after she had peered into the empty tomb and seen angels sitting in the place of Jesus' body.

We hear the story of the disciples who walked from Jerusalem to Emmaus with Jesus and didn't recognize him until he took charge at their dinner table. Those same disciples then jumped up and ran the seven miles back to Jerusalem to tell the others, only to find that they didn't believe it either. Jesus even arrives on the scene, but they think he's a ghost until he offers his hands and feet as proof, and lets them watch him eat to show that he's really alive. Jesus' closest friends and followers feared death so deeply that they didn't understand that he had overcome it.

So who am I to think my son shouldn't have his "thought" on Easter night — at least he's in good company. What he shares with Jesus' disciples is not

just fear and uncertainty, but more importantly, a belief — even through that fear — in a living, merciful Lord who's always willing to give us a fresh start, a new beginning. For watch how Jesus responds to all his confused, bewildered, yet beloved friends. He reaches out to them: He shares meals; He walks with them; He offers them his peace; He invites them to touch his hands and his side; He even entrusts them with his mission. "Go into the whole world," He will say in Saturday's Gospel, "and proclaim the Gospel to every creature."

Jesus' resurrection gives us a new chance, too. He mercifully offers each of us the opportunity, again and again, to say, as we will hear "doubting" Thomas cry this Sunday, "My Lord and my God!" To say, as we will hear Cleopas and the other disciple say after Emmaus, "The Lord has truly been raised!" To say, as we will hear Peter cry out, "Yes, Lord, you know I love you!"

We can't "beat" death, or somehow conquer the inevitability of its presence in our lives. I can't reassure my son, "Nothing to worry about, sweets. You're never going to die." Rather, we may be able to reduce our fear of death by taking Jesus up on his offers

to come to him over and over again for mercy, for understanding, for forgiveness. We may not be able to touch him or watch him eat, but we surely can receive him in the sacraments, tangible and certain signs that bespeak and bring God's presence into the world. We can also offer mercy as Jesus did, trying to live with an attitude of forgiveness, even when our ability to forgive is tested more than we think we can endure.

In one of the most stunningly beautiful Easter hymns ever written, we sing: "And you most kind and gentle death/Waiting to hush our final breath/O praise him! Alleluia! You lead to heav'n the child of God/Where Christ our Lord the way has trod/O praise him! O praise him! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!" Perhaps we can take the most comfort in knowing that Christ has trod the way of death before us, and now waits in heaven for each and every child of God.

Kate Barrett is the director of Resources and Special Projects for Campus Ministry. She can be reached at kbarrett@nd.edu.

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

Celebrity influence ineffective

Last month, Steven Spielberg stepped down as the artistic advisor for the Beijing Olympics in protest of China's continuing inaction over the genocide in the Darfur region of Sudan. While Chinese officials insisted that the Darfur conflict and the Olympics are completely unrelated, they continue to support Sudan's government with economic, military, and diplomatic ties.



Bob Kessler

Because Mr. Spielberg's attempts to use his position to sway the Chinese government, specifically

House of Stix

President Hu Jintao, had proved less than fruitful, he felt he could no longer continue to assist Olympic organizers.

Similarly, George Clooney is also using his Olympic resources to pressure

the Chinese government into timely action with Sudan. Mr. Clooney is a spokesman for Omega Watches, a long-time Olympic sponsor, and is attempting to pressure the Chinese government through the watch company. While his efforts have not yielded any action by the Chinese government, Omega executives claim they are working to help solve the crisis.

While Mr. Spielberg and Mr. Clooney are using their celebrity clout to no avail, the plight continues in Darfur. Last month, a fresh Sudanese offensive aimed at suppressing Darfur rebels sent even more refugees into neighboring Chad. Since 2003 more than 2.5 million people have fled Darfur, and over 200,000 people have been killed. The Chinese have seemingly supported the massacre by selling weapons to the Sudanese government, and buying oil from them.

But why are these celebrities using the Olympic Games in an attempt to pressure Chinese political policy? It

seems unlikely that the Chinese government would back away from any given position just because a film actor and director take issue with it. In fact, when it comes down to it Mr. Clooney and Mr. Spielberg have no real influence on the practices of the Beijing Olympic organizing committee, let alone the policies of the Chinese government.

I am certain that organizers can find another artistic advisor for the games, and I even believe that they would be able to find another timing sponsor in the unlikely event that Omega somehow pulls out their involvement.

Furthermore, the International Olympic Committee president himself has said he is using silent diplomacy to help resolve issues about Darfur as well as the current crisis in Tibet. Jaques Rogge (president of the IOC) maintains, however, that the purpose of the Olympic Games is not to solve political problems in China, but to bring the world together and have the best possi-

ble competitions for the athletes.

Despite the fact that even Rogge has been unsuccessful in swaying the Chinese government, there is one man whose involvement with this year's Olympic Games is crucial to their perceived success in the United States (and perhaps around the world). He is quite possibly the most exceptional athlete of our generation, and is currently preparing to ignite the world stage. I believe that Michael Phelps might be the one man in the world who can use the Olympics to sway the actions of the Chinese government, but he is also one who can not risk action.

Bob Kessler is a junior majoring in political science and economics. He really enjoys the Easter SweetTarts that come in the shape of bunnies and chicks. You can read more of his work at salts-tix.com. Contact him at rkessler@nd.edu

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Attend the Grotto Rosary

I would like to thank Professor Charles Rice for his superb Mar. 26 Viewpoint column ("Adoration is the answer") stressing the importance of Eucharistic Adoration. Although not on par with adoring Our Lord Himself, the Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary is also an excellent and fruitful devotion which has given aid and succor to countless men and women over the centuries as they have followed Our Lord in hopes of finding everlasting joy. Everyday, the Rosary is prayed at the Grotto at 6:45 p.m. Today, the following special intentions will be offered before this Rosary:

- 1) For chastity, purity, and modesty among all, especially those associated with the University;
- 2) For the end of violence against women in all forms;
- 3) For a truly Catholic Identity here at Our Lady's University;

- 4) For the health, well being, and intentions of Fr. Jenkins and all priests on this campus; and
- 5) For the health, well being, and intentions of His Excellency, Bishop John M. D'Arcy and all of the clergy.

I would like to invite the entire university community (students, faculty and staff) to attend this Rosary tonight to pray for these most worthy intentions. These intentions will also be remembered during Eucharistic Adoration in the Coleman-Morse Chapel from 7 to 9 p.m. Let's put Professor Rice's sound advice into action: "spend some time with the person who himself really is Truth. And Love."

Jonathan Kaltenbach
junior
Morrissey Hall
March 26

Want to regularly express
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Contact Kara at kking5@nd.edu

Miss Guided

finds its way on abc

By CASSIE BELEK
Assistant Scene Editor

It's a shame we had to wait so long for Judy Greer to have her own starring role, but "Miss Guided" on ABC is finally giving her the chance to show off her leading lady skills. While many remember Greer for her hysterical role as Kitty Sanchez on "Arrested Development," she is perhaps most recognizable for her roles as the sarcastic best friend in far too many romantic comedies ("The Wedding Planner," "13 Going on 30" and "27 Dresses"). But ABC's mid-season replacement "Miss Guided" shows us that Greer can handle the lead role. She may not look like Jennifer Lopez or Katherine Heigl, but she has all the wit and charm to sparkle on screen and make us love any character she plays.

Greer stars as Becky Freely, a young woman who has returned to her former high school to be a guidance counselor. Becky's stint as a counselor gives her the opportunity to do over high school — a not so happy experience for the nerdy girl who once started a Milli Vanilli fan club. She's ditched the head gear for a sunny smile and cheery wardrobe, but she hasn't ditched homecoming queen Lisa Germain (Brook Burns) who returns in the pilot as the new English teacher. Lisa causes Becky's high school insecurities to come flooding back to her, especially when Lisa starts vying for the affection of Spanish teacher Tim (Kristoffer Polaha), who Becky has a serious crush on. Meanwhile Becky is constantly butting heads with assistant principal Bruce, brilliantly played by "SNL" alum Chris Parnell — another underappreciated comedic actor who is finally getting a major role.

Miss Guided

Network: ABC

Starring: Judy Greer, Brooke Burns, Kristoffer Polaha and Chris Parnell



Yet another comedy about high school could get old fast, but "Miss Guided" is careful to keep its humor fresh and its situations real. There is a reason that so many movies and television shows focus on high school — it's one of the defining time periods of our lives. In high school there are winners and losers (mostly losers), but it's the losers who go on to run the world. Becky Freely is a loser trying to reinvent herself and help kids who need a little guidance from someone who wasn't Lisa Germain in high school.

ABC has already aired three episodes with two airing back to back for the next two weeks before "Ugly Betty" reclaims its time slot with new episodes. Little information is available about the future of the series. The first episode caught the eye of 10 million viewers while the second two episodes dropped down to about 6.3 million viewers each.

Critical reception has been generally positive, with several comparisons to "30 Rock" and "Arrested Development." "Miss Guided" is a single camera comedy, which gives the series more freedom to feature characters directly addressing the camera and to cut away to embarrassing high school flashbacks.

The comedy also follows a recent trend of female characters taking the lead in single camera sitcoms. Becky Freely is in good company with Liz Lemon (Tina Fey) on "30 Rock" and Samantha Newly (Christina Applegate) on "Samantha Who?" These characters are modern-day Lucy Ricardos, Mary Richards's and Murphy Browns.

Becky is a character who made it after all, but her personal journey isn't complete because in high school, an emotional breakdown is always right around the corner. Becky has to deal with everything from resisting the advances of the substitute Spanish teacher (played by executive producer Ashton Kutcher) who is after Tim's job to being jealous that she isn't higher on the "most doable teachers" list.

"Miss Guided" is quirky and consistently funny. Most characters are multi-dimensional and feature possibilities for growth. If the series gets picked up for more episodes, we'll possibly see the one-joke characters get something meatier and funnier. In the meantime, "Miss Guided" can draw on the high school experiences that we all identify with while Becky shows us what a winner she has become.

Contact Cassie Belek at cbelek@nd.edu



VAGINA MONOLOGUES

returns to campus amidst controversy

BLAIR CHEMIDLIN | Observer Graphic

By TAE ANDREWS
Scene Editor

It has been discussed, deliberated and debated, hyped and hated, criticized, condemned, lambasted and lauded. Controversy over "The Vagina Monologues" has raged from the pages of this newspaper to the quads of Notre Dame's campus to the streets surrounding her borders. In the months prior to this week, the only thing missing from the controversy embroiling this campus surrounding was the actual performance itself.

Now, finally, "The Vagina Monologues" takes center stage at Notre Dame.

At the show's heart lies a core of committed young women dedicated to putting on the performance even in light of having to place themselves at the center of the controversy. This group of organizers includes seniors Jordy Brooks, Lisa Rauh, Cathy Steinmetz, Sarah Muscarella and sophomore Miriam Olsen.

What ties each of these young women together is her determination to share a story of sexual violence, whether it be her own or a friend's.

"Beyond my own experiences dealing with close friends who have been the victims of sexual violence, I was inspired to join primarily for the empowering and positive environment I believe the 'Vagina Monologues' creates," Rauh said. "In addition, I realized that in considering myself 'lucky' for having escaped such victimization, I was only accepting that there was a problem. The Monologues offered a venue to address this epidemic of violence against women."

Director and sophomore Stephanie Newsome agreed, saying, "I have had very personal experiences with sexual assault, which have forced me to speak out in any way I can to stop this violence."

"It is a lot harder to dismiss something when we do not have a vested interest in it, but as soon as it becomes personal, then we cannot remain ignorant or quiet. These stories are personal, and that is why we must tell them."

"What has inspired my continued involvement are all of the wonderfully kindhearted, accepting and motivated women I have met through [being involved with the performance]," Steinmetz said. She has spent the past

three years involved with the show in one capacity or another. "These are women who are passionate about respect for the genders and stopping violence."

"I have also seen the play positively impact the emotional lives of my friends who are survivors of sexual assault and I have seen the play spark interest in individuals to take action to stop violence against women," Steinmetz said. "For many students at Notre Dame, it becomes more than just a play, it becomes an inspiration and for some the beginning of a movement."

"The stories in the play are real, we would like to share them with the University and we hope this will spark discussion and action regarding awareness of ourselves as sexual beings and awareness of the sexual violence that is inflicted upon individuals every day."

It has been a long, arduous trip for the Monologues organizers in taking Eve Ensler's vision from script to stage. This week's three performances of the show represent the culmination of several months' worth of work. Back in September 2007, the organizers approached several departments they believed would have academic reasons to sponsor the event. After receiving conditional approval from two departments, the group held auditions in late December.

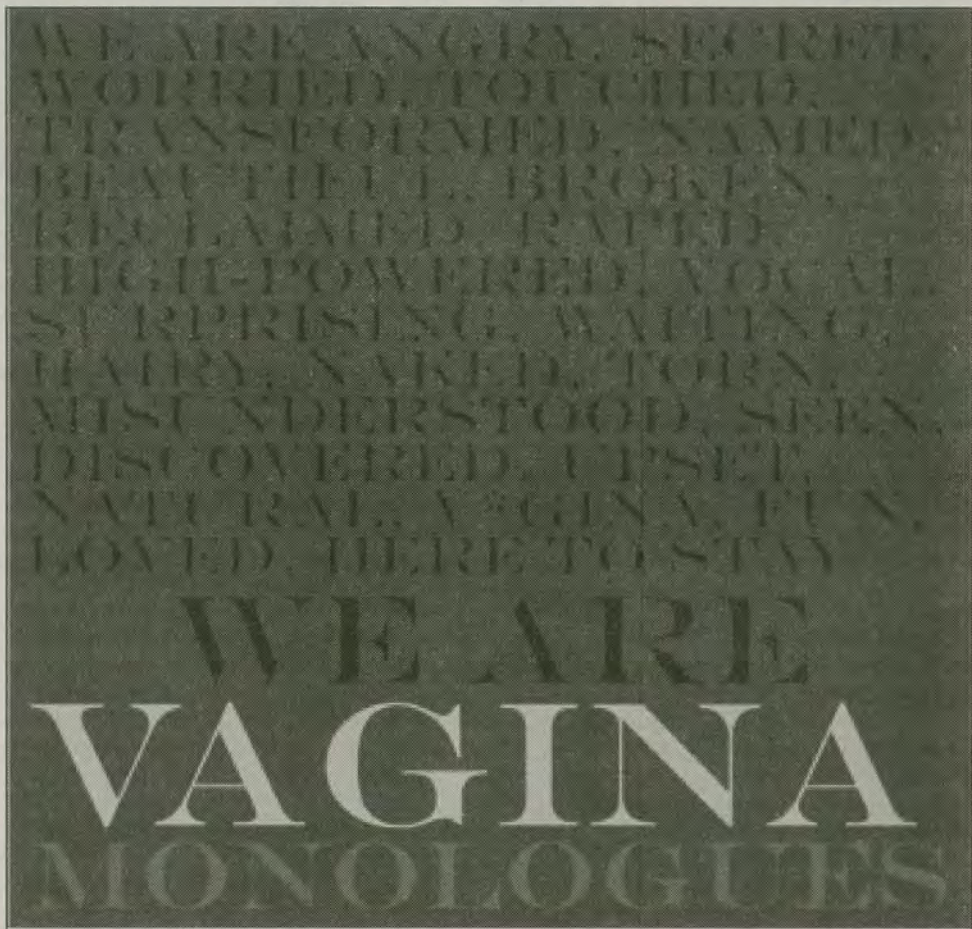
At the beginning of this semester, Rauh and company set to work on establishing the dates of the tentative event with the University. Having agreed upon dates, the group submitted a final proposal to the Dean of the College of Arts and Letters, who signed off on the proposal around the time of spring break. The organizers' responsibilities included meeting with academic departments to discuss sponsorship, soliciting professors to be on the panel and attending organizers meetings one to two times a week.

In terms of the production itself, Newsome said that the nature of the script afforded her a large degree of creative freedom in putting on the show.

"One of the great things about directing this script is that it is so minimalist," she said. "The script does not call for a set, or specific lighting, or even a stage. For this production, there is no

At the show's heart lies a core of committed young women dedicated to putting on the performance even in light of having to place themselves at the center of the controversy.

What ties each of these young women together is her determination to share a story of sexual violence, whether it be her own or a friend's.



The Vagina Monologues by Eve Ensler

7 pm DeBartolo 101 March 26th, 27th, and 28th

an academic event sponsored by the Anthropology, Political Science, and Sociology Departments

Theology Panel on Wednesday, March 26th

Dr. Ann Ansell, department of Theology
Dr. Maria Rose D'Agostino, department of Theology
Mrs. Lisa Barrett, co-director of the Office of Family Life, Division of Fort Wayne-South Bend
Dr. Susan St. Ville, department of Peace Studies

Social Sciences Perspectives on Thursday, March 27th

Dr. Joseph Elliott, department of Sociology
Mrs. Lisa Barrett, co-director of the Office of Family Life, Division of Fort Wayne-South Bend
Dr. Carolyn Nordstrom, department of Anthropology
Dr. Christine Wadsworth, department of Political Science

Psychology and Art Panelists on Friday, March 28th

Dr. Ann Ansell, department of Theology
Dr. Suzanne Courtney, department of Psychology
Mrs. Lisa Barrett, co-director of the Office of Family Life, Division of Fort Wayne-South Bend
Dr. Catherine Pittman, department of Psychology, St. Mary's College
Dr. Susan St. Ville, department of Peace Studies

NDS Advocates will be standing by

Photo courtesy of Lisa Rauh

The controversy surrounding "The Vagina Monologues" comes to a head tonight and tomorrow night with performances in DeBartolo Hall.

line between the audience and the actors. And by 'breaking the fourth wall,' I hope we can engage our audience and spark conversation."

The structure of the show also provides for some flexibility in its presentation. In addition to 'core' monologues which recur every year, the production ensemble decided to add other monologues of Ensler's and a "Spotlight" monologue designed to keep the show relevant. This year's Spotlight monologue focuses on women living in New Orleans and in the Gulf South amidst

the rebuilding period post-Hurricane Katrina.

"Directing this show has only been a challenge because there is so much controversy circulating around it," Newsome said. "But I suppose that is what makes it the most rewarding, because we overcame so many obstacles to be here. After months of anticipation and struggle, here we stand, more beautiful than ever."

Contact Tae Andrews at
tandrew1@nd.edu

MLB

A's ride pitching to split with Red Sox in Japan Series

Harden strikes out nine on 95 pitches; Brown's three-run homer the difference in third inning; Ortiz goes 0-2

Associated Press

TOKYO — Split two games, get back on a plane.

Rich Harden struck out nine over six innings and Emil Brown hit a three-run homer, leading the Oakland Athletics to a 5-1 victory over the Boston Red Sox on Wednesday night in the finale of their season-opening series in Japan.

"Last night we lost a heart-breaker. We won tonight. Now everyone's looking forward to getting back to the Bay Area and recovering," Oakland manager Bob Geren said.

Boston began its World Series title defense by winning Tuesday's opener 6-5 in 10 innings after rallying in the ninth. The Red Sox headed to Los Angeles after Wednesday's game for three more exhibitions against the Dodgers, including one at the Los Angeles Coliseum on Saturday.

"We'll take a step back tomorrow and have an optional workout," manager Terry Francona said. "We tried to do our homework on what to expect from travel. We're not going to talk ourselves into being tired, and we'll do what we need to do to get ready for the next start in Oakland."

After the New York Yankees went to Japan to start the 2004 season against Tampa Bay, several players said they had trouble adjusting when they got home.

The Red Sox and A's resume their regular seasons with a two-game series starting Tuesday in Oakland.

No team has ever swept a season-opening series in Japan. The Chicago Cubs and New York Mets split their two-game Japanese series in 2000, as did the New York Yankees and Tampa Bay Devil Rays in 2004.

Since the teams arrived last week, the focus was on the Red Sox, coming off their second title in four seasons, and Oakland was almost an afterthought.

Indeed, late in the game, an Oakland flag above the scoreboard in center fell and landed on the warning track between innings. A groundskeeper went out and retrieved it.

With Japanese stars Daisuke Matsuzaka and Hideki



Red Sox pitcher Daisuke Matsuzaka throws baseball caps into the stands in his native Japan after the Red Sox and Athletics concluded major league baseball's season-opening series in the Tokyo Dome. The two teams split the series 1-1.

Okajima, the Red Sox were clearly the fan favorites.

"We were received so warmly," Francona said. "Having Daisuke and Hideki added to that and hopefully we gained some fans."

Harden (1-0) helped the A's gain something from the trip. He is coming back from three injury-plagued seasons, and he made just four starts last year — none after July 7. This time, the right-hander allowed three hits and three walks, throwing 95 pitches.

"I had some bad luck the past couple of years," Harden said. "But hopefully, I can put that behind me and do what I need to do to help the ballclub this season."

Harden said he tried to stay focused for Wednesday's game and not let the unique surroundings at Tokyo Dome affect him.

"You want to be consistent with how you approach your starts," he said. "It did feel a bit different out there, almost like a playoff game, but you just try to treat it like any other game."

Oakland built a 4-0 lead against Jon Lester (0-1) while Harden shut down the Red Sox. He allowed his only run in the sixth on a homer by Manny Ramirez, who struck out in his first two at-bats.

David Ortiz was 0-for-2 with a strikeout and a walk against Harden. Coming in, Ortiz was 4-for-5 against Harden, and Ramirez was 2-for-3, each homering twice.

"Rich showed tonight against the world champions how good he is and how much we need him," Geren said. "His entire spring training went well with no health issues. We're hoping to get 30-

plus more starts like that."

Oakland went ahead in the second inning of this one when Bobby Crosby doubled and scored on Chris Denorfia's single. Brown made it 4-0 with a three-run homer in the third.

"It's a great opportunity for me," said Brown, who made up for a costly baserunning mistake in Tuesday's loss. "We didn't play too bad last night, I made a mistake and it cost us. I was glad I could help the team today, so that we can head home with a win."

Oakland added a run in the eighth off Bryan Corey on Jeff Fiorentino's RBI single after a double by Kurt Suzuki, a native of Hawaii with Japanese grandparents.

Ramirez struck out three times after hitting a pair of two-run doubles Tuesday. He stood at the plate admiring his

10th-inning drive in the opener, thinking it was a three-run homer, and had to hustle to reach second.

He could afford to stand and watch his shot Wednesday, a sure home run deep into the left-field seats that moved him within nine of joining the 500-homer club.

Santiago Casilla, Keith Foulke and Alan Embree followed Harden with one scoreless inning apiece, completing a five-hitter. Oakland rebounded from its fourth straight opening-day loss. Foulke threw a called third strike past Ramirez to end the eighth with a runner on second.

Lester gave up four runs, five hits and three walks in four innings.

"Emil got one pitch just a little bit over the plate and he hit it over the wall," Lester 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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AROUND THE NATION

Thursday, March 27, 2008

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

page 15

NCAA Men's Lacrosse Top 20

rank	team	record	points
1	Virginia	9-0	360
2	(tie) Duke	8-1	325
2	(tie) Syracuse	5-1	325
4	Maryland	6-2	273
5	Georgetown	4-2	260
6	Johns Hopkins	3-3	255
7	NOTRE DAME	5-1	253
8	Cornell	5-1	245
9	Navy	8-1	236
10	North Carolina	6-2	222
11	Drexel	7-1	161
12	UMBC	4-3	140
13	Army	5-2	133
14	Delaware	6-2	113
15	Hofstra	3-2	98
16	Princeton	2-3	88
17	Bucknell	5-2	82
18	Loyola Maryland	4-3	46
19	Ohio State	4-3	32
20	Pennsylvania	4-2	27

NCAA Women's Lacrosse Top 20

rank	team	record	points
1	Northwestern	7-0	200
2	Princeton	6-0	186
3	Maryland	8-1	181
4	Virginia	6-2	163
5	Duke	7-2	155
6	Syracuse	7-1	152
7	North Carolina	7-2	138
8	Pennsylvania	6-1	134
9	Georgetown	7-1	131
10	Stanford	6-3	84
11	Boston University	6-2	81
12	George Mason	6-1	80
13	NOTRE DAME	6-3	69
14	Oregon	7-3	63
15	Yale	5-3	60
16	New Hampshire	7-2	45
17	Johns Hopkins	3-4	42
18	Vanderbilt	7-3	32
19	Denver	6-3	29
20	Dartmouth	4-3	26

GWLL Men's Lacrosse Conference Standings

team	league	overall
Quinnipiac	0-0	6-0
NOTRE DAME	0-0	6-1
Bellarmino	0-0	6-2
Ohio State	0-0	4-3
Denver	0-0	5-4
Air Force	0-0	2-4

MIAA Women's Softball Conference Standings

team	league	overall
Georgetown	2-0	7-1
Syracuse	2-0	7-2
NOTRE DAME	1-1	7-3
Rutgers	1-1	3-6
Loyola Maryland	1-3	3-6
Connecticut	0-2	0-8

NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL



California's head coach Ben Braun talks with his players during their opening round NIT basketball game March 19. California fired Braun after a disappointing season in which the Golden Bears missed the NCAA tournament.

Cal fires coach after 12 seasons

Associated Press

BERKELEY — California fired basketball coach Ben Braun on Wednesday following another disappointing season in which the Golden Bears missed the NCAA tournament.

Braun spent 12 years at Cal and made the tournament five times. But the Bears only went to the NCAA tournament once in his final five seasons, leading to the decision by athletic director Sandy Barbour.

"This was an extremely difficult decision that was undertaken with great care and diligence," Barbour said. "However, in the final

analysis, I have determined that it is time for Cal to seek new leadership in our men's basketball program. Competing for conference championships and a place in the NCAA tournament are goals and expectations that are embraced at Cal. Unfortunately, we have not been able to consistently meet those expectations in our men's basketball program."

Cal finished in ninth place in the Pac-10 this season, going 17-16 overall and just 6-12 in the conference despite having a talented roster that included likely future NBA players in Ryan Anderson, DeVon Hardin and Patrick Christopher.

The Bears made the NIT, where they were knocked out in the second round by Ohio State on Monday night.

Braun leaves Cal with a 219-154 record at the school. His most successful season was his first after taking over after former coach Todd Bozeman was found to have paid \$30,000 to the father of a former player. The Bears went 23-9 in 1996-97 and went to the third round of the NCAA tournament.

Cal won the NIT in 1999 and made three straight trips to the NCAA tournament from 2001-03, before struggling in recent years as other conference pro-

grams have improved. The Bears have placed eighth or ninth in the Pac-10 in three of the last four years.

Barbour said a search for a new coach will begin immediately, aided by the firm of Eastman & Beaudine, Inc. Associate head coach Louis Reynaud will direct the program until a new head coach is named.

Names that have already surfaced as possible replacements include TV analyst and former UCLA coach Steve Lavin, former Golden State Warriors and Sacramento Kings coach Eric Musselman and Saint Mary's coach Randy Bennett.

IN BRIEF

Pacers' CEO Walsh to step down at season's close
INDIANAPOLIS — Donnie Walsh called the shots, and Reggie Miller made them.

In nearly two decades together, Walsh and Miller changed the Indiana Pacers from NBA also-rans to title contenders. Miller retired in 2005, and when Walsh said Monday he'd step down as Pacers CEO at the end of this season, it signaled the end of an era.

Though the franchise has been riddled with off-the-court problems and losing in recent years, Miller, a five-time All-Star and revered clutch shooter, prefers to remember the glory days. Together, the Walsh-Miller combination reached the Eastern Conference finals six times, won the Central Division four times and made the NBA Finals in 2000.

There are reports that Walsh has agreed to take control of the New York Knicks, though the Pacers say Walsh hasn't made a decision about his future.

Beckham receives yellow card in 100th international game

SAINT-DENIS, France — David Beckham got a yellow card in his 100th international game for England and was taken off in the 62nd minute of his team's 1-0 loss at France.

Despite speculation the Los Angeles Galaxy midfielder would be on the bench, England coach Fabio Capello placed him in the starting lineup for Wednesday's exhibition match at the Stade de France.

"I was happy to start the game, but it was more about getting on the pitch, getting that 100th cap," said Beckham, who didn't have a shot on goal, made little impression with his trademark long passes and spent much of his time covering for right back Wes Brown.

He was shown a yellow card in the 38th minute for pulling Frank Ribery's shirt and hauling him down as the Frenchman, who had given his side the lead from the penalty spot, tried to run past him.

A-Rod, Yankees not concerned with steroid allegations

CLEARWATER, Fla. — Alex Rodriguez refused to address allegations by Jose Canseco, who claims he introduced the three-time MVP to a steroids dealer.

"It's over as far as I'm concerned," Rodriguez said Wednesday after his New York Yankees lost 4-0 to the Philadelphia Phillies. "No further comment on the matter. I'm just excited to be playing baseball."

In the book, "Vindicated: Big Names, Big Liars, and The Battle to Save Baseball," Canseco claimed he introduced Rodriguez to a steroids dealer named "Max."

Canseco wrote that Rodriguez approached him years ago and asked where "one" might acquire steroids. During an interview to be broadcast Thursday by ABC's "Nightline," Canseco said he won't produce evidence to back his claim.

Yankees officials aren't concerned about a potential distraction.

around the dial

NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT
West Virginia vs. Xavier
7:10 p.m., CBS

Washington State vs. North Carolina
7:27 p.m., CBS

Western Kentucky vs. UCLA
9 p.m., CBS

Louisville vs. Tennessee
9 p.m., CBS

NBA

Webber makes retirement official after 15 NBA seasons

Former star struggled to return from knee injury; comeback attempt with Warriors cut short after only nine games

Associated Press

OAKLAND — Chris Webber burst on the basketball scene nearly two decades ago as a precocious freshman with his baggy shorts and black shoes as part of Michigan's Fab Five.

His basketball career came to a much quieter finish when he made official what seemed inevitable as he struggled to recover from another knee injury in recent weeks.

Webber announced his retirement after 15 NBA seasons on Wednesday, cutting

short his comeback attempt with the Golden State Warriors and his rapprochement with coach Don Nelson.

"It definitely didn't work out the way that I planned," Webber said. "Life is what happens while you're making plans. I'm happy. I'm happy I got a chance to come back here and be reunited with Coach."

Webber played nine games with the Warriors before being sidelined by a bum left knee that's hampered him in recent years. He has not played since March 2 and had

not been around the team of late.

The Warriors are in eighth place in the Western Conference, a half-game ahead of Denver for the final playoff spot. Even if Webber had been healthy enough to return, it would have been hard to work his way back into the rotation.

"I really didn't want to rehab and come back this season because I don't think that was possible," Webber said. "Plus, because the way the team is playing, the chemistry is already great with

these guys, they're on a roll. I feel like they're going to win and have a great chance to go very far in the playoffs. I just felt it was time to let the game go and to be able to be happy about what I accomplished without trying to keep coming back."

Webber and the Warriors hoped that a return to the spot at which he started his NBA career would help both parties. Webber's first stint with the team ended after one season with a feud with Nelson, a public trade demand and finally a deal to Washington.

Nelson and Webber made up this time around and spoke well of each other. However, the signing ended up having little impact on the team.

"I'm really happy we brought him in," Nelson said. "It was good to get to know him again. He didn't have a lot left in the tank here and the injury pretty well ended it. It was good to have him. It was a good try on our part and it didn't work out. I wish him the best. I enjoyed coaching him."

Slowed by the knee injuries, Webber struggled to keep up with the fast-paced Warriors and averaged only 3.9 points per game in his brief stint.

At the time of the signing, Nelson said he thought he needed another big man in order to make the playoffs. Since Webber got hurt, rookie Brandan Wright has shown

flashes and could play a key role down the stretch.

Warriors executive vice president Chris Mullin said it was too late to get any help from the outside.

"I'm happy. I'm happy I got a chance to come back here and be reunited with Coach"

Chris Webber
Former NBA player

"I just felt it was time to let the game go and to be able to be happy about what I accomplished without trying to keep coming back."

Chris Webber
Former NBA player

"Brandan does different things than Chris does," teammate Matt Barnes said. "Brandan is an explosive young player and he's definitely helping our team out right now. He's right in the middle of the

rotation, doing a great job."

Webber once was that type of explosive player. He teamed with Jalen Rose, Juwan Howard, Jimmy King and Ray Jackson in college to help lead Michigan to the NCAA championship game his only two years in college.

But the Wolverines lost both times, to Duke in 1992 and North Carolina the following year. Webber was most remembered for calling a timeout when Michigan had none remaining in the final minute of the 1993 loss to the Tar Heels.

He left school and became the first pick in the draft, getting dealt from Orlando to Golden State in a draft-day trade. He was rookie of the year with the Warriors before being dealt to Washington.

His greatest success came with the Kings, a team he helped revive during his time there. But Sacramento was unable to make it to the NBA finals, losing in a seven-game series in the conference finals to the Los Angeles Lakers in 2002.

Webber's career began a downward slide after he underwent microfracture surgery on his knee the following year. He was dealt to Philadelphia in 2005 and spent the second half of last season in Detroit with his hometown Pistons.

Webber was a five-time All-Star, who ended his career averaging 20.7 points, 9.8 rebounds and 4.2 assists a game.

"If you ask me, he was one of best players of his era," Mullin said. "When he was in Sacramento, they were right there among the top teams. He was in the center of all of that. He was the guy who made it all go. He had a tremendous career. I had the pleasure of watching him come in as a 20-year-old rookie and watched his career all along the way."

Webber said he wanted to stay involved in basketball, first as a television commentator and then in perhaps a bigger role with a team. He is scheduled to be in the studio for TNT on Thursday.

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NFL

Giants open against 'Skins

Associated Press

The NFL's Thursday night season opener will match the Super Bowl-champion New York Giants and the Washington Redskins, with the game possibly starting an hour-and-a-half earlier to avoid clashing with the Republican National Convention.

The game is now scheduled

for 8:30 p.m. EDT on Sept. 4 — the concluding night of the Republican convention — and will be televised by NBC. League spokesman Greg Aiello said Wednesday that the NFL is talking with the network about changing the game's starting time to 7 p.m.

The Super Bowl winner traditionally hosts the game. The Redskins' participation was

confirmed by a person familiar with the NFL schedule who spoke on condition of anonymity because the league has not announced it.

The highlight games of the NFL's first weekend will be announced Monday during league meetings in Palm Beach, Fla. The rest of the schedule will be announced later next month.

OLYMPICS

American cyclist looks to qualify for Beijing



American cyclist Taylor Phinney participates at the World Track Cycling Championships at the Manchester Velodrome.

Associated Press

MANCHESTER, England — Cycling runs in Taylor Phinney's family.

Just six months after making his track debut, the 17-year-old prodigy from an American cycling dynasty is likely off to the Beijing Olympics.

The son of American road star Davis Phinney and 1984 Olympic gold medalist Connie Carpenter-Phinney was quick to express his disappointment after clocking 4:22.358 in the individual pursuit at the world track championships on Wednesday.

Still, that time would be good enough to get Phinney into the Olympics — if USA Cycling, as expected, officially secures a starting spot in the pursuit. Even after he finished eighth Wednesday, USA Cycling officials believe Phinney's ranking in the world standings will be good enough to get him into the Beijing field.

"I'm somewhat happy with the time — it's a personal record for me — but it's still not what I wanted to do," Phinney told The Associated Press. "It's a bit disappointing not finishing where I wanted to, but I didn't expect to rise so quickly. I just have to keep in check that eighth place out of the 17 in the world championships is not that bad."

Especially considering that Phinney would only have been found on a soccer pitch two years ago.

That changed with an inspirational trip in 2005 to the Tour de France, where his father became the first American to win a stage in 1986. Within his first year of competitive cycling, he won 23 races. And despite only pedaling in a velodrome for the first time in September, he has already set the sport alight.

Taylor feels a virus hindered his performance, but vows to be in peak shape after returning to Colorado before participating in junior races in Europe. Then, more than likely, it's off to China,

where he is determined to return with a medal and like his mom.

"I go to races to win," said Phinney, who turns 18 a month before the games. "I have a pretty high expectation of myself and I think I can do that with the right legs. For me, it'll be cool to be part of the Olympic experience — the opening ceremony and all that."

He doesn't want his opportunity taken away by a possible boycott over China's human rights record and its crackdown in Tibet.

"If it comes to a boycott situation that will be really disappointing," he said. "I hope it doesn't, it is just unnecessary to involve Olympics with political problems, because the Olympics is about the joining together of greatest athletes in the world."

Reaching Beijing will also be a challenge for his father, who undergoes brain surgery on April 4 — eight years after being diagnosed with Parkinson's disease.

"This disease is definitely a challenge, but it's made much easier by being able to use the distraction of Taylor and his results," Davis said. "He recognizes what I've lost with this disease and it gives him a great appreciation for what he's got and he doesn't want to fritter it away."

"He wants to flex his muscle — and that shows me and everyone else he doesn't take it for granted."

Davis Phinney sees the day when his son is an Olympic and Tour de France champion — combining the feats of his parents.

"You have to be careful about imposing your dreams on wishes on your kids," Davis said. "But I know that's what he would like and he's going to surpass my footsteps — or wheel marks — and in many cases he already has."

"I'm biased but what's phenomenal about the kid is his range, he can ride anywhere from 200 meters in a velodrome to 100 miles on the road with equal ease, strength and aplomb."

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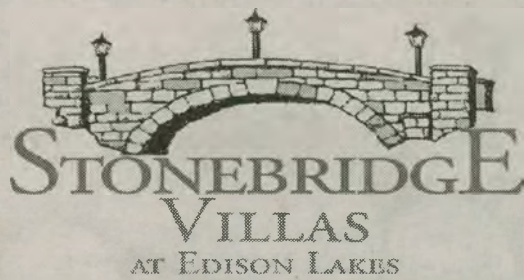
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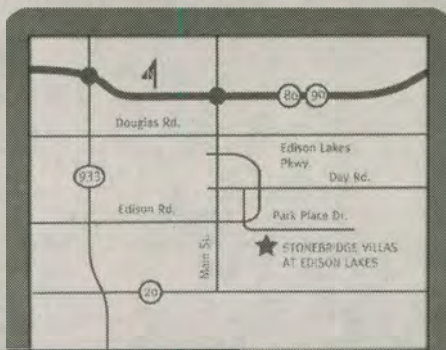
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NHL

Minnesota defense rallies to defeat Edmonton in second game

Radivojevic and Hill score twice in first four shots; goalie Backstrom makes 32 saves and allows only one goal

Associated Press

ST. PAUL — Two nights after getting routed in Edmonton, the Minnesota Wild were the aggressors from the start in a 3-1 victory over the Oilers on Wednesday night.

Sean Hill, Branko Radivojevic and Brian Rolston scored and Mikko Koivu added three assists for the Wild, who started a four-game homestand with a victory to leap-frog Calgary into first place in the Northwest Division.

Niklas Backstrom made 32 saves, and got some help from a defense that left him exposed in a 5-3 loss to the Oilers on Monday night.

The younger, faster Oilers ripped right through the porous Minnesota zone on Monday night, scoring three goals on their first four shots.

The Wild had the fast start in this one, scoring two goals on their first four shots to make things tougher on Edmonton, which had won 12 of its last 15 games to vault back into playoff contention.

Fernando Pisani scored for the Oilers, who began the night trailing Vancouver by three points for the eighth and final playoff spot in the

West.

Getting in won't be easy. The Oilers started a three-game road trip and play four of their last five away from raucous Rexall Place, all of them against Northwest foes.

Marian Gaborik and Radivojevic broke free on a two-on-one less than three minutes into the game, and everyone in the building expected Gaborik, the Wild's leading scorer, to take the shot.

But he waited and waited, slipping a backhanded pass across the crease at the last possible second and Radivojevic finished it off.

Just over four minutes later, Hill took a brilliant blind feed from Koivu on a power play and sneaked the puck past Dwayne Roloson on the short side for a 2-0 advantage.

Notes: Veteran move: Early in the second period, Roloson wound up caught out of position as he lunged to make a save during a scrum in front of the net. He lay motionless on the ice to get a stoppage and received "medical attention" from the trainer, but managed to stay in the game. ... Rolston's short-handed goal was the first by the Wild since Gaborik got one on Jan. 3.



Edmonton's Andrew Cogliano scores on Minnesota goalie Niklas Backstrom during the first period of a game in Edmonton, Alberta. The Oilers won the game yesterday 3-1.

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Upcoming Shows

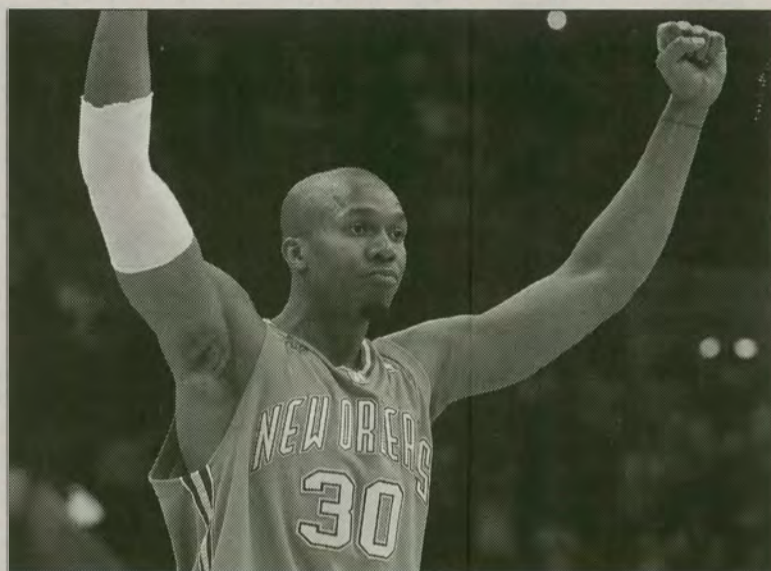
<p>Saturday, April 26 Great Lakes Chorus Association & The Michiana Male Chorus "A World of Song"</p>	<p>Saturday, May 3 South Bend Symphony 75th Gala Anniversary Violinist Hilary Hahn</p>
<p>Sunday, April 27 Comedian Katt Williams</p>	<p>Saturday - Sunday May 10 - 11 Movin' Out Broadway Musical</p>
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NBA

West nails shot to beat LeBron's Cavs



Hornets' forward David West celebrates his game-winning shot against the Cavaliers on Wednesday. The Hornets won 100-99.

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Along with countless assists, Chris Paul has given teammate David West a rather unique nickname.

"I call David West the 17-foot assassin," Paul said.

The Cavaliers now know why. West calmly dropped a 17-foot jumper — coming on Paul's 20th and most impressive assist — with 0.6 seconds remaining to give the New Orleans Hornets their fifth straight win, 100-99 over Cleveland on Wednesday night.

LeBron James' driving layup had given the Cavaliers a 99-98 lead with 7.7 seconds left before Paul and West, the Hornets' All-Star duo, teamed up for the game-winner.

With the 6-foot-8 James guarding him up top, Paul, who had just one turnover in 42 minutes, took an inbounds pass and drove left, picking up a screen near the foul line. Paul then drove deep in the lane, drawing three defenders before spinning and whipping a pass back to West.

West then knocked down his shot on the exact play Hornets coach Byron Scott had drawn up during the team's previous timeout.

"We knew we were going to have a chance to get the ball to Chris Paul and let him create," Scott said. "We knew we were going to get a good look at it. If we got the shot, we didn't want to leave a lot of time on the clock. It was .6 when David nailed it."

"It worked to perfection."

Cleveland got the ball to James, whose 75-foot heave at the horn rattled off the 24-second clock at the other end. James, who barked in frustration at teammates earlier in the fourth quarter, punched his hand in his fist and complained to assistant coach Mike Malone before heading to the locker room.

Following a postgame ice bath, James had cooled way down.

"If we get a stop, we win the ballgame," he said. "We played pretty good defense. We bottled him (Paul) up, but with eyes in the back of his head, he found David West."

Peja Stojakovic scored 25 points — 18 on 3-pointers — West added 20 points and Paul 15 for the Hornets, who came in with the Western Conference's best record and improved to 2-0 on a six-game road trip against Eastern Conference teams.

New Orleans, playing the second game of a back-to-back,

snapped Cleveland's nine-game home winning streak and improved to 22-11 on the road.

"We're battle-tested," Paul said. "We have a lot of veterans on the team. When we put our starting five out there, I'm the youngest guy on the court. If I'm the one with the least experience, we're in a good situation."

Zydrunas Ilgauskas scored a season-high 29 points with 15 rebounds. James had 21 points and eight assists, but wasn't able to get a defensive stop in the closing seconds against Paul, one of his closest friends. Anderson Varejao added 15 rebounds for the Cavaliers.

Two free throws by James brought Cleveland within 96-95, but the Cavs couldn't get a rebound at the other end and Tyson Chandler's putback dunk put the Hornets ahead by three with 47 seconds remaining.

Following a timeout, James missed a left-handed layup but Ilgauskas tipped it in to make it 98-97. On the Hornets' next trip, Jannero Pargo was left wide open in the corner on another bad defensive rotation by Cleveland but missed a 3-pointer.

James then drove past Stojakovic for a layup with 7.7 seconds left to give Cleveland a 99-98 lead. But the Cavaliers couldn't prevent the ultra-quick Paul from getting deep penetration on the Hornets' last possession, leaving West with enough room to get off his shot.


"When we're in that situation, if he makes it, that's great, we win," Paul said. "If he misses, we still got a great shot."

The Cavaliers had expected to have back guard Daniel Gibson, who has been sidelined since Feb. 20 with a badly sprained left ankle. However, with a favorable break in the schedule — Cleveland doesn't play again until Saturday — the Cavs decided to give him and center Ben Wallace, nursing a sore back, more rest.

Cleveland could have used someone to slow Paul, who finished one assist shy of his season high and has 29 in two games against the Cavs this season.

"That's why he's the best point guard in the league," James said. "He gives them a confidence."

With the MVP candidate orchestrating everything for New Orleans' offense and Pargo making three 3-pointers while playing the entire second quarter, the Hornets, one of the league's best perimeter shooting teams, opened a 56-50 lead at halftime.



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Swagger

continued from page 24

and it happened because he started making plays," Weis said. "The minute you start making plays, you start getting some confidence, now it's taken some time but now he's got swagger."

Bruton defined swagger as the mindset you have when you know you can beat anyone.

"You just go out there and feel confident. You don't go out there thinking someone is going to beat you or someone is better than you," Bruton said. "You go out with that chip on your shoulder, that pep in your step, that little limp. You go ahead and handle your business."

Irish defensive coordinator Corwin Brown said swagger is the belief a player has that he can frequently make plays to greatly impact a game.

"As a player, when you step out there, when you walk that line, if nobody ever fears you or if you have no affect on the game, then there's a problem," Brown said. "There's a problem with you as a person or maybe with how you play. You always need to impact the game somehow."

Hitting the weights

Some Irish players weighed in for spring camp significantly heavier than at the end of the fall. The most notable gains were by quarterback Jimmy Clausen (from 194 pounds to 212 pounds), right tackle Sam Young (from 287 to 330) and center Dan Wenger (from 282 to 300).

Weis said the team is much better conditioned for spring than they were in the fall.

"I think we are in very good

condition as far as running goes, because coming off of [strength and conditioning coordinator] Ruben [Mendoza's] program, it was a pretty grueling off season," he said.

Baseball

Three Irish players will miss parts of practice due to commitments to the Irish baseball team. Infielder/quarterback Evan Sharpley, who was recently named Big East baseball player of the week, outfielder/receiver Golden Tate and pitcher/punter Eric Maust are all excused from football practice as long as they are integral parts of the baseball team.

The baseball squad takes back-to-back road trips starting on April 10 and Weis said he and baseball coach Dave Schrage will reevaluate the dual athletes' roles on the baseball team then.

"But what I'm not going to do is, I'm not going to hurt the baseball team, and take them off the baseball field if it makes a difference with [the baseball team] winning and losing," Weis said.

Banged up

Two Irish players will not participate in spring practices due to injuries. Defensive end John Ryan had two surgeries during the off-season, one on his shoulder immediately after the season ended and one more recently on a sports hernia. Walk-on receiver Kris Patterson had knee surgery and is also out for the spring.

Wide receiver Robby Parris and guard Mike Turkovitch also had surgeries for a sports hernia and appendectomy, respectively, but are active for spring camp.

A kinder, gentler Weis

Weis has tried to step back from

the taskmaster role he played in his first three seasons at Notre Dame by opening up more to players. He started talking to them more outside of practice and even invited some to his house for dinner.

Irish safety David Bruton attended one dinner at the Weis home, where he said the Irish coach cooked lasagna.

"The man can cook," he said of Weis.

Bruton added that off the field, Weis is very much a family man.

"He's all about his son and daughter, his wife. He is very family-oriented," he said.

Power vacuum

Weis said he will name and announce the team captains by the Blue and Gold game on April 19, but he will wait for the freshmen to arrive this summer before he forms the leadership committee for next season.

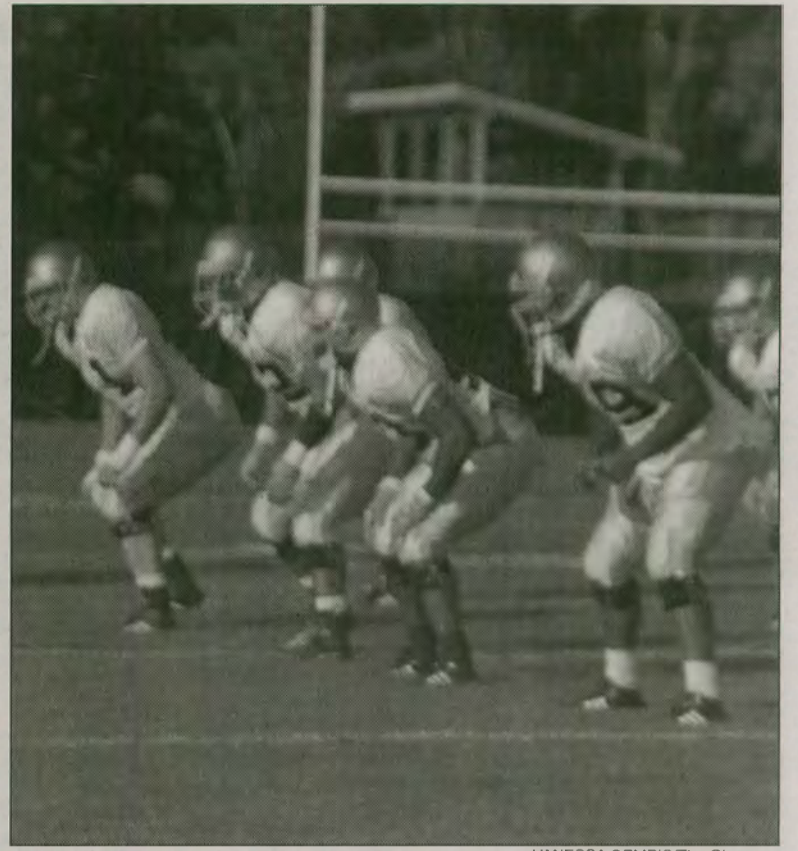
Weis said he did not know how many captains he will have from each unit because that is based on player votes.

"We don't know where all of the leadership is going to come from, and I think that we have to wait and see how that goes. The reason why we have had more than one captain on offense or defense is because the vote was too close to call," he said.

Blasts from the past

Weis announced that the honorary coaches for the Blue and Gold game will represent the last six decades of Notre Dame football.

Representing the 1950s is former running back Jim Morse (1954-56), the Irish captain in 1956. Terry Hanratty (1966-68), quarterback for the 1966 championship team, will represent his



VANESSA GEMPIS/The Observer

Members of the Notre Dame defense go through a drill during fall practice. The Irish began spring practice Wednesday.

decade.

Weis had a more personal choice for the 1970s in running back Terry Eurick (1974-77), who captained the 1977 championship team. Eurick was one of Weis' suitemates during his freshman year at Notre Dame.

Former all-time leading rusher Allen Pickett (1983-85) represents the next decade. Bryant Young (1991-93) is the only defensive player on the honorary coaching staff. Representing the current decade is Green Bay Packers running back Ryan Grant (2001-04).

"He's a perfect example of

somebody who can rise from relative obscurity and through hard work and effort, all of a sudden his time came," Weis said of Grant. "And this year his time came and he became a household name when last year, very few people even knew who the guy was."

Weis contacted New York Giants defensive end Justin Tuck, but the former Irish lineman is in the process of planning his wedding and declined the offer.

Contact Jay Fitzpatrick at jfitzpa5@nd.edu



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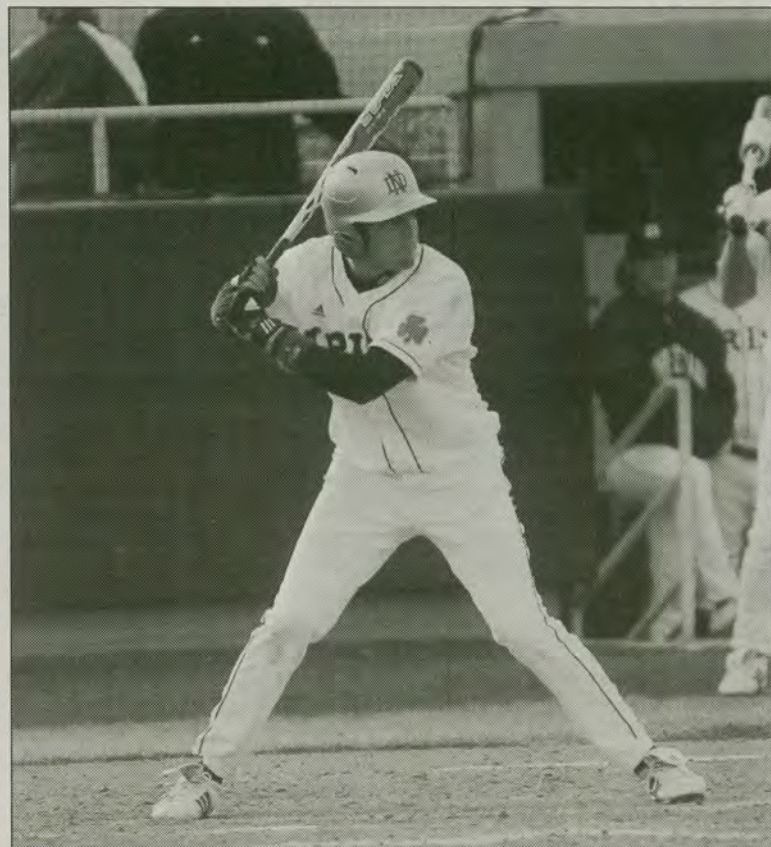
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VANESSA GEMPIS/The Observer

Irish sophomore centerfielder A.J. Pollock awaits a pitch during Notre Dame's 14-3 win over Wisconsin-Milwaukee Wednesday.

Sharpley

continued from page 24

scored. Pollock had three singles, a triple and a stolen base as well as two diving catches in right field.

Panthers starter Jordan Herbert could not last through the first inning against the Irish, recording just two outs before getting sent to the showers. While Herbert did not give up a hit, the righty gave up three walks and hit a batter.

Notre Dame jumped out to a 3-0 lead in the first inning despite its only hit remaining in the infield. After loading the bases on walks, senior Ross Brezovsky picked up an RBI after getting hit by a pitch. Sophomore Billy Boockford brought home another run with a walk and freshman Cameron McConnell drove in the last run with an infield single.

The Irish pushed their lead to 5-0 after Jeremy Barnes hit a two-run single in the second. The game then turned into a rout with Notre Dame putting up six runs in the bot-

tom of the fifth inning.

Coach Dave Schrage used the blowout to give younger players playing time. Notre Dame played 23 different position players on the night, and five different players made their season debuts. Freshmen Matt Katich and Andrew Wiand made their first career appearances in an Irish uniform.

Junior Casey Martin was 2-for-2 off the bench with an RBI and a run scored, and McConnell and Barnes each went 2-for-3. Lilley also scored three runs despite not recording a hit.

Irish freshman Evan Danieli gave up a run in two innings of work after replacing Sharpley in the sixth. Sophomore Steven Mazur pitched a scoreless eighth inning, and junior Sam Elam gave up two runs in the ninth.

The Irish resume play Friday with a three-game home series against Big East foe Cincinnati. Notre Dame is 3-0 in conference play after sweeping a series against Georgetown last weekend.

Contact Michael Bryan at mbryan@nd.edu

Blowout

continued from page 24

off the scoring for Irish with a one-out double in the first inning. She then tagged up to third base and scored on a passed ball. Smith again reached base in the third inning, beating out the throw on an attempted sacrifice bunt.

Irish senior Katie Laing continued her recent offensive surge, smashing a two-run triple in the bottom of the third, scoring Smith and freshman Sadie Pitzenberger. Laing scored on another passed ball.

"Laing was solid as usual with runners on base," Gumpf said. "She knocked in some key RBIs."

Pitzenberger knocked in two runs in the fourth inning on a double, driving in Lux and junior Linda Kohan.

Some of Notre Dame's impressive freshmen helped put the finishing touches on IUPUI. The final run was driv-

en in by freshman Kelly Shannon on an RBI double after classmate Katie Fleury got into scoring position by stealing second base.

The Irish defense was once again solid, with freshman Brianna Jorgensborg making a spectacular catch in right field.

"Jody [Valdivia] set the tone of the game," Gumpf said. "But the defense played a big role behind her."

The goal for the Irish is to build momentum going into Big East play this weekend. If the Irish win the Big East, they are all but assured a spot in the NCAA tournament.

"We work to win the Big East all year long," Gumpf said. "I expect us to be very competitive."

The Irish will be back in action tonight at 5 p.m. against Illinois-Chicago in Chicago. The Irish then begin Big East play against DePaul Sunday with an afternoon double-header.

Contact Jared Jedick at jjedick@nd.edu



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Tenuta

continued from page 24

nel at Notre Dame are perfect for what he and Brown want to do defensively.

"I think we have the people to do what I like to do, what Corwin [Brown] likes to do," Tenuta said. "So I think you just take that and build on that from there. I think we're going to be a pressure package team."

Brown said he was excited when he learned Weis had hired Tenuta because he feels the new coach is "one of the better football minds" in college football. Brown also

said he did not feel threatened by Tenuta's hiring, and instead considers Tenuta's experience something that will most benefit the team as a whole. Brown added that the team's success is his most important goal.

"It's not about whose ideas it is, or who's doing this, who's doing that. It's about, when we go out on the field on Saturday, do we win, because that's the only way you feel good on Sunday," Brown said. "And when you add a coach like Coach Tenuta who has the experience like he has, he's been there, he's a football guy, all that matters to him is how well we play and [if] we win.

I want to be around guys like that."

Brown also mentioned a sign Tenuta has on his desk that reads, "There's no limit to what a man can accomplish as long as he doesn't care who gets the credit." Brown said he has always tried to live by that philosophy as both a player and a coach.

"My ego is not that big where I'm not going to listen to a guy that's been working for 25 years and had the success that he's had. I'm a bigger person than that," Brown said. "Because in the end, the more I'm around him and the more he talks and the more we bounce ideas

"I think we're going to be a pressure package team."

John Tenuta
Irish assistant coach

off each other, ten years from now, fifteen years from now, the better I'll be."

Tenuta also said the transition of working alongside Brown, as well as other Irish defensive coaches like Jappy Oliver, has gone well.

"So over the course of how many weeks I've been here, the numerous conversations that we've had about my philosophy, his philosophy, what I know that worked well for me, what he knows that worked well for him, mesh them together, put our players in a position to be successful," Tenuta said.

Contact Jay Fitzpatrick at jfitzpa5@nd.edu



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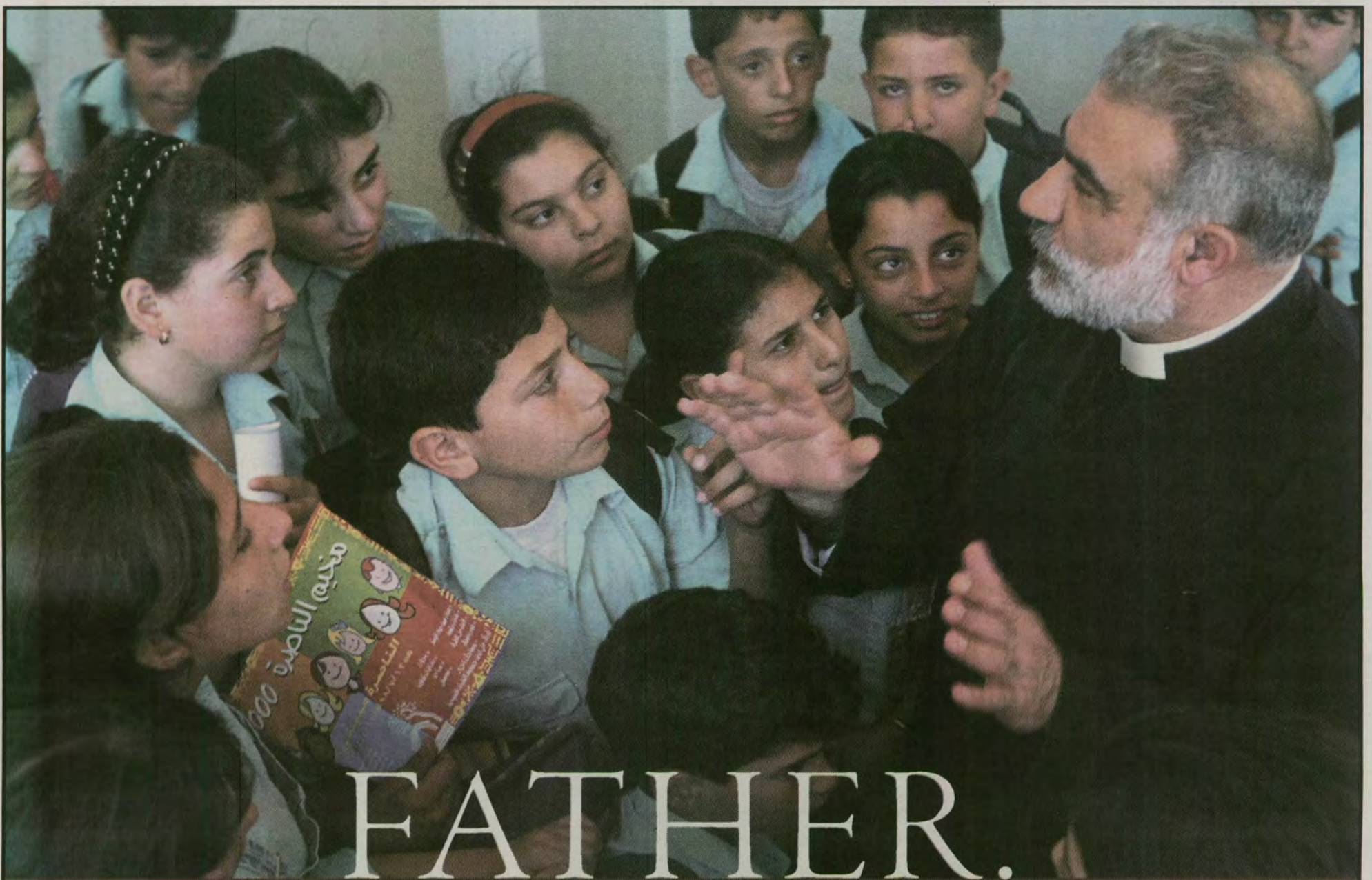
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FOOTBALL

Spring 'swagger'

Weis urges team to adopt new confidence

By JAY FITZPATRICK
Sports Writer

After one of the worst seasons in Notre Dame history, Irish coach Charlie Weis said his team needs to find its swagger if it wants to get better.

Weis did not give a clear definition of "swagger," but said the key is to make big plays.

"It starts with making plays. Swagger is something that you evolve to. Confidence is something that comes after you start making plays," he said.

Just as important as creating plays is to finish them, Weis said.

"What good does it do if you have a hot linebacker sitting there in the hold that just whooped the offensive lineman and everybody is cheering that he whooped the offensive lineman and then in the back [a defender] makes a miss?" Weis said. "You still have to finish the play, okay, but the first thing's first. Put them in position to make plays. That's why the first week we don't do anything too exotic the first three days, and each week we'll pick up more and more."

Weis said that while some players such as safety David Bruton already have a swagger about them, the team as a whole needs to learn it.

"A guy like David Bruton who used to just be a special teams gunner and one of the better ones, at that, now is one of our best players on our team, okay,

see SWAGGER/page 20



IAN GAVLICK/The Observer

Rising sophomore quarterback Jimmy Clausen steps back to pass during practice last fall. Clausen gained 18 pounds, weighing in at 212 during the first spring practice Wednesday.

Brown and Tenuta look to revamp defense

By JAY FITZPATRICK
Sports Writer

After improving Notre Dame's defense tremendously in his first year as defensive coordinator, Corwin Brown looks to take another step forward this season by making the team more aggressive.

"We're going to be flying a lot more. That's how we'll look," he said in a news conference Wednesday.

One main reason the Irish defense is going to be more aggressive is the new coaching personnel. After former assistant coach Bill Lewis retired from coaching in December due to health reasons, Irish head coach Charlie Weis hired Jon Tenuta, the former defensive coordinator from Georgia Tech known for his near-constant blitzes.

Tenuta also said he wants to make Notre Dame's defense more aggressive — something he asserts is a basic part of his coaching philosophy.

"It's going to be an aggressive ball-hawking defense," Tenuta said. "I always want to be aggressive. I don't like offenses dictating to me, I want to try to dictate to them, if possible."

Tenuta added that the goal for the defense on every play should be to confuse the offensive linemen and make sure the quarterback never has time to set his feet to throw.

Tenuta also said the person-

see TENUTA/page 22

ND SOFTBALL

ND slaughters IUPUI, Valdivia gets victory

By JARED JEDICK
Sports Writer

Notre Dame flexed its muscles yesterday in its home opener, blowing out IUPUI 8-0 at Ivy Field. The umpires called the game in the bottom of the fifth inning when the Irish had the victory in hand.

"It's always good to win that first one at home," Irish coach Deanna Gumpf said. "We played pretty well in the early part of our season, and now we just want to ride our momentum into the Big East."

Freshman Jody Valdivia pitched five scoreless innings, striking out eight and allowing only three hits. Valdivia pitched her way out of a jam in the third inning, striking out the side with two runners on base.

"If you had asked Jody [Valdivia], she would say it wasn't her best game," Gumpf

said. "But even still she had great movement on her ball, and the opposing hitters didn't know what to expect."

The bats also came alive for the Irish, especially with two outs. Gumpf said clutch hitting has been a point of emphasis for her team.

"I was really impressed with our two-out hitting," Gumpf said. "The last few weeks our hitting has really come on, and that is really clutch."

Sophomore Christine Lux stole the show for the offense, hitting a towering solo home run over the scoreboard in deep center field. She went 2-for-2 on the night with the homer, a single and two runs.

"[Lux] hit the ball so hard," Gumpf said. "She has just a beautiful swing and it was so pretty to watch."

Senior Sarah Smith started

see BLOWOUT/page 21

BASEBALL

Sharpley picks up first win

By MICHAEL BRYAN
Sports Writer

Freshman Ryan Sharpley pitched five shutout innings Tuesday to lead the Irish to a 14-3 route of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, the team's fifth win in a row.

Sharpley, making just his second career start, allowed just one hit for Notre Dame en route to his first victory. The right-hander struck out three and walked three, lowering his ERA from 5.40 to 2.70 with the performance.

Over the current winning streak, the Irish have thoroughly dominated opponents both on the mound and at the plate. Notre Dame has outscored its opponents 58-9 in the past five games, while improving its record to 12-7-1.

The Irish offense was led by sophomore A.J. Pollock, who went 4-5 with five runs

see SHARPLEY/page 21



VANESSA GEMPIS/The Observer

Freshman pitcher Ryan Sharpley pushes off the rubber during Notre Dame's 14-3 win over Wisconsin-Milwaukee Wednesday.