

THE OBSERVER

The Independent Newspaper Serving Notre Dame and Saint Mary's

VOLUME 40 : ISSUE 75

FRIDAY, JANUARY 27, 2006

NDSMCOBSERVER.COM

Abroad programs balance student safety, experience

By AMANDA MICHAELS,
EILEEN DUFFY
News Writers

Like a fairy tale, time spent studying abroad is a period of incredible adventure and growth for many students — complete with kings, queens and castles. But as is sometimes the case in these classic stories, venturing off the familiar path can have unexpectedly dangerous results.

Notre Dame has been consistently praised for the strength of its overseas programs, ranking fifth among American

research universities for the percentage of students studying abroad in the most recent report issued by the Institute for International Education, and even higher in previous years. So, with over 1,000 students abroad almost every school year, the University bears a great responsibility in ensuring the health and welfare of participants in 17 countries across the globe.

"During such a turbulent and important period in history, many courageous students are interested in going abroad, and it is essential to balance their safe while promoting

internationalism," said Julia Douthwaite, director of the Office of International Studies (ISP).

The greatest threat posed to students abroad, Douthwaite said, is often their own complacency — in forgetting that activities normal for life in Indiana may warrant more caution for those living overseas.

"Things do happen now and then in various sites abroad, many times because of imprudent behavior, like falling asleep on a train or walking

see SAFETY/page 9



Senior Ariana Perez-Gavilan, left, a veteran of the Dublin program, answers sophomore Laura Martinez's questions about life abroad.

'Friends' program links generations

SMC students, Sisters
share time, life stories

By EMILY LAVELLE
News Writer

When she told her family about her decision to attend Saint Mary's College, junior Catherine Reinert began hearing stories about her grandmother's cousin, Sister Agnes Eugene, a Holy Cross Sister who is buried at the College.

As a first-year student at Saint Mary's, Reinert regretted she had never had the opportunity to talk to Sister Agnes about her life and experiences at Saint Mary's. Still wanting to establish a relationship with an older member of the Saint Mary's community, Reinert recently joined the Friends with Sisters program — and found the friendship she was looking for.

Friends with Sisters, which has been in existence for approximately 15 years, serves as a bridge between

see SISTERS/page 6



Saint Mary's freshman Pauline Kistka shares a conversation with Sister Jeanette Lester during a spaghetti dinner in Saint Mary's convent hosted by the Friends with Sisters program.

Domers donate blood, life

By KATHLEEN MCDONNELL
News Writer

Known for their commitment to charity and social awareness, Notre Dame community members showed up in droves to donate a part of themselves — their blood — to the South Bend Medical Foundation.

From 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, willing donors entered Rolfs Recreation Center to give their blood. The enthusiastic response of the Notre Dame community made for a successful drive this year, with 180 willing donors filling the project to capacity. RecSports helped

see DRIVE/page 4

Hesburgh joins ND community for film, talk



DUSTIN MENNELLA/The Observer

University President Emeritus Father Theodore Hesburgh waits in the audience before the presentation of a documentary about his life.

SUB, Keough host movie screening; crowd gathers to hear Hesburgh reflect

By BRIDGET KEATING
News Writer

Lured by the promise of a discussion with University President Emeritus Father Theodore Hesburgh at the screening of a movie about his life, students flocked to DeBartolo 101 Thursday night, filling the room nearly to capacity.

"The event is a tribute to this incredible person who is not only a part of Notre Dame history, but also a part of world

history," said Jimmy Flaherty, Student Union Board (SUB) Manager. SUB, in conjunction with Keough Hall, hosted the event.

"God, Country, Notre Dame — The Story of Father Ted Hesburgh, C.S.C." is a one-hour documentary about the life of Hesburgh, who served the University as president for 35 years and has been the "trusted confidant of popes, presidents, and academic leaders around the world — and yet considered himself simply a priest," said filmmakers Family Theatre Productions.

The film revealed aspects of Hesburgh's life that students may not have encountered previously, including his family life and childhood call to the

priesthood. Afterwards, audience members welcomed Hesburgh to the stage with a lengthy standing ovation. He proceeded to discuss various aspects of his life at Notre Dame.

"It is great to be here tonight with the greatest student body in the world," Hesburgh said.

He fielded questions from the crowd and spoke at length about diversity issues and co-education, which he brought to Notre Dame in 1972. He revealed his secret for success — the short prayer, "Come, Holy Spirit" — and said that even at 88 years of age, there is much more he wants to accomplish and "miles to go

see HESBURGH/page 4

INSIDE COLUMN

Paging Godwin

As the length of any internet discussion approaches infinity, the probability of comparison to Hitler or the Nazis approaches one.

— Godwin's Law

Paging Godwin, Godwin, you're needed on line one.

We all know the next couple of months will be a flamewar of epic proportions. Notre Dame students can be evicted from their houses for having a party, and most of us don't bat an eyelash; but say "vagina" in public and suddenly it's all hanging from the fan.

So let's review some of the standards of civilized discourse before donning our asbestos suits, shall we?

Corollary 1: If, in discussion, a comparison is made to Hitler or the Nazis, the discussion is generally held to have passed beyond the realm of useful discourse. The participant who made the comparison is, in most traditions, considered to have lost the argument by virtue of recourse to irrational appeal.

Most of us, myself included, were told a lot of lies by our history teachers as we grew up. One of those is that everything associated with Nazi Germany is inherently evil, down to toothbrush mustaches and Shock and Awe warfare. "Nazi" is our worst insult, on par with "child molester" or "atheist." When we run out of rational things to say, when we are fed up with our opposition, when we just know we are talking to a brick wall, calling our interlocutor a Nazi sounds like a progressively better way to fit him or her with the black hat as the length of the discussion approaches, well, infinity.

Corollary 2: An intramural discussion will observe the fastest growth of probability of comparison to Hitler or Nazis when its topic is perceived institutional core values.

Corollary 2a: The probability that Hitler or the Nazis will be invoked in a public discussion of any of the following at Notre Dame is equal to one: sex, abortion, homosexuality, sex, academic freedom, the Chicago Cubs, parietals, the appropriateness of a baccalaureate education in business and sex.

Corollary 2b: The probability of god-winning a discussion of sexual morality in open forum at Notre Dame is 3.

Godwin could be seen sitting in the back row of Fr. Jenkins' addresses this week, muttering to himself. Few others, it seems, noticed, but when Jenkins brought up the Daisenberger passion play (saying that Notre Dame would be forced to forbid a production of it because of its anti-Semitism), he used as a supporting argument the utterly irrelevant information that Hitler attended and praised the play.

Remind me to send that memo to the music department: all of Wagner is now off-limits.

Corollary 3: Intentional tripping of Godwin's Law does not end rational discussion by those around you. It only makes you look like an asshat.

So please, everyone: feel free to love or hate the Queer Film Festival; choose to have a deep and fulfilling dialogue with your vagina, or not to; but leave the Nazi comparisons alone.

Contact Matthew Smedberg at smedberg.1@nd.edu

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

Matthew Smedberg

Associate Photo Editor

QUESTION OF THE DAY: ARE YOU INVOLVED IN ANY VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES? IF SO, WHAT ARE THEY?



James Rudy
junior Alumni

"I go where peace goes."



Traci McMillan
freshman Pangborn

"I teach 4-year-olds Spanish at Saint Mary's and I work at the Memorial Children's Hospital."



Natalie Leopold
freshman Pangborn

"I work with Circle K."



Ben Hess
junior off-campus

"I work for Teach For America."



Monica Tesi
sophomore Pasquerilla West

"I tutor 8-year-old children."



Jorge Fragoso
senior off-campus

"Not anymore ..."



CLAIRE KELLEY/The Observer

Julie Lewis, a senior BFA major in graphic design, discusses her painting "Skin Deep" with junior painting major Jaclyn Dooner. The painting is part of "Fresh," an exhibition from the undergraduate painting studio at the Crossroads Gallery in downtown South Bend.

IN BRIEF

The Department of Music will present Bach's Lunch today in the Penote Performers' Assembly of the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. Audience members are encouraged to bring their lunch to the free concert. For reservations, call 631-2800.

The band Appetite for Destruction will be performing live at Club Fever tonight.

"Poetas y Pintores: Artists Conversing with Verse" art exhibit will open today in Moreau Art Galleries at Saint Mary's.

Welsh Family Hall Dance Show presents: "Game Faces" tonight and Saturday at Washington Hall. Tickets are \$4 and can be purchased at LaFortune Box Office or at the door. Profits benefit Hannah and Friends.

Three panelists will address the question: "Iraq: What now?" at 4:15 p.m. Jan. 31 in the auditorium of the Hesburgh Center for International Studies.

Author Kirsten Sundberg Lunstrum will give a reading from her debut book, *This Life She's Chosen*, Feb. 1 at 7:30 p.m. in South Dining Hall's Hospitality Room. The event is free and open to the public.

The 2006 Winter Career and Internship Fair will take place from 4 to 8 p.m. Feb. 1 in the Joyce Center fieldhouse. The event is free and sponsored by the Career Center.

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

OFFBEAT

Police identify body as 15th-century woman

BREST, France — French police who spent two years trying to identify a woman who was murdered by a blow to the head were relieved to discover the reason their efforts were failing: the woman died half a millennium ago.

The skeleton of a woman in her 30s was found during an exceptionally low tide in Dec. 2003 near the seaside Brittany town of Plouezoc'h. A long gash in the skull convinced investigators she was killed with a hatchet or other sharp

implement.

Police ploughed through missing persons files to no avail. A theory that the woman was the wife of a Normandy doctor who disappeared with his family in a famous 1999 case was dismissed after DNA tests.

Eventually radiocarbon dating established that the death had occurred between 1401 and 1453.

"We are satisfied because at least we know the date now," said Francois Gert-hosser of the Plourin-les-Morlaix police. "We reckon it was pirates."

Woman falls into gravesite

MONMOUTH, Ore. — Clara Connelly, 81, had one foot in the grave the other day, literally. Rain-softened ground gave way, and she sank up to her knee in a newly-dug grave that was near the one she was visiting, belonging to her husband.

"People are always making a joke about it," she told the Salem Statesman Journal. "But I actually experienced it."

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

	TODAY	TONIGHT	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
	HIGH 47 LOW 32	HIGH 32 LOW 28	HIGH 45 LOW 37	HIGH 45 LOW 38	HIGH 43 LOW 25	HIGH 33 LOW 22

CORRECTIONS

In the Jan. 26 edition of The Observer, an In Brief item incorrectly stated the band Nice Save! would be playing at Corby's tonight due to an editorial error. The band will actually be playing Friday, Feb. 3. The Observer regrets the error.

Ramadan sues U.S. over visa

Scholar seeks to declare Patriot Act unconstitutional

Associated Press

A leading Muslim scholar who opposes the war in Iraq has sued the U.S. government, claiming officials used anti-terrorism laws to stop him from accepting speaking invitations from organizations.

In a federal lawsuit filed Wednesday, Tariq Ramadan accuses the government of manipulating the Patriot Act to muzzle him.

In a phone interview with The Associated Press, the Swiss intellectual and Muslim scholar denied that he supports terrorism.

"I have no connections to terrorism," Ramadan said from Oxford, England, where he is a visiting fellow. "This is all about my political thoughts. And my political thoughts are known to everyone."

Ramadan was blocked from accepting a tenured teaching position at the University of Notre Dame when his visa was revoked in August 2004 under a provision of the Patriot Act, said Jameel Jaffer, an ACLU staff attorney.

Jaffer said the provision denies entry into the U.S. by any prominent foreigner who has used his status to endorse or espouse terrorism or to persuade others to do so.

Ramadan, 43, said he opposed the U.S. invasion of

Iraq, and sympathizes with the resistance there and in Palestine. But he said he also opposes Islamic extremism, and promotes peaceful solutions.

"I want to build bridges," he said. "But I'm not blindly supportive of U.S. or European policies."

Ramadan's lawyer said his exclusion reflected an effort by the U.S. government to discourage academic debate about the war and other issues.

"The government should not be using the immigration laws as instruments of censorship," Jaffer said.

Named as defendants in the lawsuit are Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Secretary of Homeland Security Michael Chertoff.

The suit seeks a declaration that the Patriot Act provision at issue is unconstitutional. It also seeks a court order preventing the government from relying on the provision to exclude Ramadan or any other foreign national.

Besides Ramadan, plaintiffs in the lawsuit include the

American Academy of Religion, the American Association of University Professors and the PEN American Center, organizations which had invited Ramadan to speak in the U.S.

"The exclusion of Professor Ramadan illustrates that the Patriot Act and other post 9/11 laws and policies may be serving to increase American

isolation at a time when international dialogue is more critical than ever," Salman Rushdie, president of the PEN American Center, said in a statement. The center had invited Ramadan to speak in New York in April at its World Voices Festival.

The ACLU said Ramadan, a visiting fellow at St. Anthony's College at the University of Oxford, in August accepted British Prime Minister Tony Blair's invitation to join a government task force to examine the roots of extremism in Britain.

Megan Gaffney, a spokeswoman for government lawyers in Manhattan, said they had no immediate comment on the lawsuit.

"The government should not be using the immigration laws as instruments of censorship."

**Jameel Jaffer
ACLU attorney**

NASDAQ creates ND business endowment

Special to The Observer

The Nasdaq Stock Market Educational Foundation Inc. has created a \$100,000 endowment at the University of Notre Dame in support of the annual business plan competitions sponsored by the University's Gigot Center for Entrepreneurial Studies.

The Nasdaq Educational Foundation Endowment for Excellence will be directed toward the development of a training and networking program for participants in the Gigot Center's McCloskey Business Plan Competition and Social Venture Plan Competition.

"We are most appreciative of this generous award, which will allow the managers of our competitions to develop a comprehensive program that will help all participants design better business plans," said James Davis, Ray and Milann Siegfried Director of the Gigot Center.

The new program will provide formal training to participants in the University's two competitions, with the objective of leveling the playing field between individuals with varying degrees of business education. It also is expected that the program will help increase both the quality and quantity of business plan submissions.

"Above all, this program

will aid in the competitions' educational mission," Davis said. "By providing improved training and networking sessions, it is more likely that people with backgrounds in other disciplines — such as theology, physics or peace studies — will enter the competitions."

"Nasdaq has long been identified with entrepreneurialism and innovation," said Joan Conley, Corporate Secretary of The Nasdaq Stock Market and The Nasdaq Educational Foundation. "Innovation and new business ideas cannot be brought to fruition without a solid business plan. We are delighted to provide the type of training that will support the creation of new ideas and new companies."

The Nasdaq Stock Market Educational Foundation Inc. is a nonprofit organization that is engaged in promoting innovative thinking and learning about the role of capital formation and financial markets in a free-enterprise system. Its goals are to further financial markets literacy, and to foster entrepreneurialism and innovation and interest in financial careers. The Foundation is fully funded by The Nasdaq Stock Market Inc. and awards approximately \$2 million in grants annually to universities and educational nonprofit organizations.

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Drive

continued from page 1

coordinate this event with The South Bend Medical Foundation.

As of Tuesday morning, many appointment times were available — especially on that day. However, between walk-ins and phone calls for appointments, every time slot was quickly filled.

According to Assistant Director of RecSports Jennie Phillips, Notre Dame historically steps up to the occasion when blood is needed.

"The great thing about Notre Dame is the response. I am always impressed by people's willingness to give," Phillips said.

RecSports helps coordinate blood drives at least once per semester, but due to the mandatory 56-day period between donations per person, usually twice per semester is the maximum number hosted.

"Whenever The South Bend Medical Foundation needs blood, we can provide it," Phillips said.

Phillips also said willing students often call RecSports wondering if a drive could include evening hours, as class schedules can impede a student from volunteering. She plans to look into this option as a way to involve even more students in the

effort.

Besides being in good health, a volunteer needs to be 17 years of age and 110 pounds to donate. There are temporary deferrals for people who have traveled overseas or recently received a vaccination.

Freshman Emily Balthasan, a resident of Pasquerilla East, said she decided to donate because she knows her blood will go to people in need.

"It's one of the easiest and fastest ways to volunteer," she said. "The blood is invaluable, an always needed resource."

Pangborn resident Tricia Hughes said she also thinks blood donation is of high value to the community.

"After all, what student has not been someone touched by the life of someone in need of blood?" Hughes said.

Hughes, who has donated twice this academic year alone,

described the procedure as relatively painless and said the staff was caring and helpful. Hughes also said any discomfort donors may feel is greatly overshadowed by the rewards of donating.

"Donating blood is a great opportunity," she said. "I feel great the rest of the day knowing that I have helped increase someone's chances of survival."

Contact Kathleen McDonnell at kmcdonn3@nd.edu

"The blood is invaluable, an always needed resource."

Emily Balthasan student

Hesburgh

continued from page 1

before [he] sleeps[.]"

Hesburgh's talk and presence were so successful, according to SUB Concert Programmer Chris Lund, because of universal interest in the highly decorated former University president.

"Hesburgh is the essence of Notre Dame," Lund said.

The film's producers featured students and administrators while filming on campus, attempting to incorporate the Notre Dame identity that Hesburgh has helped create.

The filmmakers also featured famous narrators, including testimony of four former United States presidents, Secretary of State and 1975 Notre Dame alumna Condoleezza Rice, and actors Sean Astin, Clarence Gilyard and Regis Philbin.

Though the film educated students about many biographical details of Hesburgh's life, his onstage presence in the following discussion made obvious his skill at connecting with an audience. Afterwards, senior Andy Burkavage reflected on the experience.

"Tonight made me aware of how extraordinary his life has been," Burkavage said. "Students generally know what he has done for this school, but to see the level of his statesmanship and [its] international effect was highly impressive."

The documentary included many details of Hesburgh's

close work with United States presidents and his huge role on the Civil Rights Commission, as well as stirring images such as one of Hesburgh hand-in-hand with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

In the film, Hesburgh downplays his monumental role in civil rights work and other national affairs. He chooses instead to emphasize his role as priest, telling of his personal pledge to celebrate mass every day. He cheerily describes the litany of places in which he has celebrated the liturgy — recounting tales of makeshift masses in such locales as Antarctica, a plane above the Amazon and a submarine in the Pacific Ocean.

Notre Dame's transformation into a national university during Hesburgh's 35-year tenure is a focal point of the film, which also focuses on Hesburgh's close friendship with Father Edmund P. Joyce, executive vice-president during Hesburgh's presidency. The audience remained keenly engaged by stories and photographs of the pair's travels.

Curiosity attracted sophomore Camila Bernal to the event.

"I am thankful to be here and even more thankful that Father Hesburgh is here with us," Bernal said.

Junior Randy Yang expressed his deep appreciation of this Notre Dame legend and described his special bond with the priest.

"During freshman year, I shared a one-on-one liturgy with him in his office in the nearly deserted library," Yang said.

"I was studying, and he asked me to join and assist him. It's something I am forever proud of and will tell my children and grandchildren about." Keough Hall president John Lindenmeyer described his hall's support for the movie as a no-brainer.

"Father Hesburgh is a beacon for the University, and it is every student's dream to meet him," he said. "We were happy to provide this forum for students."

Steve Tortorello, SUB Ideas and Issues Programmer, stressed that though Hesburgh's legacy is inseparable from that of Notre Dame, the value of his presence as a speaker should not be underestimated.

"When people think about 'big name speakers,' they often overlook the fact that we are so fortunate to have one of the most important men of the 20th century right here at Notre Dame," Tortorello said.

Contact Bridget Keating at bkeating@nd.edu

"Father Hesburgh is a beacon for the University, and it is every student's dream to meet him. We were happy to provide this forum for students."

John Lindenmeyer Keough Hall president

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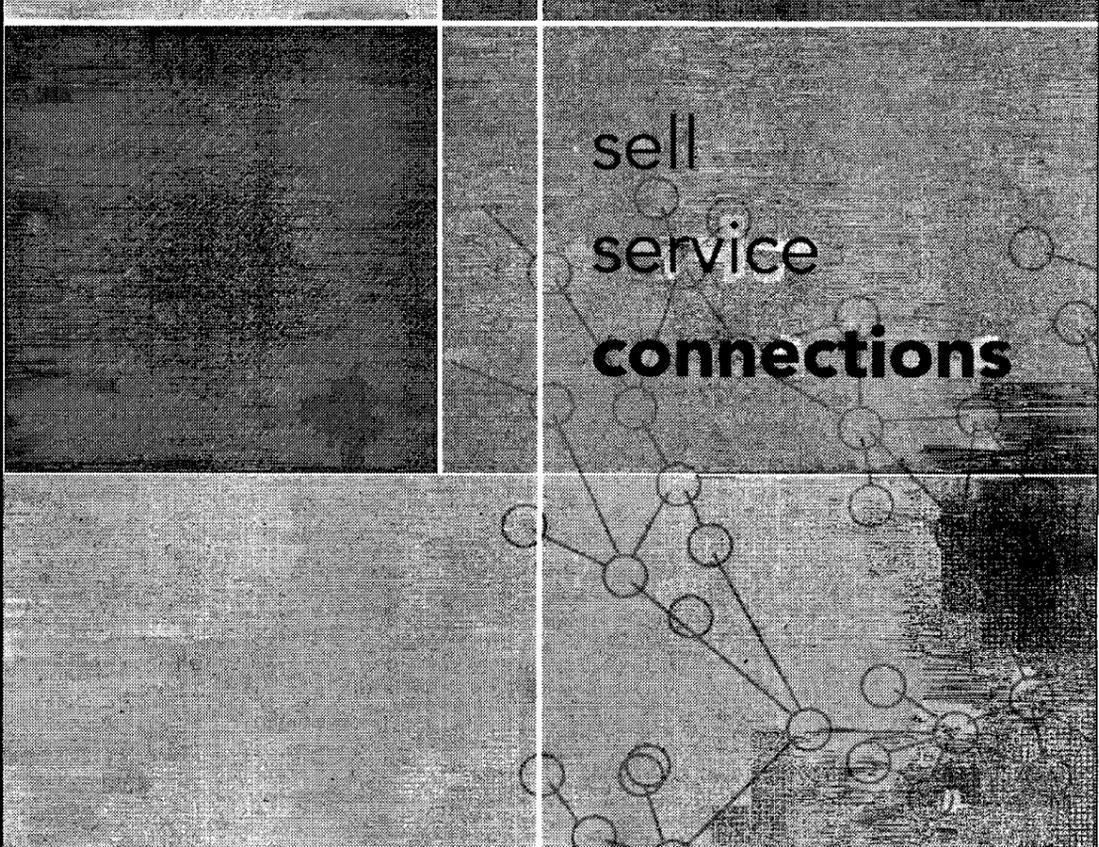
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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

U.S. armies are stretched in Iraq

DIWANIYAH — The top U.S. commander in Iraq acknowledged on Thursday that the U.S. Army was stretched but insisted forces here were capable of accomplishing their mission and any recommendation to reduce troops further would be dictated by the situation on the battlefield.

U.S. officials said Gen. George Casey was speaking about the Army in general and not specifically about the 136,000-strong force in Iraq. However, his comments are likely to fuel a debate inside the U.S. government over whether the United States can sustain the fight long enough to break the back of the Sunni Arab-led insurgency.

"The forces are stretched ... and I don't think there's any question of that," Casey told reporters. "But the Army has been for the last several years going through a modernization strategy that will produce more units and more ready units."

Arctic passage claimed to be neutral

TORONTO — Canada's next prime minister used his first news conference Thursday to tell the United States to mind its own business when it comes to territorial rights in the Arctic North.

Testing the notion that he would kowtow to the Bush administration, Stephen Harper, whose Conservative Party won general elections on Monday, said he would stand by a campaign pledge to increase Canada's military presence in the Arctic and put three military icebreakers in the frigid waters of the Northwest Passage.

U.S. Ambassador David Wilkins had criticized the plan Wednesday, describing the Arctic passage as "neutral waters."

NATIONAL NEWS

Drug approved to fight some cancers

WASHINGTON — A new drug that combats both a rare stomach cancer and advanced kidney cancer won speedy federal approval Thursday.

Sunitinib, to be marketed by Pfizer Inc. as Sutent, is the first cancer drug to simultaneously win Food and Drug Administration approval for two conditions, the agency said.

The FDA granted the medication priority review as a kidney cancer drug and approved it just six months later, given its usefulness in treating the serious and life-threatening disease.

A trial of Sutent as a stomach cancer treatment was cut short after the drug's ability to delay tumor growth prompted researchers to give the Pfizer drug to patients who had been taking placebos, or dummy medication.

Foreign warfare messages enter U.S.

WASHINGTON — A Pentagon "road map" to more effective use of information as a weapon says psychological warfare messages targeted at foreign audiences are increasingly finding their way into the United States.

The 78-page document, released Thursday by the National Security Archive, a nonprofit research group, spells out the Pentagon's reasoning for putting greater emphasis on "information operations" as a military tool. It says this should be a core military capability and placed largely in the hands of war-fighting commanders.

LOCAL NEWS

Death penalty method challenged

MICHIGAN CITY — An attorney for an Indiana man scheduled to die early Friday asked the U.S. Supreme Court to block his execution until the court rules on a Florida death row inmate's challenge of the lethal injection method.

The move today came hours before Marvin Bieghler was scheduled to be put to death for the 1981 slayings of a Howard County couple.

Bieghler, like Florida inmate Clarence Hill, is challenging the lethal injection process as unconstitutional.

WEST BANK

Election of Hamas shocks world

Islamic militant wins majority in parliament; hopes darken for Mideast peace

Associated Press

RAMALLAH — Islamic militant Hamas' landslide victory in Palestinian elections unnerved the world Thursday, darkening prospects for Mideast peace and ending four decades of rule by the corruption-riddled Fatah Party.

The victory stunned even Hamas leaders, who mounted a well-organized campaign but have no experience in government. They offered to share power with President Mahmoud Abbas, the Fatah chief, who said he may go around the new government to talk peace with Israel.

Underscoring the tensions between the secular Fatah and fundamentalist Hamas, about 3,000 supporters of the militant group marched through Ramallah and raised their party's green flag over the Palestinian parliament. Fatah supporters tried to lower the banner. The two sides fought for about 30 minutes, throwing stones and breaking windows in the building.

Abbas had yet to decide how closely to work with a group that built its clout through suicide bombings. But his Fatah Party decided not to join a Hamas government, Fatah legislator Saab Erekat said.

"We will be a loyal opposition and rebuild the party," Erekat said after meeting with Abbas.

Leaders across the world demanded that Hamas, which is branded a terror group by the U.S. and European Union, renounce violence and recognize Israel.

"If your platform is the destruction of Israel, it means you're not a partner in peace, and we're interested in peace," President Bush said.



Palestinian supporters of Hamas chant slogans as they celebrate elections results in front of the Palestinian Legislative Council Thursday.

Acting Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said Israel will not negotiate with a Palestinian government that includes Hamas members, and senior Cabinet officials held an emergency meeting to discuss the repercussions of the vote. Acting Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni asked the EU not to deal with a "terror government."

Hamas leaders immediately took to the international — and even Israeli — airwaves to send out a moderate message.

"Don't be afraid," Ismail Haniyeh, a Hamas leader, told the BBC.

Mahmoud Zahar, another Hamas leader, said the group would extend its year-old truce if Israel reciprocates. "If not, then I think we will have no option but to protect our people and our land," he said.

At a victory news conference late Thursday, however, Haniyeh said Hamas will "complete the liberation of other parts of Palestine." He did not say which territories he was referring to or how he would go about it.

Hamas has largely adhered to the cease-fire declared last February, while a smaller militant

group, Islamic Jihad, carried out six suicide bombings against Israelis during that period.

Abbas said he remained committed to peace talks and suggested they be conducted through the Palestine Liberation Organization rather than the Palestinian Authority. That could help him sidestep a Hamas-run government in peace talks.

"I am committed to implementing the program on which you elected me a year ago," he said in a televised speech. "It is a program based on negotiations and peaceful settlement with Israel."

GOP to try to force vote on Alito

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Die-hard Democratic critics of Supreme Court nominee Samuel Alito threatened on Thursday to block a vote on his confirmation, and Republicans countered with a move designed to force his approval by early next week.

"It is time to establish an end point" in the debate over President Bush's selection to replace Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, said Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn.

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., said he and other Democrats had refused to agree to a timetable for

ending debate. "There's some division in our caucus," he conceded.

Democratic Leader Harry Reid signaled as much in remarks on the Senate floor. He offered no support for Kennedy, John Kerry and others whose filibuster represents a last stand against Alito's confirmation.

"There's been adequate time for people to debate," Reid said.

Alito, 55 and a 15-year veteran of the federal appeals court, has well over 50 votes for confirmation. He gained the support of Democrats Tim Johnson of South Dakota and Robert C. Byrd of West Virginia during the day, and has the backing of at least 52 of the Senate's 55 Republicans.

The Senate will vote Monday on cutting off debate. If Alito's supporters get 60 votes in the 100-member body, the confirmation vote will follow on Tuesday.

White House spokesman Stephen Schmidt predicted the Republicans would easily win. "More than 60 senators have signaled their intentions to vote against the filibuster and give Judge Alito the up-or-down vote that he deserves," he said.

Frist said he had been unable to win a commitment from all senators on a time for a final vote. Instead, he set the stage for cutting off debate Monday with what is known as a cloture vote.

Sisters

continued from page 1

Saint Mary's women and the Sisters of the Holy Cross. The program is designed to give students the opportunity to build lasting friendships with older members of the Saint Mary's community. It also allows students to learn about the history of the College, said Sister Louisita Welsh, the program's faculty advisor.

"The program that was in place when I arrived here a few years ago was called 'Adopt a Nun,' and was somewhat inconsistent. When I became the program director three years ago, I talked to a group of students, and they wanted to form something that had some substance to it," Welsh said. "We recreated the program to build another connection between the sisters and the students. The intergenerational relationship was not as strong as it could have been, and we were tempted to strengthen it."

In the fall of 2003, Welsh and a team of students advertised the newly designed Friends with Sisters program and received an overwhelming response. Reinert remembers applying for the program as a first-year student, and being turned down because the number of student applicants exceeded the number of sisters.

Approximately 110 students and 100 sisters are involved in the program this year, Welsh said. Senior Molly Ritter said she acknowledges that these members have different needs and said the core leadership team has designed the program to appeal to every member.

"Right now, the program is set up so that students and sisters are able to have one-on-one interaction," Ritter said. "However, if a member is uncomfortable with one-on-one interaction, they can sign up to be involved in small or large group activities with other sisters and students."

These group gatherings have included Halloween parties, Christmas caroling and "Pretzel Pizzaz" parties, which provide the sisters and students with an opportunity to interact with many members of the Saint Mary's community at one time.

"I think the small and large group activities have really been great icebreakers for the students and sisters who aren't comfortable meeting with each other individually," said sophomore Lesley Weaver, who helps coordinate the events.

The majority of the members, however, prefer one on one interaction, and meet with each other individually, student coordinator Monica Lindblom said.

Lindblom was paired with Sister Leo Nella as a first-year student, and said she loved the alone time they spent together.

"It's almost like going over to grandma's house when you walk over to the convent," she said. "I always had Wednesday lunch with

her, and we would just sit and chit-chat, and sometimes our conversation was actually about something and other times it was about nothing. Either way, it was enjoyable."

Reinert, who has been paired with Sister Joan Elizabeth since fall 2005, also said she enjoys the long talks they share.

"We try to meet once a week, whether that means going to Mass together, having brunch or dinner, or just sitting in a room in the convent and talking," she said. "But no matter what we are doing, my favorite thing to do is to sit and listen to her stories. I'm an education major, and I love to listen to her talk about her experiences as a teacher."

The students' interest in the sisters' stories is an aspect of the program that surprises Sister Joan Elizabeth.

"The sisters love to reminisce," she said. "And I am so touched by the students who dedicate their time and listen, quite energetically, to these stories that the sisters tell. Even if the sister tells the same story over and over again, the student is still interested and still listens."

It is through these stories that students are really able to learn from the sisters, Welsh said.

"As in most relationships, as you continue to grow in that relationship, you want to know the history of the other," she said. "In our case, the student wants to know the history of the sister and her connection with Saint Mary's. The history then, lies in that story that we often don't take time anymore to grasp."

Sister Joan Elizabeth said she also wants to emphasize the history of Saint Mary's, and tries to visit the Heritage Room in the convent with her students.

"I think there's an opportunity there for understanding the Sisters of the Holy Cross, Saint Mary's College, and also the relationship between Notre Dame, Saint Mary's and Holy Cross College," she said. "There is something to be said for tradition and heritage, and a lot of people today don't have an opportunity to talk with someone who has the history of more than 150 years. This program offers that link to our common founder."

The students are not the only ones that gain perspective from the program, however. Many sisters say that the students bring new energy and perspective to the sisters as well.

"[Sister Joan] loves to hear stories about what I do on a day-to-day basis, and she's always interested what's evolving at the College," Reinert said. "I am her eye into campus life."

Like Reinert, Weaver said she thinks the presence of students at the convent gives the sisters a fresh perspective.

"Sometimes [Sister Ambrose] and I don't agree on politics or current events," she said. "But to me, that's a positive thing, because it brings new opinions and perspective to the sisters."

Welsh said she is glad to hear when students and sisters are able to converse about meaningful topics, even if they disagree. She said the sharing of perspectives and stories is an important aspect of the program.

"If we look together, we can see how much we can really learn from one another, and that breaks through age barrier, education, any other barrier," she said. "If we could see the benefit of both, then that is the best of both worlds."

Not only do the students bring fresh perspective to the convent, they also bring youth and energy, Ritter said.

"Many of the small group activities, such as the Halloween party, allow the sisters to be goofy and do things they wouldn't normally do," she said. "It's also refreshing for the sisters to sit and visit with the students. I think it lightens

their spirits and gives them energy themselves."

Sister Joan Elizabeth said she cannot imagine what the convent would be like without the presence and energy of the students.

"I think of the Mother Houses who don't have this kind of opportunity with young people and I'm thinking, it must be really dead in those places," she said. "I can't imagine what it would be like to not have the energy that comes from the Saint Mary's students."

She is careful to add, however, that she does not think one group necessarily benefits from the program more than the other.

"It's not one-sided. The sisters aren't the only ones who have something to give, and it's just not the students who have something to give, and we need to realize this and capitalize on each others' strengths," she said. "The more we can continue to look at ways to collaborate, and whatever intergenerational relationships we can build, the stronger the sisters will be, and the stronger the College will be."

To students like Reinert, the relationships and connections that have been established through Friends with Sisters are deep and irreplaceable. In a recent conver-

sation with Sister Joan Elizabeth, Reinert realized that she had more in common with the sister than she thought — Sister Joan knew Sister Agnes Eugene, the relative Reinert had heard and wondered so much about.

"I couldn't believe it when she told me she knew Sister Agnes," Reinert said. "They weren't great friends, but Sister Joan said that she knew her and that she was one of the nicest people she'd ever met. It's neat because now I have that link to Sister Agnes that I didn't think I would have."

This type of connection and link to Saint Mary's history is what the program is all about, Welsh said. She said she has known most of the sisters for many years, has been familiar with the Saint Mary's student body for many years, and is excited about the possibilities for growth and understanding when you put the two together.

"You've got the bright young student, and you've got the bright, seasoned, faith-filled woman, and when you put those together, I don't think you can do any better," she said. "You can't have a relationship that is any richer."

Contact Emily Lavelle at elavel01@saintmarys.edu

"It's almost like going over to grandma's house when you walk over to the convent."

Monica Lindblom
student coordinator

Best Wishes to the Graduating Class of 2006 and to the Incoming Class of 2010

DEDICATION

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SCHOOL; FOUNDED; CIRCA-ENROLLMENT; LOCATION; OTHER

- Aquinas College; 1886, Dominicans; 2,500; Grand Rapids, Michigan
- Ave Maria University; 2004, Thomas S. Monaghan; 307; Naples, Florida; Ground Broken in 2005 for permanent campus of c.6,000 students
- Barry University; 1940, Dominicans; 3,276; Miami Shores, Florida
- Boston College; 1863, Jesuits; 13,700; Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts
- Canisius College; 1870, Jesuits; 5,048; Buffalo, New York; Named after St. Peter Canisius, an original member of the Society of Jesus
- Catholic University of America; 1887, U.S. Bishops; 2,587; Washington, D.C.
- Creighton University; 6,300; Omaha, Nebraska
- DePaul University; 1898, Vincentians; 23,000; Chicago, Illinois
- Duquesne University; 1878; 8,000; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Motto - Spiritus est qui vivificat-It is the Spirit who gives life
- Fairfield University; Jesuits; 3,300; Fairfield, Connecticut
- Fordham University; 1841, Jesuits; 15,000; Bronx, New York
- Franciscan University of Steubenville; 1946, Franciscans; 2,370; Steubenville, Ohio
- Georgetown University; 1789 Jesuits; Washington, D.C.
- Gonzaga University; 1887, Jesuits; 5,400; Spokane, Washington
- Immaculata University; 1920; 3,443; Immaculata, Pennsylvania
- Iona College; 1940; 3,400; New Rochelle, New York
- La Salle University; 1851, Lasallian; 6,221; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- Loyola University Chicago; 1870, Jesuits; 18,319; Chicago, Illinois; Largest of the 28 USA Jesuit schools
- Loyola University New Orleans; 1912, Jesuits; 5,900; New Orleans, Louisiana
- Madonna University; 1947, Felicians; 4,294; Livonia, Michigan
- Manhattan College; 1853, Lasallian; 3,000; Riverdale, New York
- Marquette University; 1881, Jesuits; 11,000; Milwaukee, Wisconsin
- Mount Saint Mary's University; 1808; 2,125; Emmitsburg, Maryland
- Niagra University; 1856, Vincentians; 3,500; Niagra University, New York
- Providence College; 1917, Dominicans; 5,200; Providence, Rhode Island
- Seton Hall University; 1856; 10,000; South Orange, New Jersey; Started by Bishop Bayley, nephew of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
- St. Bonaventure University; 1858, Franciscans; 2,800; St. Bonaventure, New York
- St. John's University; 1870, Vincentians; 14,848; Queens, New York
- St. Joseph's University; 1851, Jesuits; 7,230; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- St. Louis University; 1818, Jesuits; 11,500; St. Louis, Missouri; First Catholic college west of the Mississippi
- St. Mary's College; Holy Cross; 1,571; Notre Dame, Indiana
- St. Peter's College; 1872, Jesuits; 2,300; Jersey City, New Jersey
- University of Detroit Mercy; 1877, Jesuits/Mercy Sisters; 8,200; Detroit, Michigan
- University of Notre Dame; 1842, Holy Cross; 8,200; Notre Dame, Indiana
- University of San Diego; 4,400; San Diego, California
- University of San Francisco; 1855, Jesuits; 8,274; San Francisco, California
- Villanova University; 1842, Augustinians; 6,285; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- Xavier University; 1831, Jesuits; 6,450; Cincinnati, Ohio

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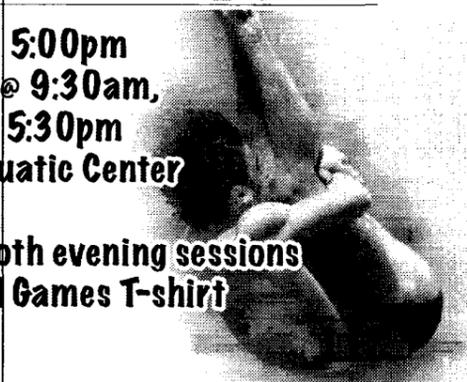
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NASDAQ	2,283.00	+22.35		
NYSE	8,044.00	+74.51		
S&P 500	1,273.83	+9.15		
NIKKEI(Tokyo)	15,891.02	0.00		
FTSE 100(London)	5,722.60	+18.20		
Companys				
COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE	
NASDAQ 110 TR (QQQQ)	+0.70	+0.29	41.55	
JUNIPER NETWORKS (JNPR)	-20.72	-4.46	17.06	
INTEL CP (INTC)	+1.32	+0.28	21.49	
MICROSOFT CP (MSFT)	+0.38	+0.10	26.50	
CISCO SYS INC (CSCO)	+0.05	+0.01	18.58	
Treasuries				
10-YEAR NOTE	+0.98	+0.44	45.23	
5-YEAR NOTE	+0.86	+0.38	44.43	
3-MONTH BILL	+0.58	+0.25	43.32	
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GOLD (\$/Troy oz.)	-2.60	559.90		
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)	-1.23	78.23		
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EURO			0.8192	
POUND			0.5621	

IN BRIEF

Earnings bring buyers to Wall Street

NEW YORK — A string of positive earnings reports renewed confidence in stocks Thursday and sent the major indexes sharply higher as investors shook off a steep loss posted by General Motors Corp.

While GM's troubles deepened after it announced a quarterly loss far beyond analysts' expectations, investors were heartened by better news from fellow Dow industrials Caterpillar Inc., AT&T Corp. and others. That's helped Wall Street overcome last week's sharp drop, which was blamed on poor results from a number of major corporations.

Wall Street's concerns about the state of the economy eased after the Commerce Department reported an all-time high in factory orders for big-ticket items. Durable goods orders rose 1.3 percent for December, better than the 1 percent forecast by economists.

"The durable goods numbers are telling us that businesses are spending money, and that the outlook for the economy is solid," said Hugh Johnson, chairman and chief investment officer of Johnson Illington Advisors. "And after last week, the earnings numbers are encouraging. So we're seeing a good bump today."

Suburb benefits from local Wal-Mart

EVERGREEN PARK — After Chicago rejected Wal-Mart Inc.'s proposal to open a store on the city's South Side, the retailer will open one Friday just outside city limits — leaving city officials shaking their heads at the prospect of hundreds of workers and countless shoppers flocking to this tiny suburb.

"It makes you go ballistic," said Alderman Howard Brookins, Jr., who pushed unsuccessfully for a Wal-Mart in his ward. "When you look at the revenue stream that we're losing and the property taxes and sales taxes there and you look at the opportunity, we're not going to stop these people from going to shop at Wal-Mart."

Brookins lamented the news from Wal-Mart that of the 25,000 applicants — a record number, according to the retailer — for about 350 jobs, all but 500 were Chicago residents. Further, he said he has no doubt that when the store opens, most shoppers will be Chicagoans, too.

Corporation faces challenge

Boston Scientific Corp wrestles with mounting problems; FDA warns about devices

Associated Press

BOSTON — Now that it has won a bidding war for heart devices maker Guidant Corp. with a \$27 billion offer, Boston Scientific Corp. faces its biggest challenge ever — making the deal work while it wrestles with its own mounting product problems.

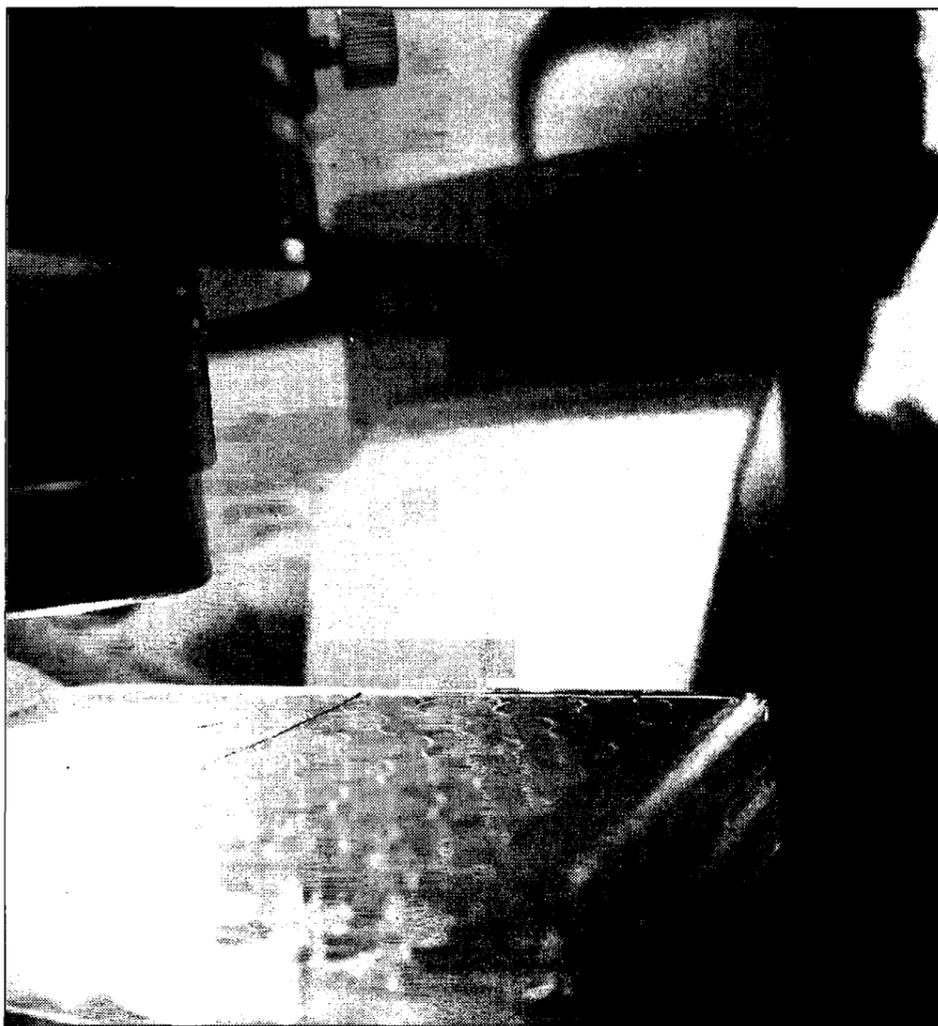
The 27-year-old Massachusetts company owes much of its growth to successfully bringing newly acquired medical devices companies into the fold while managing risks in an industry notorious for product recalls and patent disputes.

But observers say the Guidant deal presents more legal, financial and competitive challenges than the Natick-based company has ever dealt with.

On top of that, Boston Scientific is buying a company with a greater market value than its own — about \$19 billion for Boston Scientific, compared with \$25 billion for Guidant — while moving into a market for implantable defibrillators and pacemakers where it has no prior experience. And Indianapolis-based Guidant faces liability from recent product recalls that analysts believe could reach \$2 billion.

"Under normal circumstances, this would present a challenge for Boston Scientific because they're already outside their normal comfort zone," Piper Jaffray analyst Thom Gunderson said. "But now you're doing something unusual: You're paying a premium for something that's broken."

Boston Scientific also faces growing product troubles. The Food and Drug Administration said Thursday it sent Boston Scientific a warning letter identifying "serious regulatory problems" in medical devices produced at three facilities, and said the company's previous efforts to



The headquarters of Boston Scientific Corp. is seen Wed. In Natick, Mass. as the corporation faces a challenge from the FDA.

address quality control problems at three other sites were inadequate.

The Food and Drug Administration's letter said it could take regulatory action against Boston Scientific without further notice and warned that "it is necessary to take action on this matter now."

If it successfully blends Guidant's defibrillators and pacemakers into its own line of heart stents and other medical devices, Boston Scientific gains entry into a \$10 billion cardiac rhythm market expected to grow by nearly 25 percent by 2008.

If Boston Scientific fails to execute, it risks further erosion of its stock. Its shares

fell 28 percent last year as the company struggled to come up with a blockbuster product to replace its 3-year-old Taxus stent, a tiny metal-mesh device coated with drugs to prevent scar tissue from creating new blockages after artery-clearing surgery. A rival stent from Johnson & Johnson has taken away some of Taxus' market-leading share, and both stents face new competition in that \$6 billion market.

Even if it meets its goal of winning shareholder and regulatory approvals for the deal within two months, Boston Scientific faces lingering patent challenges from its now-vanquished bidding war rival, J&J, that

could jeopardize its stent business.

And Boston Scientific could see a newly strengthened rival in the cardiac rhythm market if J&J buys another player in that field, St. Jude Medical, an outcome some analysts foresee now that J&J failed to land Guidant. The nearly two month competition ended after J&J declined to increase its offer and Guidant accepted Boston Scientific's bid Wednesday.

Boston Scientific expects to borrow around \$9 billion for the purchase, and will inherit a \$705 million breakup fee to be paid to J&J because Guidant opted out of a deal it had with J&J.

GM's earnings plummet in 2005

Associated Press

DETROIT — General Motors Corp. posted its largest annual loss in more than a decade, laying bare the problems the automaker is facing: rising labor costs, fierce competition from Asia and falling sales at home. It was another blow for the U.S. auto industry, already reeling from massive job cuts announced this week by Ford Motor Co.

GM, which could lose its position as the world's largest automaker this year to Toyota Motor Corp., said Thursday it lost \$4.8 billion in the fourth quarter and \$8.6 billion for all of 2005. That was the worst showing since 1992, when it lost

\$23.5 billion.

Sales gains in Asia, Europe and elsewhere were more than offset by huge losses in North America, where GM lost \$5.6 billion for the year.

Company executives insist the results will improve in 2006, but GM shares slumped as concerned investors wondered if the company can win customers and extract sufficiently large concessions from its unions to stop the financial nose-dive.

"It was surprisingly negative, well below the low end of the most pessimistic analysts, which is no small feat," said Pete Hastings, vice president of corporate fixed income at the investment firm Morgan Keegan

& Co. "I think you'll see recovery off of 2005. But getting back to profitability in North American operations is a multiyear challenge."

The company lost \$15.13 per share for the year, far more than Wall Street's forecast of a loss of \$4.19 per share, according to analysts surveyed by Thomson Financial. Worldwide revenue of \$192.6 billion for the full year was down slightly from 2004.

GM shares, already down 36 percent since July, fell 80 cents, or 3.4 percent, to close at \$23.05 Thursday on the New York Stock Exchange. Moody's Investors Service said it was reviewing GM's credit rating, already in "junk" territory, and could downgrade it further.

Oprah rehashes memoir scandal, grills author

Associated Press

The story of "A Million Little Pieces" was supposedly over. After all, Oprah had said it was.

The TV host had belittled all the talk about alleged fabrications as "much ado about nothing." Author James Frey had invoked the rights of memoirists to take "liberties." His publisher said the matter wasn't worth looking into.

And then Oprah Winfrey changed her mind. She had read the angry e-mails, the newspaper columns and feature stories: Oprah thinks it's OK to lie. Maybe she was wrong to defend her anointed author. It was time to get the facts. So she took on Frey, face to face.

"I feel duped," she said Thursday on her syndicated talk show to a downcast Frey, who sat next to her. "But more importantly, I feel that you betrayed millions of readers."

Frey, who found himself booed in the same Chicago studio where he had been embraced not long ago, acknowledged that he had lied. "If I come out of this experience with anything, it's being a better person and learning from my mistakes and making sure that I don't repeat them," he said.

Thursday's telecast, rare proof that the fact checking of a book can make for inspired tabloid TV, marked an abrupt reversal from the cozy chat two weeks ago on "Larry King Live," when Winfrey

phoned in to support Frey.

"I left the impression that the truth does not matter," Winfrey said Thursday of last week's call, adding that "e-mail after e-mail" from supporters of the book had cast a "cloud" over her judgment.

Sometimes angry, sometimes tearful, Winfrey asked Frey why he "felt the need to lie." Audience members often groaned and gasped at Frey's halting, stuttered admissions that certain facts and characters had been "altered" but that the essence of his memoir was real.

"I don't think it is a novel," Frey said of his book, which had initially been offered to publishers, and rejected by many, as fiction. "I still think it's a memoir."

On a segment that also featured the book's publisher, Nan A. Talese of Doubleday, Frey was questioned about various parts of his book, from the three-month jail sentence he now says he never served to undergoing dental surgery without Novocain, a story he no longer clearly recalls.

Winfrey subjected Frey to a virtual page-by-page interrogation, the kind of review he clearly never received from his publisher. No longer, as she called into King's show, was she saying that emotional truth mattered more than the facts. "Mr. Bravado Tough Guy," she mockingly called the author, whose book she had enshrined last fall and whose reputation she had recently saved.

Talese and Doubleday were not spared. Winfrey noted that her staff had been alerted to possible discrepancies in Frey's book, only to be assured by the publisher. She lectured Talese on her responsibilities: "I'm trusting you, the publisher, to categorize this book whether as fiction or autobiographical or memoir."

Talese, an industry veteran whose many authors have included Ian McEwan, George Plimpton and Thomas Cahill, told Winfrey that editors who saw the book raised no questions and that "A Million Little Pieces" received a legal vetting. She acknowledged that the book had not been fact-checked, something many publishers say they have little time to do.

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CHRISTOPHER
IS PERFORMING AT HALFTIME

Safety

continued from page 1

alone at night," Douthwaite said. "Some are just innocent victims as well, however, and it is important that students know what they may face even if they stay aware."

To ensure students are informed, ISP offers site-specific orientation for undergraduates before they leave, which often includes advice from past program participants as well as the standard travel advisories. A session specifically aimed at the concerns of women studying abroad is also offered annually.

Despite all precautions, however, the worst can happen. A wallet can go missing on a crowded metro, a computer can disappear from a flat or a student can even become the victim of assault.

Last semester two female juniors participating in the Angers, France program reported, in separate incidents, allegedly being attacked while walking back to the residences of their host families.

The first alleged incident occurred at approximately 1 a.m. Oct. 20, and the second allegedly around 12:30 a.m. Dec. 16, according to the alleged victims. The students lived three blocks away from each other and were the only Notre Dame students located in this neighborhood of Angers.

The first reported being physically attacked by an unidentified French male while entering her home, and the second reported allegedly being grabbed by the neck and knocked into a house by an unidentified male on the street.

Both women contacted the Angers police, but said neither alleged attacker has been apprehended as of yet.

Though neither student was seriously injured by the alleged attacks, both said the incidents changed their lifestyles in France.

The day after the incident, the first alleged victim said she was approached for directions by a young French male and "nearly had a heart attack."

"I didn't leave my house after dark alone even just to get dinner," the second alleged victim said. "I am just glad that it happened at the end [of my time in Angers]."

The women had attended a safety orientation for Angers presented by the program's directors, Jonathan and Maureen Boulton, at which time they were advised to stay in groups if possible, and were given specific warnings about walking home alone.

"[Maureen Boulton] told us to 'keep our wits about us,'" the second alleged victim said. "But I had all my wits about me. I hadn't been drinking and I wasn't tired."

Douthwaite, a former director of the Angers program, said she had always told students to take a cab if possible,

or even buy a bike, because the low amount of nighttime foot traffic in the area made the "provincial city at times more unsafe than a major metropolitan capital."

Former participants of the Angers program reported similar incidents.

Senior Kathy Peterson said she was allegedly accosted by two men while walking home from the train station by herself one November morning at 5 a.m. The first allegedly forced a pornographic magazine in front of her, she said,

and a kilometer later the second man ran out from behind a church and allegedly exposed his naked body to her.

"[At the time of the incident] the streets I was on were well-lit and the neighborhoods relatively affluent, so I felt safe," Peterson said. "Clearly this could have been prevented if I had used my better judgment to take a cab. Safety of Notre Dame students in Angers is more a question of how safe Angers itself is, and not how safe the program is."

Seniors Anne Macrander and Joanna Paxton both had experiences where they were approached and unnerved on the street.

"The incident was preventable, but entirely on my part," Macrander said of her situation. "I would never advise anyone to opt out of the Angers program solely because of safety concerns."

Paxton said she often found herself walking home at night because buses in the area stopped running at 7 p.m.

Though senior Stefanie Dittert reported no similar incident, she said she was "not surprised" to hear of the attacks.

"When I lived there, my host family lived at least a 45 minute walk from [the University] and then even farther from the downtown area, where everyone went out," she said. "I never felt safe walking there at night, but I did walk home pretty much every night in the dark, because our classes got out very late and then after that I would go to dinner, to the gym, just your general errand-running in town."

Cabs are an option, but

Douthwaite said budget constraints make it impossible for the University to fund frequent taxi rides.

Students pointed to the isolated locations of the host family residences as a possible cause of the problems, and the women who were allegedly attacked this year both said they would feel more comfortable in a communal student residence.

"When students live together in a dorm, they tend to speak their native language," Jonathan Boulton said, defending the host family system.

"The point of the [Angers] program is to plunge the student into the linguistic and cultural aspects of the country, in the deepest way possible. The best way is to be housed with host families. A student could be raped or mugged on his way to a [student] residence, as well. There's no way to prevent crimes like this from occurring ... you can't keep people from being preyed upon unless you lock them up."

Students in the Angers program are not the only ones familiar with the dangers of studying abroad. In a sample group of participants from Notre Dame's main overseas locations, half reported some form of unsafe incident.

Most indicated they or someone they knew had been a victim of theft, normally pick-pocketing in busy city centers, or had been victim of some form of "ethnic tensions," as one student described it.

No one who had experienced any sort of problem blamed the University.

"I would say that at least in this program, most 'unsafe' incidents would probably be preventable by students making smart and not drunk decisions," said Dan McGee, a junior spending the year at University College Dublin.

Several suggested a more rigorous orientation program, but most said staying safe was a matter of following common sense.

Douthwaite explained that staff at every abroad program — even those not directly under Notre Dame's administration — was familiar

with the protocols for issues of individual safety as well as terrorism. She said ISP was prepared with a multi-tiered response that, depending on the incident's severity, involves other offices, including Student Affairs and General Counsel.

For the past two years, faculty members who staff abroad programs have undergone an orientation in dealing with emergencies, including how to deal with an individual victim on-site.

"We take students' well-being seriously," Douthwaite said. "Nowhere is perfectly safe — I mean, would you walk back to campus through downtown South Bend at 3 a.m.? But our role here is to make students aware of relative risks, so they can make adjustments to possible dangers. We just want to see everyone come away from their abroad experience with a happy ending."

Contact Amanda Michaels at amichael@nd.edu and Eileen Duffy at eduffy1@nd.edu

"Our role here is to make students aware of relative risks so they can make adjustments to possible dangers."

Julia Douthwaite
director of Office of International Studies

"There's no way to prevent crimes like this from occurring ... you can't keep people from being preyed upon unless you lock them up."

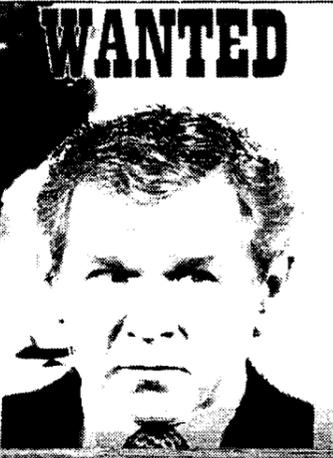
Jonathan Boulton
director of Angers program



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WANTED

George W. Bush

Leader of the war attacks in Afghanistan, Iraq, ... which cost, so far, the life of at least 28,957 civilians.

Bono launches brand to fund AIDS battle

Associated Press

Rock star and activist Bono launched a new push Thursday in the battle against HIV and AIDS in Africa, unveiling a partnership with American Express and other companies. Proceeds from products sold by the team's new brand, Red, will be funneled to that cause.

"So, here we are, fat cats in the snow, and I say that as one," said the denim-jacketed U2 frontman, who was flanked by Italian fashion tycoon Giorgio Armani and corporate executives who joined him for the announcement at the World Economic Forum in this Swiss ski resort.

Red will market red-themed products from Converse, The Gap and Giorgio Armani, as well as a red American Express card to be offered initially only in Britain, starting next month.

Products branded Red will include sports shoes, T-shirts and sunglasses — some produced in Africa, some with African materials. A slice of the revenue — numbers vary by company and product — will go to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

"We sought out iconic companies who make iconic products," said Bobby Shriver, who runs an organization called DATA — or Debt, AIDS and Trade in Africa — and has been working with Bono for several years.

Bono — sporting his trademark wraparound sunglasses — seemed a trifle bemused beside his suited, polished partners.

But he quickly turned serious, his voice cracking slightly as he recounted the story of an HIV-positive young African who chose to take his single dosage of anti-retrovirals himself, denying the critical drug to his girlfriend and possibly condemning her to death.

Each day, Bono said, brings 6,500 HIV-related deaths in Africa — and 9,000 new infections.

"We're losing in the battle... Maybe it's an Irish macho thing, but I really don't like losing," the Irish native said.

"I'm calling it conscience commerce for people who are awake, people who think about their spending power and say: 'I've got two jeans I can buy. One I know is made in Africa and is going to make a difference and the other isn't. What am I going to buy?'"

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ANSWER
THE CALL



California declares secondhand smoke toxic pollutant

Link to breast cancer causes state to pass unanimous decision

Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — California became the first state to declare secondhand smoke a toxic air pollutant Thursday, putting tobacco fumes in the same category as diesel exhaust, arsenic and benzene because of its link to breast cancer.

The unanimous decision by the state Air Resources Board relied on a September report that found a sharply increased risk of breast cancer in young women exposed to secondhand smoke. It also links drifting smoke to premature births, asthma and heart disease, as well as other cancers and numerous health problems in children.

"If people are serious about breast cancer, they have to deal with secondhand smoke. That's what this is all about," said Dr. Stanton Glantz, director of the Center for Tobacco Control, Research and Education at the University of California, San Francisco.

"This is a seminal, international document," Glantz said. "It's impossible to underestimate what a big deal this is."

The report by scientists at California's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment drew on more than 1,000 other studies of secondhand smoke and blamed the fumes for 4,000 deaths each year in California from lung cancer or heart disease alone.

The most significant new finding cited by state officials is that young women exposed to secondhand smoke increase their risk of developing breast cancer between 68 percent and 120 percent. The disease kills about 40,000 women in the United States each year.

That conclusion conflicts with a 2004 report by the U.S. surgeon general. Sanford Barsky, a researcher writing on behalf of the R.J. Reynolds tobacco company, told the board in previous testimony that the state report "either ignores mentioning or does not give the appropriate weight" to studies refuting a link between secondhand smoke and breast cancer.

California scientists say their research is more current than the surgeon general's report. The state report went through an exhaustive review that delayed its release for nearly a year but ensures it is based on sound research, said Dr. John Froines, director of UCLA's Center for Occupational and Environmental Health and head of the scientific review panel.

R.J. Reynolds spokesman David Howard said regardless of the dangers from passive smoke indoors, no research supports regulators' decision to declare it an air pollutant.

"No studies exist that show that exposure outdoors leads to any increased risk of tobacco-associated illness," he said.

The air board must next consider regulatory steps to reduce exposure to the smoke, a process that could take years.

"This is no longer some crazy, California, Left Coast way of thinking," said

Cynthia Hallett, executive director of Berkeley-based Americans for Nonsmokers' Rights. She cited smoking bans that have been enacted or are being considered across the nation and in other countries.

Much of the initial effort in California will focus on public education, said Paul Knepprath, vice president for government relations at the American Lung Association of California.

The association unsuccessfully sought legislation in 2003 that would have banned smoking in motor vehicles containing young children, and could

try for a similar law next year, Knepprath said.

The group may also seek nonsmoking floors or wings in apartment buildings, much as hotels offer smoke-free areas,

he said.

"People live in apartments all across California who are exposed to secondhand smoke on a daily basis," Knepprath said. "It drifts from a common

area or another apartment."

That could one day force regulations requiring separate ventilation systems for smoking and nonsmoking apartments, he said.

JPW Mass

Lector Auditions



JPW Lector auditions will take place in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart on each of the following dates:

Monday, January 30th at 4:00pm
Tuesday, January 31st at 4:00pm

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 For further information, please contact Harv Humphrey at 631-8520 or by email at humphrey.17@nd.edu



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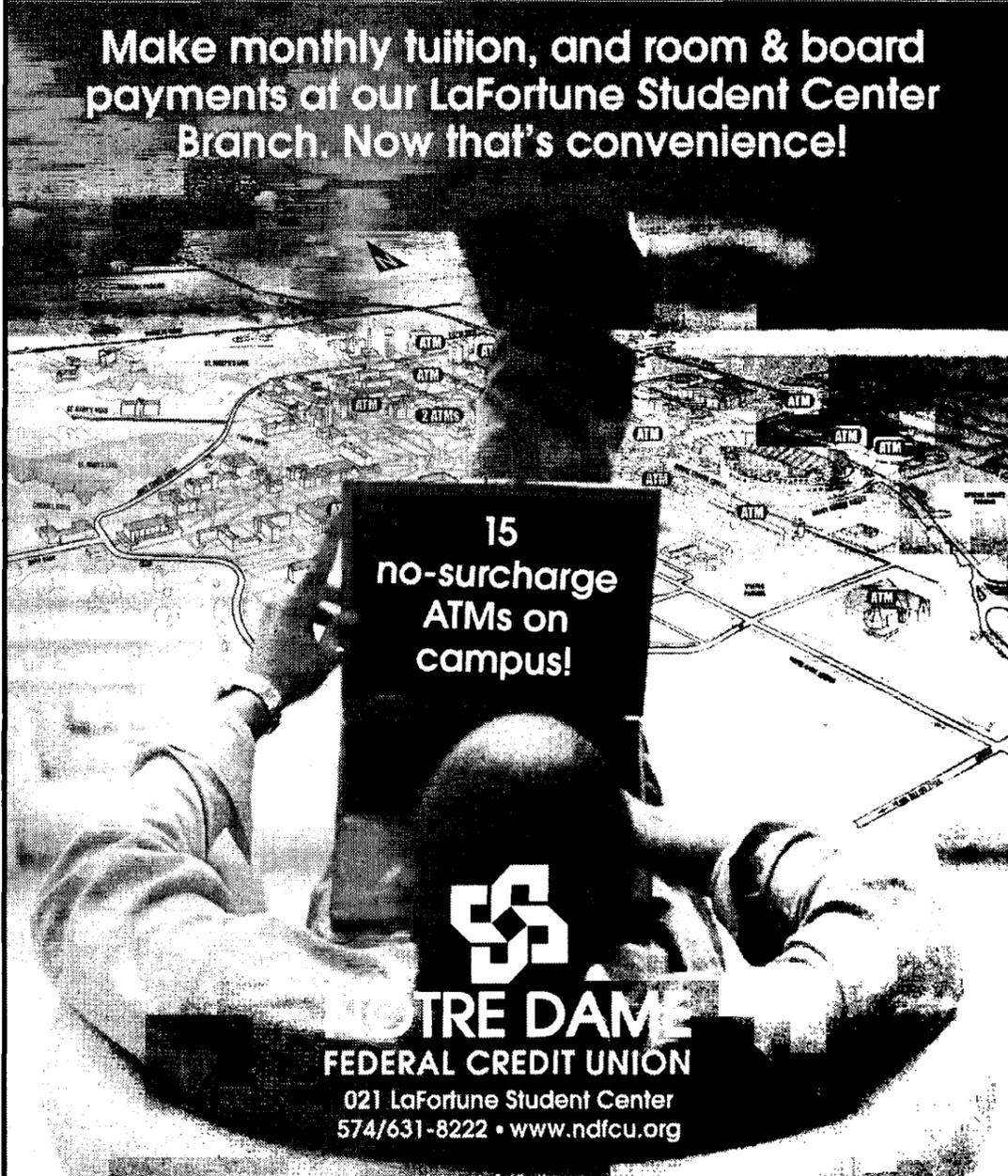
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THE OBSERVER VIEWPOINT

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Friday, January 27, 2006

THE OBSERVER

The Independent, Daily Newspaper Serving Notre Dame and Saint Mary's

P.O. Box 779, Notre Dame, IN 46556
024 South Dining Hall, Notre Dame, IN 46556

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OFFICE MANAGER & GENERAL INFO
(574) 631-7471

FAX

(574) 631-6927

ADVERTISING

(574) 631-6900 observed@nd.edu

EDITOR IN CHIEF

(574) 631-4542

MANAGING EDITOR

(574) 631-4541 obsme@nd.edu

ASSISTANT MANAGING EDITOR

(574) 631-4324

BUSINESS OFFICE

(574) 631-5313

NEWS DESK

(574) 631-5323 obsnews.1@nd.edu

VIEWPOINT DESK

(574) 631-5303 viewpoint.1@nd.edu

SPORTS DESK

(574) 631-4543 sports.1@nd.edu

SCENE DESK

(574) 631-4540 scene.1@nd.edu

SAINT MARY'S DESK

smc.1@nd.edu

PHOTO DESK

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OBSERVER ONLINE
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The news is reported as accurately and objectively as possible. Unsigned editorials represent the opinion of the majority of the Editor in Chief, Managing Editor, Assistant Managing Editors and department editors. Commentaries, letters and columns present the views of the authors and not necessarily those of The Observer.

Viewpoint space is available to all readers. The free expression of all opinions through letters is encouraged. Letters to the Editor must be signed and must include contact information.

Questions regarding Observer policies should be directed to Editor in Chief Claire Heining.

POST OFFICE INFORMATION

The Observer (USPS 599 2-4000) is published Monday through Friday except during exam and vacation periods. A subscription to The Observer is \$100 for one academic year; \$55 for one semester.

The Observer is published at:
024 South Dining Hall
Notre Dame, IN 46556-0779
Periodical postage paid at Notre Dame and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER
Send address corrections to:
The Observer
P.O. Box 779
024 South Dining Hall
Notre Dame, IN 46556-0779

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Make 'conversation' real

He didn't owe us this.

Father John Jenkins doesn't need — and doesn't pretend to seek — majority approval for his stance on academic freedom and Catholic character at Notre Dame. Jenkins earned the consensus he needed to make decisions on April 30, 2004, the day that the Board of Trustees elected him University president.

With the trustees' mandate, the philosopher-priest from Omaha, Neb. could have steered Notre Dame by his will alone.

But this week, in a series of addresses constituting his first major assertion of presidential leadership since he took office on July 1, 2005, Jenkins made a remarkable choice. In opening a University-wide discussion on the complex relationship between Catholic identity and academic freedom, the new president made known his intent to seek input from the Notre Dame community before making decisions of this scale — ostensibly because he truly cares what faculty, students and alumni think.

Whether or not those intentions are authentic — his requests for feedback could merely serve to soften a blow to either Catholicism or academia as a result of a decision that has been long-settled in his mind — Jenkins deserves credit for his bravery in asserting himself so boldly, so alone.

Facing skeptical and even hostile faculty and student audiences, Notre Dame's 17th president proved he is capable of and confident when commanding attention and establishing authority. If there had been any remaining doubt he'd emerged from predecessor Father Edward "Monk" Malloy's 6-foot-4 shadow, Jenkins erased it by his address' third paragraph. Now — with his authority cemented and his request for feedback widely praised — Jenkins must erase all hints he has prematurely made up his mind.

What Notre Dame deserves from Jenkins

One way for him to do so is to supplement his pledge to read all correspondence he receives with another, more interactive mode of receiving feedback — since a legitimate, productive exchange of views doesn't just move in one direction.

The empty phrase "I appreciate your comment" left the president's lips far too often during the faculty question-and-answer session Monday. Tuesday's more meaningful interaction with students — "I like the give and take," Jenkins told The Observer afterward — was a vast improvement, but the session's truncated time allotment and pre-prescribed format still ensured it stopped well short of the debate's potential. Reading letters and e-mails is a good start — and is a decision paved with the right intentions — but Jenkins also needs to talk face-to-face with people who feel passionately on both sides of the academic freedom issue to truly gauge the pulse of Notre Dame.

What's needed, therefore, is a series of at least five open forums offering sit-down meetings with the president and his administrative circle, in alternate small- and large-group settings ranging from dorms to the DeBartolo Center for the Performing Arts. The confident president speaking on stage Monday and Tuesday has no excuse to hide behind a computer screen.

Jenkins' busy schedule also does not justify the absence of such forums. He said he chose to examine the issue of academic freedom and Catholic character out of a sense of duty to the University. Now it's his duty to listen thoroughly, not by cleaning out his inbox but by holding open forums where opinions can be voiced. Private meetings with select groups of students and faculty are another step Jenkins should consider. Students victimized by sexual violence who credit "The Vagina Monologues" with their recovery deserve to witness their president's reaction as they tell him their painful stories. Gay and lesbian students who assume the University is ashamed of them when Jenkins insists on changing the title of the Queer Film Festival deserve to explain to him the snub's significance. And students who have no connection to either "The Vagina Monologues" or the former Queer Film Festival — but have their own unique and valid reasons to feel reassured, dismayed or both by the events' presence on campus — deserve the president's ear amidst the partisan shouting.

Above all, before announcing a decision in favor of or against events he deems inconsistent with Catholic values, Jenkins should make time to actually attend them. Reading a play "a couple times" and disliking its content doesn't begin to compare with witnessing an emotion- and honesty-infused performance. So go see "The Vagina Monologues," Father — surely organizers would reserve you a front-row seat in DeBartolo 101.

Jenkins cannot claim to make an informed decision without seeing the "Monologues" and the film festival this February — and he cannot claim to initiate a University "conversation" about academic freedom and Catholic character without meaningfully participating in it.

What Jenkins deserves from Notre Dame

Students and faculty must also uphold their part of the bargain. Tuesday's student question-and-answer session was an excellent example of the student body's potential to be at once courteous and brave.

This is not an occasion to be apathetic. Jenkins' eventual decision represents much more than whether or not the girl down the hall will be selling tickets for her performance in "The Vagina Monologues," or whether a roommate will need to explain to his grandparents why the words "Queer" and "Festival" once appeared in the title of an academic event at Notre Dame. The outcome of the academic freedom and Catholic character debate could very well determine what — five, 10, 20, 50 years down the road — our Notre Dame diplomas will represent.

Everyone associated with the University has a stake in this decision. And since today's students and faculty are fortunate enough to be here for the conversation, it is their duty to fight for their vision of Notre Dame to be achieved.

We are Notre Dame, and we must engage with Jenkins deeply, respectfully and fearlessly in the "conversation" about what Notre Dame will become.

The
Observer
Editorial

Clarifying The Observer's independence

The Observer did not expect to be mentioned in University President Father John Jenkins' addresses on academic freedom and Catholic character this week. The Observer was pleased to hear Jenkins echo the words of his predecessors by saying, "In its coverage of the news, including issues involving [the] University administration, The Observer has had, and will continue to have, editorial freedom."

However, The Observer wishes to clarify the portion of Jenkins' address pertaining to The Observer's financial relationship with the University, in which he stated the newspaper "is not financially independent from the University" and "because student fees support the operation of The Observer, it has an obligation to serve the entire community in a manner consonant with the ideals of the University."

Funding for The Observer comes from three sources: display, classified and online advertising; mail subscription fees collected by The Observer; and student subscription fees collected each semester by Notre Dame and Saint Mary's. The University and the College collect these fees — which make up between 10 and 15 percent of The Observer's annual funding — from student subscribers as a matter of convenience, and deposit them into The

Observer's account. Neither Notre Dame nor Saint Mary's enjoys any decision-making power over The Observer's budget and finances.

Jenkins said, "The standards of editorial and journalistic practice that we expect at The Observer are those recognized by the most respected newspapers in this country." Indeed, The Observer has implemented and upheld its own stringent editorial and journalistic standards since it was independently founded nearly 40 years ago. The Observer strives for these standards in its service of the University and College communities each day not because the newspaper's partial funding by student subscription fees obligates The Observer to do so, but because the newspaper's goals are to report on the issues and events of both campuses independently, fairly and accurately and to provide forums for the community to express ideas via letters to the editor, columns and advertisements.

In light of Jenkins' description of The Observer as "an important means for student involvement and expression on campus," this newspaper will devote its Viewpoint pages next week as completely as feedback allows toward publishing letters to the editor dealing with the topic of academic freedom and Catholic character at Notre Dame.

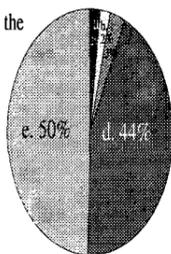
The
Observer
Editorial

OBSERVER POLL

What should Notre Dame do about the Queer Film Festival and the Vagina Monologues?

- a. Other
- b. Keep the Queer Film Festival
- c. Keep the Vagina Monologues
- d. Keep them both
- e. Get rid of both

*Poll appears courtesy of www.ndsmcobserver.com and is based on 737 responses.



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

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Freedom is not worth having if it does not include the freedom to make mistakes."

Mahatma Gandhi
peace activist

How you play the game

Anyone who has ever played a sport is familiar the old adage, "It's not whether you win or lose; it's how you play the game." In my case, this phrase was a recurring theme throughout my athletic career.

Whether it was my 2nd grade gym teacher consoling me after a sub-par performance in pillow polo, my 5th grade basketball coach trying to put yet another heart-breaker into proper perspective, or my uncle telling me to get back on the boat after I had swallowed half the lake while attempting to water ski, I have been constantly reminded that winning is not everything. While these words might be comforting in times of defeat, they are certainly no substitute for victory.

As a result, I am pretty sure that the Notre Dame Men's Basketball team would gladly trade all the talk about their great effort for a win tomorrow. As you know, the Irish have fallen on tough times lately. Still, the resiliency



Molly Acker

Nobody Likes a Dumb Blonde

displayed by the Irish in recent weeks should not go unnoticed. Time and again this season, they have given their all only to come up painfully short at the end of games.

It all started in December with a 2-point loss at home to Michigan and has been followed by a January littered with improbable losses. In roughly a three week span, the Irish have fallen to Pittsburgh in double-overtime, to DePaul and Syracuse in close games, and at Marquette on an improbable last-second shot. However, it was Tuesday evening's excruciating double-overtime loss to Georgetown that really made the close losses noticeable. Once again, the Irish overcame a large deficit and turned the game into a nail-biter, only to end up on the short end again.

It is sometimes hard to believe that there are players on this team who helped Notre Dame reach the Sweet Sixteen of the NCAA Tournament just three years ago. Nowadays, students and fans alike have resorted to taking solace in the fact that the Irish are the best team in the nation with a 1-5 conference record. Even so, our team should continue to hold its head high. They have put forth great effort and

determination thus far, and they are bound to reap the benefits in the near future.

Although the team would rather be graceful winners than losers, the manner in which they have handled their recent slide has been admirable. Neither head coach Mike Brey nor any of the players have pointed fingers or lamented over the fact that they are just one star player away from getting over the hump. In addition, there has been no dissension or off-the-court incidents that have marred struggling teams at other schools in recent years. The never-give-up attitude of this team has been commendable, and we should all be proud of it.

However, this is Big East basketball, not AYSO soccer. There are no orange slices at halftime, and every player does not automatically get a trophy at the end of the season. Simply put, we should expect our team to win. To be sure, the Irish have set an excellent example by handling their tough breaks with dignity, and they deserve our support now more than ever.

Unfortunately, basketball teams aren't awarded points just because they are a bunch of good guys. There is no reason why we should not demand

more of this team. Sixth-ranked Villanova visits the JACC tomorrow, and the game provides the Irish with the perfect opportunity to jump-start the season. In order to pull off the upset, they will not only have to display the same heart and determination that has gotten them so close to victory over the past few weeks, but they will also need to take care of the ball, play better defense and hit a few timely jumpers. In addition, they will need the home crowd to give them a lift and make things difficult for the visiting Wildcats.

So come out tomorrow and help the team turn things around, because all this losing is getting old. Even if we fall short again, let's not forget the great effort that this team has put forth, and remember: Charlie has a great recruiting class coming in, and the Blue Gold game is only three months away. Go Irish!

Molly Acker is a senior communication studies and humanistic studies double major at Saint Mary's. She can be contacted at acke6758@nd.edu

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Interpreting 'academic freedom'

Speech's title deliberately misleading

Father Jenkins' speech on academic freedom on Jan. 23 is a terribly disappointing development in the ongoing war on intellectual development at the University of Notre Dame. For as long as I have been involved with the University, it has suppressed and criticized many manifestations of homosexuality, and has been at best uncomfortable with frank discussions of sexuality and gender issues.

The announcements in regards to the the Vagina Monologues and the Queer Film Festival came as no surprise.

What was disappointing, though, was not these substantive positions, but the thinly disguised propaganda being used as bait to have the University community swallow them. Jenkins' use of the topic of "academic freedom" is a blatantly obvious veil being used to cover up the real substance of the announcement, which is that the University is curtailing public discussion of issues that its leadership finds distasteful.

Only in the most misunderstood sense could suppression of important discussions on homosexuality and female gender issues be interpreted as a frank discussion of academic freedom.

The title of the speech is a red herring and I, for

one, am appalled that Jenkins thinks the University community is so naive as to swallow this cheap tactic. It is a tactic favored by politicians who wish to deceive a doe-eyed and docile public.

However, members of the University community, I fervently hope, are far from doe-eyed and docile. We are intelligent, thoughtful, and capable of analyzing and deciding important issues for ourselves.

Jenkins should have been honest in his speech; he should have announced outright that the University's leadership determined the Vagina Monologues and the Queer Film Festival are inconsistent with the University's Catholic morality. If Jenkins had left it at that, this announcement would have been nothing more than a predictable extension of the University's historical behavior.

However, in its dishonesty and expectation of ignorance from the community, this speech represents a new and devious transgression of Catholic doctrines of honesty and integrity.

James Parrot
 alumnus
 class of 1999
 Jan. 26

Defending Jenkins' message

Thank you Professor Glenn Hender ("The speech that wasn't," Jan. 26) for that very interesting speech that he along with many others wished happened several days ago. It adds much to the ongoing dialogue that will continue throughout the semester. Currently, it seems like it's Father Jenkins vs. the world. I wish it was not so.

Jack Shephard in the show "Lost" states it best, "Everyone wants me to be a leader except when I make a decision they don't like." We all want Jenkins to be a great president. I don't know of anyone that doesn't want him to succeed as the President of Notre Dame. People like Jenkins and Jenkins likes people.

However, whenever he makes an unpopular decision, people are willing to string him up in effigy and curse everything a

simple priest stands for.

As, first and foremost, a Holy Cross priest, Jenkins must stand for the beliefs and ideals of the Catholic Church. It would be a crime to make him deny his very faith in order to appease a crowd. He is not banning anything, rather he is creating opportunities for discussion and opening himself to be criticized. Many leaders wouldn't do that. It takes serious bravery to do that.

Remember that it was only a year ago when people were criticizing him for firing Coach Tyrone Willingham and hiring a man without any major head coaching experience. We all know how that turned out.

Tae Kang
 sophomore
 Keenan
 Jan. 26

Range of views is solution, not problem

Though I understand Father Jenkins' decision not to sponsor "The Vagina Monologues" or the Queer Film Festival on campus, I am truly disappointed. I am a 2004 graduate, attending Stanford Law School. During my time at Notre Dame, I never felt that my ideas (though they are markedly more liberal than those of the Catholic Church) could not be part of a dialogue that was open to the entire University. Although I understand that he is concerned with sponsoring events that directly go against Catholic teaching rather than censoring that material, I do not believe Father

Jenkins would be serving the University community by limiting the ideas that can be presented formally on campus. Unlike racially inflammatory or anti-Semitic ideas, ideas about sexual morality differ widely, even among practicing Catholics. There is a great deal of value to exposing the University community to ideas that differ from Catholic teachings.

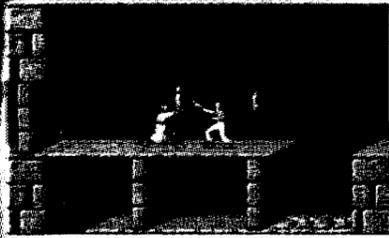
I am reminded of a passage by Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes in *Abrams v. United States* in which he asserts, "[T]he ultimate good desired is better reached by free trade in ideas ... [T]he best test

of truth is the power of the thought to get itself accepted in the competition of the market ... [W]e should be eternally vigilant against attempts to check the expression of opinions that we loath and believe to be fraught with death." Rather than not sponsor these events, it would be advantageous of the University to sponsor events that discuss sexual mores from Catholic teachings, and discuss issues that are challenging to those teachings (e.g. AIDS in Africa).

A better way to address concerns about preserving the Catholic character of Notre Dame might be presenting "The

Vagina Monologues" or the Queer Film Festival as a part of a University symposium on the theology of the body and anthropological/sociological ideas about sex. I truly believe that the remedy to bad speech is more speech, not less. If Notre Dame truly wants to cling to its Catholic character, it will do well to provide a forum for views that differ from Catholic teachings.

Andrea Manka
 alumnus
 class of 2004
 Jan. 26



Prince of Persia (1989)
The original debut on Apple II computer in the late 1980s. A two-dimensional side scroller, the game manages to captivate with leaps of faith, swinging scimitars and the rescue of a beautiful princess, all to the beat of eight bits of graphics.



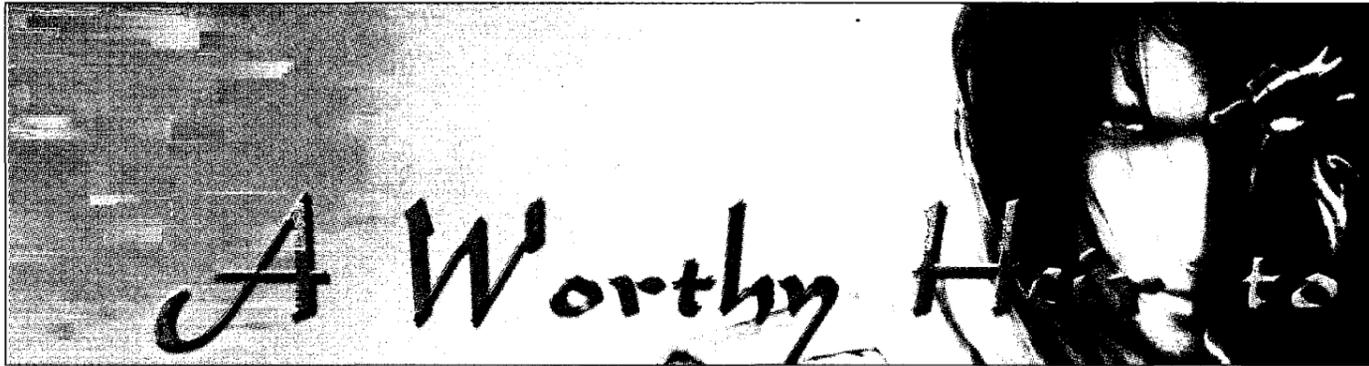
Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time (2003)
The Prince makes his triumphant return in "Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time," making his debut on video game consoles. Released by UBI Soft with revamped graphics, a three-dimensional landscape and a new acrobatic combat system, the Prince proves that the crown still fits.



Prince of Persia: The Warrior Within (2004)
With a new Mature rating to accommodate the increased violence, the Prince manages to shed his boy-wonder image with the release of "Prince of Persia: The Warrior Within." On the run from the dreaded Dahaka, an ancient guardian of the timeline, the Prince travels to the Island of Time, where he meets the beautiful Empress and tries to change his destiny.



Prince of Persia: The Two Thrones (2005)
The Prince returns to Babylon to find a ruler who has turned evil. He must rescue a princess and struggle with a menacing menace in order to restore the way of life in his rightful place atop the Two Thrones.



'PRINCE OF PERSIA' THROUGH THE AGES

By TAE ANDREWS
Scene Writer

With the new release of the latest installment of the reincarnated "Prince of Persia" series, more than a few fans have waxed nostalgic about the countless hours they spent glued to their Apple II computer monitors while playing the original game. Like so many great video game origin stories, the creation narrative of "Prince of Persia" begins with a rather nerdy young man with a lot of free time. Creator Jordan Mechner watched hours of film of his brother running and jumping in order to best encapsulate realistic human movement.

Using a process known as rotoscoping, Mechner went frame-by-frame through the live-action footage of his brother moving around and traced his outline in order to capture human movement in a highly realistic way (for the time). This same technique was used to great effect in the creation of the original Star Wars trilogy, where animators used rotoscoping to create the phosphorescent glow of the lightsaber blades.

First released in 1989 by the software company Broderbund, "Prince of Persia" was a side-scrolling, two-dimensional game with eight-bit graphics played on now-fossilized Apple II personal computers. Fans of the old-school version will fondly remember swinging swords at malevolent skeletons, dodging spike traps and drinking potion bottles filled with various elixirs. The old-school version of "Prince of Persia" required the player to rescue a beautiful princess from an evil vizier (sound familiar?). The catch was that the game was played in real time, so that after one hour elapsed, the game ended.

"Prince of Persia" was released to a variety of computer and video game platforms throughout the late '80s and early '90s, including DOS, Apple Computer, NES, Game Boy, Super Nintendo and Sega Genesis. However, after the uneventful release of the game for the unsuccessful

Sega Dreamcast console, the franchise fell upon dark days. Diehard fans feared that the series was over, that their beloved Prince had swung his last sword and dodged his last spiketrapp.

Enter the dawn of the third millennium. In 2003, the videogame developer Ubisoft decided to pick up the flagging series and released a new installment—"Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time." The company faced a decidedly difficult challenge: how to reinvent the game for a new crop of videogame buffs now expecting spectacular three-dimensional graphics and fast-paced gameplay. Suffice it to say, UBI Soft more than answered the bell, putting out the 2003 release of "Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time" for Xbox, PlayStation 2 and Nintendo Gamecube.

Complete with 128 bits (for the math majors out there, that's a 16-fold increase) of pure three-dimensional glory, the new reincarnation of the game managed to keep the emphasis on puzzle-solving and sense of adventure inspired by the original, while adding a few new features of its own, such as the time-travel element and more complex environmental challenges.

The improved technology is not the only revamped aspect of the game, as the plots of the newest installments have developed to match the series' visual brilliance. In "Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time," the Prince defeats the evil Vizier and rewinds time, restoring tranquil peace to his kingdom of Babylon.

However, in the sequel "Prince of Persia: The Warrior Within," this changing of the timeline incurs the wrath of the dreaded Dahaka, a time-travelling monster resembling the Balrog from "Lord of the Rings." Having defeated the Dahaka and saved the beautiful Empress of Time, Kaileena, the Prince finds himself in one last battle to save his hometown of Babylon.

By resurrecting this franchise, UBI Soft has managed to create a gaming experience every bit as innovative and revolutionary as its predecessor, but for a whole new generation of 21st-century gamers.

Contact Tae Andrews at tandrew1@nd.edu



The Prince, the titular hero of UBI Soft's acclaimed series, takes justice into his own hands and dispatches enemies with his trademark weapon, the Dagger of Time.

'THE TWO THRONES' H

By TAE ANDREWS
Scene Critic

Using the proven philosophy "ain't broke, don't fix it," "Prince of Persia: The Two Thrones" retains the time-travel antics that made the first two installments of the series enjoyable, while at the same time throwing in a few new wrinkles that even Madeleine L'Engle never see coming.

One of the game aspects that the "Prince of Persia" series is fun to play is its concept of time. The Dagger of Time, (easily the most useful time-travel device this side of Hermione Granger's Time-Turner, perhaps even that most exalted of travel devices, the flux capacitor) Prince is able to rewind time down or even speed it up. All done with the same ease on which you handle an iPod clickwheel. By best part of the dagger is its feature, allowing you to rewind time and you lead the Prince into certain.

The game introduces the new Kill system, which allows you to up on enemies and bushwhack with a series of creative finishing moves. In fact, the Prince's Speed Kills are stealthy and lethal, you may find yourself wondering if you are playing "Prince of Persia" or the "Ninja Gaiden." The Prince's new skills as an assassin easily trump those of his video-game rivals, such as the vengeful hero from "Ninja Gaiden."

All the fun of the first two installments returns here as well; the Prince maintains a healthy disdain for the conventional laws of physics. Run through walls, make death-defying leaps, yawn yawning chasms, and generally do the impossible, all by Reggie Bush and Spider-Man.

The storyline of The Two Thrones again manages to wrap itself around the classic time paradox in new creative ways. This time around



The Dark Prince, the lead character in the latest installment of the action-adventure series, is a more menacing incarnation of the action-adventure hero.



Graphics by MATT HUDSON/The Observer

HOLDS ROYAL COURT

Prince returns to Babylon, only to find it in flames. A plot twist reveals that, by undoing time itself in a previous adventure, the Prince unknowingly resurrected his nemesis, the Vizier (think Jaffar from "Aladdin"), who is back at his evil antics.

Even worse, the Prince now suffers from a split-personality disorder, a result of some dark magic by that nefarious Vizier. A separate consciousness, the evil Dark Prince, has taken up residence inside the Prince's mind.

Periodically, the heroic Prince will go Anakin Skywalker and turn towards the Dark Side, transforming into the Dark Prince. This will require traversing through key passages as the shadier alter-ego. While vacillating between the Prince and the Dark Prince may be a captivating bipolar experience rivaled only by the Smeagol/Gollum relationship, the Dark Prince is a mixed bag in terms of his gameplay appeal.

Using his vicious whip-like Daggertail weapon, the Dark Prince is much more proficient at combat than his better half. In fact, gamers will find themselves cutting down swaths of monsters and flagellating enemies into easy submission. However, the evil which burns within the Dark Prince is so corrosive that it perpetually eats away at his life force, effectively making him into the equivalent of a video-game SUV. The passages where it is required to play as the gas-guzzling Dark Prince are rather stressful, as they require a vigilant eye on the ever-dwindling health bar.

One of the best aspects of "Prince of Persia" is its sense of romantic adventure. The player explores the game's magnificent levels at a leisurely pace.

Playing as the Dark Prince doesn't afford the gamer any time to enjoy the beautifully-designed levels. All in all, the darker half turns out to be a major headache in more than a few ways.

Once again, the game's levels are beautifully crafted. Traipsing across and over the various rooftops and alleyways of Babylon brings to mind the adventures of Aladdin, to the point where you may find yourself periodically wondering, "Where's Abu?" In fact, there are many parallels to the world of Aladdin: an evil vizier, a beautiful female companion, and the whole sand-scuttlers-scarabs motif.

However, whereas "Aladdin" inspires a sense of picaresque adventure, of stealing cantaloupes and out-running inept, potbellied guards with pet monkey in tow, the mood is definitely much darker in "Prince of Persia: The Two Thrones" and the stakes much higher. Thankfully, there isn't a blue jinni voiced by Robin Williams who periodically breaks out into song and dance. In fact, the game's adult themes are hardcore enough to warrant a decidedly un-Disneylike M-for-Mature rating for the title.

"Prince of Persia" is also a thinking man's game; far from being a simpleton's hack 'em up exercise in mere swordplay, the latest installment requires you to come up with innovative solutions and solve puzzles in order to make your way around town.

"Prince of Persia: The Two Thrones" is back and better than ever. The only question remaining is but a slight variation on the query once posed by hip-hop group Naughty by Nature: "You down with POP?" Yeah, you know me.

Prince of Persia: The Two Thrones



Developer: UBI Soft
Systems: PS2, Xbox, GameCube, PC
Release date: Dec. 1, 2005

Contact Tae Andrews at tandrew1@nd.edu

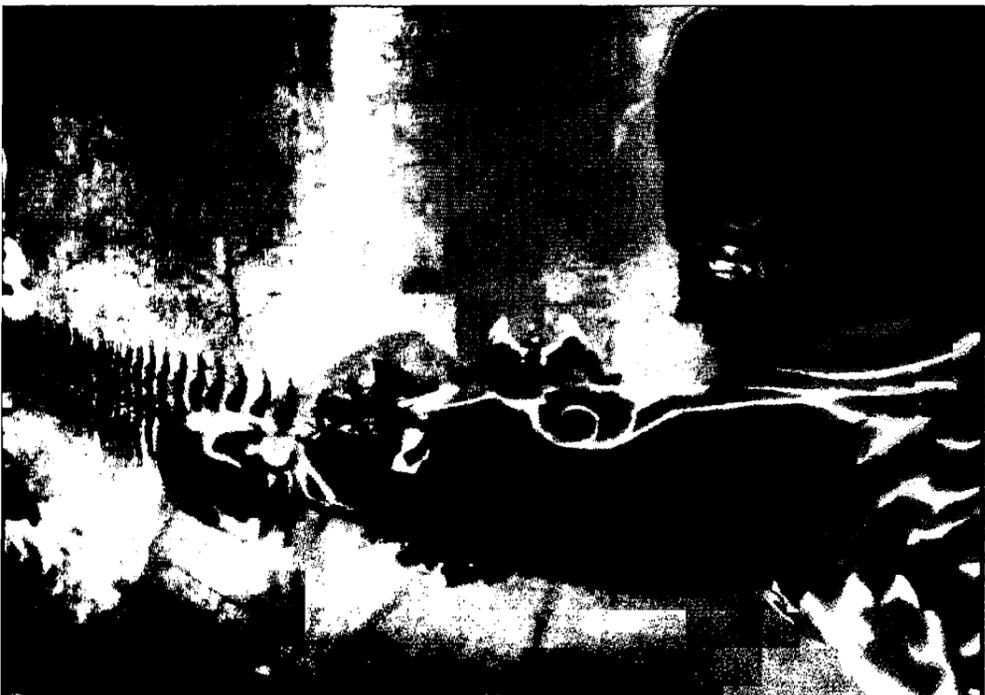


Photo courtesy of gamespot.com

Character's tainted doppelganger, is lethally efficient with his Daggertail weapon. The last feature series, "Prince of Persia: The Two Thrones," was released last December.

NOTRE DAME'S BEST... *Study Spots*

BY OBSERVER PHOTO STAFF



On the downside, you're on the thirteenth floor. On the upside, it can't be that unlucky up here surrounded by theology books: Father Hesburgh's office is right down the hall.



Its library may not boast millions of volumes or Touchdown Jesus, but Bond Hall is a favorite of architecture students who call it "the only co-ed dorm on campus."



Easy chairs, roaring fires and free caffeine: everyone swears by the Hammes lounge in Coleman-Morse - except when evicted by one of the unpredictable events which the lounge also hosts.

For next week: Where are the best hiding spots on campus? Send your suggestions to obsphoto@nd.edu.

NBA

Garrity's season-best leads Magic over Sixers

Miami comeback falls short against Phoenix, 107-98; Nowitzki scores 29 as Mavericks beat SuperSonics, 104-97

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — With key 3-pointers early and late, Pat Garrity enjoyed his best game of the season. No one on Orlando is hitting shots like Hedo Turkoglu.

Together, the duo has the Magic on a roll they don't want to end.

"We hit really big shots, I did, Pat did, everybody did," Turkoglu said. "We have to take the winning streak further. It's really big for us to have a team effort like we did tonight."

Garrity opened overtime with consecutive 3-pointers and scored a season-high 24 points, Turkoglu had 25, and the Magic beat the Philadelphia 76ers for their season-high fifth straight win.

Keyon Dooling sank the go-ahead free throws with 1:08 left in overtime and had 18 points. Dwight Howard had 22 to help Orlando run off its longest winning streak since it won six straight in 2002. The Magic won their second straight road game after losing their previous eight.

Orlando seems to have put

aside the distraction of Steve Francis' two-game suspension for refusing to re-enter a blowout game and will try to extend its streak Friday at New York.

Turkoglu has sparked the turnaround for the Magic, scoring 104 points on 35-for-64 shooting (55 percent) in the last four games.

"I think the key to the win streak is people going through a lot of drama like we were and then just finally saying, 'Let's just push that all aside,'" Garrity said. "Sometimes a little adversity brings people closer together and maybe that's the case here."

Allen Iverson, who appeared to hurt his ankle in the final minute of regulation, scored 38 points and had 15 assists, and Chris Webber used a big second half to finish with 32 points and 11 rebounds for the Sixers, who had their three-game winning streak snapped.

Like almost every Sixers home game, this one came down to the final baskets.

Iverson, who was not on the court for the Sixers' final shot of the fourth, returned for over-

time and did not seem affected by any possible injury. Iverson drove to the hoop for two layups after Garrity's 3s, then, after an Orlando basket, hit a jumper that made it 111-109.

Webber converted a three-point play with 1:13 left that tied the score at 113. Dooling, though, made the foul shots and Howard added a wide-open dunk when no Sixers player blocked him out for a 117-113 lead.

Phoenix 107, Miami 98

Raja Bell and James Jones always enjoy playing in Miami. And the rest of the Phoenix Suns, well, they seem to thrive anywhere against the Heat.

Bell and Jones — a pair of South Florida natives — combined for 42 points, Steve Nash had 21 points and 14 assists, and Phoenix blew most of a 21-point second-half lead before beating Miami.

"You always want to do your best at home," said Bell, who had 22 points and a critical four-point play late in the third quarter to aid a 14-2 run by the Suns. "When I came out for warmups, I got a chill."

That was the closest anybody on Phoenix's roster came to being cold.

The Suns were only 24-of-58 from 2-point range, but hit 13 of 24 tries from 3-point range and connected on 20 of 21 free-throw attempts — helping them sweep the two-game season series with Miami.

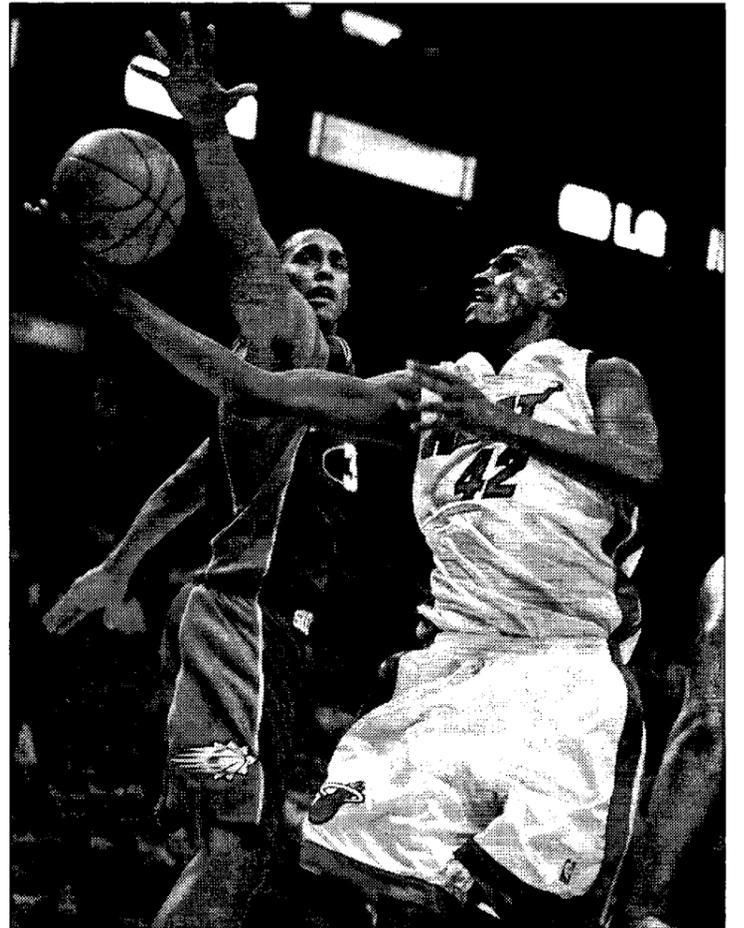
"We don't have an answer for that team and right now, we don't have a defensive game for it," Heat coach Pat Riley said. "I think you have to play against them probably four, five, six times to realize exactly what it is that you need to do to try to stop them."

Phoenix led by 21 early in the third and saw that margin whittled to five with 4:15 left after Dwyane Wade hit a pair of free throws to get Miami within 98-93. But Nash hit a 3-pointer on Phoenix's next possession, then added a three-point play about a minute later to ensure the Suns would snap a two-game losing streak.

Dallas 104, Seattle 97

Dirk Nowitzki scored 29 points and reserve Jerry Stackhouse added 21 as the Dallas Mavericks closed the most successful road trip in franchise history by beating the Seattle SuperSonics.

Nowitzki added 12 rebounds and was 10-for-11 at the free



James Posey of the Miami Heat drives past Phoenix Suns forward Boris Diaw in Phoenix's 107-98 win Thursday.



Seattle SuperSonics forward Robert Swift grabs a rebound over Dallas Mavericks' forward Dirk Nowitzki in Dallas' 104-97 win Thursday.

throw line, making up for an 8-for-22 shooting performance.

Dallas won its seventh straight overall and finished a 5-0 trip. The Mavs had never won five games in any of their 34 road trips of five games or more.

Dallas has not lost since a 117-115 overtime defeat at New York on Jan. 11.

Jason Terry added 20 points for the Mavericks, who pulled even with San Antonio in the Southwest Division at 33-10.

Rashard Lewis led Seattle with 36 points, but he was stripped by Terry with 1:30 left and Seattle trailing 99-95. Lewis then fouled Stackhouse at the other end, and Stackhouse made both free throws to put Dallas ahead 101-95.

Nowitzki added a jumper with 58 seconds left.

Ray Allen added 25 points for Seattle, but was just 3-for-11 in the second half and missed six straight shots at one point. His only points of the fourth quarter came with 47 seconds remaining.

Down by 11 in the third quarter, Seattle slowly chipped away with a series of short scoring

bursts. The Sonics closed the quarter and started the fourth on a 12-4 run to get within 80-78. Dallas went back ahead by eight, 88-80 on Nowitzki's 3-pointer as the shot clock expired with 7:23 left.

Again, Seattle rallied, this time getting to 90-89 on Mikki Moore's basket with 4:43 left. Dallas scored the next five, but Moore scored again to draw Seattle within 95-93. Stackhouse then scored on a driving layup over Moore and Johan Petro and was fouled. The three-point play gave Dallas a 98-93 lead with 2:32 left.

Seattle suited up just nine players and only eight played. Moore started in place of Vladimir Radmanovic and Ronald Murray started for Luke Ridnour.

Radmanovic sprained his right foot Wednesday night in Utah and Ridnour sprained his left knee in the same game. Ridnour had been averaging 18.5 points over his last seven games.

Murray finished with 10 points. Damien Wilkins added 11 off the bench.

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Dan, go back to your hole in the desert.

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AROUND THE NATION

Friday, January 27, 2006

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

page 17

NBA

Eastern Conference, Atlantic Division

team	record	pct.	GB
New Jersey	22-18	.550	-
Philadelphia	21-20	.512	1.5
Boston	17-25	.405	6
New York	13-27	.325	9
Toronto	14-29	.326	9.5

Eastern Conference, Central Division

team	record	pct.	GB
Detroit	35-5	.875	-
Cleveland	23-17	.575	12
Indiana	21-20	.512	14.5
Milwaukee	21-20	.512	14.5
Chicago	18-23	.439	17.5

Eastern Conference, Southeast Division

team	record	pct.	GB
Miami	25-17	.595	-
Washington	19-21	.475	5
Orlando	17-22	.436	6.5
Atlanta	11-29	.275	13
Charlotte	11-32	.256	14.5

Western Conference, Northwest Division

team	record	pct.	GB
Denver	25-19	.568	-
Utah	21-22	.488	3.5
Minnesota	19-21	.475	4
Seattle	17-24	.415	6.5
Portland	14-26	.350	9

Western Conference, Pacific Division

team	record	pct.	GB
Phoenix	26-15	.658	-
LA Clippers	23-16	.590	2
LA Lakers	22-19	.537	4
Golden State	19-22	.463	7
Sacramento	18-24	.429	8.5

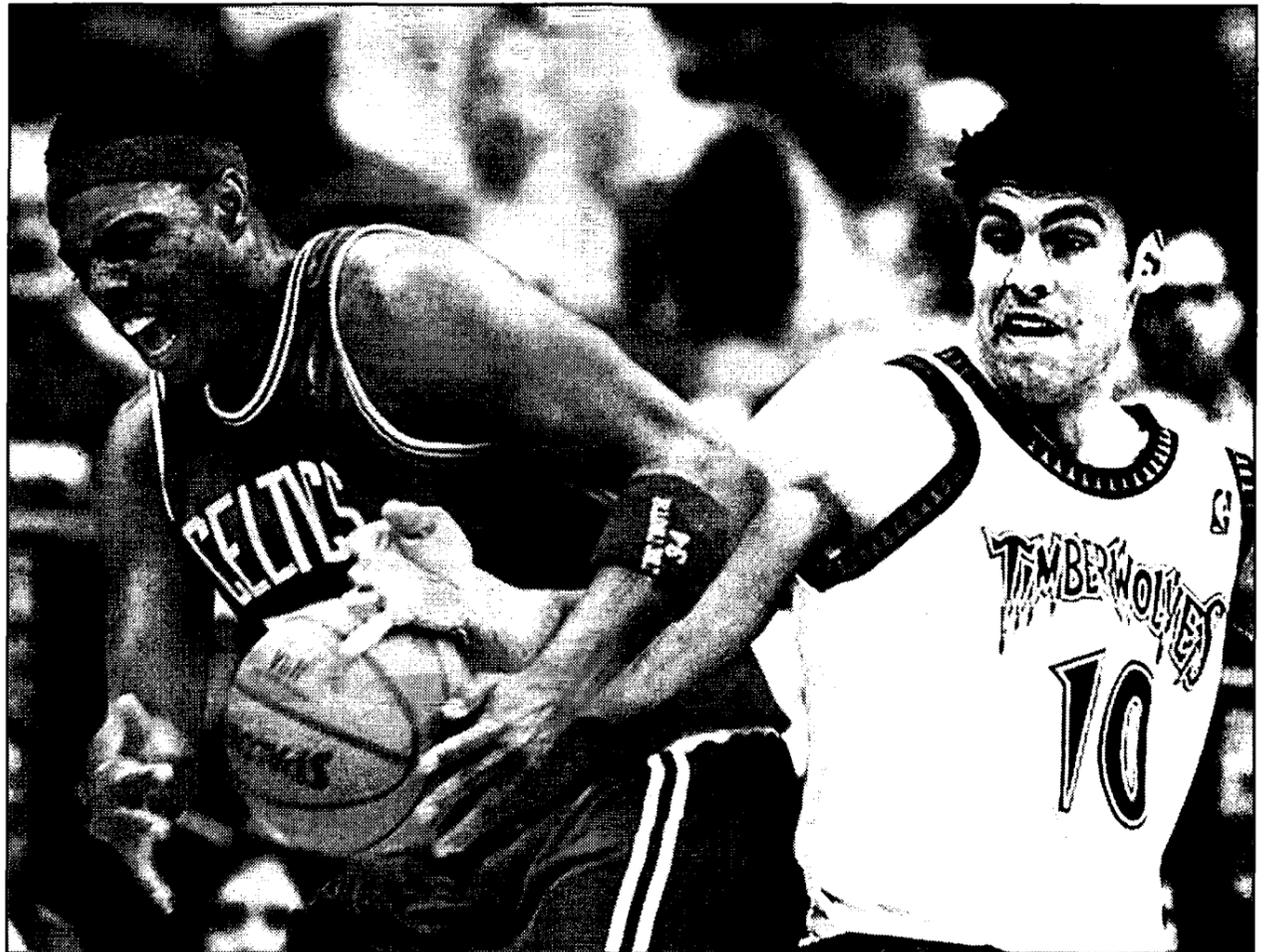
Western Conference, Southwest Division

team	record	pct.	GB
San Antonio	33-10	.767	-
Dallas	32-10	.762	0.5
Memphis	25-16	.610	7
New Orleans	20-22	.476	12.5
Houston	15-26	.366	17

Women's Tennis Top 25

	team		team
1	Stanford	14	Duke
2	Florida	15	TCU
3	UT-Austin	16	Clemson
4	Georgia Tech	17	Clifsonia
5	USC	18	Harvard
6	Northwestern	18	Tennessee
7	Georgia	20	William and Mary
8	Vanderbilt	21	BYU
9	Baylor	22	South Carolina
10	Miami (FL)	23	NOTRE DAME
11	North Carolina	24	Wake Forest
12	UCLA	25	Washington
13	Kentucky		

NBA



Minnesota Timberwolves forward Wally Szczerbiak fouls the Boston Celtics' Paul Pierce during the third quarter of the Celtics' 103-100 win in Minneapolis on Feb. 6, 2005. Szczerbiak was traded to the Celtics for multiple players.

Timberwolves ship Szczerbiak to Boston

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — The struggling Minnesota Timberwolves shook up their roster Thursday night, sending swingman Wally Szczerbiak to the Boston Celtics for guard Ricky Davis in an exchange involving seven players and three draft picks.

Davis, Mark Blount, Marcus Banks, Justin Reed and two conditional second-round draft picks are coming to Minnesota, and in exchange the Celtics are getting Szczerbiak, Michael Olowokandi and

Dwayne Jones and a future first-round draft pick, the teams announced.

The Wolves had been involved in trade speculation for weeks, with both Szczerbiak and Olowokandi frequently being mentioned in rumors. They were in need of a spark after losing their last two games by 20 points or more, and finally made their move Thursday after a 107-87 loss to Memphis, their third straight defeat.

"Through this trade, we've become a much more athletic team," Timberwolves vice presi-

dent of basketball operations Kevin McHale said in a statement. "With Ricky Davis, we've added one of the more talented shooting guards in the NBA — both on the offensive and defensive ends of the court. Plus, with Davis and Trenton Hassell together on the court, we'll have a great defensive presence at the 2-3 positions."

McHale planned a conference call for reporters Thursday night.

"It was a tough decision to trade Wally," McHale said in the statement. "He has been the ultimate professional and a very good

player for us through the years. I wish him nothing but the best of luck with the rest of his NBA career."

The Celtics said they were glad to get Szczerbiak.

"We are ecstatic to acquire a player of Wally Szczerbiak's quality to complement Paul Pierce and our young talent base," said Danny Ainge, the Celtics' executive director of basketball operations. "In Wally we are receiving an All-Star player who is playoff tested and who has been a winner at all levels."

around the dial

FRIDAY

TENNIS

2006 Australian Open Women's Final
9:30 p.m., ESPN2

NBA

Cleveland at Indiana 7 p.m., ESPN
LA Clippers at Denver 9 p.m., ESPN

GOLF

Buick Invitational Second Round
3:00 p.m., USA

SATURDAY

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Kansas at Iowa State 12 p.m., ESPN
Cincinnati at Georgetown 12 p.m., ESPN2
Arizona at North Carolina 1 p.m., CBS
Villanova at NOTRE DAME 6 p.m., ESPN2

IN BRIEF

Jobe, Levett top leaderboard at Buick Invitational

SAN DIEGO — Coming off one of the longest breaks in his career, Tiger Woods might get another one sooner than he would like.

Woods went south on the easier North Course at Torrey Pines, hitting only one fairway and having to scramble for a birdie on his final hole for a 1-under 71 on Thursday in the Buick Invitational. That left him six shots behind Brandt Jobe and Thomas Levett, but he will be around the cut line Friday playing the South Course, which was four strokes harder.

"The driver is fine," Woods said about a new Nike driver in his bag. "It's the dude holding it."

First-round scores are never more misleading than at the Buick Invitational, with one course that plays like a pitch-and-putt at 6,874 yards and the other that will host the U.S. Open in two years.

Jobe made seven birdies all but one

of them outside 15 feet — for a 7-under 65 and was joined atop the leaderboard by Levett, who also played a bogey-free round.

Baghdatis defeats four-seed Nalbandian at Aussie Open

MELBOURNE, Australia — Unseeded Marcos Baghdatis extended his remarkable run at the Australian Open, rallying Thursday to beat No. 4 David Nalbandian 3-6, 5-7, 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 and reach the final.

With the crowd screaming support, the 54th-ranked Baghdatis guaranteed that he will more than double his career winnings. He will play the winner of Friday's semifinal between top-seeded Roger Federer and No. 21 Nicolas Pietrangeli.

Baghdatis, a former world junior champion from Cyprus, was serving for the match at 15-15 when rain began pouring down, forcing organizers to close the roof on Rod Laver Arena.

After workers towed off the surface, the 20-year-old Baghdatis

missed his first match point on a backhand that was ruled long.

Thomas frustrated with White Sox' conduct

OAKLAND, Calif. — As determined as Frank Thomas is to move forward with his new team in Oakland, there's still some lingering frustration about how he parted ways with the Chicago White Sox.

Thomas claims he never received a courtesy call from team officials to tell him he was no longer in their plans after 16 seasons. Not to mention no end-of-the-season physical to evaluate his health.

And Thomas, the Athletics' new designated hitter, seriously doubts he'll make the trip to Washington for Chicago's celebratory White House visit with President Bush — because that would just be too awkward.

During last month's winter meetings in Dallas, the White Sox declined to offer him salary arbitration, ending a 16-year relationship between Thomas and his only major league team.

TORINO GAMES

Freestyle skiing, snowboarding draw fans

Associated Press

Count on the high-flying Olympic fledglings of freestyle skiing and snowboarding to produce a "Hurricane" that Americans actually are eager to see.

It's among the latest innovations by a U.S. competitor — this time aerial skier Jeret "Speedy" Peterson, who hopes that landing his quintuple-twisting triple back flip will also land him atop the podium during the Turin Games.

"I've landed four of the five I've done, although the one I did not land I almost had to get carried off the hill," Peterson says. "There really is no room for error when you're up 55 feet in the air — doing five twists."

Ever since their Olympic introduction in the 1990s, freestyle skiing and snowboarding have showcased the talents of the young Americans who grow up on the slopes, looking to express themselves with creative, flashy and often daring tricks.

Snowboarding was invented in the United States, while America helped pioneer freestyle competitions in moguls

and aeriels. But while the world is catching up in American-made sports such as basketball, the U.S. freestyle and snowboarding teams sense an opportunity to improve their already strong Olympic results from years past against an international field that held its own in the early editions of these events.

"The U.S. is one of the best supporters of these sports," says Joe Pack, a 2002 aeriels silver medalist. "We get all the opportunities to train at a high level. Combine a daredevil mentality with the best training and best coaches and you will pull off some amazing stuff. It's why other countries come to the U.S. to use our facilities and train under our conditions."

In the last two Olympics, moguls gold medalist Jonny Moseley accomplished a pair of firsts in competition. His 360 mute grab (a full spin while crossing skis and grabbing a ski edge with one hand) helped him win gold in Nagano. In the 2002 Salt Lake City Games, his "Dinner Roll," a sort of horizontal spin, thrilled spectators and reset the bar in that sport,

although judges were less enthralled and he finished fourth.

Meanwhile, American snowboarders continue to lead the evolution of the halfpipe by executing moves with names like the "Kasserole Flip," the signature move of 2002 silver medalist Danny Kass. Kass was part of the U.S. trio that swept the medals in men's halfpipe that year. He'll be back again, having perfected a "switch alley-oop backside rodeo," in which he glides up the wall of the halfpipe going backward and launches into a flip and backward spin.

He'll be joined on the U.S. team by halfpipe prodigy Shaun White, called the "Flying Tomato" because his long, bright-red hair flows from the edges of his helmet. White, also a skateboarding star, comes to Turin on the heels of an unprecedented sweep of the five-event U.S. Grand Prix that was used to decide the American halfpipe snowboarding roster.

U.S. snowboard coach Bud Keene says he's never seen anything like White, who impresses judges with a mix of soaring, cutting-edge tricks and graceful execution of more common moves that many competitors would consider passe in this still-evolving sport.



U.S. snowboarder Shaun White performs a maneuver in the halfpipe in the Snowboard FIS World Cup at Lake Placid, N.Y.

His relatively basic frontside 540 (rotating 540 degrees off his frontside wall) "is so good, it's pure art," Keene says.

The Olympic debut of snowboardcross — an event that features heat races down a jump-

laden course with banked turns — will showcase defending world champions Lindsey Jacobellis (of the ubiquitous Visa check card TV commercials) and Seth Wescott, both Americans.

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TORINO GAMES

Inoue and Baldwin win at Four Continents

Associated Press

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — Rena Inoue and John Baldwin are going to the Turin Olympics as gold medalists.

Inoue and Baldwin won the pairs title at Four Continents on Thursday. It wasn't their best performance, but their program was packed with enough difficult elements to win. Inoue and Baldwin finished with 168.89 points, almost 12 points ahead of U t a k o Wakamatsu and Jean-Sebastien Fecteau of Canada.

"We're glad we came here,"

Inoue said. "We got a lot of stuff out of this competition. We had some improvements in the short program. In the long, definitely the [U.S. championships] was a lot better, but we're just going to work harder when we get home."

Earlier Thursday, Tanith Belbin and Ben Agosto increased their lead in the dance competition despite a rare deduction. Their overall score of 97.51 points was almost 14 ahead of fellow Americans Morgan Matthews and Maxim Zavozin, a virtual chasm in the standings.

"We'd rather it be here than at the Olympics," Belbin said. "So in that respect, it's good."

The women's short program was still to go Thursday night.

Inoue and Baldwin made history in winning their second national title earlier this month, becoming the first couple in the world to land the throw triple axel, the difficult 3 1/2-revolution jump. They weren't even close Thursday, as she landed on the edge of her skate and fell flat on her stomach.

"I thought everything was good, but I think I started leaning forward," she said. "Next time, I'll try to think about keeping it back and straight."

That wasn't the couple's only problem, though. He doubled their side-by-side triple toe loop jumps, and she botched their throw triple loop.

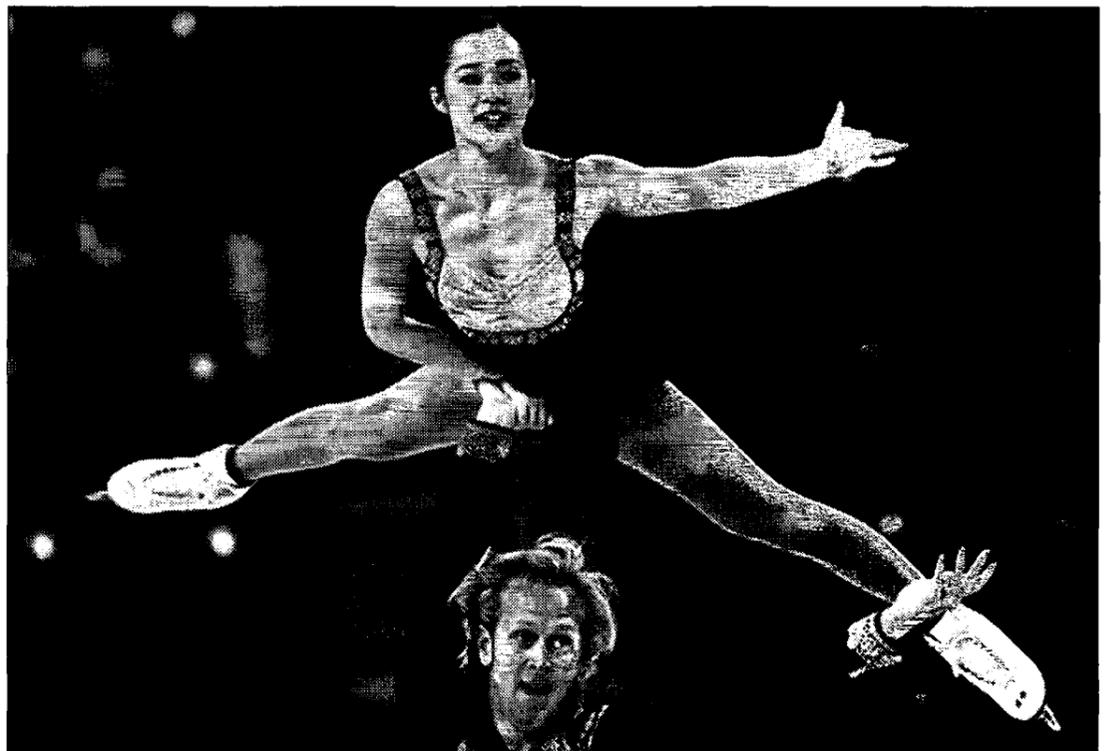
But the difficulty of their other elements topped Wakamatsu and Fecteau, who scored 156.93 points. Canadians Elizabeth Putnam and Sean Wirtz were third.

Marcy Hinzmann and Aaron Parchem, the United States' other Olympic pairs team, finished fourth after botching their third lift. He got her above his head but couldn't hold her, and she swung wildly back to the ice. She landed on her feet, but they still got deductions.

With the Turin Olympics only two weeks away, many skaters opted to pass on Four Continents. None of the women on the U.S. Olympic team is here, and Canada sent its up-and-comers.

"We'd rather [lose] here than at the Olympics."

Tanith Belbin
Figure skater



Rena Inoue and John Baldwin execute a lift in the Pairs free skate on Thursday. The U.S. duo won the title en route to a spot in the Olympics.

But Belbin and Agosto wanted one more chance to test out their programs.

"We need to weed out all of those problems before the Olympics," she said.

Judges gave them Level 3s for some of their elements instead of the Level 4s they're used to seeing, and they were penalized a full point for an extended lift. Lifts can go a maximum of 6 seconds, and a penalty is given if they go over.

"We can find out what [the

problem] is and tighten it up," Belbin said. "It's what we came for, really."

Even with the deduction, Belbin and Agosto were in a class by themselves. Their program — a mix of rumba, salsa and cha cha — was both steamy and fun, something you'd be more likely to find at a hip club than a staid figure skating competition.

They had great speed and interesting lifts, and their unison was far superior to anyone else.

"Being in our home country allows a certain comfort level," Belbin said. "We feel like we can let loose a little more."

Matthews and Zavozin were second with 83.73 points, and Canada's Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir were third with 83.29.

The other U.S. team, Jamie Silverstein and Ryan O'Meara, remained fifth in the overall standings even though she took a belly flop during their footwork.

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Klug fights for place on snowboarding team

Associated Press

DENVER — The fight is much different for Chris Klug this time around.

Four years ago, it was life and death, an inspirational return from a liver transplant, followed by a trip to the Olympics, where he incredibly and improbably left with a bronze medal.

This time, it's a much less dramatic, but still pressing, matter — the matter of earning a trip back to the Olympics that he feels he's been unfairly denied.

Klug spent nearly nine hours in a hearing with U.S. Olympic Committee arbitrators Thursday, stating his case that he belongs on the 16-member U.S. snowboarding team that will be in Turin next month.

"I'm optimistic," Klug said as he awaited the start of the hearing. "I think they'll go by the criteria and things will work out fine."

The meeting ended in the evening. Klug's agent, Peter Carlisle, didn't immediately return a message seeking comment.

Precisely how the criteria is interpreted by the arbitrators will determine whether Klug goes or his spot is taken by Tyler Jewell, the man tabbed last Friday by the U.S. Ski and

Snowboard Association to go as the country's lone male parallel giant slalom racer.

A decision is expected Friday. The USOC must finalize its Olympic roster and turn it into the IOC no later than next Monday.

The arbitrators have an interesting task in front of them and there doesn't appear to be a clear-cut answer.

According to selection criteria spelled out on the USSA Web site, up to two parallel giant slalom racers per gender can be nominated to the team if they have a top-four finish in the previous World Cup season.

No Americans fit that criteria, so the next step in the process calls for one athlete per gender to be selected using an average of their top two World Cup results from the season.

The question being decided is exactly what the word "result" means.

Klug's top two finishes are 15th and 16th, for an average of 15.5.

Jewell's top two finishes are ninth and 24th for an average of 16.5.

But in World Cup events, there is also a weighted points system.

Klug's two finishes were worth 310 points, for an average of 155.

NHL

Lightning defeat visiting Devils 1-0 in overtime

Sabres topple Maple Leafs, Senators shut out lowly Canadiens

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Tampa Bay's Ruslan Fedotenko flicked the puck and hoped for the best.

"I'll be honest, I just threw the puck on the net," the right wing said after his goal with 2:38 left in overtime gave the Lightning a victory over New Jersey and spoiled another stellar performance by Devils goalie Martin Brodeur.

Fedotenko took a pass from Nolan Pratt in the lower right circle and scored only after he was unable to feed Brad Richards in the high slot.

The winner came less than 2 minutes after Brodeur stopped Vincent Lecavalier from point-blank range to keep the Devils in the game.

"I tried to pass and they covered everything, so I just threw the puck on the net," Fedotenko repeated. "I didn't even look where the goalie was."

John Grahame made 20 saves for his third shutout in his last five starts. The Lightning are 4-0-1 during that stretch, and Grahame has allowed a total of one goal in the four victories.

"You know in a game like this that one mistake could cost you. You don't want to have that mistake on your side," Grahame said. "That's what drives you. No mistakes that will cost you the game. Stay focused."

Sabres 8, Maple Leafs 4

Thomas Vanek scored twice and the Buffalo Sabres handed the Toronto Maple Leafs their seventh straight loss with a 8-4 victory on Thursday night.

Alex Steen scored twice for the Maple Leafs — mired in their longest losing streak since dropping seven in a row in January 1997.

Chris Drury, Johan Hecht, Derek Roy, Brian Campbell, Jason Pominville and Jay McKee also scored for the Sabres.

Fans booed goalie Ed Belfour after Vanek scored Buffalo's fourth goal early in the second period. Coach Pat Quinn replaced Belfour with Mikael Tellqvist.

Buffalo scored four straight goals to take a 4-1 lead, but Toronto cut it to 5-4 by the end of the second.

But Drury's one-timer gave Buffalo an insurance goal at 6:18 of the third, and Vanek made it 7-4 at 12:47. McKee added an empty-netter with 1 second left.

Steen gave Toronto a 1-0 lead on the power play at 4:08 of the first, but Hecht's centering pass went off the skate of Toronto's Jason Allison and past Belfour at 12:38 of the first. Roy's floating wrist shot beat Belfour on his blocker side with about two minutes left in the period to make it 2-1.

Campbell scored on the power play with a slap shot about three minutes into the second and Toronto fans booed after Vanek scored an unassisted goal on Belfour about 10 seconds later.

Steen scored on the power play and Alex Ponikarovsky made it 4-3 at 13:17 of the sec-

ond with a goal after a scramble in front.

Alexander Khavanov cut it to 5-4 with 3:40 left in the second with a shorthanded goal after redirecting Chad Kilger's centering pass. It was the first shorthanded goal by a Toronto defenseman since Tomas Kaberle scored one Oct. 2002 versus Montreal.

Senators 3, Canadiens 0

Daniel Alfredsson had two goals and an assist and Dominik Hasek recorded his fifth shutout, leading the Ottawa Senators to a 3-0 win over Montreal on Thursday night as the Canadiens tied a franchise record by being held to 12 shots.

Zdeno Chara also scored for Northeast Division-leading Ottawa, which outshot Montreal 33-6 through the first two periods and 40-12 overall. The Senators went 2-for-6 on the power play through the first two periods while Montreal had only one opportunity with the man advantage over the same stretch.

The Canadiens, who have lost 17 of 19 on the road, fell to 1-4 on a six-game road trip that ends Saturday in Toronto.

Hasek made his eighth straight start and only needed to make 12 saves — including a 78-foot slap shot by Mark Streit with nine seconds left in the third — to claim his second shutout in three games. He moved past Roy Worters into 11th place on the all-time shutout list with 68 after surpassing Patrick Roy on Saturday in a 7-0 win over Toronto.

Alfredsson, who has scored five goals in his last three games, scored his 250th goal on a power play 2:21 into the second. He added his second of the game on a 5-on-3 at 6:16 to move ahead of linemate Dany Heatley for the team lead with 32 goals.

Jason Spezza and Wade Redden each assisted on both of Alfredsson's goals.

Chara opened the scoring with a fine individual effort for his ninth goal 12:36 in. The 6-foot-9 defenseman stepped around Montreal's Sheldon Souray before beating Cristobal Huet, who made his second straight start for the Canadiens.

The Senators converted their first of five second-period power plays when Alfredsson scored his 31st of the season early in the period to make it 2-0.

With Canadiens forward Jan Bulis already in the penalty box, Souray was sent off for holding at 5:48 and Alfredsson made Montreal pay moments later when he increased the lead to three with a slap shot from the point that got past Huet, who was screened by Chara.

Hurricanes 5, Thrashers 1

Niclas Wallin scored on a deflection 16 seconds into the third period and the Carolina Hurricanes pulled away for a 5-1 victory over the slumping Atlanta Thrashers on Thursday night.

The Hurricanes, who lead the NHL with 74 points, won for the 12th time in 13 games, including the last three in a row. They came into the night with an 18-point lead over Tampa Bay in the Southeast

Division.

Atlanta is fading a bit in the playoff race, losing its fourth straight game — one away from its worst skid of the season.

The Thrashers fell behind 2-0 in the second period, but began to turn things around after star Ilya Kovalchuk was struck by a stick and headed off the ice with blood streaming down his face. No penalty was called, and Kovalchuk slammed his helmet to the ice in disgust as he headed to the locker room for stitches.

With 59 seconds left in the period, Patrik Stefan swatted in a rebound with one hand on

the stick to halve the deficit.

But whatever momentum the Thrashers took from Stefan's inspired play was quickly wiped out by Wallin's second goal of the season. With the teams skating 4-on-4, the defenseman slipped deep into the Atlanta zone and deflected Bret Hedican's shot past Kari Lehtonen.

Craig Adams scored with just under 9 minutes remaining after a tremendous individual effort by Erik Cole to get to the net.

Ray Whitney tacked on a power-play goal with 19 seconds remaining. Atlanta was down a man after Marian

Hossa's frustration boiled over, leading him to pick a fight with Carolina's Oleg Tverdovsky.

Hedican and Matt Cullen scored the first two goals for the Hurricanes.

Cam Ward made 30 saves, but he also benefited from Atlanta's errant shooting. The Thrashers missed the net at least a half-dozen times on good scoring chances.

It was a tough day for Lehtonen. Before the game, he decided not to play for Finland in the Olympics because he's still recovering from a groin injury that kept him out most of the first three months of the season.



Linesman Thor Nelson, center, is caught in the middle of a fight between the Atlanta Thrashers' Andy Sutton, left, Marian Hossa, of Slovakia, top center, and the Carolina Hurricanes' Oleg Tverdovsky.

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ND TRACK AND FIELD

Irish hope to continue season's strong start

Team hosts Notre Dame Invitational meet today at Loftus before Meyo Invitational

By JORDAN BELTZ
Sports Writer

The Irish look to pick up where they left off last week as they host the Notre Dame Invitational today at Loftus Sports Center. The team is coming off of a very impressive performance last week at the Notre Dame Opener, which was highlighted by victories in twelve different events.

The Invitational is traditionally sandwiched between the Notre Dame Opener and the prestigious Meyo Invitational. It's considered an excellent tune up for the Meyo Invite, with competition being offered by many top schools from around the region.

Leading the way for the Irish women heading into the Invitational are sprinters Maryann Erigha and Oketchi Ogbuokiri. Erigha took home top honors in both the 60 meters and the 200 meters last weekend. Meanwhile, Ogbuokiri posted a time in the 400 meters worthy of both a top finish and a provisional NCAA Championship qualification.

Another member of the women's squad to watch is freshman pole vaulter Mary Saxer. Saxer has already won the pole vault in both meets of the 2006 indoor season, and

has also posted a vault good enough for provisional NCAA consideration.

"My goal for the rest of the season is just to continue to improve, and to reach the level that I was once at in my high school career," Saxer said.

"My goal for the rest of the season is just to continue to improve, and to reach the level that I was once at in my high school career."

Mary Saxer
Irish pole vaulter

"We always have the goal of improving our marks."

Kyle Annen
Irish thrower

On the men's side of the ledger, freshman Austin Wechter has been a bright spot for the Irish thus far, capturing the crown in the 500

meter dash last week at the Notre Dame Invitational. Junior Garet Koxlien, fresh off of an all-Big East season in the discus last year, has also been impressive early on this season, winning the men's weight throw at the Notre Dame Invitational. The throwers as a group have been showing a lot of improvement as the season has progressed.

"We always have the goal of improving our marks and working towards marks that will help gain our team points for the Big East Conference championship," sophomore thrower Kyle Annen said.

Next weekend's Meyo Invitational draws teams from all across the country, and is considered one of the most prestigious events in the indoor season.

Contact Jordan Beltz at jbeltz@nd.edu

ND WOMEN'S TENNIS

Buckeyes compete at Eck

No. 22 Notre Dame faces Ohio State in home opener match

By DAN TAPETILLO
Sports Writer

The No. 22 Irish look to continue their dominance over regional rival Ohio State (2-0) as Notre Dame opens its home slate this weekend with an 11 a.m. match Saturday at the Eck Tennis Pavillion.

The Irish currently hold a 12-3 all-time record over the Buckeyes and expect to continue their string of wins as the team is led by coach Jay Louderback, in his 18th season at the Irish helm, and junior twins Catrina and Christian Thompson.

"We're hoping our hard training and practice will help us play well for the victory," Christian Thompson said.

The Thompson's, who are currently No. 1 in doubles in the ITA standings, are coming off a successful fall season as they captured the school's first-ever ITA doubles title against a duo from Fresno State last October.

However, the Thompsons aren't the only Irish doubles team gaining recognition as two other Notre Dame pairs have also earned nationally rankings.

"Our doubles are so talented," Christian Thompson said. "Everyone proved themselves during the fall and we will be deep this season. I would be shocked if we lose critical doubles points."

The duo of sophomore Brook Buck and freshman Kelcy Tefft are No. 35, followed by seniors Kiki Stastny and team captain Lauren Connelly at No. 45.

In singles, Catrina Thompson is No. 24 in the nation after finishing the fall with a record of 10-5. Also ranked in the ITA standings is Christian Thompson, No. 44 with a 7-3 record from the fall.



ERIN VRANISH/The Observer

Catrina Thompson receives a serve on April 9 against William & Mary. The Irish 2-0 and ranked No. 26.

Returning for the Irish in singles this season are Connelly, Stastny, Buck, senior Kelly Nelson and sophomore Bailey Louderback.

"We have a lot of leadership with the three seniors and so much experience," Catrina Thompson said.

But it isn't just the veterans who are adding to the strength of the team. New to the Irish this year are freshman Tefft and Katie Potts.

"I think they have adjusted really well and are so talented," Catrina Thompson said. "They have already contributed so much to the team

that it is only going to add to the strength of everyone who is returning."

Despite the team's confidence, Notre Dame isn't willing to take its Big East foe lightly. Ohio State began its spring season with a pair of 7-0 shutouts over Cincinnati and Bowling Green, led by junior Sonia Ruzimovsky.

"During the first match everyone always has nerves," Catrina Thompson said. "And even though it is going to be tough, we will be ready."

Contact Dan Tapetillo at jtapetil@nd.edu

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NBA

Injured O'Neal is out at least eight weeks

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Jermaine O'Neal is expected to miss at least eight weeks with a left groin tear, leaving the Indiana Pacers without their leading scorer and rebounder.

The news came Thursday, a day after the Pacers acquired sharpshooter Peja Stojakovic from the Sacramento Kings for the volatile Ron Artest.

O'Neal was hurt during the fourth quarter of Indiana's loss at Cleveland on Tuesday.

"When my injury happened, I knew it was going to be serious because of the actual pop in the area where I was having the most pain the last three or four weeks," he said.

The Pacers described the

injury as "significant," but said it was doubtful he would need surgery.

"It's hard ... being in the situation we're in and finally almost getting a new start. ... It would have been a great opportunity to play with a guy like Stojakovic, and I think his ability helps everybody on our team," O'Neal said. "But I'm in a situation where the playoffs may be my best hope for getting back."

O'Neal did not practice Thursday but was on the court with his teammates and took several shots at the basket — flatfooted — as practice ended.

He said after practice he had likely come back too soon from a recent bout with pneumonia. It left him weakened, he said.

MEN'S SWIMMING

Seniors see career finale in Shamrock Classic

Tournament-style meet to feature top swimmers, events

By JACK THORNTON
Sports Writer

The Notre Dame men will simultaneously "go big" and "go home" to finish its regular season this weekend, as it hosts the first annual Shamrock Invitational, a tournament-style meet boasting an impressive field.

The Irish traditionally end the season with a dual meet against a familiar foe such as Oakland (Mich.) or Cleveland State, but this season the program decided to shake things up a bit.

"We had a Shamrock Classic meet once upon a time, but that had an entirely different focus," Irish coach Tim Welsh said. "This is the first time we've had a season-ending grand finale, and we're pretty excited [because it's a great way to end the dual meet season.]"

No. 21 Penn State, Missouri, Louisville and Oakland (Mich.) will compete with Notre Dame in the match.

"It is a very, very good field," Welsh said. "Both Penn State

and Missouri have been ranked in the top 25 at one point or another in the season ... Louisville is one of the most improved teams in the Big East, Oakland raced really well against us in our pool at the beginning of the season, and now they've got their ace sprinter back." (WHO)

Unlike a regular dual meet, which has 11-13 events, the Shamrock Invitational will feature 20 events to be raced in three sessions over two days.

"There are three sessions to this meet and there are three days of the [Big East] championship meet, so each one of these sessions is [like] a day at the championship," said Welsh, who will try to coach the Irish to their second consecutive conference title this Feb. 15-18 in Long Island, N.Y.

Of the 20 events, five will be relays, putting extra pressure on the team's sprinters.

"Any time that we can race our relays can only be a positive for us, because relays — come Big East time — will be very crucial in order for us to win the Big East title," Irish swimmer Ted Brown said. "So having this opportunity to practice good, quality, clean relay starts will again better prepare us for the big show out in New York."

Following the meet, the Irish will have two-and-a-half weeks to prepare for the Championships, and they may need half of it just for sleep. The squad trained every day for two weeks over Winter Break, and this will be their third consecutive weekend of multiple-day racing.

"I think [fatigue] is always a factor, but I think at this point in our season we should be ready to race, so having a meet over the course of two days should be good for us," co-captain Patrick Heffernan said.

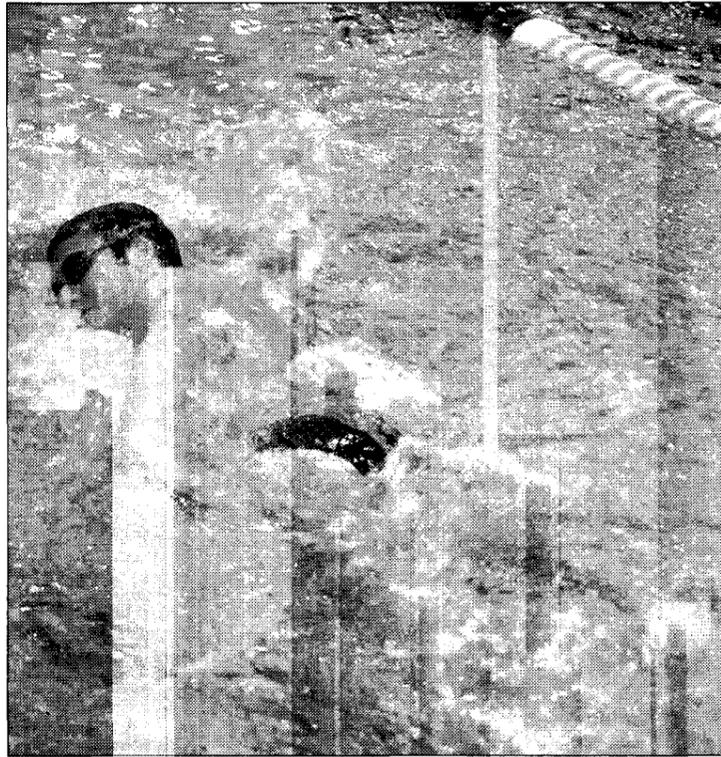
Welsh said the main thing he'll be looking for this weekend is improvement from his team.

"In the best of all possible worlds, this will be the fastest meet of season — by a lot," Welsh said.

In addition to being the last meet of the regular season, it is also the last home meet for the seniors at Rolfs Aquatic Center — ever.

Heffernan is one of 10 seniors on the team who will be honored in a presentation Saturday night at 5:15 p.m.

"Quite a few of the seniors parents are coming up, [because it's our Gold game ... and it's the last time we'll racing in Rolfs Aquatic Center," Heffernan said.



BETH HOELMER/The Observer

A swimmer competes against Cleveland State on Jan. 21. The Irish won that match, 142-96.

When asked if he'll cry during the ceremony, Heffernan laughed and replied, "Nah, I don't think so."

"I think it'll just be a milestone in my career and it'll be

exciting and it'll be sad at the same time, but it's an experience I'll never forget.

Contact Jack Thornton at jthornt4@nd.edu

SMC BASKETBALL

Saint Mary's to host last-place Tri-State

By JAY FITZPATRICK
Sports Writer

As they head in to Saturday's matchup with 2-17 Tri-State, the Belles appear to have turned the tide on their season. After losing three straight games to fall to 5-10, Saint Mary's has won three of their last four contests and crawled up the rankings to fourth place in the MIAA.

According to coach Steve Bender, one reason for his team's turnaround is the strong play of Saint Mary's defense. In both the Albion and Alma games, Saint Mary's played tough defense to hold leads and force opponents to make mistakes and take bad shots. Even during the Belles' only loss in the past two weeks — a 53-52 setback at Adrian — the Belles staged a second half comeback thanks to a stiff defense.

Against Tri-State, the Belles' coach is concerned with guarding the perimeter.

"One thing that we must do is defend the three, especially since they shot 30 last night," Bender said. "We also have to stay strong at the post. That is where the difference in the game will be."

To prepare the team for the Tri-State game, and games against Olivet and Calvin next

week — the second and third teams in the MIAA — Coach Bender has had his team practice 5 on 7 and 4 on 6 drills.

"We need to prepare ourselves for the tough opponents we have in front of us and the way to do that is by making things tougher at practice," said Bender.

The recent success of the Belles appears even more impressive considering that starting point guard Bridget Lipke has remained sidelined with a leg injury suffered against Albion.

Without their team leader on the court, the Belles have managed to win or stay close in all three games that Lipke has missed. She has not played one minute since her injury but she is listed as questionable for Saturday's game.

Bender attributed his teams' success in part to freshman Meghan Conaty, who came off the bench to play the point during Lipke's injury, allowing players like Allison Kessler to return to their regular positions. Kessler ran the point after Lipke was hurt but was able to return to her shooting guard spot when Conaty stepped up.

Bender hopes Lipke will be able to see some limited minutes against Tri-State.

Contact Jay Fitzpatrick at jfitzpa5@nd.edu

"We need to prepare ourselves for the tough opponents we have in front of us."

Steve Bender
Belles coach

SMC SWIMMING

Belles swim last dual meet

Team preparing for upcoming MIAA Championship meet

By BECKI DORNER and DEIRDRE KRASULA
Sports Writers

Saint Mary's will face Calvin College and Albion College in dual meet competition at Calvin Saturday in the Belles' final meet of the season.

Saint Mary's is coming off a 143-59 loss to Kalamazoo Friday in an MIAA dual meet at the Notre Dame Rolfs Aquatic Center, the Belles' final home meet.

Senior captain Kelly Nelis capped off a successful home swimming season, posting wins in both the 200-yard freestyle (2:02.95) and 500-yard freestyle (5:34.02). But Nelis captured the only two events for the Belles of the 12-event meet.

Regardless of past scores, the Belles view them as strides of preparation the MIAA Swimming and Diving Championships in Grand Rapids, Mich. from Feb. 9-12.

Belles coach Lynn Kachmarik said with those championships as the team's season-ending goal, they have confidently begun their taper period of decreased training in which the team does less yardage and more fast swimming to get into peak race shape. The meet

at Calvin Saturday will be a pre-race of sorts for that show, in which Kachmarik hopes to see her swimmers "have as many personal-best times or season-best times as possible" and to enjoy the final races of the

year for three graduating seniors — Stephanie Hile and captains Nelis and Katie Dingeman.

Contact Becki Dornier at rdornier1@nd.edu and Dierdre Krasula at dkrasula@nd.edu

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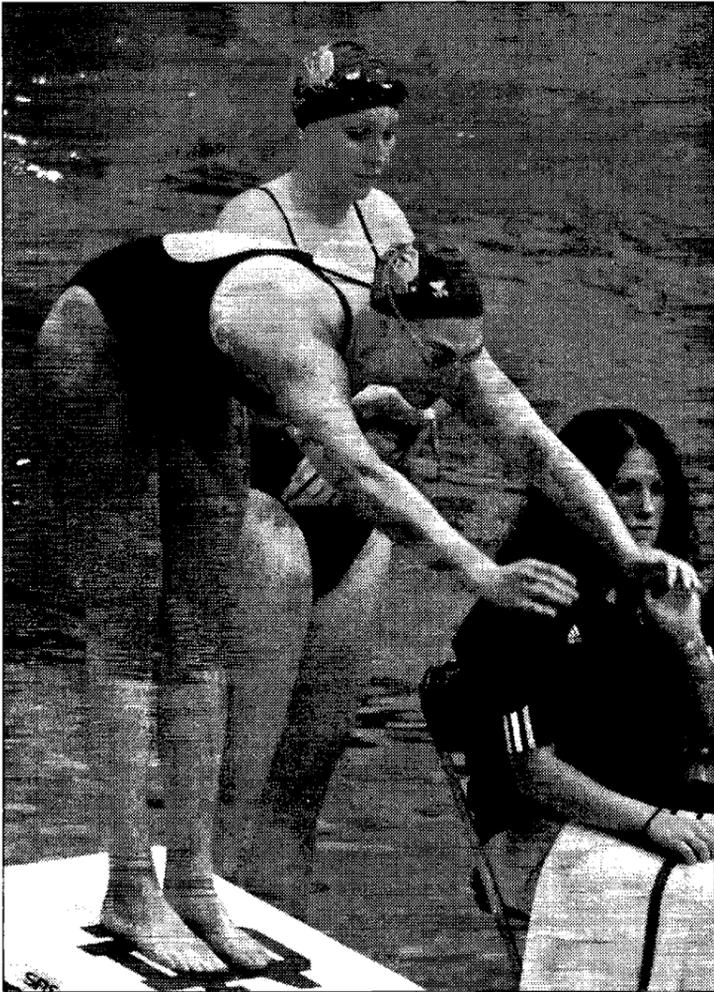
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ND WOMEN'S SWIMMING

Team to face Louisville, Oakland this weekend



KIRSTEN HOELMER/The Observer

Irish swimmers prepare for a race earlier this season against Minnesota. Notre Dame will face Oakland and Louisville this weekend.

Irish have one contest left before Big East championship meet

By GREG ARBOGAST
Sports Writer

Today and Saturday mark the final meet of the regular season for the Irish women before they can fully focus on the Big East Championships in Long Island, N.Y. on Feb. 15.

The immediate matter on Notre Dame's mind right now is this weekend's meet against Oakland and fellow Big East competitor Louisville.

The Irish believe they have an excellent chance to extend their winning streak to seven consecutive meets when swimming begins today at 5 p.m. at the Rolfs Aquatic Center. Oakland lost its previous meet on Jan. 20, 147.5-97.5, to Michigan State — the same Spartans that Notre Dame defeated one day later, 156-147.

Louisville presents a tougher challenge. The Cardinals enter the meet with a 5-2 dual meet record. But Louisville must rebound from

a 172-119 loss last weekend to in-state rival Kentucky.

Though Notre Dame intends to extend its current six-meet winning streak, the team is approaching this weekend's meet with several other objectives.

"One main focus is helping our teammates qualify so we can take a full team," junior swimmer Julia Quinn said.

Furthermore, the Irish are looking to use this weekend to send a message to their fellow Big East competitors. Notre Dame will see the Cardinals again at the conference championship in two weeks.

"The more we beat Louisville by, the more we reiterate that we're the favorites going into the Big East Championships," Quinn said.

With these goals in mind, Irish coach Carrie Nixon has put the team through one final week of intense practice.

But beginning next week, the team will begin to 'taper,' gradually reducing workouts to allow for rest before the Big East Championships.

Contact Greg Arbogast at garbogast@nd.edu

"The more we beat Louisville, the more we reiterate that we're the favorites going into the Big East Championships."

**Julia Quinn
Irish junior**

HOCKEY

Irish travel to Ohio State

Notre Dame seeks to avenge two home losses earlier this season

By CHRIS KHOREY
Sports Writer

After splitting with the CCHA's second best team on the road last weekend, the Irish will be away from the Joyce Center tonight as they travel to Value City Arena in Columbus, Ohio to face the Ohio State Buckeyes.

Since going 1-1 against Northern Michigan in Marquette, Mich. last Friday and Saturday, Notre Dame (8-13-3, 6-9-3 in the CCHA), currently resides in 10th place in the league. But their 15 points put the Irish only three points behind the Buckeyes, making this weekend a crucial chance to move up in the standings.

"The most important thing right now is to get points every weekend," Irish coach Jeff Jackson said. "Our main goal right now is to go into every game trying to steal a point or two, especially with all these road games."

Ohio State, which was picked to win the CCHA at the beginning of the season, is a disappointing 12-10-4, but Jackson said the Buckeyes are still dangerous.

"It's hard to say what's happened this season for them," he said. "Different things happen with different teams."

The Buckeyes are led by sophomore forward Tom Fritche, who has 22 points on the season including eight goals. Senior Dave Caruso has been a stalwart in the net, starting 23 games and allowing just 1.71 goals per contest.

Ohio State swept a weekend series in South Bend 4-1 and 5-2 the weekend of Nov. 25-26 in what Jackson called "our worst weekend of the season."

The Irish come into the rematch with a mild goalie controversy. After starting every game since November, Dave Brown was pulled in the second period of Saturday's 4-3 win with the team trailing 3-1. Jackson replaced the junior with freshman Jordan Pearce. Notre Dame erased the deficit as Pearce shut out the Wildcats for a period and a half. Freshman Erik Condra put the winning shot past Northern goalie Bill Zaniboni with 12:10 left in the game.

"Jordan gave us a chance to



JENNIFER KANG/The Observer

Irish senior forward Tim Wallace scores a goal against Michigan Nov. 4. Notre Dame plays Ohio State (12-10-4) this weekend.

win the game Saturday," Jackson said. "If I've learned anything from that it's that he plays better when he doesn't know he's going to play in advance. He came in on just a moment's notice and played great."

Condra leads the Irish in scoring with 23 points this year. That number, which includes 19 assists, leads all CCHA rookies and places him No. 10 nationally among first-year players.

"Erik's been more consistent than any forward all season long as far as every shift, every game," Jackson said. "He plays a very tenacious game, he takes advantage of his skills. I'm really impressed with his decision making with the puck."

The come-from-behind win marked the first time the Irish have won this season after trailing at the end of the second period. Notre Dame is now 1-13-0 this year when trailing entering the third period.

"I'd like to believe that we're learning to win close games," Jackson said. "We've taken some time to learn some lessons, and I'm not sure we're

going to learn all of our lessons this year. If we're behind going into the third period, we need to have the motivation to come back and win those games."

The Irish were not the only team traveling to northern latitudes last weekend as Ohio State was on the road at Alaska-Fairbanks. The Nanooks and Buckeyes split the series.

Jackson said that, while the long trip will have taken its toll, he doesn't expect his team have any extra advantage this weekend.

"You usually see some effects on a team that just went to Alaska, but we just had a nine hour bus trip ourselves," he said. "If we had played at home, it might have made a bigger impact."

Ohio State has won the last six meetings with the Irish, including the two wins in South Bend earlier this season. The last Notre Dame win came in November of 2003. Overall, the Buckeyes lead the series 24-21-6.

Contact Chris Khorey at ckhorey@nd.edu

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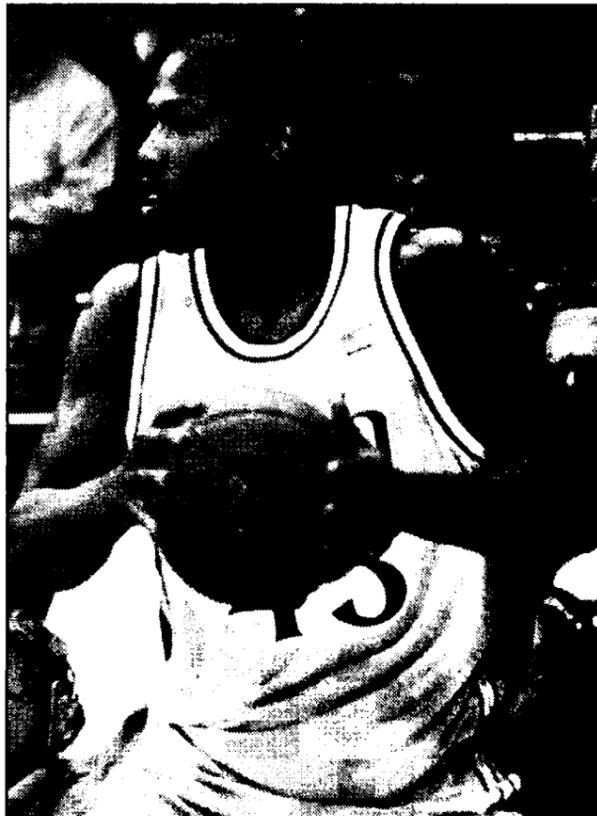
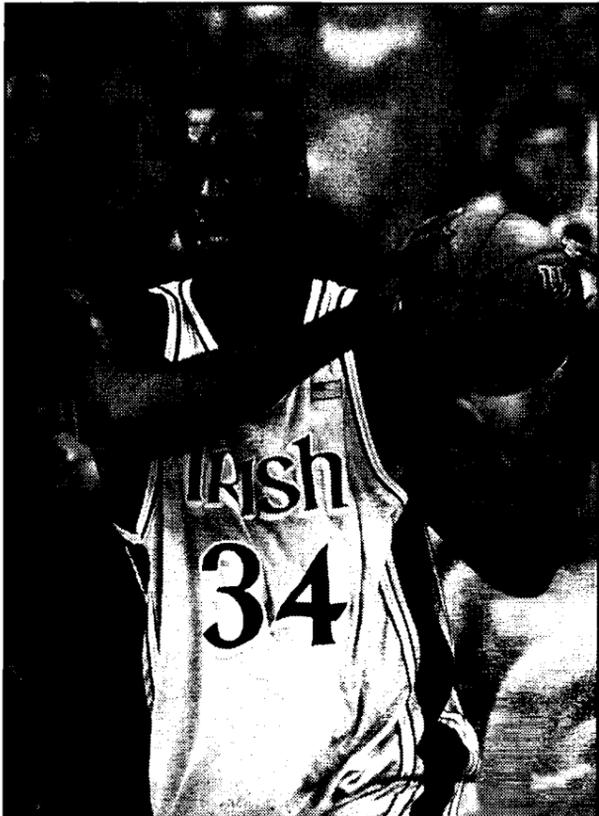
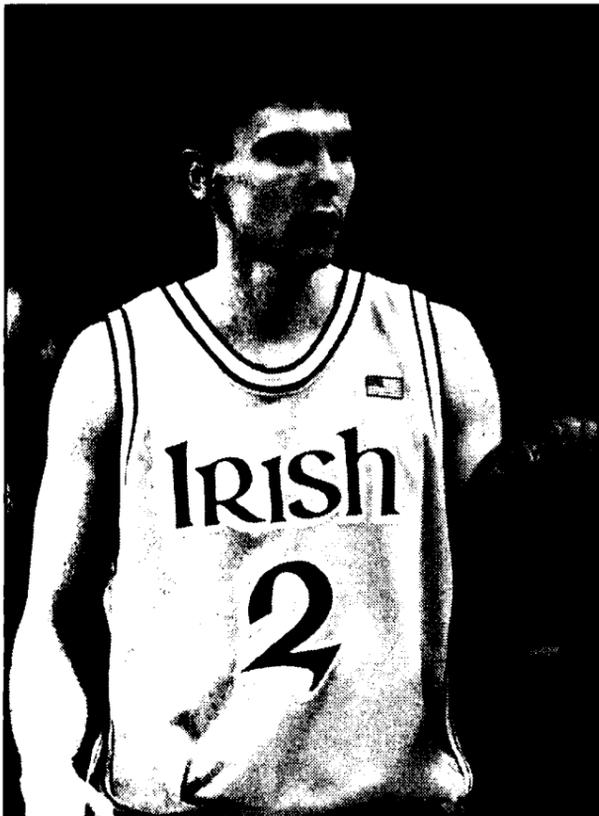
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GEOFF MATTESON AND KERRY O'CONNOR/The Observer

Irish point guard Chris Quinn, left, center Torin Francis, center, and guard Russell Carter look for open teammates in an 85-82 double-overtime loss to Georgetown Tuesday. Notre Dame, which fell to 1-5 in the Big East with the loss, will try to end its two-game losing streak against No. 6 Villanova Saturday.

Villanova

continued from page 28

Madison Square Garden.

Nevertheless, the Irish think beating the Wildcats could jumpstart a squad that has been close but not capitalized on game situations.

"Every game's huge for us," said Irish point guard Chris Quinn, who played all 50 minutes in a double-overtime loss to Georgetown Tuesday night. "But with a top-10 team coming in here, this one carries a lot of weight."

Villanova's top four scorers are all guards. Randy Foye

leads the Wildcats averaging 20.7 points per game, followed by Allan Ray (18.3), Mike Nardi (11.6) and Kyle Lowry (11.1). Ray missed the team's last game with a strained hamstring injury he suffered in practice. The Wildcats won, though, by a 49-46 margin Tuesday over South Florida, which is winless in its first Big East season.

"Every game's huge for us. But with a top-10 team coming in here, this one carries a lot of weight."

Chris Quinn
Irish point guard

The narrow victory raised eyebrows. Villanova's only two losses are to West Virginia and No. 4/5 Texas by a combined seven points, and the Wildcats' shooting — which their fifth-year coach Jay Wright relies on — has been inconsistent thus far (45 per-

cent from the field, 39.6 from 3-point range).

But Brey expects Ray back for Saturday's game and he is concerned about the Wildcats' speed and pressure defense. He said Notre Dame must take care of the ball and play its own game; "play loose," instead of making drastic adjustments.

"That's why [Villanova's] been as successful as they are," Quinn said. "They line up and make teams do things they don't normally do."

As Irish center Torin Francis said Thursday, Notre Dame may be able to take advantage of the Wildcats' guard-heavy structure in the low post for points and free throw opportunities. But so far, Brey's style has been to put the ball in Quinn's hands and trust the senior point guard with a young, inexperienced team.

Quinn averages 23.3 points per game in Big East games,

second only to Rutgers junior Quincy Douby (23.5). He has played in 257 of a possible 260 minutes in the Irish's first six conference games, taking and making shots and creating end-game plays down the stretch (see Georgetown).

Brey said that similar to past Notre Dame leaders Troy Murphy, Ryan Humphrey, Matt Carroll and Chris Thomas, Quinn has the tangible and intangible qualities that make a coach leave him on the floor.

"I'm always thinking how to steal him a rest," Brey said. "But I think if you look around college basketball, key guys — really key guys

— are hardly coming out of the game on a lot of teams. And that's kind of how we've played here [with other top players].

"Right now I think Chris Quinn — certainly his play is

"Right now I think Chris Quinn — certainly his play is fabulous — but his personality and demeanor on the court for us are really important. I don't know if we can be without him on the floor given where we're at. If we were 3-2, maybe you're stealing him a rest. But I don't think we can afford to. We need his presence out there."

Mike Brey
Irish head coach

Contact Pat Leonard at pleonard@nd.edu

USF

continued from page 28

point guard and team captain Megan Duffy said.

USF has the same goal for Saturday's match-up and it will enter the game with the nation's

leading scorer, junior guard Jessica Dickson, who averages 23.8 points per contest.

"[They are] one of the hottest teams in the league right now," Duffy said.

That hot streak was cooled a little bit by a 77-47 drubbing at the hands of No. 5/4 Connecticut, but at the same

time, Notre Dame enters the game in the same predicament, looking to rebound after a 69-43 loss at Rutgers and an all-too-close 54-52 win at Georgetown.

After those two difficult road games, the Irish are looking forward to coming home, where they are 6-2, including an upset win over No. 10 DePaul on Jan. 17.

"It's nice to be able to come home after a tough loss," Duffy said. "It's fun to play in front of our fans and hopefully get a win."

One thing the Irish will want to avoid if they hope to come away with that win is the turnover, and they are certainly hoping to avoid a repeat of Tuesday's game with Rutgers, where they gave up 22 turnovers.

"We [have to] take care of the ball," Duffy said. "[Rutgers] got 35 points off turnovers."

Notre Dame will also continue its focus on rebounding, where the team has struggled at times.

"We [have to] focus on rebounding every game, but we also have to develop a post presence," Duffy said.

That presence may be difficult to start developing against the Bulls, who lead the Big East with 5.05 blocks per game.

Duffy, who leads the team in both points and assists, with



HY PHAM/The Observer

Irish forward Courtney LaVere shoots free throws against DePaul Jan. 17. Notre Dame hosts South Florida Saturday.

15.6 and 4.2 per game, respectively, does not shy away from responsibility in those post struggles.

"We as guards have to get the ball into the post," she said.

This season marks South Florida's first since moving from Conference USA, the conference the Bull's media guide still

claims they belong to. As a result Notre Dame leads the all-time series 2-0, the last game being an 83-63 Irish win on Dec. 19, 1998.

"We really don't know much about them," Duffy said.

Contact Eric Retter at eretter@nd.edu



HY PHAM/The Observer

Notre Dame guard Tulyah Gaines drives in a 55-45 win over Michigan Nov. 18. The Irish host South Florida Saturday.

ND Duals

continued from page 28

as the teams competing are some of the top programs in the country.

Squads Notre Dame will face include Northwestern, Cal State Fullerton, Duke and Wayne State.

"[Taking into account] all three different weapons, Northwestern has one of the strongest women's teams," junior epeeist and team captain Amy Orlando said. "There are also going to be a couple bouts against Wayne State and Northwestern in epee that are going to be tough."

The freshman Montoya agreed.

"I'm focusing on the fencers from Wayne State especially Anna Garina," Montoya said. "And Northwestern is also very experienced. But we are definitely not going to be underestimating any of the other teams."

However, it will be Ohio State that the Irish expect will be their toughest competition. The Irish needed to overcome a 24-point deficit in last year's NCAA championships to win the team title over the Buckeyes 173-171.

"They are all fighters and won't give up," Orlando said. "That is what makes Ohio State so good."

But the Irish will not be an easy opponent to face. The

women's program returns sabres Valerie Providenza and Mariel Zagunis.

"They're near the best of their weapon and they have the experience from years on the strip," Orlando said. "So they have everything it takes to be the complete fencer."

The Irish will also feature key foilist Melanie Bautista and epeeists Rebecca Chimahusky and Orlando.

Although the women will be competing with the best fencers in the sport, the men's team is no pushover.

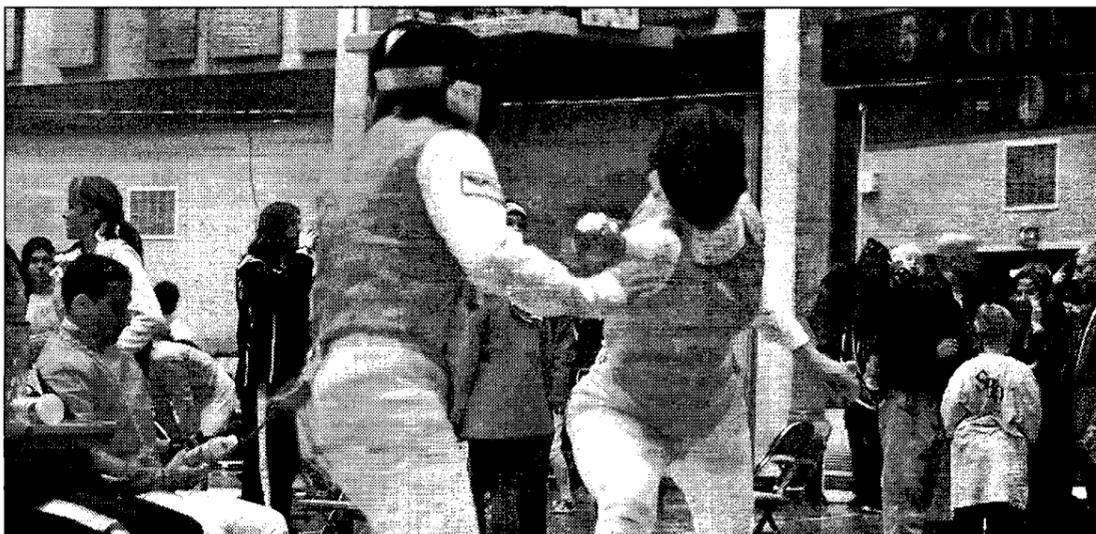
The men's program will be showcasing an elite list of fencers including sophomore foilist Jakub Jedrkowiak, junior sabre Matt Stearns and junior epeeist Aaron Adjemian.

In addition to the veterans in the men's program, the freshmen are also proving themselves to be a critical part to the team's overall success. Freshman foilist Mark Kubik is credited as a significant inspiration in last week's duals at NYU.

"At NYU he told his teammates that 'we just have to execute,' Montoya said. "He wants to do well and works hard to get other people motivated. Everyday he works hard in practice and it is going to pay off."

The women's portion of the competition begins on Saturday at 8 a.m. at the Joyce Center Fieldhouse.

Contact Dan Tapetillo at jtapetil@nd.edu



Jakob Jedrkowiak, top left, and Alicja Kryczalo, bottom right, compete in last year's Notre Dame Duals on Jan. 27, 2005. This year's event will be held Saturday at the Joyce Center.

Virginia

continued from page 26

However, singles have been a strength for the Irish this year despite the injury to junior Irakli Akhvediani. Stephen Bass holds the No. 8 spot, Sheeva Parbhu is No. 14 and Eric Langenkamp stands at No. 65, with the team holding a No. 26 overall ranking. Although the early-season rankings reflect more on fall play, it is a confidence boost going into a match against the top-rated Cavaliers. UVA's Treat Huey is No. 6, Somdev Devvarman is No. 10, Marko Miklo is No. 46 and Rylan Rizza is 54. Unranked Doug Stuart, who did not participate in many fall tournaments, holds the No. 2 spot, with Miklo at No.

5 on the team.

Bayliss said that the top four of the Cavaliers' lineup are "pretty much interchangeable."

They rotate four players into the No. 5 and No. 6 spots in singles as well.

"They're all pretty good, we're competitive with those guys," Bayliss said. "We split those two matches last year 5 and 6 with them."

The lineup is much like the Irish, who this year feature strength at the top of the lineup and depth in positions throughout. Although Barry King is unranked, he spent the fall semester at University College in Dublin and has insufficient data for rankings.

After last year's record showing at the Country Club of Virginia (CCV) in Richmond, Bayliss agreed to play the match

there again, making the travel schedule difficult when Notre Dame faces William & Mary on Sunday at 10 a.m.

For Bayliss, a Richmond native, the match is a homecoming of sorts.

"It's played at the club where, when I was in grad school, I was an assistant pro at that club," he said, adding that a number of people from the club and his high school class came out to support last season. "We probably had 1/3 of the crowd rooting for us, and the Notre Dame Club of Richmond got involved."

He said that the club is a good venue for hundreds of spectators.

"The crowd there, it's enthusiastic and vocal but not vindictive," Bayliss said. "It's not all college students, it's a little bit of a wine and cheese club."

However, the only pressure the team feels is from the big match waiting for them today. Bayliss said the team is confident.

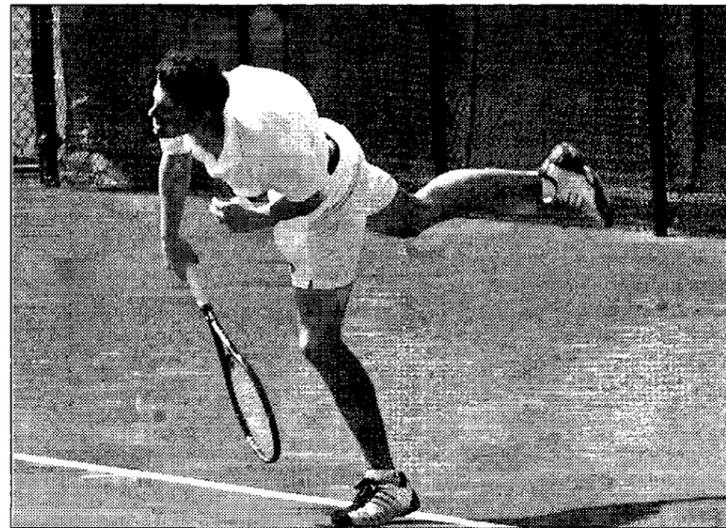
"I'm sure they're focused," he said. "This team has been committed from the start. A group of them got together and almost all the guys playing were here last summer."

All of the players were active over the summer, playing in tournaments at home or on campus.

"I think we came back this year with a sense of purpose and they have done an awful lot to make themselves as good as they can," Bayliss said. "They've done all the little things ... One of our team mottos is take care of the little things and the big things will take care of themselves ... Then the ones you can't anticipate don't overwhelm you."

The Irish take the courts at 3 p.m. today at the CCV and return home to take on William & Mary at 10 a.m. on Sunday.

Contact Kate Gales at kgales@nd.edu



Irish junior Stephen Bass serves against Bowling Green on April 9, 2005. Notre Dame faces Virginia today.



Notre Dame senior Eric Langenkamp serves against Bowling Green on April 9, 2005. The Irish face Virginia today.

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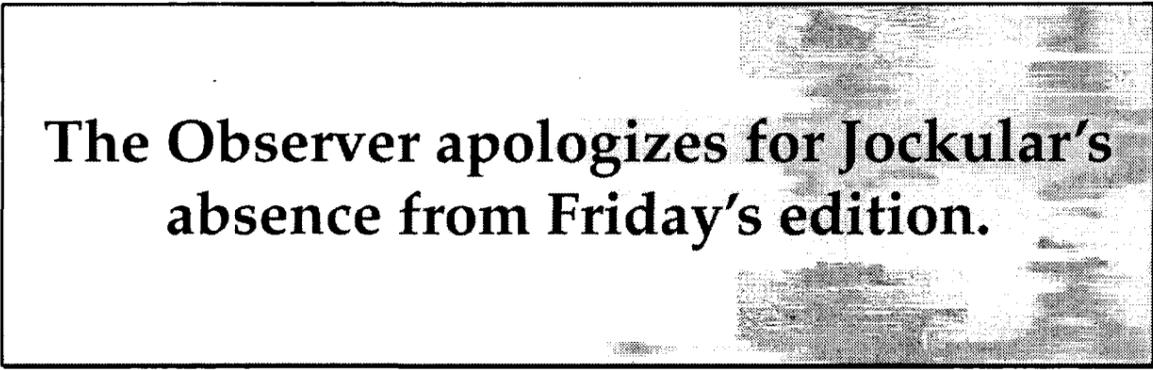
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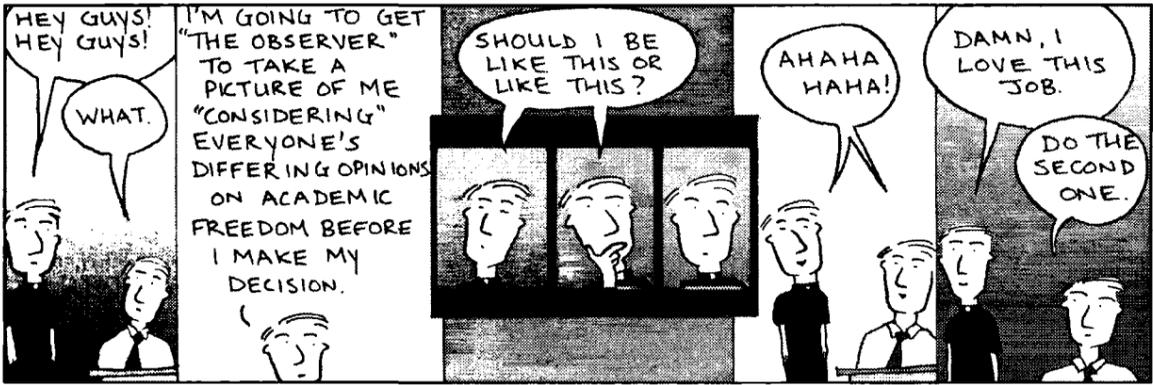
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JUMBLE

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JUMBLE

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

GEALL
GNAAP
DAILIN
AREETA

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion



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

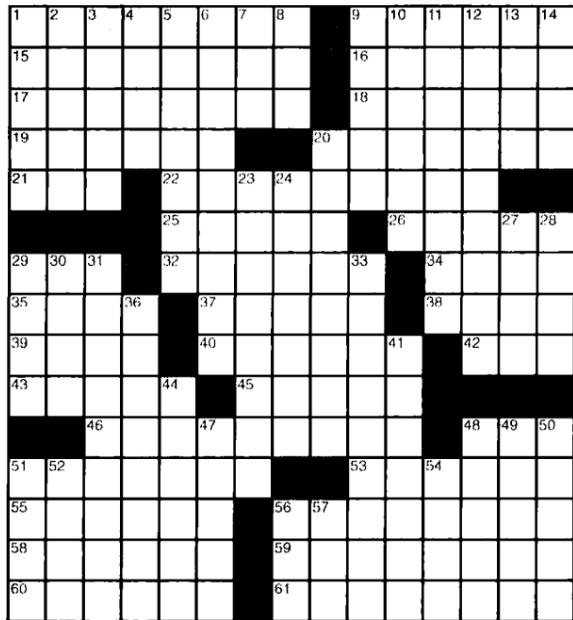
Print answer here: [Circled letters in a row] (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: LINGO TEPID EMERGE CURFEW
Answer: Why he didn't join the glacier expedition — HE GOT "COLD" FEET

CROSSWORD

WILL SHORTZ

- ACROSS**
- 1 Expire
 - 9 Top removed by attendants
 - 15 Be in concert
 - 16 Library feature
 - 17 Cormorants, e.g.
 - 18 Suddenly arose
 - 19 Barely move?
 - 20 Cinderella's clothes
 - 21 Sister of Selene
 - 22 Wanes
 - 25 Destructive 1999 Florida hurricane
 - 26 Glower
 - 29 Glower, maybe
 - 32 Aid in creating an idealized figure
 - 34 Former lakeshore tribe
 - 35 Not rot
 - 37 Seed structure
 - 38 Locale of the Bocca Nuova crater
 - 39 Fix
 - 40 Camel alternatives
 - 42 Alluring
 - 43 Thinking ____
 - 45 "Walk Away ____" (1966 hit)
 - 46 Good vantage point
 - 48 You can burn it
 - 51 Fairy tale figures
 - 53 Cousin of a capillary
 - 55 Restaurant cry
 - 56 Member of a historical trio
 - 58 Agreement
 - 59 Exhausted
 - 60 Mite-sized
 - 61 Start attacking
- DOWN**
- 1 So last year
 - 2 Prefix with phenetidin
 - 3 Cancer components
 - 4 "Quién ____?"
 - 5 Like many elephants
 - 6 Glad-hand, as politicians are wont to do
 - 7 What's more
 - 8 "I knew it!"
 - 9 Balls
 - 10 Much
 - 11 Without even a warning
 - 12 Emerge
 - 13 Maintain
 - 14 Xers?
 - 20 Fringe of the green?
 - 23 Misapplies
 - 24 Guarantees
 - 27 Lush
 - 41 Attack
 - 44 Grandparents, typically
 - 47 Square
 - 48 Things not wanted in locker rooms
 - 49 Sacrificial site
 - 50 Flirt
 - 51 Hit hard
 - 52 Clip
 - 54 Son of Willy Loman
 - 56 "You ____?"
 - 57 One in the Army



- Puzzle by Joe DiPietro
- 28 Trim
 - 29 Some pods
 - 30 A line winds in and out of it
 - 31 Fish might go over it
 - 33 Powwow
 - 36 Go all out
 - 41 Attack
 - 44 Grandparents, typically
 - 47 Square
 - 48 Things not wanted in locker rooms
 - 49 Sacrificial site
 - 50 Flirt
 - 51 Hit hard
 - 52 Clip
 - 54 Son of Willy Loman
 - 56 "You ____?"
 - 57 One in the Army

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HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

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Happy Birthday: Groundbreaking progress can be made this year if you are on top of every aspect of what you are trying to do. A chance to make money, sign a new and prosperous contract or come into gifts, winnings or a good pay-off from an investment you've been nurturing is evident. Your numbers are 2, 17, 23, 28, 31, 35
ARIES (March 21-April 19): Network every chance you get. You will expand your friendships and build a strong business base. When you have acquaintances from different walks of life, it can open up a host of opportunities for you. *****
TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Travel, romance and learning something new should all be on your to-do list. Talk to people who can give you the lowdown on something you think you might like to get into. Don't get too excited or worked up over something you can't change. ***
GEMINI (May 21-June 20): This is a great day to formulate and initiate your plans. Invest in something directly linked to what you do. Don't avoid someone trying to push you in a direction you don't care to go. Make yourself heard loud and clear. ***
CANCER (June 21-July 22): You may be all wrapped up in personal matters but don't lose sight of what you have set out to achieve today. Someone you work with may be worth keeping an eye on. It will allow you to stay one step ahead of what everyone else is doing. ***
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You can play the role of a troubleshooter today if you mix business with pleasure. Don't show the way you feel about someone you are doing business with. Entertain but don't go over-budget. *****
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Appreciate people for who they are and what they can do. Once you realize you can work well with someone who isn't like you but who can complement you, everything else will fall into place. **
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Do whatever you promised first and you'll avoid backlash from someone just waiting to give you a hard time. Love and romance can be your ticket to fun and games. You'll do great when it comes to competitive activities. ****
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Clear up business transactions; don't leave anything to chance. You will have some trouble to contend with in your personal life if you have been avoiding someone who has been complaining.***
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Before you take on one of your adventures, take care of business. A chance to physically make a difference to something you are working on will equate in dollar value. Don't sell yourself or your abilities short. ***
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You can make a great impression today if you are talkative and entertaining. Putting a new spin on something that was losing momentum will put you back in a key position. Don't give up -- just shuffle things around and start over. ***
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You'll be inclined to hold back today in personal matters. Anger will not solve problems but listening, communicating honestly and openly will. Help a worthy cause or someone you know who is going through a difficult time. ****
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Problems with someone in a position of power should be avoided at all costs. Don't take chances with your career or in money matters. Someone you work for or are forced to deal with will put restrictions on you. **
Birthday Baby: You are trendy, inventive and into doing your own thing. You are an adventurer and a wanderer, always looking for something new to experience. You are energetic, open and friendly.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential

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FOOTBALL

Foundation names Sullivan Conn. Player of the Year

By MIKE GILLOON
Sports Editor

Notre Dame center John Sullivan will be the center of attention on Feb. 11, when the Walter Camp Football Foundation will honor him as

its Connecticut Player of the Year.

The foundation announced Thursday that the 6-foot-4, 298 pound junior would receive the award, given annually to the top college football player in America 'who is a resident of the state of Connecticut,' dur-

ing a dinner at the Yale University Commons in New Haven.

Sullivan, a 2003 graduate of Greenwich High School, spearheaded a Notre Dame offense that averaged almost 37 points and 477 yards per game.

He is the first Notre Dame

player to receive the award. Past winners include former BYU quarterback and NFL Hall of Famer Steve Young — who also attended Greenwich — and former Boston College and NFL linebacker Bill Romanowski, from Vernon, Conn.

Sullivan was a three-year

starter at Greenwich. He led the squad to a berth in the state championship game his senior season, when he also was named Connecticut Gatorade Player of the Year.

Contact Mike Gilloon at mgilloon@nd.edu

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Clawing back against the 'Cats

Irish try to end losing streak, earn second Big East win against No. 6 Villanova Saturday

By PAT LEONARD
Sports Writer

Notre Dame is running out of potential turning points during a difficult 2005-06 season. But Saturday is one of them.

The Irish (10-7, 1-5 Big East) are almost halfway through their conference schedule with just one win over Providence (9-8, 2-4) to show for it. And on Saturday, Notre Dame hosts No. 6 Villanova at 6 p.m. (ESPN2) in the Joyce Center with an opportunity to improve its record and its level of confidence.

"Our guys know it would count probably more than one [win] psychologically if

we got it," Irish coach Mike Brey said before Thursday's practice. "It would count more than one in a lot of ways right now, any of these in this [upcoming] stretch."

At the most critical juncture of its Big East schedule, Notre Dame meets Villanova Saturday and then travels to No. 9/13 West Virginia and No. 22/23 Louisville for consecutive road games on Feb. 1 and Feb. 4, respectively.

Villanova is talking NCAA tournament, while Brey referred to the Big Dance in March as "that other one" on Thursday, indicating his focus is on making the conference tournament at

see VILLANOVA/page 25



Irish forward Rick Cornett dunks over Georgetown forward Jeff Green Tuesday. Notre Dame faces No. 6 Villanova Saturday.

GEOFF MATTESON/The Observer

FENCING

Irish seek to redeem NYU loss

By DAN TAPETILLO
Sports Writer

Since both the men's and women's program's finished 4-1 in last weekend's NYU Duals, the Irish have been looking for redemption. The nation's No. 1-ranked women's team and the No. 2-ranked men hope to avenge their losses by coming out on top during this weekend's Notre Dame Duals.

"We have to prove to ourselves that we are competing at our best level," epeeist Kim Montoya said.

But it won't be an easy feat

see ND DUALS/page 26

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Bulls pay visit to the JACC

By ERIC RETTER
Sports Writer

It's no team's goal to get to the eighth conference game of the season trying to fight to stay alive and claw up from near the conference cellar, but that's the unenviable position the No. 21 Irish find themselves in.

On Saturday, Notre Dame (3-4 in the Big East and 12-6 overall) will take on South Florida, (3-4, 13-7 overall) in an important game that will begin breaking up the 6-way tie for the conference's No. 8 spot.

"It's definitely very important to get back to .500," senior

see USF/page 25



Notre Dame guard Megan Duffy drives against Michigan Nov. 18. The Irish host South Florida Saturday.

HY PHAM/The Observer

MEN'S TENNIS

ND heads to Virginia to face No. 1 Cavaliers

Notre Dame defeated Northwestern 6-1 in its previous match

By KATE GALES
Sports Writer

Take care of the little things, and the big things will take care of themselves.

The Irish adopted this as their motto. In the second match of their season, today at 3 p.m. in Richmond, the Irish will see if their hard work can pay off against No. 1 Virginia.

"We know Virginia is good," Notre Dame coach Bobby Bayliss said. "They're ranked

No. 1 in the country ... they lost to [No. 9] Pepperdine out there."

The Irish are coming off a decisive 6-1 victory over regional rival Northwestern and a stellar fall season.

Last year, they lost 4-3 to the Cavaliers.

"The match was pretty competitive out there [last year]," Bayliss said. "It was 4-3, and we expect to play well and expect it to be a close match."

The Irish have worked to improve their doubles play this week after struggling against the Wildcats.

"We weren't satisfied with it against Northwestern," Bayliss said.

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SPORTS AT A GLANCE

WOMEN'S SWIMMING

ND vs. Oakland Today, 5 p.m.

The Irish can close out their season with a pair of wins this weekend at Rolfs Aquatic Center.

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HOCKEY

Irish at Buckeyes Today, 7:05 p.m.

Ohio State gives the Irish a chance to move up in the CCHA standings.

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MEN'S SWIMMING

Shamrock Classic closes season

The Irish conclude the 2005-06 season with the first annual Shamrock Classic.

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SMC BASKETBALL

Saint Mary's vs. Tri-State Saturday, 3 p.m.

The Belles are favored over last-place Tri-State, which comes into the game with a 2-17 record.

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TRACK AND FIELD

Notre Dame Invitational

The Irish can continue their strong start to the 2006 season with decisive wins in the meet.

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WOMEN'S TENNIS

No. 22 Irish host Buckeyes

Notre Dame will have its home opener on Saturday at 11 a.m. at the Eck Tennis Pavilion.

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