

THE OBSERVER

The Independent Newspaper Serving Notre Dame and Saint Mary's

VOLUME 40 : ISSUE 77

TUESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2006

NDSMCOBSERVER.COM

Board of Trustees holds meetings in Rome

By MADDIE HANNA and
HEATHER VAN HOEGARDEN
News Writers

The Board of Trustees will convene in Rome for its annual winter meetings today and Wednesday to meet with key Vatican leaders, participate in an academic conference and confer two honorary degrees.

The five-day trip gives the University an added avenue to understand how to serve the Church, University spokesman Dennis Brown said Monday.

"Whether the board meets in Rome or not isn't essential to Notre Dame's commitment to serve the Church," Brown said. "The University has been for many years, and remains, fully committed to that end. This

trip gives the trustees and officers greater insight into how we can deepen our efforts in this regard."

Brown said he was unsure if University President Father John Jenkins was going to meet Pope Benedict XVI, elected in April 2005, while in Rome. The last time a Notre Dame president met the pope was in July 2001 when then-University President Father Edward "Monk" Malloy met with the late Pope John Paul II, Brown said.

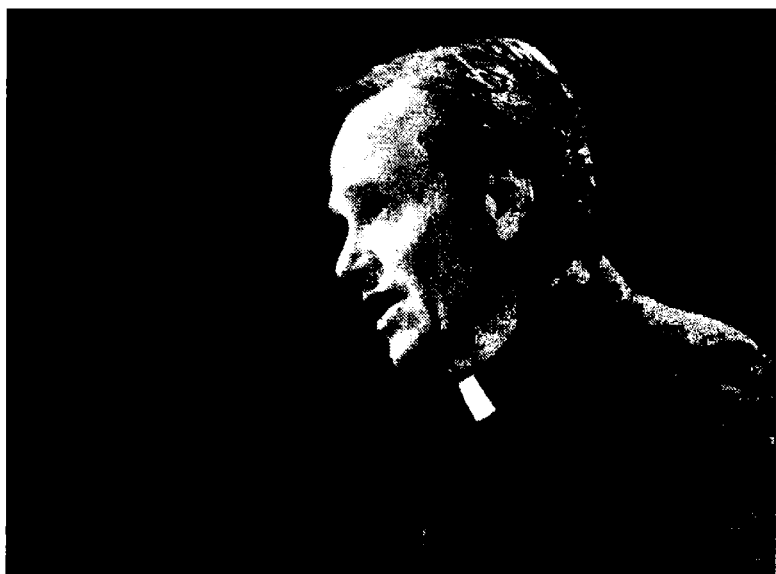
Brown said the idea of meeting in Rome stemmed from a past plan to have a Board of Trustees meeting there, one that never manifested itself. As a result, a meeting in this location has been on the Board's agenda for several years. With

Jenkins taking office on July 1, 2005, it seemed like an appropriate time to have the winter meeting in Rome, Brown said.

Brown also said it was unrelated to Jenkins' recent addresses to students and faculty on academic freedom and Catholic character, issues that have prompted much discussion on campus over the past week.

"The board was scheduled to meet in Rome a couple of years ago, but the trip was postponed, in part because the University took steps at the time to reduce costs during a downturn in the U.S. economy," Brown said. "With Father Jenkins' new administration now in place, this seemed like

see BOT/page 8



CLAIRE KELLEY/The Observer

University President Father John Jenkins will attend the Trustees meetings and speak before Vatican officials.

Catholic universities in U.S. assess academic freedom

Statutes at other Catholic institutions less stringent

By KATIE PERRY
Assistant News Editor

Since the liberal policy of the "Land O' Lakes" statement was reached in a 1967 assembly of Catholic university leadership, the paths of colleges affiliated with the Church have been divergent regarding issues of academic freedom and religious character.

The group of Catholic college administrative members — hosted by University President Emeritus Father Theodore Hesburgh — asserted that Catholic universities "must have a true autonomy and academic freedom in the face of authority of whatever kind, lay or clerical, external or the academic community itself."

Although the statement emphasized the need for colleges to uphold a "perceptively present and effectively oper-

see FREEDOM/page 4



CLAIRE KELLEY/The Observer

Students listen to University President Father John Jenkins' statements on academic freedom and Catholic character, above, in Washington Hall on Jan. 24.

'Monologues' have been banned at SMC since 2001

By KELLY MEEHAN and
LAURA BAUMGARTNER
News Writers

Academic freedom in the forms of "The Vagina Monologues" and the Queer Film Festival has incited campus-wide debate after University President Father John Jenkins questioned the appropriateness of their existence at a Catholic institution in recent addresses.

While the debate of what is and is not appropriate material rages on at Notre Dame, Saint Mary's College has already taken action against performances of "The Vagina Monologues," a play that includes issues that traditionally contradict Catholic teaching, such as masturbation, homosexuality and premarital sex.

see SMC/page 6

CAMPUS LIFE COUNCIL

CLC reexamines its purpose, duty

By MARY KATE MALONE
Assistant News Editor

With half of the academic year behind them, members of the Campus Life Council (CLC) examined the purpose and scope of their existence at Monday's meeting — the first since Christmas break.

Following a procedural roadblock on a recent CLC resolution, student body president Dave Baron asked members to discuss "where our initiatives are being directed."

The resolution that spurred the discussion was one endorsing a Student Senate initiative calling

see CLC/page 8



JENNIFER KANG/The Observer

Judicial Council President James Lefto discusses the responsibilities of the Campus Life Council at its meeting Monday.

University addresses plagiarism accusation

By KAREN LANGLEY
Assistant News Editor

A national Catholic organization has asked the University to investigate the possibility that Notre Dame theology professor Father Richard McBrien plagiarized arguments, structure, themes and some exact language in a Los Angeles Catholic publication — an allegation the University has addressed, McBrien said Monday.

The Cardinal Newman Society (CNS) — which aims to renew Catholic identity at

United States Catholic universities — requested an investigation of the case in a Jan. 19 letter to University President Father John Jenkins.

The CNS alleged that McBrien's Jan. 6 column in *The Tidings* of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles mirrored an op-ed piece by Eileen McNamara that had appeared in the Dec. 11 issue of the *Boston Globe*. McNamara had denounced a protest of a Catholic Charities fundraiser honoring Boston Mayor Thomas

see MCBRIEN/page 6

INSIDE COLUMN

Salt on small potatoes

I don't remember the exact day I heard the phrase "small potatoes" used to describe something with little purpose or credibility. All I know is that it stuck with me ... and maybe it's from "The Godfather II."

I have been using the expression for some time, and have described many a small potato.

Joe Piarulli

Production Editor

Examples range from: "that home-work is small potatoes," to "that rash is small potatoes."

Life is made of plenty of potatoes, and just about the only thing that matters less than a potato is a small potato.

At this point, there's a very obvious path I can take with this metaphor. All I have to do is stress the importance of the little things in life, and how we need to make the most out of every moment, and about how you can use the small potatoes to make potato pancakes, or mashed potatoes, or hash browns, or baked potatoes with cheese and bacon, or potato salad ... but I'm not going to do that because many of those things require recipes and cooking and so on.

So instead, I'm just going to tell you why you should hate the small potatoes.

When life gives you lemons, you shouldn't make lemonade. You should tell life to keep the lemons and make it's own lemonade, then sell the lemonade to you for 50 cents a glass. Life needs to take a finance class or something. People don't want lemons. Come on life, it's simple supply and demand.

When life gives you small potatoes, the issue gets more complicated.

There are two ways to respond to life's small potatoes. You can leave the potatoes plain and consequently waddle through your colorless existence accepting every little obligation that comes along (because everyone knows small potatoes are bland and dry, and eating plain potatoes makes you a boring person), or you can add some salt.

I always add too much salt and make everything bitter. That's why I don't like the small potatoes.

Example 1: When I'm walking to a class, and a guy from that class starts walking faster than me, I get angry. I know you're in my class buddy. You don't have anything special to do in that class before I get there. You're not going there early to tell the other kids that I'm coming so they can jump out from behind their desks and surprise me. You are not a good person getting my hopes up like that.

Example 2: When North Dining Hall doesn't have pepperoni at the Pasta Stirfry station, and I have to tell the guy, "Hey, there's no pepperoni here, guy. That's not cool."

You see what I mean. The small things in life matter, not because we should cherish them and be thankful for them and all that, but because we need something to pay attention to so we don't turn in to boring salt-free potatoes. Give your daily routine something fun — pick something to be angry at, give yourself some purpose, because the only things worse than salt-free potatoes are small salt-free potatoes.

Contact Joe Piarulli at jpiarull@nd.edu
The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

CORRECTIONS

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

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES' MEETING IN ROME?



Justin Doyle

senior
Dillon

"I hear they have great park benches. I doubt the trustees are sleeping on them."



Katherine Sloan

junior
Lewis

"A good idea — I just hope no one gets hit by a motorbike."



Nick Hussey

sophomore
Keenan

"Why in Rome? Why not Abu-Dabi?"



Dave Olson

junior
Carroll

"I hope the food's good at least."



Katie McHugh

sophomore
Lewis

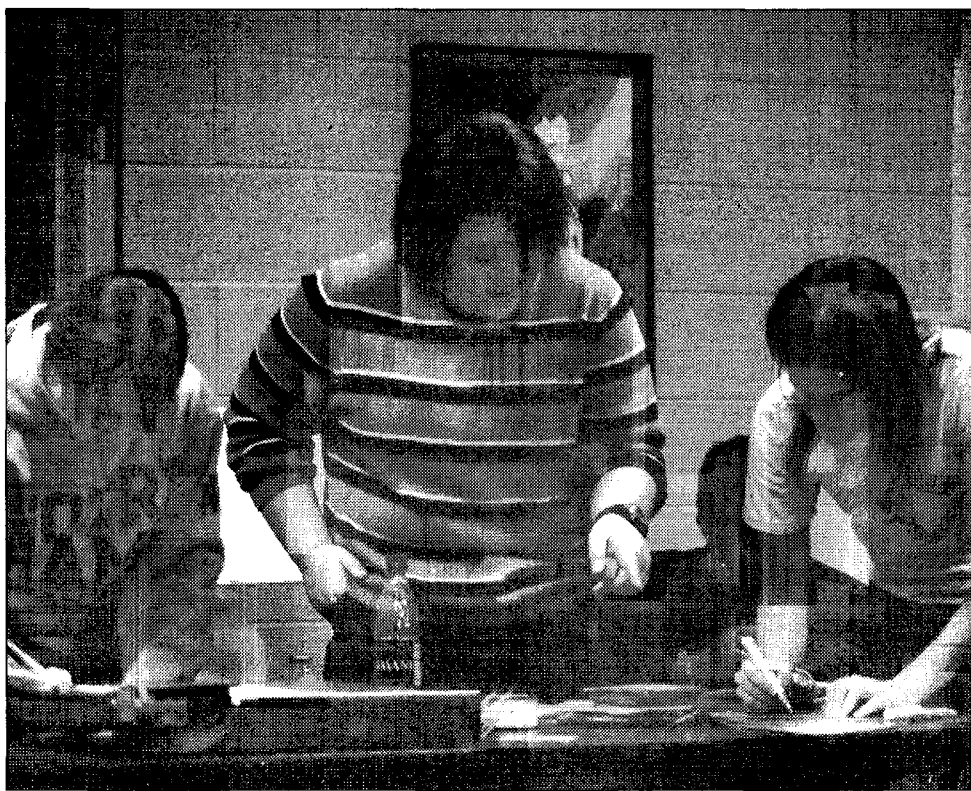
"I think Father Jenkins should be here, dealing with the academic freedom issue our school is facing."



Geoff Bennett

junior
Carroll

"I don't really see the point."



ALLISON AMBROSE / The Observer

As part of Welsh Family Hall's Chinese New Years celebration Monday, organizer Kan Zhang taught residents how to write Chinese symbols for "luck."

OFFBEAT

Pastor gets 18 months for selling church

MANTECA, Calif. — A pastor accused of selling the town's oldest church pleaded guilty to embezzlement on Monday and agreed to 18 months in prison, court officials said.

Randall Radic, 53, entered his plea as part of a deal in which prosecutors agreed to drop nine other charges.

Radic had preached at First Congregational Church in Ripon for nearly a decade before he sold the church last October for \$525,000, allegedly

using the money to buy a BMW. He also faked documents that gave him possession of his house, which was owned by the church, then used the property to take out loans, authorities said.

Animal carcasses cause smelly detour

WISCONSIN RAPIDS, Wis. — Animal carcasses and parts dumped on the Riverview Expressway gave motorists a smelly rush-hour detour Monday and left authorities hunting for whoever dropped the material to the pave-

ment.

As of Monday evening, police Lt. Dave Wesener said investigators had not determined how the incident happened or identified who was responsible.

"We got a partial description of the vehicle but did not locate it," he said.

Police blocked a part of the expressway about 4 p.m. and required west-bound traffic to use the left turn lane to avoid the mess, Wesener said.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

Three panelists will address the question: "Iraq: What now?" today at 4:15 p.m. 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*, tomorrow at 7:30 p.m. in South Dining Hall's Hospitality Room.

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

The College of Arts & Letters will present "You Don't Really Have to be a Rhodes Scholar to Land a Fellowship for Post Graduate Study" Thursday at 7 p.m. in the Hammes Student Lounge of Coleman-Morse.

Legendary rap artist Chuck D from the critically acclaimed Public Enemy will present "Rap, Race, and Reality" Thursday at 8:30 p.m. in DeBartolo Hall, Room 141. A Jimmy John's reception will follow at 10 p.m.

The band Nice Save! will play Friday at 10:30 p.m. at Corby's.

RecSports' Late Night Olympics will take place in the Joyce Center from 10 p.m. Saturday to 4 a.m. Sunday. Donations of \$1 are taken at the door. Proceeds benefit St. Joseph County Special Olympics.

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

LOCAL WEATHER

	TODAY	TONIGHT	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
HIGH	33	30	38	45	38	33
LOW	31	28	30	27	25	23

Atlanta 55 / 38 Boston 44 / 36 Chicago 35 / 33 Denver 54 / 22 Houston 72 / 48 Los Angeles 67 / 52 Minneapolis 31 / 22 New York 46 / 41 Philadelphia 45 / 38 Phoenix 74 / 47 Seattle 45 / 39 St. Louis 53 / 29 Tampa 67 / 57 Washington 43 / 39

BOARD OF GOVERNANCE

BOG gives \$80 to not-for-profit organization

By MEGAN O'NEIL
Saint Mary's Editor

Saint Mary's Board of Governance (BOG) members approved funds for two co-sponsorships during a brief meeting Monday.

Saint Mary's senior Molly Ritter, the College and Notre Dame representative for the not-for-profit organization Invisible Children, presented her efforts to organize a screening of the documentary 'Invisible Children' and asked for \$80 from BOG to help defray costs.

"The organization was actually started by three college kids, three guys from San Diego who went to Uganda to document the war," Ritter said.

One of the most tragic results of the war in northern Uganda, Ritter said, involves rebel forces kidnapping children from their homes late at night. As a result, thousands of children travel hours to nearby cities each evening and sleep wherever they can to avoid being forced to fight.

The ultimate goal of the organization, Ritter said, is to raise enough money to build schools and educate 100,000 Ugandan children.

She reserved DeBartolo 101 for a screening of the film at Notre Dame and has spent much of her

own money in the planning, Ritter said.

"I just wanted to see if I could get a little money for food and snacks ... and a few extra bucks to make fliers to hang around campus, and obviously BOG support of this would be huge."

Officers overwhelmingly approved granting Ritter \$80 to help fund the event.

Shortly thereafter, the Board also voted to give \$150 dollars to help sponsor the two-part Saint Mary's security event "Wasted and Wounded." The first segment of the program took place Monday night and brought local experts to campus to speak about alcohol and sexual violence against women. The event surpassed its attendance goal of 250 people, according to health and wellness commissioner Meghan Lambourne.

"They talked about the realities of alcohol on your body...and they talked about sexual assault and the resources on campus," Lambourne said.

The second half of the program will take place Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. in O'Laughlin Auditorium and will include a live demonstration of a law enforcement officer's posing as a young girl on the Internet to attract sexual predators.

Contact Megan O'Neil at
onei0907@saintmarys.edu

COUNCIL OF REPRESENTATIVES

Group weighs in on fiscal policy

By KAREN LANGLEY
Assistant News Editor

Student leaders debated changes to the student government's fiscal policy at the Council of Representatives (COR) meeting Monday night, adding ideas for a new programming fund to the discussion, which has been ongoing since November.

Student body president Dave Baron and student body vice president Lizzi Shappell met with Father Mark Poorman, vice president for student affairs, on Jan. 20 to discuss COR's idea to use their carry-forward fund — which currently contains \$180,000 — to create an endowment for future student government expenditures. Poorman expressed reluctance to funnel the money into an endowment since carry-forward fund money originated from student activity fees, which are

meant to be used immediately, Baron said.

"What we're thinking about now is creating a programming fund," Shappell said. "Any student group could apply, and funds could cover an event entirely or supplement larger events."

"What we're thinking about now is creating a programming fund. Any student group could apply and funds could cover an event entirely or supplement larger events."

Lizzi Shappell
student body vice president

Shappell and Baron suggested creating a cap of \$100,000 on the carry-over fund and taking \$100,000 from that fund to place in a programming fund, which would be run under the supervision of Student Affairs and Student Activities. This would leave room for the carry-over fund to grow by \$20,000 before hitting its cap.

"The idea behind putting it under the joint operation of Student Affairs and Student Activities is they have the most contact with donors," Baron said. "At various times, people come to Father Poorman and say, 'How can I

benefit student life?' If we get a vested interest from [Student Affairs and Student Activities], this is something we can bring to the table."

Under the proposal, groups would be able to apply for portions of the \$20,000 that would be available from the fund for programming each year. This fund would last for five years if left alone, but its affiliation with Student Affairs and Student Activities might lead to supplementation by donors.

COR members debated whether the \$20,000 should be spent on one large, new or supplementary project or if it should be divided among as many groups as apply.

"The money should be kept as one lump sum to make one noticeable difference," said O'Neill senator Steve Tortorello. "Otherwise, everyone in the world will apply, and it will get chopped up until it's like [the fund] didn't exist."

Judicial Council president James Leito asked if student government would accept donations for the programming fund from donors who had specific requirements for the use of their gift.

"I'd say anybody who's willing to give us money, we should take it," he said.

Contact Karen Langley at
klangle1@nd.edu

Monthly interactive discussions about hot topics in the Church

Marriage and the Truth and Fiction

Sylvia and John Dillon

Directors of Marriage Preparation and Religious Education
University of Notre Dame

SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE
NOTRE DAME, IN

Sponsored by
Campus Ministry,
Center for Spirituality,
and the
Board of Governance

8:00 p.m.,
Wednesday,
February 1, 2006
Cyber Café
Student Center

Freedom

continued from page 1

ative" Catholic character, the conference's Vatican II thinkers left the term open to interpretation by individual universities.

University President Father John Jenkins suggested his own interpretation last week – a bold stance that would disallow the presence of campus events that fail to align with Church teaching, if implemented into official University policy. Jenkins specifically cited the Queer Film Festival and the Vagina Monologues as events not in concert with teachings of the Catholic Church.

The "Vagina Monologues" has faced increased scrutiny in recent years from Catholic leaders who believe the play degrades women with its frank and candid discussion of rape, sexual intercourse and female genitalia.

In 2004, the Cardinal Newman Society (CNS) paid for a full-page advertisement in USA Today, denouncing the play's production on Catholic campuses and calling for members of the public to contact school presidents and other leaders to stop performances.

Last February, the CNS released a statement on its Web site asking Catholic women to condemn the play's presence at universities affiliated with the Church.

The Society's efforts were not in vain, as 16 Catholic colleges across the country consequently canceled performances of "The Vagina Monologues" on campus. But some Catholic schools, like Notre Dame and Boston College, continued to show the controversial play. A number of groups at Boston College endorsed the show, including the office of the vice president for student affairs, the women's studies program and the English and sociology departments. "The current student body is different from people that might have graduated from BC years ago," communications department chair Lisa Cuklanz said in a Feb. 17, 2005 article in Boston College's student newspaper, The Heights. "There is a cultural shift, and people have different thoughts on what Catholic tradition is. In that light, 'The Vagina Monologues' produce tension."

Fort Wayne-South Bend Bishop John D'Arcy expressed this tension at the onset of last year's "Vagina Monologues" performances at Notre Dame.

"Freedom in the Catholic tradition, and even in the American political tradition, is not the right to do anything," D'Arcy's said in a February, 2005 statement. "This play violates the truth about women; the truth about sexuality; the truth about male and female; and the truth about the human body. It is in opposition to the highest understanding of academic freedom ... A Catholic university seeks truth."

Franciscan University of Steubenville (Ohio), adheres to a policy of academic freedom heavily centered around the deep-seated Catholic character of the institution and its desire to seek such truth.

According to the university's mission statement, "Franciscan University ... opposes the promotion of propositions and values contrary to Catholic teaching. This in no way impinges on true academic freedom, as the Catholic Church accepts all that is true and rejects all that is

false."

Franciscan University Associate Director of Public Relations Tom Sofio said rigorous discussion of all viewpoints can occur in the classroom, but professors are not to "promote" or advocate topics in conflict with Church teaching.

"The pro-choice view could be explained or examined in the classroom but not endorsed or advocated," he said. "I recently sat in on a Great Books class where students learned all about the views of Nietzsche, the atheist who referred to himself as

"the Antichrist," but those views were not endorsed by the teacher – his role in the shaping of human events in Germany, however, were examined."

Statutes of academic freedom at other Catholic colleges are less stringent. Georgetown University's policy, as outlined in its Faculty Handbook, emphasizes toleration but asks faculty members to "recognize

that [Georgetown] is a Jesuit university committed ... to Catholic principles and religious values."

Notre Dame's current policy on academic freedom is also relatively open-ended in its interpretation of Catholic character in an academia.

"As a Catholic university, we cannot sanction an event that promotes a lifestyle that is in conflict with Church teaching."

**Jack Dunn
spokesman
Boston College**

students, the faculty, and the administration," they must be consistent with certain University objectives and "[live] in the tradition of Christian belief."

The struggle to maintain Catholic values on campus goes beyond the narrowest definition of academic freedom – that is, the right of students and

faculty members in an academic institution to express their beliefs unabashedly and without discrimination.

Groups, speakers and other non-academic events deemed in conflict with Catholic character have also faced sanctions on campuses across the country.

Franciscan University policy places standards on speakers – who must express views "consistent with [the college's] stated mission as a Catholic Franciscan institution of higher education."

Speakers must be sponsored by a University department or officially-recognized student organization. Sofio said the president can deny any approval for a speaker whose "appearance or remarks ... would compromise the University's mission or promote propositions and values contrary to Catholic teaching."

In his seven years at the University, Sofio said he cannot recall any "controversies or confrontations" concerning invited speakers or cultural events on campus.

The story was not the same at Boston College in December, 2005, however, when the University canceled an AIDS

benefit dance designed to be a "safe zone event" for GLBT (gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender) students due to its discordance with teachings of the Catholic Church.

"The University's policy is that students apply for permits for events through the Office of the Dean for Student Development, and upon reviewing the request ... concluded, appropriately, that they could not endorse an event that advocated a position that was in conflict with church teaching," University spokesman Jack Dunn told The Heights in a Dec. 5, 2005 article.

Dunn said the stance is what any of the other 238 Catholic universities in the United States would do in a similar situation.

"As a Catholic university, we cannot sanction an event that promotes a lifestyle that is in conflict with church teaching," he said.

Jenkins reiterated this belief in a series of speeches last week in which he called Notre Dame's sponsorship of certain events inconsistent with Catholic teaching "problematic."

Contact Katie Perry at kperry5@nd.edu

plant your ideas here

... we have. The GE H system turbine is one of the world's most efficient gas turbines, capable of delivering 60% efficiency. Higher efficiency means less fuel is required to generate electricity ... fewer emissions mean less greenhouse gas. In one year, a GE H turbine will emit 73,000 tons less carbon dioxide emissions as compared to the same amount of electricity generated by a conventional gas turbine combined cycle system. We call this ecomagination. At GE we invite you to grow your ecomagination through a career in engineering, finance, manufacturing, sales and marketing, human resources, or information technology.

Come meet GE reps and learn more about full-time and internship opportunities at GE!

**Winter Career & Internship Fair
February 1, 2006
Joyce Center - North Dome
4 - 8 PM
On-campus interviews will be
Feb 21st.**

ecomaginationSM

to learn more visit us at gecareers.com
an equal opportunity employer



imagination at work



Proud to be a
Golden Key Sponsor

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Nigerians release foreign hostages

ABUJA, Nigeria — An American and three other foreign oil workers held hostage for two weeks were released Monday after a secessionist leader appealed to their captors, who had demanded southern Nigerians benefit more from their region's energy wealth.

The kidnappings were among a rash of recent attacks signaling that violence is on the rise in the Niger Delta, which remains impoverished despite its oil reserves.

The four men — Louisiana native Patrick Landry, Briton Nigel Watson-Clark, Bulgarian Milko Nichev and Honduran Harry Ebanks — appeared alongside Nigeria's president after being brought to the capital from southern Nigeria hours after their early-morning release.

The four looked tired and were still wearing the shirts and shorts they were dressed in when captured by gunmen Jan. 11 at an off-shore Shell oil rig in the Niger delta. They did not speak.

Derailed passenger train kills dozens

LONDON — Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said Monday that "robust" negotiations with Iran are needed to deal with its resumed nuclear program, as European ministers' talks aimed at breaking the diplomatic deadlock appeared to fail.

Rice said the international community agreed that Iran should not have the means of developing a nuclear weapon, and she criticized Iran's response to Russian attempts to mediate in the standoff.

"We believe that there is a lot of life left in the diplomacy," Rice said. "After all, going to the Security Council is not the end of diplomacy. It's just diplomacy in a different, more robust context."

NATIONAL NEWS

Clerk swears in jury for Enron trial

HOUSTON — A jury of Houston-area residents was selected Monday for the trial of former Enron Corp. chiefs Kenneth Lay and Jeffrey Skilling, accused of orchestrating the massive fraud that came to symbolize an era of corporate scandals.

A court clerk swore in the 12 jurors and four alternates, and U.S. District Judge Sim Lake instructed them not to talk about the case during their service. He also ordered them not to read, listen to, or watch news reports about the trial.

Lay, the Enron founder, said he was pleased with the panel: "My fate is in their hands, and we'll get on to making the case for my innocence."

Mexican border remains vulnerable

SAN DIEGO — A U.S. government effort to find drug-smuggling tunnels underneath the Mexican border with ground-penetrating radar and other high-tech gear has had little success.

Human intelligence has proven to be the most effective method of finding the passageways. A case in point: The longest tunnel ever found along the border was discovered last week after a tip.

The Homeland Security Department said Monday that a Mexican man, Carlos Cardenas Calvillo, was arrested in connection with the 2,400-foot tunnel, which went as deep as 90 feet and was about 5 feet in height and 5 feet wide.

LOCAL NEWS

Indiana police to recruit laterally

INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana State Police will be looking this summer for officers who want to switch uniforms.

With openings for more than 200 troopers, state police plan to begin lateral recruiting, drawing experienced officers from other departments rather than signing up rookies.

As of Jan. 4, the force had 1,126 of its 1,334 trooper slots filled.

"We are in a competitive market," said 1st Sgt. Dave Bursten.

EGYPT

Al-Jazeera airs al-Qaida video

Second in command al-Zawahri calls Bush 'the butcher of Washington'

Associated Press

CAIRO — In a new video aired Monday, al-Qaida's No. 2 Ayman al-Zawahri mocked President Bush as a "failure" in the war on terror, called him a "butcher" for killing innocent Pakistanis in a miscarried airstrike and chastised the United States for rejecting Osama bin Laden's offer of a truce.

Al-Zawahri, wearing white robes and a white turban and speaking in a forceful and angry voice, also threatened a new attack in the United States — "God willing, on your own land."

The video, broadcast on Al-Jazeera TV a day before Bush delivers his State of the Union address, provided the first concrete evidence that al-Zawahri was still alive after the Jan. 13 airstrike in eastern Pakistan that targeted him but killed four other al-Qaida leaders and 13 villagers.

The message came on the heels of a Jan. 19 audiotape by bin Laden, the al-Qaida leader's first tape in more than a year. Bin Laden said his followers were preparing an attack in the United States and offered the Americans a conditional truce, though he did not spell out terms.

A U.S. counterterrorism official, who spoke on condition of anonymity in compliance with office policy, said there is no reason to doubt the authenticity of the al-Zawahri video, which U.S. intelligence officials were analyzing.

The counterterrorism official noted the video was disseminated quickly, demonstrating al-Zawahri's ability to get his message out even faster than bin Laden. That suggests the two are not hiding together and bin Laden may be in a more remote location than his deputy, the official said.

The Homeland Security Department had no immediate plans to raise the



AP Photo

Al-Qaida's deputy leader Ayman al-Zawahri appeared on Al-Jazeera in a video released Monday. Al-Zawahri threatened a new attack on the United States.

nation's terror threat levels because of the Zawahri tape. "Not at this time," said spokesman Russ Knocke said.

U.S. officials had said after the bin Laden tape that no intelligence indicated an imminent al-Qaida attack. On Monday, FBI Special Agent Richard Kolko said the bureau would ask agents around the country to review ongoing cases and tips in light of the al-Zawahri video, especially with two major events in the United States this week — the State of the Union in Washington and the Super Bowl in Detroit.

Al-Zawahri said in the video that he had a number of messages to give in the wake of the airstrike.

In one message, he invited Bush to convert to Islam.

"If you accept, you will become a brother in our faith and God will forgive you your sins," the Al-Jazeera news-reader quoted him as saying. The invitation was not in the excerpts aired by the Arab satellite station.

He said the airstrike in Pakistan by an unmanned Predator craft targeted himself and four of his "brothers" in al-Qaida. Instead, he said, it killed 18 civilians — "men, women, and children" — and he called Bush "the butcher of Washington."

"Bush, you are not only defeated and a liar, but, with God's help and might, a failure. You are a curse on your own nation and you have brought and will bring them only catastrophes and tragedies," he said.

"Bush, do you know where I am? I am among the Muslim masses, enjoying God's blessing of their support, care, generosity and protection," al-Zawahri said.

He said he had a message "to the American people, who are drowning in illusions. I tell you that Bush and his gang are shedding your blood and wasting your money in failed adventures."

"The lion of Islam, Sheikh Osama bin Laden, may God protect him, offered you a decent exit from your dilemma. But your leaders, who are keen to accumulate wealth, insist on throwing you into battle and killing your souls in Iraq and Afghanistan and — God willing — on your own land," he said.

IRAQ

U.S. journalist appears in video

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — The U.S. journalist Jill Carroll, weeping and veiled, appeared on a new videotape aired Monday by Al-Jazeera, and the Arab television station said she appealed for the release of all Iraqi women prisoners.

The video was dated Saturday — two days after the U.S. military released five Iraqi women.

Carroll, 28, was crying and wore a conservative Islamic veil as she spoke to the camera, sitting in front of a yellow and black tapestry. The Al-Jazeera newscaster said she appealed for U.S. and Iraqi authorities to free all women prisoners to help "in winning her release."

At one point, Carroll's cracking voice can be heard from behind the news-reader's voice. All that can be heard is Carroll saying, "... hope for the families ..."

The U.S. military released the women last Thursday and was believed to be holding about six more. It was unclear how many women were

held by Iraqi authorities.

Carroll, a freelance reporter for the Christian Science Monitor, was seized Jan. 7 by the previously unknown Revenge Brigades, which threatened to kill her unless all women prisoners were released. Al-Jazeera did not report any deadline or threat to kill her Monday.

Al-Jazeera editor Yasser Thabit said the station received the tape Monday and that it was between two to three minutes long, but only a fraction of the footage was telecast.

BOT

continued from page 1

an ideal time to make the trip as a way to renew previous relationships and make new ones."

Trustees will meet with numerous Vatican officials, including representatives of the Congregation for Catholic Education, the Pontifical Council for Social Communications, the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith and the Secretariat of State.

The conference, entitled "Contribution of Catholic Universities to the Church and Culture," will feature addresses by Jenkins, Rino Fisichella, auxiliary bishop of Rome and rector of St. John (Pontifical) Lateran University, and Notre Dame Trustee Daniel Jenky, bishop of Peoria, Ill.

During the conference, Fisichella will speak on "The Role of the Roman Universities," Jenky will address "The Congregation of Holy Cross and Catholic Education," and Jenkins will deliver an address entitled "Notre Dame: A Catholic University within American Academe." His address comes a little over a week after he sparked campus dialogue on academic freedom and Notre Dame's Catholic character.

The honorary degrees will be presented to Fisichella and L. Frances Rooney III, U.S. Ambassador to the Holy See.

Fisichella was appointed to his position as rector of the Pontifical Lateran University

by the late Pope John Paul II in 2001 and served as a primary contributor to John Paul II's 1998 encyclical on faith and reason.

Last June, Fisichella visited Notre Dame to address a bishop's conference.

Rooney, the former chief executive officer of Manhattan Construction Company, is the seventh U.S. ambassador to the Holy See since full diplomatic relations were established in 1984. He is a member of the Notre Dame School of Architecture Advisory Council.

Student government representatives will not be present at the meeting, but a brief report to update Trustees on the group's initiatives since October was sent to Vice President of Student Affairs

Father Mark Poorman, student body president Dave Baron said.

Poorman will present the topics — community relations, the Transpo partnership, Eating Disorders Awareness Week, diversity and cultural competency and the Catholic Think Tank lecture series — in the "State of Student Government" executive summary to the Board's Student Affairs committee.

Brown said although the Board's agenda for the meeting is not made public, he expects there to at least be some work on the budget.

"The winter meeting always includes work on the budget," Brown said.

Contact Maddie Hanna and Heather Van Hoegarden at mhanna1@nd.edu and hvanhoeg@nd.edu

"... [T]his seemed like an ideal time to renew previous relationships and make new ones."

Dennis Brown
University spokesman

CLC

continued from page 1

for the creation of a committee that would address diversity in the Notre Dame curricula.

Because the new committee would be under the office of the Provost, the CLC sent their resolution — which endorsed the Senate's proposal — to both Vice President of Academic Affairs Father Mark Poorman and University Provost Tom Burish. But Poorman wrote back days later saying he was unable to take action, since the resolution went against CLC by-laws.

"I want to remind you that the CLC by-laws state that 'recommendations shall be made directly to the vice president for student affairs' ... Because of the procedural difficulty, I am unable to take action ..."

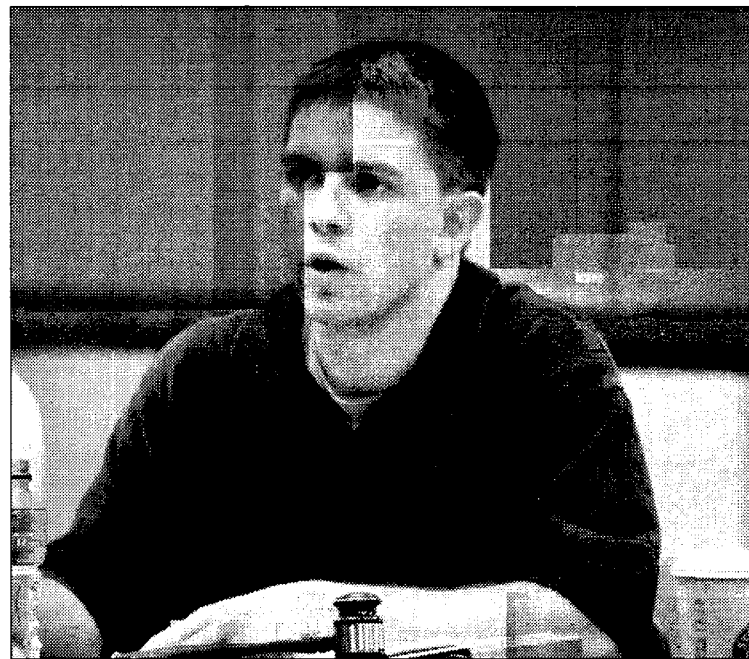
Poorman wrote in a Dec. 9 letter to the Council. But Baron said he wasn't worried about the roadblock, since the CLC's resolution was mainly an endorsement and could be remedied rather easily. Instead, he wanted to use the confusion to discuss CLC's role in academic affairs.

Carroll Hall rector Father Jim Lewis said the council should not spend too much energy on issues that go beyond the purview of the CLC, like academic affairs.

"This seems to be a concern that comes up every year ... I don't think we need to address every important issue that comes up on campus," Meyer said. "We would be serving the University better if we focus on student affairs."

Welsh Family Hall rector Candace Carson encouraged members of the group to act individually about issues they care about that stretch beyond the scope of the CLC.

"Sometimes the weight of an



JENNIFER KANG/The Observer

Student body president Dave Baron leads a discussion about the basic responsibilities of the CLC during its Monday meeting.

individual is as strong as the weight of the group. As long as it's the proper venue ... we're all on different things and we can work that way to achieve the ends we want."

History professor Gail Bederman questioned and then clarified the purpose of the council.

"It's specifically set up for all these people to talk to Father Poorman, and that's what we're here to do — to be the eyes and ears [on campus] and talk to Father Poorman ... It's a unique position."

She said she could not think of any other student government groups that are so tightly tied with one University official.

That strict union, though, prohibits the Council from speaking directly with any other administration members. Instead, it must ask Poorman to do so on their behalf.

Lewis said it can be frustrating to put energy into a resolution, only to be told that the issue can't be taken on, but

student affairs representative David Moss reminded members that the CLC has the inside-track into academic affairs and that its role is to give Poorman the "pulse of the campus in all areas."

"So often in institutions you may have an idea you want to turn up the flagpole, and you get no response," Moss said. "Whereas with this body, at least we know we have the attention of the vice president of student affairs, and he's ready to respond to us."

Baron asked the CLC task force on student voice and input to examine what university committees — if any — addresses academic affairs with the voices of both students and faculty.

The task force on social concerns and the task force on campus grounds and structures had no new news to report.

Contact Mary Kate Malone at mmalone3@nd.edu

McBrien

continued from page 1

Menino, who supports abortion rights and homosexual marriage.

The University has not released a report, but McBrien said the University has addressed the situation.

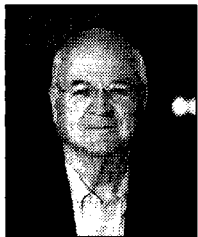
"The University of Notre Dame has conducted a review of this allegation according to its normal procedures, and I am completely satisfied with its outcome," he said Monday via e-mail.

University spokesman Dennis Brown declined to comment Monday on any such review.

"We can neither comment on the results of a review nor acknowledge that an investigation or review has taken place," Brown said. "From the University's standpoint, it is completely a confidential matter."

Brown also would not confirm whether or not a Notre Dame professor has been found guilty of plagiarism in the past.

Contact Karen Langley at klangle1@nd.edu



Father Richard McBrien

SMC

continued from page 1

The play has been banned from the Saint Mary's campus since Jan. 2001. The monologues were performed for the first and only college-sanctioned time at Saint Mary's in the spring of 2000, and it sold out for both nights of its performance in Carroll Auditorium.

After the performance, then-College President Marilou Eldred received a flood of disapproving letters and phone calls to the administration. The alumnae, Board of Trustees and Parents Council were distraught after reading a letter by former College professor E. Michael Jones that the show went against Church teaching. This outcry led to Eldred's announcement of the administration's decision to cancel performances of "The Vagina Monologues" on campus.

According to an article in the South Bend Tribune last week, the college scheduled other activities to encourage discussion of sexuality and violence against women.

In a Jan. 25, 2001 Observer article, Vice President of Student Affairs Linda Timm said Eldred believed "there are other ways dialogue can be continued to raise awareness about rape and address issues of sexuality."

Some students were out-

raged by this decision and felt that the reasoning behind "The Vagina Monologues" cancellation was to appease alumnae, parents and the Board of Trustees. Debate erupted across campus in 2001 as some students felt the administration was too concerned with the opinions of those outside of the immediate College community. Students' anger was evidenced in the creation of a petition that was passed around campus and also by a sit-in staged outside Eldred's office.

On Feb. 19, 2001, despite the College refusing to allow an official performance of "The Vagina Monologues," fifteen women from the Notre Dame and Saint Mary's community held an "underground" reading of the monologues in the Regina Hall lounge. Over 150 people attended.

About one month after the unsanctioned performance, Eldred ordered three seniors to apologize or face disciplinary action for participating in the play. According to the article in the South Bend Tribune, the seniors refused and instead submitted a written defense of their actions and explained why they felt

the need to participate.

This spurred a campus debate on academic freedom, and students involved in the Campus Alliance for Rape Elimination (CARE) continued to hold readings of "The Vagina Monologues" in the Regina North Lounge without college approval through 2004. The college had no response to these performances.

In a March 5, 2004 Observer article, Saint Mary's spokesperson Melanie

McDonald said the College did not oppose the right of small groups to gather without official College endorsement for the reading of plays such as "The Vagina Monologues."

While "The Vagina Monologues" remain banned as

a publicly sponsored performance on campus, the administration has allowed and approved the performance of "The SMC Monologues."

Created by the president of CARE Ginger Francis and CARE's faculty advisor, associate professor of psychology, Catherine Pittman, "The SMC Monologues" were first performed in 2005.

Francis and Pittman wanted to address the issues presented in The Vagina Monologues

"[The SMC Monologues] is a safe forum for women to reclaim their voices and have them heard."

Ginger Francis
CARE faculty advisor

in a way that was tailored specifically to the women of the Saint Mary's community, Pittman said.

"The SMC Monologues" is a story about us. It is an all-inclusive production created by us and for us," said Francis. "Women in the SMC community — students, faculty, staff and the Sisters of the Holy Cross — have written their own pieces about their experiences as women, experiences of sexual violence and experiences surrounding sexuality."

"It's a safe forum for women to reclaim their voices and have them be heard," she said.

College officials did not comment on why "The SMC Monologues" are considered acceptable while "The Vagina Monologues" remain banned.

Last year CARE raised over \$600 for SOS, the rape crisis center for St. Joseph County, through donations collected at "The SMC Monologues."

There will be no admission charge for the event again this year, which will be performed Saturday, Feb. 18 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, Feb. 19 at 2 p.m. in Carroll Auditorium. A minimum donation of \$3 at the door is being suggested, and all proceeds will benefit SOS.

Contact Kelly Meehan at meeha01@saintmarys.edu and Laura Baumgartner at baumga01@saintmarys.edu

MARKET RECAP

Stocks			
Dow Jones	10,899.92	-7.29	
Up: 1,596	Same: 145	Down: 1,698	Composite Volume: 2,279,180,280

AMEX	1,838.89	+14.60
NASDAQ	2,306.78	+2.55
NYSE	8,105.25	+9.11
S&P 500	1,285.20	+1.48
NIKKEI(Tokyo)	16,551.23	0.00
FTSE 100(London)	5,779.80	-7.00

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
MICROSOFT CP (MSFT)	+0.76	+0.21	28.00
SUN MICROSYS (SUNW)	+1.86	+0.08	4.37
ORACLE CORP (ORCL)	+1.61	+0.20	12.61
INTEL CP (INTC)	-0.09	-0.02	21.65
NASDAQ 110 TR (QQQQ)	+0.19	+0.08	42.19

Treasuries			
30-YEAR BOND	+0.60	+0.28	47.08
10-YEAR NOTE	+0.71	+0.32	45.35
5-YEAR NOTE	+0.61	+0.27	44.61
3-MONTH BILL	+0.12	+0.05	43.42

Commodities			
LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl.)	+0.59		68.35
GOLD (\$/Troy oz.)	+6.90		570.60
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)	-0.38		75.63

Exchange Rates			
YEN			117.6300
EURO			0.8270
POUND			0.5654

IN BRIEF

Report estimates rebuilding costs

PENTAGON — A new government report concludes that it will take far more U.S. support before the Iraqi government is capable of taking control over billions of dollars in reconstruction projects.

The report was prepared by the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction.

It warns that 2006 will be a critical year of transition in Iraq. And it questions whether the Iraqi government has the needed resources to rebuild and protect the infrastructure, develop the country's major cities and support private sector projects.

The report makes no recommendations on how much money is needed. But recent audits have said that billions of dollars in projects to improve water, sewer and electrical systems have been diverted to security and other higher priorities.

IRS falls short of conversion goal

WASHINGTON — The Internal Revenue Service won't meet its goal of converting 80 percent of taxpayers from paper to electronic filing next year, but could get there by 2011, agency overseers reported Monday.

The independent IRS Oversight Board recommended that lawmakers give the IRS an extra four years to meet the electronic filing target, set by Congress in a 1998 law.

Rather than allowing the goal to expire, the board said an extension could keep the IRS and others focused on increasing electronic filing.

The board credited the 2007 deadline with pushing the IRS to increase the number of taxpayers who file their returns electronically, a number that exceeded 50 percent last year.

"It's visibility and clarity galvanized the IRS and its stakeholders into action and resulted in changed behavior by taxpayers, tax preparers and tax software companies, among others," the board said.

The board projected that four out of five taxpayers will file electronically by 2011 if the tax collectors can keep the program growing at the same rate.

The IRS has reduced money and time spent on processing paper returns with the growth of electronic filing.

Bush prepares to present budget

Democrats contest he cannot make proposed deficit cuts while troops remain in Iraq

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush will renew his call for personal accounts within Social Security and ask Congress to renew tax cuts and curb the growth in benefit programs like Medicare and Medicaid in his 2007 budget request next week, according to administration officials.

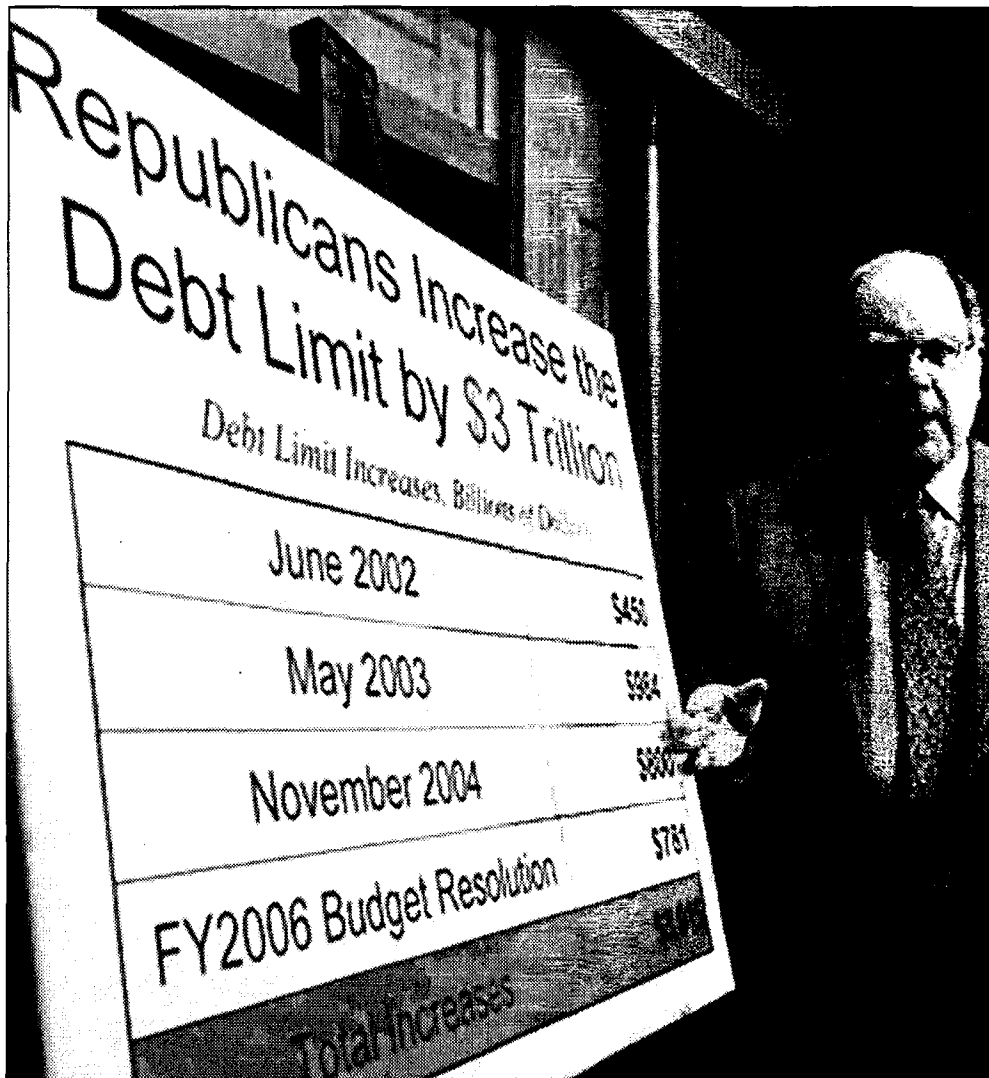
But since election years hardly ever generate results on the budget or attempts to cut the deficit, Bush is far more likely to find success in smaller-bore initiatives like freezing the operating budgets of most domestic Cabinet departments.

Bush's call last year to let younger workers divert some of their Social Security taxes into private accounts never got off the ground with lawmakers despite an election-style campaign by the administration and its supporters. While the idea will again be in his proposed 2007 budget, the White House doesn't expect it to get even a nod this year from Congress, a senior White House official said Monday, speaking on condition of anonymity.

At the same time, the rising budget deficit and the enormous cost of the war in Iraq may squeeze out upcoming Bush initiatives to boost access to medical care — among the very few items in his budget that the White House has trumpeted in advance.

Bush's market-based health care initiative includes creating health savings accounts, making out-of-pocket medical costs deductible, and allowing small businesses to pool the purchasing of health insurance across state lines free of state regulation.

Few of these initiatives are new; neither are Bush's demands for permanent extension of his 2001 and 2003 tax cut bills and many other items in his



Representative John Spratt, D—S.C., discussed budget figures for the 2006 fiscal year at a press conference on Capitol Hill Jan. 26.

budget.

"It's all, for the most part, replays of the same things that they've proposed for the past five years," said lobbyist Hazen Marshall, former GOP staff director of the Senate Budget Committee. "They seem to be making a concerted effort to highlight health care, but the proposals that I've seen haven't been anything new."

And the simple fact that something is proposed again and again means it's been rejected many times before. That's why many lawmakers will consider much of Bush's budget plan "dead on arrival."

"The president's budget is not the agenda-setting development or event that

it used to be," said Stan Collender, managing director of Financial Dynamics, a business communications firm. "They use it to make a political statement. It should in no way be taken as what they would actually do or what they actually want or what they're ultimately going to accept."

Bush predicts the deficit for the current year will top \$400 billion; last year's deficit registered \$319 billion. Bush says his budget plan will meet his pledge to cut the deficit in half by the end of his presidency — to \$260 billion from a preliminary estimate of \$521 billion for the 2004 budget year.

Bush said Jan. 26 that his budget "will continue to eliminate programs that

don't work or that are duplicative in nature, ... cut our deficit in half by 2009 and make sure the American people still get their tax relief."

But that deficit-cutting claim is likely to come under assault from Democrats charging Bush can meet the pledge only by leaving out the long-term cost of the war in Iraq and by proposing unrealistic budget cuts and fees.

"I think the president will send us a budget with triple-digit deficits for the rest of his presidency — can't avoid it — and without any credible plan to balance the budget," said Rep. John Spratt Jr. of South Carolina, top Democrat on the House Budget Committee.

Americans spend more, save less

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Americans spent more than they made last year — something they haven't done since the Great Depression, a time of massive unemployment and soup lines.

This time the trigger was good economic news — a booming housing market, which has made millions of American homeowners feel wealthier and thus more willing to spend with abandon.

Government statistics released Monday showed they may have gone overboard with all of that spending, consuming all their after-tax income and then some.

The Commerce Department reported Monday that Americans' personal savings rate fell into negative territory, minus 0.5 percent, last year. That means people spent all their after-tax income and then had to dip into previous savings or borrow more to finance their consumption.

The savings rate has been negative for an entire year only twice before, in 1932 and 1933 — two years when Americans were having to deplete savings to cope with the massive job layoffs and business failures caused by the Great Depression.

Now, soaring home prices are making people feel wealthier. But this behavior could be risky at a time when 78 million Americans are on the verge of retire-

ment. The baby boomers start turning 60 this year, which means they can begin retiring with Social Security in just two more years.

With this huge wave of pending retirements, analysts said, the savings rate should be going up rather than being on a steady decline over the past two decades. The savings rate stood at 10.8 percent of after-tax incomes in 1984 and has been declining steadily since that time. It was down to 1.8 percent in 2004 before turning negative last year.

"Americans seem to have the feeling that it is wimpish to save," said David Wyss, chief economist at Standard & Poor's in New York. "The idea is to put away money for old age and we are just not doing that."

THE OBSERVER VIEWPOINT

page 8

Tuesday, January 31, 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

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Claire Heiningner

MANAGING EDITOR BUSINESS MANAGER
Pat Leonard Paula Garcia

ASST. MANAGING EDITOR: Maureen Reynolds
ASST. MANAGING EDITOR: Sarah Vabulas
ASST. MANAGING EDITOR: Heather Van Hoegarden

SPORTS EDITOR: Mike Gilloon
SCENE EDITOR: Rama Gottumukkala
SAINT MARY'S EDITOR: Megan O'Neil
PHOTO EDITOR: Claire Kelley
GRAPHICS EDITOR: Graham Ebersch
ADVERTISING MANAGER: Nick Guerrieri
AD DESIGN MANAGER: Jennifer Kenning
CONTROLLER: Jim Kirihera
WEB ADMINISTRATOR: Damian Althoff

OFFICE MANAGER & GENERAL INFO
(574) 631-7471

FAX
(574) 631-6927
ADVERTISING
(574) 631-6900 observad@nd.edu

EDITOR IN CHIEF
(574) 631-4542
MANAGING EDITOR
(574) 631-4541 obsmc@nd.edu
ASSISTANT MANAGING EDITOR
(574) 631-4324
BUSINESS OFFICE
(574) 631-5313

NEWS DESK
(574) 631-5323 obsncws.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
(574) 631-8767 obsphoto@nd.edu
SYSTEMS & WEB ADMINISTRATORS
(574) 631-8839

THE
OBSERVER ONLINE
www.ndsmcobserver.com

POLICIES

The Observer is the independent, daily newspaper published in print and online by the students of the University of Notre Dame du Lac and Saint Mary's College. Editorial content, including advertisements, is not governed by policies of the administration of either institution. The Observer reserves the right to refuse advertisements based on content.

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 Heiningner.

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

The Observer is a member of the Associated Press. All reproduction rights are reserved.

TODAY'S STAFF

News	Sports
Nicole Zook	Dan Tapetillo
Peter Ninneman	Jack Thornton
Kaitlynn Riely	Jay Fitzpatrick
Viewpoint	Scene
Alyssa	Mark
Brauweiler	Bemenderfer
Graphics	
Kelly MacDonald	

2006: Two parties, no choice

It is an election year, Notre Dame. Be ready for electioneering, politicking and bucketfuls of empty promises from sleazebag politicians. This year we Americans will once again exercise our government-given right to choose our own rulers, which is apparently something of which we should be proud. In America, you see, we can elect to dispose of our oppressors with the simple (or, in the case of Florida, not quite simple enough) punch of a button.

I dislike elections. I think they bring out the worst in what is wrong with America: advertising blitzes, lies and slimy politicians smiling through their teeth as they rob us blind. What election years do offer, however, is some small hope that maybe this year will be different. Maybe, for some unknown reason, America will awaken.

However, I am also a pragmatic person. I know that if you are a Democrat, you will probably re-elect Slimeball X for his fourth term in the House. If you are a Republican, you will happily fill in the box next to Senator Liar Number Three and elect her for the 10th straight year.

In America, party loyalty is more important than actually paying attention.

According to FairVote — The Center for Voting and Democracy, "In each of the four national elections since 1996, more than 98 percent of incumbents have won, and more than 90 percent of all races have been won by non-competitive margins of more than 10 percent." There are currently only four states in this entire country in which all incumbents were not reelected, and the average margin of victory was over 40 percent. In Wyoming, an incumbent politician

has not lost a general election in 40 years. If I am not mistaken, the statistics are similar in, say, Cuba.

Politicians are like diapers: they both need to be changed. Often.

But like I said, I am a realistic person. I know that most of you are happy with the mess in Washington. Who needs to change diapers when the ones you are wearing are so comfortable?

But are you really comfortable with politics in America? Do the smiling faces of Ted Kennedy (slithering about the Senate since 1962) and Robert Byrd (forget 1962, try 1953) keep you warm at night? I hope not.

Until instant runoff voting is adopted, which may occur around the same time that NASA dedicates the George W. Bush Hotel on Mars, there is little hope for affecting dramatic change in the American political world. However, there may be one small way in which each of us can do our part in altering the political landscape.

This is my challenge to you: vote for at least one candidate in a local-, state- or federal-level election who represents a third party. I do not expect a sweeping reevaluation of your political persuasion; what I do hope, however, is that voting for one third party candidate in one race will open you up to the notion that our two-party system is flawed, and the time to fix it is now. Here is some information about three major American third parties.

The Constitution Party: The Constitution Party can be considered strongly right-wing. It is staunchly pro-life, and their 2004 presidential candidate, Michael Peroutka, pledged to end abortion in the United States by the end of 2005. The party also supports gun rights and states' rights, while it opposes globalization, gay rights and "unrestricted immigration." Their Web site is www.constitu-

tion-party.net

The Green Party: The Green Party is a left-wing party that supports socialized health care, reducing military spending and strictly regulating greenhouse gas emissions. They are opposed to free trade as well as military action and believe in "grassroots democracy," "decentralization" and "social justice." Their Web site is www.gp.org

Finally, in my not-so-humble opinion, the greatest political party in the United States: the Libertarian Party. The Libertarian Party believes in free minds and free markets, that is, minimal government intervention in the lives of citizens. The LP is pro-Bill of Rights, anti-gun control, anti-Drug War, pro-immigration, pro-free trade, pro-gay rights and generally all-around anti-authoritarian. The LP

supports lowering taxes, tariffs and reducing government spending on as many levels as possible. The Libertarian Party's Web site is www.lp.org

So there is my challenge. You may con-

tinue to support your favorite Republican politician, but in one election, I ask that you consider supporting a party that is not comfortably sustained by taxpayer money. Now is your chance to make a real political statement. Stop thinking in terms of the lesser of two evils and admit to yourself that until you are free enough to vote for neither of the two evils, you are not free at all.

America needs more than two parties. The diapers are starting to smell.

Scott Wagner is the president of the College Libertarians and writes offensive political satire for the Web site *The Enduring Vision*. He can be contacted at swagner1@nd.edu

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



Scott
Wagner

Live and Let
Live or Die

Politicians are like
diapers: they both need to
be changed. Often.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Vagina Monologues not the answer

I am a woman, voicing my freedom in response to Maribel Morey's letter "More than just the heterosexual male point of view" (Jan. 30), lest we go on under the delusion that heterosexual males are the only ones in opposition to the production of The Vagina Monologues on campus. I sincerely sympathize with the harassment you faced during your time at Notre Dame, Morey, but I must say I disagree with your response. The answer to over-sexed males who hang nude pictures of girls in their dorm rooms, say things they have no right to say and look where they have no right to look is not to match them in vulgarity. This approach offends not only Catholic values, but also public decency. By all means, something must be done — but something positive, that will work towards the end of disrespect for sexuality, not something that will prolong it. And the Vagina Monologues do prolong disrespect for sexuality by making one of God's most beautiful gifts an everyday word to be thrown around for shock value.

I also am appalled by your insinuation that Mother Teresa would be a staunch supporter of The Vagina Monologues, a production with close ties to Planned Parenthood. Let me clarify that we are talking about the same Mother Teresa. The Mother Teresa I am familiar with said, "It is a poverty to decide that a child must die so that you may live as you wish." Be careful who you twist to support your views, Morey. Mother Teresa is one woman whose name should not be linked to this production. As a woman, as a proud Catholic (who happens to support Vatican doctrine, as all true Catholics do) and as a supporter of an end to violence against women, I beg this University of Our Lady to look for another way to support the cause of the Vagina Monologues.

Kateri Brown
senior
Lewis Hall
Jan. 30

OBSERVER POLL

What do you think of the Board of Trustees meeting in Rome?

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

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

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The Church says that the earth is flat, but I know that it is round. For I have seen the shadow on the moon and I have more faith in the Shadow than in the Church."

Ferdinand Magellan
Portuguese explorer

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ACADEMIC FREEDOM & CATHOLIC CHARACTER

'Monologues' do not agree with 'true' freedom

Pope John Paul II said, "Every generation of Americans needs to know that freedom consists not in doing what we like, but in having the right to do what we ought" (Oct. 8, 1995, at Orioles Park).

The removal of explicit or implicit University sponsorship of any activity that is contrary to the Catholic faith is surely not a violation of freedom as understood by Pope John Paul II, but is actually an exercise of such freedom, because it is what we ought to do. We must not misrepresent the Catholic faith. At a Catholic University like Notre Dame, sponsoring in any way what is at odds with our faith is confusing and indeed scandalous because it lies to the world about Catholicism, yet it has occurred for the sake of "freedom."

In the United States, many things are being sacrificed for the sake of a flawed understanding of freedom. An example is the 42 million babies that have been tragically but lawfully killed in abortion since the 1970s. Many on this campus share this flawed understanding that freedom is a license to do whatever, whenever, wherever and it is this understanding that shapes their views of academic freedom.

Let us "do what we ought" in order to preserve Our Lady's University and Catholicism from scandal and confusion and promote the freedom and responsibility we at the University have to seek out the truth, while remembering that we believe

Christ is the fullness of truth. Concerning the presentation of the Vagina Monologues, our Bishop John D'Arcy said, "This play violates the truth about women, the truth about sexuality, the truth about male and female and the truth about the human body [and] ... is in opposition to the highest understanding of academic freedom."

What should we do? We must follow the guidance of D'Arcy and cancel the presentation of the Monologues if indeed we wish to call ourselves Catholic and aspire to discover truth as a great university should.

The Vagina Monologues is offensive to women; it is antithetical to Catholic teaching on the beautiful gift of human sexuality and also to the teachings of the church on the human body relative to its purpose and to its status as a temple of the Holy Spirit.

This play violates the truth about women; the truth about sexuality; the truth about male and female and the truth about the human body and is in opposition to the highest understanding of academic freedom.

Jonathan Rose

senior

Alumni Hall

Jan. 30

D'Arcy's oxymoron

I've been reading with great interest the discussions on academic freedom and the expression of diverse points of view at the University. As one of The Observer articles rightly states, this is not a new debate; we struggled with this issue in the early '80s as well. A few years ago Notre Dame Magazine printed an alumni reunion special of "Molarity," a popular Observer cartoon strip back then. Visiting campus for the first time in years, the alums are questioning their tour guide. She gleefully boasts about the student population at Notre Dame: "Yes, there is diversity here: You get to meet Catholics from all over the country!"

Unfortunately for faculty and students, there is no bright light in questions of academic freedom and the pursuit of enlightenment. Right or wrong, as long as the University maintains its Catholic ties with its core doctrines and beliefs, Notre Dame remains subject to the edicts of the Vatican through its local prelate, in this case Bishop John D'Arcy of Fort Wayne/South Bend. And he has not been afraid to keep his hands

out of the theological cookie jar that is Notre Dame, as his ecclesiastical handprint is emblazoned on all the issues that have stirred this discussion. Father John Jenkins is merely articulating that the University will toe the Vatican line, now in the firm hands of the former Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, whose previous post in the Curia was that of head of the Inquisition ... er, Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

The real question for current students and faculty: Given this set of circumstances, can you reconcile your core values and beliefs and function as a vibrant, contributing member of a university community with an administration that has reiterated its intention to adhere to church teaching at the expense of dialogue and open debate? "Academic freedom" as we have always known it is an oxymoron at Notre Dame.

Eduardo Magallene

alumnus

Class of 1983

Jan. 30

Rethink approach to discourse

Student responses to Father John Jenkins' speech last week have left me in doubt about whether or not we deserve the respect that he gave us by delivering his message as an open forum Jenkins gave us a look at what a good university ought to be. He gave us two values that are, literally, sacred to this university — academic freedom and Catholic character. He then noted an apparent tension between the two and asked us, as a community, to help him solve that tension through discourse, openness and trust.

The student body responded immediately by delivering emotionally charged speeches about the good done by the Vagina Monologues and by mocking Jenkins. Later, students gathered to protest and to "shame" the University into doing what they want. Opponents of the Monologues have declared this a "war" and are calling the supporters of the monologues sore losers.

The general assumption seems to be that Jenkins has already made up his mind, and no one seems willing to take him at face value when he says that he is exploring and probing and trying to discover the

right course of action. Clearly he has leanings, but it is ridiculous to assume that he would go to the trouble of establishing a forum for students to speak if he didn't want to hear what we have to say.

Jenkins' approach seems to denote a belief that when ideas collide, what usually comes out is a synthesis of the two. If one wins, it is because that was the better idea. Jenkins is trusting in reason to serve as arbiter. The students who respond with protests seem to have forsaken reason and instead trust in power. Their desire isn't to convince Jenkins by being right and giving reasons, but by talking louder than everyone else.

If we want to be taken seriously by Jenkins, then we ought to begin by taking seriously both of the values he's put before us. There is a unique relationship to be discovered, and as the nation's premiere Catholic university, that responsibility falls to us.

Chris Scaperlanda

senior

Keough Hall

Jan. 30

Detractors should reexamine Jenkins' statements

It is sad to see that Father John Jenkins' attempt to explain and clarify the discussion regarding the Vagina Monologues and the Queer Film Festival has failed to impact some of his detractors. The tired, irrelevant arguments they present do no good for Jenkins' effort to address these issues on a rational and well-thought-out basis.

I would begin with Andrea Manka's letter from Jan. 26. There are parts of it which are sensible. Her point that it is important to discuss "views that differ from Catholic teaching" is well taken, as well as her compromise position of a symposium regarding "the theology of the body and anthropological/sociological ideas about sex" (though the Monologues may not have a valid place in such a symposium in my opinion). I would direct Manka's attention to Jenkins' own words (taken from the text on the president's Web site): "It is essential to a university that there be a variety of views expressed vigorously, even those contrary to deep values of Catholicism. We are richer, and the Catholic intellectual tradition is strengthened, if a variety of views are expressed and discussed." What Manka has failed to realize is that no one, not Jenkins and not those who oppose the Vagina Monologues and Queer Film Festival, wants to end the discussion of particular ideas on campus. No books will be banned or teachers censored (or censured) because

they discuss ideas, theories or issues raised by Ensler's vignettes or homosexual cinema. That point was made abundantly clear by Jenkins in his speech. The objection is to University sponsorship of events which contradict its Catholic character, not to the presence of such ideas in a proper academic setting on this campus.

Perhaps the most stubborn and intransigent failure to read/listen and understand Jenkins' words can be found in James Parrot's letter, also from Jan. 26. He throws out the same misguided and misdirected arguments that were never fully relevant in the first place and have surely been cleared up by Jenkins' speech. Parrot did not or perhaps does not want to see that Jenkins is perfectly open to the discussion of issues regarding female sexuality and homosexuality, even from non-Catholic points of view (see quote above). His words, particularly his praise of the goals that the Vagina Monologues (ostensibly) promote, are proof of that.

"Frank to be one-sided portrayals via theatre or an anti-Catholic biased discussion panel (as was reportedly the case for last year's Queer Film Festival). This is not discussion. It is much closer to aggressive proselytization than reasoned discussion. If Jenkins and the University leadership really wanted no public discussion of these issues, they would

have ended both events without one word of explanation to students or faculty and removed every copy of the Monologues and every bit of homosexual-lifestyle-promoting cinema from the library. Has this happened? No. Indeed, they started the discussion anew this year through their actions. I would point out the one thing that Parrot may have gotten right: Namely, that the University "has suppressed and criticized many manifestations of homosexuality." Absolutely correct and absolutely justified, since a Catholic university has no desire and no business to promote a culture that often celebrates sinful acts.

I was extremely hopeful that Jenkins' speech would clear the field and make it possible for us to address the most important questions: 1) If and how the Monologues and Queer Film Festival are contrary to the Catholic faith and 2) Whether their public presentation by this University is tacit endorsement of their values. I see now that it will take longer for some to go beyond misconceptions, illusions and crusades and come to the heart of these matters.

Cole Milliard

junior

London Program

Jan. 29

SCENE & HEARD

Insanity,
Hollywood style

Let me preface this by saying that everything I've learned about life has come through Hollywood. As I grew up, the lessons I've learned from movies have proven vastly more enduring than those of my parents. Perhaps it's because it was Arnold Schwarzenegger and Bruce Campbell delivering the gospel, but who am I to judge?

For example, it is because of movies that the best answer to any problem is excessive force. If that fails, going in alone with Chuck Norris-like reflexes will get the job done. And if both of those efforts result in failure, it's because there was no dramatic montage.

However, some of the most important things I've learned concern the realm of gender relations. It's that time of year again, and like many others, even the most jaded of individuals can find themselves pondering the mysteries of the opposite sex. But the messages of Hollywood, when viewed in a greater scope, are tricky to decipher.

During the '80s and '90s, it seemed that girls fell into two categories — those that needed rescuing and those that did the rescuing. Science fiction and horror films always seemed to fall into the latter category, be it the heroine from the "Aliens" series of movies, or from "Scream." The former category can be seen in almost any action movie, as they are swept away by the hero's overwhelming masculinity. In either case, all a guy had to do to win the girl was be heroic, rugged and be in the possession of snappy one-liners.

Sadly, most people of either sex never find themselves in the position to display their undeniable prowess. Although Notre Dame has a Radiation Laboratory, the only thing that has ever come from it was a short-lived giant leprechaun that did little more than amuse readers of The Observer.

An extensive knowledge base of action and horror movies thus prove to be insufficient. So to learn more about the fabled inter-sexual relations, the dreaded land of romance movies needs to be pilaged. A quick glance into the realm of popular films in this genre reveals an interesting selection with fascinating analyses.

The first is that the aforementioned stereotypes still hold true, most of the time. Movies like "Pretty Woman" show that women still want to be rescued by a man. The only difference between this and the action genre, however, is that the male trades in his automatic rifle for a hefty bank account. It is a continuation of the "Cinderella" mindset that a Prince

Charming will come along to rescue the worthy damsel. Unfortunately, that doesn't bode well for everyone, as most people are not born with chiseled features or into a monarchy.

More recent romantic films have shown a leveling of the playing field in this regard, however, with both characters being equally successful. Sometimes it is the woman rescuing the man, but that doesn't make it any easier for romance to occur.

The second is that apparently, everyone alive is completely neurotic. There is an adversarial mentality that comes from most modern romance movies. It's a girls-versus-guys thing, with the desired result being the subjugation of the opposite sex. In "How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days," each of the respective protagonists had their cadre of support that helped them scheme and support them in their choices, no matter how outlandish they were. The fact that they were each toying with a living person's emotions never seemed to cross their minds for the majority of the movie.

"Hitch" was the same way, only taken more literally with a character that specialized in trying to cross the gender barrier. Guys counseled guys, and girls counseled girls. But once again, the two didn't really mix until the end, which was performed in a completely over-the-top, ridiculous manner. Some people may call it cute, but typically, jumping onto a moving car is considered insane. So in the realm of Hollywood cinema, does love then equal a type of insanity?

Continuing the notion of insane romance are movies like "Along Came Polly" and "Monster-in-Law." Both movies featured characters, which, while likable to the audience, would be considered completely loony in any conventional sense. Deception and abusing one's mother seems counter-intuitive for romance, but here they work perfectly.

After my exhausting delving into the realm of Hollywood romance, the conclusion is suddenly clear. To woo a member of the opposite sex, all one has to do is act as illogical, over-the-top and insane as possible. While it helps to have the perfect body and job, that's no guarantee. The popular, rich guy often receives the shaft because he is too ordinary or conveniently revealed to be a jerk by the relationship's conclusion.

Girls want a strong guy, who is also sensitive and powerful, yet subservient. Guys want a girl wild, yet tame, intelligent, yet a little bubbly.

I just realized that I haven't learned anything about real life from Hollywood. But at least a heart-felt confession will woo any girl, no matter how I act.

Contact Mark Bemenderfer at mbemende@nd.edu

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



Mark
Bemenderfer
Assistant
Scene Editor



Photo courtesy of dvd.ign.com

"Terminator 2: Judgment Day," left, and "Hitch" showcase different gender relations within their respective storylines.

GENRE REVIEW

80s classic comedies

By SEAN SWEANEY
Scene Writer

In the age of comedians such as Ben Stiller, Will Ferrell and Vince Vaughn, it is hard to imagine comedies have been playing in theaters from the time these men were young children. The inspiration for the current generation of comics stems from the movies of the 1980s and stars like Bill Murray, Steve Martin, Chevy Chase and John Candy. Comedies of the 1980s began the trend toward plot-driven comedies seen in cineplexes today and deserve proper recognition and appreciation from all film lovers.

Four comedies stand out as must-see films from the decade.

"Caddyshack" (1980)

This spoof about golf at exclusive country clubs began the decade and set the stage for all other movies that followed. The main plot follows a caddy, Danny (Michael O'Keefe), who attempts to raise money to attend college. The plot is admittedly laughable, and the real comedy in the movie comes in the talent of Rodney Dangerfield, Chevy Chase and Bill Murray. Dangerfield plays Al Czervik, a loud, obnoxious golfer who is completely out of place at the club. He completely takes over the scene whenever he is present and offers enough one-liners to keep most comedians busy for a long time. Chevy Chase plays his role to perfection and interacts well against Judge Elihu Smails (Ted Knight). "Caddyshack" marked the real start of Bill Murray's career after his hilarious portrayal as Carl Spackler, an insane groundskeeper constantly fighting a war with a gopher. Murray truly seems insane in his performance thanks to his slurred speech and crazy antics. Overall,

"Caddyshack" is a movie not to be missed.

"Ghostbusters" (1984)

Bill Murray continued his hot streak in the 1980s with "Ghostbusters," a film following the exploits of three oddball scientists who capture and exterminate ghosts for a living. Joining Murray for this film were "Saturday Night Live" veterans Dan Akroyd and Rick Moranis. The three teamed with director Ivan Reitman ("Old School," "Animal House") to create a comedy intertwined with a sci-fi story about ghosts attacking New York City. Murray again steals the show in a movie filled with '80s haircuts and music. The special effects seem to be begging for laughter as they are not good, but not awful either. The comedy is what drives "Ghostbusters," and the wild success led to sequels, television shows, toys and many other types of marketing tie-ins. "Ghostbusters" is another quality 1980s comedy that can always be called on for laughs and fun.

"Planes, Trains & Automobiles" (1987)

This third must-see comedy of the 1980s stars Steve Martin and John Candy as two unlikely traveling companions trying to arrive home in time for Thanksgiving. Martin plays a quiet and conservative traveling businessman who encounters the show-ringing salesman played by John Candy. Candy's character is the complete opposite of Martin's, and they clash in a series of side-splitting incidents as they bumble their way home. This road-trip film makes one think of Laurel and Hardy skits, given the way Martin and Candy act together. Writer and director John Hughes ("Home Alone," "Ferris Bueller's Day Off") turns in by far his best work here in harnessing the energy of the two comedians in a comedy that has

VIDEO GAME REVIEW

'Samurai Showdown

By MARK BEMENDERFER
Assistant Scene Editor

Two-dimensional fighters are a dying genre. They had an impressive run in the world of gaming, but like Nintendo, its time of dominance is past.

Most fighters currently out on the market boast fully three-dimensional engines, with the latest aliasing and polygon effects. They push the boundaries of modern technology, with "Dead or Alive" and "Tekken" being primary examples of this. But that is the primary reason that the choice to release "Samurai Showdown V" is an odd one.

"Samurai Showdown" was popular during the height of the two-dimensional fighter craze, and even then it never quite reached the same level as "Street Fighter" and "Mortal Kombat." The attempts that were made to modernize it were not nearly as successful as its brethren, so it remained in its original format. So now, 13 years after the release of the original, gamers are treated to a home console release of the fifth iteration of the series.

Story-wise, the game is exactly what one would expect from the golden age of two-dimensional fighters. A powerful being issues out a call to the strongest fighters around, and they converge on his location, getting into random skirmishes along the way. It's not the deepest plot, but in fairness, it does not portray itself as having such.

The characters are a diverse bunch, with a total of 26 playable. They range from agile ninjas to large Japanese ghouls of oriental lore. There are a number of hidden and unlockable ones as well, adding to the replay of the game. There are some clones in appearance and fighting styles. This characteristic is a staple of its genre, as both "Mortal Kombat" and "Street Fighter" employed clones to round out their rosters.

Most of the characters show a unique sense of style and ability, however. The aforementioned ghoul is a giant, taking up a quarter of the screen. Another character employs an oversized shuriken on a chain, a reasonably unique weapon in the world of gaming.

The game held a unique niche back when it was released and still manages to retain some of its distinctiveness. The focus of "Samurai Showdown" was weapon-based combat, and while games like "Soul Calibur" now occupy that same genre, it still manages to maintain its own identity. Unlike other weapon-based games, the emphasis here is not on combos or juggling the opponent. Instead, the focus is on defense and timing strikes to disarm the adversary.

Samurai
Showdown V

SNK



es still earn laughs



Photo courtesy of xenafan.com

Harold Ramis, left, Bill Murray, middle, and Dan Aykroyd face off against ghosts with hilarious results in the 80s classic "Ghostbusters."

rode its way onto the list of great comedy films.

"The Naked Gun: From the Files of Police Squad!" (1988)

Leslie Nielsen is known today as one of the all-time comedic greats, in large part for his corny, deadpan comic abilities. Nowhere are these better showcased than in "The Naked Gun," the first in a series of three spoofs on detective movies. Nielsen became known for comedy from "Police Squad," but his real talent goes on display here. He plays Lt. Frank Drebin, an incompetent cop who stumbles upon a plot to assassinate Queen Elizabeth II on a visit to America. The corny language and sight gags come so fast in this

movie that repeat viewings are a must. All spoof movies since "The Naked Gun" draw from and pay homage to its cheesy humor.

It is clear that the 1980s was a time when humor ruled the box office and comic legends were born. These four movies are the all-stars of the generation and have survived as classics to this day. Certainly, there are many other comedies from the '80s worth seeing, but these four cover the entire decade with all types of humor, from one liners to slapstick. Next time you feel the need for lots of laughs, check out one of these movies, and you will be laughing until your sides hurt.

Contact Sean Sweaney at ssweaney@nd.edu

V' fills its target niche

Single, powerful moves are the primary form of combat in the game. A special move, titled a "rage explosion," can be triggered at any moment and used to perform more powerful moves. But if it does not connect, or if the timer runs out, the player loses the ability for the rest of the match.

Efforts have been made to modernize the game in the form of making it compatible with X-Box Live. For the first time, one can play "Samurai Showdown" competitively over the Internet. Since the main draw for two-dimensional fighters was playing

against other live opponents, this is a welcome feature.

"Samurai Showdown V" is an obvious throwback to the older days of gaming. The majority of its appeal lies in the retro nature of the game, and it appeals to an older crowd of gamers. People who grew up with the PlayStation 2 or even the original Playstation, however, may find the game inevitably underwhelming.

Contact Mark Bemenderfer at mberende@nd.edu

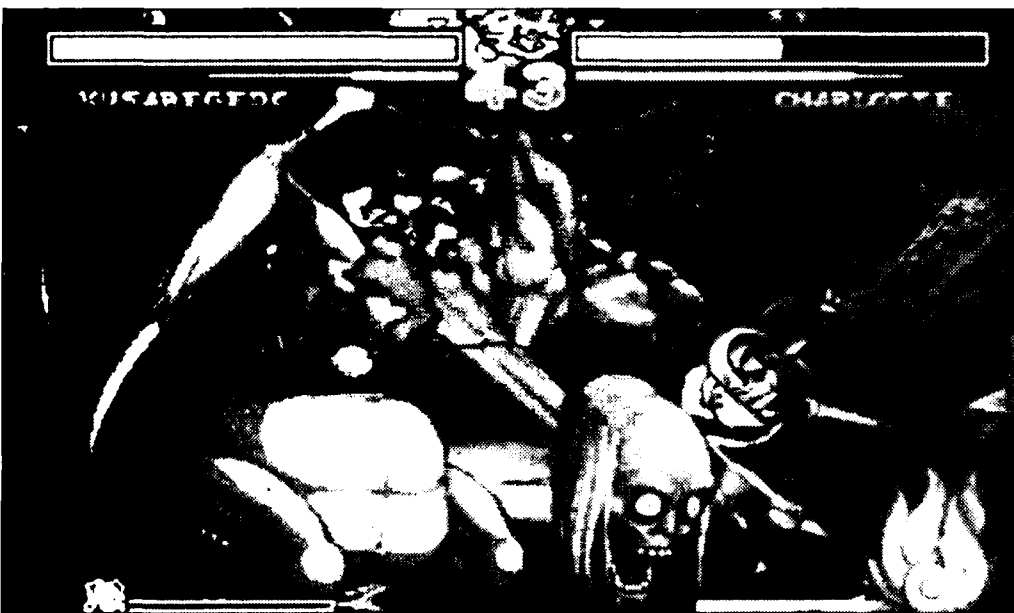


Photo courtesy of gamespot.com

The Oriental ghoul Kusaregedo, left, attacks the French fencer Charlotte, right, in the X-Box exclusive game, "Samurai Showdown V."

RECIPE TIPS

Valentine's Day chocolate treats

By MAUREEN MALLOY
Scene Writer

Although many people identify Feb. 14 with dates, flowers and jewelry, I immediately think of decadent chocolate treats. Valentine's Day provides a great opportunity to host a late-night dessert party. Serving only desserts is a fun and economical way to entertain. Whether you are hosting a special someone or a group of friends, it's safe to say they will enjoy a night filled with bites of rich truffles, chocolate-covered strawberries and buttery blondies capped off with steaming mugs of hot chocolate.

Coffee Chocolate Truffle Kisses

9 ounces fine-quality bittersweet chocolate (not unsweetened)
3/4 stick (6 tablespoons) unsalted butter, softened
1/2 cup heavy cream
4 teaspoons instant espresso powder
1/4 teaspoon salt
Parchment paper
1 cup unsweetened cocoa powder

Break chocolate into small pieces. In a food processor, pulse together chocolate and butter until chocolate is finely chopped. In a small saucepan, whisk together cream, espresso powder and salt and bring just to a boil. Pour hot cream mixture over chocolate mixture and pulse until smooth. Transfer mixture to a bowl. Let mixture stand at cool room temperature until just firm enough to pipe, about two hours. Oil a large baking sheet and line with parchment paper. Transfer chocolate mixture to a pastry bag fitted with a 1/2-inch plain tip. Pipe mixture onto baking sheet to form one-by-one-inch cones, or "kisses." Chill kisses, uncovered, until firm, at least three hours and up to one day. Sift cocoa powder into a small bowl. Working with one kiss at a time, roll in cocoa powder to coat. Kisses keep, in one layer in an airtight container at cool room temperature or chilled, two weeks. Makes about 64 kisses. Courtesy of Epicurious.com

Chocolate Covered Strawberries

6 ounces semisweet chocolate, chopped
3 ounces white chocolate, chopped

1 pound strawberries with stems (about 20), washed and dried very well

Put the semisweet and white chocolates into two separate heatproof medium bowls. Fill two medium saucepans with a couple of inches of water and bring to a simmer over medium heat. Turn off the heat; set the bowls of chocolate over the water to melt. Stir until smooth. (Alternatively, melt the chocolates in a microwave at half power, for one minute, stir and then heat for another minute or until melted.) Once the chocolates are melted and smooth, remove from the heat. Line a sheet pan with parchment or waxed paper. Holding the strawberry by the stem, dip the fruit into the dark chocolate, lift and twist slightly, letting any excess chocolate fall back into the bowl. Set strawberries on the parchment paper. Repeat with the rest of the strawberries. Dip a fork in the white chocolate and drizzle the white chocolate over the dipped strawberries. Set the strawberries aside until the chocolate sets, about 30 minutes. Courtesy of Television Food Network, G.P.

Monster Macadamia Nut Blondies

2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
2 teaspoons baking powder
1/4 teaspoon salt
1 cup unsalted butter, at room temperature
1 3/4 cups firmly packed light brown sugar
2 whole eggs, at room temperature
2 teaspoons vanilla extract
1 cup chopped macadamia nuts

Preheat an oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit and grease a 13-by-9-inch baking dish. In a bowl, stir together the flour, baking powder and salt. In a large bowl or in a mixer, beat together the butter and sugar until light and creamy, then beat in the eggs and vanilla. Gently stir in the flour mixture, then the macadamia nuts. Mix until well blended and pour into the baking dish. Bake until a toothpick inserted into the center of the dish comes out clean, about 35 minutes.

Let blondies cool in pan. To serve, cut into 9 large bars.

Contact Maureen Malloy at mmalloy1@nd.edu



Photo courtesy of static.flickr.com

Chocolate-covered strawberries are a delicious treat that are great for late-night dessert parties. They are simple to make and can be prepared quickly.

NCAA BASKETBALL

Northern Iowa ranked for first time in history

Michigan cracks top 25; more than half of Big Ten now ranked

Associated Press

Northern Iowa is ranked in The Associated Press' Top 25 for the first time. Michigan is back in for the first time in almost a decade.

The Panthers and Wolverines were among four teams new to the poll Monday, but their waits were a lot longer than Iowa and LSU, which were both ranked earlier this season.

The top of the poll stayed the same with Connecticut, Duke and Memphis in the first three spots, but then came a number of changes after a week that saw 12 ranked teams lose at least one game.

"I'm excited for our players. This is the first time our school has ever been ranked and for this particular group to be one that cracks the Top 25 is very special," Northern Iowa coach Greg McDermott said. "I'm sure in a lot of our fans' minds they think something like this has never been possible. I want them to enjoy it while it lasts and we'll do what we can to

stay there but we're in a very tough league."

Northern Iowa (19-3), ranked 25th this week, has been in the NCAA tournament the last two seasons. Last year the Panthers were one of three teams from the Missouri Valley Conference to make it, along with Creighton and Southern Illinois. The Missouri Valley is ranked sixth among conferences in the most recent public RPIs.

"The success of our league from the start of the season to now should have been enough for people to take notice of just how good the Missouri Valley is," said McDermott, whose team has won five straight and nine of 10, "but if us being ranked does that, that's great."

Michigan (15-3) moved in at No. 21, the Wolverines' first appearance in the Top 25 since the final poll of the 1997-98 season, which was also the last time they were in the NCAA tournament.

"I think for the road we've traveled this is a significant achievement for our kids," Michigan coach Tommy Amaker said. "The way we've been able to get to this moment has been to stay focused and take things as they come. Hopefully they will feel honored and deserving

and keep it in perspective."

The Wolverines have won four straight, the last two over Michigan State and Wisconsin. The only losses have been to UCLA, Indiana and Illinois.

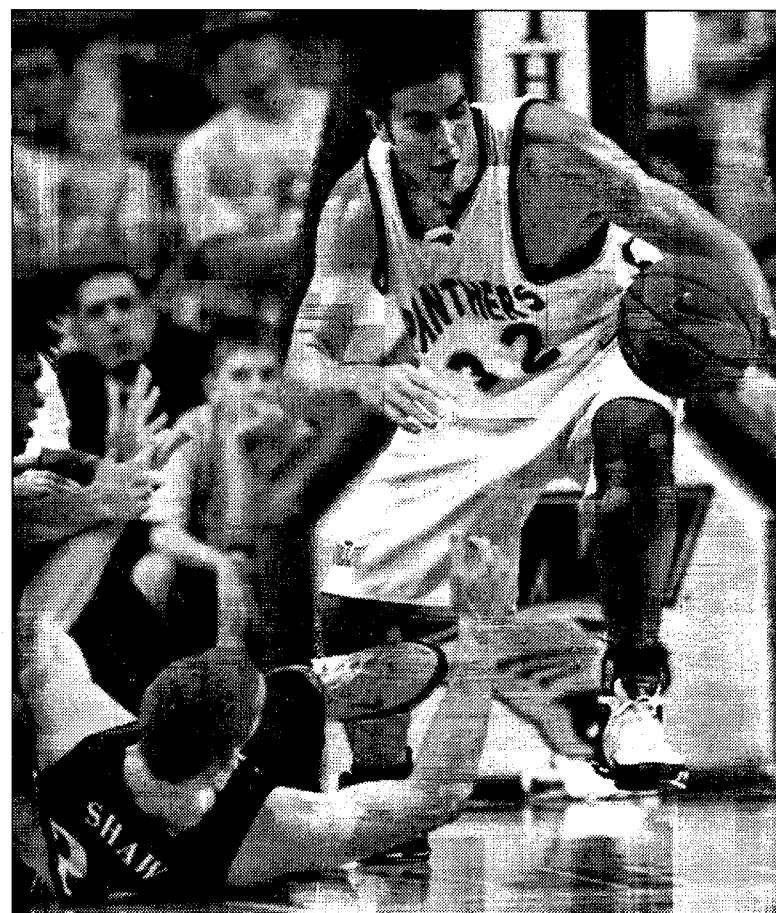
Michigan and Iowa give the Big Ten six teams in the Top 25, the most among the conferences.

"It's a very tough league and the way our teams have played all year and now with everyone beating each other in conference play it will only stay that way," Amaker said. "This league has shown its mettle over the long haul."

Connecticut (18-1), which beat St. John's and Providence in its first week as the No. 1 team, received 65 first-place votes and 1,793 points from the national media panel. Duke (19-1) beat Virginia Tech and Virginia and remained second with the other seven first-place votes and 1,727 points. Memphis (19-2) stayed third after wins over UAB and Central Florida.

Villanova, Gonzaga and Illinois each jumped two spots to fourth through sixth, respectively.

Texas, which lost at Oklahoma on Saturday, dropped from fourth to seventh.



AP
Northern Iowa's Grant Stout, right, grabs a loose ball over Southern Illinois' Matt Shaw during the Panthers' 71-65 double-overtime victory in Cedar Rapids, Iowa Jan. 16.

North Carolina grabs top spot, only unbeaten team left

Duke slips to second, St. John's enters poll after 22-year drought

Associated Press

North Carolina finally added what was missing from its women's basketball resume after a national championship and two Atlantic Coast Conference titles — a No. 1 ranking.

North Carolina climbed to the top of The Associated Press poll for the first time on Monday, a day after the Tar Heels beat No. 2 Duke in an intense game at Cameron Indoor Stadium.

The matchup became a battle for the top spot after Duke's victory six days earlier over Tennessee, which had been No. 1 for eight weeks. North Carolina (20-0) is now the only unbeaten team in men's or women's Division I basketball.

The Tar Heels received all 46 first-place votes from a national media panel.

"I'm happy for our kids," said North Carolina coach Sylvia Hatchell, who guided the Tar Heels to the 1994 NCAA title. "They work really hard. But we know we can't relax. Everybody's going to be after us. And we want to be No. 1 at the end of the season."

North Carolina, which moved up from third, had never been higher than No. 2 in 243 previous appearances in The AP poll. And the Tar Heels reached that position only once — the week of Nov. 29, 2004.

Duke (20-1) remained second, while No. 3 LSU (17-1) and No. 4 Connecticut (19-2) each moved up one place. Tennessee (19-2) lost at Kentucky three days after the loss at Duke and dropped to fifth. Those were the first back-to-back losses for the Lady Vols since 1997.

Kentucky joined the poll at

No. 21 as one of four newcomers, the first ranking for the Wildcats in 13 years. St. John's came in at No. 25 to end an even longer absence from the poll — 22 years.

The other newcomers were No. 23 Boston College and No. 24 North Carolina State. Both had been ranked earlier this month.

Notre Dame, Southern Cal, Florida and Virginia Tech dropped out after they went a combined 0-8 during the week. Southern Cal and Florida had entered the poll just last week.

North Carolina had lost 12 straight games to Duke before beating the Blue Devils three times last season. The Tar Heels made it four in a row with a sensational comeback Sunday, rallying from 12 points down midway through the second half to win 74-70 behind center Erlana Larkins and fleet-footed point guard Ivory Latta.

"They love the environment of

the big game," Hatchell said. "Even when we were down, it's just a special feeling that this team has to never give up. It's sort of like the wind. You can't see it, but you sure can feel it."

Maryland remained sixth and was followed by Ohio State, Purdue, Rutgers and Baylor. The only change in that group was Rutgers and Baylor switching positions.

Oklahoma, which has won five straight and eight of nine, jumped two spots to No. 11 and Minnesota was up two places to 12th. Then it was DePaul, Georgia, Stanford and New Mexico, followed by Michigan State, Arizona State, BYU and Temple.

Kentucky, Vanderbilt, Boston College, North Carolina State and St. John's completed the Top 25.

With its 66-63 victory over Tennessee, Kentucky (15-4) became just the fourth unranked team to beat a No. 1.

It was the first victory for Kentucky coach Mickie DeMoss over her former boss, Pat Summitt. DeMoss spent 18 years as Summitt's assistant at Tennessee before moving to Kentucky in 2003.

"It certainly gives us a lift," said DeMoss, who last season guided Kentucky to its first winning record since 2000. "Our motto this year has been to earn respect. It's earned. It's never just given to you. It's just another way of validating the fact that we have made some progress at Kentucky."

Kentucky had been ranked 90 times previously, but not since the week of Feb. 2, 1993.

St. John's (17-3), in the poll for the first time since the week of Feb. 5, 1984, has improved steadily under fourth-year coach Kim Barnes Arico. A year ago, the Red Storm won 20 games for the first time since 1988. This season, they're third in the Big East.

CLASSIFIEDS

The Observer accepts classifieds every business day from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Notre Dame office, 024 South Dining Hall. Deadline for next-day classifieds is 3 p.m. All classifieds must be prepaid. The charge is 5 cents per character per day, including all spaces. The Observer reserves the right to edit all classifieds for content without issuing refunds.

WANTED

ND family in Granger looking for part-time babysitter. Flexible daytime schedule. If interested, please call Renee at 277-3496.

Unix Server specialist needed to attach webcam to a server and then link to a website for a local daycare. 233-1605.

FOR RENT

WALK TO SCHOOL 2-6 BED-ROOM HOMES
MMRENTALS.COM
532-1408

Stop overpaying for rent.
Visit BlueGoldrentals.com

New 3-4 Bedroom Homes,
3 full Baths, 2+ Car Garage,
Fireplace, Cathedral Ceilings,
10x20 Deck,
Close to Campus.
\$1700 monthly.
Available Aug. 06/07,
Call 574-232-4527, 269-683-5038.

Blue & Gold Homes is offering a
free pool table to all new tenants. 1-
7 bdrms, 24-hr maintenance & open
leases.
Visit BlueGoldrentals.com
or call 574-250-7653.

515 St. Joseph, 8 bdrms,
\$200/person,
B&G Homes. 574-250-7653.

1706 Logan, 6 bdrms,
\$200/person,
B&G Homes. 574-250-7653.

For rent: Two story house com-
pletely remodeled 2003. Ready for
immediate occupancy or next
school year. Off street parking
includes motion sensor light for
security. Four individually locked
bedrooms, central station monitored
security system, six blocks from
Notre Dame, bus stop in front of
house, surrounded by other student
housing, Laundromat next door,
basement available for storage of
bicycles, luggage, trunks, etc., new
furnace and central air, new kitchen
including new stove and refrigera-
tor, large living room for TV or
entertaining, free trash removal.
Call 289-4071.

COLLEGE PARK
CONDOMINIUMS AVAILABLE
FOR 06-07 SCHOOL YEAR.
TWO BEDROOM, TWO BATHS.
HURRY.
235-7234 FOR MORE DETAIL.

2-6 BDRMS. WALK2ND.
FURN. 329-0308

3,4,5,6 bedroom homes.
Web site:
mmmrentals.com
Contact: Gary 574-993-2208 or
grooms@ourwebspot.net

123 ND Ave. 3-bdrm, 1.5 bath.
Call 574-229-0149.

515 St. Joseph, 8 bdrms,
\$200/person,
B&G Homes. 574-250-7653.

PERSONAL

SUMMER CAMP POSITIONS-HIR-
ING NOW-Secure your summer job
now! Residential camp, located in
south central, Indiana. Operated by
the Catholic Youth Organization
since 1946. Serving campers aged
7 to 16 in various programs.
Inclusive of persons with disabili-
ties. Great staff community.
General Counselor, Specialty,
Adventure and Health positions
available. Training provided starting
May 2006. For application and
information contact: CYO Camp
Rancho Framasa (toll-free):
(888)988-2839, x25 or
e-mail
angi@campranchoframasa.org

Bahamas Spring Break Cruise!
5 Days from \$299! Includes Meals,
MTV Celebrity Parties! Cancun,
Acapulco, Jamaica from \$499!
Campus Reps Needed!
PromoCode:31
www.springbreaktravel.com
1-800-678-6386.

"The choir broke out in immaculate
chorus, as down from the heavens
descended Chuck Norris; who
delivered a kick that could shatter
bones, into the crotch of Indiana
Jones."
-Ultimate Showdown"
by Lemon Demon

Courtney, are you up for another
scavenger hunt?

Mike: Buffalo, what a waste

AROUND THE NATION

Tuesday, January 31, 2006

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

page 13

Eastern Conference, Atlantic Division

team	record	pct.	GB
New Jersey	22-20	.524	-
Philadelphia	23-21	.523	-
Boston	18-27	.400	5.5
New York	15-30	.333	8.5
Toronto	14-29	.326	8.5

Eastern Conference, Central Division

team	record	pct.	GB
Detroit	37-5	.881	-
Cleveland	26-17	.605	11.5
Milwaukee	23-21	.523	15
Indiana	21-21	.500	16
Chicago	20-23	.465	17.5

Eastern Conference, Southeast Division

team	record	pct.	GB
Miami	28-18	.609	-
Washington	20-22	.476	6
Orlando	18-24	.429	8
Atlanta	12-31	.279	14.5
Charlotte	11-35	.239	17

Western Conference, Northwest Division

team	record	pct.	GB
Denver	25-21	.543	-
Minnesota	21-22	.488	2.5
Utah	21-24	.467	3.5
Seattle	18-26	.409	6
Portland	16-27	.372	7.5

Western Conference, Pacific Division

team	record	pct.	GB
Phoenix	28-16	.636	-
LA Clippers	25-17	.595	2
LA Lakers	23-20	.535	4.5
Golden State	20-23	.465	7.5
Sacramento	18-26	.409	10

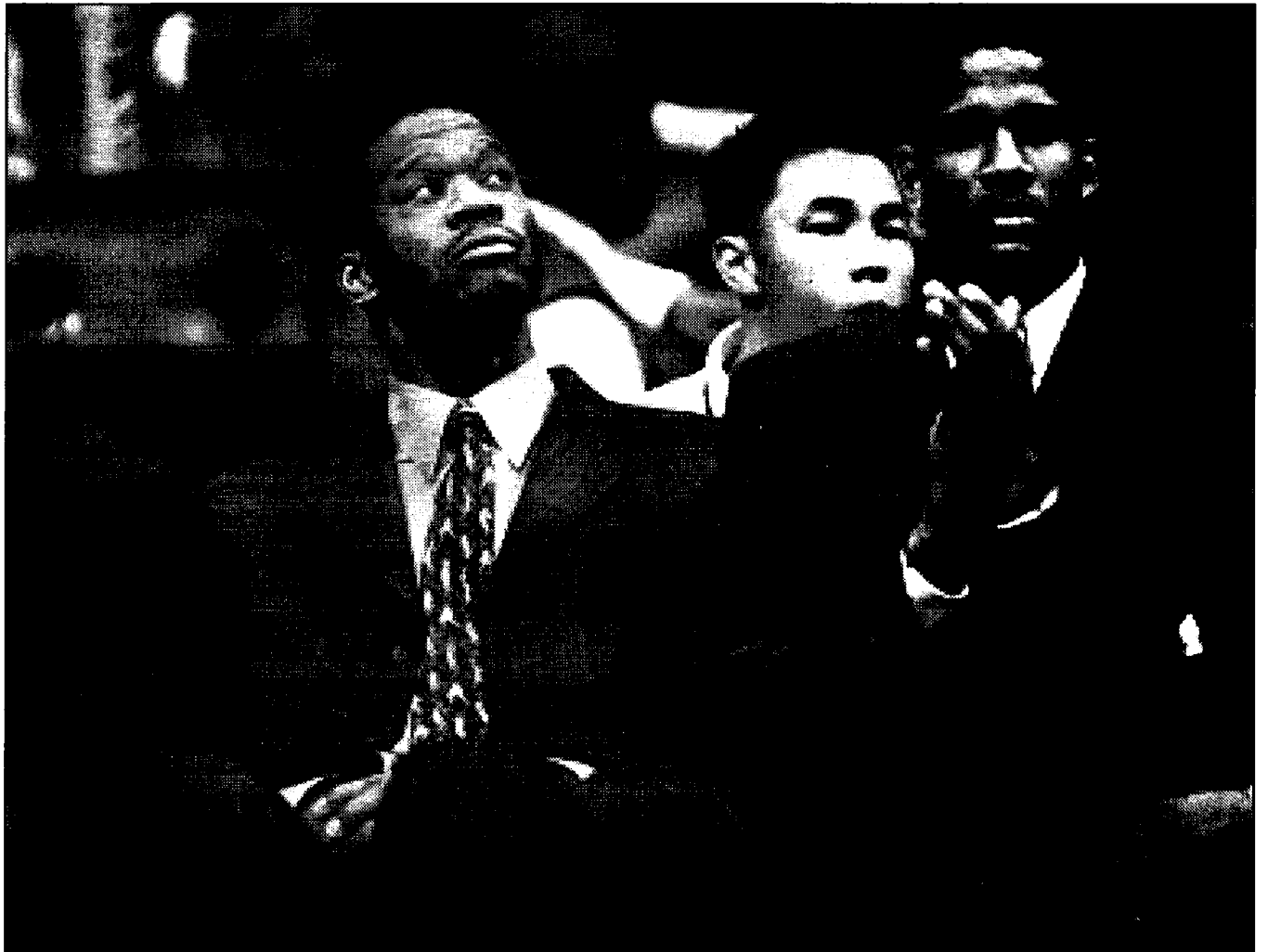
Western Conference, Southwest Division

team	record	pct.	GB
San Antonio	35-10	.778	-
Dallas	34-10	.773	0.5
Memphis	26-18	.591	8.5
New Orleans	22-22	.500	12.5
Houston	15-29	.341	19.5

Men's Fencing Top 20

No.	Team	No.	Team
1	Ohio State	1	NOTRE DAME
2	NOTRE DAME	2	Penn State
3	Penn State	3	Columbia-Barnard
4	Harvard	4	Ohio State
5	Columbia	5	Harvard
6	St. Johns	6	St. Johns
7	Princeton	7	Northwestern
8	Pennsylvania	8	Yale
9	Stanford	9	Pennsylvania
10	Duke	10	Princeton
11	Air Force	11	Stanford
12	Rutgers	12	Wayne State
13	Brown	13	Temple
14	NYU	14	Duke
15	Yale	15	UC-San Diego
16	North Carolina	16	Air Force
17	UC-San Diego	17	NYU
18	Wayne State	18	Rutgers
19	Brandeis	19	North Carolina
20	Cleveland State	20	Brown

NBA



New York's Antonio Davis, left, sits on the bench with teammate Trevor Ariza during the Knicks 120-101 road loss to the Hawks Monday. Davis, coming off a five-game suspension, didn't dress for the game because of back pain.

Davis' return delayed by lower back pain

Associated Press

ATLANTA — Antonio Davis served a five-game suspension for rushing into the stands in defense of his wife, but his return to the court will have to wait.

Davis, who was set to start Monday night's game against the Atlanta Hawks, was a last-minute scratch because of lower back pain. Maurice Taylor started in his place.

Before the game, Davis discussed the incident that led to his suspension.

"Some may say I over-

reacted, some may say that my wife should have called security — any of that," he said in the locker room. "Bottom line is, it all happened. Hopefully something like that won't happen again."

"But I don't think that I would have done anything differently. As of right now, I'm just glad that it's over and I can get back to playing basketball."

Davis' wife, Kendra, exchanged words with a Bulls' fan during a Jan. 18 game in Chicago. After another fan became involved, Davis jumped

over the scorer's table and ran into the stands during a timeout in overtime. He was ejected by the officials and suspended by the league the next day.

"It's a tough situation, you know?" Davis said. "On the one hand, as president of the (players') union, I understand the rules better than anybody and why that rule is in place. But on the other hand — which I think is the part of me that took over — as a man, you have to protect your family."

No matter the circum-

stances, the NBA made it clear there will be no leniency for players going into the stands, especially after last season's brawl at Detroit during a Pistons-Pacers game. That melee resulted in lengthy suspensions and criminal charges for Indiana's Ron Artest, Stephen Jackson and Jermaine O'Neal.

Even so, a number of players have sympathized with Davis' plight.

"It's been actually phenomenal, the support that I've been getting, even though I broke a rule," he said.

IN BRIEF

Hurricanes acquire veteran Weight from Blues

RALEIGH, N.C. — The Carolina Hurricanes acquired veteran center Doug Weight from the St. Louis Blues on Monday, adding another important piece to the best team in the NHL.

The 35-year-old Weight led the Blues with 33 assists and 44 points. He was named to the U.S. Olympic team that will be led by Hurricanes coach Peter Laviolette next month in Turin.

"Doug is one of the premier forwards in the National Hockey League and will add a strong element to our top lines," Carolina general manager Jim Rutherford said in a statement. "His skill, leadership and experience will be a great benefit for our team."

The Hurricanes also received the rights to left wing Erkki Rajamaki. They sent right wing Jesse Boulerice, center Mike Zigomanis and the rights to unsigned draft pick Magnus Kahnberg to the Blues, along with three draft picks.

Olazabal becomes latest victim of Wood's pressure

LA JOLLA, Calif. — New season, old story: Everybody lets go of Tiger's tail eventually.

Everybody expected Jose Maria Olazabal to make the putt.

Tiger Woods certainly did. CBS had a camera trained on Woods as Olazabal settled over a 4-footer in the fast-fading afternoon light. And Tiger, cold-eyed as ever, was already staring off into the distance as if mentally rehearsing his next tee shot.

Olazabal expected to make it, too, and with good reason. The 39-year-old Spaniard is one of the nerviest putters around. He's rolled them in for two decades now, across five continents, with Masters, Ryder Cups and two dozen other tournaments on the line.

But not this time, and not against Woods, because ... well, because nobody ever hangs on long enough to beat him. Olazabal missed the putt giving Woods his first victory of the season.

Clemens pitches BP at Astros minicamp

HOUSTON — Roger Clemens made an unexpected appearance at the start of the Houston Astros' minicamp on Monday, pitching batting practice to prospects that included his oldest son, Koby.

The 43-year-old right-hander hasn't decided whether he'll play a 23rd season. He led the major leagues with a 1.87 ERA last year but was plagued by back and hamstring problems late in the season. He limped off the field after just two innings in the World Series opening game against the Chicago White Sox.

Clemens said Monday his back and hamstring were healed, but he has doubts whether he could last another full season.

"There will be a week I get up and I feel like I can do it again and then the next week, I don't want to get out in the outfield and start running those poles and doing those things," Clemens said.

around the dial

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Illinois at Wisconsin 7 p.m. ESPN

Florida at Mississippi 8 p.m. ESPN2

NHL

Minnesota at Colorado 9 p.m. OLN

WINTER X GAMES 9 p.m. ESPN

NBA

Bryant, Arenas create more issues for Pacers

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — The Indiana Pacers, already reeling from injuries and a five-game losing streak, will face two of the league's top scorers in Gilbert Arenas and Kobe Bryant on back-to-back nights.

The Pacers travel to Washington on Tuesday to face Arenas, then return home Wednesday to play Bryant's Los Angeles Lakers. Bryant leads the league with 35.9 points per game and Arenas ranks fourth with 28.1 points per contest.

The Pacers, 21-21, are in danger of falling below .500 midway through a season that began with NBA title hopes. They'll try to bounce back against the two opponents who have put up the highest point totals against them this season.

Arenas had 37 points and eight assists to lead Washington to a 94-85 win in Indianapolis on Jan. 13.

Bryant scored 45 points, along with 10 rebounds and five assists in a 96-90 win over the Pacers in Los Angeles on Jan. 9. He scored 81 points — second in NBA history — against Toronto on Jan. 22.

"They're not only scoring points against us, they're scoring points against anybody," Pacers guard Sarunas Jasikevicius said. "They're two of the best scorers in the NBA, and guys the whole NBA's trying to stop, and it's not working."

Arenas and Bryant proved to be unstoppable in the fourth quarters of their games against the Pacers this month — Arenas scored 18 points and Bryant 17.

"I think their confidence levels are so high right now," Pacers guard Stephen Jackson said. "They're just going out there and not worrying about

missing shots. They're worried about carrying their teams and making their teams better."

The Lakers game will conclude a four-game stretch in which the Pacers will have faced three of the league's top four scorers. The Pacers lost two in a row to LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers last week. The league's number three scorer, James averaged 26.5 points, 8.5 assists and seven rebounds against Indiana.

To prevent a trend of being torched by superstars, the Pacers will try to force other players to make the key shots.

"Gilbert has been a guy who's dominated with the ball," Pacers forward Austin Croshere said. "He has the ability to make really tough shots against you. Even when you play good defense against him, he hits tough shots. You want to do as good a job of taking the ball out of his hands as possible and make the other guys on the

team beat you."

"Kobe doesn't bring the ball up as much, but their whole offense goes through him," Croshere said. "You have to make him catch the ball a little farther out than he wants to catch it and run bodies at him and make him shoot tough shots."

Besides being forced to defend two superstars, the Pacers will have to work Peja Stojakovic into the rotation. The 6-10 forward came to the Pacers from the Sacramento Kings last week in exchange for Ron Artest.

The Pacers expect Stojakovic to contribute immediately. The former All-Star averaged 16.5 points a game with the Kings this season and is known as one of the league's top 3-point shooters.

"They're two of the best scorers in the NBA, and guys the whole NBA's trying to stop, and it's not working."

Sarunas Jasikevicius
Pacers guard

NINTH ANNUAL THOMAS AQUINAS SYMPOSIUM on THOMAS AQUINAS ON FRIENDSHIP

Saturday, February 4, 2006
Stapleton Lounge, Le Mans Hall
Saint Mary's College

2:30 p.m.
"Eros and Friendship"
Keith J. Egan

3:30 p.m.
Refreshments

4:00 p.m.
"Thomas Aquinas on Friendship:
Cultivating Intimacy and Emotional Integrity"
Diana Frtiz Cates

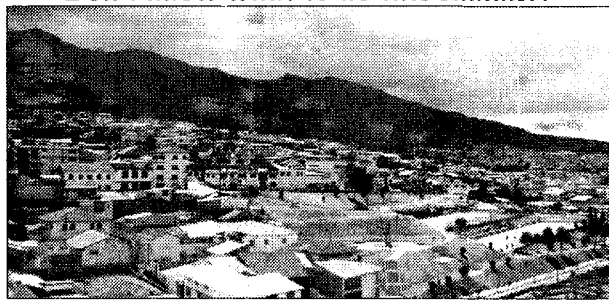
All Are Welcome: Especially Students
A Celebration of the 60th Anniversary of a Theology/Religious Studies Major
at Saint Mary's College

Sponsored by the
Joyce McMahon Hank
Aquinas Chair in Catholic Theology

Aquinas Chair
Saint Mary's College
Information: 574-284-4636



Thought you couldn't study abroad?
Don't know what to do this summer?



Study Abroad this Summer through ND!

Quito, Ecuador
Paris, France
Dublin, Ireland
Milan, Italy
Puebla, Mexico
Toledo, Spain
Kampala, Uganda

Come to an information session to learn more...

Wednesday, February 1, 2006
5:00 pm
229 Hayes Healy

Apply now - deadline is March 1, 2006!

Write sports
Call 1-4543

Price and participation may vary.
© 2006 McDonald's

DOUBLE CHEESEBURGERS YOU WON'T HAVE TO GIVE ANY PLASMA FOR.

Dollar M Menu

i'm lovin' it®

NBA

Last-second shot gives Hornets one-point win

New players help Timberwolves trump Celtics

Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — Walking back onto the floor with 7.1 seconds left in a one-point game, Jamaal Magloire tried to get into the head of his young replacement on the New Orleans Hornets.

David West didn't let it work.

"He told me that 'You're not going to make it,'" West said. "... I just said, 'Don't give me a shot' and they gave me a shot."

West hit a foul line jumper with 0.1 seconds left to lift the Hornets to a 94-93 win over Magloire's Milwaukee Bucks on Monday night in a meeting of teams who swapped players in the preseason.

Speedy Claxton, who scored 12 of his 19 points in the fourth quarter, took an inbounds pass with 7.1 seconds left and passed to West for the game-winner.

Because of the trade connection, the teams had been exchanging barbs all game. Magloire, who'd been traded from the Hornets to the Bucks, spun and dunked on West for the game's first basket, and the words were free-flowing after that.

Minnesota 110, Boston 85

Few people mentioned Marcus Banks in last week's seven-player deal between Minnesota and Boston.

On Monday night, it was Banks who made it look like the Timberwolves got the better of a trade headlined by Ricky Davis and Wally Szczerbiak.

Banks had a season-high 20 points and six assists to lead a strong showing by all four ex-Celtics in Minnesota's victory.

Mark Blount added 16 points and 10 rebounds to support Kevin Garnett's 15 points and nine boards.

On Thursday, the Timberwolves sent Szczerbiak, centers Michael Olowokandi and Dwayne Jones and a conditional first-round pick to the Celtics for swingman Ricky Davis, Blount, Banks, forward Justin Reed and two second-round picks.

The Timberwolves have been aching for a true point guard

since trading Sam Cassell in the offseason, and when Garnett was asked if he liked what he saw from Banks, he said, "I didn't like it. I loved it."

Cleveland 103, Charlotte 91

Soaring after an impressive win over Phoenix, the Cleveland Cavaliers weren't about to come crashing back down against the lowly Charlotte Bobcats.

LeBron James scored 30 points in only three quarters to lead the Cavaliers to a victory over the gimpy Bobcats on Monday night. It was Cleveland's sixth straight win, four of which came on the road — the most since the Cavs' won five straight away games in April 1998.

"One of the things I pointed out to the guys was that it was a good win against Phoenix, but if we turn around and go to Charlotte and lose that ballgame, then beating Phoenix the night before doesn't really mean anything," coach Mike Brown said. "Our guys were focused enough to come into the building and get a W."

Atlanta 120, New York 101

Salim Stoudamire felt like he was back at Arizona, winning games and blowing opponents out.

The lowly Atlanta Hawks led by as many as 30 points on the way to their biggest win of the season, a rout of the turnover-plagued New York Knicks on Monday night.

Al Harrington scored 26 points, Joe Johnson added 24 and Stoudamire was one of four players off the bench to reach double figures.

"I felt like I was in college again," said Stoudamire, a rookie who was used to winning at Arizona. "That's one of the best feelings in the world. You don't have to worry about anything."

New York's Antonio Davis was set to return from a five-game suspension, handed down by the NBA after he charged into the stands in defense of his wife at Chicago.

But Davis was a late scratch from the starting lineup because of a sore back.

ATHLETIC TRAINING & SPORTS MEDICINE

We are still accepting any freshman students interested in the student athletic training program. Please contact Chantal Porter at 631-7100.

CLUB SPORTS

Squash team defeats regional rival Purdue 6-3

Skiing places seventh at Crystal Mountain

Special to The Observer

Notre Dame's improving squash club avenged a November loss to regional rival Purdue this weekend with a 6-3 victory at West Lafayette. The Boilermakers had defeated the Irish 7-2 at the Big 10 Championships at Northwestern in November. This marked Notre Dame's first win over Purdue since the club was reactivated five years ago.

Captain James Zhang defeated Justin Woo 9-0, 9-6, 9-6 at number one to set the tone of the match, but on this day, he shared the limelight with many teammates. Freshman Javier Palomo debuted for the Irish at No. 2, bringing his experience as a former member of the Guatemalan Junior National Team to the squad. Palomo defeated Ash Karamchandani 9-4, 9-7, 2-9, 9-2. Javier was joined in the win column by his older brother Jose, who beat Vivek Sagi 9-1, 9-7, 9-6 at No. 6, becoming the first brother tandem to win in the same match.

Another historic milestone was accomplished for the Irish at No. 5, where Katie Daley became the first woman to win a match for the Irish in intercollegiate play, defeating Javier Luna 9-4, 9-8, 1-9, 10-9. Daley is currently the only woman on the squad, but new members are always welcome.

Phil Moss dropped a tough four game match at No. 3 to David Woo, and Michael McConnell defeated Roberto Vargas in four games at No. 4. Randy Rainosek and Pedro Gochicoa dropped matches at Nos. 7 and 8 to Purdue's Tabish Ashfaq and Marcus Calmet respectively. Chris Schlax defeated Yonghan Yeong, coming back from 2-1 down to win 9-5, 1-9, 6-9, 9-7, 9-6 at No. 9. Leigh Chapman defeated Nataraj Paulraj at No. 10 and Julian Lagoy dropped his No. 11 contest to Shailesh Sanghai in a pair of exhibition matches.

The Irish will next compete in the Stanford Invitational.

Men's Volleyball

The Men's Volleyball team traveled to St. Joseph, Michigan to play No. 9 Michigan State in their annual "Battle at the House of Noise" contest on Saturday. In a long, hard fought match before a sold-out crowd, an Irish comeback fell just short as the Spartans prevailed in five games.

Things looked awful for the Irish right from the start, losing the first game 25-11. With no offense and a powerful attack from MSU, the Irish had no answers and were put away quickly. However, the Irish were able to put that game behind them and fight throughout the next four games. Down one game to none, Notre Dame came out strong in the second game, going on an 8-2 run behind the serving of Nolan Kane. Balanced with good passing and aggressive attacks from Joe O'Connell, and Drew Williams, the Irish put away the Spartans 25-17.

Gaining confidence from a great game, the Irish came out fired-up and hungry for victory. Unlike the first two games, the third game went point for point, with neither team going ahead by more than four points. Unfortunately, the Irish missed many serves at critical moments in the game. Michigan State was able to turn the Irish mistakes into Spartan points and stole the third game from the Irish 25-23. The next game was similar to the previous, Notre Dame and Michigan State exchanging points. This time, however, the Irish cleaned up their game. With strong offensive attacks from junior Mike Toomey, and the strong serving from sophomore Dan Zibton, the Irish were able to push the final points and win 25-22.

The fifth game belonged to Michigan State the entire time. With the Spartans playing phenomenal defense, not allowing a Notre Dame attack to hit the ground, they took the fifth game 15-10. When asked about the performance of his team, Irish coach

Brad Weldon said, "Serving errors were tragic in the first games. If we would have kept our serves in and not given Michigan State so many free points, we could have won those games."

Skiing

Notre Dame's skiers and snowboarders traveled to Crystal Mountain for a weekend of races. For the men's ski team, Saturday's slalom event was dominated by freshman phenom Joel Sharbough, finishing in seventh place. Behind Sharbough were freshman Conor Byrne in 18th, senior Andrew Breslin in 25th and junior Brian Hedges who recovered from a spectacular fall still finished 29th. Other finishers for the men were Pat Leimkueller, Chris Eakins, Jon Merck, Alex Gloeckner and Tommy Balmat. Leif Pettersen and Steve Feutz livened up the slalom event with very exciting crashes. The men's team finished in fourth place on Saturday.

The women ski team managed to put together a very nice showing on Saturday with all of the women finishing. Four women finished with out-

standing races in the top 15. Senior Molly Butler finished in an impressive fourth place. Behind Butler were freshman Stephanie Dalton in eighth place, sophomore stud Sarah Rauenhurst in 12th place, and senior Lindsay May in 14th. Other finishers for the women were Mary Kate Sweeney, Casey Dunne, Katie Coniglio, Katie Paquette and Kerry McGuire. The women's team finished the slalom event in second place behind a solid Michigan State team.

The men's snowboard team blazed up the course during Saturday's Giant Slalom event. All three men finished their races and sophomore Nick Cottingham finished fourth, Senior Dan VanDerWerff finished in fifth place and sophomore Oliver Short finished in a solid eighth. The men's team finished in second place.

The women's snowboard team

followed the men in true fashion on Saturday with all four of the women finishing. Senior Nichole Mitchell led the women finishing in third place. Behind Mitchell were freshmen Katie Rehberger and Casey McNeill in sixth and seventh, and senior Dayna Dantzscher in eighth. The women's team finished in second.

Sunday's abbreviated Giant Slalom event was drenched with a healthy amount of global warming and about an inch of rain. Despite unfavorable snow conditions, the men's ski team had quite a nice showing. After the first run, four men were in the top 15. Joel Sharbough was able to hold his spot in fourth, Conor Byrne finished in 11th, and Pat Leimkueller in 17th place. After his seventh-place finish in the first run, Hedges lost a ski and tumbled down the mountain, finishing with a DNF. Other finishers for the men's ski team were Steve Feutz in 28th, Chris Eakins in 32nd, Jon Merck 36th, Alex Gloeckner 42nd and Tommy Balmat 43rd.

After an impressive first run, senior Leif Pettersen incited laughter from the crowd with his crash and ensuing slide down the mountain. The men's team finished in third place on the day.

The women's team continued their success in Sunday's event finishing again in second. Butler was the top finisher again for the women in a third-place finish. Dalton and Rauenhurst finished in eighth and ninth, respectively. Behind the three scorers were Lindsay May in 15th, Katie Coniglio in 17th, Mary Kate Sweeney 19th, Katie Paquette 24th, Casey Dunne 25th, and Kerry McGuire in 26th. The women's team remains the brightest spot for the Notre Dame ski team.

Men's and women's snowboarding finished Sunday's giant slalom in good form, building on Saturday's success.

The top finishers for the men were Cottingham, VanDerWerff and Short. The four finishers for the women were Mitchell, Rehberger, Dantzscher and McNeill.

Next week the two teams have a week off to prepare for their race on the weekend of 11th.

Dryland training is scheduled for the coming week.

Men's Water Polo

Last weekend, the ND Men's Water Polo Team traveled to Tampa Bay, Fla. for the Gasparilla Classic. In their first tournament of the spring season, the Irish were a little rusty, but still performed admirably against some of the best teams in Florida.

The Irish started things off with a win against hosts USF on Friday night, winning 16-2. The next morning however, the Irish ran into Riptide, a Senior Men's club team from the Tampa area.

The Irish played hard, but numerous penalties and ejection fouls put the Irish in a hole they weren't able to dig themselves out of, as they lost 12-9. On the positive side, goalie Scott Tagwerker was phenomenal, stopping three out of five penalty shots and making a variety of dazzling saves that kept the Irish in it despite their sloppy play.

Tampa Water Polo Club was the next opponent for the Irish in the quarterfinals.

The Irish came out firing, thanks to two-meter man Matt McNicholas, and jumped out to an early lead, which they held going into the final quarter. However, turnovers and ejection fouls once again proved to be the team's undoing, as Tampa mounted a furious comeback in the final two minutes to beat the Irish 9-8.

The loss meant the Irish now faced an early morning matchup against St. Andrew's on Sunday. Luckily, the Irish showed no signs of letting up from the start, with Patrick Connors, Mike Silhasek and Steve Shepard firing them ahead to a lead which was never in danger, and ending with a score of 17-4.

Figure Skating

Notre Dame's figure skating club placed eighth among eleven closely bunched teams at this weekend's Midwestern Sectionals in Fraser, Mich.

Captain Bridget Purcell's squad narrowly missed a sixth-place finish that would have qualified the club for nationals. The skaters will next compete on February 11.

"Serving errors were tragic in the first game."

Brad Weldon
men's club volleyball coach

Sizzlelini Bellini Tuesdays

Sizzlelini (Sizzlelini) —
On Tuesdays, get our specialty for **TWO** for only **\$10.95!**
A sizzling skillet of tender chicken, savory sausage or both served with a zesty tomato sauce accented with peppers and onions on top of a generous portion of spaghetti.

Bellini (Bellini) —
A frosty raspberry, green apple or peach Italian work of art for \$2!

Tuesday (Tuesdays) —
Visit us EVERY Tuesday for lunch or dinner to celebrate **Sizzlelini Bellini Tuesdays!**

Papa Veno's
ITALIAN KITCHEN

Unmistakably Italian Unbelievably Good

Hours: Sunday - Thursday 11 a.m.-10 p.m.
Friday - Saturday 11 a.m.-11 p.m.

5110 Edison Lakes Parkway, Mishawaka

574-271-1692

Reservations Accepted

HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH International Film Festival

January 31-February 2, 2006

Saint Mary's College, Vander Vennet Theatre

Free and open to the public

Tues., Jan. 31
7 p.m.

Mardi Gras: Made in China

David Redmon, USA, 2004, 72 min.

In English, Cantonese, Fujianese and Mandarin with English subtitles.

Wed., Feb. 1
7 p.m.

State of Fear

Pamela Yates, Paco de Onis, and Peter Kinoy, USA/Peru, 2005, 94 min.

In English and Spanish with English subtitles.

Thur., Feb. 2
7 p.m.

The Education of Shelby Knox

Marion Lipschutz and Rose Rosenblatt, USA, 2005, 76 min.

In English.



CENTER FOR WOMEN'S
INTERCULTURAL LEADERSHIP



Saint Mary's College
NOTRE DAME • INDIANA



The Joan B. Kroc Institute
FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE STUDIES

Sponsored by The Center for Women's Intercultural Leadership, the English Department, the Women's Studies Program and the Intercultural Studies Program at Saint Mary's College, and by the Joan B. Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies at the University of Notre Dame

Mile

continued from page 20

Benninger first broke the magic mile barrier at last season's Mevo Invitational by clocking a 3:58.75, so his record-breaking performance Friday was not entirely unexpected.

"Kurt was especially motivated tonight after he wasn't invited to [last] Saturday's Reebok [Indoor Games] in Boston," Notre Dame coach Joe Plane said.

Saturday's Reebok Boston Indoor Games featured many of the world's fastest milers as 11 runners finished the race in under four minutes.

If he had been invited, Benninger might have made it 12.

"He ran with a purpose and really wanted to show those meet organizers what they were missing out on. It may be their loss, but it's certainly our gain, and we're very happy with the way things turned out for Kurt this evening."

The extra motivation certainly paid off, as Benninger turned in what was by far the best performance of the evening. Butler's Scott Overall stayed even with Benninger for the majority of the mile, but Benninger out-kicked Overall down the stretch to break the four minute barrier.

Overall ended up finishing the mile with a time of



Distance runner Kurt Benninger, left, is congratulated by an opponent and teammate Tom Chamney, right, at the Notre Dame Invitational last weekend.

4:00.53, just off Benninger's pace.

Benninger's accomplishment is made more impressive by the fact that he is one of only three runners in school history to break the four-minute mile barrier.

Luke Watson, the school record holder, ran the mile in 3:57.83 at the 2002 Mevo Invitational. The only other Irish runner to crack the barrier was Chuck Aragorn, who accomplished the feat in 1981 at the Illini Invitational.

Benninger has bounced back strong after suffering a season-ending injury last season after

the NCAA Indoor Championships. He will look to continue his strong start to the season this weekend as the Irish return to action when they host the Mevo Invitational this weekend.

"I'm really looking forward to running the 3K at the Mevo Invitational," Benninger said. "The defending national champion will be running, so I am anxious to compete, and I think I am fit enough to win the event."

The two-day meet begins 5 p.m. Friday in the Loftus Sports Center.

Contact Jordan Beltz at jbeltz@nd.edu

"He ran with a purpose and really wanted to show those meet organizers what they were missing out on."

Joe Plane
Irish coach

"Going into the meet, I definitely thought that I would be able to break the four-minute mark."

Kurt Benninger
Irish miler

MEN'S SWIMMING

Captains flourish in leadership roles

By DAN MURPHY
Sports Writer

One way to measure how successful a team will be is the attitude of the senior class — especially the captains. If Notre Dame's 10-2 record and national ranking are any indication, this season's leaders have certainly stepped up to the challenge.

This year's captains, Jamie Lutkus and Patrick Hefernan, were selected out of a group of 10 seniors by their teammates in a vote last spring.

"I have complete faith in the process that we use," Irish coach Tim Welsh said. "We have [had] a string of good captains in the past years, and this year is no different."

Welsh said the main quality the Irish look for in a captain is the ability to communicate with both teammates and coaches. He added that it is essential each captain is well liked by his teammates but still a strong leader in and out of the pool.

The coach seems to have found the right men.

"Jamie is intense and really into the spirit of Notre Dame, while Patrick is more laid back and keeps us loose," Irish swimmer Graham Parker said. "They provide a good ying and yang that keep our team balanced and together."

However, the respect these captains earned from their coaches and teammates didn't come easily. The captains say

they have worked hard for many years to put themselves in the leadership roles they have today.

Lutkus, who competes in the breaststroke and individual medleys (IM), has been named to the all-Big East Conference team all four of his years at Notre Dame. He was also an All-American for three consecutive years in high school.

He currently owns the top six times in the 400-yard IM, as well as the second-best time in the 200-yard event, in the program's history.

"[Being a captain] gives you an extra push," Lutkus said. "It is important to lead by example because fast swimming can be contagious."

Hefernan has also left his mark in leading by example the past four years. He ranks sixth all time in the 200 butterfly and was a part of a record-setting relay team during his sophomore season.

Lutkus continued by attributing Hefernan's biggest asset to the team has been his unmatched work ethic and selfless sense of team.

This was evident early on when he was presented with the McManus Captains' Award — given annually to the player who best exemplifies the word "teammate" — at the end of his sophomore season.

"I just tried to show up every day to practice and do what I could to help the team achieve our goals," Hefernan said.

Both Hefernan and Lutkus said they were "honored and excited" when they learned about their responsibilities as captains. They began filling their new roles as soon as the team arrived on campus.

"It was clear that they both had the ear of the team from the start," Welsh said. "They have been good leaders throughout the year, but they still both have a lot they want to accomplish in the next month."

Contact Dan Murphy at dmurphy6@nd.edu

]club_information_meetings.exe
]Are you involved in an extracurriculariffic club?|

make sure you check out the mandatory

Club Information Meetings this week

Tuesday, 1/31/06 @ 4PM (Academic) & 5PM (Athletic)

Wednesday, 2/1/06 @ 4PM (Cultural) & 5PM (Performing Arts)

Thursday, 2/2/06 @ 4PM (Social Service) & 5PM (Special Interest)

* location: montgomery auditorium, lafortune * duration: 30 mins *

] Any student who is a member of a recognized club is eligible to run for a CCC representative position. Those wishing to represent their division's clubs on the CCC should attend that division's CIM. |

] Each club's two highest ranking officers must attend a CIM this week. |

] Officers need not attend the same meeting. |

This begins the annual Club Registration process. In order to be eligible for CCC allocations, concession stands, a table at Activities Night 2006, posting & room reservation privileges, and more, each club must meet the deadlines for registration. |

Questions? Email: ccc@nd.edu or ageist@nd.edu

REACH FOR THE SKY!

Offering affordable flying lessons from South Bend Regional Airport

WINGS FLYING CLUB

www.wingsflyingclub.org
(974)234-6011

The Notre Dame Creative Writing Program Presents:

This Life She's Chosen

Reading and Reception
February 1, 2006
7:30 p.m.
South Dining Hall
Hospitality Room

Kirsten Sundberg Lunstrum

"Kirsten Lunstrum's stories are gemstones, multifaceted, highly polished, more and more complicated in structure the closer you look."
—Pam Houston, author of *Cowboys Are My Weakness*

Big East

continued from page 20

however, the Championships will be their opportunity to achieve what Carroll has already done — qualify for the NCAA Championship.

The Irish are currently riding a seven-game win streak in Nixon's inaugural season as

head coach.

Despite Nixon being a part of the program as both a competitor during the 1997-98 season and as an assistant coach in the 2004-05 season, several members of the team needed time to adjust to a new coach.

"At the beginning of the year, everybody on the team just decided to trust her," Quinn said. "Our performanc-

es since then have really cemented that trust, and our confidence in her has grown over the course of the year."

Despite having their sights set on the national meet, the Irish say they are not going to overlook the Big East Championships. Notre Dame will face a tough Rutgers program, which enters the tournament on a high note after defeating No. 12 Penn State

129-112 in its final meet of the regular season.

"We kind of felt that Rutgers was trying to send us a message in their last meet," junior Julia Quinn said. "We're still confident, though, because although Rutgers has some stars, they don't have the depth to match up with us."

Contact Greg Arbogast at garbogas@nd.edu

McGraw

continued from page 20

loss, McGraw has indicated that there may be lineup changes, at least for tonight's game against Syracuse.

"We're thinking about going to a smaller lineup, playing four guards," McGraw said. "We're just not sure which four that's going to be."

Despite the potential starting lineup changes, McGraw has been adamant about trying to establish a post presence, where the team has had trouble lately.

"We need to really rejuvenate the post game. I think that's a key, that's what was working for us early in the year," McGraw said.

In part because of the post problems, the Irish have been notoriously streaky the last few games, equally likely to make dominating runs or go more than 10 minutes without a field goal.

"We continually watch the droughts, to see what went wrong, what did we do wrong. It's just a lot of different things [contributing to them]," McGraw said.

While lineup changes seem to be in effect for at least tonight, McGraw says the team has no plans of changing its overall philosophy or game strategy.

"We're pretty much going to do the same thing we've been doing, offensively just hoping more shots drop in for us. Defensively, we haven't made a lot of changes there either," she said. "I think we're just trying to find the right combination right now."

Contact Eric Retter at eretter@nd.edu

Recruits

continued from page 20

quantity."

In addition, Corrigan said this class' athleticism separates it from past groups, calling it "the most athletic class we've ever gotten," pointing to the incoming players' accomplishments in multiple high school sports.

Eight of them received a variety of all-conference and all-state honors in other sports.

Three of next year's incoming freshmen will arrive from talent-rich New York.

Maatt Ciambella is an attackman who captained Western New York powerhouse Orchard Park to two state semifinals appearances.

Midfielder Kelly McKenna captained his Penfield High School team his junior and

senior years, as well as captaining the Western Empire Team in 2004 and 2005, where he played alongside Ciambella to a 2005 bronze medal.

Midfielder Brett Vecchio was an all-county winner his sophomore and juniors seasons at Cold Spring Harbor High School and was an alternate to the Long Island Empire Lacrosse teams.

From Maryland, Corrigan nabbed midfielder Grant Krebs — who earned Maryland Freestate Team honors as a sophomore — and 6-foot-6 defenseman Chip Lanser.

Pennsylvania produced two signees, Malvern Prep defenseman Mike Creighton and Central Bucks East midfielder Adam Felicetti (Doylestown).

Felicetti's junior season produced a team high 41 groundballs, 14 assists (third most on

team) and 27 goals, earning him a first-team all-Intelligencer spot from the local newspaper — not to mention Intelligencer "Player of the Year" honors as a wide receiver and safety in football.

Defenseman Sean Callinan comes to Notre Dame after a post-graduate year at Deerfield Academy (Massachusetts).

Neal Hicks is the lone commitment south of the mid-Atlantic and New England lacrosse hotbeds, but the attackman from the Lovett School in Atlanta, Ga. is one of the most important pieces of the class.

Hicks led his team to state titles in his sophomore and junior seasons — scoring 83 points on 48 goals and 35 assists and collecting 75 groundballs in his All-American junior campaign.

Though the Irish will lose second-team preseason All-

America attacker Pat Walsh at the end of the year, Corrigan believes the new class will contribute immediately offensively.

"They're quarterbacks on their football teams and point guards on their basketball

teams," Corrigan said.

"We're getting guys with a presence and playmaking ability, guys who want the ball in their hands."

"And we're not finished yet."

In addition to the nine

announced commitments, Will Yeatman from Rancho Bernardo High School in Poway, Calif., is expected to sign with the class and play lacrosse and football at Notre Dame. But due to NCAA rules, Corrigan cannot comment on a recruit until he signs a letter of intent.

Contact Tim Dougherty at tdougher@nd.edu

"We're getting guys with a presence and playmaking ability, guys who want the ball in their hands."

Kevin Corrigan
Irish coach

"They're quarterbacks on their football teams and pointguards on their basketball teams."

Kevin Corrigan
Irish coach

Congregation of Holy Cross

CORBY NIGHT

*If God is calling you . . .
Join us.*



*Think you might have a vocation
to serve as a priest or brother?
Join the Holy Cross
community at Notre Dame
for an hour of prayer, pizza,
and informal discussion.*

*"A great band of men had passed this way,
men who had made and lived by their vows,
men who had walked side by side
in their following of the Lord. . ."*

*Wednesday, Feb. 1, 8:30pm
at Corby Hall*

vocation.nd.edu

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Nowhere to go but east

Irish absent from national top-25 polls for first time since 2003-04 season

By ERIC RETTER
Sports Writer

After struggling to a 3-5 record in the first half of conference play, the Carrier Dome may be just what the doctor ordered.

The Irish, who are 12-7 overall and have fallen out of the top 25 for the first time since the end of the 2003-2004 season, will go into their game at Syracuse with an 18-2 overall series record and an 8-1 record when the game is played at Syracuse, where Notre Dame hasn't lost since the 1988-89 season.

While the team will be making its third trip to the East Coast in a little over a week, Notre Dame head coach Muffet McGraw is confident that the team will not experience any ill-effect from the travels.

"We had yesterday off, so I think we had a nice day to get fresh, especially on a Sunday when they don't have class," McGraw said. "It was a good day off, so I think we'll be ready."

Syracuse, (2-7 in the Big East and 9-11 overall), comes into the game on a two-game win streak, having pulled out victories against Seton Hall and Providence last week. The



Irish players Crystal Erwin, left, Lindsay Schrader, center, and Melissa D'Amico look toward the court during the final moments of Notre Dame's 78-75 win over DePaul Jan. 17.

Orange will be led by center Vaida Sipaviciute, who currently averages 17.6 points per game.

The Notre Dame effort to end its current losing streak will be led by senior guard Megan Duffy, who currently ranks eighth in

the Big East in scoring with 16.1 points per game, including 25 points in a heartbreaking 68-64 overtime loss to South Florida Saturday.

"I think the thing that we want to do is make sure we have the

right people shooting the ball, which, of course, Megan is a prominent feature in that," McGraw said.

After Saturday's disappointing

see MCGRAW/page 18

MEN'S LACROSSE

Corrigan announces 2010 class

Ciambella headlines field of nine recruits

By TIM DOUGHERTY
Sports Writer

Notre Dame coach Kevin Corrigan has begun reeling in one of his best recruiting classes in his 17th season as the face of the lacrosse program.

Though the recruiting class of 2010 will not be finalized until the end of the April late signing period, Corrigan announced Monday that the Irish have inked nine new contributors for next season, all of whom were "very heavily recruited," the coach said Monday.

The class includes three defensemen, three midfielders and three attackmen from four different states, complementing the upcoming departure of this year's senior class (two defensemen, five midfielders, one attackman, one goalie).

"We're really excited about this class," Corrigan said. "It's deep. We've got quality and

see RECRUITS/page 18

TRACK AND FIELD

Benninger cracks record books

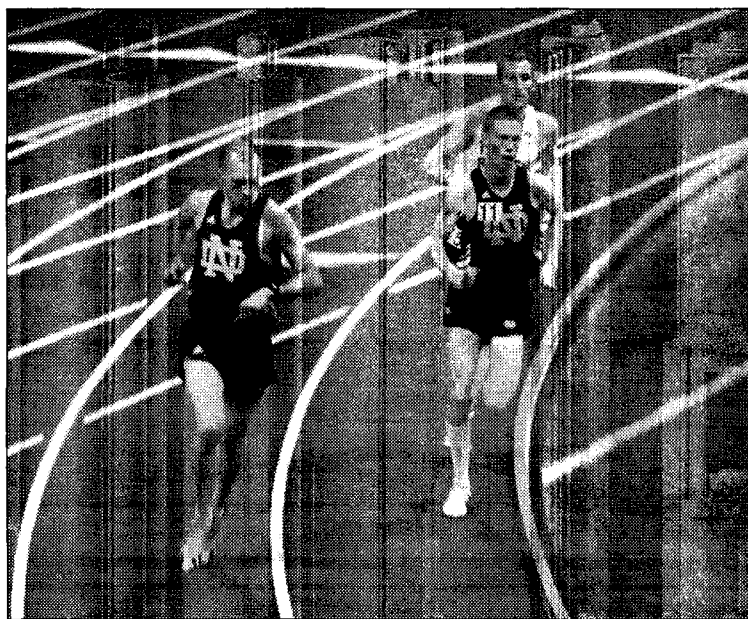
ND junior becomes only runner to break four-minutes twice

By JORDAN BELTZ
Sports Writer

Kurt Benninger always knew in his heart that someday he might have record-breaking potential. Little did he know that that potential would blossom so quickly.

The Irish junior became the first runner in Notre Dame history to record two sub-four-minute miles in his career.

"Going into the meet, I definitely thought that I would be able to break the four-minute barrier," Benninger said. "I actually thought that I was fit enough to run a few seconds faster, but obviously I am happy with my performance and results."



Long distance runner Kurt Benninger, right, broke four minutes in the mile at last weekend's Notre Dame Invitational.

Hailing from Chepstow, Ontario, Canada, Benninger was a member of the Canadian Junior team and

he competed in the 2003 Pan Am Games.

see MILE/page 17

ND WOMEN'S SWIMMING

Irish energizing for Big East meet

Swimmers recover, refocus for looming postseason events

By GREG ARBOGAST
Sports Writer

After rigorous training and preparation over the past three months, the Irish women will spend the next two weeks getting ready for tests against the nation's top competition.

On Feb. 15, Notre Dame will start its postseason in the Big East Championships and continue until the NCAA Championships March 23.

"The NCAAs have been the focus all year," Irish coach Carrie Nixon said. "Our goal

has been to get as many girls to the NCAAs and score as many points as possible."

To accomplish that goal, Nixon is easing up on workouts for the next couple of weeks.

For example, the sprinters, who need the most rest because of their intense workouts over the course of the season, will be tapering for a full 10 days.

Irish junior Katie Carroll, on the other hand will only be tapering for five days. Since Carroll has already qualified for the NCAAs by attaining an 'A' cut time in the 400 IM, the Big East Championships are just another tune up on the road to the national meet.

For the majority of the team

see BIG EAST/page 18

SPORTS AT A GLANCE

NCAA MEN'S BBALL

Northern Iowa cracks the men's AP top-25 for the first time in school history.

page 12

NCAA WOMEN'S BBALL

North Carolina steals the No. 1 spot from Duke in the latest Associated Press poll.

page 12

NBA

Skidding Pacers hope to turn things around against two of the league's top scorers — Gilbert Arenas and Kobe Bryant.

page 14

NBA

Hornets 94 Bucks 93

David West's jumper with 0.1 seconds left in regulation lifts the Charlotte over the Milwaukee.

page 15

CLUB SPORTS

Squash team avenges a Nov. loss to regional rival Purdue this weekend with a 6-3 victory in West Lafayette.

page 16

MEN'S SWIMMING

Captains Jamie Lutkus and Patrick Hefernana have played a pivotal role in leading the Irish this season.

page 17