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Monologues move off ND, lack sponsor



Actress and 2006 University graduate Stefanie Dittert performs a skit during last February's "Vagina Monologues" in DeBartolo Hall.

By KATE ANTONACCI
News Editor

Nearly one year after the sexually explicit play "Vagina Monologues" caused a storm of controversy and weeks of academic freedom debate on campus, organizers announced that this year's show will hit the stage in early March — but, for the first time in six years, that stage will be one off campus.

"This is not the Notre Dame Monologues. This is the 'Vagina Monologues' performed by Notre Dame students," said co-

organizer Michelle Lewis. "It is not affiliated with the University at all."

The reason for the move off campus is lack of sponsorship, Lewis said. After campaigning unsuccessfully to different academic departments, play organizers decided to ensure the play's performance by taking it to a venue off University grounds.

Last year, "The Vagina Monologues" was held in an academic setting — performed in a classroom and followed up with a series of panels address-

see VENUE/page 3

Authorities investigate sex crimes

Two students report separate incidents

By KAITLYNN RIELY
Associate News Editor

Police are investigating two incidents of reported sex offenses that occurred on campus in the past few days, said separate e-mails sent by officials Wednesday.

The reported offenses, one a forcible fondling sex offense and the other a sexual assault, were both reported by Notre Dame students.

A student notified Notre Dame Security/Police Wednesday afternoon that a man approached her Tuesday night between 8:30 and 8:50 p.m. in the C1 parking lot and began talking to her while she cleared snow away from her car. The student said the man stood close to her and touched her inappropriately.

The suspect was described in the e-mail as male, possibly south Asian with a dark complexion. He is thought to be in his late 20s, about 5-foot-9 and weigh approximately 175 pounds. He was wearing a knit hat and he spoke with a foreign accent, the e-mail said.

The man was seen driving a vehicle that was described to the police as a maroon, newer model Mitsubishi with what might have been Illinois license plates.

A second e-mail said a student reported a sexual assault committed by an acquaintance on campus last weekend.

No other information was available Wednesday.

Contact Kaitlynn Riely at
kriely@nd.edu

STUDENT SENATE

Schools' relations dicussed

ND-SMC controversy conjures ideas, dialogue

By KAITLYNN RIELY
Associate News Editor

Members of Student Senate spent more than 30 minutes Wednesday debating whether they should respond to Observer columnist Jonathan Klingler's most recent column with a letter to the editor, but decided to refer the issue to committee.

Morrissey senator Greg Dworjan presented the proposed letter, which addressed the "long-standing strain on student relations" between Notre Dame and Saint Mary's College that were brought to the surface in Klingler's column.

In the column, which appeared in the Feb. 13 edition of The Observer, Klingler said Saint Mary's has been hypocritical in the past by maintaining their separate identity while using Notre Dame's resources. He argued Saint Mary's should choose to be "separate and proud" or be a part of Notre Dame. Four letters to the editor from Saint Mary's students reacting to his column were printed in Wednesday's Viewpoint section.

Dworjan said the Student Senate should send its own letter to The Observer in effort to "head off the controversy." The letter, he said, should include a proposal that representatives from the two schools meet to foster a "more understanding

see SENATE/page 4

Brown, Smith face off in debate

By SONIA RAO
News Writer

Presidential candidates Danny Smith and Liz Brown, and their respective running mates Ashley Weiss and Maris Braun, reiterated their platforms and extensive student government experience during a debate in LaFortune Wednesday night — the tickets' final opportunity to swing votes before today's run-off election.

Although both tickets were challenged on the plausibility of their platforms during the previous debate, both candidates argued that their initiatives were well researched and realistic.

"We've had numerous meetings with administration to make sure our ideas are feasible," Smith said. "We don't want to step on any feet."

Brown also reiterated the

see DEBATE/page 6



Danny Smith and Ashley Weiss discuss their platform during Tuesday evening's debate in LaFortune.

Resident assistant selection begins

Multiple interviews force student applicants to consider position's benefits, drawbacks

By EVA BINDA
News Writer

With the academic year well past the midway point, residence halls are already gearing up for next year by selecting their staffs. Applications for next year's Resident Assistants were due Jan. 19, but the process is far from over.

The position of resident assistant (RA) comes with many benefits and many sacrifices. Although RAs receive free room and board, they often give up many extracurricular activities and time with friends to devote much

of their free time to the dorm.

RA applicants must be willing "to take on the unpleasant tasks of staying up late [on] consecutive nights and pretty much giving up all her [or his] free time to the residence," Badin Rector Denise Lyon said.

Current Alumni RA Joe Nava had similar feelings regarding his position.

"You don't see the reality of the choice you've made until school starts. [...] I realized how much I had to say 'no' to activities outside the dorm," he said.

Nava also mentioned "handling disciplinary issues" as

of the hardest things about being an RA.

Despite some of these drawbacks, many juniors apply each year to join the ranks of hall staff. Students fill out an application that is sent to the Office of Student Affairs soon after semester break, which tracks their academic performance as well as their disciplinary history over the past three years. Three recommendations are also required.

In addition to an application, dorms require interviews to get to know the candidates. Each dorm has a different system in choosing their staffs.

Most dorms, like Cavanaugh and Sorin, have two interviews, while Badin requires three. One of the interviews at Badin is with a Student Selection

Committee, which is composed of 11 to 14 residents who interview the candidates from a resident's point-of-view.

During the interviews, the hall staff — made up of the rector, assistant rectors and current RAs — asks questions about participation in activities, especially within the dorm, and how he or she might behave in certain situ-

see RA/page 4

INSIDE COLUMN

Falling for you, Mac

To my new found love: Your features are perfect, your curves superb. With each day I discover new things about you, and fall further for your intelligent design. Why, I ask, didn't we meet sooner?

Hold on, folks.

Aaron Steiner

No, this is certainly not an offensively sappy and belated Valentine Day's wish. This is about true, lasting love. And such, I proclaim to the world: I love you, MacBook.

PC, may you rest in peace. With your broken LCD transformer (or whatever the OIT service guy called it), and your out of the question repair price, you bit the dust.

The MacBook arrived only one and a half weeks ago, and I have officially become a full-fledged Mac fanatic. With Steve Jobs leading the mission, boastful Mac-owners being the missionaries, and Apple the new religion, I am the latest convert. The time is finally here.

The time couldn't have come soon enough. It was horrifying to leave OIT with half of my laptop: they had removed my broken screen and I had decided repairing it would take too long and be too much.

The search began for a replacement, and PC, you didn't stand a chance. With the recommendations of friends ringing loud in the back of my head, Apple lured me in swift and fast. And, then, of course, the wait. And more waiting. (Side note: once an item is shipped, you can't call in and upgrade from ground to overnight service. Just an FYI.)

Let me tell you, the two-week interim between the death of the laptop PC and the arrival of the Mac was not easy. It was an anxious time, filled with countless visits to the ever-bustling LaFun cluster, the CoMo lab, and anyplace on campus where computers are available. I think the CoMo cluster supervisors know me by face, now. (Yes, it's me, that kid who planted himself in the lab for hours on end.)

During the wait, Facebook — and partner in crime AOL — finally took a second seat to homework as I was forced to budget my time (I wanted to spend as little time as possible in the computer lab. They already knew my face. That's about as personal as I wanted to get.)

I think, in fact, that my Facebook addiction took a hit while I was forced to do my computing on public computers. No longer do I feel the same urges to compulsively check my wall or update my status after having reduced access for almost two weeks.

In addition to restoring the my ability to browse Facebook endlessly, this Mac has brought fewer computer glitches, faster work, and an array of fun new features that would never grace the desktop of my old PC.

Taking into account the circumstance, perhaps my affection for this new Mac is based more on the relief it brought to my juggling of work between trips to various clusters rather than its extraordinary quality. Perhaps I would feel the same about any new computer after two weeks without one.

Then again, not just any has such perfect curves.

Contact Aaron Steiner at asteiner@nd.edu.

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

CORRECTIONS

In the Feb. 14 article titled, "Engineers anticipate new hall," Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering, department chair Stephen Batill's name was incorrectly spelled. The correct spelling is Batill, not Batil. The Observer regrets this error.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PLACE TO EAT ON CAMPUS?



Taylor Poulin

junior
Walsh

"The Jesus table at SDH, Thursdays at 8 p.m."



Jordan Schank

freshman
Keough

"SDH, but it'd be better if they had real mozzarella."



Allegra Gassman

freshman
Walsh

"SDH because everyone's there."



Tiffany Garcia

freshman
Walsh

"THE Reckers."



Matt Haggerty

senior
Keenan

"Candlelight dinners."



Jordan Gallo

junior
Lyons

"THE Starbucks."



KELLY HIGGINS/The Observer

Local Irish dancers perform at halftime of the Saint Mary's basketball game Wednesday. The dancers sold St. Patrick's Day items to raise money to attend the Irish Dancing World Championships in Scotland.

OFFBEAT

Cross-dressing lawyer hangs up his dress

WELLINGTON, New Zealand — A male lawyer who appeared in court dressed in women's clothes as a protest against what he said was New Zealand's overly-masculine judiciary was suspended Wednesday after being found to be in contempt of court.

The High Court found Rob Moodie, a 68-year-old, balding man who appeared in court in dresses and totting a handbag, was in contempt for circulating suppressed documents outside the court in one of his cases.

Teen hiccuping for over 3 weeks, hospitalized

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — Jennifer Mee can't stop hiccuping. For more than three weeks now, the 15-year-old St. Petersburg teen has hiccuped close to 50 times a minute — despite the best efforts of doctors and home remedies.

She's had blood tests, a CT scan and an MRI. Drugs haven't worked. Neither has holding her breath, putting sugar under her tongue, sipping pickle juice, breathing into a paper bag and drinking out of the wrong side of a glass.

The hiccup do stop when

she's sleeping.

According to the National Institutes of Health, hiccups are caused by involuntary contractions of the diaphragm, which causes vocal cords to briefly close, which makes that distinctive hiccup sound.

It is not clear what triggered Jennifer's hiccups. Her mother, Rachel Robidoux, recently turned to the local newspaper for help.

"I'm just looking for some answers where somebody's gone through this," Robidoux told the St. Petersburg Times.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

The student body president run-off election will take place today. Students can vote online between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. at the Judicial Council Web site or by clicking on a link in an e-mail from the Council.

The men's basketball team will play Providence today at 7 p.m. at the Joyce Center.

The Juilliard String Quartet from New York's famous Juilliard School will perform today at 7:30 p.m. in Leighton Concert Hall at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. Tickets are \$36 to the general public, \$30 for faculty and staff and \$15 for students. Call 574-631-2800 for more information.

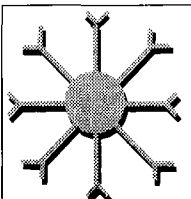
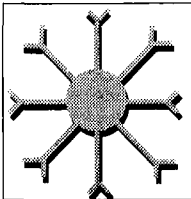
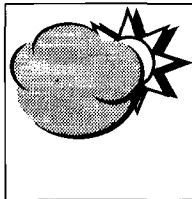
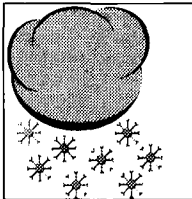
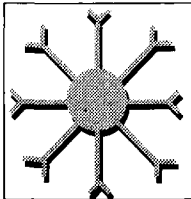
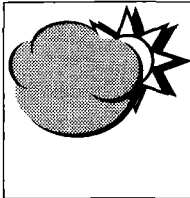
The Second City Comedy Tour will perform at Washington Hall at 6:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Friday. Student tickets are \$5 and are available at the LaFortune Box Office.

Junior Parents Weekend will commence Friday with the Opening Gala and will end Sunday with the Closing Brunch.

The SMC Monologues will take place Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m. in Carroll Auditorium at Saint Mary's College. A donation of \$3 is suggested.

The men's lacrosse team will play Loyola Saturday at 1 p.m. in the Loftus Sports Center. Admission is free.

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

	TODAY	TONIGHT	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
	HIGH 12 LOW 4	HIGH 10 LOW 0	HIGH 20 LOW 5	HIGH 25 LOW 14	HIGH 27 LOW 15	HIGH 28 LOW 15

Atlanta 42 / 21 Boston 25 / 11 Chicago 12 / 9 Denver 28 / 8 Houston 47 / 30 Los Angeles 75 / 47 Minneapolis 10 / -2
New York 24 / 16 Philadelphia 27 / 15 Phoenix 68 / 45 Seattle 54 / 41 St. Louis 20 / 10 Tampa 61 / 41 Washington 28 / 14

WebCT aids ND academic quest

Internet-based course software system utilized by most students

By JOHN-PAUL WITT
News Writer

After supplementing classroom education at Notre Dame for seven years, WebCT will soon have a new image.

Assistant director of the Kaneb Center for Teaching and Learning Chris Clark said the internet-based course software system has been purchased by a competing company.

In addition to a new name, Clark said, "WebCT will either be known as the Blackboard Learning System or we may rename it the ND Course Pages."

The changes, however, might not end with a simple renovation.

"In several years, we may replace WebCT with one of several new, open-source, free programs that accomplish the same thing WebCT does in new ways," he said.

WebCT currently is used most by the psychology, music, mathematics, theology and language departments, according to statistics provided by Brandon Rich of the Office of Information Technology.

"This semester, 388 sections are being taught using WebCT. That represents 20 percent faculty usage, reaching 73 percent of students," Rich said.

The major consumer of WebCT is Math 10260 — Calculus II for Business — directed by Professor Alex Himonas.

"The problem with homework is that students cannot see their mistakes — WebCT corrects this," Himonas said.

WebCT informs users instantly when they have made an error.

"We like the trial and error element of the class," Himonas said. "Students can see where they are making mistakes, and can practice until they get it right."

WebCT has also found novel applications in the foreign languages. Professor Maria Coloma uses WebCT to post handouts, visual aids and multimedia for her Spanish classes.

"I love it. It lets me keep in touch with students — there's even music we can sing on WebCT to help with pronunciation," Coloma said. "I encourage all foreign language professors to use WebCT."

Students like sophomore Marcela Monsalve appreciate the broad applications of WebCT.

"I used it in my pre-med science classes, but also in Democracy in Africa," Monsalve said. "All the lecture notes were posted, as well as the syllabus. I like the convenience of it."

One of the most popular applications in WebCT is used for multiple choice questions based on an assigned reading, Clark said.

"Students say on TCEs that classes with WebCT are better because they do the reading for quizzes, which leaves them more prepared for exams at the end of the semester," he said.

WebCT appeals to many of its users, but also comes with its fair share of criticism.

"It allows us to do very basic things, but students still have to type in an answer at the end," Himonas said. "We can't test [students'] ability to draw graphs or determine mistakes in each step of the process, only the solution."

Clark said the system is seen as "clunky" and difficult to use, but said a new version of WebCT would be implemented soon to fix this problem.

"The new version will add a more advanced discussion tool, the ability for students to keep an individual online journal and a class web log feature, as well as a scoring rubric," he said. "The rubric will allow students to grade their own work before turning it in to see if they have met their professor's expectations for a given assignment."

Contact John-Paul Witt at
jwitt11@nd.edu

Latino Studies receives Getty Foundation grant

Special to The Observer

The Institute for Latino Studies (ILS) at the University of Notre Dame has been awarded a \$100,000 grant from the Getty Foundation for the Midwest Latino Arts Documentary Heritage Project.

Building upon a successful pilot program conducted in Illinois and Michigan, the project will produce foundational reference tools and compile a Web-based directory to the fundamental research tools of 20th-century Latino artists and arts organizations in the Midwest. The resulting Web site and print publications will not only assist scholars and educators in their research and teaching, but also help librarians and archivists in collections development.

"Although this art history may seem 'invisible' much of it actually remains in the file cabinets, basements and storage boxes of its creators and, thus, is difficult for researchers to access," said Tracy Grimm, ILS archivist and project director. "Many of these collections of papers, files, correspondence, catalogs and photographs are in critical danger of being lost unless action is taken soon."

Unique in its approach, the project team will combine the expertise of art historians and

an archivist to locate and survey Latino art collections, museums, galleries, cultural centers and individuals, as well as the libraries and archives.

The project will produce a preservation awareness brochure, distribute a records management guide for non-profits, conduct field surveys of private collections and a survey of collections already held by libraries and archives, gather oral histories, conduct records management and preservation workshops, create an on-line guide for researching Latino arts primary sources, and publish a foundational chronological survey of the history of Latino arts in the Midwest with a selected bibliography and exhibitions list.

The Institute for Latino Studies was established in 1999 to promote understanding and appreciation of the Latino experience in the United States through research, education and outreach. Its areas of study include Latino art, spirituality, literature, history, politics and socioeconomic conditions.

The Getty Foundation provides support to institutions and individuals throughout the world, funding a diverse range of projects that promote the understanding and conservation of the visual arts.

LOST COCKAPOO

REWARD OF \$500 FOR THE SAFE RETURN OF MILO, OUR DOG, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE



By now, tear stains would have formed near Milo's eyes into his fur, which would appear dark brown. He could be wearing a red sweater and would have a teal colored collar, with matching leash. I believe his rabies shot was given by Kryder Clinic so he should have that tag on his collar. Milo was apprehensive of people he didn't know. He was a "puppy mill" dog. We believe he would run from someone if he was approached.

If found, please contact Animal Hospital of South Bend (MILO'S VET) 282-2303

Coverage not available everywhere. Available features & services will vary by phone/network. Nationwide Sprint PCS Network reaches over 250 million people. Offers not available in all markets or retail locations. Add'l terms & restrictions apply. Subject to credit. See store for details. Up to \$36 activation & \$200 early termination fees apply per line. Deposit may be required. Instant Savings: Offer ends 2/17/07 or while supplies last. No cash back. Taxes excluded. Activation at time of purchase required. ©2007 Sprint Nextel. All rights reserved. Sprint, the "Going Forward" logo, the NEXTEL name & logo, & other trademarks are trademarks of Sprint Nextel.

WORLD & NATION

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

North, South Korea discuss solution

SEOUL — The two Koreas set up a meeting for Thursday to discuss resuming high-level talks, the first sign of tensions relaxing on the divided peninsula after North Korea signed a breakthrough nuclear disarmament agreement.

Besides committing North Korea to halting its nuclear programs in exchange for oil, the accord calls for efforts to normalize relations with regional powers and establish a permanent peace between the two Koreas, which technically remain at war.

"What is very important about this agreement," South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun said, "is that it not only resolves the North Korea nuclear issue itself, but in a further step, it includes a clause for discussions, negotiations on establishing a permanent peace regime on the Korean Peninsula."

Warlords threaten Somalian Peace

MOGADISHU — Somalia's warlords are re-emerging and pose a threat to humanitarian aid deliveries to the needy, the United Nations warned Wednesday, as the government struggles to quell growing unrest.

Rising violence and a power vacuum caused by the ousting of Islamic forces by the transitional government could lead to a return of the chaos that plagued Somalia for 16 years, the U.N. said in a monthly report.

The spiraling violence is also likely to undermine attempts to deploy an African Union peacekeeping mission designed to protect the country's weak, Ethiopian-backed government and train a new army for the lawless nation. There are no reports of injuries or damage.

The U.N. estimates around 1 million Somalis need humanitarian aid.

NATIONAL NEWS

Authorities look for shooter's motive

SALT LAKE CITY — A shopping mall where five people were gunned down this week reopened Wednesday, as authorities tried to figure out why a teenage Bosnian immigrant committed the rampage and how he got his hands on a gun.

FBI agent Patrick Kiernan, in Salt Lake City, said the bureau had no reason to believe Sulejman Talovic, who was killed by police, was motivated by religious extremism or an act of terrorism.

"It's just unexplainable," Kiernan said Wednesday. "He was just walking around and shooting everybody he saw."

Armed with a .38-caliber pistol, a shotgun and a backpack full of ammunition, Talovic shot nine people, five fatally, at the Trolley Square shopping center Monday before he was stopped by police, including an off-duty officer from Ogden.

Storm freezes Valentine's plans

NEW YORK — Blowing snow and sleet glazed windshields and roads across the Northeast and the Midwest on Wednesday, messing up Valentine's Day flower deliveries and wrecking couples' plans for romantic dinners.

The storm grounded hundreds of flights and forced the closing of schools and businesses from Kentucky to Maine. Many of those stuck at home had no heat or lights because of blackouts that affected more than a quarter-million customers.

LOCAL NEWS

Abortion bill incites controversy

INDIANAPOLIS — A bill requiring doctors to tell women seeking an abortion that human life begins at conception drew criticism before a Senate committee Wednesday that the provision is built around a specific religious belief not widely shared by all faiths.

Aside from the question of life's beginnings, the bill sponsored by the committee's chair, Sen. Patricia Miller, R-Indianapolis, would require doctors to tell women seeking an abortion that their fetus might feel pain during the procedure.

No votes were taken on the bill, but Miller said action on it is possible during next week's committee's meeting.

Iran, Quds hurting U.S. war effort

Bush suggests country's responsible for providing Iraqi militants with weapons

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Challenged on the accuracy of U.S. intelligence, President Bush said Wednesday there is no doubt the Iranian government is providing armor-piercing weapons to kill American soldiers in Iraq. But he backed away from claims the top echelon of Iran's government was responsible.

Bush, at a news conference, also said he would fight any attempt by the Democratic-controlled Congress to cut off money for the war. "They need to fund our troops and the need to make sure we have the flexibility necessary to get the job done," he said.

The House is expected to vote Friday on a nonbinding resolution opposing Bush's decision to send 21,500 additional troops to Iraq.

The meeting with reporters in the East Room was Bush's first news conference since Dec. 20 and the first since he announced the troop buildup in Iraq. The four-year-old war hangs heavily on his presidency, and Bush's approval rating in an Associated Press-Ipsos poll in February matched an all-time low of 32 percent.

Iran was a dominant theme of reporters' questions because of conflicting statements about U.S. intelligence in Iran and recurring speculation that Bush is looking for an excuse to attack the Islamic republic, which is believed by Washington and its allies to be seeking nuclear weapons.

Defending U.S. intelligence that has pinpointed Iran as a hostile arms supplier in Iraq, Bush said, "Does this mean you're trying to have a pretext for war? No. It means I'm trying to protect our troops."

There have been mixed signals in the administration about Iran's involve-



A U.S. Army officer displays a piece of the evidence against Iran Wednesday in Baghdad. President Bush believes Iran's Quds Force is giving militants weapons.

ment in supplying Shiite groups in Iraq with a particularly lethal type of roadside bombs known as explosively formed penetrators.

Three senior U.S. military officials, at a weekend briefing in Baghdad, said the highest levels of the Iranian government had ordered the weapons smuggled into Iraq. They based their claim on the belief the weapons are moving into Iraq through the Iran's Revolutionary Guards elite Quds Force.

But Gen. Peter Pace, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said later he was not ready to conclude that Iran's top leaders were behind the

attacks. Some lawmakers also have questioned the administration's statements.

Wading into the debate, Bush said the Quds Force was instrumental in supplying the weapons — "we know that," he said — and that the Quds Force was part of the Iranian government. "That's a known," he said. "What we don't know is whether or not the head leaders of Iran ordered the Quds Force to do what they did."

Pressed again on the subject, Bush displayed some irritation and said, "Whether (Iranian President Mahmoud) Ahmadinejad ordered the Quds Force to do this, I

don't think we know. But we do know that they're there and I intend to do something about it. And I've asked our commanders to do something about it. And we're going to protect our troops." Ahmadinejad has denied Iran was behind the attacks.

Democrats on the Senate Armed Services Committee emerged from a classified briefing Wednesday saying they wanted more information about Iran. The committee chairman, Sen. Carl Levin, said it was unclear to him precisely what the administration knows about the Tehran government's ties to the weapons found in Iraq.

GERMANY

U.S., Britain rank low in U.N study

Associated Press

BERLIN — The United States and Britain ranked at the bottom of a U.N. survey of child welfare in 21 wealthy countries that assessed everything from infant mortality to whether children ate dinner with their parents or were bullied at school.

The Netherlands, followed by Sweden, Denmark and Finland, finished at the top of the rankings, while the U.S. was 20th and Britain 21st, according to the report released Wednesday by UNICEF in Germany.

One of the study's researchers, Jonathan Bradshaw, said children fared worse in the U.S. and Britain —

despite high overall levels of national wealth — because of greater economic inequality and poor levels of public support for families.

"What they have in common are very high levels of inequality, very high levels of child poverty, which is also associated with inequality, and in rather different ways poorly developed services to families with children," said Bradshaw, a professor of social policy at the University of York in Britain.

"They don't invest as much in children as continental European countries do," he said, citing the lack of day care services in both countries and poorer health coverage and preventa-

tive care for children in the U.S.

United States questioned the comparisons made by the study, while Britain said it failed take into account recent social improvements.

The study also gave the U.S. and Britain low marks for their higher incidences of single-parent families and risky behaviors among children, such as drinking alcohol and sexual activity.

In general, northern European countries with strong social welfare systems dominated the upper half of the rankings. Southern European countries, such as Spain, Italy and Portugal, ranked higher in terms of family support and levels of trust with friends and peers.

Venue

continued from page 1

ing the issue of sexuality. The panel came as part of an effort to address rising concerns of members of the Notre Dame community — including University President Father John Jenkins — who questioned the consistency of the play's message with the Catholic character of the University.

"We assumed these roles this year knowing that sponsorship wasn't guaranteed, and are dedicated to the cause and the play regardless," Lewis said.

Jenkins said last year that events sponsored by the University or one of its units — including academic departments — that are deemed

to conflict or appear to conflict with Catholic values "should not be allowed at Notre Dame."

On April 5 of last year, Jenkins ultimately decided that the "Vagina Monologues" would not be prohibited on campus, but would undergo an approval process every year, just like any other campus performance.

And the process was one that Lewis, co-organizer Lisa Rauh and director Sarah Muscarella could not successfully complete this year. They tried "a lot of departments," but got a lot of "no's" and a lot of "no responses."

Though the sociology department has sponsored the Monologues in the past years, this year it said it did not want to sponsor the event every year. Lewis said the department agreed to sponsor the play every other year — which ensures that a performance will take place on campus next year.

As per Jenkins' decision, academic departments were given the ability last year to "decide what events should or should not be sponsored," as well as the responsibility to point out that sponsorship of an event

does not imply endorsement.

Organizers are looking into "a couple different options" for a venue, Lewis said, declining to name some of the local places she has been in contact with.

The group is now left to raise its own funds to cover the cost of the venue and programs. Lewis was quick to say, however, that the group — who will now be charging for tickets — will donate all of the proceeds to the YWCA.

"Half of the goal is to raise awareness but also to raise money and give it to women who actually need it," Lewis said. "It was good to have it on campus last year, but it was kind of disappointing that we couldn't raise money. And now we're able to take it out into the community." Three audition sessions were held nearly two weeks ago, and a cast of "about 25 women" was chosen, despite the fact that sponsorship was not confirmed.

"We're very happy with the 2007 cast, and the breadth of talent allowed us to cast appropriately — a very diverse group of girls with different backgrounds auditioned," Lewis said.

But without official sponsorship, organizers were not allowed to advertise. Instead, Lewis and the other organizers started a group on Facebook.com and sent "a lot of e-mails."

Since V-day is February 14th, the play — as originally created by Eve Ensler — is intended to

be performed as close to that date as possible in order to pair the play with the message of awareness about violence against women, Lewis said.

"We needed to go ahead with auditions and play preparations while simultaneously working to get sponsorship," Lewis said.

Lewis said that, because of the performances of "Loyal Daughters" in the fall and the uncertainty of whether the Monologues would be performed, organizers "kind of got off to a late start."

Still, despite the slow start and the lack of sponsorship, Lewis said the Monologues have a very important place on the Notre Dame campus.

"This is a global movement — performing this play makes Notre Dame a part of this global community, bringing discussion and awareness about issues such as violence against women and gender equality which are universal concerns," Lewis said. "The play changes every year to accommodate and address new pertinent issues as experienced by different women."

Despite last year's controversy, Lewis said that all the "dialogue we had with anybody from the University was initiated by us."

Though the play had been performed on campus for five consecutive years as part of the anti-violence against women V-Day campaign, last year Jenkins criticized the "graphic" ways the play attempted to achieve its goals.

Jenkins outlined his concerns last year in addresses to faculty members and to students. He questioned the University's sponsorship of certain events in light of Catholic teaching and asked for continued dialogue on the issue before a formal policy announcement.

Contact Kate Antonacci at kantonac@nd.edu

Debate

continued from page 1

validity of her platform.

"A lot of issues are going to come up throughout the year that will require us to take a different approach," she said. "Our past experience ... shows we can handle that."

Experience was a focal point of the debate, as both tickets have been involved in the inner workings of student government at Notre Dame. Smith is the only senator to have a resolution, in particular one about Domer Dollars, passed unanimously through both the Senate and Campus Life Council. Brown has spent the last year as current student body president Lizzi Shappell's chief executive assistant.

"Liz has really been integrated within the system," Braun said. "She has seen the inner workings of how things are pushed through from start to finish."

Both Smith and Brown are backed by well-versed vice presidential candidates. Weiss was instrumental in coordinating Notre Dame's first Eating Disorder Conference, one that she said a visiting doctor called "by far the most recognized and well put together conference that [she had] ever [attended]."

Braun has organized seminars on off-campus housing, educating students on how to go about signing leases and "encouraging students to be

aware of their surroundings."

She is also chair of Major's Night, which is one of the largest academic night student government hosts.

Both tickets also placed heavy emphasis on community relations. Smith proposed the idea of allowing Domer Dollars to be accepted off-campus at restaurants unique to the South Bend area.

"Good business builds good relations," he said.

Braun discussed an initiative for a community-based curriculum, which Brown said would "get more students involved in the community on a daily basis."

In addition to community relations, both candidates stressed improving the relationship between the student body and student government.

"We really want to get more connected with the students to ensure that everything we're doing is reflective of what the student body really wants," Brown said.

Smith echoed Brown's concerns, suggesting an online message board for students to communicate needs to their government officials.

"We want to increase communication between the student body and student government," he said.

Elections will take place from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. today and the final results will be announced tonight at 9:00 p.m.

Contact Sonia Rao at srao1@nd.edu

"We're very happy with the 2007 cast, and the breadth of talent allowed us to cast appropriately — a very diverse group of girls with different backgrounds auditioned."

Michelle Lewis
co-organizer
The Vagina Monologues

"A lot of issues are going to come up throughout the year that will require us to take a different approach."

Liz Brown
candidate
student body president

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Saturday May 19, 2007
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Up: Same: Down: Composite Volume: 2,199 124 1,083 2,702,682,960			
AMEX	2,169.86	+15.08	
NASDAQ	2,488.38	+28.50	
NYSE	9,427.31	+75.96	
S&P 500	1,455.30	+11.04	
NIKKEI(Tokyo)	17,885.91	+133.27	
FTSE 100(London)	6,421.20	+39.40	

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
NASDAQ 100 TR (QQQQ)	+1.69	+0.74	44.60
S&P DEP RECEIPTS (SPY)	+0.66	+0.95	145.61
ONYX PHARM INC (ONXX)	-4.69	-1.22	24.80
MICROSOFT CP (MSFT)	+1.27	+0.37	29.40

Treasuries			
10-YEAR NOTE	-1.74	-0.084	4.730
13-WEEK BILL	-0.30	-0.015	5.010
30-YEAR BOND	-1.53	-0.075	4.826
5-YEAR NOTE	-1.89	-0.091	4.716

Commodities			
LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl)	-1.06		58.00
GOLD (\$/Troy oz.)	+3.50		672.00
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)	+0.48		107.05

Exchange Rates			
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IN BRIEF

Grocery shoppers could save money

NEW YORK — Most of us take it for granted that we know how to shop for groceries. After all, we spent a lot of time doing it.

Experts say, however, that it isn't as easy as it looks and that there are many ways consumers can save money as they navigate the grocery aisles.

Americans, in fact, spend a lot of their money on food. Department of Labor statistics indicate that food at home and in restaurants takes 13 percent of the consumer dollar, behind the 32 percent for housing and 18 percent for transportation.

The average family spent \$280 a month, or nearly \$3,350 a year, at the grocery store in 2004, the most recent year for which Labor Department data is available.

Gary Foreman, a former financial planner who publishes "The Dollar Stretcher" newsletter, said a recent survey of his readers found a slightly higher grocery spending rate: \$149 a month for a single person, \$257 for a couple and \$396 for a family of four.

Small business taxes require help

NEW YORK — The expression "Don't try this at home, kids" can easily apply to small business owners who try to compile their income tax returns without the help of a tax preparer or tax prep software.

Trying to wing it without some kind of help leaves you at risk for making mistakes and possibly opening up your return to more scrutiny by the IRS or state tax officials.

Paul Gada, a senior tax analyst with Wolters Kluwer, a publishing firm whose products include tax information, said business owners make the same common mistakes as individual taxpayers. They forget to sign their returns, fail to include their Social Security numbers don't attach required forms, such as those needed for specific deductions and credits. They also make a lot of mathematical errors.

But business owners have their own set of pitfalls, especially since what goes into one year's return can be dependent on previous years' returns. For example, Gada cited depreciation, which is reflected on tax returns over a number of years.

Former prosecutor faces inquiry

Assistant Attorney General bought house with ConocoPhillips lobbyist

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Nine months before agreeing to let ConocoPhillips delay a half-billion-dollar pollution cleanup, the government's top environmental prosecutor bought a \$1 million vacation home with the company's top lobbyist.

Also in on the Kiawah Island, S.C., house deal was former Deputy Interior Secretary J. Steven Griles, the highest-ranking Bush administration official targeted for criminal prosecution in the Jack Abramoff corruption probe.

Just before resigning last month, Assistant Attorney General Sue Ellen Wooldridge signed two proposed consent decrees with ConocoPhillips: one giving the company as much as two to three more years to install \$525 million in pollution controls at nine refineries and the other dealing with a Superfund toxic waste cleanup.

Last April, Wooldridge, ConocoPhillips Vice President Donald R. Duncan and Griles had gone together on a \$980,000 home in a gated community at Kiawah Island. Records from the Charleston County Auditor's office obtained by The Associated Press list Duncan as a 50 percent owner of the home and Wooldridge and Griles as 25 percent owners.

The deed is filed under Duncan's name, but the mailing address for the South Carolina property — tucked among pines, palmettos, a pool, golf course and racket club several hundred yards from the beach — is Griles' home in Virginia. He and Wooldridge jointly own a condo there.

The House Oversight and Government Reform Committee said Wednesday night it will open an inquiry and request documents into the real estate transaction and consent agreements.

"There appears to be a breakdown of ethics at the Justice Department, said the committee's chairman, Rep.



Sue Ellen Wooldridge, former Assistant Attorney General, is currently under investigation for a \$1 million real estate deal on Kiawah Island, S.C.

Henry Waxman, D-Calif. "Senior Justice Department officials should not be handling cases that affect their close friends and investment partners."

Griles, now an oil and gas lobbyist, began dating Wooldridge while he was her boss at Interior. He was the department's No. 2 official from July 2001 to January 2005, behind only former Secretary Gale Norton. He and Duncan, a ConocoPhillips vice president who runs the company's Washington office, both served on President Bush's presidential transition team, Griles for the Interior Department, Duncan for the Energy Department.

Duncan has played a

major role in getting the Bush administration's backing for a proposed \$25 billion natural gas pipeline reaching from Alaska to Midwest markets.

Wooldridge and Griles have known each other at least since the first year of the Bush administration in 2001, when Wooldridge became deputy chief of staff and counselor to then-Secretary Norton. Bush used a recess appointment to make Wooldridge the department's solicitor — its top lawyer — in June 2004.

From 2001 through 2004 Duncan was lobbying the department on a wide range of issues. The topics, according to his lobbying records on file with the gov-

ernment, included oil leases in the eastern Gulf of Mexico, coal-bed methane in the San Juan Basin of New Mexico and the Powder River Basin in Wyoming, and permits for the proposed Alaska natural gas pipeline.

After Griles resigned from Interior, Bush appointed Wooldridge to head the Justice Department's 600-employee environment division, representing virtually every federal agency on cases related to pollution, natural resources, wildlife, some Indian issues and land condemnation. She began work at Justice in November 2005. The division is now handling about 6,800 cases nationwide.

India may see trouble before success

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The empirical evidence of India's enormous economic expansion in recent years — in particular the sharp run-up in stocks there — has proven an irresistible draw to some mutual fund investors. But those chasing the siren song should be aware that, as with any developing economy, there could be bruising stumbles.

"If you have a car speeding along and it hits a speed bump, the aftershock is going to be that much greater the faster the car goes. India is going to hit some speed bumps as it goes," said Andrew T. Foster, director of

research at Matthews International Capital Management LLC, a San Francisco fund manager specializing in Asian investing.

The rise in stocks has stirred concerns that valuations have risen beyond where they should be and that the country's central bank will continue to raise interest rates as it tries to tamp down inflation.

On Tuesday, the country's central bank, the Reserve Bank of India, increased the proportion of deposits that commercial banks must hold in cash by a half percent to 6 percent in order to help slow the economy.

"The Indian growth story is con-

tinuing be reaffirmed," said Dhruva Raj Chatterji, a research analyst in Mumbai, India, for fund-tracker Lipper Inc. While growth continues, other forces are building that could throw some cold water on the frenetic pace there.

"It has been a sustained bull run for the past three years because of which India is one of the most expensive markets in the world. Valuations are kind of the higher side," Chatterji said. He questioned whether the market has overestimated how much Indian companies will continue to earn. Earnings growth has in recent years hovered near the breakneck pace of more than 20 percent.

THE OBSERVER VIEWPOINT

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Thursday, February 15, 2007

THE OBSERVER

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

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OFFICE MANAGER & GENERAL INFO
(574) 631-7471

FAX
(574) 631-6927
ADVERTISING
(574) 631-6900 observad@nd.edu
EDITOR IN CHIEF
(574) 631-4542
MANAGING EDITOR
(574) 631-4541 obsme@nd.edu
ASSISTANT MANAGING EDITOR
(574) 631-4324
BUSINESS OFFICE
(574) 631-5313
NEWS DESK
(574) 631-5323 obsnews.1@nd.edu
VIEWPOINT DESK
(574) 631-5303 viewpoint.1@nd.edu
SPORTS DESK
(574) 631-4543 sports.1@nd.edu
SCENE DESK
(574) 631-4540 scene.1@nd.edu
SAINT MARY'S DESK
smc.1@nd.edu
PHOTO DESK
(574) 631-8767 obsphoto@nd.edu
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Questions regarding Observer policies should be directed to Editor in Chief Mike Gilloon.

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Change is not easy, but, as David Bowie sang, you've got to turn and face the strain. I don't really know what that means, but I intend to use it as a starting point to talk about environmental change, car manufacturers and the power of the consumer.

Earlier this year, the Environment Commissioner of the European Commission, Stavros Dimas, endorsed mandatory standards for auto manufacturers aimed at reducing cars' carbon dioxide output.

The new standards would require the average car produced by a company — allowing specific models to be above or below the standard — to emit only 120 grams of CO2 per kilometer by the year 2012. Mr. Dimas, however, drives a Mercedes — inherited from his predecessor, admittedly — that pumps out over 270 grams per kilometer. People laughed at his hypocrisy, and the motor industry balked at such ridiculous reforms.

Meanwhile, the majority of society continued their lives as usual. People drove instead of walked, left their lights on and ignored recycling bins. Changing for the greener sounds like a good idea, but we neglect our responsibility to change ourselves.

Pollution is a problem, and we are right to push politicians to enforce more stringent standards. Every time policy-makers start to create regulations and goals, they butt heads with industries that become recalcitrant at any mention of boundary or limit to their capital pursuits. When this happens, the public inevitably shakes its head and thinks the matter is out of its hands.

But it's not. In our capital society,



James
Dechant

Foregone
Conclusion

Ch-ch-changes

industry and the public are inseparable. The automobile industry, for example, does not exist as a separate entity apart from the government or outside the influence of the public. We control it and we can affect its course. We prefer to set up the manufacturer as a scapegoat for societal greed. And sure, the industries deserve blame for their unwillingness to change. But the objections of auto manufacturers are often valid: if they have to increase engine efficiency, car prices may rise. This would mean fewer cars sold, and in turn those high-end car manufacturers could be forced to cut jobs. In that case, the auto manufacturers reflect the sad truth about us: we are afraid to change, too lazy to mend our ways and too greedy to give up what we want. If we could change, we would embrace hybrids and other technologies, and "luxury cars" would become a thing of the past.

We say we want change, but how many people are trading in their BMWs for a Focus or Prius? The technology needed to take the first steps already exists (for urban dwellers, the bicycle has been around for over a century), but we are unwilling to embrace it. Instead, we wait for carmakers to drop off free electric cars in our driveways. When this doesn't happen, we accuse our government of giving them too much slack.

We have, in effect, created a nice little proxy war between our governments and the industries. They spar over the specifics, one side representing our hypocrisy and the other our greed. During this whole masquerade, we can sit back comfortably and wait for the regulations that will never come. We feel no obligation to change our ways, and we continue to pump carbon into our air.

But if we could realize that we are the deciding factor in progress — and by we, I mean not just America or Europe, but the entire globe — then we would realize our obligation to work for

change. And we can do a lot.

First, our knowledge compels us to exercise our power as consumers by making wise, conscious decisions with the products we use, the companies we buy from, and the manner of living we choose. We are social creatures, and a change that will dramatically affect the entire world must come from across the board, not just from the words of our political leaders or the reluctant consent of our economical figureheads.

Second, we must demand that our politicians avoid hypocrisy in their demands of the industry — auto, energy, or otherwise — which is made up, run by, and supported by the public. Our governmental leaders ought to lead by example. Driving a Hummer to work and then asking a car manufacturer to cut emissions may — conceivably, possibly, hypothetically — send mixed messages to some.

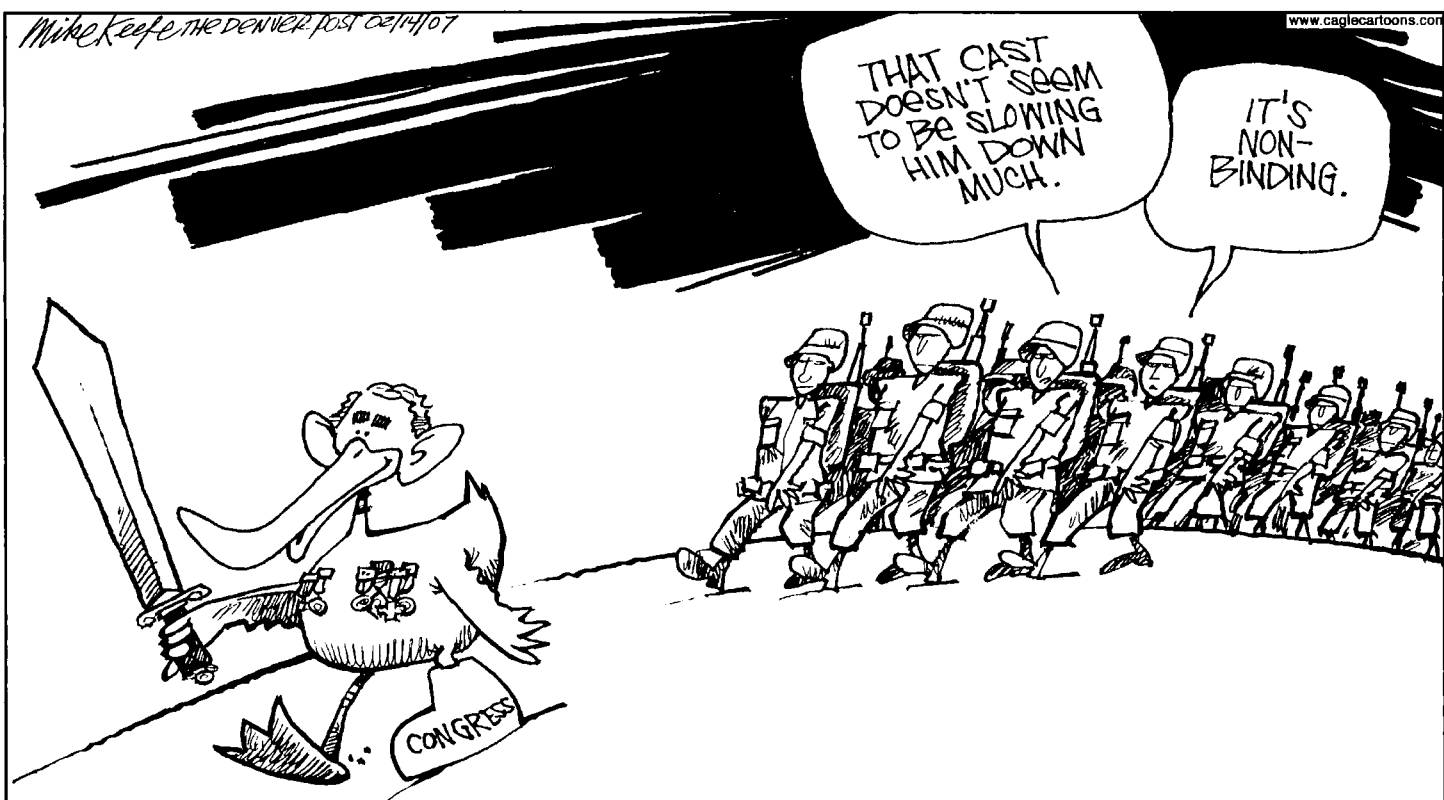
Finally, we are obliged to use our influence as human beings upon each other and communicate directly with the industry whenever we have the chance. It may seem difficult or nigh impossible to have any sort of effect on the pyramidal structure of most industries, when so much of the decision-making process rests in the hands of so few. But eventually information can filter upstream and even the highest echelons can hear the voice of the consumer, when they speak in a united and strong fashion.

Hopefully the EU can enforce their standards, and hopefully the public will welcome the green changes so economies are not sacrificed. But all this depends on the consumer, on the public — on us.

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

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

EDITORIAL CARTOON



OBSERVER POLL

What was the most important factor in your vote for student body president?

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

"Sometimes a player's greatest challenge is coming to grips with his role on the team."

Scottie Pippen
basketball player

On rejection

I was rejected last week. I can't hang an employment rejection letter on my door or claim a broken heart, but I did try to offer a part of myself to the local community and was kindly but firmly told, "Thanks, but no thanks."

In response to numerous local stories and even emails regarding the great need for donated blood, I headed over to the South Bend Medical Foundation Blood Bank to share some of mine. It had been years since I had given blood, so I sat and filled out several forms and then a woman named Melissa led me into the Screening Room. She apparently had quite a list of Screening Questions to ask me, but we started with my blood pressure. We also ended with my blood pressure, which, as it turns out, is too low to donate blood. Melissa even checked it twice, on both arms. 98-over-56 falls under their official cutoff and I would have, Melissa assured me, passed out upon donation. "Ha!" I wanted to shout. "Too low?? People would pay money for blood pressure like mine! Half the country has given up salt and gone on medication just to get this kind of blood pressure!" Instead, I tried to smile at Melissa. "I just wanted to help," I said lamely. Melissa seemed to think I was about to cry because she hastily got my coat and ushered me out of the Screening Room.

The weird thing is, I almost did feel like crying. I,

Katharine S. Barrett

FaithPoint

the blood donor failure, sat in my car in the blood bank parking lot and became reacquainted with rejection. Remember how it felt the last time someone told you, "You're not good enough," or "You're not needed," or (in honor of yesterday), "I really like you ... just not in that way"? No matter how valiantly you try to keep the smile on your face, you suddenly feel your throat closing up and a sour lump in the pit of your stomach. It takes strength to accept rejection, especially while trying to maintain a little dignity at the same time.

As hard as it is to be the "reject-ee," sometimes it takes strength to be the "reject-or" as well. As we approach the season of Lent this year, you will notice in the Sunday Gospels how Jesus both rejects and faces rejection. On the first Sunday of Lent every year we hear accounts from the different gospel writers of Jesus rejecting Satan's tempting offers to idolatry, power, and self-sufficiency. By the time we get to Palm Sunday, six weeks later, we hear how many people have rejected Jesus: Judas, Peter and the ugly crowds that included the religious and civil leaders of the day.

The beautiful lesson of Jesus' example, both as "reject-or" and "reject-ee," is that his story ended in victory. He teaches us how to reject whatever turns us away from God, whether it's worshipping false gods, enjoying our status too much or believing we don't need God. Out of the ultimate rejection, of course, arose the ultimate triumph: from Jesus'

death came resurrection and the offer he makes to each of us of eternal life.

In my own family during this Lent, we will try to become more aware of what we need to reject, of what is deviously trying to lure us away from God. However, we also have to concentrate on how we sometimes reject each other — either unknowingly or on purpose — in speech or actions. I have suggested to my kids that as a family we give up all unkind words this Lent, as we each know (as most families do) exactly what to say to wound those we love the most.

It's probably not such a bad idea to allow that rejected feeling to stay close to the surface in our lives. It can give us a moment's pause before we carelessly speak harshly, as well as the courage to turn rejection into victory. We've each felt like a failure at times, which we should keep in mind whenever we're about to cause another to feel the same. As we enter into Lent next week, we can listen in our prayer for Jesus' words to us, and offer his love to those we encounter: "You are good enough. You are needed. I really do like you ... yes, in every way."

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

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Discussion of Klingler's column continues

Sister schools should act like family

"Unfortunately, for Notre Dame," Jonathan Klingler writes, "the vast majority" of the benefits of the relationship between Notre Dame and Saint Mary's "go to Saint Mary's." It isn't clear why this situation is unfortunate, however. In the fairly short list of benefits he goes on to list, the only one that would seem to involve some disadvantage to Notre Dame students is the possibility that a Saint Mary's student might get a better seat than a Notre Dame student at football games (but is it really true that this occurs "often" and what does Mr. Klinger mean by often?).

The attitudes of Mr. Klinger suggest that Saint Mary's has been right to be wary of this proposed "marriage," as it obviously would be the old-fashioned kind in which the husband rules the wife. The traditional way to describe such colleges has been as "sister" colleges. Mr. Klinger ought to see Saint Mary's students as his siblings, with whom he is happy to share family resources, rather than as coy teasers refusing to accept his rather cold blandishments.

I hear a lot about tradition around this place, and yet it seems that our students are ready to discard a 150-year relationship in order to move down a few rows at football games. What kind of Notre Dame family is that?

Chris Vanden Bossche
English professor
Feb. 14

Don't focus on unnecessary debate

I am writing in response to Jonathan Klingler's column ("Saint Mary's — we need to talk," Feb. 13) which needlessly encouraged yet another battle of opinion over the once proposed Notre Dame/Saint Mary's College merger back in the 1970s.

What amazes me about this column is that the only purpose I see it serving is to give an illustration of the cliché "We need to talk" phrase, given the fact that Wednesday is Valentine's Day, which is absurd. After all the criticism and debate students, faculty and administrators have dealt with over the years regarding relations between Saint Mary's and Notre Dame, I wrongly assumed that this seemingly never-ending grapple would be overlooked on a holiday focused around a celebration of friendship and love.

Why couldn't someone have focused on the ways both schools benefit from the relationship with the other, or, better yet, not brought up the subject at all and instead have had a Viewpoint over the ongoing debate over light and dark chocolate? I hope you sense my sarcasm when I say that there's nothing I love more than to see yet another Notre Dame writer use Saint Mary's to breed popularity from the negative blitz that will predictably come from such a pointless article.

Kelly Maus
junior
Le Mans Hall
Feb. 13

Wasting time arguing

To all Saint Mary's College and Notre Dame students and alumni, I just have to ask — what are you arguing about? I will say up front that I never attended school in Notre Dame, Ind. or South Bend, Ind. or anywhere remotely close. I did not even attend a private university (Gasp! I'll give you a moment to process and decide if you can continue reading...).

Joking aside, I am proud of my school and I am proud of the rich tradition of my Big Ten roots. I attended one of top high schools in the nation and started college with sophomore credit due to my high school AP credit. The thought of applying to Notre Dame crossed my mind, along with a number of other private schools. In the end, I only applied to Big Ten schools — like you, I had grown up in the legacy of competitive (and collaborative) college football, strong academics and honor. As many of you followed generations to Notre Dame and Saint Mary's, I followed to Big Ten.

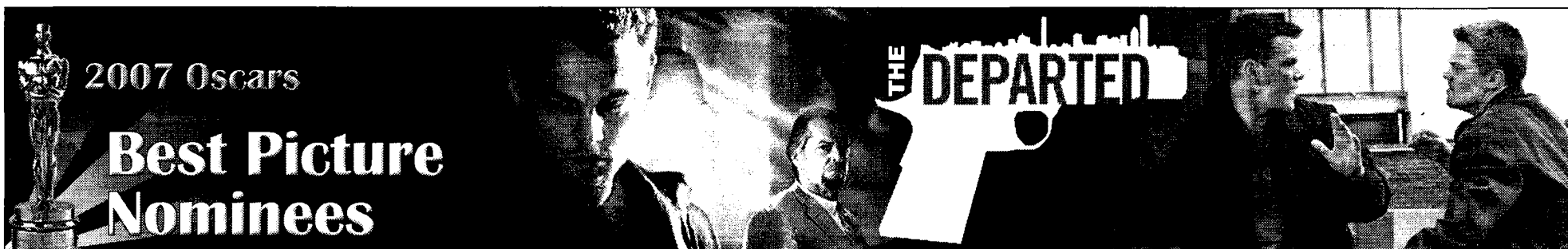
From an outside perspective, I can say that Jonathan Klingler's column ("Saint Mary's — we need to talk," Feb. 13) rings true, but does not sound as malicious or condescending as many of the Viewpoint responses seem to imply. So often people's emotions get in the way of interpreting what they are actually reading. The article raised some valid (yet clearly sensitive) points. But think about it: Notre Dame, by rite of being a larger, more well-known school (arguably the best known school in the country) has more to offer to Saint Mary's students than Saint Mary's has to offer to Notre Dame students. Note: I refer to *quantity* of offerings, not *quality*. Saint Mary's is an excellent school with excellent offerings, but I doubt anyone would disagree that the Saint Mary's side of this relationship benefits more from being "the school across from Notre Dame" than Notre Dame benefits from being "the school across from Saint Mary's." Again — before the hair pulling starts, I am speaking in quantity of opportunities.

Lots of people take courses at

schools other than their primary campus or engage themselves with other university communities. I technically attended three universities during my college career (although I remained a full-time University of Iowa student for all four). It is through experiencing other campuses and student lifestyles that we expand our overall education and learn to appreciate our own school even more. You are all fortunate that this collaborative learning environment is built-in, preconfigured to your educations. Saint Mary's women: you chose your school; you knew that you were not attending Notre Dame when you signed your acceptance letter. However, one draw of Saint Mary's was the proximity to Notre Dame and opportunity to take advantage of the powerhouse's offerings. That is an aspect of your school to be proud of — so why are you offended by mention of it? Notre Dame: you have every right to want to distinguish your identity from that of Saint Mary's — you are the true Notre Dame, your acceptance letters and diplomas say so.

Yes, Saint Mary's does get to benefit from your tradition and programs and it's only natural that those women should feel the pride of the association. Their pride takes nothing away from your honor and legacy. Notre Dame has the most bandwagon and non-affiliated fans of any school in the country ... Saint Mary's women should be the least of your concerns. It can be annoying to hear someone who is not "technically" part of your organization touting the benefits of membership — but you should be flattered by Saint Mary's enthusiasm, not threatened by it. You are both great schools — rich in every sense — and exactly the schools which you want to be. Maybe you need more bars in South Bend, because one thing is clear from this debate: you all have too much time on your hands if you are spending yours on this debate!

Krissy Zotaley
Chicago, Ill.
Feb. 14



JARRED WAFER | Observer Graphic

DEARLY 'DEPARTED' BROUGHT TO LIFE ON DVD

By BRIAN DOXTADER
Scene Editor

Editor's Note: This is the fourth in a five-part series on the 2007 Oscar nominees for Best Picture.

"The Departed" is Scorsese's best work in over a decade and an instant classic in the vein of his other major pieces — "Mean Streets," "Taxi Driver," "Raging Bull" and "Goodfellas." In fact, in rhythmic energy and propulsive pacing, it is only matched by "Goodfellas," though it doesn't have the searing sense of purpose of "Raging Bull" or "Taxi Driver." Where "Gangs of New York" and "The Aviator" occasionally felt overwrought and difficult, "The Departed" is fast-paced and entertaining.

The plot follows two moles — undercover cop Billy Costigan (Leonardo DiCaprio), who has infiltrated the ranks of Irish mob boss Frank Costello (Jack Nicholson), and Colin Sullivan (Matt Damon), who has infiltrated the police. Borrowing heavily from "Infernal Affairs," the Hong Kong film from which it is adapted, "The Departed" has all of Scorsese's familiar trademarks — freeze-frames, propulsive editing, a profane and funny script and phenomenal acting. A fan-

tastic soundtrack — which in this case overflows with tracks by The Rolling Stones, The Allman Brothers, Badfinger and Dropkick Murphys — is another hallmark of a great Scorsese film, and really propels "The Departed" through a surprisingly brief 151 minutes.

Everything about "The Departed," from the acting to the scripting to the kinetic editing (by two-time Academy Award winner Thelma Schoonmaker), demonstrates that it is a truly great film, which is why it deserves a great DVD release, and Warner mostly delivers.

This is where things start getting a little confusing. If it seems like there are several different versions of "The Departed" on DVD, it's because there are. There's a standard single-disc edition, which only has the theatrical trailer as a bonus. Then there's a two-disc special edition with several features — but wait! Best Buy has a "steel-book" edition, which comes in gorgeous metallic packaging, though the actual content on the discs is the same. Target has its own exclusive edition, which includes a slipcase cover and a small paperback of the script. It really comes down to personal preference, although the Best Buy steel-book really looks fantastic, with a much better cover than any of the other editions.

Picture and sound quality are the same on all versions. The picture looks crisp and the 5.1 audio is passable (though with less surround than might be expected), though nothing really matches seeing a film with as much visual and aural panache as "The



Photo courtesy of movieweb.com

Dignam (Mark Wahlberg, Best Supporting Actor Oscar nominee) confronts Colin Sullivan (Matt Damon) about the possibility of a mole in the Boston police.

Departed" on the big screen.

The most disappointing omission is a commentary by Scorsese. Warner seems to be moving away from these, which is really unfortunate, because Scorsese's previous commentaries (on Warner releases like "Goodfellas") have been really enlightening.

Other special features include additional scenes with introductions by Martin Scorsese, a feature-length TCM profile "Scorsese on Scorsese" (which is actually quite good) and a pair of standard featurettes. The movie itself is the main draw, however, and much of the material covered on this release has been explored elsewhere (like some of Warner's other releases).

It's possible, even likely, that "The

Departed" will get another release down the road. With several Academy Award nominations, including Best Picture and Best Director, it's very possible that Warner will see fit to do a super-ultra-deluxe-special edition. But the versions currently out are quite decent, and have enough special features for most casual fans. The only thing that could really draw people to double-dip is if Scorsese records a commentary, though it's hard to imagine that Warner would add one on a future release. And besides, why wait to get your hands on the best film of the year when it's available right now?

Contact Brian Doxtader at bdoxtade@nd.edu

SCORSESE'S STATUETTE SNUBBERY

By TAE ANDREWS
Assistant Scene Editor

He might just have to steal one.

For director Martin Scorsese, getting his hands on Oscar gold has proven to be an impossible feat. The elusive golden man on the trophy has remained just out of reach of Scorsese's talented hands throughout his prolific and heralded career, rendering him the recipient of more Academy snubbery than any other

individual with his talent and credentials.

Ironically enough for a director known for his mastery over the gangster genre — with such titles to his name as "Casino" and "Goodfellas" — Mr. Scorsese has been robbed more often at Oscar time than the hapless victims of his criminal characters.

Perhaps the Daily Show comedian Jon Stewart put it the best when he hosted the 2005 Oscars. After hip-hop trio Three 6 Mafia took home an Oscar for Best Original Song for their contribution

"Hard Out Here for a Pimp" to the "Hustle & Flow" soundtrack, Stewart took the microphone and proclaimed, "For those of you keeping score at home, that's Three 6 Mafia: 1, Scorsese: 0."

In addition to his trips to the underworld, Scorsese also directed "Taxi Driver" and "Raging Bull," two films featuring Robert DeNiro and widely acclaimed as fine pieces of cinema by critics and fans alike. In fact, Scorsese's skill behind the camera has led some to call "Raging Bull," with its tale of boxer Jake LaMotta, as the finest American film of all time.

Despite all of Mr. Scorsese's cinematographic pleas, injustice remained served every year come January as he was passed over time and time again, most notably in 1976, 1980 and 1990 for his films "Taxi Driver," "Raging Bull" and "Goodfellas," respectively. More recently, Scorsese was nominated for Best Director in 2002 for his work on "Gangs of New York," but that award went to Roman Polanski for his film, "The Pianist." Similarly, during the 77th Academy Awards Mr. Scorsese ("The Aviator") lost the Best Director Oscar to Clint Eastwood for his film "Million Dollar Baby."

"The Departed," Mr. Scorsese's latest stab at Oscar glory, sees him returning to what he does best: mafioso pictures. Taking a brief break from his typical focus on heavily Italian-ethnic films, Scorsese takes the audience up to Boston to weave a tale about the Irish mob. Again pairing with Leonardo DiCaprio,

his golden boy from "The Aviator" and "Gangs of New York," Scorsese has assembled an all-star cast that sparkles at every turn.

Based on a remake of a Chinese film entitled "Infernal Affairs," "The Departed" features Matt Damon as a criminal mole planted inside the Boston police department opposite DiCaprio, who is an undercover cop. Rounding out the cast are Alec Baldwin and Mark Wahlberg as two department higher-ups forever cracking wise, and the always-spicy Jack Nicholson plays Frank Costello, a criminally insane mastermind who's clever as a fox and runs the Boston underworld.

However, despite having turned a blind eye to Scorsese's situation in years past, the Academy is not entirely unmerciful. Although it has been known to "get it wrong" in the past with its decisions concerning the doling out of Oscars, the Academy has also been known to pass out "make-up" Oscars to recognize some of the most talented players in the industry. The prime example of this is Denzel Washington's winning of an Oscar for his turn in "Training Day," which, while good, was clearly not the best work of his long and storied career.

Having returned to what he does best with "The Departed," should Martin Scorsese be snubbed again from receiving an Oscar, it would be — dare we say it — criminal.

Contact Tae Andrews at tandrew1@nd.edu

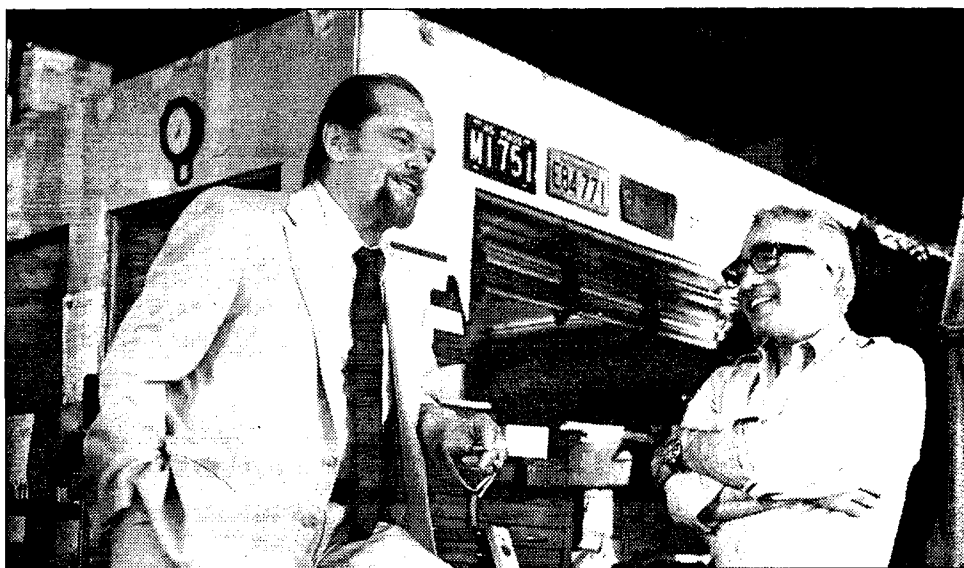


Photo courtesy of movieweb.com

Best Director Oscar nominee Martin Scorsese, right, takes a break from directing and enjoys a moment with Jack Nicholson on the set of "The Departed."



JEFF ALBERT | Observer Graphic

By RAMA GOTTUMUKKALA
Scene Writer

It's a scenario he's puzzled over for years, chiseling away at the concept with purpose. Each new question added fresh twists and turns to a labyrinthine narrative. For over a decade, in fact, screenwriter Matthew Waynee has been asking all the right questions.

If you woke up and didn't know if you were a killer or a victim, what would you do? If you were a ruthless killer, would you change your ways, try to find redemption, save people? Or if you were a victim on the verge of death, would that force you to act violently and do something you've never done before?

Last December, the answers were finally revealed when "Unknown," Waynee's first feature film, debuted in limited theatrical release in New York City. A taut psychological thriller, the film explores the dark side of human nature when five men, bloodied and beaten, wake up in an abandoned warehouse. With no memory of who they are, these men struggle to separate the predators from the prey in an elaborate endgame of life and death.

For Waynee, 34, the line separating life and death, and how far we're willing to go to cross it, is one of the most fascinating draws in fiction.

"I think it's in those life and death moments that people truly are who they are," he said. "Your identity emerges in those types of moments, and that's the kind of stuff I enjoy exploring."

Like his characters, Waynee has stood on the edge of that line before.

Born and brought up in nearby Bay City, Mich., he was once a promising high school athlete with a passion for basketball and football. But a horrific event would alter the course of his life.

"When I was 16, after my sophomore year, I was in a car accident," Waynee said. "I ended up having eight hours of brain surgery, and I shouldn't have survived the whole incident. That ended my football career and changed my whole athletic focus."

The person who emerged from that event traded in his hoop dreams for another obsession — writing. Waynee became a voracious reader and was drawn to the darker, edgier work of novelists Kurt Vonnegut and Ayn Rand and the similarly murky, powerful films made

by Martin Scorsese and Joel and Ethan Coen. He was hooked. Enrolling at Notre Dame in 1991, Waynee took several creative writing courses and directed several one-act plays sponsored by Farley Hall.

But it was a class he took in his sophomore year that would prove most inspirational for the budding writer, and lead to a project that would attract several of Hollywood's brightest thespians.

"I was taking a Greek tragedy class, and we just finished reading the myth of 'Prometheus Bound,' who is this god chained at the top of a mountain for 10,000 years," Waynee said. "What was interesting to me is that he's seen as this evil character from the gods' perspective and a positive, savior character from the humans."

"So I began to think, 'What would you do if you were chained up in a dungeon or a prison and you just couldn't remember?' You couldn't remember if you were the most sadistic murderer out there or if you were some positive rebel in a fight against a corrupt government. How would you redefine yourself? How would you choose what your identity would be?"

The idea struck the younger Waynee like a lightning bolt from Olympus. That night, he wrote a 40-page outline for the fledgling "Unknown" story, printed it out, read it over and filed it away in the back of his mind.

After graduating in '95, Waynee finished a three-year stint as a high school English and Drama teacher for Teach for America, before entering the renowned graduate writing program at USC. Once there, he began to put his idea to paper.

"I actually started it as a novel, but it wasn't working as well in that medium. So I finally decided that it would be great as a screenplay, and that's when I started switching it to that," he said. "That was about six or seven years ago, when I started writing it as a screenplay, and probably about four and a half years ago when the screenplay was done and people started reading it, getting interested in it and trying to put it to film."

After a nerve-wracking process of sending the script out to Hollywood's rich and famous, the film was greenlit with a humble budget of \$3.5 million, thanks in part to the script's economical usage of

one primary location — the desolate, fateful warehouse.

Initially, Waynee was interested in directing the feature himself.

"In the larger scheme of my career, it was far better for me to hand it off to a different director who could get those actors, which I wouldn't necessarily been able to do at that point in my directing career," he said.

That director was Simon Brand, with countless music videos and TV commercials to his name, but who would also be making his feature film debut. Getting Brand on board started a casting landslide that brought with it an impressive stable of acting talent. Hollywood veterans like Jim Caviezel ("The Passion of the Christ"), Greg Kinnear ("Little Miss Sunshine"), Joe Pantoliano ("The Matrix"), Bridget Moynihan ("I, Robot") and Barry Pepper ("Saving Private Ryan") were drawn to the script's alluring premise and took paycuts for the film's greater good.

For Waynee, it was a dream come true, especially when he arrived on set to see names like Caviezel and Kinnear mulling over lines he'd been polishing for years.

"Surreal is the perfect word for it. I got to meet all the actors, these great, experienced people, and it was amazing to have Greg Kinnear and Barry Pepper delivering lines and doing action," he said. "I could think back to the time when I wrote those lines for the first time and then see these men deliver it flawlessly — to see them bringing it to life was an amazing experience."

With one dream realized and several others on the horizon, Waynee hasn't forgotten the best piece of advice he received along the way.

"One of my professors asked, 'Imagine if you had all the money in the world. What would you do with your time?' And that's what you should do with your life, because you can always find ways to make money. It's about doing what you truly love," he said.

In the 11 years since he left the Golden Dome in his rearview, Waynee has only been back on campus once — a brief stop on his cross-country trek out to California. Even now, he gets nostalgic about his time under the Golden Dome, and the memories are sure to come flooding back when he returns home.

It's taken Waynee years of questioning



Poster courtesy of movieweb.com

Who: Matthew Waynee, screenwriter
Where: Browning Cinema, DPAC
When: Tonight, 7 and 10 p.m.
What: Waynee, Class of '95, will present the film at both screenings.

to forge the cinematic riddle that became "Unknown." It began humbly, with a simple idea born out of a Greek literature class.

As for what Waynee will remember most about the decade-long journey of "Unknown" from page to screen? That answer is simple.

"I can still remember my roommate from my sophomore year at Notre Dame — he's in Chicago — and when 'Unknown' screened there back in November, he called me up," Waynee recalled. "And he's like, 'Waynee, I can remember when you told me this idea and how you thought it could become a film.'"

"He just laughed it off then, but he could remember me that night that I told him about this idea, and for him to see it finally up on the screen, it was great to hear those words as well."

Contact Rama Gottumukkala at rgottumu@nd.edu



Photo courtesy of Matthew Waynee

Writer Matthew Waynee, second from right, interacts with cast members Greg Kinnear, Barry Pepper and Jim Caviezel on the "Unknown" set.



Photo courtesy of movieweb.com

Jim Caviezel confronts the reality that he may be a murderer in "Unknown," a thought-provoking thriller featuring some of Hollywood's finest actors.

NBA

Pierce helps Boston end 18-game losing streak

Arenas struggles from the field in Washington's close victory over Philadelphia; Howard looks for place in NBA history

Associated Press

BOSTON — Al Jefferson was happily watching the final seconds of garbage time from the Boston bench when Delonte West gave him a piece of advice.

"We've got nothing to celebrate," Jefferson recalled after Boston ended its franchise-record losing streak at 18 games by beating the Milwaukee Bucks 117-97. "We should feel good about it. But don't run off the court like we won the championship."

Paul Pierce scored 32 points and Gerald Green had 21 in 20 minutes on Wednesday night to lead the Celtics to their first victory since Jan. 5 and send them into the All-Star break with a sigh of relief. After the break, Boston embarks on a five-game road trip — four of them against teams in playoff position.

"I thought that if we could win this game, it gives us a fighting chance out there. That's all we want," coach Doc Rivers said. "The guys are in there taking monkeys off each others' backs and all that stuff. It's just a relief to get it done."

The half-filled house, winnowed by the first major snowstorm of the winter, gave the Celtics a standing ovation for the final minute as they picked up their first victory since Jan. 5. The Celtics won just two of 24 games when Pierce was out with foot and elbow injuries, breaking the franchise record of 13 straight losses and heading for the league record of 24 (23 in one season).

But they took advantage of the Bucks' own woes, rallying from a 15-point deficit to go ahead in the second quarter and opening a double-digit lead in the third.

"We could have easily ended up in that zone with NBA-record losing streaks," Pierce said. "We definitely eyed this game. Milwaukee had a lot of pieces missing, so we wanted to take advantage of that."

Mo Williams scored 31, Charlie Bell had 24 and Brian Skinner scored 13 with 11 rebounds for the Bucks, who lost their fourth straight. Milwaukee is 3-17 since Michael Redd went out with a strained patellar tendon in his left knee.

"Everybody knows" about the Celtics' streak, Williams said. "You don't want to be the team that they beat. That's why it hurts a little more."

Jefferson scored 17 with 10 rebounds. Wally Szczerbiak returned after missing two games with a sprained right ankle and scored 14; it was the

first time Pierce and Szczerbiak both played since a win on Dec. 16 gave the Celtics a five-game winning streak.

"This is not the team that lost 18 in a row," Bell said. "With Paul, he gives them a whole other element. They're a much better team. If they didn't beat us, they were going to beat somebody else. I don't think they were going to get the record."

Boston found the perfect opponent in Milwaukee, which is on a bit of a slide itself. Charlie Villanueva was out with an ankle sprain he picked up in Tuesday's game against Dallas, a game in which Milwaukee got just two free throws in the last 7:05 and blew a 16-point, second-half lead.

Playing back-to-back nights amid mounting injuries — Mo Williams' shoulder, and Earl Boykins picked up a cut on his right leg that needed stitches in the first half — the Bucks seemed to wear down again. After leading by 13 at the end of the first quarter and as many as 15 in the second, Milwaukee gave up an 18-4 Boston run that turned the Celtics' 48-37 deficit into a 55-52 lead.

Washington 92, Philadelphia 85

Gilbert Arenas' bold-talking, high-scoring first half of the season ended with a whimper.

Arenas struggled with his shot — again — scoring 22 points on 8-for-26 shooting, and the Washington Wizards broke open a close game in the fourth quarter and held on for a victory over the Philadelphia 76ers on Wednesday night.

Caron Butler scored 16, Darius Songaila added 12, and Andray Blatche, making just his second start of the season, had his first career double-double with 11 points and 10 rebounds as the Wizards won for just the second time in six games.

It was yet another poor shooting performance for Arenas, who is headed to the All-Star game this weekend in Las Vegas. And, despite a first half of the season that included a 60-point game and three games of 50 points or more, Arenas isn't in the mood to evaluate.

"When I look back, it's always at the end of the season, never in the middle," said Arenas, who ranks second in the league in scoring with a 29-point average. "I know I need to turn it up a tune, get my shot back on target, get my feet right, get ready for the second half to start off on a positive note."

Washington is trying to move past a turbulent stretch during which backup center Etan



Boston forward Paul Pierce, left, drives past Milwaukee forward Maurice Williams in Boston's 117-97 win Wednesday night. The win marked the end of the Celtics' 18-game losing streak.

Thomas punched a teammate during practice and Arenas predicted he'd score 50 points against Portland, only to fall 41 points short.

Arenas eclipsed his nine-point effort in the previous game with 10 in the first half, but his shooting woes continued. He was coming off a 3-for-15 effort against the Trail Blazers, a 10-for-24 showing against San Antonio and a 4-for-14 performance against Seattle.

Washington coach Eddie Jordan seems to think the grueling first half finally caught up to Arenas.

"I see a little bit of fatigue in Gil," said Jordan, who has the Wizards atop the Southeast Division with a record of 29-21.

Arenas rejected the idea that he is tired.

"I don't feel it, but sometimes when I'm shooting, I'm like, 'Am I using my legs?' After the All-Star break, my confidence will come back on my shot," he said. "I'll be ready to go."

One positive for the Wizards was solid play by their reserves.

"It's a great win because it's on the road," Jordan said. "It's a great win because these (bench) guys contributed."

The Sixers had their typical balanced scoring effort, but were slowed by poor shooting, going 30-for-79 (38 percent), and 20 turnovers.

Kyle Korver led the way with 18 points, Andre Iguodala added 14 points and 13 rebounds, Rodney Carney and Andre Miller each scored 13,

while Joe Smith added 12 and Samuel Dalembert pitched in with 17 rebounds and 11 points.

"They scored 31 points off our turnovers and I think that was a big key to the game," Sixers coach Maurice Cheeks said. "It's unfortunate. We came home knowing that we had six or seven straight home games, and we had hoped to fair a little better than this."

"Going 2-4 is not what we had hoped for."

Neither team was able to break away until the Wizards moved out to a 10-point lead early in the fourth quarter. Then the Sixers made a run.

Korver hit a 3-pointer that cut the deficit to three with 1:35 left, and Carney missed a chance to tie when he misfired on a 3.

Butler missed a 3 for the Wizards and the Sixers took possession with 31.9 seconds left, still trailing by three.

Orlando 103, Portland 91

In just his third NBA season, Dwight Howard is putting up strong numbers that place him in good company.

Howard capped the last game before his first All-Star appearance with 20 points and 16 rebounds on 8-of-12 shooting in Orlando's win Wednesday over the Portland Trail Blazers. It gave him an 81 percent field goal mark over the last five games, 10th best in NBA history behind nine Wilt Chamberlain performances and one stretch from Bob Hanson.

His numbers looked even better before Wednesday. Howard's .846 field goal percentage in the past four outings was third-best in history behind two Chamberlain spans.

"It's a great honor," the 21-year-old said, understated as usual. "I'll just keep playing my game."

Hedo Turkoglu shook off a recent illness with 24 points for Orlando. Darko Milicic added a career-high 21 points and eight rebounds, and Carlos Arroyo had 15 points and a season-high seven assists.

The win kept the Magic (27-26) one game over .500 heading into the All-Star break, and capped Portland's four-game East Coast road trip at 2-2.

Orlando took control in the second quarter, finishing the first half on an 18-4 run for a 52-39 halftime lead. Milicic scored seven of those points in a 1:01 span, while Arroyo had six points and set up Howard for an alley-oop.

"They made a lot of shots and we just ran out of a little gas," Portland rookie Brandon Roy said.

Turkoglu, who totaled eight points in Orlando's last two outings while battling flu-like symptoms, scored nine in the first quarter. He had the Magic's first three second-half buckets, providing a 59-42 edge that widened to 21 points at the start of the fourth quarter.

"I got some rest and I'm feeling good right now," Turkoglu said.

CLASSIFIEDS

The Observer accepts classifieds every business day from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Notre Dame office, 024 South Dining Hall. Deadline for next-day classifieds is 3 p.m. All classifieds must be prepaid. The charge is 5 cents per character per day, including all spaces. The Observer reserves the right to edit

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Its Thursday
Might as well be the weekend

AROUND THE NATION

Thursday, February 15, 2007

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

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NBA

Eastern Conference, Atlantic Division

team	record	pct.	GB
Toronto	29-24	.547	-
New Jersey	25-29	.463	4.5
New York	23-29	.442	5.5
Philadelphia	17-36	.321	12
Boston	13-38	.255	15

Eastern Conference, Central Division

team	record	pct.	GB
Detroit	32-19	.627	-
Cleveland	30-21	.588	2
Indiana	28-24	.538	4.5
Chicago	29-25	.537	4.5
Milwaukee	19-34	.358	14

Eastern Conference, Southeast Division

team	record	pct.	GB
Washington	29-21	.580	-
Orlando	27-26	.509	3.5
Miami	26-26	.500	4
Atlanta	20-31	.392	9.5
Charlotte	19-33	.365	11

Western Conference, Northwest Division

team	record	pct.	GB
Utah	34-17	.667	-
Denver	26-24	.520	7.5
Minnesota	24-27	.471	10
Portland	22-32	.407	13.5
Seattle	19-32	.373	15

Western Conference, Pacific Division

team	record	pct.	GB
Phoenix	39-12	.765	-
L.A. Lakers	30-23	.566	10
L.A. Clippers	25-27	.481	14.5
Golden State	24-29	.453	16
Sacramento	22-28	.440	16.5

Western Conference, Southwest Division

team	record	pct.	GB
Dallas	43-9	.827	-
San Antonio	35-18	.660	8.5
Houston	33-18	.647	9.5
N.O./Ok. City	24-28	.462	19
Memphis	14-40	.259	30

Women's Basketball MIAA Standings

	team	league record	overall record
1	Calvin	14-0	21-1
2	Hope	11-3	19-3
3	ST MARY'S	9-5	10-11
4	Albion	8-6	13-9
5	Olivet	8-6	11-10
6	Alma	6-8	10-11
7	Adrian	3-12	8-14
8	Tri-State	3-12	5-18
9	Kalamazoo	2-12	3-19

MLB



San Francisco Chronicle reporters Mark Fainaru-Wada, left, and Lance Williams will avoid jail time after BALCO founder Victor Conte's attorney, Troy Ellerman, admitted Wednesday to leaking grand jury testimony.

Lawyer's plea saves Chronicle writers

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Two San Francisco Chronicle reporters will avoid jail time after a criminal defense lawyer agreed to plead guilty to leaking them secret grand jury documents from the BALCO steroids investigation.

Attorney Troy Ellerman admitted in court papers filed Wednesday that he allowed reporters Lance Williams and Mark Fainaru-Wada to view transcripts of the grand jury testimony of baseball stars Barry Bonds, Jason Giambi, Gary Sheffield and sprinter Tim Montgomery, according to court documents.

The Chronicle published stories in 2004 that reported Giambi and Montgomery admitted taking steroids while Bonds and Sheffield testified that they didn't knowingly take performance enhancing drugs.

A federal judge ordered the reporters jailed after they refused to divulge the source of the story. They have remained free pending an appeal to the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. Ellerman's plea agreement stated that the federal prosecutors will no longer try to put the reporters in prison.

The deal calls for Ellerman to spend two years in prison and pay a \$250,000 fine; the terms

are subject to approval by a judge. No date has been set for the plea hearing.

Ellerman, who serves as commissioner of the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association, represented Victor Conte, founder of the Bay Area Laboratory Co-operative, the Burlingame supplements lab at the center of the federal steroid probe. He later represented BALCO vice president James Valente.

Eve Burton, general counsel for Hearst Corp., which owns the Chronicle, would not confirm or deny that Ellerman was the source of the leaked documents.

"As we have said

throughout, we don't discuss issues involving confidential sources," she said.

Ellerman's attorney, Scott Tedmon, could not immediately be reached for comment.

Conte and Valente were among five men who pleaded guilty in an earlier phase of the investigation, along with chemist Patrick Arnold, Bonds' personal trainer Greg Anderson, and track coach Remi Korchemny.

Bonds has never been charged but a cloud of suspicion continues to plague the San Francisco Giants slugger as he chases baseball's career home run record.

IN BRIEF

Yankees' Rivera gives club no edge in free agency

TAMPA, Fla. — Mariano Rivera had this warning for the New York Yankees: If he becomes a free agent, he'll consider offers from other teams.

"Everybody has the same shot," he said Wednesday. "The Yankees will not have an advantage."

Brian Cashman tells ESPN Radio 1050's Michael Kay that a chat with Mariano Rivera cleared the air over the closer's remarks, but confirmed they won't talk new contract until later.

Yankees general manager Brian Cashman called the 37-year-old closer Tuesday night, a day after Rivera said he was hoping for a contract extension. Cashman told Rivera his preference is to push back the matter until after the season.

Catcher Jorge Posada also is entering the final season of his contract.

Els, Garcia start PGA tour at Nissan Open without Woods

LOS ANGELES — Ernie Els, Retief Goosen and Sergio Garcia are among international players making their first PGA Tour start of 2007 at the Nissan Open, and it's no coincidence that Riviera has the deepest field on tour this year.

Even without Tiger Woods.

The last few years has brought an unstoppable shift in the world of golf, and now a majority of the top players in the world rankings come from abroad. Sure, Woods and Jim Furyk give the Americans a 1-2 punch at the top, and the way Phil Mickelson won at Pebble Beach last week, it might not be long before he makes it a threesome.

Top to bottom, however, golf has gone global.

"Over here, we play for a lot of money," Els said Wednesday. "So that draws a lot more players to come and play the U.S. tour."

Ferreiro defeats Roitman in first-round Brazil Open play

COSTA DO SAUIPE, Brazil — Top-seeded Juan Carlos Ferrero of Spain beat Sergio Roitman of Argentina 6-4, 6-4 in the first round of the Brazil Open on Wednesday.

Ferreiro won three straight games to start the second set, and secured only his second win in four matches this year.

Third-seeded Nicolas Almagro of Spain routed Fernando Vicente 6-0, 6-1 in a match that was suspended on Tuesday because of rain with Almagro up 4-0.

In other first-round matches, Ruben Ramirez Hidalgo defeated Stefano Galvani 7-6 (4), 6-3, and Albert Montanes beat qualifier Pablo Andujar 6-2, 7-6 (6).

Ferreiro has won 11 career titles, but none since 2003 when he won the French Open. Last year at Costa do Sauipe, he was upset in the first round.

around the dial

NBA

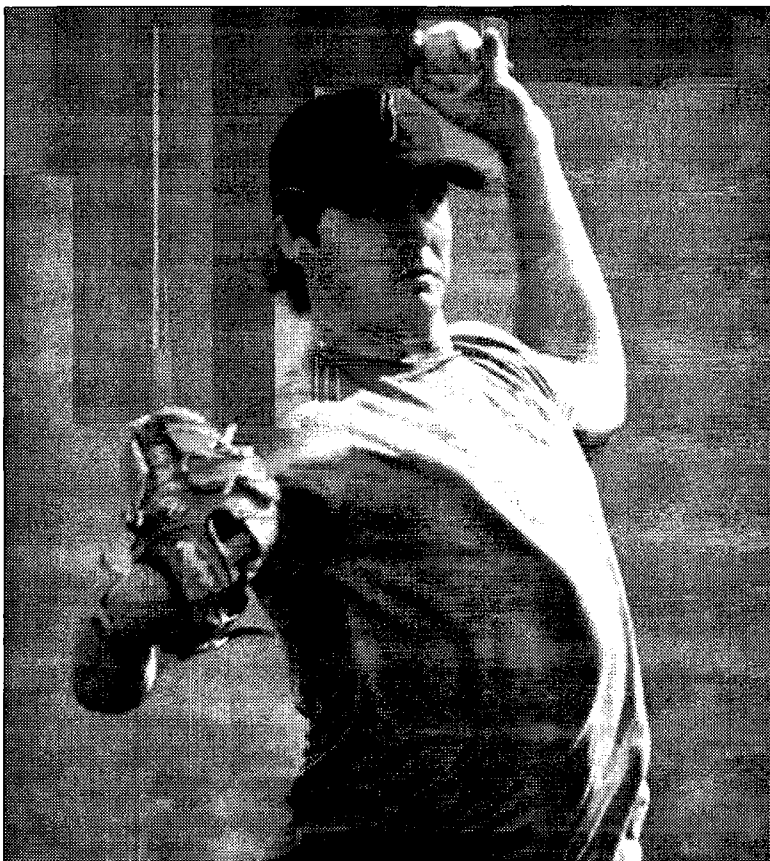
Dallas at Houston
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MLB



San Francisco's new starting pitcher Barry Zito loosens up his arm during a spring training workout Wednesday.

Zito adjusts quickly to life in San Francisco

Bonds yet to sign new contract with Giants

Associated Press

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Barry Zito wandered into his new spring training clubhouse carrying an Oakland Athletics duffel bag and plopped into Barry Bonds' chair.

Oops! "I probably don't know better yet," Zito said, chuckling.

It might have been a first in San Francisco franchise history. Zito requested that he dress next to the slugger back home this season, too.

"Barry and I have a good relationship," Zito said. "If I can somehow lighten the load off of him, so you guys can just take a hard right when you're going to his locker and start talking to me."

Zito reported to the Giants' spring training complex at Scottsdale Stadium on Wednesday sporting his signature relaxed style — jeans and a T-shirt. He looked the same, save for the 10 extra pounds of muscle he says he added to his lower body this winter.

A new \$126 million, seven-year contract apparently hasn't affected the left-hander's ways. And it's clear he already feels part of his new team, even though the Giants' pitchers and catchers don't take the field together for the first time until Thursday.

"It's been pretty seamless," he said of the adjustment. "It feels good. It feels natural. I feel like I know most of the people in the clubhouse just because I've played against them and played with a couple of them or at least know some off the field."

Zito played some light catch with reliever Steve Kline, who was wearing a bushy beard he will soon lose before it really warms up in the desert. Kline's welcome was interesting: The nameplate above his locker read "Rich Kline," a mistake that happened because his spot is right next to infielder Rich Aurilia's.

"I like it," Kline said. "I want to keep it."

Kline also likes Zito, and tried to make the new ace feel at home right away.

"I was nervous," Kline said. "I thought if I hit him in the kneecap, I'd get released. I talked to him and tried to make him feel welcome. Coming to a new team is always hard. He's a big part of our team."

The 28-year-old Zito will be almost as popular a topic as Bonds this spring.

"Ever since the press conference I've been just wearing my Giants hat around everywhere in L.A., just getting used to it and preparing myself to have it be natural," Zito said. "I would just wear it my car, not going out."

Bonds' arrival day at spring training is unclear, though position players are due to report to camp Monday. He typically holds his state-of-Barry address the first or second day, but his contract remains unresolved. He could sign after spring training starts.

"I'd expect that he'd be here on reporting day," said general manager Brian Sabean, who noted that the two Barrys together in the clubhouse is "interesting, but I don't know if it's a big deal."

The seven-time NL MVP begins his 22nd major league season 22 homers shy of breaking Hank Aaron's career record of 755. The Giants have differing views of certain language in his \$15.8 million, one-year deal and Bonds has yet to sign a revised version.

"Hmm, just details," Zito said. "I saw him at UCLA a few times working out. We caught up there and kind of shot the breeze a little bit. He looks amazing. He's ready to go."

Zito hopes he is ready to go at the plate now that he'll be batting every fifth day in the National League. He has been working with good friend Brady Anderson on his hitting and baserunning for about a month.

He has a .034 — 2-for-52 — career batting average during seven seasons with Oakland.

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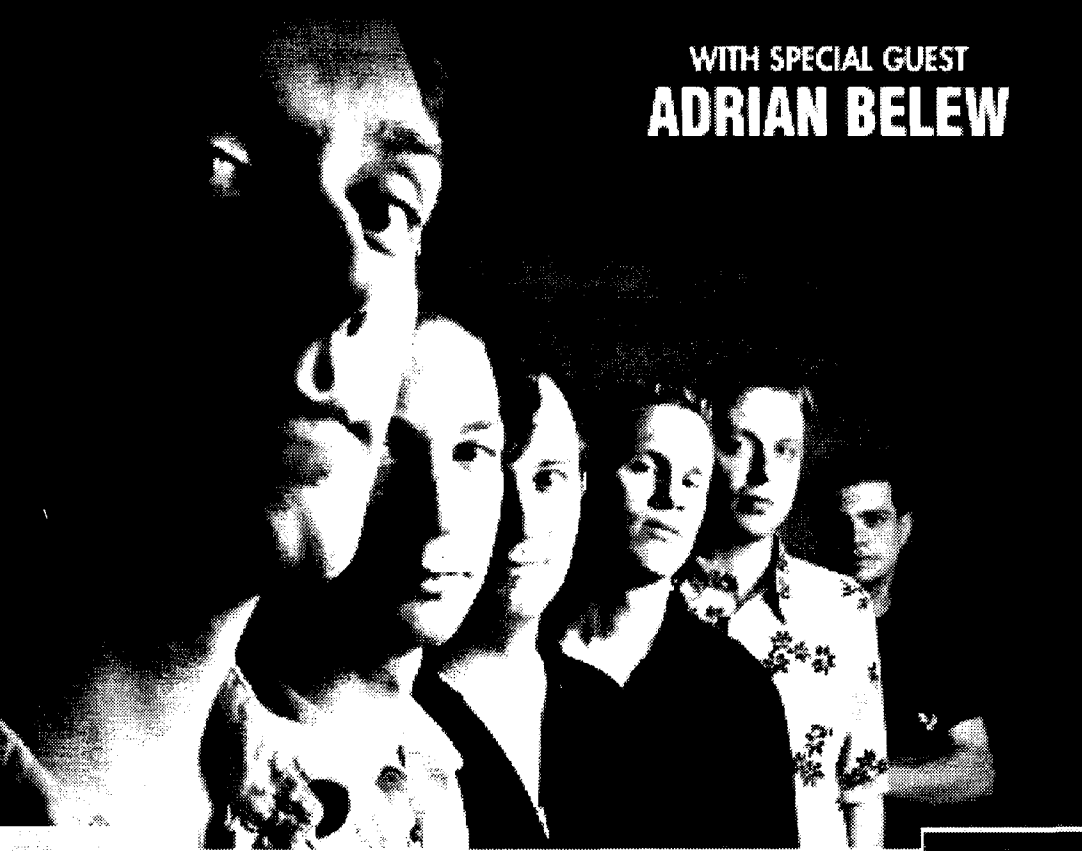
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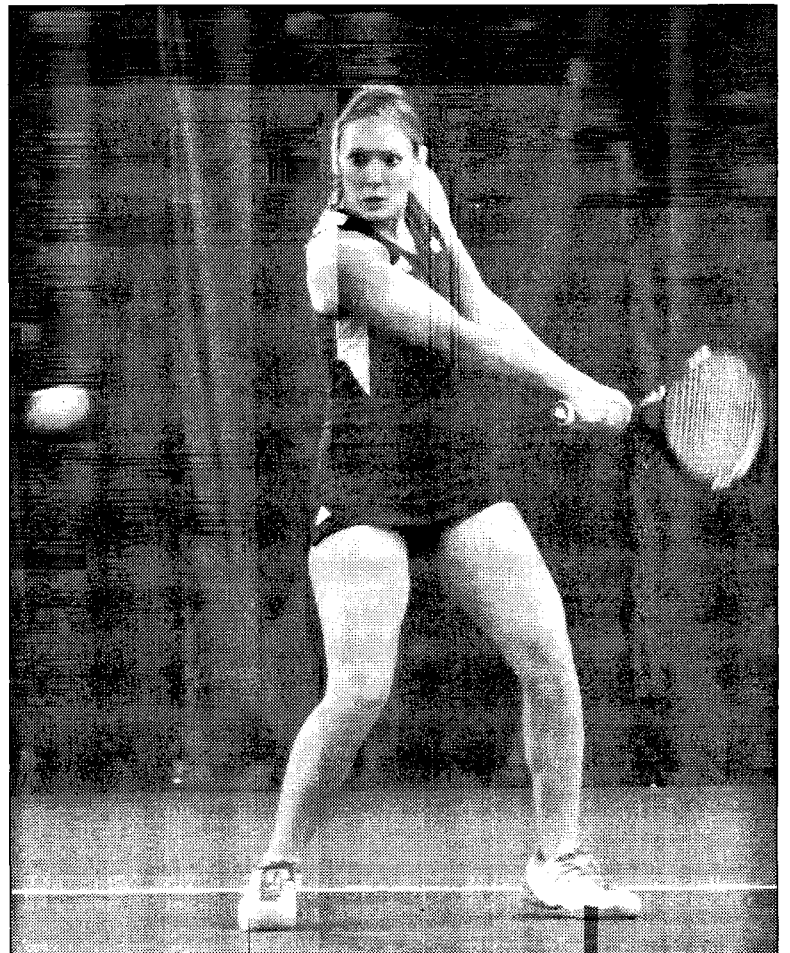
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ND WOMEN'S TENNIS

Freshman secures Irish win at home



JESSICA LEE/The Observer

Irish senior Catrina Thompson competes at No. 1 singles in Notre Dame's 6-1 victory Wednesday over Michigan.

By CHRIS HINE
Sports Writer

Notre Dame captured the first of three matches against top-25 opponents this week with a 6-1 win Wednesday over No. 23 Michigan at the Eck Tennis Pavilion.

"We played well. All three doubles teams played really well," Irish coach Jay Louderback said. "We lost one match, but I felt like they played well because Michigan had won at least four singles matches in each of their matches this season."

Freshman Cosmina Ciobanu's 6-0, 6-3 defeat of Wolverines senior Elizabeth Exon gave No. 2 Notre Dame its fourth point and the victory. The win lifts Ciobanu's dual match record to 8-0 and 18-4 overall.

"The first set especially, she played really well," Louderback said. "[Exon] has played as high as [the No. 1 singles slot] for them."

After getting her third straight 6-0 set victory, Ciobanu dropped two of the first three games in the second set, but fought back to win four of the next five.

"If you win the first set 6-0 but finally lose a game or two in the second set, you start thinking 'Oh, no, this kid's coming back on me,'" Louderback said. "But down 2-1, she cruised from there."

The Irish began the match by sweeping all three doubles matches to take a 1-0 lead. Junior Brook Buck then made quick work of Michigan freshman Tania Mahtani, 6-0, 6-1 to give the Irish a 2-0 lead.

"She didn't play our last few matches," Louderback said. "But every match she's played she's gotten better."

Freshman Colleen Rielley could not break out of her slump against Michigan, dropping her fourth straight match

against Wolverine sophomore Chisako Sugiyama, 6-4, 6-3.

"[Rielley] still had a tight match," Louderback said. "Sugiyama is tough, especially indoors. She plays a big game and hits the ball hard. She's a tough kid."

Sugiyama's win pulled Michigan within 2-1, but the final four matches belonged to the Irish.

At No. 1 singles, senior Catrina Thompson overcame losing the first three games of the match to capture a 6-3, 6-1 win over Michigan fifth-year senior Jenny Kuehn.

"She takes a little while to get going. She'll do that occasionally where she starts off slow the first two, three games, and then her serve picks up and her forehand starts going and she gets on a roll," Louderback said. "Her serve and forehand are really big. She gets a lot of free points because of those. It's hard for kids to return them."

After Ciobanu's win clinched the match, senior Christian Thompson overcame a first-set loss to defeat Michigan senior Kara Delicata 5-7, 6-2, 1-0 (10-6) while sophomore Katie Potts completed the match with a 6-1, 7-6 (1) win over Wolverine junior Allie Shafner.

"It was good to win the last two," Louderback said. "They were tight matches but they made it 6-1 which was nice."

The Irish will have little time to rest before hosting No. 7 North Carolina Friday and No. 20 Wake Forest Saturday.

"First, we just have to beat North Carolina, but [winning both matches] would be big for us just because we've played such a tough schedule, and we've come through a lot of big matches now," Louderback said. "A sweep would be very good for us at this point."

Contact Chris Hine at
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WOMEN'S FENCING

Providenza continues to put teammates first



PHIL HUDELSON/The Observer

Valerie Providenza, left, has become the most successful female sabre in Notre Dame history.

By KEN FOWLER
Sports Editor

The only results Valerie Providenza says she keeps stored in her mind are three NCAA Championship appearances. If that's the case, the senior has forgotten more wins than any Irish women's sabre in history.

This weekend, she went 12-0 in the Duke Duals to break former teammate Destanie Milo's record of 166 regular-season victories.

While the mid-season bouts get lost in the shuffle, Providenza's memories start sweetly.

In 2004 she finished fifth in the Midwest Fencing Conference Regional but mounted a stunning comeback in the national semifinal and topped Penn State's Sophia Hiss for the NCAA crown.

"Freshman year, I came in wanting to prove I should be here," she said.

As soon as Providenza got to Notre Dame, she knew she would put the team ahead of her individual career. She often chose NCAA events over the individual tournaments needed to gain points on the national rankings.

"I consider the team my second family," she said. "Coming in, I knew I was going to be here for only four years — and it was something I wanted to make the most of."

That sentiment was not lost on Irish coach Janusz Bednarski.

"The number of bouts she has competed in shows her engagement and devotion to the program," he said.

Bednarski said Providenza's commitment to the team whenever individual tournaments conflicted with NCAA events, combined with her skill, propelled her toward the record.

Providenza entered Notre Dame with high expectations and started for the sabres as a freshman. Bednarski said he was comfortable putting the responsibility on her shoulders.

Ever since, she's helped lead the Irish. Providenza finished fourth in the nation as a sophomore and ninth in 2006. Providenza entered the season with an .822 winning percentage, including a 39-6 mark en route to the 2004 women's sabre crown and a remarkable 47-9 record as a sophomore.

While her win totals are high, Providenza, who's born every burden for the Irish, takes competitions just one at a time. She said she even gets nervous if she thinks about the NAAs too far in

advance. For someone who has finished in the top-10 nationally three straight years, that mindset might seem strange. But for Providenza, it's a modus operandi.

"You take every season as it comes," she said in a cool, explanatory tone. "If I'm not concentrated on the tournament at hand, I don't perform as well."

The strategy also keeps the second-semester senior from becoming overwhelmed with schoolwork, impending graduation and a start in the post-college world.

Ranked No. 11 in the nation, Providenza would have an outside shot to make the American Olympic team for the 2008 Beijing Games. But to qualify, she would need to participate in tournaments worldwide beginning now — a prospect that lead Irish junior sabre Mariel Zagunis to withdraw from school to start an Olympic title defense.

Already exhausted after tournaments from Columbus to London every weekend for the past three months, Providenza decided to focus on her team tournaments. The travel to NCAA competitions strain her body far less than the constant jet-setting of the international circuit, something Providenza is keenly aware of as she battles occasional knee and ankle problems.

"It's really taxing," she said. "You see the hotel, fence for one or two days and then fly back."

So instead of jumping into the Olympic path, Providenza has other plans.

"I'm graduating this semester and I'm working next summer — and hopefully going to graduate school," she said.

But she wants to leave with one more good memory, and it can't come from any regular-season record. Providenza thinks the Irish could have won the NCAA crown last year when they finished fourth, behind Harvard, Penn State and Ohio State.

With a top finish this year at the NCAA Championships, Providenza would become the first Irish women's sabre ever to earn All-American honors four times. But she says she wouldn't be completely satisfied with anything less than a team win and an individual title.

That makes sense for someone whose only memories come from the biggest tournament of the year.

Contact Ken Fowler at
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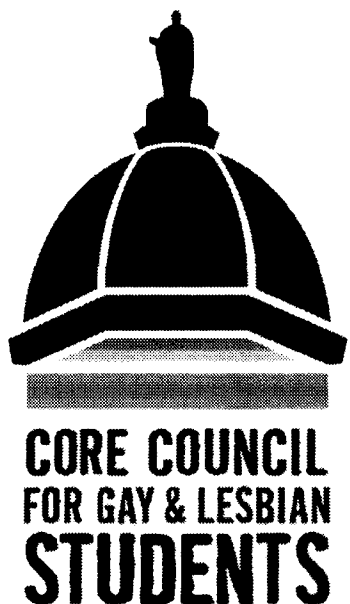
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- Women's Care Center, 234-0363
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University Counseling Center

(Individual counseling)

Contact: Dr. Maureen Lafferty at Lafferty.3@nd.edu

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Belles

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Kessler once again provided the offensive spark for the Belles throughout the game, scoring a game-high 23 points and adding eight assists. Sophomore Erin Newsom crashed the boards for her fifth double-double of the year with 13 points and 15 rebounds. Senior Bridget Lipke added 18 points in the winning effort.

Albion held a 35-31 halftime lead after Britons guard Amy Aemisegger hit a 3-pointer at the buzzer. The Belles overcame the deficit and claimed a 57-52 lead with 5:25 remaining. Albion chipped away at the lead, however, and tied the game at 57-57 with 1:49 remaining.

The Belles will conclude their regular season Saturday with a

home game against second-place Hope. Although neither team can change seeding based on the result, Saint Mary's will look to show its improvement from their last meeting when the Flying Dutchmen dismantled the Belles 67-42.

The third-seeded Saint Mary's squad will then host sixth-place Alma in the first round of the MIAA Tournament Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. Saint Mary's won 10 conference games this season, the most ever for its program, and will host only the second MIAA playoff game this season.

"I think the regular season shows how far we've come," Henley said. "We just need to carry this high-level of play into the tournament when it counts."

Contact Michael Bryan at mbryan@nd.edu

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Trial

continued from page 20

during games causes him severe foot pain.

Weis, the former offensive coordinator of the New England Patriots, decided to have the surgery shortly after the Patriots' February 2002 Super Bowl victory over the St. Louis Rams.

"I was watching the DVD of the Super Bowl, and I just looked at myself on the sideline and I said, 'We got a problem here,'" Weis testified on the second day of the trial in Suffolk Superior Court.

He thought his weight, about

336 pounds at the time, was thwarting his career.

"I looked at the DVD and said, 'If I were hiring, I wouldn't hire him,'" he said.

William J. Dailey Jr., a lawyer for the doctors, suggested under cross examination of Weis that the surgery was successful because it helped Weis achieve his stated goals: He lost nearly 90 pounds and landed his dream job at Notre Dame.

Dailey also asked Weis about his prior history of health problems, including sleep apnea and hemochromatosis, an iron overload in the body, and asked if he fully realized all the risks of bypass surgery. Five to 10 percent of patients suffer major

complications, Dailey said, and about 1 in 200 die.

Weis said he did know about the potential complications. "Yes sir, [Dr. Ferguson] definitely told me there were other risks," he said.

Dailey also pointed out the doctors waived the normal counseling period before the operation — at Weis' request — so he could be healthy in time for the following football season.

Weis said he was so secretive about his decision to have the surgery that he didn't tell his wife until about two weeks before the operation. The only member of the Patriots he confided in besides the team doctor was quarterback Tom Brady.



Irish coach Charlie Weis testifies in a Suffolk Superior Court in Boston during his medical malpractice lawsuit.

Friars

continued from page 20

point lead in the second half, Providence could not hold off the Panthers and fell 74-68.

"We watched them Saturday, and they looked pretty good," Irish guard Colin Falls said. "They've been playing a little more [man-to-man defense] than they have in the past."

Guard Sharaud Curry and forward/center Herbert Hill lead the Friars offensively. Curry averages a team-high 17.2 points per game, while Hill averages 17.0 points.

"Curry and Hill have been so good for them. Curry hurt us last year, even though we won both games," Notre Dame coach Mike Brey said. "You have to slow him down and keep his transition opportunities to a minimum."

Hill, who also averages 8.4 rebounds per game, could present a problem for the Irish inside.

"Athletic guys like him are difficult for us," Brey said.

"We've got four different guys that can guard him, but we have to help off [Providence forward Geoff McDermott] a little bit, play some zone and change defenses."

Hill's 6-foot-10 frame is similar to that of St. John's forward Lamont Hamilton and DePaul forward Wilson Chandler. Both Hamilton and Chandler tortured the Irish in the paint, combining for 48 points and 25 boards in their respective appearances against the Notre Dame.

"Hill's having as good a year in the Big East as anybody," Kurz said. "We just have to be in good position on him, make sure he doesn't catch it too deep in the post and make sure we have good pressure on the guards so they don't have easy post passes. It's going to be a team job."

The Irish return home after dropping the last two games of their three-game road swing. In losses at South Florida and DePaul, Falls (14.3 points per game) accounted for more than one-third of Notre Dame's

offensive production, scoring 26 points against the Bulls and 20 points against the Blue Demons. Meanwhile, the two teams held Notre Dame's leading scorer, guard Russell Carter (17.8 points per game), to 14 and nine points, respectively.

"We play pretty well offensively [at home]. We want to run. I think we can change ends on them," Brey said. "We're going to have to play against some of their zone so we're also going to have to be patient."

A win for the Irish will stop their season-high two-game losing slide and keep them in contention for a bye in the first round of the Big East tournament.

"That's our goal, and we have to finish strong down the stretch, and it starts [tonight]. We really have to set the tone," Falls said. "We haven't lost two games in a row yet this year. To come off that and play well would be a big thing for us."

Tip-off is 7 p.m. at the Joyce Center.

Contact Chris Hine at chine@nd.edu

Alaska

continued from page 20

beautiful — not a cloud in the sky.

"Everyone always says that where they live is God's country — to me this is God's country."

MacMillan said that the extreme cold is not a problem for most of his players, because most were raised in Western Canada — but "the Vancouver guys are a little soft though."

Jackson has not made the trip to Alaska since he coached Lake Superior State in the mid-1990s, but the second-year coach will be heading north again this summer for a fishing trip even farther north than Fairbanks, he said.

"I wish we were going up there a day early so we could actually do something, to make it an educational experience," Jackson said.

The team left Wednesday for Chicago, where it practiced on an Olympic-size ice sheet in Orland Park to prepare for Alaska's similarly larger sheet. The Irish flew to Fairbanks today, where they will get a practice in tonight and Friday morning before Friday night's game. Jackson said that classroom restraints kept the Irish from traveling a day earlier — when other CCHA teams normally travel.

"It was 30 degrees colder than anything I had experienced around this area," Irish center Mark Van Guilder said of the trip his freshman year. "But there's no wind, it's really peaceful. The

wind [in South Bend] is just killing me."

Back in 2004, the Irish took off for Fairbanks in a blizzard that reduced their bus ride to a flight at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport to a five-hour crawl. And once the team reached O'Hare, an eight-hour storm delay kept them grounded in a crowded terminal.

But former Irish players Tony Gill and Morgan Cey provided enough comic relief to keep the team — and the rest of the trapped holiday travelers — busy for hours with a dollar bill attached to a string that the players placed in the middle of the terminal and yanked away whenever a passerby went to grab it.

"Tony was in charge at first with pulling the string back with the dollar on it," Van Guilder said. "Until he pulled it back on a two-year old girl, and everyone booed him. Then Morgan took over after that."

Once the weather cleared a little bit and the Irish were able to land in Anchorage, Alaska, they hit yet another patch of black ice when their plane could not leave. But after over a full-day of delays, pranks and travel, they made it and beat the Nanooks 3-2 on the first night — one of five wins in the entire season.

Jackson said the team did most of its bonding during the early season travel this year to New England and Florida, so the trip won't be seen as an increased chance to become more tight-knit. He also said the Irish haven't done anything yet that he has not seen before in his three decades of hockey road

trips.

"Hockey players are all the same," Jackson said. "There's always occasional ketchup on somebody's shoe under the table. Then they do the wedding bell — ring the glasses — that means somebody's got ketchup or butter or something on their shoe."

But Jackson acknowledged that he wasn't an authority on everything that happened on the road.

"They don't want me to know what's going on anyway, are you kidding me?"

The Irish hope that there will not be a repeat of the Alaska trip two years ago, but it still brings back some warm memories — at least on first thought.

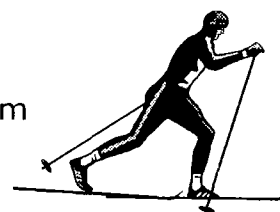
"It's not too bad," Van Guilder said before pausing. "Uh yeah, it's kind of bad."

Contact Kyle Cassily at kcassily@nd.edu

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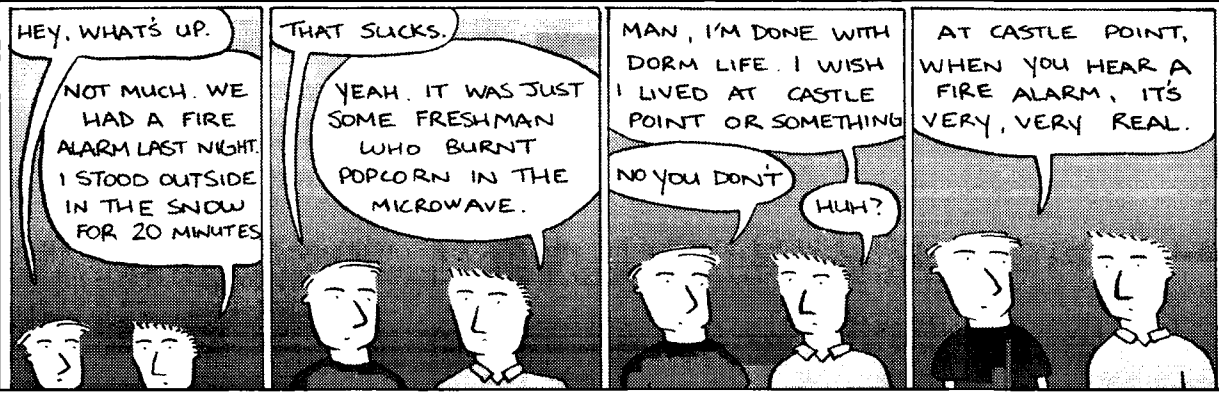
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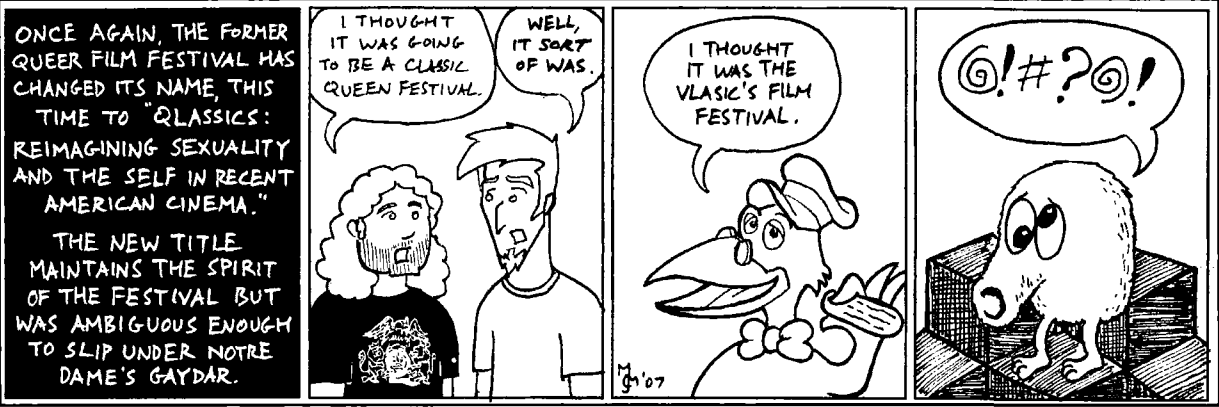
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CROISSANTWORLD

ADAM FAIRHOLM

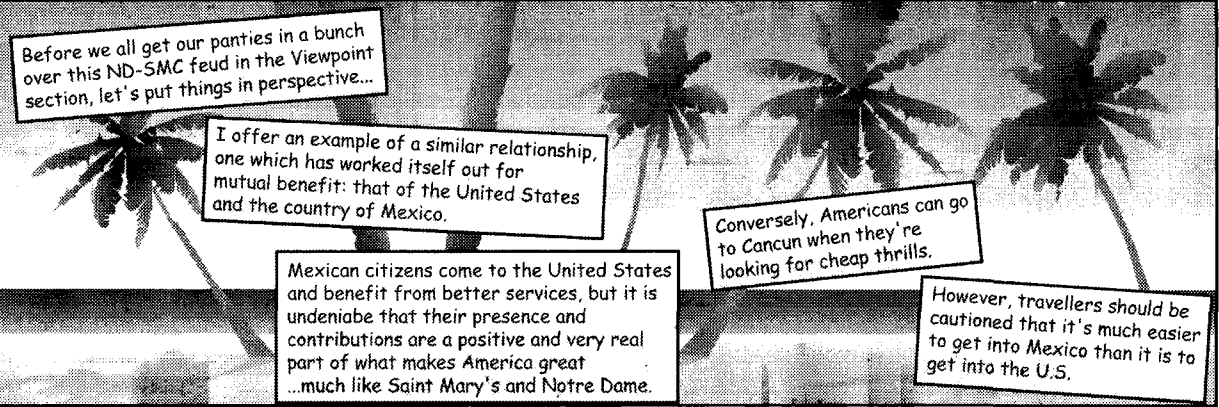


MICHAEL MIKUSKA



KALEIDOSCOPE McDANIELS

LIAM MORAN



CROSSWORD

WILL SHORTZ

- ACROSS**

1 Picnic staple

5 Lincoln and others

9 Skiing mementos?

14 Puncture

15 "The Last of the Mohicans" woman

16 Playwright Fugard

17 Actor Morales

18 Make

19 Isabel, for one

20 Condescend

22 Rodeo performer

24 Good or bad name, informally

25 Sprint

28 Advantages

31 Classic Paris couture house

32 Poured
- 33 Haiti, once

37 Kind of orch.

38 Friend, slangily

39 Oxford letters

40 Without a regular schedule

44 Spanish entree

47 Concert wind

48 Having I-strain?

49 President

53 One of a pair of conjunctions

54 Novelist Gide

55 As yet

59 Sci-fi figure

61 "Tobermory" writer

63 Singular, to Caesar

64 "___ Mio"

65 Currier's partner

66 Uncommon trick taker

67 Goes (for)
- DOWN**

1 Tool holder

2 Shake

3 Asia's Trans ___ mountains

4 Preflight event

5 Crackerjack

6 Gets on

7 Kind of message

8 Los Angeles harbor site

9 Small bag

10 Got down

11 Bake in a shallow dish

12 Opposite of flabby

13 Haphazardly

21 Botticelli figure

23 Adams of "The Ernie Kovacs Show"
- 26 ___ Brooks, 1950's-60's "Meet the Press" host

27 Not go straight

28 ___ Major

29 Week or month at the office, usually

30 ___ Valley, Calif.

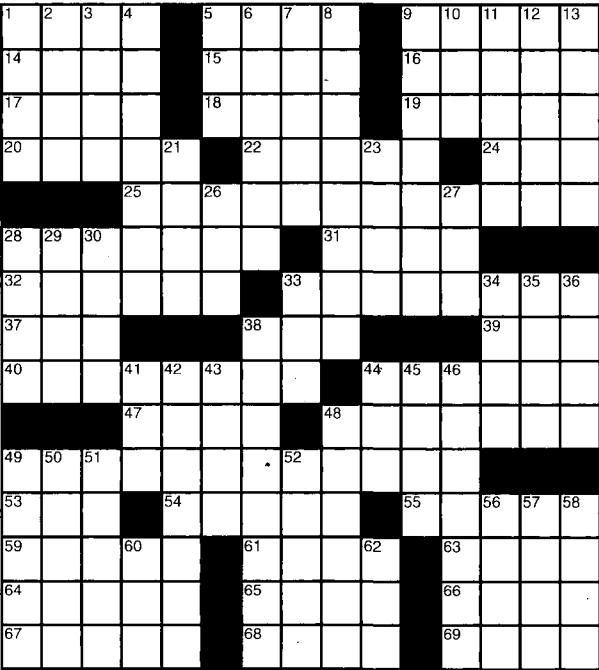
33 Zap

34 Prefix with pad

35 Wearers of eagle insignia

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

S	A	L	A	D	J	E	F	F	P	S	S	T
P	A	U	L	O	A	L	I	I	E	T	T	A
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L	O	T	S	D	I	E	M	E	T	H	E	R



- 36 Word repeated in a Beatles refrain

38 Isn't conspicuous

41 Iowa college

42 Rubs

43 Pork ___

44 Canadian prov.
- 45 Subjects of Guinness records?

46 Struggles

48 Mideast money

49 Members of a raiding party

50 Origin of the word "troll"
- 51 Show eager anticipation

52 Hunger for

56 Commuting cost

57 Realm

58 Skates

60 In a bad way

62 Cuba, e.g.: Abbr.

For answers, call 1-900-285-5656, \$1.20 a minute; or, with a credit card, 1-800-814-5554.

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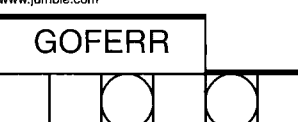
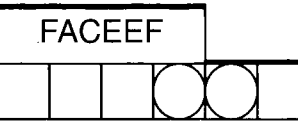
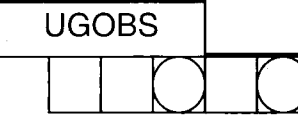
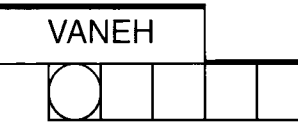
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JUMBLE

HENRI ARNOLD
MIKE ARGIRION

JUMBLE

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



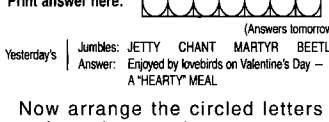
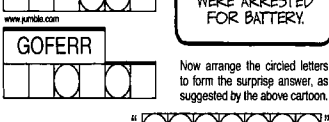
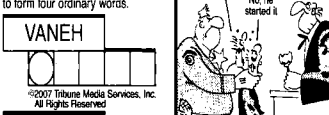
Print answer here: "_____"

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: JETTY CHANT MARTYR BEETLE
Answer: Enjoyed by lovebirds on Valentine's Day — A "HEARTY" MEAL

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion



Print answer here: "_____"

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: JETTY CHANT MARTYR BEETLE
Answer: Enjoyed by lovebirds on Valentine's Day — A "HEARTY" MEAL

HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Drew Bledsoe, 34; Meg Tilly, 46; Florence Henderson, 72; Hugh Downs, 85

Happy Birthday: Don't put things off or expect someone else to take on your responsibilities. You must push a little harder this year if you want to gain any ground. You will have to stay on your toes if you want to keep things moving along rhythmically. Your numbers are 5, 18, 22, 27, 39, 45

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Every ounce of your energy should go into moneymaking deals, work or a worthwhile project. Keep the doors of communication open. It's important that you stay involved as an integral part of the equation. ***

TAURUS (April 20-MAY 20): Nothing is worth fighting over. You can have a much better time if you keep your opinions to yourself and you listen to what others have to say. Allow yourself the freedom to try something you have never done before. *****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): This isn't the day to start something new. Tidy up what's been on your to-do list. Don't use force or pressure when dealing with loved ones. You won't get your way if you are pushy. **

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Things are beginning to go your way and it's certainly time for you to spread your wings and try new things. This is the perfect time to develop an idea or present it to someone who can help you out. Don't look at any changes being made at work as being bad. ****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't limit yourself. You shouldn't be backing away from the things you want to do. Put more time and effort into making things at home more comfortable for you both mentally and physically. Be honest about the way you feel. 3 stars

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Pleasure, passion, being innovative and trying new things is the order of the day. Travel and stimulate your mind in whatever way you can. Love and romance are looking very promising. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't get all worked up over nothing. Put more time and effort into enjoying yourself instead of worrying about what others are doing or saying. Be honest and straightforward. 3 stars

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Keep in mind that anything can be worked out if you communicate. Make some changes to your residence and your personal life. Helping someone will aid you in following an interest you've had for some time. ****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Anything to do with travel, excitement and adventure will beckon you but tread carefully -- you may end up overspending. Avoid an argument with someone who would prefer you to take a path less perilous. Think twice about what you do. **

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Take time out to do something special with someone you enjoy spending time with. This is a great day for love and romance. A job interview or change will turn out in your favor. Follow your dreams. 4 stars

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Be honest about your current partnerships. If someone isn't be forthright or you feel you can't communicate well enough to make your relationship better, consider moving on. It could cost you emotionally, mentally and financially. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Everything will be up in the air regarding your feelings. Try not to let your personal problems interfere with your productivity. A chance to get ahead, sign a contract or make some money is evident. ***

Birthday Baby: You are clever and extremely passionate about the way you do things. You are meticulous, engaging and extremely creative. You adapt well to change and you thrive on experiencing new things. You are charming and socially smart.

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

THE OBSERVER

Published Monday through Friday. The Observer is a vital source of information on people and events in the Notre Dame and Saint Mary's Community.

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HOCKEY

Irish travel to Fairbanks to face Nanooks, cold weather

By KYLE CASSILY
Sports Writer

Notre Dame has already left for another weekend road trip where its status as the country's best team will be put up for debate.

But this time the Irish must travel thousands of miles to a land that's covered in snow — yet oddly where snowballs are impossible to make due to a lack of moisture — and to where one longtime resident gushed about the beautiful, blue winter skies that sometimes last four hours a day.

Notre Dame's heading to Alaska. The Irish embarked Wednesday on a five-day trip to the Great White North for a two-game series against the Alaska Nanooks, the

first time the team has made the trip since an ill-fated trek over Thanksgiving break in 2004. To put the massive undertaking it requires to travel to Fairbanks — a town of 31,000 located squarely in central Alaska — into context, if the Irish were to play a team in Bogota, Colombia, it would be over 200 miles closer than it would be to travel the 2,900 miles to Fairbanks.

The Irish upperclassmen who made the trip in their then-freshman and sophomore seasons in 2004 recalled the shock they received when they first stepped outside in Fairbanks after a 27-hour trip hampered by snowed-in roads, delayed flights and spotty Alaskan air travel.

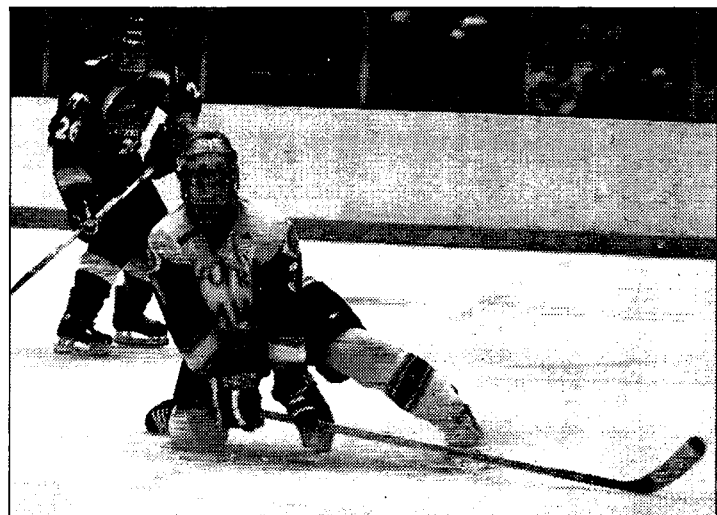
"It's cold. I remember stepping

outside the doors of the airport and just having to take a couple breaths just to catch your breath because it hurts," Irish goalie Dave Brown said. "The wind, the air is just so cold it takes a little getting used to, that's for sure."

But Alaska coach Tavis MacMillan — the longtime resident who has spent years in Fairbanks as a player and now a coach in his third season with the Nanooks — and Irish coach Jeff Jackson offered up different views of the land of the Midnight Sun.

"When you go to the Midwest, you see gray sky all the time. You have to take a paintbrush with you and some colors," MacMillan said. "There's blue sky [here] — its

see ALASKA/page 18



LAURIE HUNT/The Observer

Defenseman Brett Blatchford attempts to defend a pass during Notre Dame's 3-1 win over Alaska Dec. 2 at the Joyce Center.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Homeward bound

ND returns to the Joyce Center after consecutive road losses

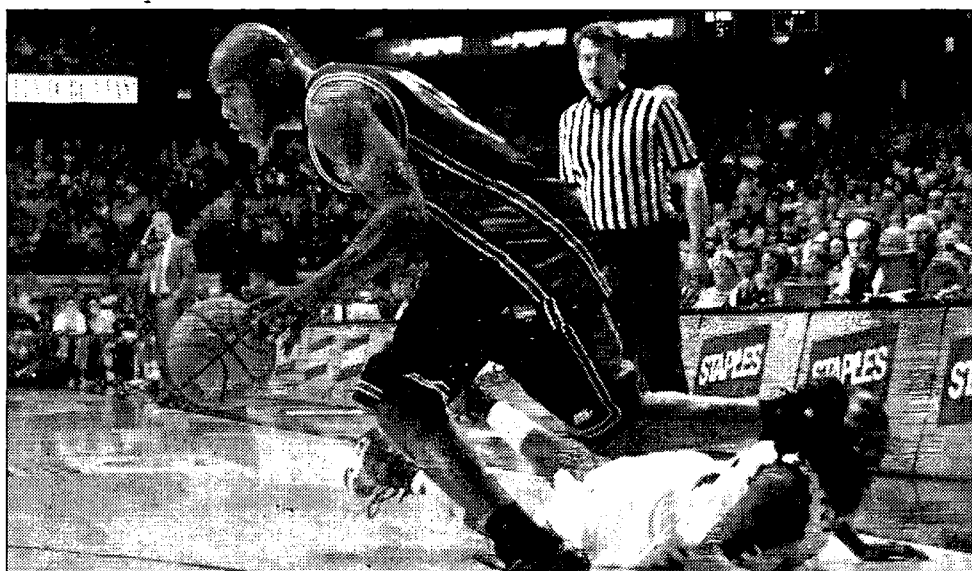
By CHRIS HINE
Sports Writer

After dropping their last two games at South Florida and DePaul, the road weary Irish return home tonight to face Providence with key positioning in the Big East standings — and Notre Dame's 15-0 home record — on the line.

"It feels good to be back home. This home floor has been good to us," Irish forward Rob Kurz said. "We're excited after being on the road to get a chance to play in front of the home fans."

In their last outing Saturday, the Friars' (15-8, 5-5 Big East) upset bid against No. 5/7 Pittsburgh fell short. Despite building a six-

see FRIARS/page 18



ALLISON AMBROSE/The Observer

Irish guard Russell Carter drives the baseline during Notre Dame's 67-66 loss at DePaul Feb. 8. Notre Dame returns home tonight to face Providence at 7 p.m.

SMC BASKETBALL

Belles need overtime, top Britons

Kessler drops 23 for Saint Mary's in win

By MICHAEL BRYAN
Sports Writer

After a 10-foot jumper by Albion guard Jessica Babcock sent the game to overtime, Saint Mary's took over in the bonus period, winning 71-63 Wednesday at the Angela Athletic Center.

The Belles dominated the overtime period, scoring on six of their 10 possessions while forcing four turnovers after regulation.

Belles guard Allison Kessler gave Saint Mary's a 59-57 lead with only 40 seconds left after nailing a running layup before Babcock's game-tying shot.

The win not only clinched the No. 3 seed for the Belles in the MIAA tournament, but it also avenged Saint Mary's (11-11, 10-5 MIAA) 72-69 overtime loss Jan. 17 at Albion (13-10, 8-7).

"That loss really served as motivation," Saint Mary's coach Jennifer Henley said. "That made this win that much sweeter."

The game was far more heavily contested than the final score indicated, with 16 ties and neither team leading by more than five points during regulation.

see BELLES/page 17

FOOTBALL

Weis testifies in malpractice suit Wednesday

Coach claims surgeons failed to notice internal bleeding, infections

Associated Press

BOSTON — Despite the potential risks, Notre Dame coach Charlie Weis decided to have gastric bypass surgery because he was afraid he would one day "drop dead" if he didn't lose weight.

Weis, who suffered life-threatening complications and nearly

died after the June 2002 surgery, testified Wednesday in his medical malpractice case against two surgeons that he has struggled with his weight all his life.

"I've probably been on every diet known to mankind," he said in response to questions from his lawyer, Michael Mone.



Weis

Weis, whose father died of a heart attack at 56, said he worried he wouldn't be able to see his two children grow up or reach his goal of becoming a head coach.

"The foremost concern was that I was going to drop dead," Weis said when his lawyer asked about his motivation for the surgery.

Weis claims in his suit that Massachusetts General Hospital physicians Charles Ferguson and Richard Hodin acted negligently by failing to recognize life-threatening internal bleed-

ing and infection two days after the surgery.

Defense lawyers have said the doctors cared for Weis properly and that he experienced one of the known complications of the surgery.

Weis spent more than a month in the hospital after the surgery, lost feeling in his feet, and has had mobility problems since the surgery. He still needs a golf cart to get around practice at Notre Dame, and standing for up to five hours straight

see TRIAL/page 18

FENCING

Senior sabre Valerie Provenza places team first en route to winning most matches in Notre Dame history.

page 16

ND WOMEN'S TENNIS

Notre Dame 6 Michigan 1

Freshman Cosmina Ciobanu grabs four points to clinch No. 2 Irish over No. 23 Wolverines.

page 15

MLB

Giants pitcher Barry Zito adjusts well to San Francisco. The Giants have yet to sign slugger Barry Bonds.

page 14

MLB

BALCO attorney Troy Ellerman confesses to leaking grand jury testimony to Bay Area writers Mark Fainaru-Wada and Lance Williams.

page 13

MLB

Yankees closer Mariano Rivera announces he will not favor New York when he becomes a free agent.

page 13

NBA

Boston 117 Milwaukee 97

Celtics forward Paul Pierce scores 32 points to help end Boston's 18-game losing streak.

page 12