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Brown chooses new chief executive

Sheena Plamoottil's selection solidifies all-female team in student government's top three



Junior Sheena Plamoottil was selected by student body president-elect Liz Brown to serve as chief executive assistant.

By KAITLYNN RIELY
Associate News Editor

Student body president-elect Liz Brown and vice president-elect Maris Braun took one of their first steps as student government leaders Tuesday when they announced Pangborn senator and Senate Social Concerns chair Sheena Plamoottil as their Chief Executive Assistant (CEA).

Plamoottil will fill the position Brown currently holds under the Lizzi Shappell-Bill Andrichik administration.

Brown called Plamoottil the "best person for the job" and

said she has followed her progress closely in the Senate.

Plamoottil redefined the Social Concerns committee at the beginning of the year, Brown said, and "she really took the committee and ran with it and has gotten some good things accomplished."

The selection of Plamoottil fills the top three positions in the student government with women, something that has never before happened at Notre Dame.

Brown said she is happy to be part of history, but said the choice of Plamoottil was

see CEA/page 6

Students give thanks to donors

Letters to be written to benefactors

By STEVE KERINS
News Writer

Students are giving thanks today for the nearly \$68 million received by the University for scholarships this year by partaking in "Thanksgiving in February," an event organized by the Development Office allowing students to personally thank individual donors.

"Thanksgiving in February" is basically an event to educate the students to the importance of donors to Notre Dame and to give the students the opportunity to say thank you," said Aly Baumgartner, a member of the Senior Class Gift Committee helping to organize today's campaign.

From noon to 7 p.m. today, students can stop by the Sorin Room in LaFortune to compose a note thanking Notre Dame's donors for their contributions.

The Development Office will post some of the responses on its Web site and make others available in print.

Throughout the day, seniors on the Gift Committee and Development Office staff members will be on hand explaining the purpose of "Thanksgiving in February" and situating students at computer stations.

Baumgartner said that the event's timing is not acciden-

see DONORS/page 6

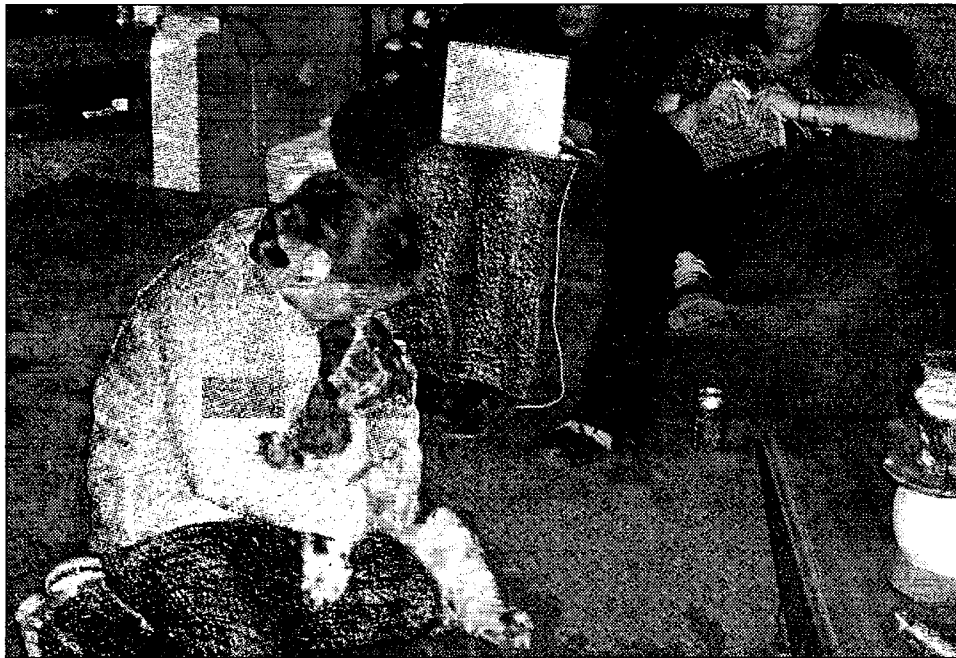
Conflict arises over pets in dormitories

By EVA BINDA
News Writer

Beginning last fall, controversy has been brewing in Pasquerilla East Hall because of a new resident, hand-chosen by the dorm's rectress, Breyan Tornifolio. The unconventional resident is a cocker spaniel dog named Ella.

Though numerous dorms on campus have pets, Ella's presence in Pasquerilla East caused a slew of problems for three students — Jacqueline Collins, Catherine Wetten and Lauren Carr — who suffer from allergies.

Originally placed in the dorm because it is air-conditioned — and thus the best placement for students suffering from severe allergies — the women were left with a tough decision following Ella's debut. They could either stay in Pasquerilla East and deal with recurring health problems or move out of the dorm.



Pasquerilla East rectress Breyan Tornifolio plays with Ella, the dorm's cocker spaniel, Tuesday on the first floor of the residence hall.

see PETS/page 4

Computer difficulties delay SMC elections

By MANDI STIRONE
News Writer

Student Class Elections at Saint Mary's have been postponed for the second time as many days because of administrative problems with the computer system students use to vote, Board of Governance members said.

Students were supposed to vote Monday using Prism — the Saint Mary's Internet program used for various academic processes as well as Student Election voting. Because of recurring problems, voting was pushed back to yesterday and then rescheduled again for today. Students received an e-mail Tuesday from the Board of Governance informing them of

the voting difficulties and the procedures that needs to be followed.

"Elections for class boards have been postponed until [tonight] due to problems with Prism. The survey on Prism has been reset. Voting will start at 12:00 p.m. [tonight] and will last until 11:59 p.m. [Thursday.] If you have already voted, you must vote again," the e-mail said.

Elections Commissioner Christin Molnar first noticed problems Friday when she realized that the online survey would not be ready in time for the Prism voting to begin Monday. Because of that error, the voting was pushed back to Tuesday, she said.

The candidates were notified

see VOTING/page 8

Dinner held for Cambodian school

Students raise funds for PEPYND

By ROHAN ANAND
News Writer

Nearly 100 students skipped the dining hall Tuesday. Instead of dinner, they attended a Thai-Cambodian fundraising dinner for Cambodian schoolchildren and a school they hope will be built.

One hundred percent of the proceeds from the evening — which was the Student International Business Council's second fundraising dinner this winter — went toward the Protect the Environment, Protect Yourself (PEPY Ride) organization. The



Members of PEPYND serve Thai and Cambodian food at the group's fundraiser Tuesday in the Sorin Room of LaFortune.

see PEPY/page 8

INSIDE COLUMN

The thrill of the fall

I love the feeling of skydiving.
I love the freedom that I get up in the air.

Jumping's scary. When I jump out of that plane, I struggle to do it at first. I look down and see how big the fall can be, and wonder what's the worst that can happen. I quickly realize that the worst thing that can happen is something that kind of sucks. I could die.

John Tierney

News Wire
Editor

But honestly, what are the chances of that? I'm not really sure, but I know that they're pretty slim. I'm much more likely to break something — my leg, my arm, my skull, who knows what else.

When I first jump out of the plane, I'm scared. I think ... what's going to happen to me? What all can I break? What all will I break? Will I still have a skull? What it still be intact? Will they be able to fix everything I break?

But then, after a little while, I calm down, which is hard, considering I'm still thousands of feet up in the air and there's still no way of knowing if I will land safely. But I realize that I can't enjoy the skydiving experience (and, obviously, I'm up there because I want to enjoy it) if I don't just relax and let gravity and my parachute take me away.

I've taken a risk. It could end badly, but I wouldn't have bothered taking the risk if I thought that it would. I would never have allowed myself to go skydiving in the first place if I thought that I'd die, or if I thought I'd wind up with a broken skull. So I let myself enjoy the fall, and trust that I will be safe.

Skydiving is not a sport for the weak. You have to know your bodily limits on earth before you attempt to challenge them in the air. You must be confident in your own skin, on your own surface, before reaching out to the different environment of the vast sky. Otherwise, it's bound to end in a failure of some variety.

I love skydiving. But I've only done it once. I don't want to go again, even though I can't name an experience I've had that I've enjoyed more. Nothing compares to the excitement I got when I realized that I was totally exposed, that anything — for better or for worse — could happen to me when I hit the ground. Nothing compares to the serenity and peace I felt when I realized I didn't care what happened when I hit ground, because the thrill of the fall itself was worth whatever price I might have to pay later with broken limbs (or even with a broken skull).

Before I went skydiving, I had one love in my life — cookies. Skydiving tripled that number. Now I love skydiving, but, more importantly, I love the ground that I hit.

Do something you love today.

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

Contact John Tierney at jtierne1@nd.edu

CORRECTIONS

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

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT CELEBRITY WOULD YOU LIKE TO COME TO CAMPUS? WHY?



Andrea Baker
sophomore
Welsh Family

"Stacy and Clinton because there's so many people who walk around campus in pajamas."



Caroline Green
sophomore
Cavanaugh

"Will Ferrell. This place needs a little more cowbell."



Jean Henegan
junior
Lewis

"Daniel Craig because those eyes and that accent."



Tony Piskurich
sophomore
St. Edward's

"Rosie O'Donnell because then we could have more controversy."



Kevin Prawdzik
sophomore
Fisher

"Barack Obama because he makes my life worthwhile."



ANDREW STEVES/The Observer

Mike Lavery, center, and Tim Campbell, far right, race in the Men's A category race in Columbus, Ohio at an event put on by Ohio State this weekend.

OFFBEAT

Janitor spends weekend in courthouse

POUGHKEEPSIE, N.Y. — Think you had a boring weekend? Talk to Harold Jones. The 32-year-old janitor spent two and a half days without food, water or access to a bathroom after he was accidentally locked in a secure room at an upstate courthouse.

Jones was mopping the floor in a meeting room at the Dutchess County Courthouse in Poughkeepsie on Friday night when the door swung shut, locking him in.

To make matters worse, he had left his cell phone in his coat, which was in another room.

Jones banged on the door, but no one heard him until yesterday morning, when a county employee found him in the room.

Even though he was stuck for nearly 60 hours, Jones said he was so upset by his ordeal that he couldn't eat.

Students still see bats in school

ETAIRIE, La. — Students at East Jefferson High School say they see bats in the school even though school officials and an exterminator say they've been moved out.

"One fell from the ceiling in my chemistry class," Sarah Jones said.

Last week, officials said the bats had been contained to

three second-story storage rooms and were never in contact with students. They said that as of Friday bat control experts had caught and released the last of the bats, estimated at nearly 1,000.

School system spokesman Jeff Nowakowski said he would investigate the students' claims. He said he was told by experts from Acadian Rodent & Animal Control that the problem had been solved.

Assistant Principal Maureen Bayhi said students seemed to be exaggerating the problem.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

The Department of Film, Television and Theatre presents Agatha Christie's "The Mousetrap" on the Decio Mainstage Theatre at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. The show opens today at 7:30 p.m., and continues until March 4. Evening performances are at 7:30 and the Sunday matinee is at 2:30 p.m. Ticket prices are \$12 for the general public, \$10 for senior citizens, ND faculty and staff and \$8 for students.

There will be a panel presentation on "Sex and the City of God" tonight at 7:30 in 101 DeBartolo Hall. It will examine the interplay between Catholicism and contemporary culture.

Muslim prayer and meditation will take place tonight at 7 in room 330 of the Coleman-Morse Center.

Breen-Phillips Hall will host the annual Breen-Phillips Meal Auction today from 7 to 9 p.m. in the LaFortune Ballroom. Meals with "campus celebrities" will be auctioned off and a silent auction for restaurant gift certificates will be held, all proceeds to benefit Meals on Wheels.

Freshmen can vote Thursday in the run-off election for the sophomore class council. Voting will take place between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. Students can access the voting Web site by clicking on a link in an e-mail from the Judicial Council.

Legends will host Last Comic Standing Thursday at 10 p.m. Admission is free.

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

	TODAY	TONIGHT	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
	HIGH 40 LOW 35	HIGH 25 LOW 17	HIGH 45 LOW 30	HIGH 34 LOW 24	HIGH 30 LOW 21	HIGH 31 LOW 22

Atlanta 52 / 43 Boston 33 / 27 Chicago 32 / 28 Denver 36 / 22 Houston 65 / 52 Los Angeles 55 / 49 Minneapolis 31 / 19 New York 41 / 30 Philadelphia 42 / 29 Phoenix 67 / 46 Seattle 41 / 33 St. Louis 38 / 29 Tampa 76 / 64 Washington 41 / 32

COUNCIL OF REPRESENTATIVES

Members to debate, vote on two fiscal amendments

By SONIA RAO
News Writer

Student body vice president Bill Andrichik announced Tuesday that two amendments will be debated and voted on tomorrow concerning the fiscal policies discussed during recent Council of Representatives (COR) meetings.

One of the amendments concerns moving presidential division of the Student Union Board's budget to Student Government's budget.

The presidential division is a separate part of the SUB budget set aside for programming that is used by student government. SUB manager Patrick Vassel proposed that the funds be moved out of SUB budget and into student government funding.

Andrichik said that the oversight committee has approved the request.

"The new amendment would require that the student body president make a formal request for allocation to the office of the president budget that would encompass all policy-based programming," he said.

The second amendment concerns the amount of money groups are able to spend without needing approval. As of now, any expenditures over \$5,000 need approval, but some groups, such as the Student Union Board, have large budgets and consistently need to spend over \$5,000.

The new plan under the proposed

amendment would be a "hybrid model," Andrichik said, with the limit being "five percent of the group budget or \$5,000, whichever is higher."

In other COR News:

♦ Judicial Council President Liz Kozlow reported that both senior and junior class council elections were suspended due to both senior and junior candidates running unopposed. The sophomore class council elections resulted in a run-off, which will take place Thursday, she said.

♦ Student Union Treasurer Steve Friend nominated Kadeja Gaines as his successor for the term that begins March 1.

"Kadeja is qualified, dedicated, and hard-working," Friend said in a recommendation letter to the COR members.

"As an assistant, she has demonstrated the ambition, drive, and capacity necessary to serve the student body," Friend said.

Gaines was approved.

♦ Club Coordination Council President Kerry Kilbourn presented a COR Collaboration Fund Appeal for Disability Awareness Month sponsored by Best Buddies, Perspectives and Sophomore Class Council. Most of the proposed funding is to be spent toward a speaker, Kilbourn said. The event was granted \$1,385.

Contact Sonia Rao at
srao1@nd.edu

Seminar explores media use

By SONIA RAO
News Writer

While students in dorm rooms across the country have been influenced by popular Web sites like Facebook.com and YouTube, it isn't always clear if this technology is relevant in the real world. Tonight's New Age Media Seminar at the Mendoza College of Business plans to explore just how sites like MySpace.com have changed the business world and why marketing students should be interested.

"[The event is] the first of its kind," said Marketing Club President Michelle Brintnall, whose organization is sponsoring the event. "Right now is one of the most dynamic times for technology. The seminar is designed to highlight information from both sides of media markets: the companies using the media to gain exposure and the agencies selling them."

Though the subject directly speaks to market-

ing majors, Brintnall said the target audience also includes majors that touch on the industry, such as graphic design, film, television and theatre, computer science, engineering and MBA students. She said absorbing information on such a vanguard topic could help anyone during their job search.

"Such exposure will present incredible talking points and also generate business knowledge that all marketing majors should have," Brintnall said. "Talking points like these separate good interviews from great ones."

Vice presidents of sales and directors from YouTube, MySpace and Starcom Media Group will address some of the issues of new age media becoming integrated into the

business world.

"I would say that a majority of these speakers are Notre Dame graduates," Brintnall said.

"Some of them are recent alums, like from 2003 or 2004, so they know what [students] are going through. They don't have the superiority of the corporate world."

Included on the roster are Bryce Emo, vice president of Branded

Sales for MySpace, Mark Flaherty, director of sales for YouTube and Google and Carolyn Sweeney and Beth Doyle, Starcom Media Supervisors.

Brintnall also said that people from local corporations and businesses in town will be in attendance.

The event begins at 5 p.m. in room 122 of the Mendoza College of Business.

"Right now is one of the most dynamic times for technology."

Michelle Brintnall
president
Marketing Club

Contact Sonia Rao at
srao1@nd.edu

Please recycle The Observer.

Peggy McIntosh speaking on
White PrivilegeJoin the dialogue
on diversity!

Workshop: "Deriving Racial Understanding
From Our Own Experiences"

Keynote Address "How I Came To See I Had a
Privilege and What I'm Learning I Can Do With It"

Peggy McIntosh, Ph.D., is the associate director of the Wellesley Centers for Women, and the founder and co-director of the National S.E.E.D. (Seeking Educational Equity and Diversity) Project on Inclusive Curriculum. McIntosh directs the Gender, Race, and Inclusive Education Project, which provides workshops on privilege systems, feelings of fraudulence, and diversifying workplaces, curricula, and teaching methods.

To register please contact:

Office of Multicultural Affairs
Saint Mary's College
214 Student Center
Phone: (574) 284-4721
DSL@stmarys.edu

Explosion of Diversity



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- Develop education and interactive skills to transform the challenges of diversity into opportunities
- Become empowered leaders actively promoting the advantages of diversity

Pets

continued from page 1

One such student was sophomore Catherine Wetten, who moved into Lyons Hall at the beginning of the semester because of asthma and allergies that were intensified by living in Pasquerilla East. She began experiencing congestion and pain while sleeping and "really bad headaches because I wasn't getting enough oxygen."

"It's a ridiculous situation. You'd never think you'd get replaced by an animal," said Wetten's former roommate Karla Albite.

Although Wetten was able to move to Lyons, she said the solution was not a good one.

"I was upset and didn't want to move. I have bad airborne allergies. I'm just hoping it doesn't get too warm for too long," said Wetten, referring to the fact that Lyons Hall does not have air-conditioning.

Wetten and Carr, who still reside in Pasquerilla East, are hoping to move to McGlenn, a currently petless dorm, next fall.

"My main issue was that it didn't have to be a win-lose situation," Carr said. "There are breeds of dogs that are better for [people] with allergies. Cocker spaniels are not one of them. I don't understand why there couldn't be a different breed of dog in the dorm."

But Wetten's decision to move was not made without discussions and attempts at negotiation with the Office of Residential Life and Housing and the Pasquerilla East rectress.

Tornifolio met with all the residents with allergy issues after receiving a letter from Carr.

The letter detailed the reasons why Carr felt that having a pet in the dorm was unjust — including that the students "are paying \$40,000 to attend this University, we have lived here longer, we will have a harder time adjusting to a new housing arrangement, we are more productive and active members of the community of PE

and Notre Dame, and it is our health and well-being that is sacrificed."

Still, Tornifolio said that she felt the discussion was "pretty open and honest."

"I'd like to think we've been working together to try to find some solution," she said.

In order to try to appease all parties, the dog is confined to a certain area of the building — Tornifolio's room — and only goes through the lobby to be taken out for walks.

"[The dog] is not allowed to be in spaces where the community would gather such as common areas. We try to be understanding of those with allergies," said Tornifolio, who also noted that residents with allergies tend to not live on the first floor so they are not near the pet on a daily basis.

The Office of Residence Life performed a risk assessment

and decided that it was not necessary to force Tornifolio to get rid of the dog.

Wetten, however, said she got the feeling that "ResLife and [the Office of] Student Affairs hasn't been paying much attention to it."

"I may have up to three friends forced to leave the dorm on the account of a pet, and I know that in my case I would so much prefer these three people in my dorm than a pet."

Erin Buckley
junior

one dorm for each gender designated as an allergies dorm.

According to junior Erin Buckley, "I may have up to three friends forced to leave the dorm on account of a pet, and I know that in my case I would so much prefer these

three people in my dorm than a dog."

Pasquerilla East is not the only residence on campus with a pet. Numerous other dormitories — including Pasquerilla West, Stanford and Fisher — all house pets like cats or dogs.

But rectors have not always been allowed to have pets in the dorms. Only after a policy change made by Vice President for Student Affairs Father Mark Poorman in 1999 were rectors permitted to keep pets.

The idea was that dorm pets often improve the sense of community and help students interact with their rector.

"I think having a dog is a huge asset to the community," Tornifolio said.

Pets can also provide comfort to students who are homesick, especially freshmen who are away from home for the first time.

"For many freshmen,

Jackson [a chocolate Labrador retriever] seems to be a really good thing for them," said Amy de la Torre, rectress of Cavanaugh Hall. "They come to take him for a walk or to just pet him because they miss their own pets at home."

"With any community, you have to go with the greatest good and that's the only way community works."

Amy de la Torre
rectress
Cavanaugh Hall

Although de la Torre has not heard of any residents having problems with the dog in Cavanaugh, an older dorm, she does believe dorm life is about community and would take the dog out of the dorm depending on the

number of girls experiencing problems versus the amount who received enjoyment from the dog.

"With any community, you have to go with the greatest good and that's the only way community works," said de la Torre.

Contact Eva Binda at
jbinda@nd.edu

Turtle Creek Apartment Homes

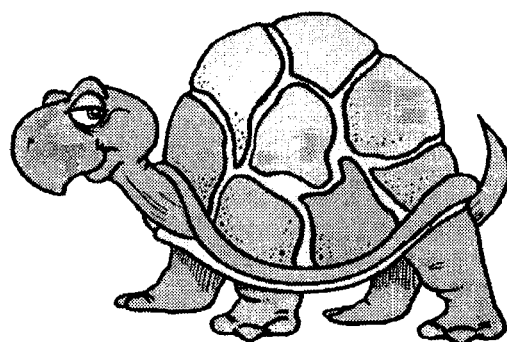
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What's the Future of this Relationship?

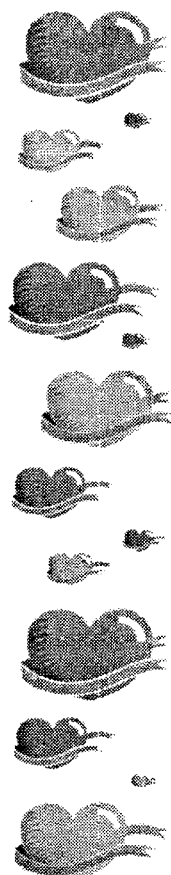
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Dillon.15@nd.edu; 631-7163



WORLD & NATION

Wednesday, February 28, 2007

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

North, South Korea resume talks

SEOUL — North and South Korea held high-level reconciliation talks Tuesday for the first time since the communist nation's nuclear test in October, paving the way for a resumption of aid to the impoverished country.

The meetings came as North Korea showed strong signs of commitment to its Feb. 13 pledge at international arms talks to shut down its main nuclear reactor within 60 days in exchange for energy aid.

It has already invited the chief U.N. nuclear inspector to visit to discuss verification of a shutdown.

North Korea's main nuclear negotiator, Vice Foreign Minister Kim Kye Gwan, headed for the United States for talks on following through on the landmark deal on dismantling its nuclear weapons program. Kim stopped over in Beijing en route to the U.S., the Chinese Foreign Ministry said.

Hamas not ready to recognize Israel

MOSCOW — Hamas has pledged to end missile attacks and violence against Israel, Russia's foreign minister said Tuesday, but the radical Palestinian group's spiritual leader struck a less conciliatory note, saying it was not ready to recognize Israel.

With Russia markedly increasing its efforts in Middle East peacemaking, Khaled Mashaal traveled to Moscow for the second time in a year — amid deep Israeli consternation — in a visit that reflected the Kremlin's position that negotiations, rather than sanctions, are the best way to deal with Hamas.

His reception shows that Hamas is gaining at least tentative support outside the Middle East.

NATIONAL NEWS

Officials: Castro era to end this year

WASHINGTON — Repression is increasing in Cuba under the control of Raul Castro, and the domination of the government by his brother, Fidel, is nearing an end, Bush administration officials said Tuesday.

"In Cuba, this year will mark the end of the long domination of that country by Fidel Castro," Mike McConnell, the nation's new spy chief, told Congress.

McConnell, who did not explain his remark, told the Senate Armed Services Committee that significant positive change immediately after Fidel Castro's death was unlikely. He said Raul Castro has had the opportunity to solidify his control in the seven months since his brother's incapacitating illness last July.

Conservatives call Gore 'hypocrite'

NASHVILLE — Al Gore, a leading voice in the fight against global warming, is being called a hypocrite by a conservative group that claims his Nashville mansion uses too much electricity.

But a spokeswoman for Gore said the former vice president invests in enough renewable energy to make up for the home's power consumption.

Gore's documentary film "An Inconvenient Truth" won an Oscar on Sunday for chronicling his campaign against global warming.

The next day, the Tennessee Center for Policy Research put out a news release saying Gore was not doing enough to reduce his own consumption of electricity.

LOCAL NEWS

Bill raises General Assembly salaries

INDIANAPOLIS — Lawmakers' salaries would nearly double but their retirement packages would be reduced under a bill that cleared the Senate Tuesday on a 39-9 vote.

The legislation would increase the base salary for Indiana General Assembly members from the current \$11,600 a year to more than \$20,700, said bill sponsor Sen. Gary Dillon, a Republican from Pierceton.

"We must have a good package if we're going to enable people from all walks of life to have the opportunity to do this job," Dillon said.

AFGHANISTAN

Failed assassination attempt kills 23

Suicide bomber attacks U.S. military base during visit by Vice President Cheney

Associated Press

BAGRAM — In what the Taliban claimed was an assassination attempt, a suicide bomber attacked the main gate of a U.S. military base Tuesday within earshot of Vice President Dick Cheney. The explosion killed 23 people, including two Americans, and delivered a propaganda blow that undercut the U.S. military and the weak Afghan government it supports.

The bomber struck about 10 a.m., and U.S. military officials declared a "red alert" at the sprawling Bagram Air Base while Cheney was rushed to a bomb shelter. Cheney, who had been stranded at the base overnight by a snowstorm, met with President Hamid Karzai in the capital before heading back to the United States via the Gulf state of Oman.

"I heard a loud boom," Cheney told reporters aboard Air Force Two en route to Oman. "The Secret Service came in and told me there had been an attack on the main gate."

Many of the victims were said to be Afghan truck drivers waiting to get inside the base. A dozen men — many of them sobbing heavily — left the base holding a stretcher bearing their loved ones wrapped in black body bags. Tears streamed down the face of one man sitting in the passenger seat of an SUV that carried another victim away.

Although the bomber did not get closer than roughly a mile to the vice president, the attack highlighted an increasingly precarious security situation posed by the resurgent Taliban. Five years after U.S.-led forces toppled their regime, Taliban-led militants have stepped up attacks. There were 139 suicide bombings last year, a fivefold increase over 2005, and a fresh wave of violence is expected this spring.



Relatives carry the dead body of an Afghan man killed during a suicide attack. The attack targeted Vice President Cheney at the main U.S. air base in Bagram Tuesday.

The guerrillas, according to NATO officials, have the flexibility to organize an attack quickly and may have been able to plan a bombing at the base while Cheney was there after hearing news reports on Monday that he was delayed by bad weather. The Taliban have attacked in the area north of the capital in the past even though people living in the Bagram area have not been supportive of the guerrillas. Col. Tom Collins, the top spokesman for the NATO force, said the Taliban had a cell in Kabul that could have traveled the 30 miles north to Bagram.

Asked if the Taliban were trying to send a message

with the attack, Cheney said: "I think they clearly try to find ways to question the authority of the central government. Striking at Bagram with a suicide bomber, I suppose, is one way to do that. But it shouldn't affect our behavior at all."

Cheney was the highest-ranking U.S. official to stay overnight in either the Afghanistan or Iraq war zones.

President Bush was not awakened to be told about the attack, but received an update early Tuesday morning. White House press secretary Tony Snow said Bush's first reaction was to ask if Cheney was OK.

A message posted on a Web site used by militants said "a mujahid (holy warrior) ... carried out a suicide attack in front of the second gate of the Bagram Air Base. ... The target was Bush's vice president, Dick Cheney."

A purported Taliban spokesman, Qari Yousef Ahmadi, said Cheney was the target of the attack carried out by an Afghan named Mullah Abdul Rahim.

"We knew that Dick Cheney would be staying inside the base," Ahmadi told The Associated Press by telephone from an undisclosed location. "The attacker was trying to reach Cheney."

U.S. to join Iraq-sponsored meeting

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In a diplomatic turnabout, the Bush administration will join an Iraq-sponsored "neighbors meeting" with Iran and Syria, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said Tuesday.

It marked a change of approach by the United States, which has resisted calls by members of Congress and by a bipartisan Iraq review group to include Iran and Syria in talks designed to stabilize Iraq.

The move came amid growing discontent over the war, even as President Bush rushes an additional 21,500 U.S. troops to Iraq and congressional

Democrats struggle to settle on their next steps to end U.S. participation.

The administration said its decision to take part in the Iraq conference did not represent a change of heart, although the White House has accused both Iran and Syria of deadly meddling in the war. "We've always been inclined to participate in an Iraqi-led conference," White House counselor Dan Bartlett said.

The administration in recent weeks has increased its criticism of Iran's role in Iraq, charging it with supplying advanced technologies for the most lethal form of roadside bombs. The administration has accused Syria of harboring anti-Iraqi government forces

and allowing weapons to cross its border.

Rice announced U.S. support for the Iraq meeting, to be held in Baghdad next month, at a Senate hearing in which Democrats pressed her and Defense Secretary Robert Gates to explain what progress is being made in the Baghdad security crackdown and how soon U.S. troops will be coming home.

"There is no end, I say, no end in sight," exclaimed Sen. Robert Byrd, D-W.Va., the Appropriations Committee chairman. He decried the spending of \$10 billion a month in Iraq and Afghanistan amid raging sectarian and insurgent violence.

CEA

continued from page 1

because she was the most qualified.

Plamoottil called the selection of an all-female ticket for president and vice president "long-awaited."

"I think that it's an awesome accomplishment for women," she said. "I think that we are very capable young women and I think that is great that the student body has elected two women. I am happy and proud to join that team as the third woman."

Plamoottil said her ideas and her passion for student government align closely with those of Brown and Braun. Once their administration takes office Plamoottil said she would like to work with them to address advocacy issues and make student government more open to student concerns.

As the CEA, Plamoottil will serve as the chair of the Executive Programming Board, coordinate Student Senate activities and run the daily logistics of the student government office.

"It's a unique job because it's a lot of tying up loose ends and a lot of making sure that things run smoothly," Brown said.

And it's a job Plamoottil said she is "pumped" to start once turnover occurs April 1.

"I had previously wanted to run for student body president,

but with my major and the MCATs, I wasn't able to run," she said. "So this is the next best thing and I think it will be perfect for what I want to do and the passion I've had for student government all my life."

Plamoottil, a science pre-professional and psychology double major, has been involved in student government at Notre Dame since she sat on the Freshman Class Council.

She was a committee chair for the Sophomore Class Council the following year.

She said her experience in the policy-making arena of student government this year has prepared her with effective

leadership skills and taught her important lessons.

"I've never been afraid to take on multiple initiatives at the same time and work hard for the end that we want to see," Plamoottil said.

Brown's tenure as CEA set a good example for her to follow, she said.

"She took several initiatives and ran with them," Plamoottil said. "That will be something that I hope to do as well."

Plamoottil is only the fourth CEA in Notre Dame student government. The position was first held by former student body president Dave Baron and then by current Judicial Council president Liz Kozlow the following year.

Contact Kaitlynn Riely at kriely@nd.edu

"I think that we are very capable young women and I think that is great that the student body has elected two women. I am happy and proud to join that team as the third woman."

Sheena Plamoottil
chief executive
assistant-select

Donors

continued from page 1

tal.

The end of February "is roughly the time when, if Notre Dame relied solely on tuition money, [funds] would run out," she said. "March, April and May run primarily on donor money ... It's also around the date when student financial aid forms are due."

This year's "Thanksgiving in February" event will be very informal, relying heavily on the interest of passersby, Baumgartner said.

"It's just going to be kind of foot traffic. I'm hoping we can just draw people's interest and their curiosity and have them come in," she said.

The purpose of "Thanksgiving in February" is to allow students an opportunity to share their gratitude with University donors, who they may not otherwise be in contact with, Notre Dame's scholarship coordinator and Assistant Director of Financial Aid Jeff Pethick said.

"We hope that, by sharing appreciation, benefactors will understand the positive impact of their generosity," Pethick said.

Despite the potential for an increase in donations that "Thanksgiving in February" may provide, Pethick said that the University's facilitation of this event is not done with an eye toward

securing funds for the thirds of the \$68 million — future.

"Although sharing appreciation with donors may increase scholarship giving over the long term, our efforts are focused on cultivating opportunities for students to share appreciation with donors," Pethick said.

Still, Baumgartner stressed that contributions from individual donors — which made up nearly two-

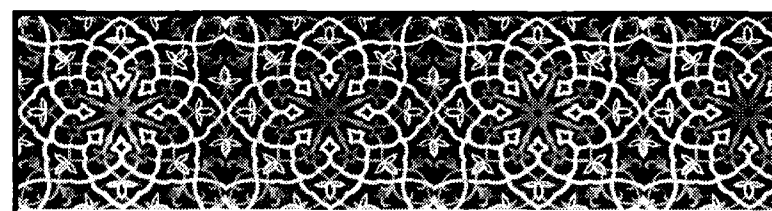
thirds of the \$68 million — are a vital component in students' ability to finance a Notre Dame education.


"Tuition can't run the University," Baumgartner said. "So even if a student doesn't receive financial aid, which so many students do, that's why it's so important [to say thank you]."

"I'm hoping we can just draw people's interest and their curiosity to have them come in."

Aly Baumgartner
Senior Class Gift
committee member

Contact Steve Kerins at skerins@nd.edu



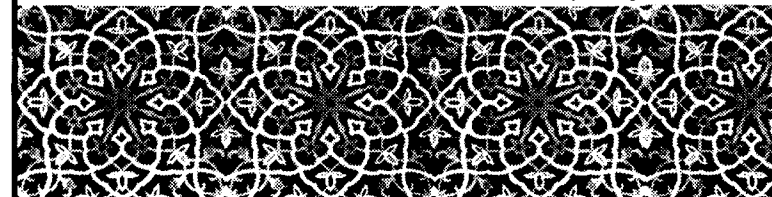


Muslim Prayer
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Stocks

Dow Jones 12,216.24 -416.02

Up: 456 Same: 97 Down: 2,867 Composite Volume: 4,243,072,920

AMEX	2,105.03	+70.54
NASDAQ	2,407.86	-96.66
NYSE	9,079.41	-342.03
S&P 500	1,399.04	-50.33
NIKKEI(Tokyo)	17,475.07	-644.85
FTSE 100(London)	6,286.10	-148.60

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
NASDAQ 100 TR (QQQQ)	-4.11	-1.85	43.19
ISHARE RUS 2000 (IWM)	-4.53	-3.70	78.05
INTEL CP (INTC)	-3.93	-0.82	20.03
S&P DEP RECEIPTS (SPY)	-3.91	-5.67	139.50

Treasuries

10-YEAR NOTE	-2.55	-0.118	4.513
13-WEEK BILL	-1.09	-0.055	4.99
30-YEAR BOND	-2.18	-0.103	4.63
5-YEAR NOTE	-3.01	-0.139	4.475

Commodities

LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl.)	+0.11	61.50
GOLD (\$/Troy oz.)	-2.60	687.20
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)	-1.15	103.15

Exchange Rates

YEN	118.5500
EURO	0.7567
POUND	0.5095
CANADIAN \$	1.1673

IN BRIEF

Toyota to build new \$1.3 billion plant

TUPELO, Miss. — Toyota Motor Corp.'s Highlander sport utility vehicle should start rolling off the assembly line at a new, \$1.3 billion plant in northeast Mississippi by 2010, company and state officials said Tuesday.

Toyota disclosed the site for its eighth vehicle assembly plant in North America, saying it will be built on a 1,700-acre site at Blue Springs, about 10 miles northwest of Tupelo. It also considered sites in neighboring states Arkansas and Tennessee.

The Mississippi plant will manufacture 150,000 Highlanders a year. It also will create 2,000 badly needed jobs in an area with an economy that has slowed because of losses in furniture manufacturing positions.

Mississippi officials courted Toyota for two-and-one-half years, mostly out of the public eye.

"As Elvis would say, 'Only fools rush in,'" Ray Tanguay, executive vice president of Toyota-Motor-Engineering and Manufacturing North America Inc., said during the company's announcement at Tupelo High School.

Managers plead guilty to illegal hires

ALBANY — Five former managers from a major crate and pallet manufacturer that employed illegal immigrants pleaded guilty Tuesday, 10 months after federal agents staged sweeping raids at company sites in 26 states.

James Rice, 37, of Houston, an executive regional general manager of IFCO Systems, pleaded guilty to conspiring to employ illegal workers. Robert Belvin, 43, of Stuart, Fla., a former general manager of the Albany IFCO plant, pleaded guilty to two felony conspiracy charges.

The two executives could face up to two years in prison and a \$250,000 fine, Assistant U.S. Attorney Tina Sciochetti said.

Netherlands-based IFCO Systems NV describes itself as the leading pallet services company in America. It reported \$108 million in profits in 2006 on revenues of \$647 million.

Chrysler will pay off workers

Company plans to pay up to \$100,000 to employees in its recovery plan

Associated Press

DETROIT — Chrysler Group will offer all 49,600 hourly workers in the U.S. up to \$100,000 to leave the company as part of a recovery plan announced earlier this month.

The company, which lost \$1.475 billion in 2006 and said it expects losses to continue through 2007, said on Feb. 14 that it would cut 13,000 jobs, including 11,000 hourly positions and 2,000 salaried, as it tries to further shrink itself to match reduced demand for its products.

A company document obtained by The Associated Press outlines an early retirement program for hourly workers near retirement age and a buyout program for those with at least one year of tenure with the company.

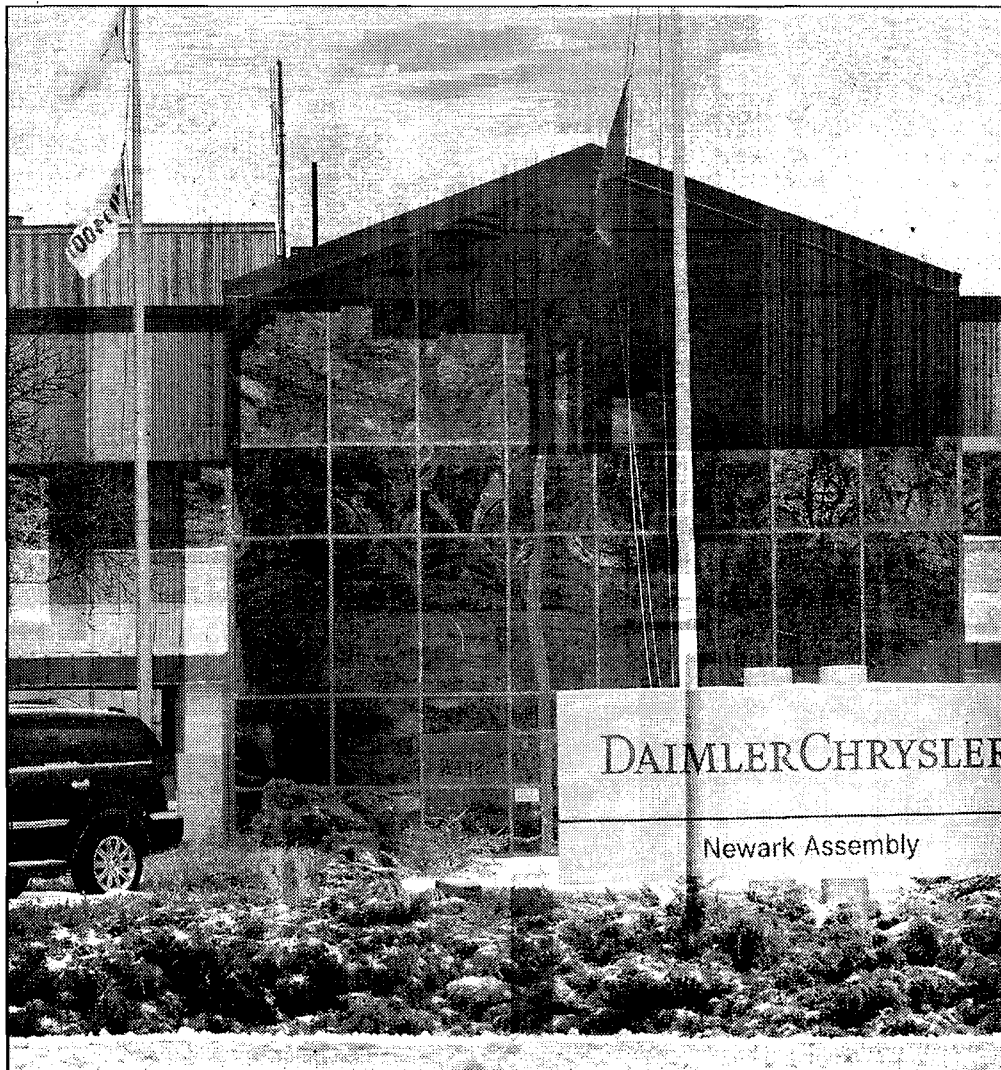
The offers were reported earlier Tuesday by The Detroit News.

Under the buyout offer, workers would receive a pretax lump-sum payment of \$100,000 plus six months of medical and vision coverage in exchange for their departure.

The early retirement package includes a \$70,000 payment, health care benefits and whatever pension a worker was eligible for based on age and years of service.

According to the document, the United-Auto-Workers-union and DaimlerChrysler AG's Chrysler Group agreed on the offers, which are not as lucrative as some made to workers leaving Ford Motor Co. and General Motors Corp. under restructuring plans.

"UAW members are once again stepping forward to make hard choices," union President Ron Gettelfinger said in a statement. "Now it's up to DaimlerChrysler to move the company forward,



Laid-off workers from this DaimlerChrysler Newark Assembly plant in Newark, Del., will be offered up to \$100,000 as part of the company's recovery program.

by using the skill and dedication of our members to deliver quality vehicles that customers want to buy."

The offers come as Chrysler tries to reduce production by 400,000 vehicles per year.

All U.S. production workers will get the offers, including those at a plant scheduled for closure in Newark, Del.

Of the production job cuts, 9,000 are in the U.S. and 2,000 are in Canada. All the cuts will take place during the next three years. Chrysler's 10,060 Canadian workers were given sepa-

rate offers earlier this month.

The company document said that each U.S. facility would have different timing for workers to take the packages, but the timing for plants slated to lose production this year will be between April and December. Further cuts scheduled for 2008 and 2009 will be done in similar fashion.

To be eligible for early retirement, workers must have 30 years with the company or be at least 60 years old and have at least 10 years of service, or be at

least 55 years old and their age and years of company service must total 85 or more. A worker also could be at least 65 and have at least one year of pension credit to be eligible, according to the document.

Chrysler, part of Germany-based DaimlerChrysler AG, said Feb. 14 that that 11 U.S. plants would be affected by the downsizing.

The Delaware plant would closed during the next two years, and Chrysler also plans to cut shifts at plants in Warren, Mich., and St. Louis.

AT&T call-center able to hire 425

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — AT&T will hire 425 people for call-center jobs that previously had been outsourced under an initiative to reinvest in the state after a sweeping telecommunications reform bill passed the Indiana Legislature last year.

AT&T will create the technical support jobs for its national broadband operations at its state headquarters in downtown Indianapolis, George Fleetwood, president of AT&T Indiana, said at a Statehouse news conference Tuesday.

The union jobs will pay more than \$40,000 annually in wages and benefits, he said.

AT&T already has begun hiring managers for the call center, but full staffing might not occur until 2009, company spokesman Mike Marker said. The center is due to start taking calls in July.

The state will provide up to \$1 million in training funds and income tax credits, and the city will provide more than \$279,000 in personal property tax abatement to AT&T, which will invest more than \$4.6 million in new equipment and other upgrades, state and local economic development officials said.

The call center jobs previously had been outsourced, but AT&T chose to bring them back in-house at Indianapolis because the passage of the telecom reform bill encourages the industry to invest in the state, Fleetwood said.

"I think these jobs could have been placed anywhere in the country where we do business," Fleetwood said. Of about 20 states that have tackled telecommunications reform in the last few years, Indiana has done so most comprehensively.

"We at AT&T believe no one has done

it better than Indiana," he said.

The General Assembly last year approved legislation that frees telephone companies from state regulations and changes the way the cable industry works.

Since then, in addition to Tuesday's announcement, AT&T and Verizon have announced they would expand high-speed DSL Internet service to 102 rural communities, and Verizon and Comcast have said they will create 375 new jobs in the state. AT&T last month also launched an Internet television service in Anderson, Bloomington, Indianapolis and Muncie, among just 11 markets nationally, Fleetwood said.

Gov. Mitch Daniels and lawmakers also have said that Indiana consumers can expect to see lower prices for cable and other services.

Daniels said AT&T had promised to invest more in Indiana if the reforms passed.

PEPYND

continued from page 1

group organizes volunteer adventure travel to developing countries, including a bike ride across Cambodia — and has its own chapter at Notre Dame.

PEPYND — a student chapter within the SIBC — assists in fundraising, research and business planning for PEPY Ride.

PEPYND put itself on the map in December by hosting its first fundraising dinner in an effort to collect \$20,000 to build a second school in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Last night's dinner represented the group's attempt to raise the last \$1,000 needed to fund the school.

"I truly believe that people have taken an interest in our initiatives," said junior PEPYND member Allison Fleece. "And we've made it pretty clear that they are supporting a good cause by attending this dinner."

Attracting an overwhelming number of student supporters, part of the organizer's intent was to help the community become aware of the situation in Cambodia.

"Our overall goal is to increase the quality and breadth of education in an underdeveloped country like Cambodia, where 75 percent of the children do not even complete the seventh grade," said Tim Rann, PEPYND president.

When the doors opened at 6 p.m., the line wrapped around the TV lounge outside the Sorin Room, and continued to augment for the next 45 minutes.

Luckily for PEPYND members, the turnout was more than expected.

"This has been an incredible turnout," said senior Christian Kondratowicz. "We were already running out of food within the first half hour."

While the long wait for a Thai/Cambodian meal may not have seemed appealing for students, there were other incentives to attend the dinner as well. There

was an abundance of information about PEPYND-organized trips to Cambodia.

"I knew there would be pamphlets containing information about volunteering one's Spring Break or Winter Break in Cambodia," said sophomore Brian Hamamoto. "So I decided to put my name on the list they had for interested students."

This Spring Break, Rann will be accompanied by nine other PEPYND members to oversee the building of this school in Phnom Penh. Rann says that during the trip, the team will be filming a documentary so that the Notre Dame patrons can "see their money put in action."

"We're encouraging students interested in joining PEPYND or who wish to travel in the future to explore our Web site — www.nd.edu/~trann — for more information," he said.

PEPYND is covering new ground to stimulate economic redevelopment in Cambodia in addition to vocational purposes by working on the Independent Travelers Database project, which encourages tourists visiting Cambodia to stay in hotels or eat in restaurants run by Cambodian families.

"Travelers often stay or eat in chains owned by foreign corporations, so it doesn't directly benefit the Cambodian economy," said Rann. "However, through this project, which will become available soon on a Web site, we will provide information to travelers about Cambodians who might have invested their life savings into operating a hotel or restaurant, and so they can take advantage of those venues."

The Street Friends Café in Phnom Penh — which is run completely by street children in Cambodia — is another project supported by PEPYND. Working in the café or the beauty salon next door, the children serve as waiters, cooks, and stylists, and in return are provided with housing, education, and spending money.

"It's a great project to help chil-

dren with no other sources of income," said Rann, "and we're pointing these travelers toward a good social objective."

Next year, with Rann graduating and moving to Cambodia, Fleece hopes to take charge of PEPYND and to bring new ideas to the

group.

"Perhaps next year, back on campus, we'll start hosting more formal dinners with more guest speakers," she said. "We also may market longer trips over summer or winter break, since it seems that Fall or Spring breaks are too short

to cram in a service trip. But our prime initiative is keep catering to the children's education, because right now it is simply too unstable to ignore."

Contact Rohan Anand at ranand@nd.edu

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?

Voting

continued from page 1

and everything was set up for the delayed election, but the problems continued once voting began. Molnar said she received several phone calls from concerned students who were able to log onto Prism, but were unable to find the survey to vote.

She said that due to the amount of students facing this problem, the elections were stopped and moved to today. Those in charge said the root of the problem is still unclear.

Though many students were not too bothered by all the confusion, many candidates are beginning to get impatient.

"I've been very frustrated with the delays and the way it has been handled administratively," said Jennie Antonelli, one of the junior presidential candidates.

Many of the candidates feel that they are putting a lot of effort

into something that is resulting in more and more setbacks.

"Basically it's just been a real frustration we just wasted so much time preparing for the 'next election' that's happening, we put in a lot of time and effort into going door to door and trying to get everyone to vote," said sophomore Taryn Pabst, Antonelli's running mate. "It's just frustrating because we're not sure if it's even going to happen tomorrow."

Even those who are running unopposed are bothered by the setbacks and sympathize with the upcoming juniors' frustrations.

"It's kind of inconvenient for everybody to vote," said freshman presidential candidate Emily Young, who is running unopposed.

Elections are scheduled to be on Prism all day today and will end tonight at midnight.

Contact Mandi Stirone at astiro01@saintmarys.edu

**Write for News.
Call Kate
at 1-5323.**



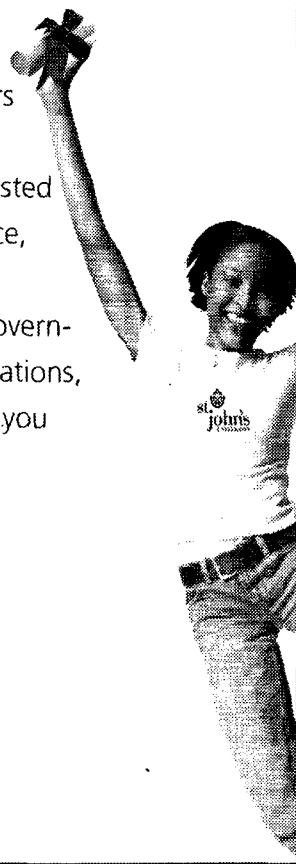
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Mayor stalked at apartment

Newsom 'alarmed and concerned' after San Francisco man's actions

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — A man talked his way into Mayor Gavin Newsom's apartment building late one night before a doorman called police, according to statements that helped persuade a judge to issue a temporary restraining order.

Han Shin, 42, told the doorman around 1 a.m. on Feb. 15 that he was visiting a woman who lived there. The woman said she didn't know him, according to the doorman's declaration.

Shin then showed the doorman pictures of himself with Newsom and another of Newsom standing next to an Asian man wearing only a diaper, and asked if Newsom was home. The doorman said he was not, and Shin left as the doorman called police.

The next day, police got a warrant to search Shin's car. Inside, they found a city map with the

mayor's apartment building highlighted, a cutout composite photograph of the mayor, Shin and Shin's father and material labeled "President Newsom," according to court papers.

On Feb. 10, Shin sat in the front row at a meeting held by Newsom and appeared to be taking photographs of the lower half of Newsom's body, according to a statement from a member of the mayor's security team.

Newsom's jacket fell off a chair and Shin picked it up, wiped it off gently and held it on his lap, according to court documents. Afterward, he grabbed the mayor and prevented him from closing his car door until a police officer intervened.

Newsom told police Shin has long shown his support and often attends public meetings, but he had been behaving bizarrely lately. The mayor "is alarmed and concerned about Shin's attempt to get to his apartment," according to court records.

Reports of Shin's actions come amid Newsom's recent headline-grabbing personal problems. Earlier this month, the mayor

acknowledged an affair with his campaign manager's wife and began treatment for alcohol abuse.

Shin did not have a listed phone number and could not immediately be reached for comment Tuesday. But KNTV-TV reported that Shin called its newsroom Tuesday to speak out against the allegations.

"Everything is a lie. I feel violated," Shin said. "Do not judge people from bits of information that you hear. Everybody's going to feel like a fool when they realize the truth, what really happened, that I was not stalking him."

Shin was charged in November with making criminal threats against two family members and a police officer, false imprisonment and obstructing a law enforcement officer, according to the Alameda County district attorney's office. In November 2003, he was charged with obstructing a police officer. Those cases are pending.

A hearing on the restraining order, which was issued Feb. 21, was set for next week.

New York steroid sales network investigated

Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — A New York prosecutor said athletes and celebrities were involved as customers of an illicit steroid sales network that produced arrests of four company officials on Tuesday.

However, Albany County District Attorney P. David Soares declined to name any consumers. He said his office was not investigating patients, but alleged producers and distributors, including doctors and pharmacists.

"I understand that the involvement of athletes and celebrities makes this a sexy story, but I assure you we are not, at this point, we are not concerned with the celebrity factor," Soares said. "Our focus here is to shut down distribution channels."

Soares was in Florida on Tuesday for two pharmacy raids conducted by federal and state agents at two Signature Pharmacy stores. Four company officials, including a married couple who are both pharmacists, were

arrested. They were charged with criminal diversion of prescription medications and prescriptions, criminal sale of a controlled substance and insurance fraud.

Soares refused to answer most questions about the case, which involves sealed indictments.

"I cannot elaborate any more and I cannot provide you with any more details without compromising an investigation which even at this point is at a very sensitive stage," he said.

The Times Union of Albany, N.Y., first disclosed the steroid investigation in a report citing unidentified sources. The newspaper said investigators found evidence that testosterone and other performance-enhancing drugs may have been fraudulently prescribed over the Internet to current and former Major League Baseball and NFL players, college athletes, high school coaches, a former Mr. Olympia champion and another top contender in the bodybuilding competition.

Customers include Angels outfielder Gary Matthews Jr., according to the Times Union, which cited unidentified sources with knowledge of the investigation.

Angels spokesman Tim Mead told The Associated Press the team was aware of the story, adding, "That's the only information we have."

Mead said manager Mike Scioscia told Matthews about it, and that general manager Bill Stoneman and Mead spoke to Matthews.

"We strongly recommended that Gary inform his agent and make sure he's aware as well," Mead said. "The information is sketchy at best."

The paper said a New York investigator flew to Pittsburgh last month to interview a physician for the Pittsburgh Steelers about why he allegedly used a personal credit card to purchase roughly \$150,000 in testosterone and human growth hormone in 2006.

The physician, Richard A. Rydze, told the investigator the drugs were for his private patients, the paper said, citing an unidentified person briefed on the interview.

There are no allegations Rydze violated any laws.

Steelers spokesman Dave Lockett told the AP that Rydze works for the club mostly on game days. He is listed among the seven doctors under the "medical staff" designation on the official team employment roster.

"We can't comment any further because we are still gathering information," Lockett said.

A message was left seeking comment from Rydze.

Arrested on Tuesday were Stan and Naomi Loomis, who own the Signature Pharmacy in downtown Orlando, Stan's brother Mike Loomis and Kirk Calvert, Signature's marketing director. Soares' office identified Signature as a "producer" of the illegally distributed drugs.

Also arrested as a result of the New York investigation were three people Soares' office described as "distributors" from a Sugarland, Texas, company called Cellular Nucleonic Advantage.

Before the investigation is complete, Soares' office said, up to 24 people could face charges, including six doctors and three pharmacists.

The Loomis' downtown pharmacy contains a small retail store that sells bodybuilding supplements, a drug laboratory and executive offices.

Law &

Please join the Law School for its 2006-2007 series of interdisciplinary discussions. All programs begin at 4:00 p.m. and will be held in Law School room 120.

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Human Rights and Human Atrocities in Uganda

Presenter: Todd David Whitmore

Department of Theology

Respondent: Doug Cassel

Center for Civil and Human Rights,
The Law School

Thursday, November 9, 2006

The Biophysics of Life and Public Policy Disputes:

Interfacing with the Scientific Community

on Bioethical Issues

Presenter: Phillip Sloan

Program of Liberal Studies

Respondent: Carter Snead

The Law School

Thursday, February 8, 2007

The Other Alien Debate: Biology and

Policy of Invasive Species

Presenter: David Lodge

Department of Biological Sciences

Respondent: Alejandro Camacho

The Law School

Thursday, March 1, 2007

Identifying Tax Effects on Charitable Giving

Presenter: Daniel Hungerman

Department of Economics and Econometrics

Respondent: Lloyd Mayer

The Law School

THE OBSERVER VIEWPOINT

page 10

Wednesday, February 28, 2007

THE OBSERVER

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

Questions regarding Observer policies should be directed to Editor in Chief Mike Gilloon.

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TODAY'S STAFF

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In a recent episode of "The Office" ... Kelly: "Oh my god, I have so much to tell you."

Jim: "Really?"

Kelly: "Yes. Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes, they had a baby named Suri. And then Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie they had a baby too and named it Shilo. And both babies are a-mazing!"

Jim: "Great. What's new with you?"

Kelly: "I just told you."



Katie
Palmitier

*A Word to
the Wise*

To many loyal "Office" fans out there, Kelly is known as the annoying and clingy ditz. However, she unfortunately has the same priorities and world view as many Americans. Hence why this scene is so funny: we all know someone like Kelly and laugh at his or her naivety. However, perhaps our Kelly-like friends are not the ones to be blamed for their lack of worldview. Over the past two weeks it has been nearly impossible to find a news station that was not reporting the latest updates on the Anna Nicole Smith death or discussing new possible reasons as to why Britney Spears buzzed her head. Although somewhat interesting and often times comical, celebrity news deserves no spot in the evening headlines. There are more relevant and demanding events happening in the world than trying to decide who is Anna Nicole's baby's daddy, and we must create a demand for pertinent current affairs in our daily paper and primetime

Buzzworthy

news before it is too late.

By now, we are all well aware of the possible causes of death of Anna Nicole Smith. Not only is there debate over her cause of death, but also the location of her burial. The father of her child is still a hot topic of discussion, and remains, 20 days later, to be headline news.

Consequently, foreign affairs and political matters have fallen to the wayside and fly under the public radar. The fact that the Iraqi president is controversially ill and hospitalized hails in comparison to the controversy regarding Jennifer Aniston and her reportedly new nose. If the President in Iraq is in fact on his deathbed, the United States' ongoing struggle in Iraq just grew exponentially worse, which means more death for soldiers and civilians alike.

The consequences of Jen getting a nose job, however, are obviously more important to the American public. And the fact that Britney is committing acts of mass destruction to her appearance (and her career) is far more important than the threat of destruction and death in the newfound Al-Qaeda operation in Pakistan. And this is all according to "The Today Show" and CNN, not "Entertainment Tonight" and the TV Guide Channel as one would expect.

It is not breaking news that entertainment is what sells, but consumers should not buy into entertainment as our breaking news. For some reason, we all enjoy hearing about the latest celebrity gossip: who is dating whom, who is gaining weight, and who checked into rehab. Our culture thrives on this information, and, as a result, the news media have succumbed to our obsession. We are thus sadly left recognizing the names "TomKat" and "Brangelina"

instead of Zawahri and Talabani.

And we at Notre Dame cannot escape the epidemic. Students seem to be more concerned about the Notre Dame/Saint Mary's conflict than the ongoing, deadly conflict in the Middle East. Our ignorance of worldly affairs will lead to not only our personal downfall, but the downfall of the country as well. The students of Notre Dame and Saint Mary's hold the key to our nation's future, and if we cannot even recognize our ignorance and strive for a change, the hope for a better future is bleak.

Pretty soon, the lack of public awareness of current events is going to take its toll. The threat of global warming and the ongoing conflict Iraq have managed to fall through the cracks, and those are the issues that have way more of an effect on our lives, definitely more so than who won the Oscar Sunday night. If we do not start holding the media responsible for providing us with substantial, significant information, the welfare of our country will plummet. As citizens, we need to be well informed so that we can make better decisions in our daily lives, elect political leaders that will provide the best well being for their constituents, and exercise our freedom of speech so that we may have a voice in public policy. The sooner we start acting like responsible citizens, the sooner buzzworthy will refer to significant news rather than Britney's new 'do.

Katie Palmitier is a sophomore political science major. She can be contacted at kpalmi@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 event interests you more:
Bengal Bouts or Tom Zbikowski's
upcoming charity fight?

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

"Great things are not done by
impulse, but by a series of small
things brought together."

Vincent van Gogh
Dutch painter

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Speech should be free but genial

The issue of censorship and freedom of speech has been the subject of fervent debate on campus and in the Viewpoint of late. Questions have arisen of whether certain cartoons should be published in The Observer and also of whether certain plays, such as the "Vagina Monologues" and "Loyal Daughters" have a rightful place on this campus or not. As Americans, we have been trained since grade school to quote our Constitutional rights and the "freedom of speech" rights derived from the First Amendment are the ones most often quoted. The mantra is, "It's a free country, and I can say or print whatever I want," and of course, I must be grateful of this reality, because these very words of mine have not been censored.

Yet, what does freedom of speech really mean? It is true that in America, unlike other repressive regimes such as the Communist U.S.S.R., the government cannot restrict the speech and publications of its citizens (with some exceptions, like child pornography). But this is a restriction upon the government, not upon the editors of newspapers or upon the authors of plays or comic strips. Would it not be equally oppressive for the government to require that newspapers publish everything submitted to them, taking away their power of self-censorship?

In the case of The Observer, the recent letters asking that it make the editorial decision not to publish certain cartoons do not breach the First Amendment. Their request is that an independent newspaper censor itself and tighten the standards for what it publishes. No doubt, if The Observer featured articles or cartoons lampooning African-Americans, Jews, or homosexuals in

a mean-spirited way, members of those communities would be upset and call upon the paper to censor itself in the future.

Yet, does this mean that The Observer should only publish articles or cartoons portraying the Church in a favorable light? No. The paper and the University should remain an open forum of debate, facilitating the exchange of opinions and teachings, this being the hallmark of any great intellectual institution. We must be free to debate whether there is any truth to be known, and if there is, what it is and how it affects our lives. That is what academic freedom is all about and what Oliver Wendell Holmes means by "free trade in ideas... in the competition of the market" (Jake Vos, "Paper should uphold 'free trade of ideas,'" Feb 27).

But in order for it to remain an open market, all ideas and viewpoints must have the freedom to be heard and no side must become so belligerent as to do violence to other points of view. Thus, those in favor of the Church's views must make their cases without being self-righteous, judgmental, or insulting. Likewise, those who offer viewpoints different from those of the Church should be free to air their opinions at Notre Dame and in The Observer, but also must be polite and genial. Freedom of speech does not mean the right to be as nasty and brutish as one can, but rather the right to speak one's piece in such a way that will further the dialogue, seeking to persuade the opposition and not simply taking a cheap-shot at them.

Chris Spellman
senior
off campus
Feb. 27

'Monologues' not only gender issue

While many of us on the Notre Dame campus had mixed feelings regarding the debates about the "Vagina Monologues," academic freedom and Notre Dame's Catholic character last year, I think it's important not to see the "Vagina Monologues" as the only response of the campus community to the admitted difficulties of gender relations here at Notre Dame.

Personally, I find it sad that the move of the "Vagina Monologues" off campus this year made the front page of The Observer while there was no mention of the Edith Stein Project, a student-run conference that addresses difficult issues of gender (rape, abortion, etc.) in a context that seeks to integrate femininity, intelligence, and Catholic identity.

There were many big names from the ranks of the national Catholic community, women like Jennifer Roback Morse, Janet Smith and Dr. Pia de Solleni, who have successfully reconciled their identities as women with their identities as Catholics. They have managed to do so without ignoring the difficult issues that face women, and they have done so without rejecting men. If anything came out of this year's Edith Stein Project, it is the need to see all of us, men and women, in our integrated human identity. That integrated identity is relational, and we cannot exile one sex or the other and hope to remain healthy and whole ourselves.

I found it very affirming that Edith Stein organizers included a talk on pornography given by two male undergraduates, Jack Calcutt and Patrick Tighe, who bravely explored the difficult issues of male sexual transgression here on campus but did so in a way that invited dialogue and mutual vulnerability between men and women. Isn't this what we're all trying to do on campus?

Similarly, in this year's production of "Loyal Daughters" there were segments that explored male-on-male sexual assault, and female-on-male alcohol-induced rape. Gender relations on this campus will never improve until we all, male and female, start admitting our own sins toward each other and work for healing, forgiveness and change in Christian charity.

Sam Cahill
grad student
off campus
Feb. 27

EDITORIAL CARTOON



DPAC SPOTLIGHT

Notre Dame to host Genocide Film Series

Films include Oscar winners and powerful documentaries

By MARTY SCHROEDER

Assistant Scene Editor

With militant combat stories emerging out of Darfur, UN rulings concerning the massacre at Srebrenica, Bosnia and other terrible events happening in various parts of the world, genocide has become a topic our generation must face — not only current atrocities but also those of the past.

As we struggle to grapple with the horrific capabilities of mankind's violence against itself, filmmakers have offered their interpretations on the consequences of war. Their films offer peace in some cases, solace in others or sometimes merely graze the topic, offering more questions than solutions to the problem.

In an attempt to further explore the themes and ideas necessary to end genocide, the Genocide Film Series will be screened at the Browning Cinema of the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center (DPAC) this weekend. This event — subtitled "On Our Watch?" — showcases some of the best explorations of genocide that (the) cinema has to offer. These include a wide range of entries, from Oscar winners to relative unknown films, all powerful and important in their own way.

"The Last King of Scotland" (2006)

Starring Forest Whitaker, who won the Best Actor award at the 79th Academy Awards last Sunday, this is the highest profile film in the series. Whitaker's darkly mesmerizing performance as the complex Idi Amin, the de facto dictator of Uganda from 1971-79, led critics to hail the film as one of the year's best.

But it's Whitaker's recent Oscar win — against the likes of Peter O'Toole, Leonardo DiCaprio, Will Smith and Ryan Gosling — that has drawn even more attention to the headlining film in the Genocide Series. "The Last King of Scotland" will show March 3 at 7 p.m. and March 4 at 1 p.m.

"Shake Hands With the Devil: The Journey of Roméo Dallaire" (2004)

This 2004 documentary is based on a book of the same name by now-retired Lieutenant-General Roméo Dallaire, commander of the United Nations forces that served in Rwanda during the 1993-94 genocide. Dallaire implored the UN for more troops but was ultimately denied. However, his actions are credited for saving approximately 20,000 lives. The film was nominated for two documentary awards during the Sundance Film Festival. "Shake Hands With the Devil" will show March 4 at 4 p.m.

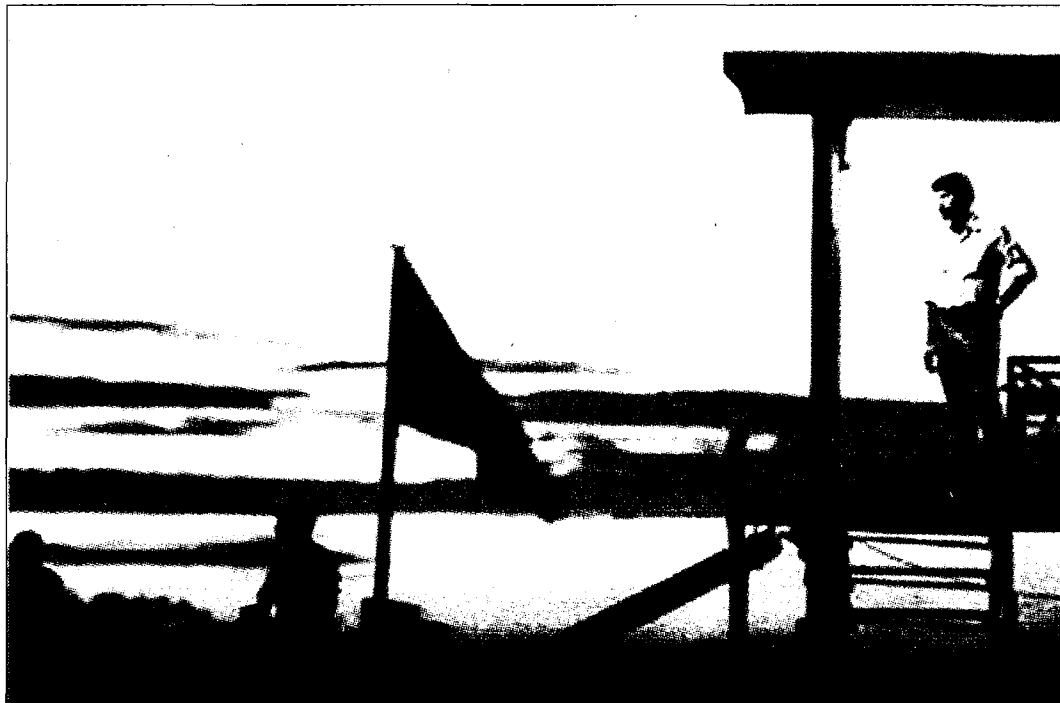


Photo courtesy of en.wikipedia.org

The setting Cambodian sun makes for a striking image in the 1984 film "The Killing Fields," which showed the genocide the Khmer Rouge regime committed there.

"Screamers" (2006)

A unique entry into the film series, "Screamers" was directed by Armenian-American Carla Garapedian with the help of the band System of a Down. This film does not focus on one particular incident of genocide but attempts to look at the deeper questions behind its causes. In one segment, it explores the Armenian Genocide — the massacre of hundreds of thousands of Armenians from 1915 to 1917 in the Ottoman Empire — and why it is so actively denied in Turkey. "Screamers" also inspects the genocides in Darfur and Rwanda.

System of a Down has a personal connection to the Armenian genocide. The grandfather of System of a Down's frontman, Serj Tankian, is a survivor of the conflict and plays an integral part in the film.

The film also employs Harvard University Professor Samantha Powers and other experts as part of an effort to point the finger of blame not just at the traditional culprits but also at the United States for its seeming neutrality in regards to genocide. "Screamers" will show March 2 at 7 p.m.

"Night and Fog" (1955)

This documentary was filmed in 1955 at the Auschwitz concentration camp in

Poland after the conclusion of World War II. The film's major theme is guilt and it explores this through a look at the calmness

Their films offer peace in some cases, solace in others or sometimes merely graze the topic, offering more questions than solutions to the problem.

of the post-war camp compared to the horrors that occurred there during wartime. The film deals little with the stories of individual prisoners but delves into wider themes of humanity, especially the hate that motivates horrific killings like that of the Jews at Auschwitz. The film takes its name from Adolf Hitler's "Night and Fog" (Nacht und Nebel) directive, one that facilitated the brutal execution of political prisoners in Germany and the territories occupied by the Nazis during World War II. It contains graphic footage of the conditions at Auschwitz and is one of the most poignant examinations of 20th century genocide. "Night and Fog" will show alongside "Shake Hands With the Devil" on March 4.

"The Killing Fields" (1984)

This British film is about the actions directed by the Khmer Rouge regime in Cambodia. The story is told through the eyes of three journalists — Dith Pran, a Cambodian, Sydney Schanberg, an American and John Swain, a Briton. This

picture, directed by Roland Joffé, won three Oscars and stars Sam Waterston and John Malkovich. The 100th greatest British film according to the British Film Institute, it is an excellent look at the war in Cambodia, which is often overshadowed by the U.S. involvement in Vietnam. The genocide instituted by Pol Pot and his Khmer Rouge is thought to have contributed to the deaths of over 1.5 million Cambodians. This award winning film about an often-overshadowed tragedy will show March 2 at 10 p.m.

"No Man's Land" (2001)

This Best Foreign Language Oscar-winner depicts two soldiers, one Bosniak and the other Serb, who find themselves alone in a trench during the Bosnian War. With no other avenues available, the two trade insults and also find common ground in an interesting mix of irony and futility. The United Nations, ordered to remain neutral in the conflict, must bring aid to these wounded soldiers after an

American journalist brings media attention to their situation. To further complicate matters, another Bosniak soldier awakens near the first two only to discover himself on top of a landmine that will explode if he moves.

The worst of the killings in the Bosnian War took place in the region of Srebrenica, located within the nation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Many sources say that over 8,000 men were killed in this region alone. Recently, the International Court of Justice ruled that Serbia is not to blame for the genocide that occurred during the war. Thanks to this ruling, this film has become especially important in the discussion of international jurisdiction and what the specific definition of genocide is. "No Man's Land" will show March 3 at 10 p.m.

Each film in this series brings something different to the forefront of the discussion on genocide. Whether big, dramatic narratives or more realistic, probing documentaries, they all cause viewers to reflect on the nature of human life and the costs of taking it.

The Genocide Film Series is sponsored by the Nanovic Institute for European Studies, the Notre Dame Holocaust Project, the Center for Social Concerns and the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center.

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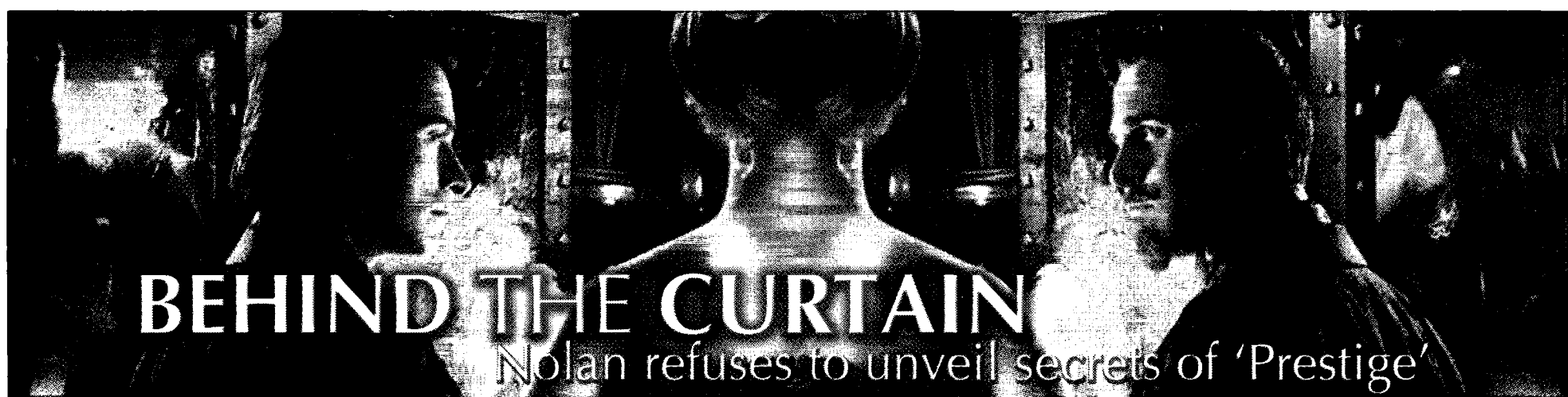
Photo courtesy of movieweb.com

Idi Amin, the ruthless dictator who ruled Uganda from 1971-79, is portrayed by Oscar-winner Forest Whitaker in "The Last King of Scotland."



Photo courtesy of movieweb.com

Nino (Rene Bitorajac), left, and Ciki (Branko Djuric) appeal for a truce in "No Man's Land," an Oscar-winning film that depicts genocide in the Bosnian War.



BEHIND THE CURTAIN

Nolan refuses to unveil secrets of 'Prestige'

TOM HANCULAK/Observer Graphic

By RAMA GOTTUMUKKALA and SEAN SWEANY
Scene Critics

Rama: Magic is an art form built around misdirection. In film, its first cousin is the thriller, a genre where, like a fragile deck of cards, deceitful twists and turns are layered one on top of the other.

With his 2006 film "The Prestige," director Christopher Nolan melded the two pursuits together in hopes of conjuring the greatest magic trick the cinema had ever seen. The result is a superb film about the devotion of two illusionists to their craft, and the darkness that drives them to pursue their great triumphs.

At the heart of "The Prestige" lies a rivalry between two Victorian era stage magicians, Robert Angier (Hugh Jackman) and Alfred Borden (Christian Bale). Angier is the more gifted showman but he lacks Borden's ingenuity and passion for creating new tricks. When his wife Julia (Piper Perabo) drowns after a water tank illusion goes awry, Angier is inconsolable and blames Borden. A friendship built upon a mutual admiration dissolves, replaced by a vindictive, near murderous, need to trump the other's skill.

What Borden and Angier fail to realize is that between the two of them, they share the two greatest gifts a magician can have — creativity and showmanship, respectively. A truly great illusionist lacks neither one. But instead of pooling their talents, the two men waste much of their professional and personal lives on a much darker obsession than magic — each other.

The very first line of the film — Borden's, "Are you watching closely?" — is more than a plea. It's a dare to us, the audience, to outwit two very clever men — brothers Christopher and Jonathan Nolan, who shared the writing duties on this film.

With the film's recent release on DVD, it becomes increasingly clear just how often the Nolans dangle the secrets to the film's puzzle in front of our noses. Small snippets of conversation, a look from one periphery character to another and subtleties in the performances of Bale and Jackman are the crumbs left by the two writers.

Films like "The Prestige" are made to be watched and rewatched, savored for the way they pull a steady curtain of deception over our eyes. Smart, stylish and sly, it deserves its place alongside gems like "The Usual Suspects," "The Sixth Sense,"

"Fight Club" and Nolan's own "Memento" — four of the cleverest thrillers (and best films) of the last decade.

Sadly, like a true magician, Nolan refuses to reveal many of his secrets on this single-disc DVD. Most conspicuously, there's no commentary track by Nolan, who previously recorded ones for "Following," "Memento" and "Insomnia." In general, the special features are sparse, which is a shame because "The Prestige" is more than a simple parlor trick. The film also works as a sumptuous period piece. It glamorizes the routinely dull Victorian era, a time when magic was bowing out to an even-greater power — science.

"The Director's Notebook," a 19-minute featurette, is a collection of interviews and footage behind the set where Nolan is joined by Bale, Jackman, cinematographer Wally Pfister, production designer Nathan Crowley and other members of the crew. The feature is brief but informative, and it's hard not to come away with an appreciation for how much thought went into the film's careful set and costume design and its dark, moody, and often beautiful look.

The only other feature is "The Art of The Prestige," a gallery of production stills, posters, costumes and sets, all arranged in slideshow fashion. It's a fun addition but is often the most-lightly regarded extra on much grander releases like the superlative "Lord of the Rings" extended editions. Here, it seems like more effort was spent on the DVD's charming and elegant menu system than the special features that system houses.

Fortunately, the movie itself looks and sounds great. With deep, rich colors and a sharpness to the film's many hazy and dimly-lit scenes, the video, especially, is near-reference quality.

Twenty minutes into "The Prestige," Bale reveals one of his tricks to a wide-eyed young fan. He warns the boy, "Never show anyone. They'll beg you and they'll flatter you for the secret, but as soon as you give it up, you'll be nothing to 'em."

"The secret impresses no one. The trick you use it for is everything."

After successfully pulling off a fantastic sleight of hand with this film, it's unfortunate to see Nolan follow his own character's advice for the DVD.

Sean: Audiences face a conundrum when it comes to magic tricks. On one hand, there is a strong desire to know how magicians accomplish their fantastic tricks, but on the other, this knowledge

spoils the fun of the trick, which might be off-putting for some audiences.

"The Prestige" sets itself up as a movie that aims to maintain the illusion of the magician's world while also unraveling it for audiences through its narrative structure — a conflict in terms that hurts what should otherwise be a superb film.

From the beginning, "The Prestige" has a lot going for it. A plot about rival Victorian-era magicians constantly trying to outdo one another in their obsession-driven pursuits of love, power and fame is inherently exciting. Christopher Nolan — well respected for films such as "Memento" and "Insomnia" — directs an all-star cast including Hugh Jackman, Christian Bale, Scarlett Johansson and Michael Caine (a veritable "Batman Begins" reunion), another reason for film fans to rejoice.

Jackman and Bale play well off each other, creating characters whose obsessions appear real and believable. Of the two, Bale is the better actor, and this is manifest in his character, whose appearance onscreen belies a deep, emotional, human element — as Bale's characters usually do.

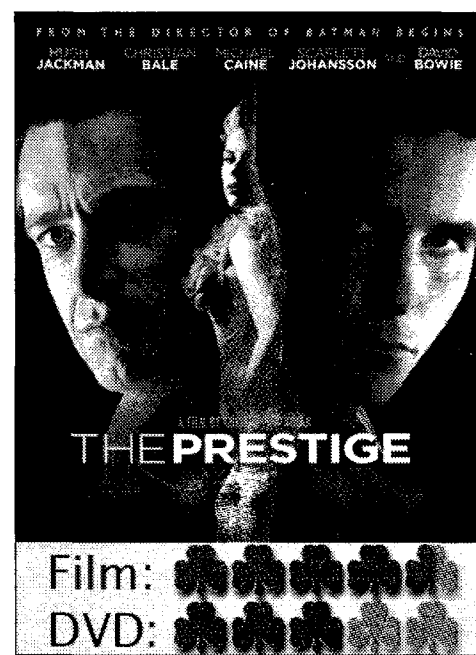
The supporting cast of "The Prestige" is phenomenal, with Michael Caine, David Bowie and Andy Serkis headlining the group. Johansson is limited mostly to role of eye-candy, but she does not try to exceed these bounds and her acting accordingly complements that of her fellow actors.

In addition to all these positives, "The Prestige" is a beautiful film to watch. Nolan and his production crew take advantage of the visually appealing Victorian age as a setting, creating a rich, textured world for viewers to pore over with their eyes.

So, with all of these redeeming qualities, what causes the DVD release of "The Prestige" to fall short of the mark?

The answer basically comes down to the film's storytelling. Nolan's plan in making the movie was to create a mystery within a mystery, and in order to do this effectively, the narrative of the film must make frequent jumps between various times and places. This is largely accomplished in two sections of the movie where the magicians, Angier and Borden, learn certain facts that further the plot by reading the diary of the other.

While a good idea in theory, Nolan's execution of this technique is clumsy and confusing. Viewers can spend more time trying to figure out how the narrative is working than they can spend enjoying it,



Cover art courtesy of dvdtown.com

which is not a good sign. One tagline for "The Prestige" recommended multiple viewings, presumably for enjoyment, but these could be necessary just to understand the convoluted storytelling.

It is a shame that the method of storytelling has such glaring flaws, for the rest of the film itself is exceptional, especially when compared to its contemporaneous competitor, "The Illusionist." The potential here was high, but Nolan miscalculated his approach to the film and did not achieve that potential.

Nevertheless, "The Prestige" is an entertaining, if not great, film and deserves better treatment than it has received on DVD. Two, yes, two special features fill out the disc to give fans a peek into how the film was made. These features are insightful and well done, but their brevity and paucity detracts from the experience they begin to promise. Finally, an inconsistent sound quality during the film perhaps indicates a lack of studio effort in putting together the DVD for "The Prestige."

Overall, the DVD of "The Prestige" is a very mixed package. Excellent plot, acting, directing and set design exist in a confusing method of storytelling and on a single-disc DVD that is painfully light on special features. This ultimately makes for an entertaining rental that disappoints because of what it could have been.

Contact Rama Gottumukkala at rgottumu@nd.edu and Sean Sweany at ssweany@nd.edu



Photo courtesy of movieweb.com

In his vindictive quest to upstage his rival, Robert Angier (Hugh Jackman), left, studies an electrical field with the mysterious Alley (Andy Serkis).



Photo courtesy of movieweb.com

Magician Alfred Borden (Christian Bale), right, demonstrates a magic trick to a young admirer in Christopher Nolan's latest film, "The Prestige."

SCENE & HEARD

A closer look at the other side of the Oscars

Alright, I'll say it. I'm glad the Oscars are over. I'm glad they won't roll around for another year. The reason is that the ceremony that should ostensibly and ideally hand out awards for achievement in various areas of film has become so noticeably political and hype-driven that it has lost its charm, its prestige and its credibility.

There are several examples from this year's Oscars that make this point painfully clear.

Take Forest Whitaker's Best Actor win for his role in "The Last King of Scotland." By all accounts, Whitaker had locked up the award many weeks before the little statue was handed to him on Sunday night thanks to the press he received for the film. For a film that enjoyed very limited release, it would have been difficult for many of the 6,000 Academy voters to see and judge Whitaker's acting. Rather, news stories ran ceaselessly about Whitaker's onscreen talents — a surefire way to goad an Academy voter into choosing Whitaker as the year's best actor without having seen the film. Whitaker's acting may be superb — I have yet to see the film — but it seems that any excellence was proliferated more through studio hype than by people actually seeing the film.

"The Departed" is another film whose pedigree may have earned it more praise than it may have deserved. For all



Sean Sweany

Assistant
Scene Editor

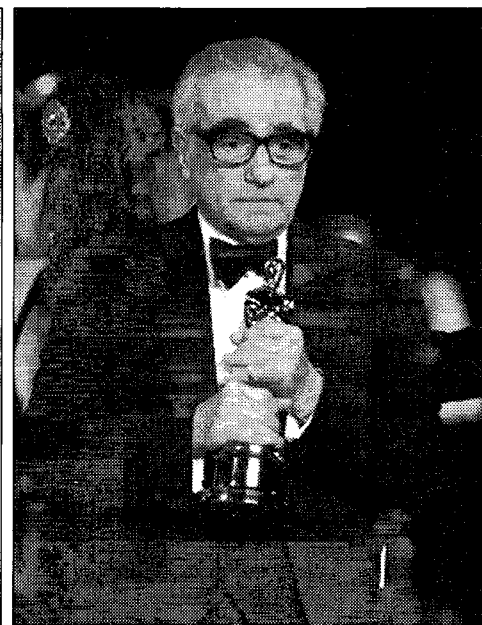
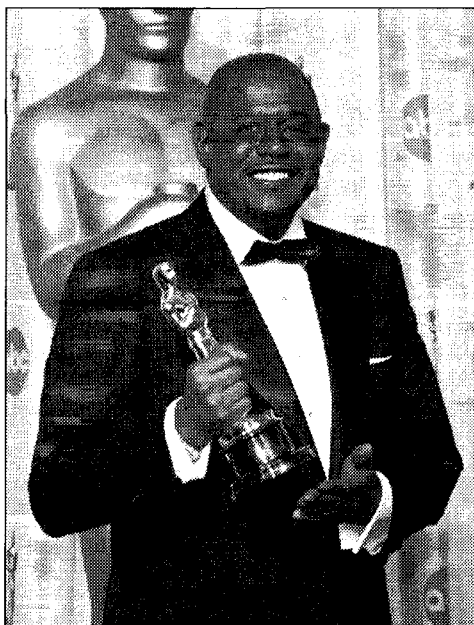
"Departed" lovers out there, let me say that I loved this film. It was fantastic. But the conflation of two stories — the greatness of the film and the fact that Martin Scorsese, who had never won an Oscar for directing, helmed it — made me ask a question. Was it a foregone conclusion that Scorsese would win the Oscar for directing and his film would win Best Picture by association?

Let me put it this way: if Stephen Sommers — the director of the awful "Mummy" films and the even more abominable "Van Helsing" — had directed "The Departed," would it have received so much attention to win the Oscars for directing and picture? Probably not.

The point here is that actors, directors and films can receive unfair benefits or disadvantages based on their name, association or particular marketing campaign.

Take for example, Johnny Depp's Best Actor nomination in 2004 for playing Captain Jack Sparrow in Disney's "Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest." It's hard to deny that his performance was better than any of his competitors from that year, including Sean Penn (who won) for "Mystic River" or Bill Murray for "Lost in Translation." But this was quirky Johnny Depp, acting in a popcorn-munching, effects-laden, summer blockbuster Disney movie. There was no chance that the Academy would deem him (and the movie as a whole) worthy of one of their awards.

The situation is somewhat akin to the Heisman Trophy award in its convoluted nature. In 2005, Reggie Bush won college football's biggest honor because he was the best player on the team everyone believed to be the best in the country. Nevermind



Forest Whitaker, left, poses with his Best Actor Oscar for "The Last King of Scotland" while Martin Scorsese holds his first Best Director Oscar at this year's awards.

that Vince Young was more talented, a better leader on his team and ultimately more deserving of the award. Bush's highlights saturated the ESPN family of networks, he and USC were media darlings and the result, as they say, is history.

The Academy Awards seem like they could be falling victim to this predicament of allowing the media and Hollywood politics to help determine who should and does win. Were Forest Whitaker or "The Departed" really deserving winners or did the hype machine help them win? Perhaps

a better question is whether the hype machine is avoidable or not — it probably isn't — or even a new phenomenon — it's not. When you look at it that way, you can't really complain, just watch "The Last King of Scotland" and "The Departed" and wait until next year's Academy Awards.

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

Contact Sean Sweany at ssweany@nd.edu

DVD REVIEW

Classic 'Indemnity' gets double treatment on DVD

By BRIAN DOXTADER
Scene Editor

A man bleeding from a gunshot wound stumbles into his office, turns on a dictating machine and tersely admits he is a murderer.

So begins "Double Indemnity," Billy Wilder's 1944 film noir masterpiece, and a cornerstone of American cinema. "Double Indemnity" arrived near the height of film noir's popularity and success, standing alongside (and some would argue above) noir classics like "Laura," "The Postman Always Rings Twice" and "The Big Sleep." The film has been a long time coming on DVD, and has finally arrived in a respectable package that pays homage to the considerable influence it has had on Hollywood.

"Double Indemnity," based on James M. Cain's 1943 novella "Three of a Kind," follows insurance agent Walter Neff (Fred MacMurray), who is seduced by femme fatale Phyllis Dietrichson (Barbara Stanwyck) into killing her husband to collect

the insurance money. Unfortunately for Neff, after the hit goes as planned, his boss Barton Keyes (Edward G. Robinson) takes over the murder investigation.

Is there a more under-appreciated director in Hollywood history than Billy Wilder? "Double Indemnity" was his first masterpiece, but the filmmaker would go on to helm such classics as "The Lost Weekend," "Sunset Boulevard," "Stalag 17," "The Seven Year Itch," "The Spirit of St. Louis," "Some Like It Hot" and "The Apartment" over the course of a several decade career.

What makes "Double Indemnity" so effective is Wilder's inventive and atmospheric use of lighting and his moody sense of purpose, which drives the film throughout. He also gets some of the best work out of veteran actors like MacMurray, Stanwyck and Robinson, all of whom ignite the picture with a creeping sense of paranoia.

It's also interesting to think that this seedy tale of adultery, murder and greed was released in 1944, a time when Hollywood was still regulated by the Hays Code — its gleeful immorality is one of the most alluring aspects of "Double Indemnity," even 60 years later.

"Double Indemnity," along with the original 1933 "King Kong" and "The African Queen," is one of the last of the American Film Institute's 100 Greatest Films to come to DVD. Universal finally rectified this at the end of last year, releasing the film in a two-disc spe-



Photo courtesy of alasca.it

Billy Wilder's classic 1944 film noir "Double Indemnity," starring Fred MacMurray, has recently been released as a two-disc special edition DVD.

cial edition with a re-mastered print and sound. "Double Indemnity" certainly looks good on DVD, with relatively clean picture, especially considering that the film is over 60 years old. There is a Dolby Digital 2.0 Mono audio track, and a pair of commentaries, one from Richard Shickel and one from Lem Dobbs and Nick Redman.

There are only two special features, but they're both pretty interesting. The first is a new documentary, "Shadows of Suspense," which explores the film and its impact. The other is the 1973 "Double Indemnity" TV movie, which really proves just how powerful Wilder's film is.

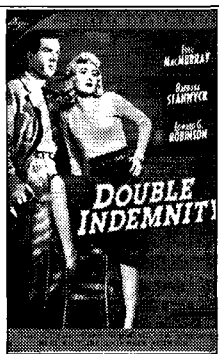
"Double Indemnity" is one of the great film noirs, and some would argue it is the greatest. Critic Roger Ebert once claimed that film noir is not a genre of detectives and mysteries, but of ordinary people who find within themselves the capacity for great evil. In that respect, "Double Indemnity" is the prototypical film noir. Neff commits horrific crimes, but it ends on an oddly sympathetic note. As if to say that yes, man has the capacity for great evil, but the capacity for great dignity as well.

Contact Brian Doxtader at bdoxtade@nd.edu

Double Indemnity

Universal Legacy Series

Universal



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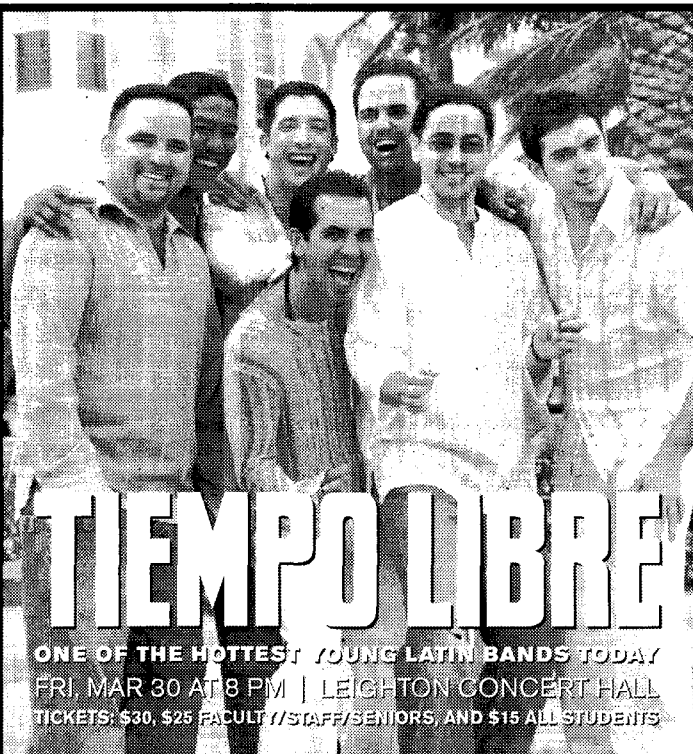
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BROWNING CINEMA

Hostage (2005)

Nanovic Film Series

Directed by Constantine Giannaris
NR, 97 minutes
Greek language with English subtitles
35mm Print
Thu, Mar 1 at 7 pm and 10 pm

Screamers (2006)

Genocide Film Series:

On Our Watch?

Directed by Carla Garapedian
R, 91 minutes
Armenian and English language
with English subtitles
35mm Print
Fri, Mar 2 at 7 pm

The Killing Fields (1984)

Genocide Film Series:

On Our Watch?

Directed by Roland Joffé
R, 141 minutes
English, French, and Khmer
languages with English subtitles
35mm Print
Fri, Mar 2 at 10 pm

Faces (1968)

PAC Classic 100

Directed by John Cassavetes
PG-13, 130 minutes
Sat, Mar 3 at 3 pm

The Last King of Scotland (2006)

Genocide Film Series:

On Our Watch?

Directed by Kevin MacDonald
R, 121 minutes
35mm Print
Sat, Mar 3 at 7 pm
Sun, Mar 4 at 1 pm

No Man's Land (2001)

Genocide Film Series:

On Our Watch?

Directed by Danis Tanovic
R, 98 minutes
French and Serbo-Croatian
languages with English subtitles
35mm Print
Sat, Mar 3 at 10 pm

Shake Hands with the Devil (2005)

Genocide Film Series:

On Our Watch?

Directed by Peter Raymont
NR, 91 minutes
French and English languages
with English subtitles
35mm Print
Sun, Mar 4 at 4 pm

Night and Fog (1955)

Genocide Film Series:

On Our Watch?

Directed by Alain Resnais
NR, 35 minutes
French language with English subtitles
35mm Print
Sun, Mar 4 at 4 pm

ND Student Film Festival (2007)

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NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL

Vols topple defending champs in home finale

No. 12 Panthers best Mountaineers 80-66

Associated Press

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — Chris Lofton scored 21 points, and Tennessee pulled away from No. 5 Florida in the first half and held on for an 86-76 victory Tuesday night.

JaJuan Smith added 16 points for Tennessee and Ramar Smith and Dane Bradshaw each had 10 points.

The Gators (25-5, 12-3 Southeastern Conference) continued a troubling trend for the defending national champions, who have lost three of four after a 17-game winning streak. Their chances for a No. 1 seed in the NCAA tournament are slipping away after easily wrapping up the SEC regular-season title last week.

Al Horford led Florida with 17 points while Chris Richard and Corey Brewer had 12 apiece. Joakim Noah added 11 rebounds and Horford had 10.

But this was the Volunteers' night.

With Lady Vols coach Pat Summitt dressing as a cheerleader and singing "Rocky Top" and Super Bowl MVP Peyton Manning watching his alma mater, Tennessee (21-9, 9-6) finished the season 16-0 at home.

The Vols dominated Florida until the Gators started making

a run late in the second half.

Tennessee had a 17-0 run in the first half and were ahead by 19 points at halftime and as many as 27 in the second half.

The Vols were leading 65-40 with 11:54 left when Florida had a 14-2 run that included eight points by Noah. His dunk with 9:22 remaining cut it to 67-54.

Tennessee scored again, but the Gators answered with a 7-0 run to pull to 69-61 with 6:08 to go. A drive by Lofton started a 6-0 run for the Vols, and the Gators couldn't get any closer.

The Gators rallied from 18 points down against Alabama on Feb. 14 to win 76-67. It was the biggest deficit overcome by a team coached by Billy Donovan, and they looked poised for another miracle comeback.

However, Florida couldn't sustain a rally.

After pulling to within eight, the Gators cut it to nine three more times, but the final 1:58 featured seven trips to the foul line for Tennessee. The Vols went 8-of-14 in free throws down the stretch.

In the first half, Florida was leading 17-16 with 13:48 left after Horford scored, and Bradshaw's basket over Noah sparked the big run. When Duke Crews scored with 8:05 left to end it, the Vols were up 33-17.

Noah had another off night, scoring all eight of his points in Florida's late run.

Appropriately, the Vols honored their lone senior,

Bradshaw, before the final home game. Bradshaw made go-ahead layups in each of the Vols' wins last year over Florida.

The Gators had an easier time against Tennessee in Gainesville, winning 94-78, while Tennessee was playing without Lofton because he had a sprained right ankle.

The Vols finished undefeated at home for the first time since 1975-76, and a near-capacity crowd of 24,047 saw the home finale.

No. 12 Pittsburgh 80 West Virginia 66

This second half displayed No. 12 Pittsburgh at its best. Aaron Gray scoring consistently and teaming with Levon Kendall to make it difficult on opponents inside, and Mike Cook and Ronald Ramon hitting 3-pointers to extend runs and build leads.

What the Panthers want to do is keep this going for, say, another five weeks.

Gray and Kendall wore down West Virginia with their inside scoring and rebounding and the Panthers remained in contention for the Big East regular-season title, beating the Mountaineers Tuesday night behind a dominating second half.

Despite losing at Big East leader Georgetown 61-53 on Saturday, Pitt (25-5, 12-3) can win the league title and be top-seeded in the conference tournament next week if it wins at No. 20 Marquette on Saturday and Georgetown, an upset loser Monday to Syracuse, falls at home to Connecticut the same day. Pitt can finish no worse than second if it beats Marquette, which won at Pittsburgh 77-74 on Jan. 21.

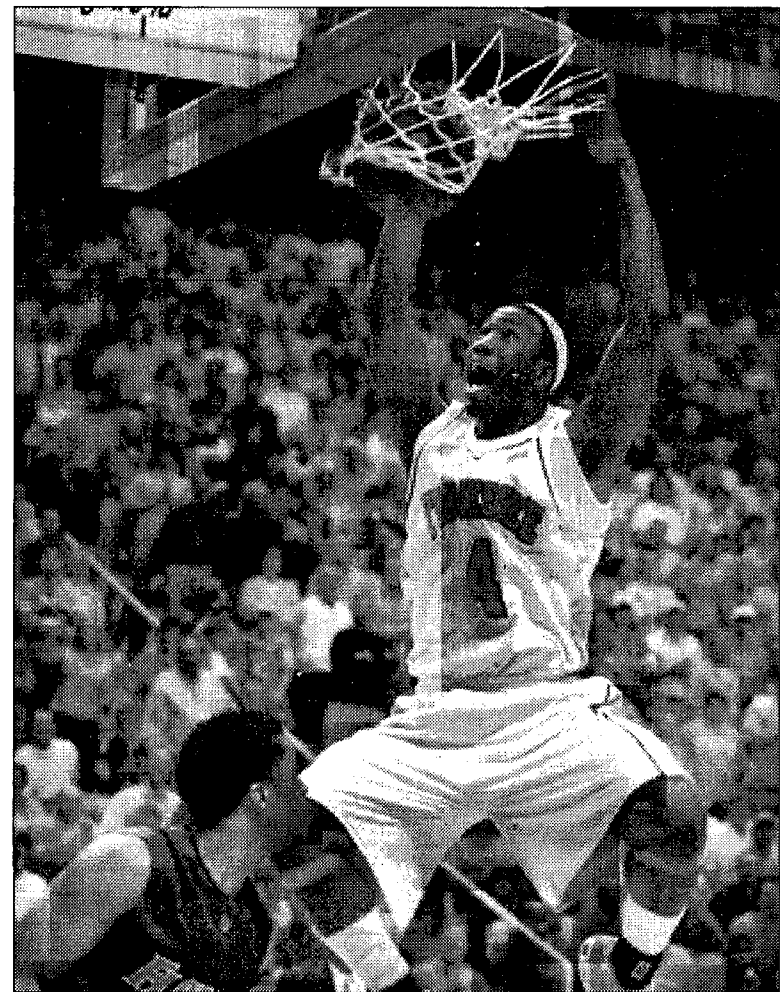
"We're right where we wanted to be in the Big East," coach Jamie Dixon said, even though Pitt would be leading if it had beaten the Hoyas. "This is what we talked about, being right here in the conference."

The surprise was that much of that talking was done by Gray, a 7-footer who is one of the top big men in school history.

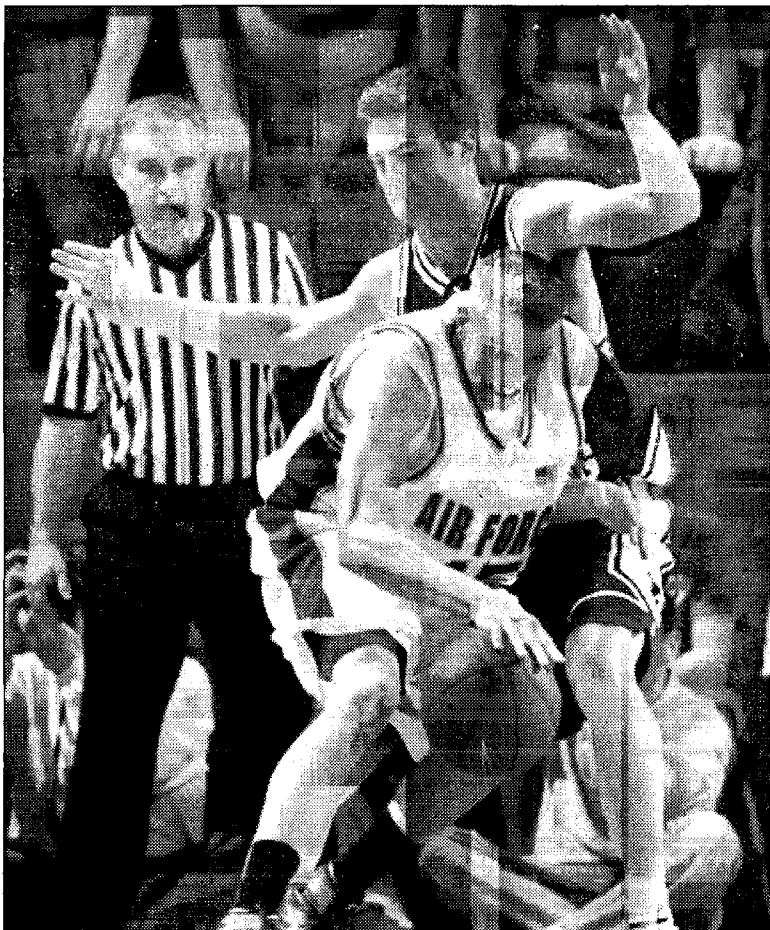
Normally not a big talker, Gray was unhappy that Pitt trailed 32-29 at halftime in his final home game and let his teammates know it. He was especially disappointed Pitt might lose any chance of winning the conference, which he called "a huge preseason goal."

"I'm usually not one to say something in the huddle, but I almost lost my voice from the halftime speech," Gray said. "We didn't want to let the chance for the championship slip away."

Gray, hampered by a badly sprained ankle for 10 days and not much of a factor against Georgetown, keyed a 9-0 run that started the second half and



Tennessee forward Wayne Chism dunks over Florida forward Taurean Green during the Volunteers' 86-76 upset of the No. 4 Gators.



Air Force center Nick Welch, front, backs down BYU guard Jimmy Balderson during the Cougars' 62-58 surprise win.

put the Panthers up 38-32. Gray scored the first four points of a run finished off by Levance Fields' 3-pointer.

"They're so hard to defend," West Virginia coach John Beilein said, a reference to Pitt's size and depth. "But I think we're coming. We did some things well, and we almost scored 70 points against one of the best defensive teams in the country, even though we didn't shoot well."

Cook credited Gray's talk for the Panthers outscoring the Mountaineers 51-34 in the second half.

"Aaron huddled us up at halftime, and we responded," he said.

West Virginia (20-8, 8-7) had a chance to win it, closing it to 54-51 with about 8 minutes remaining, but Cook made a 3-pointer and two free throws and Fields hit an off-balance 3 while nearly falling out of bounds during another 9-0 run that gave Pitt its first double-digit lead. Cook all but sealed it with another 3 that made it 66-53 after Joe Alexander hit two free throws for West Virginia.

Brigham Young 62 No. 25 Air Force 58

Austin Ainge scored 14 points and Keena Young added 12 — including eight straight in a pivotal second-half run — as

Brigham Young beat No. 25 Air Force 62-58 on Tuesday night to assure the Cougars at least a share of the Mountain West Conference title.

The Cougars also ended the Falcons' 30-game winning streak at Clune Arena, a place where Air Force had been nearly unbeatable. The Falcons had won 54 of their previous 55 home games.

Brigham Young (22-7, 12-3) now has the longest home-winning streak in the nation at 30 games and can clinch the league title outright with a win Saturday at home against Utah. A UNLV loss in one of its two remaining games would clinch the title for BYU as well. It would be the Cougars' first outright conference title since 1987-88.

Jimmy Balderson had 11 points and Trent Plaisted 10 as the Cougars won for the ninth time in 10 games.

Air Force (23-7, 10-6) lost its third straight and dropped to 6-6 since starting 17-1. Tim Anderson and Jacob Burttschi each had 15 points. Dan Nwaelele scored 14, becoming the 21st player at Air Force to eclipse 1,000 points for his career.

A pair of free throws by Plaisted with 2:36 remaining gave the Cougars a 60-58 lead, which they wouldn't surrender.

CLASSIFIEDS

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

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PERSONAL

Helena: I still love thee not. Not yours, Demetrius.

Happy Birthday, Chris' sister.

Happy Birthday, to Ms. Gabriel as well.

I am now retired. I am looking a job. What a conundrum.

UNPLANNED PREGNANCY? Do not go it alone. If you or someone you love needs confidential support or assistance, please call Sr. Sue Dunn, OP, at 1-7819. For more information, visit our web site at <http://osa.nd.edu/departments/pregnant.shtml> or see our bi-weekly ad in The Observer. PREGNANT OR KNOW SOMEONE WHO IS? You do not have to be alone. We want to help. Call our 24 hour confidential hotline at 1-800-No-ABORT or visit our website at www.lifecall.org

That's what she said.

38 counter

R.L. Stine, genius or supergenius?

How can we be lovers, if we can't be friends? How can we start over over when the fighting never ends?

Friday night lights is on. Wednesday at eight. That makes lots of sense.

Wow, Kate A., I am disappointed. I expected better.

AROUND THE NATION

Wednesday, February 28, 2007

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

page 17

NHL

Eastern Conference, Atlantic Division

team	record	last 10	points
New Jersey	39-18-6	7-3-0	84
Pittsburgh	33-19-9	7-2-1	75
N.Y. Islanders	31-23-8	6-2-2	70
N.Y. Rangers	30-27-6	5-3-2	66
Philadelphia	16-37-9	3-5-2	41

Eastern Conference, Northeast Division

team	record	last 10	points
Buffalo	41-16-5	7-2-1	87
Ottawa	37-22-4	7-1-2	78
Montreal	33-27-6	4-6-0	72
Toronto	30-24-9	4-3-3	69
Boston	30-28-4	6-4-0	64

Eastern Conference, Southeast Division

team	record	last 10	points
Tampa Bay	36-25-3	7-2-1	75
Atlanta	32-23-10	3-5-2	74
Carolina	32-26-7	6-4-0	71
Florida	25-26-13	5-2-3	63
Washington	24-29-11	2-4-4	59

Western Conference, Central Division

team	record	last 10	points
Nashville	42-18-4	5-4-1	88
Detroit	39-16-8	6-2-2	86
St. Louis	26-27-9	6-3-1	61
Columbus	24-32-7	3-5-2	55
Chicago	23-30-9	4-4-2	55

Western Conference, Northwest Division

team	record	last 10	points
Vancouver	36-21-5	7-2-1	77
Minnesota	35-23-5	7-2-1	75
Calgary	33-21-9	4-4-2	75
Edmonton	30-27-6	4-4-2	66
Colorado	29-29-5	3-6-1	63

Western Conference, Pacific Division

team	record	last 10	points
Anaheim	37-17-10	4-4-2	84
San Jose	38-24-1	4-6-0	77
Dallas	37-21-3	7-2-1	77
Phoenix	26-33-3	2-7-1	55
Los Angeles	21-32-10	4-2-4	52

USA Today/USA Hockey Magazine Men's Hockey

	team	record	points	previous
1	NOTRE DAME	27-6-3	480	1
2	St. Cloud State	20-6-6	476	5
3	New Hampshire	23-7-2	434	3
4	Minnesota	25-7-2	430	2
5	Boston University	18-6-9	362	4
6	Denver	21-12-3	314	7
7	Clarkson	21-8-5	289	6
8	North Dakota	18-12-4	229	8
9	Maine	21-10-2	220	11
10	Miami	23-11-4	211	9
11	Boston College	20-11-1	207	12
12	Michigan	23-12-1	190	10
13	St. Lawrence	20-12-2	85	14
14	Michigan State	19-12-3	82	13
15	Vermont	17-13-4	23	NR

NBA



Clippers guard Shaun Livingston was carted off the court Monday night during Los Angeles' 100-93 win over the Charlotte Bobcats. Livingston tore three of the four ligaments in his left knee and dislocated his patella while driving to the basket.

Torn ligaments end Livingston's season

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Clippers point guard Shaun Livingston will be out 8-to-12 months after tearing three of the four ligaments in his left knee while driving to the basket against Charlotte.

"It's probably the most serious injury you can have to the knee," Clippers physician Dr. Tony Daly said Tuesday. "He might miss all of next year."

Livingston had an MRI exam Tuesday which revealed tears in the anterior cruciate ligament, posterior cruciate ligament, medial collateral

ligament and lateral meniscus.

He also dislocated his patella, besides the previously diagnosed dislocation of his tibia-femoral. As a rookie in 2004, he dislocated his right knee.

Livingston was driving to the basket on a fast break Monday night, went up for a layup, and his left knee contorted as he collapsed in pain. A team doctor had to pop his knee back into place to alleviate the pain.

"He came down on the leg without any contact with anybody. It's a freak accident, that's for sure," said Daly, who has rarely seen anything similar in

24 years of practice.

He said the injury is more commonly associated with contact sports such as football and rugby.

Daly will solicit various medical opinions over the next two weeks, after which Livingston will have arthroscopic surgery, the doctor said. It wasn't yet decided if all three ligaments would be repaired at once.

Daly said Livingston did not tear an artery or damage any of the nerves in his knee, which can be serious complications.

"If everything goes well, he could be back playing as soon as eight months," Daly said. "My nature is to

be conservative. I've seen people who've had this done by other people and it hasn't worked out."

Livingston, a three-year veteran who was drafted by the Clippers out of high school, has been hampered by injuries and has yet to play a full season in the NBA.

He sat out two games in January with a sprained right ankle. He missed 39 games during his rookie season because of a dislocated right knee, and another 12 that season because of torn cartilage in his right shoulder. Last season he sat out the first 21 games with a stress reaction in his lower back.

IN BRIEF

Oilers trade Smyth to Islanders before deadline

The New York Islanders kept their leading scorer and nabbed the guy that makes the Edmonton Oilers go.

Just minutes before the NHL trading deadline expired Tuesday afternoon, the Islanders plucked Ryan Smyth away from the Oilers after deciding to hold onto Jason Blake.

New York's big deal trumped those made earlier in the day that sent Bill Guerin from the St. Louis Blues to the San Jose Sharks, Todd Bertuzzi from Florida to Detroit, and longtime Kings captain Mattias Norstrom from Los Angeles to Dallas.

True to form, the final dealing day of the season was very busy. The 25 trades made in the final six hours before the deadline matched last year for the most active in NHL history. The 30 clubs moved 44 players, two shy of the mark set in 2003.

Duke committee finds need for increased diversity

RALEIGH, N.C. — Duke University needs to become more diverse, inclusive and engaged, a committee concluded Tuesday in its evaluation of campus culture following rape allegations involving the lacrosse team.

The committee called for a new course requirement for undergraduates focusing on racial and class differences in the United States, and increasing admission standards at the elite, private university in Durham.

A university official hesitated to commit to any of the proposals.

"I don't think any of the recommendations should be considered anything but starting points for conversations," Provost Peter Lange said.

The report barely mentions the March 13 party thrown by the school's lacrosse team, where a woman hired to perform as a stripper told police she was attacked by three men in a bathroom.

Safin defeats Koubek while battling tough winds

LAS VEGAS — Marat Safin beat Stefan Koubek of Austria 7-5, 6-2 in his opening round-robin match at the Tennis Channel Open on Tuesday.

The third-seeded Russian, now 3-0 in his career against Koubek, had to adapt gusting winds of up to 32 mph throughout his match.

"It is very tough," said Safin. "It is difficult to play your very best tennis. You just try to stay as cool as you can and try to attack. That is the only way to try and control the ball."

Safin never trailed and never faced on a break point. He made 83 percent of his second serve points compared to 63 percent for Koubek.

Second-seeded Lleyton Hewitt of Australia triumphed over Vincent Spadea 6-3, 6-3.

Hewitt, a two-time event champion and a 2006 finalist, led throughout Tuesday's match.

around the dial

NCAA BASKETBALL

Villanova vs. Connecticut

7 p.m., ESPN

Indiana vs. Northwestern

7 p.m., ESPN2

Maryland vs. Duke

9 p.m., ESPN

Texas A&M vs. Texas

9 p.m., ESPN2

BASEBALL HALL OF FAME

Vets committee issues veto

Ron Santo closest to election with 57 of 65 necessary votes

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The Hall of Fame pitched another shutout.

Ron Santo, Jim Kaat, Marvin Miller and all the other candidates were left out Tuesday when the Veterans Committee admitted no new members for the third straight election.

The blank slate could lead to changes before the next vote in 2009.

"We're being blamed because something hasn't happened," Hall member and vice chairman Joe Morgan said. "If you're asking me, 'Do we lower our standards to get more people in?' my answer would be no."

Santo came the closest to the required 75 percent. A nine-time All-Star, the former Cubs third baseman was picked on 57 of 82 ballots (70 percent). Players needed 62 for election.

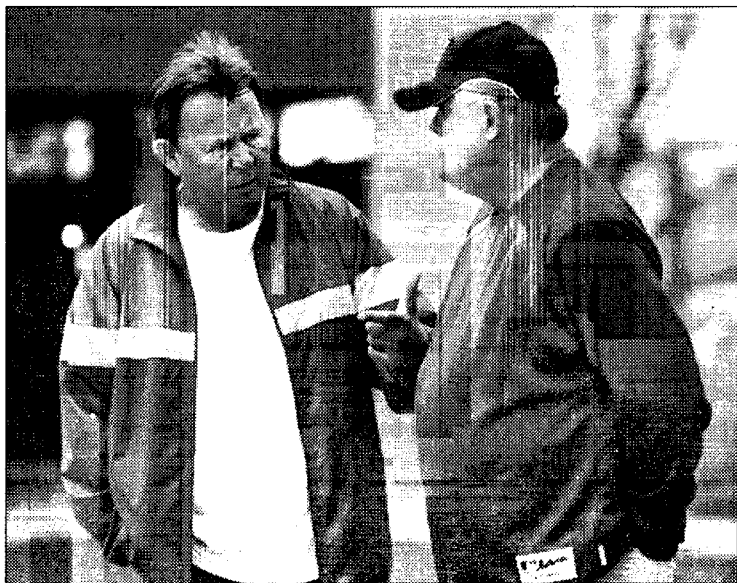
Kaat, a 283-game winner and strongly backed by Hall member Mike Schmidt, drew 52 votes. Gil Hodges, who hit 370 home runs, got 50 votes and three-time AL batting champion Tony Oliva had 47.

Umpire Doug Harvey received 52 of the necessary 61 votes on the ballot for managers, umpires and executives. Miller, the union head who led players to free-agent riches, showed a strong increase in getting 51 of the potential 81 votes.

The vets committee was revamped after charges of cronyism when it elected Bill Mazeroski in 2001. That marked the eighth straight year the 15-member panel sent someone to Cooperstown.

After that, the panel was expanded to include all living Hall of Famers. The new committee votes every other year for players and every four years for the others.

"We are disappointed that no one has been elected in the three voting cycles," Hall chairman Jane Forbes Clark said. "We will be evaluating this process and its trends at our next meeting, which is March 13, and discussing whether there should be any changes."



Cubs legend Ron Santo, left, talks with Chicago manager Lou Piniella during spring training Monday in Mesa, Ariz.

"The board may decide that the trends are not what we thought they were going to be. Perhaps this hasn't worked as well as some of the board members thought it would and maybe it needs a little bit of change," she said.

Cal Ripken Jr. and Tony Gwynn were elected to the Hall by the Baseball Writers' Association of America in January. They will stand alone at the induction ceremonies July 29 in Cooperstown.

The 84 eligible voters on the vets committee included 61 Hall members, 14 broadcasters, eight writers and one holdover from the previous panel.

Morgan said he voted for the maximum 10 players.

"I feel there are some guys out there that belong in the Hall of Fame," he said. "The writers voted on these people for 15 years and they weren't elected. Why are we being criticized because we haven't elected someone?"

Maury Wills, Joe Torre, Roger Maris, Luis Tiant and Bobby Bonds were among the 27 candidates on the players ballot.

"Nobody got in? That's too bad. I'm sorry to hear that," Torre said. "I'm not exactly sure what process they use. Don't forget, you've got the old guard and the young guard. People with different interests."

Torre drew 32 percent of the votes based on his playing career. The New York Yankees manager — and former NL

MVP — is expected to be elected when his time in the dugout is considered.

"Joe Torre, when he retires and he has 8,000 wins or whatever, I think that people would vote for him," Morgan said.

Dick Williams, Whitey Herzog, Walter O'Malley and Charlie O. Finley also were among the 15 names on the composite ballot. Morgan said it was hard to pick from those candidates.

"It is difficult for some of the players or me to evaluate their performance on a Hall of Fame level. It is much easier for me to evaluate the players," Morgan said.

Miller received 63 percent, moving up from 44 percent in the previous election.

"Personally, I would love to see him get in," Torre said at the Yankees' spring camp in Tampa, Fla. "He's made such an impact on this modern player and the game itself."

Union head Donald Fehr said it was "profoundly disappointing" that Miller did not get enough support.

"Given the increased number of votes for Marvin this time, there is certainly reason to believe that the votes will be there in the future," he said.

Two years ago, Santo and Hodges each came within eight votes of election in drawing 65 percent.

Santo was a five-time Gold Glove winner and hit 342 home runs.

NBA

Wade ponders surgery as team visits president

2006 champions joke with Bush during White House trip

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Everything was going fine until President Bush dropped the ball.

Bush honored the Miami Heat championship basketball team on Tuesday, joking with the team in his usual manner. But Shaquille O'Neal got the last laugh when Bush tried to bounce a basketball to the 7-foot-1 star.

It thudded flat on the stage. Bush looked startled as O'Neal and his teammates laughed.

As Bush lauded the Heat in the East Room, fans in Miami had to wonder if this season's championship aspirations have also fallen flat after star Dwyane Wade dislocated his left shoulder last Wednesday.

Wade, one of the top scorers in basketball, came with his left arm in a sling. He intends to decide by the end of the week whether to have season-ending surgery or enter a rehab program that could get him on the court in weeks.

"It's eventually surgery," Wade said, according to ABCnews.com.

"It's also an opportunity in that I can opt for the rehab and the therapy and get it stronger and be able to make a return by the end of the season. I'm feeling as good as I can feel. My spirits are high and that's the main thing. I'm not feeling good because I'm not on the court and I'm not playing with my teammates but my spirits are high."

The president wished the star well.

"I know a lot of NBA fans, whether they like the Heat or not, are pulling for Dwyane to get back into action," he said.

"We wish you a speedy recovery, Dwyane."

The president noted that the team has overcome obstacles before, losing the first two games to the Dallas Mavericks before winning four straight — a rare feat — to win the finals.

"It was a team effort that got these men here to the White House," Bush said as the players stood behind him.

"They had the stars, everybody knew who they — who the stars are, but it was the capacity to play together, to put the team ahead of themselves, that enabled them to be here at the White House," the president said.

Still, there was some star treatment on Tuesday. Most of the team entered the room, and then three big names had a separate entrance — O'Neal, Wade and celebrity coach Pat Riley.

The president called O'Neal "one of the most well-known figures in the United States of America."

"Standing next to Shaq," Bush said, "is an awe-inspiring experience." The championship was the first in the 18-year history of the Heat, and it came with contributions from some famous NBA players on the back end of their careers, like guard Gary Payton and center Alonzo Mourning.

Bush devoted most of his comments to praising individual Heat players for their charity work.

Riley gave Bush a jersey and then told the audience: "I voted for the man. If you don't vote you don't count."

Addressing reporters later, Riley denied that he had injected politics into the ceremony. "I'm pro-American, pro-democracy, I'm pro-government," the coach said. "I follow my boss. He's my boss."

Dwyane Wade
Heat guard

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NBA

League renews All-Star pledge to New Orleans

Questions of city's infrastructure raised after Vegas display

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The NBA and its players' association reiterated their commitment to New Orleans on Tuesday, a day after union director Billy Hunter said he could sue over the league's plans to host its next All-Star game there.

Hunter plans to fly to New Orleans next week for his first visit to the city since Hurricane Katrina, and will meet with city officials and look into accommodations for players and their guests. He also said he has a number of meetings planned with commissioner David Stern to discuss plans for next year's festivities.

On Monday, Hunter told Newsday that, "If the union is not convinced that the city can accommodate the All-Star game, it's an issue that will be subject to litigation between the union and the league."

However, Hunter said he was just speaking hypothetically and would only act if he felt the safety of his players was in jeopardy. He said he anticipates no problems, adding that a number of Hornets players look forward to their return to the city.

"If things for some reason or

other were to degenerate to the level where everybody was alarmed, where it just wouldn't make sense to go, in that instance I could always initiate a lawsuit," he said. "That's not to say I'd prevail, but clearly I could do that. But we're nowhere near that, and it was a hypothetical situation to begin with."

The Hornets have spent most of the two seasons since Katrina in Oklahoma City, but will return to New Orleans full-time next season. To show its commitment to the city, the NBA announced last year that it would stage next year's All-Star weekend in New Orleans.

Hunter was responding to questions about whether New Orleans could handle the event, after there were hundreds of arrests and complaints about the crowds during All-Star weekend in Las Vegas. But while Hunter and Stern have expressed concern over the direction of the rebuilding efforts, both sides expect a successful weekend.

"We're looking forward to New Orleans playing host to next year's All-Star events and are equally excited about the

Hornets' return to the city next season," Stern said in a statement. "The reports we have received about other major events and conventions recently held in New Orleans have been very positive, and we fully

expect All-Star 2008 to be a great success."

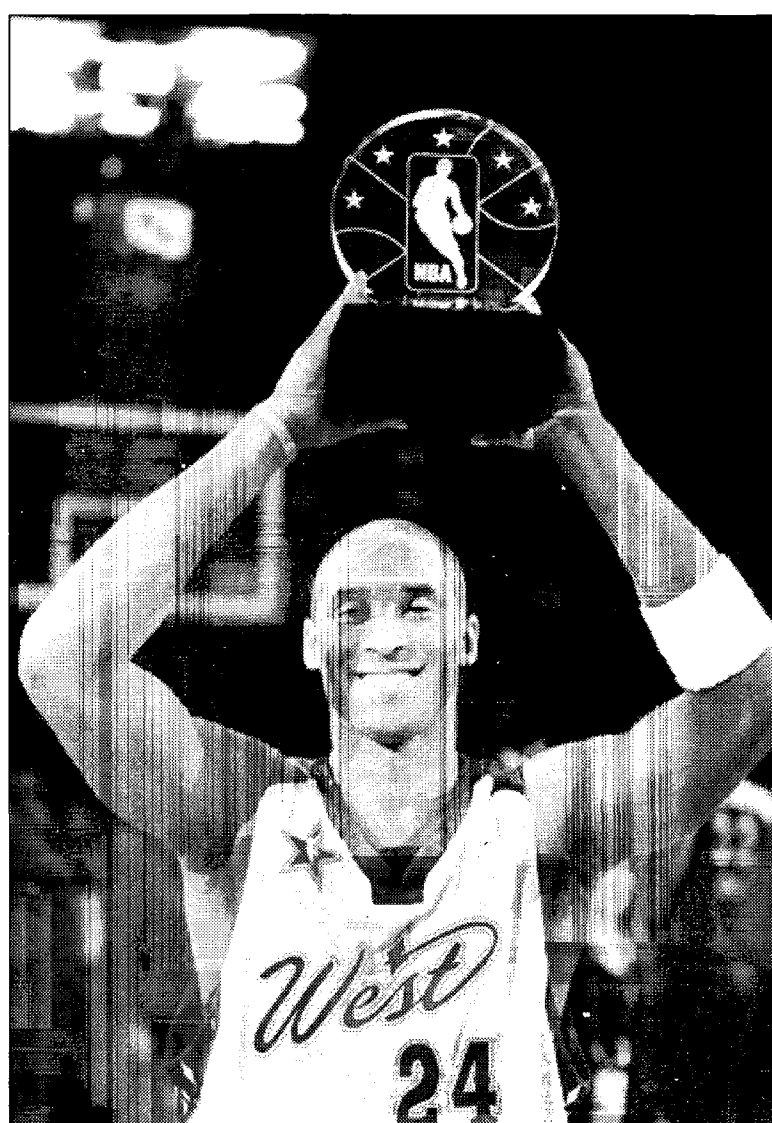
"While progress is still necessary in the continued rebuilding efforts, we hope the return of the Hornets and the coming All-Star game will be part of the rebirth and vibrancy of the New Orleans community."

Next year's game should be a huge financial boost to the struggling city. Las Vegas officials estimated a non-gaming economic impact of more than \$90 million, and Hunter said one of his goals is for some of that money to reach those who need it most.

"I want to make sure that there's some trickle down, that the people in the community who've historically benefited, who've historically been there, that they benefit from it," Hunter said. "That it's not just, that it all just doesn't stay in the certain area of the city and other folk don't get benefit who should benefit."

"If the union is not convinced that [New Orleans] can accommodate the All-Star game, it's an issue that will be subject to litigation between the union and the league."

Billy Hunter
union director



Kobe Bryant hoists the All-Star MVP trophy Feb. 18. Concerns about New Orleans' readiness for the 2008 game have been voiced.

Attention Seniors!

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Please Note: Interviews will not be held until late March.

Preferred start date is July 1, 2007.

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Strength

continued from page 24

freak, benched 225 pounds 25 times — far from spectacular for a defensive lineman. Michigan's Alan Branch and Arkansas' Keith Jackson — no relation — managed 33 reps. Joe Cohen from Florida put the bar up 34 times.

But the nation's most feared defensive end, UCLA's Justin Hickman, did 23 reps of 225.

Maybe the bench isn't the be-all, end-all.

Let's look a little closer.

Along with Hickman, who was listed at 263 pounds — seven less than Abiamiri — UCLA had Kevin Brown (293 pounds) and Brigham Harwell (286) as its starting tacklers. By comparison, former Irish defensive tackle Derek Landri was listed at 277, while fellow tackle Trevor Laws is at 283. On the inside, Notre Dame gave up 10 more pounds per player than did UCLA, and the lighter Hickman benefited.

To be fair, Landri clocked in with 24 reps at 225, beating only five of 20 competitors in his group. And yet, Landri had a year that deserved All-America consideration. He finished with 15.5 tackles for loss, including seven sacks. Hardly a result of too little muscle mass, right?

Well, not quite.

Landri benefited from the defense's inability to get the opponent off the field. He had extra plays on which to bring down running backs behind the line because, all too often, the opposition would tear through the Irish defense on the next play and mitigate any prior defensive stop.

A large part of Notre Dame's failure to stop offenses was the lack of a pass rush, and the relative lightness of the Irish defensive line was an unfortunate compounding factor. Against Michigan State's spread offense, the Irish offensive line barely outweighed the Spartans defensive line by 10 pounds per player. On the flip side, Michigan State held a 30-pound edge per lineman when the

Spartans were on offense.

It's no wonder the Irish couldn't control the line of scrimmage or get a running game going that wet September night.

The question then is, what's the proper formula?

The defensive unit needs to be fast on the ends and big in the middle. With the implementation of the 3-4 personnel, it's only fair to wait and see how the conditioning staff deals with the new configuration.

But the offensive line needs to get bigger.

Ryan Harris was an All-America candidate and Notre Dame's most effective man on the offensive line, according to Irish coach Charlie Weis. Yet he didn't meet the hype, not by a mile.

Harris, who weighed in over 300 pounds, did 22 reps of 225 this week, while fellow former Irish lineman Dan Santucci did 23.

While they weren't at the bottom, neither came close to the top end of the offensive linemen in the drill.

Both Harris and Santucci, along with fifth-year applicant John Sullivan, were recruited for Tyrone Willingham's "West Coast" offense. The formula then might have been for smaller, faster offensive linemen. But it sure hasn't worked in the pro-style sets Charlie Weis runs. The Irish offensive line got beat all season in 2006, and beat badly.

If it wants to be successful in 2007, Notre Dame must control the line of scrimmage. No first-year starting quarterback, no matter how good, can be expected to operate to any level close to what Brady Quinn did behind the porous 2006 offensive line.

The starters need to be physical and strong. Fast is good, but it's tough to run screens when you can't run up the gut.

So if this week is the impetus for any revelation, it should be this one: It's time to bulk up.

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

Contact Ken Fowler at kfowler1@nd.edu

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The Office of Student Affairs is now accepting nominations for the

Denny Moore Award For Excellence in Journalism

Candidates must be seniors who exemplify the qualities for which Denny Moore was known, including personal integrity and character, commitment to Notre Dame, and writing ability.

Candidates may be nominated by faculty, staff, or fellow students.

For a nomination form, please visit our website at:

<http://osa.nd.edu>

Nominations are due by Friday, March 2, 2007.

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Screening of *Sex and the City*
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8:00 – 9:00 PM

Panel discussion

9:00 – 10:00 PM

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UNIVERSITY OF
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Sawatske

continued from page 24

short list of contenders to take the title from Wisconsin next month.

Sawatske, along with fellow seniors Wes O'Neill and Noah Babin, has helped to anchor the top-ranked defense in the country this season.

"I felt like I had a lot more to give and I wanted to go somewhere where I could get a little better degree," he said. "Notre Dame was a perfect fit for me."

The Duluth, Minn., native had been recruited by former Irish coach Dave Poulin out of high school and was already familiar with some of the coaching staff. Sawatske also played on the U.S. under-18 team with Babin and Tim Wallace, who played right wing for Notre Dame last year. That team went on to win a gold

"I felt like I had a lot more to give and I wanted to go where I could get a little better degree."

Tom Sawatske
Irish defenseman

medal in the 2002 World Championships.

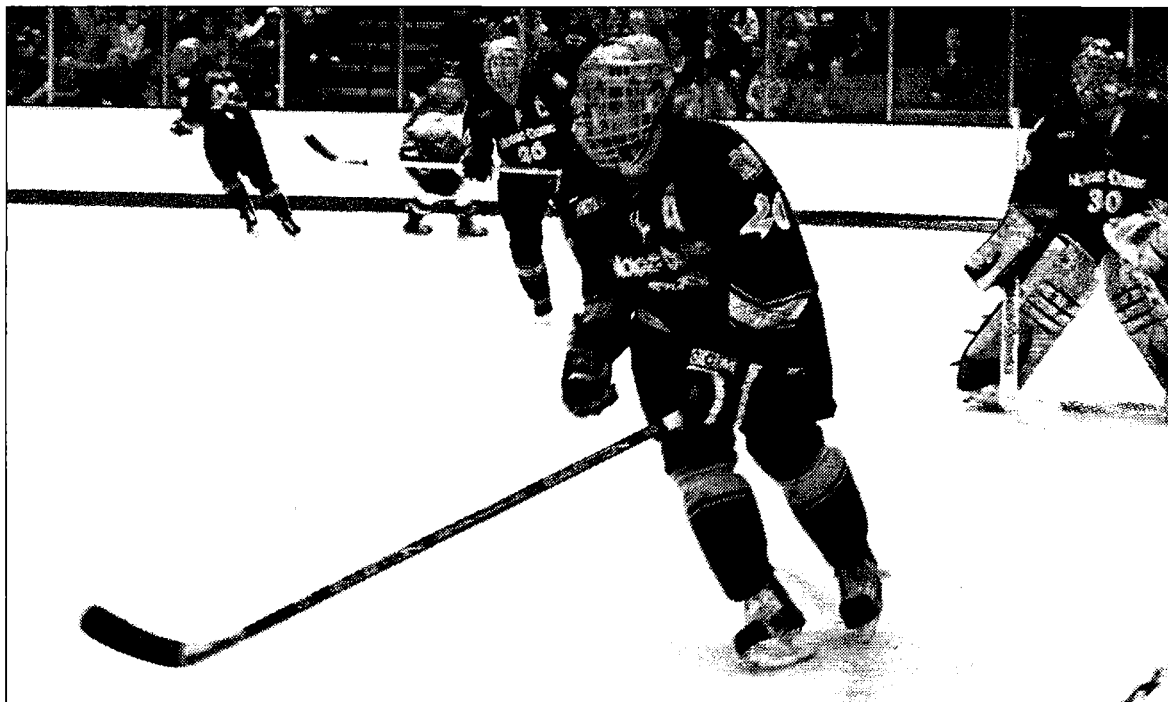
"Noah and I have been buddies for a while. It was a familiar situation and I was really excited about the opportunity," Sawatske said.

Sawatske, who joined the team in head coach Jeff Jackson's first season, was also used to adjusting to a new coaching staff. He arrived at Wisconsin just as Mike Eaves was taking over their program and the two teams went through many of the same trials under new leaders.

The 5-foot-11, 196-pound Sawatske fit in well under Jackson's new system, one that stressed puck control and defensive hockey.

Although he does not fill up the net on a regular basis (three goals and four assists this season), his consistently gritty defensive play has earned him the respect of his teammates and coaches.

"I'm just trying to go out



LAURIE HUNT/The Observer

Irish defenseman Tom Sawatske looks for the puck in Notre Dame's 2-0 win over Ferris State Saturday. Sawatske has netted three goals and assisted on four others this season.

every night and shut down whatever line Wes and I are playing against," Sawatske said. "I try to help out on offense when I can, but mainly my goal is just to keep [the opposing

team] off the scoreboard."

If Sawatske and the rest of the six-headed monster that is the Notre Dame defensive corps can continue to keep opponents off the scoreboard, Sawatske's

former teammates may be watching his victory lap this April.

Contact Dan Murphy at
dmurphy6@nd.edu



CHRISTIAN SAGARDIA/The Observer

Irish guard Russell Carter returns to his home state of New Jersey to lead the Irish against Rutgers Saturday.

Rutgers

continued from page 24

lose.

Notre Dame, on the other hand, has a lot riding on this game. A bye in the Big East tournament would be wrapped up with a win Saturday or a loss by Syracuse to Villanova the same day. Even if the Irish are likely to make the NCAA tournament no matter how the next two weeks play out, it is important for Notre Dame to dispatch of the Knights in a manner befitting a top-25 team.

The Big East tourney

To say Notre Dame has struggled in the Big East tournament would be an understatement. The Irish are just 3-11 all-time at the tournament and seniors Colin Falls and Russell Carter are just 1-3 in their careers. To overcome history like that, Notre Dame will need to be on a roll going to New York. Losing to one of the Big East's worst teams just days before the tournament could be devastating.

In addition, a bye is not assured if the Irish lose. The Orange are on the bubble for an NCAA berth and should beat a Wildcats team that has been inconsistent for most of this season. If that happens, Notre Dame will need to beat Rutgers to take the tiebreaker from 11-5 Syracuse.

A bye will be important for the Irish not only because just one team has ever won the Big East tournament without earning a bye, but also because having a bye gives Notre Dame positive publicity in the eyes of the NCAA Tournament selection committee. Although the difference is only one place in the Big East standings, a fourth-place Irish squad with a bye would likely earn a higher seed than a fifth-place team forced to play in the first round in New York.

The Big Dance

The Rutgers game will also have a direct effect on Notre Dame's seeding for the NCAA tournament. The Scarlet Knights are currently ranked 205 in the RPI, according to collegerpi.com. A loss to them would be devastating to Notre

Dame's own RPI, which is currently 32. Most experts, including ESPN's Joe Lunardi, are projecting the Irish as high as a five or six seed based on other factors, like Notre Dame's 6-3 record against the RPI top-50 and position near the top of the Big East standings.

On the other side of the coin, the Irish can help themselves in the seeding quite a bit with a win Saturday. The win will be on the road, and will therefore count as 1.4 wins in the RPI's formula. This will boost Notre Dame into the higher 20s in RPI and probably put the Irish at least one seed higher in the NCAA Tournament than they would be if they lost.

While the compelling matchups that await the Irish in New York (such as a possible rematch with Marquette) will also play a big role in Notre Dame's seeding for the Big Dance, no game is more important than the next one.

With a conference tournament bye and seeding in the NCAA's on the line, the Rutgers game suddenly means a whole lot.

Contact Chris Khorey at
ckhorey@nd.edu

Hurley

continued from page 24

Richmond a month later, Hurley ascended to second in the world rankings.

But that wasn't even good enough for first in her house.

Hurley's younger sister, Courtney, is an epee prodigy of her own. The younger Hurley took first in the cadet division (under-16) in Albuquerque and third — just behind her sister — in the open event in Richmond, Va. By December, she was the national No. 1 epee in the rolling points system used to rank American fencers.

Needless to say, the Hurley sisters were quite the competitors.

"My sister and I hated each other's guts for a while," Kelley Hurley said. "The feeling sucks when you know your younger sister can beat you."

Kelley Hurley said separation has made the heart grow fonder — at least a little bit.

Now that her younger sister is

traveling to domestic and international events as she stays at Notre Dame, Kelley said she can root for Courtney more. Even if they face off, they know it's not the end of the world.

"I finally got over it when I realized that she would win some and I would win some," the older sister said.

But then there's the 2008 Beijing Games. Because the U.S. national team will not have a full women's epee squad competing, the two Hurleys are essentially fighting for one spot. The Irish freshman entered the year with a lead in the points used to determine the Olympic qualifiers, but Courtney Hurley's more flexible schedule has allowed her to rack up crucial points while big sister competes for Notre Dame.

Although Irish junior sabreist Mariel Zagunis recently withdrew from school to take a three-semester leave of absence in order to train and qualify in her weapon, Notre Dame's Hurley is hesitant about leaving the team for any time period.

"It's between me and her, and

she has the opportunity to travel," Kelley Hurley said of her sister. "I don't want to take a year off, [but] if I do really well in the summer competitions, I'll probably take the year off."

But with the way she's fencing, Notre Dame might want to start preparing for a year without its young star.

Note:

♦ The Notre Dame coaching staff on Tuesday named senior foilist Fran Bontempo and sophomore foilist Adrienne Nott as the squad's first fencers of the month.

Bontempo went 10-2 at the Duke Duals Feb. 9-10 and 10-2 Saturday at the Northwestern Duals. Nott was a perfect 10-0 at Duke and 17-2 at Northwestern. Nott also took the silver medal at the USA Junior Olympics Feb. 16-19.

"I feel like we should show and distinguish who is doing the best," Irish coach Janusz Bednarski said.

Contact Ken Fowler at
kfowler1@nd.edu



PHIL HUDELSON/The Observer

Irish fencer Kelley Hurley, right, battles Ohio State's Alexandra Obrazcova in the Notre Dame Duals Jan. 20. Hurley is 51-4 this season.

HOCKEY

Badgering for a chance

Sawatske hungers for title after transferring from Wisconsin to ND

By DAN MURPHY
Sports Writer

Last spring, as the Wisconsin Badgers took home their sixth national championship in Milwaukee, Irish defenseman Tom Sawatske was forced to watch his former teammates celebrate the victory from his apartment.

Sawatske transferred from Madison to South Bend prior to his junior season after playing for the Badgers in the first two years of his collegiate career. The senior played in 54 games for Wisconsin while picking up 3 goals and 11 assists from his spot on the blue line, but chose to leave for both hockey and academic reasons.

"I was happy for all the guys that I played with. They deserved it," Sawatske said. "But at the same time it was kind of tough to know that you could have been there."

It didn't seem likely at the time — Notre Dame had finished its season at 13-17-4 — but Sawatske may get a second chance at a championship. The No. 1 Irish are certainly on a

see SAWATSKE/page 22



Irish defenseman Tom Sawatske fights for the puck with two Ferris State icers during Notre Dame's 5-2 loss to the Bulldogs Friday. Sawatske joined the Irish last season after transferring from Wisconsin.

VANESSA GEMPIS/The Observer

FOOTBALL COMMENTARY

Irish need muscle on front lines

Ruben Mendoza is an imposing figure.

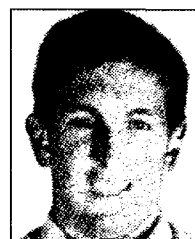
His upper body — calling it stout would be an understatement — screams power on top of legs that say strength.

He's Notre Dame's drill sergeant strength and conditioning coordinator, the one blowing whistles and demanding the Irish stay in top form.

But while he's built of brute force, questions about Notre Dame's linemen are understandable.

The Irish failed to dominate the line of scrimmage all season, and looked badly overmatched at times. In the off-season, the battle of the trenches might not get much talk, but results from the Irish at this week's NFL Combine in Indianapolis throw into question whether one of Notre Dame's strategies is hurting the Irish.

Defensive end Victor Abiamiri, known in South Bend and his native Baltimore as a physical



Ken Fowler

Sports Editor

see STRENGTH/page 20

FENCING

Hurley learned to fence at 'dinner'

By KEN FOWLER
Sports Editor

Kelley Hurley is the youngest fencer for Notre Dame, but she just might be the best.

The freshman epeeist is 51-4 this season, including a second-place finish at the prestigious Penn State Open in November. But her .927 winning percentage — the team's best — doesn't satisfy her.

"I feel like I shouldn't have lost those bouts," Hurley said of her four defeats.

With her background, the feeling is understandable.

Hurley captured the under-17 title at the World Championships in 2005. Only

16 years old at the time, she climbed her way up the national and world rankings.

Hurley, who learned fencing from her parents, Tracy and Robert, became the youngest U.S. women's epee junior champion in 2004 after taking the national crown as a 14-year-old. The junior circuit is open to all fencers under 19.

"Fencing has always been taught at the dinner table," she said. "And everywhere else."

After taking first in the junior competition at the North American Cup (NAC) event in Albuquerque, N.M., last November and second in the senior NAC competition in

see HURLEY/page 22

MEN'S BASKETBALL ANALYSIS

Overlooking Rutgers could cost ND

On the surface, No. 17/22 Notre Dame's matchup against Rutgers Saturday means little. The Irish (22-6, 10-5 Big East) can wrap up a bye in the Big East tournament even with a loss and are a fair bet to make the NCAA Tournament.

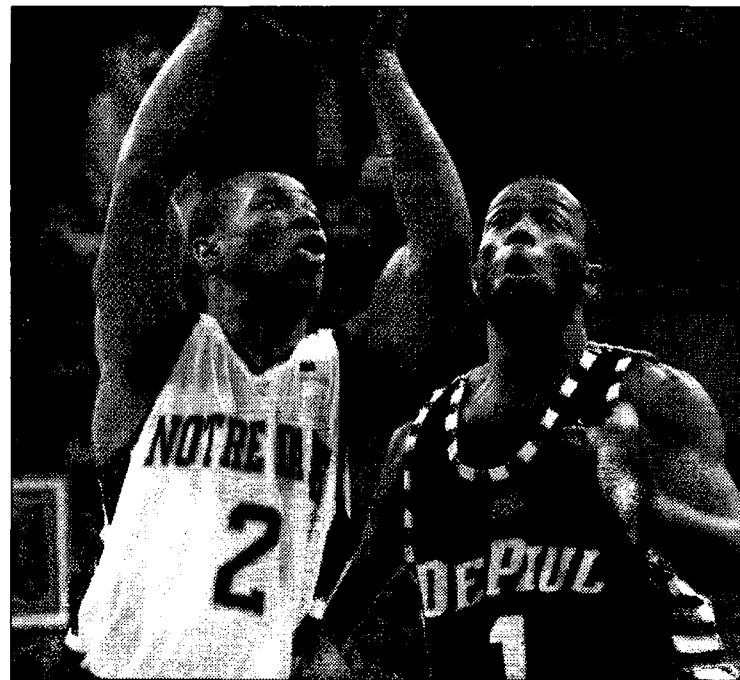
For the Scarlet Knights (10-18, 3-12 Big East), the game will be their last this season regardless of the outcome.

In reality, Saturday's matchup can have tremendous impact. For Rutgers, a win over Notre Dame would give a positive ending to an otherwise dreadful season. The Scarlet Knights have nothing to play for except an upset over a top-25 team. They will be motivated to play with reckless abandon, because they have nothing to

Chris Khorey

Associate
Sports Editor

see RUTGERS/page 22



TIM SULLIVAN/The Observer

The play of point guard Tory Jackson is one reason why Notre Dame is likely to earn its first NCAA Tournament berth in four seasons.

SPORTS AT A GLANCE

NBA

The league renews pledge to New Orleans for 2008 All-Star game.

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MLB

Veterans committee refuses new members to Hall of Fame for third straight year.

page 18

NBA

2006 champs Heat visit White House as Dwyane Wade ponders surgery.

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NCAA BASKETBALL

Tennessee 86
Florida 76

Chris Lector scores 21 points in Volunteers upset.

page 16

NCAA BASKETBALL

Pittsburgh 80
West Virginia 66

The Panthers capture Big East title in win.

page 16

NCAA BASKETBALL

Brigham Young 62
Air Force 58

The Cougars snap Air Force's 30-game home winning streak.

page 16