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Student Center opens to public



Saint Mary's Student Center officially opened Sunday night, providing students with additional office and club space.

KELLY HIGGINS/The Observer

SMC building contains more than a dozen offices, bookstore, convenience store and cafe

By MEGAN O'NEIL
Saint Mary's Editor

Saint Mary's students returning from spring break this weekend had at least one good thing to look forward to — a new Student Center.

The Student Center, which opened Sunday evening after months of anticipation, is the new home for more than a dozen offices at the college including the Shaheen Bookstore, First Source Bank, campus ministry and student

government.

Students and faculty toured the new building throughout Sunday evening and into Monday, asking questions of Student Activities Director George Rosenbush.

Rosenbush coordinated the switch to the new building, an undertaking that spanned several months.

Even Saint Mary's President Carol Mooney stopped by and poked her head into some of the conference rooms and offices.

see CENTER/page 6

Disability awareness month

kicks off

Coordinators hope events will increase understanding

By KAREN LANGLEY
News Writer

A musician with Down Syndrome and Irish head football coach Charlie Weis might not seem to have much in common, but in the coming weeks the two will highlight Notre Dame's Disability Awareness Month.

Disability Awareness Month is an extended version of the Disability Awareness Weeks that have been held on campus since 1997. Marissa Runkle of the Logan Center has coordinated most of the efforts along with Kathleen Roblez, co-president of Best Buddies and the College Buddy Director.

The first scheduled event is a performance by Sujeet Desai, a 23-year-old man who was born with Down Syndrome. He will play the piano, clarinet and violin in a concert held at 7 p.m. tonight in Washington Hall.

A graduate of the Berkshire Music Academy, Desai has also earned a black belt in Tae Kwon Do and won gold and silver medals swimming in the Special Olympics World Games.

"He has really pushed himself to work so hard. His older brother, who does not have special needs, has served as a real inspiration to him," Runkle said. "Tomorrow [at the concert] there will be a lot of children who have Down Syndrome, and he is one of their idols."

The concert by Desai is touted by the organizers as one of the highlights of Disabilities Awareness Month.

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Golden dome to shine even brighter

By KATE ANTONACCI
Associate News Editor

One spot on Notre Dame's campus often shines above all the rest — the historic golden dome, which, starting March 7, began the process of being regilded for the tenth time in school history.

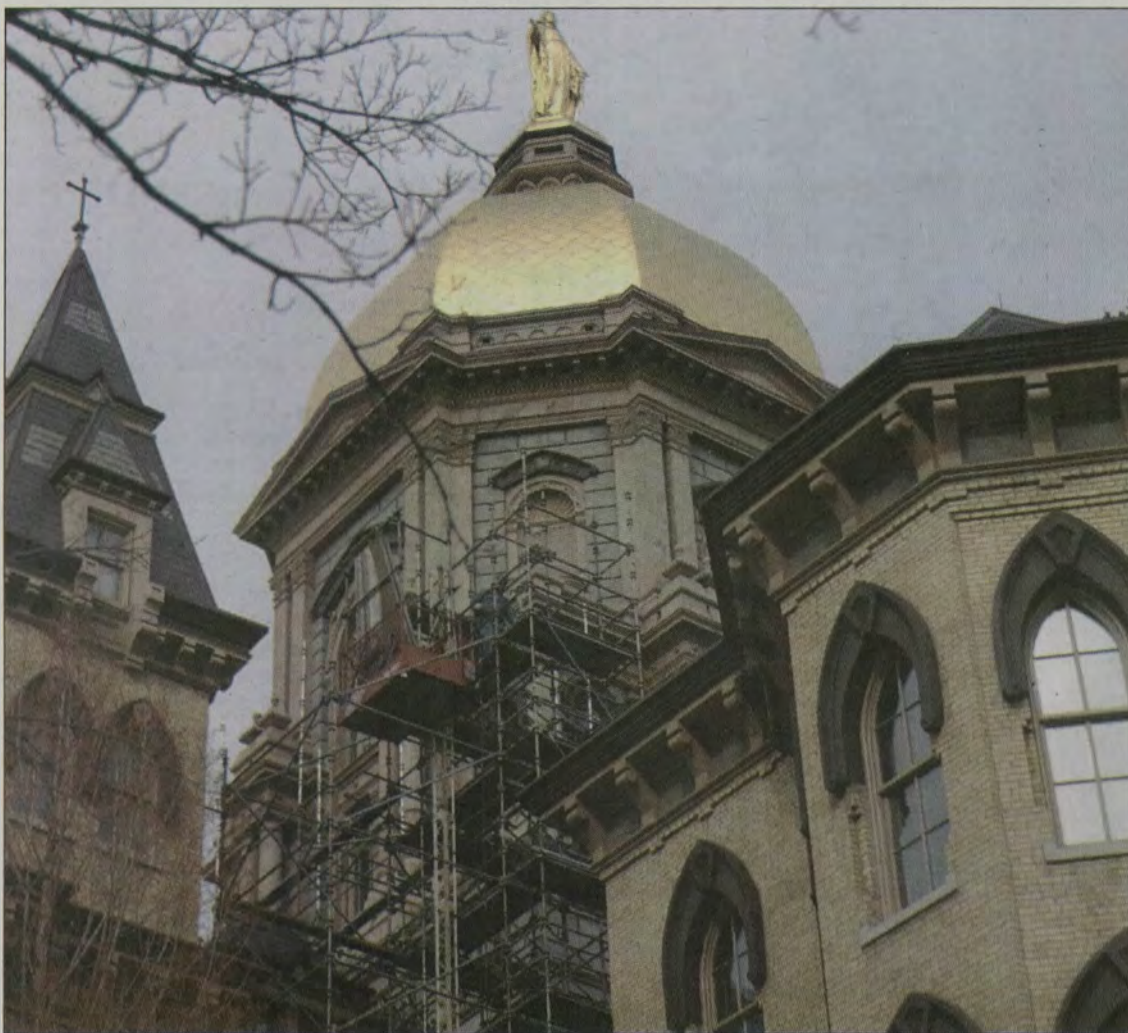
A scaffolding system, which takes about three weeks to complete, is currently being installed. The regilding process consists of applying 3,500 square feet of 23.9-karat gold leaf. This process will begin after the scaffolding is finished and once weather conditions are optimal, said Dennis Brown, associate director of news and information.

The regilding process is done by hand and the material, which includes eight ounces of gold, can only be applied on dry days without wind, Brown said.

According to a University press release, Conrad Schmitt Studios of New Berlin, Wis. is handling the regilding, which will cost \$300,000.

"Money for the regilding is coming from the general fund, though a benefactor is being sought for the project," Brown said.

Though the golden dome is part of Notre Dame history, some students think the price is a bit



PAMELA LOCK/The Observer

Scaffolding surrounds the golden dome as workers begin the regilding process, which will continue until this summer. The dome has not been regilded since 1988.

see DOME/page 4

COR

Senator proposes purchasing seniors' book-buying site

By MARY KATE MALONE
News Writer

The Council of Representatives focused its discussion Monday on the need to create a more affordable way for Notre Dame students to buy and sell class textbooks.

Fisher senator Sujal Pandya

spoke to representatives about three possible solutions to help alleviate the financial burden textbook prices place on students. Pandya said collaborating with an online book company or creating a new Web site could solve the problem.

But Pandya believed his third solution — a proposal that would require student government to

purchase an already-established, student-operated book exchange Web site — was the most feasible.

"I believe the third solution is the one we need to pursue. Student government would buy NDBay. We would buy the name identification, the 2,200 users and the success of the program," Pandya said.

According to Pandya, the NDBay website is currently run by two seniors living off-campus, and the owners are not sure yet if they will continue running the site after graduation.

Representatives questioned Pandya about the feasibility of the project and the amount of effort required to maintain the Web site.

"I want to know the type of investment is needed on our part — like time and people, do we have the manpower? What if the system crashes?" Student Union Board manager Jimmy Flaherty asked.

Pandya assured representatives that the effort required to

see NDBAY/page 4

CLC

Proposed election changes debated

By MADDIE HANNA
Associate News Editor

The Campus Life Council discussed both the difficulty in synchronizing hall election dates and the possibility of creating a new task force to combat violence against women at Monday's meeting.

A resolution regarding election deadline compliance was presented, which requested greater assistance from the Office of Student Affairs and residence hall rectors in ensuring a smooth transition between student government administrations.

The resolution also stressed the necessity of increased communication between the Judicial Council and each hall staff regarding the election dates.

After Council members reviewed the resolution, voting was postponed due to concerns surrounding next year's still-undetermined election dates.

"I would rather have a date by which they [the elections] need to be done, and the later, the better," said Dillon rector Father Paul Doyle. Doyle expressed concerns that the proposed March 1 election date would prevent those rising seniors who apply for, but do not receive, resident assistant positions from participating in hall elections.

"I don't see any compelling reason to do it [hold elections] at the same time in every dorm," Doyle said. "I'm not asking you to push the date after spring break

— I just want a chance to engage the upper class."

Judicial Council president Brin Anderson and student body president-elect Dave Baron said the March 1 date had been proposed because it would allow for a longer transition period.

"March 1 was selected so senators can go to meetings and other transition meetings," Baron said, noting these other meetings will be set up in the near future with the Office of Student Activities.

Cavanaugh rector Sister Pat Dearbaugh agreed with Doyle, saying she did not see the point of synchronizing the election dates.

"March 1 is way too early to do all this, when we have RA decisions to make, and to expect people to take over that early," Dearbaugh said.

Cavanaugh senator Jordan Bongiovanni said increasing senior involvement in hall government, a concern of several Council members who mentioned the growing trend toward younger hall presidents, should be separated from the election date issue.

"I think we're trying to solve two different problems here," Bongiovanni said. "I think it's student government's job as a whole to encourage older leadership, if they see fit."

Howard rector Kathy Brannock said another complication with the early election dates was the study abroad notification date.

"I would hate to have a student elected president get accepted to

London and then withdraw as president," Brannock said.

Baron acknowledged the problem and offered the possibility of talking to International Studies to see if they could push forward notification dates next year.

With the vending task force's objective of sending a resolution to Vice President of Student Affairs Father Mark Poorman completed, Bongiovanni asked if a new task force should be created in its place.

In response, Baron proposed added attention to the problem of violence against women, saying, "This may be something to take up in another task force, or social concerns. This is something we need to look into."

Baron said he felt male involvement in preventing rape needed to increase and brought up Men Against Rape, an organization he thinks could benefit the effort.

"Some of the efforts aren't tailored towards men," Baron said. "That's something next year Lizzi [Shappell] and I are going to be working on."

Student body vice president Karla Bell said that while the Gender Resource Center was designed for men and women, the male programs are not as effective.

"A huge problem is that they can't get enough male involvement to make a difference, even for programs geared towards men," Bell said.

Contact Maddie Hanna
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BOG

SAGA asks board for formal recognition

By KELLY BALE
News Writer

Saint Mary's Board of Governance discussed recognizing the Straight and Gay Alliance (SAGA) during their first official meeting in the new student center Monday.

Megan Schaeffer, president and founder of SAGA at Saint Mary's, spoke in front of BOG to ask for recognition of the alliance as an official club at the College.

"There are a lot of Catholic schools that support gay and straight alliances, and I really feel that Saint Mary's needs to be one of them," Schaeffer said.

Schaeffer said that she first recognized a need for an organization such as SAGA on campus after students came to her looking for someone to talk to.

Schaeffer described SAGA as a group of 25 to 30 straight, lesbian and bisexual students who meet weekly to discuss various issues in education and awareness, support and social activities.

"I really want to stress that this is something that is affecting our entire community," Schaeffer said. "I think the support group will be the one that has the biggest impact on this campus and affects the most people."

Schaeffer said that SAGA was asking to be recognized as a club primarily to receive funding to be able to bring in speakers and show movies, but also to be able to advertise and use campus facilities.

BOG members held an extensive discussion on the status of the group and ultimately voted to table their decision to next week's meeting. Student body president Sarah Catherine White said that members felt they needed to seek a more informed perspective in order to make a decision.

"We understand that our decision with this club, as with every club, is to review how this club supports our mission and represents our students," White said.

BOG members recognized the benefits SAGA could bring to the inclusiveness, support and education of the student body but also discussed concerns that could grow among alumnae, prospective students and the overall reputation of Saint Mary's as an all women's Catholic college.

"By researching and taking time to decide, we're not letting fear get in the way," White said. "Our primary focus is not what the reaction will be, but what those we represent believe in."

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The O'Grady Asia Lecture Series 2005

Presents

John Kamm, Executive Director Dui Hua Foundation

"Civil Rights, Human Rights: The Struggle for Justice in the United States and China"

Tuesday, March 15 at 5:00 p.m.

Jordan Auditorium

Mendoza College of Business
University of Notre Dame

A workshop and discussion with John Kamm (Dui Hua Founder and Executive Director) & Irene Chan Kamm, (Manager of Administration and Development)

"Dui Hua: The Strategy and Technique of Human Rights Work in China"

Wednesday, March 16, 2005 at 2:00 p.m.

Hesburgh Center for International Studies Auditorium
Notre Dame Avenue
University of Notre Dame

Reception to follow
Hesburgh Center, Great Hall

<http://www.duihua.org>
The public is invited to attend both events.
631-8873



DUSTIN MENELLA/The Observer

Fisher senator Sujal Pandya, right, makes a proposal to purchase the student-run NDBay at Monday's COR meeting.

NDBay

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run the Web site would be minimal.

"The current owners told me they spend one to two hours per week facilitating the site. It will require minimum support. We already have the capacity to run it," Pandya said.

After other members questioned the cost of the Web site and the need for continuous advertising, chief executive assistant and student body president-elect Dave Baron acknowledged

that purchasing NDBay might not be the most efficient measure to take. Instead, Baron said student clubs could take on the task.

"We've looked into the issue a great deal. But the cost to buy it seems too much. The Entrepreneurial Club has expressed interest in creating a new Web site. That, to me, seems like a better option," Baron said.

Student body president Adam Istvan then closed the meeting to the press to discuss the actual price of purchasing the site.

Contact Mary Kate Malone at mmalone3@nd.edu

Month

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"Sujeet's performance will be really cool because instead of just having a speaker about disabilities, we will actually have someone with disabilities doing a performance themselves," Roblez said.

The upcoming weeks will feature other events centered on the issue of disability awareness. On March 19, the Logan Center will host a Best Buddies Friendship Games carnival from 12 p.m. to 2.

"We will have about 150 people here for a small carnival. Half will be people with disabilities such as Down Syndrome, mental retardation, or autism, while the other half will be Notre Dame and Saint Mary's students who are in Best Buddies," Runkle said. "The event is open to all students though as a service opportunity."

On March 21, Weis, whose daughter has been affected by developmental disorders, will speak about the value of people with disabilities. The lec-

ture will be held at 9 p.m. in 102 DeBartolo Hall.

There will be a discussion for Notre Dame and Saint Mary's students with disabili-

ties ranging from physical to learning in Legends on March 29 at 8 p.m.

On March 30, a Theology on Tap

discussion focusing on legal mercy killings of people with disabilities will be held at 10 p.m. at Legends. David Solomon, philosophy professor and director of Notre Dame's Center for Ethics and Culture, will lead the discussion.

"The reason we are doing Disabilities Awareness Month is to educate students about disabilities issues and to emphasize the fact that people with disabilities have a lot to contribute to society and are active members in our society," Runkle said.

Disabilities Awareness Month is sponsored by the Logan Center and the Best Buddies Club of Notre Dame and Saint Mary's, as well as the Center for Social Concerns, the Special Friends Club, SuperSibs, the Office for Students with Disabilities, the Senior Class Council and the Edna K. Miller Foundation.

"[We want] to emphasize the fact that people with disabilities have a lot to contribute to society and are active members in our society."

Marissa Runkle
Logan Center

"We definitely want everyone to come to all of the events," Roblez said. "The carnival is going to be fun, and it would be a great time for students who have not had contact with people with disabilities to come here and play games with them in a laid back atmosphere. It's a great opportunity for people who are interested to come and see what it's like to interact with people who have disabilities."

Contact Karen Langley at klangle1@nd.edu

Dome

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excessive.

"I think it's a wonderful idea, but I think there are better places the school could use the money," said sophomore Sarah Micelli.

The last regilding took place in 1988, and, contrary to what some

may believe, the dome is not required to be regilded after a certain number of years.

"It's not automatic," Brown said. "An evaluation was made by the University architect and others in his office, just as they do with other buildings on campus."

Because regilding is a very delicate process and will take place over the next few months and into the summer, the dome will not be its golden self for graduation,

which may be distressing to some.

"I'm sure some students will be disappointed, but because the regilding process is dependent upon calm weather conditions, the scaffolding needs to go up now so that the work can begin as soon as weather permits," Brown said.

However, with the amount of attention the dome receives, the University believes it is important to keep it in good shape.

"The number-one tourist attraction in Indiana provides exposure that is cheap at any price," said sophomore Preston Carter.

Brown said that Notre Dame also plans to make additional repairs to the outside of the Main Building and to paint parts of the drum on which the dome stands while the scaffolding is taking place.

The dome, which was added to the Main Building in 1882, caused

much controversy because administrators thought the gold gilding would be extravagant and suggested that yellow be used instead, Brown said. However, Notre Dame founder Father Edward Sorin insisted that the dome be painted gold and, after topping it with a 16-foot-tall statue of Mary, succeeded.

Contact Kate Antonacci at kantonac@nd.edu

Law & . . .

An Interdisciplinary Colloquium Series

March 16, 2005

4:00 p.m.

Law School Courtroom

Tocqueville as Critical Race Theorist

Presenter

Alvin Tillery

Department of Political Science

Commentator

Jay Tidmarsh

The Law School

WORLD & NATION

Tuesday, March 15, 2005

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Inmates surrender after jailbreak

MANILA, Philippines — Muslim-extremist inmates accused of committing some of the Philippines' worst terrorist attacks agreed to surrender Monday after a botched jailbreak left five people dead, including three guards, but the deal broke down when the inmates demanded food, authorities said.

Early Tuesday, authorities threatened to storm the prison unless the inmates quickly surrender.

"We have directed the ground commander to make the announcement that we are giving them 15 minutes to surrender their firearms or we will take the option of arresting the perpetrators of the crime," Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes told reporters.

Crack troops, many of them U.S.-trained, and SWAT teams backed by two armored personnel carriers surrounded the maximum-security facility at Manila's Camp Bagong Diwa.

Chechen leader's house blown up

ROSTOV-ON-DON, Russia — Russian authorities said Monday they blew up the house where Chechen rebel leader Aslan Maskhadov was killed last week because they feared booby traps, but critics questioned the motive.

Col.-Gen. Arkady Yedelev, chief of the federal headquarters for the campaign in Chechnya, said demolition experts inspecting the bunker had discovered and detonated a box that contained documents and was ridden with explosives.

"The team of investigators decided to blow up the entire house to avoid such surprises in the future," Yedelev said in a statement.

Rights activists and government critics, however, suggested the blast could have been meant as punishment for the family.

NATIONAL NEWS

Mistrial ruled after court shootings

ATLANTA — Prosecutors on Monday dropped a weapons charge against a man accused of opening fire in an Atlanta courthouse, and a mistrial was declared in the suspect's rape case as officials continued sorting out charges in the slayings of a judge and three others.

The suspected gunman, Brian Nichols, could appear in court as early as Tuesday, authorities said. He was arrested Saturday morning after a rampage that began when he overpowered a sheriff's deputy who was escorting him to his rape trial.

Nichols, 33, had been in federal custody since his arrest on a federal firearms charge.

Clinton back at home after surgery

NEW YORK — Former President Clinton left the hospital Monday, four days after undergoing surgery to remove scar tissue and fluid around his left lung.

"I'm glad to be home and look forward to getting back to work within the next month or so," Clinton said in a statement issued by his spokesman, Jim Kennedy.

Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton accompanied her husband from the hospital to their home, where the 42nd president was to continue his recovery. A motorcade of five or six SUVs was seen leaving New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University Medical Center shortly after 5 p.m.

LOCAL NEWS

Group sues over medical records

INDIANAPOLIS — Planned Parenthood of Indiana is suing Attorney General Steve Carter to stop his office from seizing the medical records of 73 low-income Medicaid patients who have sought reproductive services.

None of the records involves abortions.

The Attorney General's office, in a letter presented at three Planned Parenthood health centers earlier this month, stated that its Medicaid Fraud Control Unit was investigating an incident report or complaint alleging patient abuse or neglect.

LEBANON

Thousands march against Syrian troops

Protest is largest since the assassination of former prime minister one month ago

Associated Press

BEIRUT — Hundreds of thousands of demonstrators chanted "Freedom, sovereignty, independence," and waved a sea of Lebanese flags in Beirut on Monday, the biggest anti-Syrian protest yet in the opposition's duel of street rallies with supporters of the Damascus-backed government.

Crowds of Druze, Christians and Sunni Muslims flooded Martyrs' Square and spilled over into nearby streets — responding to an opposition call to turn out for the removal of Syrian troops from Lebanon.

"We are coming to liberate our country. We are coming to demand the truth," said Fatma Trad, a veiled Sunni Muslim woman who traveled from the remote region of Dinniyeh in northern Lebanon to take part.

The assassination of former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri exactly one month ago sparked the series of protests against Syria, the dominant power in Lebanon.

The throngs fell silent at 12:55 p.m. — the exact time Hariri was killed four weeks ago by a huge bomb in Beirut. The silence was broken only by church bells tolling and the flutter of flags.

Later, thousands of red and white balloons were released above the teeming crowd, many of whom wore scarves in the same colors that have come to symbolize the country's anti-Syrian movement in what the U.S. State Department has dubbed the "Cedar Revolution." Brass bands playing patriotic and national folk songs and Lebanon's national anthem were regularly drowned out by deafening chants from the crowd.

Monday's protest easily surpassed a pro-government rally of hundreds of



AP

Lebanese opposition demonstrators wave flags during a celebration March 1. Protests against Syrian troops Monday were the largest the country has seen since the assassination of the former Lebanese prime minister one month ago.

thousands of people last week by the Shiite Muslim militant group Hezbollah. That show of strength forced the opposition to try to regain its momentum.

While there were no official estimates of the size of the crowd, police officers privately estimated it at about 1 million people. The officers refused to speak publicly because it was an opposition rally. An Associated Press estimate by reporters on the scene put the number at much higher than the approximately 500,000 who attended the March 8 pro-Syrian rally.

Syria's military withdrawal continued Monday, with intelligence agents closing two offices in the northern

towns of Amyoun and Deir Ammar, on the coastal road between the port of Tripoli and the Syrian border. Intelligence agents also dismantled two checkpoints in the Akkar area. About 50 intelligence agents in all departed for unknown destinations, although it was believed to be northern Syria.

Most intelligence offices, the widely resented arm through which Syria has controlled many aspects of Lebanese life, remained in northern and central Lebanon after Syrian troops moved east, closer to the Syrian border. Last week, intelligence officers left the central towns of Aley and Bhamdoun and headed to Syrian-controlled areas of

eastern Lebanon. The redeployment is the first stage of what Damascus says will be a full withdrawal, although it has not given a timetable.

The opposition is demanding a full Syrian withdrawal, the resignations of Lebanese security chiefs and an international investigation into Hariri's Feb. 14 assassination.

Many were also particularly offended by pro-Syrian President Emile Lahoud's reinstatement last week of Prime Minister Omar Karami, who was forced to resign on Feb. 28 by a giant opposition protest.

"They are challenging us, and we are here to show them that we will not accept," said banker Farid Samaha.

Judge rules in favor of gay marriage

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — To gay marriage supporters, it is a historic development akin to a 1948 state Supreme Court decision that made California the first state to legalize interracial marriage.

To gay marriage opponents, it is an appalling abuse of judicial power that overturned a long-held tradition that marriage is a union between a man and a woman.

Setting the stage for a drawn-out legal battle between the two sides, San Francisco County Superior Court Judge Richard Kramer overturned California's ban on gay marriage

Monday and said that withholding marriage licenses from same-sex couples trespasses on their civil rights.

If it is upheld on appeal, the ruling will open the way for the nation's most populous state to follow Massachusetts in allowing same-sex couples to wed.

In his ruling, Kramer likened the ban to laws requiring racial segregation in schools, and said there appears to be "no rational purpose" for denying marriage to gay couples.

"The state's protracted denial of equal protection cannot be justified simply because such constitutional violation has become traditional,"

Kramer wrote.

The ruling came in response to lawsuits filed by the city of San Francisco and a dozen gay couples a year ago after the California Supreme Court halted a four-week same-sex marriage spree started by Mayor Gavin Newsom.

The opinion had been eagerly awaited because of San Francisco's historical role as a gay rights battleground.

"Today's ruling is an important step toward a more fair and just California that rejects discrimination and affirms family values for all California families," San Francisco City Attorney Dennis Herrera said.

Center

continued from page 1

"It's absolutely beautiful. I think it will attract more students to Saint Mary's," said junior Michelle Fitzgerald. "It gives it more of a college feel."

Construction on the Student Center, which has three floors and adjoins the dining hall, began in early 2004. Work on the interior of the building was almost completely finished last month. Students will now enter the dining hall through the main entrance of the Student Center.

Various campus groups had been packing for weeks to prepare for their new offices and were allowed to access them during spring break.

Director of Multicultural Affairs Terri Johnson said one of the best parts of moving into the building was watching students' faces as they took it all in for the first time.

"When you walk in you can feel the spirit of everyone together. And I think that is why we have this," said Johnson. "I feel the community here."

However, the transition to the new building is far from over. Staff members continue to wheel in carts laden with boxes, and many have yet to be given their own set of keys. A cyber café is still under construction.

The cornerstone of the Student Center, the bookstore and the new convenience store, will not open until Wednesday.

Assistant bookstore manager Bob Dezenzo said the delay was necessary to ensure the bookstore would be ready for business and that he was "ecstatic" about the change in locations.

"We like the new digs. It is just gorgeous. It gives us a touch of class," Dezenzo said. "We can't wait for the students to come in for the first time."

The new bookstore is twice as big as the old one and Dezenzo said students should expect double the merchandise. Tables were already filled Monday with new Saint Mary's items such as T-shirts, hats and

champagne glasses.

"We really want students to give their input. This is their store," Dezenzo said. "We are just the keepers of the gate."

Hours for the store have been extended to Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Weekend hours have not yet been established.

The convenience store will offer an expanded range of products previously sold at the bookstore such as toiletries and food products. It will be open Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to midnight.

While Dezenzo said the move has been trying at times, he knows the outcome will be terrific.

"The staff has worked extremely hard. I'm very proud of them and the work that they have done," he said.

"It's absolutely beautiful. I think it will attract more students to Saint Mary's. It gives it more of a college feel."

Michelle Fitzgerald
junior

Director of campus ministry Judy Fean welcomed visitors Monday afternoon to the campus ministry office with a flier detailing office hours. Campus ministry will continue to operate largely out of Regina Hall, Fean said, but their office in the Student Center

will allow them a prime location to reach out to students.

Assistant director of Student Activities Stacy Eckstein praised Building Services for helping her and her colleague with the move and said she is looking forward to the functional qualities of the building.

"We are better able to support students than before," Eckstein said.

Numerous visitors commented on the brightness of the new Center and its central location on campus.

"I just think it is cool to have someplace to hang out beside the library, which is not fun," said sophomore Audra Maxbauer.

Touring the Student Center Monday afternoon, junior Jenny Robbins said she was impressed with what the College had done.

"We're so lucky to have this building that we have waited so long for and we have worked so hard for," Robbins said.

Contact Megan O'Neil at
onei0709@saintmarys.edu

Calls tell horror of church slayings

Associated Press

BROOKFIELD, Wis. — Victims of a gunman's rampage at a church service used their cell phones to frantically call for help and describe the carnage that took the lives of seven worshippers, according to 911 tapes released Monday.

The wounded screamed, survivors cried and many invoked the Lord's name.

"He was putting in another magazine when I ran out the door," said one man, who fled the Sheraton hotel, the site of the service in this Milwaukee

suburb, to a nearby Sears department store. "He was getting ready to open fire again."

"One, two, three, four, five," said one woman, counting the wounded lying on the bloody floor.

Another woman called when it was all over: "Oh, my God. Oh my, one of my friends is laying on the floor. I think she's dead. Oh, this is awful."

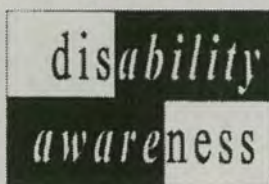
Churchgoers knew the killer, who fired 21 bullets on the congregation before shooting himself in the head. One even named him.

"Terry Ratzmann. He's one of

the members. He's dead. He shot himself," the caller said.

In the end, seven were killed, four were injured and the gunman was slumped against a wall.

Police said Ratzmann, 44, had attended services of the Living Church of God for many years. On Saturday — the day the congregation celebrates the Sabbath — people saw him before the service with his briefcase, saw him leave, then saw him again about 20 minutes after the service began, when he strode into the back of the room and opened fire.



Notre Dame Disability Awareness Month

March 2005

Tuesday, 3/15

Sujeet Desai will be playing the violin, clarinet and piano.

He graduated from the Berkshire Music Academy and was born with Down syndrome.

7p.m. Washington Hall, Free Admission

Saturday, 3/19

Come to the Best Buddies Friendship Games and interact with children and adults with special needs.

12 noon-2p.m. Logan Center Gym

Monday, 3/21

Head Football Coach Charlie Weis, 9p.m. DeBartolo 102

Coach Weis will be speaking about disability awareness.

Tuesday, 3/29

Students with Disabilities Discussion, 8p.m. Legends

www.nd.edu/~bbuddies



Nelly visit devoid of protests

Associated Press

JONESBORO, Ark. — Nelly drew nearly 6,300 fans to his weekend concert at Arkansas State University despite well-publicized calls for a boycott by area ministers.

Officials said no protesters were in evidence as Nelly took the stage Saturday at the Convocation Center. A group of 20 Jonesboro ministers had complained that Nelly's songs refer to drugs, sex and violence and called on people to tear up their tickets.

During a March 1 rally, the Rev. Adrian Rodgers of the Fullness of Joy Church said, "Jonesboro is a wonderful city because of what does not come here."

Nelly's concert at the northeastern Arkansas school was part of a nationwide tour.

2005 Arts & Letters Majors and Program Fair

Wednesday, March 16, 2005

4:30-6:00pm

Library Concourse

Advisors from most Majors, Minors and Area Studies Programs will be available to provide information and answer questions for all students.

MARKET RECAP

Stocks			
Dow Jones	10,804.51	+30.15	
Up: 1,735	Same: 141	Down: 1,590	Composite Volume: 1,269,219,968

AMEX	1,482.59	-0.80
NASDAQ	2,051.04	+9.44
NYSE	7,353.84	+23.41
S&P 500	1,206.82	+6.74
NIKKEI(Tokyo)	11,850.25	-73.64
FTSE 100(London)	4,975.00	-7.00

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
NASDAQ 100 TR SER I (QQQQ)	+0.30	+0.11	37.28
SIRIUS SATELLITE R (SIRI)	-0.71	-0.038	5.322
INTEL CP (INTC)	+0.25	+0.06	24.26
MICROSOFT CP (MSFT)	0.00	0.00	25.09
CISCO SYS INC (CSCO)	+0.38	+0.07	18.52

Treasures			
30-YEAR BOND	-0.58	-0.28	47.81
10-YEAR NOTE	-0.42	-0.19	45.16
5-YEAR NOTE	-0.36	-0.15	41.99
3-MONTH BILL	+0.74	+0.20	27.12

Commodities			
LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl)	+0.53		55.65
GOLD (\$/Troy oz.)	-5.20		441.60
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)	-0.20		70.58

Exchange Rates			
YEN			104.8900
EURO			0.7478
POUND			0.5225
CANADIAN \$			1.2061

IN BRIEF

FERC rules Enron contracts invalid

SEATTLE — Government regulators handed a major victory to western utilities and cities trying to get out of exorbitant contracts they made with disgraced energy giant Enron Corp. during the power crisis of 2000-01.

In a six-page order issued Friday evening, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission determined that Enron was engaging in illegal activity at the time it entered in the contracts. It was the first time the commission acknowledged that the contracts were signed under fraudulent pretenses.

The regulatory agency said a hearing should be held to determine whether Enron can collect profits it would have received had those contracts been fulfilled. The hearing is expected in May, followed by FERC's final decision late this year.

Utilities and cities ended their contracts with Enron or watched as Enron terminated them when the company's web of fraudulent accounting was revealed in late 2001.

Suit alleges health insurance fraud

LOS ANGELES — Twelve state Blue Cross and Blue Shield health insurance plans have sued a group of Southern California health care clinics, physicians and others they say are involved in an elaborate scheme to perform unnecessary surgeries and bill insurers out of millions of dollars.

The suit was filed in cooperation with state and federal authorities, including the FBI, which had previously filed criminal charges against some of the defendants.

The scope of the alleged fraud is vast. The insurers claim the clinics paid recruiters to enlist patients in 47 states, then transported the people to California where they underwent unneeded and sometimes dangerous outpatient procedures.

In some cases, the "patients" stayed several days and had several different procedures, for which they were paid from \$200 to \$3,000.

The lawsuit claims the clinics then billed a number of individual health plans for the procedures, which netted more than \$30 million.

The investigators said that from August 2002 to April 2003, the defendants recruited more than 5,000 patients nationwide to undergo unnecessary procedures.

Eisner to step down early at Disney

Company president and chief operating officer will assume CEO role October 1

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Michael Eisner, the longtime CEO of The Walt Disney Co., will step down a year earlier than expected, handing over the reins to Robert Iger and ending a tumultuous stint atop the entertainment giant. Stock rose in early trading.

Iger, 54, the company's current president and chief operating officer, on Sunday was named to succeed Eisner as chief executive. He will assume his new role Oct. 1 and will co-lead the company with Eisner during the transition, Disney's board said.

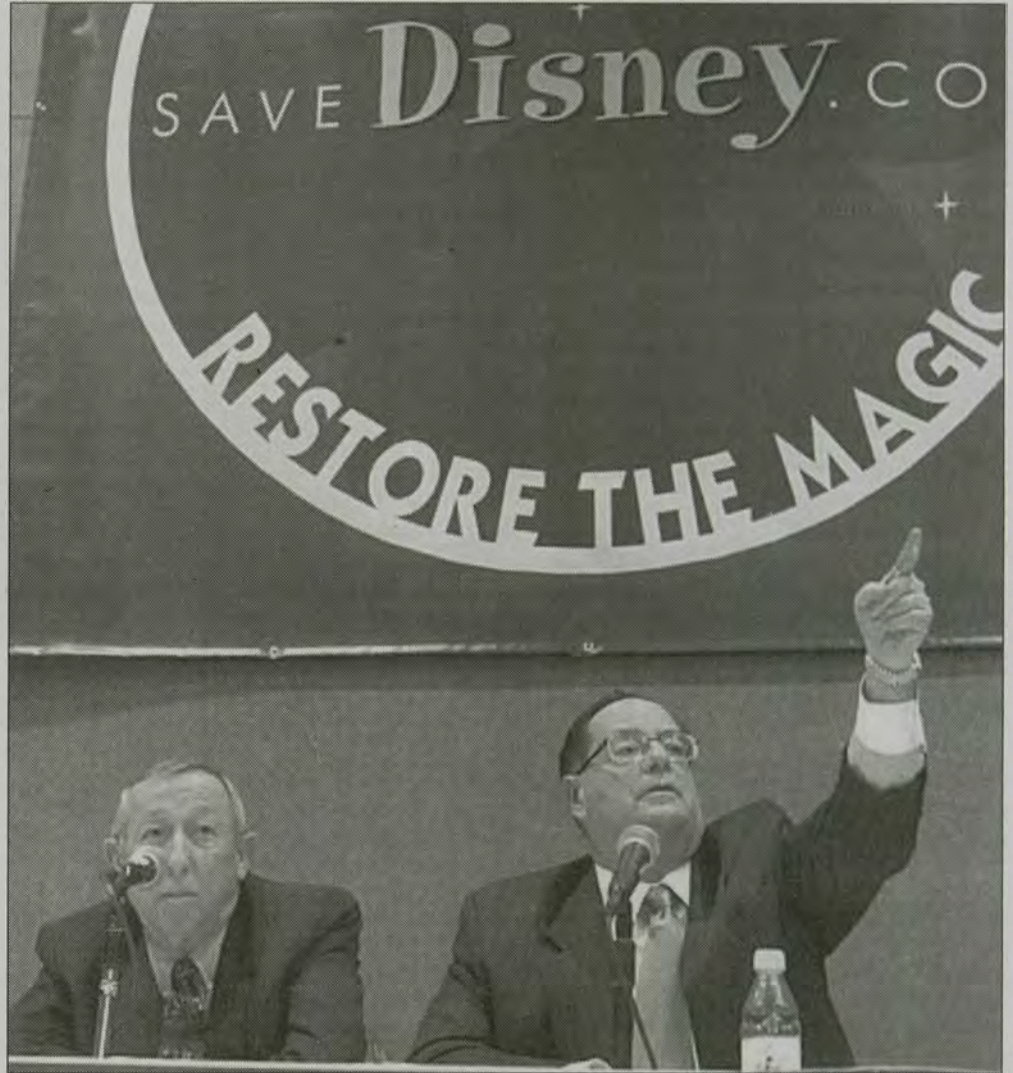
He inherits the company as it continues an earnings recovery, opens a new theme park in Hong Kong, enjoys a ratings boost at its ailing ABC network and builds on success of its dominant ESPN cable network.

"This is not a broken company. If things go right for Bob, it could be a phenomenal performer in the next few years," said Larry Haverty, a portfolio manager at Gabelli Asset Management.

Investors were pleased that Iger would take over for Eisner a year earlier than planned. Disney shares rose 18 cents to \$27.77 in early trading Monday.

Iger will face many challenges, however, including repairing some of the relationships damaged by Eisner, negotiating broadcast rights with the NFL, expanding Disney into China and India, protecting its content from piracy while embracing new technology and warding off another shareholder challenge from disgruntled ex-directors Roy E. Disney and Stanley Gold.

Eisner, who had said he would step down in 2006, will end his tenure this year after serving 21 years. Iger will become only the sixth leader of Disney in its history.



Stanley Gold, right, and Roy Disney participate in a March 2 news conference about the search for a new Walt Disney Co. CEO. Robert Iger has been selected to replace Michael Eisner, who will step down from the post in October.

Iger is seen as less polarizing than Eisner, a trait that might give Disney another chance to cut a new deal with longtime partner Pixar Animation Studios, the makers of such hits as this year's Oscar-winning "The Incredibles."

"I think probably Bob has better success doing something that could benefit the Disney shareholders," Haverty said.

Pixar CEO Steve Jobs has said he would wait before talking to other studios about distributing his films until after Disney choose Eisner's successor. Pixar has one more film to deliver under its current Disney deal.

Iger, who was named

president in 2000, has already won praise from Miramax Films co-chairman Harvey Weinstein.

Eisner has repeatedly clashed with brothers Bob and Harvey Weinstein since Disney bought the independent studio in 1993. Disney is close to ending its 12-year relationship with the Weinsteins in a deal that will see Disney keep the Miramax name and library while the Weinsteins leave to form their own company.

On Sunday, Harvey Weinstein praised Iger's choice, though it will not change the outcome of the talks. "I've had a great working relationship with Bob Iger and think he's a

terrific choice," Weinstein said.

Iger's people skills will be tested when it comes to dissident shareholders Roy Disney and Gold. The two criticized Disney's board Sunday and hinted they might lead another shareholder revolt.

"We find it incomprehensible that the board of directors of Disney failed to find a single external candidate interested in the job and thus handed Bob Iger the job by default," the two men said in a statement.

"The need for the Walt Disney Company to have a clean break from the prior regime and to change the leadership culture has been glaringly obvious."

Bloggers may have to reveal sources

Associated Press

SAN JOSE — A California judge on Friday ruled that three independent online reporters may have to divulge confidential sources in a lawsuit brought by Apple Computer Inc., ruling that there are no legal protections for those who publish a company's trade secrets.

Apple sued 25 employees who allegedly leaked confidential product information to three Web publishers. The Cupertino-based company said the leaks violated nondisclosure agreements and California's Uniform Trade Secrets Act. Company attorneys demanded that the reporters identify their sources.

The reporters sought a protective

order against the subpoenas, saying that identifying sources would create a "chilling effect" that could erode the media's ability to report in the public's interest.

But Santa Clara County Superior Court Judge James Kleinberg ruled in Apple's favor, saying that reporters who published "stolen property" weren't entitled to protections.

"What underlies this decision is the publishing of information that at this early stage of the litigation fits squarely within the definition of trade secret," Kleinberg wrote. "The right to keep and maintain proprietary information as such is a right which the California Legislature and courts have long affirmed and which is essential to the future of technolo-

gy and innovation generally."

Free speech advocates and attorneys for the reporters criticized the ruling, insisting that all journalists should enjoy the same legal protections as reporters in mainstream newsrooms. Among those are protections afforded under California's "shield" law, which is meant to protect journalists and encourage the publication of information in the public's interest.

"This opinion should be concerning to reporters of all stripes, especially those who report in the financial or trade press and are routinely reporting about companies and their products," said Electronic Frontier Foundation attorney Kurt Opsahl, who represented the reporters.

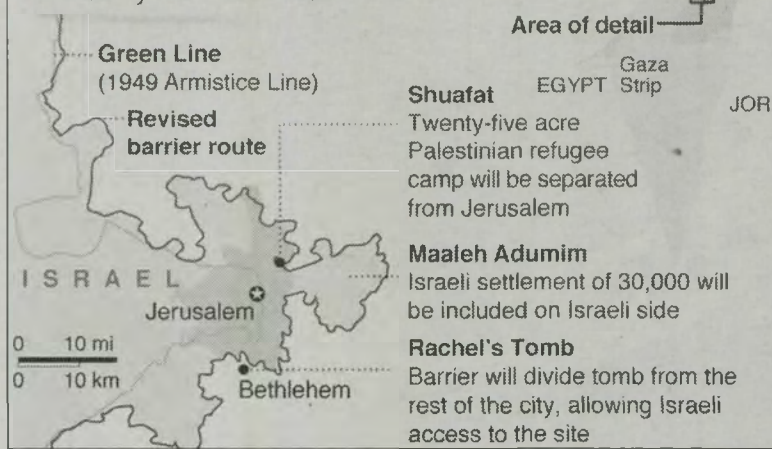
ISRAEL

Route of barrier will enclose disputed land

Claimed area includes Palestine's intended capital, large Jewish settlement in West Bank

Revised barrier approved

A revised plan for the Israeli barrier around Jerusalem will encompass some lands claimed by the Palestinians.



Associated Press

JERUSALEM — The final route of Israel's separation barrier around Jerusalem will encompass large areas claimed by the Palestinians, including their intended capital and the biggest Jewish settlement in the West Bank, Israeli officials confirmed Monday.

The route would also place a holy site in the Palestinian town of Bethlehem on the Israeli side of the barrier, while leaving a Palestinian refugee camp in Jerusalem encircled by a separate fence, the officials said.

Late Monday, Israeli and Palestinian Cabinet ministers agreed again on a handover of the West Bank town of Jericho to Palestinian security control. Earlier agreements fell through over details about roadblocks.

Israeli officials said the handover is set for Wednesday, to be followed two or three days later by Tulkarem, then Qalqiliya. Two other towns are to be transferred to Palestinian control as well — Bethlehem and Ramallah — but those were not agreed on at Monday's meeting between Palestinian Interior Minister Nasser Yousef and Israeli Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz.

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, meanwhile, was optimistic about efforts to get peace talks back on track, saying "the positive developments here give us a chance to re-energize the process."

Annan spoke after meeting with Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas in the West Bank city of Ramallah. Palestinian militants were to begin talks Tuesday in Cairo on formalizing an unofficial truce with Israel.

Israel began building the barrier in the West Bank two years ago, saying it was needed to keep out Palestinian attackers. Palestinians say the structure, which dips into the West Bank, is an attempt by Israel to impose a border without waiting for a peace deal.

The section around Jerusalem is especially sensitive. The Palestinians hope to establish their capital in east Jerusalem, a traditional Arab commercial, religious and social center. Israel, which captured east Jerusalem in the 1967 Mideast

war, claims all the city as its capital.

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon convened a meeting of senior Cabinet ministers late Sunday to discuss the route of the barrier, which got Cabinet approval last month.

Under the plan, the West Bank settlement of Maaleh Adumim, which lies five miles east of Jerusalem, would be on the Israeli side of the barrier, Israeli officials said. About 30,000 Israelis live in Maaleh Adumim, the largest Jewish settlement.

"Does anyone have even the slightest doubt that Maaleh Adumim is an integral part of Israel?" said Israeli Vice Premier Ehud Olmert, who heads a ministerial committee on the Jerusalem barrier.

A senior Israeli official said the committee is planning 11 crossings to allow access from the West Bank.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said construction is to be completed by year's end and no major changes in the route are expected. A number of legal challenges filed by Palestinian villagers are pending in Israeli courts.

The Palestinian refugee camp of Shuafat, which straddles the Jerusalem municipal boundary, will remain on the Israeli side of the barrier. It will be encircled by a separate fence, with a crossing into the city.

The bustling streets of Shuafat — sandwiched between two Jewish neighborhoods — were buzzing with speculation Monday about the planned fence.

"Jerusalem is considered to this camp like the heart to the body," said Mohammed Omar, a 50-year-old teacher in Shuafat. "All their [residents'] activities are in Jerusalem."

According to the United Nations, 11,250 people live in the camp, a maze of narrow, dusty streets and densely packed gray concrete buildings. Israeli officials said the camp has been used as a launching point by Palestinian attackers, and the fence is needed for security.

In Bethlehem, the barrier will divide Rachel's Tomb, a Jewish shrine, from the rest of the city. Concrete slabs already have virtually cut off Bethlehem from Jerusalem.

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Love, Meghan and Nicole

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Thursday, March 17 at 7 pm and 10 pm

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Trouble in Paradise (1932)

PAC CLASSIC 100
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Barabbas (1962)

Saturday, March 19 at 7 pm

DANCE

The Sleeping Beauty

Presented by Southold Dance Theater

Decio Mainstage Theatre
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Friday, April 29 at 7:30 pm
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MUSIC

Notre Dame Schola Musicorum

Abend-Musique XXIV
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Thursday, March 31 at 8 pm
Leighton Concert Hall
Tickets: \$10, \$8 faculty/staff, \$6 seniors, \$3 all students

Jackson accuser told dean nothing happened

Associated Press

SANTA MARIA, Calif. — The boy who says Michael Jackson molested him acknowledged under cross-examination Monday that he told an administrator at his school the pop star "didn't do anything to me."

The teenager was asked about conversations he had with Jeffrey Alpert, the dean at John Burroughs Middle School in Los Angeles, where the boy had a history of acting up in class.

"I told Dean Alpert he didn't do anything to me," the boy said under questioning by Jackson attorney Thomas Mesereau Jr. "I told him twice."

Prosecutors allege Jackson, 46, plied the boy, a cancer survivor, with alcohol and molested him at his Neverland Ranch in 2003.

The pop star, who was threatened with arrest when he failed to show up in court on time Thursday, arrived on schedule Monday. Unlike last time, when a disheveled Jackson finally arrived in a coat, T-shirt and pajama bottoms, he wore a smart red jacket with a black armband and black slacks. His parents escorted him inside.

Mesereau, during his cross-examination of the boy, quot-

ed Alpert as telling the youngster: "Look at me, look at me. ... I can't help you unless you tell me the truth — did any of this happen?"

When asked when the conversation occurred, the boy said: "I believe it was after I came back from Neverland."

It was not clear in court why the dean asked the boy about Jackson. However, when a television documentary on Jackson aired in 2003, the boy was shown in it.

Mesereau confronted the teenager with school records that showed nine teachers had complained about the boy's disruptive behavior, events the boy acknowledged.

Of one teacher, he said, "I felt as if he didn't deserve respect as a teacher. I didn't respect him as a person."

He complained on the witness stand about the teaching methods of virtually every teacher mentioned.

"When I would stand up to teachers the other students would congratulate me," he said. He added: "I was argumentative at times. I didn't like the way they taught me. I wasn't learning anything."

Later in the day, Los Angeles attorney Thomas Flicker Forsyth said in an interview he was representing a potential witness who

"was part of the school administration at the time he had contact with the victim."

He said his client met with prosecution and defense attorneys Saturday, and that he believed his client would be called as a witness.

Mesereau attempted to attack the heart of the conspiracy case by showing the so-called "rebuttal video," stopping it at points where the boy speaks and asking if he was telling the truth. In most instances the boy said he was.

The boy said he, his mother and brother did not discuss any plan to lie in the video, although he said at times his mother said things suggested to her by Jackson associate Dieter Wiesner.

Prosecutors allege that Jackson's associates had the boy's family make the video after the broadcast of the documentary, in which Jackson said he allowed the boy to sleep in his bed while he slept on the floor. The prosecution claims the rebuttal video was staged and scripted.

Mesereau also elicited testimony to amplify defense contentions the boy developed a grudge against Jackson and was troublesome at Neverland.

The boy acknowledged he felt Jackson abandoned him after his cancer went into remission. He said an SUV given to the family was taken back by Jackson's staff for repairs and was never returned. Similarly, he said a computer was taken back for repairs and never returned.

Mesereau also cross-examined the accuser about similarities between a statement he testified Jackson made about masturbation and an earlier statement the boy attributed to his grandmother.

On Thursday, the boy testified Thursday that Jackson told him if men do not masturbate, they might rape women. Mesereau noted the boy told sheriff's investigators in an interview that his

grandmother had told him the same thing.

"Why did your story change between that interview and your testimony last Thursday?" Mesereau asked.

The boy denied changing his story. He said both his grandmother and Jackson had told

him the same thing, but the context was different.

"She was telling me it was OK to do it, and Michael was saying you have to do it," the boy said.

"I told Dean Alpert he didn't do anything to me. I told him twice"

Michael Jackson's accuser

"[My grandmother] was telling me it was OK to do it, and Michael was saying you have to do it."

Michael Jackson's accuser

Pontiff keeps TV networks guessing

Associated Press

NEW YORK — With Pope John Paul II's health declining, CBS News executive Marcy McGinnis traveled to Rome to negotiate a 10-year lease for the rights to broadcast from the roof of a hotel overlooking St. Peter's Square when the pope dies.

That was nine years ago.

"I thought I was very smart making a 10-year deal," she said. "It should have been 15."

Or more, judging by the 84-year-old pope's tenacity. A papal succession is one of those big stories that television networks can assiduously prepare for, and they have. They just don't know when those plans will be needed at a moment's notice, and must make sure they're not outdated when it happens.

The pope's death will be a major story across the world that will fill many hours of airtime, and will be the first such succession in the era of 24-hour news.

"John Paul II in some remarkable way embodies the human experience in our time in a way that perhaps no other figure has since Churchill," said George Weigel, one of the pope's biographers.

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Call Heather.

The new Assistant Managing Editor for News can be reached at 1-5323, 4-0762 or hvanhoeg@nd.edu.

'Monday Night Football' intro ruled not indecent

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Sure, the steamy introduction to ABC's "Monday Night Football" was titillating, showing the bare back of "Desperate Housewives" actress Nicollette Sheridan as she jumped into the arms of football player Terrell Owens.

But U.S. regulators ruled Monday the racy clip didn't violate federal indecency standards. In a unanimous decision, the five-member Federal Communications Commission said the segment "simply is not graphic or explicit enough to be indecent under our standard."

A spokesman for ABC sports, Mark Mandel, said the company wouldn't comment.

The segment that aired last November showed Sheridan in a locker room wearing only a towel and provocatively asking the Philadelphia Eagles wide receiver to skip the game for her. She then dropped the towel and leaped into Owens' arms.

Only the upper back of the "Desperate Housewives" star was exposed and no foul language was used — in fact, the scene was no racier than what's routinely seen on soap operas. But ABC said it received complaints from viewers who thought it was inappropriate.

While agreeing with the decision, Democratic Commissioner Michael Copps criticized ABC for airing the segment at a time

— 9 p.m. EST — when many children were watching.

"There wasn't much self-discipline in this particular promotion," he said. "As stewards of the airwaves, broadcasters can and should do better."

Federal law bars nonsatellite radio stations and noncable television channels from airing certain references to sexual and excretory functions between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m., when children are most likely to be tuning in.

While the federal indecency statute has been on the books for many years, the FCC has considerably boosted enforcement in the last 18 months. The watershed event came in February 2004 when Janet Jackson's right breast was briefly exposed during the Super Bowl halftime show.

The FCC wound up proposing a \$550,000 fine against CBS, which broadcast the Super Bowl. The network is appealing. After the Jackson incident, some networks began using a broadcast delay on live programs to catch any offensive material before it aired.

Congress is considering dramatically boosting fines for indecency. The House last month overwhelmingly passed a bill to raise the maximum fine from \$32,500 to \$500,000. A similar bill has been introduced in the Senate but has not had a hearing.

Stamos plays ladies man in ABC comedy

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Consider "Jake in Progress" the latest example of how things can come in threes.

After a preview last Sunday, the new John Stamos comedy arrives on its regular night, Thursday, with back-to-back episodes airing 8 p.m. EST. Its network: ABC, which already has enjoyed a Lazarus-like recovery with "Lost" and "Desperate Housewives," the season's most-talked-about hits. Now could "Jake in Progress" be the third?

Why not? "Jake" is fresh, antic and smart, with the former "Full House" star exhibiting a gift for adult romantic comedy while making sport of his image since teenhood as a heartthrob.

Playing a slick PR agent who mostly handles celebrity clients, he is surrounded by a splendid supporting cast: Wendie Malick ("Just Shoot Me") as Jake's diva-ish boss; Ian Gomez as his child-

hood friend, a schlubby suburban dentist with the stable family life Jake thinks he wants; and, as a demented performance artist forever hounding Jake to either be his publicist or his best friend, the hilarious Rick Hoffman.

"I knew the character I wanted to play," says Stamos, thinking back to when the show first began to take shape. "He's a guy who can make everyone else seem like they have their act together — but HE doesn't. His life is in shambles."

Well, maybe not in shambles. But Jake has his hang-ups — sweaty palms when he gets nervous; issues about age (he's observed his 32nd birthday the past three years); a grass-is-greener fixation, whether it's for the supermodel across the room who seems sexier than the girl he's with, or for the latest model cell phone in somebody else's hand that makes him instantly unhappy with the one he owns.



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

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A tale of two grassroots movements

I hope everyone had an enjoyable break from the world of academics and politics in places more tolerable than South Bend. Although I didn't make it to any of those warmer parts of the continent (not all Republicans are rich), I did thoroughly enjoy the events of the week before break. I did manage to fit a few political science midterms in an otherwise hectic week of political activity. And unfortunately, I'm going to have to bore you all with another column on the Social Security policy debate gridlock.

In my chronic condition of political addiction, I began working with the College Republicans and the local Republican leadership to develop just one of many grassroots responses to President Bush's visit. The current policy debate is entirely unique from any other policy issue since the Vietnam War due to the significant impact it will have on younger voters. This being said, the local Republican leadership wanted to find a way to get younger Republicans involved in the grassroots effort to build up support for President Bush's initiative to address the issue of the future of Social Security.

Before I go into detail about the local efforts of young conservative voters fighting for retirement security, I must take a minute to step back and admire the tactics of the left. Following the lead of Howard Dean, who has been quoted saying, "Don't propose, simply oppose, oppose, oppose!" the left has mobilized its own vast coalition of grassroots organizers. Instead of catering to the concerns of the young, they have utilized their far more successful tactic of whipping up older voters into a frenzy of fear.

They have begun a campaign of leaving automated phone messages in Republican-controlled Congressional districts making sure to stress how any

Bush plan would involve benefit cuts and throwing all of your money away into that mysterious stock market which is really just "waiting to crash at any moment." Aside from ominous phone messages warning of Bush's mischievous plan to throw all of your money away, they also mobilize older anti-Bush forces to turn out in force for town hall meetings and Social Security reform events. Most of the protesters and full-time anti-Bush enthusiasts that protested Bush's visit were Americans too old to even be affected by any changes to Social Security.

I was forwarded the Moveon.org e-mail sent to protesters of Bush's visit. Conveniently enough, it gave them short talking points to tell the media about why they oppose Social Security reform. In keeping with Dean's strategy, I heard no alternatives about what counterproposals they had to fix Social Security. Their protest seemed more like an "I hate Bush, too" support group than an intelligent expression of free speech. If Senator Hillary Clinton were president, perhaps I could relate to how such gatherings may be of therapeutic value.

The difference between them and us is that we have asked for alternative proposals and ideas. I'll let you in on what the "evil" Republicans did in the week leading up to the president's visit. We organized a College Republicans Social Security phone bank on March 1 in LaFortune. Rather than leaving automated messages with older voters, we determined it would be best to call those that would be affected by any pro-

posals for reform. We did the unconventional and called younger voters. Statistically, this tactic is not worth it, banking on the fact that younger voters are among the least reliable of coalitions in American politics. This consideration, of course, is outweighed by the moral imperative that voters who will be directly affected by a policy should be consulted.

In our own little grassroots victory, we had over 100 Notre Dame students call young voters in this district and ask them how they felt about Social Security reform. Once the results are computed, we will find out a lot more about your opinions on the issue rather than feeding you pre-manufactured talking points on an issue. Efforts such as this help provide critical information to legislators about our generation that go beyond the sound bites taken from a few rabid Bush-hating protesters.

In the long run, not all grassroots activity is created equally. The nucleus of a presidential visit provided us with a unique opportunity for political activity and discussion. Hopefully, our efforts will prove successful in mobilizing our generation to confront the issue. We'll continue to try and counter the frenzied resistance of the left with sound policy proposals.

Tom Rippinger is a senior political science major. He is the co-president of the Notre Dame College Republicans. He can be contacted at trippin1@nd.edu.

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



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Hunger strike protects others

On March 16, students from Notre Dame will join thousands of citizens from across the nation in the largest one-day hunger strike in the U.S. history. The hunger strike is intended to demonstrate solidarity with the people of Darfur, to grieve over enforced starvation in Sudan and to generate enough media attention and political will to address the crisis in Darfur.

The situation in Darfur continues to deteriorate. It is estimated that more than 300,000 people have died since conflict between rebel groups and government forces began in February 2003. Since that time, the government-supported Janjaweed militia have indiscriminately attacked civilians and villages in the Darfur region in a campaign that the U.S. government has called genocide.

The genocide in Sudan is a preventable conflict. Millions of lives can be saved by a little political will and smart action by Western nations. Next week, Congress will consider passing the Darfur Accountability Act of 2005. The legislation calls on the United States to support the expansion of the African peacekeeping force, to impose focused sanctions on the government of Sudan and to press the United Nations

Security Council to impose sanctions on "perpetrators of crimes against humanity in Darfur." It is essential for the protection of the people of Darfur that this bill passes.

As citizens living in an increasingly interconnected world, we have a responsibility to protect the people of Darfur because the Sudanese government is unwilling or unable. The hunger strike on Wednesday is one way for concerned citizens to urge policy makers to take action in Darfur. If you would like to join in the national movement, please take the time to sign up at www.darfurgenocide.org/MarchStrike.html.

We have the ability to urge policy makers to pass legislation that will save thousands of lives in a preventable crisis. It is right that we do this and everything in our power towards that end.

Patrick Corrigan

The Sudan Steering Committee
sophomore
Keenan Hall
March 14

OBSERVER POLL

Do you already have an internship for the summer?

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

"What is moral is what you feel good after and what is immoral is what you feel bad after."

Ernest Hemingway
American writer

THE OBSERVER VIEWPOINT

Standing for liberty in Uganda

Dear President Bush,

In your second inaugural address in January, you said, "Today, America speaks anew to the peoples of the world. All who live in tyranny and hopelessness can know the United States will not ignore our oppression or excuse your oppressors. When you stand for your liberty, we will stand with you."

Peter Quaranto

A Call to Action

When I first heard these words I found myself highly cynical. While the language of "freedom" has certainly been a priority of your administration post-Sept. 11, I find our continued and even strengthened alliances with nations such as Pakistan, Colombia, Saudi Arabia and Israel to be quite hypocritical. Not to mention that I consider our actions in Iraq and Iran to be less than freedom-guided.

Yet while we may disagree on the means, I do believe, Mr. President, that you are committed to the end of a world of freedom. Thus, I am writing to you to ask you to live up to the words you proclaimed in January. In the country of Uganda, the United States has an opportunity to stand for democracy and freedom. We must seize the moment.

In Uganda, the Parliament is currently debating an omnibus constitutional amendment bill, which will eliminate the established two-term limit for the presidential office.

Advocates for the so-called kisanja (the symbol to end the term limits) argue that President Yoweri Museveni, the president of Uganda since 1986, has done much good for the country and should be allowed to continue to bring prosperity to the country. It is indisputable that Museveni has done much good, but it is also indisputable that the removal of term limits will be a massive blow to constitutionalism, democracy and rule of law in the "pearl of Africa."

Since the debate began almost a year ago, Museveni and the so-called Movement (Museveni's party that controls political and military power in Uganda) have been using tactics of suppression, propaganda and fear to gain the support of the population. They have repressed opposition voices. Just recently, the army beat up five opposition parliamentarians when they attempted to visit camps in the north for internally displaced peoples.

The newspapers here have reported that Museveni gave out five million Uganda shillings to every member of Parliament who promised to support the constitutional amendment. The Movement is also openly funding and training military youth brigades to work in the campaign.

Tactics of corruption and intimidation have scathed the parliamentary debate, basically ensuring that Museveni and his supporters will get what they seek. The people of Uganda, still conscious of the violent dictatorial regimes of Milton Obote and Idi Amin in the 1960s and 1970s, choose stability and security over freedom and rule of law. When Museveni's followers frame the debate in terms of whether people are better off than they were 18 years ago, he will always win

out of politics of fear.

On the surface, a repeal of the term limits is harmless, especially if it is allowing a popularly-supported ruler to remain in office. However, the dark narrative in Africa of elected rulers overstaying their rule and becoming violent dictators is too vivid.

Repealing the accountability mechanisms in the constitution will only further weaken a deteriorating culture of constitutionalism that reeks of corruption and mismanagement. Many argue that Museveni's hold on power has exacerbated the conflict in northern Uganda, a violent war that has left more than 1.6 million people displaced and hundreds of thousands killed, raped and abducted. Just over a year ago, Ugandans voted to open the political space for multipartyism, hoping the political system would evolve into a culture of pluralism and transparency. The governance crises highlighted by the kisanja debate show that Uganda is far from such a political culture. Many believe that Uganda, with its blatant regional inequalities, stands at a watershed moment with mass violence lurking in the future.

If this constitutional amendment



omnibus bill passes, it will totally transform the constitution of 1995, a constitution constructed in one of the most democratic fashions in all of Africa. The 1995 people's constitution will become Museveni's constitution, once again a political piece of paper easily manipulated for power politics. More and more, the barrel of the gun is substituting legality as the source of political legitimacy.

It appears inevitable that the amendment will pass and Museveni will be given another term and even more. The only hope that this tragedy can be averted is if international donors, whose donations make up more than 50 percent of Uganda's revenue, utilize their power to pressure the government. The United States as a major donor in Uganda has a rare opportunity to exercise its power in the name of freedom — not through bombs and wars, but through intense diplomacy and economic clout.

In this age, we have to recognize the resounding effects that a myriad of actions and inactions by the United States have throughout the world. Americans, contacting their representatives to demand action, can stand for liberty and justice in Uganda. By applying our power in positive ways, the United States can truly be a voice against oppression and injustice in the world.

Here in Uganda, many are daring to stand for liberty. President Bush, will we fulfill your pledge that the United States will stand with them? I certainly hope so.

Peter Quaranto is a junior political science and peace studies major. He writes from Kampala, Uganda, where he is studying development studies this semester at Makerere University. Read his running commentary from Uganda at www.peterquaranto.blogspot.com. Contact Peter at pquarant@nd.edu.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Providing for the vulnerable

I was dismayed to read about President Bush's speech to the Notre Dame community about his efforts to undermine Social Security, more properly known as Old Age, Survivors and Disability Insurance (you may have seen OASDI deduction on a pay stub).

He is turning the focus away from our social compact for the protection of the elderly, orphans and the disabled by encouraging everyone to ask, "what's in it for me?" Insurance plans are judged not on individual outcomes but instead on the greater good they provide.

In my case, 37 years old and unmarried, if I die tomorrow, I will "lose" the tens of thousands I have paid into OASDI. However, my 25-year-old brother-in-law has only paid in a small amount. My sister and little niece and nephew would "win" economic security far greater than his contributions if he were to die soon. My 89-year-old grandmother has already "won" much more than her contributions by far outliving her life expectancy.

There will always be winners and losers in an insurance plan and no one can know in advance to which group they will belong. According to Bush, your parents should go to their insurance agent and demand back their premiums since they have had no claims in 20 years; after all, it was "their" money. Everyone must pay OASDI premiums to fund benefits for the elderly, orphans and the disabled. Siphoning contributions off for personal retirement accounts will undermine the system, just as your parents seeking return of their premiums would bankrupt their insurance company.

But in a broader sense, Bush is trying to kill Social Security by trying to shift the focus to individuals and appealing to individual selfishness, "what's in it for me?"

Social Security is exactly that, a social program to ensure some degree of economic security for the most vulnerable among us. It is one of the strongest embodiments of Christian values in our government, everyone working together to help keep our most vulnerable out of poverty.

Social Security may have problems with premiums or benefits and those should be addressed, but we should not lose our focus on the safety net it provides for our most vulnerable. Say no to Bush's plan.

Jim Schilder
alumnus
Class of 1990
March 8

Remaining open-minded

Thirty years ago as a student at Notre Dame, I was a deeply closeted young man, but the University's respect for academic freedom and liberal exploration of all ideas, even those that did not conform to Catholic teaching, made the college a refuge where I was able to search for the strength to deal with my own personal struggle without any fear that the university would censor the single thing in my life I respected — my mind and its thirst for learning.

It's not an exaggeration to say that those early years at Notre Dame allowed me to survive the next two painful decades of living a lie about my sexuality. At the very least, I had learned to think freely, even if I didn't have the courage to act openly until about six years ago.

As a novelist and newspaper editor, I am appalled to read the attacks on Notre Dame's tradition of liberal thought by conservative religious leaders and academics. It is a dedication to openness in the classroom that has earned Notre Dame the respect in academia that only the top universities in the nation share.

But these days the heart of that openness is threatened by beliefs such as those of Father Richard Warner, who wrote in a Feb. 23 Viewpoint column that the Notre Dame Queer Film Festival and the performance of The Vagina Monologues are moving the University "more in the direction of promoting an ethic in conflict with Catholic teaching and the lack of serious indications that their presence on our campus is truly a search for truth in an academic setting."

The guests who participated in the film festival are all men and women of courage and conviction. They may not follow all of the teachings of the Catholic Church, but they are involved in trying to interpret our lives on this earth in moral and compassionate terms. They do not deserve the implication that they are somehow dangerous influences, heretics or men and women who have no respect for the truth.

Pulitzer Prize winning playwright Terrence McNally, for instance, has worked his whole life

to portray gay men in a way that liberates them and shows others that they share the same dreams for love, compassion and sacrifice that the Church I knew as a young man had asked Catholics to strive for.

Eve Ensler's Obie Award-winning play The Vagina Monologues may be witty and irreverent, but it is also compassionate and wise and gives voice to women's feelings about sexuality that the Church, and certainly an academic institution like Notre Dame, should never condemn.

Film director and screenplay writer Don Roos, Class of 1978, who has appeared at both Queer Film Festivals, is a driving force in independent film. Any university anywhere would be proud to count him among its most creative graduates. I certainly can't imagine one that would try to censor his work or presence on campus.

If Warner and others truly believe that everything Notre Dame sponsors and teaches must "bring the image of Jesus to perfection within us," then they are advocating the University turn itself into a strictly religious school. Notre Dame would be the kind of place that offers no refuge to young and curious minds. Instead, it would lock students into doctrine. Soon Notre Dame would become little different from Christian fundamentalist schools or even, God forbid, the blinding madrassas in the Arab world that try to turn the great religion of Islam into a dangerous and narrow-minded doctrine of censure and hate.

I urge Warner and other leaders on campus and in the church community to think deeply about why it matters to allow a free and spirited debate of ideas and artistic expressions at Notre Dame, especially ones as inspiring to a beleaguered population as the Queer Film Festival.

Gary Zebrun
alumnus
Class of 1976
March 14

DVD REVIEWS

Foxx's exuberant performance highlighted in 'Ray'

By BRANDON HOLLIHAN
Scene Critic

The most admirable quality of the film "Ray" is that it makes Ray Charles more available to recent generations — a group that witnessed the gifted musician at the tail end of his life.

To the latest generations, Charles was the man with the humorous cameo in "Blues Brothers." He starred in a Diet Pepsi commercial which spurred a famous tagline. There was also a clear connection made between him and Stevie Wonder, another musician whose music seems inaccessible at times. Altogether, director Taylor Hackford's biopic — a work that took 15 years to finish and included Charles' collaboration — is a complete look at how the blind Georgia native rose to fame.

Hackford lays out his film as if he almost intentionally wants it to rest upon the shoulders of its star, in this case Jamie Foxx. Foxx has gone from "In Living Color" and being criticized for making fun of the Backstreet Boys

to becoming one of Hollywood's top male actors.

Foxx won the Oscar for Best Actor for his portrayal of Charles, and he deserves it. He also was nominated for his role in "Collateral." His Charles is delightfully easy to fall in love with, as we watch him overcome the odds to break into the business. He charms us with a huge grin at whatever night club or concert hall he may be playing.

By comparison, we hate Charles every time we see him struggle with drugs, particularly with heroin. This is one of the movie's main themes, and it reverberates so heavily throughout the film that it becomes a little burdensome. The story contrasts Charles' ascending fame with his declining character. It's a good idea, but the character is in such a rut towards the end of the film that the story must quickly jump to conclusions. The result is a two-and-a-half hour film without any real resolution.

The story and the acting, however, are great and make up for any flaws in the plot. Of course Foxx is impressive, but kudos as well to Curtis Armstrong

for his portrayal of Atlantic Records executive Ahmet Ertegun, along with as Harry Lenix as Joe Adams, who served as Charles' concert MC and business confidante. Sharon Warren is also quite memorable as Ray's mother, depicted as a devoted woman who refuses to see her son



Photo courtesy of dvd.ign.com

American R&B legend Ray Charles (Jamie Foxx) performs one of his signature songs in "Ray," the biographical drama detailing the singer's life.

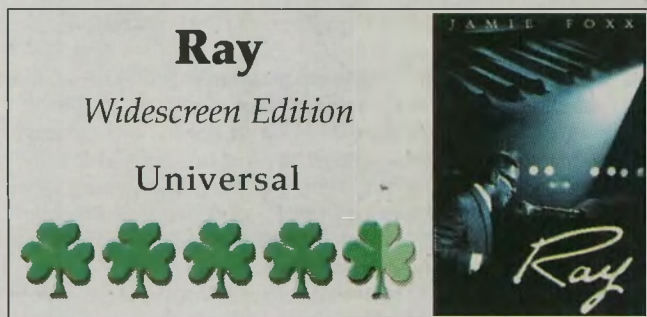
succumb to his handicap.

The extras in the "Ray" DVD are decent. There are 15 deleted scenes, the best ones being Ray singing with a group of Marines on a bus and Foxx ad-libbing a few lines with Lenix. The extras also have full-length versions of a couple of musical selections from the film, as well as a tribute to the deceased Charles. The main attraction, however, is a segment detailing how Foxx stepped into his role and has footage of Charles and Foxx working together before the former passed

away. It's a fascinating clip in which viewers discover how diverse a performer Foxx has become.

Based on the film's box office receipts, there were quite a few people unable, or unwilling, to catch this film during its theatrical run. If you missed "Ray" in theaters, you can rest easy knowing that the DVD delivers and gives any Ray Charles fan enough fun to leave them satisfied.

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'Darko' director's cut looks great, lacks extras

By JONATHAN RETARTHA
Scene Critic

Since its release in 2001, "Donnie Darko," the tale of a boy, an alternate universe and a giant bunny rabbit, has become a cult classic. Although it is difficult to explain, it's an incredibly insightful film nonetheless that tackles problems with adolescence, God and everything in between.

For those that have seen it — once or a hundred times as is often the case — fans of "Donnie Darko" now have the opportunity to see the film in a drastically altered "Director's Cut" DVD. After making the rounds in movie houses in Los Angeles and New York over the summer, the Director's Cut is available now on DVD. It offers both a new experience of the film and a much-deserved new DVD treatment.

Director Richard Kelly is capitalizing on the newfound popularity by releasing the film the way he wanted it released, yet was unable to afford. The Director's Cut has 20 minutes of extra footage added and has many added songs from the 1980s by popular

artists like INXS — artists Kelly wanted in the picture but didn't have the finances for during its initial production.

The additional footage is composed primarily of devices that add clarity to the plot, which can be interpreted a different way by everyone who sees it. Significant additions include pages from "The Philosophy of Time Travel," a scene involving the novel "Watership Down" and a drastically altered end sequence.

While most of these scenes were included as extras in the original DVD, Kelly has taken the time to do much more than simply chop them in. New transitions featuring images of Donnie's eye make the scenes blend perfectly together, while also furthering the theme of "Deus Ex Machina" that pervades the film.

The picture and sound quality have been remastered and are far superior to the original DVD. Digital graphics and audio effects, such as the liquid portals and auditorium scenes, have all been improved.

The highlight of the original DVD was the entertaining commentary by Kelley and the cast. Because of this popularity, Kelly has added an all-new commentary to the Director's Cut, this time featuring himself and acclaimed cult director Kevin Smith, director of the "Jay and Silent Bob" films.

While the new scenes, commentary and exquisite transfer are all rea-



Photo courtesy of movieweb.com

Donnie (Jake Gyllenhaal), left, tries to pay attention to a film while his friend Gretchen (Jena Malone) naps and Frank the Bunny, Donnie's guide, appears.

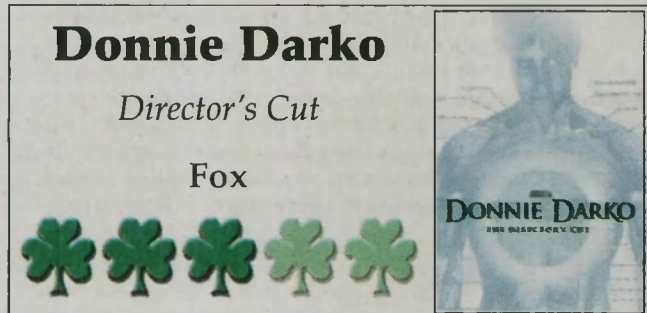
sons enough for any "Darko" fan to pick up the new discs, the extras are once again sadly lacking. Most of them are the same as the extras from the UK edition of the Director's Cut, released months ago due to the increased mainstream popularity in Great Britain. There is a featurette on the film's No. 1 fan, which borders on creepy and stalkerish and several other vignettes, which mostly focus on how the film didn't succeed in the United States because of how "stupid" Americans are.

In addition to the poor extras, the fact that the Director's Cut offers a

clearer picture to the meaning of the film will undoubtedly polarize die-hard fans — many of whom love the film primarily because of its ambiguity.

The new cut is definitely not an appropriate substitute for the original version of the film, but it offers a beautiful-looking and in-depth experience for those who are either uninterested in spending hours deciphering the meaning or those who have seen it so many times they welcome the visual improvements alone.

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MOVIE REVIEWS

Talented cast adds heart to 'Rwanda'

By BRIAN DOXTADER
Scene Critic

Director Terry George's "Hotel Rwanda" is based on the true story of Paul Rusesabagina, a hotel manager who became trapped in the crossfire of a civil war between the Hutus and the Tutsis, two warring Rwandan sects. The film itself is an emotional rollercoaster that never loses sight of either the grander scope of the conflict or the humanistic struggle of individual people.

The real-life genocide, which occurred in 1994, is not the focus of "Hotel Rwanda," but it forms the backdrop for the plot. Thanks to some very well-executed exposition, the audience is given a clear understanding of the conflict and the differences between the two sides. "Hotel Rwanda" avoids demonizing either side, instead focusing on Rusesabagina and his struggle to protect his family and the people trapped in his hotel, which eventually becomes a haven for Rwandan refugees.

This gives face and voice to the slaughter, which claimed an unthinkable 800,000 lives over 100 days. The plot then revolves around Rusesabagina's political and personal maneuvering to try to protect his family and the occupants of his hotel.

The film is anchored by Don Cheadle's

strikingly human performance. Cheadle has always been an impressive and under-appreciated actor, despite fine performances in films like "Traffic." His character, the real-life Rusesabagina, starts out as a smooth-talking businessman before slowly transforming into a desperate crusader who risks his life for his family and the occupants of the hotel.

His character and performance is by turns charismatic, confident, fearful and desperate. Cheadle makes it all believable in a way that allows the audience to connect with his character. Both he and Sophie Okonedo, who plays his Tutsi wife Tatiana, garnered deserved Oscar nominations.

Nick Nolte rounds out the cast — playing a

good guy, for once — as a helpless, but sympathetic, United Nations colonel and Joaquin Phoenix as a cynical reporter.

It's difficult for a film like "Hotel Rwanda" to avoid didacticism, but thankfully it never becomes mired in excessive preaching. There is some over-dramatization of events and the presentation often has the subtlety of a brick through a window, but the sledgehammer of the film's emotional gamut is effective nonetheless.

Audiences may be horrified at the callous indecision of the United Nations, but Phoenix's reporter, who provides



Photo courtesy of movieweb.com

Tatiana (Sophie Okonedo), left, her husband Paul (Don Cheadle), their children and their neighbors are forced from their homes by the Interhamwe Army.

much of the exposition, makes clear the delicate nature of the situation and the careless indifference of the First World.

The film's refusal to euphemize the event and George's wise decision to concentrate on individual characters (rather than the genocide as a whole) brings greater focus and emotional impact. His directing is at worst unobtrusive and at best incendiary, as he guides through the film with an author-

itative documentary feel. Only at the most dramatic moments of the film do George's filmic manipulates become truly apparent.

"Hotel Rwanda" is an excellent, if harrowing, film that should be seen, if only to understand what happened in Rwanda in 1994.

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Diesel's talent fails to pacify average film

By MARK BEMENDERFER
Scene Critic

Hollywood seems to be getting stale. At least that's the conclusion some will gather from watching "The Pacifier," action star Vin Diesel's attempt at a Disney comedy. Cute, family-oriented and utterly predictable, "The Pacifier" is good for some, but most would find themselves bored while watching it.

Diesel plays Shane Wolfe, a disgraced Navy S.E.A.L. agent who is assigned the unfortunate task of protecting the Plummer family while trying to find a hidden experiment. The family is under attack from the enemies of the deceased father, and only Diesel stands in the way. That is, if the family will let him.

The family under watch features children of all ages, from adolescents to infants. The audience is treated to all the obvious humor associated with the "unwilling babysitter" genre of films. Diesel is forced to deal with the problems of a teenager one second, and the next finds himself changing an infant's diaper. Of course, the children do not welcome Diesel with open arms. They make life difficult for him at the beginning, but as the film progresses they warm up to him — nothing new here.

Like other films in this genre, Diesel

tries to treat the problems he encounters in a way similar to how he was trained, i.e. in a military discipline fashion. Logically, that doesn't work, and he begins to lighten up. Eventually, the kids grow to love him and vice versa.

The plot doesn't need to be delved into too deeply, as it really isn't that original. Movies like "Kindergarten Cop" have explored the comedy in this situation before, to better effect in most scenarios. Any movie that places a tough guy into a family role typically has many of the same moments, and

"The Pacifier" is no different.

Fans of the film will probably come from two main camps. The first consists of those looking for light family fare, which this is. The second consists of people who watch the Disney

channel in their free time. Both of these groups would probably love this film. "The Pacifier" knows its core audience and doesn't do too bad of a job playing to it. However, it doesn't quite make the leap to a film with appeal for all ages.

Hard-core Diesel fans may also get some laughs from this light-hearted film. He does add some charisma to the role and does a decent job acting with children. But he's still no Schwarzenegger.

Diesel has pretty much only been cast



Photo courtesy of movieweb.com

Shane Wolfe (Vin Diesel) tries to balance his sanity and his newfound role as a babysitter for the Plummer family in the Disney comedy "The Pacifier."

in one role in the past. Ever since his work in "Pitch Black," he's been tagged as primarily an action star. He has the build, the scowl and exudes a certain charisma — all qualities that propelled his star image. Casting him as Wolfe plays against his established screen character, considering his previous roles. However, this movie was originally made with Jackie Chan in mind, and Diesel doesn't have the charisma that Chan does.

This movie is clearly aimed for families. If family films are one's primary preference, it's not a bad option to see "The Pacifier" compared to the other movies currently out in theatres. Of course, with "Robots" opening this weekend, there are some welcome alternatives.

Contact Mark Bemenderfer at
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The Pacifier



Director: Adam Shankman
Writers: Thomas Lennon and Ben Garant
Starring: Vin Diesel, Lauren Graham, Brad Garrett and Tate Donovan

NBA

Heat blows out Bucks 110-71 as Wade scores 29

Wizards get first-ever sweep of Lakers

Associated Press

MIAMI — Securing the top seed in the Eastern Conference playoffs appears to be little more than a formality. Now, Dwyane Wade and the Miami Heat are focused on the best record in the NBA.

Wade scored 29 points on 10-of-12 shooting in just 26 minutes, Shaquille O'Neal added 21 points and the Heat led by as many as 40 points in their 110-71 victory over the Milwaukee Bucks on Monday night — a win that moved Miami into a virtual tie with Phoenix and San Antonio for the league's top overall record.

It was the largest victory margin of the season for Miami (49-16), which has won a league-best nine straight overall and 13 in a row at home. Phoenix and San Antonio are both 48-15. San Antonio routed New Orleans on Monday night, and Phoenix was idle.

The Heat aren't just beating teams these days — they're turning games into routs. Miami has held leads of at least 17 points in each of its last eight games, and has won its last nine by an average of 17.6 points.

Damon Jones added 15 points for Miami, which won its three previous meetings with Milwaukee this season by an average of merely 4.3 points. Eddie Jones had 10 for the Heat, 8 1/2 games ahead of

Detroit in the East race.

Michael Redd had 14 points for Milwaukee, which lost for the eighth time in its last 10 road games. Marcus Fizer added 11 for the Bucks.

The Heat have held six of their last seven opponents to 90 points or less; Milwaukee shot just 32.1 percent, while the Heat shot 55.4 percent.

Miami led 21-19 late in the first quarter, before pulling away with a 17-7 run over a 5-minute stretch. Wade had 11 of Miami's points during the burst, including a three-point play and a jumper a 27-second span to give the

Pistons 114, Hawks 108, OT

Stopping the other team was a bit of a problem for one of the NBA's best defensive teams.

Tayshaun Prince scored a career-high 31 points and the Pistons bounced back from the lowest-scoring game in franchise history, beating the Atlanta Hawks 114-108 in overtime Monday night.

Rasheed Wallace scored a season-best 28 points for the Pistons, who shot nearly 52 percent from the field. The Hawks lost for the 15th time in 16 games despite Al Harrington's season-high 37 points.

Atlanta shot better than 49 percent and far eclipsed the normal output against the Pistons, who were allowing just 88.8 points a game — second in the league to San Antonio. Tom Gugliotta hit a 3-pointer for the Hawks with 6.4 seconds left in the fourth quarter to send the game to overtime.

"They were making shots and we were making shots," Prince said. "We didn't establish our defense at the beginning of the game. We didn't defend like we should have."

Just one night earlier, the Pistons failed to make a field goal in the fourth quarter but held on for a 64-62 victory over Utah. It was the lowest-scoring game for each franchise, and the teams combined for an record-low 18 points in the final period.

The Pistons, who snapped a four-game road losing streak, rebounded with their second-most points this season, eclipsed only by 117-116 victory over Charlotte in late November that went to double overtime.

"We just made some shots early on," Prince said. "We didn't play well last night, but we had an idea the shots were going to fall tonight."

Detroit played without coach Larry Brown, who underwent additional surgery Monday related to a November hip oper-

ation. He missed six games for the first procedure and isn't sure how long he will be out this time.

Assistant coach Gar Heard ran the team in place of Brown. "He'll be in the hospital a couple of more days," Heard said. "We'll know something more (Tuesday)."

The Hawks trailed by as many as 12 before dominating the third quarter. They outscored the Pistons 31-17, sinking 15 of 20 shots from the field to take a 77-72 lead to the fourth.

"Al had a great game," Gugliotta said. "We executed pretty well and got the shots we wanted, so some good things came out of it."

Detroit rebounded quickly, beginning the fourth with a 17-4 spurt. Wallace scored nine of the first 11 points, then Richard Hamilton capped the run by converting back-to-back three-point plays.

But the hapless Hawks rallied again. After Hamilton hit a couple of free throws with 15.3 seconds remaining to make it 100-97, Gugliotta got open at the top of the key and swished the 3.

Hamilton had a chance to win it, but his pull-up jumper bounced off the rim and the Pistons couldn't tip home the rebound.

Detroit controlled the overtime. Chauncey Billups hit a crucial 3-pointer with 2:03 remaining to make it 108-104, the shot made possible by a couple of offensive rebounds.

Harrington fouled out on the Hawks' next possession, receiving a standing ovation as he walked slowly to the bench.

Grizzlies 104, Trail Blazers 83

Lorenzen Wright had 19 points and nine rebounds for Memphis, which dropped an 80-66 decision to the Trail Blazers on Saturday in Portland.

Miller was 8-of-12 from the field, including 3-of-6 shooting from 3-point range, as he came a point of matching his season best of 28 points.

The Grizzlies were never in trouble after a 9-2 run in the third quarter have them a 21-point lead at 70-49. Memphis was up by 23 points six times in the final period, the first time at 94-71 at 6:27 on a 3-pointer by Miller.

Earl Watson added 16 points and seven assists for the Grizzlies. He played with a mouthpiece, which he kept pushing in and out, because of a smack in the face from the back of an opponent's head late in Saturday's game in Portland.

Shane Battier had 14 points

for Memphis, and Brian Cardinal had 12.

Damon Stoudamire led Portland with 20 points. Shareef Abdur-Rahim added 14, Travis Outlaw had 12 and Sebastian Telfair and Maurice Baker had 11 each.

Joel Przybilla had 10 points and 14 rebounds for the Trail Blazers.

Wizards 95, Lakers 81

For the first time in franchise history, the Washington Wizards have a season sweep of the Los Angeles Lakers.

They finished it off without All-Star forward Antawn Jamison, who left in the first quarter with a knee injury that is looking worse every day. They did it even though Gilbert Arenas was hobbling with a sore knee.

They did it riding Larry Hughes' 21 points and 12 rebounds, plus 21 points from Arenas, and by dominating the lane against a Lakers team that didn't have much fight. The Wizards built a double digit lead in the second quarter and never looked back in Monday night's 95-81 victory.

"It's one we definitely wanted, one we definitely needed," Hughes said.

The Wizards won the other meeting 120-116 in overtime in Los Angeles on Dec. 17, giving Washington its first season sweep since the teams first met in 1961. By contrast, the Lakers have swept the Wizards 10 times over the decades.

Although Jamison was gone, big men Brendan Haywood (16 points), Etan Thomas (8) and Jared Jeffries (9) found the pickings easy inside. The trio combined to make 14 of 18 shots as the Wizards outscored the Lakers 44-20 in the paint.

"Without Antawn, those guys played well. Antawn was holding those guys back all year," coach Eddie Jordan said jokingly.

Then he added: "When we talk about the proverbial step-up — everyone has to step up — that's what happened tonight."

They'll have to keep it up. Jordan didn't go into detail, but he made it sound as if Jamison could miss a few games and will be limited for the rest of the season.

Jamison has a sore knee and back from a season of playing the more physical power forward position, and he recently had a streak of 386 consecutive games come to an end.

He limped badly through the first quarter and sat down for good after playing just eight minutes.



Los Angeles Lakers guard Chucky Atkins, left, is fouled by Washington Wizards forward Jared Jeffries in the second quarter Monday.

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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NCAA BASKETBALL

Tennessee fires Peterson

Associated Press

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — Buzz Peterson was fired Monday as Tennessee's basketball coach after the Volunteers failed to make the NCAA tournament during his four years at the school.

The Vols finished 14-17 overall and 6-10 in the Southeastern Conference this season after losing to Kentucky in the second round of the league tournament. It was Peterson's second losing season in Knoxville, leaving him with a 61-59 record in his four years.

"Buzz has many of the characteristics we have looked for in a coach, but we were found lacking in the area of wins and losses in a business that measures its success according to such parameters," athletic director Mike Hamilton said at a news conference Monday.

Hamilton informed Peterson of his decision Sunday evening. Peterson seemed somewhat sur-

prised but handled the news in a "first-class" manner, Hamilton said.

Peterson did not immediately return calls seeking comment.

With the return of every starter from last year, Tennessee hoped to reach the NCAAs for the first time under Peterson this season.

Peterson, whose contract is worth \$769,500 a year and runs through the 2008-09 season, was the fourth coach at Tennessee since Don DeVoe was fired in 1989.

Peterson, 41, was hired in April 2001 to replace Jerry Green, who was ousted after taking the Vols to the NCAA tournament four straight seasons. The Peterson buyout will Tennessee nearly \$1.4 million, and the university still owes Green a final payment of his buyout next January.

Initially, there was excitement around the prospect of "Buzzball" taking off under a coach embraced by the fans.

Peterson met with Hamilton and university president John Petersen Feb. 28, and Hamilton said then he would announce a decision on the coach after the season.

In the following weeks, Hamilton was contacted by Peterson supporters, including former star Tennessee athletes Peyton Manning and Todd Helton, Lady Vols coach Pat Summitt, North Carolina coach Roy Williams and Peterson's college coach, Dean Smith.

Football coach Phillip Fulmer said he spoke with Peterson on Monday.

"Everybody in this profession knows how volatile it can be and Buzz certainly understood that," Fulmer said.

Hamilton declined to specify a timetable for making a hire, saying the search will take as long as needed to find the right coach.

Peterson came to Tennessee after one season at Tulsa, where he went 26-11 and won the NIT.

MLB

Prior sidelined due to right elbow pain



Mark Prior pitches for the Lansing Lugnuts May 20 in a rehab assignment for his Achilles' tendinitis last season.

Associated Press

MESA, Ariz. — Cubs ace Mark Prior will be out indefinitely because of inflammation in his right elbow, the latest injury to one of Chicago's star pitchers.

Kerry Wood, slated to start on opening day, is sidelined with bursitis in his right shoulder.

Cubs trainer Mark O'Neal said Monday the 24-year-old Prior has some inflammation in the elbow joint and a little irritation to the ulnar nerve.

Prior missed the first two months of last season because of right Achilles' tendinitis and stiffness in his right elbow. Last July, he missed a start because of discomfort in the elbow. But Prior and O'Neal both said the current injury is not related to last year's problem.

"It's different," Prior said. "It's not the same injury."

Prior made his Cactus League debut Thursday, when he threw three innings against the Seattle Mariners in Peoria. He said Monday that while doing some routine postgame exercises afterward, he felt discomfort in the elbow.

Cubs general manager Jim Hendry said Prior saw elbow specialist Dr. Lewis Yocum last weekend and had a precautionary MRI on Sunday.

"There is no damage to the nerve," Hendry said. "The ligament remains exactly the same from the MRI last year."

Prior was supposed to pitch Tuesday against Kansas City but will miss that start. O'Neal

said that in addition to rest, Prior is taking anti-inflammatory medication and the Cubs would see how he responds to the rest and medication before determining when he will begin throwing again.

"I was going through some of my normal exercises after I pitch, and I told Mark, 'Something doesn't feel right back here, not necessarily unusual, but just different,'" Prior said. "As the day went on, it just got a little bit stiffer."

"There is no damage to the nerve."

Jim Hendry
Cubs general manager

"I came in the next morning and told them, and that's when we decided to get everything checked out," he said.

Prior is scheduled to make his first start on April 5 at Arizona, the Cubs' second game of the season.

Wood played catch on flat ground Monday, testing his right shoulder. He was not available for comment, but pitching coach Larry Rothschild said Wood felt fine, and if he feels well Tuesday morning he might play catch again.

Rothschild said it's possible Wood could throw off a mound on Wednesday.

Wood took himself out of last Wednesday's start against Texas after complaining of tightness in the shoulder. The Cubs sent him back to Chicago the next day for an MRI. The MRI and a doctor's exam revealed bursitis and inflammation around the rotator-cuff muscles, the Cubs said.

Rothschild said he expects both pitchers to be ready to make their first start of the regular season.



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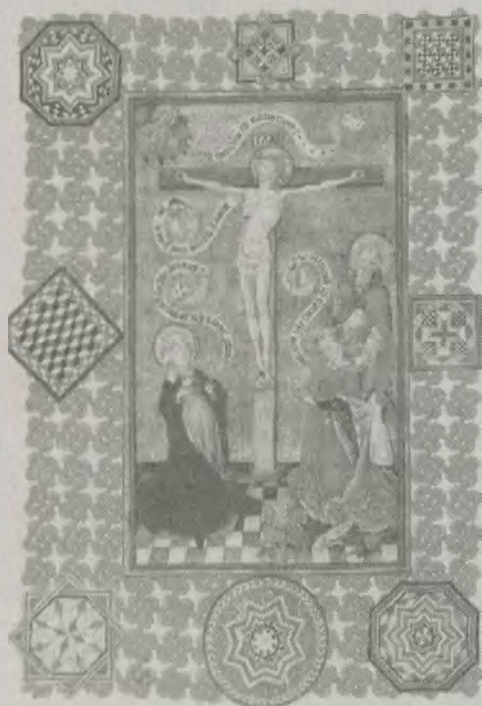
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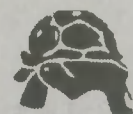
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AROUND THE NATION

page 18

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Tuesday, March 15, 2005

NCAA Men's Division I Tennis Rankings

	team
1	Baylor
2	Virginia
3	Illinois
4	Mississippi
5	Duke
6	Georgia
7	Florida
8	UCLA
9	Southern Cal
10	Oklahoma State
11	Stanford
12	Texas A&M
13	Ohio State
14	Washington
15	Harvard
16	Texas
17	LSU
18	NOTRE DAME
19	Pepperdine
20	Auburn
21	Tennessee
22	TCU
23	Wake Forest
24	Florida State
25	Tulane

NCAA Women's Division I Tennis Rankings

	team
1	Stanford
2	Florida
3	Georgia
4	Northwestern
5	Vanderbilt
6	Kentucky
7	William and Mary
8	Duke
9	Miami (Florida)
10	UCLA
11	North Carolina
12	Washington
13	Southern Cal
14	Harvard
15	Texas
16	California
17	Georgia Tech
18	Baylor
19	Tulane
20	TCU
21	Clemson
22	NOTRE DAME
23	Tennessee
24	BYU
25	San Diego State

Fencing Coaches' Association Rankings

Women's	Men's
1 NOTRE DAME	1 Ohio State
2 Ohio State	2 Penn State
3 Penn State	3 St. John's (NY)
4 Harvard	4 NOTRE DAME
5 Columbia	5 Harvard
6 Northwestern	6 Columbia
7 Penn	7 Princeton
8 Princeton	8 NYU
9 St. John's (NY)	9 Penn
10 Duke	10 Air Force

around the dial

MLB SPRING TRAINING

Angels at White Sox, 3:05 p.m., ESPN
NBA

Lakers at 76ers, 7 p.m., Comcast
SuperSonics at Bulls, 8:30 p.m., Comcast
Magic at Kings, 10 p.m., Comcast
MEN'S BASKETBALL NCAA
Oakland at Alabama A&M, 7 p.m., ESPN2
MEN'S BASKETBALL NIT
Holy Cross at Notre Dame, 7 p.m., ESPN2
DePaul at Missouri, 9 p.m., ESPN

MLB



MLB commissioner Bud Selig watches a spring training game between the San Francisco Giants and the Chicago Cubs. Selig is willing to testify on steroid use before the House Government Reform Committee.

Selig, Schilling, Canseco offer to testify

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Major League Baseball gave a congressional committee about 400 pages of documents on drug testing and said commissioner Bud Selig was willing to testify at Thursday's hearing on steroid use.

Lawyers for Jason Giambi, Frank Thomas and Rafael Palmeiro asked the committee to withdraw subpoenas for their clients, and lawyers for players and the commissioner's office continued to negotiate with committee staff Monday, trying to narrow the scope of questioning. Bob DuPuy, baseball's chief

operating officer, and Rob Manfred, the executive vice president in charge of labor relations, were in Washington to meet with the committee staff.

Just three days before the hearing, it remained unclear whether Mark McGwire, Giambi, Curt Schilling and other current and former stars would testify before the House Government Reform Committee.

Former AL MVP Jose Canseco and Schilling are the only players who have said they are willing to appear in Washington on Thursday. Selig, who initially offered a top aide as a substitute, reversed course Monday and

offered to appear.

"I am proud of the progress baseball has made on the subject of steroids and performance-enhancing drugs and look forward to sharing this information with the committee," he said in a statement. "The players stepped up this past January for an even stricter drug policy beginning this season demonstrating that all of us in baseball are committed to reaching zero tolerance."

Sammy Sosa, Thomas and Palmeiro were subpoenaed last week along with Canseco, whose recent book alleged several top players used

steroids. Union head Donald Fehr also was summoned along with Manfred, baseball executive vice president Sandy Alderson and San Diego general manager Kevin Towers.

Canseco has asked for immunity in order to speak more freely. The committee consulted the Justice Department but didn't expect to hear back until Tuesday evening, according to Canseco's lawyer, Robert Saunooke.

Saunooke said players were unsure whether the committee had power to grant immunity from both federal and state prosecution.

IN BRIEF

Browns release third No. 1 pick since 1999

Cleveland released defensive end Courtney Brown on Monday, yet another former first-round pick who failed to make it with the team.

Brown, the first overall pick in 2000, was due to receive a \$2.5 million roster bonus Tuesday. With Brown out, the first three No. 1 picks that Cleveland took after it returned to the league in 1999 are gone.

He joins quarterback Tim Couch, the first overall pick in 1999, and defensive tackle Gerard Warren, No. 3 overall in 2001, as ex-Browns. Couch was released last June and Warren was traded to Denver on March 2 for a fourth-round draft pick.

The team also has given running back William Green, its first-round pick in 2002, permission to seek a trade.

Brown, who has been troubled by injuries throughout his career, could be back for less money.

Chaney returns to Temple bench for NIT

PHILADELPHIA — Temple has been invited back to the postseason — and John Chaney is going along.

Chaney will be back coaching in the NIT after a three-week suspension for sending a seldom-used big man onto the floor to commit hard fouls that left Saint Joseph's senior John Bryant with a broken arm.

The 73-year-old Chaney first suspended himself for one game before the school extended the punishment to three games after the extent of Bryant's injury was discovered. The Hall of Fame coach then banned himself from the sideline for the Atlantic 10 tournament.

Temple athletic director Bill Bradshaw said the coach's return shouldn't be a surprise because the suspension only extended to the end of the A-10 tournament. He declined to discuss any conditions of Chaney's return.

The school announced Monday that

Chaney would be on the bench when the Owls (16-13) play at Virginia Tech (15-13) in a first-round game Tuesday night.

Illinois remains No. 1 for 15th straight week

Illinois won the poll. Now it's a matter of winning the tournament.

The Illini were No. 1 for the 15th straight week Monday — and unanimous, too — in the final Associated Press college basketball poll of the season.

Kansas was the last to do it, in 1996-97, and the Jayhawks didn't even make the Final Four. Kansas also reigned for the last 15 weeks of the season and was the last unanimous No. 1 in the final poll but lost to eventual champion Arizona in the third round of the NCAA tournament.

And last year's final No. 1, Stanford, lost to Alabama in the second round of the NAAs. Illinois (32-1) had been a unanimous No. 1 for five straight weeks until its first loss of the season.

Baseball

continued from page 28

streak extend to five games. Matt Edwards hammered a grand-slam in the bottom of the eighth to cut the UTSA lead in half at 8-4, but the Roadrunners shut down the threatening Irish offense in the ninth for a 9-4 win. Right-hander Jess Stewart (1-1) took the loss.

Despite the opening three losses of spring break, Mainieri remained upbeat.

"I'm not discouraged. We just need to start playing a little bit

better," he said. "It's early in the year, and I think our best days are ahead of us; there's no question about that. We're going to start pitching better."

After the first round loss, the better days began.

The Irish defeated Southwest Missouri State 6-4, snapping the five-game losing streak. Notre Dame used a sharp performance from right-hander Jeff Samardzija (2-0) and home runs from Edwards and Craig Cooper. Edwards' eighth-inning shot to left-field was his fourth round-tripper of the season.

Friday the Irish took the field against Oral Roberts for the right to play in the champi-

onship game. The Irish wasted an early 4-1 lead. Thornton yielded five runs on eight hits, taking his second loss of the young season. Usual third baseman Ross Brezovsky started in left field and went 3-5 on the day, while centerfielder Alex Nettey finished 3-4. Also in a new spot at DH, Steve Andres smashed his second homer of the year.

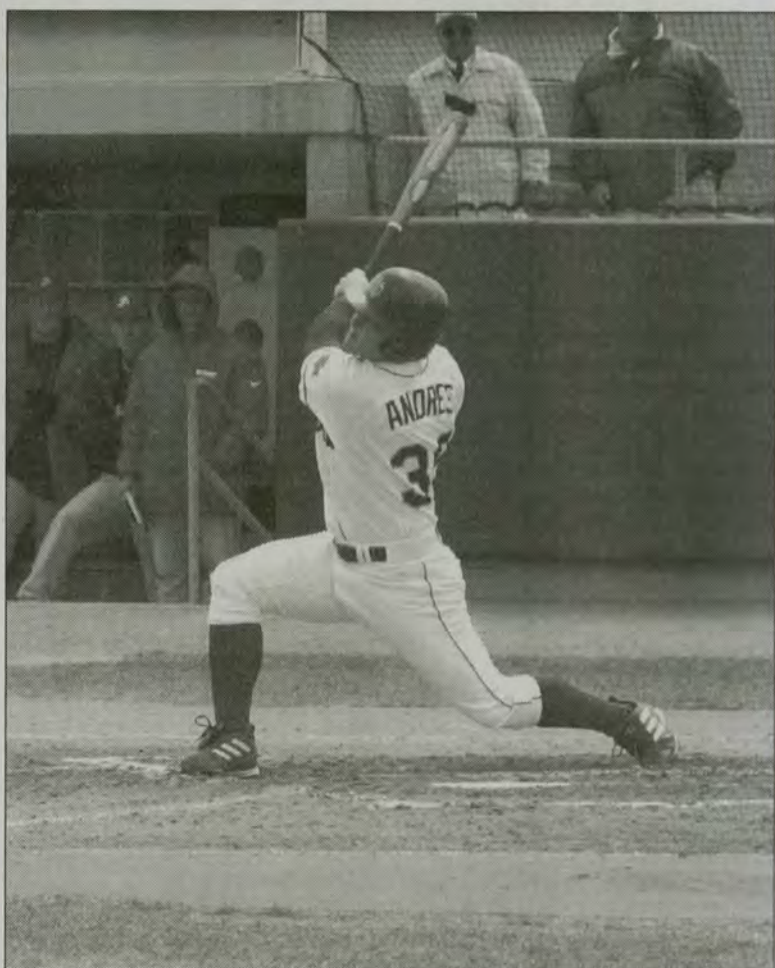
"We're going to have to just see how each day goes; we'll put the lineup out there that we think has the best chance to be successful," Mainieri said.

In the consolation rematch between Southwest Missouri State and Notre Dame, the Irish won 12-11. With an 11-1 lead the Irish looked poised to sweep SMS in the tourney, but the Bears fought back with a six-run fifth and four more runs in the final four innings. Andres, back in left field, played an errorless game. He contributed on the offensive side as well with a 2-3 day and his third home run of the season. For the first time this season, Andres' entire team played error-free baseball. Making his first career start at DH, Tony Langford sparked the Irish with a 3-4 day at the plate.

"I was really proud of Tony Langford. He waited his turn, and we put him in a game to pitch, and he really challenged the hitters. And we put him in another game to pitch he really challenged the hitters again. And we put him in to DH on the final day, and I thought he really sparked our team," Mainieri said.

Another jumpstart for the Irish, Manship hurled a first-inning shutout as he was once again limited to one inning — easing his way back into the lineup after the elbow surgery.

"The first day he pitched, it was his first time in a college baseball game, and it was like Murphy's Law — everything that could go wrong did go wrong. It was nice that the sec-



JOANNA PAXTON/The Observer

Junior Steve Andres takes a cut against St. John's last April at Frank Eck Stadium.



JOANNA PAXTON/The Observer

Irish pitcher Jeff Samardzija winds up against St. John's last April when the Irish split two games with the Red Storm.

ond time he pitched he had a good inning, and I thought he threw the ball really well," Mainieri said.

Catcher Sean Gaston also connected for three hits.

Despite the 6-7 record after a grueling 13 game stretch in Florida, Arizona and Texas, Mainieri takes an optimistic outlook from the first four weeks of the season.

"Nothing good comes out of losing. We wish our record was a lot better than it is right now, but this is not all that atypical of our program. A couple of years in my years here, we've gotten off to good starts, but most of the years this is pretty typical of where we'd be," Mainieri said.

"We play tough teams early in the year because we feel that's how you make your team better, even though the success early in the year may not be extraordinary."

There's plenty of season left, no reason to panic and plenty of work to do.

"I think we did a lot of good things offensively and defensively, but we just need to continue to improve there. I feel good about the future for our team," Mainieri said.

"I feel good about the future for our team."

Paul Mainieri
Irish coach

"It's funny that every year that I've been here we've become a much better team in April than we were in March and

February, and I expect that the same thing will happen this year. We start making our run in late March and during the month of April."

The Irish will try to start a winning streak when they head to Evansville, Indiana for games against Northern Illinois, Evansville and South Dakota State later this week.

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WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Spring break not friendly to Irish

By MATT PUGLISI
Associate Sports Editor

Last spring break, Notre Dame (1-4) had arguably its best week in program history, rattling off a trio of victories — including road wins over No. 19 Cornell, No. 2 Duke and No. 6 James Madison — en route to a No. 2 overall ranking.

This year, the Irish had one of their worst.

After an 18-11 home loss March 3 to No. 3 Northwestern dropped the Irish to 1-1 on the year, Notre Dame hit the road for its annual spring break trip down the East coast. Losses to then-unranked Cornell, Vanderbilt and James Madison sent the Irish home empty-handed.

"It certainly was not what we expected by any stretch of the imagination," Irish coach Tracy Coyne said. "Cornell, Vanderbilt and James Madison are all teams that we beat last year, and I think that always plays into it, and Vanderbilt is a huge rivalry for us. We were very disappointed with the outcomes."

While a number of factors contributed to the fruitless trip, an injury to starting midfielder Megan Murphy loomed particularly large.

"The results were the same, but each game was different," Coyne said. "[Murphy] is out with a knee injury, and we don't know the results yet so having her out of the starting lineup was a difficult adjustment."

Cornell 11, Notre Dame 8

Finding itself trailing 6-2 at the half, Notre Dame was never able to answer the early Cornell onslaught as the Irish started off the trip on the wrong foot March 6 with an 11-8 defeat at the hands of the host Big Red.

Midfielder Kaki Orr paced the Irish attack, netting a pair of goals on an afternoon that saw Notre Dame muster a meager 16 shots on goal — the Big Red generated 18 in the first half alone.

While the Irish would pull within three goals at 8-5 after tallies by defender Lena Zentgraf and midfielder Caitlin McKinney with just over 22 minutes left to play, the three-goal deficit was as close as the Irish would come to catching Cornell before a pair of goals

by midfielder Lindsay Shaffer and attack Jackie Bowers in the game's closing minutes once again brought the Irish within three at 11-8.

The upset to then-unranked Cornell had more severe consequences than just knocking Notre Dame under the .500 mark at 1-2 — for the first time since April 24, 2001, the Irish found themselves unranked in the most recent Intercollegiate Women's Lacrosse Coaches' Association (IWLC) national rankings.

Vanderbilt 10, Notre Dame 9 (OT)

Although the March 6 loss to the Big Red stripped the Irish of their national ranking, last Wednesday's loss to Vanderbilt may have been the most painful of the trio.

Squandering a late second-half lead only to fight back and tie the score at 9-9 with just over five minutes left on the clock, the Irish eventually fell in a 10-9 overtime heartbreaker to the Commodores in Nashville, Tenn.

With Notre Dame leading by the slimmest of margins 8-7 and 11 minutes left in the game, Commodore Meg Spies knotted the contest on a free position shot before Ashley Paschall put Vanderbilt in front 9-8 four minutes later.

Refusing to give up, McKinney buried her second goal of the game 90 seconds later to even the score.

The see-saw battle would remain locked at 9-9 until Vanderbilt's Jennifer Tapscott gave the Commodores a hard-fought win 2:22 into the sudden-death overtime period.

Once again, the Irish found themselves behind early as Vanderbilt poured in five of the game's first six goals to jump out to a quick 5-1 advantage after 20 minutes of play.

However, unlike the Cornell contest where the Irish were never able to get back in the game, Notre Dame responded.

Midfielder Brittany Fox scored the first of her three goals with just over 10 minutes remaining in the first half to kick a streak that saw the Irish net four of the game's next five goals to pull within a tally at 6-5 by the half-time.

"The defense against Vanderbilt

— once it got settled, I think we played well enough to win," Coyne said. "But the attack is not doing its job."

James Madison 10, Notre Dame 5

After topping the host Dukes 9-7 to conclude last season's head-turning spring break trip, the Irish were unable to replicate the feat this year, falling to No. 16 James Madison 10-5 Sunday afternoon in Harrisonburg, Va. and stretching their losing streak to four games.

For a third consecutive spring break game, the Irish were slow out of the gates, allowing the Dukes to post the contest's first three goals.

While goals by Orr and Fox brought Notre Dame back within a single tally midway through the first half, James Madison eventually ran away with the contest, netting five consecutive scores, including four before half time to build a 7-2 advantage and effectively put the game out of reach.

The James Madison lead would grow to 10-3 until attack Mary McGrath and Shaffer found the back of the net at the 23:23 and 26:31 marks of the second half, respectively.

"In each game, I think the most common denominator is that we get down early," Coyne said. "We make a good effort at coming back like we outscored Cornell in the second half and we took the lead against Vanderbilt, but you can't get down by so many and come back against good teams."

Following the disappointing 0-3 road trip, the Irish have a much-needed nine-day rest before returning to action next Tuesday when California visits for an afternoon tilt on Moose Krause Field.

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MEN'S LACROSSE

Kemp shines in 1st career start

By MIKE GILLOON
Sports Editor

Coming into Saturday's matchup against No. 10 North Carolina, Notre Dame had dropped nine straight games against top-10 opponents. Apparently, the Irish could have used a player like Joey Kemp.

The freshman goaltender played like a veteran in his first career start, making 13 saves to lead the No. 14 Irish past the Tar Heels 9-7 at the "First 4" Invitational in Carson, Calif.

"It was a big game," Kemp said. "The defense played really well. Everyone just did their job."

Notre Dame (2-1) entered the second period leading 3-1 after grabbing 14 out of 15 ground balls to start the game. Kemp blocked 65 percent of the shots he faced as the Irish avenged a 14-11 defeat at the hands of the Tar Heels last year.

"I was a little nervous before the game started," Kemp said. "But after the first whistle I was fine."

The victory came just one week after Notre Dame lost 11-10 to Cornell on the road.

"It was big to get the win [over North Carolina]," Kemp said. "We let up at the half against Cornell but we played hard the whole game this time."

Irish junior Pat Walsh lived up to his All-American status as he led the Irish with five points against the Tar Heels. His four assists and one goal complemented hat tricks from Jim Morrison and Michael Podgajny.

Matt Ryan chipped in a career-high three assists, the biggest coming midway through the second

period when Morrison tossed in his third goal of the half to put the Irish ahead 4-1.

Tar Heel All-American Jed Prossner scored his only goal with just over eight minutes left in the game, closing the gap to 6-5.

However, Irish senior captain Brian Giordano collected two late goals to solidify the victory.

The game, showcasing two of the top programs in collegiate lacrosse, was played in front of 7,882 spectators and was televised by College Sports TV.

"The whole TV thing, that just made it that much more interesting," Kemp said.

Cornell 11, Notre Dame 10

Notre Dame sprinted out to a 6-3 lead early on against Cornell in a March 6 game in Ithaca, New York. The Big Red then scored seven consecutive goals and held on for the victory.

Morrison led the Irish with three goals. The third score of his hat trick came as Notre Dame trailed by two goals with 44 seconds remaining. Morrison took a pass from Walsh, took a shot and the lead was cut to one. But the Irish were not able to convert in the final seconds.

Trailing 10-6 midway through the third period, Ryan scored two goals less than two minutes apart to cut the lead in half.

Sensing an Irish comeback, Cornell took control of the game and drained the clock for over three minutes. Big Red sophomore David Mitchell then hurled the winning goal — and the first of his career — into the back of the net.

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ND WOMEN'S GOLF

Irish get hot with 35-stroke win at St. Croix

By KEVIN BRENNAN
Sports Writer

Things really heated up for the Notre Dame women's golf team during spring break. The Irish headed south to the Virgin Islands and won the St. Croix Collegiate Classic by an impressive 35 shots.

Notre Dame finished the tournament with a three day total of 919. The Irish closed strong, shooting a 15-over par 303 in Sunday's final round. The team recorded scores of 307 and 309 on Friday and Saturday, respectively. Xavier, the tournament's host school, finished second with a score of 954.

Coach Debbie King expected her team would rebound from a disappointing 13th-place finish in February's Central District Championship.

"We knew it was a semi-weak field," King said. "We knew we were the favorites, so we had to set some personal goals. We were trying to shoot three or four over or better each day. We came pretty close to that."

One member of the Irish certainly fulfilled her goals on Sunday. Sophomore Stacy Brown finished with a 12-over par 228 for her first independent collegiate tournament victory. Brown's performance inspired and excited the rest of the Notre Dame team.

"She has had a few chances in the past, and she really did it this time, so it was really exciting," junior co-captain Katie Brophy said. "Plus, we all love Stacy so it was really easy to be happy for her."

Finishing right behind Brown was her classmate Noriko Nakazaki. Nakazaki recorded a second place score of 229, high-

lighted by a third round one-under-par 71.

Freshman Jane Lee also contributed to the Notre Dame victory. On Saturday, Lee shot an Irish tournament-low 70, her first ever collegiate round under par. Her performance, combined with those of Brown and Nakazaki, underscored the strides being made by the young members of the Irish.

"It's definitely evident that coach has gotten really strong recruiting classes in the past years," Brophy said. "They're not only good golfers, but they are really good teammates and people. It's really easy to be on a team with them."

While the team was pleased with its victory, the Irish also see room for improvement.

"A win is a win. We are definitely excited to take that. But as far as our overall performance, we know that we can definitely do better," Brophy said.

King stressed the team needs to play with more consistency and remain in a positive mental state. The coach hopes to build off this victory as Notre Dame's postseason resume still needs a bit of padding.

The Irish are looking to secure a second straight trip to the NCAA Central Regional Championship, which will be held in Lubbock, Texas from May 5-7. The Big East conference does not have an automatic bid, so the team needs to receive an at-large invitation. For this to happen, the Irish should finish around the top 40 in the rankings. Notre Dame currently sits on the bubble, with a ranking of 41 heading into the St. Croix Collegiate Classic.

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SMC TENNIS

Belles finish trip to Florida 3-4

By PATRICK MCCABE
Sports Writer

The defending MIAA champion Belles opened their season in Orlando and finished 3-4 against a grueling slate of six teams in six days. The Belles defeated King's College 9-0, Rochester 5-4 and Ursinus 9-0.

But the team fell to Division II-level St. Cloud State 4-5, Wittenberg 3-6, Carnegie-Mellon 0-9 and Wheaton 0-9.

"We played some really difficult teams. But it was nice to be challenged and get some confidence," junior co-captain Kristen Palombo said. "The team performed really well and really stepped up. Half of the players were on their first collegiate spring break, but still did a good job and raised the team's expectations."

Fellow senior captain Miranda Mikulyuk was proud of how well the team performed.

"We played a few close matches that we wish we could have pulled out," she said. "But we gelled as a team, and that's what it really was all about. I feel we didn't lose anything from our three seniors' graduation last year. This team plays just as strong."

The captains agreed that the doubles teams played well, particularly the new No. 1 and No. 3 pairs of Kelly McDavitt and Caile Mulcahy and Tara O'Brien and Mary Beth Pavela.

"The biggest thing was our doubles. Getting to know personnel is important. They learned one another's strengths and got a better idea of weak points," Mikulyuk said. "During the tournament, they worked out the kinks."

Palombo agreed. "The doubles really improved," she said. "The tournament really helped us get into better shape than we thought we would be."

Despite the team's rapid development and growth, the Belles can still improve.

"We lost two matches 4-5. We need to find another gear and dig deeper to win those matches 5-4," Mikulyuk said. "Overall, we must continue to find a deeper level."

However, Palombo felt the team lost those matches because of extenuating circumstances.

"We had some bad luck. One girl caught the stomach flu and another blew out her knee. Others suffered from severe blisters," she said.

Moreover, the Belles had to persevere through seven competitions in six days, requiring multiple matches per day from the players.

Ultimately, the Belles had a productive week, acquiring confidence, fortitude and experience.

"We beat the teams we were supposed to and won a couple of points against premier competition," Palombo said. "It was a really good start to the season. It was nice to play match points. We now know the things we need to work and improve on for conference play. We don't have a match this week, so we have lots of time to do some drills and clean up some shots."

The Belles' next challenge will be March 23 with a home contest against Olivet College.

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NCAA BASKETBALL

15 and 16 seeds know role

Associated Press

Fairleigh Dickinson coach Tom Green was going over potential NCAA tournament matchups, daydreaming about his Knights playing Wake Forest. Or Washington. Maybe even North Carolina.

Daydreaming? Sounds more like a nightmare. And 16th-seeded FDU wound up even worse than Green imagined, facing the biggest seed of them all, overall No. 1 Illinois on Thursday.

"Realistically, we know what a long shot it is," Green said Monday. "It's a huge challenge, to say the least."

That's life for the NCAA tournament's little guys. Getting a bid gives small schools like Fairleigh Dickinson, Richmond and Coppin State publicity and national exposure they'd never get otherwise. But teams seeded 15th and 16th don't get much of a chance to enjoy the limelight, usually gone by the end of the first round in a blowout to one of college basketball's powerhouses.

"I told our players earlier in the week ... we're going to have to upset somebody," said Travis Ford, whose 15th-seeded Eastern Kentucky squad goes up against No. 2 seed Kentucky on Thursday.

"We're going to be an underdog, I can guarantee you that."

No 16th seed has ever beaten a No. 1 since the tournament expanded to 64 teams in 1985, and only four No. 15s have upended a second seed. Richmond beat Syracuse 73-69 in 1991, Santa Clara upset Arizona 64-61 in 1993, Coppin State stunned South Carolina 78-65 in 1997 and Hampton surprised Iowa State in 2001.

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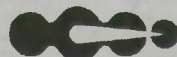
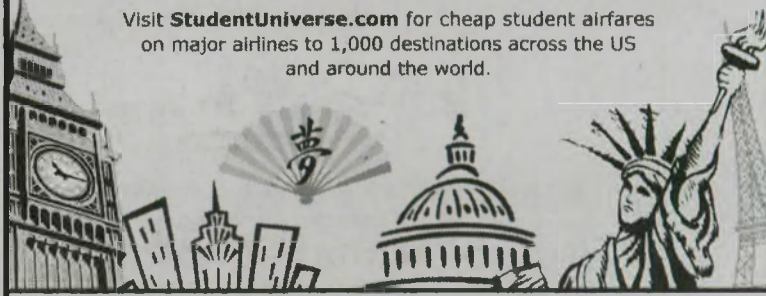
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BENGAL BOUTS

Activities Night choice a wise one

By KATE GALES
Sports Writer

Would it be the computer club? The philosophy club? The Brazil club?

Luckily for the men's boxing club, Nathan Lohmeyer stopped at their table during his first Activities Night.

"It was freshman year," he said. "I guess my friend and I were just walking around the Activities Night, where you have all the clubs set up. We kind of walked by the boxing stand, and he was like 'I bet I could kick your [butt] and I was like 'no way.'"

The friendly challenge turned into a commitment that would last Lohmeyer, a fighter in the 150-pound weight class and two-time Bengal Bouts captain, through his time at Notre Dame.

"We both signed up and from there, it's grown into something I've enjoyed over four years," he said.

The Missouri native, who spent three years in O'Neill Hall before moving off-campus, had never boxed before.

"I ran track and played soccer in high school, so more of the not-as-[much]-contact sports," Lohmeyer said.

Initially, he got involved with Bengal Bouts to stay active after high school. The workouts are geared towards conditioning, and as a junior and senior captain, he works with novice boxers on technique.

"It's like 250 push-ups a day, 500 sit-ups, 750 jumping-jacks, ideally," he said. "That's the warm up. Then we basically break it down and teach them a new technique ... a jab, parry, power-block, whatever ... and finish up with more jumping jacks."

Lohmeyer estimates a two-hour practice being 70 percent physical conditioning, with the rest "teaching [boxers] what it takes to not get killed." This is especially important for first-time boxers, who are trained by

the captains.

"All the novice boxers — people who have never [boxed] before — come in in the fall, we start in the middle of October and we train for about six to eight weeks during the fall," he explained.

Having a leadership role changed Lohmeyer's time commitment to Bengal Bouts, but the senior finance major looks back with pride.

"It's just kind of fun," he said. "When you're a freshman, you look up there and you see the guys who are leading the show, and you're like oh, those guys are on top of things, they know exactly what's going on, they're not worried about taking a shot."

Captains are also responsible for much of the administrative work that goes into Bengal Bouts.

"You're chosen by the captains previous to you, so it was nice to step into that role," said Lohmeyer. "There's a lot of stuff that goes on behind the scenes."

Money from the Bouts' ticket sales, programs, advertising and merchandise sales goes to the Holy Cross Missions in Bangladesh. The four finance majors were able to keep the financial side of the boxing club in order, and Lohmeyer will work for a consulting firm in Chicago next year.

Lohmeyer, nicknamed "The Bonzai Kitten," has advanced to the semi-finals in the 150-pound weight class. Although fans are nice, he encourages students to attend all the fights.

"People should come out just because they're really, really fun to watch," he said. "It's the guys you see in physics class or accounting just going at it, toe-to-toe ... and it's really entertaining to watch."

It's more of a spectator sport than most of the other featured clubs at Activities Night, anyways.

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

Rutgers upsets Irish in first round

Loss crushes Notre Dame's NCAA Tournament hopes

By PAT LEONARD
Sports Writer

NEW YORK — Notre Dame needed one more conference win to solidify a spot in the NCAA tournament, and in the opening round of the Big East Tournament, the Irish couldn't get it.

Torin Francis scored a season-high 21 points and grabbed 13 rebounds, but No. 11 seed Rutgers shot 46 percent from the floor and responded at the right times as the Scarlet Knights defeated the No. 6 seed Irish 72-65 in Madison Square Garden Wednesday night.

Rutgers senior guard Ricky Shields led his team with 21 points on 9-for-18 shooting. The Scarlet Knights (10-18) also made 7-of-17 shots from 3-point range, a significant improvement from a 3-of-15 effort exactly a week before in the only previous meeting between the two teams.

In that game on March 2, Notre Dame beat Rutgers 66-56 at the Joyce Center. The win came after a ten-point loss three days earlier to UCLA. After falling at home to Pittsburgh in the final game of the regular season, the Irish (17-11) did not obtain a bye in the first round of the conference tournament and ended up paying the price.

"We fought our way back and gave ourselves a chance to win it," Irish coach Mike Brey said following the Rutgers loss. "But

we couldn't defend at some key times when we had the lead. You have to give Rutgers credit. They made big shots at key times."

Notre Dame led for only three brief periods throughout the entire game, the final of which came when Chris Thomas found Russell Carter for a 3-point field goal with 1:28 remaining to give the Irish a 65-64 lead.

Out of a Rutgers 30-second timeout, however, Shields converted a drive into the lane and the Scarlet Knights went on an 8-0 run to end the game.

Carter, along with Francis, was one of the few bright spots for Notre Dame. The sophomore reserve played 22 minutes in replacement of starting shooting guard Chris Quinn and scored 12 points on 4-of-9 shooting. Quinn left the game in the first half with a bruised clavicle after colliding with Rutgers forward Marquis Webb.

With Quinn out of the ballgame and Rutgers' defense pressing, Notre Dame fell out of a balanced attack and could not defend or score with its guards.

"I think it makes him probably do a little too much, but he had to try and do that with Quinn out of there," Brey said. "You're able to isolate on two guys on the perimeter rather than three. They defended better than a week ago on the perimeter."

Rutgers coaches and players accomplished exactly what they had planned to do.

"[Our players] followed the game plan," Rutgers coach Gary Waters said. "The game plan was to defend and to not let them get a lot of open looks from the outside. The last time



GEOFF MATTESON/The Observer

Colin Falls defends Antonio Graves at the Joyce Center March 5.

we played them, they scored 42 points from the outside. We made a commitment this game to shut that down."

Chris Thomas led Notre Dame's guards with 17 points but did so on 6-of-17 shooting. Colin Falls shot 1-for-10 from the field and made 1-of-8 from the 3-point line. Quinn took only one shot and missed before leaving the game due to injury.

In all, the Irish guards shot 7-for-28 from the field for 20 total points. Rutgers guards scored 38 points.

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MEN'S TRACK

5 earn All-American honors

By NATE DYER
Sports Writer

The Notre Dame men's track team capped off a great indoor season last weekend, as five Irish athletes earned All-American status at the NCAA Indoor Championships. The Championships were held in Fayetteville, Arkansas at the University of Arkansas.

Decorated senior Irish hurdler Selim Nurudeen collected his first-ever All-American honor Friday, posting a time of 7.78 seconds in the 60-meter hurdles. That time was good enough for sixth overall.

In his third trip to an NCAA championship event, Nurudeen was able to cap a great senior indoor season that has seen him also take home the Big East Championship. Aside from competing in the 60-meter hurdles, Nurudeen also ran in the 200-meter dash, but did

not advance to the finals after clocking in at a time of 21.91.

Sophomore Kurt Benninger continued his amazing indoor season by garnering two All-American honors. After winning his preliminary heat, Benninger posted a time of 4:02.24 in the one-mile final, earning fourth place overall and All-American status. This was his second trip to an NCAA meet.

"Yesterday I just wanted to go out and race as best as I could to make it to the finals [for the mile run]," Benninger said on Saturday. "[I also] wanted to do whatever I could to get the job done in the distance medley relay."

Benninger led the men's dis-

tance medley relay team, which also consisted of seniors Eric Morrison, Trevor McClain-Duer and freshman Adam Currie, to a sixth-place finish with an overall time of 9:36.67. The finish was good enough to earn All-American honors for the team, the first such honor for each runner.

However, it was the hometown Arkansas Razorbacks squad who took home the overall championship, winning their 40th national championship and 18th in the Indoors. The Razorbacks finished with an overall score of 56 points, with Florida (46) and Wisconsin (43) finishing in second and third, respectively.

"I just wanted to go out and race as best as I could to make it to the finals."

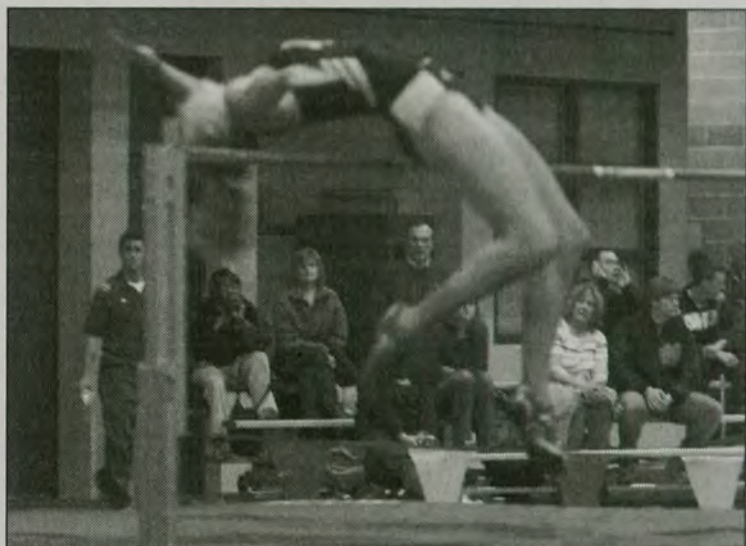
Kurt Benninger
Irish sophomore

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WOMEN'S TRACK

Phone call comes late, but not too late

Madia finishes 12th in 3,000 meters at NCAAs



PAMELA LOCK/The Observer

Stacey Cowan attempts a high jump at the Mayo Invitational at Loftus Sports Center Feb. 4.

By RYAN KIEFER
Sports Writer

Last Thursday, junior Stephanie Madia had not qualified to compete in the NCAA Indoor Championships. But a phone call later that night informed her of a late scratch and called for an early morning flight on Friday.

Having run the 20th best time at the 3,000-meter distance in the NCAA this season, Madia found herself one position out of the field of 19 runners, or exactly 1.6 seconds behind the next fastest runner. She was informed late Thursday, however, that there was a late scratch, opening a place for her in the field. The junior boarded the first plane out Friday morning and was on the track Saturday morning in Fayetteville, Ark., earning a 12th place finish, running a time of 9:36.67.

Irish coach Tim Connelly was pleased that Madia had the opportunity to run and was very impressed with her result.

"She was the last runner in, so for her to beat anyone was an accomplishment. She didn't think she was running on the weekend, so she had a high mileage week with significant weight training. For her to run that well on tired

legs was quite an accomplishment," Connelly said.

This weekend's performance comes as part of a mid-season resurgence for Madia, who ran extremely well in four events at the Big East Championships and ran a season best time of 9:22.50 at the Alex Wilson Invitational a week ago.

"She showed she can compete with the best in the country — she just faded in the last 800, and that can be attributed to the intense training early in the week," Connelly said.

The only other athlete to represent the Irish women at the NCAA's was junior high jumper Stacey Cowan. Making her second NCAA appearance, Cowan struggled to a 19th place finish, clearing 1.73 meters (5-7.75 feet), three inches short of her season best.

"In the technical events, you have to be in sync to succeed. Stacey for whatever reason seemed out of sync over the weekend," Connelly said.

Cowan will use her NCAA experience as she rejoins her teammates for the first outdoor meet of the season, the Willie Williams Invitational, Friday and Saturday in Tucson, Ariz.

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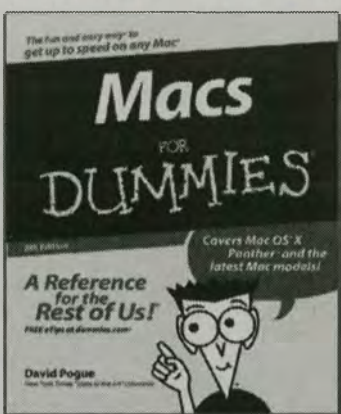
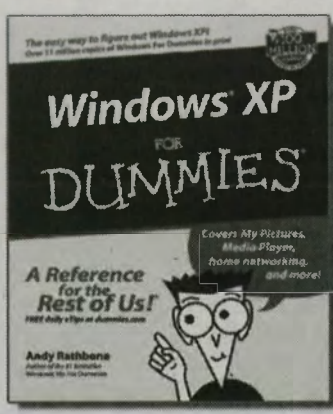
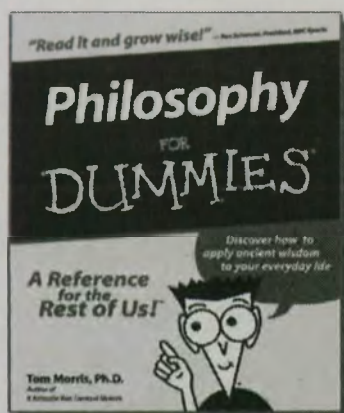
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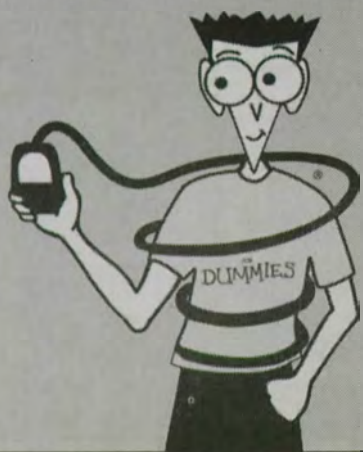
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Hockey

continued from page 28

going to let his career end on such a down note, and he proved it Saturday by turning in a nearly-perfect performance.

"That game Saturday was basically just like Morgan's entire career," Irish coach Dave Poulin said. "He gave us an opportunity to win, and it was a great rebound from Friday for both him and the rest of the team."

Michigan's decisive goal came at the 2:03 mark of overtime when defenseman Eric Werner flipped a rebound of a David Moss shot over Cey. Cey, forward Cory McLean and Joe Zurenko — the three members of Notre Dame's senior class — failed to advance to Joe Louis Arena for the first time in their Irish careers.

"It was very difficult for our three seniors to realize they wouldn't be going to Detroit this year," Poulin said. "But I was very impressed with the way they finished their careers and know they'll be successful in the future."

The loss Saturday capped off the worst season in Notre Dame's 38-year history, as the Irish finished the year with a record of 5-27-6.

"It's been the most difficult year that I've coached at Notre Dame," Poulin said. "You look at most of our games and they

were either one-goal or two-goal losses, and usually during the course of the season you'll get a few breaks that will help you in those close games."

"It really seemed like this year we just didn't get any of those breaks."

Michigan 10, Notre Dame 1

The Irish took an early 1-0 lead Friday, but that would be all the Notre Dame offense would muster in a 10-1 loss to the fourth-ranked Wolverines.

Michigan blew the game open in the second period, scoring seven goals and chasing Cey.

Irish freshman forward Evan Rankin scored the first goal of the game at the 15:38 mark of the first period as he pounced on a rebound left by Michigan goalie Al Montoya. Rankin stuffed the puck through Montoya's pads for his fifth goal of the season.

Michigan got goals from Eric Nystrom, Jeff Tambellini, Michael Woodford, Milan Gajic (two), Brandon Rogers (two), Chad Kolarik (two) and Kevin Porter. Montoya made 14 saves.

"We had a difficult line change early [at the start of the second period] and had to take a penalty," Poulin said. "Michigan scored on that power play and got on one of their typical rolls. Red [Berenson, the Michigan coach] said in his interview after the game that everything they were shooting was going in for them."

Michigan State 2, Notre Dame 1

Cey made 35 saves in his final

game at the Joyce Center, but he and his fellow seniors fell short on Senior Night as the Spartans eked out a 2-1 victory over the Irish March 6.

Michigan State drew first blood in the game, with Jim Slater scoring on the power play at the 16:59 mark of the first period.

Notre Dame's Tim Wallace — who set a new Irish record by playing in his 115th consecutive game — tied the game with a power play goal of his own at 8:59 of the second period. Forward Mike Walsh took a hard shot that squirted through Spartan goalie Dominic Vicari. As the puck lay in the crease, Wallace took advantage of the opportunity and poked the free puck home.

But the Spartans would score the game-winner just three minutes later, with Jim McKenzie flipping a rebound of a Colton Fretter shot over a sprawling Cey.

Michigan State 3, Notre Dame 2

After two periods it looked like Notre Dame's 15-game winless streak would come to an end, but Jim Slater had other ideas.

The Irish took a 2-0 lead into the third period March 5, but the talented Slater scored one goal and assisted on two others as Michigan State rallied for a 3-2 victory over Notre Dame in East Lansing, Mich.

Chris Trick and Tim Wallace scored the two goals for Notre Dame, while Drew Miller, McKenzie and Slater tallied the Spartans' goals.

Vicari made 17 saves in the victory, while Brown made 26 stops in the losing effort.

Contact Justin Schuver at jschuver@nd.edu

MEN'S GOLF

Final round surge puts Irish in 2nd

By STEVE COYER
Sports Writer

A strong push in the final round secured a second place finish for the Irish in the last day of the General Jim Hackler Invitational.

The Irish moved into fourth place Sunday to put the team 11 strokes off the pace of tournament host Coastal Carolina.

With a final team score of 891, the Irish more than cut that lead in half Monday to finish only five shots behind Coastal Carolina at 886.

"We're coming very close to becoming a very good team," Notre Dame head coach Jim Kublinski said. "We just have to keep gaining more confidence in ourselves and keep getting put into the fire of these high-quality tournaments."

Sophomore Shane Sigsbee lead the Irish squad with a second place finish overall and an individual score of 215. In his first start this season, Sigsbee came into the third round in a three way tie

for first and fell only one stroke behind the leader.

"Shane [Sigsbee] was really the star for us, playing some super golf," Kubinski said after the second round Sunday.

Junior Mark Baldwin shot consistently to place 14th overall with a score of 225 after being in 28th place on Sunday. Freshman Greg Rodgers surged to a 22nd place finish after being locked at 33rd after the second round.

The Irish placed ahead of five teams ranked in the top 50 Golfweek/Sagarin squad.

According to Kubinski, the key to success in these tournaments has been the team's confidence against any competition.

"You've got to believe in yourself ... and have that confidence that we're going to go into tournaments [knowing] we're going to beat these guys," Kubinski said.

The Irish will resume action April 2 when they participate in the Augusta State Invitational.

Contact Steve Coyer at scoyer@nd.edu

"That game Saturday was basically just like Morgan's entire career."

Dave Poulin
Irish coach

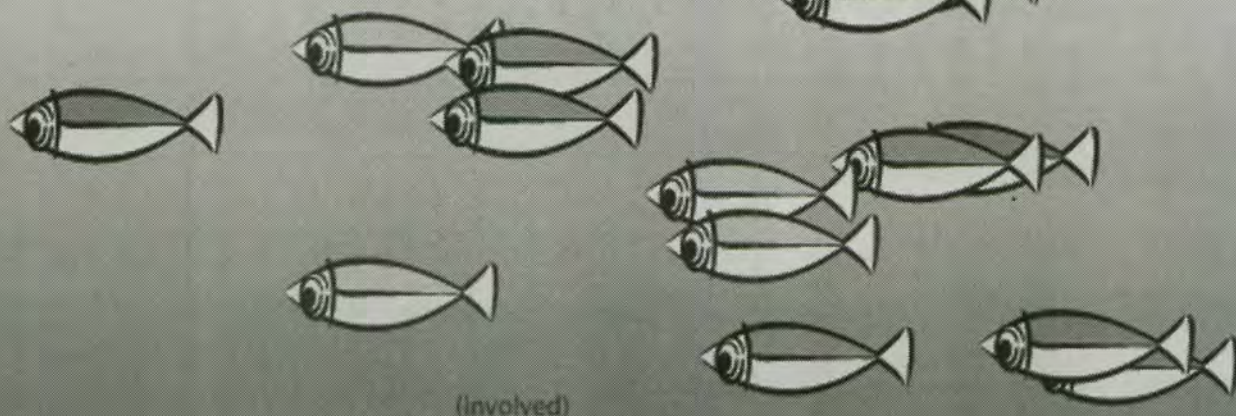
"You've got to believe in yourself."

Jim Kublinski
Irish coach



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Men

continued from page 28

improve to 16-7 Feb. 19, Notre Dame dropped four of its last five games, which didn't leave a positive impression with the NCAA tournament selection committee.

Getting blown out by UCLA at home Feb. 27, the loss on Senior Day against Pittsburgh and the disappointing loss to Rutgers at Madison Square Garden in the first round of the Big East Tournament Wednesday were the losses that hurt Notre Dame's case the most. Winning one of those three games more than likely would have gotten the Irish back to the Big Dance.

"We had opportunities. We had the Pittsburgh game here and Rutgers there. We had chances to nail it, and we didn't nail it," Brey said. "If you go 2-2, it's over."

Tonight's game against the Crusaders is a surprising matchup for the Irish. Talk on Sunday night lead many to believe Marquette, Miami (Ohio) or Indiana would be a potential first-round game, since the NIT likes to have contests that will draw fans to the games. Last year's first-round game for the Irish against Purdue at the Joyce Center on St. Patrick's Day is a prime example.

The Crusaders saw their 16-game winning streak snapped Friday in the Patriot League championship game when they lost on their home court to Bucknell. Earlier in the season, Holy Cross took Boston College to overtime, only to see the Eagles win by three.

"This is a Big East team quite frankly. They are older, very well



Chris Thomas works to create space against Antonio Graves in Notre Dame's 68-66 loss to Pittsburgh March 5.

GEOFF MATTESON/The Observer

coached. It's a league game. It's that kind of challenge for us," Brey said Monday. "Maybe both teams are playing pissed off. They had the title game on their home court and were the regular season champion. Both teams can use that energy on the floor."

Last season the Irish struggled all year, so playing in the NIT was expected during most of the season. But this year, the NIT only became a realistic possibility when the Irish faltered down the stretch.

Now the challenge for Brey and the senior leaders who are ending their Notre Dame careers is to keep the rest of the team motivated if it wants to get back to New York.

"It's over now. When we didn't see our name flash up, that's over with," Chris Thomas said Monday. "We can't dwell on it. We're in a one-and-done situation just like we were in the tournament."

Tip-off is set for 7 p.m. on ESPN2. Students need to purchase a ticket for admittance into the game. Tickets for the general public went on sale this morning.

Note:

♦ Brey said Monday Chris Quinn is a game-time decision for tonight's game. Quinn bruised his clavicle in the game Wednesday night against Rutgers.

Contact Matt Lozar at mlozar@nd.edu

Leonard

continued from page 28

from a Rutgers big man and headed for the corner.

Thomas stepped back, gathered himself and fired a meaningless 3-pointer with four seconds to go.

Airball.

Thus goes Notre Dame's season, and thus has gone Thomas' career.

It had started with a 24-point, 11-assist, 11-steal explosion in his first home game in an Irish uniform, a 95-53 drubbing of New Hampshire on Nov. 16, 2001. It was now ending in a game in which

he scored as many points as he attempted shots (17) and in which he turned the ball over as often as he assisted on baskets (5).

Thomas has taken Notre Dame to new levels and created a new set of expectations for the program. He has scored over 2,000 points and dished more than 800 assists, only the third player in Division-I history to do so along with Sherman Douglas and Gary Payton.

Unfortunately, in his final two seasons as an Irish point guard, Thomas' individual success was tied directly to the fate of the team as a whole. And in his junior and senior seasons, Thomas — who will go down as one of the most statistically productive players

"Losing — it's never been ingrained with basketball to me, especially when you lose like this."

Chris Thomas
Irish senior

in Notre Dame basketball history — missed the NCAA tournament.

He entered as Mr. Indiana from Pike High School in Indianapolis, guiding the Irish to a 22-11 overall record his freshman year almost upending No. 1 seed Duke in the NCAA tournament. A Thomas-led Irish team made it to the Sweet Sixteen his sophomore year before losing to another No. 1 seed, this time Arizona.

But on Wednesday, none of that mattered.

For a player so used to winning and being on top, a loss to the No. 11 seed in the first round of the Big East tournament just didn't make sense.

"Mentally, it's difficult to cope

with," Thomas said, visibly struggling with his team's defeat. "Losing — it's never been ingrained with basketball to me, especially when you lose like this."

Notre Dame has shown how far it can go with Thomas at the helm as its declared leader. At the press conference following the 72-65 heart-breaker to Rutgers, it was time for a change.

Thomas, coach Mike Brey and center Torin Francis sat at the podium. Brey made opening remarks, but the first question was directed at Thomas.

"Chris, how do you come to grips that you may never play again in the NCAA tournament?" the reporter asked.

Thomas' face seemed to drain of blood and expression as he grabbed the microphone. The senior paused, and then spoke.

"I think tournament questions are directed towards Coach," he said.

Brey followed quickly.

"I don't want to talk about the tournament," the coach said. "We'll await our fate Sunday, and wherever they send us we'll be honored to play."

But all so subtly and all so swiftly, the changing of the guard for Notre Dame basketball had taken place in the makeshift press room at Madison Square Garden.

Thomas, the player Brey deferred to throughout the season and the senior Brey has trusted as the team's leader, had completely deferred to his coach.

Brey took the microphone and took the lead — for better or for worse, reluctantly or simply out of duty — because at that moment, the Chris Thomas era, full of extreme highs and disappointing lows, was officially over.

Notre Dame is now Mike Brey's team.

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

Contact Pat Leonard at pleonard@nd.edu



Center for Applied Mathematics

Panos Antsaklis, Director
260-262 Hurley Building
Notre Dame, Indiana 46556-4618

ANNOUNCEMENT

2005 SUMMER FELLOWSHIPS FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

The Center for Applied Mathematics (CAM) is pleased to announce the Summer Fellowship competition for Undergraduate Students for the Summer of 2005. Each fellowship provides a stipend of at least \$1000 per month for up to two months. The exact amount of stipend depends on availability of additional REU funds. Recipients will be designated as Undergraduate Summer Fellows of the Center for Applied Mathematics.

The Center's aim is to enhance interdisciplinary collaboration and research in applied mathematics. The Center also encourages the growing learning and use of applied mathematics. CAM fosters University-wide interaction and collaboration and provides support for applied mathematics students and researchers in a variety of disciplines spanning engineering, the physical and social sciences and business. The Center strongly encourages interdisciplinary research in applied mathematics through student fellowships, support for workshops, seminar series and faculty visitors in interdisciplinary research areas. The goal of these fellowships is to financially support a small number of highly qualified students who will be involved in interdisciplinary projects under the supervision of one or more faculty members.

To apply for these fellowships for the Summer of 2005, a student must submit a proposal to the Center by March 29, 2005.

The proposal must describe clearly and concisely in no more than one page the student's research topic, the expected contribution to the interdisciplinary research project, and its relevance to applied mathematics.

The proposal should also contain the following:

- A biographical sketch of the applicant.
- A letter of recommendation from the student's faculty project advisor.
- The time period for which support is sought, academic transcripts, and any other supporting documentation.

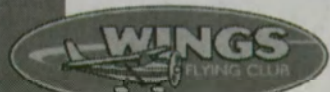
Final selection will be made by the Center's Executive Committee and will be announced in the middle of April.

Please submit proposals by March 29, 2005 to:

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Women

continued from page 28

network, while No. 5 Arizona State (22-9) opposes No. 12 Eastern Kentucky (23-7) in the other matchup with the two winners meeting Monday for a chance at the Sweet 16 in Tempe, Ariz.

After initially rejoicing at being in the Tempe region, the Irish players admitted frustration with not earning a higher seed. Notre Dame had seven wins against top-25 teams, went 13-3 in conference and had an RPI of 6. McGraw said her 2001 national championship squad had a six RPI and were the No. 1 seed in that tournament.

"I guess the number this year was 23-7," Jacqueline Batteast said. "Maybe if we would have lost a couple more games, we would have gotten a higher seed. ... This year we only had five losses and last year we had a 11 losses and we were a five seed."

Batteast was referring to Minnesota (24-7), Connecticut (23-7) and Texas (21-8) — all teams that earned No. 3 seeds despite worse records than the Irish. Ohio State and Duke, two teams that had similar records to Notre Dame and who both lost to the Irish earlier this season, gained No. 2 seeds, while 19-10 Penn State got a No. 4 seed as well.

"We thought we'd be around a three, that was our prediction," guard Megan Duffy said. "A four's fine, we're in good shape. We can't control the seed, we can only control how

we play."

Three Notre Dame players have lived in California, including Courtney LaVere, Crystal Erwin and Tuylah Gaines. Those three were especially excited to return to their roots and play in front of family and friends.

"Fresno is in my backyard, even though it's three hours away from my house," LaVere said. "But it's definitely going to be good to have some home court advantage for our team. A lot of my family would be

able to come and it'll be good for Crystal, [Breona Gray from Nevada] and Tuylah and all those on the West Coast."

Once in Fresno, Notre Dame will face a strong Santa Barbara squad.

Led by senior guard Kristen Mann, the Gauchos won the Big West regular season and tournament titles and haven't lost since Feb. 3. They have faced Notre Dame just once before, an early November game in 1997, which the Irish won.

"Santa Barbara will be a very, very tough game," McGraw said. "Kristen Mann is one of the best players in the country, and she's up for a lot of the awards Jackie [Batteast] is up for. She's very talented."

The rest of the higher seeds in the Tempe bracket unfolded as follows: No. 1 North Carolina, No. 2 Baylor, No. 3 Minnesota, No. 6 Virginia, No. 7 Texas Christian and No. 8 Mississippi.

Contact Joe Hettler at jhettler@nd.edu

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Huskies get revenge 67-54

By HEATHER VAN HOEGARDEN
Sports Writer

HARTFORD, Conn. — A little more than a month after Notre Dame dominated Connecticut in the paint en route to a win, the Huskies returned the favor.

No. 13 Connecticut knocked No. 10 Notre Dame out of the Big East Tournament March 7, with a convincing 67-54 victory at the Hartford Civic Center in the semifinal game.

"I think the game speaks for itself," Connecticut coach Geno Auriemma said.

Barbara Turner had 18 points, eight rebounds, five assists, three blocks and two steals in just 28 minutes to lead the Huskies, who went on to win the Big East Tournament with a 67-51 win over No. 9 Rutgers.

"I thought they were really physical with us inside," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said. "They completely dominated us on the block."

The Irish were dominated early and often by the Huskies, who came out with an intensity the Irish never really matched. Connecticut outscored the Irish 32-22 in the paint, and had 27 second-chance points to the Irish's six.

"We're a post-oriented team and we couldn't get anything going today," McGraw said. "They outworked us, they outrebounded us. They did everything they needed to do to win."

The game was fairly close for the majority of the first half, but with 11:41 to play and the Irish up 11-9, the Huskies erupted with a

20-6 run, powered by two 3-pointers by Ann Strother. Connecticut went up 29-17 and the Irish could never recover, as Big East Player of the Year Jacqueline Batteast was ineffective. Batteast went 1-for-11 in the opening half, contributing to Notre Dame's poor first-half shooting, as the Irish went 28.6 percent from the field.

To start the second half, however, the Irish looked poised to make a comeback. Batteast scored eight points to lead the Irish on a 10-4 run to start the half, and cut the lead to 34-31. But that was as close as they would come.

With 15:24 to play, Connecticut responded when Charde Houston hit a jumper to start 24-2 run that put the Huskies up 60-37 and put the Irish away for good, as Batteast was quickly shut down once again.

"They made it more difficult to get the ball," Batteast said. "They were really pressuring and denying, and so they made it hard to get the ball."

During the run, the Huskies were led by Strother, who had 10 points, including two 3-pointers. The Irish were scoreless for about seven minutes during that stretch, with Batteast ineffective. She didn't get good shots, and the ones she had didn't go in.

"When we cut it to 34-31, I thought we had a chance," McGraw said. "And we just hit a drought."

Irish point guard Megan Duffy credited the Huskies defense during the run.

"After we made our run, they really buckled down and played tremendous defense," Duffy said. "I felt like every time we drove in the lane there were three people there and there was nowhere to kick it out."

"But we have to be able to execute better. I think that's when we have to set better screens, do the little things."

Duffy had 21 points for the Irish, but 16 of them came with under five minutes to play in the

game.

"She has the biggest heart of any player I've ever coached — she never gives up," McGraw said. **Notre Dame 70, West Virginia 59**

Before this year's tournament, the Irish had never won at the Hartford Civic Center. They quickly changed that March 6, making quick work of West Virginia (17-12) with a 70-59 win in the quarterfinal match.

Duffy showed why she was a first team All-Big East selection, scoring 15 points on 5-for-6 shooting, and dishing out nine assists to lead Notre Dame.

The Irish found a different offensive spark in the first half, however, in Breona Gray. Gray, who averaged just 5.6 points coming into the game, had six first-half points and finished with 11 to give the Irish a boost out of the gate.

"I was really pleased with the way she came out," McGraw said. "I told her after the game, she really set the tone for the game. She was running the floor, she was scoring points."

Batteast, after struggling early, finished with 16 points and five rebounds to lead the Irish. Allen added 11 points off the bench.

Notes:

◆ Batteast, who was the preseason Big East Player of the Year, was named the Big East Player of the Year and was first team all-Big East for the second straight year. Duffy earned first team honors for the first time in her career, one year after she was named Big East Most Improved Player. Allen was named to the first team Big East All-Freshman team. Honors were announced March 4 in Hartford, Conn.

◆ Turner was named the Big East Tournament Most Outstanding Player, and Duffy earned first team All-tournament honors, averaging 18 points, six assists and two steals in two games.

Contact Heather Van Hoegarden at hvanhoeg@nd.edu

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

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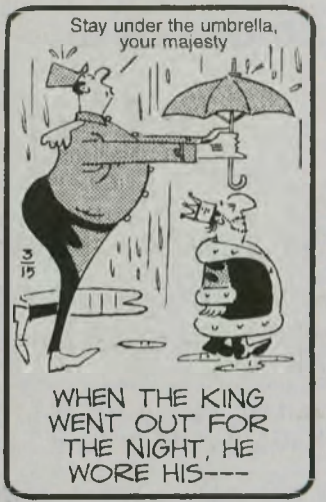
A: "□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □"

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: BROOK COLON FABRIC UTMOST
Answer: Where the band ended up when their concert fizzled – AT "ROCK" BOTTOM

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

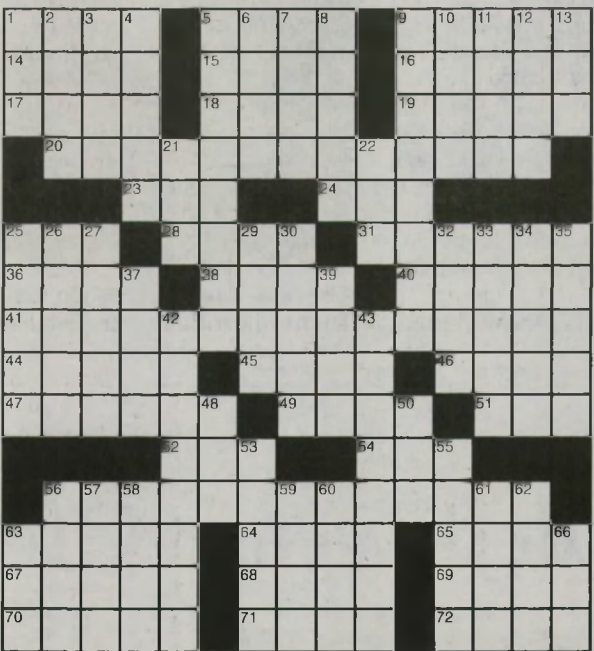


Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

CROSSWORD

WILL SHORTZ

- ACROSS**
- 1 "Show Boat" author Ferber
5 Sheep cries
9 Sense much used in a bakery
14 Stick-to-it-iveness
15 Pac 10 member
16 Shire of "Rocky"
17 Strong wind
18 Metric weight
19 Back street
20 Forecast maker
23 Leader known for his "little red book"
24 Quantity: Abbr.
25 Lucy of "Charlie's Angels," 2000
28 Slugger called the Sultan of Swat
31 Commendation
36 Gaelic tongue
38 Crystal ball user
40 Sea duck
- 41 "Melrose Place" actress
44 Loos who wrote "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes"
45 Wire screen
46 Fill up
47 Episodes of "Friends" and "Seinfeld," now
49 Within a stone's throw
51 Acid, in the 60's
52 700, on monuments
54 Actor Stephen
56 Motorcyclist's wear, often
63 Final authority
64 Extol
65 Former Baathist state
67 "You're talk!"
68 "Do you come here often?," e.g.
69 Scrabble piece
- DOWN**
- 1 Fabergé collectible
2 Shout at a shootout
3 River with Blue and White tributaries
4 Special forces unit
5 Crazy, slangily
6 Farm division
7 Having wings
8 Brazilian dance
9 TV series with Klingons and Romulans
10 Having XY chromosomes
11 Scat queen Fitzgerald
12 Place
13 Place
21 Road topper
22 "Steele-rike!" caller
25 Franz who composed "The Merry Widow"
26 In an old song, the "I'll see you in my dreams" girl
27 Carrier that acquired Piedmont
29 Period in office
30 Beauty of Troy
32 Is sick
33 Perfect



Puzzle by Randall J. Hartman

- 34 Theater reservations
35 Missed the mark
37 "___, Brute?"
39 Switch-hitter known as Charlie Hustle
42 Screwdriver or wrench
43 Pantomime game
48 Educ. site
50 ___ room
53 Yo-Yo Ma's instrument
55 Japanese dog
56 Swim meet division
57 Gazed at
58 "The Thin Man" dog
59 Police action
60 Father's Day month
61 Guitarist Clapton
62 Story
63 Soak (up)
66 Mathematical proof letters

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HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Taylor Hanson, 22; Kirby Puckett, 44; Billy Crystal, 58; Quincy Jones, 72

Happy Birthday: Working within a group will be the most beneficial for you this year. The support system you develop will encourage you and give you the confidence to step into the future featuring your unique ideas. This is not the year to let anyone push you around or take you for granted. Set the record straight as to what you want and how you are going to get it. Your numbers are 2, 3, 5, 19, 28, 32

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You may have trouble making up your mind today. Look at the big picture; if you react too quickly, you will overdo, overspend and overcompensate. Refrain from making promises. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Everything is perfect for you to take action and get things moving. You may be a little emotional, but that will result in your being passionate about what you are trying to accomplish. The time is right. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You may have everything in order, but someone or something is likely to surface that will cause problems for you. Be prepared for whatever challenge comes your way. A creative approach will be most effective. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You'll be torn between the choices you've been given. Take the one that feels the most in tune with who you are and what you believe in. A little romance should be penciled in for later in the day. ****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Someone will be taking personal shots at you today. Keep your emotions level and don't let anyone know you are bothered by what's going on. In the end you'll be the one who's looking good. **

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): The changes you are experiencing are good. Jump in with both feet and be the one who leads the way. Passion is heightened, and opportunities to get up close and personal with someone special must be taken advantage of. *****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Ignore what's going on around you and do what you can to clear any legal, financial or health problems that exist. The less time you have to dwell over what's said and done, the better. Anger will only hold you back. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): There is a lot to be said for following your heart and your dreams. Creative ideas will flow freely and can result in a profitable venture. Emotional deception is present, so be sure to make your own decisions. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): The best thing you can do is to work hard and avoid conflicts with your peers or superiors. You can't win if you decide to wage war on someone who opposes you. Retreat and accomplish what you can. ***

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You are in charge, even if you don't realize it. Take the initiative and follow through with your plans, and you will get the support you need to finish what you start. Love and romance are in the stars. *****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Look all around you before you make a move. Someone is likely to try to sabotage you. Know your competitors well, and you will avoid a mishap. Taking a rather unusual route will surprise anyone who challenges you. **

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): There is too much going on in your life right now for you to sit back and rest. Make a decision and follow through with it. Rewards will be yours at the end of the day. Love is evident. ****

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ND BASKETBALL

Mix of emotions on Selection Sunday

Irish return to NIT, host Holy Cross in first round tonight

By MATT LOZAR
Senior Staff Writer

For the second Selection Sunday in a row, Notre Dame was on the NCAA tournament bubble.

And for the second year in a row, the Irish aren't going to the postseason tournament they were hoping for.

After not hearing its name called for the field of 65, Notre Dame (17-11) returns to the National Invitation Tournament (24-6) and hosts Holy Cross tonight at 7 p.m.

"I was prepared for the NIT, and that's how I prepared the team," Brey said Sunday. "We probably made a [heck] of a run at that bracket, but it wasn't enough ... It would have been more of an unbelievably pleasant surprise if we got in."

After escaping from Providence with a 1-point win to

see MEN/page 25

See Also

"Rutgers upsets

Irish in first round"

page 22



BRAD CARMEAN/The Observer

Pittsburgh's Carl Krauser defends Chris Thomas on Senior Day March 5.

Loss in NYC unfortunate end

It was the worst thing that could have happened, but it was also the most appropriate.

The game was all but over.

Down five with 31.9 seconds to go, Notre Dame's

NCAA tournament hopes began ticking away with the remaining sec-

onds. Jordan Cornette missed a jump shot and the Irish fouled.

Rutgers missed a free throw and the Irish got the ball back.

Then, off a Russell Carter miss with time winding down, Chris Thomas moved in. Notre Dame's senior point guard leapt in the air, ripped the rebound

see LEONARD/page 25



Icon Photos

Breona Gray drives to the basket in Notre Dame's Big East semifinal loss to Connecticut.

No. 4 seed Irish off to California to face UC-Santa Barbara

By JOE HETTLER
Senior Staff Writer

When Notre Dame's name appeared as a No. 4 seed on Selection Sunday, the Irish players cheered — not for the seed itself, but for its location in Fresno, Calif.

"I thought we would be a three seed, but four's not that far behind,"

Irish coach Muffet McGraw said from her house where team members and media watched the bracket's unveiling. "We're just happy to be playing in a nice, warm climate. We knew we were going to be traveling somewhere, so it's kind of nice to go somewhere where the weather will be nice."

The Irish (26-5) draw No. 13 seed University of California Santa Barbara (21-8) in the first round on Saturday at 4:30 p.m. (EST) on the ESPN

see WOMEN/page 26

See Also

"Huskies get revenge 67-54"

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HOCKEY

Sweep at Michigan ends year

By JUSTIN SCHUVER
Senior Staff Writer

Morgan Cey gave Irish fans something to remember him by.

The senior goaltender gave a fine performance in his last game in a Notre Dame uniform, making 43 saves, but the offense wasn't there to back up his effort as the Irish fell 1-0 in overtime to Michigan in the second game of their best-of-three series against the Wolverines Saturday night in Ann Arbor, Mich.

Notre Dame lost game one of the series Friday by a score of 10-1, with Cey starting in net and having a less-than-memorable performance — allowing four goals on 19 shots before being pulled in favor of backup David Brown.

But the senior goalie wasn't

see HOCKEY/page 24



BETH WERNET/The Observer

Cory McLean skates toward the net against Nebraska-Omaha Feb. 5. The Irish lost both games at Michigan this weekend.

BASEBALL

Offense gets hot, pitching struggles

By TOM DORWART
Sports Writer

The Irish offense found its groove over spring break — scoring 40 runs in six games. But the defense and pitching hit a rut.

"There were an awful lot of things that we struggled with during the week, but there were a lot of things we did well too," coach Paul Mainieri said. "We're still kind of finding our way."

On the Texas road trip, Notre Dame (6-7) finished 2-4 after surrendering 62 runs. The Irish headed into the spring break swing with a two-game losing streak.

The streak continued.

At the Round Rock College Classic, the Irish fell to the eighth-ranked Aggies 13-5 after holding 1-0 and 4-2 leads.

Lefty Tom Thornton (1-2) took the loss after allowing seven earned runs through six innings of work.

The Irish then met the eleventh-ranked Rice Owls and trailed 4-0 in the third when the game was rained out. In the final game of The Classic, Notre Dame faced a solid Texas State squad. Sophomore right-hander Jeff Manship — back from Tommy John surgery — threw his first college pitch. He suffered the loss after allowing four first-inning runs. Texas State held on for the 10-5 win.

Notre Dame squared up against the hometown Texas San-Antonio Roadrunners in the opening game of the Irish Baseball Classic, and for the first time in the Paul Mainieri era, the Irish saw a losing

see BASEBALL/page 19

SPORTS AT A GLANCE

MEN'S GOLF

2nd at General Jim Hacker Invitational

Final-round surge sends Irish to second-place finish.

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ND TRACK

NCAA Indoor Championships

Five men's team members become All-Americans.

page 23

BENGAL BOUTS

Choosing Bengal Bouts on Activities Night freshman year leads to Nathan Lohmeyer becoming a captain senior year.

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ND WOMEN'S GOLF

1st place at St. Croix Classic

Irish win tournament at U.S. Virgin Islands by 35 shots.

page 21

MEN'S LACROSSE

No. 14 Notre Dame 9, No. 10 North Carolina 7

Irish rebound from loss to Cornell by defeating Tar Heels.

page 20

MLB

Chicago Cubs ace Mark Prior is sidelined indefinitely due to right elbow inflammation.

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