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SENATE

Representatives discuss new turnover date

By AMANDA MICHAELS
News Writer

Wednesday night's meeting of the Student Senate was drawn out by debate over an amendment to change student government transition dates that effectively polarized the group, and ultimately failed to pass after 90 minutes of discussion.

Siegfried senator James Leito, speaking for the Committee on Oversight, presented a resolution to change the dates on which the majori-

ty of the student government organizations switch leaders. The major thrust of the amendment is changing the turnover date for student body officers, the Student Union Board, Hall Presidents' Council, Judicial Council, off-campus officers and the Student Senate from April 1 to the day after commencement. The proposed change comes in response to complaints that the inexperienced incoming officers waste a month of produc-

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RICHARD FRIEDMAN/The Observer

Senators listen as Vijay Ramanan voices his opposition to changing the turnover date for student government officials.

Kamms address prisoners' rights

By KATIE PERRY
News Writer

When John Kamm left the security of a high-income career in business to pursue the more volatile life of a human rights activist, he may have swapped his briefcase for a suitcase. But with him remained the skills of a salesman, skills that would eventually lead to the creation of the Dui Hua Foundation and subsequent successes in the betterment of jail conditions for Chinese political and religious prisoners.

In a fusion of the wits of a businessman, the quest for truth and the passion for justice, Kamm and his wife, Irene Chan Kamm, have laid the groundwork for a unique, yet effective, organization with an unmistakable character.

In the second part of the 2005 O'Grady Asia Lecture Series, the Kamms gave a discussion Wednesday entitled "Dui Hua: The Strategy and Technique of Human Rights in China."

The discussion emphasized the innovative collaboration between John Kamm, the self-proclaimed "salesman," and Chan Kamm, who centers much of her role on more concrete tasks such as coordinating administration, personnel and finance.

John Kamm, the executive director of Dui Hua, categorizes the Foundation as a "mini-business" that

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Bookstore Basketball sees changes



Observer File Photo

Arms fly up on defense as a 2004 bookstore basketball participant goes up for a shot. Tournament proceeds will go to charity this year.

Tournament supports children in Jamaica

By JARRETT LANTZ
News Writer

Amid the frenzy of NCAA March Madness, Notre Dame is preparing to tip off Bookstore Basketball, the largest five-on-five basketball tournament in the world.

This year, hopeful champions have an added incentive to sign up — to help children in Jamaica. A significant portion of team

entrance fees will go to the Jumpball program, which has offered free basketball clinics to hundreds of Jamaican children for the past decade. The charity, sponsored by the Notre Dame Club of Jamaica, strives to keep disadvantaged youth away from the drugs and violence in their neighborhoods.

"Notre Dame challenges and inspires its students and extended Notre Dame family to work for positive social change," said Anna Skoien, student liaison to Jumpball. "In this regard, the

see CHARITY/page 6

Teams will register through the Internet, avoiding former 'inconsistent' sign-up in LaFortune

By JARRETT LANTZ
News Writer

For the first time, the Bookstore is utilizing Student Shop ND — a Web site which allows campus groups to sell products online — for the Notre Dame Bookstore Basketball Tournament's registration. Each team is required to pay

the \$20 registration fee through the official Bookstore Basketball Web site by the end of Friday.

The new online system will make registration more convenient for both the players and the organizers of the tournament. Now, students no longer need to wait in long lines to register, and can sign up their teams during

any time of the day using any computer.

"In the past, we had sign-up times on certain dates, and the process was inconsistent," said Luke Maher, Bookstore Basketball Tournament Head Commissioner. "Some days we had no one sign up and some days we had lines winding through the halls of

LaFortune."

Thanks to the Student Shop ND online system, organization of the event will be much easier. With an estimated 600 teams in each annual tournament, registering and recording each team's information on paper used to be chal-

see REGISTER/page 6

Vartan Gregorian joins distinguished company

By FILEEN DUFFY
Assistant News Editor

In just under two months, Vartan Gregorian will give the principal speech at Notre Dame's 160th commencement exercises, joining a list of other academics, government leaders, religious officials, journalists and celebrities.

According to Father Peter Jarret, counselor to University President Father Edward Malloy (whose office selects the commencement speaker), Notre Dame strives for diversity in its

selection.

"We try to find someone from the political world, someone from the academic world, someone from the entertainment industry; we look for a broad range over the course of the years," he said.

Although Gregorian has served in a variety of roles, the majority of his career has been in academics. He came to America to study at Stanford University, eventually earning his doctorate; from there, he

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Coeducation pioneers reminisce

By MARY KATE MALONE
News Writer

A Notre Dame legend, a soft-spoken nun and a female alumna gathered in LaFortune Wednesday night to reminisce about a special time nearly 35 years ago, when the University first opened its doors to women.

About 25 students, most of them women, attended the panel discussion, which was sponsored by Pangborn Hall and the history department. It featured University President Emeritus Father Theodore Hesburgh, Sister



RICHARD FRIEDMAN/The Observer

University President Emeritus Father Theodore Hesburgh, alumna Jill Donnelly and Sister Jean Lenz sit on a panel discussion Wednesday.

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INSIDE COLUMN

Predictions

Today, as this year's Cinderellas dash your hopes at taking home \$20,000 in that friendly pool, be cool. Ev'ry lit'll thing is gonna be alright, mon. Gab isn't the only gift we get on St. Patty's Day. Foresight is one of those lesser qualities handed down to us by the Celts (a little thing I like to call Notre Damus, my friends), though lads throughout the ages have often forgotten this thanks to the lethal combination of Guinness, Bailey's and the IRA.

Tim Dougherty
Sports Writer

In my virtuosity, I've kept myself free of these hazards solely to keep you from sweating out those finals moments.

Illinois will have a Fairleigh easy time today and the defense, led by Luther Head's thievery, will take the Illini into the elite eight.

Elsewhere in the Chicago regional, Southern Illinois will have the second coolest nickname in the tournament. Gael? Fine by me, but, inspired by Iditarod champion lead dogs "Sox" and "Blue" (divinely referring to the regional city's two most awesome baseball teams in that order), the Salukis will advance.

In the Albuquerque regional, though, the number one-seeded Huskies of Washington will be too focused on the \$500,000 they just gave their old football coach. That, combined with Nate Robinson's parents, will provide too much distraction for their star point guard to overcome, and even an Iron Will won't help these dogs make it through the weekend.

Unfortunately for them, things will get worse when their football team sets an NCAA record for biggest lost ever on Sept. 24.

On a related note, 12 seed George Washington will not uphold their end of the five-12 jinx and will ruin the possibility of one of the most American sweet sixteen match-ups ever — forcing us to focus on West Virginia's six-foot, 11-inch giant Kevin Pittsnogle as our chief source of amusement.

The Syracuse regional will be boring because Bonnie Bernstein said so in SIOC. However, the internet told me, "Badger, Badger, Badger, Badger, Badger, Badger, Badger, Badger, (Pan-ther), (Pan-ther)." No scary snakes here. Wisconsin will win on Friday.

UNC will get to the Final Four. But, once there, they will immediately lose as they always do whenever I root for them.

In Austin, Cincinnati will beat Iowa because of the strong play of seniors Jason Maxiell and Nick Williams. However, neither will graduate and will spend the rest of their lives playing basketball in Europe with all of their old teammates.

Vermont will still be mad at the disrespect the tournament committee showed them in its 13 seed pairing with four-seeded Syracuse, but in my last clairvoyant assurance to you, Vermont will lose in a hard-fought game. Redemption will be its, however, by cutting down the nets as the grand master champion of coolest tournament nickname, the Catamounts.

Oh yeah, St. Patrick's Day. Erin Go Bragh. Have fun. Carpe diem. I'll be working in The Observer office all night, missing the greatest holiday of the year, the greatest basketball day of the year, and "The O.C." Talk about Paddy's Lament. C'est la vie. At least I'm not French.

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Tim Dougherty at tdougher@nd.edu.

CORRECTIONS

Due to a reporting error, Steffany Stenglein's name was spelled incorrectly in the March 16 edition of The Observer.

Due to an editing error, Jamie Ryan's name was spelled incorrectly in a caption in the March 16 edition of The Observer. The Observer regrets these errors.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT DOES THE 'LUCK OF THE IRISH' MEAN TO YOU?



Jonathan Medina
sophomore
Keenan

"The magic you feel while walking on campus that draws you in."



Dan Pearson
junior
Sorin

"Passing my test on St. Patrick's Day."



Katie McCoy
senior
Pasquerilla West

"Getting a job by graduation."



Katie Murphy
junior
Cavanaugh

"Happiness in life."



Nikki Masciopinto
sophomore
Pasquerilla West

"Being able to wake up on March 18th."



Photo courtesy of Dominic Vachon

The Notre Dame Bagpipe Band awaits the beginning of Chicago's South Side Irish Day Parade on March 13. The band was led by Pipe Major Eric Monger.

IN BRIEF

Israeli poet Yosefa Raz will read excerpts of her work today at 6 p.m. in the West Wing of the Saint Mary's dining hall. Raz will be followed by Israeli writer and peace activist Rela Mazali, who will give a talk entitled "Militarism, Gender, and Anti-Militarist Activism in Israel."

The men's tennis team will face off against Illinois today at 4 p.m. at the Eck Tennis Pavilion.

Artist Cristina Cardenas will be giving the presentation "Strength and Struggle: Portraits of Women" today from 4 p.m. to 5:30 in the Galeria America in McKenna Hall.

Former Irish tenor Ronan Tynan is giving a concert tonight from 8 p.m. to 10 in the Leighton Concert Hall in the DeBartolo Center for the Performing Arts. Country music singer Vince Gill and the Notre Dame Glee Club will also perform. For tickets, contact the DeBartolo box office at (574) 631-2800.

The conference "Building Peace Through Interreligious Encounters" will take place from 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Friday in C-103 in the Hesburgh Center for International Studies. The conference is sponsored by the Kroc Institute's Program in Religion, Conflict and Peacebuilding.

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

OFFBEAT

Robber jailed after using banana as weapon

LONDON — Robert Downey had the mask and the attitude to be a successful robber. But he ruined the effect when he tried to stage a hold-up at his local bookmaker's shop — using a banana.

Noting the suspicious bend in the so-called "weapon," the clerk calmly called the police and on Wednesday, Downey was jailed for nearly seven years for attempted robbery.

Prosecutors at the trial at Southwark Crown Court in London said Downey, a drug addict, hatched his scheme

to buy more crack.

Donning a mask, he headed for the bookmaker's shop, pausing only to get a banana from the greengrocer on the way.

Gas station bathroom offers royal touch

WEST COVINA, Calif. — As Paul Moghadan puts it, a good toilette is good for the bottom line. A chandelier, faux travertine walls, silver columns and a marble counter adorn the bathroom at his Chevron gas station in West Covina, some 20 miles east of Los Angeles.

The walls are decorated

in rich earth tones and blue stone tiles, giving the 10-foot-wide room a slight Tuscan ambiance — or maybe a touch of Vegas.

"I wanted to give the restroom the greatest look I could. I wanted to show how much I respect my customers," said Moghadan, 55, of San Dimas. "I started with Chevron in 1966, and they trained us back then that the No. 1 priority was the station bathroom. They stressed we should keep it clean and papered up."

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

	TODAY	TONIGHT	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
	HIGH 42 LOW 28	HIGH 31 LOW 20	HIGH 48 LOW 38	HIGH 44 LOW 30	HIGH 42 LOW 28	HIGH 43 LOW 33

Atlanta 42 / 36 Boston 40 / 28 Chicago 45 / 34 Denver 51 / 28 Houston 66 / 46 Los Angeles 69 / 54 Minneapolis 34 / 29 New York 46 / 33 Philadelphia 49 / 33 Phoenix 75 / 54 Seattle 54 / 37 St. Louis 59 / 38 Tampa 71 / 59 Washington 50 / 36

Scholar speaks on Mohammed

Visiting professor emphasizes Muslim prayer and faith traditions

By TRICIA DE GROOT
News Writer

After Wednesday's lecture on the creativity of Mohammed, Gerhard Bowering, S.J., professor of Islamic Studies at Yale University, continued the Islam and Christianity series with a special focus on finding God in prayer and devotion. Focusing on Islam as a faith and way of life, his lecture concentrated on three of the five pillars of Islam: prayer, fasting and pilgrimage.

Bowering began with an introduction of prayer, describing it as ritual, personal and mystic. All fully-practicing Muslims pray five times a day and have various observed requirements, including being processed by washings, praying in the direction of Mecca and a sequence of bowing and prostration. Prayer can be both an individual or communal practice but either way, is seen as a public gesture.

"It is the natural part of their daily rhythm, and is like the rhythm of a monk when he says his hours," Bowering said.

"[Prayer] is the natural part of their daily rhythm, and is like the rhythm of a monk when he says his hours."

Gerhard Bowering
professor

In addition, Bowering briefly detailed Mohammed's journey to institute this prayer life and the difficulties in establishing this daily practice. He concluded his discussion on prayer by saying that it is something that deeply marks the Muslim community.

"It makes them conscience of their dependence on God and aware of the presence of God in their life," he said.

Next, Bowering described the practice of fasting, a pillar that is an internal development and something not explicitly noted in the Koran. Fasting, according to Bowering, is a practice Mohammed developed after

encountering the Jewish traditions on Yom Kippur and was then instituted in the month of Ramadan.

Fasting for Muslims, explained Bowering, includes abstaining from food, drink and sexual relations from dawn to sunset for a period of about 30 days. Bowering stressed the strong impact fasting has on the community and not just the individual.

Bowering then discussed the pilgrimage to Mecca. This pil-

grimage is at a prescribed time where people come from all over and are seen as equal regardless of nationality, he said. Everyone dresses the same to show that they are all equal in God's eyes, according to Bowering, and they all participate in certain established rituals, including a sacrifice modeled after Abraham's sacrifice.

"These are rituals that bring all Muslims together of all national origins where they are seen as equals," said Bowering.

In fact, said Bowering, pilgrimages once created a cosmopolitan atmosphere and an opportunity for Muslims all around the world to share what was going on with regard to Muslims from their origin.

"People have come from all corners of the Muslim worlds, especially in medieval times, to share news," said Bowering.

Bowering concluded by emphasizing the deep dependence the Muslims place on God, their strong sense of responsibility for all members of their faith and their overall unification through their faith. The lecture was then opened up for questions and discussion.

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ACLU says war on drugs harms mothers

Associated Press

NEW YORK — America's war on drugs is inflicting deep and disproportionate harm on women — most of them mothers — who are filling prisons in ever-rising numbers despite their typically minor roles in drug rings, the American Civil Liberties Union and two other groups contend in a major new report.

The report, "Caught in the Net," is being released Thursday as the focus of a two-day national conference in New York, bringing together criminal justice officials, sentence-reform activists and other experts to consider its package of proposed legislative and policy changes. The report recommends expansion of treatment programs geared toward women, says incarceration should be a last resort, and urges more vigorous efforts to maintain ties between imprisoned mothers and their children.

"Drug convictions have caused the number of women behind bars to explode, leaving in the rubble displaced children and overburdened families," the document says.

The number of imprisoned women is increasing at a much faster rate than the number of men, mostly because of tougher drug laws. There were 101,000 women in state and federal pris-

ons in 2003, an eight-fold increase since 1980; roughly one-third were drug offenders, compared to about one-fifth of male inmates.

"Many of the drug conspiracy and accomplice laws were created to go after the kingpins," said the ACLU women's rights project director, Lenora Lapidus, a lead author of the report. "But women who may simply be a girlfriend or wife are getting caught in the web as well, and sent to prison for very long times when all they may have done is answer the telephone."

Lapidus acknowledged that legislation addressing the situation would probably need to be gender-neutral. But she and her fellow authors — from New York University Law School's Brennan Center for Justice and the advocacy group Break the Chains — make a detailed case that existing drug laws "have had specific, devastating and disparate effects on women."

Among their contentions is that many women are ensnared in drug investigations despite peripheral involvement, sometimes solely because they failed to turn in their partners to police. Sentencing laws fail to consider factors such as physical abuse or economic dependence that may draw women into drug abuse or deter them from notifying authorities of a partner's drug activity.

REDFORD COUNTY JAIL

3-17-05 93702

A POT OF GOLD AND A LITTLE JIG
WON'T GET YOU OUT OF THIS ONE.

Don't depend on dumb luck this St. Patrick's Day.

You Drink & Drive
YOU LOSE

Produced by the U.S. Department of Transportation

Stay in the Green Zone this St. Patrick's Day! If you choose to drink, keep it below a .06 BAC... and if you drink, DON'T DRIVE!

UNIVERSITY OF PEERS
INSPIRING
NOTRE DAME LISTENING
PILLARS LEARNING
AND RESPONSIBLE
SOCIALIZING

Office of Alcohol & Drug Education
University of Notre Dame

Senate

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tivity acclimating to their new jobs that the outgoing officers could have taken advantage of. However, the resolution does allow for incoming members of the Council of Representatives to approve the next year's budget, despite the fact that some will not yet have officially taken office.

Dates for elections would also be modified, requiring all student body and class elections to take place before Spring Break, and all hall elections (except Freshman Class Council) and off-campus elections to take place before April 1.

Leito outlined the amendment's positive aspects, saying incoming senators would have an extra two weeks of Senate meetings to observe before they must take office themselves. The outgoing senators would use their year of experience to capitalize on the extra time and wrap up some of their projects.

It was specified, however, that the newly-elected senators would be expected to meet unofficially in April to get what Leito called "the administrative tasks" out of the way. By the end of the meeting, the resolution was amended to include

the requirement that the incoming senators choose their committees and nominate representing members to other groups like COR and Faculty Senate before commencement, even though they will not be in term at the time.

"It's senseless to say to someone that's been elected for an entire year that they have to leave office before the second semester is over," Leito said in support of the resolution. "[The date change] would encourage better programming and productivity during April."

"It's senseless to say to someone that's been elected for an entire year that they have to leave office before the second semester is over."

James Leito
Siegfried senator

Fisher senator Sujal Pandya — the loudest voice of opposition when the issue was previously discussed — still stood against the amendment.

"It still hasn't met the burden of proof required to amend a constitution," Pandya said. "The cons outweigh the pros."

Pandya later delved into political theory to weaken support for the resolution, asking why the group should be striving to extend the unfavorable 'lame duck' period — the time after a new officer has been elected, but before he takes office, during which the outgoing officer is assumed to no longer have the mandate of the public.

Another point of dissent, voiced by Committee on Academic Affairs chair but non-voting member Vijay

Ramanan, was that senators might not take advantage of the time shifted from the beginning to the end of their term.

"If your professor hands out a syllabus at the beginning of the course that says there's going to be a test on March 3, but emails you a few weeks into the semester to say the test is pushed back until March 10, you're not going to study an extra week for it," Ramadan said.

Senators hashed over the intricacies behind the resolution, debating, among other things, whether the outgoing or incoming senators would be more likely to spend their unofficial, out-of-term time working on student government issues.

The final vote, which was taken to a role call, was 14-11 in favor of the resolution. However, because it was a constitutional amendment, a 2/3 majority was required for approval, and thus it failed to pass.

The Senate did, however, approve a referendum on creating a \$5 per semester student fee, charged to each student's account, to fund the College Readership Program. The entire undergraduate student body can vote electronically Tuesday on whether they would be for or against such a fee. The vote decides little officially, though, because it is ultimately the Officers of the University who can create fees, so the results of the referendum will be used just to inform Senate's decision on whether to pursue the idea.

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Kamms

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reflects the day-to-day operational patterns of prototypical for-profit organizations.

"[My position] involves the skills of a businessman, or the skills used when one has to go out and sell something — in this case an idea," Kamm said.

This role of salesman, defined by Kamm as "someone who does not believe they are in need of a product," involves marketing the democratic ideals of human rights and justice to top-ranking Chinese government officials.

"We take a business-like approach to the enterprise of human rights," Kamm said.

Working in tandem with her husband, Chan Kamm brings her own strengths to the organization, namely in the more concrete financial aspects of business.

The human rights foundation with a conglomerate spin was not established until nine years into John Kamm's work as an activist. The birth of the organization was made possible by the capitalization of a grant received from the Smith-Richardson Foundation. Kamm used grant money as the basis for his extensive research of prisoners, a process he finds crucial to the success of those in the field.

A 1992 meeting with the first minister in the Chinese Ministry of Justice as well as the Head of the Chinese

Prison Bureau served as a catalyst for what would become one of the fundamental principles of Kamm's career.

"We sat down in front of a stack of papers," Kamm recalled. "One official said, 'We have decided to answer any question you have about any prisoner.'"

Kamm attributes China's willingness to divulge information as an attempt to better their relations with the international community.

By 1993 it had become clear that immediate amelioration of conditions would become likely, if not imminent, if a prisoner was asked about, Kamm said.

"Prisoners who are asked about receive better treatment in prison than those who aren't," Kamm said. "This principle is universal all over the world."

Since then, Kamm and the foundation he heads have used this premise to transform nameless prisoners into individuals famed for their incarceration, a conversion that will ultimately lead to an improvement in overall treatment, Kamm said.

Through a clear-cut mission inspired by the philanthropic idealism of the Kamms, the Foundation has broader social aims than simply the legal and judicial circumstances of Chinese prisoners.

"[The Foundation] promotes transparency and accountability," Kamm said. "Those are our goals."

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Bookstore Basketball Team Registration

BOOKSTORE SIDE 2005

\$20 per team

GO ONLINE to WWW.ND.EDU/~BKSTR
to find out how to register your team! The online registration
service will close at 11:59pm on Friday, so register your team
today!!!

All registration will take place online — payment by credit card.

Captain's Meeting: Tuesday, March 29 @ 7:30pm, 101 DeBartolo

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Intelligence agents leave main office

BEIRUT, Lebanon — Syrian military intelligence agents abandoned their head office in Beirut Wednesday, boarding buses and driving out of the Lebanese capital in line with demands by the United States and the Lebanese opposition.

Intelligence agents and officers left in two buses and several cars just before noon, ending an 18-year presence in Beirut.

Shortly after they left, several Lebanese entered the compound and raised a Lebanese flag and pictures of Rafik Hariri, the former prime minister whose assassination in a massive bombing in Beirut last month sparked anti-Syrian protests.

Plainclothes Lebanese security men later posted signs telling whoever owned property in the compound to contact the Lebanese army. Like all Syrian military positions, the buildings had been taken over — but not purchased — when the Syrian intelligence agents arrived in 1987.

Italian troops may leave Iraq

ROME — Italy, one of Washington's most stalwart allies in Iraq, announced it could begin pulling its troops out in September, an acknowledgment by Premier Silvio Berlusconi that Italian public opinion is heavily against the war.

The announcement Tuesday by the conservative leader was the most high-profile crack in what the U.S. administration has boasted in the past was a solid alliance. The Netherlands is ending its mission this month, and Poland plans to withdraw some troops in July.

"Starting with the month of September, we would like to proceed with a gradual reduction of our soldiers," on condition that Iraq could provide "acceptable" security, Berlusconi said.

NATIONAL NEWS

Senate votes on Alaskan wildlife

WASHINGTON — Mindful of rising oil and gasoline prices, a sharply divided Senate is about to decide whether to give oil companies access to an ecologically rich Alaska wildlife refuge that could be one of the country's biggest oil fields.

"We believe we have the votes," said Sen. Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, who for more than two decades has tried to persuade Congress to authorize lease sales in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. President Eisenhower placed the 1.5 million acres of coastal plain under federal protection in 1960.

Drilling supporters argue that the refuge's oil will reduce U.S. reliance on imports. Opponents say it will hardly make a dent in the more than 120 million barrels of oil the country uses each day while posing a threat to what environmentalists regard as an ecological treasure.

Two-thirds of panel receives grants

WASHINGTON — Two-thirds of the members serving on an expert medical panel investigating a U.S.-funded AIDS study are receiving grant money from the federal agency at the center of the probe, according to documents and interviews.

The Institute of Medicine said it was aware of the financial ties with six of the nine members of its expert panel but approved their participation because they have special expertise, receive only a minority of their overall funding from the National Institutes of Health and won their grants competitively.

LOCAL NEWS

Minority leader hopes to return

INDIANAPOLIS — House Minority Leader Patrick Bauer said Wednesday he hoped to be back at the Statehouse early next week as he recovers from colon surgery.

Bauer said in a statement that he had internal bleeding caused by diverticulitis, the swelling of small pouches that bulge out of the colon through weak spots. Bauer, a Democrat from South Bend, said he underwent surgery to stop the bleeding and that doctors removed part of his colon.

Peterson sentenced to death

Within 48 hours the criminal is expected to be sent to San Quentin State Prison

Associated Press

REDWOOD CITY, Calif. — A judge formally sentenced Scott Peterson to death Wednesday after family members got into a shouting match and Laci Peterson's mother sobbed as she called her son-in-law "an evil murderer."

Judge Alfred A. Delucchi allowed only Laci's family members to speak at the hearing after indicating he believed the death penalty was warranted.

Peterson's father yelled from the audience as Laci's brother, Brent Rocha, spoke to the court, saying "Laci and Conner are the true victims here."

"What a liar!" Lee Peterson said before the judge admonished him and he walked out of the courtroom. Jackie Peterson, Scott Peterson's mother, also interrupted Rocha but her voice was inaudible.

Scott Peterson, 32, was invited to make a statement. After several minutes of discussion with his attorneys, he declined.

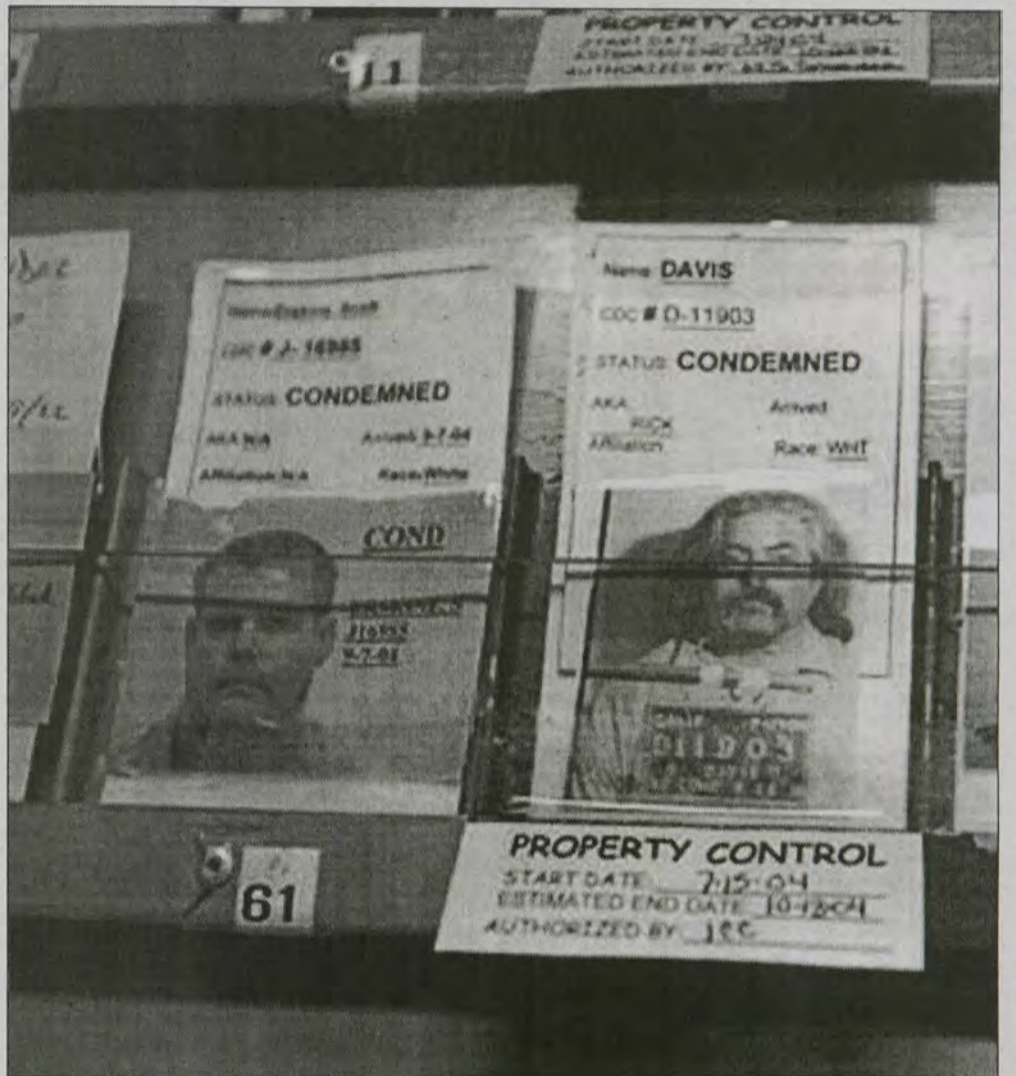
Delucchi denied a defense request for a new trial before upholding the jury's recommendation that Peterson be sentenced to death.

"The court is satisfied beyond a reasonable doubt that the defendant, Scott Lee Peterson, is guilty of first-degree murder" and second degree, Delucchi said, adding that he found the killings "were cruel, uncaring, heartless and callous."

Peterson, shackled at the waist and wearing a dark suit, showed no emotion throughout the hearing.

Peterson will probably be sent to death row at San Quentin State Prison within 48 hours, said San Mateo County Sheriff's Lt. Lisa Williams.

The infamous lockup



At San Quentin State Prison, pinned cards display death row inmates. Scott Peterson was formally sentenced to death Wednesday and will be transported to this state prison.

overlooks the same bay where Laci Peterson's body was discarded.

Laci's mother, Sharon Rocha, sobbed and trembled from a podium as she lashed out at her former son-in-law. Scott Peterson stared back at her without emotion.

"You decided to throw Laci and Conner away, dispose of them like they were just a piece of garbage," she said. "You were wrong; dead wrong."

Dabbing at her eyes with tissues, she called him "an evil murderer."

"The fact that you no

longer wanted Laci did not give you the right to murder her," Sharon Rocha said. "She was my daughter ... I trusted you, and you betrayed me ... You betrayed everybody."

Peterson was convicted in November of first-degree murder in the killing of Laci and second-degree murder for the slaying of her fetus. A jury recommended the death penalty a month later.

Rocha spoke to Scott Peterson directly.

"I would hope that you regret the choices that you made. Maybe you don't," Rocha said. "Did you really

hate Laci and Conner that much or did you just dislike yourself?"

Peterson's attorney, Mark Geragos, tried to get the judge to allow Peterson's parents, Jackie and Lee Peterson, to speak, on the basis that they were related to Conner.

But the judge said the hearing was an opportunity for Laci's relatives to speak only. He ordered Scott Peterson to pay \$10,000 restitution for funeral expenses and an additional \$5,000, though the reason for that amount was unexplained.

IRAQ

Elected national assembly convenes

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraq's first freely elected parliament in half a century began its opening session Wednesday after a series of explosions targeted the gathering. President Bush called the session a "bright moment" for Iraq, but added there was no timetable for withdrawing U.S. troops.

The parliament's 275 members, elected during Jan. 30 balloting, convened in an auditorium amid tight security in the heavily guarded Green Zone with U.S. helicopter gunships hovering overhead.

The lawmakers opened the televised meeting with a reading of verses from the Quran.

The new legislators wore flowing

Arab robes trimmed in gold, black turbans of the Shiite clergy and dark Western business suits. Nearly all the 85 women present wore headscarves.

Standing on a stage adorned with Iraqi flags and bouquets of red and white flowers, Iraqi Chief Justice Medhat al Mahmoud administered the oath to the assembled deputies.

The lawmakers held a copy of the oath in their hands as they swore:

"In the name of God, I swear to carry out my duties and legal responsibilities diligently. I swear to protect the sovereignty of Iraq and the interests of its people and to protect its land and air, its natural resources and its federal democratic system. I also swear to protect public and private liberties and the independence of the judiciary sys-

tem and to carry out the country's laws, so help me God."

In Washington, Bush congratulated the new legislators, saying, "We've always said this is a process and today was a step in that process. It's a hopeful moment."

Kurdish delegate Fuad Masoum called it "a great day in Iraqi history."

"This day coincides with a painful memory that has many meanings. ... Today, on this occasion, we celebrate the inauguration of parliament after the fall of this regime," he said.

Wednesday marked the anniversary of the Saddam Hussein-ordered chemical attack in 1988 on the northern Kurdish town of Halabja, an attack that killed 5,000 people.

Charity

continued from page 1

Jumpball program is a perfect fit for Bookstore Basketball."

Bookstore Basketball began asking its participants to donate to Jumpball in 2002. In 2004, tournament coordinators decided each team should make a uniform contribution, and this year, five dollars from each team's registration fee will be donated to the charity.

In the past, the tournament has donated a total of \$2,000 to \$3,000 dollars to the charity. Its organizers are hoping for the same results this year.

"It is our goal to one day have the Jumpball program entirely

funded by Notre Dame's Bookstore Basketball tournament," Skoien said.

However, many Notre Dame, St. Mary's and Holy Cross students don't realize the basketball tournament is connected to a charity.

"I'd love to say that people are excited to participate because of the charity," said Amy Geist, Student Groups Coordinator at the Student Activities Office. "But we've found that not many people are aware of the Jumpball program."

For this year's tournament, organizers hope to change that by adopting a "We Play So They Can Play" motto on clothing and by including Jumpball information with the Bookstore Basketball materials.

"We're hoping to educate the

tournament participants about Jumpball so they will know where the money is going," Geist said.

So far, Notre Dame is the only university affiliated with Jumpball, but the program may be receiving more fundraising help from other sources in the future. Thanks to Bookstore Basketball's success at Notre Dame, other schools have been looking to start their own tournaments.

"I was contacted by a student at Princeton University who was trying to start up a similar tournament there," Geist said. "Last year I spoke with someone else at a school in Kentucky about it, too."

Contact Jarrett Lantz at jlantz2@nd.edu

Panel

continued from page 1

Jean Lenz and 1976 graduate Jill Donnelly.

Having been an all-male institution for 135 years, Notre Dame's transition to a co-ed institution was lengthy and not without opposition, Hesburgh said. Hesburgh spearheaded the plan during his tenure and originally believed a merger between Saint Mary's and Notre Dame was the best way to bring women to the campus.

"The student body is much better today than before co-education, and the reason is because half the students are women. It's a simple fact."

Father Theodore Hesburgh
University President
Emeritus

"I got together with the nuns at Saint Mary's, and we agreed in principle that we would merge," Hesburgh said. "But as conversations went on, as soon as we

would get close to closing the deal, the nuns said they needed more money, more buildings or that they didn't want to lose their name."

After a year of weekly conversations that showed little progress, Hesburgh gave up, and Saint Mary's was left on its own. A few years later, Notre Dame admitted its first class of women.

They were welcomed as academic equals, and perhaps they were just what the University needed to tame the men of Notre Dame, Hesburgh said.

"I had started to notice that the longer I was at Notre Dame, the more brutish the men were becoming," he said. "Without women, men degenerate into something less than human. That's why God put women here, because he didn't want the world to be a zoo."

Since the fall of 1972, when only a few hundred females were enrolled, thousands of women have been handed their Notre Dame diplomas

and have left lasting legacies behind them.

Sister Jean Lenz, the first female rector of Farley Hall, spoke proudly of the first women she watched over — a group that contained future judges, doctors and lawyers.

"I always felt I was with a special group of young women," Lenz said. "I can count 22 doctors in the 10 years I was rectress. And many of those women married and had children."

Although the first women that walked the quads of Notre Dame were clearly in the minority, Donnelly said this was not necessarily a drawback.

"In some of my classes, I was the only woman," Donnelly said. "The male students valued my perspective on discussions, as did my professors. The men

were respectful and tried to impress every woman on campus."

Still, all three panel members agreed the transition was sometimes met with opposition — from professors, students alike — who believed the presence of women at Notre Dame was not necessary.

"In my economics class, I had gotten an A on every exam, but my midterm grade was a B-," Donnelly said. "The professor said it was because I had poor attendance, but I always sat in the front row and had never missed a class. He refused to change the grade."

Despite the fact that Donnelly's stubborn professor cost her an A, Donnelly and her female coeds were some of the best and the brightest in the nation. Small female qu-

otas made admissions highly competitive in the early years and created classes filled with bright women.

"In the beginning women were superior to the men. They took the cream of the crop across the [United States]," Lenz said. "The women had the brains [and] the men were more average."

As the years have passed, women have comfortably blended into the Notre Dame culture. But Hesburgh believes women need to continue pursuing more leadership positions, both on campus and in the business world.

"We need a few more Joan Krocs [2003 donor of \$70 million]," he said. "Eighty percent of our alumni support comes from men."

The conversation progressed into the topic of single sex dorms and parietals, a philosophy firmly advocated by Hesburgh but often opposed by students.

"I just think that come 12 o'clock, you ought to have some time for yourself to make friends you'll have for the rest of your lives," Hesburgh said.

As the discussion concluded, firm conviction resonated from Hesburgh's voice as he praised the University for its inclusion of women.

"The student body is much better today than before co-education, and the reason is because half the students are women," he said. "It's a simple fact."

Inscribed on a rock at the Grotto are words of thanksgiving from the first women admitted to Notre Dame: "We are and forever will be grateful daughters of our Notre Dame du Lac."

And that inscription lays beneath a statue of the Virgin Mary, the namesake of the institution — a woman herself.

"We are and forever will be grateful daughters of our Notre Dame du Lac."

And that inscription lays beneath a statue of the Virgin Mary, the namesake of the institution — a woman herself.

"We are and forever will be grateful daughters of our Notre Dame du Lac."

And that inscription lays beneath a statue of the Virgin Mary, the namesake of the institution — a woman herself.

And that inscription lays beneath a statue of the Virgin Mary, the namesake of the institution — a woman herself.

Contact Mary Kate Malone at mmalone3@nd.edu

Speaker

continued from page 1

taught at various universities, ultimately serving as Brown University's president.

Notre Dame has welcomed other academic officials in the past, such as former Yale University president Kingman Brewster, Jr. in 1972, former Harvard University President Derek Bok in 1987 and Stanford Provost (now Secretary of State) Condoleezza Rice, a Notre Dame alumna.

Jarret said Notre Dame's emphasis on intellectualism in choosing commencement speakers reflects the University's values.

"Given Notre Dame's academic reputation," he said, "that's the type of person that would come here."

Professor A. James McAdams, the director of the Nanovic Institute for European Studies, said he thinks Gregorian is "a terrific choice" because of his background in higher education, and his ability to "speak directly and with authority to some of the intellectual traditions for which Notre Dame is highly regarded."

"I know that, at times, some students would rather have a speaker who is widely known among the general public, such as a glossy, glitzy and glamorous personality from the entertainment industry," he said. "... Gregorian's advantage is that he demonstrates [the University's] central commitment to educational values."

Notre Dame's early commencement speakers were not very well known, "with one exception," according to a 2001 press release by Dennis Brown, associate director of Notre Dame News and Information.

Civil War General William Tecumseh Sherman, who had sent two sons to Notre Dame and a daughter to Saint Mary's during the war, addressed the graduating class of 1865. One of his sons had died in 1863, making the visit, according to Brown, "emotionally trying" for Sherman.

"The New York Tablet reported that Sherman received a 'hearty cheer' from the Notre Dame students," Brown wrote. "He spoke at length of the 'dangers of the battle of life' awaiting the graduates, but assured them of the 'final triumph of the right.'"

In the 20th century, Notre Dame began to attract various government officials, eventually hosting Presidents Eisenhower (1960), Carter (1977), Reagan (1981), George H. Bush (1992) and George W. Bush (2001). John F. Kennedy spoke in 1950 as a congressman.

In addition, the University has hosted Dr. William Mayo, co-founder of the Mayo Clinic (1936); FBI director J. Edgar Hoover (1942) and Supreme Court Chief Justice Earl Warren (1957).

According to Brown's release, since 1960, the commencement speakers have been "increas-

ingly well known, coming from all walks of life," including the aforementioned academic officials.

As for governmental figures (besides presidents), the University has welcomed, most notably, Henry Cabot Lodge in 1962, Eugene McCarthy in 1967, the president of El Salvador (and Notre Dame alumnus) Jose Napoleon Duarte in 1985 and U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan in 2000.

In keeping with its Catholic mission, Notre Dame hosted Chicago Cardinal Joseph Bernardin in 1983; in 1986, Bishop James Malone addressed the graduates.

Notre Dame has not been without McAdams' so-called "glitzy and glamorous" celebrity commencement speakers, such as actor Bill Cosby in 1990 and former commissioner of baseball Peter Ueberroth in 1989.

From the field of journalism came William Buckley, Jr. in 1978, Tom Brokaw in 1993, Mark Shields in 1997 and Tim Russert in 2002.

Whether or not Notre Dame chooses a "household name," said Brown, the University always looks for a commencement speaker who has somehow made an impact.

"... [W]e seek to honor individuals who have made significant contributions to our world," Brown said. "Some of these people are more well-known than others, but all of them are extraordinarily accomplished in their fields."

"Gregorian's advantage is that he demonstrates [the University's] central commitment to educational values."

A. James McAdams
director
Nanovic Institute for European Studies

"[W]e seek to honor individuals who have made significant contributions to our world."

Dennis Brown
associate director
Notre Dame News and Information

Contact Eileen Duffy at eduffy1@nd.edu



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Register

continued from page 1

lenging for the commissioners. The new computer system solves this problem by keeping track of each team's statistics and their registration information.

Although some veteran Bookstore Basketball players might be wary of the unfamiliar registration process, the commissioners have assured students that it will be faster, more convenient and less likely to cause errors than the old paper system.

"Thus far there haven't been any issues with the registration process, so we think that's a good

sign," said Amy Geist, Student Groups Coordinator at the Student Activities Office.

To register a team, visit <http://www.nd.edu/~bkstr/> by Friday. The new registration process requires teams to pay the \$20 using a credit card.

Contact Jarrett Lantz at jlantz2@nd.edu

MARKET RECAP

Stocks			
Dow Jones	10,637.66	-107.44	
Up:	Same:	Down:	Composite Volume:
996	162	2,272	1,152,227,712

AMEX	1,486.06	+3.47
NASDAQ	2,017.23	-17.75
NYSE	7,265.81	-44.60
S&P 500	1,187.57	-10.18
NIKKEI(Tokyo)	11,873.18	+52.09
FTSE 100(London)	4,937.60	-62.60

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
NASDAQ 100 TR SER 1 (QQQQ)	-1.05	-0.39	36.65
RESEARCH IN MOTION (RIMM)	+18.47	+12.39	79.48
MICROSOFT CP (MSFT)	-0.60	-0.15	24.76
INTEL CP (INTC)	-0.96	-0.23	23.65
CISCO SYS INC (CSCO)	-1.26	-0.21	18.02

Treasuries			
30-YEAR BOND	-0.37	-0.18	47.95
10-YEAR NOTE	-0.53	-0.24	45.18
5-YEAR NOTE	-0.78	-0.33	41.84
3-MONTH BILL	-0.18	-0.05	27.32

Commodities			
LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl)	+1.20	55.05	
GOLD (\$/Troy oz.)	+2.80	441.40	
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)	+0.85	91.20	

Exchange Rates			
YEN		104.1300	
EURO		0.7454	
POUND		0.5195	
CANADIAN \$		1.2036	

IN BRIEF

Americans electronically pay taxes

NEW YORK — As more Americans file their taxes electronically, they're also more likely to use credit and debit cards to pay the taxes due.

Many consumers find that using plastic is convenient and also boosts their rewards points. On the other hand, credit experts worry that the trend suggests more people are digging themselves deeper into debt.

The Internal Revenue Service said it received 950,715 credit and debit card payments in 2004, triple the volume of 2002. An additional 834,000 payments last year were automatically transferred from checking or savings accounts, the IRS said.

"The country is moving toward becoming a cashless society," said James R. Weaver, chairman and chief executive of Tier Technologies of Reston, Va., which does card processing of IRS payments. "We're seeing more than 20 percent growth a year, and we would expect that type of growth to continue for the foreseeable future."

Oil prices hurt GM's outlook

NEW YORK — Wall Street stumbled Wednesday after crude oil prices shot up to another new high, passing \$56 a barrel and raising the specter of higher inflation and interest rates. General Motors Corp.'s grim outlook for its first quarter took an added toll on the Dow Jones industrials, which fell more than 110 points.

Investors were already inclined to sell following the Commerce Department's report that the U.S. deficit in the broadest measure of international trade soared to a record \$665.9 billion last year, 25.5 percent above the previous record set in 2003. The growing deficit is bad for the dollar and, Wall Street feared, could be an indicator of inflation.

The breadth of the market's decline suggested investors were interpreting the surge in oil prices as a warning sign that inflation could be the next big worry for the economy, analysts said.

Oil prices had started the day lower after OPEC ministers said they would increase output, but the price of crude jumped \$1.41 to close at \$56.46 a barrel in New York, a new high, after the Department of Energy released data showing domestic supplies of gasoline and heating oil fell sharply last week.

JAPAN

Cell phone capabilities advance

Owners are able to use mobile devices for reading a wide variety of novels

Associated Press

TOKYO — Your eyes probably hurt just thinking about it: Tens of thousands of Japanese cell-phone owners are poring over full-length novels on their tiny screens

In this technology-enamored nation, the mobile phone has become so widespread as an entertainment and communication device that reading e-mail, news headlines and weather forecasts — rather advanced mobile features by global standards — is routine.

Now, Japan's cell-phone users are turning pages.

Several mobile Web sites offer hundreds of novels — classics, best sellers and some works written especially for the medium.

It takes some getting used to. Only a few lines pop up at a time because the phone screen is about half the size of a business card.

But improvements in the quality of liquid-crystal displays and features such as automatic page-flipping, or scrolling, make the endeavor far more enjoyable than you'd imagine.

In the latest versions, cell-phone novels are downloaded in short installments and run on handsets as Java-based applications. You're free to browse as though you're in a bookstore, whether you're at home, in your office or on a commuter train. A whole library can be tucked away in your cell phone — a gadget you carry around anyway.

"You can read whenever you have a spare moment, and you don't even need to use both hands," says Taro Matsumura, a 24-year-old graduate student who sometimes reads essays and serial novels on his phone.



The CTIA Wireless convention held Wednesday in New Orleans displayed the latest cellular technology. Japan has become a leading nation in advancing cell phone capabilities.

Such times could be just around the corner in the United States, where cell phones are becoming increasingly used for relaying data, including video, digital photos and music.

U.S. publisher Random House recently bought a stake in VOCEL, a San Diego-based company that provides such mobile-phone products as Scholastic Aptitude Test preparation programs. Random House also said it reached licensing arrangements with VOCEL to provide cell-phone access to the publisher's Living Language foreign

language study programs and Prima Games video game strategy guides.

Cell-phone books are also gradually starting to get traction in China and South Korea. In Japan, though, some people are really getting hooked, finding the phone an intimate tool for reading.

It's especially effective for intensifying the thrills of a horror story, said Satoko Kajita, who oversees content development at Bandai Networks Co. Ltd.

The Tokyo-based wireless service provider offers 150 books on its site, called "Bunko Yomihodai,"

which means "All You Can Read Paperbacks." It began the service in 2003 and saw interest grow last year. There are now about 50,000 subscribers.

"It's hard to understand unless you try it out," Kajita said, adding that the handset's backlight allows people to read with the lights off — a convenience that delights parents who like to read near sleeping infants.

Users can search by author, title and genre, and readers can write reviews, send fan mail to authors and request what they want to read, all from their phones.

Black customers unfairly charged

Associated Press

ASHVILLE, Tenn. — A federal judge said Wednesday that the plaintiffs in a class-action suit had proved a lending affiliate of the Ford Motor Co. discriminated against black customers by charging them higher rates on car loans.

After a two-week trial, U.S. District Judge Aleta Trauger said she would rule against Primus Automotive Financial Services, a unit of the Ford Motor Credit Corp., but first would give the two sides 30 days to negotiate a settlement to end the discrimination.

"What I have decided is that the plaintiffs have proved their case and that they will win in my deci-

sion," Trauger said.

The lawsuit lists 11 named plaintiffs, but attorneys said thousands of black customers were discriminated against and are included in the class. Attorneys said the customers were unfairly charged hundreds of thousands of dollars more than they should have been on car loans.

The plaintiffs sought an end to discriminatory practices rather than damages, but Primus must pay attorney fees.

Primus spokeswoman Meredith Libbey said the company disagreed with the judge's conclusions. "We uphold the highest standards of fair lending," Libbey said in a statement.

Lead plaintiff lawyer Clint Watkins declined to comment.

Ford Motor Credit also offers car loans under several other brands, including Jaguar Credit, Volvo Car Finance, Mazda American Credit and Land Rover Capital Group.

Several lawsuits alleging discrimination against blacks have been filed against financing companies for various automakers nationwide since 1998, resulting in five out-of-court settlements. The class-action suit against Primus was the first to go to trial.

The settlements in the other cases have included company agreements to place caps on the interest rate markups that dealers can make on loans.

GRADUATE STUDENT UNION

Group debates insurance

By PAUL SPADAFORA
News Writer

Concerns over the rising costs of University-sponsored health insurance premiums and their effects on graduate students were the principal focus of the Graduate Student Union meeting Wednesday.

In the most recent change to the current health insurance policy, graduate student premiums have been raised to \$1179 per year, an 18 percent increase from last year's premium of \$999 per year.

GSU president John Young described the premium increase as a response by Mega Health Insurance to increased usage of the plan in the last year.

This year, graduate students on the plan have filed approximately \$637,000 dollars in claims, as opposed to the 2003-2004 estimates of \$367,000.

"As of last month, our utilization of the plan has gone up substantially," Young said. "Because of the increase in usage, Mega [Health Insurance] has increased the premium."

The GSU was presented with

several options in response to the price increase. Two of the proposed options, an increase in deductible payments to \$250 dollars per visit and a decrease in pharmaceutical coverage, were met with misgivings by the GSU.

The deductible increase, while reducing the premium five percent from the anticipated increase, was viewed as an impractical solution because of the possible detriment to the policy's benefits.

GSU council member Misty Schieberle said the unintended effect of reducing the premium would be that the benefits currently held by policyholders would never be recoverable.

"If we make this change, we will never be able to get our benefits back," Schieberle said.

The proposed reduction in pharmacy benefits was also considered to be ineffective by the council. Young said the smallest reduction in benefits, \$1500 per year, would adversely affect many students

in the graduate school.

"Fifty-nine students are currently covered for greater than \$1500 dollars in medication per year," Young said. "... where this really hurts people is that three of the 59 pay over \$1500 per month for medication."

The GSU voted unanimously to recommend accepting the full 18 percent increase as opposed to a deductible increase or pharmaceutical benefit decrease. The vote itself does not determine University policy towards health care, but Young said the graduate school is likely to listen to the concerns of the GSU.

"Last year, [the graduate school] followed the recommendation of the GSU... especially if we are unanimous, they will take our opinion into consideration."

In other GSU news:

♦ Young requested that graduate students interested in being part of the GSU consider assembling a ticket to run for the 2005-2006 GSU administration. Interested parties may file nominations until March 22.

Contact Paul Spadafora at pspadafa@nd.edu

"If we make this change, we will never be able to get our benefits back."

Misty Schieberle
GSU member

"Because of the increase in usage, Mega [Health Insurance] has increased the premium."

John Young
GSU president

PHILIPPINES

Guerrillas training for terrorist attacks

Associated Press

MANILA — Members of the Muslim militant group Abu Sayyaf have trained in scuba diving to prepare for possible seaborne terror attacks outside the country, the Philippine military said Thursday, citing the interrogation of a captured guerrilla.

The al-Qaida-linked militants also received at least \$18,500 over the past year from suspected members of the regional terror group Jemaah Islamiyah for explosives training, according to a report on the interrogation of Gamal Baharan, which was obtained by The Associated Press.

Baharan, 35, also said that an Abu Sayyaf leader still at large, Khadafi Janjalani, claimed to speak directly with al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden via satellite phone, according to the report.

Baharan is one of three suspects captured and charged last month for bomb attacks that killed eight people and wounded more than 100 on Feb. 14 in Manila and two southern cities. Abu Sayyaf said it launched the attacks to retaliate for military assaults on Muslim rebels in the southern Philippines.

Although the militants' ranks

have been largely depleted by U.S.-backed military assaults, the government still considers the group a major threat.

Such concerns were highlighted by a botched jailbreak Monday in which Abu Sayyaf suspects seized guards' weapons in a melee that left five people dead. An ensuing 29-hour standoff ended when police stormed the prison in a hail of gunfire Tuesday and killed 22 inmates, including three prominent Abu Sayyaf commanders.

According to the military report, Baharan said Abu Sayyaf leaders Janjalani and Abu Sulaiman, working with Jemaah Islamiyah, had initiated scuba training for seasoned guerrillas to prepare for seaborne attacks.

In October, Baharan was told to undergo scuba training in southwestern Palawan province, the report said. He periodically received cell phone messages from Janjalani and Sulaiman "asking him how many fathoms he would be able to dive," the report said.

His training was in preparation for a Jemaah Islamiyah bombing plot on unspecified targets outside the Philippines that would require "underwater operation," the report quoted him as saying.

MARCH 17 THURSDAY

Robert De Niro Ben Stiller

Meet the Parents

MIDNIGHT

LEGENDS

WILD PEACH

OUTKAST'S BAND

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THE WHOLE WORLD
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MS. JACKSON

FRIDAY, MARCH 18

10PM

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MIDNIGHT

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SATURDAY

STROKE

STROKE 9

BRAND NEW ALBUM

10PM

NIGHTCLUB

MIDNIGHT

House blocks Schiavo ruling

Florida case of brain-damaged woman will move to federal courts

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The House passed legislation late Wednesday intended to delay the removal of the feeding tube keeping alive a brain-damaged woman whose husband has been given permission by a state court to allow her to die.

Earlier in the day, a Florida appeals court refused to block the removal of Terri Schiavo's feeding tube. For years her husband has battled her parents over his efforts to allow her to die, which he contends she would prefer rather than live in a vegetative state.

The House bill, passed on a voice vote, would move such a case to federal court. Federal judges have twice turned down efforts by the parents, Bob and Mary Schindler, to move the case out of Florida courts, citing a lack of jurisdiction.

Senate Republicans are introducing a separate bill to give Schiavo and her family standing in federal court, and they hope it can be debated on Thursday, a GOP aide said.

Under the House legislation, a federal judge would decide whether withholding or withdrawing food, fluids or medical treatment from an incapacitated person violates the Constitution or U.S. law. It would apply only to incapacitated people who had not left

directives dealing with being kept alive artificially and for whom a state judge had authorized the withholding of food or medical treatment.

Schiavo, 41, suffered severe brain damage in 1990 when her heart stopped temporarily, and court-appointed doctors say she is in a persistent vegetative state. Her husband, Michael Schiavo, says she told him she would not want to be kept alive artificially. Her parents disagree that was her wish and say she could improve with proper treatment.

Florida Circuit Judge George Greer has granted Michael Schiavo permission to remove the feeding tube, a ruling a state appellate court upheld Wednesday. Without the feeding tube, which the state court allowed to be removed as early as Friday, Terri Schiavo would likely die in one to two weeks.

"What's going on in Florida regarding Terri Schiavo is nothing short of inhumane," said House Judiciary Chairman James Sensenbrenner, R-Wis., who introduced the bill with Rep. Dave Weldon, R-Fla.

Some House members criticized the bill, which Rep. Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y., called "a dangerously reckless way to deal with some serious issues."

"It does not deal just with feeding tubes. It would allow intervention in any decision

affecting any kind of medical care. Read the bill," Nadler said.

The Florida appeals court said in Wednesday's ruling that the issues the Schindlers raised were not new ones and had been dealt with previously by numerous courts.

"Not only has Mrs. Schiavo's case been given due process, but few, if any similar cases have ever been afforded this heightened level of process," Chief Judge Chris Altenbernd wrote.

The court also rejected the Department of Children & Families' request for a 60-day stay while that agency investigates allegations that Terri Schiavo has been abused.

The Schindler's planned to ask the Supreme Court to consider whether their daughter's religious freedom and due process rights have been violated. Federal courts have declined to become involved the case.

In Tallahassee, the House and Senate were considering competing proposals to prevent the removal of Terri Schiavo's feeding tube.

The bills would block the removal of feeding tubes from patients in a persistent vegetative state who didn't leave specific verbal or written instructions otherwise. But the Senate plan would only affect cases where families disagreed.

Report predicts U.S. girth to drop life span

Associated Press

CHICAGO — U.S. life expectancy will fall dramatically in coming years because of obesity, a startling shift in a long-running trend toward longer lives, researchers contend in a report published Thursday.

By their calculations — disputed by skeptics as shaky and overly dire — within 50 years obesity likely will shorten the average life span of 77.6 years by at least two to five years. That's more than the impact of cancer or heart disease, said lead author S. Jay Olshansky, a longevity researcher at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

This would reverse the mostly steady increase in American life expectancy that has occurred in the past two centuries and would have tremendous social and economic consequences that could even inadvertently help "save" Social Security, Olshansky and colleagues contend.

"We think today's younger generation will have shorter and less healthy lives than their parents for the first time in modern history unless we intervene," Olshansky said.

Already, the alarming rise in childhood obesity is fueling a new trend that has shaved four to nine months off the average U.S. life span, the researchers say.

With obesity affecting at least 15 percent of U.S. school-age children, "it's not pie in the sky," Olshansky said. "The children who are extremely obese are already here."

The report appears in the New England Journal of Medicine. In an accompanying editorial, University of Pennsylvania demography expert Samuel H. Preston calls the projections "excessively gloomy."

Opposing forecasts, projecting a continued increase in U.S. longevity, assume that obesity will continue to worsen, but also account for medical advances, Preston said.

Still, failure to curb obesity "could impede the improvements in longevity that are otherwise in store," he said. Americans' current life expectancy already trails more than 20 other developed countries.

Dr. David Ludwig of Children's Hospital Boston, a study co-author, cited sobering obesity statistics:

- ◆ Two-thirds of U.S. adults are overweight or obese; one-third of adults qualify as obese.

- ◆ Up to 30 percent of U.S. children are overweight, and childhood obesity has more than doubled in the past 25 years.

- ◆ Childhood diabetes has increased 10-fold in the past 20 years.

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Pope makes surprise appearance

Associated Press

VATICAN CITY — Pope John Paul II made a surprise appearance Wednesday at an open window of his apartment overlooking St. Peter's Square, his first public appearance since being released from the hospital after throat surgery to ease a breathing crisis.

The 84-year-old pontiff appeared briefly to pilgrims who had gathered on the square on a day when the pope typically greets the faithful in a weekly public audience. He made the sign of the cross and waved to several thousand pilgrims on the square on a mild March day.

The Vatican had said Tuesday that John Paul would skip the audience and had no plans to appear. He lingered no longer than a minute at the window.

The pope was released from Rome's Gemelli Polyclinic hospital on Sunday after a 2 1/2 week stay following surgery on Feb. 24 to insert a breathing tube in his windpipe. Vatican officials have said it will be up to John Paul's

doctors to decide whether and when to remove the tube.

John Paul, who also has Parkinson's disease and crippling hip and knee ailments, is being closely monitored by his physicians, who are advising him on how much he can exert himself.

The Vatican has given no indication of the pope's schedule for the coming days except to confirm he will give his traditional blessing on Easter Sunday, March 27. Holy Week celebrations begin this weekend with Palm Sunday.

Officials said the acute phase of the breathing crisis that sent the pope to the hospital for the second time in a month was over, but he would continue his recovery at the Vatican. A medical bulletin initially planned for Monday was canceled after his discharge from the hospital.

The Italian news agency Apcom reported this week that the pope's apartment overlooking St. Peter's Square has been sterilized to reduce the risk of infection.

Throat specialists who haven't treated the pope have said breathing tubes usually are either taken out within a few days or left in indefinitely.

Leaving the tube in place allows health personnel to quickly deal with emergencies like the breathing crises. But having a hole for an extended time makes patients more vulnerable to infections.

In announcing his release from Gemelli on Sunday, the Vatican made clear that the pope was not cured — merely well enough to continue his convalescence back at his apartment "in agreement with the attending physicians."

His latest health crisis has raised new questions about his ability to continue leading the Roman Catholic Church.

John Paul heartened many followers Sunday when he uttered his first words in public since having the Feb. 24 tracheotomy surgery. A breathing crisis had first sent him to Gemelli for 10 days in early February. His latest hospitalization lasted 17 days.

Defendants cleared in Air India bombings

Associated Press

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — After a two-year trial, a Canadian judge on Wednesday acquitted two Indian-born Sikhs of murder and other charges in the deaths of 331 people killed when bombs exploded aboard an Air India plane over the Atlantic and at a Tokyo airport 20 years ago.

British Columbia Supreme Court Justice Ian Josephson said the prosecution's key witnesses were not credible. The bombings were the deadliest terrorist strike before the Sept. 11 attacks and were Canada's worst case of mass murder.

Spectators in the courtroom, including dozens of victims' relatives, gasped when the verdicts were read. Some started wailing.

"Why did they even have this trial?" said Rattan Singh Kalsi, 75, of London, Ontario, whose daughter was aboard the Air

India plane. "We were suffering anyway. Now we will suffer more."

The defendants — Ripudaman Singh Malik, 58, and Ajaib Singh Bagri, 55 — were immediately removed from the courtroom. Malik sat impassively while the verdict was read, wiping his beard with a scarf. Supporters slapped his son on the back.

Air India Flight 182 from Montreal to London, originating in Vancouver, exploded and crashed off Ireland on June 23, 1985. All 329 people on board, mostly Canadians, were killed.

An hour earlier, a bomb in baggage intended for another Air India flight exploded in the Narita airport, killing two baggage handlers.

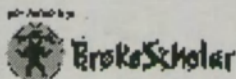
Prosecutor Robert Wright maintained that the bombing was revenge for Sikh separatists for a deadly 1984 raid by Indian forces on the Golden Temple at Amritsar, the holiest site in their religion.

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Russian plane crashes near Arctic oil port

Associated Press

MOSCOW — A 1970s-era Russian turboprop airliner carrying oil workers slammed into the ground and caught fire Wednesday while trying to land near an oil port along the Arctic coast. At least 29 people were killed in the crash, which officials said came after the plane's tail began to fall apart.

Some of the 24 survivors, shivering in temperatures of minus-11 Fahrenheit, used a satellite phone to call authorities from the wreckage near Varandei in the Nenets autonomous region, about 1,110 miles northeast of Moscow. Rescuers quickly reached the site, authorities said.

Emergency workers bundled in heavy coats loaded stretchers with the injured into ambulances, as clouds of exhaust from the vehicles billowed into the frigid air, according to footage shown on state-run Rossiya television.

The passengers were employees and contract workers for affiliates of Russia's largest oil company, Lukoil, who were on their way to begin work stints, company spokesman Mikhail Mikhailov told The Associated Press. He had no immediate information about their nationalities.

There were 46 passengers and seven crew members aboard the Regional Airlines An-24 plane. Regional is a small private carrier.

er.

Twenty-nine people were killed in the afternoon crash, the Emergency Situations Ministry said. Of the 24 survivors, 10 were in grave condition. The 19 most seriously hurt were evacuated by helicopter to the regional capital, Naryan-Mar, while the five others were taken to Varandei.

Emergency and transport officials would not discuss what might have caused the crash. The Interfax news agency reported that authorities were considering three possible causes: a technical problem, wind, and what the report said may have been the crew's lack of familiarity with the location.

The plane was approaching the airport when it suddenly banked and slammed into the ground near Varandei.

The pilot "reported that he saw the runway" shortly before the crash, Deputy Emergency Situations Minister Gennady Korotkin said on Rossiya. Citing eyewitnesses, he said the plane was heading for a forced landing after the tail section began to fall apart.

"Then (the plane) fell on its left side, there was a fire — and that's it," Korotkin said.

The plane had departed from the city of Ufa in the southern Ural Mountains region and made stopovers in the cities of Perm and Usinsk before continuing on to Varandei.

Jericho handed over to Palestine

Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Israeli troops took down their Star of David flag, removed a roadblock and handed the town of Jericho to Palestinian control Wednesday, boosting Mideast peace efforts and sending a message to Palestinians that ending the violent uprising is starting to pay off.

However, a last-minute argument over formal handover documents reflected the distrust that has built up during four years of conflict.

Symbolic steps turned practical as Israel removed one of three roadblocks around the isolated desert oasis, allowing free travel to the rest of the West Bank. Israeli soldiers stopped checking cars entering Jericho — a boost for the town's economy and for Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas, who needs to show he can get results as he seeks to renew the peace process with Israel.

Violence has dropped since Abbas and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon declared a ceasefire at a Feb. 8 summit in Egypt. Abbas was in Cairo on Wednesday trying to persuade militants from Islamic Jihad and Hamas to formally join the truce.

News and pictures from Jericho, where residents welcomed Palestinian police in clean, dark green uniforms and red berets after Israeli soldiers packed away their flags and weapons, could only strengthen Abbas' argument that violent

resistance has played itself out, and agreements achieve more.

Meanwhile, Hamas swept to victory in elections for the Hebron University student council, a sign of the hold the Islamic group has ahead of parliamentary elections in July.

Also in Hebron, Jewish settlers clashed with Israeli police as they smashed a contested building in the volatile town, underlining that Israel will have difficulties controlling its own extremists during its planned evacuation of the Gaza Strip and part of the West Bank this summer.

But in Jericho, the atmosphere was optimistic.

"This is excellent, very encouraging," said Jack Hattar, 30, who owns a general store in the town. "Jericho has always lived off outsiders, and now they'll start coming back more regularly, and when they do, business and life will improve for everyone."

While removing its roadblock on the road to Ramallah northwest of Jericho, Israel maintained a presence at the northern and southern ends of the town, checking some cars and people leaving Jericho for any sign of militants.

Jericho will remain off-limits to Israelis for the time being, Israeli commanders said. Before the outbreak of fighting, thousands of Israelis would visit the town on weekends, many drawn by a luxury hotel and casino.

Palestinian police set up their own checkpoint near the casino Wednesday to turn away Israelis. The casino was closed shortly

after the outbreak of fighting.

Israel also kept control of a main highway running through Al Awja, a village north of Jericho, while ceding the village itself to the Palestinians.

Palestinian police promised to confiscate illegal weapons and hand back stolen Israeli cars, according to the handover agreement. Israel pledged to consider removing the remaining two roadblocks in a month if the Palestinians fulfill their security obligations.

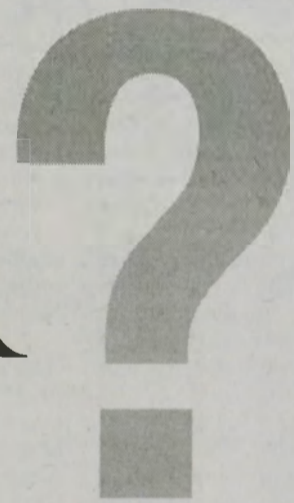
In a statement announcing the handover, the Israeli military warned that continuing the process depended on "commitment of the Palestinian security forces to a joint fight against terrorist activity."

Jericho has been the starting point for peace processes and confidence-building measures in the past, dating back to 1994, when Yasser Arafat arrived to establish the Palestinian Authority under terms of an interim peace accord.

The town is ideally suited for such steps — a quiet oasis in the barren Jordan River valley, far from Israeli population centers and relatively free from militants and violence. But even negotiations over Jericho were long, tense and acrimonious, boding poorly for transfer of the other four towns agreed to at the Feb. 8 summit — Bethlehem, Qalqiliya, Tulkarem and Ramallah, seat of the Palestinian government. Israel is supposed to hand Tulkarem over next week.

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Man loses custody of goats

Animal cruelty case raised against friar

Associated Press

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — A man who allegedly left a trail of dead goats through several states has lost custody of his 200-plus remaining animals pending the outcome of animal cruelty cases in Ohio and West Virginia.

Christopher Weathersbee, 64, fled to West Virginia with 16 of his goats, including a dead one he'd been storing in a freezer, in late February amid an impoundment and seizure by agents in Scioto County, Ohio.

Ohio agents found an estimated 80 goat carcasses on his rented property — including one in the house and another nine in a freezer, according to Teresa Landon, director of the Ohio Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. They also seized about 220 live goats from the property.

In West Virginia, shelter officials found another goat dead after a passer-by notified officials that the goats appeared thin and weak. Officials seized the 14 living animals — a seizure that was upheld Tuesday.

Weathersbee said Wednesday that he was obligated to care for the goats as a Third Order Franciscan. When they died, he said he didn't have the strength to bury them, considering the fact the ground was frozen.

"I'm one old man trying to fight city hall in three states," he said, adding that he is also seeking to overturn a 2004 animal cruelty conviction in Vermont.

It was not immediately known whether Weathersbee had retained a lawyer.

Weathersbee first came to the attention of officials in 2001 when he started seeking assistance in caring for his more than 300 goats while living in Corinth, Vt.

He wanted to start a no-kill goat shelter where he could produce cheese and wool, said Dana Starr with the Central Vermont Humane Society. He applied for loans, grants and even petitioned the governor for help.

"He couldn't afford to feed them and couldn't understand why others didn't aid him," Starr said on Tuesday.

At one time Weathersbee had some of the animals living in his house with him. The animals were allowed to breed and multiply and started starving, Starr said.

The Vermont humane society seized 44 goats in February 2004, she said, and Weathersbee was later charged with multiple counts of animal cruelty. He entered into a plea agreement under which he agreed to take his goats, including those that were seized, and leave the state, Starr said.

Weathersbee went to eastern Kentucky, telling Vermont humane officials his animals would be cared for as part of a vegetation-management project, Starr said.

He was in Kentucky only a couple of weeks, and it was unclear how many of his animals died by the time he arrived in Franklin Furnace, Ohio, on Dec. 28, Landon said.

Weathersbee is scheduled to have a pretrial hearing in Ohio next month on 15 misdemeanor counts of animal cruelty. If convicted, he could be sentenced to up to 90 days in jail and fined up to \$740 on each count. He also faces 16 counts of animal cruelty in West Virginia.

He has previously acknowledged that he could not afford to give the herd sufficient care, but he refused to get rid of the animals because he said his religious views prohibited him from slaughtering any of the goats.

Truck driver accused in immigrant deaths

Associated Press

HOUSTON — A truck driver accused in the deaths of 19 illegal immigrants crammed into his sweltering tractor-trailer could hear the smuggled passengers hitting the vehicle's walls but refused to help them, a woman who accompanied the defendant testified Wednesday.

Fatima Holloway, 30, said as she and Tyrone Williams, 34, drove from Harlingen to Houston in May 2003, she could hear noises coming from the back of the trailer.

"I said, 'Did you hear that?' He said no," Holloway testified. "I didn't believe him because I could hear it." She said after more noises, he admitted hearing them as well, she said.

Williams' attorneys say he is guilty of transporting the immigrants but is not responsible for their deaths because he didn't know they were dying. Prosecutors contend Williams ignored the immigrants' screams for help.

Williams — charged with 58 counts of harboring and transporting illegal immigrants — is accused of driving and abandoning the rig at a truck stop near Victoria, about 100 miles southwest of Houston. Nineteen of the more than 70 illegal immi-

grants crammed inside died. He could face the death penalty if convicted.

Holloway, who has pleaded guilty in the case, said she originally traveled from Cleveland to Houston with Williams in his tractor-trailer to watch him deliver \$15,000 in drug money. A former boyfriend who was working with Williams paid her \$1,000 to make the trip.

When the drug deal was delayed, Holloway testified she accompanied Williams to Harlingen, where they met with several members of the smuggling ring he worked for. Later, Holloway said Williams drove his tractor-trailer to a secluded field.

"The next thing I know I feel people getting on the truck," Holloway said. "It felt like a lot of people. I told him I didn't appreciate getting caught up in this. He said, 'Just relax. I've done this before.'"

After passing through a Border Patrol checkpoint, Holloway said Williams stopped his truck twice but didn't let the immigrants out, even after they started yelling about "el nino" — the boy — and sticking their hands out of holes they had punched through in the back. One of the victims was a 5-year-old boy.

Nuclear waste papers questioned

Yucca Mountain project documents spur speculation

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Government employees may have falsified documents related to the Yucca Mountain nuclear waste project in Nevada, the Energy Department said Wednesday. The disclosure could jeopardize the project's ability to get a federal permit to operate the dump.

During preparation for a license application to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the department said it found a number of e-mails from 1998 through 2000 in which an employee of the U.S. Geological Survey "indicated that he had fabricated documentation of his work."

Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman said the department is investigating what kind of information was falsified and whether it would affect the scientific underpinnings of the project.

"If in the course of that review any work is found to be deficient, it will be replaced or supplemented with analysis and docu-

ments that meet appropriate quality assurance standards," said Bodman. He said he was "greatly disturbed" by the development.

The department said the questionable data involved computer modeling for water infiltration and climate at the Yucca site, which is 90 miles northwest of Las Vegas.

At a House hearing Wednesday, the official who recently took over the Yucca program in the Energy Department indicated that the revelations could further delay the project.

"I assure you we will not proceed until we have rectified these problems," Theodore Garrish told Rep. David Hobson, R-Ohio, chairman of the House Appropriations subcommittee that controls the dollars for Yucca Mountain.

Garrish was not asked to elaborate. After the hearing, he declined to answer reporters' questions.

Hobson said the problem did not appear too serious and that he did not think it would throw Yucca Mountain off track.

"As I understand it this is not a major impediment and can be corrected very easily," Hobson

told reporters. "Some people just don't want to do their job right, so they'll slip it through rather than doing their job. We don't have any evidence that somebody directed anybody to do this."

Chip Groat, director of the Geological Survey, said the e-mails "have raised serious questions about the review process of scientific studies done six years ago."

The disclosure follows other setbacks for the proposed waste dump. The department has delayed filing its license application to nuclear regulators and now acknowledges that the planned completion of the facility by 2010 no longer is possible. Garrish told the committee Wednesday that he couldn't provide a new completion date.

Congress last year refused to provide all the money sought by the Bush administration for the project. A federal appeals court rejected the radiation protection standards established by the Environmental Protection Agency; the agency is developing new standards.

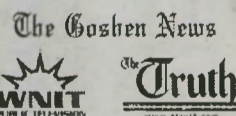
Last month, the official in charge of the Yucca project resigned, citing personal reasons.

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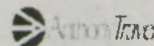
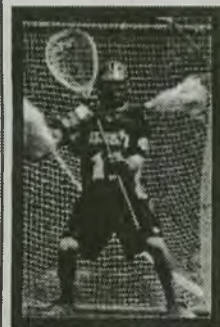
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Blake acquitted of murder

Actor was accused four years ago of shooting his wife

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A jury acquitted tough-guy actor Robert Blake of murder Wednesday in the shooting death of his wife four years ago, bringing a stunning end to a case that played out like pulp fiction.

The jury also acquitted Blake of one charge of trying to get someone to kill Bonny Lee Bakley, but deadlocked on a second solicitation charge. The jury voted 11-1 in favor of acquittal and the judge dismissed the count.

The 71-year-old star of the 1970s detective drama "Baretta" dropped his head, trembled with emotion and sobbed heavily as the verdict was read. He hugged his lawyer and later almost fell while reaching for a water bottle.

Bakley's adult daughter sobbed quietly in the back of the courtroom.

Outside the courthouse, Blake thanked his lawyers and private investigators, saying "this small band of dedicated warriors saved my life." He also described the financial toll the case had taken on him.

"If you want to know how to go through \$10 million in five years, ask me," he said. "I'm broke. I need a job."

At one point, Blake asked someone in the crowd for something to remove his electronic monitoring bracelet. He then bent down and cut off the device.

The jury of seven men and five women delivered the verdicts on its ninth day of deliberations, following a trial with a cast of characters that included two Hollywood stuntmen who said Blake tried to get them to bump off his wife.

Blake had faced life in prison; prosecutors did not seek the death penalty.

Blake was charged with shooting Bakley, 44, in their car out-

side the actor's favorite Italian restaurant on May 4, 2001, less than six months after their marriage.

The defense called it a weak case built largely on the testimony of the two stuntmen — both of whom were once heavy drug users.

No eyewitnesses, blood or DNA evidence linked Blake to the crime. The murder weapon, found in a trash bin, could not be traced to Blake, and witnesses said the minuscule amounts of gunshot residue found on Blake's hands could have come from a different gun he said he carried for protection.

"They couldn't put the gun in his hand," jury foreman Thomas Nicholson told reporters outside court, adding that the evidence could "never connect all the links in the chain."

Prosecutors said Blake believed his wife trapped him into a loveless marriage by getting pregnant. They said Blake soon became smitten with the baby, Rosie, and desperately wanted to keep the child away from Bakley, whom he considered an unfit mother.

Bakley had been married several times, had a record for mail fraud and made a living scamming men out of money with nude pictures of herself and promises of sex.

"He was tricked by Bonny Lee and he hated her for it," prosecutor Shelle Samuels said in closing arguments. "He got taken by a small-time grifter."

The four-month trial was part of a wave of celebrity court cases in California that have provided endless fodder for the tabloids and cable networks. The Michael Jackson child molestation trial was starting just as the Blake case was wrapping up, and rock 'n' roll producer Phil Spector will stand trial later this year in Los Angeles for allegedly murdering a B-movie actress.

In another murder case that was seemingly made for the tabloids, Scott Peterson was sent to death row just a few hours before the Blake verdict for

killing his pregnant wife and her unborn fetus.

Blake has been in front of the camera from childhood, back when he was sad-eyed little Mickey in the "Our Gang" movie shorts, and was nominated for an Oscar for the 1967 movie "In Cold Blood," in which he portrayed a killer who dies on the gallows.

In "Baretta," Blake played a tough-talking, street-smart detective whose catchphrase was "Don't do the crime if you can't do the time."

Those acting successes seemed well in the past by the time a divorced and lonely Blake met Bakley at a jazz club five years ago. They had sex in his truck that night, and she was soon carrying Blake's child. They were wed in 2000 in a no-frills ceremony at which the bride wore an electronic monitoring bracelet because she was still on probation for fraud.

Prosecutors said Blake killed his wife after failing to persuade a street thug-turned-minister and two stuntmen from his "Baretta" days to do the job. One of the stuntmen said Blake talked about having Bakley "snuffed" and mentioned locations for the killing, including the Grand Canyon.

Also, a former detective who worked for Blake as a private investigator testified that the actor proposed to kidnap Bakley, force her to have an abortion and, if that did not work, "whack her."

The defense portrayed the stuntmen as drug users prone to hallucinations and delusions.

The police "convicted Mr. Blake on the night of the murder, and then they conducted an incompetent investigation," defense attorney M. Gerald Schwartzbach said.

Blake told authorities that he walked his wife to the car after dinner, then discovered he had left his gun back in the booth at Vitello's Restaurant. He went back to get it, then returned to the car and found his wife shot, he said.

But some witnesses testified that Blake did not appear to be sincere as he wept and moaned over the slaying that night. One witness said the actor appeared to be "turning it on and off."

Bush denies trouble within Iraq coalition

President calls for patience after Italian pullout

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush acknowledged Wednesday that U.S. allies are anxious to get out of Iraq but firmly denied the coalition was crumbling. He also said patience was needed to find a diplomatic solution to Iran's nuclear program.

A day after Italy announced it would begin withdrawing soldiers from Iraq by September, Bush refused to discuss the timing of any U.S. pullout. "Our troops will come home when Iraq is capable of defending herself," he said.

With little advance notice, Bush came to the White House briefing room and held a 48-minute news conference in which he defended his Social Security plan against growing doubts, expressed concern over high energy prices and reasserted his support for the death penalty and his opposition to gay marriages.

It was Bush's fifth news conference since his November re-election. White House advisers are trying to have him hold the sessions on a monthly basis, far more frequently than in his first term.

The president used the occasion to confirm he intends to name Paul Wolfowitz, an architect of the Iraq invasion and a man known for his hawkish views on national security, to lead the World Bank.

Two years after the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq, the coalition of countries that provided troops has fallen from 38 nations to 24, and the United States continues to shoulder the bulk of the outside responsibility and suffer most of the non-Iraqi casualties. Bush said allies want to get out as soon as Iraq can defend itself.

"People want their troops home. But they don't want their troops home if it affects the mission," he said, although few countries have hedged their withdrawals. Asked if the coalition was crumbling, Bush said, "No, quite to the contrary. I think the coalition has been buoyed by the courage of the Iraqi

people" in defying death threats to vote.

On neighboring Iran, Bush refused to set a deadline for the Iranians to accept a deal to halt their uranium enrichment program in return for economic incentives. Believing that Iran is trying to build a nuclear weapon, Bush said the United States would ask the U.N. Security Council to seek sanctions against Tehran if it rejected the offer, but he indicated that would not happen soon.

"I mean, it takes awhile for things to happen in the world. ... There's a certain patience required in order to achieve a diplomatic objective," the president said.

Bush opened the news conference saying he was making progress on Social

Security although polls show growing opposition to his idea to overhaul the system by allowing younger workers to put some of their payroll taxes into private saving accounts. His formula would result in a reduction in guaranteed Social Security benefits.

Bush acknowledged that the private accounts would not solve Social Security's insolvency problem, and he refused anew to reveal how he would like to fix the system. Told that Democrats want him to spell out his proposal, Bush said, "I'm sure they do. The first bill on the Hill always is dead on arrival. I'm interested in coming up with a permanent solution. I'm not interested in playing political games."

Soliciting proposals from members of Congress, Bush pledged that "I will not take somebody's idea and use it as a political weapon against them."

On other points at the news conference, Bush:

— Expressed confidence in House Majority Leader Tom DeLay, R-Texas, who faces ethical questions about his fund raising and about overseas travel paid for by special interests.

— Refused to say whether Congress should subpoena Major League Baseball players to testify during spring training about steroid use.

"Our troops will come home when Iraq is capable of defending herself."

George Bush president

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THE OBSERVER VIEWPOINT

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TODAY'S STAFF

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Shades of the prison house

The end has, as I've been expecting, arrived on schedule. Spring break has come and passed. Like the sun-tans many of us have returned with, the fresh memories of this year's version of that annual college bacchanal will fade away, taking their place among the ghosts of spring breaks past. Only ill-advised tattoos and cameo appearances on "Girls Gone Wild" will remain. Indeed, Easter, the final respite from class work and last bastion of days off, waits merely a week away. Blame an early start to Lent, but it seems as if the calendar is running on high octane this year. Just past both of these milestones looms graduation — an idea most seniors have been gleefully ignoring, preferring instead to bathe in the forgetting waters of the modern Lethe that is the Linebacker.

I myself find the conclusion to my Notre Dame days suddenly staring starkly at me from its now ever-so-near-by perch at the end of the road I set out upon four years ago. Did I spend my time here appropriately? Did I truly appreciate what for me, like many others, was the fulfillment of a life-long dream? Do I have any Flex Points left?

While so many of us ponder these ultimate questions and more, perhaps more importantly we should ask ourselves if we're really ready to enter a world where no one's ever heard of the phrase "student charge, please." Yes, the last quarter of this year should be a time for examining our core consistencies. Let us ask ourselves what's truly important, what do we fundamentally value, and will these basic personal building blocks be enough to guide us beyond the borders of Notre Dame Avenue and Angela Boulevard. If we can keep the Dome in our hearts and a smile on our face, I have a feeling we'll

land on our feet.

But beyond all of the usual anxieties of graduation, I find myself in a most precarious position. For some time now I've been in a rather serious relationship. As my departure from school looms, I cannot say for certain what will happen to us, my partner and I. I'm growing — we're growing — and, so it seems, we're growing apart. At first the changes were gradual. Our meetings grew shorter and less frequent. We'd ignore each other for extended stretches, neither making an effort to reach out to the other. It wasn't a conscious thing. It just seemed like there was never enough time.

Now when we do meet, it feels as if it's by custom, not by choice. I can remember a time when we first met at Saint Mary's when our relationship was as fresh as a fabric softener scent, when we'd sneak off to be together like two young, infatuated lovers. But those days are gone. Now we meet as if we're romantic historians, paying homage to what once was a mighty match that has since been snuffed out like a candle on Good Friday.

Ah, William Wordsworth, what's come between us?

I should explain. I'm an English major, a fact that I normally stated with the natural addendum "... but I'm planning on going to law school." At some point in the major, I became enamored with Wordsworth, the great Romantic British poet with whom I've become closely coupled. I've read him, written on him, and drawn-up plans for imaginary pilgrimages to his English Lake District home.

This year, however, push came to

shove. I am going to law school next year. And that means William Wordsworth and I (who I did indeed meet at Saint Mary's in a course on British Romanticism) must break up so that I might instead concentrate on tort laws and civil procedures. Fading out are the days when I could sit on the sun-soaked quad with a well-worn anthology of English poetry — coming on strong are the days of case law and contracts, of moot courts and internships.

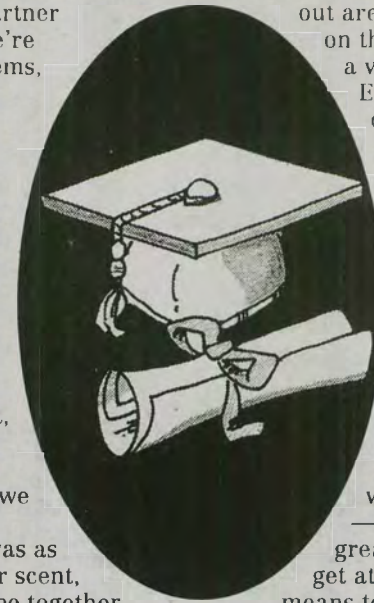
But I find I'm not alone. For those of us graduating with Arts and Letters diplomas, the clash of aesthetic versus pragmatic is all too real. We would have been in accountancy if we just wanted a job after graduation. No, we wanted something more — to communicate with the great minds and works that means to be a thinking person.

But, so it seems, money talks and blank verse walks. It's time to turn in those anthologies for Wall Street Journals, those paperbacks for legal pads.

In the end, I take comfort in the idea that Wordsworth knew what we're about to go through. "Shades of the prison-house begin to close/ Upon the growing Boy," Wordsworth wrote. He was talking about the impact of world-weariness on man's nature. He might as easily have meant trading O'Shag for Madison Avenue.

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



EDITORIAL CARTOON



OBSERVER POLL

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"If you must play, decide upon three things at the start: the rules of the game, the stakes and the quitting time."

Chinese proverb

Law and justice go hip-hop style

Samuel Johnson, who was not reticent in his opinions, once said that "the law is an ass." His observation sprang inevitably to mind this January when, in one of the more surreal moments of American legal history, the judges of the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals found themselves forced to rule on the question of whether the lyrics of Juvenile's "Back That Azz Up" infringed the copyright of D.J. Jubilee's "Back That Ass Up".

Peter Wicks

Englishman
Abroad

The judges eventually decided that Juvenile had not stolen Jubilee's property because the "hook" of his — admittedly homonymous — song was not its lyrical refrain but the sample of The Jackson Five's "I Want You Back." In the through the looking glass world of intellectual property law it made some sense, but the fact remains that if they had put the courtroom footage on C-SPAN it would have made more entertaining viewing than anything MTV could offer.

Plato called songs "spells for souls" and the influence of hip-hop has long been a source of concern amongst anxious parents and lexicographers. This suits the rappers just fine; musically hip hop has its deepest roots in soul and funk — along with Jamaican dub — but its taste for outrage is pure rock and roll.

Plato was an old man when he warned of music's bewitching power and there are some who dismiss concerns about the influence of hip-hop as just the latest instance of the perennial concerns of the old about the music of the young. Others detect a double standard in the way hip-hop performers are viewed when compared to contemporary rock musicians, few of whom, it must be said, are exemplary role models.

While there is some truth in both of those replies, other defenders of hip hop overreach. Toni Morrison has argued that it is a sign of racial prejudice that we take Shakespeare's vulgarities to be quaint and yet treat hip-hop lyrics as a cause for concern. But Shakespeare's double entendres are not the Elizabethan equivalent of 2 Live Crew's "Me So Horny" and anyone who says otherwise has spent too much time surrounded by sycophants and lost all sense of reality.

The lyrics of much hip-hop music are pornographic in a straightforward and perfectly literal sense. Male emcees frequently boast of their sexual prowess and recount their conquests, real or imagined, in terms that would make Casanova blush. Female performers who are eager not to be outdone typically focus on their high sexual demands, making it clear how few men will measure up. In both cases they present themselves as paragons of unapologetic self-confidence, but it is hard not to notice the similarities with the image of the hypersexualized black that has long enjoyed prominence in the racist imagination.

The upshot of all this is that if you listen to Lil' Jon and Lil' Kim in quick suc-

cession it's uncomfortably like overhearing a couple on the phone, with a scratched copy of James Brown's "Funky Drummer" skipping in the background. Edited for the radio, it's like listening to a cardiograph singing to a beat it didn't write.

While humanities professors are not well known advocates for supply-side economics they are becoming increasingly savvy at producing work that succeeds in the intellectual marketplace by flattering the pre-existing tastes of students. A prominent example took place in 2003, there was an academic conference at Harvard devoted to Tupac Shakur, sponsored in part by the W.E.B. Du Bois Institute for Afro-American Research.

Mark Anthony Neal, an English professor from the State University of New York, Albany, argued that Shakur is best understood as an example of the "organic intellectual" who expresses the concerns of his group, a concept articulated by Antonio Gramsci, the Marxist political theorist. Participants at the conference who shut their eyes and listened hard would have heard the sound of W.E.B. Dubois spinning in his grave at just over 33 revolutions per minute.

Of course, hip-hop music is much more diverse than the debates around it typically suggest, and there are a great many artists, like KRS-One, Mos Def, and Talib Kweli to name just a few, whose music does not rely on posturing and provocation. But in general the more outrageous the content the better the albums sell and it is hopeless to criticize the artists for misogyny and homophobia when to a large extent they are deliberately setting out to outrage not as an expression of prejudice but as a declaration of independence, to prove that they won't let anyone else dictate what they can and cannot say, to show that they can get away with it.

People do not automatically imitate the values of the music they listen to, and to speak as if they do both insults them and absolves them of responsibility. Hip-hop music often seems to express a worldview in which other people must always appear as either obstacles or means to one's own satisfaction, but this view is widespread in all genres of popular music, and contemporary culture generally. No one who looks to any sort of contemporary music as a guide to life is likely to be well-served by it. Rappers rarely make good role models, but the same is true of rock stars, and — rather than expressing outrage over particular songs that set new standards for vulgarity — we should be more concerned about the factors which make some people treat them that way.

Songs may be spells for souls, but the magic is weak. It works only on those for whom songs are all they have.

Peter Wicks is a graduate student in the Philosophy Department. He can be contacted at pwicks@nd.edu.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We are human beings too

"We are human beings too." Those words roll off the tongues of different groups of people enduring all levels of injustice around the entire world. However, when I heard the words come from a young northern Ugandan boy during the documentary "The Invisible Children," the plea for justice dissipated within the larger call for awareness.

It seemed at the same time to be an assertion and yet still a question. It was as if he was saying, we live in this world with you, we have lives and families, and disproportionate loss and tragedy. But, how can this be if you refuse to see us?

The shattered world of the children fleeing from the Lords Resistance Army rebels and the fate of child soldiers began 17 years ago, yet rages on unchecked by international pressure. Real, live human beings just like us, are watching their families die, they are starving and then training to be killers themselves.

At the same time, in Sudan, the United Nations estimates that 180,000 people have died as the result of genocide, and gross human rights offenses continue despite growing media coverage in the West. And while the United Nations attempts to reach peace settlements with rebel groups in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the scars of violence there are some of the most gruesome in the regions bloody history. The statement, "we are human beings too," is simple, but carries immense weight.

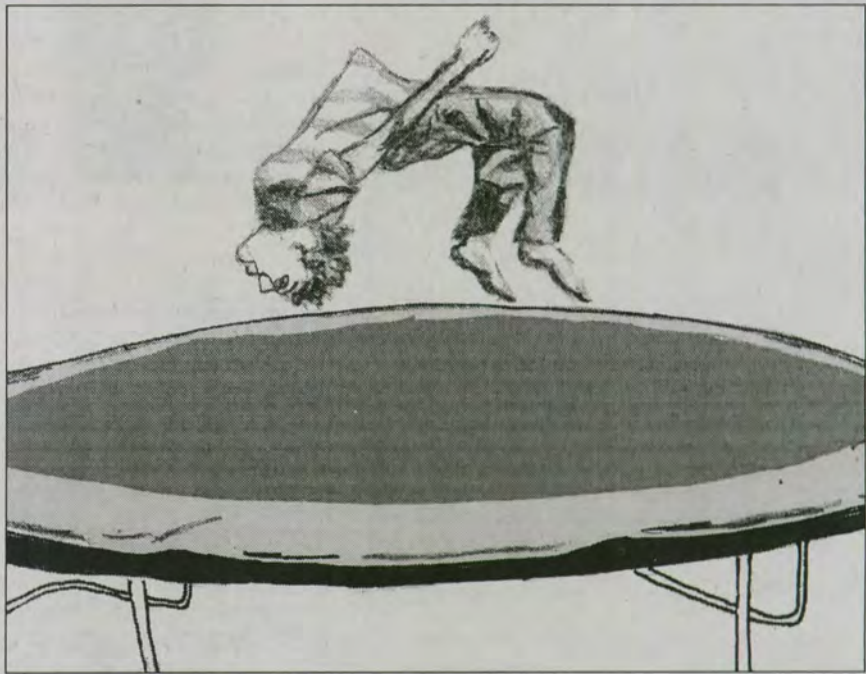
Africa is a place too. The invisible children live on an invisible continent, and its time for private citizens — if not the U.S. government — to take notice.

Christina Hill

sophomore

Walsh Hall

Mar. 15



Halftime entertainment defines season

The few fans who did go to [Tuesday's National Invitation Tournament] men's basketball game agreed that instead of gnashing our teeth and rending our garments about the recent series of losses, we should instead look back at the moments that made this season tolerable. Yes, Colin Falls' eight 3-pointers in the Pittsburgh game and the 21-point effort by Torin Francis against Rutgers were admirable efforts. Chris Thomas continued to make the impossible shots that made him famous, and Rick Cornett stepped up his play in the paint. However, the only part of the season that really paid adequate tribute to the 100 years of Notre Dame hoops was the half-time entertainment.

The Centennial Celebration during the last home game gathered the best players in school history under one roof (maybe coach Mike Brey should have snuck a few of them into that day's lineup). Ever popular among the students, the hamster ball races were often more exciting than the actual games themselves.

Jean's Golden Girls showed us that you don't have to be young to shake it like a Polaroid picture. The High Impact performers proved that spandex and trampolines make for minutes of high-flying fun. Last, but certainly not least, let us not forget the bowl lady. She amazed us all by flipping three bowls onto her head, but after her amazing final performance, I think I speak for all of us present that she truly deserved the standing ovation we gave her.

Many thanks go out to the people that made these memories possible. But next year can you please bring back the flexible man that fits himself into a box?

Sarah Wladecki

sophomore

Pasquerilla West Hall

ALBUM REVIEWS

50 Cent undeserving of fame, fortune

By KENYATTA STORIN
Assistant Scene Editor

50 Cent may have the image, the charisma, the beats and the marketing, but when it comes down to it, he does not have the one thing that truly counts — talent.

The former hustler, who is best known for surviving nine gunshot wounds in 2000, has quickly become one of the biggest names in rap after the success of his 2003 debut album, "Get Rich or Die Tryin'," led by hits such as "In Da Club," "21 Questions" and "Magic Stick." Along with the clout and star power of Eminem, Dr. Dre and G-Unit, 50 Cent's success has turned the Aftermath label into a rap juggernaut that does not look to be slowing down anytime soon. 50 Cent's sophomore

album, "The Massacre," already sits atop the Billboard charts at No. 1, and the singles "Candy Shop" and "Disco Inferno" are among the hottest in the nation.

But these strong sales are mostly due to the catchiness of 50 Cent's choruses and beats, not his rapping. His rhymes are typically quite simple, often lacking in vocabulary, wit and emotion. Furthermore, in many cases he will rhyme with the same one-syllable sound over and over, sometimes even using the same word multiple times, like on "Gatman and Robbin," where he rhymes the word "it" six times in one verse. Even Vanilla Ice and MC Hammer could have done that.

"The Massacre" is obviously not meant to be a particularly deep or provocative album, but even when that is taken into account there is still very little substance.



Photo courtesy of mtv.com

"The Massacre" is currently No. 1 on the Billboard charts. Although 50 Cent is an immensely popular musical artist, his rapping is subpar at best.

Most of the songs fall under the usual gangsta rap clichés of hustling, sex and materialism without providing anything fresh or different to distinguish them. Although rappers like Snoop Dogg, Notorious B.I.G. and Tupac all rapped about these things, each had a distinguished style, flavor and emotion to his music that distinguished them from one another and ultimately allowed them to all find a niche in hip-hop history. Furthermore, these rappers were avid storytellers, painting an image of their lives that listeners could grasp and empathize with, even if it may have been exaggerated or embellished at times.

Unfortunately, 50 Cent provides none of this in his music. His songs are generally hollow and empty, leaving little to hold on to after the beats have lost their novelty and catchiness. Even the club singles, "Candy Shop" and "Disco Inferno," are sub par, and might as well be called "Magic Stick II" and "In Da Club II."

"A Baltimore Love Thing" is one of the

only songs that strays from the norm, with 50 Cent taking on the perspective of heroin and name-dropping famous artists like Kurt Cobain and Ozzy Osbourne.

One of the album's positives is its production, which is supplied by Eminem, Dr. Dre and Hi-Tek, along with relative unknowns like Needlz and C. Styles. Although none of the production is amazing, as a whole it is generally rather catchy, allowing the album to serve as good background music in party situations.

"The Massacre" is ultimately a rather average album. Like a mediocre action film, it has its amusing moments, but in the end it has limited replay value. 50 Cent may be popular now, but if he does not improve his content and flow, he will see his popularity slowly fade away like other unremarkable pop rappers before him.

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The Massacre

50 Cent

Aftermath



Johnson keeps playing the same good song

By BECCA SAUNDERS
Assistant Scene Editor

Although the majority of "mainlanders" have not actually visited Hawaii, most people could describe Hawaii without great difficulty. Visions of leis, luaus and ocean sunsets come to mind for most, but the sounds of Hawaii may escape their grasp. There is a simple solution, however — buy a Jack Johnson album.

A North Shore native from Oahu, Johnson brings Hawaii to the world through his strumming and gentle singing that plays as the perfect soundtrack for watching a sunset while sitting on the edge of a beach. In his third studio-released album, "In Between Dreams," Johnson does not change much in regards to his style of music or lyrics. The album bounces from song to song with Johnson's soothing voice and folksy guitar playing transporting the listener to the warm beaches the songs

seem to have been written for.

"In Between Dreams" does not stand above Johnson's first two albums, providing a solid dose of traditional Johnson without many surprises. The overall sound of the album hardly differs from that of his first two albums, "Brushfire Fairytales" and "On and On." In fact, any one of the songs on "In Between Dreams" could be added to either of the previous albums without disturbing the overall feeling of those albums. Many critics would view this as a weakness and perhaps as a musician it is a failing to be seemingly stuck in one style. However, for those that are devoted to Johnson's style, "In Between Dreams" simply makes his playlist a bit longer.

Lyrical, the album fits into the typical Johnson pattern of mostly covering day-to-day topics such as girls, rainy days and even "Banana Pancakes." However, per usual, a handful of songs hit some more serious topics such as an anti-war sentiment and the question of,



Photo courtesy of mtv.com

"In Between Dreams" may not be a groundbreaking album, but it is still a solid release for Jack Johnson.

"Where'd all the good people go?" Johnson's lyrics are playful with a point, such as in "Good People" when Johnson sings, "Turn on the boob tube, I'm in the mood to obey." Although at times some of the lyrical choices seem a bit child-like, for the most part they fit with the mood of Johnson's music and as such are forgivable and even enhancing to his work.

"In Between Dreams" is a just a hint more somber than "Brushfire Fairytales" and "On and On." For the most part the songs are generally mellow with a couple of pleasant exceptions such as "Never Know" and "Banana Pancakes." "Never Know," one of the best songs on the album, is an upbeat song with a catchy melody. The lyrics are a bit on the serious side as Johnson philosophizes, "Never knowing / We're shocking but we're nothing / We're just moments, we're clever but we're clue-

less / We're just human amusing and confusing / We're trying but where is all this leading? / We'll never know." The song is musically memorable and the lyrics have a depth that is not available on every track making "Never Know" stands out in the midst of the other songs on "In Between Dreams."

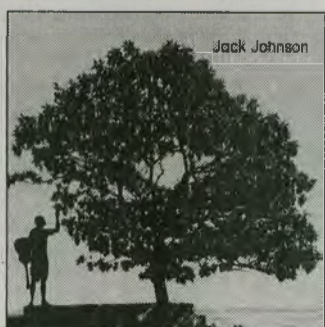
Jack Johnson has found a successful formula and he has obviously decided to keep using it. "In Between Dreams" is not groundbreaking. If "In Between Dreams" had been Johnson's debut album it is very possible that he would not be as well-known as he is today. Nonetheless, for fans of Johnson, "In Between Dreams" is 14 more songs to enjoy. Johnson doesn't reinvent himself in his third album, but he doesn't have to.

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In Between Dreams

Jack Johnson

Brush Fire



Jennifer Lopez: No more 'soap opera'

Associated Press

While other celebrities have taken pains to keep their public life under wraps, Jennifer Lopez always seemed to relish the white-hot spotlight.

Whether she was frolicking with Ben Affleck in a music video, wearing a barely-there outfit to drive the paparazzi wild or gushing about her latest love in a magazine, Lopez was willing to let the public share in her private life.

"I grew up in New York and was very out there and outgoing. One of my main things was I'm not going to let this business change me, you know what I mean?" explains the Bronx-bred Lopez, 34. "That was always one of my mantras."

Today, though, as Lopez promotes her fashion line and new album, "Rebirth," she's sticking by a new mantra — keep her private life private. It took her eight months to finally acknowledge her June wedding to singer-actor Marc Anthony, and she still won't talk about it. Instead, Lopez is trying to put the focus back on her career.

"I don't want to talk about anything that is personal or private at all, because what's the use? You're open with people, and then they try and make a soap opera out of your life,"

Lopez said in an interview with The Associated Press.

"Then it's not about your work anymore, it's not about the movie you're promoting or the record you hope your fans will enjoy, it becomes about other silly stuff and it's damaging. It's damaging not just to your career, but your person."

For a while, Lopez's stardom seemed to grow in tandem with her tabloid persona. She sold millions of albums, had No. 1 hits and enjoyed box-office success with movies such as "Maid in Manhattan" as the public became more interested in J.Lo, or Jenny From the Block — the woman dating and breaking up with P. Diddy, embarking on another quickie marriage or setting fashion trends with her awards show attire.

But her image started to suffer in 2003, when Lopez was in the midst of a very public romance with Affleck — the "Bennifer" pairing was that year's Brad-and-Jen frenzy. The couple's overexposure, followed by the and the release of their bomb "Gigli," drew both more scorn than anything. Though the couple split and Lopez later married Anthony — her third husband — the sting from the tabloid attention still lingers.

"I think it got really loud for a minute for me, and it became not about my work anymore. And the rea-

son why I was in the public eye to begin with is because I was in movies. I was making records," she said. "And all of the sudden it wasn't anything about that. And I didn't want it to be about anything else but that."

So Lopez took a six-month break from Hollywood last year to regroup.

"For me, what it was it was about kind of being alone, and thinking, and realizing that for me it was really a time for me to realize why I was in the business in the first place," she said. "How do I keep the focus there, and still maintain my life and the privacy of myself?"

Lopez — who has released five movies and three albums in the past three years — also felt like she was jamming out projects instead of spending time to reflect on what was right for her.

Lopez made sure her fourth studio album, "Rebirth," didn't suffer from those circumstances. The star spent several months on it and had a greater role in its production — which boosted her confidence.

"I think musically, the first time I made an album, I had never even been in a studio, or behind a mike before. The first time I ever sang live was at Madison Square Garden," she laughed. "You develop this insecurity, and then kind of have to build yourself back up."

"I've become more confident as a

musician and as a co-producer and as a vocalist, whereas before I was a little more insecure, and kind of so worried about people criticizing me for this or that or whatever."

Lopez has taken her share of criticism over the years — from her feather-light voice to even her acting abilities. But Rich Harrison, who produced Lopez's new hit "Get Right," said the hits Lopez have taken has only made her stronger as an artist.

"She knows what people tend to say about her and it makes her work so much harder, that much harder in the studio," he said. "She's not satisfied until it feels right, until it feels good."

And Lopez is happy with "Rebirth." It incorporates the hip-hop/dance vibe that's garnered her so much success over the years, but also blends in other genres, including '80s pop-rock. Lopez calls it a more risky album.

"It's not so safe as my other ones were," she said. "These are things that are a little funkier, a little deeper, and yet still danceable in a way."

She's still willing to take risks with her career. But as far as her personal life — she's playing it safe.

"I used to be the kind of person who would talk about a lot of things, but as I've matured I've realized that's not the best way to go," she said. "You have to set boundaries ... you have to protect what's sacred to you."

Masked band seeks recognition

Slipknot takes its music and message seriously

Associated Press

The members of Slipknot are known for wearing nefarious masks and matching jumpsuits during every public appearance, but don't think it's all a gimmick.

These guys insist they're artists. The nine-piece band has one drummer and two other percussionists. Their sound is driving, loud and complex. Members go by numbers 0 to 8, which are sewn onto their black uniforms.

Their gruesome masks, which include a clown face with a bloody head wound and one that looks like dead skin sewn together, are worn to make sure fans listen to the music and not watch the faces. They look so unsettling because, well, that's how the music makes them feel.

Slipknot hails from Des Moines, Iowa — and they're angry about it. Many of lead singer Corey Taylor's lyrics are about pain and frustration growing up in the middle of middle America.

People can relate. By the time Slipknot finishes its current nationwide tour, their latest CD, "Vol. 3: (The Subliminal Verses)," should become the group's fourth platinum album.

On a recent afternoon, eight of the members were crammed into a tiny NBC dressing room for an appearance on Late Night with Conan O'Brien. (Shawn "Clown" Crahan had to stay behind with a sick wife.) Joey Jordison (No. 1), Chris Fehn (No. 3) and Taylor (No. 8) brought some seriously sardonic humor to their talk with The Associated Press.

Q: How did you come up with the concept for this band?

COREY TAYLOR: Just looking at not

only what was going on a local level but an international level and just kind of being disgusted. It was all flash and no filling. It was very plastic with no presence. The thing we wanted to do was make a statement. It occurred to us that if we remove ourselves from the equation and just presented a unified front, it would have a greater impact, a more artistic impact. It's really a physical manifestation of what the music is.

Q: And what is the music?

JOEY JORDISON: Dark, very dark, but at the same time very moving and beautiful in its own way.

Q: Why wear masks?

JORDISON: It shows we're a solid unit. All of us coming together for a purpose. The masks are a physical representation of how the music makes us feel.

Q: It must make you feel bad. One mask looks like Leatherface from The Texas Chain Saw Massacre.

TAYLOR: It's really easy to compare us to stuff like that, because we wear masks. But we don't write about horror movies, we don't go out of our way to act like a horror movie.

CHRIS FEHN: I think this band is made up of a mental sickness. When I joined the band, before and after practice, they'd be looking online at murder photos, death and bondage photos.

TAYLOR: We had issues.

Q: What kind of issues?

TAYLOR: You don't have enough time, or tape. And you'd have to go get help afterward. All you have to really do is listen to our music.

Q: Seriously, what is your problem?

TAYLOR: As far as our beefs go, you'd have to grow up in Des Moines, Iowa, and really deal with the things that we had to deal with. I don't want to get into my background because I already talked about it on albums so I don't want to rehash. But there are real beefs that we have, and it hasn't changed since day one why we do this.



Photo courtesy of mtv.com

Much of Slipknot's music focuses on its members' pain and frustration with growing up in Des Moines, Iowa.

JORDISON: I hate the cliché of it, but growing up is hard. For anyone. So there's that backdrop. You find something to grasp onto like music, and you try to get it going and be creative and you get put down, and get your fliers torn down.

Q: Will you run out of stuff eventually to write about?

TAYLOR: Just when we stop talking about the past the present gives us enough stuff to be angry about for the rest of our lives. Just being in this band and seeing the way people interpret us is enough to frustrate even the most ardent artist.

Q: How do you think you're interpreted?

TAYLOR: I think we're interpreted as a novelty, and that really bothers me because there is so much substance in this band. People get stuck on the aesthetic, and it's (expletive).

JORDISON: We're not an easily digestible band on the first listen.

Q: Are you pleased with this album?

JORDISON: I think it's our best album yet. We will always be a metal band with aggro and high risk, but this

album shows there's not just one Slipknot sound. We're capable of such range.

TAYLOR: "Iowa" was a very bleak, dark album. But this one you can hear colors, traces of reds and I think that shows how we've evolved as musicians. Plus, coming back together and working together was really a joy.

Q: So what do those masks smell like?

TAYLOR: You want to take a huff? You can right now.

FEHN: Be careful if you do, you'll develop something right on your face. Just don't touch it and it'll go away in about three weeks.

(For the record, it smelled moldy and stale, like someone's basement.)

Q: Do you still live in Iowa?

TAYLOR: Yeah, a few of us have moved around now and then, but we've all come back. There's something about Iowa that just keeps you there.

JORDISON: It's the state equivalent of the "Death Star" with the big tractor beam.

FEHN: Plus we've all made some money now so we can get the double-wide trailers.

NBA

Big Ben breaks record in Pistons' 102-95 win

Wallace makes his 1,070th career block, passing Terry Tyler in Detroit career record books

Associated Press

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. — On the night Ben Wallace broke Detroit's shot-blocking record, Rasheed Wallace's defense and clutch shooting ensured the Pistons would win their 10th in a row at home.

Chauncey Billups tied a season high with 32 points and Rasheed Wallace had nine of his 24 during a key stretch of the fourth quarter to lift Detroit to a 102-95 win over Seattle on Wednesday night.

"We knew we had to step it up at the defensive end to end it," Rasheed Wallace said.

Rashard Lewis' three-point play midway through the fourth quarter put Seattle ahead 83-82, its first lead in almost 10 minutes.

The teams took turns with the lead before Rasheed Wallace turned two steals into a dunk and a mid-range jumper, giving the Pistons a 91-90 lead. Richard Hamilton then connected on a 3-pointer, and Tayshaun Prince made two free throws to seal the victory.

"Sheed went on a little tear and when he gets rolling, it's tough to stop him because he can do it at both ends," said Ben Wallace, whose first of three blocks surpassed Terry Tyler's franchise record of 1,070.

"It's a good feeling to accomplish a milestone like that," he said. "And, it feels good to get it at home."

Lewis scored 26 for the SuperSonics, who had won four straight on the road.

"When the game was on the line, we fell apart," Seattle coach Nate McMillan said.

Seattle's Ray Allen missed all four of his shots and was held to two points in the first half before finishing with 20 points on 6-of-11 shooting.

"We had the game under control and a three-point lead and then we turn the ball over twice," he said, referring to Rasheed Wallace's steals. "That was the game."

Allen bristled when he was asked about his shot total.

"No, I'm not getting enough looks," he said. "You've gotta talk to the coach."

Jerome James added 12 points and reserve Antonio Daniels scored 10 points for the Sonics.

Richard Hamilton and Tayshaun Prince each scored

18 for the Pistons, who have won four of their last five games. Billups made a career-high 15 free throws and tied a career high with 16 attempts at the line.

San Antonio 89, Minnesota 73

Robert Horry is warming up for the postseason.

Horry scored 18 points in 21 minutes, making four of his five 3-point attempts, to help the San Antonio Spurs to a win over the Minnesota Timberwolves on Wednesday night.

For Horry, signed by the Spurs for his perimeter scoring, the production was his highest in nearly two seasons with the team.

"Right now I think everyone is trying to get in a rhythm," said Horry, averaging 5.0 points per game and shooting 34 percent from behind the arc. "I felt pretty good tonight and wanted to keep shooting it."

Tim Duncan, who scored 25 points and had 14 rebounds and five blocks, said Horry is just starting to get serious.

"Rob just messes around the entire season until he's ready to play — that's his m.o.," Duncan said with a smirk. "He felt tonight was a playoff-type game and he said, 'Hey, I'll play. Let me play.'"

The Spurs, playing a fourth straight game without swingman Manu Ginobili, made 12 of their first 15 shots to quickly open a double-digit lead they maintained for most of the game.

"In the first three or four minutes we got down six points, then all of a sudden [we were] down 15 or 16," Minnesota coach Kevin McHale said.

San Antonio shot 70 percent in the first quarter and 35 percent after that, but the Timberwolves managed only 39 percent for the game. The Spurs made half of their 14 3-pointers and committed only eight turnovers, compared to 20 turnovers for Minnesota.

Boston 110, Toronto 109

The Boston Celtics taunted Jalen Rose early, and Ricky Davis got on Milt Palacio when it was over.

Paul Pierce and Antoine Walker each scored 24 points, and the Celtics nearly blew a 16-point fourth-quarter lead before pulling out a win over the Toronto Raptors on



Rasheed Wallace, right, shoots in a game against the Seattle SuperSonics on March 4. On Wednesday, Detroit defeated Seattle as Ben Wallace set a Pistons record for career blocks.

Wednesday night.

The victory was the fifth straight for the Atlantic Division-leading Celtics and their ninth in 10 games since acquiring Walker from Atlanta on Feb. 24.

A few players on Boston's bench were teasing Rose after Pierce nailed a jumper and was fouled on Boston's first possession of the game, saying "He's going to foul you out."

After Pierce missed a jumper in the closing seconds, the Raptors came down for the final shot without calling timeout. Palacio's drive bounced off the backboard, and the buzzer sounded.

"I felt like we had a better chance of getting to the basket or maybe getting a foul," Raptors coach Sam Mitchell said of not calling timeout in the final six seconds.

Davis appeared to be yelling into Palacio's ear as the Raptors guard walked to mid-court.

"We were talking trash the whole fourth quarter," Palacio said. "I kept telling him he wasn't going to score on me, and he kept telling me I wasn't going to score on him. He thought he played me. I thought I got fouled."

The way the Celtics are going,

lately, they can even survive a poor fourth quarter and gain a win.

"We don't play defense," Boston coach Doc Rivers said of his team's fourth-quarter fade. "That was horrible. We've come a long way when we win a game and the guys have their heads down. They were upset, frustrated."

Tony Allen finished with 16 points for Boston, including a pair of big baskets in the final 1:46. Davis had 14.

"We're not really happy with the way we played in the fourth quarter," Pierce said. "We know we could improve, especially on the defensive end."

New Jersey 100, Chicago 84

Jason Kidd helped the New Jersey Nets get off to a fast start, and they never let up.

"The big thing is that we set the tone early," said Kidd, who had 22 points, 11 rebounds and eight assists in a victory over the Chicago Bulls on Wednesday night. "We came out aggressive and played like we had something to play for."

Vince Carter scored 30 points as the Nets completed a season sweep of the Bulls. Jason Collins had 14 points and 11 rebounds and Nenad Krstic added 11 points as the Nets

posted their seventh straight win over Chicago.

Carter enjoyed his third straight strong game against the Bulls since joining the Nets. He led New Jersey with 31 and 25 points in the prior victories.

"This was all about what we needed to do," said Carter. "We came out aggressive and ready to play and ready to win."

The Bulls played without leading scorer Eddy Curry (15.6 points per game) who missed the game with a left hamstring strain. They struggled to pick up the slack, with the bench doing most of the scoring as the starters combined for only 37 points.

Andres Nocioni and Ben Gordon each had 15 points. Tyson Chandler had 12 points and 14 rebounds. Adrian Griffin and Jannero Pargo each scored 10.

Kidd scored on a layup 45 seconds into the game, and the Nets were off and running. They quickly sprinted to a 15-2 lead as Kidd set the pace with four points and a pair of assists.

The Bulls never recovered. "I felt like our start was really poor," said Bulls coach Scott Skiles. "We were never able to recover from it."

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NCAA BASKETBALL

Washington looking to validate their No. 1 seed

The Huskies open the first round against Montana tonight

Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho — The Washington Huskies are growing tired of talking about their No. 1 seed in the Albuquerque Regional.

Doubters can argue all they want, but the seed belongs to the Huskies and they finally can start backing it up Thursday when they play Montana in the opening round of the NCAA tournament.

"That's not something that we asked for. We didn't go beg to be a No. 1 seed. They stuck us with that number," guard Will Conroy said. "We don't care what seed we were. It's just a number."

The Huskies (27-5) are frustrated that they seem to be the only team among the four top seeds taking heat for something they had no say in. Washington beat Arizona 81-72 on Saturday night to win the Pac-10 tournament, then waited for the NCAA selection committee to decide on the seedings.

"I guess people aren't going to be satisfied until we win the national championship," guard Nate Robinson said. "I guess that's what they want to see us do, so we're going to go out and try to accomplish that."

The Huskies are in the tournament for the 12th time and have never been seeded higher than fifth. Last season ended with a first-round loss to Alabama-Birmingham, which still burns the Huskies much more than anyone questioning their seeding.

Washington hadn't been to the tournament since 1999 and Conroy admitted some Huskies were so thrilled about ending the drought that they weren't quite ready for UAB.

"We were satisfied with that. This year we're not just satisfied with making it to the tournament," Conroy said.

This season, Conroy said it's all business for the Huskies. His cell phone is off by 9 p.m. and he won't be returning any calls until next week at the earliest.

"We're on a mission," Conroy said.

The Huskies come from about two hours closer to Boise than Montana (18-12): Boise is a six-hour drive from Seattle and about eight hours from Missoula. The winner will play in the second round against either Pacific (26-3) or Pittsburgh (20-8), who open play in Boise on Thursday morning.

Montana would need to make history by becoming the first 16th seed to upset a No. 1.

"There's been a few almosts with the 16s and the 1s. But you know, the committee's not perfect. There's nothing saying that Washington couldn't be a three seed and we could be a 14," Montana coach Larry Krystkowiak said.

"I don't think there's any question that we're not the best team, but what makes this time of year special is we could play a great game. Washington could have a subpar game and all of a sudden we've got a fun ballgame to watch. That's the

"I guess people aren't going to be satisfied until we win the national championship."

Nate Robinson
Washington guard

reality of it."

The Boise lineup features several teams familiar with the others in town, but they're not in the same regional.

Arizona (27-6) plays Utah State (24-7) Thursday night in the Chicago Regional. The Aggies made it to the tournament by winning the Big West championship against Pacific, which plays Pitt earlier Thursday in Boise.

And Robinson said the Huskies, provided they win Thursday, will be cheering on their Pac-10 rivals later in the day.



Will Conroy, right, congratulates Nate Robinson after a basket against Stanford in the semifinals of the Pac-10 tournament.

The last game Thursday is Louisiana State (27-6) against Alabama-Birmingham (21-10). After the Blazers defeated Washington in 2004, they beat top-seeded Kentucky in the second round before getting knocked out by Kansas in the regional semifinals.

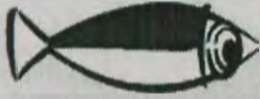
LSU is back in the tournament after missing out last spring. The Tigers struggled early to a 6-5 record, then went on to win the Southeastern Conference West.

Montana and Washington

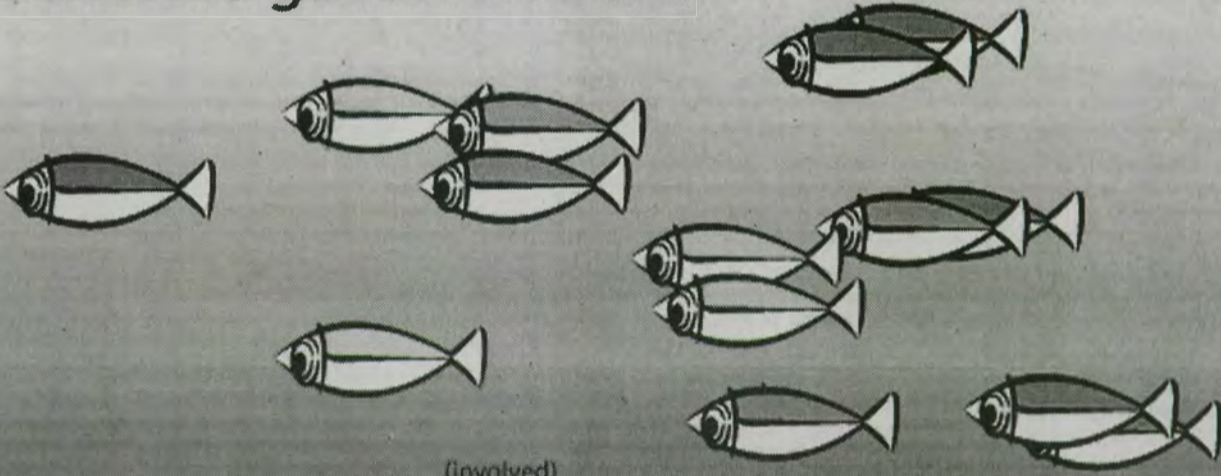
have played 48 times, but not since 1994-95. And the Grizzlies have won the last three meetings.

The Grizzlies and Huskies could've played at the beginning of the season, but Krystkowiak said Montana opted for another non-conference home game rather than hit the West Coast.

Krystkowiak denied reports the Grizzlies, who clinched their sixth NCAA tournament appearance by winning the Big Sky tournament, backed out of the game.



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AUTO RACING

Formula One will have competition

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — An ambitious new global auto racing series unveiled Mexican and Brazilian teams as it displayed the A1 Grand Prix car for the first time in the Americas.

But the success of the venture might have less to do with the sleek open wheeler than with the mariachis blaring traditional music around it: The A1 Grand Prix is all about national pride.

Sheik Maktoum Hasher Maktoum, a member of Dubai's ruling family and founder of the series, says he is building "the World Cup of motor sports," a place where national teams battle for pride on an unusually even footing.

Twenty-five countries — ranging from Lebanon to China to the United States — will have one entry apiece, owned and driven by a local competitor and with local sponsors.

All of the cars will be the same: 550-horsepower Zytec-powered open wheelers that Maktoum has bought from Britain's Lola Cars. Racing is supposed to start Sept. 25 at Brands Hatch, England, and finish in April.

"You can't compare us to any other motor sports event," Maktoum founder said in an interview before unveiling the Mexican car late Monday. "As far as I'm concerned, we're going to be the biggest in terms of popularity, in terms of everything, viewership."

Asked how long it would take to pass the global popularity of Formula One, he replied: "The first race."

If that's brash, there's at least a logic to it: He thinks A1 will attract many fans with little racing to watch during the winter months. Even more new fans will be drawn by having a national team to root for, he said.

"We're looking to have 30 percent motor sports, 70 percent new fans," he said.

If patriotism lures fans, then sponsors in each country will have only one place to go; the national team will have a local monopoly.

Maktoum said Real Madrid soccer star Ronaldo was awarded the Brazilian team. Mexico's team is held by two businessmen, Juan Cortina and Julio Jauregui.

Some of the teams have drawn enormous local interest due to the idea of their country competing on level ground with the world's automotive powers.

In Pakistan, President Pervez Musharraf oversaw the announcement of that country's team. Nelson Mandela and President Theo Mbeki were on hand for South Africa's announcement.

"Look at the slick tires, we have bigger tires than Formula One."

Sheik Maktoum founder

"You can't compare us to any other motor sports event."

Sheik Maktoum founder

Maktoum said he has agreements nearly ready for all 25 teams and said the final grid should be public by the end of April.

"We pretty much are guaranteed to have Germany, France, Italy, Spain — all the major European countries," he said. "We have Africa covered, all the Middle East covered, Asia covered, Australia covered. We're sold out already."

The schedule, though, is still fuzzy beyond Brands Hatch. In Mexico's case, Federico Alaman, the motor sports chief for promoter OCESA, said his company has started talks with the Mexican A1 team for a possible February date at the Hermanos Rodriguez road course in Mexico City.

The car itself is quite pretty for a racing vehicle — including stylized air ducts, custom wheels and shark-like vents near the engine.

The cars' horsepower is far below that of Formula One — up to 900 horsepower — or the 650 to 750 of Indy and Champ cars. The lower horsepower may keep less-experienced drivers from developing nations from being overwhelmed.

"The thing is, look at the aerodynamics. Look at the slick tires," Maktoum said. "We have bigger tires than Formula One."

Team managers and crew are exempt from the locals-only policy. Any country can hire the best managers and mechanics around. And teams will be given limited time to work on their cars.

Maktoum, 28, is the son of one of Dubai's most prominent businessmen.

FIGURE SKATING

Michelle Kwan struggling on ice

Scoring system gives former Olympian fits

Associated Press

MOSCOW — Michelle Kwan was so distracted by figure skating's new scoring system that the five-time champion struggled to her worst showing in more than a decade in the world championships' qualifying round.

Her tentative performance Wednesday was just seventh best. And she wasn't helped by an unassuming program not geared to maximizing the points awarded for technical challenges.

"I got thrown instead of getting into the ice," she said, adding that she felt fine physically but was uncomfortable with the new system. "I felt, like, above the ice and I didn't feel that I could bend my legs."

Irina Slutskaya, a Russian who often has been defeated by Kwan at the world championships, this time was at the top after an assured and emotional qualifying skate that was all the more impressive because she's still battling heart problems.

In the first medals of this year's competition, Russians Tatiana Totmianina and Maxim Marinin capped a remarkable comeback by retaining their championship in the pairs event. They skated a nearly flawless and intensely romantic program to Rimsky-Korsakov's "Scheherazade."

The victory came a few months after a near catastrophe, when Totmianina fell on her head at Skate America in Pittsburgh and was unconscious for several minutes. At the end of their program, both seemed more overwhelmed than triumphant, raising their hands to their faces and taking several seconds before acknowledging the cheers.

Russians Maria Petrova and Alexei Tikhonov were second, followed by China's Zhang Dan and Zhang Hao, who unexpectedly moved up after the withdrawal of compatriots Shen Xue and Zhao Hongbo



Michelle Kwan holds her head after finishing 7th in qualifying for the world championships March 16.

due to an injury that was not immediately announced.

In women's qualifying, Slutskaya led her group with 119.08 points. American Sasha Cohen topped the other group with a score of 113.64. Cohen skated to Tchaikovsky's "Nutcracker Suite" pas de deux, a program that was solid but less vivid than her best performances. She simply may have been sleepy.

"I even went to the 6 a.m. practice," Cohen said. "It was risky but I decided I need to get a better feeling of the ice."

Kwan, who scored 99.96, didn't have a good feeling on the ice.

The new scoring system, developed in the wake of the 2002 Salt Lake City Olympics scandal, has been used at Grand Prix events for two seasons, but Kwan has stayed off that circuit. This is the system's debut at the worlds and Kwan's first direct exposure to it.

Because it gives a separate number for each element rather than one overall technical mark, the system requires more concentration from skaters, who also have to be

concerned that it deducts points on missed jumps and lower levels of difficulty. Kwan scaled down two jumps to doubles, including a planned triple-double-double that turned into just a double flip, and two-footed her final triple.

"I was counting my spins more than I usually do in the long program," she said. "I think I had too many things to think about. It was not very good. It was not very good at all."

Slutskaya, on the other hand, loaded her program with high-scoring elements, firing off five triple jumps compared with Kwan's three.

Slutskaya was energetic on the ice, showing no indication of the heart lining inflammation that she's been fighting for two years. Off the ice she was visibly tired and breathing heavily.

"In principle I'm satisfied, but I can do better," she said.

The qualifying round cuts the field for the short program to 30, and 25 percent of the qualifying round score is added to the total of the free and short programs for the final score.

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NCAA BASKETBALL

Utah's 7-foot Bogut looks to play big in dance

Associated Press

TUCSON, Ariz. — He was born in Australia. The roots of his game are from his parents' native Croatia. He was a star in Athens and has carried Utah into the NCAA tournament.

Basketball is an international game, and 7-foot Andrew Bogut is its latest rising star.

Soon, the NBA will make him a lottery pick, maybe the No. 1 choice overall. Before that, though, Bogut has some unfinished business with the Utes.

"Here's a guy that no one's been able to stop all year," UTEP coach Doc Sadler said. "He's probably the premier guy in college basketball. If they're talking about whether or not you're going to be the third pick or the first pick, that's pretty good. I mean, what can't he do?"

Sadler's 11th-seeded Miners (27-7) will try to contain Bogut and the No. 6 seed Utes (27-5) Thursday in a first-round Austin Region game at Arizona's McKale Center. The game will be the second afternoon contest. In the first game, No. 3 seed Oklahoma (24-7), the Big 12 regular-season champion, will play 14th-seeded Niagara (20-9), making its first NCAA tournament appearance in 35 years.

The evening contests feature teams from the Albuquerque Region. No. 3 seed Gonzaga (25-4) faces No. 14 Winthrop (27-5), and sixth seed Texas Tech (20-

10) plays No. 11 seed UCLA (18-10) in the nightcap.

Utah wants Bogut to touch the ball on every possession. If he doesn't score — and he can even hit an occasional 3-pointer — then the collapsing zone defense or double-team leave a teammate wide open.

"He's throwing it out, and we're basically playing horse out there," Ute guard Tim Drisdorn said. "We get a lot of open jump shots, and it's up to us to knock them down."

Bogut was recruited by Rick Majerus and was Mountain West freshman of the year last season.

But his game truly blossomed with the Australian national team at the Athens Olympics, where he averaged 14.8 points and 8.8 rebounds in five games. He returned to the college game a wiser player.

"I'm playing with guys my age again," the 20-year-old from Melbourne said. "In the Olympics, you're playing guys who are 26, 27 with experience playing all around the world. I came back to play against guys my age and my strength. I thought I could do very well, and I've done pretty well to this point."

Bogut is averaging 20.7 points

and is third in Division I at 12.3 rebounds per game. He made 64 percent of his shots, third-best in the country.

"To see what he's been able to do for this team and this program this year is really amazing," said coach Ray Giacoletti, hired after last season when Majerus resigned for health reasons. "He's the focal point, but the rest of the group has really bought in to understand that he needs to touch the basketball whether it be in transition or the halfcourt game. That's something, to me, that is even more special."

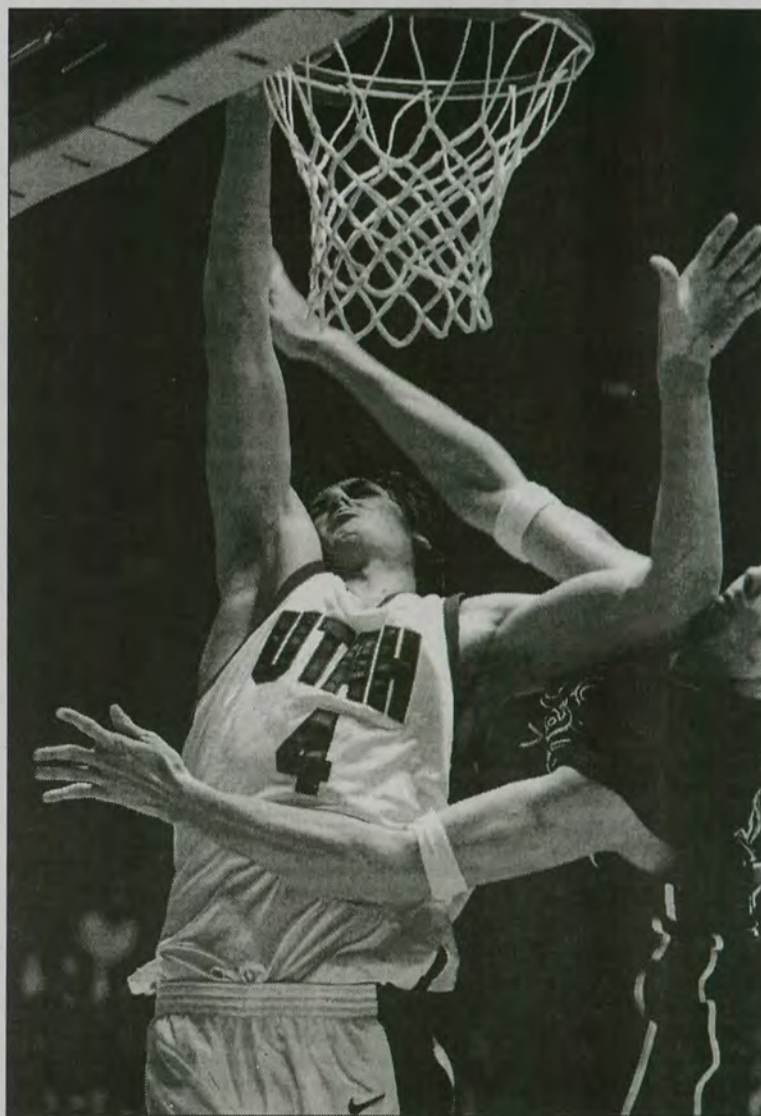
UTEP, in its first season under Sadler, wants to make Bogut and the rest of the Utes run.

"He's going to get his points and rebounds," UTEP forward Omar Thomas said. "We know he's a good player, that he's a top-five pick. He's going to do what he does. We're just going to hope he doesn't kill us too bad. We're going to play UTEP basketball and make him run up and down the court, what he's not used to, and make him guard our big man."

Thomas leads the Miners in scoring at 20.4 points per game, but Puerto Rican point guard Filiberto Rivera makes the team go.

"To see what he's been able to do for this team and this program this year is really amazing."

Ray Giacoletti
Utah coach



Andrew Bogut has been much of the reason for the Utes' strong play this year. The NBA-bound star averages 20.7 ppg.

THE OBSERVER

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MLB

Congress and MLB meet this afternoon

Historically, the U.S. government has paid attention to baseball

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Politics may be Washington's official sport, but baseball has been a congressional passion for a century.

When several of baseball's biggest stars appear before a House panel Thursday, they will be following in the footsteps of some of the sport's greatest players. Hall of Famers Mickey Mantle, Ty Cobb, Jackie Robinson, Ted Williams, Stan Musial and Bob Feller all took turns before Congress, which seems to pay more attention to baseball than any other sport.

"Maybe because it's older, it's the national pastime, and because it has sort of a special status with its antitrust exemption," said Senate Historian Donald Ritchie. He noted the Senate used to adjourn to go watch the president throw out the first pitch when the Washington Senators opened their season.

Over the years, Congress has taken aim at the antitrust exemption, drug use among players and franchise relocations. On Thursday, Baltimore Orioles outfielder Sammy Sosa and Boston Red Sox pitcher Curt Schilling will be among the stars called before a House committee investigating steroid use, along with former sluggers Mark McGwire and Jose Canseco. The leadoff witness will be Sen. Jim Bunning, a Kentucky Republican and Hall of Fame pitcher.

Congress has been interested in baseball issues since the early days of the game. In 1913, Rep. Thomas Gallagher, D-Ill., called for a congressional investigation of baseball's "reserve clause," which until the 1970s bound players to one team for their entire careers unless they were traded or released. Gallagher said players were "enslaved and forced to accept salaries and terms or be forever barred from playing."

His call followed a contract dispute in which Cobb, the Detroit Tigers star known for his hitting prowess and win-at-all-costs attitude, refused to report because the team would not raise his salary to a then-exorbitant \$15,000.

Cobb would defend the reserve clause at a congressional hearing nearly 40 years later. Without the clause, Cobb told the House Judiciary antitrust subcommittee in 1951, "all the strong clubs or the richest men could hire away from the weaker clubs." That is what critics of the New York Yankees and other free-spending teams say happens today.

The Supreme Court solidified the reserve clause in 1922 by granting Major League Baseball an exemption from antitrust laws, ruling it was a sport and not a business. That exemption has remained a focus of congressional oversight ever since, although in 1996 the Supreme Court ruled that unionized employees can't file antitrust suits.

In 1951, Rep. Emanuel Celler, D-N.Y., held a series of hearings on "monopoly power" in which lawmakers threatened to revoke the exemption to prod baseball to expand to the West Coast. At the time, there were only 16 major league teams, none west of St. Louis.

Six years later, the Brooklyn Dodgers and New York Giants announced plans to move to Los Angeles and San Francisco, respectively. That prompted Celler, a rabid Dodgers fan, to hold more hearings in the antitrust subcommittee.

"In one breath, they say baseball is a sport, not subject to antitrust regulations," he said. "In another breath, they say they have the right to move franchises in the interest of dollars, selling to the highest bidder."

At a hearing three weeks later, commissioner Ford Frick predicted doom for baseball if the antitrust exemption and the reserve clause were eliminated.

NCAA BASKETBALL

State rivals meet in Indiana

Eastern Kentucky coach has difficult task with alma mater

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Eastern Kentucky forward Michael Haney heard his friends' subtle message early this week.

They wished him luck in beating their beloved Kentucky — but not too much.

"A lot of kids were talking about what if we did beat Kentucky," Haney said Wednesday. "But the fact that so many people love UK, you see a lot of mixed emotions."

Those feelings will be on national display Thursday when the in-state schools about 30 miles apart meet in the first round of the NCAA tournament.

Kentucky (25-5), as usual, has dominated the series. The Wildcats have won all eight games including the last four by 15 or more and three by at least 29 points.

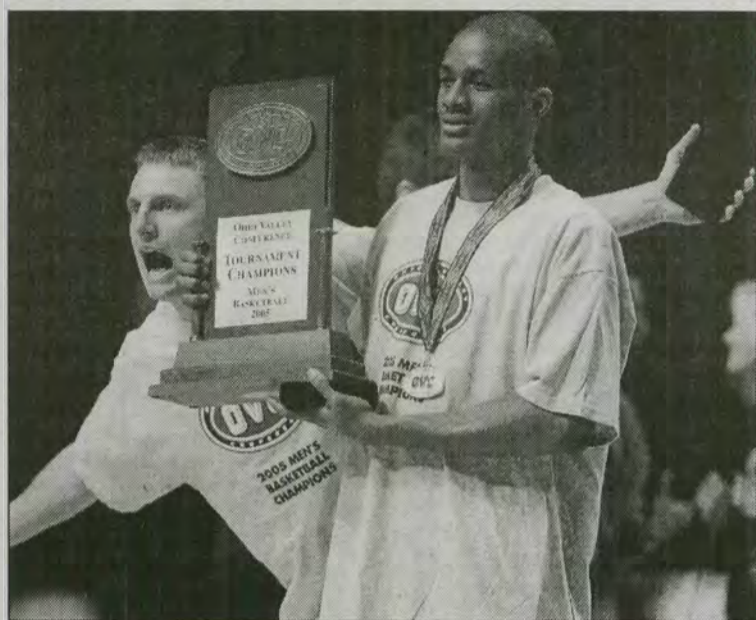
The fans aren't the only ones with mixed loyalties.

Wildcats forward Chuck Hayes said he knows most of the Eastern Kentucky players personally after competing against them in a Lexington, Ky., summer league. Forward, Kelenna Azubuike, said he would even root for the Colonels (22-8) if they weren't playing the Wildcats.

"Being from Kentucky, I'd root for them to go as far as they can," Azubuike said. "It's kind of crazy. We have to play them and beat them."

They're not alone.

"Being so close, we have a lot of fans that support both programs," said Kentucky coach Tubby Smith. "They have that David-versus-Goliath syndrome, where if they can take advantage of a weakness, they're going to utilize it."



Eastern Kentucky celebrates after their 52-46 win over Austin Peay in the Ohio Valley Conference Championship.

Making the matchup even more painful for basketball fans in the Bluegrass State is that Travis Ford will be coaching on the opposite sideline.

Ford is in his fifth season as Eastern Kentucky's coach and has revived a once dormant program that combined for just nine wins in the two seasons before he arrived in 2000-01.

"When I came here, this program was pretty much garbage," Haney said. "What any player wants is to leave the program better than it was."

Eastern Kentucky won a school record 22 games this year, and their 8-1 start was the best since 1948-49.

Ford's connections to Kentucky run much deeper. After growing up a Wildcats fan in Madisonville, Ky., he started his collegiate career at

Missouri, then transferred to Kentucky where he became a two-time all-Southeastern Conference selection. As a junior, he was the first Kentucky player to make 100 3-pointers in a season and helped lead the Wildcats to the Final Four.

The year he had to sit out because of NCAA transfer rules Ford worked tirelessly with Smith. Ford said Wednesday he still attends Kentucky practices and that Smith has embraced his presence.

Ford's task now, though, is to beat his alma mater. Some have even joked that the only way he can keep his job in a state with deep basketball roots and passionate Kentucky fans would be to lose Thursday's first-round game.

But that's not in Ford's nature.



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NBA

Court sentences brawlers

Three men receive punishment for their role in NBA fight

Associated Press

ROCHESTER HILLS, Mich. — Three men were sentenced Wednesday to probation and community service for their part in a brawl among players and fans at a Pistons-Pacers game.

Alvin Shackelford Jr. and Charlie Haddad pleaded no contest to violating a local ordinance against entering a performance space. Jeremy Handley pleaded guilty to violating a local ordinance against throwing objects at a performance or sporting event.

Four other fans and five Indiana players are charged with misdemeanor assault and battery in the fight. A fifth fan is accused of violating the same local ordinance as Handley. Another fan, Bryant Jackson, has been ordered to stand trial for felony assault for throwing a chair.

District Judge Lisa Asadoorian berated Shackelford, Haddad and Handley for their role in what she called the "ugly event" at The Palace of Auburn Hills.

"Because of you, this community has received an undeserved, unjust, big black eye that still leaves us smarting," she told them. "You will forever be known — as has been put to me so often — as 'one of those idiots at The Palace.'"

Shackelford and Haddad, both 21 and of Burt, were at the Nov. 19 game together.

Asadoorian gave the harshest sentence to Haddad, who



Charlie Haddad, left, and Alvin Shackelford, Jr. were sentenced for their part in the Nov. 19 brawl at a Pistons home game.

authorities say was punched by two Indiana players. He will have to serve two years of probation and 100 hours of community service, plus 10 weekends in a row in a county work program.

Shackelford, who has said he followed his friend down to the court out of concern, was sentenced to a year of probation and 150 hours of community service. Shackelford was hit by Pacers forward Ron Artest after approaching the player on the court during the melee.

Handley was sentenced to a year of probation and 75 hours of community service. The 31-year-old resident of Macomb County's Chesterfield Township,

in January turned himself in after seeing his face on television as someone for whom police were looking. Asadoorian said Handley threw an empty cup during the brawl.

Shackelford and Handley both apologized to the judge for taking up the court's time and said they were embarrassed about the incident. Haddad's lawyer apologized on his behalf but said his client would make no statement because of his pending lawsuit against Indiana players Jermaine O'Neal, Anthony Johnson and the Pacers organization.

Shackelford's lawyer, Richard Alger, said his client was still considering whether to sue.

NCAA BASKETBALL

National title in reach for Illinois

The Illini will play Fairleigh Dickinson today in first round

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Illinois spent most of this season staking its claim as the nation's best team.

After winning 32 of 33 games, rolling to Big Ten regular-season and tournament titles and protecting its No. 1 ranking for 15 consecutive weeks, Illinois can finally focus on its real mission — winning a national title.

"This is what we've worked for since last year ... to have this opportunity," coach Bruce Weber said. "We've accomplished a lot of things along the way. But at the same time, you're still hungry for more."

Top-seeded Illinois (32-1) knows the dangers of early NCAA tournament games. Two years ago at the same Indianapolis dome where they open against 16th-seeded Fairleigh Dickinson on Thursday, the Illini escaped with a 65-60 first-round victory over Western Kentucky, then lost to Notre Dame in the second round.

There's more at stake this time.

No top seed has ever lost to a 16th seed, and whether it's fair or not Illinois fans expect nothing less than a Final Four run.

"Every team expects to get to the Final Four and I mean that," Kentucky coach Tubby Smith said Wednesday. "Illinois has had a great season, and I don't think anything that happens now you can be disappointed with because they've had a great run."

Try telling that to the Illini. They responded to their only loss by dicing up Northwestern, Minnesota and Wisconsin to win the Big Ten tournament. The title was bittersweet for Weber, whose mother, Dawn, died after last Friday's victory over the Wildcats.

The funeral was Tuesday, and if the Illinois players respond like they did last weekend, the Illini could find themselves headed back to Chicago for the regionals.

"You get great support from the players," said Gene Keady, Weber's boss at Purdue for 18 seasons. "If they're character guys, they're going to win the game for you because they're so focused."

The other matchups in Indianapolis are just as intriguing.

Some believe Smith's

Wildcats (25-5) deserved the last No. 1 seed. Instead, Kentucky drew the second seed in the Austin Region and a first-round matchup against Eastern Kentucky (22-8), a school located about 30 miles south of Lexington and coached by ex-Wildcat Travis Ford.

Cincinnati (24-7), the seventh seed in Austin, will try to reach the round of 16 for the first time since 2001 against Iowa (21-11) and coach Steve Alford, one of Indiana's favorite sons. Alford led the Hoosiers to the 1987 national championship, a run that started with two wins in Indianapolis.

"You just start thinking about all the little, different things," Alford said. "Obviously, they were very special then, and those are memories that haven't faded any now. I can still remember an awful lot of plays."

The other contest pits last year's tournament darling, Nevada (24-6), to No. 9 seed in Chicago, against a Texas team that finished 20-10 after starting 12-2.

Most of the attention Thursday, though, will be focused on the Illini, whose only loss came in the regular-season finale when Ohio State hit a 3-pointer with 5.1 seconds left.

Other than that, Illinois has been nearly perfect.

It has beaten eight ranked teams,

including then-No. 1 Wake Forest, and won all 13 of its contests against NCAA tournament teams. Eleven of those victories were by double digits.

The Illini average nearly nine 3-pointers per game, eighth nationally, and rank third in the nation in assists with 613. They've outrebounded opponents by four per game and in 1,325 minutes this year have trailed for a total of 103 minutes, 17 seconds.

For Fairleigh Dickinson (20-12), it's a chance to make a name for itself.

The Knights' last appearance in the NCAA tournament was 1998 and they know the odds are against them. Illinois enters as a 26 1/2-point favorite.

"We're going to find any advantage we have and try to exploit it," Knights' forward Gordon Klalbor said.

Illinois' mission is more defined.

It needs six more wins to complete the best season in school history 100-year history with a national championship.

"We've accomplished a lot of things along the way. But at the same time, you're still hungry for more."

Bruce Weber
Illinois coach

"We're going to find any advantage we have and try to exploit it."

Gordon Klalbor
Fairleigh Dickinson forward

The Hispanic Law Students' Association cordially invites the Notre Dame community to attend this year's **Graciela Olivarez Award Ceremony** Saturday, March 19, 2005

This prestigious award is given in honor of Graciela Olivarez, the first Hispanic and first female to graduate from NDLS. The Award is bestowed each year upon a Hispanic lawyer or judge who best exemplifies Graciela Olivarez's commitment to community service, demonstration of the highest ethical and moral standards, and dedication to justice. This year's recipient is **Mercedes Colwin, Partner, Correspondent, & Community Activist.**

Award Ceremony begins at 11:00 am in the Law School Courtroom

NCAA BASKETBALL

Woes continue for basketball in Hoosier state

Indiana not ready for NIT, loses in opening round to Vanderbilt

Associated Press

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. — Indiana might not have been happy playing in the National Invitation Tournament, but Vanderbilt seemed to be.

The Commodores took control of the game early and never trailed in a 67-60 win over Indiana in the opening round of the NIT on Wednesday night.

The Hoosiers came out flat and uninspired, showing signs of disappointment from being left out of the NCAA tournament.

"I think some teams come out and they don't want to be in the NIT," said Vanderbilt forward Corey Smith, who finished with 25 points. "It seemed as if Indiana came out kind of low."

The Commodores (19-13) played with enthusiasm all night, and they'll advance to play the winner of the Wichita State-Western Kentucky game in the second round.

"Regardless of whether it's the NIT or the NCAA tournament, you never want to lose," Smith said. "You never want to end it on a bad note."

For the Hoosiers (15-14), their season couldn't have ended on a worse note. After losing to Minnesota 71-55 in the opening

game of the Big Ten tournament, Indiana struggled to find any rhythm in its first NIT appearance since 1985.

"We tried to prepare them the best we could for this game, but I thought we did a poor job of getting our guys ready to play," Indiana coach Mike Davis said. "I did a poor job getting our guys ready and excited about the NIT."

After Vanderbilt took a 53-42 lead late in the second half, the Hoosiers used a 12-6 run to close the gap to five with 1:09 left. But four straight free throws by Shan Foster and Smith pushed the lead back to 63-54 with 34 seconds left.

Foster finished with 11 points and DeMarre Carroll scored nine for the Commodores, who shot 50 percent from the field.

Bracey Wright had 17 points and four rebounds, and Robert Vaden scored 13 for Indiana. The Hoosiers home attendance of 5,113 on Wednesday was the smallest crowd to ever watch an Indiana men's basketball game at Assembly Hall. The previous low of 7,249 was set on Jan. 3, 1999 against Illinois.

"Everyone talked about how hard it was for teams to get up for the NIT," Wright said. "We fell right into that trend."

The win was extra special for Vanderbilt coach Kevin Stallings, who played basketball at Purdue University from 1980-82 and was an assistant coach for the Boilermakers

under Gene Keady from 1983-88. As Purdue player and coach, Stallings compiled a 12-7 record against Indiana.

"It's not often that you get to come here as an opposing team and experience victory," Stallings said. "This was a special night for our players."

The Commodores quickly took the Indiana crowd out of the game by shooting 48 percent from the field in the first half and opening a 31-26 halftime lead.

Vanderbilt used a 7-0 run to extend its lead to 40-30 early in the second half before Indiana cut the deficit to 53-46 with 6:21 left after consecutive dunks by Wright and Roderick Wilmont.

San Francisco 69, Denver 67

Tyrone Riley made a layin with 1.3 seconds left and San Francisco won its first postseason game in 26 years, beating Denver in the opening round of the NIT on Wednesday night.

John Cox scored 15 of his 27 points in the final 11:11, rallying the Dons from a 49-44 deficit. Cox — Kobe Bryant's first cousin — scored three straight baskets to get the Dons back in it. His 3-pointer with 7:17 remaining tied the game at 55.

After Denver's Erik Benzel hit a 3 to make it 65-64 with 1:19 left, Cox converted two free throws at 43 seconds.

Rodney Billups, the younger brother of Detroit Pistons star



Indiana's Pat Ewing Jr., right, shoots under Vanderbilt's Dawid Przybyszewski during the Commodores' 67-60 win Wednesday.

Chauncey Billups, then hit a 3 from the top of the arc with 29 seconds left. USF set up a final play with 20.9 to go, but Cox called timeout near midcourt with 7 seconds on the clock under defensive pressure by Andrew Carpenter.

Then Hazel drove into the paint and made a pretty pass to Riley for the winning basket. Carpenter received a baseball pass, but missed a short baseline jumper at the buzzer.

Riley finished with 16 points and six rebounds for USF (17-13), which advances to play Saturday against the winner of Cal State Fullerton-Oregon State.

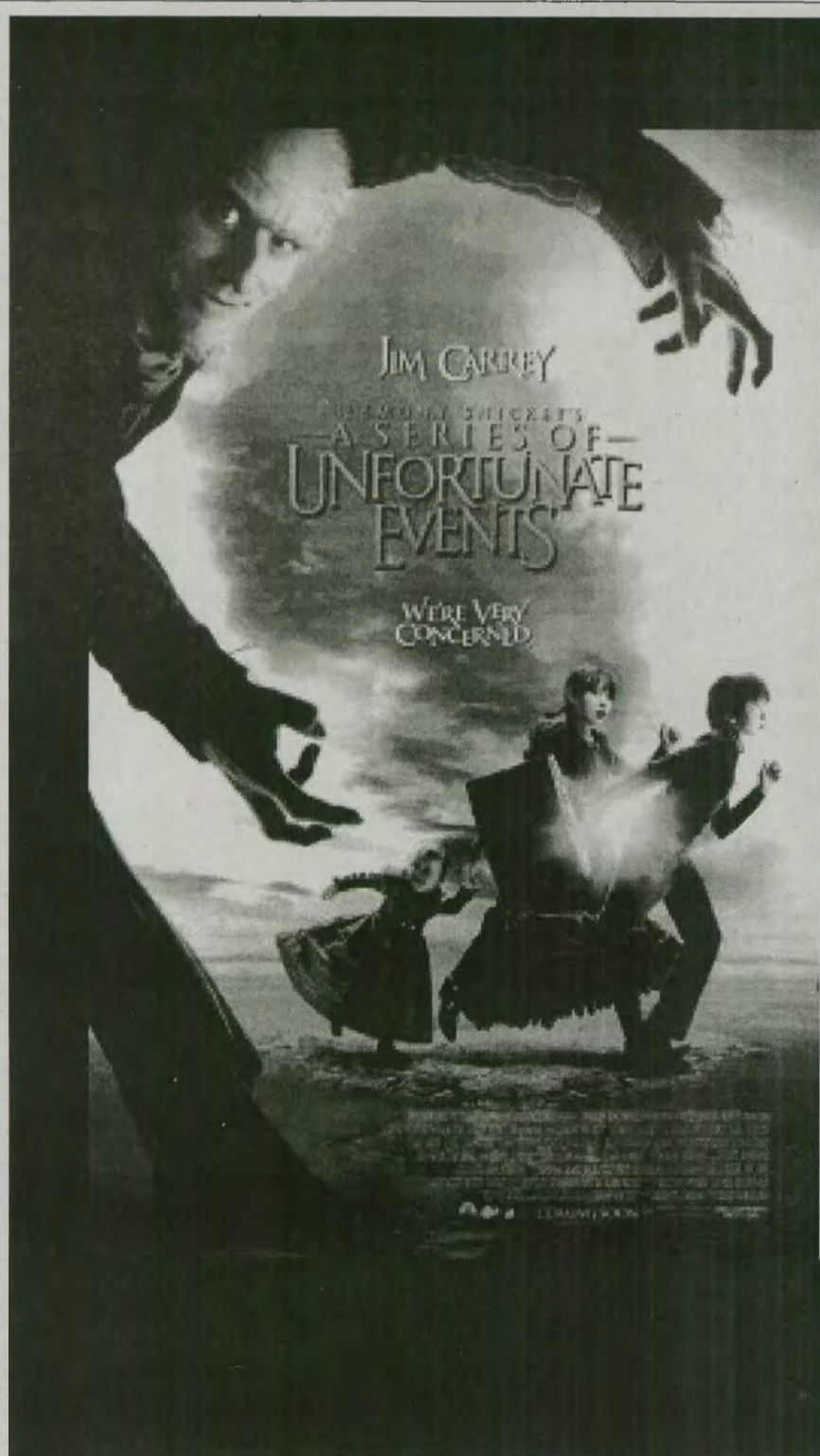
USF won a postseason game for the first time since beating

Brigham Young University 86-63 in the first round of the NCAA tournament, only two years after Cox's father, Chubby, helped the top-ranked Dons go 29-2 and reach the NCAA tournament.

Yemi Nicholson had 15 points for Denver (20-11), but the 6-foot-10 center Nicholson didn't touch the ball on offense until scoring his first points at the 13:17 mark of the first half.

Antonio Porch added 14 points for the Pioneers, but had six turnovers.

Cox, 25th in the nation in scoring at 19.9 points per game, wore jersey No. 5 instead of his usual 33 to honor injured teammate Jason Gaines, out for the season with a torn ligament.



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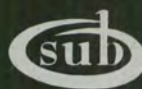
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NCAA BASKETBALL

NCAAs are homecoming for Alford

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Steve Alford walked onto the basketball court at the RCA Dome on Wednesday amid a flood of memories.

Alford was an All-American at Indiana, and two victories on this same court started a six-game run to the NCAA championship for Alford and the Hoosiers in 1987. Thursday's first-round game against Cincinnati will be his first at the Dome as the Iowa coach.

"Those thoughts and memories came back, of playing Fairfield and playing Auburn in front of great crowds here," he said after the Hawkeyes' practice.

"Playing two games in our home [state] ... I thought really kind of got us going momentum-wise," he said. "So you just start thinking about all the little different things. Obviously, very special memories then, and

those are memories that haven't faded any now."

Eighteen years later, Alford's Hawkeyes are hoping to produce some memories of their own. But Iowa (21-11), the No. 10 seed in the Austin Regional, lost its top player six weeks ago, had a losing record in the Big Ten and sneaked into the NCAA with an at-large bid by winning five of its last six games.

None of the Iowa players has ever been in the NCAA tournament before now.

"The one thing we don't have is experience," Alford said. "I hope that doesn't have a huge impact, but it may early in the game. We've started pretty well all year, but anytime you're in a one-and-done tournament, the start is pretty crucial."

No. 23-ranked Cincinnati (24-7), the No. 7 seed in the regional, tied for second in the Conference USA regular season and earned its 14th straight NCAA appearance, a school

record.

But the Bearcats' edge in tourney experience is irrelevant, coach Bob Huggins said.

"You go out and play," he said. "You have to do the things you do well and hopefully take away some things they do well. We've watched a lot of tape of his (Iowa) team. They do a great job in the half-court offense and run a couple things we haven't guarded."

Iowa lost five of its first six games after leading scorer Pierre Pierce was kicked off the team in February.

Pierce was charged with two counts of burglary, assault with intent to commit sexual assault against an ex-girlfriend and criminal mischief. He has pleaded innocent.

Once the Hawkeyes adjusted to playing without Pierce, they won five in a row before a loss to Wisconsin on a last-second 3-pointer in the semifinals of the Big Ten tournament.

Using a three-guard lineup, the Hawkeyes hope to offset a Cincinnati defense that has limited opponents to 37 percent shooting.

"It's going to be difficult to match up with them," said sophomore Adam Haluska, who has averaged 17 points over the past dozen games without Pierce in the lineup. "The key is to keep fighting and keep their runs to a minimum."

Forward Greg Brunner is averaging 14.5 points and 8.3 rebounds, and 6-11 center Ereik Hansen is averaging just 5 points but almost three blocks per game.

"Brunner creates shots, not only for himself but for his teammates," Huggins said. "It's hard to lose your best player and change gears, but they have made the adjustments."

Cincinnati has five double-figure scorers, led by Jason Maxiell at 15.3 points a game and Eric Hicks at 13.9.

NFL

James signs 1-year deal with Colts

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — The Indianapolis Colts' career rushing leader is staying put — for now.

Former two-time NFL rushing champion Edgerrin James signed a one-year franchise offer Wednesday that will pay him a little more than \$8 million this year.

But that won't slow James' efforts to get a long-term deal or seek a trade.

"We think by making the move, it will help facilitate either a long-term deal or enhance our chances of working out a trade," said Drew Rosenhaus, James' agent. "We've always stated we are not interested in playing out a one-year deal."

The move comes one week after team president Bill Polian told Rosenhaus that the Colts could not afford to sign James to a long-term contract.

Rosenhaus has been trying to work out a trade ever since, a deal Polian told Rosenhaus would not require a first-round draft pick in exchange for the three-time Pro Bowler.

The Colts now are prohibited from reaching a long-term agreement with James before mid-July, or they would lose the franchise tag for the length of the contract.

"We are going to try and work something out, preferably with the Colts and if not, with another team," Rosenhaus said. "It does not preclude the Colts from trading him and working out a long-term deal with another team."

The deal means Indianapolis could keep its triplets — James, quarterback Peyton Manning and wide receiver Marvin Harrison — intact for a seventh straight year. Together, they have led Indianapolis to three division titles and five playoff appearances in six years. The only year the Colts missed the playoffs was 2001, when James missed the last 10 games.

James, 26, is coming off his best season since tearing a ligament in his left knee in October 2001. James rushed for 1,548 yards and nine touchdowns, caught 51 passes for 483 yards and had a career-high average of 4.6 yards per carry last season.

If James is traded, Indianapolis could move to Plan B.

In February, backup Dominic Rhodes signed a two-year deal that will pay him \$1.3 million in base salary in 2005 and 2006. Rhodes rushed for 1,104 yards — an NFL record for undrafted rookies — when he replaced James in 2001, but since then only has seen spot duty because of shoulder and knee injuries.

Rhodes' agent has said that he is looking for a starting job next season, and that could still come in Indianapolis.

James has rushed for 7,720 yards and 51 touchdowns, and caught 312 passes for 2,502 yards in six seasons. He has topped 2,000 yards from scrimmage in a season three times.

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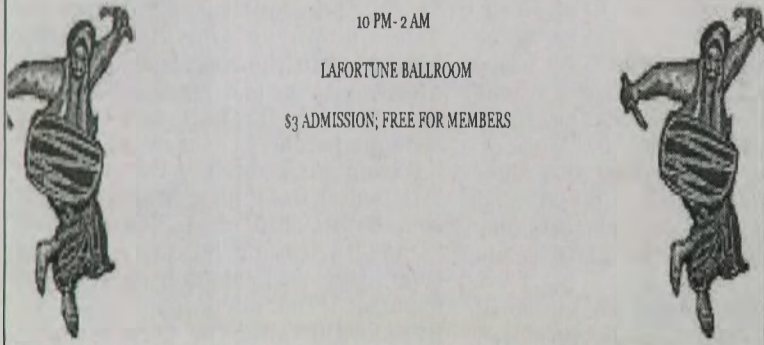
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AROUND THE NATION

Thursday, March 17, 2005

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

page 26

NCAA Women's Division I Tennis Rankings

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

NCAA Men's Division I Tennis Rankings

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

Fencing Coaches' Association Rankings

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

around the dial

NBA

LA Lakers at Miami, 8 p.m., TNT
Sacramento at Golden State,
10:30 p.m., TNT

NCAA TOURNAMENT

Pittsburgh vs Pacific, 12:40 p.m., CBS
Montana vs Washington, 3:00 p.m., CBS
Utah State vs Arizona, 7:20 p.m., CBS
Fairleigh Dickinson vs Illinois,
9:30 p.m., CBS

MLB



Mark McGwire speaks to reporters after a game in 2001. McGwire will comply with a subpoena by attending the congressional hearing concerning steroid use Thursday.

McGwire will attend hearing

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Mark McGwire plans to comply with a subpoena and attend Thursday's congressional hearing into steroid use in baseball. The Associated Press has learned.

McGwire's decision, revealed Wednesday by a representative of the former Oakland and St. Louis slugger who spoke on condition of anonymity, made it likely all six subpoenaed players would attend the session on Capitol Hill.

Less than 24 hours before the start of the highly anticipated hearing, Jose Canseco's request for immunity was denied by

the House Government Reform committee, which also revealed that baseball's drug-testing agreement contains a provision that testing would be "suspended immediately" if the government conducts an independent investigation into drug use in baseball.

Sen. John McCain, who has pushed for tougher rules, said the details of baseball's proposed new agreement angered him.

"I can reach no conclusion but that the league and the players' union have misrepresented to me and to the American public the substance of MLB's new steroid policy," he said. "I expect the league and the players' union to

modify the new policy to comply with at least what was announced by MLB in January. To do anything less than that would constitute a violation of the public's trust, a blow to the integrity of Major League Baseball, and an invitation to further scrutiny of the league's steroid policy."

Canseco's lawyer said the former AL MVP will not answer questions that would incriminate him.

"No witnesses have been or will be granted immunity," David Marin, a spokesman for committee chairman Rep. Tom Davis, said in an e-mail to the AP.

Canseco's lawyer, Robert Saunooke has said that

without immunity, Canseco would invoke his Fifth Amendment right to refuse to answer questions.

Boston pitcher Curt Schilling said he will comply with the subpoena, and Chicago White Sox trainer Herm Schneider said that Frank Thomas left Tucson, Ariz., on Tuesday, would stop at his home in Las Vegas, then would travel to Washington. Sammy Sosa and Rafael Palmeiro also were headed to Washington, Baltimore Orioles vice president Mike Flanagan said.

New York Yankees slugger Jason Giambi, who also was subpoenaed last week, was excused Tuesday from testifying.

IN BRIEF

Pace re-signs with Rams

ST. LOUIS — For the first time in four seasons, Orlando Pace will be playing with more than a one-year contract.

The St. Louis Rams and the six-time Pro Bowl offensive tackle beat a looming deadline on Wednesday, agreeing on a seven-year, \$52.9 million deal.

"We are excited that the premier left tackle in the National Football League will be starting for the Rams for the next seven years," said Jay Zygmunt, the team's president of football operations. "Orlando has been an integral part of one of the most prolific offenses in NFL history."

The team said it would hold a news conference on Thursday to discuss the deal, which will ensure an on-time arrival in training camp for Pace. The last two seasons Pace held out throughout training camp and then played his way into shape.

TPace was the first overall pick in

the 1997 draft, making him the first lineman to go that high in 30 years.

Pace started all 18 regular-season and playoff games last year at left tackle.

Norwegian wins Iditarod for second time

NOME, Alaska — Norway's Robert Sorlie won the Iditarod on Wednesday, overcoming insomnia and a dwindling dog team for his second victory in only three tries.

Sorlie, a 47-year-old firefighter, crossed under the arch that serves as a finish line in Nome at 8:39 a.m., winning the 1,100-mile race across Alaska in nine days, 18 hours, 39 minutes and 31 seconds.

Sorlie finished the race with eight dogs — half the number he started the race with, but the same number that took him to victory two years ago.

Sorlie is a three-time champion of Norway's premier long-distance sled dog race, the 600-mile

Finnmarkslopet. Lions sign former Colts guard DeMulling

ALLEN PARK, Mich. — The Detroit Lions took care of one of their pressing off-season needs Wednesday when team officials and offensive guard Rick DeMulling agreed to contract terms.

The team did not release the details of the deal.

DeMulling, who started 41 games for the Indianapolis Colts during the previous three seasons, will be plugged into the lineup as a starter along with guard Damien Woody, tackle Jeff Backus and center Dominic Raiola.

Indianapolis drafted the 6-foot-4, 304-pound DeMulling in the seventh round of the 2001 draft.

The Baltimore Ravens pursued DeMulling, but decided he was too expensive. DeMulling also visited the Buffalo Bills after the Colts released him this month to help clear salary-

MEN'S TENNIS

Irish continue arduous stretch against Illini

By RAMA GOTTUMUKKALA
Sports Writer

Competing against top-tier teams in the country hasn't been a problem for the Irish this season. With yet another nationally ranked foe knocking on Notre Dame's door today, the Irish will have another shot to upset a top-5 team.

No. 16 Notre Dame (13-4) will face a stern challenge from No. 3 Illinois (10-1) today in dual-match play, the third top-5 team that Notre Dame has faced this season. The Irish had previously dropped two matches to No. 4 Duke and No. 2 Virginia, the latter in a close 4-3 decision.

"It'll be interesting because we've already played Virginia and Duke," Irish coach Bobby Bayliss said. "Illinois, traditionally, has a lot of big guys with huge serves and very aggressive play. Indoors, that's most effective. So they'll present a pretty formidable challenge."

The Illini will come into this match with only a single loss, a defeat at the hands of No. 1 Baylor in the semifinals of the National Indoors competition.

"The only match they've lost is to Baylor, who's the defending NCAA Champions, 4-3 in the National Indoors semifinals," Bayliss said. "So they're arguably the No. 2 team, even though Virginia reached the finals of the National Indoors and also lost to Baylor."

Although Illinois has suffered from injury problems as of late, they should present a healthy and dangerous lineup against the Irish. Senior Chris Martin, returning from a stress fracture in his foot, should play his first match of the year.

Illinois boasts some impressive individual talent in their lineup. The Illini's Kevin Anderson, a first-semester freshman, has lost only one match this year and is currently ranked No. 14 in the nation. Junior Ryler DeHeart is ranked No. 1 in the country.

"We're aware of what they'll bring to the court — big serves and aggressive play," Bayliss said. "They have eight or nine guys who can really take it to you. We have to counter that by being really solid, and also emphasizing a higher level of percentage play than anything we're playing to date to make this a

competitive match."

But don't count the Irish out of this one. The team has transitioned well to outdoor play, winning three of their last four matches outdoors and seven of the last nine overall. They have played some nail biters in five of the last six matches, winning 4-3 decisions in three of those competitions.

While competing at the Blue-Gray National Tennis Classic in Montgomery, Ala., over spring break, the Irish posted two victories over ranked opponents — No. 27 Rice and No. 68 William & Mary.

"The strongest positions for us down south [in Alabama] were Nos. 2, 3 and 4 — Stephen Bass, Barry King and Sheeva Parbhu," Bayliss said. "Eric Langenkamp stepped in and won a big match for us against Boise State when we really needed it, proving our team depth."

Playing Illinois will present one more challenge for a Notre Dame squad used to facing some of the best teams in the country. Notre Dame holds a 20-16 lead in the all-time series history between the two teams, but Illinois has



BETH WERNET/The Observer
Irackli Akhvlediani anticipates a serve in a Feb. 18 match against Northwestern.

won nine of the last 11 matches.

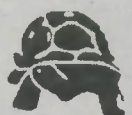
"I think it's pretty easy to get a team to play up," Bayliss said. "When you're playing a higher ranked opponent, you feel less pressure. I don't think we'll have a hard time getting our guys ready to play Illinois. Whether we'll play at their level, I don't know, but

we'll be ready to play."

The Irish will get their shot at reversing the trend against the Illini later today. The match is scheduled to play indoors at 4:00 p.m. in the Eck Tennis pavilion, due to expected inclement weather.

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MLB

Mets' Trachsel to undergo surgery

News is positive for the Cubs, as Wood works from mound

Associated Press

Spring training isn't even over yet and the New York Mets already have a major hole in their starting rotation.

No. 5 pitcher Steve Trachsel, always counted on to make his starts and chew up innings, will have surgery to repair a herniated disk in his back and is likely to miss a major portion of the season.

"This is not what I expected when I left last week to go to New York for X-rays," Trachsel said in a statement Wednesday. "I thought I would get a shot and be back."

"There is no doubt in my mind

I'll be pitching again before the end of the season."

Who will take his place is now the big question.

Players who have this type of operation normally miss about three months, said Mets general manager Omar Minaya, who wouldn't speculate on how long Trachsel will be out. New York will first look internally to fill Trachsel's spot.

"Hopefully we get him back soon," No. 1 starter Pedro Martinez said.

Trachsel, 34, went 12-13 with a 4.00 ERA last season. He has made at least 28 starts each of the last 10 years.

Right handers Matt Ginter, Jae Seo, and Aaron Heilman would be the most likely to replace Trachsel as the fifth starter in the rotation behind Martinez, Tom Glavine, Kris Benson and Victor Zambrano.

"The opportunity is there for a few guys," Mets manager Willie Randolph said. "We'll see who takes the bull by the horns."

The news was somewhat better for the Chicago Cubs' rotation.

Injured starters Kerry Wood and Mark Prior showed some progress after testing their arms Wednesday.

Wood, who has bursitis in the shoulder and inflammation near the rotator cuff, worked from the mound and threw about 30 pitches, pitching coach Larry Rothschild said.

Prior, who has inflammation in his elbow and irritation to the ulnar nerve, played catch from about 80 feet for five minutes.

Wood left his spring training start March 9 after the second inning because of tightness in his right shoulder. He had an MRI exam in Arizona, then flew back to Chicago.

Prior made his Cactus League debut March 10 and pitched three innings against the Seattle Mariners without problems. However, the Cubs revealed Monday that Prior felt discomfort a short time after that game while doing routine exercises.

Prior also had an MRI exam and visited elbow specialist Dr. Lewis Yocum.

"It's a little slower process there because you've got to get that inflammation out," Rothschild said. "There's still a little discomfort there. It's considerably better, which is basically what we expected."

Rothschild said he would see how each pitcher feels Thursday when they arrive at camp before deciding the next step.

"They're both doing fine," Rothschild said. "They just want to get going and get back in games."



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WOMEN'S SWIMMING

Irish hope to make mark at NCAAs

By MIKE TENNANT
Sports Writer

Two Irish swimmers and one diver will try to make waves this weekend at the NCAA Championships in West Lafayette, Ind.

Junior Christel Bouvron is making her first trip to the championships, while Katie Carroll and Meghan Perry-Eaton are both on return trips. Head coach Bailey Weathers sees the previous experience as a definite advantage.

"I think they're more relaxed and have a better feel for how things will go," Weathers said.

Perry-Eaton, a fifth-year senior and All-American diver, is making her third straight appearance in the championships. She qualified last week by taking third in the Zone C Championships off the 1-meter board, also at Purdue.

Last year, Perry Eaton finished third off the lower board, only 3.30 points behind the champion. She has won five Big East championships in her time at Notre Dame and was named the conference's Most Outstanding Diver each of the last three years.

Perry-Eaton won 19 of 20 competitions this season going into the Zone C meet and was undefeated off the 3-meter board. She currently holds all of the Notre Dame and Rolfs Aquatic Center records.

Katie Carroll is returning for the second time in her two-year career after posting an automatically-qualifying time in the 400-yard individual medley, her second A cut in as many years. She is seeded 19th in the event.

The sophomore also qualified in the 200-IM and the 200-butterfly, and is seeded 26th and 45th in those events respectively.

Carroll capped off a spectacular season for the Irish with six victories in the Big East Championships. She has registered 10 first place finishes in individual events and 12 in relays.

Bouvron, a two-time Olympian for her native Singapore, will be swimming both the 100- and 200-butterfly, and is seeded 40th and 31st respectively.

The junior won two individual Big East titles last month, as well as one relay. She is also the Singapore National Recordholder in the 400-meter freestyle.

Carroll and Perry-Eaton will look to get the Irish off on the right foot Thursday morning, with preliminary action starting at 11 a.m. Carroll will be swimming the 200-IM while Perry-Eaton will dive off the 1-meter board.

Friday will see Bouvron make her NCAA Championship debut as the 100-fly will take place. Carroll and Perry-Eaton will both also compete Friday, the former in the 400-IM, the latter off the 3-meter board.

Saturday, the Irish will wrap up championship action as Bouvron and Carroll swim in the 200-fly.

This will mark the eighth time in the last nine years that the Irish have had three or more participants in the NCAA Championships. Since 1979, 21 different Notre Dame swimmers have earned All-American honors with top-16 finishes.

Contact Mike Tennant at mtennant@nd.edu

Staff

continued from page 32

teams coach, was the recruiting coordinator at the University of Central Florida.

David Cutcliffe, assistant head coach and quarterbacks coach, Rick Minter, defensive coordinator and linebackers coach and Bill Lewis, assistant head coach and defensive backs coach were all head coaches at some point of their respective careers. Cutcliffe coached at the University of Mississippi, Minter at Cincinnati and Lewis at Georgia Tech.

"I hired a very well-rounded group when it came to recruiting," Weis said of his experienced group of coaches.

Weis also said he has a different approach when it comes to recruiting that spans the entire country. He assigned each coach different

areas of the country. So, instead of coaches recruiting by position, they are recruiting by areas.

Each coach on staff has two areas, Weis said — a primary area and a secondary area. The primary area is one that is within driving distance, while the secondary is a flight away. The players in the primary areas are able to take unofficial visits, while those in the secondary areas primarily take official visits, due to the travel expenses, Weis said.

Weis said he has the whole country covered, and declined to say which coach was assigned to which areas. He did say, however, that when recruits came for junior day Feb. 27, the 80 high school players split up with the

coaches that were recruiting in their area — not the coaches that were responsible for their position. Weis said coaches in a player's area are the ones who will develop the relationships with the recruits.

"He's going to be the guy who's coming to your school," Weis said of the area coach. "He's going to be looking for your transcripts, he's going to be looking to gather tape."

And in the recruiting process, Weis said he will go where he is needed to get the recruits he and his staff want.

"I obviously have the country," he said. "They'll tell me, 'This is where we've got to go,' and that's where we've got to go."

However, for now, Weis said

his assistants are doing the majority of the recruiting work, much of which has already started.

"We're spending a lot of hours together," Weis said of he and his staff.

Although it is early to be thinking about next year's signing day in early February, Weis said his assistants are well underway in their efforts, and that they are setting things up for him to finalize.

"These other coaches are doing all the ground work," Weis said. "What they're trying to do is set it up for you so that you can be the so-called figurehead, or closer. Right now it might be figurehead, but later on, when it gets to December and January next year, you're the closer."

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Contact Heather Van Hoegarden at hvanhoeg@nd.edu

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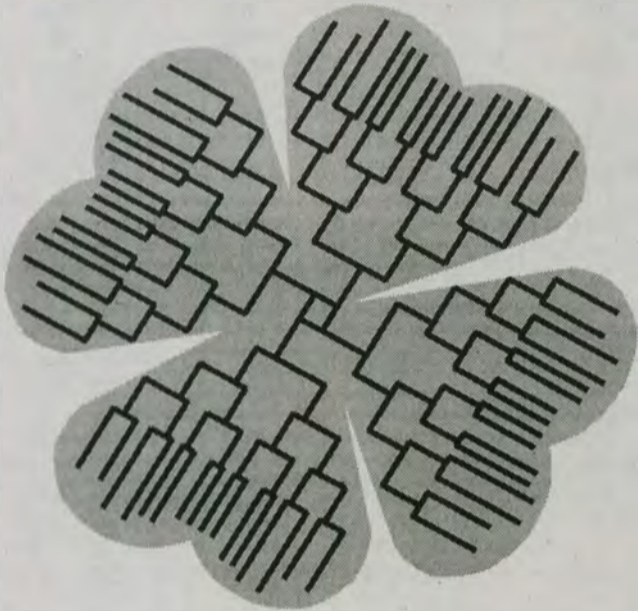
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Irish

continued from page 32

first four weekends of the season," coach Paul Mainieri said. "We had warm weather. Now, we're going to have to deal with some climate conditions, and the guys just are going to have to be really mentally tough to handle those things. I believe that they will."

Sophomore right-hander Jeff Manship will start for the Irish against the Huskies.

On Friday, the Irish will send lefty Tom Thornton to the mound to take on the Evansville Purple Aces (16-5) at 7 p.m.

Capping the three game stint, the Irish meet the South Dakota State Jackrabbits (2-12) at 1 p.m. Saturday. Right-hander Jeff Samardzija will get the nod for Notre Dame.

The Huskies own a deceiving 3-7 record. They were swept in a three-game series by previously No. 22 ranked Texas Tech at Lubbock, Tex. They also suffered a couple of close losses against Southern Illinois and Louisville, including a 10-inning 5-4 setback against the Salukis and a blown 7-4 ninth-inning lead against the Cardinals. In the Louisville loss, the Huskies committed six costly errors — two in

the bottom of the ninth to keep afloat the Cardinal rally.

"Northern Illinois has played well. They've played some tough games," Mainieri said.

The Purple Aces have lived up to preseason hype under fourth-year head coach Dave Schrage. They were picked to finish fourth in the Missouri Valley Conference, and they head into their own tourney with a 16-5 record, a 5-4 victory over then 19th ranked Washington and a close loss to eighth-ranked Texas A&M — a team that pounded the Irish 13-5.

A familiar face to the Irish skipper, Schrage coached as Mainieri's assistant at St. Thomas University in Miami, Fla., in the mid 1980s. Catcher Dustin Knight leads the Aces with a .403 batting average.

"I know he's an excellent coach. They're doing really well, and they'll be really tough at home," Mainieri said.

South Dakota State brings a 2-12 mark into the tournament in their first year as a Division I program. A loaded schedule with Kansas, Nebraska and Creighton has contributed to the Jackrabbits' woes. The Jacks have dropped six straight contests — all in the state of Nebraska. In those 54 innings, they were outscored 70-12 by Nebraska and Creighton com-

bined. Mainieri is still wary of the Jacks.

"If you look at South Dakota State, their record's not very good, but they've played a suicidal schedule, really," he said.

Notre Dame will face each of their next three opponents' pitching aces.

The Irish look to build a winning streak and turn their slow start to the season around after winning two out of their last three games, including a 12-11 victory over Southwest Missouri State in the consolation final of the Irish Baseball Classic.

After being named to the all-tournament team at the Classic, centerfielder Alex Nettey, left-fielder Steve Andres and third baseman Ross Brezovsky lead the Irish into the Aces' tournament.

Tony Langford — in his first career start at doubleheader — sparked the Irish against SMS with a three RBI day at the plate. Mainieri would like to continue to work Langford into the lineup.

Manship is still building up strength after returning from elbow surgery. He was limited to one-inning outings last weekend and will likely have a higher pitch count this week.

Contact Tom Dorwart at tdorwart@nd.edu

NCAA

continued from page 32

Ohio State are also each sending 11 competitors.

The Irish will be sending a team that is rich in both talent and NCAA experience. Of the 11 competitors, eight have fenced in the NAAs before, and they share a combined 15 All-America awards.

Kryczalo, who is a three-time defending champion, will lead the Irish contingent this weekend, as

she attempts to join an elite group of college athletes with four individual titles in the same sport.

Two other former champions will join her — senior epeeist Kerry Walton won in 2002 and sophomore sabre Valerie Providenza took the title last year.

Providenza's biggest thorn to defending her crown may be her own teammate, as freshman Mariel Zagunis, the 2004 Olympic gold medalist, will attempt to begin her own streak of victories.

The men's team will be led by senior epeeist Michal Sobieraj,

who is still looking for his first title after finishing in the top 10 every season, including a second-place finish in his sophomore year.

With all their individual accomplishments and ambitions, the Irish realize that success will come as a group.

"It takes teamwork. We all have to fence well, but we can fence well," Kryczalo said.

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Bouts

continued from page 32

opponent, senior Michael "A Reading from the Book of the Prophet" Feduska.

140 pounds

In a showdown between a couple of Pennsylvanians, junior Mike McCann Pittsburgh took the bout in a unanimous decision over Erie's Andrew McGill. McGill seemed to come alive in the final round, but it proved to be too little too late against McCann's unrelenting effort. McGill earned the right to face Michael "My Real Name is Meri" Hennig in the finals.

Hennig, a sophomore from O'Neill, defeated Dillon junior Will "The Thrill" Bezouska. Bezouska did not back down in the face of Hennig's aggressive style, but judges unanimously voted in favor of his opponent.

150 pounds

The welterweight division semifinal boasted some of the more closely contested fights of the evening. Nate "The Bonzai Kitten" Lohmeyer, an off-campus senior, defeated Keough sophomore Clayton "The Texas Tickler" Lougee in a unanimous decision.

The fight was more even than it may appear on paper, despite Lougee's second-round standing eight-count. Lohmeyer will face off in the final against off-campus senior Tim Huml.

Huml defeated Keough sophomore Jordan Runge in a close split decision. Huml

broke what looked to be a deadlock with a third-round flurry.

155 pounds

The super welterweight semifinals featured some close fights.

Mike Panzica, an off-campus senior from Ohio, defeated off-campus MBA student Brian Weldon in a split decision.

Panzica was able to secure a victory despite suffering a bloody nose from one of his opponent's big head shots. Panzica will face Galen "Q.D.E.P." Loughrey for the 155-pound championship.

Loughrey, a Dillon Hall senior, persevered in what looked to be the closest of the non-split decisions against Chris Calderone.

Both fighters were aggressive and traded fierce jabs and body shots for most of the fight, which the judges awarded unanimously to Loughrey.

160 pounds

In the first semi-final match of the 160-pound weight division, top-seeded Mark "Turn the Other Cheek" Basola showed little mercy for his opponent Adam "Steel Ghost" Burns.

Basola withstood a third round rally from Burns to secure a unanimously decided victory.

The junior will take on Bobby "The Polish Pistol" Gorynski in the finals at the Joyce Center arena on Saturday night.

Gorynski came out firing against Morrissey junior Daniel Liem. Liem's quick feet could not save him from

Gorynski's powerful right hand, and the judges ruled unanimously in favor of the Polish Pistol.

165 pounds

Mark "Rambo" Desplinter outlasted Patrick "No Tomorrow" McMorrow in the opening match of the 165-pound weight class. McMorrow, remaining true to his nickname, was not short on intensity and effort but could not handle the superior mechanics or reach advantage of the top-seeded Desplinter.

Desplinter moves on to face Brian "Honey Boy" Nicholson in Saturday's final room. Nicholson won in a split decision over Colin Kerrigan. Kerrigan struggled against Nicholson's long left jabs and right hooks.

170 pounds

The fight between Justin "The Fleece" Alanis and Brad "Ba Ba Black Sheep" Wanchulak looked at times like a wrestling match with some punches sprinkled in. Wanchulak, an extremely aggressive southpaw, tirelessly went after Alanis, leading to numerous tie-ups.

In the third round, however, Alanis knocked down his more unorthodox opponent to ensure a unanimous decision. Alanis will be pitted against Dan "Pound Town" Ward in the finals.

Ward defeated Andrew "Down Goes Frazier" Breslin in a competitive split decision that many spectators seemed to question.

Breslin, whose first two matches were both called by the referee in the first round,

tried to get inside the taller Ward, get some punches in, and get his hands up to defend his face. The strategy seemed to be working as Ward received an eight count from the referee in each of the first two rounds, but the momentum shifted in the third and the judges ruled for Ward.

180 pounds

In the Light Heavyweight division, Jim Christoforetti beat Jeff Golen on a unanimous decision. Christoforetti used a combination of quick left jabs and strong right hooks to keep Golen off balance for most of the fight. Golen responded with a strong third round, but it was not enough to take down the top seed.

Christoforetti will meet Doug "Six Months in the Hospital or Sudden Death" Bartels in Saturday's championship round.

Bartels dominated Dana Collins from the opening bell, knocking him to the canvas in the fight's first minute. 22 seconds into the second round, Bartels downed Collins once again, forcing the referee to call the fight.

200 pounds

Johnny "Blaze" Griffin picked up right where he left off. The artist formerly known as "Smooth Chocolate," last year's champ, had a bye to his semifinal match with Chris "Young One" Adams.

Griffin wasted no time getting reacquainted with the ring. His dynamic combination of speed and strength led to a bout-ending knockdown

one minute and eight seconds into the second round.

Griffin will take on former captain William Zizic in the finals. Zizic defeated Chris Cavanaugh on a unanimous decision in a very well fought match.

Zizic's effective combination of alternating hooks to the body and head neutralized Cavanaugh's reach advantage. The first and third rounds were extremely close, but Zizic dominated the second, knocking Cavanaugh down with a left jab to the face.

Heavyweight

The first semifinal match in the heavyweight division did not last very long. Matt Hasbrook, a former football walk-on, set the tone immediately with a barrage of crushing right hooks.

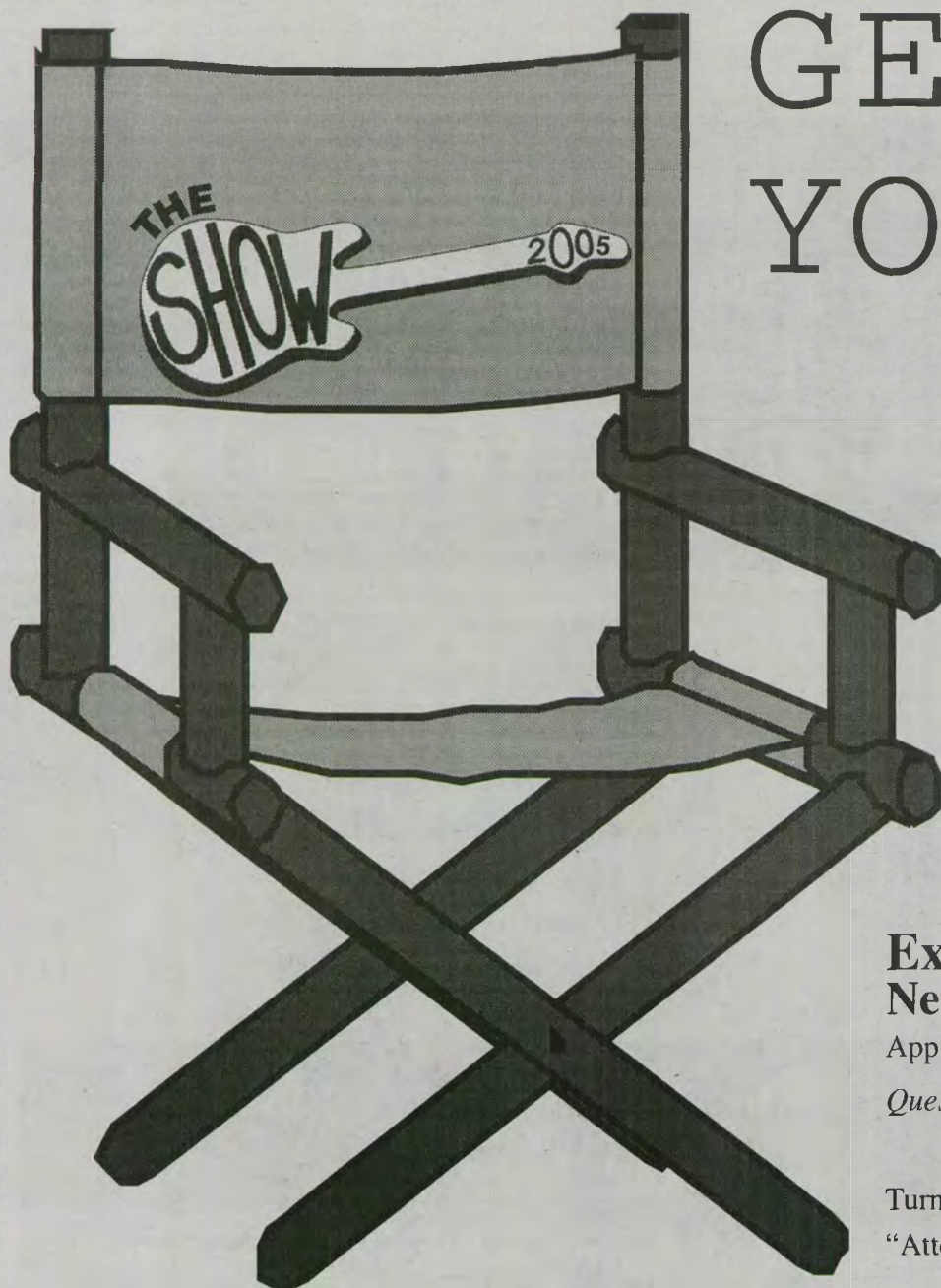
The taller, thinner John "You Can't Beat Around This" Bush had no answer for Hasbrook's power. The referee called the fight after just one minute and six seconds had elapsed.

Hasbrook's opponent in Saturday's championship will be Nathan Schroeder. Schroeder defeated Kevin Phipps in the final round of the final match of the night. The first two rounds were fought evenly.

Schroeder dominated the third, however, as the worn-out Phipps struggled to counter his opponent's technique and quickness.

Contact Tom Barr at tbarr@nd.edu and Kevin Brennan at kbrennan@nd.edu

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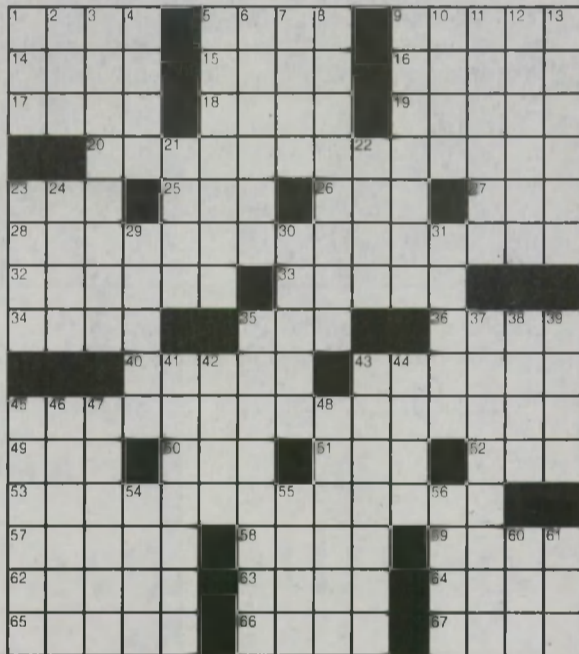
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 - 9 Searches (through)
 - 14 Declare
 - 15 Progress slowly
 - 16 Siouan language
 - 17 Characteristic carrier
 - 18 Plantation of literature
 - 19 The opposition
 - 20 Some legal tender
 - 23 One going back and forth
 - 25 Route abbr.
 - 26 Short walker?
 - 27 Time of anticipation
 - 28 Extreme action
 - 32 "Peer Gynl" dancer
 - 33 Company that had a 64-page "Code of Ethics"
 - 34 13-stringed Japanese zither
 - 35 Urban transportation
 - 36 "Get the lead out!"
 - 40 Home of the Atlantic 10's Black Bears
 - 43 Alfred ____ of 2004's "Fiddler on the Roof"
 - 45 Court conclusion
 - 49 Bedevil
 - 50 Stuff in a pit
 - 51 Middle of the 11th century
 - 52 Cry at a light show
 - 53 Goal of most games (and a hint to this puzzle's theme)
 - 57 Renaissance ruler
 - 58 Bugs
 - 59 Primo
 - 62 Bad treatment
 - 63 Fuzzy Wuzzy features
 - 64 Country cousin
 - 65 Leveled, in London
 - 66 College endower Cornell
 - 67 ____ glass
- DOWN**
- 1 Sporty car, briefly
 - 2 Park in N.Y.C., say
 - 3 "Act now!"
 - 4 Subject of some still lifes
 - 5 "A Midsummer Night's Dream" queen
 - 6 Not exactly now
 - 7 Like raw silk
 - 8 Whets
 - 9 One who shall remain nameless
 - 10 "____ Angel" (1933 comedy)
 - 11 More round
 - 12 Lift, so to speak
 - 13 Answers with an attitude
 - 21 ____'acte
 - 22 Oenophile's concern
 - 23 Mt. Rushmore's place. Abbr.
 - 24 Ligurian Sea feeder
 - 29 Endured
 - 30 Breakfast or dessert dish
 - 31 Family man
 - 35 Perk up
 - 37 Sushi bar order
 - 38 Not duped by
 - 39 "The Turtle" poet
 - 41 No longer in service
 - 42 "Iliad" wife
 - 43 Girl's name from Greek for "a bee"
 - 44 "Mourning Becomes Electra" role
 - 45 Johnny Carson, notably
 - 46 "Iliad" wife
 - 47 Major departure
 - 48 One working on a puff piece?
 - 54 Pink potable
 - 55 Firm honcho
 - 56 South Seas starch source
 - 60 Warriors' grp.
 - 61 Sushi bar order

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

SWAN EBAY GETUP
WADE IRMA OPART
ALDA FAIR DOLLS
PETRIFIED ROCK
SOBBED ETHICS
EEL WAH SNIT
SORER MYNAS GTO
CLARIFIED BUTTER
ALI AUNTY BRODY
MISS NTH STA
PEEPED DELPHI
CLASSIFIED ADS
CRAIG OWLS OREO
ONICE SIAM OPAL
SANER ANTS ROLE



Puzzle by Elizabeth C. Gorski

- 30 Breakfast or dessert dish
- 31 Family man
- 35 Perk up
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For answers, call 1-900-285-5656, \$1.20 a minute; or, with a credit card, 1-800-814-5554.
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HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Amy Dunne, 20; Erik Estrada, 56; Bernardo Bertolucci, 65; Jerry Lewis, 79
Happy Birthday: Don't get caught up in emotional matters when you should be concentrating on bettering your future. Put on the charm and network your way up the ladder of life. Don't get bogged down by the overall picture. Take each individual issue and deal with it one at a time. Your numbers are 5, 14, 16, 31, 35, 40
ARIES (March 21-April 19): You may know what you are doing, but someone around you is likely to be confused today. Help out so that you don't experience any setbacks due to someone else's mistake. Friendship and love are evident today. ****
TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Secret talks or dealing with agencies or institutions regarding important personal matters will arise. Take a short trip down memory lane. People from your past will help if you ask. ***
GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You will have to work hard to reap the rewards. Your personal life may be tense; if you aren't feeling up to par, avoid any kind of confrontation. It's important for you to accept change. ***
CANCER (June 21-July 22): Take a look at all the things going on in your life and forget about the things that aren't. Friendships will blossom, and the opportunity to experience something different will enhance the way you view life, love and your future. ***
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You can make things happen today if you put the pressure on the people to get things done. You will be charismatic and persuasive. Partnerships look positive, and the chance to get something started should arise. ****
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You should spend your time doing things that will help you improve. Take a course or revamp your look. Try not to be too critical of others. The type of trouble you may encounter at a personal level will leave you feeling low. **
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You may feel a real push-pull when it comes to what you want. Don't let disappointments get to you. Know in your heart that you will succeed if you take the initiative and do things for yourself. A love connection or friendship is imminent. *****
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Take a look at your investments today and formulate deals or a contract. Home improvements will also turn out well. Push your own pursuits and develop creative projects. ***
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Partnerships can change your life today. Get together with someone who can complement you. A love relationship can blossom if you get out and socialize. Someone you've known a long time will brighten your day. ***
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Working with others will bring you insight that should help you get one of your own ideas off the ground. Opportunity is knocking, and you don't want to miss the chance to talk to someone about a partnership. ***
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Reach for the stars and don't be daunted by any little obstacles that crop up. Take control, and everything will turn in your favor. Love is highlighted so leave some spare time to socialize. *****
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You may be emotional today, especially if things aren't going according to plan. Step back and don't let anyone get to you. Change can be good, so don't shy away from it. **
Birthday Baby: You are bright, capricious and always attracting plenty of attention. You are creative on many different levels. You are a player -- competitive, challenging and charismatic.

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

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BENGAL BOUTS

One step closer

Finals pairings set after exciting night of semifinals

By THOMAS BARR and
KEVIN BRENNAN
Sports Writers

The punches flew and the sweat dripped from the faces of the 44 boxers at the Joyce Center Wednesday, but at the end of the day only two fighters remained in each of the Bengal Bouts' 11 weight classes.

126 pounds

Sophomore Peter Sarpong sported gold trunks and represented Toms River, N.J. to start off the semi-final round with a decisive victory over David "Whistler" Rowinski.

Sarpong knocked down his opponent at the end of the first round and dealt him a standing eight-count in the second to win the contest unanimously.

Sarpong will face Daniel "Too Short" Gallegos in the featherweight finals this Saturday. Gallegos, a law student, won a unanimous decision against Morrissey freshman Steve Buchanan.

130 pounds

Jon "Tejano Terror" Valenzuela defeated law student Dmytro "Fun Size" Aponte. The fight had to be stopped with 20 seconds left in the second round.

Valenzuela will face Thomas "Quick Mic" Goldrick in the finals. Goldrick, a sophomore out of Chicago, won in a unanimous decision which included two standing eight-counts for his



PAMELA LOCK/The Observer

Thomas Goldrick, left, and Michael Feduska trade blows in the second semifinal match of the 130-pound weight class of Bengal Bouts Wednesday.

see BOUTS/page 30

FENCING

Teams set for national finals today

Notre Dame qualifies 11 of a maximum 12 fencers to battle for title

By ERIC RETTER
Sports Writer

It all comes down to this. After a long season, the Irish, who are No. 1 in the women's poll and No. 4 in the men's, are ready to compete in its culmination. Notre Dame will participate in the 2005 NCAA championships in Houston, which begin today and will run through Sunday.

The Irish have put in work and had success in preparation for the tournament and seem ready to make a run at the title.

"The whole year, we've been practicing to prepare for this event," senior foilist Alicja Kryczalo said.

Notre Dame is in good shape for the meet, having qualified 11 out of a maximum of 12 fencers to battle for the NCAA's ultimate prize. Of the three other teams who join the Irish as national champions in the past 11 years, only St. John's qualified all fencers, while Penn State and

see NCAA/page 29

BASEBALL

Irish travel to Evansville



Observer File Photo

Irish pitcher Jeff Samardzija winds up in a game last season. Samardzija will pitch Saturday against South Dakota State.

By TOM DORWART
Sports Writer

Time to whip out the extra batting gloves and long-sleeve T-shirts. The Irish (6-7) will take a much shorter road trip than their previous Florida, Arizona and Texas trips when they head south today to southern Indiana.

Notre Dame will face Northern Illinois (3-7) in a 4 p.m. meeting at Evansville's Braun Stadium where the weather is forecasted to be a bit cooler than the heat of the Sun Belt. For the Thursday, Friday and Saturday Aces' Diamond Classic, the temperatures are predicted to be in the high 50s.

"We're going to start dealing with a different environment than what we had the

see IRISH/page 29

FOOTBALL

New experienced staff hard at work under Weis

This is the second of a three-part series detailing the recruiting methods and policies under new head football coach Charlie Weis.

By HEATHER
VAN HOEGARDEN
Sports Writer

When Charlie Weis came to Notre Dame from the NFL's New England Patriots, he knew that he needed to improve recruiting, and he hired a staff that could do just that.

Weis hired former recruiting coordinators and former head coaches for his staff — people who have spent a lot of time recruiting players.

"I hired a staff with a lot of recruiting experience," Weis said. "In addition to having other experienced coaches on

staff that have been head coaches, that have actually done those jobs, on top of those guys."

Recruiting coordinator Rob Ianello, who also serves as the receivers' coach, was previously the recruiting coordinator at the University of Wisconsin. In 1999, while the recruiting coordinator at the University of Arizona, Ianello was named one of the country's top-10 recruiters by ESPN.com and one of the top six by The Sporting News.

Michael Haywood, the offensive coordinator and running backs coach, was the recruiting coordinator at the University of Texas before coming to Notre Dame, and Brian Polian, the assistant defensive backs and special

see STAFF/page 28

SPORTS AT A GLANCE

MEN'S TENNIS
No. 3 Illinois vs. No. 16 Notre Dame
The Irish continue a difficult stretch of their season with a match against the powerful Illini.
page 27

MLB
McGwire agrees to testify
Former superstar will appear at a congressional hearing investigating steroid use in baseball.
page 26

NIT
Vanderbilt 67, Indiana 60
The Hoosiers' season comes to an end at the hands of the Commodores.
page 24

NBA
Three sentenced in Palace brawl
Three men were given community service as a result of their participation in Pistons-Pacers fight.
page 23

NCAA TOURNAMENT
Huskies out to prove No. 1 seed
Washington hopes to show it deserves its top seeding in the NCAA Tournament.
page 19

NBA
Detroit 102, Seattle 95
The Pistons' Ben Wallace set a franchise career-high in blocks while helping his team to victory.
page 18