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Jenkins maintains stance, invites response

Packed house greets his second address

By MADDIE HANNA
Associate News Editor

University President Father John Jenkins delved into the relationship between academic freedom and Notre Dame's Catholic character with more than 500 students Tuesday in an address almost identical to the one he delivered Monday to faculty, using a frank and explanatory tone he later said was necessary to confront the weighty topic.

"I think it was important I said what I thought," Jenkins told The Observer Tuesday. "I don't want to come out and say, 'Really, I'm undecided,' because that would be dishonest ... To say I don't have any views on this, that would be dishonest."

see JENKINS/page 8



PHIL HUDELSON/The Observer

University President Father John Jenkins speaks to students in Washington Hall Tuesday about the need to uphold Notre Dame's Catholic identity while preserving academic freedom.

Speeches evidence of leadership emergence

By HEATHER VAN HOEGARDEN, CLAIRE HEININGER and MADDIE HANNA
News Writers

Introducing University President Father John Jenkins to their respective constituencies Monday and Tuesday, Provost Thomas Burish and student body president Dave Baron offered the audiences the same promise.

"In short, we'll learn a lot about Father Jenkins as our leader," Burish said.

"We're about to witness the style of leadership of our new University president," Baron echoed the next day.

And that's exactly what's happened in the Notre Dame community in the past 48 hours, as the first-year president used two

see ANALYSIS/page 10

University president's remarks met with applause, criticism from a divided student crowd

By MARY KATE MALONE
Assistant News Editor

University President Father John Jenkins' Tuesday address to students on academic freedom and Catholic character garnered no less criticism and controversy than did his speech to the faculty a day earlier.

Begged not to shut down controversial student initia-

tives and accused of being overly concerned with Notre Dame's appearance, Jenkins repeatedly promised to listen to all opinions before delivering a final policy.

Senior Kaitlyn Redfield

See Also

"Students respond to Father John Jenkins' address"
pages 8 and 9

blinked back tears after speaking during the question-and-answer session that followed Jenkins' talk.

"My guess is that you have not witnessed the pain as intimately as I and so many other women have — that one in four women will graduate from this University having been raped," Redfield said. "In my several years of involvement in this issue here, I have seen no movement that has

remotely begun to address this epidemic and this population as the Vagina Monologues have."

Redfield has been a strong voice for feminists at Notre Dame. She organized the Vagina Monologues for the last two years and crafted the Campus Life Council resolution that created the Gender Relations Center.

Jenkins kept his composure and managed several smiles,

even as emboldened students from all corners of the University peppered him with questions and accusations.

Student Jeff Hall asked Jenkins to clarify his stance on why the Vagina Monologues should not be allowed on campus. Jenkins replied that the name associated with the event could seem to be endorsed by the University.

see STUDENTS/page 9

McIlduff-Seifert victorious in close election

Winning ticket ready to deliver on promises

By MEGAN O'NEIL
Saint Mary's Editor

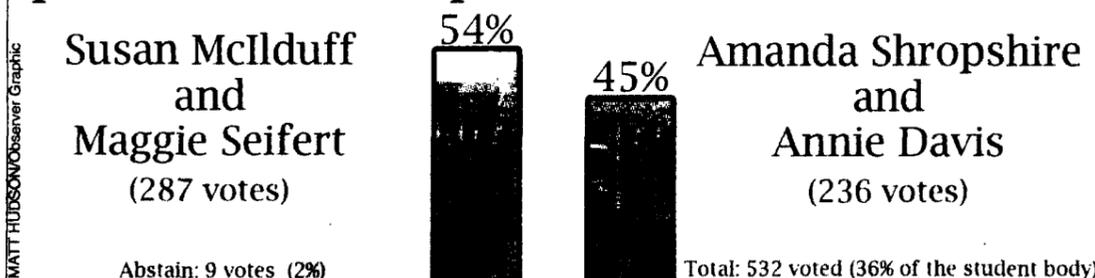
Propelled by strong leadership experience and a wealth of specific proposals, junior Susan McIlduff and sophomore Maggie Seifert were elected Saint Mary's student body president and vice president in a close election Monday.

The winning ticket garnered 287 votes, or 54 percent, while their opponents, junior Amanda Shropshire and sophomore Annie Davis, earned 236 votes, or 44 percent. A total of 532 students voted, representing 36 percent of the student body, a statistic comparable to last year's 38 percent voter participation. There were nine abstentions.

The candidates were not allowed to campaign Monday as students cast their votes

see VICTORS/page 4

2006 Saint Mary's College student body presidential - vice presidential election results



CHELSEA GULLING/The Observer

Junior Susan McIlduff, left, and sophomore Maggie Seifert sit in the Saint Mary's Student Center Tuesday hours after learning they had been elected Saint Mary's student body president and vice president.

Shropshire, Davis to seek alternative roles

By KELLY MEEHAN
Assistant News Editor

The promise "to get down and dirty" to organize student government was not enough to sway the Saint Mary's student body to elect Amanda Shropshire and Annie Davis as their student body president and vice president in Monday's election.

Their weeklong campaign filled with promises to increase fundraising and revamp Board of Governance meetings came to a disappointing conclusion on Tuesday morning when the two were notified they had lost to Susan McIlduff and Maggie Seifert by a mere 51 votes.

"I hope they can make a significant change in student government," Davis said. "No one really knows what is

see OPTIONS/page 4

INSIDE COLUMN

Forever 21

While many students spent the first week back to school surveying their syllabi, buying books and readjusting to college life, I was basking in the glory (or lack thereof) of turning 21.

I have always looked forward to my 21st birthday, knowing that it could potentially enhance my South Bend social life. I would no longer be limited to the "off-campus" party scenario and could finally join my older bar-hopping buddies.

Kelly Meehan

Assistant News Editor

I kicked off the weeklong celebration in style by visiting Corby's, adorned with my "I need a cocktail" pin, rather than the sometimes in-your-face-it's-my-birthday-accessory of a crown.

Anticipation grew as my friends and I counted down the moments leading up to midnight when I could proudly present the sometimes staunch bouncer with my legitimate Ohio license.

I am not going to lie; initially I was appalled by the dark, crowded and smoky interior of the bar and intimidated by those confident (or drunk) enough to stand on the chairs to belt out the words of their favorite Journey jam.

But soon I let go of my inhibitions, I embraced the sometimes deemed "classic" bar for what it was. I knew that with the right mix of friends, lack of personal space and terrific classic rock this could potentially be the best birthday of my life.

The next day it was time to further examine the bars of the Bend with a trip to Rum Runners. The crass dueling piano players proved rather entertaining, especially when I was called onto the stage along with a fellow celebratory 21-year-old to entertain the crowd with a birthday festivity that included a somewhat humiliating version of "Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes."

I thought I would keep things going on Thursday night with a trip to the elusive downtown hotspot "Club Fever." Apparently hundreds of other "21-year-olds" felt similarly. The painstaking hour and a half wait to enter was made even worse when I was denied entry for a suspicious ink smudge on my hand mixed with a really bad idea.

To make up for this disappointment of being denied, I took my business around the corner to Finnegan's, where my friend and fellow Observer staffer Nicole Zook and I were welcomed with free admittance and drink.

My birthday bar crawl certainly was a great experience, but I could not help notice that not much had changed. There were still negative aspects like crowded rooms and creepy men, but one thing that did not change was the time I spent with great friends.

Getting into bars and no longer being considered a minor is certainly a pleasure. But I realized that no matter how old you turn on your next birthday or where you celebrate it the time will be most beneficial if you are with the ones you love.

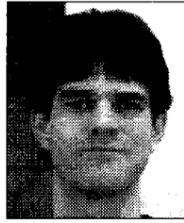
So regardless of how you celebrate your 21st birthday, know that you deserve nothing but the best — whatever that may be. This birthday is about more than being allowed to buy alcohol, strangely exciting bar experiences or even the ability to wear a goofy crown for the day. It is knowing that you have made it this far and that the best is yet to come.

Contact Kelly Meehan at kmeeha01@saintmarys.edu. The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

CORRECTIONS

In the Jan. 24 edition of The Observer, a pull quote was mistakenly attributed on page 8 to University President Father John Jenkins. University President Emeritus Father Theodore Hesburgh is the author of the quote. The quote was correctly attributed in the accompanying article. The Observer regrets the error.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT DID YOU THINK OF FATHER JENKINS' SPEECH ON ACADEMIC FREEDOM?



Paul Giesting
grad student off-campus

"He had a good discussion of a difficult issue in a public forum."



Tammy Gillings
junior PE

"I didn't think it addressed the issues specifically enough."



Kathleen Hession
freshman Welsh Family

"There are many issues that need to be addressed regarding women on this campus."



Nick Matich
senior Keenan

"I thought he hit the nail right on the head."



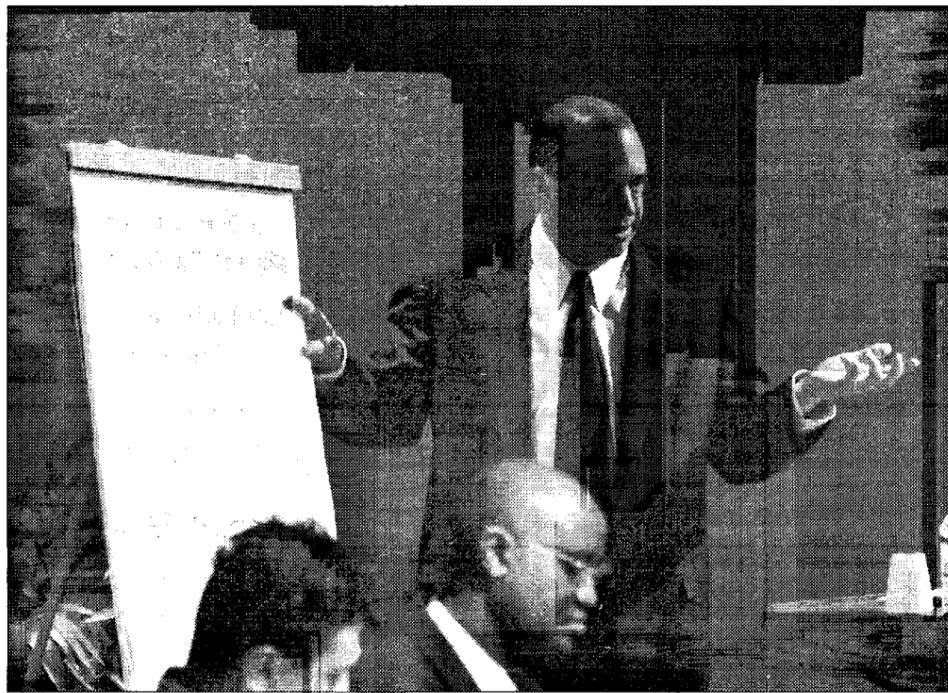
Micah Johnston
senior Keenan

"Stop arguing about specific events and address the issues honestly."



Brian Boyd
sophomore Keough

"Regardless of your take, it's good that he brought up our Catholic character."



PHIL HUDELSON/The Observer

Kevin Appleby, policy director of Migration and Refugee Services at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, discusses immigration issues Tuesday night at the Hesburgh Center. The talk, "Strangers No Longer: Being Neighbor to our Immigrant Community," was sponsored by the Center for Social Concerns.

OFFBEAT

Migrants lack toilet access

BEIJING — Migrant workers in south China are wearing adult diapers on packed trains heading home for the Lunar New Year holiday because they have no access to a toilet, state media said Tuesday.

About 120 million peasants from China's vast rural areas swarm the cities for work and all try to make it home for the holiday, filling all standing room on trains and making access to the toilet impossible during trips often lasting 24 hours or more.

"During the peak travel

period last year, some passengers even became deranged on their journeys because of the conditions and jumped out of the carriages," the China Daily said.

The Lunar New Year, which this year starts on January 29, is the biggest holiday in the Chinese-speaking world and family reunions prompt arguably the biggest movement of humanity on Earth.

Government supports mail-order brides

SEOUL — A rural province in South Korea plans to give financial aid to help lonely

male farmers pay for mail-order brides from overseas.

South Kyongsang province plans to start a trial program in which it will give 6 million won (\$6,113) to male farmers who marry foreign women, an official said Tuesday.

South Korean farmers have been turning to brides from other parts of Asia in recent years after struggling to woo local women, who are often less than enthralled with the prospect of rural life.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

The blood drive will continue today and tomorrow from 9:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. in Rolfs Sports RecCenter. Call 631-6100 to register.

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

The band Appetite for Destruction will be performing live at Club Fever Friday night.

"Poetas y Pintores: Artists Conversing with Verse" art exhibit will open Friday in Moreau Art Galleries at Saint Mary's.

Welsh Family Hall Dance Show presents: "Game Faces" this Friday and Saturday at Washington Hall. Tickets are \$4 and can be purchased at LaFortune Box Office or at the door. Profits benefit Hannah and Friends.

Three panelists will address the question: "Iraq: What now?" at 4:15 p.m. Jan. 31 in the auditorium of the Hesburgh Center for International Studies.

Author Kirsten Sundberg Lunstrum will give a reading from her debut book. This Life She's Chosen on Feb. 1 at 7:30 p.m. in South Dining Hall's Hospitality Room. The event is free and open to the public.

The 2006 Winter Career and Internship Fair will take place from 4 to 8 p.m. Feb. 1 in the Joyce Center fieldhouse. The event is free and sponsored by the Career Center.

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

	TODAY	TONIGHT	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
	HIGH 33 LOW 24	HIGH 24 LOW 18	HIGH 38 LOW 25	HIGH 41 LOW 33	HIGH 42 LOW 38	HIGH 48 LOW 30

Atlanta 55 / 37 Boston 41 / 34 Chicago 34 / 22 Denver 58 / 25 Houston 65 / 39 Los Angeles 67 / 47 Minneapolis 33 / 7 New York 45 / 34 Philadelphia 45 / 35 Phoenix 67 / 51 Seattle 48 / 41 St. Louis 45 / 28 Tampa 69 / 51 Washington 48 / 32

Judge stresses legal responsibility

By KATIE PERRY
Assistant News Editor

Lawyers and judges should be responsible for their work, William Pryor Jr., U.S. Circuit Judge of the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals, said in an address to the Federalist Society at the Notre Dame Law School Tuesday.

Pryor spoke about specific historical instances of racial and religious bigotry and emphasized the dire need for lawyers to exert morality in their profession in the first of his two speeches delivered at the University Tuesday.

To illustrate his argument, Pryor employed the 1921 Birmingham, Ala. court case of State vs. Stephenson. The trial followed the alleged murder of Catholic priest Father James Coyle by Methodist preacher and Ku Klux Klan member E.R. Stephenson.

Pryor said Stephenson became so enraged when he discovered his daughter Ruth had converted to Catholicism — thus becoming a member of Coyle's St. Paul's Church — and wed a Puerto Rican that he shot the priest three times on the steps of his rectory.

A fervent member of the Birmingham Ku Klux Klan, Stephenson had a deep-seated animosity for Catholics, as the Klan's discrimination extended beyond racial lines and into the religious realm, Pryor said.

"Bigotry in Birmingham was not only a matter of race," he said. "By 1920, anti-Catholicism was rampant, and the Ku Klux Klan exercised tremendous influ-

ence."

Stephenson was put on trial and charged with second-degree murder by a grand jury but was acquitted following a dual plea of self-defense and temporary insanity.

Pryor said the case was "rigged" from the start. Four of Stephenson's five defense lawyers were Klan members and the "old friend" of one of Stephenson's attorneys replaced the initial trial judge. Additionally, Birmingham's police chief served as a national officer for the Klan, and most jurors were members.

"The prosecution never had a chance," Pryor said. "Klansmen in the courtroom communicated with hand gestures ... Years later, they ragged the defense didn't have much trouble [with the case]."

Pryor said Stephenson's lead defense attorney, Hugo Black — who later served as a Supreme Court justice from 1937 until 1971 — was not a "role model" regarding the practice of morality in the courtroom.

"I do not mean to condemn the career of Hugo Black, but his representation [of the case] and trial tactics were despicable," Pryor said. "A lawyer's call is not to win at any cost ... The true calling of a lawyer is ... tempered by moral and ethical responsibilities."

Pryor said Black's tactics were "objectively wrong" when he exercised racial bigotry in the trial's closing arguments and sought to use Coyle's Catholic faith against him.

Black said a Methodist child doesn't become Catholic without

someone planting "seeds of influence" and argued Stephenson's daughter was "wrongly proselytized" by the priest, Pryor said.

Black also "concocted" his client's plea of temporary insanity, Pryor said.

Pryor said 13 years before the Stephenson trial, the American Bar Association outlined the qualities of a virtuous lawyer and said a good lawyer adheres to the strictest principles of moral law — an obligation shared by many Catholic lawyers and judges.

"Catholic lawyers and judges are called to follow our patron saint Sir Thomas More," Pryor said. "As More explained before [his death], he died king's good servant and God's first."

Pryor later presented his second lecture, "The Role of Religion in the Judiciary," to the greater Notre Dame community in the ballroom of the LaFortune Student Center. The forum was first in the Catholic Think Tank series, a chain of student government-sponsored presentations beginning this week to promote the University's status as a national center for dialogue concerning Catholic issues.

Before his appointment to the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals in June of 2005, Pryor served as Alabama's attorney general from 1997 to 2005. The graduate of Northeastern Louisiana University and Tulane University — where he earned his law degree — has also taught at Samford University's Cumberland School of Law.

Contact Katie Perry at kperry5@nd.edu

Meeting addresses King Day, diversity

By PETER NINNEMAN
News Writer

Should the name of Martin Luther King, Jr. even be included in the title of a diversity meeting? This was a question posed by Chandra Johnson, director of Cross-Cultural Ministry and associate director of Campus Ministry, to her fellow members of the committee that plans events celebrating Martin Luther King Day.

"I wanted to see how the black people would react," Johnson said.

Johnson worried that non-minority students would shy away from attending the town hall meeting in Coleman Morse Tuesday night partly designed to commemorate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, celebrated Jan. 16.

But the mix of students present at "A Call for Your Voice: The Responsibility of Every Man and Woman" included about as many white students as minorities, even with King playing a central role in the discussion.

Anthony Burrow, a research associate in the psychology department, and Reanna Ursin, a visiting fellow in the Africana Studies department, facilitated the meeting. For the most part, however, the participants controlled the flow of discussion.

Among the issues discussed

were how the concept of the Notre Dame family sacrifices diversified individual development of students, King as a model of Catholic social teaching, how every race has a stake in diversity and in what ways blacks should work towards progress.

Several students said they thought blacks were growing more and more agitated. This was evident in one student's accusation earlier in the discussion that the reason Notre Dame granted a day off for Martin Luther King Jr. Day might have been "just a coincidence," noting that the University did nothing to celebrate the holiday on its official day.

The consensus among those who participated was that anger is a useful catalyst for progress, but is not very sustainable.

Johnson said she believes blacks need to gather with a positive attitude and learn to love each other.

"I've stopped blaming white people," Johnson said.

She also said blacks should not wait for another leader like King, because "America will take him out."

The meeting was sponsored by Campus Ministry and Multicultural Student Programs and Services.

Contact Peter Ninneman at pninnema@nd.edu



Alex Borowiecki, Habitat for Humanity

got involved?



Jess Collado, Take Ten



John Corker, There are Children Here



Tizzi Shappell, St. Margaret's House

Social Concerns Festival

Explore Local Service and Social Action Opportunities

January 25, 6-8 pm

at the Center for Social Concerns



CENTER FOR SOCIAL CONCERNS

Options

continued from page 1

going on in student government right now. It is going to be a big task to get involved with the student body and take care of stuff that is not getting done right now."

Shropshire felt similarly and said she hopes McIllduff and Seifert will work on "everything they haven't accomplished until now."

Davis said she wished they had explained their presidential promises in more detail during campaigning, while Shropshire said she regrets not being able to visit students in their dorm rooms during the week. She said that they were unable to make weekday visits due to Davis' busy schedule while attempting to qualify for nationals in figure skating.

Shropshire and Davis, however, were able to engage in door-to-door campaigning during the weekend, an experience Davis said she valued for all the feedback she obtained from concerned students.

"I am still going to bring [their concerns] to the table," she said. "While campaigning, we got our voices heard and became more aware of how people now think of [BOG] in a negative light, and that needs to change. Now we have feedback, we hear what [students] are saying, and that is what makes a legislation so successful. We have [heard] the complaints, and now we can take of them."

After promising to tighten the methods of the some-

times-inefficient Board of Governance meetings and serving on both McIllduff's and Seifert's past student government boards, Davis said "it will be interesting to see how [the new president and vice president] to work together and run BOG next year."

Davis said she plans to remain highly involved within student government as admissions commissioner and looks forward to working with the College's new administration.

Regardless of the disappointing loss, she is still considering running for student body president again next year.

"[Running for president] is an opportunity that many people never get. Running again would require a lot of work and a lot of time. Right now I need to finish this year and see how [the McIllduff] administration is next year and how I fit in there."

Shropshire will finish her term as Student Diversity Board president — a position that she has reinvented through her organization of the College's first-ever diversity conference, an increased campus-wide diversity awareness and maintenance of traditional SDB events.

Despite her success as SDB president, she said she will not run for a second term in the position and is not sure where she sees herself in the future of student government.

"The only thing that everyone keeps saying to me is the best candidate doesn't always win, and that is how I have to keep looking at it," she said.

Contact Kelly Meehan at kmecha01@saintmarys.edu

"[Running for president] is an opportunity that many people never get."

Annie Davis
vice presidential candidate

"The only thing that everyone keeps saying to me is the best candidate doesn't always win, and that is how I have to keep looking at it."

Amanda Shropshire
presidential candidate

Victors

continued from page 1

from 8 a.m. until midnight and had to wait until the outcome was announced Tuesday at 8:45 a.m.

"I was extremely excited, I felt as though a week of hard work had paid off," McIllduff said.

McIllduff and Seifert, along with their opponents, spent the last week knocking on doors, distributing fliers and answering students' questions on everything from their definition of a Saint Mary's woman to how they intend to communicate with the student body.

"The campaign was very intense but it was extremely fun to go around and meet all the Saint Mary's women," Seifert said. "I got to know a little more about Saint Mary's and all the different women who are on campus. It was hard work, and I am happy I did it."

At the top of the winning pair's campaign platform was their intention to make detailed course requirements available to students before they enrolled in a class and to simplify the add and drop process. McIllduff and Seifert also promised to ensure a strong student voice in the vice presidential search committees as the College seeks to replace Vice President and Dean of Faculty Pat White and Vice President of Student Activities Linda Timm.

McIllduff, who currently serves as student body vice president and was chief of staff under student body president Sarah Catherine White last year, was able to highlight her extensive leadership roles on campus as she encouraged students to

vote for her.

Seifert said she received warm congratulations from friends and family, including her two older sisters, one of whom served as Saint Mary's student body president during the 1998-99 academic year.

"I was really excited and grateful to be elected vice president of the Saint Mary's student body," Seifert said. "I am excited to get started accomplishing everything on our to-do list."

Both McIllduff and Seifert expressed admiration for Shropshire and Davis and said they hope the women will participate in student government in some capacity next year.

"Amanda and Annie have worked extremely to make Saint Mary's a better place ... and it was extremely evident throughout the campaign," Seifert said.

The timing of the election, which took place exactly one week after the first day of class of the new semester, caused some grumbling on campus. With an extra week of winter break this year, the vote seemed to arrive even earlier and give students little time to weigh in on the candidates.

Elections commissioner Danielle Lerner said it is the responsibility of the elections commissioner to sit down with Student Activities Director George Rosenbush and schedule the elections in such a way that allows for the student body elections, Student Diversity Board (SDB) elections and

Residence Hall Association (RHA) elections all to take place before board turnover.

Having the presidential-vice presidential election so early has its pros and cons, Lerner said, but ultimately it was a success.

"Since it was the first week back, we hoped that most students would not be too busy to participate in election activities and it would also give the candidates a chance to campaign without having dozens of other academic commitments," Lerner said.

"Overall, I think the election went well. We had minimal complaints, and each ticket took extra care to avoid any violations."

Despite the quick timing of the election, McIllduff said she was impressed by student response as she

canvassed the campus and said she is looking forward to turnover on April 1.

"We felt as though everyone was engaged," McIllduff said. "It was the first week back, and everyone was a little shocked that it was so soon."

Any change in the elections scheduling would be up to the next elections commissioner, Lerner said.

"As of now, we are looking forward to the Student Diversity Board and Residence Hall Association elections on February 13 and the class elections on February 20," Lerner said. "We encourage all students to stay informed and continue casting their votes for next year's student leaders."

Contact Megan O'Neil at onei0907@saintmarys.edu

"The campaign was very intense but it was extremely fun to go around and meet all the Saint Mary's women."

Maggie Seifert
vice president-elect



Gena,

Happy 22nd
Birthday,
Q o W.

Love Always,
Dad, Mom,
John, Kerry,
Sleazy

COLLEGE BOWL

HOW DO YOU BUZZ?



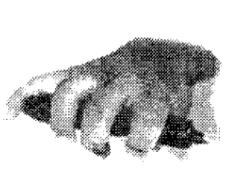
Super Game Show Power Plunger



The Classic "Jeopardy" Posture



Li Mu Bai's Crouching Toss-up, Hidden Bonus



Top Gun "Danger Zone" Throttle Buzz

Whatever your style, College Bowl is the place to put your brains to the test in a fast-paced game that'll let you prove your intellectual dominance.

Tournament begins February 6
6pm – 10pm @ Legends

Sign up your team of four at the LaFortune Information Desk
Now through Mon., Jan. 30

Winning team will represent ND at the ACUI regional tournament on Feb. 24 & 25
at the University of Illinois



Write for News. Call Heather at 1-5323

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Judges dispute during Hussein trial

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Judges in the trial of Saddam Hussein tried to remove a newly appointed chief justice Tuesday, a dispute that forced an abrupt postponement of the proceedings and deepened the turmoil in what was supposed to be a landmark in Iraq's political progress.

Saddam's lawyers were quick to capitalize on the disarray, saying the confusion provided fresh evidence the former leader could not get a fair trial in Iraq. Former U.S. attorney general Ramsey Clark, a member of the defense team, said the trial should be abandoned.

Since its Oct. 19 start, the trial has been defined by delays, chaotic outbursts by Saddam, the assassination of two defense lawyers and a judge's decision last month to step down after learning that one of the defendants may have been responsible for his brother's execution.

Militants pledge peace for elections

NABLUS, West Bank — Palestinian gunmen linked to the ruling Fatah movement killed one of their party leaders Tuesday, increasing tensions on the eve of parliamentary balloting and raising doubts about a new pledge by armed groups in the West Bank and Gaza to hold their fire during the vote.

Opinion polls have shown Fatah and Hamas in a close race ahead of Wednesday's election and both sides have said they might form a coalition government. Candidates were banned from campaigning Tuesday for a cooling-off period before the election.

Mushir al-Masri, a Hamas candidate in northern Gaza, said the Islamic group expects to become the largest party in parliament. But it will not try to form a government alone, instead seeking a partnership with Fatah or other parties, he said.

NATIONAL NEWS

Army stretched to breaking point

WASHINGTON — Stretched by frequent troop rotations to Iraq and Afghanistan, the Army has become a "thin green line" that could snap unless relief comes soon, according to a study for the Pentagon.

Andrew Krepinevich, a retired Army officer who wrote the report under a Pentagon contract, concluded that the Army cannot sustain the pace of troop deployments to Iraq long enough to break the back of the insurgency. He also suggested that the Pentagon's decision, announced in December, to begin reducing the force in Iraq this year was driven in part by a realization that the Army was overextended.

Supreme Court blocks execution

WASHINGTON — Florida death row inmate Clarence Hill won a last-minute Supreme Court stay Tuesday night about an hour after he was scheduled to be executed for killing a police officer.

It was not clear if the court's intervention would only briefly delay Hill's execution, which had been scheduled for 6 p.m. EST, to give justices additional time to review three separate stay requests.

Witnesses had gathered at the Florida State Prison for the execution, which was put off for more than an hour before word came from the court.

The witnesses were sent home after Justice Anthony M. Kennedy filed paperwork that said Hill's death sentence would "be stayed pending further order" of the justices.

LOCAL NEWS

Toll Road lease plan passes first test

INDIANAPOLIS — Gov. Mitch Daniels' sweeping transportation plan, which would allow him to lease the Indiana Toll Road to a foreign company for \$3.85 billion, passed its first legislative test Tuesday night.

The House Ways and Means Committee advanced the bill on a 14-10 party-line vote, with Republicans siding with the governor and Democrats voting against the proposal. The legislation now moves to the full House, where Republicans have a 52-48 majority.

Alito garners substantial support

With enough support for confirmation, committee advances nomination

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Supreme Court nominee Samuel Alito won commitments from a majority of senators Tuesday, assuring his eventual confirmation and a likely tilt of the court to the right.

On the same day Alito won a 10-8 party-line approval from the Senate Judiciary Committee, five Republicans announced that they would vote for his confirmation in the full Senate, pushing him over 50 votes in the 100-member chamber.

Fifty Senate Republicans, plus one Democrat, Ben Nelson of Nebraska, have publicly committed to vote for Alito through their representatives, interviews with The Associated Press or news releases.

No Republicans have opposed him and five have yet to declare how they will vote: Sens. Lamar Alexander of Tennessee, Lincoln Chafee of Rhode Island, Susan Collins and Olympia Snowe of Maine and Ted Stevens of Alaska.

One of Alito's supporters, Sen. Craig Thomas of Wyoming, announced after meeting with Alito in his Senate office. "He represents the kind of justice who will interpret the law with respect to the Constitution and not legislate from the bench. His judicial experience is second to none and I'm confident he will do an excellent job handling his constitutional responsibility," Thomas said.

Twenty Democrats are publicly opposing President Bush's pick to replace retiring Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, while the other 23 and independent Sen. Jim Jeffords of Vermont are still publicly undecided or refuse to say how they will vote on Alito's nomination.

The only way Democrats can stop the conservative judge now is through a filibuster, a maneuver they show little interest in.

The final debate on the 55-year-old New Jersey jurist begins Wednesday.

"We urge the Senate to move forward with a swift



AP Photo

A sign supporting Supreme Court nominee Samuel Alito stands in the front yard of a home in Bordentown Township, N.J., Tuesday.

up-or-down vote so he can begin serving on our nation's highest court," White House spokesman Scott McClellan said.

Democrats are working to get a large opposition vote to make their points against President Bush.

"I think it sends a message to the American people that this guy is not King George, he's President George," said Senate Democratic leader Harry Reid of Nevada.

Bush should have picked a woman, said Reid, who urged the president last year to pick White House counsel Harriet Miers. "They couldn't go for her because she was an independent woman," Reid said of Miers, whose nomination was withdrawn under conservative criticism.

Bush then picked Alito, a 15-year federal appeals

judge, former federal prosecutor and lawyer for the Reagan administration.

Republicans say he is a perfect choice for the high court. They praise his parrying of Democratic attacks on his judicial record and personal credibility during his confirmation hearings this month.

"If anybody has demonstrated judicial temperament and poise and patience, it is Judge Alito. And he ought to be confirmed on that basis alone," said committee chairman Arlen Specter, R-Pa.

Democrats worry that Alito, along with new Chief Justice John Roberts, will push the court to the right and could even help overturn major decisions such as Roe v. Wade, the abortion rights case.

"Roberts, who promised us humility, who promised us that he would be looking to chart a middle course, we see time and again that he's falling in league with Justice Scalia and Justice Thomas," said Sen. Dick Durbin of Illinois, referring to Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas, the court's most conservative members. "My fear is that we are adding a fourth vote to that coalition with Sam Alito's nomination. And that's why I'm going to vote no."

Roberts won the votes of 22 Democrats last year — including three on the Judiciary Committee — ranking Democrat Patrick Leahy of Vermont as well as Wisconsin Sens. Russ Feingold and Herb Kohl. Those three senators voted against Alito Tuesday.

IRAQ

Gunmen kidnap two German engineers

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Armed men wearing military fatigues seized two German engineers from a car in northern Iraq on Tuesday in the latest brazen kidnapping to push a foreign government into another desperate race to free its nationals.

Efforts continued to rescue Jill Carroll, the American freelance reporter kidnapped Jan. 7 in Baghdad. Carroll's appearance last week on a silent videotape aired on Arab TV marked the only

sign of her since her abduction.

More than 250 foreigners have been kidnapped in Iraq since the 2003 U.S.-led invasion that toppled Saddam Hussein, and at least 39 have been killed.

The German government confirmed that two young German males from Leipzig were kidnapped Tuesday and said a special crisis team was sent to Iraq to deal with the matter. Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier said Berlin was doing "everything in our power so that we not only receive infor-

mation, but the hostages will be returned to us safely."

The hostages worked at an Iraqi state-owned detergent plant, near the oil refinery in Beiji, 155 miles north of Baghdad. German media said they were employed by Cryotec Anlagenbau GmbH, a manufacturing and engineering company involved in Iraq since before the 2003 war.

Police Capt. Falah al-Janabi said gunmen using two cars and wearing military uniforms pulled the Germans out of a car while they were heading to work.

27 Dorms

THIS WEDNESDAY,

THE PLS ROAD-

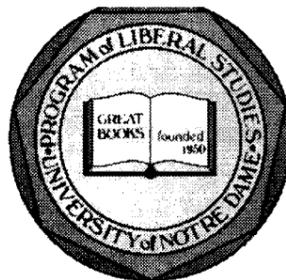
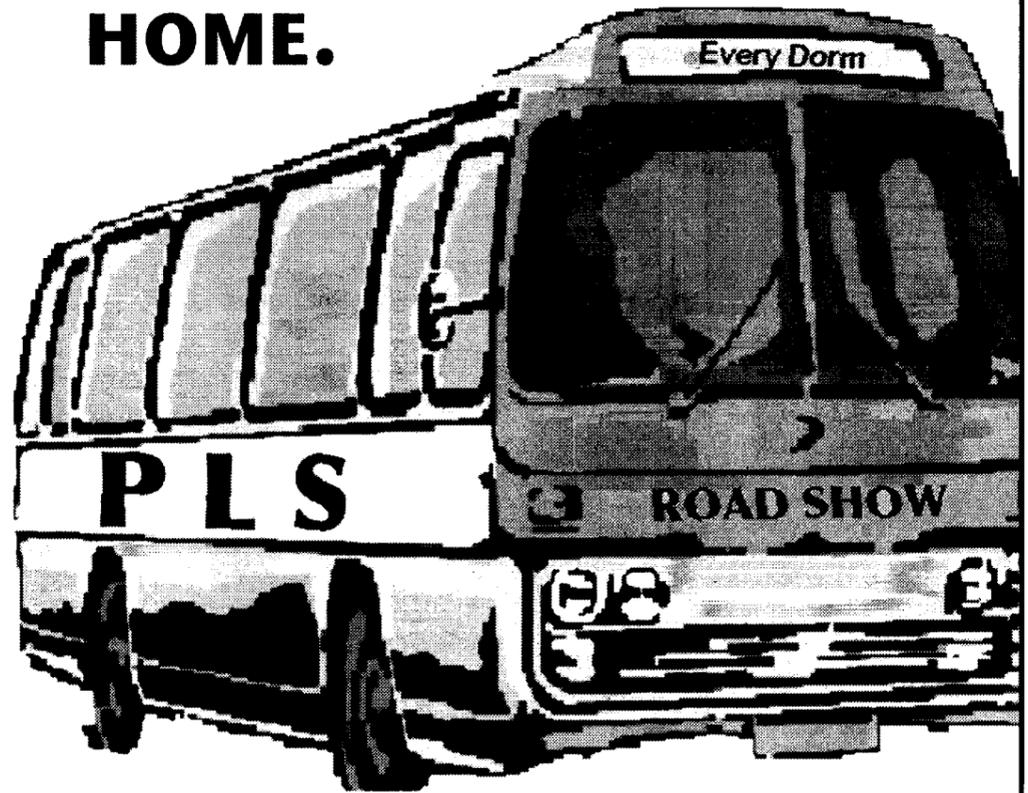
SHOW

COMES TO YOUR

HOME.

One

Night



Dear Freshman,

In the next two years, some you will learn of the *Program of Liberal Studies*,

Some of you will learn about the great books seminars and about many of the GREAT BOOKS, the most influential works of all time.

You will tell people you would have entered the program had you known of it on time.

You will tell people that you hope to read those books some day. But you probably won't. Unless....

You come learn what some PLS majors do with their lives, and it might be worth it to take advantage of a unique opportunity to see how the world has come to be since word was put to paper.

The PLS Road-Show goes to every dorm this Wednesday. Be there when we visit YOURS!

WEDNESDAY January 25th.

PIZZA will be served

ROAD SHOW SET-LIST

Dorms	Arrival Time
Pasquerilla East Hall	5:45 PM
Knott Hall	6:00 PM
Pasquerilla West Hall	6:15 PM
Siegfried Hall	6:30 PM
Breen-Phillips Hall	6:45 PM
Farley Hall	7:00 PM
Keenan Hall	7:15 PM
Stanford Hall	7:30 PM
Zahm Hall	7:45 PM
Cavanaugh Hall	8:00 PM
St. Edward's Hall	8:15 PM
Lewis Hall	8:30 PM
Sorin Hall	8:45 PM
Walsh Hall	9:00 PM
Badin Hall	9:15 PM
Howard Hall	9:30 PM
Morrissey Hall	9:45 PM
Lyons Hall	10:00 PM
Pangborn Hall	10:15 PM
Fisher Hall	10:30 PM
Alumni Hall	10:45 PM
Dillon Hall	11:00 PM
Welsh Family Hall	11:15 PM
Keough Hall	11:30 PM
O'Neill Hall	11:45 PM
McGlenn Hall	12:00 AM
Carroll Hall	12:15 AM

MARKET RECAP

Stocks			
Dow Jones	10,712.22	+23.45	
Up:	2,238	Same:	134
Down:	1,065	Composite Vol:	2,568,497,24
AMEX	1,826.83	-4.99	
NASDAQ	2,265.25	+16.78	
NYSE	7,973.02	+19.10	
S&P 500	1,266.86	+3.04	
NIKKEI(Tokyo)	15,648.89	0.00	
FTSE 100(London)	5,633.80	-27.10	
Commodities			
30-YEAR BOND	+0.84	+0.38	45.70
10-YEAR NOTE	+0.76	+0.33	43.90
5-YEAR NOTE	+0.58	+0.25	43.11
3-MONTH BILL	+1.13	+0.48	42.91
Exchange Rates			
YEN			114.695
EURO			0.814
POUND			0.560

Disney announces buying of Pixar

Walt Disney Co. pays \$7.4 billion for longtime partner, Pixar Animation Studios

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The Walt Disney Co. said Tuesday it is buying longtime partner Pixar Animation Studios Inc. for \$7.4 billion in stock in a deal that could restore Disney's clout in animation while vaulting Pixar CEO Steve Jobs into a powerful role at the media conglomerate.

Disney's purchase of the maker of the blockbuster films "Toy Story" and "Finding Nemo" would make Jobs Disney's largest shareholder. Jobs, who owns more than half of Pixar's shares and also heads Apple Computer Inc., will become a Disney director.

"With this transaction, we welcome and embrace Pixar's unique culture, which for two decades, has fostered some of the most innovative and successful films in history," Disney Chief Executive Robert A. Iger said in a statement.

Disney has co-financed and distributed Pixar's animated films for the past 12 years, splitting the profits. That deal expires in June after Pixar delivers "Cars," and it had once appeared the companies would not renew it amid friction between Jobs and former Disney CEO Michael Eisner.

But the talks revived under Iger, who became Disney CEO last October. Disney, the theme park owner that also owns the ABC and ESPN TV networks, and Pixar had discussed a new relationship for months.

Pixar Executive Vice President John Lasseter will become chief creative officer of the animation studios and principal creative adviser at Walt Disney Imagineering, which designs and builds the company's theme parks.

Lasseter began his career as a Disney animator and is the creative force behind Pixar's films. He will report directly to Iger.

Pixar President Ed



Walt Disney Co. CEO Robert Iger, right, smiles with Pixar Animation Studios Inc. CEO Steve Jobs, left, at Pixar headquarters in Emeryville, Calif., Tuesday.

Catmull will serve as president of the combined Pixar and Disney animation studios, reporting to Iger and Dick Cook, chairman of The Walt Disney Studios.

The two companies will remain separate, with Pixar keeping its brand name and headquarters in Emeryville, near San Francisco. Maintaining Pixar's unique creative character was a priority in the talks, executives said.

"Most of the time that Bob and I have spent talking about this hasn't been about economics, it's been about preserving the Pixar culture because we all know that that's the thing that is going to determine the success here in the long run," Jobs said on a confer-

ence call with analysts.

Rumors of the deal had generated speculation that Jobs could become Disney's chairman, especially because current Chairman George Mitchell will retire next year when his term expires.

Jobs said he does not see himself becoming Disney's chairman, although he did not explicitly rule it out.

"I think there are people that can do a better job at that than me," Jobs told The Associated Press. "My interest is really just being on the board and helping Bob make this combination super successful and helping him in any other way he asks me to."

Under the deal, Burbank-based Disney said it will

issue 2.3 shares for each share of Pixar stock. At Tuesday's closing price of \$25.99 for Disney, Pixar shareholders would get stock worth \$59.78, a 4 percent premium over Pixar's closing price of \$57.57. The deal was announced after the markets closed for the day. Pixar gained 2.5 percent to \$59 in after-hours trading, while Disney fell 14 cents.

Disney said the deal would lower earnings over the next two years, but that the deal would add to earnings by 2008.

"It's something Disney had to do," said Harold Vogel, a media analyst with Vogel Capital Management in New York. "It's good for both companies."

IN BRIEF

Stocks rise; investor reactions mixed

NEW YORK — Stocks rose moderately for a second consecutive session Tuesday on strong earnings at United Technologies Corp. and McDonald's Corp.

The day's earnings reports were mostly upbeat, although investor reactions were mixed. United Technologies, Johnson & Johnson, McDonald's and 3M Co. all reported higher profits, but J&J and 3M fell after disappointing analysts.

Since earnings season began two weeks ago, stocks have been swinging with each day's announcement as investors react to companies' earnings as well as their outlooks.

"Stocks are either going way, way up or way, way down," said Paul McManus, senior vice president and director of research, Independence Investment LLC. "There appear to be more surprises."

A decline in oil prices also helped stocks. A barrel of light crude fell \$1.04 to settle at \$67.06 on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Deadline looms for J&J's Guidant bid

TRENTON, N.J. — Johnson & Johnson took no action Tuesday as its midnight deadline approached to either raise its bid for heart device maker Guidant Corp. or let rival Boston Scientific Corp. claim the prize after upsetting J&J's plans for its biggest acquisition ever.

Asked whether J&J, the world's most diversified health-care company, planned to make a higher bid or walk away from the deal, J&J's chief spokesman, Jeff Leebaw, declined to comment. He also would not say whether the New Brunswick-based maker of prescription drugs, medical devices and health products from soap to contact lenses considers its final offer for Guidant still valid. That offer amounted to \$24.2 billion, or \$71 per share.

The lack of action after a week of anticipation and queries from the media and stock analysts raised questions about whether Johnson & Johnson was unwilling to pay more for Guidant's technology — pacemakers, implantable defibrillators and a much-anticipated new drug-coated stent expected next year — and was ceding the deal to Boston Scientific.

UPN, WB networks to shut down

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Two small, struggling television networks, UPN and WB, will shut down this fall, and their parent companies plan to form a new network called The CW using programming and other assets from each of them.

The announcement was made Tuesday by executives from CBS Corp., which owns UPN, and Warner Bros., a unit of Time Warner Inc., which owns most of WB.

Both UPN and WB had struggled to compete against larger rivals in the broadcast TV business, including Walt Disney Co.'s ABC, News Corp.'s Fox, General Electric Co.'s NBC and CBS Corp.'s CBS.

The new network will launch in the fall, the executives said, when both UPN and WB will shut down. It will be a 50-50 partnership between Warner Bros. and CBS, and the network will be carried on stations owned by the Tribune Co., a minority owner of WB.

Altogether, the 16 Tribune stations and the 12 UPN stations owned by CBS will give the new network coverage in almost half of the country, the executives said. The executives said they hoped to sign up new affiliates in the rest of the country by the time The CW launches.

Among the Tribune's TV stations that will join the new network are its flagship WGN in Chicago as well

as WPIX in New York, and KTLA in Los Angeles. The Tribune Co. will relinquish its 22.5 percent stake in WB and will receive a 10-year affiliation agreement with the new network.

Leslie Moonves, chief executive of CBS Corp., said the new network will air 30 hours of programming seven days a week aimed in part at young audiences.

The plan includes two hours of programs in prime time each night Monday through Friday and three hours on Sunday evening. It will also offer programming on weekday and Sunday afternoons, and five hours of children's programs on Saturday morning.

Students respond to Father

"If you shut it down now or in the next few years, what you will actually be shutting down is a community of men and women who have been healed by the Vagina Monologues."

Senior Kaitlyn Redfield, Vagina Monologues organizer

"I have concerns about where the line gets drawn. Part of our novelty at Notre Dame is to look at the secular world through a Catholic framework ... we could be missing out on a lot of opportunities to comment on the world as it exists."

Dave Baron, student body president

Jenkins

continued from page 1

Tuesday's address was slightly pared down for students, omitting sections geared toward faculty, but Jenkins' message was just as clear — Notre Dame could not protect its "distinctive Catholic character" while permitting on-campus performances of events "clearly and egregiously contrary to, or inconsistent with, the fundamental values of a Catholic university."

The message made a strong impact on the audience. Students poured into the aisles to line up behind microphones and respond to Jenkins' stance, focusing their comments on 'The Vagina Monologues' and the Queer Film Festival in particular, while others made their opinions known through bursts of applause.

Seemingly rattled at times, rock steady in others, Jenkins responded to the majority of student questions and comments in a direct and engaging back-and-forth manner.

"I'm very comfortable with students. I like students, I like

the give and take," Jenkins said in an interview with The Observer Tuesday afternoon. "We wanted it to be conversational enough so that they could say what they think."

While he said he has not seen "The Vagina Monologues" or attended the Queer Film Festival, Jenkins told The Observer this would not prevent him from making a fully informed decision on either event.

"I've read 'The Vagina Monologues' a couple times," he said. "There are some really great theatrical works, Greek tragedies, that I have never seen performed, but I've read, and I feel I know those works pretty well. I think [seeing the play] helps a bit, but I don't think it's absolutely necessary."

"The Queer Film Festival, I think I know enough because [my concern] was about the title ... and again, that's been addressed. Because [my concern] really was more superficial."

Students raised certain issues repeatedly while questioning Jenkins, one being the fear that if "The Vagina Monologues" are not allowed on campus — as they have been the past four years — that victims of sexual assault and rape will be silenced.

Jenkins told The Observer that the issue of violence against women was "always on the agenda."

"I honestly don't know what we need at this stage," he said.

"[Violence against women] is something we need to continue to look at, and I imagine

I'll be responding to, but what particular steps are needed at this stage. I am not prepared to say. I'm open to learning."

The issue of sponsorship was also a recurrent theme in the address and a point of contention for some students, who questioned if Jenkins thought students should not have the right to decide whether or not to participate in, attend or protest controversial events.

That's not the case at all, he responded.

"I think views that are contrary to Catholic teaching should be presented at Notre Dame. We should engage them, we should think about them, students need to encounter them and make up

their minds, and I'm 100 percent behind all that," Jenkins told The Observer. "That is not only something I would allow, but something I insist on, that range of views."

But when those views run the risk of denying the University's fundamental identity, Jenkins said, problems arise.

"When, year after year, we sponsor something or a unit of the University sponsors something that appears to be in conflict with Catholic teaching, the University's name is used

in such a way that it seems to support that which it doesn't support. It's more [about] authenticity of character and its representation," he said. "But that in no way should limit a wide and broad environment and presentation of views, events, artistic productions."

Regardless of whether they agreed or disagreed with Jenkins, the students who addressed the president — especially those dissenters — conducted themselves admirably, said Glenn Hendler, director of undergraduate studies and associate professor in the English department who attended both Monday's and Tuesday's addresses.

"As someone who's been

involved in a couple different productions [of 'The Vagina Monologues'], I think [Jenkins] misunderstands them, too — both the play itself and its purpose here," Hendler said. "What was really heartening and made me feel really good today was the reassurance that there are a bunch of really smart students out there who are willing to teach him. That was really inspiring."

Student body president Dave Baron said he thought students understood and respected the opportunity Jenkins

presented and conducted themselves professionally.

"I was extremely proud of the student body," Baron said. "I thought we held ourselves well."

Students who couldn't make it into Washington Hall — capacity is a little over 500 — were sent to a spillover room in LaFortune, Baron said, where the speech was broadcast on campus cable.

He was not surprised by the high turnout.

"I started to feel this was really on the pulse of what the campus was talking about," Baron said.

Contact Maddie Hanna at mhanna1@nd.edu

"I'm very comfortable with students. I like students, I like the give and take."

Father John Jenkins
University President

"I was extremely proud of the student body. I thought we held ourselves well."

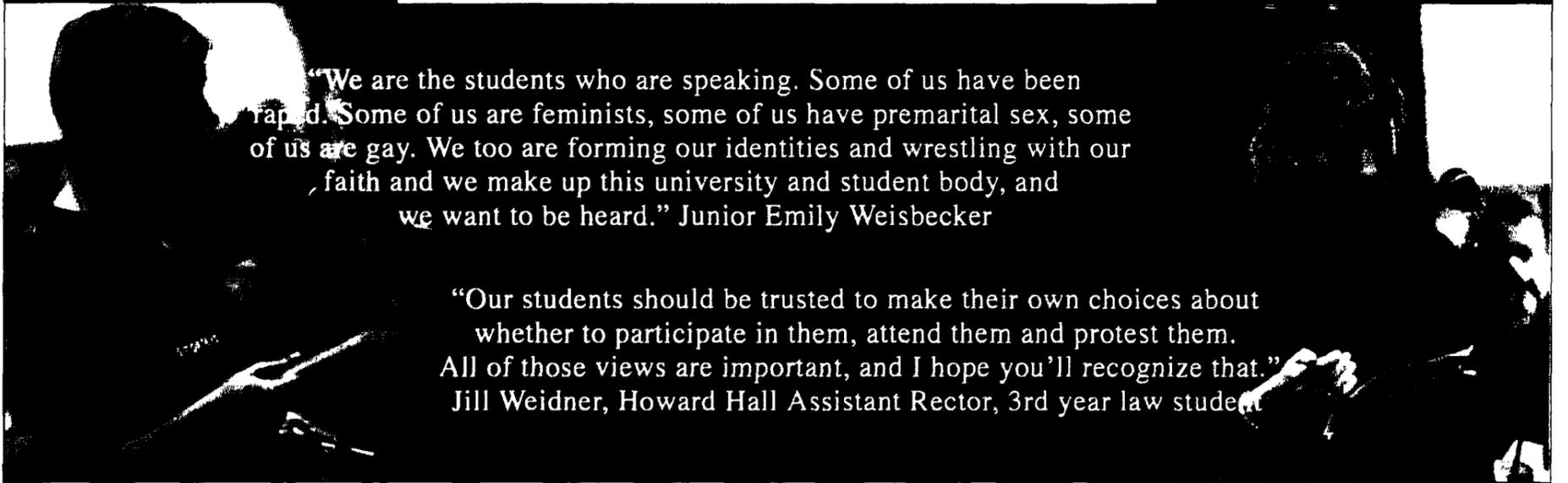
Dave Baron
student body president



Left, students stream into Washington Hall Tuesday to listen to Father John Jenkins discuss academic freedom and Catholic identity. Right, audience members listen attentively while making visual statements.

PHOTOS BY CLAIRE KELLEY

John Jenkins' address



"We are the students who are speaking. Some of us have been raped. Some of us are feminists, some of us have premarital sex, some of us are gay. We too are forming our identities and wrestling with our faith and we make up this university and student body, and we want to be heard." Junior Emily Weisbecker

"Our students should be trusted to make their own choices about whether to participate in them, attend them and protest them. All of those views are important, and I hope you'll recognize that." Jill Weidner, Howard Hall Assistant Rector, 3rd year law student

MATT HUDSON/Observer Graphic

Students

continued from page 1

"So you're more concerned with appearance to outsiders?" Hall asked.

Jenkins countered immediately.

"It is sort of about perception, but it's about the integrity of my views," he said. Applause erupted.

Tom Miller, a graduate student in creative writing, questioned the scope of Jenkins' statements, adding that in order to graduate, he and his classmates must read their creative works publicly — works that could contain controversial material.

"Do we have your assurance that while we are members of a program here at Notre Dame, we will be allowed to write and publish in literary journals and read off campus and in conference our creative work, without fear of censorship, even if there are situa-

tions or characters that run counter to the teachings of Catholicism?" Miller asked.

"Yes. Yes, absolutely," Jenkins said.

While the vast majority of student response was doubtful, at best, of Jenkins' statements, views in support of his remarks were still present.

"There's a battle raging on campus and, [supporters of the Vagina Monologues] are on the losing side," said junior John Sikorski, commissioner for Notre Dame Right to Life, who prayed outside the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center last year during the staging of "The Vagina Monologues."

"There is clearly a very vocal minority on campus involved in 'The Vagina Monologues.' [And there is] another group very dedicated to ensuring the Catholic perspective ... to offer a positive way for students to

grow in their spiritual life," Sikorski said. "Organizers of ['The Vagina Monologues' and Queer Film Festival] are completely opposed to everything we're doing."

Conversely, senior Zachary Ortiz likened "The Vagina Monologues" to the later works of the famous Spanish artist Francis Goya, whose work reflected the "darker and more contorted aspects of humanity. It focused on topics that words cannot do justice to."

"The Vagina Monologues are akin to these paintings," Ortiz said. "They elucidate the real cultural experiences of women and their sexuality. Unfortunately they do not agree with Catholic teaching on sexual morality ... If you [Jenkins] disagree with this piece of art,

that is your prerogative, and I can say nothing about that, but please don't take over our freedom to express such a work of art."

Jenkins and nearly all students — from those staging and organizing the events to those praying for the organizers — agreed on the ultimate goal to end violence against women. The polarization emerged on the best way to achieve those ends.

"Even if students don't agree with ['The Vagina Monologues'], most students are concerned that their freedom of speech is in quite a bit of danger."

Kaitlyn Redfield senior

"I saw 'The Vagina Monologues' my freshman year," said senior and Right to Life president Arina Grossu. "I was completely objectified. I felt like a vagina. I felt the play made any sexual act appropriate ... [It] gives the University a bad reputation because it loses its Catholic identity. I feel strongly about

ending it."

Planted on the other side of the issue, Jill Weidner, an assistant rector in Howard Hall, said squelching events in contention with Catholic doctrine risks being too restrictive.

"One of the first things we learn [as assistant rectors] is that we serve a very diverse student body," Weidner said. "I'm concerned that when [Jenkins] speaks of a limit on things that encourage a lot of dialogue like 'Vagina Monologues' ... that are put on by students, it sends a message that only one kind of interpretation is permitted — that which falls in line with Catholic doctrine."

Redfield left Jenkins' speech concerned and convinced that the majority of the student body feels the same.

"Even if students don't agree with ['The Vagina Monologues'], most students are concerned that their freedom of speech is in quite a bit of danger," she said.

Contact Mary Kate Malone at mmalone3@nd.edu



Above left, a student shares her views. Bottom left and above, audience members absorb Jenkins' comments. Right, Jenkins clarifies a point as student body president Dave Baron looks on.



PHOTOS BY CLAIRE KELLEY AND PHIL HUDELSON

Analysis

continued from page 1

addresses on academic freedom to present an assertive approach and establish a decision-making precedent he acknowledged would characterize his presidency.

"You can go wrong in two ways," Jenkins told The Observer Tuesday after his address to the students. "One is to just sit in the office and say, 'This is what we're going to do, we won't do that' — just issue decisions from here on out. That's a mistake.

"The other is, 'Oh, I'm just going to take in the views of some people, and never really act.' That's a mistake. That's not leadership."

Jenkins' visions of leadership — and the University community's perceptions of him as a leader — have changed dramatically in the nearly 21 months since his election as Notre Dame's 17th president.

Growing into his role

Though he served as a vice president and associate provost for four years before the Board of Trustees elected him to succeed then-University President Father Edward Malloy on April 30, 2004, Jenkins was then a relatively unfamiliar face to many in the University community. He greeted the announcement of his election with humility, praising his predecessor and calling the Board's choice a "flattering request."

"No doubt, after I take this job, I'll still be correcting myself, because you know I'll be green," Jenkins told The Observer in October 2004, in the midst of the presidential transition. "But you're never completely ready, and you just try to get as ready as you can be."

But that preparation was tested just seven months after Jenkins was elected — and eight months before he actually took over the presidency — when he was involved in one of the biggest decisions at Notre Dame.

Though his term officially began on July 1, 2005, he played a role in the Nov. 30, 2004 firing of then-head football coach Tyrone Willingham — a decision that followed the pattern of the president-elect having input on long-term University decisions during the presidential transition period.

When Willingham was fired, athletic director Kevin White said the decision was made by "University senior leadership, and in concert with the University senior leadership."

"I think it's fair to say, I report to the president and at the end of the day, I serve at the will of the president at the University of Notre Dame," White said on Nov. 30, 2004.

After the firing, Malloy said publicly that he did not make the decision, and when new coach Charlie Weis was hired on Dec. 13, Malloy told The Observer the same thing.

"I was not a definitive voice and I was not the one who initiated the action," Malloy said. "The impression had been gained that I was, and I was simply trying to clarify the record that I wasn't and had a disagreement about that choice."

The firing of Willingham — at the time one of five black head football coaches in Division I-A and Notre Dame's first black

head coach in any sport — after three years at the Irish helm prompted national controversy, from various media outlets arguing Notre Dame was racist to students on campus making T-shirts that read "IntegriTY." The cry of racism continued through the hiring of Weis and was revisited in October 2005 when Weis received a new contract after seven games as the Irish head coach.

Throughout the coaching change, Jenkins made his presence felt before he officially assumed the presidency in one of the most important parts of Notre Dame — football. And the public began to recognize him as the University's new leader.

"I think people were shocked about the decision with football coaches," W. David Solomon, associate professor of philosophy and director of the Center for Ethics and Culture, who taught Jenkins when the president was an undergraduate at Notre Dame, said Tuesday. "Whatever you think about that decision, he certainly showed courage and didn't hesitate."

Yet Jenkins also shied away from asserting himself too boldly before taking office.

During the transition period, Jenkins said repeatedly he wasn't yet fully ready to be Notre Dame's president. He declined an Observer request to be interviewed about his presidential ambitions before July 1, 2005, instead praising the steady hand of Malloy as one of the leadership qualities he would try to emulate.

"People look to you to set a course, and Monk's been steady," Jenkins told The Observer in April 2005, during the final months of the transition. "Things change and controversies come and go, but you just have to be steady."

When Jenkins did take office on July 1, 2005, it was with relatively little fanfare as students were away from campus for the summer.

But the new president received a full-blown welcome in September 2005, when he was inaugurated in a two-day event complete with flourishes from cancelled classes to NBC news anchor Tom Brokaw's visit to moderate an academic forum that was cybercast on the Web.

Dignitaries from across the world were invited to take place in the academic forum entitled "Why God? Understanding Religion and Enacting Faith in a Plural World," while Catholic leaders were invited to celebrate Mass with Jenkins the following morning.

For the first time, the Notre Dame community was able to see its new president on a grand stage for two days as academia and Catholicism were repeatedly and dually brought to the forefront during the formal introduction of the University's new leader.

During his inaugural address on September 23, 2005, Jenkins said his one of his goals for Notre Dame was to integrate "these two indispensable and wholly compatible strands of higher learning: academic excellence and religious faith." Specifics about how the two were wholly compatible, however, were not part of his address.

About a month later, Jenkins formally addressed the faculty for the first time, speaking to them about undergraduate education, graduate studies and

research, diversity, the Catholic mission and fiscal constraints.

"Notre Dame was founded to be a university with a religious character; its statutes state that it should retain this character 'in perpetuity;' and it is a priority of mine to retain this character," Jenkins told the faculty during his October 11, 2005 address.

But it was not until this week that Jenkins specifically addressed the interaction of Notre Dame's roles both as a Catholic institution and a university that promotes academic freedom.

Jenkins said he used his first real foray into extensively addressing a polarizing issue not to test the waters, but to explain clearly where he stood and invite response from the University community.

The reason to address academic freedom and Catholic character, he said, stems from a sense of duty to the University.

"I do think it's been percolating, I do think people have strong issues on both sides, I think people haven't really addressed it and it is important to address one way or another," he said. "There really aren't many issues more important than issues of academic freedom and Catholic character at Notre Dame."

Interpreting new leadership

The president who emerged this week seemed to be a far cry from the man who was elected in April 2004 — but for Solomon, who has followed Jenkins' rise throughout the decades, the president's forceful addresses were not unexpected.

"I wasn't surprised at all that

he was being assertive" early in his presidency, Solomon said. "Many faculty members have misjudged Father Jenkins because he's a nice man and a gentle man — I've heard many faculty members talk about him like he's a weak man. Those of us who've known Father Jenkins for many years, and I've known him since he was a sophomore, know he's very tough, he doesn't lack for courage."

Burish, also in his first year leading Notre Dame after Jenkins chose him in July to replace former Provost Nathan Hatch, said Tuesday his boss's strong, straightforward stance had demonstrated Jenkins' respect for — and in turn resonated with — the faculty.

"Some faculty agree with him and some do not, but everyone I've spoken to admired his openness and his approach," Burish said. "The most common comment I have heard is that it is a welcome [leadership] style and that Father showed a boldness and an openness and an admirable willingness to engage the community in dialogue."

"...I believe that demonstrated the type of leadership and type of approach to leadership and decision-making to which he plans to commit himself."

But not all faculty members cheered Jenkins' style.

"Your responsibility to us as president doesn't involve accepting the majority vote or ruling by consensus," philosophy professor Ed Manier said during Monday's faculty question-and-answer session, responding to an assertion in Jenkins' speech, "but it does involve accountability to us. One thing that means is there [have]

to be procedures we all agree are fair for an evaluation of our decisions on how such judgments are made."

Regardless of the final policy issued about hosting events deemed to conflict with Catholic values and other issues of academic freedom, Jenkins' willingness to step forward with his beliefs and engage the University community establishes a definitive tone for his presidency, many faculty and administrators agreed.

"I think it's important that the president declare where he stands, and I think John left no doubt about where he stands, but also how he gets there, how he proceeds," said University President Emeritus Father Theodore Hesburgh, who led Notre Dame from 1952-87 and, along with University founder Father Edward Sorin, is widely considered Notre Dame's greatest leader. "I think it's something that very few university presidents do — explain why they get to where they get — and I had to do it a few times, and I found it was very fruitful and very helpful."

Hesburgh praised the precedent Jenkins set for his leadership style.

"I think it says a lot of very good things — it says he's not going to sit off in a dark corner churning off great decisions that no one had a part in," Hesburgh told The Observer Monday. "I think he's saying this is a community, this is an important factor in the Catholic community to be discussed, and let's talk about it."

"And I think everybody in this community feels ready to talk about it, whether or not they begin where he begins."

Contact Heather Van Hoegarden at hvanhoeg@nd.edu, Claire Heiningger at cheining@nd.edu and Maddie Hanna at mhanna1@nd.edu

"There really aren't many issues more important than issues of academic freedom and Catholic character at Notre Dame."

Father John Jenkins
University President

"I think it says a lot of very good things — it says he's not going to sit off in a dark corner churning off great decisions that no one had a part in."

Father Theodore Hesburgh
University President Emeritus

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Google to censor China search site

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Online search engine leader Google Inc. has agreed to censor its results in China, adhering to the country's free-speech restrictions in return for better access in the Internet's fastest growing market.

The Mountain View, Calif.-based company planned to roll out a new version of its search engine bearing China's Web suffix ".cn," on Wednesday. A Chinese-language version of Google's search engine has previously been available through the company's dot-com address in the United States.

By creating a unique address for China, Google hopes to make its search engine more widely available and easier to use in the world's most populous country.

Because of government barriers set up to suppress information, Google's China users previously have been blocked from using the search engine or encountered lengthy delays in response time.

The service troubles have frus-

trated many Chinese users, hobbling Google's efforts to expand its market share in a country that expected to emerge as an Internet gold mine over the next decade.

China already has more than 100 million Web surfers and the audience is expected to swell substantially — an alluring prospect for Google as it tries to boost its already rapidly rising profits.

Baidu.com Inc., a Beijing-based company in which Google owns a 2.6 percent stake, currently runs China's most popular search engine. But a recent Keynote Systems survey of China's Internet preferences concluded that Baidu remains vulnerable to challenges from Google and Yahoo Inc.

To obtain the Chinese license, Google agreed to omit Web content that the country's government finds objectionable.

Although China has loosened some of its controls in recent years, some topics, such as Taiwan's independence and 1989's Tiananmen Square massacre, remain forbidden sub-

jects.

Google officials characterized the censorship concessions in China as an excruciating decision for a company that adopted "don't be evil" as a motto. But management believes it's a worthwhile sacrifice.

"We firmly believe, with our culture of innovation, Google can make meaningful and positive contributions to the already impressive pace of development in China," said Andrew McLaughlin, Google's senior policy counsel.

Google's decision rankled Reporters Without Borders, a media watchdog group that has sharply criticized Internet companies including Yahoo and Microsoft Corp.'s MSN.com for submitting to China's censorship regime.

"This is a real shame," said Julien Pain, head of Reporters with Borders' Internet desk.

"When a search engine collaborates with the government like this, it makes it much easier for the Chinese government to control what is being said on the Internet."

Killer Arctic blasts incapacitate Europe

Associated Press

VIENNA, Austria — Vienna's subway tracks cracked, German authorities shut a key canal to ships after it iced up, and a zoo moved its penguins indoors Tuesday as a deadly deep freeze tightened its arctic grip on much of Europe.

The killer cold wave, which has been blamed for more than 50 deaths in Russia, claimed at least 13 lives in the past five days in the former Soviet republic of Moldova, where authorities said another 30 people — many of them homeless — were hospitalized with hypothermia.

Romanian authorities reported 15 deaths in the past few days, five of them homeless people, after temperatures dropped as low as minus 22 degrees.

Parts of Austria felt more like Siberia, with the mercury

plunging well below zero. The bitter cold hit an all-time low of minus 24 degrees in the Lower Austria town of Gross Gerungs, while in the beer-making town of Zwettl, it was minus 12 — the chilliest Jan. 24 since 1929.

Vienna's subway system operator said morning rush-hour service was interrupted in some areas of the capital because the severe cold — which hit a low of minus 2 — caused small tears in the welds on sections of track.

Austria's largest automobile club, OEAMTC, said it responded to hundreds of calls from motorists whose cars wouldn't start because of dead batteries — along with dozens more from drivers who could not pry their way into their vehicles because the doors were frozen shut.

In southern Germany, officials closed the Rhine-Main-Danube canal to shipping for the first time in five years after it iced over.

Thick sheets of ice stretching about 50 miles posed a danger to ship propellers and lock systems, said Leonhard Hummel of the Office of Water and Navigation in Nuremberg. An icebreaker had to help six ships in the canal — which links waterway systems between the North Sea and the Black Sea — reach their destinations.

At the zoo in Dresden, Germany, 21 Humboldt penguins were moved from their minus 6 outdoor environment into a building where the temperature was a more comfortable 32 degrees to ensure their feet didn't freeze, zoo director Karl Ukena said.

In Moscow, which was held in an icy grip for the past nine days, trolley buses and trams returned to full operation Tuesday, but record-breaking electricity consumption continued to strain the Soviet-era power system. The Russian capital "warmed" to minus 7, balmy compared with Thursday's minus 24, but the city's death toll rose to at least 28.

Serbia recorded its first cold casualty of the year when an elderly homeless man died in Belgrade. In Kosovo, where tens of thousands lined up outdoors to pay respects to President Ibrahim Rugova, who died Saturday, authorities urged mourners to bundle up and provided some with hot tea.

A 47-year-old man froze to death early Tuesday in the eastern Czech town of Sumperk, and in Prague, workers erected heated tents for the homeless as temperatures in some parts of the country plunged to minus 22. Tents also went up in Bratislava, the capital of neighboring Slovakia.

At least 35 towns and villages in Bulgaria were without electricity Tuesday after surging power demand led to system breakdowns, the civil defense agency said. Schools in 18 of Bulgaria's 28 regions canceled classes, and an elderly man's death was blamed on the cold.

In Croatia, temperatures fell to minus 1 and winds gusting to 100 mph created a fearsome wind chill factor.

find out what's blowing in the wind

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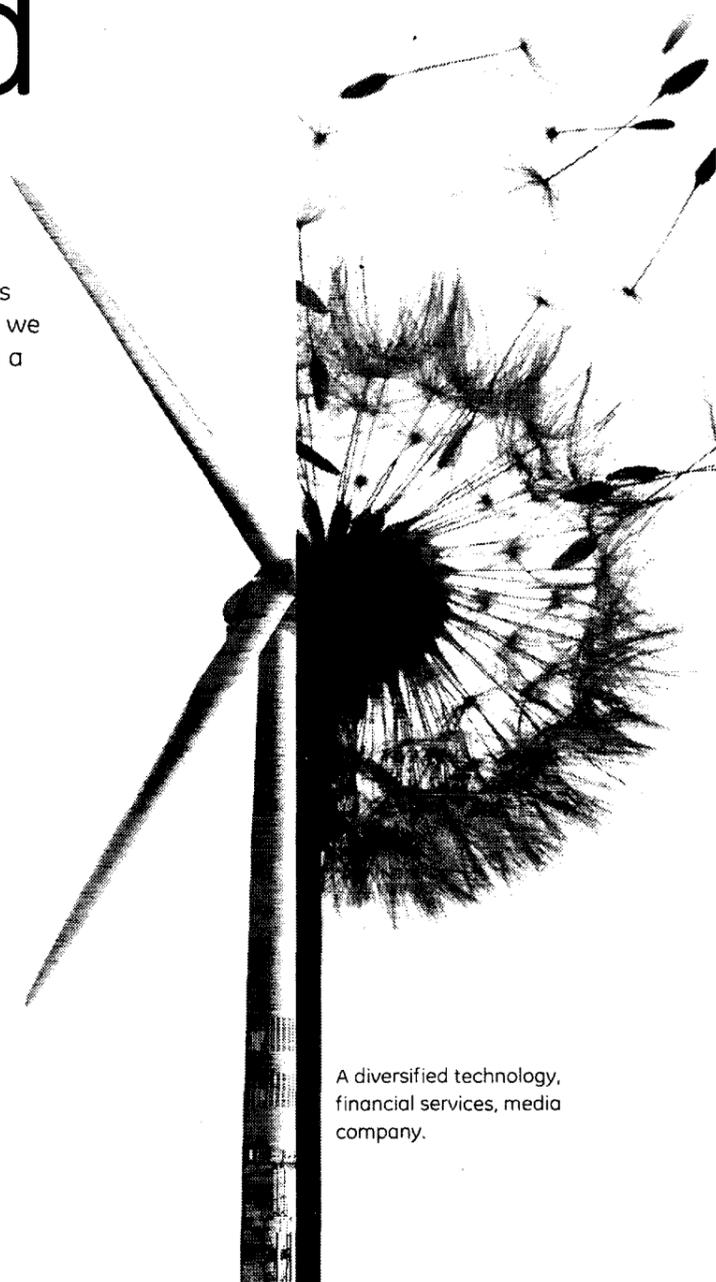
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Youth takeover

Birthdays are funny things. Before my 21st, I was a lot more aware of my age and thinking forward to the benefits of that benchmark. Today, as I turn 22, I am thinking, as I have heard others say, what remains special about getting older beyond 21? I know the future holds other important milestones with new relationships and accomplishments, but there is something extremely awesome about turning 21. Not only are you entering an adult world, literally, of spaces only for adults, but also everyone knows how special it is and shares your excitement. Yet after turning 18 and then 21, we face a lull of ages, not being particularly special beyond our close contacts. Until you get up there to 50 and every 5 to 10 years after, people are mostly impressed you've lasted this long.

What to do about the in-between though? There is little acknowledgment of the attributes and power of young people. The only example I can think of is women and men who serve in the military. In the commercials and ads, young faces stare at us as models of courage and honor that all ages should revere. I have respect for people who make that choice, but there are a multitude of spaces where young people shake things up and act bravely. What about the resolute young people of faith entering the vocations to minister to future generations? What about young people today and through the decades that became Conscientious Objectors to war, risking forced labor and

taunting? What about the young people who are doing the right thing without the watchful eye of adults? What about students who do the thankless work of most of the interesting programming on college campuses? Are they not of value? Are they not brave? Are they not worth public admiration?

On the flip side, young people are mostly chastised in popular discourse for their mistakes and failures. In many meetings and talks, I hear from adults how lazy, apathetic and careless young people are, shaking their heads decrying the future of leadership. To many, we are good for nothings, know-nothings and care-nothings. Young people who do defy this stereotype are "credits to their age" rather than celebrated as the fullest expression of a human person of courage and conscience.

The depictions of youth I like come in poetry. In his poem about "Chicago," Carl Sandburg compares the city to a brave, struggling and laughing youth. Chicago "Under the terrible burden of destiny laughing as a young man laughs ... Bragging and laughing that under his wrist is the pulse and under his ribs the heart of the people." Young people, like growing cities, have the capacity and space to become great and live under pressure constantly. Young people laugh and appear unserious to older folks because they see the long view but know the "heart" of the matter. Young people may not know everything, but they know something that is often the heart of an issue. They live between urgency and having more time to set things right. Young people see the problem, but still have the courage to ask questions and struggle through difficult answers.

Another portrayal of youth I enjoy comes from German poet Rainer

Maria Rilke who writes that even as young people are beginners in life, they have more of an edge in being at the start. The questions, instead of answers, guide youth. Therefore they are open to more. By living the questions, young people may, "gradually without noticing it, live along some distant day into the answer." Also, young people living the questions have more reverence for complexity that an experienced older person may forget.

To our detriment, the values of young people are overlooked by others and ourselves. Perhaps social evil continues because all the people in power are too old. Would we have a different world if led by young people? If young people had a voice in making decisions that rule their lives and the world they will inherit would we live in different societies, communities, or families?

Maybe 22 and beyond will be a lull to everyone else, but I hope we can treasure our youth and not wait till society credentials us, but take credit and power for ourselves to challenge the old fogies running us into a ditch. By acting now, we may save ourselves some work in the future. Even more for consideration, maybe behind the patronizing and head patting of youth is something more substantial — jealousy. A silent age war to keep the young from using their superpowers and to maintain the control of the old. Maybe, maybe not. Either way, we won't know till we're old.

Kamaria Porter a senior Chicagoan who shares her birthday with the day of Al Capone's death in 1947. Coincidence? She encourages you to apply for Viewpoint because she would never dream of writing this column as an alumna.

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



Kamaria Porter

Black, Red and Catholic

EDITORIAL CARTOON



OBSERVER POLL

What should Notre Dame do about the Queer Film Festival and "The Vagina Monologues?"

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

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

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Teachers who educated children deserved more honour than parents who merely gave them birth; for bare life is furnished by the one, the other ensures a good life."

Aristotle
ancient philosopher

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Opening dialogue with Father Jenkins

Investment in women

In response to The Observer article highlighting University President Father John Jenkins' speech about academic freedom, I would like to thank Jenkins for providing specific reasons as to why this University is opposed to "Vagina Monologues." This has allowed all of us to sit down with The Observer in one hand and a pen in the other to finally analyze these arguments. I respect the academic decorum Jenkins has urged in the current debate about the roles of controversial productions at Notre Dame, and out of respect for his desire for a rich debate, I hope to provide an opinion which help Jenkins in his "difficulty seeing" the full value of the monologues. My opinion on this manner is the opinion of a young woman who has survived sexual assault and has been empowered by the images of self-confident women portrayed in "Vagina Monologues."

I'll admit it — the first time I saw this production it made me uncomfortable. For this reason, I didn't really glean from it any true sense of empowerment. But I hung in there, hoping to discover why it was that this play had spread all over the world and had people picketing outside in a Notre Dame February chill. On the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center stage last year, with the benefits of stage lighting and million-dollar acoustics, the "Vagina Monologues" were spectacular. That inspired production produced many supporters last year, and I am convinced that this is a contributing factor toward censorship of the play this year. Relegating the 2006 "Vagina Monologues" to 101 DeBartolo is indeed censorship, as it takes away both the visibility and artistic free-

dom that this play enjoyed in the DPAC.

I am hurt by Margot O'Brien's careless comment that "We will lose our souls" as a result of productions like the "Vagina Monologues." Victims of sexual assault and abuse often crush their emotions and memories about the incident with devastating effects on their own well-being. It can take a lot to shake loose the lid that has been shut on one's soul. For me, it took the "Vagina Monologues." One who engages honestly in viewing this production will find overarching themes of empowerment, strength and pain. The monologues are not about any specific story of sex or violence or homosexuality. The monologues are about finding a way to laugh and cry at the same time about one's own story as a woman, and then drawing strength from that story.

This play is about freedom. It is about discovering individuality, finding one's voice and owning up to the truth about one's past. These themes are all extremely relevant to college students and are all the more relevant to women in the context of the "Vagina Monologues." Notre Dame admitted the first brave women to this University in 1972, and I suggest Jenkins furthers this mission by aiding in our empowerment. Reward out bravery with the freedom to perform productions like the "Vagina Monologues" and invest in the future quality of women's lives at Notre Dame.

Alison Kelly
 senior
 Walsh Hall
 Jan. 24

Call for public forums

Regarding University President Father John Jenkins' speech and invitation for discussion, Notre Dame is not a democracy, nor does it have any obligation to be. But happy compromises, full understanding of all the issues at hand and clarity of the unique positions of those involved would best be brought about through sustained, respectful dialogue. I believe that sustained dialogue should involve transparent, formal, open-minded conversation among representatives of all these groups: students at large, the organizers of the controversial events, faculty, staff, alumni, ND administrators and the church in an open way, as opposed to the one-way "e-mail works well" transmission method proposed by Jenkins on Tuesday at his speech to a few hundred members of the student body.

If we actually worked together, couldn't we then come up with a more satisfactory solution to the "Vagina Monologues" situation other than determining whether it should be "on" or "off" (or alternatively, "a public performance and fundraiser" or "not"), and discover more adequate solutions to the multitude of other concerns that force us to address dilemmas of Catholicism and academic freedom and who or what publicly represents Notre Dame as a university?

I don't believe we are hearing each other, but communicating through speeches. I am doubly concerned because our perceptions of one another are limited and flawed. I don't think concerned students at large have had the opportunity to develop an adequate understanding of the University administrations' process and practical concerns in addressing this dilemma. Nor do I believe those for and against truly understand each others' positions. Most importantly, I think that a novel solution to these problems would be best brought about through this type of dialogue.

I propose developing a public forum or multiple forums where these issues can be discussed, and perhaps resolved, and I would be happy to help facilitate that development.

Finally, I would like to make clear that while I am involved with the unrecognized group of individuals called AllianceND (the gay-straight alliance), I am speaking only for myself — part of the Notre Dame family, ND's loyal daughter, but separate, distinct and unrepresentative of any agencies' beliefs beyond my own. It can be done.

Anna Gomberg
 graduate student
 Off-campus
 Jan. 24

U-WIRE

Online courses instead of class? Tempting, but I'll pass

It's hard to sit through a bad lecture. Your eyes droop, slowly fall shut and then jerk open. You wish you could be anywhere else but there. The rambling professor eats an hour of your day with that bad lecture, maybe more. As you leave the classroom, thanking the stars above that you don't have to go back until the weekend has passed, you see a solution to your bad-lecture problems tacked innocently on a bulletin board: Your boring lecture course is being offered ... online!

Sara Tenenbaum

The Justice Brandeis University

The number of online courses offered by colleges has risen steadily since 1999, when, according to the Washington Post, a small company called Blackboard-run by a handful of 20-somethings-produced software that would help colleges put courses onto the Internet.

It was a breakthrough; with this technology, universities could expand their student bodies exponentially but avoid the strain that would be placed on their personnel and facilities if these students were to physically attend the college.

It also wouldn't affect admissions percentages and the amount of financial aid given out by the school, meaning the budget could (theoretically) remain intact.

That was January 1999. Now, seven years later, the Sloan Consortium (a research group associated with New York University's Sloan School of

Business) estimates that about three million students take online courses, a number that has been rising roughly 25 percent each year, according to an April 2005 article in The Washington Post. And according to an Associated Press article published just this month, the fastest growing group of students taking online courses is made up of those already enrolled in, living at and physically attending their college.

Brandeis has never offered extensive online courses, though the Justice reported in September 2004 that some professors had attempted online summer school courses, with mixed results. Generally speaking, there are two kinds of colleges that offer online classes: large universities and those that exist exclusively online.

The latter are not my primary concern, because an exclusively online degree often serves adults who are updating skills or continuing their education while also holding a job.

The multitude of online courses being offered by normal colleges is something that I do find disturbing, however. There is a practical reason for these courses to exist—large state schools often have groups of "distance students" who live too far away to commute to campus. Online courses are geared toward these students; they can attend their classes when they need to, and can otherwise do their work via the Internet. And at these large colleges, online courses might actually make students feel as if they are getting more personal

attention from their professors.

But when resident students begin to take online courses because it permits them more time to "do things they like," (in the case of the AP article, the student wanted more time to restore motorcycles), then I think that we're seeing a serious erosion of the meaning and purpose of higher education.

I got the "memorize and regurgitate" method of learning out of my system in high school. College is the time to work on making your thinking more sophisticated, which cannot happen through a class that promotes rote memorization. To grow in the ways intended by higher education requires social interaction: You must learn not just from books and notes, but from people.

Brandeis offers a pretty good deal: for \$32,500 tuition a year, I get small classes that are taught by unbelievably smart professors and populated by very smart students. I have sometimes learned more from the students than my professors; they ask questions I want answered but never thought to ask, they push my thinking in directions that would have been unfathomable even days before, and they force me to realize that even though I thought everyone at the table was a snobby, careless person, I was completely wrong. The personal interaction offered in a class environment is priceless; no online course, no matter how easy or convenient, could ever provide me with such a rich education — an education that permeates not just my academic mind, but my

human soul as well.

This is not to say that online classes should be abolished, or that they don't have a place in higher education. I am able to support myself, thanks to my parents, on only a part-time job; those in other financial situations may find online college to be the perfect solution.

But if you are going to physically and financially commit yourself to higher education, especially a liberal arts education, then shouldn't you take advantage of the full scope of the college experience?

That means not through a computer screen, but in a classroom, on or near a campus, with people about your age, everyone following the same broad path to their respective futures. To give that experience up for a few more hours of free time is a horrific waste of time, money and opportunity. In a world increasingly dominated by technology, full of people who now only communicate through Bluetooth headset or Blackberry e-mail, by text message or IM, college is one of the last times in our lives when constant social interaction is enthusiastically supported. If we're going to shirk that privilege in favor of online convenience, then we may as well not go to college at all.

This column originally appeared in the Jan. 24 issue of The Justice, the daily publication at Brandeis University.

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

MOVIE REVIEWS

Queen Latifah's charm drives 'Holiday'

By CASSIE BELEK
Scene Critic

At the time of year when everyone is rushing to see potential Oscar nominees, "Last Holiday" is not to be overlooked.

It may be filled with a predictable plot and far too many coincidences, but the film offers laughs and warmth that only Queen Latifah can deliver. It is not the most original plot — in fact, it is a remake of the 1950 Alec Guinness film. But the movie doesn't try to break new ground in vacation comedies. It simply tries to give us more of what audiences want — Queen Latifah in a role that fits her like a glove.

In the beginning of the film, viewers see a shy and lonely Georgia Byrd (Latifah) working in the cookware department of a major department store, secretly harboring a crush on co-worker Sean Matthews (LL Cool J). It is a crush so large, she even cuts their heads out of pictures, pastes them on the bodies of a bride and groom and places them in her "Book of Possibilities."

Also in her book are pictures of her favorite chefs and delectable dishes she has prepared (although she only eats Lean Cuisine), along with brochures of

her dream vacations.

After she hits her head at work, a trip to the doctor reveals that Georgia has a terminal disease and only has three weeks to live. She regrets that she has wasted her life waiting for something to happen instead of doing the things she has always desired, like opening her own restaurant or meeting Emeril.

After accepting her fate, she cashes in all her investments, flies to the Czech Republic and checks into the Grand Hotel Pupp in Karlovy Vary, a luxurious spa and ski destination. There, she meets one of her cooking heroes, Chef Didier (Gérard Depardieu), and a series of far-fetched coincidences has her meeting the greedy retail giant who owns the department store for which she worked, his mistress, the senator who

cancelled his appearance at her church (apparently to go on vacation) and a congressman who serves no purpose except to utter some of the most humorous lines in the movie as several characters are stranded on a

ledge of the hotel toward the end of the film.

Upon her arrival to the resort, Georgia sheds her former shy self, and Latifah effortlessly guides her character through a transformation that includes a stylish new wardrobe, daily spa treatments,



Photo courtesy of movieweb.com

Queen Latifah shines as Georgia Byrd, a shy department store clerk who learns that she has only a few weeks left to live in Wayne Wang's "Last Holiday."

Last Holiday



Director: Wayne Wang
Writers: Jeffrey Price, Peter S. Seaman
Starring: Queen Latifah, LL Cool J, Timothy Hutton and Giancarlo Esposito

snowboarding lessons gone awry and eating every dish Chef Didier has to offer. Georgia's appetite for life inspires not only the hotel staff, but also the influential people she helps to reform. Back home, Sean has discovered the real reason Georgia skipped town and chases after her to grant her last dying wish — love.

LL Cool J portrays the nerdy but sexy Sean brilliantly. In this role, he shows that he can do more than just "be cool" and act in a comedic role that is anything but suave. His on-screen chemistry with Latifah makes us wish Georgia's diagnosis was wrong, and perhaps it is.

Latifah shines as the transformed Miss Byrd. Just as the hotel staff and guests can't take their eyes off of Georgia, we can't take our eyes off of Latifah. Her charisma and energy make us feel like we're on a life-changing vacation with Georgia and having a blast. After showing her acting chops in "Chicago," Latifah proves that she can do comedy without stereotypes or overacting.

"Last Holiday" is a refreshing and fun break from the critically-acclaimed dramas of the season and shows Latifah as the warm and hilarious woman she is.

Contact Cassie Belek at cbelek@nd.edu 11

'Dick and Jane' no fun for movie audiences

By LAURA MILLER
Scene Critic

"Fun with Dick and Jane," starring Jim Carrey (Dick), is most assuredly fun but just about as creative as its title.

Directed by Dean Parisot and written by Judd Apatow and Nicholas Stoller, this movie uses the archaic "Dick and Jane" stories for beginning readers as a springboard for the story. Or at least, that's what it was supposed to do, but the only things that are really used are the names Dick and Jane (played by Téa Leoni). The rest, while modestly amusing, is a plot that lacks both motivation and a satirical commentary on the children's text.

This film ends up satisfying no one. For those who crave Carrey's over-the-top comedic style, this film falls short.

Gone are the agonizing screams of "Bruce Almighty," the prancing hilarity of "The Grinch" and the quirky role-playing of "A Series of Unfortunate Events." Those who love Carrey's absolute absurdities are disappointed, and those who don't probably wouldn't have gone to see a Carrey movie anyway.

At one point in time, the acting would have been sufficient for a comedy, but actors Vince Vaughn, Ben Stiller and Owen Wilson have raised the bar for modern mindless comedy. No longer does mediocre acting satisfy audiences. Comedy has gone beyond the script — it now includes expression and the individual personality of the actors. Like

other contemporary comedies, the film is full of snappy little one-liners that draw the laughs, but unlike more popular films, they aren't witty enough to commit to memory. It's like listening to someone tell a series of really funny knock-knock jokes.

"Fun with Dick and Jane" was easy to follow, but had one major flaw in its script — this story is for children. It has just enough "inappropriate" content to boost it up to a PG-13 rating, but not enough to entertain adults. As a result, many parents will be ambivalent about taking their children, and most adults will feel that the film is juvenile. It essentially targets one age group — 12- to 14-year-olds.

A good film should speak to a broad audience. The screenwriters should have picked either an adult audience or a children's one and written accordingly,

but instead, "Fun with Dick and Jane" is in limbo between the two and — like the acting — leaves almost every audience member dissatisfied.

The cinematography of this movie is ordinary, ordinary, ordinary. Comedy doesn't really lend to too many creative brainstorming on this front, but the blandness of Dick and Jane's house, car, child, television, carpet and costuming does nothing to even try to compensate for the lack of good humor.

The movie intended to present the picture of perfect suburbia seen in the books — each house looking identical, yards neatly trimmed and each family



Photo courtesy of movieweb.com

Dick (Jim Carrey), left, and Jane (Tea Leoni), right, turn to crime to escape their financial difficulties in Dean Parisot's latest comedy, "Fun with Dick and Jane."

with a husband, wife, child and dog. The creators should have looked to Carrey's "The Truman Show" for tips on constructing a comic suburban setting. If highlighted, the ridiculous uniformity could have been a hoot, but the cinematography fails to focus on the satirical commentary of suburbia. This destroys the mood of the script and diminishes the irony of Dick and Jane's struggles against their (supposedly) stereotypical surroundings.

The verdict on "Fun with Dick and

Jane"? Forgettable. Certainly not worth the obscenely-high ticket prices. It's bad enough that people will be walking out of the theaters, but in two weeks, no one will remember the plot or anything about it. It's not painfully bad, but it's not good either.

"Fun with Dick and Jane" leaves viewers wishing that they had stayed home to watch "Monty Python and the Holy Grail" for the umpteenth time.

Contact Laura Miller at lmiller8@nd.edu

MOVIE REVIEWS

'Memoirs' a movie worth remembering

By MICHELLE FORDICE
Scene Critic

Based on the internationally best-selling novel by Arthur Golden, "Memoirs of a Geisha" pays full tribute to the book's fame and is even independently a wonderful piece.

Though the movie, like the book, may occasionally stray historically, the beauty of the film, its score and acting makes up for many of its inconsistencies.

"Memoirs of a Geisha" tells the story of Chiyo (Suzuka Ohgo), later known as Sayuri (Ziyi Zhang) — a nine year old girl taken from her fishing village, separated from her sister and sold to a Geisha house in Kyoto. She is set to work as a servant, suffering the vindictiveness of Hatsumomo (Li Gong), the most prominent Geisha of the house. With no hope of seeing her sister again, Chiyo despairs until she meets the Chairman (Ken Watanabe), whose kindness inspires her and kindles her love.

Eventually Chiyo is taken under the wing of Hatsumomo's rival, Mameha (Michelle Yeoh) and becomes one of the most renowned Geisha, changing her name to Sayuri. But soon World War II

arrives, and that world begins to collapse around her. "Memoirs of a Geisha" is a story of finding one's self in a world that does its best to hide and crush it.

Director Rob Marshall takes the same impacting visuals he used in "Chicago" and applies them to the softer and veiled world of the Geishas. In doing so, he creates stunning scenes that are just lined with darkness, reflecting the life of a Geisha, beautiful on the outside and more challenging within.

Despite all of the commotion before the release of the film due to the use of primarily Chinese instead of Japanese actors, the acting in "Memoirs of a Geisha" is done very well.

Ohgo builds a strong foundation for the protagonist that Zhang takes and molds, walking the fine line between Sayuri's passivity and assertiveness.

"Memoirs of a Geisha" has a well-known cast, including such names as Ken Watanabe and Michelle Yeoh, but these actors do well to remain true to their characters, so the film does not turn into a simple name-dropping exercise.

With the talents of composer John Williams, cellist Yo-Yo Ma and violinist Itzhak Perlman all working in concert, the score of "Memoirs of a Geisha" is astounding. Subdued and beautiful, it



Photo courtesy of movieweb.com

Sayuri (Ziyi Zhang), right, falls in love with The Chairman (Ken Watanabe), left, in the film adaptation of Arthur Golden's bestseller "Memoirs of a Geisha."

complements the rest of the film and dances around two of the main characters — Sayuri and the Chairman — without ever becoming overpowering, thus remaining simply gorgeous.

The story of "Memoirs of a Geisha" may not be the best historical representation. There are some inaccuracies — some things are a bit too modern and never would have happened in the early- to mid-1900s, and World War II seems significantly underplayed. Most importantly, the realities of the time were probably not as beautiful as the film depicts them. Still, if taken with a little wariness, it remains a great story,

if not the best history lesson.

The lost world of the Geisha is perhaps not one that should be mourned so beautifully; it was a life where silk wrapped darker secrets of intrigue, virginity was sold to the highest bidder, and girls faced constant struggle to assert any of their own will over their lives.

Still, "Memoirs of a Geisha" is a wonderful tale that for once gives a happy ending to a Geisha's struggles and does so in a wonderfully artistic way.

Contact Michelle Fordice at mfordice@nd.edu

Theater adaptation fails to produce results

By GRACE MYERS
Scene Critic

"The Producers" is a movie based on the Broadway musical which, in-turn, was based on a movie about a play. But don't worry, no musical is too complicated and "The Producers" is not an exception.

Despite its 37-year life, most people recognize "The Producers" from the famous, impossible-to-get-tickets-to, award-winning Broadway musical in which Nathan Lane and Matthew Broderick starred five years ago. In the film, director Susan Stroman recreates the theatrical performance for thousands of holiday season movie-goers.

The movie begins when the unlucky producer Max Bialystock (Lane) meets with his mousey accountant Leo Bloom (Broderick). Feeding off Bloom's dream to be a Broadway producer, Bialystock convinces him to become his partner in a surefire flop and then pocket all of the investors' money. They dig through piles of scripts to find the worst one, settling on "Springtime for Hitler," a musical praising the Fuhrer and "certain to offend peoples of all races, creeds and religions."

They then must work to produce the play, meeting Franz Liebkind (Will Ferrell), the pigeon-loving Nazi playwright, and the cartoonishly beautiful Swedish actress/receptionist Ulla (Uma Thurman). They hire the worst possible director, Robert DeBris (original cast member Gary Beach), who believes that no one goes to the theater for a serious production and therefore lives by his per-

sonal showbiz motto: "Keep it light, keep it happy, keep it gay!" All the while, Bialystock woos elderly widows for money and Bloom dreams of his new life as a wealthy Broadway producer.

Despite all their scheming to the contrary, "Springtime for Hitler" is an instant success, as audiences see it as an ironic spoof on Nazism and Hitler. This, and the proceeding action, proves hilarious, probably even more so for today's audiences, who might expect irony, rather than audiences of 37 years ago when the first movie debuted.

Stroman, a successful Broadway and off-Broadway director, did not have any previous experience with film. She fulfills the task of portraying the energy of the stage show — for example, Lane's fast-paced, frenzied musical number "Betrayed" is absolutely brilliant.

However, the movie loses much of its energy without any live audience interaction and because of its considerable length. Movie-goers are fortunate to see the unique comedic relationship

between Lane and Broderick.

It's obvious they did hundreds of performances and are in-tune with each other; some of their scenes actually seemed as if they were completed in just one take. Uma Thurman and Will Ferrell, the two notable additions whom theatrical purists scoffed, had remarkable performances, displaying great ease behind the camera that other actors sometimes lacked.

"The Producers" feels more like watching a play than a movie, as if someone just



Photo courtesy of movieweb.com

Max Bialystock (Nathan Lane), left, schemes with Leo Bloom (Matthew Broderick), right, in the latest film adaptation of Mel Brooks' "The Producers."

set a camera up on stage and let the actors do what they have done hundreds of times. This, much to critics' dismay and disapproval, was its most original and endearing quality. Other musicals-turned-movies, such as "Chicago" and "Rent," digressed considerably from their original theatrical performances, using all the cinematic tricks the director could think up.

"The Producers" however, remains true to its theatrical form, indeed the form that brought it so much success. Actors use large, exaggerated motions while wearing colorful costumes, and the dance choreog-

raphy is exactly what one would expect to see during the play. The sets, despite a few outdoor locations, seem as if they were taken straight from the playhouse in New York City.

The movie impresses with the close relationships between the actors and the comedic brilliance of the script. It is indeed entertaining, but does not live up to its potential, leaving many movie-goers unsatisfied, desiring to just go see the play.

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DVD REVIEWS

Unrated 'Virgin' worth the extra wait

By MOLLY GRIFFIN
Assistant Scene Editor

"The 40-Year-Old Virgin" could have easily been nothing but a sophomore sex film, but with the help of good writing, a great cast and actual emotion in the film, it emerged as something different. It had too much of a heart to just be a gross-out comedy, and it had too many raunchy jokes to just be a film you'd take a date to.

Even without a real niche, the film became a huge hit over the summer and the unrated version of the DVD is a fitting package for the unique kind of movie that "The 40-Year-Old Virgin" proved to be. The extras highlight the best parts of the film and are actually worth watching, which isn't true of every film out these days.

Steve Carrell, previously known for playing news anchors on "The Daily Show," "Bruce Almighty" and "Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy," plays Andy Stitzer, an action-figure obsessed guy who also happens to be a virgin. When his co-workers find out that he hasn't been with a woman, they do all that they can

to help him. He ultimately starts a relationship with the "hot grandma," Trish (Catherine Keener) and learns a lot about sex and what makes relationships work.

The film features a great cast, with especially funny work from Paul Rudd and Seth Rogan as two of Andy's friends. Catherine Keener makes Andy's love interest Trish a multi-dimensional character, which is impressive since she could have easily been the stereotypical movie girlfriend. Steve Carrell, usually over-the-top in his comedy roles, does a surprisingly good job playing the shy, quiet straight man.

The film isn't heavy on plot and shamelessly uses some of the jokes that one would expect in a film about a 40-year-old virgin, but it also has some truly original moments. For every expected bad date and awkward sex scene, it also has some surprisingly real things to say about love and dating.

One of the best — and most painful — features on the DVD is the "Waxing Doc," which chronicles the now infamous scene in which star Steve Carrell actually had his chest waxed into a "man-o-lantern" for the movie.

Other extras included extended takes of such scenes such as "You Know How I Know You're Gay," "Andy's Fantasies" and "Cal and Paula," all of which include commentary and a few other extended scenes without comments.

The scenes, especially the clearly ad-libbed "You Know How I Know You're Gay" scene, are

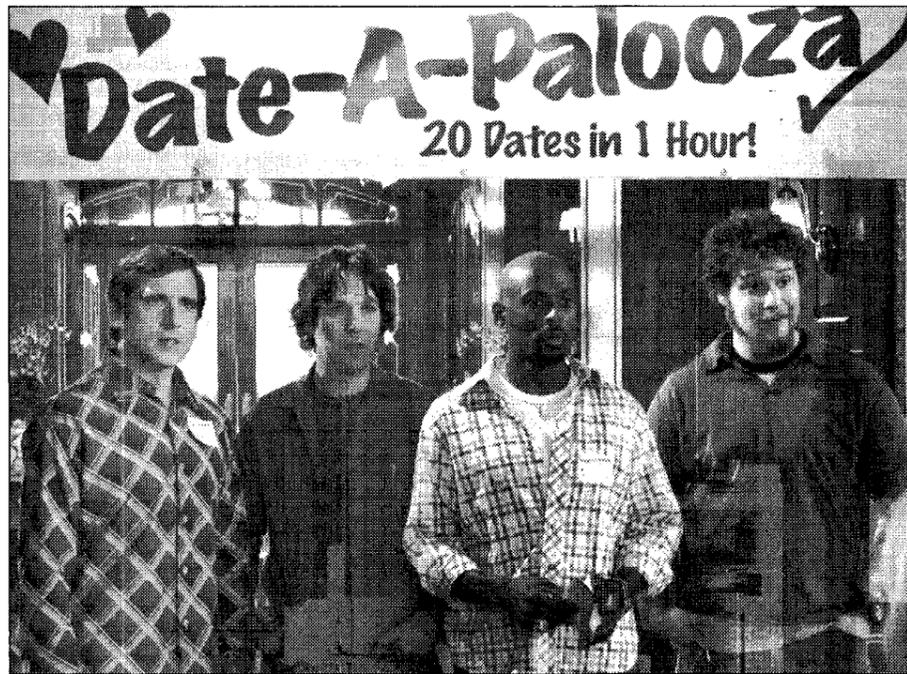


Photo courtesy of movieweb.com

Director Judd Apatow's "The 40 Year-Old Virgin," which stars Steve Carrell (left) and was a surprise hit last summer, hit DVD in an extended uncut version.

actually worthy of making it into the actual film. The bloopers, as with most films, are predictable but worth watching once.

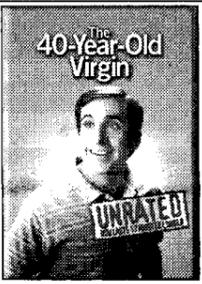
The "Line-O-Rama" feature is one of the more unique additions to the DVD. It shows alternate jokes that didn't make it into scenes that are in the film. "My Dinner with Stormy," another extra, features Seth Rogan, who plays Cal, on a date with porn star Stormy Daniels, who is featured in the film. There is also commentary on the entire

movie from Carrell and writer/director Judd Apatow.

Overall, "The 40-Year-Old Virgin" is a hilarious movie with a surprising dash of heart added to the mix. It doesn't have an extremely complicated plot or premise, but with a great cast, some fantastic jokes and some actual commentary on relationships, it does a great job with what it has.

Contact Molly Griffin at mgriffin@nd.edu

The 40 Year-Old Virgin
Unrated Edition
MCA Home Video



Uncorked 'Crashers' breaks every rule

By SEAN SWEANY
Scene Critic

Rule #46: The rules of wedding crashing are sacred. Don't sully them by "improvising." Now these sacred rules are available for all to own, in the form of "Wedding Crashers: Uncorked" on DVD. Never again will any Crasher have to utter Rule #76: No excuses. Play like a champion.

This film, which stars Vince Vaughn and Owen Wilson, has written the book on wedding crashing and is a must-have for anyone looking for a good laugh or even those seriously interested in the sport.

Lifelong friends John (Owen Wilson, "The Royal Tenenbaums") and Jeremy (Vince Vaughn, "Old School") are two divorce mediators who indulge in the springtime hobby of crashing weddings to pick up women. No matter the ethnicity of the wedding, these two charismatic crashers are always prepared, thanks to their set of rules, and quickly become hits at any wedding. They rationalize that their immaturity is just "people helping people" have a fun time at the nuptials.

Before hanging up their suits, the two

decide to crash the biggest wedding of the year, the marriage of the daughter of the Treasury Secretary Cleary (Christopher Walken, "Catch Me If You Can"). At the wedding, John falls for the second daughter of the Secretary, Claire (Rachel McAdams, "The Notebook"), while Jeremy falls for his third, lustful daughter Gloria ("I Heart Huckabees"). The two go to the Clearys' island home of the in order to pursue their romances, but once there, the deception and deceit become too much when mean boyfriends, impassioned mothers and total disaster threaten the two crashers.

This movie works so well because of the relationship between fast-talking Vaughn and drawling Wilson. They have acted in many films of the current comedy troupe of Will Ferrell, Ben Stiller and Jack Black, but this is their first starring effort. Their banter is at times vulgar and raunchy, but this is a refreshing change from the trend of sedate, conservative comedies.

Director David Dobkin ("Shanghai Knights") does a respectable job of guiding the film, mostly by letting Vaughn and Wilson work their magic. The interactions between Vaughn and Wilson are very well

acted and provide many quotable lines. The attractive Rachel McAdams continues to prove that she is one of the finest up-and-coming young actresses in Hollywood by holding her own alongside the two veteran comedians. Fine supporting roles are played by Walken, Jane Seymour as his wife, Fisher and a surprise cameo by a member



Photo courtesy of movieweb.com

Vince Vaughn, left, and Owen Wilson, middle, starred in "Wedding Crashers," one of the summer's biggest hits. It arrived on DVD in an "Uncorked" version.

of Vaughn and Wilson's comic troupe.

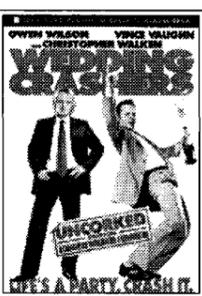
The "Uncorked" DVD edition allows viewers to watch the unrated cut of the film, featuring eight extra minutes of footage deemed unsuitable for theaters. Like most comedies, these unrated scenes do not add much to the film but are still worth it since the rated and unrated versions are offered at the same price. The two featurettes included on the DVD are a behind-the-scenes look at the making of the film and a scene of Vince Vaughn and Owen Wilson discussing the rules of wedding crashing. These same rules are also

printed on several pages for anyone serious in their study of wedding crashing.

Overall, this is a very worthwhile DVD to own. The filmmakers were aiming to produce an R-rated comedy where the actors could let loose and have fun, and that energy in "Wedding Crashers" jumps off the screen and provides many laughs wrapped in a feel-good love story. As wedding season comes near, crashers and non-crashers alike can find laughs and delight in "Wedding Crashers."

Contact Sean Sweany at ssweany@nd.edu

Wedding Crashers
Uncorked Edition
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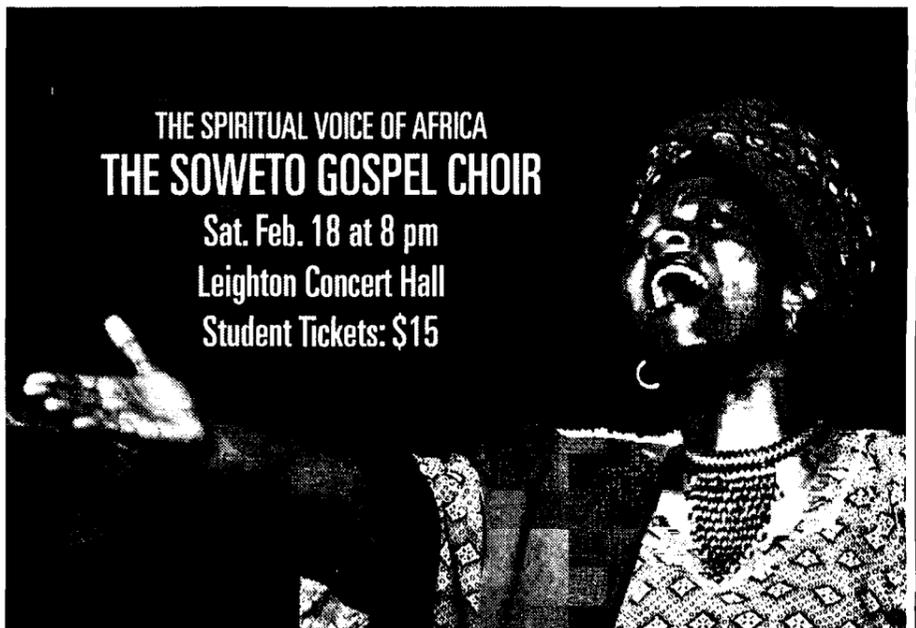


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NBA

Cavaliers dominate Pacers in 96-66 trouncing

Jermaine O'Neal thought to have torn groin muscle in game

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — The Indiana Pacers may have bigger problems than just finding a new team for Ron Artest.

With a proposed trade sending Artest to Sacramento apparently on hold, the Pacers scored just 28 points in the second half, lost Jermaine O'Neal to another injury and were drubbed by the Cleveland Cavaliers on Tuesday night.

"We sure have had enough bad luck for a year," said O'Neal, who may have torn a groin muscle in the fourth quarter. "I'm really, really concerned. I heard it pop. Hopefully, I won't need surgery."

O'Neal, who said he has felt tightness in the groin for weeks, also hurt his right shoulder and was playing on a tender left ankle. He limped to the locker room with 9:30 remaining, but by then the Cavaliers were ahead by 20.

LeBron James met with Oscar Robertson before the game and then flirted with a triple-double in front of the man who patented them.

Wearing white tights under his shorts, a look likely to be copied by kids everywhere, James scored 23 points with eight assists and seven rebounds for the Cavaliers, just back from a 1-5 trip to the West Coast.

"I'm 2-0 with them," James said of the leggings. "I'm wearing them to keep warm so when I go to the bench it [his sore left knee] doesn't stiffen up."

Before the game, Pacers coach Rick Carlisle and CEO Donnie Walsh said that no trade involving the volatile Artest was imminent.

"There is no trade right now and there may not be a trade," Carlisle said. "There's nothing to talk about because there is no trade."

The Pacers could have used Artest, a defensive stopper who held James to 19 points on 6-of-20 shooting earlier this season. But they couldn't do much to slow Cleveland's All-Star in the third when he scored 12 points — one less than the Pacers — and the Cavs outscored Indiana 27-13.

Sixers 109, Kings 103

PHILADELPHIA — The Sacramento Kings could've used either Ron Artest or Peja Stojakovic against Allen Iverson and the Philadelphia 76ers.

Iverson scored 41 points and

Chris Webber had 17 points and 13 rebounds, leading Philadelphia to a victory over undermanned Sacramento on Tuesday night.

The Kings were without Stojakovic because he stayed back at the hotel after the team reportedly agreed to send him to Indiana for Artest earlier in the day. However, the trade fell through, though Artest left open the possibility that something could still happen. The volatile forward was deactivated by the Pacers in December after requesting a trade.

"I had no control over any of it," Kings coach Rick Adelman said. "I didn't have Peja. I told them to play with the hand you're dealt."

Mike Bibby had a career-high 44 points and Kevin Martin added 20 as the Kings lost their third straight game. Sacramento has won at least 55 games in four straight seasons, but is last in the Pacific Division.

"As far as distractions go, not having Peja was the biggest thing," Bibby said. "We still don't know what's going on."

The Kings visit the New York Knicks on Wednesday, but Adelman wasn't sure about Stojakovic's status.

"I have a lot of faith in Peja," Adelman said. "He's meant a lot to me and this franchise. He's been a pro his whole career."

The Sixers have won three in a row, improving to 21-20 at the halfway point of the season. Philadelphia, which came in allowing the third-most points in the NBA, reverted back to its usual form on defense after consecutive solid efforts.

The Sixers held Memphis and Minnesota to under 90 points each, but allowed the Kings to shoot 47.6 percent.

Heat 94, Grizzlies 82

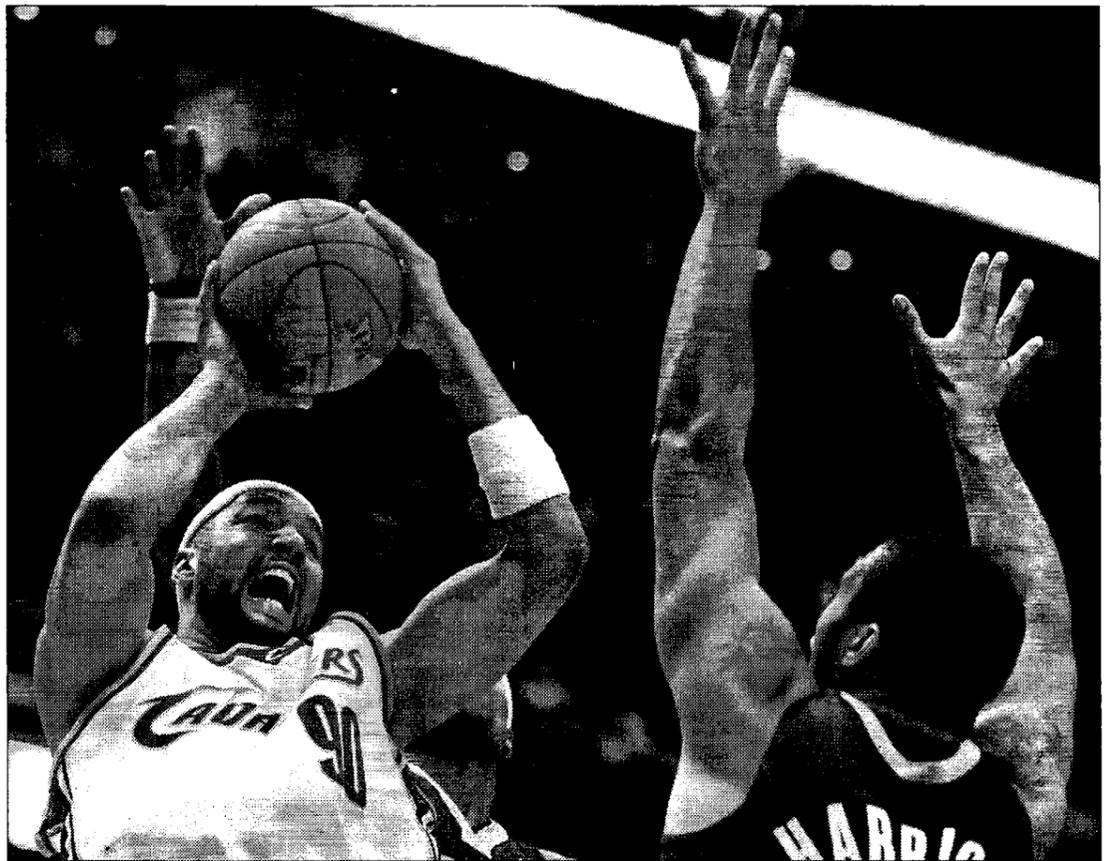
MIAMI — Bobby Jackson kept looking over his left shoulder as he strode toward the basket for what could have been an easy lay-up.

He never saw Dwyane Wade coming from the right.

Wade swooped over Jackson to block the shot late in the third quarter, part of his big second-half effort that helped carry the Miami Heat to a win over the Memphis Grizzlies on Tuesday night.

Wade scored 18 of his 25 points in the second half, plus helped frustrate former Heat guard Eddie Jones into an 0-for-7 performance in his first game back in Miami since he was traded in the five-team, 13-player megadeal last summer that brought Jason Williams and James Posey to the Heat.

"Coach did put a challenge



The Cavaliers' Drew Gooden shoots over Indiana's David Harrison in the fourth quarter of Cleveland's 96-66 win on Tuesday night. Cleveland's LeBron James scored 19 points on the night.

out there for me to be more active on defense, to be more aware," said Wade, who added four rebounds, four assists, three blocks and two steals. "I know I'm a good defender. At times, I just take a rest. So he put a challenge on me not to take a rest."

It wasn't just Wade responding to Pat Riley's call for better defense. The Heat outrebounded Memphis 47-30, plus held the Grizzlies to 52 points and 34 percent shooting over the final three periods.

Shaquille O'Neal had 20 points and 15 rebounds in only 30 minutes for Miami, which won its 51st consecutive home game when leading after three quarters. Williams added 14 points and six assists for the Heat, who have won two straight.

"If we do what we're supposed to do, we can play with any team," said O'Neal, repeating a familiar refrain. "We just have to play good defense, contain their shooters, not let them have three or four guys in double figures. If we do that, we'll be fine."

Jackson had a season-high 22 points for Memphis, which also got 12 from Shane Battier and Mike Miller. Pau Gasol added 11 for the Grizzlies, who lost both games with Miami this season.

Pistons 107, Timberwolves 83

MINNEAPOLIS — Coach Flip

Saunders and his staff were so excited, Rasheed Wallace joked, that they could've donned Detroit's red road uniforms and played themselves.

Just another game? The Pistons acknowledged it wasn't.

Chauncey Billups beat his old team by five points in the third quarter, sparking the streaking Pistons past the Timberwolves on Tuesday night — and giving Saunders a satisfying return to Minnesota.

"It was nice," said Saunders, cheered loudly before tipoff. "Coaches do like those kind of games."

Billups finished with 27 points, eight assists and seven rebounds after outscoring the Timberwolves 18-13 by himself in the third.

Antonio McDyess had 16 points, and Tayshaun Prince and Rasheed Wallace each had 15 points for Detroit (34-5), which won its eighth straight game and showed the bravado of a team with the league's best record.

"That's one of the best teams I've seen assembled, from top to bottom," said Minnesota coach Dwane Casey. "You saw the potential NBA champions in the second half."

Kevin Garnett had 21 points and 10 rebounds for the Timberwolves (19-20), who didn't make a very good impression on their former coach. Saunders was fired last

February after taking Minnesota to the playoffs eight times in his 9 1/2 seasons, and this was his first time back at Target Center.

Magic 111, Suns 102

ORLANDO, Fla. — All of a sudden, the Orlando Magic are unbeatable at home.

Orlando limited Phoenix, the NBA's highest-scoring team, to just two points in the final 4:48 of the game, allowing the Magic to pull away to a victory.

It was the seventh straight home victory for Orlando, which started the season just 5-9 on its own court. Hedo Turkoglu led the Magic with 30 points — including 10 in the final 6:12 when Orlando broke a 95-all tie.

Dwight Howard added 22 points and 12 rebounds while Steve Francis had 15 points, six assists and six rebounds as Orlando notched its fourth straight win overall, tying a season high.

Keyon Dooling, playing for the first time after a five-game suspension for fighting, had 10 points in a reserve role.

"Home wins are huge, no doubt about it," Magic coach Brian Hill said. "We got excellent contributions from everybody at some point in the game and I was obviously pleased with our defense at the end. Phoenix is a tough team to defend."

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NHL

Axelsson, Bruins inch closer to playoffs with win

Third-period goal gives Boston 3-2 victory over Atlanta

Associated Press

ATLANTA — The Boston Bruins had plenty of chances to score on the power play.

They waited until the Atlanta Thrashers evened things up.

P.J. Axelsson scored with 7:02 remaining and the Bruins edged closer to playoff contention, beating the Thrashers Tuesday night.

Boston spent much of the third period with an extra skater — and even a couple of two-man advantages. But the teams were at even strength when Axelsson scored his first game-winning goal of the year.

After the Bruins controlled a faceoff, Brad Isbister played keepaway in the corner, then passed off to Wayne Primeau behind the net. Primeau spotted Axelsson alone in front, and the winger knocked his ninth goal past Thrashers goalie Keri Lehtonen.

"It was a hardworking goal," Axelsson said. "I didn't see any of it. I just shot it. I was too close to the net. There was a lot of luck in it."

Boston is playing its best hockey of the season, winning for the fourth time in six games and losing the other two in shootouts. The Bruins closed to within four points of the Thrashers, who hold down the eighth spot — the final playoff position — in the Eastern Conference.

"We've been playing consistently good for three or four weeks, but not always getting

the results," coach Mike Sullivan said. "This group is starting to define itself."

The Thrashers are mired in a three-game losing streak — their worst slump since a five-game skid that ended in early December. Atlanta followed that with a 13-2-3 run, surging into contention for the first playoff berth in franchise history.

Now, they need another turnaround. "When you look at the standings, it's all jumbled up," Atlanta coach Bob Hartley said. "There's still plenty of games. But you don't want to give up games that could come back to haunt you at the end of the year."

Hartley was very upset with the officials, who called five straight penalties on the home team in the first 10:04 of the third period. The Thrashers spent more than eight minutes killing them off — including two stretches totaling 1:43 in which they were two skaters down.

Blue Jackets 6, Canucks 5

COLUMBUS — The Columbus Blue Jackets, with the fewest goals in the NHL, finally won a game because of their offense.

Trevor Letowski scored with 4:37 left to help the Blue Jackets to a win over the Vancouver Canucks on Tuesday night in the highest-scoring game played in the franchise's five years.

In a wild game that had little defense and end-to-end action, the Blue Jackets blew leads of 2-0, 3-2, 4-3 and 5-4 before Letowski's goal.

"As far as offense, it worked out for us really, really well," said Columbus forward Sergei Fedorov. "It was good to see some individual effort from the

guys who scored some goals — especially the last one."

Jason Chimera, who scored the first Columbus goal, carried the puck down the left wing and left a drop pass for Letowski. Letowski put a fake on Todd Bertuzzi that froze him before charging in on goaltender Alexander Auld, skating to the slot and beating Auld between his leg pads.

"I just kind of stepped around him [Bertuzzi] and went five-hole," said Letowski, who only has six goals but has scored in the last two games. "It felt good, just the timing of the goal and it being a game-winner."

Bertuzzi, Nolan Baumgartner and Daniel Sedin each had a goal and an assist for the Canucks, who are 18-3-3 at home but only 10-14-2 on the road. Sami Salo and Alexandre Burrows also had goals. Markus Naslund added two assists.

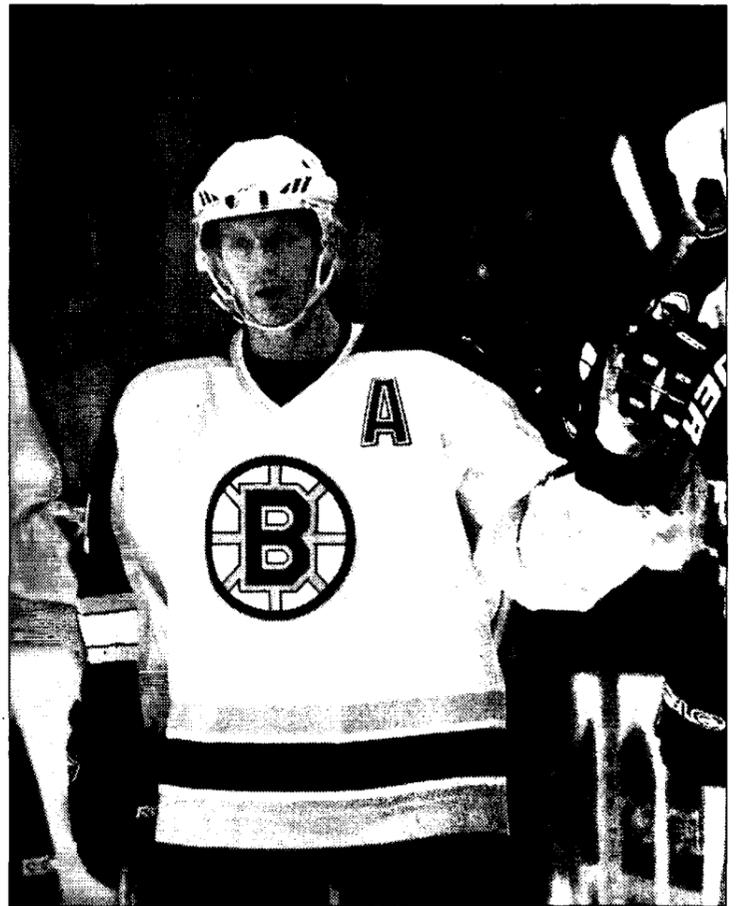
Vancouver coach Marc Crawford said it wore on his team to have to constantly play from behind.

Panthers 3, Lightning 2

TAMPA, Fla. — Florida goaltender Roberto Luongo had another great game against Tampa Bay. Olli Jokinen made sure it came in a victory.

Jokinen scored twice, including the game-winner with 1:45 left in overtime, and Luongo made 48 saves to help the Panthers beat the Lightning on Tuesday night.

Luongo was within 4 minutes of his first shutout since he opened the season with consecutive blankings of Atlanta and the Lightning. But Brad Richards' goal, which appeared to hit off Florida's Chris Gratton, at 16:09 made it 2-1



Boston's P.J. Axelsson skates along the Bruins' bench on Tuesday night after scoring the eventual game-winning goal.

and Luongo then allowed Ryan Craig's equalizer from the low slot with 48 seconds remaining.

"Tonight was an illustration of how good he can be," Panthers coach Jacques Martin said.

It was just the second time Tampa Bay had 50 shots in a game. Luongo made 50 saves in the Panthers' 2-1 win over the Lightning on Jan. 17, 2004.

"Give Luongo credit," Tampa Bay coach John Tortorella said. "He seems to have those games against us quite a bit."

Jokinen snapped Florida's three-game losing streak with his rebound goal from the left circle.

The Lightning had the first nine shots in the game, including five on a power play. Luongo kept it scoreless with strong saves on shots by Darryl Sydor and Vincent Lecavalier.

Tampa Bay outshot the Panthers 18-8 in the first.

"Without him, we don't get any points tonight," Jokinen said. "Without him we don't have a chance tonight. He is a difference maker. He set the tone."

The Panthers went ahead 1-0 on Gratton's goal from the low right circle at 11:13 of the second. Luongo stopped 17 shots in the period, including two big saves on Richards.

"Two points is what we want right now, but we're not going to beat ourselves up," Richards said. "You walk away not down on yourself. You can win a lot of games if you play like that."

The Lightning continued their offensive dominance into the third, but Luongo stopped point-blank chances by Dan Boyle and Martin St. Louis.

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NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

NHL

Brodeur, Devils blank Islanders in 4-0 rout

Brodeur recovers from injury to make 24 saves in shutout

Associated Press

UNIONDALE, N.Y. — Martin Brodeur overcame a first-period injury scare to help the New Jersey Devils rebound from a streak-ending loss.

The Canadian Olympic goalie made 24 saves for his fourth shutout of the season and Brian Gionta scored his 29th goal in New Jersey's victory over the New York Islanders on Tuesday night, the Devils' 10th victory in 11 games.

Brodeur twisted his left knee midway through the first period when he got tangled up with Islanders forward Oleg Kvasha after making a sprawling save on Arron Asham.

"Kvasha's skate caught my skate and it twisted my knee," said Brodeur, who missed six games earlier this season because of a sprained right knee. "It's not bad. I felt it a little bit in the third period, but I'm not worried about it."

The Devils also beat the Islanders 3-2 in a shootout Saturday for their ninth straight victory, but the season-high winning streak ended the following night with a 3-1 loss to the New York Rangers at Madison Square Garden.

"It's a big win, regardless of the shutout," Brodeur said. "We needed to get back on track. We had a great power play and penalty kill, two things that cost us at the Garden. We're paying attention defensively."

Brodeur, seventh on the NHL's career shutout list with 79, improved to 24-15-3 and lowered his goals-against average to 2.59. He has all four of his shutouts this season in the last 11 games.

"He's the backbone of this team. No question," defenseman Colin White said. "Our whole team has been playing well and he's back there to make the big saves. I think he's the best goalie in the league by

far."

Jamie Langenbrunner and Scott Gomez each had a goal and an assist, Viktor Kozlov also scored and Patrik Elias added two assists.

Sabres 2, Rangers 1

NEW YORK — In the midst of their longest road-trip of the season, the Buffalo Sabres needed a victory.

Ales Kotalik provided the win, scoring 1:53 into the third period to lift Buffalo over New York and pull the Sabres into a tie with the Rangers for fourth place in the Eastern Conference. It also evened Buffalo's record at 2-2 during the six-game trip.

"We needed this win tonight after losing the last two games in Calgary and Vancouver," said goaltender Ryan Miller, who stopped 23 shots while improving his record to 14-7-0. "It's getting to that time of the year, we've played 50 games and once we hit that Olympic break there won't be much time left before the playoffs."

Kotalik scored his 19th goal after Rangers defenseman Marek Malik gave up the puck in his own end. Kotalik scooped up the loose puck, wheeled and fired a wrist shot that beat Henrik Lundqvist.

Thomas Vanek gave Buffalo a 1-0 lead with a power-play goal at 11:13 of the first period. Lundqvist stopped Kotalik's slap shot from the left point, but lost sight of the rebound long enough for Vanek to chip the puck high to the glove side for his 13th goal.

"I didn't see the puck at all," Lundqvist admitted. "It just hit me, I was looking for it, and I almost got it, but it hit my glove and went in. I think that they were good on the power play, they got a lot of traffic in front of me. It was hard to see pucks and I really had to work hard to see shots."

Predators 2, Red Wings 1

DETROIT — Tomas Vokoun frustrated the Detroit Red Wings for the second straight night and Paul Kariya and Steve

Sullivan capitalized on their chances.

Kariya's breakaway goal 35 seconds into overtime gave the Nashville Predators a win over Detroit on Tuesday night.

It was the second consecutive win in two days by Nashville over Detroit at Joe Louis Arena. Monday night's game — a 3-2 Nashville win — was a makeup for the Nov. 21, contest, in which Detroit's Jiri Fischer collapsed on the bench in the first period because of cardiac arrest.

Steve Sullivan scored the other goal, also on a breakaway, for Nashville (31-12-6) and Tomas Vokoun made 38 saves for the second straight night.

"Such a good couple nights for us. We did it again, we give them chances on the power play," said Vokoun. "They had like three posts it could have been different. It was our night. We had a great goal in overtime and we got four points on the road against the Red Wings. I mean, if you look at the history, that's never been the case."

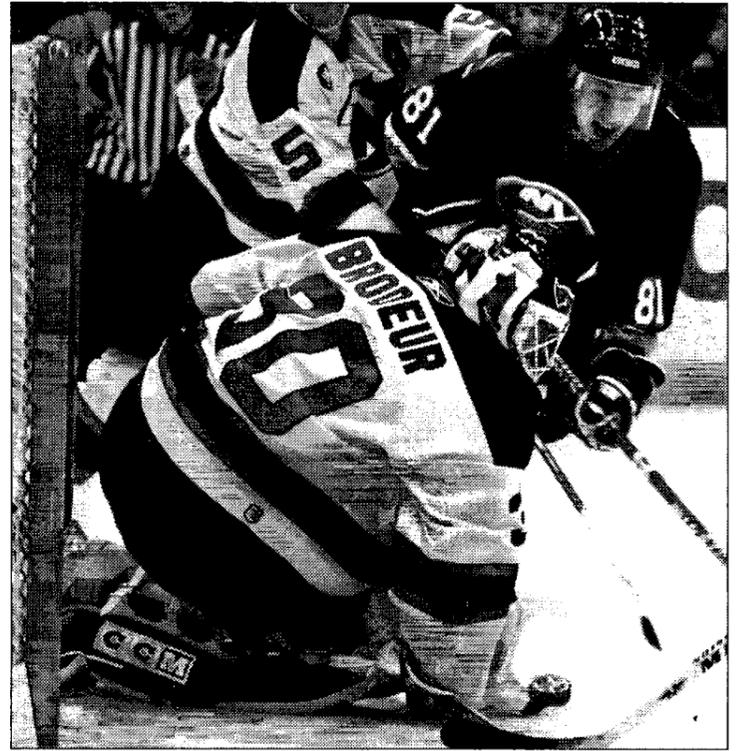
Each team had seven power-play opportunities.

Mathieu Schneider got Detroit's only goal during a two-man advantage and Manny Legace stopped 26 shots.

"It's frustrating. We weren't able to execute around the net," Detroit coach Mike Babcock said.

Wild 3, Coyotes 2

ST. PAUL, Minn. — The Minnesota Wild have been criticized locally for not spending money on a big-name free agent or two following the lock-out.



New Jersey goalie Martin Brodeur scrambles to cover up the puck in Tuesday night's 4-0 blanking of the New York Islanders.

They have always pointed to Brian Rolston, who signed after the 2003-04 season, as the forgotten man, and he has come through so far this season.

Rolston scored two goals to lift the Minnesota Wild to a victory over the Phoenix Coyotes on Tuesday night, giving the Wild their first four-game winning streak in a single season in franchise history.

"His confidence is at a great level," coach Jacques Lemaire said. "He's got a great shot and he knows the goalie on the other side and where to put it.

He's a great asset for us."

Rolston put the Wild up 2-1 in the second period, then scored the game-winner, his 22nd of the season, with Minnesota short-handed 6:30 into the third period.

As Nick Schultz tried to scoop the puck out of the Wild zone it was deflected high in the air.

Rolston snatched it on the run and broke free. He ripped a slapshot past Phoenix goaltender Brian Boucher for his second straight two-goal game.

"He's been huge for us," Schultz said.

On Campus

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NFL

Seahawks draw strength from Holmgren's past

Holmgren to coach in fourth Super Bowl

Associated Press

KIRKLAND, Wash. — To Matt Hasselbeck, the best thing about Seahawks coach Mike Holmgren right now is not his game planning. It's not how he handles his players or assembles a staff.

For the Seattle quarterback, the most impressive thing about Holmgren is that he's been to the Super Bowl.

And now he's going back with a third franchise.

"It was really a comforting feeling today for him to say, 'When I was in this Super Bowl, we did this, and in that one, we did this,'" Hasselbeck said Monday, his first full day as quarterback of an NFC champion. "I feel we are really prepared."

Holmgren is going to make certain of that. Oh, sure, he let the Seahawks celebrate Sunday night and relax Monday. They have the day off Tuesday, although many will deal with the logistics for Detroit — a chore in itself.

"Players and coaches who

have gone through the game, that helps," said Holmgren, who was an assistant with the 49ers when they won the 1989 and 1990 Super Bowls, then head coach with Green Bay for a victory in 1997 and a loss in 1998.

"The more you can explain it to them, the better," he said. "Some of them will get there and won't believe what's going on."

"This is like nothing you will ever go through preparing for a game."

Such as the demand for tickets.

And getting family and friends to Detroit, then housing them. Distractions, distractions, distractions.

"Talking to them today, they were still in that stage of pinch me, did it really happen?" Holmgren said. "It was kind of refreshing."

"I think they still are thinking about that a little today; some of them looked a little tired to me. Then we started talking about the tickets they need for

the family, all these relatives you don't even know about, and reality hit."

The good thing about Super Bowl reality for the Seahawks, who are 3 1/2-point underdogs to the Pittsburgh Steelers, is that Holmgren and five players have dealt with it. Center Robbie Tobeck went with Atlanta for the 1999 game.

Defensive tackle Chuck Darby won it with Tampa Bay three years ago. So did wide receiver Joe Jurevicius.

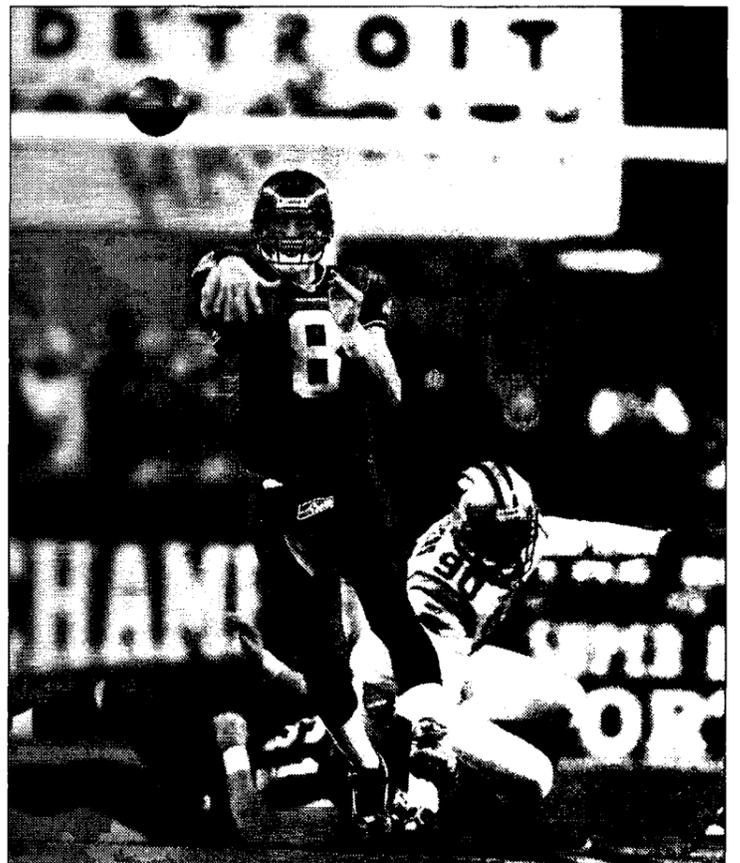
Defensive end Grant Wistrom got a ring in the 2000 game with the Rams, and lost in 2002 with St. Louis. Punter Tom Rouen also went twice, winning with Denver in 1998 and 1999. The 1998 game was a win over Holmgren's Packers.

For everyone else, uncharted territory.

"I just can't stop smiling," league MVP Shaun Alexander said, a wide smile creasing his face, of course. "It's a great feeling."

"Talking to them today, they were still in that stage of pinch me, did it really happen?"

Mike Holmgren
Seahawks' head coach



Matt Hasselbeck releases a pass in the NFC Championship on Sunday against Carolina. The Seahawks won 34-14.

TENNIS

Davenport furthers Grand Slam frustration with loss

Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — It has become an all-too-familiar

feeling for Lindsay Davenport.

The top-seeded Davenport extended her Grand Slam title drought to six years with a 2-6,

6-2, 6-3 Australian Open quarterfinal loss to Justine Henin-Hardenne on Tuesday.

"To get out there and play

well, then slowly get worse as the match went on — it's a bad feeling to have when you leave," the 29-year-old American said.

After winning the Australian Open in 2000, Davenport slipped out of the top 10, talked about retiring, then revived her career by regaining the No. 1 ranking and making finals here and at Wimbledon last year.

But the constant throughout the past six years has been a failure to add to her three major championships.

She took on a new coach, Dave DiLucia, for this season and said Tuesday "there's obviously still a lot of stuff that I need to get better."

"I guess I've got the opportunity now the next few months to try and make those improvements," she said, "give it another shot in another few months."

Davenport joined defending champion Serena Williams on the sideline — they met in the 2005 Australian Open final.

Three women who weren't here a year ago are among those now chasing the title — Belgians Henin-Hardenne and Kim Clijsters were out with injuries last year, and three-time winner Martina Hingis was retired.

The eighth-seeded Henin-Hardenne's win over Davenport was not shocking. The reigning French Open champion has beaten Davenport in all three of their meetings at Melbourne Park, including the fourth round in 2003 and the quarterfinals in 2004, when she went

on to beat Clijsters for the title.

Henin-Hardenne's semifinal opponent will be 2004 Wimbledon champion Maria Sharapova, who ousted fellow Russian Nadia Petrova 7-6 (6), 6-4 after fighting off two set points in an error-strewn tiebreaker.

Clijsters plays Hingis, and WTA Championship winner Amelie Mauresmo takes on Patty Schnyder in quarterfinals Wednesday, with the winners facing off in Thursday's semis.

Clijsters and Mauresmo both have a chance of replacing Davenport atop the rankings. Clijsters has to reach the final; Mauresmo has to win the title and have Hingis defeat Clijsters in the quarterfinals.

Davenport said losing her top ranking is inevitable, and that winning a fourth major remains her focus.

"Even though tonight maybe I took a step backwards, I still feel like I'm in the right direction," she said. "I wouldn't stay out here and I wouldn't give it my all if I didn't feel like it was still reachable."

In men's play, fourth-seeded David Nalbandian has no chance of taking Roger Federer's No. 1 ranking at this tournament — but he's aiming for back-to-back wins over the Swiss star. They are on a path to meet in the final.

The 24-year-old Argentine advanced to the semifinals by winning the last 14 games in a 7-5, 6-0, 6-0 win over 33-year-old Frenchman Fabrice Santoro.

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AROUND THE NATION

page 22

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

Wednesday, January 25, 2006

NHL

Eastern Conference, Atlantic Division

team	record	OT	points
Philadelphia	30-11	8	68
NY Rangers	28-14	7	63
New Jersey	25-19	5	55
NY Islanders	20-24	3	43
Pittsburgh	11-29	9	31

Eastern Conference, Northeast Division

team	record	OT	points
Ottawa	33-10	4	70
Buffalo	29-15	3	61
Toronto	24-21	3	51
Montreal	21-19	6	48
Boston	19-21	8	46

Eastern Conference, Southeast Division

team	record	OT	points
Carolina	33-11	4	70
Tampa Bay	25-20	3	53
Atlanta	23-20	6	52
Florida	18-24	7	43
Washington	17-25	5	39

Western Conference, Central Division

team	record	OT	points
Detroit	32-13	3	67
Nashville	30-12	6	66
Chicago	16-27	6	38
Columbus	17-30	2	36
St. Louis	11-29	7	29

Western Conference, Northwest Division

team	record	OT	points
Calgary	29-14	5	63
Vancouver	28-16	5	61
Colorado	27-19	3	57
Edmonton	25-18	6	56
Minnesota	23-21	4	50

Western Conference, Pacific Division

team	record	OT	points
Dallas	31-15	2	64
Los Angeles	30-18	3	63
Anaheim	21-16	10	52
San Jose	22-17	6	50
Phoenix	24-23	2	50

CCHA Conference Standings

	conf.	pts.	overall
1 Miami (OH)	14-3-2	30	17-4-4
2 Northern Michigan	10-9-1	21	14-11-1
3 Michigan State	8-6-4	20	14-9-5
4 Lake Superior	8-7-3	19	12-7-5
5 Michigan	9-6-1	19	14-9-1
6 Ohio State	8-8-2	18	12-10-4
7 Bowling Green	8-11-1	17	12-14-1
8 Ferris State	6-6-5	17	11-8-6
9 Nebraska-Omaha	7-9-2	16	13-11-2
10 NOTRE DAME	6-9-3	15	8-13-3
11 Alaska Fairbanks	6-10-2	14	10-11-3
12 Western Michigan	5-11-2	12	5-16-3

around the dial

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Maryland at Georgia Tech 7 p.m., ESPN
Cincinnati at Louisville 7:30 p.m., ESPN2

NBA

Minnesota at Memphis 9 p.m., ESPN

TENNIS

2006 Australian Open
2 p.m., ESPN2
10 p.m., ESPN2

NHL



Mario Lemieux chases after a loose puck in a Dec. 16, 2005 loss to Buffalo. He announced his retirement due to heart problems at a press conference Tuesday.

Lemieux to retire due to irregular heartbeat

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Unlike many aging superstars, Mario Lemieux's problem wasn't that his heart was no longer in the game. Rather, his heart no longer allowed him play the game the way he had always played it.

The Lemieux way — with greatness and grace, with dominating skills but also with a quiet dignity — may prove very difficult for future generations of hockey players to rival.

Lemieux, his Hall of Fame talent eroded by an ongoing heart problem,

retired from the Pittsburgh Penguins for the second time Tuesday in a long, productive yet star-crossed career, but this time was different.

This was the last retirement, and the tears in his eyes and the quiver in his voice said so. So did the proud but sad looks on the faces of wife Nathalie, their four children and the Penguins players who gathered to say goodbye, even though it visibly pained all to do so.

"This is it," Lemieux said, "and it hurts."

The 40-year-old Penguins owner-player

learned in early December he has atrial fibrillation, an irregular heartbeat that can cause his pulse to flutter wildly and must be controlled by medication. He returned Dec. 16 against Buffalo, but the problem flared up again in the third period and he has not played since.

Lemieux, the NHL's seventh-leading career scorer with 1,723 points, practiced the last several weeks with the intent of playing again. But after several repeat episodes of an irregular pulse, he decided his health should be his primary considera-

tion, especially with a raft of new stars turning the NHL into a faster, younger man's game.

"If I could play this game at a decent level, I'd come back and play," Lemieux said. "This is really a new NHL and it's built on speed and young guys."

Lemieux is also experiencing side effects with his medication, and he may undergo surgery to correct the problem. He spoke Tuesday to Toronto coach Pat Quinn, who told Lemieux he had the same operation and has felt much better since he did.

IN BRIEF

Bonds will not play in World Baseball Classic

SAN FRANCISCO — Barry Bonds decided he is unwilling to risk his health in the World Baseball Classic.

If he's going to get hurt, the slugger will do so in a San Francisco uniform.

Bonds, no stranger to changing his mind, withdrew from the 16-nation tournament Monday because he wants to avoid the chance of an injury that might jeopardize what could be his final season with the Giants.

"When my name was first announced for the WBC, my gut reaction was that I wanted to play. After much thought and discussion with my family I have decided to remove myself from the upcoming World Baseball Classic roster," Bonds wrote on his Web site <http://www.barrybonds.com>.

The seven-time NL MVP had three operations on his troublesome right knee last year and missed most of the 2005 season before returning Sept. 12 and playing in 14 games. He

announced in late November that he planned to play for the United States and was included on the preliminary U.S. roster for the inaugural World Baseball Classic, scheduled for March 3-20.

Bode Miller disqualified in World Cup Slalom

SCHLADMING, Austria — Bode Miller was disqualified after straddling a gate during the first run of a World Cup slalom event, won by Finland's Kalle Palander on Tuesday.

American Ted Ligety, who had the leading time in the first run, and Olympic champion Jean-Pierre Vidal also were disqualified for running over a gate.

Palander put together two near-perfect runs to win his first World Cup race of the season, finishing in a combined time of 1 minute, 42.34 seconds.

"Unbelievable," Palander said at the finish line. "My last win is two years ago. I can hardly remember feeling so great after a win."

The World Cup victory was

Palander's 10th and first since a Sestriere slalom in March 2004. He also won on Schlading's Planai course three years ago.

Steelers to wear white jerseys in Super Bowl

PITTSBURGH — To coach Bill Cowher, the Pittsburgh Steelers simply look right in white.

The Steelers will buck years of tradition and wear their white away uniforms in the Super Bowl against Seattle, even though they are designated by the NFL as the home team and could wear their more imposing black jersey tops.

The black jerseys and gold pants are the Steelers' traditional look, and numerous sports teams have switched to black uniforms in recent years because they believe it creates a more intimidating presence.

Cowher made the choice by himself and without consulting with ownership, saying, "We're not playing at Heinz Field so, in my mind, it's an away game."

NBA

Artest-Stojakovic deal off

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — The Ron Artest trade to Sacramento is off — for now.

The Pacers had reportedly agreed to ship the volatile forward to the Sacramento Kings for Peja Stojakovic, but Indiana coach Rick Carlisle said Tuesday night that no deal was imminent.

"There is no trade right now and there may not be a trade," Carlisle said before Indiana played the Cavaliers in Cleveland. "There's nothing to talk about because there is no trade."

ESPN and The Indianapolis Star had reported earlier Tuesday that the teams had agreed to the trade, which was merely awaiting league approval. But Carlisle shot down that report.

"Anything involving speculation and 'what's up' can be saved for another time," Carlisle said. "If there is a trade at some point, you'll hear about it."

Artest confirmed to the Star that the deal had collapsed, but left open the possibility that something could still happen.

"There's no deal," Artest told the newspaper by telephone. "It's not that I don't want to play there ... I'm letting my agent handle things. He's taken over things."

Artest's agent, Mark Stevens, had told The Associated Press earlier Tuesday that a deal to move Artest "is imminent, almost as soon as possible." After the trade apparently collapsed, he did not return phone calls from the AP.

The deal would have ended a lengthy standoff between the



Indiana's Ron Artest tries to break free during a brawl in November 2004. A trade sending him to the Kings fell apart.

Pacers and Artest, who was deactivated in December after requesting a trade and was suspended most of last season for his role in one of the worst brawls in U.S. sports history.

Sacramento officials and coach Rick Adelman would not comment before the team played at Philadelphia on Tuesday night, and Stojakovic was not at the arena with the team. He was listed on the active roster but was nowhere to be seen at tipoff.

"He's got to be a little confused right now if they wanted to trade him," Kings forward Shareef Abdur-Rahim said of Stojakovic, who had traveled with the team but stayed behind

at the hotel.

Before the deal apparently broke down, Kings players were already talking about the trade as if it was a done deal.

"Peja will be missed," Kings forward Corliss Williamson said. "He's been in Sacramento for a lot of years, but life goes on in the NBA."

"We'll welcome Ron Artest with open arms and hope he'll be able to help us. You always hear about the situations he's been in and all the hype. Maybe this is the change he needs, to come into our system and flourish."

Instead, the Pacers are still looking for a place to send Artest.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Irish can inch close, but can only get so far

Notre Dame coach Mike Brey held court at the postgame press conference after Tuesday night's 85-82 loss to Georgetown for approximately 14 minutes.

It was a lengthy period of time for a coach to speak, particularly Brey. It was also unusual for a coach who had just lost in double-overtime, at home, with now a 1-5 conference record, to spend that much time talking about the heartbreaker.

So why dwell on the situation?

It appeared that — as the fifth-year coach's voice shifted from monotone, to excited, to confused, to confident — Brey was merely searching for answers.

Though he knew before the season started that he needed to set lower expectations for this year's squad — which is younger, less experienced and less talented than in years past — Brey certainly could not have anticipated the feeling of beginning the Big East schedule with only one win after six games.

In his first season as Notre Dame coach (2000-01), Brey won the first eight Big East games he coached. Prior to this year, the earliest a Notre Dame team under Brey had suffered its fifth conference loss of the season was on Feb. 4, 2004 two seasons ago against Boston College.

Granted, this season's Irish have given themselves a chance in most of their games to win at the end. Four of the five losses have come by six points or fewer. And the team showed more heart and fight on Tuesday than even its coach had seen up to this point.

"I thought we played more passionately maybe than we played in a while," Brey said. "We showed more emotion."

But in college basketball conference play — and especially in Notre Dame's situation — a double-overtime loss is still a loss. And the schedule doesn't get any easier.

The Irish face No. 6 Villanova

at the Joyce Center on Saturday, No. 13 West Virginia on the road Feb. 1 and Louisville at Freedom Hall that following Saturday. The 1-5 record easily could be 1-8 by Feb. 5, if not because Notre Dame is struggling then because the upcoming schedule would be daunting for any team in the country — not to mention one that still seems to be discovering its identity.

"You've got to stay positive. Look at the league," Irish point guard Chris Quinn said following Tuesday's loss. "If we're negative, we'll get blown out on Saturday."

The question remains how much longer Notre Dame can remain positive after losing close games that not only take nightly tolls on the body, but deliver one more blow to the psyche of a wounded team.

Though the record doesn't show it, Brey and the Irish have made individual and collective strides this season. Quinn is unveiling his leadership capabilities after spending three years virtually in Chris Thomas' shadow. Center Torin Francis played inspired and tough on Tuesday. Russell Carter had perhaps his best game in a Notre Dame uniform against the Hoyas, and the younger players — Kyle McAlarney, in particular — are giving Brey more personnel options.

The problem is that even if this team eventually gels, overcomes its defensive deficiencies and becomes more consistent and versatile on the offensive end — as it has only in flashes so far — it will be too late. By the time Notre Dame has an opportunity to win a chunk of league games to boost its confidence, the clock will have run out.

"You never get used to losing," Irish forward Rob Kurz said, slouched in the locker room following the defeat, "especially ... losing a game like that."

Give Brey all the time he needs after games for the remainder of the 2005-06 season.

The opinions expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Pat Leonard at pleonard@nd.edu



Pat Leonard

Sports Writer

Best Wishes to the Graduating Class of 2006 and to the Incoming Class of 2010

DEDICATION

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- Ave Maria University; 2004, Thomas S. Monaghan; 307; Naples, Florida; Ground Broken in 2005 for permanent campus of c.6,000 students
- Barry University; 1940, Dominicans; 3,276; Miami Shores, Florida
- Boston College; 1863, Jesuits; 13,700; Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts
- Canisius College; 1870, Jesuits; 5,048; Buffalo, New York; Named after St. Peter Canisius, an original member of the Society of Jesus
- Catholic University of America; 1887, U.S. Bishops; 2,587; Washington, D.C.
- Creighton University; 6,300; Omaha, Nebraska
- DePaul University; 1898, Vincentians; 23,000; Chicago, Illinois
- Duquesne University; 1878; 8,000; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Motto - Spiritus est qui vivificat-It is the Spirit who gives life
- Fairfield University; Jesuits; 3,300; Fairfield, Connecticut
- Fordham University; 1841, Jesuits; 15,000; Bronx, New York
- Franciscan University of Steubenville; 1946, Franciscans; 2,370; Steubenville, Ohio
- Georgetown University; 1789 Jesuits; Washington, D.C.
- Gonzaga University; 1887, Jesuits; 5,400; Spokane, Washington
- Immaculata University; 1920; 3,443; Immaculata, Pennsylvania
- Iona College; 1940; 3,400; New Rochelle, New York
- La Salle University; 1851, Lasallian; 6,221; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- Loyola University Chicago; 1870, Jesuits; 18,319; Chicago, Illinois; Largest of the 28 USA Jesuit schools
- Loyola University New Orleans; 1912, Jesuits; 5,900; New Orleans, Louisiana
- Madonna University; 1947, Felicians; 4,294; Livonia, Michigan
- Manhattan College; 1853, Lasallian; 3,000; Riverdale, New York
- Marquette University; 1881, Jesuits; 11,000; Milwaukee, Wisconsin
- Mount Saint Mary's University; 1808; 2,125; Emmitsburg, Maryland
- Niagra University; 1856, Vincentians; 3,500; Niagra University, New York
- Providence College; 1917, Dominicans; 5,200; Providence, Rhode Island
- Seton Hall University; 1856; 10,000; South Orange, New Jersey; Started by Bishop Bayley, nephew of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
- St. Bonaventure University; 1858, Franciscans; 2,800; St. Bonaventure, New York
- St. John's University; 1870, Vincentians; 14,848; Queens, New York
- St. Joseph's University; 1851, Jesuits; 7,230; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- St. Louis University; 1818, Jesuits; 11,500; St. Louis, Missouri; First Catholic college west of the Mississippi
- St. Mary's College; Holy Cross; 1,571; Notre Dame, Indiana
- St. Peter's College; 1872, Jesuits; 2,300; Jersey City, New Jersey
- University of Detroit Mercy; 1877, Jesuits/Mercy Sisters; 8,200; Detroit, Michigan
- University of Notre Dame; 1842, Holy Cross; 8,200; Notre Dame, Indiana
- University of San Diego; 4,400; San Diego, California
- University of San Francisco; 1855, Jesuits; 8,274; San Francisco, California
- Villanova University; 1842, Augustinians; 6,285; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- Xavier University; 1831, Jesuits; 6,450; Cincinnati, Ohio

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MLB

Lucchino, Epstein announce Theo's return as general manager

Hoyer, Cherington to take new positions

Associated Press

BOSTON — Theo Epstein's new job is the same as his old one: general manager of the Boston Red Sox.

The Red Sox announced Tuesday that Epstein would resume his old duties — nothing more and nothing less than when he left on Halloween.

"While Theo was contemplating returning to the organization in an advisory role," Red Sox president Larry Lucchino said in a statement, "he and I talked and agreed it was best for the organization if he returned as general manager — a title more appropriate for him because it accurately reflects the role he will play.

"Theo returns as general manager to an organization that is different from the one he left on Oct. 31. The 14-year relationship between Theo and me, and the passage of time over the last three months, have helped to put behind us the friction that developed during last year's negotiations."

Once the youngest general manager in baseball history and still the only one to win a World Series in Boston, Epstein walked away from his dream job on Halloween after a never-explained internal squabble convinced him he could no longer put his whole heart into the job.

But even after leaving — fleeing Fenway in a gorilla suit to avoid the encamped media — Epstein remained in touch with his former colleagues.

After a half-hearted search to replace him, the Red Sox announced on Dec. 12 that Jed Hoyer and Ben

Cherington, two of Epstein's former lieutenants, would serve as co-GMs. Last week, the team said Epstein would return to baseball operations full-time, in a capacity to be determined.

Epstein's return as GM — his other title is being moved up a notch from senior vice president to executive vice president

— was first reported by the Boston Herald on its Web site. Neither last week's statement nor the one released Tuesday specified what led to the friction, though Lucchino alluded to an improved relationship between the business and baseball sides of the organization.

"Walls have crumbled, perceptions of one another have changed, and appreciation of one another has grown," Lucchino said. "As an enhanced sense of 'team' has emerged, we have rediscovered that, whatever our differences may have been, baseball is at the center of our operations

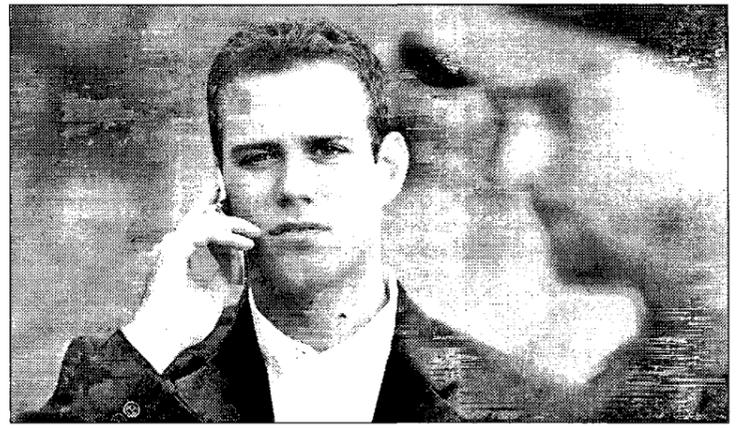
and our lives, and working toward the success of the Red Sox is a commitment which all of us share."

Epstein said in his statement that there were "fundamental disagreements among members of upper management" about organizational priorities.

"This lack of a shared vision,

"Walls have crumbled, perceptions of one another have changed and appreciation of one another has grown."

Larry Lucchino
Red Sox president



Theo Epstein talks on his cell phone at Fenway Park on Sept. 25, 2003. Epstein was renamed the Red Sox GM on Tuesday.

plus the stress of a far-too-public negotiation, strained some relationships, including mine with Larry Lucchino," he said.

"Gradually, with the benefit of time and greater perspective, we tackled not only our personal conflicts but also the differences regarding our thoughts for the organization. We emerged, 10 weeks and many spirited conversations later, with the comfort of a shared vision for the future of the organization."

Hoyer's new job will be assistant general manager, and Cherington was given the title of vice president of player personnel. Bill Lajoie stays on as a special adviser for baseball operations and Craig Shipley was named vice president for international scouting and special assistant to the general manager.

Hoyer and Cherington acknowledged that they knew when they took the GM job that Epstein was expected to return.

NFL

NFL criticized for non-minority coach hirings

Chiefs become first team to trade for black head coach

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — This month, for the first time, an NFL team traded for a black head coach.

Otherwise, the annual round of hirings has been a disappointment to those who have worked to bring more diversity to the league's coaching ranks. Nine out of 10 openings have been filled, with no net gain in the current tally of six black head coaches.

"We have some things to point to that we think are successful," lawyer Cyrus Mehri said Tuesday at a forum on hiring practices sponsored by the American Constitution Society. "We had a record number of interviews this year, over 25, which will increase or strengthen the pipeline as we go forward. We also had for the first time a trade for an African-American coach.

"That being said, we still believe that there's a double-standard," he said. "We still believe it's an uphill battle, it's not a level playing field, and there is evidence of racial bias in the hiring cycle."

It's been nearly 3 1/2 years since Mehri and the late Johnnie Cochran released a landmark report that criticized NFL hiring practices and

prompted the league to create the "Rooney Rule," which requires teams to interview at least one minority candidate when searching for a new head coach.

Since then, the number of black head coaches has increased from two to six in the 32-team league, and more blacks are working in NFL front offices. Still, much more progress was expected this year because of the unusually high number of vacancies.

"The Rooney Rule is doing a good job," said Michael Haynes, the league's vice president of player and employee development. "It's a nice process, but it

does not necessarily mean a commitment to diversity. I think there's a difference. Right now this is working, but there's still some pitfalls."

Mehri read the names of the nine coaches hired to date — Oakland is only team still with an opening. Black coach Herman Edwards was traded from the New York Jets to the Kansas City Chiefs, but most of the other hires were white assistants, including former New England defensive coordinator Eric Mangini, who at age 35 becomes the NFL's youngest coach.

Mehri then read a list of minority candidates who weren't chosen: Art Shell, Jim Caldwell, Tim Lewis, Ted Cottrell, Donnie Henderson, Ron Rivera, Maurice Carthon, Jerry Gray and Greg Blache.

"If you look at the first list and compare it to the second

list, you'll see that the black coaching candidates were at least as strong, if not stronger, than those who were selected," Mehri said.

"Each team could say what their justifications were, but if you look at it collectively, it still shows that there's an uphill battle for African-American coaches."

Even so, the panelists agreed

that the league is headed in the right direction. Tony Dungy of Indianapolis, Marvin Lewis of Cincinnati and coach of the year Lovie Smith of Chicago led their teams to the playoffs with a combined regular-season record of 36-12.

Most of the assistants on Mehri's list of overlooked blacks did get interviews, some with several teams, giving them a

prominent place in the hiring pool for next year.

The other three black head coaches are Arizona's Dennis Green, Cleveland's Romeo Crennel and Edwards.

"I don't want to overlook the fact that Herman Edwards was able to move from the New York Jets to the Kansas City Chiefs. It's huge," said Hall of Fame tight end Kellen Winslow.

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MLB

Mets don't wait to establish new team attitude

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Spring training is a month away, and the 2006 Mets already have a theme: patience and fortitude.

Players gathered Tuesday on the steps of the New York Public Library behind the famous marble lions, who have looked down on Fifth Avenue for nearly a century and were given the names "Patience" and "Fortitude" by Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia in the 1930s.

"You have to have that every year, especially in this town," manager Willie Randolph said. "That's a nice slogan to adopt."

Seeking their first World Series title since 1986, the Mets launched their promotional caravan in the marble Celeste Bartos Forum under its 30-foot-high glass dome. They were set to honor their 1986 World Series championship team later Tuesday night at the Baseball Assistance Team's annual dinner. "Right now we've got the edge. All we have to do is go out there

and play, and play how we know how to play," outfielder Cliff Floyd said. "I think it should be a real fun season."

Floyd said the Mets have gotten "100 percent better" during the offseason, when they acquired first baseman Carlos Delgado and catcher Paul Lo Duca from the Florida, signed free-agent closer Billy Wagner and traded for setup men Jorge Julio and Duaner Sanchez. They are seeking their first NL East title since 1988.

"I feel really good about our chances," Delgado said. "We've got a pretty complete ballclub to me."

The Mets already have sold 1 million tickets, up about 300,000 from the same point last year. They hope to sell 2 million tickets before opening day and reach 3 million this year, chief operating officer Jeff Wilpon said.

Delgado, who said he will stand for "God Bless America" because it is Mets team policy, would not address critical

remarks made by Anna Benson, the wife of pitcher Kris Benson, who was traded by the Mets to Baltimore last week.

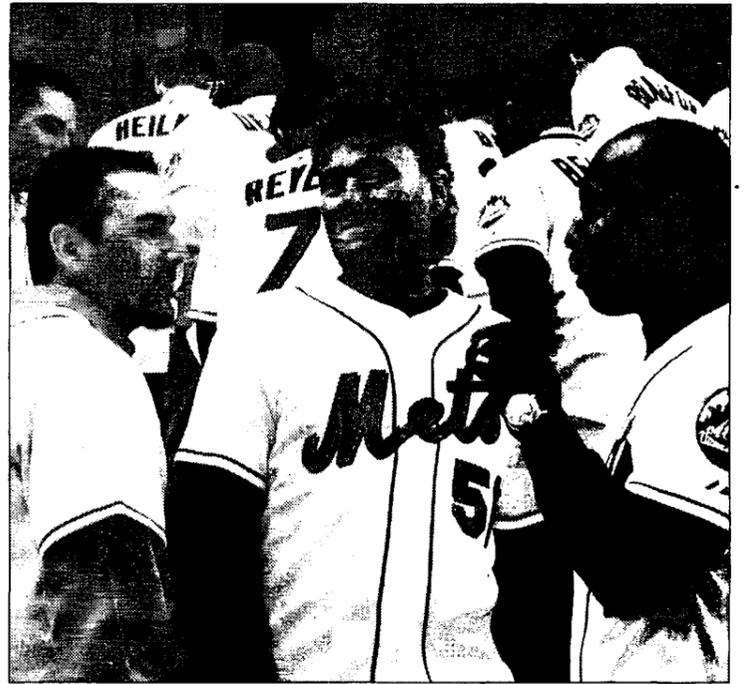
"I'm not going to comment on what anybody else said," Delgado said.

As players posed on the steps of the library and shouted "I love New York!" for the cameras, passers-by took photographs. Above them, on the wall of the library, was the inscription: "But above all things, truth beareth away the victory"

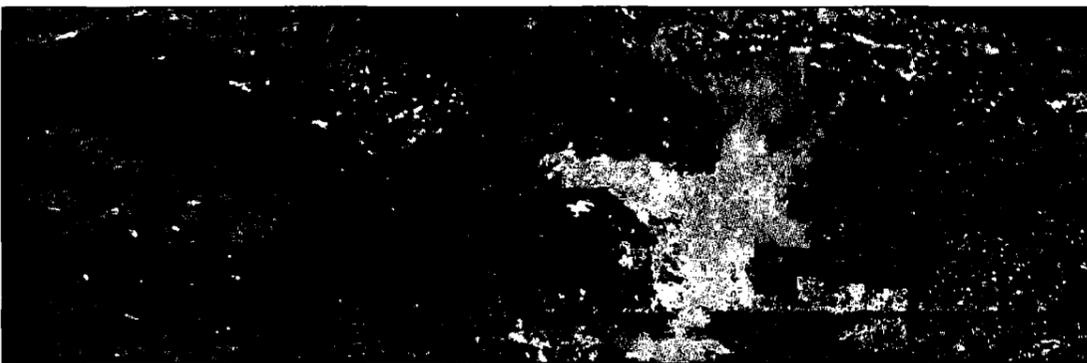
Back inside, one of the onlookers was former Met Darryl Strawberry, who was an occasional instructor for the Mets last year. He said he enjoyed working with young players.

"That's what I needed back in my days. We need it even more now," said Strawberry, who has struggled to overcome drugs, alcohol, violent behavior and tax troubles.

Strawberry said young players become stronger if they get advice.



New Mets catcher Paul Lo Duca, left, talks with pitching coach Rick Peterson, center, and manager Willie Randolph Tuesday.



SOFIA BALLON/The Observer

Junior Katie Carroll swims during Notre Dame's 163-135 victory over Minnesota at Rolf's Aquatic Center Nov. 11.

Streak

continued from page 28

the Irish their most recent defeat, the Boilermakers may have inadvertently given Notre Dame the key to its recent run of success.

"Against Purdue, we went into the meet pretty confident that we would win, and we were more concerned with them than we were with ourselves," head coach Carrie Nixon said. "That meet, though, made us realize that we need to focus on our strengths rather than the other team's weaknesses. I think that realization internalized us, and that helped us improve every meet. That was the turning point."

Fruits of the team's change in philosophy soon followed as the Irish reeled off consecutive dual meet victories against Pittsburgh and Minnesota.

The Minnesota victory was one to remember, as it was Nixon's first home victory as head coach. It was also an important victory as it started to build the team's confidence.

"Taking down a prominent Big Ten team like Minnesota, one that we were evenly matched with, really gave us confidence to know that we can beat a team of our caliber," Nixon said.

After dispatching the Golden Gophers, Notre Dame finished the fall semester strong with first-place victories in two invitational meets.

The first was the 10-team Minnesota Invitational where the Irish rallied from 80 points down on the final day of the three-day triumph over the same Minnesota team of a week ago.

Notre Dame led from start to finish a week later as it won its own Notre Dame Invitational.

The improvement and build up of momentum were blatantly visible by that point as the Irish set three season best times, two career best times, three NCAA 'B' cut times and two meet and pool records throughout their three-day invitational.

Nixon credited the team's continued improvement to the difficult training to which she subjected them.

"We really worked hard on our endurance base," she said. "We were learning how to be better athletes. It takes a while to learn that because it builds up over the course of a season."

Coming off of an intense two-week training trip during Christmas break, the swimming and diving team continued Notre Dame's dominance over the state of Michigan.

First, the Irish obtained their fifth consecutive victory with a defeat of No. 15 Michigan, and they brought the streak to six with last weekend's defeat of Michigan State.

"The Michigan meet was really icing on the cake for us," Nixon said. "It showed us we can rally at the end, and that we've trained hard enough that we can outlast our opponents."

Three months and six wins later, Notre Dame barely recognizes the team that returned from West Lafayette with a winless dual meet record.

With the Big East Championships less than three weeks away, the timing couldn't be any better for the surging Irish.

Contact Greg Arbogast at garbogas@nd.edu



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Hoyas

continued from page 28

up not to foul," Thompson said. "It didn't happen that way, but we found a way to win. But I guess [Bowman] didn't get the memo."

The madness didn't end there. With the score tied at 76 in the first overtime period, Irish forward Rob Kurz inbounded the ball with a second remaining and threw a baseball pass over 7-foot-1 center Roy Hibbert down the court that got behind Georgetown's defense.

Irish guard Chris Quinn caught the pass, but missed what would have been a game-winning layup. "I think you've got to try to win it on Quinn's layup," Brey said. "A game like that tonight, you've got to try to steal it."

Quinn said after the game it was a shot he should have made because he was in position to catch Kurz's pass and was behind the Hoyas defense.

Instead, the game went to double overtime, where Georgetown found ways to score timely baskets, and Notre Dame struggled from the free throw line.

Hoyas guard Darrell Owens, who finished with 18 points on 5-of-7 shooting, hit a 3-pointer with 2:17 remaining that gave Georgetown an 83-79 lead. Notre Dame forward Rick Cornett was fouled on the next Irish posses-

sion but missed both free throws. "We got [to the line] a little bit," Brey said. "And that sure would have helped us. ... I love us at the line, but you have to convert those."

Quinn answered back with a jumper at 1:33 to cut the lead to two. Quinn led all scorers with 26 points on 9-of-22 shooting. He also added 10 assists.

But on the ensuing possession, Hibbert hit a turnaround in the paint to push the lead back to four — and ultimately seal the victory.

Hibbert matched Owens as the high point man for Georgetown with 18.

In a season that has been difficult for Notre Dame — Tuesday's loss dropped the Irish to 1-5 in the Big East and 10-7 overall — Quinn emphasized the need to continue to fight in the Big East.

"We have got to stay positive," Quinn said. "As tough as this game was, as tough as some of our games were, we have to stay positive."

Georgetown led for the entire game. Notre Dame only forced five ties in regulation, overtime and double overtime despite losing by three points.

The Hoyas (13-4 overall, 4-2 in the Big East) got out to a quick start and led the Irish 29-14 with 4:54 remaining in the first half. But two Quinn free throws with 2:45 left ignited Notre Dame and sent them on a 10-4 run into half-

time. "I don't think we played very well early in the game, and a lot of that was Georgetown," Brey said. "They are a very good basketball team."

Irish guard Russell Carter provided an offensive spark for Notre Dame in the second half: Carter finished with eight points on 2-of-6 shooting, but his ability to run down loose balls and penetrate Georgetown's defense kept the Irish in the game.

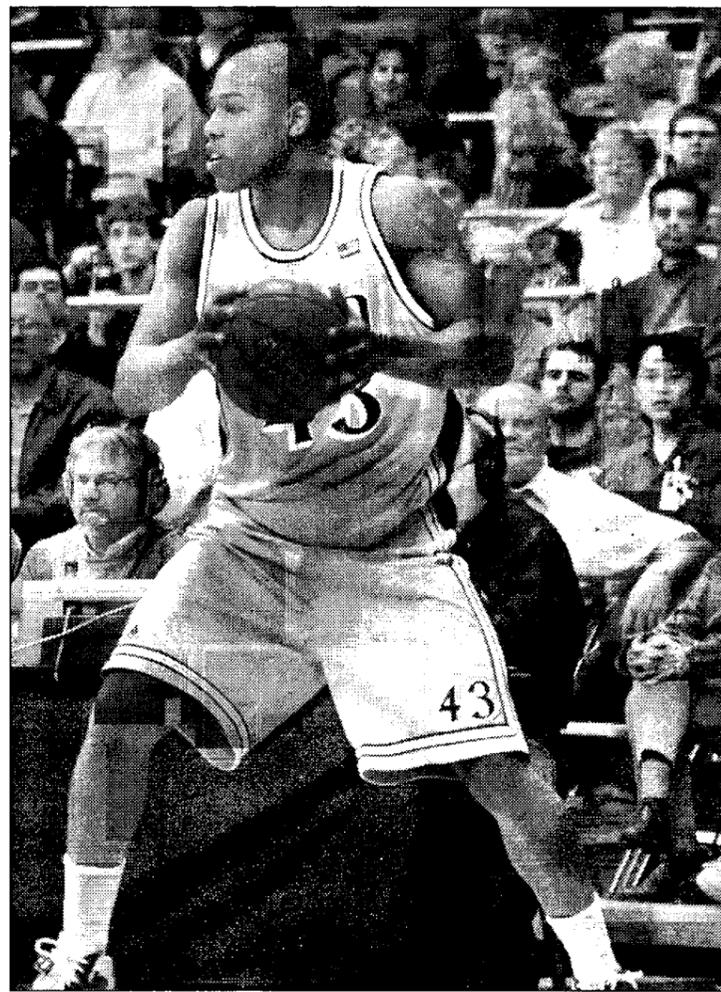
"[Carter] was excellent tonight," Brey said. "Russell's a tough kid ... and I thought his drives tonight and his offensive decisions were in the flow of things. He let it happen."

Georgetown finished the game with five players — Owens, Hibbert, Wallace, forward Jeff Green and guard Ashanti Cook — in double figures.

Notre Dame has its work cut out with 10 games remaining before the Big East tournament. Brey said the Irish need to find positives from the loss in order to continue playing hard in the remaining games.

"You're down, and you're not looking very good, but you give yourself a chance," Brey said. "Again, in January, you have got to hang your head on that right now, if you're digging, and you're fighting, you're in [the mix.]"

Contact Bobby Griffin at rgriffi3@nd.edu



KERRY O'CONNOR/The Observer

Junior guard Russell Carter looks to pass during Notre Dame's loss Tuesday. Carter finished with eight points and four rebounds.

Rutgers

continued from page 28

everything else for her. She'll get some points driving and score some points in transition."

In that regard, Ajavon was like the rest of her teammates, continually capitalizing on Notre Dame's 22 turnovers. Utilizing a full-court press much of the game, Rutgers scored 35 points off turnovers and 16 on the fast break. The Irish did not have a single transition basket.

"They were able to take our turnovers and score in transition," Washington said. "Our turnovers against their press were a big factor."

Notre Dame's problems were not limited to the turnover count. The Irish shot a putrid 32 percent (14-of-44) from the field and had just six assists.

Notre Dame's problems were evident from the start.

Rutgers took a 20-1 lead midway through the first half, but a methodical Irish comeback cut the deficit to 28-24 with 16:07

remaining in the game when Breona Gray nailed her second straight three-pointer of the second half.

"When Breona hit that shot, we thought we were on a roll," Washington said. "But we went on another lull offensively and hurt ourselves with turnovers, and they capitalized on that."

Capitalize did they ever.

Ajavon led the Scarlet Knights' response to the Irish comeback, assisting on consecutive baskets by Michelle Campbell and Essence Carson. The sophomore then nailed a three-pointer with 14:16 remaining to put the Rutgers advantage back into double digits at 35-24.

After Tulyah Gaines hit a jumper for the Irish at the shot-clock buzzer to cut the lead to nine, Ajavon responded by nailing another three and then making a steal and scoring on the ensuing fast-break — five points in 22 seconds.

By the time the game stopped for the 12-minute television timeout, less than five minutes after Notre Dame cut the lead to four, Rutgers led 48-26 and did not

look back.

The Scarlet Knights stayed in a full-court press and forced even more Irish turnovers. Senior standout Cappie Pondexter led the charge this time, scoring six points in the next four minutes, and Rutgers took a 60-30 lead to cap off a devastating 32-6 run by the Knights.

"I thought we did a pretty decent job on Cappie in the first half," Washington said. "When you have players who can create their own shot and a team so rounded offensively, it's tough to keep them down for 40 minutes, as we saw tonight."

The game looked like it would get out of hand early, as the Scarlet Knights racked up a 20-1 lead 10 minutes into the game. Rutgers scored 20 straight points after Crystal Erwin hit one-of-two free throws for the Irish in the opening seconds of the contest.

"Early on in the game, we had a few more turnovers than we would have liked," Washington said. "Those turnovers gave them a few more [easy] opportunities."

It was the sensational sophomore guard who led the early

Rutgers charge, tallying 14 points and two steals in the first half alone. Ajavon, who entered the game averaging 11 points per game, connected on 5-of-10 shots from the field, including 3-of-5 from behind the line, in the opening 20 minutes.

The Irish broke Rutgers' stranglehold and scored the next 13 points, starting when Duffy hit a long three at the shot-clock buzzer to register Notre Dame's first field goal of the night. But the Irish trailed 26-18 at halftime. Gray opened the scoring in the second half with a bucket from downtown to cut Rutgers' lead to 26-21. She hit another three-pointer two minutes later, and the Rutgers lead was just four.

From there, the Scarlet Knights took over.

Notes:

♦ Irish freshman Chandrica Smith nearly registered the first double-double of her career, tallying nine points and 10 rebounds in 24 minutes of action. Smith was three-of-seven from the field and three-of-five from the line. "We had some bright spots,"

Washington said. "Smith stepped in and had a great game, almost had a double-double. She played very aggressively."

♦ Duffy was the only Irish player to reach double figures, scoring 10 points on two-of-eight shooting from the floor. Each of her field goals was a three-pointer, and she made all four of her attempts from the free-throw line.

"They were running two or three people at her," Washington said. "They put a few defenders on her to make it tough for her to get her shots off. I thought she handled it pretty well. The thing is, we just needed other people to kind of step up and take control, in terms of trying to get us going offensively."

Duffy had three assists and two rebounds.

Contact Ken Fowler at kfowler1@nd.edu

Alma

continued from page 28

First and foremost, the team must find a way to make up for the loss of point guard Bridget Lipke, who will most likely miss her second straight game due to injury.

Also, the Belles must focus on playing a complete game. Against Adrian, they fell behind 32-9 in the first half and were never able to fully recover. Starting slowly has been a major problem for the team throughout the season and Bender knows that it could prove fatal against tonight's opponent. The Belles have already

defeated Alma once this year but, without Lipke, the MIAA assists leader, they have their work cut out for them. Alma, a team that averages more than 70 points per contest, played undefeated Hope this week and led with eight minutes to go before eventually losing a close one.

"We played a great 12 minutes. That left me feeling pretty good about the [Alma] game."

Steve Bender
Belles coach

"We know they have a very high-powered offense, so we're going to have to put up a lot of points," Bender said. "We need to find better team balance than we've had recently."

Bender said he was extremely pleased with his team's performance in the second half against Adrian and hopes the strong play carries over into tonight's game. "We played a great final 12

minutes," Bender said. "That left me feeling pretty good about the [Alma] game."

The teams will square off tonight at 7 p.m. in the Angela

Athletic Center on Saint Mary's campus.

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

Biting back

Hoyas hang on, down Irish 85-82 in double overtime

By BOBBY GRIFFIN
Associate Sports Editor

Notre Dame pulled off the unthinkable, and then almost did it again in a thrilling 85-82 double overtime loss to Georgetown Tuesday at the Joyce Center.

Irish guard Colin Falls converted a 4-point play with 1.9 seconds left in regulation with Notre Dame trailing by four to send the game to overtime. Falls worked off a screen set under the basket and received an inbounds pass in the corner before drilling the shot and being fouled by Georgetown guard Brandon Bowman.

"We executed an out of bounds set really well, and we kind of called in on the fly," Irish coach Mike Brey said. "And he does get fouled on threes. That was a big play there."

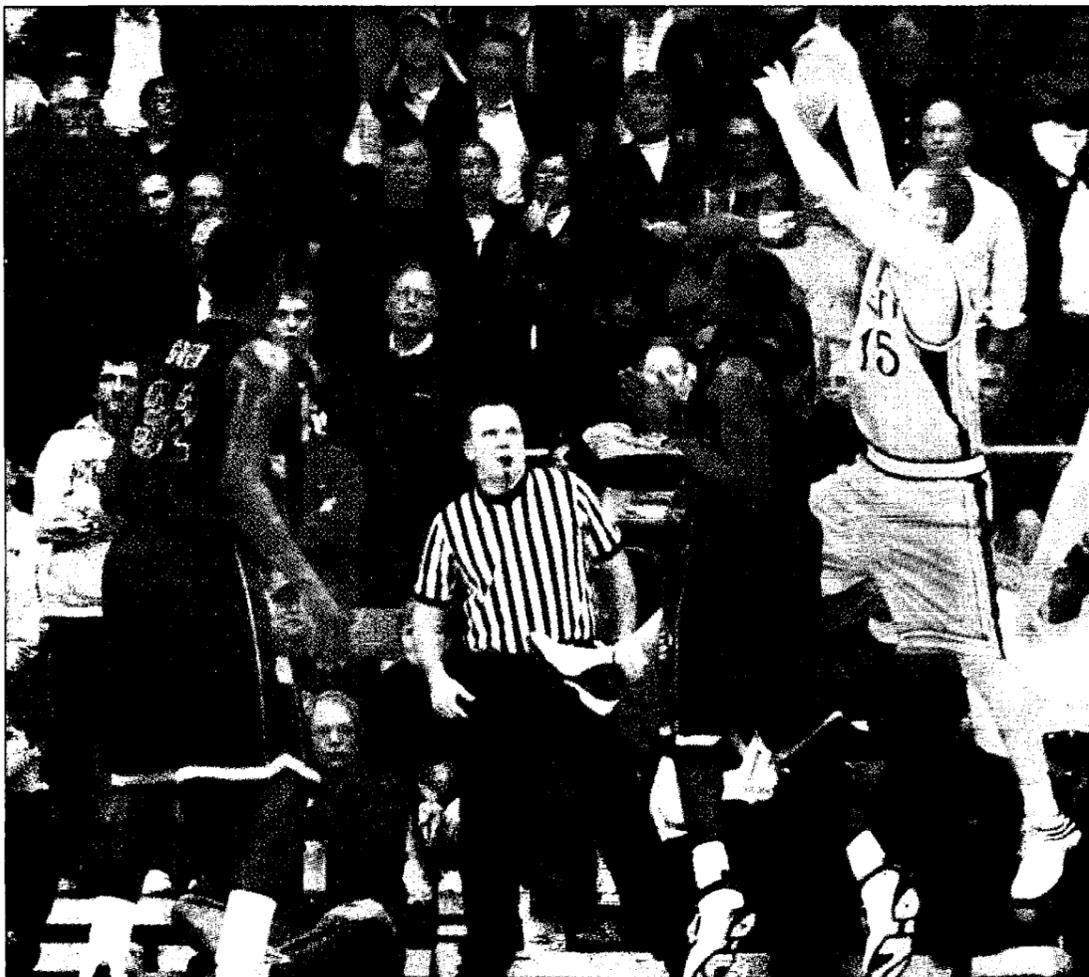
Georgetown coach John Thompson III was upset the game came down to double overtime given his orders on the last defensive possession in regulation.

"The instructions are coming

See Also

"Irish can inch close, but can only get so far"

page 23



KERRY O'CONNOR/The Observer

Irish forward Colin Falls is fouled by Georgetown guard Brandon Bowman as he drains a 3-pointer with just 1.9 seconds left in regulation Tuesday. Falls hit the free throw to tie the game and force overtime.

see HOYAS/page 26

ND SWIMMING

Surging Irish ride big streak

By GREG ARBOGAST
Sports Writer

One victory can be chalked up to chance. Two wins in a row is a nice performance. Three is a winning streak. Six victories in a row — that's the current Notre Dame women's swimming and diving team.

Flash back to Oct. 29, a time filled with pleasant weather, an increasing workload and many still recovering from the emotional scars of the USC football game. On Oct. 29, the women's swimming and diving team was recovering from a 172-128 loss to Purdue, its second consecutive loss to open the season.

Nearly three months later, it's safe to say that the recovery is more than complete. Under the guidance and tutelage of first-year head coach Carrie Nixon, the team has reeled off six consecutive victories since that defeat in West Lafayette.

Although Purdue handed

see STREAK/page 25

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Rutgers routs Irish squad



HY PHAM/The Observer

Irish guard Megan Duffy attempts to dribble around DePaul forward Khara Smith during Notre Dame's 78-75 win Jan. 17.

By KEN FOWLER
Sports Writer

Matee Ajavon just made a name for herself.

The Rutgers sophomore guard led the No. 9 Scarlet Knights Tuesday in a 69-43 romp of the No. 21 Irish in the Rutgers Athletic Center before a dazzled home crowd.

Ajavon had a season-high 28 points on 11-of-18 shooting from the floor, including 5-of-7 from three-point range, to go along with her four assists and three steals.

"She's a tremendous talent," Irish associate head coach Coquese Washington said. "When she's hitting her outside shot the way she did tonight, it sets up

see RUTGERS/page 26

SMC BASKETBALL

Belles ready to face conference foe Alma

By FRAN TOLAN
Sports Writer

After a heartbreaking one-point loss at Adrian last Saturday, Saint Mary's looks to rebound tonight in another MIAA showdown against Alma at home.

With just seven games remaining — all against conference opponents — the Belles are looking to regain the momentum that they carried in the two-game winning streak they put together before the Adrian loss.

A strong finish to the season would probably give the Belles one of the top four seeds in the MIAA going into the conference

tournament. This would be very significant for the team because it would allow the Belles to play their opening round game at home, a feat they have never accomplished.

"It would definitely be a tremendous boost for us to host a conference playoff game," coach Steve Bender said. "That's definitely one of our big goals."

Currently, Saint Mary's (7-11 overall, 5-4 MIAA) sits in fourth place in the conference, one game ahead of Albion.

But before the Belles look toward the postseason, Bender said they have some issues to resolve.

see ALMA/page 26

SPORTS
AT A GLANCE

MLB

In search of their first World Series since 1986, the New York Mets have a new attitude in place for 2006.

page 22

MLB

The Boston Red Sox announced Tuesday that general manager Theo Epstein will return to the role he occupied before leaving at the end of October.

page 24

NHL

Pittsburgh Penguins center Mario Lemieux retired for the second time Tuesday.

page 22

TENNIS

Top-seeded Lindsay Davenport fell to Justine Henin-Hardenne in the quarterfinals of the Australian Open Tuesday.

page 21

NHL

**Boston 3
Atlanta 2**

Bruin P.J. Axelsson scored with just over seven minutes left to break a 2-2 tie.

page 19

NBA

**Cleveland 96
Indiana 66**

LeBron James scored 23 points to lead the host Cavs over the Pacers.

page 18