Committee selection starts provost search

Jenkins, five faculty members, one student assemble to find Hatch’s successor

By CLAIRE HEININGER
News Editor

Notre Dame took its first official step towards hiring a new provost Tuesday when the University’s Academic Council selected a seven-member committee to direct the search process.

Chaired by University President-elect Father John Jenkins, the committee is now charged with finding the successor to current Provost Nathan Hatch, who will leave Notre Dame July 1 to become the president of Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, N.C.

Hatch, who took over the post in 1996, is the third person to serve as provost since the office was created in 1970. After a “cumbersome” process that required each of the 46 voting Academic Council members to nominate three candidates for the search committee, the council chose five faculty members and one student, said Jean Ann Linney, vice president and associate provost.

The committee will immediately open a “full and extensive” search for both internal and external candidates for the post, but must be careful to keep those candidates’ identities confidential, Linney said.

“One of the challenges in a committee like this ... is that any candidate we look at already has a pretty big job,” she said. “The committee members have to do most of their work out of the public eye.”

They will also have to do their work quickly.

The University would like to find a new provost “as soon as possible without sacrificing the depth and quality of candidates,” she said. “This is a very special position.”

NANNY LIT

Writers Nicola Kraus, sitting left, and Emma McLaughlin, sitting right, chat with students and sign copies of their book, ‘The Nanny Diaries,’ Tuesday. The event was part of the 38th Notre Dame Literary Festival which runs through Thursday and features distinguished writers.

Grad prep underway on campus

By JARRETT LANTZ
News Writer

With graduation just three months away, any behind-the-scenes groundwork for commencement are already underway at Saint Mary’s and Notre Dame.

Seniors busy with résumés and job searches now have added senior week preparation and graduation anticipation to their schedules.

Members of this year’s graduating class at both schools have numerous requirements to complete in order to make their May commencement ceremonies a success. Each senior, among other tasks, must order and mail invitations, reserve ceremony tickets and have caps and gowns delivered.

Traditionall, students at

see SEARCH/page 6

Study abroad decisions eminent

Students wait, hope for acceptance letters to most popular programs

By PETER LEAHY
News Writer

For most students who applied to Notre Dame’s study abroad programs, the wait is almost over.

Within the next few days, students who applied to the most popular programs—London, Dublin, Australia, Italy, Spain or France—should receive a decision regarding their applications.

Director of International Study Programs Thomas Bogenschuld said students who applied to the most popular programs will receive notice before the less popular programs.

“We tend to focus on the programs that are most highly subscribed,” he said. “About 70 percent of applicants will find out at once.”

Bogenschuld said the overwhelming number of applicants caused a delay in notifications, which originally were supposed to be sent last week.

“It’s a long process [of] 1,300 applications that you have to read, and we only have a staff of six,” he said. 

Bogenschuld said financial reasons delayed the decisions as well.

“The Board of Trustees met on the 4th [and] it’s a week later so we need to accommodate our load to budget realities,” he said.

Students are eager to find out whether they will be spending next year at Notre Dame or overseas.

Sophomore Emily Kane, who applied to Dublin and Australia, expressed doubt.

see ABROAD/page 4

SMC grad oversees major trial

By MEGAN O’NEIL
Assoc. News Editor

United States District Court Judge and Saint Mary’s alumna Denise Cote will make history once again during the next few months while presiding over the WorldCom accounting fraud trial in Manhattan, one of the largest over security cases.

Cote, 58, set the tone for the high profile court battle early in pretrial hearings by ordering settlement negotiations to begin just one month after the lead plaintiff, the New York State Common Retirement Fund, filed its class action complaint. She also limited each side 60 days to present their depositions.

see COTE/page 4

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INSIDE COLUMN

Hefty eaters unite

Let's all take a moment, if you will, to recognize those among us who possess the incredible ability to eat-out everyone around us. I used to be kind of embarrassed about this, but then I realized that it should be a source of pride, because then all of our hefty eaters could band together and eat pans of brownies. Last week I was at Bora-chi Burrito, reveling in my spectacular ability to eat an entire two-pound burrito in one sitting, so I went over to my friends at another table to brag about my amazing accomplishment. After making my announcement, I discovered that everyone at their table had already done the same thing, even my skinny friend Mary. People who eat too much aren't always so accepted, though. Maybe I used to be kind of embarrassed when boys aren't really expected to out-eat everyone around us. Let's all take a moment, if you will, to recognize those among us who possess the incredible ability to eat-out everyone around us. I used to be kind of embarrassed about this, but then I realized that it should be a source of pride, because then all of our hefty eaters could band together and eat pans of brownies. Last week I was at Bora-chi Burrito, reveling in my spectacular ability to eat an entire two-pound burrito in one sitting, so I went over to my friends at another table to brag about my amazing accomplishment. After making my announcement, I discovered that everyone at their table had already done the same thing, even my skinny friend Mary. People who eat too much aren't always so accepted, though. Maybe I used to be kind of embarrassed when boys aren't really expected to out-eat everyone around us.

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Food services director wins culinary award

Pretkowski honored at international level

Special to the Observer
David H. Pretkowski, director of food services at Notre Dame, has been awarded the prestigious International Foodservice Manufacturers Association's (IFMA) Silver Plate Award in the college and university division. He will be honored at the IFMA's 51st annual Gold and Silver Plate Celebration on May 23rd (Monday) at the Sheraton Hotel and Towers in Chicago.

The Silver and Gold Plate Awards are considered the highest honors in the food service industry. An independent jury selects Silver Plate winners who are outstanding operators in nine categories based upon nominations from colleagues, supplier-partners, and employees.

The jury will announce one Silver Plate honoree as the Gold Plate winner at the award celebration.

The criteria for the awards are: strength of leadership in food quality and menu, creation of successful employee training programs and providing superior career development opportunities, utilization of strong financial and operational management techniques, promotion of the food service industry, and community service.

Pretkowski in the industry often say that Dave is a progressive thinker who has created numerous benchmarks for excellence," said one nominator about Pretkowski.

A native of South Bend, Pretkowski was appointed Notre Dame's director of food services in 1999 after previously directing food service operations for the University of Utah and the University of Michigan's housing division. He holds bachelor's and master's degrees in restaurant, hotel, and institutional management from Purdue University.

North Korea

North Korea's Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced on Wednesday that it had declared its nuclear weapons and was staying away from international nuclear talks where China, Japan, Russia, South Korea and the United States all urged it to abandon its atomic weapons development.

North Korean officials heralded Kim Jong-il's birthday with more defiant rhetoric at a meeting Tuesday of top communist party members and military officials.

"If the U.S. recklessly opts for a war of aggression despite the repeated warnings of the close to our army and people will mobilize all potentials and, indeed, mercilessly crushing blows at the aggressors and achieve a final victory in the confrontation with the U.S.," said Choe Thae Bok, a secretary of the Workers' Party Central Committee, according to a report in the North Korean Central News Agency.

In the run-up to Wednesday's celebration, there have also been festivals across the country of the Kimjongilia — a flower cultivated to blossom around Kim's birthday.

The Clinton administration signed the protocol in 1997, but the U.S. Senate refused to ratify it, citing potential damage to the U.S. economy and insisting that it also cover countries with fast-growing economies such as China and India.

We have been calling on the United States to join. But the country that is in the world's biggest emitter has not joined yet, and that is regrettable," the South Korean's foreign minister, Ambassador Kim Jong-un, said in a telephone interview.

"The Protocol is a pivotal point, a way to begin the process of curbing greenhouse gas emissions and it is a way to control the earth's climate. That is why we have been trying to urge the United States to join so that the US can lead the way to control the earth's climate."
Prep
continued from page 1

Saint Mary's begins graduation preparations in February by ordering their caps and gowns.

"This year, however, the schedule was pushed up because of the inauguration of Dr. Mooney," said Bob DeJenno, assistant provost and dean of students.

"We ordered in October and the caps and gowns are due on their regalia by December 1."

Saint Mary's students must still make their invitations. Each graduating woman receives two invitations at no charge, or she can choose a personalized announcement for a fee with her name and degree.

The commencement proceedings at Saint Mary's are a community effort, with each campus group such as security or food services—assuming specific tasks. The Office of Special Events coordinates committee members oversees each group to make sure that work between them is running smoothly. This committee, chaired by the Assistant to the President, includes members from campus groups such as Student Government and residence halls.

Abroad
continued from page 1

about the news she will receive today. "I've got a lot of people applied to Australia and Dublin," Kane said.mployee

Sophomore Kyle Wilson had similar feelings of uncertainty about his application, yet remained excited about the prospect of studying abroad. "I think my chances are all right. I've got to get out of South Bend for a semester," he said.

Webber is the Assistant Director of Operations for the International Studies Program. "Students who are accepted today, and in coming weeks, must finalize their decisions. Feb. 21 so students on the waiting list have the opportunity to fill in."

Cote said she didn't bring every detail to me. I felt comfortable delegating to her enormous amounts of responsibility."

"I always had great confidence in her abilities," Obermaier told The New York Times. "She didn't bring every detail to me. I felt comfortable delegating to her enormous amount of responsibility."

Legal struggles surrounding WorldCom were set into motion in 2002 when the company filed for bankruptcy. Making a killing WorldCom is the largest company ever to do so in the United States. The estimated $11 billion in accounting fraud at WorldCom cost thousands of jobs and hundreds of millions of dollars in lost investment money. The criminal trial for WorldCom chief executive Bernard Ebbers has already begun in another New York courthouse.

Born in St. Cloud, Minn., Cote graduated from Saint Mary's in 1993 with a bachelor's degree in Accounting. In 1994, she began clerking for District Court Judge Jack Weinstein in Brooklyn and later became an assistant U.S. attorney and the first female chief of the criminal division for the Southern District of New York.

Cote spent a decade working as a federal prosecutor and had a brief stint in legal defense before Clinton appointed her to the United States District Court.

Cote's graduate work at the University of Notre Dame included studies in tax law and labor law. She continued her work at the University of Notre Dame and is currently a professor of law at the University of Notre Dame.

Obermaier called Cote an "iron magnolia" who is "quite forceful."

"I always had great confidence in her abilities," Obermaier told The New York Times. "She didn't bring every detail to me. I felt comfortable delegating to her enormous amount of responsibility."

"I think my chances are all right. I've got to get out of South Bend for a semester."
Israel ready to begin peace talks

But violence and rebellion continue to threaten Palestinians' relations with Israel

Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said Tuesday that he was prepared to make "painful compromises" over the future of Gaza Strip and has begun coordination with Palestinians on Israel's planned pullout from the Gaza Strip.

However, violence could undermine the tentative steps being taken toward peace. Sharon spoke as Israeli troops shot and killed two armed Palestinians seen approaching a West Bank settlement, the Israeli military said. The military said the incident occurred near the settlement of Brachya near the Palestinian city of Nablus, and both the Palestinians were carrying assault rifles.

Palestinian militants said the two belonged to an Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades cell financed by the Lebanese Islamic guerrillas, who oppose any truce with Israel.

Al-Aqsa members in Balata said the two were guarding an abandoned building, and soldiers shot them with no provocation. The militants said the incident "will not pass lightly," indicating that they would retaliate, possibly endangering the cease-fire.

Earlier, Palestinian security officials reported that Israeli troops on patrol in the West Bank village of Beitunia shot and killed a 14-year-old Palestinian boy who drove stones at them. The teenager, Ali Hanzi, was killed when he was shot in the face by Israeli officials said. The Israeli military had no immediate comment.

Addressing the Foreign Press Association in Jerusalem, Sharon said last month that there could be progress toward peace if violence is ended.

At the summit, Sharon and Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas declared a truce to end more than four years of bloodshed. Since then, five Palestinians have died in sporadic violence. Alongside measures to cement the truce, Sharon is also dealing with increasing - and harsh opposition to his plan to dismantle all 21 Jewish settlements in Gaza and four in the West Bank in the summer. Extremists have sent death threats to some Israeli Cabinet ministers, "needed to take painful steps" toward peace, Sharon said, referring to his pullout plan, but he hoped to prevent a rift among his people. He said Israel is prepared to make "painful compromises for peace, but it will not make any compromises with terror."

He said he hoped that after the Israeli pullout, Gaza would be under the control of the Palestinian Authority and not Hamas or Islamic Jihad. He said coordination of the pullout with Palestinian officials has begun.

"Disengagement from Gaza will be coordinated with the Palestinians," Sharon said, in his clearest statement yet on the subject.

Sharon said his plan would solidify Israel's grip on main settlement blocs in the West Bank, which "will be part of the Jewish state in the future.

Sharon also said Russia informed him that it would sell advanced missiles to Syria, despite Israeli objections.

"I understand that they are going to sell this kind of weapon to the Syrians," Sharon said.

"Of course worry about that, and don't think that should have happened," he warned that such weapons could "fall into the hands of the terrorist organizations," despite Russian President Vladimir Putin's assurances.

In spite of Sharon's positive assessment of the peace process, Israeli and Palestinian negotiators were locked in a dispute Tuesday over a withdrawal from the West Bank town of Jericho.

Thousands attend U.S. nun's funeral

"I feel like a river without water, a forest without trees. It's like losing a mother," said Fernando Anjos da Silva, who said Stang helped him get medical care after a logging accident that left him in a wheelchair.

Nearly 1,000 miles to the south-east in the capital of Brasilia, Cabinet ministers compared Stang to Chico Mendes, the celebrated defender of the rain forest who was gunned down in 1988.

"Chico died for the same reason, killed by people with no respect for life or the law," said Environment Minister Marina Silva.

Brazilian have tried for centuries to conquer the Amazon, which covers more than half the country. But the jungle frustrated ventures even by Henry Ford and German billionaire Daniel Ludwig, and some Brazilians call it "the green hell."

Brazil's 1964-85 military government built the Trans-Amazon highway and gave people free land in an attempt to populate the region. The plan drew settlers from the arid northeast as well as land speculators who took control of much of the rich stands of mahogany, massaranduba and ipe.

Loggers and ranchers grew strong by backing local politicians, and by hiring gunmen to eliminate opponents.

LOCAL NEWS

Women arrested after caning cops

Women, including a 79-year-old woman who police said injured two officers when she attack them with a wooden cane.

The officers, both of whom were treated for their injuries at area hospitals, were later charged at Bethany Chambers Hospital South Bend to check on her welfare. The officer had a separated shoulder and hand injury while the other might have suffered a mild concussion, said Kim Nunin, a spokeswoman for St. Joseph County police.
Hackers breach computer files
California-based company warn potentially affected consumers

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — A company that collects consumer data warned thousands of Californians that hackers penetrated the company's computer network and may have stolen credit reports, Social Security numbers and other sensitive information.

ChoicePoint Inc., which sells such data to government agencies and a variety of companies, acknowledged Tuesday that several hackers broke into its computer database and por­tained data from as many as 35,000 Californians.

Last fall, hackers apparently used stolen identities to create a phony Web site used by hackers to acquire personal information, said Chuck Jones, a spokesman for Alpharetta, Ga.-based company. They opened about 50 new accounts.

The attack appears to have occurred in at least six cases of identity theft in Los Angeles County. It's unclear whether data of people outside California was exposed. But law enforcement agents, who have arrested one person on six counts of theft, say hundreds of thousands of Americans elsewhere may be at risk.

ChoicePoint has not notified consumers in other states, nor is it working with law enforce­ment agents elsewhere, Jones said.

“California is the focus of the investigation and we don't have any evidence to indicate at this point that the situation has spread beyond California,” Jones said. “If at some point in time we get information that it's in other areas, we'll revisit the disclo­sure.”

ChoicePoint's announcement came Tuesday of this week, but the company declined to confirm the number of Californian who had been affected.

Security experts dismissed the notion that hackers would limit their attack geographically.

"I've never heard of a hacker doing something just to make a company comply with a state statute — that's ridiculous," said Nick Akerman, partner and co-chair of the computer fraud division of law firm Dorsey & Whitney. "It'd be like robbing a bank that wasn't FDIC insured so the robber wouldn't have to worry about being arrested by the FBI."

When ChoicePoint discovered the crime in October, it closed the sus­pect accounts, r e s t r i c t e d access, strength­ened site verification, and informed law enforcement agencies and cooperated in their investigation.

On Oct. 27, California sheriff deputys arrested Olatanji Olutosin, 41, when the Nigerian national went to his office to receive a fax ostensibly from ChoicePoint. Police were waiting for the North Hollywood resident at his office in Los Angeles. He's been in jail since then and is scheduled to appear in Los Angeles County Court on Thursday.

Robert Costa, the lieutenant in charge of Southern California's High Tech Task Force Identity Theft Detail, said agents believe several other people were involved.

ChoicePoint sent e-mail notifi­cations to Californians last week. State residents were the only Americans notified because the state has a unique law requiring companies that do business with residents to warn them when they've had holes in corporate computer networks.

Since the law went into effect in July 2003, organizations have alerted cus­tomers whenever "unencrypted personal infor­mation was, or is rea­sonably believed to have been, acquired by an unautho­rized person." Identity theft is the country's fastest-growing crime, and more than 9.9 million Americans were victims last year. The crimes cost a total of $5 bil­lion, not including lost productiv­ity, according to the U.S. Postal Inspection Service.

WRITE@YOU SERIES

The Other Side: Evaluating Counterarguments

Thursday, February 17th
5:00 - 6:00 pm
203 Coleman Morse

Facilitator: Kathleen Tonry

This session will help you identify and present counterarguments in ways that make your own argument stronger, clearer, and more persuasive.

REGISTER at writing@nd.edu

Please recycle the Observer.
Market Recap

**Tribes’ casino profits soaring**

Nevada’s gambling industry no match for tax-free casinos on reservations

**In Brief**

3 plead guilty in insurance probe

NEW YORK — A former senior executive at Marsh & McLennan Cos. and two employees at American International Group Inc. pleaded guilty Tuesday in the state’s probe of bid-rigging and price-fixing in the insurance industry.

Joshua Gebauer, a former managing director at Marsh, John Mohs, a vice president in a unit of AIG; and Carlos Coello, an AIG underwriter, entered their pleas in state court.

New York Attorney General Eliot Spitzer said the defendants are expected to testify in the broadening case.

Gebauer and Mohs pleaded guilty to scheming to defraud, which carries a maximum of four years in prison. Coello pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor count of the offense, punishable by up to a year in jail. Their sentences will depend on their level of cooperation with prosecutors.

Microsoft to give away spyware

SAN FRANCISCO — Microsoft Corp. will give away software to battle spyware, adware and other privacy-invading pests, company co-founder Bill Gates said Tuesday.

In a speech to security experts, Gates said spyware and other invasive programs are becoming a major threat to the future of computing. Users often unknowingly accept spyware when they install free software without reading its accompanying licensing agreement.

Last month, the company released a free test version of Microsoft AntiSpyware, which was based on technology it acquired in December. But it had not announced when the technology would be freely released in the final release.

“Spyware... is something we need to nip now,” Gates said. “We made the decision that all of our Windows licenses should have that [antispyware] capability.” He is excited about the technology and said it poses a burning need for our users.

The program also includes a feature where users can submit information back to Microsoft so that it keeps up with the latest threats. This option proved to be incredibly useful during the test run, Gates said.

In other business:

**MARKET RECAP**

**B}usiness**

**Market Recap**

**Stocks**

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**Tribes’ casino profits soaring**

Nevada’s gambling industry no match for tax-free casinos on reservations

**Associated Press**

WASHINGTON — Indian tribes took a gamble on the casino business, and it’s paying off.

Tribes that were mired in poverty 10 years ago are enjoying newfound prosperity as tribal casino revenues far outstrip the take from the more sluggish Nevada gambling industry.

Indian gambling pulled in $18.5 billion in 2004, according to a report released Tuesday, a 10 percent increase that extended more than a decade of double-digit growth for the nation’s Indian casinos.

Tribal casinos have mushroomed since Congress passed a law creating the legal framework in 1988. There are 411 Indian casinos operating in the United States, operated by 223 tribes in 28 states. More than half of the 341 federally recognized Indian tribes in the continental United States operate casinos.

Because tribes are sovereign nations, they don’t have to pay state or local taxes and are exempt from most zoning and other laws, a special status that can cause conflict with neighbors. Some casinos have encountered opposition from some local communities that don’t want the traffic or strain on resources.

To head off opposition, tribal leaders have grown more aggressive about asserting benefits. National Indian Gaming Association officials said Tuesday that tribal gambling has directly created 553,000 jobs, mostly for non-towners, and that it generated $3.5 billion in federal taxes in 2004.

Tribal leaders say gambling has allowed them to lift their reservations out of poverty.

“We had to overcome insurmountable odds to turn our economy around,” said Dee Pigsley, chairwoman of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz, which has a casino in Oregon. “No other development could return the kind of profits that a casino could offer.”

Major Nevada resorts took in $9.88 billion in gambling revenue in the 2004 fiscal year. Overall revenue at Nevada resorts, including from hotels and restaurants, was $19.59 billion in 2004. That figure far exceeded that of Indian casinos, which was $2.1 billion.

“We are creating economic activity that benefits our communities and surrounding communities,” said Mark Van Norman, executive director of the National Indian Gaming Association.

The growth of the industry has been “completely unexpected and spectacular,” said J. Nelson Rose, who teaches gambling law at Whittier Law School in Costa Mesa, Calif. He and other experts predicted it could continue at the same rate for some time.

“From a point it may level off because we’ll have more of the tribes built out,” Van Norman said in an interview. “But we’re still seeing tribes that are looking to develop new projects so we’re going to see continued strong growth for some time.”

Tribal officials said the biggest growth areas are California and New York. California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has sought to tap tribal casino revenue to close the state’s budget deficit, while Gov. George Pataki wants to bring five Indian casinos to the Catskills as a part of a deal to settle tribal land claims.

Native American officials have uncannily expressed concerns that tribal casinos could eat into native profits, but Nevada casinos are generating record profits, too.

**Marketers targeting older women**

Sue Ellen Cooper thought she would enter her golden years quietly, working at her garden and cooking. Instead, she became the former graphic designer acciden- tially launched a rapidly growing social network for older women which has caught the eye of businesses eager to tap the baby boomer generation long neglected by marketers and advertisers.

The Red Hat Society traces its roots to 1998, when Cooper gave a friend a red hat along with a copy of a poem called “Warning,” which begins: “When I am an old woman, I shall wear purple. With a red hat which doesn’t go, and doesn’t suit me.”

Cooper found that other friends wanted red hats too, and soon they were going out, having a ball and attracting attention from others who wanted to join.

The groups started to proliferate, and today the Fullerton, Calif.-based Red Hat Society counts more than 800,000 members and 36,000 chapters in the United States. The women, who are mainly over 50, go to the theater, have tea, play cards and generally have a good time.

The 60-year-old Cooper, who has dubbed herself the Exalted Queen Mother of the Red Hat Society, said she still thinks of her flock as a play group for adults. “I have worked for my kids’ school, my church, raised money for the local children’s center, and of course we love to do those things. But someone has got to give these women permission to take a whole day or a weekend and just goof off, she said.

The business ventures started small, as the group found that new members wanted to buy official Red Hat regalia, including pins, boa, and, of course hats, to mark their membership. But soon the Red Hats found themselves entertaining offers from companies eager to reach older women through the powerful means of a word-of-mouth social network, which happens so naturally among marketers these days.
U.S. pulls presence from Syria
Ambassador removed due to assassination

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The United States pulled its ambassador from Syria on Tuesday, expressing "profound outrage" over the assassination of a Lebanese leader who had protested Syrian influence in his country.

In Lebanon, noisy street processions mourned former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri a day before the funeral that will bring international leaders to Beirut. Angry Lebanese attacked Syrian workers in his hometown of Sidon, injuring several and shattering the windows of a Syrian-owned bakery.

Many Lebanese are pressing Syria to withdraw its 15,000 soldiers — in the country for more than a decade. "We believe the Lebanese people must be free to express their political preferences and choose their own representatives without intimidation or the threat of violence," State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said in announcing the imminent return of U.S. Ambassador Margaret Scobey.

Administration officials stopped short of directly accusing Syria of carrying out the murder. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said the assassination was the "proximate cause" of the ambassador's recall.

Asked if the United States would punish Syria with new economic sanctions, Rice said, "We will continue to consider other options."

"The Syrian problem is a serious problem," Rice said. "Our problems with the Syrian government are not new."

Among the problems, Rice said, were support for terrorism and for insurgents in Iraq. "The Syrian government, unfortunately, on a path right now where relations are not improving but are worsening," she said.

Scobey's return does not break diplomatic relations with Syria, a country the United States has accused of exporting terrorism. Syria took no immediate reciprocal action, such as recalling its own ambassador from Washington.

Meeting results in drug monitoring board

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The government is setting up a special monitoring board to keep an eye on prescription painkillers. It is the latest in a series of steps the United States has taken to curb the growing abuse of prescription drugs.

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"The United States is moving forward on a number of fronts," said Health and Human Services Secretary Mike Leavitt, who said the new board will have "a new culture of openness and enhanced independence." The board will recommend what information and updates to put on the government's Drug Watch, resolve disputes over drug safety issues, and oversees the development of a drug safety policy. It will include FDA employees and medical experts from other government agencies and will consult with outside medical experts as well as consumer and patient groups.

"We want to know what we know, what we do with information and why we do it," Leavitt said, promising to create "a new culture of openness and enhanced independence." The board will recommend what information and updates to put on the government's Drug Watch, resolve disputes over drug safety issues, and oversees the development of a drug safety policy. It will include FDA employees and medical experts from other government agencies and will consult with outside medical experts as well as consumer and patient groups.

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**LEBANON**

Officials suspect suicide bomber as assassin

Lebanese mourn streets in streets after death of ex-premier, many blame attack on Syrians

Associated Press

BEIRUT — Lebanese mourned their slain ex-premier Tuesday with noisy street processions, while the country's interior minister suggested a suicide bomber aided by "international parties" may have been behind the assassination of Rafik Hariri. Lebanon's government, still in shock from the bombing that left Hariri and 16 others dead, came under mounting pressure to bring the assassins to justice. Many in Lebanon blamed the attack on Syria.

International leaders are expected to join tens of thousands at Hariri's funeral on Wednesday as the outpouring of grief and anger following the billionaire tycoon's death continued.

Dozens of angry Hariri supporters attacked Syrian workers in the former leader's hometown of Sidon, in southern Lebanon, lightly injuring five and shattering the windows of a Syrian-owned bakery.

Syria has denied involvement and condemned the attack, but many Lebanese have increased demands on Damascus to withdraw its 15,000 soldiers from the country.

Syria deployed its forces to Lebanon during the 1973-82 civil war to stop the country from falling apart and remained after the conflict ended. Its continued presence is a source of frustration for many Lebanese and for the international community, particularly in the capital, Beirut.

Minister Suleiman Franjieh suggested a suicide bomber may have targeted Hariri's heavily protected motorcade as its cruised through Beirut's Ein-El-Masniel neighborhood. He said the location of the crater in the middle of the road indicated the bomb-laden car was approaching the motorcade, attempting to ram it or to bypass it.

"For sure, someone was driving the car. He could be a suicide bomber who blew himself up," the minister said, hinting of a network behind the assassination.

Franjieh, however, did not confirm the suicide attack theory and was awaiting DNA results from those killed.

While most suspicion has fallen on Syria or its supporters here, possibilities include rogue Syrian intelligence operatives, or even factions among Lebanon's myriad religious groups. Responsibility claims by previously unknown Islamic militants were not considered credible, with Justice Minister Adnan Addoun warning they could be an attempt "to mislead the investigation."

At the bomb scene, explosives experts combed rooftops and the street, searching for evidence as residents cleared debris from their balconies.

Thousands of mourners marched through Beirut's streets in separate processions to pay tribute to Hariri and condemn his killers. "Syrians Out!" chanted several hundred protesters wearing business suits, while motorcades of supporters elsewhere honked car horns while driving through the capital in cars passed with Hariri's pictures.

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**Wednesday, February 16, 2005**

5:30 pm

126 DeBartolo Hall

**APPLICATION DEADLINE IS MARCH 1, 2005**

**Influenza puts trial on hold**

Jackson's visit to ER delays jury selection

Associated Press

SANTA MARIA, Calif — Michael Jackson was taken to an emergency room with flu-like symptoms, delaying jury selection in the pop star's child-molestation case for a week.

The entertainer was being treated for a "flu-like illness with some vomiting," Dr. Chuck Merrill said during a brief news conference at Marian Medical Center about five hours after Jackson's illness was announced in court by the judge.

"I’m in stable condition and we expect a full recovery," said Merrill, who would not answer questions.

Jackson's brother Randy told reporters the entertainer would spend the night in the hospital.

Earlier, as potential jurors filed into the courtroom — including a few who were scolded by bailiffs for being late — Jackson's seat remained empty. Nearly 20 minutes after the singer was scheduled to arrive, Judge Rodney S. Melville announced that Jackson had been taken to a hospital.

He said the 46-year-old singer would need three or four days to recover and noted that several members of the jury pool were out with the flu and that it appeared to be going around.

The judge said Jackson had been on his way to court but was taken to a hospital emergency room instead.

Outside the hospital, about two miles from the courthouse, a growing crowd of about 50 fans and reporters gathered. Police officers guarded all entrances, stopping anyone who appeared to be a journalist, the new media, while hospital officials put up white fabric to hide what was going on in the emergency room.

Jury selection had already been delayed for a week because of the death of a defense attorney’s sister.

The two sides are selecting 12 jurors and eight alternates who will decide whether Jackson molested a teenage cancer patient at his Neverland Ranch and pilled the youngster with3 alcohol. The trial could last about six months.

Jackson carried tissues and was dipping his nose when he arrived at court Monday — the first day of questioning of prospective jurors. Jackson's lawyers also announced they may try to call such stars as Elizabeth Taylor, Jay Leno, Quincy Jones and Kobe Bryant to the stand.

Defense attorney Thomas Mesereau Jr. told the judge that Jackson was feeling ill Monday and that the symptoms continued Tuesday, delaying his return to the courthouse. Leaving court, another Jackson attorney, Brian Oxman, said, "He's doing OK. He's been admitted to the hospital."

Before the court session ended Tuesday, the judge rejected a request from Mesereau to question jurors for more than 15 minutes, saying that was plenty of time.

**Flu vaccine clinic at Notre Dame**

Information Session for the University of Notre Dame’s

International Study Programs

**Tuesday, February 16, 2005**

2:00-4:00 pm in the ACE office

It'll be a great opportunity to discuss the possibility of post-graduate service!
Can you say it? Vagina. Every year around this time, that curiously anatodal word floats across campus like a fad, a discovery and then disappears into the cave of annual campus events. However, this is the exact opposite of the mission of the Vagina Monologues and V-Day. Talking to Notre Dame's diverse group of Vagina Warriors, one sees beyond the clutched debate and controversy to find an energizing play, a socially vital movement and a beloved community of sisters working for a better world. The Vagina Monologues sprang from the depths of the unspoken. Discussions surrounding female bodies, sexuality and rape are deemed either inappropriate for open discussion or unimportant. We lack spaces for discussion for these issues and for V-Day activities; this is a serious problem. The statistics are appalling — one in three women worldwide will be victims of some form of violence (fattening, rape and harassment to name a few), one out of four college women will experience sexual assault — attempted or completed — and more than half of these violations go unreported. V-Day student organizer junior Kaitlyn Redfield comments, "After three years of being involved, I've come to understand that being silent on this issue is perpetuating the problem." By denying the pervasiveness of sexual assault, we isolate the victims and fail to combat the problem. At Notre Dame, our illusions of being a "family", partied and rules against pre-marital intercourse seem to erode from our consciousness issues of sexuality in general and sexual assault specifically. Junior Halle Kiefer sees the Monologues as a forum for victims, friends and all people concerned with violence against women to find healing and seek answers. She says, "People say rape and assault doesn't happen here, but it does, behind closed doors and people have to deal with it. It is the women and men (one of seven men experience a sexual assault) suffering in silence to the Monologues aims to console and give a voice for their pain and frustration. Redfield sees Notre Dame as having a strong "culture of silence" around these issues. The Vagina Warriors in response plan awareness events, fundraisers for local sexual assault response centers and the Vagina Monologues to combat that silence and aid victims. V-Day also is a celebration of femininity and builds solidarity among the people involved. It is completely student planned and based. Redfield was inspired seeing "college women taking action" to end sexual assault. The community created through performing the show and planning events sustains its members. Kiefer and others find a chance to meet new friends, connect more with current ones and build a positive community around important issues. V-Day meetings are chalk full of laughter, camaraderie and support, which in such a diverse group of women is revolutionary. We can learn much from the model of the vagina warriors. As they endeavor to make themselves into a focused community of respect and peace, they remap the world around them and battle a grave injustice. To their critics, V-Day participants speak respectfully and seriously. Their mission, to end violence against women and girls, worldwide, has been misconstrued in out­rageous ways. Some associate their purpose with pro-choice groups. To this, Redfield says we must address discussions of violence against women and abortion debates. Just because they both deal with women, it does not equate them." Notre Dame's Vagina Warriors have nothing to do with any pro-choice groups, for they are sponsored by University departments and the money they raise goes to SOS and YWCA in their missions to victims of rape and domestic abuse. Junior Jackie Clark sees the binding of V-Day and abortion issues as a major problem. For her, "The goal of the Monologues is to promote awareness. It's a shame they are associated inappropriately."

The recurrent attacks on V-Day seem to be rooted in general misconceptions of feminism. The struggle for equality and dignity for women in public and private relationships continues. Redfield believes the boundaries between orthodoxy, Catholicism and feminism wrongly hinder finding shared values. She holds that, "At the heart, feminism and Catholicism both share the common goal of fostering peace and promoting the recognition of dignity of women and men." Women in this movement assert their dignity through celebrating their gendered identity, releasing frustration over shared oppression and inviting men and other women to know their joys and pains. Now, can you say it? The Vagina Monologues are here to educate, liberate and agitate us all to be more proactive actors in the fight to end violence against women and girls. As Sophomore Casey Stonant wrote in poetic verse, "We are all responsible, we all must take up the fight, it's time to defend, a Female's Life to Fight." See the show and engage the issues until the violence stops. Kamaría Porter is a junior history major. She can be contacted at kporterfl@nd.edu. The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
What it means to be Conservative Catholic

In recent days, Conservative Catholics have been hounded because of their stance on the Queer Film Festival and the Vagina Monologues. I would like to clarify for you that I do not make things so that people do not solidify in their minds wrong stereotypes of what it means to be Conservative Catholic.

First of all, it should be clarified what "conservative" means. The word is used so much that the meaning of it tends to be lost. In the context of Catholicism, being "conservative" is generally considered as believing in the traditional teachings of the Catholic Church. Since Vatican II, there have been many theologians who have strayed from Church teachings, especially in matters of sexual morality, and Conservative Catholics seek to return to the teachings of the Church in the face of these opposing theologies.

Secondly, I think many people need to realize that Catholic teaching is not a composition of arbitrary decisions, opinions or regulations picked randomly out of a hat and subsequently passed down through the ages. The Church is not passive in marriage, contraception, pornography or anything else simply because it has a tradition of doing so. There is a beautiful logic to it all that many tend not to understand nor appreciate, and it is a truth that does not become obsolete over time. I am interested to know how many people who disagree with the Church really understands its teachings on human sexuality. Surely, you know that the Church thinks homosexuality is "disordered," but do you understand this teaching in the full context of the Christian meaning of sex? If you don't understand what the Church is saying, then how can you disagree with it?

Thirdly, Conservative Catholics are of the mindset that the "love" commonplace in our American society is a false love and an incomplete love. If Conservative Catholics are criticized for being close-minded or intolerant, it is because we do not accept the misguided ideal of love posited by our society. The message "you do want you do and I won't criticize you for it" is not the message that the followers of Jesus should utter in the Gospels. The whole point of being nice and tolerant of everyone falls grossly short of the love Jesus has called us to.

Finally, I hope that people get out of their heads that if you defend Church teaching that you necessarily hate those who disagree with it or do not vote up to it. We are all sinners; to hate others for siding would be completely hypocritical. And if you meet someone like that, then you are not talking to a Catholic.

In the spirit of love and understanding, I hope that you do not dismiss all the Conservative Catholics so quickly when you see us speaking out outside during the Monologues. Come say hi; we don't bite.

David Cook
series
Murray Hall
Feb. 15

Moderator clarifies discrepancy

As the moderator of the panel on same-sex marriage at the recent second annual Queer Film Festival, I want to clarify any discrepancy that keeps rearing its head regarding what Bishop John D’Arcy as a major reason for his objection to the festival. The organizing committee (and I personally) have a serious commitment to academic integrity, freedom and dialogue. We were dedicated to having all viewpoints, including the Church’s stance on same-sex marriages and homosexual activity, accurately represented and defended.

We, the planning committee, contacted representatives from the University’s theology department, campus ministry and administration, asking for someone to explain the additional perspective to the panel. For various reasons, all of those who were asked, declined. We were very saddened by that response because there is no way for viewpoints to be discussed if only similar perspectives are presented.

On Friday, a very courageous member of Courage agreed (and I personally) to speak allowed for a much more insightful discussion to occur, and we are grateful for his and all the other speakers participation.

David E. Puij
co-chair
Gay and Lesbian Mormons at the University of Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s College
Feb. 15

Revealing inaccuracies

This letter is in response to Bishop John D’Arcy’s Feb. 10 piece regarding the second annual Queer Film Festival. While we have tremendous respect for the bishop, his office and his opinion, we believe that there are a few inaccuracies in his statement that need to be addressed.

D’Arcy claims that “no place has been made at this seminar for the clear and accurate presentation of Catholic teaching.” In reality, the festival staff made numerous attempts to have members of the Catholic community speak on our panels and represent Church teaching. However nobody was willing to do this.

Ultimately, we did find a layperson who agreed to present the Catholic viewpoint in our “Future of gay marriage” panel. The Notre Dame Queer Film Festival welcomes people from all viewpoints to come together and engage in an academic discussion. Next year, the bishop is certainly invited to present the Church teachings in our panels, or he can appoint someone to do so for him.

Secondly, the four-time Tony award winning playwright that the bishop refers to, Terrence McNally, screened a film adaptation of his play, "LOVE! VALOUR! COMPASSION!" The piece is about a group of friends who give each other love and support in the face of many of life’s challenges — including AIDS.

The compassion the men show each other is consistent with the catechism of the Catholic Church community to be treated with "respect, compassion and sensitivity."

The theme of the festival was one of tolerance and education, not a promotion of any sort of gay agenda. Our films were carefully selected to incorporate historical elements, award-winning film-making and religious issues. The purpose of a university education is to be presented with various viewpoints and to be able to have an honest open discussion about difficult issues.

For the bishop to claim otherwise or state that something of this sort should not happen at the University of Notre Dame because the students need to in some way be shielded from such things subverts the true meaning of education.

This year we enjoyed a tremendous amount of success and it would not have been possible without the support of the entire South Bend community and the University. We especially commend the hard work of the Department of Films, Television and Theater for their tireless energy. Thank to everyone who came out to see the films and we look forward to seeing you all next year!

Liam Darcy
Director of Operations
Notre Dame Queer Film Festival 2005
Feb. 14

Federal cuts hurt students

Whether you love or hate the Bush administration, most students should be able to agree on one thing: They should stop cutting educational grants.

The latest assault on federal financial aid comes in the form of a massive reduction in Perkins Loans and requiring stricter eligibility standards to receive Pell Grants. The administration has championed the cuts as students-friendly because the maximum Pell award increased by about $100 for each eligible recipient. But this one positive aspect does not counteract all the downsides. It will be significantly harder to qualify for a Pell Grant, so while the students who do receive them will get slightly more money — although $100 won’t even cover textbooks for the semester — many other needy students will be left with nothing. 

Seems to me that Conservative Catholics and NYU students and millions of youths across the country depend on Pell Grants to help finance their educations. Now, they will be forced to seek monetary assistance elsewhere, and NYU’s financial aid program simply doesn’t have deep enough pockets.
By RICHARD FRIEDMAN
Scene Writer

CHICAGO — With almost 1,000 cars spread over 1.2 million square feet of land, this year's 97th Chicago Auto Show held at McCormick Place in downtown Chicago became the largest in North America.

After entering McCormick Place and the main Auto Show level, one was immediately struck by the dazzle and shine of all the cars parked in seemingly haphazard arrangements, the strong flashes and streaks of color from the walls and the huge projection screen that all make up the various surrounding exhibits.

Upon entering the show, it seemed as if the Ford Motor Company had received the luckiest location. With its placement right at the entrance of the Chicago Auto Show, the brand new Lamborghini Murcielago. Priced at just more than $319,000, the Murcielago may not be the most practical of cars, but one look at it and any person, car enthusiast or not, is sure to fall in love. The only sad thing about this display is it must be viewed from such a distance — a distance that cannot even be crossed despite begging and trying to bribe the guards. But just being even that close to those cars is well worth it.

A final trip around reveals one of the most unique exhibits in the entire show sitting directly across from the Shell cars. This exhibit features a Volvo XC90 made entirely out of LEGOs. Weighing 2,930 pounds and containing 201,425 LEGOs, the car took three LEGO designers three weeks to design and five builders two months to build working fullytime.

The Auto Show runs through the 20th and is open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. every day except Sunday when it will close early at 8 p.m. Regular price tickets are a relatively high $10 a person given that parking is an additional $14 a car, but discount tickets can be bought at most new car dealers. Even the regular price tickets are well worth it, however, as the show is sure to provide a full day's worth of entertainment.

Contact Richard Friedman at rfriedma@nd.edu

This line of 2005 Mustangs, part of the Ford Motor Company exhibit, greets people at the entrance of the Chicago Auto Show. On display are five different models, including the Cobra and the Saleen.
Vagina Monologues returns for fourth year

By MARIA SMITH
Scene Editor

There was a point in Notre Dame history when V-Day might have meant candy and cards. That day is rapidly fading in memory. "The Vagina Monologues" and other events promoted by V-Day, an organization that works to stop violence against women in countries around the world, are becoming a spring tradition. Tonight's performance of the play will mark its fourth year on campus, and interest does not yet seem to be fading.

Since its first performance the play has moved up in the Notre Dame world, from DeBartolo Hall to Washington Hall to the Stepan Center. This year the performance will be held in the Leighton Concert Hall at the DeBartolo Center for the Performing Arts, its most prestigious location to date. Student participation in the show has also grown. Skits performed by single actresses in the past, such as "My Short Skirt," have been restructured for several performers to accommodate the number of students interested in participating in this year's show.

This year, Notre Dame's performance has drawn the particular attention of "The Vagina Monologues" author Eve Ensler. Ensler arrives on campus today in the last visit of her college tour, which has included universities such as Yale and Uniform.

Ensler will be part of a panel discussion with history professor Gail Bederman and English professor Glenn Lindner, moderated by film, television and theatre professor Jessica Chalmers. The panel will be held in the Leighton Concert Hall at 3 p.m. The author plans to participate in the performance of "The Vagina Monologues" at 7 p.m and will be present for a book signing after the show around 9:30 p.m.

As student interest in "The Vagina Monologues" has grown, organizers have also increased their efforts to integrate other awareness-raising events promoted by V-Day with the performances. This year students from the play organized Project Black, which茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫茫
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**MLB**

**Defending champions prepare for fresh start**

After satisfying fans with title, Boston is hungry for another

Associated Press

FORT MYERS, Fla. — Returning from celebrating the Red Sox as World Series winners finally hung from lampposts outside their spring training ballpark 86 years after their last championship.

Inside, the winning pitcher in the game that clinched the title prepared to lose for his new team.

The change was all around City of Palms Park on Tuesday — from Derek Lowe's departure for the Los Angeles Dodgers camp in Vero Beach to decorations that represent challenges as well as congratulations.

Can Boston win consecutive titles?

"I'm a greedy person. I want as many as I possibly can get," right fielder Trot Nixon said. "I want to be one of those guys also that has an opportunity to take a picture and have four or five rings on my finger with this team."

Even Lowe, who was disappointed with the way his seven full seasons with the Red Sox ended without a solid offer from the club, wished them well.

"You root for the guys," he said. "You hope they stay healthy. You hope they have a good year. You hope they get to the World Series. There's no bitterness toward the players because these guys are great guys."

"It wasn't their decision why [I'm] not here, so why wish bad things upon them?"

Lowe, who lives in Fort Myers, thanked the Red Sox for letting him work out in their stadium. He planned to go to Vero Beach on Wednesday, one day before Boston's pitchers and catchers are due to report. The entire team is due in Monday, with the first full-squad workout next Tuesday.

Lowe won the clinching game of each of the three post-season series. "I was really proud of him," manager Terry Francona said Tuesday. But he knew Lowe's days were numbered back in July when the Red Sox shopped him around before the trading deadline.

When he was left out of the playoff rotation he had more incentive to finish his Boston days on a high note.

"In any profession, when somebody tells you that you can't do something, it motivates you to go out there and prove that you can," Lowe said.

That's something he shares with his former teammates.

The Red Sox swept St. Louis in the World Series, but baseball magazines have picked them to finish second in the AL East behind the Yankees for the eighth straight season. On paper, their rebuilt rotation seems weaker than New York's. Perhaps Boston's comeback from a 3-0 deficit to the Yankees in the AL championship series was just a fluke. It may have been if Red Sox players report to camp with inflated egos and stomachs.

resulting from too much time in the offseason spotlight and too little in the gym.

"I'd be real disappointed if guys came in thinking" they could slack off, Nixon said. "Once January came around, if you should realize that, hey, this is my profession. This is what I love to do. I don't want to play and then retire after winning a championship.

He was the only returning player from last year's championship team at the ballpark on Tuesday. Pitchers Wade Miller and Matt Mantei, acquired in the offseason, also have been working out. Miller is coming back from an injury-plagued season.

Francona sees Mantei as a pitcher who can make a strong middle relief corps even stronger.

"If there's the bases loaded in the seventh inning and we need a strikeout, I think Matt Mantei's going to have a pretty good chance of being successful," Francona said.

Two new starting pitchers, David Wells and Matt Chone, hadn't arrived by the time players, including minor leaguers, had finished working out on Tuesday. The heightened emphasis on steroids is another addition to spring training.

"I'd be real disappointed if the guys game in thinking they could slack off."

Trot Nixon Boston outfielder

"I don't care about Joe's book," he said. "It's another black eye for baseball a little bit but I think it's just a black eye before spring training and the minute the boys start showing up for camp, it's going to be long gone and not talked about anymore."

For Lowe, there still will be thoughts of his place in the history of one of the most successful Red Sox teams — especially on opening day.

"I'm going to be sitting in San Francisco watching them play on TV," Lowe said. "Now I'm a fan watching these guys play. Now you've got to watch [ Curt] Schilling and [May] Johnson, opening night, Yankees-Red Sox, and not be a part of it."

It won't be the same, just like the rest of the new season.
Pro golfers demonstrate talent, staying power

Unlike past seasons, this year’s tour has had an exciting start

Associated Press

Be careful not to judge a PGA Tour season by the first few months. It was only three years ago that Tiger Woods went 10 weeks without winning and endured endless questions about a slump. By summer, he had become the first player in 30 years to capture the first two legs of the Grand Slam.

So look at Vijay Singh last year.

He won just one tournament (Pebble Beach) through the Masters, and had only three trophies heading into August. By the end of the year, Singh became only the sixth man in PGA Tour history with at least nine victories.

This promised to be a grandiose year in golf with so many top players either hitting or regaining their stride.

So far, it has not disappointed.

The first six winners are all ranked in the top 20. All but one (Start Appleby) are major champions.

Singh got off to such a strong start that he should have won the Mercedes Championships and did win the Sony Open. It looked as though he would be No. 1 for the rest of his life, or until retirement, whichever came first.

Then it was Woods’ turn. His victory the following week at Torrey Pines was his first stroke-play title on the PGA Tour in about 16 months, and most people figured it was only a matter of time before Woods established himself anew as the player to beat.

But that was before Phil Mickelson won back-to-back at Phoenix and Pebble Beach, setting a slew of records along the way. He tied the course record on the TPC at Scottsdale (60), broke the record at Spyglass Hill (62) and became the first wire-to-wire winner over 72 holes in the 68-year history of Pebble Beach.

"I don’t know what specifically is driving everybody to play so well," Mickelson said. "But I think it’s exciting for the game to see all the top players contending."

Next up is Riviera, which also has some intriguing possibilities.

The Nissan Open is the first PGA Tour event Woods played, as a 16-year-old, and it remains the only tournament he has played at least four times without winning. He returns to Riviera this week needing only to finish fourth to take the No. 1 ranking away from Singh.

Plus, Mike Weir has a chance to become the first player to win three straight years at the Nissan Open. Canada’s Lefty is coming off one of the best rounds of the year, running every fairway and missing only one green in the rain and wind at Pebble Beach.

With so many players doing so well, Mickelson has high hopes for rare drama at the Match Play Championship, where two players from the top 10 have reached the finals only once since it began in 1999.

"I think there is a good chance this year a lot of the top guys will win the first few matches and square off later in the final rounds," Mickelson said.

The only player missing from the mix is Ernie Els, in more ways than one.

He hasn’t won, although the Big Easy has finished in the top 10 every time he has played. And after three stops on the PGA Tour, he departed for his global travels and won’t return to the PGA Tour until the middle of March.

"Many of the big names on tour... are off to great starts in 2005," Woods said in his monthly newsletter. "That’s good for golf and should make the Masters even more exciting."

How long it lasts is another story.

And one thing to keep in mind as the West Coast Swing wraps up over the next two weeks is how many of the top players will be around when the Tour Championship arrives.

Two years ago, Els won the first two PGA Tour events, then Woods won in his first start after knee surgery. By the end of the year, Ben Curtis was the British Open champion, and Shaun Micheel won the PGA Championship.

Not until after the Masters, probably the U.S. Open, will anyone be able to get a firm grasp on how this season is shaping up.

The No. 1 spot in the world ranking could change every week from now through the end of March, with the two-year system favoring Singh during that stretch.

Right now, the only sure thing looks to be Mickelson.

Woods won at Torrey Pines, but the way he nearly whiffed a 2-iron on the 18th hole left some questions about how confident he is with his swing changes. Perhaps those will be answered in the next two months.

Despite his hot start, Singh is using a new driver and has a different clubhead. He has gone three straight finishes out of the top 10, and last week he missed the cut for the first time in a year.

Japan’s Shigeki Maruyama follows through on his swing on the 16th hole of the TPC Stadium Course in Scottsdale, Ariz., during the FBR Open Pro-Am Feb. 2.

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NBA

Hill ‘magical’ against Clippers in 99-94 win

Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — Grant Hill heads to the All-Star Game this weekend with a feeling he hasn’t had in five years. He’s playing — and he’s playing well.

Hill, who will start in Sunday’s game in Denver after missing most of the last four seasons with an ankle injury, scored a season-high 39 points in the Magic’s 99-94 victory over the slumping Los Angeles Clippers.

It was the Magic’s third win in four games, while Los Angeles has lost six straight.

Hill was Hill’s highest points total since he scored 40 for Detroit on Jan. 8, 2000 against Minnesota. Hill hit 12 of 16 shots from the field and 15 of 16 free throws while playing a season-high 42 minutes.

“I don’t expect to do that all the time anymore, but it’s nice to know I can still do it once in a while,” Hill said. “I really felt like, for the first time, I could do what I want out there, and it’s obviously been a long, long time since that happened.”

Clippers guard Bobby Simmons, who had 20 points, made two free throws to cut what had been a nine-point deficit in the fourth quarter to 91-89 with 29 seconds left.

Francis then made back-to-back jumpers, the second with 17 seconds remaining to give his team a 95-90 lead. Francis finished with 16 points and seven assists in just 29 minutes.

“Grant put us in position throughout the game, but Steve has been making the clutch shots for us all season,” Magic coach Johnny Davis said. “He was out of sorts because of foul problems for most of the game, but again, late game, Steve found a way to get it done.”

Denver 100, Atlanta 96

Carmelo Anthony’s jump shot with nine-tenths of a second to play gave the Denver Nuggets their first victory in Atlanta since 1988 over the Hawks.

Anthony led the Nuggets with 22 points as Denver ended a 14-game losing streak in Atlanta.

After leading by 15 points in the third period, the Hawks faltered and lost the lead early in the final quarter.

With 2:29 left to play, Tony Delk missed two free throws for Atlanta and Obinna Ekezie was called for a foul in a scramble for the ball after the second miss. Marcus Camby hit two free throws to give Denver a 96-95 lead.

Ekezie made one of two free throws with 2:11 left to tie the game at 96.

Following a miss by Denver’s Andre Miller, the Hawks got the ball and Atlanta coach Mike Woodson did not call a timeout. Antoine Walker fired an air ball on a fullaway jumper. Denver rebounded and called timeout with 6.8 seconds left. Then Anthony launched the winning shot from the left wing.

The Hawks threw away their inbound pass. Earl Boykins added two free throws for the final margin.

Walker led the Hawks with 22 points and 12 rebounds. Delk followed with 19 points. Camby had 17 for Denver, and Kenyon Martin and former Hawk DeMarcus Johnson each added 16.


The Hawks led 54-47 at halftime and stretched the lead to 64-49 early in the third quarter when Josh Smith’s jumper, a two-footer on a pass from Josh Childress.

The Nuggets opened the final period with a 10-2 run to cut the Hawks. A three-point play by Carmelo pulled Denver even at 81, and Bryon Russell’s free throw 30 seconds later gave Denver its first lead since the opening quarter.

Minneapolis 82, New Jersey 71

Kevin McHale earned his first coaching victory and Michael Olowokandi had 17 points and 2 rebounds in Minnesota’s victory over New Jersey.

Kevin Garnett, who shot 0-for-5 from the floor in the first half, scored 17 points. Wally Szczerbiak added 14 for Minnesota, who won for just the second time in the last 10 games and set season highs in points allowed (71) and opponents’ field goal percentage (41.0).

Vin Baker had 25 of his 32 points in the first half for New Jersey, which got a season-high 16 points from Ron Mercer, but little else from anyone else after halftime. After taking a 19-5 lead midway through the first quarter, the Nets scored at a rate barely better than a point per minute.

As Minnesota’s vice president of basketball operations, McHale fired Flip Saunders on Saturday, the first action taken by management in response to this highly disappointing season.

The Timberwolves’ various problems have included rebounding, effort and shot selection, but they boxed out consistently, played hard and moved the ball well against the Nets.

Olowokandi, whose production at center has been largely missing since signing with Minnesota before last season, epitomized the renaissance.

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Steroid discussion dominates spring training

With 45 days until their season opener, players are defensive

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Usually, the start of spring training is a time of clean slates, sun-splashed fields and endless hope. Not this year.

Steroids were the No. 1 topic Tuesday, when several of the new Washington Nationals, the New York Yankees and the Cincinnati Reds opened camp.

"It doesn't go away, unfortunately," Yankees manager Joe Torre said in Tampa, Fla.

Pitchers and catchers on seven more teams reported Wednesday, 45 days before the World Series champion Boston Red Sox and Yankees play the major league opener April 3. The Minnesota Twins will be the last team to report, on Sunday.

Ken Griffey Jr. ran for the Reds' medical staff in Sarasota, Fla., showing how far he has recovered from surgery on his torn right hamstring.

"I think that the problems that are out there are coming to the surface, which I think is good for baseball," Red Sox manager Terry Francona said in Fort Myers, Fla.

Still, baseball's new drug-testing agreement — calling for harsher penalties and more frequent testing — remains in the drafting phase. Baseball management expects the new rules to be in place by the mandatory reporting date, March 1.

"I know that we were well on our way to having serious steroid testing, drug testing, and we still are and we didn't need a book to come out and tell us that we needed to do something," Nixon said.

Baltimore shortstop Miguel Tejada, among the players accused by Canseco, denied that he used steroids.

"Any inference made by Jose Canseco that I used steroids is complete false," Tejada said in a statement. "I barely knew Jose during his career, so it is ridiculous for him to suggest we ever had discussions regarding their use. I work very hard to keep in shape and any suggestion that I use steroids, or any banned substance, is insulting and not worth discussing further."

At Boston's camp, Nixon wasted little time in adding some heat under baseball's ever-heated rivalry, joining Curt Schilling in the criticism of Rodriguez.

"He's done some great things on the field. He's one of the best baseball players in the game and probably will be when it's all said and done," Nixon said.

There are a number of possibilities. We want to see if there is some reasonable view of his explanation and Kevin's." Canseco's autobiography, published this week, accused the Yankees' Jason Giambi and others of using steroids.

"I think that the problems that are out there are coming to the surface, which I think is good for baseball," Red Sox manager Terry Francona said in Fort Myers, Fla.
Belles hungry to get back in playoff race

Team hopes to recover from five-game losing streak at Kalamazoo

By KEVIN BRENNAN
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's needs to stop the bleeding.

Just three weeks ago, the Belles stood in a three-way tie for fourth place in the MIAA. The team's main concern was finishing strong to avoid falling in the first round of tournament play. After losing its next five contests, however, Saint Mary's now faces the season strong to even ensure an appearance in the first round.

The Belles 19-14, 4-10 MIAA, currently tied with Adrian College for seventh place in the nine-team league, face a must-win game tonight at 7:30 p.m.

Since the teams that finish in eighth and ninth places must partake in a tournament play-in game to earn the right to play the top seed in the first round, the Belles see tonight's game and every subsequent regular season game before their postseason hopes.

Kalamazoo's most important along with our game an opponent of the Belles, guard Bridget Boyce. She and the Belles all have positive attitudes and are really looking for this win. Right now we aren't even thinking about that first-in-the-game.

Saint Mary's takes confidence from its earlier defeat of this opponent. Kalamazoo. On Jan. 19, the Belles outlasted the Broncos, 64-63, in a fierce battle at the Angola Allianz Arena. Saint Mary's felt it learned a great deal about Kalamazoo in that game and now has significant knowledge of its advantage tonight. "They really overpower your players) down low and the guards on the wings," Boyce said. "We need to concentrate on taking them to the basket and pushing the ball down floor because we can definitely score some easy points off that way."

Belles freshman Allison Kessler remembers Kalamazoo for its aggressive style of play. "It is a tough game because they are so aggressive," Kessler said. "We just need to play our game and not be forced into turnovers."

If Saint Mary's can win tonight, though, it must reverse a recent trend of poor playing. In the last five games, Kalamazoo has averaged 69 points in five games. "We just haven't been playing well," Kessler said. "We are definitely looking to turn that around today at Kalamazoo and come out and play a solid 40 minutes, play a whole game."

Boyce feels the Belles' problem has been finishing games off.

"In the second half we just aren't closing the deal," Boyce said. "In the last five or six minutes of the game we usually have the lead, and we are just letting it slip away."

If Saint Mary's does manage to defeat the Broncos and then beat last place Olivet on Saturday, it could make a huge impact at Kalamazoo's below .500 MIAA standings. If the Belles win with some help, the team could potentially finish in fourth or fifth in the conference, which is where they started.

"No team in major league baseball's ever done what we did," Wilkerson said. "It was very nice to see physically and mentally. To say we were going to compete through the whole season was very tough, and I think it was unrealistic. But now we've got a home. There's no more excuses. We go out there and play baseball and try in win ball games."

The first player to report writer T.J. Tucker, who surveyed the locker and nameplates amid the sea of red jerseys, red-and-black uniforms, "Where am I? Did they release me already?"

"It's a little different," said Manager Frank Robinson, returning for a fourth year with the team. "It's a little brighter, seeing that red in there. Sometimes you say, 'Am I in the Cardinals' clubhouse?' But it's great. I like the uniforms."

The Nationals logo appears throughout the stadium, although the word "Expos" still appears on a couple of signs and the seats remain painted from the franchise's days in Puerto Rico. Several players still carried their gear in big blue "Expos" bags. All were buoyed by the news that the Nationals are approaching the equivalent of 20,000 season ticket sales, far exceeding the sparse crowds in Montreal. "It hasn't hit me as much as it's going to hit me when we get there for opening day," Wilkerson said. "To see those people in the ballpark, and then you come the next night, and you're going to see just as many people. Anybody can sell out opening day, but that next night, there's probably going to be just as many. We're used to it tapering off pretty good after the opening day."

The pitchers, catchers and staff will have their physiologues Wednesday and take to the field Thursday. During camp, the players will get a briefing on the Washington area, offering advice on how to get around and where to search for places to live in an area that must have rarely, or never, visited.

"It's a fresh start," Robinson said. "What we're looking at now is we have an even playing field, like everybody else. We have a permanent home. We have our fans that will be supporting us, and the schedule is the same as everyone else. They always said, 'Well, these are home games in Puerto Rico, but we were on the road.' The sheer energy and better attitude created by the move to Washington should mean more wins this year, along with the return of several injured players and the additions of new players. Interim general manager Jim Bowden's offseason haul included Vinny Castilla, Cristian Guzman, Jose Guillen and Esteban Loaiza, and he's probably not done. "I expect this team to play better baseball than 83 wins," said Robinson, referring to the surprising 2002 records of 2002 and 2003 before last year's plummet to 67-93.

Dan Smith, a pitcher for the relocated Washington Nationals, warms up at spring training Tuesday.

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NHL Makes last offer to players union

NEW YORK — The NHL made its final offer just hours before it was set to cancel the season.

The league bumped its salary-cap proposal from $40 million to $42.5 million Tuesday and gave the players' association until 11 a.m. Wednesday to accept. If they reject it, the season would be canceled two hours later, according to a letter sent by commissionerGary Bettman to players' association executive director Bob Goodrow.

"This offer is not an invitation to begin negotiations — its too late for that," Bettman said. "This is our last effort to make a deal that's fair to the players and one that the clubs [hopefully] can afford. We have no more flexibility and there is no time for further negotiation."

In the final bargaining session between NHL chief legal officer Bill Daly and players' association senior director Ted Saksin, the league dropped its longstanding demand for a link between revenues and player costs.

In return, the union came off its reluctance to a salary cap — and proposed one.

The cap the players offered was a soft cap of $32 million, a source close to the negotiations told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity. Teams would be allowed to spend up to 10 percent above that three times in six years, but would be subject to an escalating luxury tax on anything above $40 million.

Judge rules against Williams in appeal hearing

MIAMI — An arbitration ruling that ordered Fiddy Williams to repay the Miami Dolphins $8.6 million was upheld Tuesday by a federal judge, who rejected arguments that the award disregarded Florida law and was excessive.

U.S. District Judge James Cohn ruled arbitrator Richard Bloch was "well within the scope of his authori-

in his interpretation of the case. Williams breached his contract when he retired abruptly last July, Bledsoe ruled in September that under the terms of the contract, he was required to repay the Dolphins $8.6 million in bonus money he had received.

Academic information will be released by NCAA

INDIANAPOLIS — Colleges and universities will begin receiving information about their teams' academic performance within the next week, a move that could lead to some schools losing scholarships next fall.

The reports will be made available to the public on Feb. 28. NCAA officials said Tuesday they believe about 20 percent of men's basketball teams and 30 percent of football teams risk immediate penal-
ties based on data collected from the 2003-04 school year. But penalties will not be imposed until after offi-
cials collect data from 2004-05.

around the dial

NBA
Golden State at Seattle 9 p.m., ESPN

MEN'S NCAA BASKETBALL
Virginia at North Carolina 7 p.m., ESPN
Georgetown at NOTRE DAME 8 p.m., ESPN Classic
Nebraska at Oklahoma 9 p.m., ESPNU

MLB

Jose Canseco talks with Los Angeles Dodgers senior vice president Tommy Lasorda during spring training last March. Canseco's controversial book documenting steroid use in baseball was released Monday.

Los Angeles' Manny Ramirez was suspended 50 games by Major League Baseball for violating the league's drug policy on Feb. 17.

Canseco’s book third on best seller list

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Jose Canseco's autobiography that accuses several top players of steroid use and charges baseball management long ignored performance-enhancing drugs got off to a fast start on its first day of publi-
cation.

Amazon.com listed "Juiced: Wild Times, Rampants " "Bolds, Smash Hits, and How Baseball Got Big" as third on its best seller list Monday.

The book had an initial printing of 150,000 copies but was unclear how many copies were bought. Regan Books does not disclose sales figures, spokeswoman Jennifer Suitor said.

"I don't think it's a good thing, obvi­ously, because it's bringing a bad light to the game," New York Yankees captain Derek Jeter said Monday. "This is a time, obviously, baseball is in a negative light and Jose is not helping out. In terms of his accusa-
tions, the only people that know are him and whoever he is accusing. The unfortunate thing is, if it's not true, you're looking at guys having to defend themselves over something they haven't done."

Mark McGuire, one of the former teammates Canseco accused of using steroids, issued a written denial.

"The relationship that these allega-
tions portray couldn't be further from the truth," McGuire's statement said. "I also worry how these false allega-
tions will taint the accomplishments of the Oakland Athletics' coaches, players and executives who worked so hard to achieve success during the era in question, along with the other players and organizations affected by this book."

"Most concerning to me is the nega-
tive effect that sensationalizing steroids will have on impressionable youngsters who dream of one day becoming professional athletes. Once and for all I did not use steroids or any other illegal substance."

McGuire was not available for interviews.

In the book, Canseco is an unabashed advocate of performance-enhancing drugs.

"By the time my 8-year-old daugh-
ter, Josie, has graduated from high school, a majority of all professional athletes — in all sports — will be tak-
ing steroids. And believe it or not, that's good news," he writes.

IN BRIEF

NHL makes last offer to players union

NEW YORK — The NHL made its final offer just hours before it was set to cancel the season.

The league bumped its salary-cap proposal from $40 million to $42.5 million Tuesday and gave the players' association until 11 a.m. Wednesday to accept. If they reject it, the season would be canceled two hours later, according to a letter sent by commission-
ger Gary Bettman to players' associa-
tion executive director Bob Goodrow.

"This offer is not an invitation to begin negotiations — its too late for that," Bettman said. "This is our last effort to make a deal that's fair to the players and one that the clubs [hope-
fully] can afford. We have no more flexibility and there is no time for further negotiation."

In the final bargaining session between NHL chief legal officer Bill Daly and players' association senior director Ted Saksin, the league dropped its longstanding demand for a link between revenues and player costs.

In return, the union came off its reluctance to a salary cap — and proposed one.

The cap the players offered was a soft cap of $32 million, a source close to the negotiations told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity. Teams would be allowed to spend up to 10 percent above that three times in six years, but would be subject to an escalating luxury tax on anything above $40 million.

Judge rules against Williams in appeal hearing

MIAMI — An arbitration ruling that ordered Fiddy Williams to repay the Miami Dolphins $8.6 million was upheld Tuesday by a federal judge, who rejected arguments that the award disregarded Florida law and was excessive.

U.S. District Judge James Cohn ruled arbitrator Richard Bloch was "well within the scope of his authori-

Attention First-Year MBAs

Would you like to earn a FULL TUITION fellowship for your second year?

The William G. McGowan Charitable Fund has just awarded the MBA program a grant that covers full tuition for the second year for two MBA students! Applicants must comply with the following criteria:

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DEADLINE: Applications are due in the MBA Office by Friday, February 25, 2005

Winners will be announced in the spring.

Contact: Brian Lohr, blohrt@nd.edu

American Cancer Society

Daffodil Days

$6 for a Bunch of Flowers
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Orders Due by Monday, February 28, 2005
Flowers will be delivered Thursday, March 17, 2005

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Michele Taets (mtaets@nd.edu, 307 Badin Hall)
(Include your name and address with the amount of bunches/vases)

Please make checks payable to:
American Cancer Society

Tradition

continued from page 24

at least 40 points ahead of the competition in both events.
Also leading the Irish charge will be sophomore Katie Carroll and freshman Elizabeth Welsh. Carroll is the defending Big East Champion in the 200 individual medley, and has posted NCAA cuts in both the 200 and 400-meter individual medleys. Her 200 IM time of 2 minutes, 37.75 seconds against Michigan earlier in the season is the fastest in the Big East this year.

Boevers also owns one of the fastest Big East times this year. Her mark of 2:02.95 in the 200-meter butterfly — also against Michigan — was by far the best in the conference. Boevers is a two-time Olympian for her native Singapore, and she finished 32nd in the 200 butterfly at the 2004 Olympics Games in Athens. The Irish and their Big East opponents will swim the 200-meter medley and the 400-meter freestyle relay for the first time this year. Notre Dame took fourth and second-place finishes respectively in those events last year.

On Thursday the Irish will swim in the 500-meter freestyle, 200 IM, 50 free and 200 free relay.

The Irish will compete in the 400 IM, 200 freestyle, 100 butterfly, 100 breaststroke, 400 medley relay and 200 backstroke on Friday.

And on the final day of competition, the 1,650 and 100 freestyle, the 200 backstroke, breaststroke and butterfly, as well as the 400 freestyle relay will take place. "It's going to be pretty interesting," Weathers said.

Contact Mike Tensuan at mtensuan@nd.edu
Duo

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take it to the basket and be aggressive I was going to try it.

Notre Dame struggled shooting the ball early, making just one of its first 12 shots, which allowed Boston College to take a 16-3 lead at the 9:12 mark. Batteast and LaVere each missed their first three shots, while Kindill Dorsey drained two 3-pointers to help push the Eagles to a double-digit advantage.

Boston College opened a 26-11 lead on Dorsey's third 3-pointer with 1:57 remaining. But the Irish ended the half with four much-needed points when Batori hit a jumper and Borton sank two free throws to trim the Eagles' advantage to 26-15.

"I think defensively we played a pretty good game, especially in the second half. That's what we have to do. We just have to play solid defense."

Muffet McGraw
Irish coach

The Irish held Boston College to just 21 second-half points, forcing the Eagles to take tough shots. "I think defensively we played a pretty good game, especially in the second half," McGraw said. "That's what we have to do. We just have to play solid defense."

Contact Joe Hettler at jhetler@nd.edu

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Offense

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come from its toughest four-game stretch with a 2-2 record.

"I think the one thing you can say right now is we improved our NCAA tournament resume, even though we didn't go 4-0," Brey said. "Two of these wins really jumped us."

But against the Panthers, the Notre Dame frontcourt managed just four points. Though the Irish can rely on their guards, Brey prefers the balance begins down low.

"It needs to start inside," he said. "You start with low post touches. You can always kick it back out for a shot, but at least put some pressure on the defense and throw it in there so they have to respect the big guys."

The Irish offense must remain patient, however, because it cannot give the ball back immediately to a patient and poised Hoyas offense, Brey said.

Georgetown is led by forward Brandon Bowman, who averages a team-high 13.3 points and 6.7 rebounds per game.

Cook, Jonathan Wallace and either Darrell Owens (seven starts) or Hibbert (15 starts) join Bowman in the starting lineup, along with 6-foot-8, 225-pound freshman Jeff Green.

Green (13.2 points, 7.2 rebounds) earned Big East Rookie of the week honors for the fifth time this season last week, with 21 points and nine rebounds in a 67-66 win over West Virginia Saturday.

Notre Dame had beaten Georgetown four straight times before losing at the MCI Center in January.

The Irish, who have played five of their last seven games on the road, will play four of their last six regular season games at home starting tonight.

The Irish and Hoyas tip off at 8 p.m.

Contact Pat Leonard at pleonard@nd.edu

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Notre Dame Literary Festival 2005

The Road Less Traveled

Wednesday, February 16th

ND UNPLUGGED

Student Performances of Original Work

8pm

LaFortune Ballroom

Contact Pat Leonard at pleonard@nd.edu
The Observer • TODAY

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

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

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The praise given will pay for your life.
This is a very special and good to be true probably is. Today, have made someone upset or have overspent or been to contend with if you aren't think will pay off.

You can engage in a fun activity. Expand your horizons for what the children did when Mom brought home cookies — PUT THEM AWAY.

Someone who interests you will want to take in activities that will bring you in touch with people who can help you (e.g. about this can be a productive year for you as long as you don't special yourself too thin. Your numbers are 10, 21, 31, 38, 42.

It's been a little convoluted, and that could lead to trouble if you take what others say to heart.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Harvey Keitel, 74; Matt Groening, 59; Melissa Manchester, 54; Jane Seymour, 54.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: (Don't go looking for trouble this year. Do whatever is necessary to keep the peace and engage in activities that will bring you in contact with people who can help you (e.g. about this can be a productive year for you as long as you don't special yourself too thin. Your numbers are 10, 21, 31, 38, 42.

ADVES (March 21-April 19): Concentrate on what you can do, not what you can't. You will discover that someone who interests you will want to take in activities that will bring you in touch with people who can help you (e.g. about this can be a productive year for you as long as you don't special yourself too thin. Your numbers are 10, 21, 31, 38, 42.

TAROT (April 20-May 20): Don't let anything get you today. You may be a little confused, and that could lead to trouble if you take what others say to heart.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Take full advantage of whatever is being offered today. The chance to try something different will spark an idea that can turn into a prosperous venture. Someone who interests you will give you something to think about.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): There will be plenty going on in your neck of the woods. Patience will pay off and bring you that much closer to getting what you want. As long as you stay within reason, you will not be hit down, retarded or erased.****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Be careful what you wish for. You may have far more to consider than what you might be willing to compromise. An offer that sounds too good to be true may be just that — too good to be true.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You can't go wrong today, so take a bit of a chance. Look for a new job, ask for a raise or even consider picking up some additional skills.*****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): The responsibility will be on you — especially if you have overspent or been to contend with if you aren't think will pay off.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21): Your mind is racing today. Make plans to engage in a fun activity. Expand your horizons through the people you meet today.******

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You have too much too much running through your head. Don't take too much for granted or take on too much. Concentrate on what you know you can handle, and do as well.**

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Someone may attempt to detail what you are trying to accomplish. Keep your thoughts and skin in yourself and do as your heart tells you to do.

Birthday Baby: You are very capable of doing something extraordinary with your life. You are a humanitarian who will always go the extra mile for a cause you believe in. You are a true visionary.

Check out Eugenia's Web sites at astrostyle.com and eugenialast.com.
ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Dynamic duo

Batteast, Duffy lead team to 54-47 victory after trailing by 15 points in first half

By JOE HEITTLER
Sports Writer

After Boston College dominated Notre Dame in the first half of Tuesday's game, coach Muffet McGraw turned to the team's top leadership for help. Jacqueline Batteast and Megan Duffy responded. Batteast's 15 points and seven rebounds, combined with Duffy's 14 second-half points, helped the Irish overcome a 15-point first half deficit to down Boston College for the second time this season — this one by a 54-47 score.

"I thought we came out of the locker room with a little different attitude," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said. "I thought we played harder and more aggressive, and I thought that was the difference."

"But it started with Megan and Jackie." Batteast carried the Irish in the first half, scoring 15 of the team's 15 points. She continued to hit critical shots during the second 20 minutes, but it was Duffy who ignited Notre Dame. The junior tri-captain made all eight of her free throw attempts and had all her points in the second half.

"I had some words at halftime with the team and told them, 'We have to get our act together,'" Duffy said. "We only have three games left in the season, and this is a huge one that we need to get. I was just like, if no one is going to see DUO/page 22

Junior guard Megan Duffy races past Boston College's Kinyeti Dorsey to recover the ball in Tuesday night's game. Duffy chipped in 14 points in the 57-47 Irish victory.

Irish look to contain Hoya offense

Brey prepares team for Georgetown's use of the patient Princeton offense

By PAT LEONARD
Associate Sports Editor

Fans in the Joyce Center may catch themselves rubbing their eyes tonight.

When Notre Dame (14-7, 6-5 Big East) meets Georgetown in the first season of a three-game series this season, the visiting third-place Hoyas (16-6, 8-3) will run the methodical Princeton offense, a series of backdoor cuts and perimeter passes.

The offense, new to the Big East, slows down games and gives the Hoyas time to hit critical shots during the final moments of games.

"If our guys mentally ready to understand that we can win the game 57-55, and it still counts," he said. "Georgetown is every bit as powerful a game for our resume as Connecticut, Villanova or Boston College." In the first meeting between the Irish and Hoyas on Jan.

23, Notre Dame lost 55-54 on a buzzer-beating dunk by Georgetown center Roy Hibbert. Colin Falis had a 3-pointer seconds before to send the Irish up one, but Hoyas guard Ashley Cook went the length of the court and dished to Hibbert for the bucket and the win.

Notre Dame has won its share of close games, beating Seton Hall (Jan. 5) with a Falls 3-pointer, St. John's (Jan. 15) with late-game defense and Connecticut (Jan. 30) with steady play down the stretch. But the Irish are coming off one of a few tough close defeats after losing to Pittsburgh, 68-66, on Saturday.

"You look at all our Big East games and almost every one of our games has been down to game situations," Irish guard Chris Quinn said. "It's not necessarily one thing that's hurting us this year. It's little things that we've got to improve on.

Quinn led Notre Dame with 25 points on 10-of-15 shooting against Pittsburgh, combining with Chris Thomas to provide the majority of the team's offense.

Brey is pleased the Irish offense has become more balanced after seeing the team struggle for much of the season.

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Sophomore Kiley Gooch competes in the Dennis Stark relays earlier this season. The Irish are expected to be contenders for their ninth Big East Championship title this year.

ND WOMEN'S SWIMMING

Notre Dame hopes to continue tradition

Team seeks ninth straight Big East Championship title

By MIKE TENNANT
Sports Writer

This is what they have been working for all year.

Today, Notre Dame begins its quest for a ninth straight Big East Championship in East Meadow, N.Y.

Standing in the way of a ninth straight title is a much-improved Big East conference, including foes Pittsburgh and Rutgers.

"Rutgers has improved a lot, so has Pittsburgh," Weathers said. "I think this year's going to be pretty hard."

Leading the way for the Irish in their championship charge will be senior All-American diver Meghan Perry-Eaton and a host of young and talented swimmers.

Perry-Eaton has won three conference titles for the Irish, taking the 3-meter board title last year and the 1-meter board each of the last two years. She was also named the Big East Championship's Most Outstanding Diver in the last two years.

Last year Perry-Eaton dominated the competition, finishing

see TRADITION/page 21

Sophomore Kiley Gooch competes in the Dennis Stark relays earlier this season. The Irish are expected to be contenders for their ninth Big East Championship title this year.