Death Penalty Week continues

Events on capital punishment organized

By MADDIE HANNA
Assistant News Editor

With an awareness week on the subject underway, organizers say the death penalty's contentious nature gives it special significance on Notre Dame's Catholic campus, a sentiment echoed by professors who attest to the issue's controversy.

"It is important for any Catholic institution — university, school, parish — no matter how big, to put the matters of life and death front and center," said Jay said.

see AWARE/page 6

Bengal Bouts raises money for Bangladesh

By LISA SCHULTZ
News Writer

Sophomore Nate Dyer trains for Bengal Bouts Sunday in the Rolfs Sports Recreation Center. He will fight in the 165 lbs. division.

Students present pieces in SMC Monologues

By DANIELLE LERNER
News Writer

The Independent Newspaper Serving Notre Dame and Saint Mary's

VOLUME 39 - ISSUE 100 MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2005

NDSMCOBSERVER.COM

AP: Bush will visit University

Diversity Committee organizes week with lectures and films

By MADDIE HANNA
Assistant News Editor

Notre Dame's first Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Questioning (GLBQ) Awareness Week begins today. The events kick off with a local speaker and continue throughout the week.

The week is designed to foster a more open-minded attitude among members of the campus community.

"I feel this week is important for Notre Dame as a first step towards greater tolerance and respect for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people in the University and community as a whole," said Chris Vierig, organizer and member of the Senate Diversity Committee responsible for the week.

Vierig said the week would be significant because of Notre Dame's history of not addressing matters surrounding homosexuality.

"This is the first time that gay, lesbian and bisexual issues have been brought to the forefront and recognized by the University," Vierig said.

Senate Diversity Committee chair Nicholas Coleman said this week would try to counter the perception that members of the Notre Dame community can be blind to homosexuality.

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INSIDE COLUMN

High profile

At Notre Dame, perfection is a dirty word. On a campus teeming with strivers — when every roommate captivated her high school baseball team, every profes-
sor earned six diplomas and every class-
mate boasts a word of AP credit in her sil-
ver-ringed list — the pressure to live up to
an idiot’s Realty.

The pursuit of Notre Dame-brand perfection leads stu-
dents to do every-
thing in extremes. On the midterm Wednesday, sneak
inside the bar Thursday. Do eight hours of community service Friday, kilo-
logue endlessly Sat-
urday, attend 10 a.m. Mass Sunday.

Constantly aiming for perfection wreaks mental and physical tolls. It’s hard
to weigh the satisfaction of temporarily —
and it is always temporarily — reaching it.

But we’re talking newspapers. Here perfection seems a little less daunting.

After all, our ultimate job is just to tell
the truth — how hard can it be?

perfection seems a little less daunting.

Every story rife with bias — truth as they see it.

One woman’s truth sticks out from every single angle in every single
outlet. To others, it is printing a
tale with a governor and other
importance.

And while I’ve encountered all
these truths and more — through readers’
word of their professional title — truth
what engineers here call
press a button to clear the
last yard of rock with two

For some readers, it’s as simple as spelling their
names right or capitalizing the third

It is that perfecting the truth means dif-

So has "perfect."

As I take over today as Editor in Chief, it is tempting to look at The Observer’s
talented pool of staff and ideas — and at Notre Dame’s perfect campus, and my
own — and expect to put out a flawless paper every day for the next year. But I
have to stop and remind myself that if we are shooting for extremes, there are far
more important ones — fairness, consistency, accountability, quality, trans-
parency, compassion, truth — to con-

Perfection doesn’t even come close.

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

Contact: Claire Heininger at cheininger@nd.edu

CORRECTION

In the staff editorial in the Feb. 25 edition of The Observer, a correctly noted error that the
head basketball game this weekend was.

Local television showed 600 or so people sitting in the ribbon-festooned tunnel as they watched officials press a button to clear the last yard of rock with two
large explosions. This is an incredible feeling, it’s an
incredible memory," Aomori
Gov. Shingo Mimura said.

Coroner wins approval for shrink-wrap machine

BOSTON — Wait until next year, Jeter. A New York
Yankees fan whose $2,325 bid won an e-bay auction
giving him the one-day naming rights to the
Fenway Fund Center, after a Boston friend and Red
Sox fan donated an addi-
tional $6,275 to the char-
itable effort.

Boston real estate devel-
er Jerry Rappaport Jr.
offered to trump his
buddy’s bid. The total of
$8,600 is in recognition of
86 years between Boston’s
World Series victories.

Head football coach Charlie Weis thanked students at the basketball game Sunday for their support. Weis had more than 80 football recruits in town this weekend touring the campus.

OFFBEAT

Japan claims longest overland tunnel

TOKYO — Japan created
what engineers here call
a new bullet train line
under construction to link
Tokyo with the northern city of
Aomori about 360 miles to the north. The tunnel
tunnels under Mount
Hakkoda in Aomori prefect-
ure. Low television showed

The question of the Day: If you could fight anyone in Bengal Bouts, who would it be and why?

Amber McMillin, Eric Kimbungen
juniors
"Each other, and I should win!"

John Henry III
freshman
"Rachel Polinski! Consider this a
challenge. P.S. Craig is coaching me!"

Meg Boyle
junior
"Lee Regner because he
could not get Carlos Beltran
to the Cubs."

Prince Lowe
junior
"Martin Stone, the
women’s rowing coach. After
last week, a seafit uppercut
would do him some good."

Danielle Stealy
junior
"I would fight a zebrafish
because they start talking when
you punch them."

IN BRIEF

Alan Bewell, professor of English at the University of Toronto, will be giving the lecture "Traveling Natures." Monday from 4:15 p.m. to 5:30 in 220 Malloy Hall.

The talk is co-sponsored by the Department of English and Nineteenth-Century Contexts: An Interdisciplinary Journal.

Susan Maxman will be giving the lecture "Taking the Long View: Designing for a Sustainable Future." from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 in 104 Bond Hall.

The talk is sponsored by the School of Architecture.

Former Illinois Governor George Ryan will give the talk "The Death Penalty: A System of Justice & Reconciliation?" Monday from 7 p.m. to 8:30 in the Decio Mainstage Theatre in the DeBartolo Center for the Performing Arts. Ryan’s talk will be followed by the panel discussion "The Death Penalty in Indiana."

Bud Welch, president of Murder Victims Families for Justice Rights, will give a presentation entitled "Oklahoma City Bombing: Two Fathers & Forgiveness," Tuesday from 12 p.m. to 1:15 in the Coleman-Morse lounge.

Marvin D’Lugo of Clark University will hold a seminar Thursday in 207 DeBartolo Hall from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 with the screening of "La Mala educacion / Bad Education" at 7 p.m. the same evening.

To submit information to be included in this section of The Observer, e-mail detailed information about an event to obsnews@nd.edu.
LaVoi studies athletic trends
Director of sports education develops programs for coaches

Special to the Observer

News from the world of sports can be downright depressing these days. Accusations and confessions of steroid use have run rampant throughout professional baseball — from New York to Los Angeles. Yankee first baseman Jason Giambi's reported admission to a grand jury that his once-solid body was artificially acquired, to the unsettling, unsubstantiated and — often — unbelievable charges made by former big-leaguer Jose Canseco in a new book titled "Juiced."

In the NBA, members of the Pacers and Pistons raced from court to court, punching with each other as well as with Detroit fans, who themselves behaved like barbarians. And in the league formally known as the NFL, the greed and short-sightedness of both owners and players play are worth their time and attention.

But not Nicole LaVoi, an assistant professor of psychology and director of sports education programming at Notre Dame. To her, the trouble on and off the fields of play is a challenge. "As an educator," she says, "I think we can do better, and that we have a responsibility to do better.

For LaVoi, that means developing programs to help adults — coaches and parents — create a positive atmosphere that supports young athletes' development and enjoyment. "Sports can be a very positive atmosphere that supports young athletes," LaVoi said. "But in order to do that, it's important to understand the role of the coaches and the parents."

"Charles and coaches create a climate that influences young athletes' enjoyment," said LaVoi, "and it's important to understand the role of the coaches and the parents."

As a social psychologist, LaVoi is well versed in the complex relationships that exist in sports and how they can influence athletes' performance. "I'm interested in understanding how athletes interact with each other and with their environment," she said. "And I'm also interested in understanding how athletes interact with their coaches and parents, and how those interactions influence their performance."
Ryan
continued from page 1
In January 2000, Ryan instituted the nation's first moratorium on state executions. He then commuted the sentences of all 167 Illinois death row inmates just before leaving office in 2003.
Many students are anticipating the former governor's visit to campus.
Joining Christy Handoffe believes that Ryan's speech is a good opportunity for students and faculty to gain understanding on the issue of the death penalty.
"At Catholic University it's good to show support for someone who shares our ideals," Handoffe said.
Freshman Alex Hale, a supporter of the death penalty, does not protest Ryan's lecture. He believes everyone is entitled to their own opinion about the matter.
"Everybody's given their right to decide, and that's fine that [Ryan] chose that," Hale said.
Ryan's lecture, called "The Death Penalty: A System of Justice & Reconciliation?," is part of a series titled "Life in the Balance: Death Penalty Perspectives."
Events continue Tuesday and Wednesday as Bud Welch, president of Human Rights, whose daughter was killed in the Oklahoma bombing, will speak in the lounge at noon Thursday. A panel discussion entitled "National Debate on the Death Penalty" will take place Wednesday at 4:15 p.m., in the Hesburgh Center Auditorium. Speakers will include Madison Hoyle, Dick Dieter and Bill Pelle.
Contact Katie Laird at klaired@nd.edu.
Play
continued from page 1
Vokaty. "It was really an eye-opening experience and really makes me realize that these things happen everywhere."
Many audience members were unsure of what to expect from the performance. "I was a bit nervous going into it because I didn't know what my reaction would be," said Vokaty. "Overall, it just makes you think about real people's experiences and the reality of these serious issues."
The audience was met with support from students and administration, Ginger Francis, president of Campus Alliance for Rape Elimination (C.A.R.E.) said. "It was an emotional roller-coaster, but one that needed to take place," said Francis. "We've heard nothing but positive feedback, and I feel it really brought people closer together. Although, the future of the SMC Monologues is still unknown, there has been interest in publishing the pieces of this weekend's performances. "There has been an overwhelming response to publish the monologues," said Francis. "They really show how amazing Notre Dame's women are: they are intelligent, beautiful and passionate."
An upcoming open panel discussion will allow members of the community to express their own opinions and give feedback to those involved.
"So many people were really impressed and happy with how it turned out," said Francis. "It's so hard to put the experience into words. It was bigger and better than I could have ever dreamed for."
Contact Danielle Lerner at lem6311@stmarys.edu.

SMC Monologues were meant with support on the Saint Mary's campus. Inspiration for the play came from The Vagina Monologues, which were performed at Notre Dame last week.

BLGBQ
continued from page 1
"It seems as though a lot of people do not realize homosexuality is present at Notre Dame, and they need to be aware of that," Coleman said.
The events planned were not intended to promote homosexuality, but as the term awareness week progressed, simples had to raise awareness, Coleman said.
"Students will most likely encounter homosexuality in their lives after Notre Dame. Whether they are Ok with it or not, they need to be aware of it," Coleman said.
Both Coleman and Vierig said that while the campus has the reputation of not being overly welcoming to homosexuals, the situation seems to be improving.
"The administration, by allowing this week and the gay film festival, seems to be open to encouraging discourse about this issue and that is encouraging," Coleman said.
The planning committee hopes the week will challenge students to evaluate their beliefs. "I personally feel that Notre Dame students generally have neutral feelings towards gay, lesbian and bisexual peers," Vierig said. "We want everyone to feel a welcome part of the Notre Dame family. Holding a certain belief is worthless unless you've challenged it. I hope this week will give students that opportunity—to challenge their beliefs and realize the richness of cultures that make up Notre Dame."
As part of BLGBQ week, Michiana performer Bradley Vokaty will speak tonight about his experiences and challenges as a gay man in 7 p.m. in 117 DeBartolo Hall.
On Wednesday, students will wear orange to show support and solidarity for gay, lesbian, bisexual and questioning students. Theology on Tap will discuss homosexuality within a Catholic context at 10 p.m. at Legends.
Thursday's event will feature free Chinese food in LaFortune Student Center starting at 6 p.m. followed by a screening of the film "In and Out."
The Laramie Project will be performed Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in the DeBartolo Center for the Performing Arts.
Contact Maddie Hanna at mhanna1@nd.edu.

Bush
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that NDSP does not comment on "security measures for any special events nor security for any dignitaries."
In his weekly radio address to the nation, the president said he will be visiting Indiana this week, according to a transcript on the White House Web site.
Bush last visited the state during his presidential campaign in May, when he spoke in South Bend as part of a Michigan-Ohio swing. The president served as Notre Dame's commencement speaker in 2001, and has visited the area six times since 2000.

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The Riley Prize in Art History and Criticism
The Department of Art, Art History and Design is pleased to announce its annual competition for the Riley Prize in Art History and Criticism. Current Notre Dame undergraduate and graduate students are invited to submit essays on any topic in the history of art or art criticism for consideration in the competition. Essays must deal with the visual arts. They may have been written in conjunction with a course taken at the University, but need not have been.

Rules governing the competition are available at the Art Department Office, DeBartolo Hall. Two copies of the submission must be delivered to the Art Department Office by 3:00 PM, March 1, 2005 to be eligible.
A student may only submit ONE entry.

The Observer News
Monday, February 28, 2005
INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Fourteen die in rebel ambush KATMANDU, Nepal — Suspected commu­nist rebels in southern Nepal ambushed an army truck, shot a police chief and attacked villagers Sunday, killing at least 14 people a day after a highway blockade that crippled the flow of essential supplies in protest of the king’s recent power grab.

The rebels ambushed an army truck carry­ ing soldiers on patrol near Pataliya, about 160 miles south of Katmandu, killing eight of them, police said.

A total of 10 soldiers were injured and taken to hospitals, a spokesman at the army headquarters in Katmandu said.

Saddam’s half-brother handed over to U.S. — IRAQ - Lt. Gen. Hameed Hahn, Czar of Iraq, handed over to the United States his half brother, a most-want­ ed leader in the Sunni-based insurgency, ending months of Syrian diplomacy that it was harboring fugitives from the ousted Saddam regime.

Iraqi authorities said Damascus acted in a gesture of goodwill.

Subawi Ibrahim-al-Hassan, who shared a mother with Saddam, was nabbed along with 29 other fugitive members of the for­ mer dictator’s Rusth Party in Haskakah in northern Iraq, 30 miles from the Iraq-Syrian border, the officials said on condition of anonymity. The U.S. military in Iraq had no immediate comment.

NATIONAL NEWS

Hahn’s re-election bid tainted CHICAGO — Mayor James Hahn’s re­ election bid has suffered — along with the image of honesty he worked hard to cultivate — amid accusations he let corruption and fraud flourish at City Hall.

County prosecutors have been investigating allegations that Hahn supports shook down companies that wanted to do business with the city by tying public contracts to political contributions.

Federals in prosecutors have opened their own inquiry.

It has not been implicated and denies knowledge of any potential wrongdoing, but the investigations touch whole segments of city government — from members of Hahn’s inner circle to Los Angeles International Airport and the water and power department.

Police arrest suspected BTK killer INDIANAPOLIS — A police believe is the BTK serial killer, bid for more than 30 years in plain sight.

He lived in this suburb of Chicago, the city he is suspected of terrorism, with a wife and two children. He led a Cub Scout troop and was active in the Lutheran church.

As an ordinance enforcement officer for the local government, he once measured grass in a front yard with a tape measure to see if it was too long, a neighbor said.

On Saturday, police identified Butler as a suspect in the BTK killings and announced an end to their 31-year manhunt.

LOCAL NEWS

Bidders snag pieces of the good life A cigar color shaped like a guillotine sold for $1,400 at a Fourth of July sale in Hollywood. A stainless steel wine­ able oven once owned by Madonna was the biggest sale of the day.

They were among items from the lend of the wealthy up for grabs Saturday at the Hilbert auction. Bidders competed for hundreds of bidders bate­ tured up prices while competing against one another.

The day’s auction attracted more than 1,000 people and unfolded in the sports barn on the grounds of the 255 million estate of Stephen Hilbert, co-founder and former chief executive of Conseco Inc.

ISRAEL

Sharon to halt peace efforts ASSOCIATED PRESS

JERUSALEM — Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said Sunday that peace efforts with the Palestinians would be frozen if they do not crack down on anti-government groups and the wake of a weekend suicide bombing that killed four American tourists outlives.

Terror attacks and its aftermath broke two weeks of relative calm and strained recently warming relations between the Israelis and Palestinians following the election of moderate Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas last month.

Dozens of people were wounded in the bombing.

There were conflicting accusations as to who was responsible for the attack, Islamic Jihad, a Palestinian militant group with leader­ ship in Lebanon and Syria, claimed responsibility. Israeli Security Chief Saturday after denying any connection to the bombing.

Abbas blamed the attack on a “third party,” which other Palestinian officials said was the Lebanese guerrilla group Hezbollah, which is backed by Syria and Iran. Hezbollah denied the attribution.

A senior Israeli military official said Hezbollah had nothing to do with the attack but was vigorously working to secure the arrest of the attackers on Israel. Police remained on heightened alert throughout the coun­ try Sunday.

Sharon blamed the attack on Islamic Jihad militants, working on the orders of their Lebanese and Syrian counterparts and who invited and involved in the attack.

Abbas has resisted Israeli’s repeated requests to crack down, saying he preferred instead to use persuasion to end the mili­ tant attacks.

Israeli officials said they would not pressure him as long as things remained quiet, but Sharon demanded Sunday that Abbas carry out an immedi­ ate operation against Islamic Jihad.

The state of Israel is interested in working toward an agreement with the Palestinians, but there will be no progress politi­ cally, and I repeat no politi­ cal progress, until the Palestinians carry out a determined campaign to destroy the terrorist groups and their infrastructure," Sharon said.

Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Quraia said the Palestinians want to continue the track begun earlier this month at a regional summit in Egypt’s Red Sea resort of Sharm el­ Sheik, where both sides declared a cessation of vio­ lence.

"If Israel wants to cut off contacts with the Palestinians it will be its own decision and we will not cry," Quraia said. "But we say that there is an opportunity given to Sharm al-­Sheikh and we want to develop this effort.

In Damascus, Palestinian leaders decided Sunday to postpone an upcoming meeting in Egypt with radical Palestinian groups, which was to focus on firm­ ing up a cease-fire with Israel and on Palestinian reforms, Palestinian Deputy Prime Minister Nabil Shaath said.

The meeting, with eight radical groups, was origi­ nally scheduled for March 5.

Shaath did not give a reason for the delay, saying only that it was postponed "due to domestic issues" and "we are now working to set a new date."

Islamic Jihad was one of the groups invited to the conference.

Israeli military officials said Sunday they received information a month ago that the cell behind Friday’s bombing was planning an attack and passed it along to Palestinian officials, who did nothing.

Israel also threatened Syria, with Deputy Defense Minister Zeev Bosty saying Israel would not hesitate to take its longstanding enemy if it believed that would stop Damascus-based groups from attacking.

Opening statements set for Jackson trial

SANTA MARIA, Calif. — More than a year after an stunned world watched authorities arrest Michael Jackson and child abuse witness, a 13­ year-old boy at his Neverland Ranch, prosecution and defense lawyers on Monday finally get to outline their cases to a jury.

Opening statements will preview the evidence to the jury on the week­ end. Whether Jackson gave wine to the young can­ cer patient and then touched him inappropriately.

Both sides have compelling stories to tell, but the credibility of the boy, now 15, and his family likely will determine the outcome.

"You will see two different trials in opening statements," said Loyola University law professor Laurie Levenson. "the prosecution’s case against Michael Jackson and the defense case against the boy’s mother.

The prosecution’s story depicts a poor family whose stricken son want­ ed to meet one of his idols.

The child’s wish was granted, but the prosecution claims it turned into a nightmare of sexual abuse and impris­ onment at Jackson’s fairy tale home in the coastal mountains 170 miles north of Los Angeles.

The defense narrative casts Jackson as the target of a money-hungry moth­ er who coached her son to spin stories when it looked like their celebrity benefactor would cut them off.

The defense will present evidence that the mother has sued others with claims of abuse.

"The bigger the star, the bigger the target," Jackson said during a recent television interview with Geraldo Rivera, suggesting his defense.

Though Jackson’s star has waned on stage, his legacy and showmanship still generate a global audience.

Jackson’s lawyer suggested to jurors that celebrities such as Elizabeth Taylor and Steven Wonder would testi­ fy on behalf of the pop star.
Bouts

continued from page 1

request of Pope Pius IX. Now the Holy Cross missionaries are responsible for many projects including school construction and maintenance of wells and other sanitary facilities. The hallmark of the Bangladesh mission is education programs. Missionaries build village schools and provide education for catechists and village teachers in a predominantly Muslim state.

Returning boxing alumnae have a series of scheduled events for the finals weekend. A welcome reception in the stadium press box kicks off the weekend on March 18. On Saturday, a boxing room open house, music in the JACC auxiliary gym, cocktails in the JACC concourse and a q-and-a in the JACC monogram room all lead up to the final rounds starting at 8 p.m.

Contact Lisa Schultz at lschultz@nd.edu

AWARE

continued from page 1

Freel Landry, pastoral associate at Little Flower Parish involved in organizing the awareness week.

Landry said that the death penalty debate was tied deeply to Catholicism.

"The deepest part of our hearts, is to seek reconciliation. I believe that's the mission of the Church, to seek reconciliation with all people and with God," Landry said.

Kate Leahy, chair of Notre Dame Gannon for the week's planning committee, said the group was "looking for dialogue and critical thought among students."

"I think events like this are the exception to our hearts, is to seek reconciliation with all people and with God." Landry said.

Awareness Week organizers,

"I think events like this are important to show that there are all kinds of reasons we should get rid of it — moral, economic and legal."

Regarding the Catholic perspectives, Leahy said that recent events where Pope John Paul II has spoken out against the death penalty directly impact Notre Dame students.

"I personally consider these events part of our duty to build that consensus to end the death penalty," Leahy said.

According to theology professor Todd David Whitmore, the Pope's statements regarding the death penalty have become increasingly "rigorous."

"While the prospect of the death penalty isn't close enough right, the Pope says he can't see any situation when it would be necessary," Whitmore said.

Whitmore said that with the possibility of life without parole, "it seems that society is duly protected."

Although the Pope has made his opinion on the death penalty clear, Whitmore said that he feels Catholics simply ignore his beliefs.

"I think most Catholics are aware of the Pope's stance — I think they just fail to live up to their Christian vocation," Whitmore said. "Vengeance is not 'out' "

A Gallup Poll in October 2004 found 46 percent of Americans in favor of the death penalty, a drop from 80 percent in 1994. This drop in support is primarily due to new DNA testing techniques that found some people innocent after being sentenced to death row, political science professor David Campbell said.

"Public opinion on most issues doesn't really change much over time, but the death penalty happens to be an exception to that," Campbell said.

Campbell said there has been a fair amount of variability in public opinion towards the death penalty in the past 50 years, largely related to crime rates.

However, despite these shifts in opinion, Campbell noted that at no point were a majority of Americans not in favor of the death penalty, which is currently practiced in 38 states.

"I would be surprised if public opinion in the U.S. at least in our lifetimes, changes against the death penalty," Campbell said.

In the near future Americans could expect to see fewer protections instilled making it more difficult to execute and changes to the appeals process, Campbell said.

"I don't think that while the death penalty is contentious, there is no as much debate on the logic as he thinks there should be," Campbell said. "In some respects, I wish it the death penalty were more contentious," he said. "I wish more Catholics would be following the Pope in his judgment about the lack of any need for the death penalty and be more vocal about that."

According to Death Penalty Awareness Week organizers, this is the first time an event like this has occurred on campus. Speeches and panel discussions featuring the death penalty will continue through Wednesday.

Contact Maddie Hanna at mphanais@nd.edu

Pope makes surprise appearance

While Pope John Paul II made a surprise appearance at Rome's Gemelli Polyclinic hospital, Palestinian Christians receive communion at the Church of the Nativity, the said birthplace of Christ.

Associated Press

VATICAN CITY — Touching his throat fitted with a breathing tube, Pope John Paul II on Sunday made a surprise public appearance after surgery, appearing at his hospital window just moments after a Vatican official stood on the steps of St. Peter's Basilica to read the pontiff's appeal for prayers.

The 84-year-old pope did not speak during his one-minute greeting from Rome's Gemelli Polyclinic hospital, but sent an implicit and powerful message about his determination to maintain continuity in the church.

The appearance — in which the seated pope waved and appeared alert — raised hopes he was making progress following a tracheotomy Thursday to ease a breathing crisis.

The Vatican had previously announced John Paul II would skip his weekly blessing — a 26-year tradition he did not miss even after he was shot in 1981 and recovered from an operation in 1992.

The Vatican's undersекretary of state, Archbishop Leonardo Sandri, read a message from the pope while standing between the towering statues of St. Peter and St. Paul outside the basilica.

"Dear brothers and sisters, once again I address you from the Agostino Gemelli Polyclinic," Sandri told about 2,000 people in the square, relaying the pope's message as a chill wind picked up. While drapes were drawn over the window where the pope was to give his weekly address.

"I think of you with affection and feel you all spiritually near," Sandri said on behalf of the pontiff. "I think of you gathered in St. Peter's Square, alone and in groups that have come, and to all those from every part of the world who are interested in me. I ask you to continue to accompany me, above all with your prayers."

Minutes later — at the hospital's 2 1/2 miles away — curtains were pulled back from the pope's 10th-floor suite. He was wheeled to the closed window as the Vatican's No. 2 official, Cardinal Angelo Sodano, stood alongside. A Vatican photographer in the room snapped pictures.

The pope, wearing his usual white robe, waved with his right hand and made signs of the cross to about 200 people on the hospital grounds. He then touched his throat, but neither the tube nor other signs of the operation were visible. His gestures were strong and he appeared in good form.

"Suddenly I saw a flash and then his hand that was making a blessing," said Elena Marzullo, of Rome.

Young Catholics chanted "Pope Two, we love you!" Among them was 4-year-old Rocco Castile, who carried a heart-shaped drawing with the words, "Go for it, granddad Karol," using the pope's Polish first name.

The appearance was the clearest sign the pope has made strides since surgery. But how far and lasting a recovery remain central questions. The next official health update was expected Monday.

The Observer • NEWS Monday, February 28, 2005

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NEW YORK — For years, investors loved the radio business. Its high-profit margins were among the best in the media industry and changed its ownership rules a decade ago triggered a wave of merger deals. Profits for growth seemed great.

These days, Wall Street would rather hear something else: Growth in advertising has slowed. Listeners seem to be switching off their radios in favor of iPods, and a new threat is emerging from commercial-free satellite radio, or satellite radio.

This week, media giant Viacom Inc. disclosed that it wrote down the value of its radio business by $11 billion and the nation’s largest radio chain, Clear Channel Communications Inc., said it lost $4.7 billion in the fourth quarter, primarily due to an accounting charge.

Industry observers say many of the problems the radio industry faces can be traced back to the boom years of the late 1990’s, when advertising from Internet companies, and many increased the amount of ad time, or “inventory,” as it’s called in the industry, to accommodate the surging demand.

In the boom years of the late 1990’s, radio stations benefited from advertising from Internet companies, and many increased the amount of ad time, or “inventory,” as it’s called in the industry, to accommodate the surging demand.

"It was a boom time," said Tom Taylor, the director of Inside Radio, an industry magazine called Clear Channel. "Then came the bubble burst." Desperate to drop off in demand for radio ads since then, Taylor says, “There’s way too much inventory out there.”

Radio revenues are now edging higher, but nothing like the growth they enjoyed in the 1990’s. Last year, radio advertising climbed up 2 percent, and in 2003 it rose just 1 percent, according to figures from the Radio Advertising Bureau.

In order to beef up its own radio portfolio, Viacom, which had come under criticism for running its stations too loosely, is selling off stations that are in the top 20 markets and investing more money into the ones that it’s keeping. Viacom also owns CBS, MTV and the Paramount movie studio.

Meanwhile, San Antonio-based Clear Channel is trying to curtail clutter by reducing ads each hour by about 20 percent, cutting the amount of traditional 60-second spots and selling more 30-second spots, and charging more for them. Clear Channel acknowledged that it will likely take a short-term financial hit for its “Less Is More” program, but it says the strategy will pay off in the long run by bringing listeners back. “We know that short-term, length commercials work,” said John Hogan, chief executive of Clear Channel Radio, told analysts at a conference call Friday to discuss the company’s quarterly earnings.

A federal rule change in 1996 led to a wave of merger activity, leaving 2,000 of the nation’s 12,000 stations — many in large markets — concentrated in the hands of a small group of public companies.

“The industry started running its business for the analysts and investor community, rather than its listeners,” said Ed Christian, the CFO of Saga Communications Inc., a publicly held company in Groovee Point Farms, Mich. — based — that owns about 80 stations. “It led to buying because you were rewarded for buying.”

Yet even as Clear Channel and Viacom address their own issues, external threats are creeping closer.

Bank of America loses data tapes

Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Bank of America Corp. has lost computer data tapes containing personal information on 1.2 million federal employees, including some members of the U.S. Senate.

The lost data includes Social Security numbers and account information that could make customers of a federal government credit card program vulnerable to identity theft.

Sen. Pat Leahy, D-Vt., is among those senators whose personal information is on the missing tapes, spokesman Tracy Schmaler said.

"There were some senators’ Visa credit card accounts involved," Schmaler said. "We don’t know how many, but he was one of them.

The bank issued an apology.

We deeply regret this unfortunate incident," said Barbara Deemer, who is in charge of technology, service and fulfillment for the Charlotte-based bank.

The privacy of customer information received the highest priority at Bank of America, and we take our responsibilities for safeguarding it very seriously," Leahy has been a leader of calls this week for a Senate Judiciary Committee inquiry into whether more regulation of companies that buy and sell personal data is needed.

That came after the disclosure that ChoicePoint Inc., a data warehousing company, had learned that as many as 140,000 consumers may have had their personal information compromised.

"I hope this latest incident at least will bring the issue closer to home so Congress will pay better attention to the rapid erosion of privacy rights that ordinary Americans are facing as more and more of their personal and financial information is collected and sold on databases that too often have too few privacy protections," Leahy said in a statement Friday.

U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer, N.Y., said he was told the data backup tapes were likely stolen off of a commercial plane by baggage handlers in December.
President George W. Bush and Russian newspaper editor Novak have perhaps finally found something in common. Anyone who tuned in to last week’s press conference between the two world leaders at the Eastern European “summit” of Bratislava, Slovakia, would have probably noticed the cold, sober tone with which both men conducted themselves, due in large part to the long history of disagreement between the two nations in most areas of global policy. However, in his non-custodial efforts to advocate the proliferation of American democracy throughout the world, Bush may have accidentally stumbled upon one area of domestic policy in which Russia and America actually bear striking similarities—“freedom” of the press.

On Thursday, Bush offered a vague attack on the democratic values of Putin’s state when he said, “Democracy has certain things in common. They have a rule of law and protection of minorities, a free press and a viable political opposition.” All gripes over proper definitions of democracy aside, though, these hypocritical comments did at least prompt a Russian journalist to ask Putin why he didn’t challenge Bush and “talk a lot about violators of the rights of journalists in the United States, about the fact that some journalists have been fired.”

How, then, did our noble president respond to this attack on the integrity of the democratic ideals of his proud nation? As far as I’m concerned, he lied. “I don’t know what journalists you are referring to,” he said, then turned toward the American reporters in the audience and demonstrated his typical problem, “Any of you still have your jobs?”

I guess he was lucky that Matt Cooper of Time magazine and Judy Miller of The New York Times were not in the audience. That’s when Bush had the world’s respect because he said that Kim Jong-Il of North Korea never had the world’s respect because of the manifested free media of his home country. Putin continues to lose the world’s respect because his press is squeezing tighter and tighter around the last remaining vestiges of free and independent news in Russia. And Bush? He was rewarded with a resounding victory and an overwhelming backing for a second term in office.

In any event, Bush is the alias-using, softball-throwing “journalist” who was bribed $240,000 by Bush’s Department of Education to promote the president’s learning initiatives to the public. Likewise, Gannon is the syndicated columnist who was bribed $21,500 by Bush’s Department of Health and Human Services to endorse the president’s pro-same marriage proposals. Finally, “Gannon” is the alias-using, softball-throwing conservative “reporter” who was reportedly admitted entry into White House press briefings under a false name so that he could ask Bush easy questions that would not challenge the poor president’s Valeterist-a-delicacy. If you ask me, this kind of authoritarian manipulation would be enough to even earn Stalin, Castro and Mao’s official admit, “This Bush guy is GODY!”

How, then, can the president of the United States of America justify dropping bombs around the world over innocent civilians in the name of democracy? He himself admitted that the key to a democratic state is the preservation of “a free press,” yet while he was busy dipping the fingers of free Iraqi voters in purple ink, he was also restricting the freedoms of American voters by regulating what was printed in the black ink of their newspapers. And there you have it. Only in America could a manual wage a war against the name of democracy abroad while simultaneously wagging a war against democracy at home.

Jesty Falco is a sophomore American Studies major. He can be contacted at falco@nd.edu.

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

An important, revealing and highly entertaining pair of controversies has recently erupted in the world of academic controversy, and from what I can tell, there has been little mention of either so far in these pages, so I would like to bring the topic into view. The first involves a professor at the University of Colorado, a man named Ward Churchill. He teaches in one of the "studies" departments, home of all that is serious, intellectually rigorous and objective. It turns out he lied to get his job and is quite unqualified even to teach in a "studies" department, but that is not the story.

Churchill made some comments likening the victims of the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11 to "little Eastern Europeans," as well as other quite noxious and hurtful remarks. He did not quite say "God bless those terrorists" — no good liberal would say "God bless" in regard to anyone, even terrorists. But made it clear that between the terrorists who hijacked the planes and the people who died at their jobs that terrible morning, the bad guys were the folks in the towers, not the ones in the cockpits. Whatever, one Lawrence Summers, president of Harvard, was participating in a discussion about women in the sciences. He suggested some possible reasons why the very highest level in the fields of math, science and engineering are male-dominated. He dared to cite innate differences of aptitude as one of the possible reasons. He did not say women are dumber, less stable or inferior in any way, but he did hint at the hypothetical reaction of feminists to his comments might make one think they are.

What I find so amusing and so telling is not either of these controversies alone (though watching Summers grovel and鞠躬 himself is sort of fun, but rather the contrast in reactions to them within academia. Around Churchill, the Caruso wagons have circled. Some schools have actually invited him to come speak. Professors warn of a "chilling effect" if Churchill is disciplined at all for his hateful rhetoric. Meanwhile, Summers is being torn to pieces, not only at Harvard, but in the New York Times and other liberal outlets. He will probably lose his job. So the lesson seems to be: praise terrorists and insult their dead victims, fine — academic freedom, after all; suggest there may be some natural differences between men and women, and you are unapologetically evil and ignorant — your institution will fire you. There is scientific evidence validating the idea that while women are in general better at verbal skills (somehow nobody throws a temper tantrum at this suggestion), men tend to be better at the sort of abstract reasoning central to fields like math and physics — mind — the modern American university is no longer a place where the truth is sought, but where agendas are forwarded. I noticed that this paper did a recent series of excellent reports on faculty bias. I encountered too many examples of such bias as an undergrad, and I'm sure I've encountered too many to list here. This bias is also one issue conservatives have been whining about for 10 years. This parallel set of controversies could not have been dreamed up any better by any arch-conservative to reveal the depth of that bias. It is certainly relevant to any academic career, and it should be of interest to anyone in college.

David Morse
Christianity Today
Feb. 7

Democracy grows in Middle East

While reading Gary Caruso's column in an Army Morale, Recreation and Welfare (NMWR) facility in Baghdad, I could only chuckle at his indignation at a camera angle and his offering of a couple of now-tired jabs at the states of Florida and the Supreme Court.

Caruso, I wish you could be over here right now to see what I'm seeing. It was my honor to witness the birth of democracy in Iraq when on Jan. 30, 30,000 Iraqis bravely and proudly stood in line to tell the insurgents that a new Iraq was born. I wish you could see the new hospitals, schools, and businesses that are springing up daily. But mostly, Caruso, I wish you could see the hope of the Iraqi people. It's infectious. It's the dream that life will be better, that the era of fear is headed for the history books, that Iraq will finally be able to regain its place in the pantheon of nations that it has been prevented from entering for so many decades — often because of the complicity or outright collusion of the Empire you so desperately want us to mend fences with.

Amazingly too, this hope has not been confined to Iraq. In the last several weeks, we have been watching the embers of democracy catch hold throughout the Middle East. These are tenuous fires to be sure and they might still be blown out, but from Gaza to Southwestern Arabia to Lebanon to Palestine, people are looking to Iraq and saying, "If they can do it there, why can't we do it here?"

In each of those countries, we have seen the people demand from their governments greater freedoms and a seat at the table of democracy. The Middle East is at a crossroads and those crossroads do not run through the Middle East. They can do it there, why can't we do it here?

Christopher J. DesBarres
Class of '93
Baghdad, Iraq
Feb. 7

The Observer
Monday, February 28, 2005

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ND civil engineer dispels myths

The destruction of the World Trade Center (WTC) towers had an emotional impact on everyone. As structural engineers, we too felt the pain of the lives taken, those who gave their lives in service and the loss of a great achievement. It has come to our attention that "conspiracy theories" regarding the collapse of the WTC are being perpetuated on the Internet by individuals who are not structural engineers. As students of the art, we would like to present a few facts to dispel some of these "myths."

On Feb. 23, Leslie Robertson, structural engineer for the WTC, gave a presentation entitled "The Merging of Structural Engineering and Architecture." The WTC was not the subject of his talk, though he grun­

ny answered a question regarding tall structures and terrorism. In his opinion, modern structures should not be designed to withstand intentional aircraft impacts. No amount design would yield a structure that is both 100 percent indestructible and cost effective.

The following comments are our response to the letter to the editor entitled "Sept. 11 collapses not explained," which appeared on Feb. 24.

The WTC was constructed according to national standards and codes in place during its design. The original analysis considered the impact of a flying airplane (i.e., "bird strike") and the assumption was that the plane would not be fully fueled, would be low flying and would not have the intent of crashing into the building (as in 1945 when a B-25 bomber crashed into the Empire State building under similar circumstances).

The fires that occurred in the WTC were initially sparked by jet fuel, which ignited other sources (desks, carpet, etc.). In 2004, NIST recreated the conditions and found temperatures reaching 1800 degrees Fahrenheit. The steel used in construction was tested under ASTM E119 (a controlled laboratory test, not a certification procedure) and could withstand such temperatures without melting. However, temperatures of

Kyle Butler
Graduate Student
Structural Engineering Graduate Students of Notre Dame
CE 461/661 Structural Systems Class
Feb. 27

http://www.fema.gov/library/wtcstudy.s
http://wtc.nist.gov/
"You look at the parents' pain and you don't know what to do. There's a line in the play, 'Every person is worth more than his worst act.'

Siti Scott
director

You should be torn about the character at the end." By CHRISTIE BOLSEN
Scene Woes

After committing heinous crimes and suffering around the Lumen Studio Theatre without remorse, it's hard for a first row inmate like Matt Poncelet to gain the sympathy of a nun. It's even harder for audience members to muster any sympathy.

So why so many of them crying at the end of "Dead Man Walking"?

The experimental performance, based on the novel and movie "Dead Man Walking" by Sister Helen Prejean and adapted by Tim Robbins, plunges the viewer into a morass of emotions in two intense hours. The play is performed as a semi-staged reading where the cast members sit in a circle of chairs, with the audience seated around them. The format emphasizes the fact that no emotions of anyone involved in capital punishment were simulated.

"Dead Man Walking" is being performed as part of the Sprinc Festival, which coincides with Reconciliation, a two-week presentation of the arts and discussion. The ArtsFest also includes the production of "The Laramie Project." Prejean (Silit Scott) begins by talking about how she came to be a pen pal for death row inmate Poncelet (Mike Dolson). Prejean's work with the disadvantaged makes this a natural extension of her work, since the death row inmates are all too poor to be able to afford good legal counsel. The lights go down as Poncelet's letter in response to Prejean is read. In the letter he describes how he doesn't receive letters or visitors.

Poncelet's first appearance when Prejean visits him in his cell is an unpleasant scene. Dolson perfectly captures the character, who is unlikeable from the start. The audience has vague information about his crimes, murder and rape. As the story unfolds more of the grisly details are revealed, but even before the bodies of the young victims are discovered there is a disturbing and horrible quality about Poncelet. Dolson felt that this was an essential aspect to the role, making the conflict in the debate and that it is better for viewers if they are sure what he feels in the end.

"You wouldn't have learned in the same way if you came and it was just an attempt to be very sympathetic. You should be torn about the character at the end." Mike Dolson
actor

The scene in which the two lawyers present their cases for and against Poncelet highlights the multiplicity of moral issues such as capital punishment. Both sides are persuasive and logically presented, until the two men are speaking at the same time with equally emphatic tones and neither can be heard over the other. Adding to the conflicting sides of the debate are the appearances of the parents of the victims. Prejean finally reveals his emotional and offensive language about his mother and his frequent racial slurs turn the audience away emotionally.

"Do I scare you?" he asks Prejean. He might as well be addressing the audience too.

The more explicit description about his crimes, the point home about what kind of person Poncelet is. Words and lines overlap as the illegal real estate brokers speak at once about the violent killings of a 17-year-old girl and an 18-year-old boy. The live representation of the young couple, who were shot in the head, raped, kid-napped and repeatedly stabbed, seem not to affect him.

"I scare you?" he asks Prejean. He might as well be addressing the audience too.

"Dead Man Walking"

Director: Siti Scott; Jay Skelton
Writer: Adapted by Tim Robbins from "Dead Man Walking" by Sister Helen Prejean
Starling: Siti Scott, Mike Dolson, Mary Ann Moran, Paul Bertinetti, Bryce Cooper

"I think Tim Robbins is used to doing things with movies, so he has these flash-in, flash-out things you couldn't really do onstage as easily.

Bryce Cooper
actor

"It's important for students to start to get involved and start to form their own opinions. They're ready to start looking at things we do in this country and judging for themselves.

Siti Scott
director

Poncelet's execution, and said that there is a place for this type of discussion at Notre Dame.

"I think there are a lot of things that Notre Dame people in particular just accept without thinking about it, and don't even challenge their views," Cooper said.

Scott, who co-directs with Jay Skelton, said playing a leading role agreed with the play's potential for discussion.

"It's where the death penalty is an issue that is political as well as religious," Scott said. "It's important as well for students to start to get involved and start to form their opinions on their own and not just for their parents' homes, not just accept without thinking about it, not just do things with movies so he has these flash-in, flash-out things that you couldn't really do onstage as easily." Cooper said. "I think it's easier to do with this where you can just change the lights a little bit or just make it a little more dramatic ... it's better in this type of situation."

"Dead Man Walking" will be performed Wednesday night at 7:30 p.m. in the Regis Philbin Studio Theater. Tickets cost $8 for students, $10 for faculty, staff and seniors and $12 for the general public.

Contact Christie Bolen at cbolen@nd.edu

"Dead Man Walking"

Sem-staged reading Monday, February 28, 2005
**Diary of a Mad Black Woman** hits top of box office

Surprise smash hit pushes ‘Hitch’ to No. 2

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — "Diary of a Mad Black Woman" got its revenge against mixed critics' reviews by earning $22.7 million and taking first place at the weekend box office.

The drama-comedy is based on a script by Tyler Perry from his play of the same name and also features him cross-dressed as a gun-tooting grandmother and in two other supporting roles. The film's strong debut pushed Will Smith's romantic comedy "Hitch" to the second spot with a weekend haul of $21 million, according to studio estimates Sunday.

Films contending for top honors at the Academy Awards also continued to draw healthy audiences with best picture nominees "Million Dollar Baby," "The Aviator" and "Sideways" ranked among the top 11 films.

Final figures were to be released Monday.

"Diary of a Mad Black Woman" follows Kimberly Elise's character, Helen, who is kicked out of her house by her husband on their 18th wedding anniversary so his longtime mistress can move in. Helen recovers from heartbreak by reconnecting with her cantankerous grandmother Mauda, played by Perry, and by relying on her faith.

The film received some poor reviews, with The Associated Press giving it a single star in its four-star rating system and National Public Radio describing it as "half inspired and half really, really terrible."

Showing in 1,483 theaters, "Diary of a Mad Black Woman" averaged a healthy $15,307 a cinema.

Perry, who has gained a strong following among blacks with his plays, should be given credit for the film's success, said Tom Ortenberg, president of Lions Gate Films Releasing.

"The performance of the film is really a testament to Tyler Perry," Ortenberg said.

"He's a cultural phenomenon that is taking America by storm. In the next few weeks, those unfamiliar with Tyler will become familiar with Tyler."

Audiences in exit polls gave the film an A-plus rating and the vast majority said they would recommend the PG-13 rated film to others, Ortenberg said.

"Every once in a while there is a film that comes out of nowhere and grabs the No. 1 spot and certainly "Diary of a Mad Black Woman" has done that," said Paul Bergarshardian, president of box-office tracker Exhibitor Relations. "It shows the power that the urban audience wields at the box office."

"Hitch," another PG-13 rated film, played widely in 3,571 theaters and its $122 million over three weeks made it the first film in 2005 to crack the $100 million mark.

"Million Dollar Baby," which stars best actress nominee Hilar Swank as a bullheaded boxer, ranked sixth with an estimated $7.2 million. Fellow best-picture nominees "The Aviator," a biopic about Howard Hughes, finished in ninth with $3.9 million, while the drinking road-trip movie "Sideways" ranked 11th with $3.5 million.

The latest Wes Craven horror film, "Curse," debuting in fourth place with $9.6 million, while the weekend's other new film, the action-comedy "Man of the House," starring Tom Arnold and its opening in fifth place with $9 million.

Revenues from the top 12 movies were estimated at $105.4 million, down 24.6 percent from the same weekend last year.

The comparison was skewed because Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ" debuted last year with $83.8 million.
BASEBALL

Irish drop two of three to Dayton

By TOM DORWART

Spor's Writer

The Irish defense and pitching hit a cold stretch in the second game against the Flyers. Notre Dame (4-3) suffered back-to-back losses this weekend for the first time since a two-game series at Pittsburgh last April 25th and 26th. Previously dominant, the Irish pitchers failed to close out the final two games against the Dayton Flyers (5-3) after junior pitcher Tom Thornton allowed just two runs on six hits in nine innings and 92 pitches of work in the opener — which the Irish won 10-2.

Notre Dame lost 13-9 in 11 innings in the second Saturday game and fell again Sunday in a nail-biter 11-10.

"There were a lot of guys that just didn't throw well. That's the concern," said Coach Andy Bailey. "We had a good win in the opener, and, then, in the second game of the doubleheader, we took a 7-2 lead into the ninth inning. And I thought that the fact that we had a couple of really good performances from Joe Stewart and Derik Olvey, coach Paul Mainieri said.

In a back-and-forth game, the Irish turned to Ryan Doherty, their reliable and consistent closer.

"A guy that had been pretty consistent for us, Ryan Doherty, just didn't get the job done. We blew the lead in the ninth and still had a chance to win in the 10th and 11th.

With the Irish loaded and two outs in the 10th, center fielder Craig Cooper flew out, straw to shortstop, then 90 feet from home. The Flyers took advantage of third base to advance. Doherty's fielding error in the 11th put the winning run on base.

Things snowballed from there.

Dayton plated five runs — enough cushion to hold off the Irish.

Notre Dame's offense continued to roll in the Sunday rubber match. The Irish scored across the plate for the Irish in another offensive battle.

Ten was the magic number.

"Whether we had 16 hits or 23 hits, however many hits we had, we've got to hit enough to help your team win, even though there were a lot of key hits, there were some key at-bats throughout the course of the weekend where we didn't come through. And it cost us the ballgame," Mainieri said.

So in some ways you're excited about the way that guys are swinging the bats, but, on the other hand, you don't let yourself get too excited because they didn't do enough to win.

Shorstopt Greg Lopez now leads the Irish with a .421 batting average after a solid weekend performance. Lopez went 4-for-13 with two doubles, one triple and one home run. He scored five runs and had four RBIs.

It's early, the squad enters one of the toughest stretches of the season during the break. The Irish head to Texas to face perennial powers Rice (10-2) and Texas A&M (7-4) as well as Texas State — a 2003 College World Series qualifier (2-5) and Oral Roberts (5-3) — the 25th ranked team in the nation.

Mainieri knows his team is up for the challenge.

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**FENCING**

**Teams do well at MWCC's**

By ERIC RETTER
Sports Writer

The Irish believe that team success is more important than individual glory — or at least they try to act that way. After last week’s team competition in the Mid-Western Collegiate Championships, some of Notre Dame’s top fencers, including senior epeeist Alejo Kryczalo and freshman sabre Marit Zagunis, sat out of Sunday’s individual tournament in order to heal injuries and rest before the NCAA regional meet, which begins this weekend.

As it turns out, Notre Dame triumphed in all seven events, as both the No. 1 women’s team and the No. 4 men’s squad swept through the weekend competition, taking all six events. Michigan, both of whom defeated the Buckeyes in the semifinals, a match the Buckeyes won 5-2. After the loss, Notre Dame faced Northwestern 5-2 to take third place.

In the sabre, the Irish again lost to Ohio State — this time in the finals. Notre Dame showed lots of promise in the 5-2 loss, as sophomores Patrick Ghattas and Matt Stearns each registered victories against strong Buckeyes opponents, beating two-time defending NCAA champ Adam Crompton and All-American Jason Paul, respectively.

On Sunday, the Irish had a much easier path, as their team tournament nemesis Ohio State withdrew from the individual competition. "When Ohio (State) left, the competition was much weaker, but our kids fenced well," Bednarski said.

But this week’s strong performances began in women’s epee, as Walson and O’Callagha have defeated their Wayne State opponents Garina and Lanyon, both of whom defeated the Buckeyes in the semifinals to set up an all-Notre Dame final, which Walson won 15-14.

"Our fencers are strong and Wayne State is strong. If we fended Monday maybe results would be different again; it’s tough to predict," Bednarski said, of the budding rivalry.

Two other Notre Dame seniors, Amen and Sobieraj, tripped up as well in their final regular season competition in the Joyce Center. Amen pulled off an impressive comeback in the final, falling behind 1-1 to Northwestern’s Jessica Flamino before rallying for a 15-11 victory.

Sobieraj took his victory in another all-Irish final, defeating teammate Jessee Laruechi 15-11. "He has to learn to be better at the beginning of the day, but he was very focused Sunday," Bednarski said.

The sweep was completed by victories by sophomore Jakub Bednarski over men’s full, and by Ghattas over Pennsylvania’s Michal Prozvina in each sabre final.

"We won everything that was possible to win. It was a good tournament for us," Bednarski said.

The Irish will now turn their attention to maximizing success at next week’s NCAA regionals.

"We hope to cure our bruises from this competition. Our team will not be losing the confidence we’ve built but keeping the attention that in sports, you can’t say I am good. But (realizes) that our opponent wants to beat you," he said.

Contact Eric Retter at eretter@nd.edu

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**MEN’S LACROSSE**

Notre Dame destroys Penn State in opener

A trio of Irish players turn hat tricks while Walsh hits milestone

By MIKE GILLOON
Sports Writer

Playing on the road against a top-25 team is not an easy way to start a season. So when No. 10 Notre Dame defeated No. 21 Penn State 15-9 Saturday, coach Kevin Corrigan was impressed.

"Yes, I was surprised," Corrigan said about his program's largest margin of victory ever against a ranked team on the road. "It was a great day. This is the kind of day the season had already Pat Walsh outdistanced his first goal of the year.

And this score pushed Walsh’s career point total to 100. The junior reached the century mark in only 27 matches, faster than any other Irish player except all-time leading scorer Randy Cooey, who achieved the mark in 21 games.

"He’s a terrific player," Corrigan said. "It’s the glue that holds that end of the field together."

Walsh and the other starting attack — Matt Karweck and Jim Morrison — each recorded a hat trick.

Karweck is making a habit of playing well against the Nittany Lions andachs. He also took first place in Saturday’s team contest as the men finished in second behind top-ranked Ohio State.

"I don’t know if it is the moment, or just the way I am playing, but I know that we have big events coming up and I feel like I am playing well right now. The last five games have been good results," he said. "I won’t say that I am not happy."

Regarding these big events, the NCAA regionals and the Big Ten tournament, Corrigan said the goal total to seven in the last two games against Penn State.

"I don’t want to risk the NCAA position of (Kryczalo and Zagunis)," Bednarski said. "It’s the end of the season, and building for the future.

The most important bonus we have is that we are in the NCAA regionals, as both led their respective weapons against the Penn State in the semi-finals. and women’s sabre, losing their third in foil and fourth in epee.

Dame struck his 21 gamns. with his hat trick raising his goal total to 21 against the Lions. with his hat trick raising his goal total to 21 against the Lions. with his hat trick raising his goal total to 21 against the Lions. with his hat trick raising his goal total to 21 against the Lions. with his hat trick raising his goal total to 21 against the Lions. with his hat trick raising his goal total to 21 against the Lions. with his hat trick raising his goal total to 21 against the Lions. with his hat trick raising his goal total to 21 against the Lions. with his hat trick raising his goal total to 21 against the Lions. with his hat trick raising his goal total to 21 against the Lions. with his hat trick raising his goal total to 21 against the Lions. with his hat trick raising his goal total to 21 against the Lions. with his hat trick raising his goal total to 21 against the Lions.

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Playing at the No. 4 for the first time since her freshman year was Stasny who topped Zhukova 6-2, 6-3. Stasny’s win improved her singles record to 16-6 this season.

Lauren Connolly played at the No. 5 position for the Irish, topping Tyler 6-2, 6-1.\n
Following the win at No. 2, junior Liz Donohue who defeated Walson 6-0, 6-0. On Friday, Notre Dame lost another close 4-3 decision to Ohio State despite winning the doubles point in the loss. The Thompson’s also lost their first match this spring to 1-0, ranked Kaiz Ruckert and Kaitlin Chapman 6-3, 6-2.

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Bayou beckoning Kubinski and Co.

Irish travel to Tulane Invitational today to take on watery links

By KEN FOWLER
Sports Writer

Whether it be a Green Wave or a Rip Tide, the Irish will try to win in the next two days, as the team competes in the Bayou with a dozen other schools in the Tulane Invitational.

In action for the first time since Nov. 2, the Irish travel to New Orleans today to kick off the spring season with the two-day tournament at the waterside English Turn Golf and Country Club.

The Tulane Invitational also marks the beginning of a new coaching era for Irish golf. Exactly one month after his hiring as new Irish head coach, Jim Kubinski will lead the team in his first competition at the new position.

After former coach John Jakubowski resigned Dec. 7 for personal reasons, Notre Dame courted Kubinski, the former Dutch assistant for the vacancy. Athletic director Kevin While introduced Kubinski as new coach on Jan. 28.

For Kubinski and the Irish, the competition in New Orleans begins with thirty-six holes today, followed by a single round tomorrow.

ND WOMEN'S SWIMMING

Team unsatisfied with results at Purdue meet

Stephens, Thompson 'on bubble' to make field at NCAA meet

By MIKE TENNANT
Sports Writer

The Irish achieved numerous personal bests this weekend in the Boilermaker Invitational at Purdue, but they left the pool disappointed.

The meet was scheduled as an end-of-the-year goal for several younger swimmers, while also giving the swimmers on the edge of qualifying for the NCAA Championship one last chance to post a top time. Unfortunately, those in the latter group were not able to improve their chances.

"We had some good swims," head coach Bailey Weathers said. "But I don't think we helped anyone on the bubble for NCAA." "A" times are guaranteed spots in the meet. Neither used this weekend to her advantage and both swimmers remain on the bubble for the Championships.

Among the thirteen teams in the field, Ole Miss enters the Invitational on the heels of a first-place finish at the All- South Collegiate Invitational two weeks ago. The University of New Orleans captured second in its own tournament, the River City Classic. In addition, UNC-Wilmington placed second in the Feb. 14-15 ECFRiis Pinar Intercollegiate Tournament.

The Irish, on the other hand, have gone nearly four months since last swimming in intercollegiate competition. Though they will be facing a more palatable climate for February golf than South Bend, both Southern Miss and Southeastern Louisiana also join Notre Dame in making this tournament the first of their spring season.

Despite the disadvantage of coming off the winter break to face teams that have already gotten their swings back, the Irish have reasons to be confident heading into the tournament.

By winning the Big East Championship on the Warren Golf Course last year, the 2003-04 squad was the first Irish men's golf team to qualify for the NCAA post-season play since 1966.

That success continued into this fall, when the squad posted a 298.67 stroke average — third best in Irish history.

Contact Ken Fowler at kfowler1@nd.edu

The Office of Student Affairs is now accepting nominations for the Denny Moore Award for Excellence in Journalism

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

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

For a nomination form, please visit our website at: http://osa.nd.edu

Nominations are due by Friday, March 4, 2005.
Want to make some money?
Want to make some friends?
Want to make some memories?

Then work for The Observer

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around the dial

COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Pittsburgh at Boston College, 7 p.m., ESPN
Southern Illinois at Indiana State, 7 p.m., Comcast
Ohio State at Texas, 9 p.m., ESPN
New Mexico at UNLV, midnight, ESPN

NBA
New Orleans at Dallas, 8:30 p.m., CST

In Brief
Dynamic Toms wins Match Play Championship
CARLSBAD, Calif. — David Toms played the best golf of his life, put his name in the record book with the biggest blowout in the Match Play Championship and barely broke a sweat while earning $1.3 million.

All he lacked was an explanation.

A major champion but hardly a jock, Toms relied through Phil Mickelson and Adam Scott to reach the semifinals, then beat Ian Poulter with the most dynamic stretch of golf ever seen at La Costa Resort.

He found an even higher gear Sunday in the 10-hole final against Chris DiMarco, beating him so badly that Toms caught himself rehearsing his victory speech with 11 holes left in the match.

"I can't explain why I felt like I did all week," Toms said. "I just felt very, very comfortable with myself and the golf that was in front of me. I don't know that I've ever really felt like that."
Shooers
continued from page 20

ing out and doing everything they could to make their last game a fun one.

The Irish struggled early, giving up five 3-pointers in the first half as they fell behind 12-6 early. After Notre Dame fought back to go up six, the Mountaineers went on a 9-0 run to reclaim a 28-25 lead with 6:29 to play in the first half after a jumper by Meg Bulger.

But Notre Dame wasn’t finished, as the Irish went on a 13-0 run, led by Borton’s six points, two rebounds and one block to go up by 10 points and put the game away.

“They thought that was huge,” McGraw said. “We got good momentum coming into the second half.”

The second half was all Notre Dame. The Irish went on a 10-4 run to start the half behind two layups from Borton, and were on their way to a blowout victory. Notre Dame point guard Megan Duffy had a double-double with 12 points and 10 assists, just one game removed from a double-digit turnover performance at Rutgers.

“I lost about a half a week’s sleep over it,” Duffy said of her game at Rutgers. “I watched the film twice and I learned a lot from it, and I know that I don’t want that to happen again.”

For West Virginia, Sherell Swowe finished with 16 points and five rebounds, including four 3-pointers, all in the first half. Yulisada Paige, the nation’s leading passer finishing with just five assists, four below her average, but had 16 points.

With the win, Notre Dame is tied for second in the Big East with No. 11 Connecticut, behind No. 9 Rutgers. The Irish finish the regular season Tuesday night on the road against Seton Hall (14-12, 6-9 Big East). Then they go to Hartford, Conn., for the Big East Tournament.

NOTRE DAME 82, WEST VIRGINIA 57
at the JOYCE CENTER

NOTRE DAME (24-4, 12-7)
Borton 6-14 3-11, Leavere 3-6, 2-4, 8, Borton 8-9 2-14, Duffy 4-6 2-12, Leavere 1-2 1-3, Games 2-3 4-8, Allen 4-13 0-0, Borton
13-21, Garza 1-2 0-0, Tsipis 1-2 0-0, Joseph 0-0 0-0, Allen 0-0 0-0, McGraw 6-8 0-0, Datun 1-2 0-0, O’Connor 4-2 2-2.

WEST VIRGINIA (16-10, 7-8)
Bulger 4-19 0-1, Allen 0-2 0-0, West Virginia 5-39 (Gaino), Virginia 5-39 (Gaino), Virginia 15.

West Virginia (24-4, 12-7) Bulger 4-19 1-1-1, 9, Bay S-13, West Virginia 4-24 2-2, Allen 0-2 0-0, West Virginia 6-22 0-2, Borton, Battcast 5-29 3-5, 9, Virginia 15.

NOTRE DAME: 39 44 82
West Virginia 32 26 57

3-point goals: Notre Dame 3-6, Battcast 1-3, Allen 0-1, Virginia 6-22 (Gaino), Virginia 15.

1st 2nd Total
Notre Dame 82-36-118
West Virginia 16-12-28

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Notre Dame 39 44 82
West Virginia 32 26 57

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The Irish opened the Palm Springs Classic with four losses on Friday and Saturday, but came back on Sunday to post a 5-2 upset win over No. 5/6 Tennessee. It was the third time this season that Notre Dame had knocked off a nationally ranked team, with wins over No. 21 South Florida and No. 19 Nebraska 3-2 in Lincoln.

The loss was only Tennessee's second in the last 18 games, and improved the Irish record to 5-6. Tennessee is the highest-ranked team, with wins over Arkansas State's Valerie Sevills, the next batter up, slamm...
MEN'S BASKETBALL

Trouble's Bruin

Since last season's disappointing NIT appearance, Mike Brey and his team have emphasized defense. It let them fatten up on the non-conference cupcakes during the early-season shooting woes. It kept them in games throughout the rugged Big East schedule. It put them in position to make a run at the NCAA tournament.

"We have to concentrate on the defensive end. We did that early in the season when we weren't shooting well," Chris Quinn said. "We came out flat, especially on the defensive end. To their credit, they moved the ball and got open looks.

Meanwhile, the Irish offense flew never got going as the Bruins built a 15-point halftime lead — the largest game of the season — giving up a season-high 88 points to the Huskies. On Sunday, the Irish let the Bruins (16-9) shoot the lights out as UCLA made 14-of-23 3-pointers.

The Bruins were able to shoot such a high percentage from behind the arc by getting into a comfortable offensive flow that saw their outside shooters get wide-open looks coming off screens.

"Fourteen 3-point shots kind of slaugers you, that's not something they've been doing, but I give them credit," Brey said. "I thought defensively, I was disappointed we weren't guarding the ball screen and guarding shooters off sagger screens.

"We obviously have to get better before we play Burgers. We talked about that, being better defensively, and we've been pretty good defensively. "I can't answer that right now."

Above, Chris Thomas takes a needed break. At right, Dennis Latimore dunks.

PHOTOS BY CLEMENT SUHENDRA

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Senior Day success for Irish

Borton and Batteast win their final game at Joyce Center

By HEATHER VAN HOOGARDEN
Sports Editor

In their last game at the Joyce Center, Teresa Borton and Jacqueline Batteast didn't let their emotions get the best of them — or for that matter, West Virginia.

Borton had 18 points to lead the Irish and Batteast added 15 as the only two remaining seniors of what started as a class of six. Led No. 10 Notre Dame to an 82-57 rout of West Virginia Saturday afternoon.

"I was really pleased with the game today," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said. "I thought our two seniors did a great job com-

Senior duo finish Notre Dame home careers as winners

After post-game interviews

Teresa Borton walked back into the Joyce Center area quietly moved to the side of the other players and began signing autographs for fans.

Joe Hettler
Sports Writer

A few moments later, Notre Dame's other senior, Jacqueline Batteast, emerged from the tunnel and was immediately swarmed by young boys and girls armed with pens and Irish memorabilia.

That's how it's been the past four years — Borton in the shadows, Batteast in the spotlight. The former doing the little things, making the unselfish contributions and the latter scoring, rebounds and ultimately developing into one of the greatest in program history.

The combination has worked. Entering the program in 2001-2002 — the season after Notre Dame's national championship — the duo had the unapologetic challenge of somehow replacing five graduating players, including All-American Ruth Riley, and sustaining Notre Dame as a top-tier program. Through

McGraw said, "I thought our two seniors did a great job com-

see SHOOTERS/page 17

see SENIORS/page 17

FOOTBALL

Powlus may return for front-office position

By JUSTIN SCHUVER
Associate Sports Editor

Former Irish signal caller Ron Powlus could replace Jimmy Gonzalez as director of personnel development for the Irish football team, according to Bluedoggold.com and irisheyes.com on Sunday.

Powlus would take over for Gonzalez, who left to accept a job with Oklahoma State shortly after Irish head coach Charlie Weis replaced Tyone Willingham.

As director of player development, Powlus would be responsible for recruiting administration and player development for the Irish, along with additional duties associated with the team.

"From what I have learned talking to past personnel direc-

tors, the job is primarily an organizational one," Mike Frank of irisheyes.com said. "This is the person who's responsible for organizing travels for the recruits, junior days, campus visits and maybe even collecting transcripts and phone numbers.

Powlus is one of a handful of recent former Irish standouts that have discussed the possi-

ity of returning to the school in some capacity, including former Irish receiver Tom Brown and ex-Irish running back Jerome Bettis. But elected to remain involved in professional football.

Powlus was one of the most highly recruited quarterbacks in the country when he signed with Notre Dame as a freshman in 1993. A broken collarbone postponed the start of Powlus' career with the team, but the quarter-

back back assumed the starting role in 1994 and played until 1997.

By the time of his final game in an Irish uniform, Powlus held the Notre Dame career mark for passes attempted (969), passes completed (558), yardage (7,602) and touchdowns passes (52).

But despite the statistical accolades, Powlus and his teams had a difficult time maintaining consistency. During his career, the Irish amassed a 30-17-1 record, and did not contend for a national championship.

Powlus was signed by the Philadelphia Eagles and spent several years in that organization, but never saw the field in a regular-season NFL game.

Contact Justin Schuver at jschuver@nd.edu