Jenkins to address academic freedom

Queer Film Festival, Vagina Monologues are starting points for discussion

By MADDEE HANNA and MARY KATE MALONE

University President Father John Jenkins will discuss the interplay between academic freedom and Notre Dame's Catholic character in three open dialogues next week, a decision spurred by a recent heightened debate about the Queer Film Festival and Vagina Monologues.

"Academic freedom is an essential value in any university community, and our Catholic character is essential to Notre Dame," Jenkins said in a statement Tuesday. "I want to address both these central values, and seek comment and discussion from the University community. I believe such discussion is an important one for Notre Dame and Catholic higher education in general."

Jenkins will not make a policy announcement in favor or against certain productions during his addresses, but will simply initiate discussion. University spokesman Dennis Brown and vice president of Public Affairs and Communication Hillary Grischkowsky said. Professors and students said they were encouraged by Jenkins' decision to speak publicly about two contentious and central aspects of the University's identity.

James Collins, associate chair of the Film, Television and Theatre Department, which has traditionally co-sponsored the Queer Film Festival and Vagina Monologues, said the addresses have already built anticipation.

"I'm delighted he's giving the talk on where he stands on all of this. Right now I think clarification of where he stands is really important," Collins said. "A lot of people are imagining he's going to be for or against it and he hasn't said anything one way or another. With people so polarized on this campus, each convinced that Jenkins is on their side, it is very useful for him to articulate where he stands."

While the Queer Film Festival and Vagina Monologues — the former entering its third year at Notre Dame, the latter its fifth — have particularly polarized the campus, Brown said the two events would serve as examples rather than focal points in the address. Jenkins will deliver to faculty on Monday, students on Tuesday and alumni on Wednesday.

Off-campus student residences burglarized

Renters disturbed, but not surprised by recent break-ins

By MARY KATE MALONE

Several off-campus houses occupied by Notre Dame students were burglarized or vandalized during Christmas break in a series of crimes that students said caused serious damage to their homes.

Ten students living at 825 East Washington St. estimated the damage to their 10-bedroom house at about $10,000. Burglars entered the house Dec. 27, stealing everything from DVDs and video games to $5,000 in laptop batteries.

Residents of 524 Corby Street discovered their house was vandalized during break. Houses on East Washington Street were also hit.

College starts semester day early

Saint Mary's students' winter break came to an abrupt end Monday when they found themselves sitting in a classroom on a day previously reserved for enrollment, purchasing books and schedule changes.

The College Academic Affairs Council voted in April 2005 to resume class on the first Monday of the spring 2006 semester and every semester thereafter. The council acted to begin a day earlier in order to achieve an equal meeting time between classes that convene on Monday, Wednesday and Friday and those that met on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

Saint Mary's students listen in class, which started on Monday at the College — a day before classes at Notre Dame began.

Off-campus student residences burglarized

Renters disturbed, but not surprised by recent break-ins

By KATIE PERRY

Off-campus students victimized by burglaries during Christmas break said they were not surprised by the events — just shocked they did not happen sooner. And some feared the crimes would increase already-inflamed tensions between Notre Dame students and the South Bend community.

"I was feeling like we were going to get broken into, even during the day," said one of the 14 students, who were hit.

Former trustee pleads guilty to misdemeanor

By MEGAN O'NEIL

Saint Mary's President Linda Timm announced last week she will leave the College in June in order to assume the presidency at Mount Mary College in Milwaukee, Wis.

As a vice president at Saint Mary's for 11 years, Timm interacted closely with students, overseeing various departments on campus including athletics and recreation, student activities, counseling and career development, health and wellness services and residence life.

"This is the next move in my life," Timm said of the job change. "In lots of ways, this will be a new beginning for me, a new beginning professionally and a new beginning personally."

Timm began to consider the possibility of a presidential position in recent years, she said, and was first contacted by the Mount Mary search committee as a potential candidate in late July. Timm said that institution's mission as a Catholic women's liberal arts college resonated with her from the very beginning.

One of six candidates initially invited to campus, Timm concluded her visit to the Milwaukee campus in March and was offered the president's position, which she met with the search committee — a body which included

Timm hired as head of Mount Mary

By MEGAN O'NEIL

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**INSIDE COLUMN**

**Obligatory resolution**

It’s the beginning of a new semester, and also the beginning of a new year. Although the festivities of New Year’s Eve are in the past, for many people New Year’s resolutions are very much a part of the present. Laura Baumgartner

It has only been about 17 days, give or take a few hours, since these resolutions were made and I hope most of you can still honestly say that you are living up to yours. However, if you didn’t choose to converge with the masses and resolve to improve your life in some way this year, I think that’s OK too. Based on my experiences, I haven’t encountered many people who were able to sustain their goals for the New Year through the month of January, let alone the entire year.

Personally, I don’t even remember what my past resolutions may have been. This makes me fairly confident that I did not continue with my resolve to improve myself for very long. I think the problem with New Year’s resolutions is that a lot of the time people don’t really come across to them. They make up a resolution whether it’s to start working out on a regular basis, to quit smoking, or to spend more time doing volunteer work not because they truly want to do these things but because they feel obligated too.

New Year’s resolutions are a tradition that dates back to Babylonian times, and because they are still so popular in society today who wants to be the oddball who doesn’t make one. However, if you really want to change something about yourself or your life, shouldn’t you be able to do it any day of the year?

Life is complicated enough as it is; do we really need to have the added pressure of New Year’s and its dreaded resolutions looming over our heads on top of all the daily stresses we encounter?

If you really are dedicated to changing yourself for the better or resolving to change something else that you think could use improvements and just need that extra push to get started, then I think New Year’s was created for you. However, I don’t think we should need a set day to encourage us to make changes. If you want to change something I think you should just do it, take the initiative and start whenever you feel like it.

There’s no reason to wait until next year to make a resolution, so if you missed the deadline of midnight on New Year’s Eve this year, don’t worry about it, start today.

I didn’t start my resolution until returning to campus. In fact, I wasn’t even going to make one simply because I couldn’t think of anything that I thought I wanted to change.

Once I had moved in and worked up a appetite after struggling with my luggage however, my resolution came to mind.

I’m going to eat in the dining hall this semester. There will be no more spending money on snacks at Meijer or Target, no more ordering Jimmy John’s all hours of the day. I’m going to use the meal plan I paid for instead of spending extra money on food.

I’ve been here for three days now and I’ve been to the dining hall three times. At least it’s a step in the right direction.

I hope you all find success with your resolutions as well. Good luck.

Contact Laura Baumgartner at baumgartner@2saintmarys.edu

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

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**QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT WAS THE BEST PART OF WINTER BREAK?**

Jeff Poone junior Dillon

Jorje Reger junior Welsh Family

Jon Kearney freshman Alumni

Bill Buzald freshman Alumni

Kevin Washington freshman Alumni

Brian Desplinter freshman Alumni

"Watching 'The Aristocats.'" "When my friend became my friend with benefits." "Hugging the White Sox World Series trophy." "Frolicking in the snow with Kearney." "The warm weather."

With Morrissey not having Internet or cable for the next couple of weeks during dorm installation, students have been forced to go elsewhere for their online needs. For most, like these two students Tuesday, the internet refuge is the basement of Morrissey, where many cables line the hallway ready to be installed.

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**IN BRIEF**

The film "The Breakfast Club" will be shown Monday at 11:55 a.m. as part of the Bove and View at Legends. Free breakfast will be served.

The Notre Dame Student Film Festival begins Friday at 7 p.m. in the Dellafero Center for the Performing Arts. The Festival will feature 12 short films made as class projects during the past year and will include dark comedies and documentaries.

Bill O’Connell’s Chicago Skyliners, a swing band, will perform Friday at 10 p.m. at Legends.

The Saint Mary’s swim team will compete against Kalamazoo College in its final home meet of the season Friday at 6:30 p.m. in Rolfa’s Aquatic Center.

The Saint Mary’s first year board is sponsoring Battle of the Bands 2006 Saturday at 6:30 p.m. in the Saint Mary’s Student Center. The event will feature Notre Dame’s bands “Somsorassalts,” “Slap Bracelet Suicides,” “Tobie Blazez,” “I zan Consuman” and “Patrick the Unlucky Genius,” Proceeds benefit Riley Hospital for Children.

Tim Reynolds, a collaborator with the Dave Matthews Band, will perform at Legends Saturday at 10 p.m. ND’Saint Mary/Wholly Cross ID required.

Mission IMPROVable, a Chicago-based improv comedy group, will perform Saturday at 9 p.m. in Washington Hall. Admission is free.

To submit information to be included in this section of The Observer, please send detailed information about an event to observer@nd.edu

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**LOCAL WEATHER**

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University to honor Martin Luther King, Jr.

By PETER NINNEMAN
News Writer

Notre Dame has not yet held any campus events to honor Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, observed Monday, but it has plans to do so. In addition, University leaders also participated in off-campus events for the holiday.

Richard Pierce, chair of the University’s department of Africana studies and associate professor of history, led a discussion at Notre Dame Downtown, located on South Michigan Street, which focused on lesser-known civil rights activists.

Dean of First Year of Studies and theology professor Hugh Page was the keynote speaker at the “King Day” gospel program at the Century Center in South Bend. Page discussed the relationship between religion and social change at the annual program.

In recent years, celebrations of Martin Luther King Day at Notre Dame have included prayer services, a “peace quilt” made by students of Notre Dame and local elementary schools and an artistic showcase by students of Notre Dame, Saint Mary’s, and Holy Cross.

As in 2004, this year Notre Dame will be holding a town hall meeting, “A Call for Your Voice: The Responsibility of Every Man and Woman,” which will take place Jan. 24 and will discuss topics such as politics and global humanitarian issues, economics, education, gender relations and diversity at the University and Catholic social teaching. Faculty members on the panel will include Anthony Burrow, a researcher associate in the department of psychology, and Reanna Ursin, a visiting fellow in the department of Africana studies. Student members of the King Day committee, which organized the event, will also share the microphone during the meeting.

The meeting is sponsored by Campus Ministry and Multicultural Student Programs and Services and will be held at 7 p.m. in the student center at the Coleman-Morse Center. In addition to Tuesday’s event, there will be a similar discussion by selected student leaders and members of the King Day committee on Jan. 23, in the Main Building.

Students understood why the University did not hold any events honoring King this week. “It would have been nice for the University to have done something because he really and culturally done a lot in the country works, but it’s understandable that nothing happened because we all just got back from break,” freshman Eileen Helmer said.

However, Christensen was not a big fan of Sun Devil Stadium. It was disappointing to him because he said, “I really thought we’d have a good game, but it was a big fan of University fans, but it’s understandable that nothing happened because we all just got back from break,” freshman Eileen Helmer said.

Kevin Clock, also a senior from Knott Hall, said his way to Tempe and said the weather was ideal for a football game.

“Aside from the loss, I had a great time,” Clock said. “It was good to see, I was honored to have a great opportunity to be part of a football game.”

Contact Peter Ninneman at pninneman@nd.edu

Students trek to Tempe over break

By RYAN SYDLIK
News Writer

Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s students traveled from all over the United States to Tempe, Ariz., in large numbers over the break to see the Irish take on the Ohio State Buckeyes in the Fiesta Bowl. Despite the loss, students enjoyed the game and the experiences that came with it.

Senior Chris Christensen of Knott Hall made the trip to the Sun Devil Stadium from Virginia with friends and family.

“I had a good time,” Christensen said. “I really enjoyed seeing all my friends there, and being in the student section made it almost like a home game.”

However, Christensen was not a big fan of Sun Devil Stadium. It was disappointing to him because he said, “I really thought we’d have a good game, but it was a big fan of University fans, but it’s understandable that nothing happened because we all just got back from break,” freshman Eileen Helmer said.

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Contact Ryan Sydlrik at osydlik@nd.edu
Jenkins

continued from page 1

Thursday.

Brown said he did not believe a decision had been reached about whether to change the name of the Queer Film Festival, a possibility raised in December.

Each address' audience will be allowed a chance to respond with comments or questions, an open discussion concept that quickly generated a positive response from the Notre Dame community.

"It's important that Father John is telling us what his thoughts are because the academic freedom issue has caused a lot of discord in the community," said anthropology professor James McKenna, whose department has previously sponsored the Queer Film Festival. "What's important is the ability of these issues to be addressed by all constituents of the campus."

But he also expressed uncertainty — a feeling he believes many professors share.

"I think all of us are thinking the same thing, [that is] we don't have a sense of what he's going to say," McKenna said. "It is interesting because everyone is interested in it. Everyone thinks this has a lot of implications in order for our University to be great."

James McKenna
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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Countries disagree over Iran

VIENNA, Austria — Pressure on Iran intensified Tuesday, with key European countries and the United States expressing broad agreement ahead of plans to refer Tehran to the U.N. Security Council and Israel voicing not to let the Iranians develop nuclear weapons.

Russia and China — Iran's past backers — urged negotiations instead of confrontation, casting doubt on whether next month's International Atomic Energy Agency meeting will demonstrate a unified policy.

A meeting Monday in London produced no agreement among the United States, France, Britain and Germany and Moscow and Beijing on whether to refer the dispute to the Security Council, which could impose sanctions on Iran.

U.S. strike strains Pakistan relations

PESHAWAR, Pakistan — Pakistani provincial officials said Tuesday four of their foreign terrorists were killed in the purported U.S. missile strike that has severely strained relations with this Muslim nation, a key ally in President Bush's war on terror.

Pakistan is working with the U.S. to boost security and intelligence-sharing effort against al-Qaida and Taliban, which could thwart the Bush administration's challenge to al-Qaida's unique doctor-assisted suicide.

The move outraged, however, by moderate and liberal justices who said Oregon doctors can help terminally ill patients die without fear of punishment from the federal government.

The 6-3 decision found that the Bush administration improperly tried to use a federal drug law to pursue Oregon doctors who help people die under the law.

Although Roberts did not write his own opinion, the majority's vote signals how he may change the court's position.

He replaced William H. Rehnquist, a states' rights supporter who was against the Bush administration in another state-federal government conflict last year, over federal authority to override state-endorsed marijuana statutes.

Justice Anthony M. Kennedy said the dispute, between Oregon and social conservatives in the Bush administration, was part of a "political and moral debate over doctor-assisted suicide." The ruling could encourage other states to endorse the Oregon law, used to end the lives of more than 200 seriously ill people in that state.

The decision, one of the closest in recent times, was expected to last the court this year, also could set the stage for Congress to attempt to outlaw assisted suicide.

"Congress did not have this far-reaching intent to alter the federal-state balance," Kennedy wrote for the majority — himself, retiring Justice Sandra Day O'Connor and Justices John Paul Stevens, David Souter, Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Stephen G. Breyer.

With this decision, Kennedy showed signs of becoming a more influential conservative who sometimes joins more liberal justices on cases involving such things as gay rights and capital punishment.

The case was argued in October on Roberts' second day on the bench, and he strongly hinted that he would back the Bush administration. Some court watchers had expected O'Connor to be the decisive vote, which could have delayed the case until her successor was on the court.

The Senate is set to vote soon on nominee Samuel Alito.

Justices have dealt with end-of-life cases before, most recently in 1997 when the court unanimously ruled that people have no constitutional right to die.

That decision, by Rehnquist, left room for states to set their own rules.

The Tuesday ruling, and dissent, were tinged with an understanding about the delicate nature of the subject. The court itself is aging and the death of Rehnquist this past September added a yearlong flight with cancer to its emotionalism for the justices.

Scalia said in his dissent that the court's ruling is perhaps driven by a feeling that the subject of assisted suicide is none of the federal government's business. It is easy to sympathize with that position."

NATIONAL NEWS

Court rules to remove life support

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. — The state's highest court ruled Tuesday that an 11-year-old girl who was allegedly kicked and beaten at a baseball bat could be taken off life support.

The move could lead to murder charges against her stepfather.

State officials were asked that Raleigh Ponte's ventilator and feeding tube be withdrawn after doctors said she was in a vegetative state with no hope of recovery.

Her stepfather, who is already charged with beating her, said he would fight a final court ruling to remove the ventilator if the Supreme Judicial Court ruled against him.

No immediate date was set for the removal of life support, said Denise Moncrief, a spokeswoman for the Department of Social Services.

She said Raleigh Ponte will die within a few days without the feeding tube.

Senators: Katrina recovery slow

NEW ORLEANS — Progress rebuilding the Gulf Coast is still overshadowed by the devastation brought by Hurricane Katrina, senators said Tuesday, promising more federal help as they viewed broken levees and the shuttered homes of victims trying to restart their lives.

Four months after the Aug. 29 storm, lawmakers said they were surprised to see how little progress has been made in places like Galveston, Texas, where churches were gutted and trees uprooted, and in New Orleans, where piles of boards and rubble sit where homes used to stand.

LOCAL NEWS

Legislature reviews highway plan

HARRISBURG, Pa. — The state's major highway plan got several pluses during its first hearing before lawmakers Tuesday, but it also got a few proposals that would create jobs and boost economic development by funding numerous road and other transportation projects.

The plan would allow the state to leave the Indiana Toll Road in northern Indiana to a private venture for an up-front sum the state hopes would be $2 billion or more.

Congress attempts to outlaw assisted suicide

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IRAQ

Tape of U.S. hostage aired on Iraqi television

Associated Press

BAQIRAH — Hostage American reporter Bob Carroll appeared in a silent 20-second video aired Tuesday by Al-Jazeera, which showed his kidnappers gave the United States 72 hours to free female prisoners in Iraq, a U.S. diplomat said.

The tape showed the 28-year-old reporter sitting in front of a white background and speaking but not in English. His voice could not be heard. On the tape, Carroll, who was captured in April, appeared tired, and her long, straight, brown hair is parted in the middle and pulled back from her face.

Al-Jazeera would not tell The Associated Press which Al-Jazeera station showed the tape, but the station issued its own statement calling for Carroll's release. An Al-Jazeera producer said no militant group's name was attached to the message that was sent to the station with the silent tape on Tuesday.

However, a still photograph of Carroll from the videotape that later appeared on the Al-Jazeera Web site carried a logo in the bottom right corner that read "The Revenge Brigade." The group was not known from previous claims of responsibility of violence in Iraq.

Carroll was a freelance reporter for The Christian Science Monitor, and the newspaper released a statement from her family pleading with her captors to set her free.

"Jill is an innocent journalist and we respectfully ask that you please show her mercy and allow her to return home to her mother, sister and family," the statement said. Jill is a friend and sister to many Iraqis and has been dedicated to bringing the truth of the Iraq war to the world. We appeal for the speedy and safe return of our beloved daughter and sister."

In its own statement appealing for Carroll's release, the newspaper said she arrived in Iraq in 2003 and began filing stories for the Monitor only last year.

The kidnappers "have seized an innocent person who is a great admirer of the Iraqi people," the newspaper said. "She is a professional journalist whose only goal has been to report truthfully about Iraq and in promoting understanding. As an intelligent, dedicated, open-minded journalist, she has earned the respect of her Arab and Western peers."

The State Department responded to the videotape with a statement that U.S. officials were doing everything possible to win Carroll's freedom.

"We continue to make every effort we can, working with Iraqis and others, to see Miss Carroll is returned safe and sound," spokesman Sean McCormick said.
Thefts
continued from page 1

Playstation consoles to food and a bed comforter, the occupants said. Desktop computers and tel­
evision sets were spared.

The tenants didn't find out about the robbery until one of the roommates, who lives in

Granger, drove by the house and noticed people inside. The

burglary was reported on Dec. 28, where residents said the bur­
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Guidant accepts Boston Scientific offer

BOSTON — For Boston Scientific Corp., the third time was a charm — even if the price it must pay for a rival medical device maker is nearly $3 billion more than when it sparked a bidding war.

Guidant Corp. spurred Boston Scientific’s first two buyout offers in favor of Guidant’s long deal with Johnson & Johnson. So instead of bidding higher by another few hundred million dollars, Boston Scientific piled up, in a big way Tuesday, raising its offer from about $25 billion to $27.2 billion.

Less than nine hours later, Boston Scientific got the change of heart it wanted. Guidant embraced Boston Scientific’s proposal as it has before, at $22 billion smaller but could offer a speedier route to a completed deal.

Guidant now must decide whether tobid higher or walk away with a $705 million break-up fee. The fee had been set at $625 million, but has been increased twice in the past two weeks.

Tuesday’s price hike, and other new enticements, left some observers surprised at the lengths Boston Scientific is going to buy Guidant and acquire its lucrative business in implantable heart defibrillators and pacemakers.

Some considered it a last-ditch effort to quickly unseat J&J as a rival drug company with additional modus operandi:

"I didn’t expect a knock-your-stock-off bid," said Nancy Havens, manager of Havens Advisors, a New York-based hedge fund and Guidant’s largest shareholder. "Our stock has gone higher than anybody ever anticipated.

"But I think this is a very, very smart move for Boston Scientific ... They’ve taken the upper hand in this." Guidant and Boston Scientific are close rivals in the market for drug-coated heart stents. But they have increasing competition in that niche and are pursuing drug-coated heart defibrillators and pacemakers, a fast-growing $10 billion business in which neither suitor is a player.

The bidding war began Jan. 3, when Boston Scientific made an unsolicited $24.6 billion offer — a move that caused J&J to up its rival’s $25.4 billion offer.

But the original bids never included $3 billion to $4 billion in safety problems involving Guidant products.

Since June, Guidant has recalled or issued warnings about 88,000 heart defibrillators and almost 200,000 pacemakers, leading to lawsuits and regulatory investigations.

Guidant said in a brief statement Tuesday that its board determined that Boston Scientific’s revised offer is "superior" to its standing deal with J&J.

Guidant and Johnson & Johnson responded by saying Boston Scientific’s proposal would hurt the earnings potential of the combined company and leave it saddled with too much debt. J&J also said the proposal was based on "extremely aggressive business projections." The company will consider its alternatives under the existing merger agreement with Guidant, said New Brunswick, N.J.-based J&J.

Guidant shares are up 132% since J&J’s Jan. 30, but are still well below the original $25.4 billion offer. Shares are up 122% since J&J’s Jan. 3 offer. J&J has run out of business days — until the end of business Jan. 24 — to counter it under the terms of its agreement with Guidant.

Safety questions arise with hemophilia drug

CHICAGO — A hemophilia drug has been linked to deaths, strokes, heart attacks and other complications in patients. The drug is approved for other types of out-of-control bleeding, such as cerebral hemorrhages, according to the FDA.

The medicine, NovoSeven, is a clotting drug that was introduced in 1999 after being approved by the Food and Drug Administration to stop bleeding in hemophiliacs. But it has also shown promise in treating cerebral hemorrhages, a particularly lethal type of stroke that is growing in the brain.

Most of the reported complications followed off-label use of NovoSeven, which is used for which the drug was not specifically approved by the FDA. Off-label use is legal, but doctors have less information on possible side effects of such uses.

The report on the complications appears in Wednesday’s Journal of the American Medical Association. The authors, including Dr. Kathryn O’Connell of the FDA’s Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research, called for rigorous safety studies of new uses for the drug, which is made by the Danish pharmaceutical company Novo Nordisk.

Novo Nordisk said it will review the report and will work with doctors to improve use of the drug.

The company is also considering changes in information that appears on the drug’s packaging.

Chicago officials have voiced concern over the drug’s use.

In a letter to the FDA in October that was delaying the release of the statement as it worked to restate previous earnings reports because of improper accounting.

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A lot of students are upset because they feel their neighbors have been calling the police on them with noise complaints ad nauseam, but failed to notice that people were in their homes kicking down doors while they were supposed to be empty.

Matt Wormington, off-campus president of the same alarm company for years without difficulty.

An resident of 821 Washington St. who wished to remain anony-

mous said although the house was equipped with an alarm sys-

tem, it was apparently not triggered during the break-in.

"We are frustrated because this alarm did not go off," he said. "A more secure and reliable security system would be appreciated," he said. [but] I cannot hold our landlord liable for the criminal acts of others in this community.

Wormington said he has heard a "lot" of negativity from students affected by the crimes — ill will that might place further stress on Notre Dame's relationship with the South Bend community.

"A lot of students are upset because they feel their neighbors have been calling the police on them with noise complaints ad nauseam, but failed to notice that people were in their homes kicking down doors while they were supposed to be empty," he said.

Muto said his neighbors aren't the biggest fans, and would not call the police if their house were robbed.

Wormington said the neighbors should not be blamed for the crimes, but thinks the students' response is "a reflection of the growing tensions between students and the community."

"I hope students and neighbors can begin to see this issue from both sides and come to an understanding of one another," he said. "[Student body president] Dave Baron and I still believe the developing dialogue between the two groups will serve to alleviate this tension — but it isn't going to happen overnight."

Contact Katie Perry at kperryS@nd.edu

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Duerson

continued from page 1

Following his Notre Dame football career, Duerson played 11 seasons in the NFL, earning Pro Bowl honors four times and winning Super Bowl titles with the Chicago Bears in 1986 and the New York Giants in 1991. He also played for the Phoenix Cardinals.

Duerson, a 1983 Notre Dame graduate, had been a University trustee since 2001 and the president of the Monogram Club since 2003. He also resigned his position in the Monogram Club following the February charges. Duerson had been outspoken about Notre Dame football during his tenure as a trustee. In the spring of 2004, the Monogram Club wrote a response to a letter written by a group of Notre Dame alumni that criticized the way the football program was managed. In the Monogram Club’s letter, the group claimed that the alumni leader should have never been released to the media because it hurt the University’s image, impeded the overall administration of the University and adversely affected revenue resources.

Duerson spoke out most recently after former Notre Dame football coach Ty nine Willingham was fired in November 2004 after a 6-5 season, describing a decision that was made with great “dissonance.”

“With all the other things going on at the University, the load of the problems was wins and losses,” he told the Associated Press last December. “There’s greater dissonance in some other things at the University that need to be corrected and dealt with.”

Duerson, president and CEO of Duerson Foods, LLC, was a two-time All-American defensive back at Notre Dame, where he played from 1979-83. He served as tri-captain of the 1982 Irish.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

CHINA

Government pledge will help combat flu

United Press

BEIJING — The United States intends to pledge $334 million to the fight against bird flu, according to an official statement shown to The Associated Press Wednesday ahead of a pledging ceremony at an international donors conference.

That is significantly more than the conference organizers were anticipating.

The gathering in Beijing has taken on a new sense of urgency after the first deaths from the virus were recorded outside Asia and there were hopes it would raise at least $1.5 billion.

That is the minimum amount needed to avert a possible pandemic, the World Bank and the United Nations have said.

“We’re talking about a tremendous amount of money here for an issue that is clearly of global importance. The stakes are very high,” said James LeDuc, a viral illness expert at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The U.S. pledge, in grants and technical assistance, includes $36 million to support international health organizations, $15 million for non-governmental organizations and the private sector, and $41 million for international research, the statement said.

On Tuesday, the European Union and drug maker Roche sharply increased their commitment to combating bird flu.

The EU pledged about $121 million, $20 million more than it initially announced last week to combat bird flu and the risk of a potential pandemic.

The increase came after Turkey recently announced a fourth child had died from the deadly H5N1 strain of bird flu.

Most of those who died had been in close contact with infected birds, but health officials fear the virus could mutate into a form easily transmissible among humans.

Overall the pledges could reach $1.7 billion, representatives from international agencies said on the sidelines of the conference.

LEBANON

Protest builds near U.S. Embassy

Associated Press

BEIRUT — Thousands of pro-Syrian Lebanese chanting “Death to America” protested Tuesday near the U.S. Embassy against what they called American meddling in the country’s affairs.

Three days ago police violently broke up a similar demonstration that coincided with the visit of a key U.S. envoy to the Middle East.

Tuesday’s protest occurred during a visit to the Middle East by Vice President Dick Cheney, who made stops in Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

Students and political activists from 18 pro-Syrian groups, including the militant Hezbollah organization, chanted in unison “Death to America!” and “Beirut is free! Free America get out!”

During the peaceful one-hour protest, demonstrators also chanted support for Syria and Iran — the United States’ main opponents in the Middle East.

About 150 riot police held the protesters behind a barricade of barbed wire about 500 yards from the fortified embassy compound in Aukar, northern Beirut.

Police estimated the crowd at 17,000. A Hezbollah official put the number at 25,000.

Pro-Syrians accuse the United States of trying to influence Lebanon since Syria was forced to withdraw its troops from the country last April after international and Lebanese pressure over the assassination of former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri.

The United States is one of several Western countries that backed a U.N. Security Council resolution in 2004 that demanded an end to Syrian interference in Lebanon and the disarming of all militias in the country — a reference to the pro-Syrian Hezbollah.

The Associated Press

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FIRST PRIZE: VIDEO iPOD

SATURDAY, JAN 28TH
OPEN TO ND STUDENTS ONLY
SIGN UP AT LA FORTUNE INFORMATION DESK
LIVE TO FIRST 300 PARTICIPANTS

Wednesday, January 18, 2006

The Observer ♦ NEWS

page 9
Oklahoma City bombing witness to be released

FRESNO — Under legal pressure, Delilah Ray, the Oklahoma City bombing witness, is scheduled to be released from federal prison February 6.

The Federal Bureau of Prisons has notified family members that it is removing victims of Fortier's impending risky release from the Oklahoma City bombing witness, Delilah Ray, from the list of released prisoners. The Witness is scheduled to be released Tuesday. He still serves a three-year sentence in prison.

Fortier served in the Army with bombing conspirators Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols. He was sentenced in 1999 to 17 years in prison for helping the bombing. His lawyers have been arguing about the bomb plot and not telling authorities.

He also pleaded guilty to helping McVeigh and Nichols move and store stolen guns, and for lying to federal authorities after the Oklahoma City bombing.

The witness said she lived near the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building and killed 168 people.

Fortier, 37, formerly of Kingman, Ariz., has been in federal custody since the year of the bombing.

"It's been a hell of a long time," said Bud Welch, whose son, Kevin, a training Security office staffer, was killed in the blast. "I think McVeigh and Fortier are probably responsible for a lot of the stuff that was going on in Arizona. I hope he's in line to be a good citizen now.

Welch and other victims of the Oklahoma City bombing wanted to know what Fortier was doing. Fortier left a three-page form to Fortier from the Bureau of Prisons this week listing Fortier's release date.

Neither the form nor the Oklahoma City bombing witness, Delilah Ray, is classified the book "Night," written by Wiesel, as a nonfiction, as a biography, or as a novel. The form is not a fiction title of the book. The form is not a fiction title of the book. The form is not a fiction title of the book.

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"If it's intellectually indefensible that they weren't conspirators, because they were,"

Stephen Jones

Timothy McVeigh's attorney

Communication on Amazon's Web site, a description of the book notes that the book is not a fiction title of the book. The form is not a fiction title of the book. The form is not a fiction title of the book.

"Night" is not a fiction title and is therefore not a fiction title of the book. The form is not a fiction title of the book. The form is not a fiction title of the book.

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Under "literature and fiction," and is therefore not a fiction title of the book. The form is not a fiction title of the book. The form is not a fiction title of the book.

Barnes & Noble's price list has been widely disputed, with the author acknowledging that he had embellished parts of the book, as reported by the investigative Web site, The Smoking Gun. Frey and Winfrey have defended "A Million Little Pieces," saying any factual problems were later altered by the book's emotional power.

No such allegations are being made about "Night," which has been widely disputed, with the author acknowledging that he had embellished parts of the book, as reported by the investigative Web site, The Smoking Gun. Frey and Winfrey have defended "A Million Little Pieces," saying any factual problems were later altered by the book's emotional power.

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Forfeiting testimony would not need to be convicted McVeigh and Nichols.

"I am very angry," Coverdale said. "I feel like Fortier should've gotten life in prison without parole."
Sept. 11 workers die of illnesses
Direct link between ground zero, fatalities unclear

Associated Press

NEW YORK — James Zadroga spent 16 hours a day toiling in the World Trade Center ruins for a month, breathing in debris-choked air. Timothy Keller said he coughed up bits of gravel from his lungs after the towers fell on Sept. 11, 2001. Felix Hernandez spent days at the site helping to search for victims.

All three men died in the past seven months of what their families and colleagues say were persistent respiratory illnesses directly caused by their work at ground zero.

While thousands of people who either worked at or lived near the site have reported ailments such as "trade center cough" since the terrorist attacks, some say that only now are the consequences of working at the site becoming heartbreakingly clear.

"I'm very fearful," said Donald Faeth, an emergency medical technician and officer in a union with two of the ground zero workers who died last year. "I think that there are several people who died that day and didn't realize that they died that day."

Some officials say it is too early to draw that conclusion. Doctors running different health screening programs say it will take decades to get a clear picture of the long-term health effects of working at ground zero.

The city Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, which is tracking the health of 71,000 people exposed at Sept. 11 dust and debris, said last week that it is too soon to say whether any deaths or illnesses among its enrolled members are linked to trade center exposure.

But Rebin Herbert, who runs a monitoring program at Mount Sinai Medical Center for more than 14,000 ground zero workers, said "certainly it is not inconceivable that a person could die of respiratory disease related to Sept. 11."

Hernandez was diagnosed at one point that he may have cystic fibrosis, Pellegrino said. He left the job in 2004 when he became too weak to climb stairs, and died Oct. 23 of respiratory ailments in Florida, said colleagues who spoke with his family.

Both Keller and Hernandez, each with a decade on the job, were nonsmokers and had no previous health problems before Sept. 11, Faeth said.

"This is just the tip of the iceberg. Many, many more people are going to die from the aftermath of the toxicity," David Worby, attorney at Zadroga, a 34-year-old New York detective, said.

Mr. Worby logged 470 hours at the site in 2001, including Sept. 11, and died Jan. 5. Family members and co-workers said he had contracted black lung disease and had high levels of mercury in his brain. Autopsy results have not been released.

David Worby, an attorney representing more than 5,000 plaintiffs suing those who supervised the cleanup over their exposure, said his clients have died of Sept. 11-related diseases since mid-2004. He said he was not authorized to release their names, but represented people who toiled at ground zero, at the Fresh Kills landfill in Staten Island where trade center debris was moved, and at the city morgue.

"This is just the tip of the iceberg," Worby said. "Many, many more people are going to die from the aftermath of the toxicity."

Corzine sworn in as governor of N.J.

TRENTON, N.J. — Jon Corzine was sworn in Tuesday as New Jersey's 54th governor, promising ethics reform and an end to "The Garden Gnomes" who have pandered over the state's financial problems.

The former Wall Street titan turned Democratic U.S. senator took the oath of office during an early afternoon ceremony. His swearing-in ended a tumultuous period in state politics that began in 2004 when Gov. James McGreevey resigned after acknowledging a gay affair.

"All New Jerseyans should now know my resolve is to govern the state of New Jersey as one community with one future," Corzine, 59, beat Republican businessman Douglas Forrester by 10 points in November. The two spent more than $75 million, much of it their own money, making their contest the most expensive New Jersey governor's race ever.

In his inaugural speech, Corzine said the state faces "tough choices" and that millions more people are going to be called on all my fellow public servants to join in an historic effort to end the toxic mix of politics, money and public business — at every level of New Jersey government. Let's award public contracts by competition and quality, not contributions," he said.

There is a year left on Corzine's Senate term, and he selected Rep. Robert Menendez to succeed him. Menendez, 52, is to be sworn in Wednesday.

Corzine went into politics after being ousted from Goldman Sachs, where he had been CEO, in a power dispute in 1999. He was elected to the Senate the following year.

Want to be Student Body President?

Info Meeting
Today (Jan. 18) 8PM
LaFortune's Sorin Room

All interested students are encouraged to attend to learn about rules, regulations, dates and petitions.

Questions?
Contact the Judicial Council at jccouncil@nd.edu

Corzine sworn in as governor of N.J.
Because a zygote lacks a mind, there are only three ways to define personhood so as to extend it to the non-yet-born. The first two are similar: one can claim that some common physical attribute (probably DNA) conveys personhood, or one can claim that it is conveyed by an immaterial spirit. This line of reasoning has given rise to the popular battle cry: "Life begins at conception!" Many who follow this rallying cry probably used the soul argument. Therefore, saying "Life begins at conception" is roughly the same as saying "Souls arise at conception." Unfortunately, this last statement suffers from serious flaws, not the least of which is that it cannot be tested empirically. In my opinion, it is a nontrivial number of those who have been convinced of the pro-choice argument probably noticed some of the weaknesses in believing that human life begins at conception, and concluded that the rest is bunk. As rallying cries go, "Life begins at conception" was useful, but it does more harm than good, and it is past time that pro-lifers abandoned the idea and its flaws and found a more useable alternative. The trick is to do so without compromising any of the ethical conclusions that follow from the pro-life philosophy.

The ethic of potentiality is an ethic that evokes an ethic of potentiality. The premise of this ethic brushes the entire question of the personhood of human beings at conception and later. The moral conclusion that killing a fertilized egg is wasteful of human lives? The thesis seems to fall to Ockham's razor substitution, since it cannot be tested empirically. In my opinion, a nontrivial number of those who have been convinced of the pro-choice argument probably noticed some of the weaknesses in believing that human life begins at conception, and concluded that the rest is bunk. As rallying cries go, "Life begins at conception" was useful, but it does more harm than good, and it is past time that pro-lifers abandoned the idea and its flaws and found a more useable alternative. The trick is to do so without compromising any of the ethical conclusions that follow from the pro-life philosophy.
Examining Alito's record

I imagine that the number of Notre Dame students who gathered around ESPN to watch former Judge Samuel Alito's confirmation hearings over winter break is fairly small — one might say pitiful. Most of us, however, who break from the swimmer's routine should make a moment to consider the ramifications of Alito's nomination to the Supreme Court. The Senate Judiciary Committee rescheduled the vote on Alito's nomination for Jan. 24, making this the perfect time to examine Alito's judicial record and testimony from the confirmation hearings.

The first thing to keep in mind about Alito is that he was nominated to replace Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, a truly moderate and evenhanded justice who was the swing vote in controversial and influential cases including the acid-test cases of church and state, civil rights and abortion. I find it both frightening and illuminating how the same far right that bemoaned nominee Harriet Miers as not conservative enough has rejoiced in Alito's nomination, claiming him to be a "mainstream" conservative. Analysis of Alito's rulings as a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals reveals a consistent pattern of radically conservative decisions, a pattern we can only assume Alito would continue if confirmed to the Supreme Court.

Make no mistake, Alito's decisions on reproductive rights, torture, international law, and discrimination and executive branch authorities show him a wholly conservative judicial masquerading as an impartial and just judge. His cultural and morality wars continue.

In defense in 1984 for Attorney General John Mitchell's illegal domestic surveillance. If you are troubled by the thought of the National Security Administration eavesdropping on your phone calls, then it would be equally troubling by Alito's nomination.

The constitutional abolition of free speech, discrimination against gays and other such issues are certain to come before the Supreme Court in the time that Alito would serve as a Justice. These issues concern the hard won freedoms of all Americans and, given his record, Alito simply cannot be trusted to protect those freedoms.

Because he dared to dream, we all continue to dream.

Monday marked Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, and the nation celebrated by remembering this remarkable man and everything for which he stood.

His concept of "somedomem" symbolized the importance of the worthiness of humans. This idea inspired millions of African Americans to rise above the heat of injustice and oppression they were facing in America.

King stood for equality and peace for every- one. His nonviolent approach to marching and demonstrating proved his love for all people.

In a "Dream" speech, King dreamed "that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal ...' that one day on the red hills of Georgia the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at a table of brotherhood ... that one day even the state of Mississippi, a desert state, sweltering with the heat of injustice and oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice ... that my four children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character." King's dream lives on today. Though we have come a long way, there is still more distance to be traveled.

We should remember King's words as we celebrate his birthday, and every day.

We should use this day to remember King's accomplishments and to challenge ourselves to become better citizens.

We should live up to and beyond King's dream.

Get engaged. Write your representatives. Attend a march. Help your neighbors.

We should use such a day to remember King's many accomplishments and to challenge ourselves to become better citizens.

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"Brokeback Mountain" table celebrates its Best Picture Golden Globe win with a bottle of champagne. The picture also won Best Director for Ang Lee.

Oscar nominees are announced January 31, and two films that were missing from the Globes’ best picture categories — "Crash" and "Capote" — are expected to be among the nominees for the Academy Awards. "Brokeback" may be the current favorite, but the addition of those nominees would put it into a whole new competition that it may not stand a chance of winning.

However, the Globes may be dead on for the best actor categories. As of now, Best Actress competition boils down to Reese Witherspoon and Felicity Huffman, and Best Actor comes down between Philip Seymour Hoffman and Joaquin Phoenix. Now that all four actors have won the Globe, there is no doubt they will be among the Oscar nominees.

Hollywood has only a few weeks to regroup and decide who it wants to crown with Oscar gold, but Monday night was all about the Globes, which has gained significant prestige over the years. Movie and television stars gathered for one night to honor the year’s best and take advantage of the open bar.

Contact Cassie Belek at chbeck@nd.edu
Ohio State quarterback Troy Smith stiff-arms Notre Dame defensive end Victor Abdur-Rahim on a pass rush during the 2006 Tostitos Fiesta Bowl. Smith threw for 342 yards and two touchdowns.

The Irish were counting their blessings to even be in the game when the fourth quarter arrived. Ohio State's defense held strong almost all game, led 27-20, but the Irish went into the locker room still aware they had gotten their "buts kicked" for the game's first 30 minutes, Wooden said.

The second half effort was not enough, leaving all Irish players in the post-game locker room despondent despite the season's success in comparison to recent years.

"We did have a great season, but it just doesn't feel as good when you don't execute in the last game," Walker said.

Ohio State tight end Tony Saxano, who a week later would declare himself eligible for the 2006 NFL draft, put the loss in perspective.

"This team has a lot of character," he said. "It was against what a lot of people were saying in the beginning of the year. And sometimes we've had some disappointing losses and coming out here with a disappointing loss, I think the season is still a success."

"I think we made some great strides. We're back on the map, and we set up a lot for the future," Walker said.

Contact Pat Leonard at pleonard@nd.edu

player of the game
Troy Smith
Ohio State's quarterback completed 19-of-28 passes for 342 yards and two touchdowns, rushed for 66 yards and directed the offense to 617 total yards

stat of the game
275-62
Ohio State's net rushing total compared to Notre Dame's, an indicator of the deficit the Irish faced and the dominance of the Buckeye offense

play of the game
Incomplete rolling on Ohio State wide receiver Anthony Gonzalez's fumble
Irish strong safety Tom Zbikowski's return would have given the Irish possession and a chance to tie

quote of the game
"We were lucky for it to be 21-7 at halftime. It very easily could have been a three-score game."

Charlie Weis
Irish coach

By PAT LEONARD
Sports Writer

TEMPLE, Ariz. — Notre Dame scored in only six plays on the opening possession of the 2006 Tostitos Fiesta Bowl Jan. 2, but Ohio State's response was just as quick and even more emphatic.

The Buckeyes (10-2) scored three touchdowns before halftime and did not surrender points again until the 4:25 mark of the third quarter, as No. 4 Ohio State (8-4) beat No. 6 Notre Dame (9-3) 20-14 at Sun Devil Stadium. The closest the Fighting Irish got was down 26-7.

"They definitely were the better team today," Irish coach Charlie Weis said. "It was fairly obvious following the game."

The common theme in the post-game Notre Dame locker room was that there was nothing else to say. Ohio State posted 617 yards of total offense, almost 200 more than Notre Dame's 348. Irish quarterback Brady Quinn was held without a touchdown pass for the first game all season, while Buckeye signal-caller Troy Smith completed 15-of-24 attempts for 342 yards and two touchdowns.

The Buckeyes dominated the box score, but the Irish still were just one down in their efforts at setting up their offense to complete a four-play touchdown comeback. Scoring twice in the second half and holding Ohio State to two field goals, Notre Dame was down 27-20 with 4:45 remaining when the Buckeyes began their final drive.

Ohio State started on its own 15-yard line and got a first down to the 26, but Notre Dame's defense tightened, holding the Buckeyes to a 1-yard loss on first and second down.

"We thought we were gonna stop them," Irish strong safety Tom Zbikowski said. "We worked a lot on the four-minute kind of drill trying to stop their offense."

But Smith escaped the grasp of Irish defensive end Ronald Talley on 3rd-and-11 and hit wide receiver Pat Massey, who in turn hit wide receiver Terence Lloyd, who the Buckeyes' offense moved the ball down the second half and holding Ohio State to two field goals, Notre Dame was down 27-20 with 4:45 remaining when the Buckeyes began their final drive.

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Bucks can’t bury Irish optimism

Mike Gilloon
Sports Editor

TEMPE, Ariz. — It might not have felt like it, but Notre Dame left Tempe with a win. No, the Irish didn’t earn a victory over Ohio State in the Tostitos Fiesta Bowl. Troy Smith, Ted Ginn, Jr. and A.J. Hawk made sure of that.

But Charlie Weis’ team came away from Arizona with something more important than a victory—trophy and motivation.

All that was needed for Notre Dame to be everyone’s preseason No. 1 pick in 2006, besides the early departures of Vince Young and Reggie Bush, was a convincing Irish victory over the Buckeyes in the final Fiesta Bowl to be played at Sun Devil Stadium.

But Weis’ first season didn’t end like it was supposed to. Maurice Stovall’s final game came to a conclusion without a touchdown.

Mark LeVoir and Dan Stevenson’s dedicated careers hit a scarlet-and-gray dead end. Despite the frustration of many underclassmen for not giving the seniors a better going-away party, this loss could be the best thing to happen to the Irish.

With Brady Quinn, Jeff Samardzija and most other starters returning, the team will be as talented as any in college football next season. After the loss, that talent is much hungrier — 617 yards hungrier, in fact.

That’s the amount of total offense Jim Tressel’s Buckeyes racked up on Notre Dame.

The Irish coaches’ task of keeping eyes on Ohio State in a game that wasn’t as close as the score indicated. Irish strength and conditioning coach Rubén Mendoza should send a few thank-you notes to Columbus, Ohio, especially to Hawk and Ginn, Jr., who reminded Notre Dame that simple showing up doesn’t win football games. It will take a passable performance to march back to Atlanta in the 2006 season opener on Sept. 2 and best Georgia Tech. It will take plenty of execution to topple Joe Paterno and Penn State one week later. And Reggie Bush or no Reggie Bush, winning at USC in next year’s regular-season finale will require intense focus.

Regardless of how well Smith ran the Buckeyes’ offense and how effectively Hawk stopped the Irish running game, it was the lack of passion, execution and intensity that clouded Notre Dame’s experience in the Valley of the Sun. As he has insisted all season, Weis says the play of the team rests mostly on his shoulders. He is not a genius, a miracle worker or a messiah — just a few of the names for the coach thrown around by Notre Dame fans in 2005. Weis is a football coach, a very good football coach, but too often the media and fans tag Weis and others in his business as miracle workers before a miracle is performed.

There was no miracle in Tempe. Instead, one team was outplayed by another in a game that could have had a different outcome if the Irish had played like they know they can.

Now they have a spring and summer to think about the loss and re-dedicate themselves to playing up to their potential every week.

They have just over seven months before their next game. That’s 227 days the Irish have to work toward a 2006 season with a happier ending than 2005 — a long time to wait for a team hungry for a chance to show it’s better than it looked on Jan. 2. Weis surely will give them plenty of food for thought.

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not those of The Observer. Contact Mike Gilloon at mgilloon@nd.edu

The Leprechaun and cheerleaders join the team in saluting Notre Dame fans after a 34-20 Irish loss in the Fiesta Bowl Jan. 2. Defensive tackle Dane LeFotu (66) returns next season to a defensive line that gave up 275 rushing yards to the Buckeyes, including 138 from tailback Antonio Pittman.
Scoring summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ohio State</th>
<th>1st</th>
<th>2nd</th>
<th>3rd</th>
<th>4th</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

First quarter
- Ohio State 0, Notre Dame 0
- Notre Dame 7-yard run (D. Fitzpatrick kick) with 12:51 remaining
- Ohio State 7-yard pass from Troym Smith
- Notre Dame 7-yard TD
- Notre Dame 7-yard pass from Troym Smith

Second quarter
- Ohio State 14, Notre Dame 7
- Notre Dame 6-yard run (Huston kick) with 14:16 remaining
- Notre Dame 7-yard pass from Troym Smith
- Notre Dame 7-yard pass from Troym Smith

Third quarter
- Ohio State 21, Notre Dame 13
- Ohio State 10-yard run (Fitzpatrick kick) failed with 4:05 remaining
- Ohio State 7-yard TD
- Notre Dame 4-yard field goal with 2:29 remaining
- Notre Dame 7-yard TD
- Notre Dame 6-yard TD

Fourth quarter
- Ohio State 27, Notre Dame 13
- Notre Dame 10-yard run (Fitzpatrick kick) with 4:12 remaining
- Notre Dame 7-yard TD
- Notre Dame 4-yard field goal with 1:10 remaining
- Notre Dame 7-yard TD

Statistics
- Total yards
  - OSU: 617 rushing yards
  - Notre Dame: 275 passing yards
- Return yards
  - OSU: 342
  - Notre Dame: 23
- Time of possession
  - OSU: 30:44
  - Notre Dame: 29:20
- Rushing yards: 29-45-0
- Passing yards: 4-62-4
- Fumbles-lost: 1-4
- Penalties-yards: 5-73
- First downs: 22

Captain's
- Ohio State: T.Green, Jr.
- Notre Dame: Quinn, Smith

Coin flip
- Ohio State: 9.26
- Notre Dame: 5.03

Field goals
- OSU: 3
- Notre Dame: 3

Sack
- OSU: 2
- Notre Dame: 2

Fumbles
- OSU: 4
- Notre Dame: 4

Interceptions
- OSU: 1
- Notre Dame: 1

Turnovers
- OSU: 3
- Notre Dame: 3

Penalties
- OSU: 7
- Notre Dame: 7

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- OSU: 617
- Notre Dame: 275

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- OSU: 617
- Notre Dame: 275

Passing yards
- OSU: 342
- Notre Dame: 23

Time of possession
- OSU: 30:44
- Notre Dame: 29:20

Rushing
- OSU: 16-40-0
- Notre Dame: 25-0-0

Receiving
- OSU: 16-20-0
- Notre Dame: 2-0-0

Tackles
- OSU: 9-11-0
- Notre Dame: 9-0-0

Offensive yardage
- OSU: 545
- Notre Dame: 409

Defensive yardage
- OSU: 420
- Notre Dame: 419

Field goal
- OSU: 3
- Notre Dame: 3

Interceptions
- OSU: 1
- Notre Dame: 1

Turnovers
- OSU: 3
- Notre Dame: 3

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- OSU: 7
- Notre Dame: 7

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Sunburned

A season that many believe brought a spark back to the Notre Dame football program ended with a thud on Jan. 2 when the Irish fell to Ohio State 34-20 in the Fiesta Bowl. A.J. Hawk and the No. 1-ranked Buckeyes rushing defense held Darius Walker and Notre Dame to 62 total yards on the ground. Quarterback and Dublin, Ohio native Brady Quinn realized a childhood dream when the Irish were paired with the Buckeyes. But Quinn threw no touchdowns for the first time all season and Ohio State sacked him five times — two courtesy of his sister’s boyfriend Hawk. Though Quinn received most of the attention before the game after setting nearly every Notre Dame passing record this season, it was the Buckeyes’ Troy Smith who shined under the desert sun as he went 19-for-28 for 342 yards and two TDs, including an 85-yarder to Ohio State speedster Ted Ginn, Jr. Irish coach Charlie Weis was frustrated that his team was only down 27-20 late in the game but couldn’t force Ohio State to give the ball back, as running back Antonio Pittman streaked 60 yards down the Buckeyes’ sideline with 1:46 remaining to cement the victory. Notre Dame has now lost eight consecutive bowl games, with the last win a 24-21 victory over Texas A&M in the 1994 Cotton Bowl when Quinn was nine years old.
**'King Kong' a grand, wild ride**

By MARTY SCHROEDER

| Scene Critic |

With his "Lord of the Rings" masterpiece behind him, Peter Jackson returns to the screen with another epic of kingly proportions. The release of "King Kong" brings together a motley mix of proven actors, one known for his comedy and the giant character himself, Kong.

The film brings the audience to an unknown island filled with natives and stories of wonders, with a report of a sea captain, a woman in love with acting and looking for a paycheck, a fame-starved movie director and the plethora of oversized fauna that only a long-lost island could provide.

The first hour of this three-hour cinematic ride involves director Carl Denham (Jack Black) bringing his cast and crew to an uncharted island on a map he discovered to film what he believes will be this ticket to fame and fortune. Jack Black adeptly plays Denham, giving the right amount of crazed genius to the character without going over the top. Naomi Watts stars as Ann Darrow, an actress who goes along for the ride. Literally, as Denham promises her she will be a star and finally get the credit she thinks she's earned. But Denham consulting Gollum, as a writer whose dream comes to life. The film is directed by Friedemann and written by Thomas Krentschmann, as the mysterious and opportunistic Captain Englehorn. Jill out the rest of the cast.

Once they arrive at the aforementioned island, the situation begins to come apart at the seams, as the natives capture Darrow and offer her to Kong. The oversized gorilla takes her away into the forest, which is when the audience begins to have fun. The island where Kong abides is filled with some of the most wonderful creatures seen on the silver screen in a long while. Viewers, along with the characters, happen upon flying dinosaurs, that stretch the size of lions and centipedes as long as an arm. There are giant bats and, most impressively, dinosaurs that stamped through the valleys of island T and T-Rexes whose only purpose in life, it seems, is to eat Darrow. All of these strange animals that are encountered on this long-lost island create a fun-filled ride that Jackson seems to have had a blast directing and creating.

The real star of the show, however, is the giant gorilla Kong. Using motion-capture technology, Andy Serkis brings his Gollum acting chops to this gargantuan behemoth of a gorilla. The gymnastic movement employed by Serkis gives a life to Kong that would otherwise be impossible. This is most vividly expressed when he fights three Tyrannosaurus Rexes while managing to keep them away from Darrow. This is perhaps the most enjoyable moment in the film when watching Kong battle three dinosaurs through the canopy of the island's forests and then down onto a plain where he finally defeats the final one in a glorious, bone-crunching moment.

The film's plot revolves around Kong falling in love with Darrow and how he conflicts with her growing fondness for him and her desire to get away from him and return to the humans. This may seem concordant or pretentious to some, but if dishonest is suspended for three hours and audiences allow themselves to be won over by the strange encounters in the film, this is one of the most fun and entertaining films one can see this year.

After finishing "Lord of the Rings," Jackson said he wanted to have some fun and with this film, he gives us an adventure where seeing a giant gorilla on top of the Empire State building seems credible.

Contact Marty Schroeder at mschroedr@slud.com

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**'Kong' an illogical, self-indulgent bore**

By BRIAN DOXTATER

| Award Scene Timen |

There is a scene midway through "King Kong" that may be one of the worst in recent moviemaking history. After an epic three-hour battle between Kong and the monstrousaglious CGI dinosaurs and ward them off by land this is not being made up but the large tonnage in this show. Such is the staff of "King Kong." Peter Jackson's long-awaited follow-up to his Academy Award-winning "Lord of the Rings" trilogy. Critical consensus on the movie would indicate that the director has delivered a phenomenal film in the same epic mold as his previous pictures. Critical consensus would be wrong. "King Kong" isn't a great film. It isn't even a good one. Instead, it is a misguided, overblown, self-indulgent picture posing as quality cinema. Sadly, "King Kong," rather than the grand entertainment it wants to be, is a train wreck on par with the "Star Wars" prequels and the "Marvin" sequels, a disappointing but effective reminder of what happens when directors let success go to their heads.

Conventional wisdom dictates that good sequels are rare and good remakes even rarer. Jackson adds his name to the notorious list of great directors who have fallen victim to the remake bug, a surprising high-profile list that includes Gus Van Sant (1999's "Psycho") and Tim Burton ("Planet of the Apes"). To its credit, "King Kong" starts out as an impressive piece of work, but once the plot sputters at a start, it becomes far more problematic. At the heart of Jackson's remake is the retold Kong story. Now it's a bizarre and highly modern love triangle between Adrien Brody, Naomi Watts and the Kong himself. While in the original Ann was terrified of Kong, here she's kind of attracted to him. Who wouldn't love a giant gorilla, especially one who can take down more than one T-Rex dinosaur at the same time? So Anne falls in love with Kong (and vice versa, obviously) while Jack Black schemes. Brody fumes heroically and pretty much everyone else becomes a bit of a footnote. Jackson seems, is to eat Darrow and opportunistic to some, but if dishonest is suspended for three hours and audiences allow themselves to be won over by the strange encounters in the film, this is one of the most fun and entertaining films one can see this year.

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Contact Brian Doxter at bdoxter@slud.com

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King Kong, the eponymous character of Peter Jackson's latest epic, is a CGI creature whose body movements were acted out by Gollum actor Andy Serkis.

Despite its flaws, "King Kong" is an impeccable period-piece that recreates Depression-era Americana, when the original "Kong" (1933) was actually made.
MCCARTHYISM exposed in Clooney's new film

By LAURA MILLER
Scene Critic

George Clooney’s “Good Night, and Good Luck” captivates the audience back into the 1950s and, despite the presence of many of today’s lingo and faces (including George Clooney, Robert Downey, Jr. and Jeff Daniels), is successful in achieving an accurate representation.

Clooney and cinematographer Robert Elswit photographed the entire picture in black and white, which creates a strikingly unique film that is both entertaining and informative. However, while the style and flow of the film make it cinematically exceptional, at times it interferes with the narrative and its comprehensibility.

Instead of presenting the audience with a history of McCarthyism, Clooney immerses the story and makes it his own. The film mixes vintage television broadcasts from the 1950s with a contemporary storyline, rendering the viewer aware of the inner workings of CBS.

As the story progresses, it becomes less and less apparent which shots are contemporary and which are from the vault. This artistic blending is made seamless through the use of the style of the acting. Clooney and Downey are able to leave behind remnants of their more typical suave/romantic typecasting and fully inhabit the roles that they portray. Daniels is a superb contribution to the cast — he and David Strathairn (who plays Edward R. Murrow) are a crucial element in bridging the gap between the modern and the 1950s.

As a whole, the film is well written, but screenwriters Clooney and Heslov sometimes forget that the audience members are familiar with McCarthyism. Although it is a famous event in American history, those who have little specific knowledge or experience about the original broadcasting and events may be slightly confused at the beginning of the film. Despite this, the film’s focus is clear, and once the audience adjusts to the style of the movie, it is easy to follow. However, this initial confusion presents one major artistic flaw — while any audience member will learn from this film, there have been so many references to the past, the audience does not enjoy the film more and extract more meaning from it.

The story is very different from a typical Hollywood movie in that it does not have the exciting plot line of many modern films. Instead, it is much more reflective of real life. It has many characters that each have their own individual story. It is a compilation of everyday events in the lives of everyday people that unexpectedly create something extraordinary.

This style is to the story’s advantage. The down-to-earth quality of the characters and television blurs allow the audience to connect to the story and understand its pertinence to life as an American. The story is so authentic to the 1950s styles, manners of speech, behavior and everything else that it feels completely non-fictional. It becomes apparent that it is Clooney’s goal to record a story, not to write one.

Like no other movie that is out in theaters, “Good Night and Good Luck” addresses the importance of American heritage. It leaves behind the typical themes of drama to address the issue of the common man and his role in our country. The tagline for the movie states, “We will not walk in fear of one another,” emphasizing the need for Americans to confront issues valiantly at a grassroots level. “Good Night, and Good Luck” inspires change in a country filled with fear and provides a hopeful outlook for the future.

Contact Laura Miller at ljmiller@nd.edu

THE FAMILY STONE

Moss grows fat on ‘The Family Stone’

By KATIE BARON
Scene Critic

Every year, theaters are flooded with holiday films that emphasize the importance of family. “The Family Stone,” which, like its predecessors, is both comedic and bittersweet, is a contemporary take on this American staple. Although the thoroughly modern family dynamic and the subtle manner in which the film deals with serious family issues are a bit jarring to some viewers, overall the film is unremarkable.

The family’s modern dynamic is particularly evident in a scene in which the homosexuality and deadness of the youngest son become a topic of conversation at the dinner table. Although perhaps a bit overdone, the acknowledgement of the diversity in today’s world adds interest to the film. Also, the understated scenes in which no words are spoken work harmoniously with the actors’ performance and knowledge on the subject will both enjoy the film more and extract more meaning from it.

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Indiana used a 15-6 run in the second half to make it 55-49 with 8.23 to go. The Illini rallied with 12 straight points to close to 55-52 whenandle completed a three-point play with 4:52 left. Brown missed a 3-pointer with 4.5 seconds left that would have tied the game. Jamar Smith tipped in the miss to make it 61-60. Robert Vaden then made one of two free throws with 3.6 seconds left, and Rich McBride's half-court buzzer beater at the buzzer was off the mark as fans raced onto the court.

West Virginia 64, Providence 48

Providence was No. 12 West Virginia's final tuneup before a nationally televised matchup at No. 18 UCLA. It looked like it. Kevin Pittsnogle scored 18 points and grabbed 11 rebounds to help No. 12 West Virginia win its 11th straight game, beating Providence on Tuesday night.

"We didn't shoot as well as we did against Marquette and still won by 15-20 something," Pittsnogle said. "It's a great confidence builder for our defense."

The 11 straight wins are the school's most since the 1992-93 season when Randle completed a half-court heave at the buzzer for the game winner against UCLA.

The 11 straight wins are also the Mountaineers' most since the 1998-99 season when Randle completed a half-court heave at the buzzer for the game winner against UCLA.

The Illini closed to 28-24 at the half when Brown connected on a 3-pointer before the buzzer — his only basket of the night.

Indiana guard Marshall Strickland makes a pass around Dee Brown of Illinois during the Hoosiers' 62-60 win Tuesday.

During the 1984-89 season, "it's really good news that we're not living or dying by the three," West Virginia coach John Beilin said. "And now we can look at the next game. Everybody knows who we play." West Virginia (13-3, 5-0 Big East) is also off to its best start in the league since joining 11 years ago.

"The schedule is a little bit different this year," Beilin said. "Don't give us too much credit yet.

Mike Gasney added 18 points for West Virginia. Pittsnogle and Gasney are the Big East's leading scoring tandem, averaging 22.8 and 21.8 points, respectively. The duo also rank first and second, respectively, in Big East 3-point shooting percentages.

The game was the finale of a three-game homestand for the Mountaineers. West Virginia travels to California to face UCLA on Jan. 21.

Pittsnogle could miss the game because his wife, Heather, didn't shoot as well as she did against Marquette and still won by 15-20 something, Pittsnogle said. "It's a great confidence builder for our defense."

The 11 straight wins are also the Mountaineers' most since the 1998-99 season when Randle completed a half-court heave at the buzzer for the game winner against UCLA.

"She can go anytime, that's why I am kind of nervous about it," Pittsnogle said of the trip. "Hopefully they don't happen when I'm out there. I'll be thinking about it. But when I'm on the court, basketball is all I think about."

West Virginia led the last-place Friars (7-8, 0-4) to 33-21 at the end of the first half. The Mountaineers scored a run in the last 15 seconds of the half lead, the Pirates (9-6, 1-3) scored a run at the end of the first half.

Providence pulled within eight points before Pittsnogle and Gansey combined for nine straight points. Frank Young added four points in the push. He finished with eight.

Randall Hanke led Providence with 14 points. Donna McGrath added nine.

West Virginia's biggest lead was 56-33 in Young's tip-in with 7:58 remaining. Providence was never closer than 11 points afterward. The Mountaineers have not trailed in two games after having to rally from double-digit deficits in their first two Big East games.

Providence started 0-4 in conference play for the second straight season. It lost its first seven conference games last year.

Villanova guard Randy Foye shoots over Randall Hanke of Seton Hall in the Wildcats' nine-point win Tuesday.

Villanova 73, Seton Hall 64

After Villanova played one of its worst 20 minutes of the season, Allan Hay and Randy Foye took over — only this time it was in the locker room and not on the court.

There was no ranting, only a simple message to get with the defensive program or get ready to lose to Seton Hall.

"We've got to get it together," Foye said he told his teammates. "We can't wait for them to roll over and die."

Foye scored 19 points, Kyle Lowry had 14 and No. 8 Villanova did pull it together in the second half and survived another tight one in a win over the Pirates on Tuesday night.

The Wildcats (12-2, 3-1 Big East) sorely needed this one after their roughest week of the season. They sandwiched a tougher-than-expected overtime win at Rutgers between losses against then West Virginia and Texas in a top-five showdown at the Associated Press Top 25.

"You have to go out there and give a great effort because if you don't, you're on a losing streak," Foye said.

After shooting a miserable 27 percent against the Longhorns on Saturday, the Wildcats rebounded with a decent 43 percent and had five players in double digits.

Villanova got 12 points from Will Sheridan, the only true frontcourt player in their four-guard starting lineup. Often left to do the little noticed dirty work — like setting screens and boxing out — the 6-foot-8 Sheridan worked hard for tough baskets inside and got to the free-throw line seven times.

"He played like a veteran tonight," coach Jay Wright said. "He's the most consistent guy we have. That's what we count on him for."

He also had a big blocked shot, that made a difference in the offensive. Nearly unstoppable while building a 13-point first-half lead, the Pirates (9-6, 1-3) came crashing back and shot only 31 percent in the second half.

"For some reason in the first half, it was like our feet were frozen," Wright said. "I've got to watch the film to understand it."

The Observer accepts classifieds every business day from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Notre Dame office, 324 South Dining Hall. Deadline for next-day classifieds is 3 p.m. All classifieds must be prepaid. The charge is 5 cents per character per day, including all spaces. The Observer reserves the right to edit all classifieds for content without issuing refunds.
**World Baseball Classic**

Rodriguez unsure which country to represent

Yankees third baseman eligible to suit up for United States, Dominican Republic, says he doesn't want to offend either.

Associated Press

Alex Rodriguez was among 60 players on the Dominican Republic's preliminary roster for the World Baseball Classic, but it wasn't immediately clear whether he would play.

The AL MVP, eligible to play for the United States and the Dominican Republic, said last month that he intended to play for the Dominican team, then said he wouldn't play at all because he didn't want to offend either country.

His agent, Scott Boras, said last week that Rodriguez had not made a decision. Gene Tenen, the No. 2 official of the players' association, said he would attend to persuade A-Rod to participate.

After submitting the roster Monday, Dominican general manager Stan Javier said he was unsure whether the New York Yankees third baseman would play. Final 30-man rosters for the 16-team tournament, scheduled for March 3-20, are due five days before each team's opener.

Following the roster submission, U.S. general manager Bob Watson said he will inquire whether Rodriguez also could be included on his team's preliminary roster.

"I don't know what the rules are, but we'll be checking on those," Watson said Tuesday during a telephone conference call. "If we have the capability to add him to ours, we definitely will do that."

A player can be on multiple 60-man rosters but only one 30-man roster. Major League Baseball Players Association spokesman Greg Bouril said the Dominican roster includes pitcher Pedro Martinez (New York Mets), first baseman Albert Pujols (St. Louis), designated hitter David Ortiz (Boston), left fielder Manny Ramirez (Boston), outfielder Vladimir Guerrero (Los Angeles Angels), shortstop Miguel Tejada (Baltimore), pitcher Bartolo Colon (Angels), second baseman Alfonso Soriano (Washington), third baseman Alex Rodriguez (Yankees) and infielder Aramis Ramirez (Chicago Cubs).

Free agent outfielder Sammy Sosa is on the Dominican roster but hasn't said whether he intends to play.

**NFL**

Cowher unwilling to criticize officials after Polamalu call

Controversial replay overruled almost cost Pittsburgh game

Associated Press

Following a trying weekend filled with reversals, replays and reprimands, NFL officials got a strong show of support from an unlikely source: Pittsburgh Steelers coach Bill Cowher.

Cowher not only refused to criticize the officials for reversing upon review a possible game-clinching interception by Steelers safety Troy Polamalu against the Colts — the NFL later said the reversal was wrong — he gave them a vote of confidence on Tuesday.

"Our officials are doing the very best that they can do. Obviously, at times, there's going to be mistakes made," Cowher said. "To me, those guys are human like the rest of us, and we're moving on."

Cowher also dismissed linebacker Joey Porter's angry comments that the officials were determined to get Indianapolis into the AFC championship game, calling them "ridiculous."

Porter criticized the officiating repeatedly during postgame interviews, saying, "At one point, I didn't think the refs were going to let us out of here with a victory."

Cowher, no doubt trying to temper Porter's unusually strong comments, said that the Steelers have a 15-minute cooling off period for players but that, "we've got some guys who could probably use a little longer than that."

"Joey's comments at the end of the game were certainly made out of emotion,” said Cowher. "But there's no conspiracy, or things of that nature, that's ridiculous."

The call that most upset the Steelers —numerous replays showed Polamalu controlling the ball throughout and fumbling only upon getting up to run — and the Colts went on to score a touchdown and a 2-point conversion to make it 21-18 with 4 1/2 minutes remaining.

After Polamalu made the catch, he rolled over with the ball in his hands and fumbled as he was getting up to run, then fell on the ball. The call on the field was an interception, but referee Pete Morelli reversed it after the Colts challenged, ruling Polamalu had not completed the catch.

The call stunned the Steelers —numerous replays showed Polamalu controlling the ball throughout and fumbling only upon getting up to run — and the Colts went on to score a touchdown and a 2-point conversion to make it 21-18 with 4 1/2 minutes remaining.

Mike Pereira, the NFL's vice president of officiating, said in a statement Monday that Morelli misinterpreted the rule determining a catch, but that the call on the field should have been upheld.

Cowher declined Tuesday to talk about that call or any others.

"I know a lot of talk has taken place with the officiating,” he said. "The biggest thing to understand is that all of our questions have been answered. The league got back to us about that. It's important now that we move on."

The Polamalu play was one of only a series of disputed rulings during the NFL's four divisional playoff games last weekend. Two touchdowns were reversed in the Panthers' 29-21 loss over the Bears in Chicago, and there was considerable debate whether Champ Bailey fumbled out of bounds at the end of his pivotal 100-yard interception during Denver's 27-13 victory over New England on Saturday night.

Patriots tight end Ilen Watson ran from one corner of the field to another to knock the ball out of Bailey's hands just as Bailey was about to score. If the officials had determined the ball crossed the goal line before going out of bounds, it would have been a touchdown and New England would have gotten the ball at its own 20.

**Mission Impossible**

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American fans confused over host city's name

The northern Italian city of Torino, commonly anglicized to ‘Turin,’ will host Winter Olympics in February

Associated Press

It’s the Olympic version of “You say tomato, I say tomah­to.”

The city in northern Italy that’s hosting the Winter Olympics next month is “Torino” to the locals and NBC. For most of us non-Italians, it’s always been Turin.

“I believe readers are seeing it on television with the NBC logo, it says ‘Torino,’ the Olympic Games,” Ron Fritz, sports editor at The News Journal in Wilmington, Del., said Tuesday. “And then they see it in the paper, ‘Turin,’ and they’re thinking we got it wrong.”

The explanation for the different versions is simple.

“Turin is the English translation of the Italian word Torino,” said Clara Orban, a professor of Italian at DePaul University. “Standard practice in the United States is if a city name has been translated differently, go with the English translation.”

That’s what The Associated Press is doing, its policy — and it was around long before Turin was awarded the Olympic Games — is to use the English version of foreign cities. It’s Rome, not Roma. Munich, not Muenchen. Moscow instead of Mockba or Moskva.

And Florence isn’t going to be called by its Italian name, Firenze. At least not without an accompanying map so people would know what city that is.

“We use Turin in accordance with our long-standing style to use English names on English-language wires,” said Terry Taylor, AP sports editor. “It’s the Shroud of Torino, for instance, not the Shroud of Turin. And when the World Cup comes to Germany this summer, we will write that games will be played in Munich, not Muenchen.

“Of course, in the interest of accuracy, we will not Anglicize the name in full references to the Olympic organizing committee, which uses Turino, and we will not change Turino to Torino in quotations.”

The New York Times, Sports Illustrated and many other news organizations follow similar policies. Travel writers at the Times, for example, have been calling cities by their English names for years.

“For us, it’s a pretty simple style rule,” said Tom Jolly, sports editor at the Times. “We follow Webster’s and The World Fact Book as our guide. Generally those are spelled in an Anglicized fashion.”

For the Italians, it’s a matter of Italian how it rolls off the tongue, said Mike McCarley, vice president of communications and marketing for NBC Sports.

“Decided on that trip that we would call it Torino.”

And with as many as 200 million people tuning in to watch the games, that means there’ll be a lot of Americans speaking one word of Italian for a few weeks.

USA Today also went with Turino because that is the official name, said Monte Lorell, the paper’s managing editor for sports.

“We had to decide what is the least confusing to our readers. You could say the Turino Olympics in Turin, but that just leads to confusion,” Lorell said.

“We decided to just make it uniform all the way throughout. I feel a little bit better that NBC is using Torino,” Lorell said, “because that’s what readers will be seeing on TV.”

So, Turin or Torino.

Either way, the Winter Olympics will simply call the city home next month.

“I think,” Jolly said, “people will be able to figure it out.”

Until they do, confusion is sure to be the rule.
Irish ride five-meet winning streak into new year

By GREG ARBOGAST
Sports Writer

The Irish continued to make splashes during Christmas break, extending their winning streak to five.

With their 1-2-0-to-1,111 defeat of No. 15 Michigan in last weekend’s tri-meet that also included Illinois, the Irish extended a streak that includes two dual meet victories, two invitational championships and now a tri-meet victory.

This win was especially impressive given that the Irish had to come from behind to catch the Wolverines. Notre Dame trailed Michigan by 45 points after the first day and 45 points heading into the final event Saturday night, but the Irish came through when it mattered most.

Katie Carroll and Casey Wagner secured a one-two finish in the 200 butterfly to give the Irish the lead. After the 200 butterfly, Notre Dame needed at least a second-place finish in the 400 freestyle relay to win the meet. The team of Christa Higgins, Casey Wagner, Meghan Linnelli and Rebecca Grove was up to the challenge, securing a second-place finish in the event with a time of 3:29.81 and a first-place overall finish for the Irish.

“I think that this meet showed we’re a great dual meet team,” coach Carrie Nixon said. “It really showed that we can rally when our backs are against the wall.”

Last weekend’s victory gets the new year off to a great start for the Irish, as they are picking up where they left off before winter break. While most swimmers spent winter break in the harsh weather of winter, the swimming and diving team spent two weeks in warm Las Vegas. The two weeks were spent in the most intense training of the season with breaks to compete against UNLV and North Carolina.

“Over break, you don’t have other worries such as school,” said Nixon. “This is the point of the trip was to maintain the training, get some competition in, and give the team some home time. We reminded the girls that this is the home stretch, and we want them to refocus on our goals.”

Goals remaining for the Irish include wins in the final two dual meets the next two weekends. After that will come the Big East Championships and NCAA championships. Nixon hopes that as many as 10 swimmers will qualify for the NCAA for one of the team’s best performances ever.

“Our performance until now has been expected,” Nixon said. “I want the people who are surprised by our performance are those on the outside looking in. We expected this to be a special year.”

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SMC SWimming

Saint Mary’s falls to Alma

Belles win just three events on route to conference defeat

By BECKI DORNER and DEIRDRE KRAUSL
Sports Writers

Alma defeated Saint Mary’s 119-60 Tuesday, and won nine of 11 events in the first MIAA meet for both teams. This was also the first meet for the Belles after a long winter training break. The Belles performed well in the swimming events, but lack of divers led to a forfeit in those areas.

The Belles picked up three first-place finishes on the night, with two by Kelly Neis. Neis won the 500-yard freestyle with a time of 5:44.51 and the 1,000 yard freestyle, touching at 11:32.01. Karla McNough took first in the 200-yard freestyle, finishing in 2:19.54.

The Scots’ Emily Smith took first in the 200 IM, touching out in 2:24.43. Katie Dingeman and Katie Carroll took second and fourth in the race, respectively. Smith’s teammate Sara Swanton was first in the 200 fly in a time of 2:33.32, but Dingeman took second with 2:36.76.

Alma’s Trezrak was first in the 100 free with a time of 1:06.36, but Kelly Tigh post-ed a second-place finish for the Belles. Coe took first place in the 200 back while Dulan was first in the 200 breaststroke. The Scots wrapped up with a 200 free relay win — Coe, Smith, Dulan and Trezrak recorded a time of 1:52.37 on route to the team victory.

The next meet for the Belles is at Roll’s Aquatic Center versus Kalamazoo on Friday. The women’s meet will take place in the 4:00 pm session.

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SMC Basketball

Belles play .500 ball over Christmas break

By TIM KAISER
Sports Writer

Before Christmas break, the Belles set a new program and school record, finishing their regular season with an 8-8 record, including second place in the MIAA.

Kelly Nelis, Katie Carroll and Sara Swanton were named as first-team all-conference performers. Nelis and Carroll both won races and contributed to team success, with Carroll being named the most valuable player of the conference.

The Belles had a tough week of training before the break, with a win against University of St. Francis and a loss against Saint Louis University. Nixon said.

The Belles have a lot of confidence coming into the break, with a win against a tough University of St. Francis and a loss against Saint Louis University. Nixon said.

The Belles are looking forward to their final meet of the season against Saint Louis University, with a win in the MIAA tournament and a potential trip to the NCAA championships.

Contact Tim Kaiser at tkaiser@nd.edu
Mangini surveys a Patriots practice on Jan. 12, where he served as New England’s defensive coordinator prior to accepting the New York Jets’ head coaching position on Tuesday. He is expected to ink a five-year deal.

Mangini takes over tarnished Jets franchise

Associated Press

HEMPTSTEAD, N.Y. — Eric Mangini has worked for Bill Parcells and Bill Belichick, learning from two of the greatest coaches in the NFL. The Jets are banking on that pedigree to lead them back into the playoffs.

Despite his youth and relative inexperience, the organization hired Mangini as its coach Tuesday. The former Patriots defensive coordinator, who turns 35 on Thursday, becomes the youngest head coach in the league.

Terms of the deal weren’t known but it is believed he will get between $2 million and $2.5 million per year over five years.

“Being compared to Bill Belichick is one of the highest compliments you can be paid,” Mangini said. “I am not Bill Belichick, I am not Bill Parcells. I am Eric Mangini. I’m going in approach it my way. I’m going to take the experiences and the lessons that I learned from those guys and I’m going to apply that to my team.”

The baby-faced Mangini won’t be confused with former coach Herman Edwards, who left for Kansas City last week. Mangini was reserved and low key at his introductory news conference, hardly exhibiting any of the fire and energy that is Edwards’ trademark.

But this is a new era for the organization, which hopes Mangini can instill a different attitude after the Jets finished 4-12 last season.

Much of those expectations have to do with the people Mangini has worked under. While Mangini was going to Wesleyan, he figured he would be an investment banker. But he spent two summers studying in Australia while coaching a semipro football team. It was there he realized he wanted to go into coaching permanently.

Mangini took a job as a ball boy with the Cleveland Browns, then went to work in the public relations department.

He then met Belichick, who gave him a few assignments to do. Belichick liked his work and gave him a job as an assistant in 1995.

From there he worked for Ted Marchibroda in Baltimore in 1996, then for Parcells and Belichick with the Jets from 1997-99.

IN BRIEF

Seahawks prepare to face tenacious Panther defense

KIRKLAND, Wash. — Two weeks ago, Seahawks coach and former high school history teacher Mike Holmgren gave his assistants some homework for their playoff bye week — start studying the other NFC post-season teams and compile preliminary scouting reports on each.

Soon, the coaches were scribbling notes on large dry-erase boards in their offices.

But when Washington became Seattle’s first-round foe, the assistants erased all of the other teams’ information.

Thankfully for Holmgren, offensive quality-control coach Gary Reynolds copied the notes on the Panthers.

“Bless his heart,” Holmgren said. “So we did get a bit of a start on Carolina.”

He’s glad they did.

What Seattle’s assistants saw during their extra studies — and what Holmgren saw on television — was an staunch Panthers defense led by athletic left-footed defensive end Julius Peppers and former Seahawk Ken Lucas in the defensive backfield. It’s a unit that is sure to provide a stern challenge for Seattle’s offense, which led the league in points scored (452) this season.

Teixeira inks $15.4 million contract with Rangers

ARLINGTON, Texas — All-Star first baseman Mark Teixeira agreed to a $15.4 million, two-year contract Tuesday with the Texas Rangers, avoiding salary arbitration this year and next.

Teixeira hit .301 with 43 home runs and 144 RBIs last season. The RBIs were the most for a switch-hitter, breaking the record set by George Davis, who had 136 RBIs for the New York Giants in 1936.

The Rangers also agreed to one-year deals with right-hander Adam Eaton ($4.65 million) and outfielder Brad Wilkerson ($3.9 million), avoiding arbitration with two players acquired in separate trades last month.

Teixeira will get $6 million this season and $9.4 million in 2007.

Hingis wins in first round of the Australian Open

MELBOURNE, Australia — Martina Hingis looked as if she’d never been away.

Playing on the center court where she won three of her five Grand Slam titles before retiring for three years, the Swiss star was right at home in the first major of her comeback effort, routing 30th-seeded Vera Zvonareva 6-1, 6-2 Tuesday in the first round of the Australian Open.

Hingis’ victory was all the more impressive in that she had so little trouble with Zvonareva, who became increasingly irritated with everything from Hingis’ winners to disputed line calls, repeatedly spiking her racket and slamming balls in anger.
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Men's Swimming

Irish see hard work pay off in Dallas, Evansville

By JACK THORNTON
Sports Writer

The Irish took advantage of the break from classes with a grueling training schedule, which paid off with a road win against Evansville and a fifth-place finish in the 24th annual Dallas Morning News Classic.

Coach Tim Welsh said the training went well for his team.

"The weather was beautiful, and when you're training outdoors, good weather makes for good training," Welsh said of his team's two-week stay in Boca Raton, Fla. "We did a great deal of training, and I think we got a lot accomplished, so from an athletic point of view, it was great." Following a 10-day hiatus after finals, the team reconvened on Dec. 27 to train at St. Andrew's High School for 15 days of brutal work.

"We had a lot of sunscreen on," said senior Patrick Davis. "A couple of people got burned, but we knew what to expect."

Still, the No. 19 Irish weren't to relax.

"We were training four hours a day, every day, and we had something like 29 straight practices," he said. "I don't remember the exact number, but Sunday was first day off since Christmas."

The team makes the trip to Florida annually, but this is the first year the Irish have been invited to the prestigious Dallas Morning News Classic. The meet's format had each school sending eight swimmers and one diver.

In addition to the Irish, this year's field featured No. 7 Florida, which took first, followed by No. 16 Northwestern, No. 14 Florida State, host Southern Methodist, Notre Dame and Washington.

"The field was extremely tough," Welsh said. "It was a great field, and with a small format, it was probably the fastest field we've raced against."

Though the Irish finished 120 points behind Florida and more than 100 points behind Northwestern, Welsh expressed some measure with his team's effort.

"I thought our swims were very strong, and especially strong considering where we were in our training phase," Welsh said. "The guys that swam there trained every day since the 27th ... they had a right to be tired. They were tired and they still raced well."

Among the highlights were freshman diver Michael Bullfin capturing second place in the three-meter diving, while junior Ted Brown took fourth in the 500-yard freestyle and sixth in the 200-yard butterfly with a season best time of 1:57.76.

The team was split, however, as last Friday had the Irish competing in both the Dallas meet and a dual meet in Evansville. Assistant coach Matt Tallman went with nine members of the swim team to Texas, while Welsh coached the remainder of the squad across the state.

"I think we'll be better this weekend and next weekend because we raced last weekend," Welsh said.

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Track and Field

Team begins indoor season with solid showing at Purdue

Irish send a select group of runners to West Lafayette in preparation for Notre Dame Opener this Saturday

By JORDAN BELTZ
Sports Writer

While most of the student body was returning back to campus after Christmas break, a select group of Irish track and field team members competed in the Purdue Invitational, held Jan. 14 in West Lafayette.

After the four-week holiday break, the Irish turned in a good performance, earning two first-place finishes and six second-place finishes. Although both sides notched solid starts to 2006, both first-place finishes were earned on the women's side.

The jumpers and throwers turned in the best performances of the weekend, with the Irish women sweeping the high jump competition.

Freshman Lauren Biscardi took home top honors, clearing 1.68 meters to lead the way. Emily Loomis and Caitie Gullickson also were able to clear 1.68 meters, which meant the final order was determined by a jumpoff.

Freshman Mary Saxe, fresh off of her NCAA qualification in the pole vault that she earned at the Blue and Gold Invitational in December, took home the pole vault title with a vault of 3.80 meters.

"I'm pretty happy with how it went," Saxe said after qualifying for the NCAA Tournament. "It wasn't my best jump, but being my first college meet, and looking at where I am at this point in the season, I'm pleased."

Other notable performances on the women's side of the ledger were turned in by Alyssia Hasan, who earned her berth in the Big East Championship with a long jump of 5.43 meters, and senior Meghan Horn, who was the runner up in both the shot put and weight throw events.

While the women turned in a stellar performance, the men showed a marked improvement from their first meet as well. The men saw their biggest improvement take place in the weight throw, with all four participants in the event bettering their marks from the last meet.

Junior Garet Koolkin led the way, finishing second with a throw of 16.45 meters, followed by sophomore Kyle Annon in third.

After Saturday's event, the Irish have now qualified 29 athletes for the Big East Championships in 20 different events, along with the spot that Saxe has locked up for the NCAA Championship to be held in May.

The Irish will return to action this Saturday for the Notre Dame Opener, to be held in Lotus. The Opener marks the first of three consecutive home meets on the indoor track and field schedule.

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session with his own 3-point play. Falls led all scorers with 26 points on 8-of-13 shooting. He was 6-of-11 from 3-point range.

Pittsburgh 100, Notre Dame 97
Quinn scored 37 points and led the Irish back from a nine-point deficit with less than a minute remaining to force overtime, but Pittsburgh guard Ronald Ramon hit a game-winning 3-pointer in double overtime to keep the Panthers undefeated.

Notre Dame 74, Wofford 71
In Notre Dame's final game before Big East play, the Irish escaped with a win after Torin Francis hit two free throws with 12.6 seconds remaining at the Joyce Center Dec. 30. Wofford had a chance to tie the game when it moved the ball up the court following Francis' free throws. Wofford forward Howard Wilkerson had a look from 3-point range, but his shot hit the front rim. Wilkerson led all scorers with 27 points.

Thirty of Quinn's 37 points came after halftime, as the Irish point guard hit big shots down the stretch to keep his team in the game. He scored 16 consecutive points during the second half. Pittsburgh forward Aaron Gray scored 25 points, and guard Carl Krauer scored 22 in front of a Peterson Events Center crowd.

Notre Dame 70, Columbia 68
Despite being outscored 44-16 in the paint by the Lions, the Irish escaped with a victory led by the impressive free throw shooting of the first half. Notre Dame outscored Columbia 28-6 from the free throw line. The Irish trailed the Lions for much of the first half, but managed to take a 34-33 lead into halftime.

Quinn led the Irish with 18 points — 15 of which came in the second half. McAlarney added 14 points in the victory.

Notre Dame 80, Niagara 59
Notre Dame shot 55 percent from the field and made a season-high 12 shots from 3-point range to defeat Niagara Dec. 21 at the Joyce Center.

Falls scored 19 points for the Irish when he added 16. The two Irish guards were 5-of-10 and 6-of-6 from the arch, respectively.

Francis played strong inside, scoring 14 points and 11 rebounds. The Irish forward also grabbed nine rebounds.

Notre Dame 65, IPFW 63
Notre Dame narrowly avoided a big upset at Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, but Francis' points and 11 rebounds saved the game Dec. 18.

Francis scored the final six points for the Irish.

Freshman forward Ryan Ayers came up with big defensive stop when IPFW had the ball with 3.3 seconds left, Knocking the ball loose at the buzzer.

Notes:
- Big East commissioner Mike Tranghese announced Wednesday that the Big East Tournament, to be held March 8-11 at Madison Square Garden in New York City, has sold out in advance for the first time ever. The Big East has played its postseason conference tournament at the Garden for 24 years. All tickets were sold to "fans and constituents" of the 16 member institutions, Tranghese said.

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Fencing
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specific school," junior Valerie Providenza said. "So [the North American Cup] is used to determine the top fencers in the U.S., and those who earn the most points at the end of the season go on to make the national team. But others go just to prepare for the NCAA or the World Cup. It all depends on your skill level."

In the Division I Men's Epee competition, junior Patrick Gettings led the Irish at 34th, and freshman Mark Kubit placed 29th in the men's foil. The Division I Sabre competition was led by junior Patrick Giattas, 18th, and freshman Bill Thanhouser, 24th, who recently earned the No. 1 ranking in the USAFA under-21 men's saber rankings.

"The men fenced well, it was just tough competition," Providenza said. "There are many more events for us to perform well in."

Junior captain Amy Orlando agreed.

"Fencing is a mental sport that varies from day to day. There are so many little aspects and technical Lechmanal," she said. "We just see it as a bad day for both the men and the women and it doesn't dictate what we should expect for the rest of the season."

In the Division I Women's portion of the competition, Orlando finished 19th and eighth-year Becca Chimnansky took 21st. Freshman Adi Natti, led the Irish in the women's foil in 21st place. The saber competition showcased sophomore Maeli Zagnis and Providenza, placing sixth and tenth overall, respectively.

In the junior men's portion of the competition, Kubit finished 15th in men's foil and Thanhouser placed 11th in the men's saber.

For the women, Montoya placed 15th in the epee and Natti and Prov placed third and 54th in the foil.

The Irish return to action Jan. 22 at the NYU Bash.

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ND Women's Basketball

Duffy is fearless leader of scrappy Irish squad

Just seven minutes into the second half, Tuesday's game looked to be well on its way to being decided. After playing what coach Muffett McGraw called its best half of basketball all year, Notre Dame seemed about to fold. Down 31-39 after an 18-0 DePaul run, things were not looking good for a struggling Notre Dame team.

But the Irish didn't give up. In fact, they responded by playing like they hadn't all year, coming back from 12 down and going on a run of their own while holding DePaul scoreless for 8:29 and coming away with a hard-fought 78-75 victory over the No. 10 Blue Demons. It was the first win over a top-10 team this year for No. 24 Notre Dame after the brilliant second-half comeback.

"We've had a lot of practice getting better," McGraw said somewhat sarcastically after the game. "The Irish, after all, had lost three of their last four Big East games before Tuesday, and now, by 10 points, and all three to unranked teams.

But this time was different, thanks to Megan Duffy.

The Irish point guard took this team on her shoulders for the entire 39 minutes she played. And for the minute she was out of the game in the first half, the Irish looked dazed and confused, forcing McGraw to put her star point guard and leader back in the game.

Duffy played some of the best basketball she's played all year. Hitting shots when the shot clock was winding down, making key shots after shot. The 5-foot-7 guard even rebounded, pulling down a career-high eight boards. She just missed a triple-double, adding 23 points and nine assists to her game to go along with three steals and just two turnovers.

She was the glue this Irish team needed to win the game. She set the tone, she played the way her team needed to play and they followed her without missing a beat.

The normally defensive oriented Breona Gray hit two big threes while scoring 10 points on the night. Lindsay Schrader hit big shot after big shot for good for nine points and Crystal Erwin brought the attitude and physical presence to the post to help Courtney LaVere contain DePaul star Khara Smith.

But it began and ended with this team's fearless leader.

When she doves for a loose ball and wasn't awarded a foul, she played through it. After the game, in typicalIrish fashion, she shrugged off nothing doing the damage, shrugged off DePaul's 18-0 run and kept playing hard.

"I had a hard foul and two people fell on me," Duffy said nonchalantly when asked about the injury and the pain she appeared to be in. "I was fine after a few minutes of collecting myself and shaking it. I was fine after that."

As Megan Duffy does, this team does. And Tuesday night, the senior point guard found a way to take Notre Dame all the way back being a team capable of beating a top-10 DePaul squad that had only lost one game before Tuesday, after the Irish had lost to inferior St. John's, Seton Hall and Louisville in previous Big East games. Duffy reminded this team what it is like to be the elite team it was a year ago.

"And Megan, what can you say about Megan?" McGraw said at the end of her opening remarks.

"Almost a triple-double. That's the best point guard in America right there."

And for those remarks to come from the ever-demanding Muffett McGraw, a former point guard herself — well, that speaks volumes for just how well Megan Duffy not only led but played on Tuesday night.

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

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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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Close losses tell story of ND conference games

By BOBBY GRIFFIN and PAT LEONARD
Sports Writers

Notre Dame won five straight non-conference games prior to the new year, but the Irish have stumbled off to a rocky 1-3 start in the Big East. Though all three losses were by six points or fewer, the Irish have surrendered an average of 84.5 points per game thus far in conference, dead last in the 16-team Big East.

Syracuse defeated Notre Dame. McNamara scored 25 and Devendorf added 22 for the Orange, who led by five points at the half. Quinn’s 3-pointer with 1:29 remaining in the second half cut the Syracuse lead to four points, but McNamara and Devendorf were 4-of-4 from the line in the final 1:21 to seal the victory.

FENCING
Duelers struggle in Texas

By DAN TAPETILLO
Sports Writer

The Irish sent 14 of their top competitors to the non-NCAA North American Cup in Houston, Texas last weekend to help measure themselves against the nation’s top fencers. The event took place at the Brown Convention Center — the same venue where the Irish won the 2005 NCAA Combined Fencing Championship last season, and this year had 6 of the 11 fencers from that squad.

However, this tournament was not a team-scoring event. "You only go to compete individually and are not representing a