Abroad programs balance student safety, experience

By AMANDA MICHAELS, EILEEN DUFFY
News Writers

Like a fairy tale, time spent studying abroad is a period of incredible adventure and growth for many students — complete with kings, queens and castles. But as is sometimes the case in these classic stories, venturing off the familiar path can have unexpectedly dangerous results.

Notre Dame has been consistently praised for the strength of its overseas programs, ranking fifth among American research universities for the percentage of students studying abroad in the most recent report issued by the Institute for International Education, and even higher in previous years. So, with over 1,000 students abroad almost every school year, the University bears a great responsibility in ensuring the health and welfare of participants in 17 countries across the globe.

"During such a turbulent and important period in history, many courageous students are interested in going abroad, and it is essential to balance their safe while promoting internationalism," said Julia Douthwaite, director of the Office of International Studies (ISP).

The greatest threat posed to students abroad, Douthwaite said, is often their own complicity — in forgetting that activities normal for life in Indiana may warrant more caution for those living overseas.

"Things do happen now and then in various sites abroad, many times because of imprudent behavior, like falling asleep on a train or walking alone at night," Douthwaite said. "The University has a 24-hour response system designed to address any issues that may arise, from lost passports to experiencing symptoms of a minor illness." She added that the University prides itself on being able to respond quickly and efficiently to any situation that may arise so students and their families feel comfortable while they are abroad.

Domers donate blood, life

By KATHLEEN MCDONNELL
News Writer

Known for their commitment to charity and social awareness, Notre Dame community members showed up in droves to donate a part of themselves — their blood — to the South Bend Blood Foundation.

From 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, willing donors entered Rolfs Recreation Center to give their blood. The enthusiastic response of the Notre Dame community made this the largest blood drive this year, with 180 willing donors filling the project to capacity. Office of International Studies employee Julia Douthwaite said that even 88 years of age, there is so much more that he wants to accomplish and "miles to go before we sleep," according to the inspirational quote attributed to Theodore Hesburgh.

Hesburgh joins ND community for film, talk

By BRIDGET KEATING
News Writer

Lured by the promise of a discussion with University President Emeritus Father Theodore Hesburgh at the screening of a movie about his life, students flocked to DeBartolo 101 Thursday night, filling the room nearly to capacity.

"The event is a tribute to this incredible person who is not only a part of Notre Dame history, but also a part of world history," said Jimmy Flaherty, Student Union Board Manager. SUB, in conjunction with Keough Hall, hosted the event.

"God, Country, Notre Dame — The Story of Father Ted Hesburgh, C.S.C." is a one-hour documentary about the life of Hesburgh, who served the University as president for 35 years and has been the "trustee confidant of popes, presidents, and academic leaders around the world — and yet considered himself simply a priest," said filmmakers Family Theatre Productions.

The film revealed aspects of Hesburgh's life that students may not have encountered previously, including his family life and childhood call to the priesthood. Afterwards, audience members welcomed Hesburgh to the stage with a lengthy standing ovation. He proceeded to discuss various aspects of his life at Notre Dame.

"It is great to be here tonight with the greatest student body in the world," Hesburgh said. He fielded questions from the crowd and spoke at length about diversity issues and education, which he brought to Notre Dame in 1972. He revealed his secret for success — the short prayer, "Come, Holy Spirit" — and said that even at 88 years of age, there is much more that he wants to accomplish and "miles to go before we sleep."
Paging Godwin

As the length of any internet discussion approaches infinity, the probability of comparison to Hitler or the Nazis approaches one. — Godwin's Law

Godwin, you're needlessly comparing this to Hitler or the Nazis when its topic is perceived institutional evil. — Comparison

The probability of comparison to Hitler or the Nazis, when its topic is perceived institutional evil, will approach one. — Corollary 1:

Comparison is made to Hitler or the Nazis, when its topic is perceived institutional evil, progressively better way to fit him or her into our worst insult, on par with "Nazi," "molester," or "atheist." — Corollary 2:

The probability that Hitler or the Nazis will be a part of comparison to Hitler or the Nazis, when its topic is perceived institutional evil, will approach one. — Corollary 3:

We all know the law: the probability that the undergraduate painting studio at the Crossroads Gallery in downtown South Bend will be a hub of discussion, a common topic, and a place for students to study and practice art. — Local Weather

The Department of Music will present Bach's Lament today in the O'Shaughnessy Performing Arts Center. Audience members are encouraged to bring their lunches to the free event. For reservations, call 631-2800.

The band Apprentice for Destruction will be performing live at Club Fever tonight.

"Poets and Pintores: Artists Conversing with Verse" art exhibit will open today in Moreau Art Galleries at Saint Mary's.

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

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

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

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

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

IN BRIEF

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Ramadan sues U.S. over visa
Scholar seeks to declare Patriot Act unconstitutional

Associated Press

A leading Muslim scholar who opposes the war in Iraq has sued the U.S. government, claiming officials used anti-terrorism laws to stop him from accepting speaking invitations from organizations.

In a federal lawsuit filed Wednesday, Tariq Ramadan accuses the government of manipulating the Patriot Act to muzzle him.

In a phone interview with The Associated Press, the Swiss intellectual scholar denied that he supports terrorism.

"I have no connections to terrorism," Ramadan said from Oxford, England, where he is a visiting fellow. "This is all about my political thoughts. And my political thoughts are known to everyone."

Ramadan was blocked from accepting a tenured teaching position at the University of Notre Dame when his visa was revoked in August 2004 under a provision of the Patriot Act, said Jameel Jaffer, an ACLU staff attorney.

Jaffer said the provision denies entry into the U.S. by a permanent resident foreigner who has used his status to endorse or espouse terrorism or to persuade others to do so.

Ramadan, 43, said he opposed the U.S. invasion of Iraq, and sympathizes with the resistance there and in Palestine. But he said he also opposes Islamic extremism, and promotes peaceful solutions.

"I want to build bridges," he said. "But I'm not blindly supportive of U.S. or European policies."

Ramadan's lawyer said his exclusion reflected an effort by the U.S. government to discourage academic debate about the war and other issues.

"The government should not be using the immigration laws as instruments of censorship," Jaffer said. Named as defendants in the lawsuit are Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Secretary of Homeland Security Michael Chertoff.

The suit seeks a declaration that the Patriot Act provision at issue is unconstitutional. It also seeks a court order preventing the government from relying on the provision to exclude Ramadan or any other foreign national.

Besides Ramadan, plaintiffs in the lawsuit include the American Academy of Religion, the American Association of University Professors and the PEN American Center, organizations which had invited Ramadan to speak in the U.S.

"The exclusion of Professor Ramadan illustrates that the Patriot Act and other post 9/11 laws and policies may be serving to increase American isolation at a time when international dialogue is more critical than ever," Salman Rushdie, president of the PEN American Center, said in a statement.

The center had invited Ramadan to speak in New York in April at its World Voices Festival.

The ACLU said Ramadan, a visiting fellow at St. Anthony's College at the University of Oxford, in August accepted British Prime Minister Tony Blair's invitation to join a government task force to examine the roots of extremism in Britain.

Megan Gaffney, a spokeswoman for government lawyers in Manhattan, said they had no immediate comment on the lawsuit.

"The government should not be using the immigration laws as instruments of censorship."

Jameel Jaffer
ACLU attorney

NASDAQ creates ND business endowment

The Nasdaq Stock Market Educational Foundation Inc. has created a $100,000 endowment at the University of Notre Dame in support of the annual business plan competitions sponsored by the University's Gigt Center for Entrepreneurial Studies.

The Nasdaq Educational Foundation Endowment for Excellence will be directed toward the development of a training and networking program for participants in the Gigot Center's McCloskey Business Plan Competition and Social Venture Plan Competition.

"We are most appreciative of this generous award, which will allow the managers of our competitions to develop a comprehensive program that will help all participants design better business plans," said James Davis, Ray and Milann Siegfried Director of the Gigot Center.

The new program will provide formal training to participants in the University's two competitions, with the objective of leveling the playing field between individuals with varying degrees of business experience. An expected outcome is that the program will help increase both the quality and quantity of business plan submissions.

"Above all, this program will aid in the competitions' educational mission," Davis said. "By providing improved training and networking sessions, it is more likely that people with backgrounds in other disciplines — such as theology, physics or peace studies — will enter the competitions."

Nasdaq has long been identified with entrepreneurialism and innovation," said Joan Conley, Corporate Secretary of The Nasdaq Stock Market and The Nasdaq Educational Foundation. "Innovation and new business ideas cannot be brought to fruition without a solid business plan. We are delighted to provide the type of training that will support the creation of new ideas and new companies."

The Nasdaq Stock Market Educational Foundation Inc. is a nonprofit organization that is engaged in promoting innovative thinking and learning about the role of capital formation and financial markets in a free-enterprise system. It gives grants to further financial markets literacy, and to foster entrepreneurialism and innovation in financial careers. The new endowment is funded by The Nasdaq Stock Market Inc. and awards approximately $2 million in grants annually to universities and educational nonprofit organizations.
Drive
continued from page 1
coordinate this event with The South Bend Medical Foundation.
As of Tuesday morning, many appointment times were available — especially on that day. However, between walk-ins and phone calls for appointments, every time slot was quickly filled.

According to Assistant Director of RecSports Jennie Phillips, Notre Dame historically steps up to the occasion when blood is needed. "The great thing about Notre Dame is the response. I am always impressed by people's willingness to give," Phillips said.
RecSports helps coordinate blood drives at least once per semester, but due to the mandatory 56-day period between donations per person, usually twice per semester is the maximum number hosted.

"Whenever The South Bend Medical Foundation needs blood, we can provide it," Phillips said.
Phillips also said willing students often call RecSports wondering if a drive could include evening hours, as class schedules can impede a student from volunteering. She plans to look into this option as a way to involve even more students in the effort.

Besides being in good health, a volunteer needs to be 17 years of age and 110 pounds to donate. There are temporary deferrals for people who have traveled overseas or recently received a vaccination.
Freshman Emily Balthasan, a resident of Pasquerilla East, said she decided to donate because "she knows her blood will go to people in need.
"It's one of the easiest and fastest ways to volunteer," she said. "The blood is invaluable, an always needed resource.
Pangborn resident Tricia Hughes said she also thinks blood donation is of high value to the community.
"After all, what student has not been someone touched by the life of someone in need of blood?" Hughes said.
Hughes, who has donated twice this academic year, alone, described the procedure as relatively painless and said the staff was caring and helpful. Hughes also said any discomfort donors may feel is greatly overshadowed by the rewards of donating.
"Donating blood is a great opportunity," she said. "I feel great the rest of the day knowing that I have helped increase someone's chances of survival.

The filmmakers also featured famous narrators, including testimony of four former United States presidents, Secretary of State and 1972 Notre Dame alumna Condoleezza Rice, and actors Sean Astin, Clarence Gilyard and Regis Philbin.

Though the film educated students about many biographical details of Hesburgh's life, his onstage presence in the following discussion made his skill at connecting with an audience. Afterwards, senior Andy Burkavage reflected on the experience.
"Tonight made me aware of how extraordinary his life has been," Burkavage said. "Students generally know what he has done for this school, but to see the level of his statesmanship and [its] international effect was highly impressive.

The documentary included many details of Hesburgh's close work with United States presidents and his huge role on the Civil Rights Commission, as well as stirring images such as one of Hesburgh hand-in-hand with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In the film, Hesburgh downplays his monumental role in civil rights work and other national affairs. He chooses instead to emphasize his role as priest, telling of his personal pledge to celebrate mass every day. He cheerily describes the litany of places in which he has celebrated the liturgy — recounting tales of makeshift masses in such locales as Antarctica, a plane above the Amazon and a submarine in the Pacific Ocean.

"Father Hesburgh is a beacon for the University, and it is every student's dream to meet him. We were happy to provide this forum for students."

— John Lindenmeyer, Keough Hall president

Junior Randy Yang expressed his deep appreciation of this Notre Dame legend and described his special bond with the priest.
"During freshman year, I shared a one-on-one liturgy with him in his office in the nearly deserted library," Yang said. "I was studying, and he asked me to join and assist him. It's something I am forever proud of and will tell my children and grandchildren about." Keough Hall president John Lindenmeyer described his hall's support for the movie as a no-brainer.
"Father Hesburgh is a beacon for the University, and it is very student's dream to meet him," he said. "We were happy to provide this forum for students."
Steve Tortorello, SUB Ideas and Issues Programmer, created the event. Tortorello said that Hesburgh's legacy is inseparable from that of Notre Dame, the value of his presence as a speaker should not be underestimated.
"When people think about 'big name speakers,' they often overlook the fact that we are so fortunate to have one of the most important men of the 20th century right here at Notre Dame," Tortorello said.

Contact Kathleen McDonnell at kmcdonn3@nd.edu

Contact Bridget Keating at bkeating@nd.edu

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Office of Information Technologies
Election of Hamas shocks world

Islamic militant wins majority in parliament; hopes darken for Mideast peace

Associated Press

RAMALLAH — Islamic militant group Hamas' landslide victory in Palestinian elections underscored the world Thursday, darkening prospects for Mideast peace as the region winds down decades of rule by the corruption-riddled Fatah Party.

The victory stunned even Hamas leaders, who mounted a well-organized campaign but have no experience in government. They offered to share power with President Mahmoud Abbas, the Fatah chief, who said he may go around the new government to talk peace with Israel.

Undercutting the tension between the secular Fatah and fundamentalist Hamas, about 3,000 supporters of the two-group marched through Ramallah and Abbas' private green flag over the Palestinian parliament. Fatah supporters tried to lower the banner. The two sides fought for about 30 minutes, throwing stones and breaking windows in the building.

Abbas had yet to decide how closely to work with a group that built its clout through suicide bombings. But his Fatah Party decided not to join a Hamas government, Fatah legislators said.

"We want to see a loyal opposition and rebuild the party," Erekat said after meeting with Abbas.

Leaders across the world demanded that Hamas, which is branded a terrorist group by the United States and European Union, renounce violence and recognize Israel.

"If your platform is the destruction of Israel, it means you're not a partner in peace, and we're interested in peace," President Bush said.

Acting Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said Israel will not negotiate with a Palestinian government that includes Hamas members, and senior Cabinet officials held an emergency meeting to discuss the repercussions of the vote. Acting Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni asked the EU not to deal with a "terror government."

Hamas leaders immediately took to the Internet -- and even Israeli airwaves to send out a moderate message.

"Don't be afraid," Haniyeh, a Hamas leader, told the BBC.

Mahmoud Zahar, another Hamas leader, said the group would extend its 10-year rule if Israel reciprocates. "If not, then we will have no option but to protect our people and our land," he said.

At a victory news conference late Thursday, however, Haniyeh said Hamas will "complete the liberation of other parts of Palestine." He did not say which territories he was referring to or how he would go about it.

Hamas has largely adhered to the cease-fire declared last February, while a smaller militant
group, Islamic Jihad, carried out six suicide bombings against Israelis during that period.

Abbas said he remained committed to peace talks and suggested they be conducted through the Palestine Liberation Organization rather than the Palestinian Authority.

That could help him side-step a Hamas-run government in peace talks.

"I am committed to implementing the Peasem Program on which you elect me a year ago," he said in a televised speech. "It is a program based on negotiations and peaceful settlement with Israel."

GOV to try to force vote on Alito

WASHINGTON — Die-hard Democratic critics of Supreme Court nominee Samuel Alito threatened on Thursday to block a vote on his confirmation, warning that Republicans countered with a move designed to force his approval by early next week.

"It is time to mark this as an end point" in the debate over President Bush's nominee to replace Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, said Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn.

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., said he and other Democrats refused to agree to a timetable for ending debate. "There's some division in our caucus," he conceded.

Democratic Leader Harry Reid signaled as much in remarks on the Senate floor. He offered no support for Kennedy, John Kerry and others whose filibuster represents a last stand against Alito's confirmation.

"There's been adequate time for people to debate," Reid said.

Alito, 55 and a 15-year veteran of the federal appeals court, has won over 20 votes for confirmation. He gained the support of Democrats Tom Johnson of South Dakota and Robert C. Byrd of West Virginia during the day, and has the backing of at least 52 of the Senate's 55 Republicans.

The Senate will vote Monday on cutting off debate. If Alito's supporters get 60 votes in the 100-member body, the confirmation vote will follow on Tuesday.

White House spokesman Stephen Schmidt predicted the Republicans would easily win. "More than 60 senators have signaled their intentions to vote against the filibuster and give Judge Alito the up-or-down vote that he deserves," he said.

Frist said he had been unable to win a commitment from all senators on a time for a final vote. Instead, he set the stage for cutting off debate Monday with what is known as a clo­sure vote.
Sisters continued from page 1

Saint Mary's women and the Sisters of the Holy Cross. The program provides students with the opportunity to build lasting friendships with older members of the community at one time.

The students are not the only ones who have something to give, and it's just not one-sided. The sisters aren't the only ones who have friendships with older members of the community. The program offers that link to our community and gives the sisters a chance to collaborate, and whatever intergenerational relationships we can build, the stronger the sisters will be, the stronger the College will be,” Sister Reinert said.

To students like Reinert, the program offers the possibility of growth and connections with older members of the community. The program is an opportunity to build lasting friendships with older members of the community and gives the sisters a chance to collaborate, and whatever intergenerational relationships we can build, the stronger the sisters will be, the stronger the College will be,” Sister Reinert said.

“We need to know the sister and her history, to understand the connection with the sister and her community. The sisters have a lot to teach us, and we need to learn from them. The students are not the only ones who have something to give, and it's just not one-sided. The sisters aren't the only ones who have friendships with older members of the community. The program offers that link to our community and gives the sisters a chance to collaborate, and whatever intergenerational relationships we can build, the stronger the sisters will be, the stronger the College will be,” Sister Reinert said.

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Boston Scientific Corp. wrestles with mounting problems; FDA warns about devices

Associated Press

BOSTON — Now that it has won a bidding war for heart devices maker Guidant Corp. with a $27 billion offer, Boston Scientific Corp. faces its biggest challenge ever: making sure it can work with its own mounting product problems.

The 27-year-old Massachusetts company owes much of its growth to successfully securing newly acquired medical devices companies into the fold while not facing risks in an industry notorious for product recalls and patent disputes.

But observers say the Guidant acquisition presents more legal, financial and competitive challenges than the Nautilus-based company has ever dealt with.

On top of that, Boston Scientific is buying a company with a greater market value than its own — about $19 billion for Boston Scientific, compared with $25 billion for Guidant — while moving into a market for implantable defibrillators and pacemakers where it has no prior experience.

And Indianapolis-based Guidant faces liability from recent product recalls that analysts believe could reach $2 billion.

"Under normal circumstances, this would present a challenge for Boston Scientific because they’re already outside their normal comfort zone," said Jafaian analyst Thom Gunderson. "But now you’re doing something unusual: You’re paying a premium for a company in that line of business that’s broken." Boston Scientific also faces growing product troubles. The Food and Drug Administration said Thursday it sent Boston Scientific a warning letter identifying "serious regulatory problems" in medical devices produced at its facilities, and said the company’s previous efforts to address quality control problems at three other sites were inadequate.

The Food and Drug Administration’s letter said it could take regulatory action against Boston Scientific without further notice and warned that "it is necessary to take action on this matter now." If it successfully completes Guidant’s defibrillators and pacemakers into its own line of heart stents and other medical devices, Boston Scientific gains entry into a $10 billion cardiac rhythm market expected to grow by nearly 25 percent by 2008.

If Boston Scientific fails to execute, it risks further erosion of its stock. Its shares fell 28 percent last year as the company struggled to come up with a blockbuster product to replace its $3 billion-Taxus stent, a tiny metal-mesh device coated with drugs to prevent scar tissue from creating new blockages after artery-clearing surgery.

A rival stent from Johnson & Johnson has taken away some of Taxus’ market leadership, and both companies said they’d focus on new products in that $6 billion market.

Even if it meets its goal of winning shareholder and regulatory approvals for the deal within two months, Boston Scientific faces lingering patent challenges from its now-vanquished bidding war rival, J&J, that could jeopardize its stent business.

And Boston Scientific could see a newly strengthened rival in the cardiac device market if J&J buys another player in that field, St. Jude Medical, an outcome some analysts foresee now that J&J failed to land Guidant.

The nearly two-month competition ended after J&J declined to increase its offer and Guidant accepted Boston Scientific’s bid Wednesday.

Boston Scientific expects to borrow around $9 billion for the purchase, and will inherit a $760 million breakup fee to be paid to J&J because Guidant opted out of a deal it had with J&J.

GM's earnings plummet in 2005

Associated Press

DETROIT — General Motors Corp. posted its largest annual loss in more than a decade, laying bare the problem its auto maker is facing: rising labor costs, fierce competition from Asian imports and home at home. It was another blow for the U.S. auto industry, already reeling from massive layoffs announced this week by Ford Motor Co.

GM lost $22.3 billion for the year, the world’s largest automaker this year to Toyota Motor Corp., said Thursday it lost $4.8 billion in the fourth quarter and $8.6 billion for all of 2005. That was the worst showing since 1992, when it lost $23.5 billion.

Sales gains in Asia, Europe and elsewhere were more than offset by larger losses in North America, where GM lost $5.6 billion for the year.

Company executives insist the results will improve in 2006, but GM shares slumped as concerned investors wondered if the company can win customers and extract sufficient large concessions from its unions to stop the financial nose­ dive.

"It was surprisingly negative, below the low end of the most pessimistic analysis, which is no small feat," said Pete Ladstones, vice president of Corporate fixed income at the investment firm Morgan Keegan & Co. "I think you’ll see recovery off of 2005. But getting back to profitability in North American operations is a multiple challenge.”

The company lost $15.13 per share for the year, far more than Wall Street’s forecast of a loss of $4.19 per share, according to anal­ysts surveyed by Thomson Financial. Worldwide revenue of $192.6 billion for the full year was down slightly from 2004.

GM shares, already down 36 percent since July, fell 80 cents, or 3.4 percent, to close at $23.05 Thursday on the New York Stock Exchange.

Moody’s Investors Service said it was reviewing GM’s credit rating, already in “junk” territory, and could downgrade it further.
The Observer + NATIONAL NEWS
Friday, January 27, 2006

Oprah rehashes memoir scandal, grills author

Associated Press

The story of "A Million Little Pieces" was supposedly over. After all, Oprah had said it was. The TV host had belittled all the talk about alleged fabrications as "much ado about nothing." Author James Frey had invoked the rights of memoirists to take "liberties." His publisher said the matter wasn’t worth looking into.

And then Oprah Winfrey changed her mind. She had read the angry e-mails, the newspaper columns and feature stories: Oprah thinks it’s OK to lie. Maybe she was wrong to defend her anointed author. It was time to get the facts.

So she took on Frey, face to face.

"I feel duped," she said Thursday on her syndicated talk show to a downcast Frey, who sat next to her. "But more importantly, I feel that you betrayed millions of readers." Frey, who found himself booed in the same Chicago studio where he had been embraced not long ago, acknowledged that he had lied. "If I come out of this experience with anything, it’s being a better person and learning from my mistakes and making sure that I don’t repeat them," he said.

Thursday’s telecast, rare proof that the fact checking of a book can make for inspired tabloid TV, marked an abrupt reversal from the cozy chat two weeks ago on "Larry King Live," when Winfrey phoned in to support Frey. "I left the impression that the truth does not matter," Winfrey said Thursday of last week’s call, adding that "e-mail after e-mail" from supporters of the book had cast "a cloud" over her judgment. Sometimes angry, sometimes tearful, Winfrey asked Frey why he "felt the need to lie." Audience members often groaned and gasped at Frey’s halting, stuttered admissions that certain facts and characters had been "altered" but that the essence of his memoir was real. "I don’t think it is a novel," Frey said of his book, which had initially been offered to publishers, and rejected by many, as fiction. "I still think it’s a memoir." On a segment that also featured the book’s publisher, Nan A. Talese of Doubleday, Frey was questioned about various parts of his book, from the three-month jail sentence he now says he never served to undergoing dental surgery without Novocain, a story he no longer clearly recalls. Winfrey subjected Frey to a virtual page-by-page interrogation, the kind of review he clearly never received from his publisher. No longer, as she called into King’s show, was she saying that emotional truth mattered more than the facts.

"Mr. Bravado Tough Guy," she mockingly called the author, whose book she had enshrined last fall and whose reputation she had recently saved. Talese and Doubleday were not spared. Winfrey noted that her staff had been alerted to possible discrepancies in Frey’s book, only to be assured by the publisher. She lectured Talese on her responsibilities: "I’m trusting you, the publisher, to categorize this book whether as fiction or autobiographical or memoir."

Talese, an industry veteran whose many authors have included Ian McEwan, George Plimpton and Thomas Cahill, told Winfrey that editors who saw the book raised no questions and that "A Million Little Pieces" received a legal vetting. She acknowledged that the book had not been fact-checked, something many publishers say they have little time to do.

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Bono launches bid to fund AIDS battle

Associated Press

Rock star and activist Bono launched a new push Thursday in the battle against HIV/AIDS in Africa, unveiling a partnership with American Express and other companies.

"We sought out iconic companies who make iconic products," said Bono, who runs an organization called DATA — or Debt, AIDS and Trade — and is going to make a difference in Africa. He is planning to work with Bono for several years.

Bono — sporting his trademark wraparound sunglasses and28,957 civilian

"We're losing in the battle. Maybe it's an Irish macho mentality," said Bono, who is known for his blunt remarks. "When we were told that America is about to lose in the battle," the Irish native said.

"I'm calling it a cosmopolitan concept for the young generation," said Bono, who was born in the United States.

"It's going to be a huge challenge," Bono said.

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vocation.nd.edu
California declares secondhand smoke toxic pollutant

**Link to breast cancer causes state to pass unanimous decision**

Associated Press

**SACRAMENTO, Calif. —** California became the first state to declare secondhand smoke a toxic air pollutant Thursday, putting tobacco fumes in the same category as diesel exhaust, arsenic and benzene because of its link to breast cancer.

The unanimous decision by the state Air Resources Board relied on a September report that found a sharply increased risk of breast cancer in young women exposed to secondhand smoke. It also links drifting smoke to premature births, asthma and heart disease, as well as other cancers and numerous health problems in children.

"If people are serious about breast cancer, they have to deal with secondhand smoke. That's what this is all about," said Dr. Stanton Glantz, director of the Center for Tobacco Control, Research and Education at the University of California, San Francisco.

"This is a seminal, international document," Glantz said. "It is impossible to underestimate what a big deal this is."

The report by scientists at California’s Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment drew on more than 1,000 other studies of secondhand smoke. It estimated the fumes for 4,000 deaths each year in California from lung cancer or heart disease alone.

The most significant new finding cited by state officials is that young women exposed to secondhand smoke increase their risk of developing breast cancer between 68 percent and 120 percent. The disease kills about 40,000 women in the United States each year.

That conclusion conflicts with a 2004 report by the U.S. government general. Sanford Rursky, a researcher writing on behalf of the R.J. Reynolds tobacco company, told the board in previous testimony that the state report "either ignores mentioning or does not give the appropriate weight" to studies refuting a link between secondhand smoke and breast cancer.

California scientists say their research is more current than the surgeon general’s report. The state report went through an exhaustive review that delayed its release for nearly a year but ensures it is based on sound research, said Dr. John Freines, director of UCLa’s Center for Occupational and Environmental Health and head of the scientific review panel.

R.J. Reynolds spokesman David Howard said regardless of the dangers from passive smoke indoors, no research supports regulators’ decision to declare it an air pollutant.

"No studies exist that show that exposure outdoors leads to any increased risk of tobacco-associated illness," he said.

The air board must next consider regulatory steps to reduce exposure to the smoke, a process that could take years.

"This is no longer some crazy, California, Left Coast, way of thinking," said Cynthia Hackett, executive director of Berkeley-based Americans for Nonsmokers’ Rights. She cited smoking bans that have been enacted or are being considered across the nation and in other countries.

Much of the initial effort in California will focus on public education, said Paul Knepprath, vice president for government relations at the American Lung Association of California.

The association un成功的 sought legislation in 2003 that would have banned smoking in motor vehicles containing young children, and could try for a similar law next year, Knepprath said.

The group may also seek nonsmoking fliers or wings in apartment buildings, much as hotels offer smoke-free areas, he said.

"People live in apartments all across California who are exposed to secondhand smoke on a daily basis," Knepprath said. "It drifts from a common area or another apartment."

That could one day force regulations requiring separate ventilation systems for smoking and nonsmoking apartments, he said.
He didn't owe us this. Father John Jenkins doesn't need — and doesn't pretend to seek — majority approval for his stance on academic freedom and Catholic character at Notre Dame. Jenkins earned the confidence he needed to make decisions on April 30, 2004, the day that the Board of Trustees elected him University president.

With the trust mandate, the philosophy professor from Omaha, Neb. could have steered Notre Dame by his will alone. But this week, in a series of addresses committing his first major official steps as University presidential leadership since he took office on July 1, 2005, Jenkins made a remarkable choice. In opening a University-wide dialogue on the complex relationship between Catholic identity and academic freedom, the new president made known his intent to seek input from the Notre Dame community before making decisions. This is a reasonably well-kept secret because he truly cares what faculty, students and alumni think.

Whether or not those intentions are authentic — his requests for feedback could merely serve to soften his position — the result of a decision that has been long-seated in his mind — Jenkins deserves credit for his bravery in asserting himself so abruptly.

Facing skeptical and even hostile faculty and student audiences, Notre Dame's 17th president proved he is capable of and confident when commanding attention and establishing authority. If there had been any remaining doubt he's emerged from proceedings of open and semi-open forums, small and large group meetings and an address to the faculty question-and-answer session on Monday. Jenkins leaned into his address's third paragraph. Now — with his authority confirmed and his respect for fee-back loudly and proudly — Jenkins must erase all hints he has prematurely made public. 

What Notre Dame News from Jenkins

One way for him to do so is to supplement his pledge to read all correspondence he receives with another, more interactive mode of receiving feedback — since a legitimate, productive exchange of views doesn't just move in one direction. The empty phrase "I appreciate your comment" left the president's lips far too often during the faculty question-and-answer session on Monday. Tuesday's more meaningful interaction with students, however, suggests Jenkins "talks and takes," as The Observer's editorial board discovered. Jenkins told The Observer afterward — was a vast improvement, but the session's truncated time allotment and pre-prescribed format still ensured it stopped well short of the debate's potential. Reading letters and e-mails is a good start — and a decision paved with the right intentions — but Jenkins also needs to talk face-to-face with people whom he passionately on both sides of the academic freedom issue to truly gauge the pulse of Notre Dame.

What Notre Dame News from Notre Dame

Students and faculty must also uphold their part of the bargain. Tuesday's student question-and-answer session was an excellent example of a student body's potential to be at once courteous and brave.

This is not an occasion to be apathetic. Jenkins's eventual decision represents much more than whether or not the gates down the hall will be selling tickets for her performances in "The Vagina Monologues" and "The Catholic Who Wasn't." This is not an occasion to be apathetic. Jenkins's eventual decision represents much more than whether or not the gates down the hall will be selling tickets for her performances in "The Vagina Monologues" and "The Catholic Who Wasn't."

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Anyone who has ever played a sport is familiar with the old adage, "It's not whether you win or lose; it's how you play the game." In my case, this phrase was a recurring theme throughout my athletic career. Whenever I was in my 2nd grade gym teacher convincing me after a sub-par performance in pillow pole, my 5th grade basketball coach they to put just another heart and soul into that proper perspective, or my uncle telling me to get back on the boat after I had swum half the lake while attempting to water ski, I have been constantly reminded that winning is not everything. Just as I might be thinking of times in defeat, they are certainly no substitute for victory.

As a result, I am pretty sure that the Notre Dame Men's Basketball team would gladly trade all the talk about their great effort for a win tomorrow. As you know, the Irish have fallen on tough times lately. Still, the resiliency displayed by the Irish in recent weeks should not go unnoticed. Time and again this season, they have given their all to come up painfully short at the end game.

It all started in December with a 2-point loss to Michigan State and has been followed by a January littered with improbable losses. In roughly a three week span, the Irish have fallen to Pittsburgh in double-overtime, to Ohio State and Syracuse in close games, and at Marquette on an improbable last-second shot. However, it was Tuesday's six point double-overtime loss to Georgetown that really made the close losses noticeable. Once again, the Irish overcame a large deficit and turned the game into a nail-biter, only to end up on the short end again.

It is sometimes hard to believe that there are players on this team who helped Notre Dame reach the Sweet Sixteen of the NCAA Tournament just three years ago. Nowadays, students and fans alike have resorted to taking solace in the fact that the Irish are the best team in the nation with a 1-5 conference record. Even so, our team should continue to hold its head high. They have put forth great effort and determination thus far, and they are bound to reap the benefits in the near future.

Although the team would rather be graceful winners than losers, the manner in which they have handled their recent slide has been admirable. Neither head coach Mike Brey nor any of the players have pointed fingers or lamented over the fact that they are just one star player away from getting over the hump. In addition, there has been no dimension or off-the-court incidents that have marred struggling Irish players. The never-give-up attitude of this team has been commendable, and we should all be proud of it.

However, this is Big East basketball, not AYSO soccer. There are many more slices at halftime, and every player does not automatically get a trophy at the end of the season. Simply put, we should expect our team to win. To be sure, the Irish have had an exceptional example by handling their tough breaks with dignity, and they deserve our support now more than ever.

Unfortunately, basketball teams aren't awarded points just because they are a bunch of good guys. There is no reason why we should not demand simple profit stands for a simple profit stands for As, first and foremost, a holy Cross priest, Jenkins must stand for the beliefs and ideals of the Catholic Church. It would be a crime to make him deny this very faith in order to appease a crowd. He is not banning anything, rather, he is creating opportunities for discussion and betterment of the world. Many leaders wouldn't do that. It takes great bravery to do it. It takes only bravery to do it.

Thank you Professor Glenn Hendler ('The speech that was n't'). Jan. 26. For very that interest­ingly, I would like to say that along with many others wished happened several days ago. It adds much to the ongoing dialogue that will continue throughout the seasons. Currently, it seems like Father Jenkins vs. the world. I will admit to being reassured by Jack Sheppard in the show "Lost" states best, "Everyone wants me to be a leader except when I make a decision they don't like." We all want Jenkins to be a great president. I don't know of anyone that doesn't want him to succeed as the President of Notre Dame. People like Jenkins and Jenkins likes people. However, whenever he makes an unpopular decision, people are willing to string him up in effigy and curse everything a simple profit stands for.

Father Jenkins' speech on academic freedom on Jan. 23 is a terribly disappointing development in the ongoing war on intellectual development at the University. For as long as I have been involved with the University, it has suppressed and criticized many manifestations of homosexuality, and has been at best uncomfortable with frank discussions of sexuality and gender issues.

The announcements in regards to the Vagina Monologues and the Queer Film Festival came as no surprise. What was disappointing, though, was not these sub­stantiations. Instead, it was the insulation propagandized propaganda being used as bait to have the University community swallow them. Jenkins' use of the term of "academic freedom" is a blatantly obvious way being used to cover up the real substance of the announcement, which is that the University is curtailing public discussion of issues that its leadership finds distasteful. It is a much misunderstood notion that could suppress important discussions of issues like homosexuality and female issues is presented as a frank discussion of academic freedom.

The title of the speech is a red herring and, father, I do not believe Father Jenkins would be serving the University community by limiting the ideas that can be presented formally on campus. Unlike the tactics that have been used to expose the University community to ideas that differ from Catholic teachings.

I am reminded of a passage by Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes in Abrams v. United States in which he asserts, "The ultimate good is better reached by free trade in ideas..." The best way to address concerns about preserving the Catholic character of Notre Dame might be presenting "The Vagina Monologues" or the Queer Film Festival as a part of a University symposium on the theology of the body and anthropological or sociological ideas about sex. I truly believe that the remedy to bad speech is more speech, not less. If nothing else, it allows for meaningful conversations that differ from Catholic teachings.

Andrea Manka
alumna
Jan. 26

Range of views is solution, not problem
With the new release of the latest installment of the reincarnated "Prince of Persia" series, more than a few fans have waxed nostalgic about the countless hours they spent glued to their Apple II computer monitors while playing the original game. Like so many great video game origin stories, the creation narrative of "Prince of Persia" begins with a rather nerdy young man with a lot of free time. Creator Jordan Mechner watched hours of film of his brother running and jumping in order to best encapsulate realistic human movement using a process known as rotoscoping. Mechner wrote frame-by-frame through the live-action footage of his brother moving around and traced his outline in order to capture human movement in a highly realistic way (for the time). This same technique was used to great effect in the creation of the original Star Wars trilogy, where animators used rotoscoping to create the phosphorescent glow of the lightsaber blades.

First released in 1989 by the software company Broderbund, "Prince of Persia" was a side-scrolling, two-dimensional game with eight-bit graphics played on now-fossilized Apple II personal computers. Fans of the old-school version will fondly remember swinging swords at malevolent skeletons, dodging spike traps and drinking potion bottles filled with various elixirs. The old-school version of "Prince of Persia" required the player to return the beautiful princess from an evil vizier (sound familiar?). The catch was that after one hour elapsed, the game was played in real time, so that if you paused the game, you would be sent back to the hour before you began playing. The improved technology is not the only revamped aspect of the game, as the plots of the newest installments have developed to match the series' visual brilliance. In "Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time," the Prince finds himself in one last battle to rescue a beautiful Empress of Time, Kaileena, the reincarnation of the action-adventure."
Prince of Persia: The Two Thrones

Developer: UBI Soft
System: PS2, Xbox, GameCube, PC
Release date: Dec. 1, 2005

Prince returns to Babylon, only to find it in flames. A plot twist reveals that, by using time itself in a previous adventure, the Prince unknowingly resurrected his nemesis, the Vizier (think Jafar from "Aladdin"), who is back and as evil as ever.

Playing as the Dark Prince doesn't afford the gamer any time to enjoy the beautifully-designed levels. All in all, the darker half turns out to be a major headache in more than a few ways.

Once again, the game's levels are beautifully crafted. Traipsing across and over the various rooftops and alleyways of Babylon brings to mind the adventures of Aladdin, to the point where you may find yourself periodically wondering, "Where's Abu?" In fact, there are many parallels to the world of Aladdin: an evil vizier, a beautiful female companion, and the whole sand-scimitars-scarabs motif.

However, whereas "Aladdin" inspires a sense of picturesque adventure, of stealing cantaloupes and out-running inept, potbelly guards with pet monkey in tow, the mood is definitely much darker in "Prince of Persia: Two Thrones" and the stakes much higher. Thankfully, there isn't a blue jinni voiced by Robin Williams who periodically breaks out into song and dance. In fact, the game's adult themes are hardcore enough to warrant a decidedly un-Disneylike M-for-Mature rating for the title.

"Prince of Persia" is also a thinking man's game; far from being a simpleton's hack 'em up exercise in mere swordplay, the latest installment requires you to come up with innovative solutions and solve puzzles in order to make your way around town.

"Prince of Persia: The Two Thrones" is back and better than ever. The only question remaining is but a slight variation on the query once posed by hip-hop group Naughty by Nature: "You down with P2P?" Yeah, you know me.

Contact Tae Andrews at taeandrews@nd.edu

Easy chairs, roaring fires and free caffeine: everyone sweats by the Hammes lounge in Coleman-Morse – except when evicted by one of the unpredictable events which the lounge also hosts.

For next week: Where are the best hiding spots on campus? Send your suggestions to obsphoto@nd.edu.
Miami comeback falls short against Phoenix, 107-98; Nowitzki scores 29 as Mavericks beat Supersonics, 104-97

**Bally**

Miami's comeback falls short against Phoenix, 107-98; Nowitzki scores 29 as Mavericks beat Supersonics, 104-97

Turkoglu had 25, and the Magic swept the two-game season series with Miami. "We don't have an answer for that team, and right now, we don't have a defensive game for it," Heat coach Pat Riley said. "I think you have to play against them probably four, five, six times to realize exactly what it is that you need to do to try to stop them.

Phoenix led by 21 early in the third, but the Heat cut that to two and whittled to five with 4:15 left after Dwyane Wade hit a pair of free throws to tie Miami within 98-93. But Wade went 1-for-7 from the free-throw line, making up for an 8-for-22 shooting performance.

Just 1:10 left after Ray Allen added 25 points for the Heat.

Rashard Lewis led Seattle with 36 points, but he was stripped by Terry with 1:30 left and Seattle trailing 99-95. Lewis then fouled Stackhouse at the other end, and Stackhouse made both free throws to put the Sonics ahead 101-95.

Nowitzki added a jumper with 58 seconds to play.

Dallas陇04, Seattle 陇77
Dirk Nowitzki scored 29 points and reserve Jerry Stackhouse added 21 as the Dallas Mavericks closed the most successful road trip in franchise history by beating the Seattle SuperSonics.

Nowitzki added 12 rebounds and was 10-for-11 at the free throw line, making up for an 8-for-22 shooting performance.

Dallas won its seventh straight overall and finished a 5-0 trip. The Mavs had never won five games in any of their 34 road trips of five games or more.

Dallas has not lost since a 117-115 overtime defeat at New York on Jan. 11.

Jason Terry added 20 points for the Mavericks, who pulled even with San Antonio in the Southwest Division at 22-10.

Rashard Lewis led Seattle with 36 points, but he was stripped by Terry with 1:30 left and Seattle trailing 99-95. Lewis then fouled Stackhouse at the other end, and Stackhouse made both free throws to put the Sonics ahead 101-95.

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Ray Allen added 25 points for the Heat, but was just 3-for-11 in the second half and missed six straight shots at one point. His only points of the fourth quarter came with 47 seconds remaining.

Down by 11 in the third quarter, Seattle slowly chipped away with a series of short scoring runs. The Sonics closed the quarter and started the fourth on a 12-2 run to get within 80-78. Dallas went back ahead by eight, 88-80, on Nowitzki's 3-pointer as the shot clock expired with 2:33 left.

Again, Seattle rallied, this time getting to 90-89 on Meki Moore's basket with 4:43 left. Dallas scored the next five, but Moore scored again to draw Seattle with 153-152. Stackhouse then scored on a driving layup over Moore and Johan Petro was fouled. The three-point play gave the Sonics a 96-93 lead with 2:32 left.

Seattle suited up just nine players and only eight played. Moore started in place of Vladimir Radmanovic and Ronald Murray started for Luke Ridnour.

Badmanovic sprained his right foot Wednesday night in Utah and Ridnour sprained his left knee in the same game. Ridnour had been averaging 18.5 points over his last seven games.

Murray finished with 10 points. Damien Wilkins added 11 off the bench.
MINNEAPOLIS — The struggling Minnesota Timberwolves shook up their roster Thursday night, sending swingman Wally Szczerbiak to the Boston Celtics for guard Ricky Davis in an exchange involving seven players and three draft picks.

Davis, Mark Blount, Marcus Banks, Justin Reed and two conditional second-round draft picks are coming to Minnesota, and in exchange the Celtics are getting Szczerbiak, Michael Olowokandi and Dwayne Jones and a future first-round draft pick, the teams announced.

The Wolves had been involved in trade speculation for weeks, with both Szczerbiak and Olowokandi frequently being mentioned in rumors. They were in need of a spark after losing their last two games by 20 points or more, and finally made their move Thursday after a 107-87 loss to Memphis, their third straight defeat.

"Through this trade, we've become a much more athletic team," Timberwolves vice president of basketball operations Kevin McHale said in a statement. "With Ricky Davis, we've added one of the more talented shooting guards in the NBA — both on the offensive and defensive ends of the court. Plus, with Davis and Trenton Hassell together on the court, we'll have a great defensive presence at the 2-3 positions."

McHale planned a conference call for reporters Thursday night. "It was a tough decision to trade Wally," McHale said in the statement. "He has been the ultimate professional and a very good player for us through the years. I wish him nothing but the best of luck with the rest of his NBA career."

The Celtics said they were glad to get Szczerbiak, who are ecstatic to acquire a player of Wally Szczerbiak's quality complement Paul Pierce and our young talent base," said Danny Ainge, the Celtics' executive director of basketball operations. "In Wally we are receiving an All-Star player who is playoff tested and who has been a leader at all levels."
Freestyle skiing, snowboarding draw fans

Associated Press

Count on the high-flying Olympic fledglings of freestyle skiing and snowboarding to produce a "Hurricane" that Americans actually are eager to see.

It's among the latest innovations by a U.S. competitor — this time aerial skier Jeret "Speedy" Peterson, who hopes that landing his quintuple-twist triple backflip will also land him atop the podium during the Turin Games.

"I've landed four of the five I've done, although the one I did not land I almost had to get carried off the hill," Peterson says. "There really is no room for error when you're up 55 feet in the air — doing five twists."

Ever since their Olympic introduction in the 1990s, freestyle skiing and snowboarding have showcased the talents of the young Americans who grow up on the slopes, looking to express themselves with creative, flashy and often daring tricks.

Freestyle skiing was invented in the United States, while America helped pioneer freestyle competitions in mogul and aerials. But while the world is catching up in American-made sports such as basketball, the U.S. freestyle and snowboarding teams sense an opportunity to improve their already strong Olympic results from years past against an international field that held its own in the early editions of these events.

"The U.S. is one of the best supporters of these sports," says Joe Pack, a 2002 aerials silver medalist. "We get all the opportunities to train at a high level. Combine a daredevil mentality with the best training and best coaches and you will pull off some amazing stuff. It's why other countries come to the U.S. to use our facilities and train under our conditions."

In the last two Olympics, moguls gold medalist Jonny Moseley accomplished a pair of firsts in competition. His 360 mute grab (a full spin while crossing skin and grabbing a ski edge with one hand) helped him win gold in Nagano. In the 2002 Salt Lake City Games, his "Dinner Roll," a sort of horizontal spin, thrilled spectators and reset the bar in that sport, although judges were less enthralled and he finished fourth.

Meanwhile, American snowboarders continue to lead the evolution of the halfpipe by executing moves with names like the "Kasserial Flip," the signature move of 2002 silver medalist Danny Kass. Kass was part of the U.S. trio that swept the men's halfpipe that year. He'll be back again, having perfected a "switch alley-oop backside rodeo," in which he glides up the wall of the halfpipe going backward and launches into a flip and backward spin.

He'll be joined on the U.S. team by halfpipe prodigy Shaun White, called the "Flying Tomato" because his long, bright-red hair flows from the edges of his helmet. White, also a skateboarding star, comes to Turin on the heels of an unprecedented sweep of the five-event U.S. Grand Prix that was used to decide the American halfpipe snowboarding roster.

U.S. snowboard coach Bud Keene says he's never seen anything like White, who impresses judges with a mix of soaring, cutting-edge tricks and graceful execution of more common moves that many competitors would consider passe in this still-evolving sport.

His relatively basic frontside 540 (rotating 540 degrees off his frontside wall) "is so good, it's pure art," Keene says. "The Olympic debut of snowboardcross — an event that features heat races down a jump-laden course with banked turns — will showcase defending world champions Lindsey Jacobellis (of the ubiquitous Visa check card TV commercials) and Seth Wescott, both Americans."

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COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — Hena Inoue and John Baldwin are going to the Turin Olympics as gold medalists.

Inoue and Baldwin won the pairs title at Four Continents on Thursday. It wasn't their best performance, but their program was packed with enough difficult elements to win. Inoue and Baldwin finished with 168.49 points, almost 12 points ahead of Utako Wakanamatsu and Jean-Sebastien Fecteau of Canada.

"We feel good. The program is here," Inoue said. "We got a lot of stuff out of this competition. We had some improvements in the short program. In the long, definitely the U.S. championship was a bit better, but we're just going to work harder when we get home." Earlier Thursday, Tanith Belbin and Ben Agosto figured their lead in the dance competition despite a rare deduction. Their overall score of 97.51 points was almost 14 ahead of fellow Americans Morgan Matthews and Maxim Zavozin, a virtual chasm in the standings.

"We'd rather be here than at the Olympics," Belbin said. "So in that respect, it's good." The women's short program was still to go Thursday night.

Inoue and Baldwin made history in winning their second national title earlier this month, becoming the first couple in the world to land the triple axel, the difficult 3 1/2-revolution jump. They weren't even close Thursday, as she landed on the edge of her skate and fell flat on her stomach.

"I thought everything was good, but I think I started leaning forward," she said. "Next time, I'll try to think about keeping it back and straight." That wasn't the couple's only problem, though. She doubled their side-by-side triple toe loop jumps, and she botched their throw triple loop.

But the difficulty of their other elements topped Wakanamatsu and Fecteau, who scored 156.93 points. Canadians Elizabeth Putnam and Sean Wirtz were third.

Marcy Himmann and Aaron Parchment, the United States' other Olympic pairs team, finished fourth after botching their third lift. He got her above his head but couldn't hold her, and she swung wildly back to the ice. She landed on her foot, but they still got deductions.

With the Turin Olympics only two weeks away, many skaters opted to pass on Four Continents. None of the women on the U.S. Olympic team is here, and Canada sent its up-and-comers.

"We'd rather be here than at the Olympics," Belbin said.

"We need to weed out all of those problems before the Olympics," she said.

Belbin said the judges gave them Level 3s for some of their elements instead of the Level 4s they're used to seeing, and they were penalized a full point for an extended lift. Lifts can go a maximum of 6 seconds, and a penalty is given if they go over.

"We can find out what the problem is and tighten it up," Belbin said. "It's what we came for, really." Even with the deduction, Belbin and Agosto were in a class by themselves. Their program — a mix of rumba, samba and cha cha — was both steamy and fun, something you'd be more likely to find at a hip hop than a staid figure-skating competition.

They had great speed and interesting lifts, and their unison was far superior to anyone else.

"Being in our home country allows a certain comfort level," Belbin said. "We feel like we can let loose a little more."

Matthews and Zavozin were second with 83.73 points, and Canada's Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir were third with 83.29.

The other U.S. team, Jamie Silverstein and Ryan O'Meara, remained fifth in the overall standings though she took a belly flop during their footwork.

Klug fights for place on snowboarding team

DENVER — The fight is much different for Chris Klug this time around.

Four years ago, it was life and death, an inspirational journey from liver transplants, to recovery followed by a trip to the Olympics, where he incredibly and improbably left with a bronze medal.

This time, it's a much less dramatic, but still pressing, matter — the matter of earning a trip back to the Olympics that he feels he's been unfairly denied.

Klug spent nearly nine hours in a hearing with U.S. Olympic Committee arbitrators Thursday, stating his case that he belongs on the 16-member U.S. snowboarding team that will be in Turin next month.

"I'm optimistic," Klug said as he awaited the start of the hearing. "I think they'll go by the criteria and things will work out fine."

The hearing ended in the evening. Klug's agent, Peter Carlisle, didn't immediately return a message seeking comment.

Precisely how the criteria is interpreted by the arbitrators will determine whether Klug goes or his spot is taken by Tyler Jewell, the man tumbled last Friday by the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Association to go as the country's lone male parallel giant slalom racer.

A decision is expected Friday. The USOC must finalize its Olympic roster and turn it into the IOC no later than next Monday.

The arbitrators have an interesting task in front of them and there doesn't appear to be a clear-cut answer.

According to selection criteria spelled out on the USSA Web site, up to two parallel giant slalom racers per gender can be nominated to the team if they have a top-four finish in the previous World Cup season. No Americans fit that criteria, so the next step in the process calls for one athlete per gender to be selected using an average of their top two World Cup results from the season.

The question being decided is exactly what the word "result" means.

Klug's top two finishes are the U.S. and 16th, for an average of 15.5. Jewell's top two finishes are 22nd and 24th for an average of 16.5.

But in World Cup events, there is also a weighted points system.

Klug's two finishes were worth 310 points, for an average of 155.
Lightning defeat visiting Devils 1-0 in overtime

Sabres topple Maple Leafs, Senators shut out lowly Canadians

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Tampa Bay's Ruslan Fedotenko flicked the puck and hoped for the best.

"If he shot that, I just threw the puck on the net," the right wing said after his goal with 2:36 left in overtime gave the Lightning a victory over New Jersey.

The Lightning, in the middle of a four-game stretch against four teams with a combined winning percentage of .687, had a lackluster performance by Devils goalie Martin Brodeur.

Fedotenko took a pass from Nolan Pratt in the lower right circle and scored after he was unable to feed Brad Richards in the high slot.

The winner came less than 7 minutes after Brodeur stopped Vincent Lecavalier from point-blank range to keep the Devils in the game.

"I tried to pass and they covered everything, so I just threw the puck on the net," Fedotenko repeated. "I didn't even look where the goalie was."

John Grahame made 20 saves for his third shutout in his last five starts. The Lightning are 4-0-1 during that stretch, and Grahame has allowed a total of one goal in the four victories.

"You know in a game like this that one mistake could cost you. You don't want to have that mistake on your side," Grahame said. "That's what drives you. No mistakes that will cost you the game. Stay focused."

Sabres 8, Maple Leafs 4

Thomas Vanek scored twice and the Buffalo Sabres handed the Toronto Maple Leafs their seventh straight loss with a 8-4 victory in Thursday night.

Alex Steen scored twice for the Maple Leafs — nixed in their longest losing streak since dropping seven in a row in January 1997.

Chris Drury, Johan Hecht, Derek Roy, Brian Campbell, Jason Pominville and Jay McKee also scored for the Sabres.

Fans booted goalie Ed Belfour after Vanek scored Buffalo's fourth goal early in the second period. Coach Pat Quinn replaced Belfour with Mikael Tellqvist.

Buffalo scored four straight goals to take a 4-1 lead, but Toronto cut it to 5-4 by the end of the second.

But Drury's one-timer gave Buffalo an insurance goal at 6:19 of the third, and Vanek made it 7-4 at 12:47. McKee also scored for the Sabres.

The Senators, who have lost seven in a row since Nov. 17 of '97, fell to 3-30-1-4 on a six-game road trip that ends Saturday in Toronto.

Hasek made his eighth straight start and only needed to make 12 saves — including a 78-foot slap shot by Mark Streit with nine seconds left in the third — to claim his second shutout in three games. He moved past Roy Worters into 11th place on the all-time shutout list with 68 after surpassing Patrick Roy on Saturday in a 7-0 win over Toronto.

Alfredsson, who has scored five goals in his last three games, scored his 250th goal on a power play 2:21 into the second. He added his second of the game at 5:05 of the third to move ahead of linemate Dany Heatley for the team lead with 32 goals.

Jason Spezza and Wade Redden each assisted on both of Alfredsson's goals.

Chara opened the scoring with a fine individual effort for his ninth goal 12:36 in. The 6-9, 234-pound, 27-year-old around Montreal's Sheldon Souray before beating Cristobal Huet, who made 40 saves, and Martin Brodeur.

The Senators converted their first of five second-period power plays when Alfredsson scored his 31st of the season early in the period to make it 2-0.

With Canadians forward Jan Bulis already in the penalty box, Souray was sent off for holding at 5:48 and Alfredsson made Montreal pay moments later when he increased the lead to three with a slap shot from the point that got past Huet, who was screened by Chara.

Hurricanes 5, Thrashers 1

Nicolas Wallin scored on a deflection 16 seconds into the third period and the Carolina Hurricanes capitalized on its 5-1 victory over the slumping Atlanta Thrashers on Thursday night.

The Hurricanes, who lead the NHL with 74 points, won for the 12th time in 13 games, including the last three in a row. They came into the night with an 18-point lead over Tampa Bay in the Southeast Division. Atlanta is fading a bit in the playoff race, losing its fourth straight game — its worst skid of the season.

The Thrashers fell behind 2-0 in the second period, but began to turn things around after Ilya Kovalchuk was struck by a stick and headed off the ice with blood streaming down his face. No penalty was called, and Kovalchuk slammed his helmet to the ice in disgust as he headed to the locker room for stitches.

With 59 seconds left in the period, Patrik Stefan swatted in a rebound with one hand on the puck to halve the deficit.

The winner came less than 7 minutes after Brodeur stopped Vincent Lecavalier from point-blank range to keep the Devils in the game.

"I tried to pass and they covered everything, so I just threw the puck on the net," Fedotenko repeated. "I didn't even look where the goalie was."

John Grahame made 20 saves for his third shutout in his last five starts. The Lightning are 4-0-1 during that stretch, and Grahame has allowed a total of one goal in the four victories."
By JORDAN BELTZ
Sports Writer

The Irish look to pick up where they left off last week as they host the Notre Dame Invitational today at Loftus Sports Center. The team is coming off of a very impressive performance last week at the Notre Dame Opener, which was highlighted by victories in nine different events.

The Invitational is traditionally sandwiched between the Notre Dame Opener and the prestigious Meyo Invitational. It's considered an excellent tune up for the Meyo Invitational, with competition being offered by many top schools from around the nation.

Leading the way for the Irish women heading into the Invitational are sprinters Madison O'Neal and Oketahi Ugbooki. O'Neal took home top honors in both the 60 meters and the 200 meters last weekend. Meanwhile, Ugbooki covered 400 meters worthy of both a top finish and a provisional NCAA championship qualification.

Another member of the women's squad to watch is freshman pole vaulter Mary Saxer. Saxer, who has already won the pole vault in both meets of the 2006 indoor season, and has also posted a vault good enough for provisional NCAA consideration.

"My goal for the rest of the season is just to continue to improve, and to reach the level that I was once at in my high school career," Saxer said.

On the men's side of the ledger, freshman Austin Wechter has been a bright spot for the Irish thus far, capturing the crown in the 300 meter dash last week at the Notre Dame Invitational. Junior Garrett Kodlak, fresh off of an all-Big East season in the discus last year, has also been impressive early on this season, winning the men's weight throw at the Notre Dame Invitational. The throwers as a group have been showing a lot of improvement as the season has progressed.

"We always have the goal of improving our marks," said Kyle Anness, Irish thrower.

Returning for the Irish in singles this season are Connolly, Slusky, Buc, senior Kelly Nelson and sophomore Bailey Louderbach.

"We have a lot of leadership with the three seniors and so much experience," Catrina Thompson said.

But it isn't just the veterans who are adding to the strength of the team. New to the Irish this year are freshmen Teff and Katie Potz.

"I think they have adjusted really well and are so talented," Catrina Thompson said. "They have already contributed so much to the team that it is only going to add to the strength of everyone who is returning." Despite the team's confidence, Notre Dame isn't willing to take its Big East foe lightly. Ohio State began its season with a pair of 7-0 shutouts over Cincinnati and Bowling Green, led by junior Sonia Ruzansky.

"During the first match everyone always has nerves," Catrina Thompson said. "And even though it is going to be tough, we will be ready." Contact Dan Tapetello at jstpetel@nd.edu

By DAN TAPETELLO
Sports Writer

The No. 22 Irish look to continue their dominance over regional rival Ohio State (2-0) as Notre Dame opens its homestate this weekend with an 11 a.m. match Saturday at the Eck Tennis Pavilion.

The Irish currently hold a 12-2 all-time record over the Buckeyes and expect to continue their string of wins as the team is led by coach Jay Louderback, in his 18th season with Irish helm, and junior twins Catrina and Christian Thompson.

"We're hoping our hard training and practice will help us play well for victory," Christian Thompson said.

The Thompson's, who are currently No. 1 in doubles in the ITA standings, are coming off a successful fall season as they captured the school's first-ever ITA doubles title against a duo from Fresno State last October.

However, the Thompson's aren't the only Irish doubles team gaining recognition as two other Notre Dame pairs have also earned nationally rankings.

"Our doubles are so talented," Christian Thompson said.

"By now everybody has improved themselves during the fall and we will be deep this season. I would be shocked if we lose critical doubles points." The duo of sophomores Brook Buck and freshman Kelsey Teff are No. 35, followed by junior祎 and team captain Lauren Connolly at No. 45.

For singles, Catrina Thompson is No. 24 in the nation, and lone the fall with a record of 10-5. Also ranked in the ITA standings is Christian Thompson, No. 44 with a 7-3 record from the fall.

Wechtel@nd.edu

NBA

Injured O'Neal is out at least eight weeks

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Jermaine O'Neal is expected to miss at least eight weeks with a left groin strain, leaving the Indiana Pacers without their leading scorer and rebounder.

The news came Thursday, a day after the Pacers acquired sharpshooter Peja Stojakovic from the Sacramento Kings for the volatile Ron Artest.

O'Neal was hurt during the fourth quarter of Indiana's loss at Cleveland on Tuesday.

"When my injury happened, I knew it was going to be serious because of the actual pop in the area where I was having the most pain the last three or four weeks," he said.

The Pacers described the injury as "significant," but said it was doubtful he would need surgery.

"It's hard ... being in the situation we're in and finally almost getting a new start ... it would have been a great opportunity to play with a guy like Stojakovic, and I think his ability helps everybody on our team," O'Neal said. "But I'm in a situation where the playoffs may be my best hope for getting back."

O'Neal did not practice Thursday but was on the court with his teammates and took several shots at the basket — flattened — as practice ended.

He said after practice he had likely come back too soon from a recent bout with pneumonia. It left him weakened, he said.
**MEN'S SWIMMING**

Seniors see career finale in Shamrock Classic

Tournament-style meet to feature top swimmers, events

By JACK THORNTON

The Notre Dame men will swim in the Shamrock Classic's "go home" tour this weekend, as it hosts the first annual Shamrock Invitational, a tournament-style meet boasting an impressive field.

The Irish traditionally end the season with a dual meet against a familiar foe such as Oakland (Mich.) or Cleveland State, but this season the program decided to shake things up a bit.

"We had a Shamrock Classic meet once upon a time, but that had been different," Irish coach Tim Welsh said. "This is the first time we've had a season-ending grand finale, and we're pretty excited [because] it's a great way to end the dual season."

In the Shamrock Classic, Louisville and Oakland (Mich.) will compete with Notre Dame in the match.

"It is a very, very good field," Welsh said. "Both Penn State and Missouri have been ranked in the top 25 at one point or another in the season ... Louisville is one of the most improved teams in the Big East. Oakland raced really well against us at the beginning of the season, and now they've got their ace springboard back." (WHO)

Unlike a regular dual meet, which has 11-13 events, the Shamrock Invitational will feature 20 events to be raced in three sessions over two days.

"There are three sessions to this meet and there are three days of the [Big East] championship meet, so each one of these sessions is like a day at the championship," said Welsh, who will try to coach the Irish to their second consecutive conference title this Feb. 15-18 in Long Island, N.Y.

Of the 20 events, five will be relays, putting extra pressure on the team's sprinters.

"Any time that we can race our relays can only be a positive for us, because relays — come Big East time — will be very crucial if we're going to win the Big East title," Irish swimmer Ted Brown said. "So having this opportunity to practice good, quality, clean relay starts will again be positive for us as we put the show out in New York."

Following the meet, the Irish will have two-and-a-half weeks to prepare for the Championships, and they may need half of it just for sleep.

The squad trained every day for two weeks over Winter Break, and this will be their third consecutive weekend of multiple-day racing.

"I think ifatigue is always a factor, but I think at this point in our season we should be ready to race, so having a meet over the course of two days should be good for us," co-captain Patrick Heffernan said.

Welsh said the main thing he'll be looking for this weekend is improvement from his team.

"In the best of all possible worlds, this will be the fastest meet of season — by a lot," Welsh said.

In addition to being the last meet of the regular season, it is also the last home meet for three seniors at Rolfs Aquatic Center — over.

Heffernan is one of 10 seniors on the team who will be honored in a presentation Saturday night at 5:15 p.m.

"At the end of the season the seniors' parents are coming up, because it's our Gold game ... and I think last time we'll racing in Rolfs Aquatic Center," Heffernan said.

A swimmer competes against Cleveland State on Jan. 21. The Irish won that match, 142-96.

When asked if he'll cry during the ceremony, Heffernan laughed and replied, "Nah, I don't think I will. It just will be a milestone in my career and it'll be exciting and it'll be sad at the same time, but it's an experience I'll never forget."

Contact Jack Thornton at jthornto@nd.edu

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**SMC BASKETBALL**

Saint Mary's to host last-place Tri-State

By JAY FITZPATRICK

Sports Writer

As they head in to Saturday's matchup with 2-17 Tri-State, the Belles appear to have turned a corner after losing three straight games to far superior opponents.

Saint Mary's has won three of their last four contests and cracked up the rankings four teams over in the MIAA.

According to coach Steve Bender, one reason for his team's turnaround is the strong play of Saint Mary's during their contests against the Albion and Alma games, San Francisco's huge 104-98 loss, and a tough 73-69 defeat of Marygrove.

"As the week went on, we needed to prepare ourselves for the tough opponents we have in front of us and the game to do that is by making this tougher at practice," said Bender.

The recent success of the Belles appears even more impressive considering that starting point guard Bridgette Lipke has remained sidelined with a leg injury suffered against Grand Valley.

Without their team leader on the court, the Belles have managed to win or stay close in all three games that Lipke has missed. She has not played one minute since her injury but she is listed as questionable for Saturday's game.

"We need to prepare ourselves for the tough opponents we have in front of us," said Steve Bender, Belles coach.

Bender has had his team practice 5 on 7 and 4 on 6 drills.

Regardless of past scores, the Belles view them as strides of preparation for the team's season-ending goal, they may have confidently begun their taper period of decreased training in which the team does less yardage and more fast swimming to get into peak race shape. The meet

At Calvin Saturday will be a pre-race of sorts for that show, in which Kachmarik hopes to see her swimmers "have as many personal best times or season best times as possible" and to enjoy the final races of the year for three graduating seniors — Stephanie Bille and captains Neil and Katie Dingeman.

Contact Becki Dornner at rdlcwarner1@nd.edu and Dierdre Krasula at dkrasula@nd.edu

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**SMC SWIMMING**

Belles swim last dual meet

Team preparing for upcoming MIAA Championship meet

By BECKI DORNER and DEIRDRE KRASULA

Sports Writers

Saint Mary's will face Calvin College and Albion College in dual meet competition at Calvin Saturday in the Belles' final meet of the season.

Saint Mary's is coming off a 143-59 loss to Kalamazoo Friday in an MIAA dual meet at the Notre Dame Rolfs Aquatic Center.

Senior captain Kelly Nels stepped up to coach the Irish in the absence of her regular positions.

"Any team has been ranked in the top 25 at one point or another in the season ... Louisville is one of the most improved teams in the Big East. Oakland raced really well against us at the beginning of the season, and now they've got their ace springboard back." (WHO)

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**ND WOMEN’S SWIMMING**

Team to face Louisville, Oakland this weekend

Irish swimmers prepare for a race earlier this season against Minnesota. Notre Dame will face Oakland and Louisville this weekend.

**HOCKEY**

Irish travel to Ohio State

Notre Dame seeks to avenge two home losses earlier this season

By CHRIS KHOEREY
Sports Writer

After splitting with the CCHA's second best team on the road last weekend, the Irish will be away from the Joyce Center tonight as they travel to Value City Arena in Columbus, Ohio to face the Ohio State Buckeyes.

Since going 1-1 against Northern Michigan in Marquette on Friday and Saturday, Notre Dame (18-12-3, 6-9-3 in the CCHA), currently resides in 10th place in the league. But their 15 points put them into only three points behind the Buckeyes, making this weekend a crucial chance to move up in standings.

"The most important thing right now is to get paid every weekend," Irish coach Jeff Jackson said. "Our main goal right now is to get into every game trying to steal a point or two, especially with all these road games.

Ohio State, which was picked to win the CCHA at the beginning of the season, is a disappointing 12-10-4, but Jackson said the Buckeyes are still dangerous.

"It’s hard to say what’s happened this season for them," he said. "Different things happen with different teams.

The Buckeyes are led by sophomore forward Tom Frische, who has 22 points on the season including eight goals. Senior Dave Caruso has been a stalwart in the net, starting 23 games and allowing just 1.71 goals per contest.

Ohio State swept a weekend series in South Bend 4-1 and 5-2 the weekend of Nov. 25-26 in what Jackson called "our worst weekend of the season."

Furthermore, the Irish are looking to use this weekend to send a message to their fellow Big East competitors. Notre Dame will see the Cardinals again at the conference championship in two weeks.

"The more we beat Louisville, the more we reiterate that we’re the favorites going into the Big East Championships."

Julia Quinn
Irish junior

With those goals in mind, Irish coach Carrie Nixon has put the team through one final week of intense practice.

But beginning next week, the team will begin to 'taper,' gradually reducing workouts to allow for rest before the Big East Championships.

Contact Greg Arbogast at garbogast@nd.edu

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Irish point guard Chris Quinn, left, center Torin Francis, center, and guard Russell Carter look for open teammates in an 85-82 double-overtime loss to Georgetown Tuesday. Notre Dame, which fell to 3-5 in the Big East with the loss, will try to end its two-game losing streak against No. 6 Villanova Saturday.

**Villanova continued from page 28**

Madison Square Garden.

Nevertheless, the Irish think beating the Wildcats could jumpstart a squad that has been close but not capitalized on game situations.

"Every game's huge for us," said Irish point guard Chris Quinn, who played all 50 minutes in a double-overtime loss to Georgetown Tuesday night. "But with a top-10 team coming in here, this one carries a lot of weight." Quinn's top four scorers are all guards. Randy Foye leads the Wildcats averaging 20.7 points per game, followed by Allan Ray (18.3), Mike Nardi (11.6) and Kyle Lowry (11.1). Ray missed the team's last game with a strained hamstring injury he suffered in practice. The Wildcats won, though, by a 49-46 margin Tuesday over South Florida, which is winless in its first Big East season.

"That's why [Villanova] is as successful as they are," Quinn said. "They line up and make teams do things they don't want to do.

As Irish center Torin Francis said Thursday, Notre Dame may be able to take advantage of the Wildcats' guard-heavy structure in the low post for points and free throw opportunities. But so far, Brey's style has been to put the ball in Quinn's hands and trust the senior point guard with a young, inexperienced team.

Quinn averages 23.3 points per game in Big East games, second only to Rutgers junior Quincy Douby (23.5). He has played in 22 of a possible 260 minutes in the Irish's first six conference games, taking and making shots and creating end-game plays down the stretch (see Georgetown).

"Right now I think Chris Quinn — certainly his play is fabulous — but his personality and demeanor on the court is really important," Brey said that similar to past Notre Dame leaders Troy Murphy, Mitch McGary and Chris Thomas. Quinn has the tangible and intangible qualities that make a coach leave him on the floor.

"I'm always thinking how to steal him a rest," Brey said. "But I think if you look around college basketball, key guys — really key guys — are hardly coming out of the game on a lot of teams. And that's kind of how we've played here (with other top players).

"Right now I think Chris Quinn — certainly his play is fabulous — but his personality and demeanor on the court is really important.

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**USF continued from page 28**

point guard and team captain Megan Duffy said.

USF has the same goal for Saturday's match-up and it will enter the game with the nation's leading scorer, junior guard Jessica Wesson, who averages 23.8 points per contest.

"They are one of the hottest teams in the league right now," Duffy said.

That hot streak was cooled a little bit by a 77-47 drubbing at the hands of No. 3/4 Connecticut, but at the same time, Notre Dame enters the game in the same paradigm, looking to rebound after a 69-43 loss at Rutgers and an all-time low six turnovers.

After those two difficult road games, the Irish are looking forward to coming home, where they are 6-2, including an upset win over No. 10 DePaul Jan. 17.

"It's nice to be able to come home after a tough loss," Duffy said. "It's fun to play in front of our fans and hopefully get a win."

One thing the Irish want to avoid if they hope to come away with that win is the turnover, and they are certainly hoping to avoid a repeat of Tuesday's game with Rutgers, where they gave up 22 turnovers.

"We have to take care of the ball," Duffy said. "[Rutgers] got 35 points off turnovers.

Notre Dame will also continue its focus on rebounding, where the team has struggled at times.

"We have to focus on rebounding every game, but we also have to develop a post presence," Duffy said.

That presence may be difficult to start developing against the Bulls, who lead the Big East in post presence.

Duffy, who leads the team in both points and assists, with 15.6 and 4.2 per game, respectively, does not shy away from responsibility in those post struggles.

"We as guards have to get the ball into the post," she said.

This season marks South Florida's first since moving from Conference USA, the conference the Bulls' media guide still claims they belong to. As a result Notre Dame leads the all-time series 2-0, the last game being an 83-63 Irish win on Dec. 19, 1995.

"We really don't much know about them," Duffy said.

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Irish forward Courtney LaVere shoots free throws against DePaul Jan. 17. Notre Dame hosts South Florida Saturday.
ND Duals

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as the teams competing are some of the top programs in the country. Squads Notre Dame will face include Northwestern, Cal State Fullerton, Duke and Wayne State.

"[Taking into account] all three different weapons, Northwestern has one of the strongest women's teams," junior epeeist and team captain Amy Orlando said. "There are also going to be a couple bouts against Wayne State and Northwestern in epee that are going to be touch."

The freshman Montoya agreed.

"I'm focusing on the fencers from Wayne State especially Anna Garcia," Montoya said. "And Northwestern is also very experienced. But we are definitely not going to be underestimated by any of the other teams."

However, it will be Ohio State that the Irish expect will be their toughest competition. The Irish needed to overcome a 24-point deficit in last year's NCAA championships to win the team title over the Buckeyes 173-171.

"They are all fighters and won't give up," Orlando said. "That's what makes Ohio State so good.

But the Irish will not be an easy opponent to face. The women's program returns sabre Valarie Providence and Mariu Zagunis.

"They're near the best of their weapon and they have the experience from years on the strip," Orlando said. "So they have everything it takes to be the complete fencer."

The Irish will also feature key foilist Melanie Bautista and epeeists Rebecca Chimahusky and Orlando.

Although the women will be competing with the best fencers in the sport, the men's team is no pushover.

The men's program will be showcasing an elite list of fencers including sophomore foilist Jakub Jedkowiak, junior sabre Matt Stearns and junior epeeist Aaron Adjemian.

In addition to the veterans in the men's program, the freshmen are also proving themselves to be a critical part to the team's overall success. Freshman foilist Mark Kubik is credited as a significant inspiration in last week's duals at NYU.

"At NYU he told his teammates that 'we just have to execute,' Montoya said. "He wants to do well and works hard to get other people motivated. Everyday he works hard in practice and it is going to pay off."

The women's portion of the competition begins on Saturday at 8 a.m. at the Joyce Center.

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Virginias

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However, singles have been a strength for the Irish this year despite the injury to junior track Klakki Akhvelediani. Stephen Bass holds the No. 8 spot, Shesha Parbhoo is No. 14 and Eric Langenkamp stands at No. 65, with the team holding a No. 64 overall ranking. Although the early-season rankings reflect more on fall play, it is a confidence boost going into a match against the top-ranked Cavaliers.

UVA's Treat Huey is No. 6, Eric Langenkamp serves against Bowling Green on April 9, 2006. Notre Dame faces Virginia today.

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FOOTBALL
Foundation names Sullivan Conn. Player of the Year

By MIKE GILLOON
Sports Editor

Notre Dame center John Sullivan will be the center of attention on Feb. 11, when the Walter Camp Football Foundation will honor him as its Connecticut Player of the Year.

The foundation announced Thursday that the 6-foot-4, 298-pound junior would receive the award, given annually to the top college football player in America 'who is a resident of the state of Connecticut,' during a dinner at the Yale University Commons in New Haven.

Sullivan, a 2003 graduate of Greenwich High School, spearheaded a Notre Dame offense that averaged almost 37 points and 477 yards per game. He is the first Notre Dame player to receive the award.

Past winners include former BYU quarterback and NFL Hall of Famer Steve Young — who also attended Greenwich — and former Boston College and NFL linebacker Bill Romanowski, from Vernon, Conn.

Sullivan was a three-year starter at Greenwich. He led the squad to a berth in the state championship game his senior season, when he also was named Connecticut Gatorade Player of the Year.

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MEN'S BASKETBALL
Clawing back against the 'Cats
Irish try to end losing streak, earn second Big East win against No. 6 Villanova Saturday

By PAT LEONARD
Sports Writer

Notre Dame is running out of potential turning points during a difficult 2005-06 season. But Saturday is one of them.

The Irish (10-7, 1-5 Big East) are almost halfway through their conference schedule with just one win over Providence (9-8, 2-4) to show for it. And on Saturday, Notre Dame hosts No. 6 Villanova at 6 p.m. (ESPN2) in the Joyce Center with an opportunity to improve its record and its level of confidence.

It's no team's goal to get to 500, "It's definitely very important to get back to .500," senior forward Rick Cornett said before Thursday's practice. "It would count more than one in a lot of ways right now, any of these in this (upcoming) stretch."

At the most critical juncture of its Big East schedule, Notre Dame meets Villanova Saturday and then travels to No. 9/13 West Virginia and No. 22/23 Louisville for consecutive road games on Feb. 1 and Feb. 4, respectively.

Villanova is talking NCAA tournament, while Brey referred to the Big Dance in March as "that other one" on Thursday, indicating his focus is on making the conference tournament at

see VILLANOVA/page 25

Irish forward Rick Cornett dunks over Georgetown forward Jeff Green Tuesday. Notre Dame faces No. 6 Villanova Saturday.

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
Bulls pay visit to the IACC

By ERIC RETTER
Sports Writer

It's no team's goal to get to the eighth conference game of the season trying to fight to stay alive and claw up from near the conference cellar, but that's the unenviable position the No. 21 Irish find themselves in.

On Saturday, Notre Dame (3-4 in the Big East and 12-6 overall) will take on South Florida at 6 p.m. (ESPN2) in the Joyce Center with an opportunity to improve its record and its level of confidence.

"Our guys know it would count probably more than one [win] psychologically if we got it," Irish coach Mike Brey said before Thursday's practice. "It would count more than one in a lot of ways right now, any of these in this (upcoming) stretch."

At the most critical juncture of its Big East schedule, Notre Dame meets Villanova Saturday and then travels to No. 9/13 West Virginia and No. 22/23 Louisville for consecutive road games on Feb. 1 and Feb. 4, respectively.

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see USF/page 25

Notre Dame guard Megan Duffy drives against Michigan Nov. 25. The Irish host South Florida Saturday.

MEN'S TENNIS
ND heads to Virginia to face No. 1 Cavaliers

By KATE GALES
Sports Writer

Take care of the little things, and the big things will take care of themselves.

The Irish adopted this as their motto. In the second match of their season, today at 3 p.m. in Richmond, the Irish will see if their hard work can pay off against No. 1 Virginia.

"We know Virginia is good," Irish coach Bobby Bayliss said. "They're ranked No. 1 in the country ... they lost to (No. 9) Pepperdine out there."

The Irish are coming off a decisive 6-1 victory over regional rival Northwestern and a stellar fall season.

Last year, they lost 4-3 to the Cavaliers.

"The match was pretty competitive out there (last year)," Bayliss said. "It was 4-3, and we expect to play well and expect it to be a close match."

The Irish have worked to improve their doubles play this week after struggling against the Wildcats.

"We weren't satisfied with it against Northwestern," Bayliss said. "We have to improve our doubles play this week after struggling against the Wildcats."

ND heads to Virginia to face No. 1 Cavaliers

see VIRGINIA/page 26

FENCING
Irish seek to redeem NYU loss

By DAN TAPETTILLO
Sports Writer

Since both the men's and women's program's finished 4-1 in last week's NYU Duals, the Irish have been looking for redemption. The nation's No. 1-ranked women's team and the No. 2-ranked men hope to avenge their losses by coming out on top during this weekend's Notre Dame Duals.

"We have to redeem ourselves that we are competing at our best level," eppeist Kim Montoya said.

But it won't be an easy feat.

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