Board of Trustees holds meetings in Rome

The Board of Trustees will continue its annual winter meetings today and Wednesday to meet with key Vatican leaders, participate in an academic conference and confer two honorary degrees. The five-day trip gives the University an added avenue to understand how to serve the Church. University spokesman Dennis Brown said Monday, "Whether the board meets in Rome or not is essential to Notre Dame's commitment to serve the Church," Brown said. "The University has been for many years, and remains, fully committed to that end. This trip gives the trustees and officers greater insight into how we can deepen our efforts in this regard."

Brown said he was unsure if University President Father John Jenkins was going to meet Pope Benedict XVI, expected in April 2005, while in Rome. The last time a Notre Dame president met the pope was in July 2001 when then-University President Father Edward "Monk" Malloy met with the late Pope John Paul II. Brown said.

Brown said the idea of meeting in Rome stemmed from a past plan to have a Board of Trustees meeting there, one that never manifested itself. As a result, a meeting in this location has been on the Board's agenda for several years. With Jenkins taking office on July 1, 2005, it seemed like an appropriate time to have the winter meeting in Rome. Brown said. Brown also said it was unrelated to Jenkins' recent addresses to students and faculty on academic freedom and Catholic character, issues that have prompted much discussion on campus over the past week.

"The board was scheduled to meet in Rome a couple of years ago, but the trip was postponed, in part because the University took steps at the time to reduce costs during a downturn in the U.S. economy," Brown said. "With Father Jenkins' new administration now in place, this seemed like the right time to make the trip and meet with the papal authorities." Brown said.

The five-day session that started Monday will end Wednesday. The trustees will also have Monday meetings in Rome.

University President Father John Jenkins will attend the Trustees meetings and speak before Vatican officials.

Catholic universities in U.S. assess academic freedom

"Monologues" have been banned at SMC since 2001

Academic freedom in the forms of "The Vagina Monologues" and the Queer Film Festival has ignited campus-wide debate after University President Father John Jenkins questioned the appropriateness of their existence at a Catholic institution in recent addresses. While the debate of what is and is not appropriate material rages on at Notre Dame, Saint Mary's College has already taken action against performances of "The Vagina Monologues," a play that includes issues that traditionally contradict Catholic teaching, such as masturbation, homosexuality and premarital sex.

"The CNS allegation that McNamarra's Jan. 6 column in The Tidings of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles mirrored an op-ed piece by Eileen McNamara that had appeared in the Dec. 11 issue of the Boston Globe. McNamara had denounced a protest of a Catholic Charities fundraiser honoring Boston Mayor Thomas Menino as a "hate group," a monologue that is also banned at SMC.

"The CNS editorials and letters to the editor that McNamara sent to the Boston Globe on Jan. 19 to University President Father John Jenkins.

A national Catholic organization has asked the University to investigate the possibility that Notre Dame theology professor Father Richard McBrien plagiarized arguments, structure, themes and some exact language in a Los Angeles Catholic publication — an allegation the University has addressed, McBrien said Monday.

Salt on small potatoes

I don’t remember the exact day I heard the phrase “small potatoes” used to describe something with little purpose or credibility. All I know is that it stuck with me... and maybe it’s from “The Godfather II.”

I have been using the expression for some time, and described many a small potato. Examples range from: “that home-work is small potato..., to “that rash is small potatoes.”

Life is made of plenty of potatoes, and just about the only thing that matters less than a potato is a small potato.

At this point, there’s a very obvious path I can take with this metaphor. All I have to do is stress the importance of the little things in life and how we need to make the most out of every moment, and about how you can use the small potatoes to make potato pancakes, or mashed potatoes, or hash browns, or baked potatoes with cheese and bacon, or potato salad... but I’m not going to do that because many of those things require recipes and cooking and so on.

So instead, I’m just going to tell you why you should hate the small potatoes.

When life gives you lemons, you should... and maybe it’s from “The Godfather II.”

As part of my hopes up like that.

When life gives you something fun - pick something to be thankful for them and all.

We make potato pancakes, or mashed potatoes, or potato salad... but I’m not going to do that because many of those things require recipes and cooking and so on.

Instead, I’m just going to tell you why you should hate the small potatoes.

When you're not going there early to tell them... and maybe it’s from “The Godfather II.”

There’s no pepperoni here, guy. That’s not kosher.

Give your daily routine something fun - pick something to be thankful for them and all. Because the only things worse than salt-free potatoes are small salt-free potatoes.

Contact Joe Piarulli at jpiarull@nd.edu

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

ASLUSCH ABERNOSE / THE OBSERVER

As part of Walsh Family Hall's Chinese New Years celebration Monday, organizer Kan Zhang taught residents how to write Chinese symbols for "luck.

In Brief

Three panelists will address the question: "Iraq: What now?", today at 4:15 p.m. 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, tomorrow at 7:30 p.m. in South Dining Hall's Hospitality Room.

The 2006 Winter Career and Internship Fair will take place tomorrow from 4 to 8 p.m. in the Joyce Center Fieldhouse.

The College of Arts & Letters will present "You Don’t Really Have to be a Rhodes Scholar to Land a Fellowship for Post Graduate Study" Thursday at 7 p.m. in the Hammes Student Lounge of Coleman-Morse.

Legends rap artist Chuck D from the critically acclaimed Public Enemy will present "Rap, Race, and Reality" Thursday at 8:30 p.m. in Delbarton Hall, Room 141.

Jimmy John's reception will follow at 10 p.m.

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

Volleyball

The Observer regards itself as a professional publication and strives for the highest standards of journalism at all times.
BOG gives $80 to not-for-profit organization

By MEGAN O'NEIL

Saint Mary's Board of Governance (BOG) members approved funds for two co-sponsorships during a brief meeting Monday.

Saint Mary's senior Molly Ritter, the College and Notre Dame representative for the not-for-profit organization Invisible Children, presented her efforts to organize a screening of the documentary "Invisible Children" and asked for $80 from BOG to help defray costs.

"The organization was actually started by three college kids, three guys from San Diego who went to Uganda to document the war," Ritter said.

One of the most tragic results of the war in northern Uganda, Ritter said, involves rebel forces kidnapping children from their homes late at night. As a result, thousands of children travel hours to nearby cities each evening and sleep wherever they can to avoid being forced to fight.

The ultimate goal of the organization, Ritter said, is to raise enough money to build schools and educate 100,000 Ugandan children.

She reserved Bellarmine 101 for a screening of the film at Notre Dame and has spent much of her own money in the planning, Ritter said.

"I just wanted to see if I could get a little money for food and snacks ... and a few extra bucks to make flyers to hang around campus, and obviously BOG support of this would be huge," officers overwhelmingly approved granting Ritter $80 to help fund the event.

Shortly thereafter, the Board also voted to give $150 dollars to help sponsor the two-part Saint Mary's security event "Wasted and Wounded." The first segment of the program took place Monday night and brought local experts to campus to speak about alcohol and sexual violence against women. The event surpassed its attendance goal of 250 people, according to health and wellness commissioner Meghan Lambourne.

"They talked about the reality of alcohol on your body... and they talked about sexual assault and the resources on campus," Lambourne said.

The second half of the program will take place Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. in O'Laughlin Auditorium and will include a live demonstration of a law enforcement officer's posting as a young girl on the Internet to attract sexual predators.

Contact Megan O'Neil at oneil987@nd.edu

BOG gives $80 to not-for-profit organization

SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE NOTRE DAME, IN

Sponsored by Campus Ministry, Center for Spirituality, and the Board of Governance

Marriage and the Truth and Fiction

Sylvia and John Dillon
Directors of Marriage Preparation and Religious Education
University of Notre Dame

8:00 p.m.,
Wednesday,
February 1, 2006
Cyber Café
Student Center

Monthly interactive discussions about hot topics in the Church

COUNCIL OF REPRESENTATIVES

Group weighs in on fiscal policy

By KAREN LANGLEY

Student leaders debated changes to the student government's fiscal policy at the Council of Representatives (COR) meeting Monday night, adding ideas for a new programming fund to the discussion, which has been ongoing since November.

Student body president Dave Baron and student body vice president Lizzie Shappell met with Father Mark Poorman, vice president for student affairs, on Jan. 20 to discuss COR's idea to use their carry-forward fund -- which currently contains $58,000 -- to create an endowment for future student government expenditures.

The idea behind putting it in a programming fund, which would be run under the supervision of Student Affairs and Student Activities, would leave room for the carry-forward fund to grow by $20,000 before hitting its cap.

"The idea behind putting it was to give the students more of a say in the money," Baron said. "At various times, people come to Father Poorman and say, 'How can I benefit student life?' If we get a vested interest from Student Affairs and Student Activities, this is something we can bring to the table.

Under the proposal, groups would be able to apply for portions of the $20,000 that would be available from the fund for programming each year. This fund would last for five years if left alone, but its affiliation with Student Affairs and Student Activities might lead to supplemental funding for donors.

COR members debated whether the $20,000 should be spent on one large, new or supplemental project or if it should be divided among many groups as apply.

"The money should be kept as one lump sum to make one noticeable difference," said O'Neil senator Steve Tortorello. "Otherwise, everyone in the world will apply, and it will get chocked up until it's like the fund didn't exist.

Judicial Council president James Leitao asked if student government would accept donations for the programming fund from donors who had specific requirements for the use of their gift.

"I'd say anybody who's willing to give us money, we should take it," he said.

Contact Karen Langley at klangley@nd.edu
Freedom

continued from page 1

ative" Catholic character, the conference's Vatican II thinkers left them open to interpretations by individual universi­
ties.

University President Father John Jenkins suggested his own interpretation was less of a bold stance that would dissolve the "gray zone" of topics that fail to align with Church teaching, if implemented into official University policy. Jenkins specifically cited the Queer Film Festival and the Vagina Monologues as examples not in concert with teachings of the Catholic Church. The "Vagina Monologues" has faced increased scrutiny in recent years from Catholic leaders who believe the play degrades women with its frank and candid discussion of rape, sexual intercourse and female genitalia.

In 2004, the Cardinal Newman Society ran a full-page advertisement in USA Today, denouncing the play for being offensive to campuses and calling for members of the public to contact school presidents and other leaders to stop performances. Last February, the CNS released a statement on its Web site asking Catholic women to condemn the play's presence at universities affiliated with the Church.

The Society's efforts were not in vain, as 16 Catholic colleges across the country consequently canceled performances of "The Vagina Monologues" on campus. But some Catholic schools, like Notre Dame and Boston College, continue to show the controversial play. A number of groups at Boston College endorsed the show, including the office of the vice president for student affairs, the women's studies program and the English and sociology department.

"The current student body is different from the one that might have graduated from BC years ago," communications department chair Lisa Cakanne said in a Feb. 17, 2005 article in Boston College's student newspaper, The Heights.

"There is a cultural shift, and people are demanding different things on what Catholic tradition is. In that light, "The Vagina Monologues" produce tension."

Fort Wayne-South Bend Bishop Donald D' Arrigo explained this tension at the onset of last year's "Vagina Monologues" performances at Notre Dame.

"Freedom in the Catholic tradition and even in the American political tradition, is not the right to do anything," D'Arrigo's, a Latin American, Feb. 1, 2005 statement. "This play violates the truth about women; the truth about sexuality, the truth about male and female, and the truth about the human body. It is in opposition to the highest understanding of academic freedom. . . A Catholic university seeks truth."

Franciscan University of Steubenville (Ohio), adheres to a policy of academic freedom heavily centered around the deep-seated Catholic character of the institution and its desire to seek such truth.

According to the university's mission statement, "Franciscan University . . . opposes the promotion of propositions and values contrary to Catholic teaching. In this no way impinges on true academic freedom, a Catholic Church accepts that is true and rejects all that is false."

Franciscan University Associate Director of Public Relations Tom Sofo said rigorous discussion of all viewpoints can occur in the classroom, but professors are not "to promote, or advocate, topics in conflict with Church teaching."

"The pro-choice view could be explained or examined in the classroom but not endorsed or advocated," he said. "I recently sat in on a great Boston class where students learned all about the views of Nietzsche, the atheist who referred to himself as "the Antichrist," but those views were not endorsed by the teacher - his role in the shaping of human events in Germany, however, were examined."

Statutes of academic freedom at other Catholic colleges are less stringent. Georgetown University's policy, as outlined in its faculty handbook, emphasizes tolerance but asks faculty members to "recognize that (Georgetown) is a Jesuit university committed . . . to Catholic principles and religious values."

Notre Dame's current policy on academic freedom is also relatively open-ended in its interpretation of Catholic charac­ter in an academiacus. According to the Faculty Handbook, "freedom of inquiry and freedom of expression are safeguarded by the University."

The policy adds that although "the rights and obligations of academic freedom take diverse forms for the administration, the faculty, and the students, they must be consistent with certain University objectives and "live in the tradition of Christian belief."

The struggle to maintain Catholic values on campus goes beyond the narrowest defini­tion of academic freedom - that is, the right of students and faculty members in an academiacus to express their beliefs unabashedly and without discrimination.

George Washington and other non-academic events deemed in conflict with Catholic charac­ter have also faced sanctions on campuses across the coun­try. Franciscan University policy places standards on speakers - who must express views "consistent with [the college's] stated mission as a Catholic Franciscan institution of higher education."

Speakers must be sponsored by a University department or officially-recognized student organization. Sofo said the president can deny any approval for a speaker whose "appearance or remarks . . . would compromise the University's mission or promote propositions and values contrary to Catholic teaching."

In his seventh years at the University, Sofo said he cannot recall any "controversies or confrontations" concerning invited speakers or cultural events on campus.

The story was not the same at Boston College in December, 2005, however, when the University canceled an AIDS benefit dance designed to be a "safe zone event" for GLBT (gay, lesbian, bisexual or trans­gender) students due to its dis­cordance with teachings of the Catholic Church.

The University's policy is that students apply for permits for events through the Office of the Dean for Student Development, and upon review­ing the request . . . concluded, appropriately, that they could not endorse an event that advo­cated a position that was in conflict with church teaching," University spokesman Jack Dunn told The Heights in a Dec. 5, 2005 article.

Dunn said the stance is what any of the other 238 Catholic universities in the United States would do in a similar situation.

"As a Catholic university, we cannot sanction an event that promotes a lifestyle that is in conflict with church teaching," he said.

Jenkins reiterated this belief in a series of speeches last week in which he called Notre Dame's sponsorship of certain events inconsistent with Catholic teaching "problematic."

Contact Katie Perry at kperry5@nd.edu

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Nigerians release foreign hostages

ARUA, Nigeria — An American and three other foreign oil workers held hostage for two weeks were released Monday after a secessionist leader appealed to their captors, who had demanded southern Nigerians benefit more from their region's energy wealth.

The kidnappings were among a rash of recent abductions indicating that violence is on the rise in the Niger Delta, which remains impoverished despite its rich oil.

The four men — Louisiana native Patrick Landry, Briton Nigel Watson-Clark, Rodolfo Castiglione Niches and Honduran Harry El-Hanks — appeared alongside Nigeria's petroleum minister during a live broadcast from southern Nigeria hours after their early-morning release.

The four, who were tired and still wearing the shirts and shorts they were dressed in when captured by gunmen Jan. 11 at an offshore oil rig in the Niger delta, did not speak.

Detailed passenger train kills dozens

TIRANA — A Southern State Consolodita Mire said Monday that "robust" negotiations with Iran are needed to deal with its resume nuclear program, as European ministers' talks aimed at breaking the diplomatic deadlock appeared to fail.

Mire said the international community agreed that Iran should not have the means of developing a nuclear weapon but did not spurn its negotiations.

A court clerk swore in the 12 jurors and four alternates, and U.S. District Judge Sim Lake instructed them not to talk about the case during their service. He also ordered them not to read, listen to or watch news reports about the trial.

The four were arrested in 1998 after the 1997 killing of a man, and was about 5 feet in height and weighed 140 pounds. They were later found guilty of murder, conspiracy and armed robbery.

Associated Press

NATIONAL NEWS

Clark's years in jury for Enron trial

BRENTON — A jury of in-town residents was selected Monday for the trial of former Enron Corp. chief Kenneth Lay and Jeffrey Skilling, accused of orchestrating the massive fraud that gave symbolic some of the era of corporate scandals.

A court clerk swore in the 12 jurors and four alternates, and U.S. District Judge Sim Lake instructed them not to talk about the case during their service. He also ordered them not to read, listen to or watch news reports about the trial.

The federal jury was selected from a pool of potential jurors at the jurors' home addresses.

Mexican border remains vulnerable

SAN DIEGO — A U.S. government effort to find drug-smugglers in despite its oil industries and oil rig in the Mexican border with ground-penetrating radar and other high-tech gear has had little success.

Human intelligence has proven to be the most effective method of finding the past few years.

A case in point: The longest tunnel ever found along the border was discovered last week after a tip.

The Homeland Security Department said Monday that a Mexican man, Carlos Cardenas Calvillo, was arrested in connection with the 2,400-foot tunnel, which went as deep as 90 feet and was about 5 feet in height and 5 feet wide.

LOCAL NEWS

Indiana police to recruit laterally

INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana State Police will be looking this summer for officers who want to switch uniforms.

The openings for more than 200 troopers and other lateral recruiting, drawing experienced officers from other departments rather than signing up new rookies.

As of Jan. 4, the force had 1,126 of its 1,334 trooper slots filled.

We are in a competitive market,” said 1st Sgt. Dave Burston.

Associated Press

U.S. journalist appears in video

IRAQ

U.S. journalist appears in video

Al-Jazeera airs al-Qaida video

Second in command al-Zawahri calls Bush "the butcher of the world"

Associated Press

CAIRO — In a new video aired Monday, al-Qaida's No. 2 Ayman al-Zawahri mocked President Bush as a "failure" in the war on terror, called him a "butcher" for ordering airstrikes in Pakistan and said the United States for rejecting Osama bin Laden's offer of a truce.

Al-Zawahri, wearing a turban and glasses, is in his hands, and is a lot of hours later.

"If you accept, you will become a brother in our faith and God will forgive you your sins," the Al-Jazeera news-reader quoted him as saying. "The invitation is not in the excerpts aired by the Arab satellite station.

He said the airstrike in Pakistan by an unmanned Predator craft targeted himself and four of his "brothers" in Al-Qaida.

"Bush, you are not only defeated and a liar, but, with God's help and might, a failure. You are a curse on your own nation and you have brought and will bring them only catastrophes and tragedies," he said.

"Bush, do you know where I am? I am among the following aid workers, enjoying God's blessing of their support, care, generosity and protection," Al-Zawahri said.

He said he had a message to the American people, who are drowning in illusions, that "I tell you that Bush and his gang are shedding your blood and wasting your money in failed adventures."

"The lion of Islam, Sheikh Osama bin Laden, may God protect him, offered you a decent exit from your dilemma. But your leaders, who are keen to accumulate wealth, insist on throwing you into battle and killing your souls in Iraq and Afghanistan with — and God willing — on your own land," he said.

Al-Qaida's deputy leader Ayman al-Zawahri appeared on Al-Jazeera in a video released Monday, Al-Zawahri's second in command appealed to U.S. and Iraqi authorities to free all righteous and said he would be released.

"Tonight, after the bin Laden tape, one the terror threat levels because of the Al-Zawahri tape. "Not at this time," said spokesman Bass Knecke.

"Not after the bin Laden tape that no intelligence indicated an imminent Al-Qaida attack. On Monday, FBI Special Agent Richard Kolko said the bureau was asking agents around the country to review ongoing cases and tips in light of the Al-Zawahri video, especially with two major events in the United States this week — the State of the Union in Washington and the Super Bowl in Detroit.

Al-Zawahri said in the video that he had a number message to Bush in the wake of the airstrike. In one message, he invited Bush to convert to Islam.

"If you accept, you will become a brother in our faith and God will forgive you your sins," the Al-Jazeera news-reader quoted him as saying. "The invitation is not in the excerpts aired by the Arab satellite station.

He said the airstrike in Pakistan by an unmanned Predator craft targeted himself and four of his "brothers" in Al-Qaida. Instead, he said, it killed 18 civilians — "men, women, and children" — and he called Bush "the butcher of Washington."

"Bush, you are not only defeated and a liar, but, with God's help and might, a failure. You are a curse on your own nation and you have brought and will bring them only catastrophes and tragedies," he said.

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Al-Jazeera airs al-Qaida video

Second in command al-Zawahri calls Bush "the butcher of the world"

Associated Press

BRIGADIES, March 16 — U.S. and Iraqi forces have overcome all Iraqi resistance in the city of Fallujah, the site of two days of heavy fighting between U.S. and Iraqi forces.

The U.S. military released the video last Thursday and was believed being held about six more. It was unclear how many women were held by Iraqi authorities.

Carroll, a freelance reporter for the Christian Science Monitor, was seized Jan. 7 by the previously unknown IraqiUCI terrorist group, which threatened to kill her unless all women prisoners were released. Al-Jazeera did not report any deadline or threat to kill her Monday.

Al-Jazeera editor Yasser Thabit said the station received the tape Monday and that it was between two in three minutes long, but only a fraction of the footage was televised.
an ideal time to make the trip as a way to renew previous relationships and make new ones.

Trusted will meet with numerous Vatican officials, including representatives of the Congregation for Catholic Education, the Pontifical Council for Social Communications, the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith and the Secretariat of State.

The conference, sponsored by the "Creation of Catholic Universities to the Church and Culture," will feature addresses by Jenkins, Rino Fisichella, auxiliary bishop of Rome and rector of St. John's University, and Notre Dame Trustee Daniel Jenky, bishop of Peoria, Ill.

During the conference, Jenkins will talk about the "Role of the Roman Universities," Jenky will address the Holy Cross and Catholic Education, and Jenky will deliver an address entitled "Notre Dame: A Catholic University within American Academe." His address comes a little over a week after he sparked campus dialogue on academic freedom and Notre Dame's Catholic charter.

The honorary degrees will be presented to Fisichella and L. Francis Tierney III, U.S. ambassador to the Holy See. Fisichella was appointed to his position as rector of the Pontifical Lateran University by the late Pope John Paul II in 2005 and served as a cardinal to John Paul's 1998 encyclical on faith and reason.

Last June, Fisichella visited Notre Dame to address a bishop's conference.

Rooney, the former chief executive officer of Manhattan Construction Company, is the seventh U.S. ambassador to the Holy See. Full diplomatic relations were established in 1981.

It is the second time the Notre Dame School of Architecture Advisory Council has asked Rooney to come to the university and address a committee.

"I want to remind you that the council will issue a statement that certain recommendations shall be made directly to the vice president for student affairs. Because of the procedural difficulty, I am unable to take action," Rooney wrote in a Dec. 9 letter to the Council.

But Baron said he wasn't worried about the roadblock, since the council's resolution was merely meant to help the administration and could be remedied rather easily. He said he was using the confusion to use the discussion of the council's role in academic affairs.

"In fact, Father Jim Lewis said the council should speak up and give energy to issues that go beyond the purview of the C.C.L. like student affairs," Baron said.

"This seems to be an ideal time to renew previous relationships and make new ones.

Dennis Brown
University spokesman

Said Father Mark Poorman, student body president Dave Baron said.

Poorman will present the time for the council's, the Transp, the minutes, the Academic Week, diversity and cultural competency and the Catholic Think Tank before and after the "State of Student Government" executive summary of the Board of Student Affairs committee.

Brown said although the board's agenda for the meeting is not made public, he expects there to be no actual work on the budget.

"The meeting will mainly include work on the budget," Brown said.

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BOT

continued from page 1

The Observer • NEWS

Tuesday, January 31, 2006

page 6

in a way that was tailored specifically to the women of the university, said Kevin Pitman, director of sorority and fraternity relations.

"The "Vagina Monologues" is a story about us. It is an all-inclusive production created by and for women," said Ginger Francis. "Women in the SM C community—students, faculty, staff—were consulted once the Holy Cross—have their own pieces about their experiences as women, experiences of sexual violence and experiences of surrounding sexuality.

"It's a safe forum for women to reclaim their voices and have them be heard," she said.

Collegiate officials did not comment on why "The SM C Monologues" are considered acceptable while "The Vagina Monologues" remain banned.

Last year CABLE raised $600 for SOS, the rape crisis center for St. Joseph County, through donations collected at "The SM C Monologues." Other groups at the university have also asked Police for the event again this year, which will be performed Saturday, Feb. 18 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, Feb. 19 at 3 p.m. at the South Bend Center for the Performing Arts. A minimum donation of $3 at the door is being suggested, and all proceeds will benefit SOS.

Contact Kelly Meehan at kmeen@stmarys.nd.edu and Laura Hausserman at lhau@stmarys.nd.edu

Student body president Dave Baron leads a discussion about the basic responsibilities of the CLC during its Monday meeting.
Bush prepares to present budget

Democrats contest he cannot make proposed deficit cuts while troops remain in Iraq

WASHINGTON
President Bush will renew his call for personal accounts within Social Security and again push for new tax cuts and curb the growth in health pro-
gamme like Medicare and Medicaid in his 2007 budg-
et request next week, according to administra-
tion officials.

But since election years hardly ever generate results through the legislative process, Bush is far more likely to find success in smaller-
more initiatives like freezing the operating budgets of most domestic cabinet departments.

Bush's call last year to let younger workers diversify some of their Social Security taxes into private accounts never got off the ground with lawmakers despite an election-style campaign by the adminis-
tration and its supporters. While the idea will again be in his proposed 2007 budget, the White House doesn't expect it to get even a nod this year from Congress, a senior White House official said Monday, speaking on condition of anonymity.

At the same time, the ris-
ing budget deficit and the enormous cost of the war in Iraq may squeeze out even Bush initiatives to boost access to medical - among the very few items in his budget that the White House has projected would in-
crease in advance.

Bush's market-based health care initiative includes creating health savings accounts, making out-of-pocket medical costs deductible, and allowing small businesses to pool the purchasing of health insurance across state lines free of state regu-
lations.

Few of these initiatives are new; neither are Bush's demands for perma-
nent extension of the Bush 2001 and 2003 tax cut bills and many other items in his
budget.

"It's all, for the most part, replicas of the same things that they've pro-
posed for the past five years," said lobbyist Hazen Marshall, former GOP staff director of the Senate Budget Committee. "They seem to be making a concerted effort to highlight health care, but the pro-
posal that's I've seen hasn't anything new.

And the simple fact that something is being proposed again and again means it's been rejected many times before. That's why many lawmakers will consider much of Bush's budget plan "dead on arrival."

"The president's budget is not the agenda-setting development or event that it used to be," said Stan Collender, managing director of Financial Dynamics, a business communications firm. "They use it to make a political statement. It should be no way taken as what they would actually do or what they actually want or what they're ulti-
mately going to accept." Bush predicts the deficit for the current year will top $400 billion; last year's deficit registered $319 bil-
lion. Bush says his budget plan will meet his pledge to cut the deficit in half by the end of his presidency — to $260 billion from a prelim-
inary estimate of $521 billion for the 2004 budget year.

Bush said Jan. 26 that his budget "will continue to eliminate programs that

don't work or that are duplicative in nature," cut our deficit in half by 2009 and make sure the American people still get their tax relief.

But that deficit-cutting claim is likely to come under assault from Democrats charging Bush can meet the pledge only by leaving out the long-
term cost of the war to Iraq and by proposing unrealis-
tic budget cuts and fees.

In Brief

Report estimates rebuilding costs in Iraq

A new government report concludes that it will take far more U.S. sup-
port before the Iraqi government is capable of taking control over billions of dollars in recon-
struction projects.

The report was prepared by the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction. It estimates that 2006 will be a critical year of transition in Iraq. And it questions whether the Iraqi government has the needed resources to rebuild and protect the infra-
structure, develop the country's major cities and support the expanding population.

The report makes no recommendations on how the U.S. money is needed, but lawmakers have said that billions of dollars in projects to improve water, sewer and electrical systems have been hijacked to security and other high-
er priorities.

IRS falls short of conversion goal

WASHINGTON — The Internal Revenue Service won't meet its goal of converting 80 percent of taxpayers from paper to electronic filing next year, but could get there by 2011, agency overseers reported Monday.

The independent IRS Oversight Board recom-

dated that lawmakers give the IRS an extra four years to meet the electronic filing target, set by Congress in a 1998 law.

Rather than allowing the goal to expire, the board said an extension could keep the IRS and others focused on increasing electronic filing.

The board credited the 2007 deadline with pushing the IRS to increase the number of tax-

payers who file their returns electronically, a number that exceeded 50 percent last year.

"It's visibility and clarity galvanized the IRS and its stakeholders into action and resulted in changed behavior by taxpayers, tax prepar-

ers and tax software companies, among others," board members said.

The board projected that four out of five tax-
payers will file electronically by 2011 if the tax collectors can keep the program growing at the same rate.

The IRS has reduced money and time spent on processing paper returns with the growth of electronic filing.

In Brief

The Commerce Department reported Monday that Americans' personal sav-
ings rate fell into negative territory, minus 0.5 percent, last year. That means people spent all their after-tax income and then had to dip into previ-
ous savings or borrow more to finance their consumption.

The savings rate has been negative for an entire year only twice before, in 1932 and 1933 — two years when Americans were having to deplete savings to cope with the massive job layoffs and busi-
ness failures caused by the Great Depression.

Now, soaring home prices are making people feel wealthier. But this behavior could be risky at a time when 78 million Americans are on the verge of retire-
ment. The baby boomers start turning 60 this year, which means they can begin retiring with Social Security in just two more years.

With this huge wave of pending retire-

ments, analysts said, the savings rate should be going up rather than being on a steady decline over the past two decades. The savings rate stood at 10.8 percent of after-tax incomes in 1984 and has been declining steadily since that time. It was down to 1.8 percent in 2004 before turning negative last year.

"Americans seem to have the loving it is wimpish to save," said David Wyss, chief economist at Standard & Poor's in New York. "The idea is to put away money for old age and we are just not doing that.

Americans spend more, save less

WASHINGTON — Americans spent more than they made last year — something they hadn't done since the Great Depression, a time of massive unem-
ployment and soup lines.

This time the recovery was good eco-

nomics news — a booming housing mar-
ket, which has made millions of American homeowners wealthier and thus more willing to spend with abandon.

Government statistics released Monday showed they may have gone into action and resulted

in just

Social Security

2004 budget year.

Bush said Jan. 26 that his budget "will continue to eliminate programs that

 Associated Press

 In Brief

Market Recap

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I Year Budget

President Bush will renew his call for personal accounts within Social Security and again push for new tax cuts and curb the growth in health programmes like Medicare and Medicaid in his 2007 budget request next week, according to administration officials.

But since election years hardly ever generate results through the legislative process, Bush is far more likely to find success in smaller more initiatives like freezing the operating budgets of most domestic cabinet departments.

Bush's call last year to let younger workers diversify some of their Social Security taxes into private accounts never got off the ground with lawmakers despite an election-style campaign by the administration and its supporters. While the idea will again be in his proposed 2007 budget, the White House doesn't expect it to get even a nod this year from Congress, a senior White House official said Monday, speaking on condition of anonymity.

At the same time, the rising budget deficit and the enormous cost of the war in Iraq may squeeze out even Bush initiatives to boost access to medical care — among the very few items in his budget that the White House has projected would increase in advance.

Bush's market-based health care initiative includes creating health savings accounts, making out-of-pocket medical costs deductible, and allowing small businesses to pool the purchasing of health insurance across state lines free of state regulations.

Few of these initiatives are new; neither are Bush's demands for permanent extension of the Bush 2001 and 2003 tax cut bills and many other items in his budget.

"It's all, for the most part, replicas of the same things that they've proposed for the past five years," said lobbyist Hazen Marshall, former GOP staff director of the Senate Budget Committee. "They seem to be making a concerted effort to highlight health care, but the proposal that's I've seen hasn't anything new.

And the simple fact that something is being proposed again and again means it's been rejected many times before. That's why many lawmakers will consider much of Bush's budget plan "dead on arrival."

"The president's budget is not the agenda-setting development or event that it used to be," said Stan Collender, managing director of Financial Dynamics, a business communications firm. "They use it to make a political statement. It should be no way taken as what they would actually do or what they actually want or what they're ultimately going to accept.”

Bush predicts the deficit for the current year will top $400 billion; last year's deficit registered $319 billion. Bush says his budget plan will meet his pledge to cut the deficit in half by the end of his presidency — to $260 billion from a preliminary estimate of $521 billion for the 2004 budget year.

Bush said Jan. 26 that his budget "will continue to eliminate programs that
It is an election year, Notre Dame. Be ready for electioneering, politicking and hucksterism of empty promises from sleazeball politicians. This year we Americans will once again exercise our right-given right to choose our own rulers, which is apparently something of which we should be proud. In America, you see, we can elect to dispose of our opponents with the simple turn of a button.

I dislike elections. I think they bring out the worst in what is wrong with America: advertising blizzards, lies and slyness, politicians smiling through their teeth as they rob us blind. What election years do offer, however, is some small hope that maybe this year will be different. Maybe, for some unknown reason, America will awaken.

However, I am also a pragmatist. I know that if you are a Democrat, you will probably re-elect Slimheal for his fourth term in the House. If you are a Republican, you will happily fill in the box next to Senator Lindsey Graham and elect her for the 10th straight year. In America, party loyalty is more important than actually paying attention.

According to FairVote — The Center for Voting and Democracy, “In each of the four national elections since 1996, more than 98 percent of incumbents have won, and more than 90 percent of all races have been won by non-competitive margins of more than 10 percent.” There are currently only four states in this entire country in which all incumbents were not reelected, and the average margin of victory was over 40 percent. In Wyoming, an incumbent politician has not lost a general election in 40 years. If I am not mistaken, the statistics are similar in, say, Cuba. Politicians are like diapers: they both need to be changed often.

But like I said, I am a realistic person. I know that most of you are happy with the mess in Washington. You need to change diapers when the ones you are wearing are so comfortable.

But are you really comfortable with politics in America? Do the smiling faces of Ted Kennedy (dabbling about the Senate since 1962) and Robert Byrd (forgot 1962, try 1953) keep you warm at night? Until instant runoff voting is adopted, each major election year is a time that NASA dedicates the George W. Bush Hotel on Mars, there is little opportunity for a democratic change in the American political landscape. However, there may be one small way in which each of us can do our part, and that is altering the political landscape.

This is my challenge to you: vote for at least one candidate in a local-, state- or federal-level election who represents a third party. Do not expect a winning reevaluation of your political persuasion; what I do hope, however, is that voting for one or more third-party candidates in one race will open you up to the notion that our two-party system is flawed, and the time to fix it is now. Here is some information about three major American third parties.

The Constitution Party: The Constitution Party can be considered strongly right-wing. It is staunchly pro-life, and their 2004 presidential candidate, Michael Peroutka, pledged to end abortion in the United States by the end of 2005. The party also supports gun rights and states’ rights, while it opposes globalization, gay rights and “unrestricted immi­ nation.” Their Web site is www.constitu­tion-party.net.

The Green Party: The Green Party is a left-wing party that supports socialized health care, reducing military spending and strictly regulating greenhouse gas emissions. They are opposed to free trade as well as military action and believe in “grassroots democracy,” “non-intervention and ‘social justice.’” Their Web site is www.greenpartyusa.org.

Finally, in my not-so-humble opinion, the greatest political party in the United States is the Libertarian Party. The Libertarian Party believes in free minds and free markets, that is, minimal governmental intervention in the lives of citizens. The LP is pro-Bill of Rights, pro-peace, pro-privatization, pro-gays and generally all-around anti-authoritarian. The LP supports lowering taxes, reducing government spending on as many levels as possible. The Libertarian Party’s Web site is www.lp.org.

So there is my challenge. You may continue to support your favorite Republican/partisan, but in one election, I ask that you consider supporting a party that is not comfortably sustained by taxpayer money. Now is your chance to make a real political statement. Stop thinking in terms of the lesser of two evils and admit that you are linked to this particular evil enough to vote for neither of the two evils, you are not free at all. America needs more than two parties. The diapers are starting to smell.

Scott Wagner is the president of the College Libertarians of Notre Dame, an offi­ cial political satellite for the Web site The Enduring Vision. He can be con­ tacted at scanger1@nd.edu.

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
D'Arcy's oxymoron

I've been reading with great interest the discussions on academic freedom and the nature of diverse points of view at the University. As one of The Observer's regular contributors, I believe that the discussion regarding the view as a whole has not yet reached a clear consensus. Many students and faculty have expressed their concern that the discussion is not yet open to all viewpoints, and that the University community is still missing the opportunity to engage in a meaningful dialogue.

Unfortunately, for many faculty and students, there is a lack of transparency and understanding regarding the nature of diverse points of view on campus. This is in contrast to the University's commitment to academic freedom, which is meant to foster an open and inclusive environment for all students and faculty.

I would like to comment on the recent discussion regarding the Vagina Monologues and the Queer Film Festival. The interpretation of these events has been clouded by misunderstandings and misrepresentations, which have contributed to a lack of understanding among the University community.

The Vagina Monologues is a sensitive issue, and it is important to consider the impact of these events on the broader University community. The Queer Film Festival, on the other hand, has been viewed by many as a celebration of diversity and inclusion.

In conclusion, I believe that the University community must work together to foster a culture of open dialogue and understanding. This will require a commitment to academic freedom and a willingness to engage in meaningful discussions that respect diverse viewpoints.

Jonathan Rose
An alumni reunion special of
THE OBSERVER
Jan. 30

Rethink approach to discourse

Student responses to Father John Jenkins' speech last week have left me in doubt about whether or not we deserve the respect that he gave us by delivering his message to us as an open forum. Jenkins gave us to look at what a good university ought to be. He gave us two values that are, literally, sacred to this university — academic freedom and Catholic character. He then noted an apparent tension between the two and asked us, as a community, to help solve that tension through discourse, open-mindedness and risk.

The student body responded immediately by delivering emotionally charged speeches about the need for more open dialogue. This response is not surprising given the administrative failure to adhere to church teaching at the expense of dialogue and open debate.

"Academic Freedom" as we have always known it is an oxymoron at Notre Dame.

Eduardo Magallenes
Alumnus of Class of 1983
Jan. 30

Detractors should reexamine Jenkins' statements

It is sad to see that Father John Jenkins' attempt to explain and clarify the discussion regarding the Vagina Monologues and Queer Film Festival failed to impact some of his detractors. The tired, irrelevant arguments they present do no good for Jenkins' effort to address these issues on a rational and well-thought-out basis.

I was delighted to read the Letter to the Editor written in response to Jenkins' speech by Andrea Manka. Her letter is a perfect example of the level of discourse that was missing in Father Jenkins' speech. The entire University community needs to reexamine Jenkins' statements and provide a clear and seminar response to his attempt to rid the University of the chaos currently causing quiet, protest, and anger.

It is from the complete lack of response to Jenkins' attempt to explain the nature of discourse that we, as a University community, are failing to address the important issues of academic freedom and Catholic character.

John Millard
Junior
London Freedom Jan. 29

Monologues' do not agree with 'true freedom'

Pope John Paul II said, "Every generation of Americans needs to know that freedom is not something we like, but in having the right to do what we want." (Oct. 8, 1995, at Orioles Park).

The removal of explicit or implicit University sponsorship of any activity that is contrary to the values on which the University is founded, as advocated by Father John Paul II, but it is actually an exercise of such freedom, because it is what we ought to do. We must not underrepresent the Catholic faith and the Catholic identity of the Notre Dame community, sponsoring in any way that is at odds with our faith is confusing and indeed scandalous because it lies to the world about Catholicism, yet it has occurred for the sake of freedom.

In the United States, many things are being sacrificed for the sake of a flawed understanding of freedom. A flawed understanding was made abundantly clear in the important question of abortion, but the same flawed understanding has occurred in the pursuit of academic freedom. Hight or wrong, local prelate John D'Arcy noted an apparent tension between the two of nature and grace. He stated, "We ought to realize that no one, not Jenkins and the Catholic University of Notre Dame, sponsoring in any way that is at odds with our faith is confusing and indeed scandalous because it lies to the world about Catholicism, yet it has occurred for the sake of freedom."

The Vagina Monologues is offensive to women; it is antithetical to Catholic teaching on the beautiful gift of human sexuality and also to the teachings of the church on the human body as a temple of the Holy Spirit. This play violates the truth about women; the truth about sexuality; the truth about male and female and the truth about the human body and is in opposition to the highest understanding of academic freedom.

Jonathan Rose
An alumni reunion special of
THE OBSERVER
Jan. 30
In the age of comedians such as Ben Stiller, Will Ferrell, and Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson, it is hard to imagine comedians have been playing in theaters from the time those men were young children. In the formation for a well-rounded generation of comics stems from the movies of the 1980s and stars like Bill Murray, Steve Martin, Chevy Chase, and John Candy. Comedies of the 1980s began the trend toward plot-driven comedies seen in cineplexes today and deserve proper recognition and appreciation from all film lovers. Four comedies stand out as must-see films from the decade.

**Caddyshack** (1980)

This spoof about golf at exclusive country club was a short-lived giant leprechaun that schilaunched for all movies that followed. The main plot follows a caddy,Danny Michael Keaton, who attempts to raise money to attend col­lege. The plot is admittedly laughable, and the main comedy in the movie comes in the style of Rodney Dangerfield, Chevy Chase and Bill Murray. Dangerfield plays Al Czervik, a loud, obnoxious golfer who is completely out of place at the club. He com­pletes his goals when he is present and offers enough one-liners to keep most comedians busy for a long time. Chevy Chase plays his role to perfection and inter­acts well against Elihu Smith (Ted Knight). "Caddyshack" marked the real start of Bill Murray's career after his hilarious portrayal as Carl Spackler, an insane greenkeeper who pretends a war with a golfer. Murray truly seems insane in his performance thanks to his slurred speech and crazy antics. Overall, it's because movies that the best answer to any prob­lem is a short-lived giant leprechaun that

However, some of the most important things I've learned concern the realm of gender relations. It's that time of year

"Ghostbusters," a film following the exploits of the trio of comic book heroes Egon Spengler, Ray Stantz, and Peter Venkman who can capture and exterminate ghosts for a living. Joining Murray for this film were the original Ghostbusters, Dan Aykroyd and Bill Murray. The trio teamed with director Ivan Reitman ("Old School," "Animal House") to create a sci-fi story about ghosts attacking New York City. So Murray steals the show in a movie filled with 80's haircuts and music. The special effects seem to be begging for laughter as they are not good, but not awful either. The comedy is what drives "Ghostbusters,"

**Pee-Wee's Big Adventure** (1985)
The game held a unique niche back when it was released and still managed to capture many of its distinctiveness. The focus of "Samurai Showdown" was weapon-based combat, and while games like "Soul Calibur" now prides itself on that same concept, it still manages to maintain its own identity. Unlike other weapons-based games, "Samurai Showdown" emphasis here is not on combos or juggling the opponent. Instead, the game focuses on unique character moves and timing strikes to disarm the adversary.
es still earn laughs

Harold Ramis, left, Bill Murray, middle, and Dan Aykroyd face off against ghosts with hilarious results in the 80s classic "Ghostbusters."

V' fills its target niche

Single, powerful moves are the primary form of combat in the game. A special move, titled a "rage explosion," can be triggered at any moment and used to perform more powerful moves. But if it does not connect, or if the timer runs out, the player loses the ability for the rest of the match.

Efforts have been made to modernize the game in the form of making it compatible with X-Box Live. For the first time, one can play "Samurai Showdown" competitively over the Internet. Since the main draw for two-dimensional fighters was playing against other five opponents, this is a welcome feature.

"Samurai Showdown V" is an obvious throwback to the older days of gaming. The majority of its appeal lies in the retro nature of the game, and it appeals to an older crowd of gamers. People who grew up with the PlayStation 2 or even the original PlayStation, however, may find the game inevitably underwhelming.

Contact Mark Bemenderfer at mbemende@nd.edu

Photo courtesy of gamepoint.com

The Oriental ghoul Kusaregedo, left, attacks the French fencer Charlotte, right, in the X-Box exclusive game, "Samurai Showdown V."

Recipe Tips

Valentine's Day chocolate treats

By MAUREEN MALLOY
Some Wiener

Although many people identify Feb. 14 with dates, flowers and jewelry, I immediately think of decadent chocolate treats. Valentine’s Day provides a great opportunity to host a late-night dessert party. Serving only desserts is a fun and economical way to entertain. Whether you are hosting a special someone or a group of friends, it’s safe to say they will enjoy a night filled with bites of rich truffles, chocolate-covered strawberries and buttery blondies capped off with steaming mugs of hot chocolate.

Coffee Chocolate Truffle Kisses

9 ounces fine-quality bittersweet chocolate (not unsweetened)
3/4 cup chopped chocolate
1/2 cup heavy cream
4 teaspoons instant espresso powder
1/4 teaspoon salt
Parchment paper
1 cup unsweetened cocoa powder

Break chocolate into small pieces. In a food processor, pulse together chocolate and butter until chocolate is finely chopped. In a small saucepan, whisk together cream, espresso powder and salt and bring just to a boil. Pour hot cream mixture over chocolate mixture and pulse until smooth. Transfer mixture to a bowl. Let mixture stand at cool room temperature until just firm enough to pipe, about two hours. Oil a large baking sheet and line with parchment paper. Transfer chocolate mixture to a pastry bag fitted with a 1/2-inch plain tip. Pipe mixture onto baking sheet to form one-by-one-inch cones, or "kisses." Chill kisses, uncovered, until firm, at least three hours and up to one day. Sift cocoa powder into a small bowl. Working with one kiss at a time, roll in cocoa powder to coat. Kisses keep, in one layer in an airtight container at cool room temperature or chilled, two weeks. Makes about 64 kisses. Courtesy of Epicurious.com

Chocolate Covered Strawberries

9 ounces semisweet chocolate
3 ounces white chocolate
2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
3/4 cup unsalted butter, at room temperature
2 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
1/2 cup sugar, softened
1 cup cream
1/2 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
3/4 teaspoon salt

9 ounces fine-quality bittersweet chocolate (not unsweetened)
3/4 cup chopped chocolate
1/2 cup heavy cream
4 teaspoons instant espresso powder
1/4 teaspoon salt
Parchment paper
1 cup unsweetened cocoa powder

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Chocolate Covered Strawberries

6 ounces semisweet chocolate
3 ounces white chocolate, chopped
1 pound strawberries with stems (about 20), washed and dried very well

Put the semisweet and white chocolates in two separate heatproof medium bowls. Fill two medium saucepans with a couple of inches of water and bring to a simmer over medium heat. Turn off the heat; set the bowls of chocolate over the water to melt. Stir until smooth. (Alternatively, melt the chocolates in a microwave at half power, for one minute, stir and then heat for another minute or until melted.) Once the chocolates are melted and smooth, remove from the heat. Line a sheet pan with parchment or waxed paper. Holding the strawberry by the stem, dip the fruit into the dark chocolate, lift and twist slightly, letting any excess chocolate fall back into the bowl. Set strawberries on the parchment paper. Repeat with the rest of the strawberries. Dip a fork in the white chocolate and drizzle the white chocolate over the dipped strawberries. Set the strawberries aside until the chocolate sets, about 30 minutes. Courtesy of Television Food Network, G.P.

Monster Macadamia Nut Blondies

2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
2 teaspoons baking powder
1 cup unsalted butter, at room temperature
2 1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract
1 cup chopped macadamia nuts

Preheat an oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit and grease a 13-by-9-inch baking dish. In a bowl, stir together the flour, baking powder and salt. In a large bowl or in a mixer, beat together the butter and sugar until light and creamy, then beat in the eggs and vanilla. Gently stir in the flour mixture, then the macadamia nuts. Mix until well blended and pour into the baking dish. Bake until a toothpick inserted into the center of the dish comes out clean, about 35 minutes.

Let blondies cool in pan. To serve, cut into 9 large bars.

Contact Maureen Malloy at mmalloy@nd.edu

Photo courtesy of epicurious.com

Chocolate-covered strawberries are a delicious treat that are great for late-night dessert parties. They are simple to make and can be prepared quickly.

Photo courtesy of xenufan.com

The Oriental ghoul Kusaregedo, left, attacks the French fencer Charlotte, right, in the X-Box exclusive game, "Samurai Showdown V."

Photo courtesy of xenufan.com

Chocolate-covered strawberries are a delicious treat that are great for late-night dessert parties. They are simple to make and can be prepared quickly.
Northern Iowa ranked for first time in history

Michigan cracks top 25; more than half of Big Ten now ranked

Associated Press

Northern Iowa is ranked No. 25 in The Associated Press' Top 25 for the first time. Michigan is back in for the first time in almost a decade. The Panthers and Wolverines were among four teams new to the poll Monday. Neither was a lot longer than Iowa and Illinois, which both ranked earlier this season.

The top of the poll stayed the same with Connecticut, Duke and Memphis in the first three spots, but then came a number of changes after a week that saw 12 ranked teams lose at least one game.

"I'm excited for our players. This is the first time our school has ever been ranked and for this particular group to be one that cracks the Top 25 is very special," Northern Iowa coach Greg McDermott said. "They've done a good job of believing in themselves and they've done a good job of believing in what we're doing and we're doing something right and we're there to support them in that belief."

No. 25 Northern Iowa (19-3), ranked 25th this week, has been in the NCAA tournament the last two seasons. Last year the Panthers were one of three teams from the Missouri Valley Conference to make it, along with Creighton and Southern Illinois. The Missouri Valley is ranked sixth among conferences in the most recent public ranking.

"The success of our league from the start of the season to now has been tremendous enough for people to take notice of just how good our league is," said McDermott, whose team has won five straight and nine of 10, "but if we're ranked that high, that's great."

Iowa coach Fran McCaffery said his team has moved up one place. Tennessee, which lost to No. 21 Arkansas in the first round of the SEC Tournament, is now ranked No. 21 as one of four newcomers this week, according to the NCAA media panel.

"I think for the road we've traveled this is a significant achievement for our kids," Michigan coach Tommy Amaker said. "They've been able to get to this moment has been to stay focused and take things as they come. Hopefully they will feel honored and deserving and keep it in perspective."

The Wolverines have won four of five this season, losing only to Michigan State and Wisconsin. This is the first time since 1998 that teams from ILA, Illinois and Iowa have been ranked. Michigan and Iowa give the Big Ten six teams in the Top 25, the most among the conferences.

"It's a very tough league and the way our team has played all year and now with everyone beating each other in confer­ence play it will only stay that way. I think our league has shown its mettle in the big arena."

Connecticut (18-1), which beat St. John's and Providence in its first week as the No. 1 team, received 65 first-place votes, followed by Arizona at 1,727 points, Ohio State (19-1) second after wins over UAB and Central Florida. Villanova, Gonzaga and Illinois each jumped two spots to No. 6, followed by Oklahoma (19-2), respectively.

South Carolina, which lost at Oklahoma on Saturday, dropped from fourth to seventh.

North Carolina grabs top spot, only unbeaten team left

Duke slips to second, St. John's enters poll after 22-year drought

Associated Press

North Carolina finally added what was missing from its women's basketball resume after a national championship and an Orange Bowl appearance in Charleston - its first Atlantic Coast Conference titles - a No. 1 ranking.

North Carolina climbed to the top of The Associated Press poll for the first time in 22 years Monday after the Tar Heels beat No. 2 Duke in an intense game at Cameron Indoor Stadium.

The matchup became a battle for the conference's highly-anticipated season finale and its stakes were increased by No. 3 Connecticut losing its final two Atlantic Coast Conference titles - a No. 1 ranking.

The Tar Heels received all 46 first-place votes from a national media panel. No. 2 Connecticut received 41 of the possible 661 media votes and all 45 votes in the final poll of the 1997-98 season. This was the last time they were in the NCAA tournament.

"I think for the road we've traveled this is a significant achievement for our kids," Michigan coach Tommy Amaker said. "They've been able to get to this moment has been to stay focused and take things as they come. Hopefully they will feel honored and deserving and keep it in perspective."

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The Observer accepts classifieds every business day from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the North Duke office, 204 South DuPont Highway. Deadlines for day-one classifieds is 3 p.m. All classifieds must be prepaid. The charge is $2.50 per character per day, including all spaces. The Observer reserves the right to edit all classifieds for content or to advise refunds.
NBA

ATLANTA — Antonio Davis served a five-game suspension for rushing into the stands in defense of his wife, but his return to the court will have to wait.

Davis, who was set to start Monday night’s game against the Atlanta Hawks, was a last-minute scratch because of lower back pain. Maurice Taylor started in his place.

Before the game, Davis discussed the incident that led to his suspension.

“At some point I over-reacted, some may say that my wife should have called security — any of that,” he said in the locker room. “Bottom line, it all happened. Hopefully something like that won’t happen again.”

“But I don’t think that I would have done anything differently. As of right now, I’m just glad that it’s over and I can get back to playing basketball.”

Davis’ wife, Kendra, exchanged words with a Bulls’ fan during a Jan. 18 game in Chicago. After another fan became involved, Davis jumped over the scorer’s table and ran into the stands during a timeout in overtime. He was ejected by the officials and suspended by the league the next day.

“It’s a tough situation, you know?” Davis said. “On the one hand, as president of the (players’) union, I understand the rules better than anybody and why that rule is in place. But on the other hand — which I think is the part of me that took over — as a man, you have to protect your family.”

No matter the circumstances, the NBA made it clear there will be no leniency for players going into the stands, especially after last season’s brawl at Detroit during a Pistons-Pacers game. That melee resulted in lengthy suspensions and criminal charges for Indiana’s Ron Artest, Stephen Jackson and Jermaine O’Neal.

Even so, a number of players have sympathized with Davis’ plight.

“It’s been actually phenomenal, the support that I’ve been getting, even though I broke a rule,” he said.

Davis’ return delayed by lower back pain

HURRICANES acquire veteran Weight from Blues

Raleigh, N.C. — The Carolina Hurricanes acquired veteran center Doug Weight from the St. Louis Blues on Monday, adding another important piece to the best team in the NHL.

The 35-year-old Weight led the Blues with 33 assists and 44 points. He was named to the U.S. Olympic team that will be led by Hurricanes coach Peter Laviolette next month in Turin.

“Doug is one of the premier forwards in the National Hockey League and will add a strong element to our top lines,” Carolina general manager Jim Rutherford said in a statement. “His skill, leadership and experience will be a great benefit for our team.”

The Hurricanes also received the rights to 40-year-old Mike Zigomanis and the rights to unsignified draft pick Magnus Kahnberg to the Blues, along with three draft picks.

IN BRIEF

Hurricanes acquire veteran Weight from Blues

LA JOLLA, Calif. — New season, old story: Everybody lets go of Tiger’s tail eventually.

Everybody expected Jose Maria Olazabal to make the putts. Tiger Woods certainly did. CBS had a camera trained on Woods as Olazabal settled over a 4-foot-putter in the fast-fading afternoon light. And Tiger, cold-eyed as ever, was already staring off into the distance as if mentally rehearsing his next tee shot.

Olazabal expected to make it, too, and with good reason. The 39-year-old Spaniard is one of the newest putters around. He’s rolled them in for two decades now, across five continents, with Masters, Ryder Cups and two down other tournaments on the line.

But not this time, and not against Woods, because ... well, nobody ever hangs on long enough to beat him. Olazabal missed the putt giving Woods his first victory of the season.

Clemens pitches BP at Astros minicamp

Houston — Roger Clemens made an unexpected appearance at the start of the Houston Astros’ minicamp on Monday, pitching batting practice to prospects that included his oldest son, Koby.

The 43-year-old right-hander hasn’t decided whether he’ll play a 23rd season. He led the majors leagues with a 1.87 ERA last year but was plagued by back and hamstring problems late in the season. He limped off the field after just two innings in the World Series opening game against the Chicago White Sox.

Clemens said Monday his back and hamstring were healed, but he has doubts whether he could last another full season.

“There will be a week I get up and I feel like I can do it again and then the next week, I don’t want to get in out in the outfield and start running those poles and doing these things,” Clemens said.

around the dial

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Illinois at Wisconsin 7 p.m. ESPn
Florida at Mississippi 8 p.m. ESPN2

NBA

Minnesota at Colorado 9 p.m. OLN

WINTER X GAMES 9 p.m. ESPn
Bryant, Arenas create more issues for Pacers

INDIANAPOLIS — The Indiana Pacers, already reeling from injuries and a five-game losing streak, will face two of the league’s top scorers in Gilbert Arenas and Kobe Bryant on back-to-back nights.

The Pacers travel to Washington on Tuesday to face Bryant’s Los Angeles Lakers. Bryant leads the league with 35.9 points per game and Arenas ranks fourth with 28.3 points per contest.

The Pacers, 21-21, are in danger of falling below .500 midway through a season that began with NBA title hopes. They’ll try to bounce back on back-to-back nights.

“Gilbert has been a guy who’s dominated with the ball,” Pacers forward Austin Croshere said. “He has the ability to make really tough shots against you. Even when you play good defense against him, he hits tough shots. You want to do as good a job of taking him out of his hands as possible and make the other guys on the team beat you.”

“Kobe doesn’t bring the ball up as much, but their whole offense goes through him,” Croshere said. “You have to make him catch the ball a little farther out than he wants to catch it and run bodies at him and make him shoot tough shots.”

Besides being forced to defend two superstars, the Pacers will try to force other players to make the key shots.

“They’re two of the best scorers in the NBA, and guys the whole NBA’s trying to stop, and it’s not working.”

Sarunas Jasikevicius Pacers guard

Arenas scored 18 points and eight assists to lead Washington to a 94-85 win in Indianapolis on Jan. 13.

Arenas had 37 points and eight assists to lead the Pacers to a 94-85 win in Los Angeles on Jan. 9. He scored 81 points in two games.

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"They’re two of the best scorers in the NBA, and guys the whole NBA’s trying to stop, and it’s not working."
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Squash team defeats regional power Purdue 6-3

Special to The Observer

Notre Dame's improving squash club avenged a November loss to regional rival Purdue this week with a 6-3 victory at West Lafayette. The Boilermakers defeated the Irish 7-2 at the Big 10 Championships at Northwestern. This marked Notre Dame's first win over Purdue since the club was reactivated five years ago.

Captain James Zhang defeated Junzi Nio 9-0, 9-4, 9-6 at number one to set the tone of the match, but on this day, he shared the limelight with many teammates. Freshman Javier Nataraj Paulraz defeated the Irish at No. 2, bringing his experience as a freshman at No. 6, becoming the first boomer in eight years.

Freshman Mike Toomey, and the strong men's team. Irish coach Brad Weldon said, "Serving errors were tragic in the first game. If we would have kept our serves in and not given Michigan State so many break points, I think we could have won those games."

The next game was similar to the previous, Notre Dame and Purdue's figure skating team. Irish coach Brad Weldon said, "Serving errors were tragic in the first game. If we would have kept our serves in and not given Michigan State so many break points, I think we could have won those games."

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The Boilermakers finished in fifth place on Saturday.

The women's team continued their successful campaign with a 6-3 victory. Behind the three scorers were Katie Rehberger, Casey Danne, Katie Coutin, Katie Paquette and Kerry McGuire. The women's team finished strong in their last two games. Purdue's Tabish Ashfaq and Steve Feutzou, Purdue's Tabish Ashfaq and Steve Feutz.

The next weekend the two teams have two matches scheduled for the weekend of 11th.

The four finishers for the men's team were freshmen Katie Rehberger and Casey McFadyen, and seniors Dayna Dantizer in 28th, and senior Joni Balmat 43rd. Other finishers for the men's team were Steve Feutz in 28th, Rohingya Smalls in 32nd, Jon Merck 36th, Alex Gloczynski 42nd and Tommy Balmat 43rd.

The Irish started things off with a win against hosts USF on Friday night, winning 16-2. The next morning however, the Irish ran into Riptide, a Senior men's club team from the Tampa area.

Tampa Water Polo Club was the next opponent for the Irish in the quarterfinals.

The Irish were playing hard, but the Irish had no defense, allowing a DNF. Other finishers for the men's team were Steve Feutz in 28th, Rohingya Smalls in 32nd, Jon Merck 36th, Alex Gloczynski 42nd and Tommy Balmat 43rd.

After an impressive first run, senior Leif Peterson incited laughter from fans with a von the crash and ensuing slide down the mountain. The men's team finished in third place on the day.

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Dryland training is scheduled for the coming week.

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Tampa Water Polo Club was the next opponent for the Irish in the quarterfinals.
Benninger first broke the magic mile barrier at last season’s Meyo Invitational by clocking a 3:58.75, so his record-breaking performance Friday was not entirely unexpected.

"Kurt was especially motivated tonight after he wasn't invited to (last) Saturday's Beesock Indoor Games in Boston," Notre Dame coach Joe Plano said. "Saturday's Beesock Indoor Games featured many of the world's fastest milers as 11 runners finished the race in under four minutes. If he had been invited, Benninger might have made it 12.

"He ran with a purpose and really wanted to show those meet organizers what they were missing out on. It may be their loss, but it's certainly our gain, and we're very happy with the way things turned out for Kurt this evening."

The extra motivation certainly paid off, as Benninger turned in what was by far the best performance of the evening. Butler's Scott Overall stayed even with Benninger for the majority of the mile, but Benninger outkicked Overall down the stretch to break the four-minute barrier. Overall ended up finishing the mile with a time of 4:08.53, just off Benninger's pace.

Benninger's accomplishment is made more impressive by the fact that he is one of only three runners in school history to break the four-minute mile barrier. Luke Watson, the school record holder, ran the mile in 3:57.83 at the 2002 Meyo Invitational. The only other Irish runner to crack the barrier was Chuck Aragosta, who accomplished the feat in 1981 at the Illini Invitational.

Benninger has bounced back strong after suffering a season-ending injury last season after the NCAA Indoor Championships. He will look to continue his strong start to the season as the Irish return to action when they host the Meyo Invitational this weekend.

"I'm really looking forward to running the 5K at the Meyo Invitational," Benninger said. "The defending national champion will be running, so I am anxious to compete, and I think I am fit enough to win the event."

The two-day meet begins 5 p.m. Friday in the Loftus Sports Center.

Contact Jordan Beltz at jbelz@nd.edu

Distance runner Kurt Benninger, left, is congratulated by an opponent and teammate Tom Charnmy, right, at the Notre Dame Invitational last weekend.

"He ran with a purpose and really wanted to show those meet organizers what they were missing out on."

Joe Plano

Irish coach

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Captains flourish in leadership roles

By DAN MURPHY

On one way to measure how successful a team will be is to look at the atti­tude of the senior class — espe­cially the captains. If Notre Dame's 10K record and national­ ranking are any indication, this season's leaders have cer­tainly stepped up to the chal­lenge.

This year's captains, Jamie Lutkus and Patrick Hefernan, were selected out of a group of 10 seniors by their teammates in a vote last spring.

"I have complete faith in the process that we use," Irish coach Tim Welsh said. "We have had a string of good captains in the past years, and this year is no different."

Welsh said the main quality the Irish look for in a captain is the ability to communicate with both teammates and coaches. He added that it is essential each captain is well liked by his teammates but still a strong leader in and out of the pool.

The coach seems to have found the right men.

"Jamie is intense and really into the spirit of Notre Dame, while Patrick is more laid back and keeps us loose," Irish swimmer Graham Parker said. "They provide a good ying and yang that keep our team balanced and together."

However, the respect these captains earned from their coaches and teammates didn't come easily. The captains say they have worked hard for many years to put themselves in the leadership roles they have today. Lutkus, who competed in the breaststroke and individual medleys (IMs), has been named to the all-Big East Conference team all four of his years at Notre Dame. He was an All-American for three consecutive seasons during his time here.

Hefernan continues to own the top six times in the 400-yard IM, as well as the second-best time in the 200-yard event, in the pro­gram's history.

"Being a captain gives you an extra push," Lutkus said. "It is important to lead by example because fast swimming can be contagious."

Hefernan has also left his mark in leading by example the past four years. He ranks with all time in the 200 butterfly and was a part of a record-setting relay team during his sopho­more season.

Lutkus continued by attribut­ing Hefernan's biggest asset to the team has been his unmatched work ethic and self-less sense of team. This was evident early on when he was presented with the McManus Captains' Award — given annually to the player who best exemplifies the word "teammate" — at the end of his sophomore season.

"I just tried to show up every day, practice and do what I could to help the team achieve our goals," Hefernan said.

Both Hefernan and Lutkus said they were "honored and excited" when they learned about their responsibilities as captains. They began filling their new roles as soon as the team arrived on campus.

"It was clear that they both had the ear of the team from the start," Welsh said. "They have been good leaders all four of their years, but they still both have a lot they want to accomplish in the next month."

Contact Dan Murphy at dmurphy6@nd.edu

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Men's Swimming

By Spence Weiss

The Observer • SPORTS

The Notre Dame Creative Writing Program Presents:

"This Life, She's Chosen"

Reading and Reception
February 1, 7:30 p.m.
South Dining Hall
Hospitality Room

"Thank you, Captain!" says an admiring, translating, highly polished stork who's stumbled upon this lone Irish club member.
**Big East continued from page 20**

however, the Championships will be their opportunity to achieve what Carroll has already done — qualify for the NCAA Championship.

The Irish are currently rid-

**Recruits continued from page 20**

quantity.

In addition, Corrigan said this class' athleticism sepa-

rates it from past groups, call-

ing it "the most athletic class we've ever gotten," pointing to the incoming players' accomplish-

ments in multiple high school sports.

Eight of them received a variety of all-conference and all-state honors in other sports.

Three of next year's incoming freshmen will warm up with a vocation. To serve as a priest or brother?

In addition because of the post

McGraw has been adamant about trying to

set up a postgame presence, where the team has had trouble lately.

We need to really rejuvenate the post game. I think that's a key, that's what was working for

us early in the year," McGraw said.

In part because of the post

problems, the Irish have been

continually watching the
droughts, to see what went wrong, what did we do wrong. It's just a lot of different things

contributing to them," McGraw said.

While lineup changes seem to be in effect for at least tonight,

McGraw says the team has no

plans of changing its overall phi-

losophy or game strategy.

"We're pretty much going to do

the same thing we've been doing,

offensively just hoping more

dominating runs or go more than

evenly likely to make

problems, the Irish have been

been adamant about trying to

the right combination right now."

**Contact Greg Arbogast at garbogas@nd.edu**

**Contact Eric Retter at eretter@nd.edu**

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**Corby Night**

**Congregation of Holy Cross**

A great band of men had passed this way, men who had made and lived by their vows, men who had walked side by side in their following of the Lord...
ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Nowhere to go but east

Irish absent from national top-25 polls for first time since 2003-04 season

By ERIC RETTER
Sports Writer

After struggling to a 3-5 record in the first half of conference play, the Carrier Dome may just be what the doctor ordered. The Irish, who are 12-7 overall and have fallen out of the top 25 for the first time since the end of the 2003-2004 season, will go into their game at Syracuse with an 18-2 overall series record and an 8-1 record when the game is played at Syracuse, where Notre Dame hasn't lost since the 1988-89 season.

While the team will be making its third trip to the East Coast in a little over a week, Notre Dame head coach Muffet McGraw is confident the team will not experience any ill-effects from the travel. "We had yesterday off, so I think we had a nice day to get fresh, especially on a Sunday when they don't have class," McGraw said. "It was a good day off, so I think we'll be ready."

Syracuse, (2-7 in the Big East and 9-11 overall), comes into the game on a two-game losing streak, having pulled out victories against Seton Hall and Providence last week. The Orange will be led by center Vaida Sapienicaite, who currently averages 17.6 points per game. The Notre Dame effort to end its current losing streak will be led by senior guard Megan Duffy, who currently ranks eighth in the Big East in scoring with 16.1 points per game, including 25 points in a heartbreaking 68-64 overtime loss to South Florida Saturday.

"I think the thing that we want to do is make sure we have the right people shooting the ball, which, of course, Megan is a prominent feature in that," McGraw said. After Saturday's disappointing loss to DePaul Jan. 17.

ND WOMEN'S SWIMMING

Irish energizing for Big East meet

Swimmers recover, refocus for looming postseason events

By GREG ARBOGAST
Sports Writer

After rigorous training and preparation over the past three months, the Irish women will spend the next two weeks getting ready for tests against the nation’s top competition. On Feb. 15, Notre Dame will start its postseason in the Big East Championships and continue until the NCAA Championships March 23.

"The NCAs have been the focus all year," Irish coach Carrie Nixon said. "Our goal has been to get as many girls to the NCAs and score as many points as possible."

To accomplish that goal, Nixon is easing up on workouts for the next couple of weeks. For example, the sprinters, who need the most rest because of their intense workouts over the course of the season, will be tapering for a full 10 days. Irish junior Katie Carroll, on the other hand will only be tapering for five days. Since Carroll has already qualified for the NCAs by attaining an ‘A’ cut time in the 400 IM, the Big East Championships are just another tune up on the road to the national meet. For the majority of the team sees BIG EAST/page 18

MEN'S LACROSSE

Corrigan announces 2010 class

Ciambella headlines field of nine recruits

By TIM DOUGHERTY
Sports Writer

Notre Dame coach Kevin Corrigan has begun reeling in one of his best recruiting classes in hi 17th season as the face of the lacrosse program. Three months into recruiting class of 2010 will not be finalized until the end of the April late signing period. Corrigan announced Monday that the Irish have inked nine new contributors for next season, all of whom were "very heavily recruited," the coach said Monday.

The class includes three defenders, three midfielders and three attackmen from four different states, complementing the upcoming departure of this year’s senior class (two defenders, five midfielders, one attackman, one goalie). "We’re really excited about this class," Corrigan said. "It’s deep. We’ve got quality and see RECRUITS/page 18

TRACK AND FIELD

Benninger cracks record books

ND junior becomes only runner to break four-minutes twice

By JORDAN BIELTZ
Sports Writer

Kurt Benninger always knew in his heart that someday he might have record-breaking potential. Little did he know that that potential would blossom so quickly.

"I actually thought that I was fit enough to run a few seconds faster, but obviously I am happy with my performance and results," Benninger said.

The Irish junior became the first runner in Notre Dame history to record two sub-four-minute miles in his career. "Going into the meet, I definitely thought that I would be able to break the four-minute barrier," Benninger said. "I actually thought that I was fit enough to run a few seconds faster, but obviously I am happy with my performance and results." Benninger Am Games.

Hailing from Chippewa, Ontario, Canada, Benninger was a member of the Canadian Junior team and he competed in the 2003 Pan Am Games. see MILE/page 17

Irish players Crystal Erwin, left, Lindsay Schrader, center, and Melissa D’Amico look toward the court during the final moments of Notre Dame’s 78-75 win over DePaul Jan. 17. see MCGRAW/page 18