Controversial film event to begin

Showings to be called 'Gay and Lesbian Film: Filmmakers, Narratives and Spectatorship' by MARY KATE MALONE
Assistant News Editor

Two weeks after University President Father John Jenkins questioned the presence of controversial events on campus in a series of messages to the Notre Dame community, the event formerly known as the Queer Film Festival will begin today under a new name — garnering national media attention and stirring student activism.

"Gay and Lesbian Film: Filmmakers, Narratives and Spectatorship" is the new title of the annual film event entering its third year at the University. In its addresses to students, faculty and alumni, Jenkins said the event's previous title seemed "to celebrate homosexual activity."

"This year, we sponsor something or a unit of the University sponsors something that appears to be in conflict with Catholic teaching, the University's name is used in such a way that it seems to support that which it doesn't support. It's more about authenticity of character and its representation," Jenkins told The Observer following the addresses.

The Queer Film Festival was renamed after months of meetings between various groups connected to the event.

The new name was agreed upon by all parties involved, which included student organizers, the department of Film, Television and Theatre (FTT) and the University administration," event co-chair Martin Laina said.

Those parties are all satisfied with the name, Laina said. But the event's content and purpose as an academic endeavor have not changed, Laina said, adding the new name is not nearly as important as the event itself.

"The title accurately reflects the aims and purposes of the event, which is to showcase..." see FILMS/page 8

Leaders confront ordinance

But city officials remain skeptical by KAREN LANGLEY
Assistant News Editor

The controversial South Bend Public Nuisance Ordinance — which caused some students to face fines and evictions — may be less intrusive and strict if some student government leaders have it their way.

Their Monday night meeting initiated their plan for their Feb. 27 visit to the South Bend Common Council, where they intend to appeal for consideration of a Student Senate resolution on the controversial amendment to South Bend's Public Nuisance Ordinance.

Assistant City Attorney Amanda Nash said Wednesday she would not support such an appeal.

The resolution requests the Council further amend the ordinance so that landlords are encouraged to evict disruptive tenants after the second, rather than the first, violation of the ordinance. As it stands, the ordinance is considered a public nuisance on a single notice to abate — a recommendation which is considered a public nuisance on a single notice to abate, student body president Dave Baron said Tuesday.

In response to student concerns that the ordinance be made consistent with a single notice to abate, student body president Dave Baron said Tuesday.

"In response to student concerns, we seek that the ordinance be made consistent with a single notice to abate," he said.

Nash told The Observer that while she could not predict the Council’s reaction, she would not support such an appeal.

"My question to the Council would be, 'Do you want to tell..." see RELATIONS/page 4

Panel discusses jazz, hip-hop's reflection of black culture by PETER NINNEMAN
News Writer

The portrayal of hip-hop artists in contemporary society and the progression of music genres that reflect the progression of black culture were the topics of discussion Wednesday evening in the Hesburgh Center for International Studies.

"Fight the Power: The Evolution of Music in African-American Culture" was sponsored by Shades of Ebony and the Department of Africana Studies. It included a panel comprised of Ivy Wilson, assistant professor of English; Larry Dwyer, Notre Dame's director of jazz studies; Alvin Tillery, associate professor of political science; and Richard Pierce, associate history professor and Africana studies department chair.

Jazz and hip-hop were the two music genres that received the most attention, though the discussion involved the entire history of black music and culture.

"You literally could look at black music as a soundtrack to black history," Wilson said.

After quick introductions and opening statements, the panel dove right into the question of whether jazz was a force for social change.

It was a force for social change, Wilson said.

"For one, it did bring white and black musicians together," Wilson said.

Nearly one quarter of Billie Holiday's accompanying musicians were white in the 1940s. Black and white jazz musicians got together for jam sessions, even though laws forbade them from doing so publicly, Dwyer said.

Wilson disagreed with Dwyer's point.
Cheap seats

I'm known for a lot of things, but among my college friends two stand out: my penchant for free crap and my tendency to be absolutely random. My roommates — one of whom happens to be the mail lady for our building — have often commented on the multitude of products and gift cards that come to our door everything from free dinners at Outback Steakhouse to books to lots and lots of free samples. I don't care what's in the envelope as long as it's mail, because like all college students, mail and free stuff make me very happy.

The randomness is another story. My former roommate Tara told me on an almost daily basis, "You are the most random person I know." And this was before my decision to bring home a giant salmon — head, scales and all — from the grocery store just because it looked cool.

I disappear for days and can often be found in random spots around town adventurously roaming about and watching the residents. This has led me to the discovery of some crumby, favorite South Bend spots — Fiddler's Hearth at lunchtime, the duck pond in the park, the College Football Hall of Fame — but only one place in the city has combined my love of everything that is free and my tendency to jaunt off to nowhere for no reason.

Movies on 6 University. Fondly known to me as "the dollar show," it actually costs two most of the time — but who am I to complain? It's almost as cheap as free. I bought my ticket for $1 on Wednesdays and $.50 on Mondays when three people buy tickets together, and I can use the change I should be using to do my laundry with to get in. It costs three to six times as much to get in to a regular movie. That's a lot of money for someone who sees as many movies as I do.

I worked at a movie theater for five years before coming to college, and my ADD-abled brain became almost addicted to the serenity that comes with engrossing yourself in someone else's story for a few short hours. Now, my video collection is monstrous and I go to see a movie in a set mood at the local theater from time to time because it's almost second nature to me. In my own hometown, the cheap movie theater, Westlake, closed down about a year ago — which made me terribly sad, although I gained free entry at the theater I worked at. Westlake was a lot like South Bend — was a Peoria institution, and I look forward to seeing it go.

Since I came to college, one of my favorite things to do when driving around South Bend at any time of day is just pull in to the dollar show and see whatever's playing. Over the weekend when my roommates all went home and I was left with nothing to do I saw three movies — three — for a total cost of $4. Amazing.

Now, one of them was the worst movie I have ever seen in my life, but hey — I only paid a buck to see it. And I would have paid at least twice that to rent it. So at least I took a chance and got it out of the way.

My favorite things to do when driving around South Bend residents who flock in every day, sometimes kids in tow, to see a cheap show, would have to argue with you. I love the dollar show and I hope it never closes. I know I'll be there every week to keep them in business.

Contact Nicole Zook at zook952@saintmarys.edu

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
Students to host Stein conference

Topics for 'The Edith Stein Project' include rape, eating disorders

Special to The Observer

A group of Notre Dame students is hosting a two-day conference to examine the manner in which contemporary culture impairs the dignity of women and to describe the vocation of women in the modern world.

The conference, entitled "The Edith Stein Project: Redefining Feminism," will be held Friday and Saturday in McKenna Hall. Rape, domestic violence, abortion, eating disorders, and the plight of female migrant workers will be among the topics discussed by a variety of speakers, including Alasdair MacIntyre, senior research fellow in Notre Dame's Center for Ethics and Culture; Rev. John A. Loughlin, professor of law in the Notre Dame Law School; Cynthia Mahmood, associate professor of anthropology at Notre Dame; Laura García, professor of philosophy at Boston College; Michael Scaperlanda, professor of law at the University of Oklahoma College of Law; and Deidre McVicar, pro-life spokeswoman for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Born Oct. 12, 1981 to a Jewish family in Breslau, Germany, Edith Stein studied philology and philosophy at the Universities of Breslau and Göttingen and earned a doctoral degree in philosophy from the University of Freiburg, where she was a friend and collaborator with Edmund Husserl, the founder of phenomenology. She converted to Catholicism when she was 30 years old and 12 years later entered the Carmelite convent in Cologne. Fleeing persecution, she moved to a Carmelite convent in Echt, Holland, in 1938 but was arrested by the Nazis in 1942 during a nationwide retaliation following the Dutch Catholic Bishops' denunciation of the deportation of Jews and the expulsion of Jewish children from the Catholic school system. She died at Auschwitz on Aug. 9, 1942. Known in the Carmelite order as Sister Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, Edith Stein was canonized, or proclaimed a saint, by Pope John Paul II in 1998.

The conference will close with a Mass at 5 p.m. Saturday in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart. Bishop John M. D'Arcy of Fort Wayne-South Bend will be the presiding celebrant.

Activist to discuss Emmett Till

Special to The Observer

Keith Beauchamp, civil rights activist and filmmaker, will discuss his documentary "The Untold Story of Emmett Louis Till" at 7 p.m. Feb. 15 in the auditorium of the Hesburgh Center for International Studies. The lecture is free and open to the public.

In a tragedy that contributed to the beginning of the civil rights movement, Till, a black Chicago teenager visiting Money, Miss., was beaten and murdered for publicly addressing a white woman in 1955. The two men charged in the case were acquitted by an all-white jury. Beauchamp's documentary provides eyewitness testimony and an interview with Till's mother, which resulted in a potentially guilty parties and ultimately prompted the U.S. Department of Justice to reopen the case in 2004.

The College of Engineering Welcomes Early Admitted Engineering Intents

Nicholas T. Abercrombie
Alexander L. Augugliaro
Jessica R. Bell
Thomas J. Besio
Christopher Bliter
Brenon E. Boston
Joseph M. Camarda
Matthew G. Camus
Christopher A. Chanielli
Brandon Chynoweth
Barrett C. Clark
Jaron E. Cleteland
Matthew S. Clement
Claire M. Connell
Thomas A. Crockett
Thadeous Cybulski
Nicholas B. Dan
Natalie C. Dehen
Christine E. Dempster
Sara DeVore
Chris Dondaville
Mary K. Duncan
Tyler Emptage
Brian G. Faehrenbach
Laura Ferraro

Caitlin Fleming
Benjamin E. Fotch
Scott Garvey
Brendan J. Geisler
Christopher Gill
Katherine A. Gomrick
Michael E. Grathwohl
Michael G. Harvey
Vihan O. Healey
Michael Holcomb
Brad S. Hurak
Elizabeth Israel
Brian E. Jacobs
Robert L. Jones
Christopher J. Kallenbach
Patrick C. Kane
Chris Kennedy
Jacyn Klaus
Anne M. Legault
Andrew Loza
Daniel A. Luisardi
Timothy L. Malecek
Scott Malloch
Thomas Mathew

Katherine S. Morin
Melissa K. Murphy
Joseph D. O'Brien
Michelle E. Ostrowski
Camilo M. Pascual
James M. Quinniff
Steven C. Roth
Elizabeth M. Ruiz
John C. Schoefler
Tara E. Schinsop
Andrew J. Setter
Robert A. Simmer
Ryan D. Slaney
Michael J. Sullivan
Marie Sydlik
Steven J. Scally
Victor Szeligowski
Jeremy C. Tamargo
Cassandra J. Telman
Christopher P. Tillett
Alexander C. Tomalia
Kevin J. Vega
Keith Verney
John M. Walsh
Michael B. Williams

The College of Engineering welcomes early admitted engineering intents.

We hope to see you in our class of 2010.
relations

continued from page 1

tudents who were evicted under the ordinance—seven to ten in con­ stituencies in the ordinance’s text—and alternatives to eviction available to landlords.

“We are not going to complain,” Gunty said. “We’re just not going to pursue a combative role, but in a participa­ tory role, which is something they want to see.”

Baron said he has not heard from the six evicted students recently. “I know they were intending to move out, to campus or other apartments,” he said.

“Student govern­ ment is also reaching directly to the landlord through Josh Pasquesi, counselor to the president, who has been working with landlords at Tusculum, College Park, Lafayette Street, Clover Ridge and East Race Condos,” Baron said.

“We just want to talk to landlords and let them know what students are thinking.”

Dave Baron
student body president

We just want to talk to landlords and let them know what students are thinking.

Senate

continued from page 1

have no fear of opposition,” Gunty said.

Censoring productions that present non-Catholic values, he said, is “an affront to us as students don’t have knowledge of our faith.”

Thwaites said while many times students are raised Catholic, it’s by birth, not choice. “With a different belief system can help students realize the true nature of their faith,” he said.

“When you come to a university, you’re not forced into the path, you have options. Hopefully full-­­ly [questioning students] will choose Catholicism, not have it forced on them,” Barion said.

And despite Jenkins’ attention to the dialogue to the entire campus community—delivering three addresses, putting the speech’s transcript and feed on the Internet and setting up an e-mail address for feedback—there are still plenty of unanswered questions and widespread misunderstanding, Senate said.

The boundaries of potential University policies need clarifi­ cation, Senator Siefried Van Gundy said.

“I think what some people are concerned about is, ‘where do we draw the line?’” Gunty said.

Both Brown and Walsh sen­ ator Erin Hanshin said there was confusion regarding the different guidelines for depart­ ment-sponsored and non-­events, citing an apparent double standard.

Hanshin read the Open Speaker Policy outlined in dulac—a University state­ment that several senators the President Lizzi Shappell addressed the issue was being campaigned for office last year.

“We have seen the frayd rela­ tions that exist and the potential for growth,” he said. “To see more students participate in campus plans... is a great sign of progress.”

Contact Karen Langley at klanglel@nd.edu

While some people may see academic freedom and Catholic character as opposing forces, Keough senator Rob Lind said the two are meant to coexist at Notre Dame.

“Notre Dame should not have to sacrifice its academic character or Catholic values,” Lind said. “However, it shouldn’t have to sacrifice its academic character values for its Catholic character as well.”

In other Senate news:

Representatives from the College Room-Mate Program addressed senators at the beginning of the meeting to discuss the next step in implement­ ing the program at Notre Dame this fall—a timely dis­ cussion, since student body vice president Lizzie Shappell said the Board of Trustees recently approved the $15 student fee increase to cover the costs of the program.

In Senate in October, Student Senate manager Megan O’Connell presented options regarding distribution locations— or “touchpoints” — and distribution recep­ tacles.

“The goal of this program is easy access, wide distribution and accessible for students,” O’Connell said.

Approximately 2,000 newspapers will be available to stu­ dents daily next fall. The types and locations of papers have not been determined at this point, but of the meetings to discuss the distribution process.

“Notre Dame should not coexist at Notre Dame this fall— a timely dis­ cussion, since students are concerned about is, ‘where do we draw the line?’” Gunty said.
INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Rebel riots disrupt Nepal elections

KATHMANDU — A rebel attack and an opposition boycott marred Nepal's first elections in seven years on Wednesday, as few voters turned out at schools, shrines and temples for a crucial balloting season as a referendum on the Himalayan country's king. Two people were killed in the riots.

Hours before polls opened, rebels launched a major assault on the eastern town of Dhankuta, bombarding at least 12 government buildings and destroying the local bank, police officials said.

The clashes killed one policeman and one civilian, and took seven government officials and three police officers hostage, said a police official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to the media.

Mex. sues hotel that expelled Cubans

MEXICO CITY — Mexico has sued a hotel that kicked out about 40 Cuban refugees Tuesday against an American-owned hotel that — under pressure from the U.S. govern­ ment — had agreed to house Cuban refugees with U.S. entry visas.

People protested outside the hotel Tuesday, waving Cuban and Spanish flags, and signs reading "Stop bowing to U.S. imperi­ alism that harms national sovereignty."

NATIONAL NEWS

Soldier refunded for missing gear

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — A former soldier injured in Iraq is getting a refund after being forced to pay for his missing body armor, which he now knows was lost.

Eddie Hebrook, who graduated from West Virginia University's military department, said about a dozen soldiers in her unit were forced to pay $632 for the body armor they had lost.

"I'm happy and thankful," Hebrook said as he delivered the refund check to the bank.

National guardsmen exonerated

WASHINGTON — A court-martial found seven National Guardsmen acquitted of charges of sexual assault and hazing.

The guardsmen were accused of raping a female soldier and forcing another to bow before U.S. military insignia. They had pleaded not guilty.

The guardsmen were acquitted of sexual assault but were found guilty of hazing.

"We are relieved by this decision," Capt. Michael Bryant, a spokesman for the National Guard Bureau, said. "We believe the court-martial's decision clearly shows the guardsmen were not involved in sexual assault.

"The guardsmen are exonerated and will return to their jobs."

Afghanistan

Islamic clerics call for end to riots

KABUL — Afghanistan’s top Islamic organization on Wednesday called for an end to violent protests over draw­ ings of the Prophet Muhammad, as police shot four protestors to death as a crowd marched on a U.S. military base in the southern part of the country.

"This base, it’s all right to demonstrate but not to resort to violence," senior cleric Mohammad Usamn said. "We condemn the cartoons but this does not justify violence. These riots are defaming the name of Islam."

Hundreds rioted outside the U.S. military base in the southern city of Qalat on Wednesday, throwing rocks at Afghan police. Police tried to clear the crowd by firing shots in the air, then were forced to fire into the crowd, said Chulum Nabi Mazakil, the provincial police chief.

Two people were killed and at least 20 were wounded, he said.

The protesters then set fire to three fuel tankers that were waiting to deliver gas to the base.

He said U.S. troops fired warning shots to stop the inci­ dence.

Eleven people have been killed in the past week as thousands have taken to the streets in a dozen Afghan cities nationwide to march against the cartoons, which have been repri­ manded in various forms around the world, especially in the Islamic community, so it was not surprising that the protests continued.

"We call on the world to release the hostages and to pay for the damage," Prime Minister Abdullah said as he called on the world to release the hostages and to pay for the damage.

"The world must pay attention to the situation in Afghanistan, it is not a peaceful country," Abdullah said.

"The world must step in and protect the civilians who are suffering in Afghanistan, it is not a peaceful country," Abdullah said.

An Afghan man stands outside a U.S. military base northeast of Kandahar, where protest­ ers, enraged over the cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad, set a truck on fire Wednesday.

Associated Press

Three convicted in smuggling case

HOUSTON — Three more people were convicted Wednesday in the nation’s deadliest human smuggling attempt, a journey that ended in the deaths of 19 illegal immigrants who had been packed into a stifling tractor­ trailer.

The defendants, all U.S. citizens from Texas, were convicted of conspiracy and harboring and transporting illegal immigrants. All could get up to 20 years in prison at sen­ tencing May 1.

Prosecutors had said Victor Sanchez Rodriguez, 58, his wife, Emma Sapata Rodriguez, 59, and her half­ sister, Rosa Sarrata Gonzalez, hid the immigrants in their home and moved them to other houses before they were loaded into an air­tight tractor­trailer for transport from South Texas to Houston in 2003.

"It’s time to send a message to those that their days of making money on the pain, desperation of others has come to an end," federal prosecutor Daniel Rodriguez told the jury.

The trio could have faced life in prison after being convicted of the nine­ counts responsible for the immi­ grants’ deaths, but jurors told ammunition the judge they did not feel that way.

More than 70 illegal immigrants in all were packed into the tractor­ trailer. As they traveled, they began to succumb to the rising heat inside the trailer. Seventeen were dead by the time the trailer was discovered, and two died later. They all died from dehydration, overheating and suffocation.

Survivors testified that the immi­ grants took off their sweat­drenched clothes for relief and crowded around holes they punched in the truck so they could breathe. They also kicked out a signal light to get the attention of passing motorists.

They were found after the driver abandoned the trailer at a truck stop in Victoria.

Associated Press

Local News

State to improve juvenile centers

INDIANAPOLIS — The Indiana Department of Correction is asking the state for $42 million for programs at its juvenile centers under an agree­ ment with the U.S. Justice Department that resolves civil rights violations at two facili­ ties.

The state agency also must try to provide bet­ ter security at the centers as part of the settle­ ment, Commissioner J. David Donahue said Wednesday.

The Justice Department’s Civil Rights Division alleged last September that the state violated the civil rights of juveniles held at facilities in Evansport and South Bend.

The state plans to improve security at the centers, which house nearly 1,000 juveniles who are sentenced to stay in state custody.

"We plan to improve security at the centers, which house nearly 1,000 juveniles who are sentenced to stay in state custody," Donahue said.

The state plans to improve security at the centers, which house nearly 1,000 juveniles who are sentenced to stay in state custody, he said.

Associated Press
The central act of worship within the Church is generally poorly understood. To receive the Sacraments, including the reception of Holy Communion, is a problem only arises if the divorced Catholic who is divorced is excommunicated; a problem only arises if the divorced Catholic who is divorced is excommunicated (separating oneself from the Church). The practice of separating certain gross offenders from the rest of the Catholic community goes all the way back to biblical times (see Matt 18:15-20 and 1 Cor 5:1-5).

There are two different ways that excommunication occurs. First, some sins are so heinous as to warrant automatic excommunication the moment one knowingly commits such a sin. Church Law specifies seven sins that incur automatic excommunication: desecrating the Blessed Sacrament or using it for a sacrilegious purpose, procuring or assisting in an abortion, using physical force against the person of another, a priest absolving an accomplice in a sin against the Sixth Commandment (on adultery), a bishop consecrating someone as a bishop without permission of the Pope, a priest directly violating the seal of confession, apostasy (renunciation of faith), heresy (denial of revealed religious Truth), or schism (separating oneself from the Church). (It’s important to note that a Catholic who is divorced is NOT among those listed as automatically excommunicated; a problem only arises if the divorced Catholic tries to remarry without an annulment of the previous marriage.)

In addition to automatic excommunication, a bishop can pronounce excommunication on certain individuals or groups whose actions or beliefs are so contrary to Catholic Christian faith as to warrant it. Excommunication of this sort has occurred, for example, in the Archdiocese of St. Louis as recently as this past December 2005, when a lay board of directors at St. Stanislaus Kostka parish time and time again refused to submit to the authority of either the Archbishop or the Pope, and knowingly hired a suspended priest from a neighboring diocese as their new pastor. Both the lay board and the priest, in committing the crime of schism, were excommunicated and the parish has been suppressed (more information on this sad yet interesting situation can be found online at http://stlouisreview.com/ahbcolumn.php?abpid=9772).

Excommunication, while a severe penalty, is never irreversible. As Fr. John Dietzen writes, “Excommunication always includes the invitation to repentance and return, and holds out the promise of forgiveness from God and the Christian community, the Church.”

Send questions to Brett Perkins: Perkins.26@nd.edu!
### The Observer

**Time Warner may dismantle**

Group of investors calls for breakdown of media giant, alleges mismanagement

**Associated Press**

NEW YORK — Financier Carl Icahn called for Time Warner Inc. to split into four independent companies, citing a report he commissioned that it is a "chaotic media conglomerate" mismanaging its short-term turnaround.

Icahn recruited the investment bank Lazard Ltd. to study options for the company, and a brokerage firm helped him compile a list of potential buyers. Icahn said he plans to present the proposals to financial analysts and reporters at a news conference in New York Tuesday.

The proposals were largely in line with Icahn's previous demands for the company, and included a $20 billion tax buyback as well as criticisms of Time Warner's current management.

The Lazard report also called for Time Warner to be broken up into four companies: AOL, Time Warner Cable, publishing, and entertainment. Just a day after Lazard said it would sell its book publishing division to the French media and retail conglomerate Lagardere SCA for $3.5 billion.

"Our view is that Time Warner has been managed for the short term," said Bruce Wasserstein, the head of Lazard. "Since 2002, almost every strategic decision concerning AOL has been wrong."

Wasserstein said AOL should have capitalized on its latest edition in instant messaging to build a big business in Internet-based telephone services. He also said it waited too long to offer a bundled service with corporate sibling Time Warner Cable and defense was so severe that it led to a surge in Internet advertising.

However, it remains unclear whether the proposals will win over other investors. Icahn has allied himself with some other Time Warner shareholders, but collectively they control only about 3.3 percent of the company's stock.

Time Warner's deal in 2001 to be acquired by AOL led to enormous problems, including a plummeting share price, a management purging, failure to deliver on promises of corporate synergy and accounting inaccuracies at AOL. The combined company used to be called Time Warner Inc.

Time Warner has since shed debt, settled shareholder lawsuits and regulatory investigations and revamped AOL's business strategy to attract more advertising. Nevertheless, despite those efforts, Time Warner's stock has remained in a rut, something that Time Warner Chief Executive Dick Parsons and Icahn agree on. The stock is still roughly at the same level it was in the spring of 2002. Time Warner promised to evaluate the proposals in Lazard's report. In the meantime, the company said, "We are on the right path."

Icahn has also recruited Frank Biondi, a former head of Time Warner unit HBO and Viacom Inc., to serve as chief executive of Time Warner if Icahn's drive to sell a new slate of directors succeeds, which is far from certain.

In a somewhat puzzling twist, Biondi told the news conference that he hoped "to go into business, sell the company and then break them up, and they earn fees on both sides."

### Businesses gear up for tax season

**Associated Press**

NEW YORK — Every tax filing season, many small businesses end up paying the government more than they need to. Some don't take advantage of all the deductions they're entitled to, or they're held up with changes in the tax law.

Tax professionals say there are two main reasons why small businesses get tripped up while preparing tax returns: fear of an audit and ignorance.

"For many small businesses, they get caught up in the advice they may get from their tax preparer or accountant," says Stephen Fishman, an attorney and author of "How to Avoid Your Small Business Taxes," the specter of an audit stops many small business owners from claiming a home office deduction, even when they qualify for this break and could save a substantial amount on their tax bills.

Fishman noted that years ago, claiming you worked out of your home was one of those red flags that would draw the IRS to your tax return. But now, he said, small business owners, "They may not be aware the law is more liberal."

Since changes in the law were made in 1998, Fishman said, "The IRS is no longer running a fear campaign."

However, Fishman warned, "Ignorance can also cost a small business plenty of money — many small business owners just don't know what the law is. Fishman said owners tend to overbook a deduction tailored for them, known as the Section 179 deduction. This allows small businesses to deduct up-front rather than depreciate the cost of certain equipment and software."

Business owners who are late in the standard mileage rate used to deduct the cost of using a vehicle for business purposes. Because the price of gasoline soared in the last few months of the year, the IRS has set up a two-tier deduction for 2005 — businesses can deduct 40.5 cents for each business mile driven before Sept. 1, and 48.5 cents for business miles driven after Aug. 31.
Music continued from page 1

"Social change may have occurred on an atomic scale, but not at a social level," Williams said toTell.
The panel also discussed the role of jazz during the American civil rights move­
ment, and how it differed from other music genres.

"Gospel, blues, funk — those were much more the soundtrack of the civil rights movement," Tillery said. Eventually more lyrical music passed jazz as the most popular form of black music in American popular culture. Pierce said this occurred because black culture had changed, so the music followed.

"If you look at 1936 to 1948, blacks are moving," Pierce said. "That's the hey­
day of jazz in terms of popular roles, commercialization, depiction of black culture and the whole music has on black children.

"I've got a lot of beef with hip hop music ... but it's dialectical," Tillery said. "For every Pablo Escobar you're going to have a 'Tacky Tally.'"

"Gospel, blues, funk — those were much more the soundtrack of the civil rights movement," Alvin Tillery associate professor West's album "College Dropout.

"We always want our artists to act a certain way, and we're always disappoint­
et that they don't," said Tillery. The role of consumers in choosing the kinds of ideals they're entrained in rap videos and music was also addressed. A panel member discussed the paradox in consumers who "just want things," yet want Black artists to carry (them) through the day.

"Consumers have to show record labels that we'll buy the next "Chuck D," he said.

Contact Peter Ninnemann at

Music continued from page 1

the very best of filmmaking and to showcase gay and lesbian film within a tradition of film scholarship and a spirit of inclusion at this university," Laina said.

Though the future of the event will remain uncertain until Jenkins has listened to feedback and made a decision, FTT department head Peter Holland said he is sure this year's event will be "a tremen­
dous success."

"I think some people thought that the event was advocacy of homosexuality," Holland said. "It wasn't. It's not. Nobody could think "narratives, film­
makers and spectatorship" is a state­
ment about advocacy."

Jenkins did not deliver a firm policy on events in conflict with Catholic values but said enough to since spur widespread mobil­
ization on campus among groups like unrecognized gay/straight student group AllianceND and the newly­
formed group United for Free Speech.

"There is a heightened sense of urgency in the people who support Gay and Lesbian Film: Filmmakers and Narratives, Perspectives," AllianceND co­
ordinator Anna Gomberg said. "We have to show our support so it will be around next year and the year after."

Hoping to draw regional and national media attention to their cause, both groups are hosting a "massive" petition signing outside Deboralolo Hall.

Films continued from page 1

The petition states that events like Gay and Lesbian Film and "The Vagina Monologues" have a place on Notre Dame's campus because they encourage open dialogue, AllianceND board member Stacey Williams said. Fox News Channel will be on campus interviewing organiz­
ers and stu­
dents, Williams said.

AllianceND supporters will also be wearing "Gay? Fine By Me" T-shirts today in solid­
darity with all gay students on campus — those who are open about it, and those who are not, Williams said.

"It creates a sense of unity, a visible presence on campus," Williams said. "Your average person might see a bunch of orange shirts and think, 'O.K., I'm gay, and there are people here who are not completely in the closet.'"

"I'm going to be so polarizing. I feel that's a risk you take when you do these things," Williams said. "Hopefully we can get some signatures to show Jenkins we're interested in his policies and what he has to say."

Contact Mary Kate Malone at

Studies: Birth defects were linked to corn

Associated Press

HARLINGEN, Texas — Contaminated corn may have caused an increase in babies with birth defects during the late 1980s in the Grande Valley in the early 1990s, according to a report.

Scientists have been searching more than a decade for a cause of a sur­ge in babies in the region with birth defects, abnormalities of the brain and spinal cord that arise in the first weeks of pregなん.

In one south Texas county, there were six cases in six weeks of babies born with rudimentary or missing brains. Overall, a high rate of neural tube defects was found among residents of all bor­der counties.

Residents and lawyers had blamed pollution, and General Motors and other U.S. and onethird of the farmers paid $17 million without admit­
ning wrongdoing to settle a lawsuit accusing their bor­
der factories of poisoning the air.

But no chemical links to the disease were ever proven, and Texas health offi­
cials began suspecting fumonisin, a toxin in corn mix． Experts had noted a high concentration in the corn harvest just before the disaster struck. Some Texas horses died from brain disease caused by the toxin.

According to the February issue of the journal Environmental Health Perspectives, researchers now have a study that looks at the relationship between botulinum consumption, fumonis­
ins and neural tube defects. Laboratory data have point­
ed to a link, but until now, researchers have lacked human studies.

The study found that preg­
nant women who ate 390 to 400 tortillas a month during the first trimester had two and a half times the risk of giving birth to babies with the defects than did women who ate fewer than 100 tortillas.

Blood samples indicated that the higher the level of fumonisins, the greater the risk of neural tube defects.
NIGERIA

Bird flu reported in Africa for first time

Associated Press

LAGOS — Africa's first outbreak of the deadly bird flu has hit Nigeria, where millions of birds in a large commercial farm in Nigeria that raised chickens, geese and ostriches, and 46,000 birds were slaughtered.

International health officials called for help to prevent the spread of the disease on the continent, saying that where governments are ill-equipped to combat it.

Nigeria said the outbreak was on a farm in Aji, a village in the northern state of Kaduna. Agriculture Minister Adamu Bello said reporters the deadly H5N1 strain of the virus was detected in samples taken Jan. 16 from birds on the farm.

Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation with 130 million people, said it would work aggressively to halt the flow of any sick birds to unaffected zones. But farmers accused the government of being slow to respond.

Albert Thiermann, an expert with the Paris-based World Organization for Animal Health, said it was not known how the virus entered Nigeria, but migratory waterfowl likely played a role because the country is in a “major flyway.”

No cases of H5N1 bird flu have been reported elsewhere in Africa, and the virus appears to be restricted to birds, he said.

“The significance is that it’s a completely new continent that we need to be looking at,” Thiermann said.

South Africa, with about 600 million of the world’s poorest people, is particularly ill-equipped to deal with a major health crisis. With weak and impoverished government institutions in regions where many people keep chickens for food, experts say any avian influenza — often a first step in controlling bird flu — will be difficult to pull off.

China, meanwhile, announced another human case of the disease — a 26-year-old woman — bringing to at least 11 the number of people in China who have been infected. Two have died.

The World Health Organization said Nigeria has about 140 million poultry and the country’s overtaxed veterinary services need international help. It called on other African countries to act quickly against any suspected outbreaks.

“It is not for Nigeria to act on its own,” the WHO said. “Countries need to take immediate action to control it, with help in the shape of an international response.”

Saeed Ali, head of the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization’s Animal Production and Health Division, said it would be difficult to contain any outbreaks.

“With the widespread use of antibiotics and the human population on the rise in the continent, animal production is increasing,” Ali said. “If we don’t control it, it will spread and threaten the livelihood of millions of people.”

Bird flu began ravaging poultry across Asia in 2003, leaving the slaughter of more than 100 million birds and jumping to humans. WHO has confirmed 88 deaths from bird flu out of a total of 165 confirmed human infections.

Almost all the cases have been in Asia, but the disease's threat has now been detect ed in Europe and the Middle East.

Throughout the world, more than 60 countries have reported outbreaks of bird flu and experts are concerned the virus could mutate into a form easily spread from human to human, potentially triggering a global pandemic.

All 46,000 chicken, goose and ostriches on the Nigerian farm were slaughtered during an emergency control law, which authorities said Thursday is banned the movement of birds from the farms to the processing stations.

Nigerian authorities have banned the movement of birds from the farm to the processing stations.

Officials also are investigating whether birds were transferred to other farms in the past 21 days, and they, too, are being quarantined, said a government official.

Nigerian officials said Wednesday that initial tests on chickens that mysteriously died in Kano, a state neighboring Kaduna, showed no signs of bird flu. Salihu Iliana, head of the state's livelihood department said at least 60,000 birds have died in Kano state in recent weeks, and tests were ongoing.

Announcing the Year 2006 Annual Awards of the Albert Ravarino Italian Studies Travel Scholarship

Thanks to a generous gift from the Albert Ravarino family, the Italian Studies Program is pleased to announce the 2006 Annual Awards of the Albert Ravarino Italian Studies Travel Scholarship.

Applicants are invited to submit a letter which should include:

1) an explanation of how the proposed research or foreign study will enhance their degree program at Notre Dame

2) a personal statement indicating their background, interests, and long-term goals;

3) a description of the research project or the program they intend to follow;

4) a budget estimating the costs involved;

5) the names of two references

Application Deadline: Friday, February 17, 2006

Albert Ravarino Italian Studies Travel Scholarship Program

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Thursday, February 9, 2006

The Observer ◆ INTERNATIONAL NEWS page 9
The Assistant coaches include Sweet C. Robinson of the Buchanan Police Department and former boxers Mike Bichlmann, Jeff Dobosh, Ryan Rans, Chip Farrell and Judge Roland Chamblee.

The chaplains of the Club, who participate in the workouts, are Father Bill Sneath, and Father Brian Daley. Their work ethic and high standards make the difference between life and death for some of the "ultra-pros." Under the supervision of Rich O'Leary and Dave Brown of Club Sport, the program is run by the student officers of the Boxing Club — Co- Presidents Mark Basolita and Nathan Schroeder and Captains Andrew Breslin, Johnny Griffin, Greg Schaefer, Chris Calderone, Andrew McGill and Stu Stypula.

"There's a unique camaraderie," explained Nate White. "Boxers help each other, including their own future opponents. And we make a referral in the lives of many people in Bangladesh." Each of the more than 130 boxers sells tickets and program ads.

Everyone knows, however, that the entire enterprise is kept afloat by the competent and organized student managers — Erika Meyer, Megan O'Farrell and Melanie Rodarte. Without them, the details of finance, marketing and scheduling records would sink the program. And the work never stops.

But the Bengal Bouts would not exist without the leadership of the volunteer head coach — Chicago attorney Terry Johnson, Columbus developer Tom Sadd, who conducts practice sessions that both character, including Tom, would admit, his own, in a uniquely interesting way) and Pat Farrell, the University pilot. All are former Bengal champs.

Recently, in the debate over "The Vagina Monologues," students have been playing the card of community service. The use of the term has become so pervasive that it now seems to be synonymous with the sentiment that "anything goes" in the academic setting.

The Monologues are free to be discussed and should be explored in classrooms. However, the line must be drawn when Notre Dame is encouraged to compromise its Catholicity by endorsing a vulgar play.

"Instead of producing "The Vagina Monologues," the best way for Providence College to work with their vocal view of violence against women is to strengthen its commitment to support Project S.A.V.E. (Sexual Assault and Violence Education)," says Providence President Beeveron D. St. John, according to the Providence College Web site.

That sounds like a great idea — better way to educate both men and women than to provide opportunities that are equally inclusive? After all, isn't it important that men become involved in this type of education?

I guess that is only if the primary goal of the educational experience is to affect positive change, rather than wallowing in self-pity and the self-pity of others. Frankly, I find it offensive and presumptuous that the publisher of "The Vagina Monologues" says that it has become the "Bible of a new generation of young women." The young women that I know find the play embarrassing and disgusting — certainly not something to be proud of. And as a man, I'm not proud of it either.

I came to Notre Dame because it became an American Catholic university committed to espousing Catholic principles. I am accustomed to telling my friends at state universities about this latest campus issue because it diminishes Notre Dame and its integrity as a premier institution of Catholic higher learning.

I am starting to gain hope that the University will stop considering these values for those who wish to perform this play. University Provost Father John Jenkins, please keep me hopeful.
Two important events took place last week.

In the midst of generally thoughtful discussions on the relationship of the faculty, students and alumni on the topic of academic freedom and the Catholic identity of Notre Dame, University President Father John Jenkins, the university's top administrators and some faculty members met in private to discuss the recent decision to sponsor performance of "The Vagina Monologues" on campus.

In addition to holding their usual winter meeting, they also took advantage of the opportunity to discuss the decision of the Seer of Peter to participate in an extraordinary pilgrimage for the first time in our history.

The trustees and officers had never before been allowed to sit down together and discuss their days in Rome. They were characterized by many of those who gathered to pray together, perhaps, as the visible sign of true unity in Rome; conversations with cardinals, archbishops and bishops from Bangladesh, India, Rome and the United States, ambassadors to Italy and the Holy See, it turned out, were and are not a bad thing.

FaithPoint
Father Richard Warner

Two moments of grace

Needless to say, as pages of The Observer pass the few weeks show how irreconcilable issues of sexual ethics and freedom of expression have become on this campus. This is a minimum of events taking place, from a lack of basic and effective mode of government. Such a mode of government would allow the entire community to justly handle such controversial decisions as whether or not to sponsor the Queer Film Festival or "The Vagina Monologues." This mode of government is called democracy. It is sorely lacking at the University of Notre Dame.

Here, I will outline what democracy is not, hoping to impose some of the issues in its name. Then I will conclude by suggesting we might move forward in this debate and consider several possible options.

Democracy does not mean that we have to allow anyone to get up in our private space in the name of "free speech" or "sexual liberation." Several letters in the editor have pointed out that no one has a right to force somebody to stage "The Vagina Monologues" in their own private home. This seems like common sense, coming from a liberal East Coast university. I have encountered quite a few authoritarian feminists who do, in fact, want to police the home and the bedroom, the public sphere, and even our personal space. It has been pointed out that there is a difference between "the whole and the parts." If their own children are exposed to it in their own homes forcing these women to do otherwise would be a racist form of cultural imperialism extended today by too many secular feminists who are lacking a basic and effective mode of government.

However, a large university like Notre Dame is not the same as a private home. This campus is the neighborhood and the workplace of thousands of people. To govern it like a private family is simply not possible. This campus is the neighborhod and the workplace of thousands of people. To govern it like a private family is simply not possible. This campus is the neighborhood and the workplace of thousands of people. To govern it like a private family is simply not possible.

Now one could object that Jenkins is generously trying to make a decision of "The Vagina Monologues" and the Queer Film Festival. But there is no reason why we can't simply apply our usual democratic principles of the state, of the rules of the state, and of the city. Why should he be the one to make this decision about what the community wants or does not want to sponsor.

If we believe in democracy, then why should it end at the door of our workplace, dorm and classroom? Why shouldn't it be extended to the workplace, schools and neighborhoods? For democracy to be effective, we should all be able to vote on how to use our resources in our workplace, our school and our neighborhood. We, not professors, students and employers, should work for the good of all legitimate "private" corporate should we have democracy outside of its gates? As far as I am concerned, democracy is incompatible with capitalist corporations, the notion that professors and students should "input" decisions in our workplaces, schools and neighborhoods.

For democracy to work, we should all be able to vote on how to use our resources in our workplace, our school and our neighborhood. We, not professors, students and employers, should work for the good of all legitimate "private" corporate should we have democracy outside of its gates? As far as I am concerned, democracy is incompatible with capitalist corporations, the notion that professors and students should "input" decisions in our workplaces, schools and neighborhoods.

Put 'Monologues' to demonoloces'

In contrast to this class corporate populism, I propose true democracy. I propose that the University of Notre Dame hold a campus-wide referendum wherever the members of the so-called "Notre Dame Family" can vote on whether the University should sponsor "The Vagina Monologues" and the Queer Film Festival. Then we can be sure that nobody — including Jenkins — unilaterally imposed the University's name to his own individual opinion.

Now someone may object, "What about the tyranny of the majority?" What about the majority of people who do not want to see this film? What about the majority of people who do not want to see this film? What about the majority of people who do not want to see this film? What about the majority of people who do not want to see this film? What about the majority of people who do not want to see this film?

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Franz Ferdinand can't get much 'Better'

By ANALISE LIPARI
Some Critic

Franz Ferdinand — or the new Scottish gentry, as they call themselves — has released its latest album, "You Could Have It So Much Better." Continuing in the musical vein of their self-titled debut album, the record proves to actually be that much better, as it stays true to their characteristically style.

The band, drawing its name from the archipelgo whose assassination spawned World War I, also displays some of this left-of-center, funky irreverence in its songs. This time around, "Better" proves most impressive.

Originally meant to be the second in a series of titles albums defined only by color — their first release was centered on brown, orange and cream, and "Better" uses green, red and black — the title of "You Could Have It So Much Better" came from what lead singer and guitarist Alex Kapranos feels is the band's current philosophy.

"You can always have it better. If you try. That's the attitude of the group at the moment. Never to feel satisfied, always to want to do something better," Kapranos said in a recent FranzFerdinand.org article.

Franz Ferdinand consists of Kapranos, guitarist and keyboardist Nick McCarthy, bassist Robert Hardy and percussionist Paul Thomson. With all its members hail­ ing from Glasgow, the band began its rise in Scotland's largest city. With buzz slowly growing from positive word of mouth, Franz Ferdinand guided another up the ladder of the local underground music scene until record labels pounced upon them in 2003.

Since its inception and growth in the music business, the band has continued writing its own music and letting thathooks and artistic touch be central parts of their musical and personal identity as a group.

"You're letting such a fragile side of yourself out when you're creating or writing music. Do this and the no who are almost strangers would seem very strange to me," Kapranos said. "I think that we're very lucky that we're quite close. To us, it's almost like the band is the grandest possible adventure you can go on with your friends. It's really truly exciting."

That unique songwriting effort shines through in the singular sound for which the band has become so famous. Oddly retro and yet thoroughly mod­ ern, Kapranos and his peers have created another album of solid guitar rock. Each track is deceptively simplistic, with single

You Could Have It So Much Better
Franz Ferdinand
Sony

Recommended tracks: 'Fade Together,' 'Walk Away,' 'Do You Want To,' 'What You Meant' and 'This Boy'

Band's new album boasts classic rock influence

By JOE LATTAL
Some Critic

Few bands emerge these days one could picture on tour with REO Speedwagon, The Who or Boston. But what band, darkening as in its 80s hair metal in 2003, The Hellacopters are to classic rock in 2006. Music fans would be hard-pressed to find a rock 'n' roll band that embraces its classic rock influences as openly as these five men from Sweden. They serve as a stark contrast to the rise of college radio artists — their first release was centered on brown, orange and cream, and "Better" uses green, red and black — the title of "You Could Have It So Much Better" came from what lead singer and guitarist Alex Kapranos feels is the band's current philosophy.

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Rock & Roll Is Dead
The Hellacopters
Universal Int'l

Recommended tracks: 'I'm in the Band,' 'Everything Is on TV,' 'Leave It Alone' and 'Murder on My Mind'

With the release of their latest album, "Rock & Roll Is Dead," in 2005, The Hellacopters showed up with brutal sincerity.
SHOW PREVIEW

War against in hilarity

Keenan Hall residents prepare to launch latest incarnation of annual comedy show

Making fun of themselves and others, the men of Keenan Hall will wear costumes ranging from women's clothes to cow suits.

By LIZ BYRUM
Assistant Scene Editor

It's that time again. One of the most highly anticipated dorm events returns this weekend to provide three nights of comedy, entertainment and — as this year's director, James Gower, puts it — mirth.

While the shows weren't enough, here's the bottom line — the Keenan Revue has arrived, and it is going to be better than ever.

The Keenan Revue's Web site begins with the subtitle, "Making fun of you since 1976." making this the 30th year for the famous campus variety show. The event kicks off tonight and runs until Saturday, ending with a Revue dance for the few lucky ladies who have a Keenan connection.

The process for this year's show began way back in September, when producer Thomas Flowers, a junior resident of Keenan, began putting the staff together. From there, they worked at developing theme ideas for the show and put together designs for the program and T-shirts. In order to keep the Keenan Revue a free event for students, the staff also had the job of contacting Keenan alumni with requests for donations to help support the performance.

This year, the Keenan Revue staff has chosen to dub the show "World War Revue: The Axis of Humor." "Most people think wars are always horrible, but there are some comedic parts," Flowers said. "We're trying to find the comedy in a lot of stuff."

Our approach is Keenan waging a war on humorlessness. We are getting people to attack in hilarity.

Some of the skits draw from the overall theme and portray popular historical figures, such as Abraham Lincoln. It will be interesting to see how the men of Keenan take an oft-serious subject and stamp it with their own brand of humor. Other highlights of the show Flowers would disclose include the adventures of Indiana Jones, a skit focused on popular Notre Dame Stadium voice, Officer Tim McCarthy and a running gag about Notre Dame's very own stunt man. But the audience should be ready for a lot more than that.

"We don't want to give too much away. We have a lot more ultra-secret stuff that we are ready to present at the show," Flowers said.

Each year the show is put together in an original way, so even seniors coming back a fourth time are in for some surprises. However, there are always the familiar favorites as well. The Keenan Revue has been known to take audience members on a trip down memory lane with familiar songs and themes from childhood pop culture.

The crunch-time preparations for the Revue have been in full swing since Keenan residents returned from Christmas break.

Dorm residents, including head writers Vince Lzyinski and David Fotopoulos, were encouraged to generate ideas for skits during the break. Skits are auditioned in front of a selection committee, and everyone in Keenan is encouraged to try out.

Through the years, the Keenan Revue has become quite a large production. "Including everyone, the Keenan Revue staff, people in the skits, dancers, band members and stage crew, we have somewhere around 80 to 90 people working on the show," Flowers said.

Nightly rehearsals have been held this week to make sure each one of the performers is prepared for his big debut tonight at O'Laughlin Auditorium on Saint Mary's campus.

If students don't already have tickets for this event, they had better start hunting for friends with extras. At the ticket release Friday afternoon, people began to line up hours before the 4 p.m. release time, and each of the three nights was sold out within a short time after.

"World War Revue: The Axis of Humor" debuts tonight at 7:30 p.m.

Contact Liz Byrum at ebyrum@nd.edu

"Our approach is Keenan waging a war on humorlessness. We are getting people to attack in hilarity." Thomas Flowers producer

In typical Keenan Revue fashion, one of the actors is bound to be wearing a white collar. Skits in the show often revolve around recent campus events.

Popular culture of yesterday and today will be seen in the performances. Here, two Keenanites play off the recent film "Memoirs of a Geisha."
**NBA**

**Phoenix extends division lead to two games with win over Memphis; Milwaukee tops Orlando in double overtime**

Associated Press

**PHOENIX** - Tyson Chandler hit a three-pointer with 2:32 left and Milwaukee beat Orlando 107-100 Wednesday night.

The Bucks, who handed the Nuggets a 110-107 loss earlier in the week and had won nine of their last 11 games, came from behind to grab the lead for good.

Denver was leading 97-96 after 12 seconds of the final period, but Ray Allen hit a shot, and Dan Gadzuric added two free throws to give the Bucks a 100-99 advantage with 1:03 left.

Gadzuric added another to give the Bucks 103-99 with 39 seconds left, and Michael Redd made a 3-pointer to give Milwaukee 107-99 with 23 seconds left.

Denver's Dan Gadzuric added 17 points, and Bob Simmons had 15, including a 3-pointer that tied the game at 79 as regulation expired.

"If it doesn't go, we don't go to overtime," Bucks coach Terry Stotts said of Simmons' shot, the only 3-pointer he made in three attempts.

The Bucks capitalized on Orlando's 3-for-17 shooting in the two extra sessions for its sixth straight home win over the Magic.

The Bucks, 14-1 at home against Orlando since the start of the 1997-98 season, also earned their season-high fourth straight home victory.

Redo Turkoglu led the Magic with 27 points. DeShawn Stevenson added 14 before foul- ing out in the second overtime.

Steve Francis, who came in averaging 28.8 points per game in his career against the Bucks, scored only eight.

After a season-high-five-game winning streak, the Magic have lost seven of their last eight, including four straight on the road.

Redo's 3-pointer put Milwaukee ahead 88-86 with 2:25 left in the second overtime. Turkoglu made one free throw, but Gadzuric dunked as Milwaukee went up 90-87 with 1:57 left. Turkoglu made a layup, too, and T.J. Ford, who finished with 11 points and eight assists, appeared to use a layup to keep the Bucks ahead by three.

"We were getting longer and longer, going back and forth, back and forth," Gadzuric said. "Shots weren't falling, but eventually we played good solid defense and shut them down." Pat Garrity missed a 3-pointer for Orlando and on the Bucks' previous possession, Stevenson fouled out and sent Simmons to the line for two free throws. He made them both for the final margin.

"We played tough in the first overtime, but in the second overtime, we just ran out of gas," Garrity said.

In the first overtime, Redd made two free throws and Simmons hit a 22-foot shot as the Bucks took an 83-79 lead with 3:29 left.

The Magic missed their first four shots before Stevenson's layup put them to 83-81 with 2:32 to play.

Redd missed consecutive shots to give Orlando a chance, and the Bucks eventually turned in a miss by Stevenson to tie it at 83 with 13 seconds to play.

Redd missed a baseline jumper and the Magic failed to tie it in the expired over-time.

**Sun's 108, Grizzlies 102**

**DALLAS** - Shawn Marion scored 21 points, Derick ROse added 21, and Phoenix beat Memphis 108-107 Wednesday night.

The Suns, who had backed off their 3-pointers, had 31 points, but was stuffed by Chandler.

Nuggets with 31 points, but was stuffed by Chandler.

Carmelo Anthony led the Suns with 17 points. Eddie Jones scored 16, Pau Gasol had 15, Antonio Burks scored 12, including a tying 3-pointer with 2:29 left, and Shane Battier had 10 rebounds and nine points.

Memphis has lost five of six games.

**Bucks 94, Magic 89 (2OT)**

**Michigan** - Michael Redd made up for a poor shooting night with one big basket.

Redd scored 27 points, including the go-ahead 3-pointer in the second overtime, to give the Milwaukee Bucks a 94-89 win over the Orlando Magic on Wednesday night.

"My shooting performance was not so good, but my confidence is still there," Redd said after going 10-for-30 from the floor. "I have high expectations for myself." He was 0-for-3 in the first overtime and 1-for-2 in the second.

"This is one of those games you just have to grind it out, keep plugging away and even things will go your way," he said.

Magic coach Brian Hill said his team worked as hard as it could to stop Redd.

"Michael Redd is an outstanding offensive player," Hill said. "He made some big shots down the stretch."

**Dan Gadzuric** added 17 points and Bobby Simmons 15, including a 3-pointer that tied the game at 79 as regulation expired.

"If it doesn't go, we don't go to overtime," Bucks coach Terry Stotts said of Simmons' shot, the only 3-pointer he made in three attempts.

The Bucks capitalized on Orlando's 3-for-17 shooting in the two extra sessions for its sixth straight home win over the Magic.

The Bucks, 14-1 at home against Orlando since the start of the 1997-98 season, also earned their season-high fourth straight home victory.

Redo Turkoglu led the Magic with 27 points. DeShawn Stevenson added 14 before foul- ing out in the second overtime.

Steve Francis, who came in averaging 28.8 points per game in his career against the Bucks, scored only eight.

After a season-high-five-game winning streak, the Magic have lost seven of their last eight, including four straight on the road.

Redo's 3-pointer put Milwaukee ahead 88-86 with 2:25 left in the second overtime. Turkoglu made one free throw, but Gadzuric dunked as Milwaukee went up 90-87 with 1:57 left. Turkoglu made a layup, too, and T.J. Ford, who finished with 11 points and eight assists, appeared to use a layup to keep the Bucks ahead by three.

"We were getting longer and longer, going back and forth, back and forth," Gadzuric said. "Shots weren't falling, but eventually we played good solid defense and shut them down." Pat Garrity missed a 3-pointer for Orlando and on the Bucks' previous possession, Stevenson fouled out and sent Simmons to the line for two free throws. He made them both for the final margin.

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Redd missed a baseline jumper and the Magic failed to tie it in the expired over-time.
Negro Leagues star hopes for call from Cooperstown

Buck O'Neil awaits the day he is called a Hall of Famer

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Buck O'Neil's lean, sinewy frame is stooped just a bit, his grudging concession to 94 years. A captivating storyteller, he delights audiences with tales of Satchel Paige and Cool Papa Bell and his days as a player and manager in the Negro Leagues.

He was 75 when he first shot his age in golf. He's still shooting his age, too, though now, he says, "It's not a good score anymore."

Since 1990, he's been a tireless fundraiser and goodwill ambassador for the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum in Kansas City's historic jazz district, traveling the country to keep the legacy of black baseball alive.

Now, say hopeful friends and fans, the crowning achievement of a long and well-lived life could be at hand. Buck O'Neil may soon join O'Satch and Cool Papa and 16 other Negro League stars in the Baseball Hall of Fame.

A special 12-person panel will meet in Tampa, Fla., this month to review Negro League and pre-Negro League figures who were drawn up by a special committee. They'll vote Feb. 27.

Everybody who gets at least nine votes is in. O'Neil and Minnie Minoso, who played in the Negro Leagues from 1945-48 and also spent 14 seasons in the majors, are the only living candidates. But in these parts, O'Neil is clearly everyone's sentimental favorite.

"Between now and Feb. 27, we're all on pins and needles," said Bob Kendrick, a museum executive.

There are baseball purists, even in Kansas City, who say O'Neil does not deserve induction. Among that small but vocal group is sportstalk radio show host Soren Petro, who says O'Neil's lifetime average of .288 is insufficient.

"Buck has a broad list of unique and memorable accomplishments. But we're talking about the best of the best," said Petro. "And why are we just now talking about Buck O'Neil and the Hall of Fame? There was no talk of Buck in the Hall of Fame in the '60s, '70s, '80s or early '90s. If Ken Burns hadn't featured him in his documentary about the history of baseball, hardly anybody outside of Kansas City would know who he is."

Nevertheless, Petro admits to being as touched as everyone else by O'Neil's warmth and charm.

"The vote should not be based on what's best for our city, our pocketbook or our heartstrings," he said. "But if Buck does go into the hall, I will be thrilled for him."

Judge him by his entire body of work, say supporters.

A two-time Negro Leagues batting champion, O'Neil was a star first baseman and later player/manager who led the Kansas City Monarchs to four Negro League titles between 1948 and 1953. For many years he has been a scout for the Royals.

While Jackie Robinson was the first black player in the majors, O'Neil was the first black coach, with the Cubs, and was also one of the first African-American scouts. His many finds included hall of famers Ernie Banks and Lou Brock.

"You'd be hard-pressed to find anybody who's done more for the game of baseball than Buck O'Neil," said Kendrick. "By all accounts, he was a great defensive first baseman, a great manager, a great scout, had a groundbreaking role as the game's first black coach.

Plus, there is his work as an ambassador of the game itself, his work keeping the legacy of the Negro Leagues alive. If you put all that together, there's no question his career is Hall of Fame worthy."

As he approaches what could be the biggest day of his life, O'Neil is keeping calm.

"If I make it, it's going to be the happiest man in the world," he said. "And if I don't make it, it's not going to make me one of the saddest."

Without question, this man is a walking repository of baseball lore. He can describe the sound of a Babe Ruth home run: "Like a small stink of dynamite going off."

But the entire breathtaking sweep of history that his eventful life has encompassed stretches far beyond the game.

As the grandson of a man who spoke to him of being kidnapped in West Africa as a youth and brought to the Carolinas in a feudal slave ship, Buck O'Neil is a living link to the ancestral heritage shared by every black American.
Navratilova to play Grand Slam doubles

Associated Press

Even as she approaches her 50th birthday and recovers from knee surgery, Martina Navratilova plans to play a full schedule of doubles tournaments in 2006, including the Grand Slams, and might take another stab at a doubles player in that year. She just feels like I’m not done yet,” Navratilova said Wednesday in a telephone interview with The Associated Press from her home in Sarasota, Fla. “I feel like I’m done, then I’m done. And I don’t know when that will happen. In a sense, she’s finally being honest about her future, after having been repeatedly made “This time I mean it” declarations about when she would hang up her racket. But farewell tour followed a farewell tour.

Navratilova originally retired in 1994, with a record 167 singles titles and having spent 331 weeks ranked No. 1. She returned to the tour as a doubles player in 2000, and eventually couldn’t resist dabbling in singles, including a first-round victory at Wimbledon in 2004. Nowadays, she won’t make any predictions about how much longer she’ll play or whether she’ll again give singles a try against players half her age — or younger. “We’ll see how the body’s going. … I might get on the grass again,” she said when asked about playing singles. “Right now, that’s so far away. I’m not worried about it or thinking about it. If it happens, it’ll happen.”

She injured her left knee during an exhibition event in November and had arthroscopic surgery the next month, forcing her to miss the Australian Open and other events. Back at practice, Navratilova is aiming to return to the WTA Tour at the Feb. 20-25 hard-court tournament at Dubai, United Arab Emirates, then wants to play the next week in Doha, Qatar.

Her partner at those tournaments will be 29-year-old Lisa McShea, who teamed with Mara Black to win Wimbledon last year. “Hopefully, I can keep up my end of the bargain,” Navratilova said.

In Brief

MLB concerned with D.C. council’s lease for Nationals

WASHINGTON — Major League Baseball responded skeptically to a revised lease for the Washington Nationals that was approved early Wednesday by the District of Columbia Council, which rejected an earlier proposal just hours before.

During a series of sessions that began Tuesday and lasted more than 14 hours, council members rejected the lease 8-5, then approved it 9-4 after capping the city’s spending at just under $61 million.

“Major League Baseball has not yet been provided with the filings made by the D.C. Sports & Entertainment Commission with the City Council last Friday, nor the text of the legislation passed by the Council last night,” baseball spokesman Rich Levin said in a statement. “We are very concerned about what we heard during the debate, and we need to read the materials and the legislative language so we can determine whether they are consistent with the agreements between Major League Baseball and the city.”

Krivsky leaves Twins to become Reds’ GM

CINCINNATI — Minnesota’s Wayne Krivsky overwhelmed the Cincinnati Reds’ new owner during an interview Wednesday, then got the job as their next general manager.

Krivsky’s hiring ended a two-week search that involved eight candidates and ultimately came down to two — him and Reds special adviser Jim Beattie. Krivsky’s second interview went so well that owner Bob Castellini didn’t need any more time to think it over. “He was totally prepared,” Castellini said. “He blew us away.”

Krivsky was a leading candidate for the Reds’ job two years ago, but former owner Carl Lindner chose Dan O’Brien, who had worked for the Houston Astros and Texas Rangers. O’Brien was hired last year by Castellini, who wanted to bring in his own executive to run the baseball operation.

Italy replaces injured Olympic ski jumpers

TURIN, Italy — Italy will replace its two injured ski jumpers with athletes from its Nordic combined team — a move that raises doubt about whether the host nation can make a strong showing in the event.

The Italians were not considered to be medal contenders in ski jumping, but they were hoping to perform well in front of the home crowd at Pragelato. Instead, the team will take the unusual move of using Nordic combined athletes to replace the injured Marco Beltrame and Stefano Chiapolino.

“With a lower number of athletes, we will take part in the same number of events,” Italian delegation head Raffaele Pagnotti said Wednesday.

Beltrame and Chiapolino were hurt Monday in separate falls.
Student Body President Debate

Today
February 9
8:00 PM
In the Huddle

Candidates
Ryan Black & Christine Martinez
Jason Laws & Bob Costa
Ryan McCune & Tim Szewczyk
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Topics Covered
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MLB
District of Columbia approves revised lease

League skeptical of new financial offer for Nationals’ ballpark

Associated Press

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The District of Columbia and baseball reached an agreement in 2004 that led to the Montreal Expos moving to Washington and becoming the Nationals. It called for a lease to be in place by Dec. 31, 2005, and when that deadline wasn’t met, baseball filed for mediation.

After the initial rejection Tuesday, baseball’s chief operating officer, Bob DuPuy, said the sport would proceed to arbitration in an effort to enforce its 2004 agreement.

Washington Mayor Anthony A. Williams said he expected baseball will soon sign the lease.

"It wasn’t a pretty landing, but we brought the thing in," Williams said at his weekly news briefing.
Michael's to switch to NBC

Former ABC anchor will not make jump to ESPN with MNF

Associated Press

Do you believe in switching networks? Yes!
Al Michaels appears headed for NBC. After ESPN hired former quarterback Joe Theismann, Washington Post columnist Tony Kornheiser and Mike Tirico as its Monday night broadcast crew, John Skipper had been with ABC since 1976 and had been the play-by-play voice of "Monday Night Football" since 1986, when he replaced Frank Gifford. A four-time Emmy-Award winner, he is best known for explaining "Do you believe in miracles?" when the United States upset the favored Soviet Union in the 1980 Winter Olympic hockey tournament.

NBC takes over Sunday night games next season from ESPN. John Madden, Michaels' broadcast partner for the last four seasons, agreed in June to a six-year contract with NBC.

"Al was not comfortable and let us know he was not comfortable with our vision of where we are going," ESPN executive vice president John Skipper said after Wednesday's announcement. "But in November he said that was the greatest job ever invented. So sometime between the last couple of weeks and November apparently he had a change of heart."

At a news conference July 26, Michaels said he would remain with "Monday Night Football" when it switched to ESPN after 36 seasons on ABC. He was to be paired with Theismann, who will broadcast Sunday night games on ESPN with Mike Patrick and Paul Maguire.

"I feel like I am a creature of Monday night. I'm home and I'm staying home," Michaels said then. "The three words 'Monday Night Football' resonate like no other."

Skipper was evasive when asked about specifics on Michaels, saying only a "satisfactory resolution" had been reached.

Pat Gibbons, a marketing representative for Michaels, said he could not reach the broadcaster. NBC Sports chairman Dick Ebersol did not return a telephone message left with a spokesman.

Mike Bren is expected to be a lead play-by-play announcer on ABC/ESPN. He will be joined by former NBC coach Hubie Brown, hired in December 2004 as the analyst.

ESPN plans to use its various television and radio networks and Web sites for daylong "Monday Night Football" broadcasts, which will start at 8:40 p.m., about 25 minutes earlier than previously.

MNF has not had a three-man broadcast booth since Michaels was teamed with Dan Fouts and Dennis Miller in 2000-01.

Theismann was an NFL quarterback for 12 seasons and had worked on ESPN's Sunday night games since 1991. "It's the best play-by-play chair in sports," Tirico said. "To be the man whose name is in it is humbling." He has been a "SportsCenter" host for ESPN and handled play-by-play of the last Orange Bowl. He has worked for ESPN and ABC since 1991.

"It's the best play-by-play chair in sports," Tirico said. "To be the man whose name is in it is humbling." He has been a "SportsCenter" host for ESPN and handled play-by-play of the last Orange Bowl.

"I've got about 27 gigs right now," Kornheiser said. "I've got radio, I've got television, I've got The Michelle-Tayo one."

He thinks listeners do care about who broadcasts games, especially "if the telecast has a certain amount of sizzle."

Tony Kornheiser, sportscaster

ESPN names Monday Night anchors for 2006

Associated Press

Former quarterback Joe Theismann, Washington Post columnist Tony Kornheiser and Mike Tirico will be the broadcast partners for "Monday Night Football" next season as the long-running show shifts to ESPN from ABC.

The moves leave Al Michaels free to switch to NBC, which takes over Sunday night games next season from ESPN. John Madden, Michaels' broadcast partner for the last four seasons, agreed in June to a six-year contract with NBC.

At a news conference in July, Michaels said he would remain with "Monday Night Football" when it switched to ESPN. He was to be paired with Theismann, who had broadcast Sunday night games on ESPN with Mike Patrick and Paul Maguire.

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So you think you know lacrosse...
NBA
3-point competitors named

Mates teammates Nowitzki and Terry both named to All-Star contest

Associated Press

Dirk Nowitzki and Jason Terry were selected Wednesday to participate in the NBA’s 3-point Shootout, pitting the Dallas teammates against each other and four other competitors during the All-Star weekend in Houston.

Defending champion Quentin Richardson of the New York Knicks, 2001 winner Ray Allen of Seattle, Chauncey Billups of Detroit and Raja Bell of Phoenix are the other participants. The contest is Feb. 18, a night before the All-Star game.

Richardson won the event last year while playing for Phoenix, but he has struggled this season for the Knicks. He was shooting just 31.3 percent from beyond the arc entering Wednesday.

He will try to become the first repeat winner since Peja Stojakovic in 2002-03.

As Terry walked off the court after the Mavericks practiced Wednesday in Dallas, he saw Nowitzki in the corner taking shots from long range.

"Hey bro, what are you doing," Terry asked Nowitzki.

"What is this?"

"I’m getting ready," joked Nowitzki, who was really going through a routine shooting drill.

Nowitzki is shooting a career-best 43 percent (46-102) from 3-point range. Terry has made 41 percent (95-232) of his long-range shots.

"We’re both looking at each other, and hopefully we’ll meet in the finals," Terry said.

"It’s about having fun, and hopefully one of us will bring the trophy to Dallas," Nowitzki said. "If somebody beats me, it better be Joe."

The winner will get $52,000, with $22,500 going to the runner-up and the third-place finisher earning $15,000.

Dallas forward Dirk Nowitzki scores against Utah Jan. 29. Nowitzki was selected Wednesday to compete in the 3-point contest during the NBA All-Star weekend.

OLYMPICS

American skaters look to change luck in Turin

U.S. pairs have not won an Olympic medal since 1988 in Calgary

Associated Press

Rena Inoue's smile lit up the arena. John Baldwin's fist cut through the air like a sword.

The couple had plenty to celebrate after they landed the first throw triple Axel in figure skating, even more unusual was that an American pair made history.

Or, at least, history of a positive kind.

Pairs, which opens the Olympic skating competition Saturday, is the weak link for American skaters. The last Olympic medal was a bronze by Jill Watson and Peter Oppegard in Calgary in 1988; rarely has U.S. dos threatened to reach the podium since.

A medal this year isn't even part of the discussion. A top 10 finish for Inoue-Baldwin would be a success. Same thing for Marey Hinzmann and Aaron Parchem.

"Why can't the U.S. compete in pairs?" Americans Tonya Harding and Ben Agosto are medals favorites in ice dancing, and a U.S. drought dates back to 1976. But pairs is an icy wasteland.

"It's been on a downgrade for, I'd say, the last 10 years," says former U.S. pairs champ Rocky Marval.

"It's unfortunate. It's a little painful to watch."

What we need is to recruit and scout talented skaters we feel would be competitive with the international skaters. There are a lot of good skaters out there. It's our matching process that has not been successful. There are a lot of egos involved in that process. Too many coaches interfering with the matching process.

Pairing up partners never is a problem in Russia or China, the dominant nations. Nor is coaching interference, because most of the top coaches teach the same style.

"In other countries, especially Russia, they designate certain people to do pairs," says Ron Ludwig, one of America’s premier pairs coaches for decades and a bronze medalist in the 1960 Games with his sister, Nancy. "I've known skaters from Russia who've told me they were originally singles skaters and they were told they were to be pairs.

"There are some great American girls out there. Unfortunately, these coaches won't allow the girls to go out and try because they've put all that work into them. It's different in Russia because they're told what to do."

"If we mismatch our pairs in this country, they break up."

Adds Inoue, who represented Japan in both singles and pairs in two other Olympics: "The Chinese Shi Xue and Zhao Hongbo, the 2002 and '93 world champions have been together since he was 12 and she was 7. That's a long time together. You have to go through the lot to make yourselves one."

One is the appropriate number for two couples: they have won every competition since January.

Recently, China has developed some of the most athletic and technically brilliant pairs ever seen.

But in America, pairs has fallen flat, without much sign of immediate revitalization. Pairs are strong at the junior level, with American teams taking up six of the eight spots at this year's Junior Grand Prix final.

There is no guarantee, though, that their success will carry over to the senior level. Or even that the couples will stay together long enough to try.

Ludington believes the emphasis on singles in this country has hurt pairs.

Marval blames the leadership of U.S. Figure Skating, saying "He's paying more attention to pairs."

David Saltz, the federation's new executive director, insists that will change quickly.

"We are going to do an upgrade camp, maybe have a group that's looking strictly at the pairs program," Ludington says. "We want to do it fully right now," he suggests as pairs are the target. "We're making this a priority."

They’d better. Pairs is the only event in which the United States doesn’t have the full complement of three entrants.

Although Baldwin and Marval are two-time U.S. champions, they have been finished higher than 10th at worlds. Even though many Russian pairs, including world champions Tatiana Tovtmanina and Maxim Novikov, have finished much higher than 10th at worlds.

One solution could be hiring more Russian coaches to work with American teams. Tanara Moskvin, generally considered the world’s foremost pairs coach, in Rockville, Md., was hired by the U.S. and John Zimmerman to three national championships and a bronze medal at the 2002 world championships _ albeit against a watered-down field. But for several years she taught in New Jersey, but is back in Russia now and has Ruka Shibutani and Sergei Slavon in the Turin Games.

Moskvin is optimistic that American pairs skating will turn around. Why? She isn’t predicting.

"I see now in the United States there are many new pairs and the quantity is outstanding. And quality is not yet," Moskvin says. "Pairs need lots of time for them to adjust to each other and to develop the artistry and style. These young pairs do not have it. In a few years, you will achieve that."

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The Other 80 + SPORTS
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Thursday, February 9, 2006
NHL

League hires former prosecutor in probe

Former federal prosecutor Robert Cleary once led the investigation of the 'Unabomber'.

Associated Press

The NHL hired the former federal prosecutor who headed the Unabomber case to investigate Rick Tocchet, the Phoenix Coyotes assistant coach accused of financing a nationwide gambling ring that took bets from about a half-dozen current players.

Authorities have not said they have any evidence of betting on hockey in "Operation Slap Shot." Nothing has been ruled out, New Jersey State Police Lt. Gerald Lewis said Wednesday.

Tocchet was to meet with NHL commissioner Gary Bettman on Wednesday, Phoenix coach Wayne Gretzky said a day earlier. As of early evening, they had not put a black mark on their minds about becoming an assistant with the St. Louis Rams.

"We'll try to cooperate with the league and certainly will be meet with them," said Tocchet's newly hired New Jersey attorney, Kevin Martin. "We haven't met with them yet. I'm not going to discuss the exact time or date.".

Deputy commissioner Bill Daley declined to comment on Wednesday's proceedings. He said the NHL hoped to release a statement later in the day.

Former U.S. attorney Robert Cleary will conduct the NHL's internal investigation. He was the lead prosecutor from 1996-98 in the case against the Unabomber Theodore Kaczynski, who was sentenced to four life sentences in prison on charges related to three deaths and the maiming of two scientists.

Cleary was the U.S. Attorney in New Jersey from 1999-02 and in the Southern District of Illinois in 2002.

Lewis said police investigators will interview other hockey players to get a sense of the scope of the gambling ring and to determine whether others should be charged.

Tocchet was publicly implicated by New Jersey authorities on Tuesday. He was not held behind the bench for Tuesday night's home game against Chicago.

Tocchet is expected to be arraigned within 10 days, said John Hagerty, a spokesman for the New Jersey division of criminal justice.

Marino called the state's charges against his client "false and irresponsible." "Mr. Tocchet is one of the most well-respected men ever to play in the NHL, and he's respected for his integrity, his determination and his strength," the Newark-based lawyer said. "We fully deny the attorney general's precipitous charges and are appalled at the ensuing media frenzy."

Cleary's wife, actress Janet Jones, was also implicated, two law enforcement officials told The Associated Press, speaking on condition of anonymity, because no bettors have been publicly identified.

She hasn't made any public statements, and Cleary said Tuesday that she would answer questions at some point.

"The integrity of the game is obviously very important. And betting on hockey is obviously something we don't want," Ottawa forward Daniel Alfredsson said. "Until you know all the facts, you don't know how it's going to affect the game or put a black mark on it."

Lewis said authorities also were exploring links between the gambling ring and Philadelphia Flyers, whom Tocchet watched the news conference.

He also declined to reveal which players will be interviewed.

"Obviously you're watching the news and it's on CNN and it's pretty major," Alfredsson said. "I think to everybody it was a shocker. It was the talk for everybody on the bus yesterday and also today. We want to find out as much as we can."

Hockey players are prohibited from making NHL wagers, legal or otherwise. There are no rules that forbid them from betting on other sports.

The substance abuse and behavioral health program jointly run by the league and players' association addresses gambling during team-by-team training-camp meetings every year.

Current NHL scoring leader Jaromir Jagr of the New York Rangers said he ran up a $500,000 debt in 1998 betting on sports events on the Internet during his days with the Washington Capitals.

NCAA FOOTBALL

Idaho signs five-year deal with team that started his career

Associated Press

MOSCOW, Idaho — Dennis Erickson returned to Idaho on Wednesday to become head coach at the school that gave him his start.

The 54-year-old Erickson, who won two national championships at Miami, got his first head coaching job at Idaho in 1982. He left after the '85 season for a string of college jobs and eventually ended up in the NFL.

His last stop was San Francisco, where after two disappointing seasons with the 49ers he was fired in January 2002.

"I just thought it was an opportunity for me to come back, give back and get back to coaching college football and my first love," Erickson said at a news conference.

At Idaho he succeeds Nick Hill, who returned to Southern California as defensive coordinator after changing his mind about becoming an assistant with the St. Louis Rams.

Erickson signed a five-year contract worth about $200,000 a year, but with bonuses, it could be worth a total of about $5 million over the duration the contract, athletic director Rob Spear said.

Idaho is entering its second season in the Western Athletic Conference. The Vandals were 5-18 in two years under Holt, including 2-6-1 in conference.

Despite the struggles, Erickson called Moscow "a good fit" for him.

Erickson has been unem­ployed since the 49ers fired him. He still receives $2.5 mil­lion per year from the 49ers. He was fired with three years left on his five-year, $12.5 million contract.

Erickson turned Idaho into one of the top Division I-AA teams in the nation during his first stint with the Vandals. He was 144-57-1 as a head coach at Idaho, Wyoming, Washington State, Miami and Oregon State. His Miami teams won national championships in 1989 and 1991.

He had less success in the NFL, going 31-33 in four years at the helm of the Seattle Seahawks and 9-23 with the 49ers.

Between the two NFL jobs he revived a founding Oregon State program, directing the Beavers to a 31-17 record, including a school-best mark of 13-1 and a 41-9 victory over Notre Dame in the Fiesta Bowl in the 2000 season.

"The challenge here is to win, to compete for the conference championship and to go to bowl games," Erickson said. "Yeah, I love it here. I came here because I'm a football coach and I want to help the University of Idaho become successful."

Some of the Idaho players who watched the news conference from the balcony of a new weight room are getting their third coach in five years.

Erickson said he met with the players Wednesday and talked about the work they will have to do to be competitive in the WAC.

Dennis Erickson speaks at a news conference Wednesday after being introduced as the new Idaho head coach.
Win
continued from page 24

Notre Dame's season following a complete thumping of Rutgers seems in line with Brey's attitude as the game ended. "Who knows?"

"Who knew?" was more like it on Wednesday. Granted, Rutgers played without a couple significant contributors who were sidelined by injury. And the Scarlet Knights are now only 3-7 in the conference, just one game ahead of the Irish. But Notre Dame knew it needed a win and that it could beat Rutgers. It didn't know the final score would be 90-63 and that the Irish would win by more points (27) than the sum of their loss margins in their eight conference defeats (26).

It didn't know that playing both Francis and Rick Cornett for significant minutes would result in 13-for-20 combined shooting, 35 points and 14 rebounds. But as Brey said to open the post-game remarks, "Well, we'll take that.

The Irish will take the win because they desperately needed it. There are several teams Notre Dame legitimately can catch at this point for a spot in the Big East top-12 - and a bid to the postseason conference tournament in March.

Syracuse (4-5) and Providence (4-6) sit only two wins ahead of the Irish. Saint John's (3-6) is one win away. Rutgers (3-7) is one ahead with the tiebreaker going to Notre Dame. Louisville (5-5) is just one up, but the Cardinals own the tiebreaker, and DePaul (2-8) and Notre Dame have identical records, though the Blue Demons won the only meeting thus far this season.

So, as the Irish players and coaches have excreted through the long losing streaks, there still is a chance. There's no doubt about it. Other teams have games to play against the same Georgetown, Villanova and West Virginia squads that scarred Notre Dame's postseason face.

But who knows which Irish team will show up even for its next meeting in a home game against 3-9 South Florida (USF) next Wednesday? USF wants a victory just as badly, if not worse, than anyone else. And as much as the Rutgers win, but Seton Hall, Marquette and Connecticut - who also remain on the Irish schedule - will have more than one scorng edge for Notre Dame to stop.

Rutgers has been struggling, and a doesn't have a Scarlet Knight defender during Notre Dame's

At left, Irish forward Rick Cornett dunks as Rutgers' Marquis Webb, left, and Notre Dame guard Kyle McAlearney look on. Center, Irish guard Chris Quinn dribbles against a Scarlet Knight defender during Notre Dame's 90-63 win Wednesday. At right, Irish guard Colin Falls defends Webb on the perimeter.

Knights
continued from page 24

and grabbed seven rebounds. Cornett added 14 points and seven rebounds off the bench. "(Cornett) and (Francis), that's just exactly what I've been waiting for," Irish forward Russell Carter said. "I know they can do that day and day out. Just to see them do it, it gets me hyped. It's like I'm scoring the points - it gets me smiling."

Notre Dame had struggled this season putting together a consistent 40 minutes, but

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BELLES SEEK TO END SEASON IN TOP FORM

**By DEIRDRE KRASULA and BECKI DORNER**

**Sports writers**

The Bell’s regular season came to a disappointing end Jan. 28, when they dropped two meets - one 143-59 to Albion and Calvin by scores of 119-60 and 143-59, respectively. Although the season has been tough some 15 miles from Calvin, the team is going to do well, according to head coach, Scott, and he did really well.

The diving coach said.

Dive

continued from page 24

and made a statement at the Big East Championships that year, finishing fourth in the three-meter board.

"It put a lot of weight and pressure on Scott, and he did really well.

Although the meet, which begins at 10 a.m., is hosted by Calvin College, the events will take place some 15 miles from the Knights’ Grand Rapids campus. Teams will compete at the Chippewa School in Grand Rapids, Mich.

Contact Deirdre Krasula at dkrasula@nd.edu and Becki Dorner at bdorner1@nd.edu

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**SMC SWIMMING**

**Belles seek to end season in top form**

By DEIRDRE KRASULA and BECKI DORNER

**Sports writers**

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THE OBSERVER

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THE OBSERVER - TODAY - Thursday, February 9, 2006 - page 23

JOCKULAR

ALEC WHITE AND ERIK POWERS

CROISSANTWORLD

YOU READY TO DRINK
OUT DRINKING?

SORRY, GUY. NOT TONIGHT!

12 I FIGURED OUT I CAN SAVE A LOT OF TIME BY JUST MAKING UP MY DRUNKEN STORIES.

7 THEY COULD PROBABLY BE A LOT MORE ENTERTAINING.

16 YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE HOW DRUNK I WAS LAST NIGHT! I TOOK OFF MY CLOTHES IN THE METER AND COVERED MY BODY IN BROWNIE MIX ALCOHOLOD.

20 MAN, THIS IS HARDCORE.

HOROSCOPE

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Pharrell Williams, 26; Seik Green, 32; Gary Coleman, 47; Tina Kandel, 46.

Happy Birthday! A diplomatic approach will help you get over any setbacks that may occur this year. You might not take as much as you had hoped, and you'll probably argue forcefully about what you consider fair. Don't try to rip through the hills of life. Realize and criticize others. You had few difficulty with what you are on the right track.

Aries (March 21-April 19): You need to follow your instincts and read between the lines especially when it concerns money matters. A chance to do something new for the first time you spend the most time, with will be very worth it in returns.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't limit yourself especially when it comes to partnerships. It seems as if you're growing something it's important for you to put the effort and time into the things that are in your specifications before you sign. A chance to make some money is apparent.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): No matter what stage you are in life or there is always the potential for change. Don't take anything for granted. Trust in yourself and your abilities. You have the drive and some very brilliant ideas.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You may have some wonderful suggestions but someone may try to take credit for what you do. Stay on top of things. Discuss your plans with enough people that you are recognized as the brains behind the collaborations.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 22): You will be very motivated and busy. Don't do anything that could put your reputation or your own plans at risk.

Sagittarius (Nov. 23-Dec. 21): Don't bring your mind so much; you will have enough work to do. You'll be more in the spotlight and follow your own pursuits.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Everything will follow your own ability to complete what you start. Enlist the help of someone you trust. Your ability will be well worth it in returns.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Take time to do something that will give you a pick-me-up. Consider joining or a self-improvement program that will make your self-esteem and confidence. Giving yourself a boost will contribute to how much you do this year.

Pisces (Feb. 19-Mar. 20): You will have trouble limiting to good advice today. Your emotional well-being will be saved if you are studying. This is not the day to be losing yourself in a dream world - every decision you make will have an impact on your life.

Birthday Baby: You will not step down or back from anything. You are a dreamer who will stop at nothing to turn new concepts and ideas into a reality. You want to know what makes things tick.

Eugenia Last

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henk Arnold and Mike Argirion

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MEN’S BASKETBALL

Scarlet lettered

Notre Dame ends losing streak with lopsided win

By BOBBY GRIFFIN
Associate Sports Editor

It’s about time. Notre Dame got a much-needed Big East victory in a 90-63 dismantling of Rutgers Wednesday. The 27-point victory was a one-point larger margin than the team’s eight Big East losses combined. It has been that kind of season for the Irish, who moved to 11-10 (2-8 in the Big East) with the win. But Notre Dame coach Mike Brey was just happy to come away with a victory. 

“When you’re in the business as long as I am, you see a little bit of everything,” Brey said. “This is pretty weird though — what we’ve been through. I will say that. This is pretty weird. But we’ll keep riding on this [win] and keep building.”

Irish forwards Torin Francis and Rick Cornett hug Notre Dame with a strong inside presence that fueled the offense throughout the game. Francis scored 21 points and added a half-serious warning. “I said, ‘Great job; stay ready.’” Brey said after the game. The coach and player chuckled because Brey was only kidding, but through 10 Big East games, the Irish coach wasn’t wrong to remain on his guard despite a sizable lead. After all, the theme defining the season — it’s about time. — Jim O’Neill

Irish must build, not dwell on Rutgers rout

With 3:20 remaining in Wednesday’s rout of Rutgers, Notre Dame point guard Chris Quinn did something uncharacteristic. He sat down. Just a few moments before, the senior had trotted off the court with teammate Torin Francis to a standing ovation. As Quinn reached the bench, Irish coach Mike Brey congratulated his co-captain and added a half-serious warning. “I said, ‘Great job; stay ready — because the way things are going, I don’t know what’s gonna happen here.’” Brey said after the game. The coach and player chatted because Brey was only kidding, but through 10 Big East games, the Irish coach wasn’t wrong to remain on his guard despite a sizable lead. After all, the theme defining the season — it’s about time. — Jim O’Neill

At left, Irish forward Torin Francis dunks for two of his 21 points in Notre Dame’s 90-63 win. Above, Irish guard Kyle McAlarney chases down a loose ball.

PHOTOS BY KIRSTEN HOELMER

MEN’S SWIMMING

Irish divers aid in team’s title hopes

Junior Scott Coyle has been instrumental in team’s recent success

By JACK THORNTON
Sports Writer

The Irish ended the regular season ranked No. 19 in the nation — highest among Big East teams — and are favored to repeat at the Big East Championships in New York next week. And while the swimmers may get most of the headlines, Notre Dame (10-2) wouldn’t be here without the recent resurgence of the diving squad.

“Diving is a very important part of the dual-meet season and it’s going to be an important part of championship season,” Irish head coach Tim Welsh said. “(Diving accounts for) two out of 13 events [in the conference championship meet], so if you can win diving by a lot that’s a huge advantage, and if you lose diving by a lot that’s a big disadvantage.”

Out of 380 possible dual-meet points this season, the young Irish team garnered 197 total points, including a crucial 29 out of 38 in a two-point team victory at Michigan State Nov. 11. But diving hasn’t always been such a large factor in the team’s success. After graduating three divers from the class of 2003, the men’s team had only one diver on the roster for the 2003-04 season — then-freshman Scott Coyle.

“They hadn’t gone out after divers in their recruiting, so I was the only freshman,” said Coyle, who is now a junior. “I pretty much got thrown into a situation where I was the only guy. It was a big challenge for a freshman, but it was also a great learning experience. And I got myself acclimated to the college diving experience.”

Coyle won five events late in the regular season as a freshman by Erich Retter

LaVere’s turnaround sparks team

Senior Notre Dame forward shot 80 percent from the field last week

By ERIC RETTER
Sports Writer

Irish forward Courtney LaVere couldn’t have picked a better time to get hot than right now. LaVere, the team’s senior co-captain, has struggled for much of the season — falling to score more than nine points for the first nine games of January. But lately LaVere has begun playing like the post threat the team has needed her to be all season, scoring in double figures in each of the past three games and shooting above .500 from the floor in all three contests.

“I think I just realized I needed to score a lot more if we were going to be successful,” LaVere said. “After the Syracuse game, it gave me a lot more confidence, and so going into each game now, I know that I can score. I’ve been able to get some good moves and put the ball in the basket.”

LaVere scored 14 points on 7-of-10 shooting against the