Campus groups petition for academic freedom

United for Free Speech and AllianceND seek signatures during opening day of film event

By MADIE HANNA
Associate News Editor

Members of United for Free Speech and AllianceND took their campaign for academic freedom to the next level Thursday — the first day of "Gay and Lesbian Film: Filmmakers, Narratives and Spectatorship" — by staging two larger-scale events to collect petition signatures and heighten awareness of their cause.

The petitions, addressed to University President Father John Jenkins in support of academic freedom, were presented to students bonding to 9:30 p.m. classes in DeBartolo Hall and spectators entering the Huddle. Performing Arts Center on the opening night of the third annual event formerly known as the Queer Film Festival.

"The freedom to read, study, perform, write and speak on issues of controversy, self as fully and without libel, is a crucial component to the intellectual and spiritual mission of the University of Notre Dame," reads the petition to Jenkins. "We most strongly encourage you to respect freedom of speech by allowing pursuits such as "The Vagina Monologues" and the Queer Film Festival to be performed in an unexercised fashion."

Senior Kaitlyn Bedfield, one of the leaders of United for Free Speech and an organizer of the "Monologues," said the group has been circulating petitions for two weeks, starting immediately after Jenkins delivered his address to students on academic freedom and Catholic characte

They have close to 2,000 sig-

see PETITIONS/page 6

Candidates clash in general debate

Student body tickets face off at LaFortune

By MADIE HANNA
Associate News Editor

The five pairs of candidates for Notre Dame student body president and vice president squared off in debates Thursday night in the Student Center, focusing on student life, academic freedom and community relations as well as fielding student-generated questions.

Freshmen Ryan Black and Catherine Martinez, junior Karen Laws and sophomore Bob Gontia, see TICKETS/page 6

Event combines the silly with the serious

Student government elections: an ode of boke smilin', mud-slinging and sarcasm during this sickeningly sweet time of year. Always look forward to them, for only the entertainment.

Amanda Michaels

Assistant News Editor

"Everything I've been able to do in my life because 40 years ago, Notre Dame plucked me up and gave me an education and changed my life, and there's a debt to be paid there," said Wycliff, whose appointment takes effect March 13. "I had reached a point where as public editor, I had been doing it for almost five years here, and there really wasn't much else I could do.

I guess you reach a point in your life when you feel you have something different to contribute, and I've always thought that if I went into academia, Notre Dame was the place I'd want to go to."

Wycliff accepted the

see WYCLIFF/page 4

Wycliff selected for post

Renowned editor named spokesman

By CLAIRE HEININGER
News Writer

Chicago Tribune public editor and Notre Dame graduate Tom Wycliff has been appointed associate vice president for news and information at Notre Dame, becoming the second consecutive University spokesman to take the post following a high-profile journalism career.

Wycliff will succeed for-

see TICKETS/page 3

Unopposed SMC pairs detail plans for auxiliary roles

By LAURA BAUMGARTNER
News Writer

Board of Governance (BOG) Elections Commissioner Danielle Lerner directed preformatted questions to presidential and vice presidential tickets for the Residence Hall Association (RHA) and Student Diversity Board at "Meet the Candidates" Thursday night in the West Wing of the Noble Family Dining Room.

Junior Angeline Johnson and sophomore Kimberly Hodges are running for SDB president and vice president, respectively. Junior Amy Dartinger and sophomore Cassie Quaglia are running for RHA president and vice president, respectively. Bolt tickets are unopposed.

The Saint Mary's Student Government Constitution says the SDB president is "responsible for fostering diversity of every woman on Saint Mary's campus by upholding the mission of [SDB], as well as chairing the [SDB] meetings and all operations and presenting regular reports to BOG. The vice president is charged with similar duties but does not report to BOG."

Johnson and Hodges said they plan to continue the diversity improvements made by SDB this year at Saint Mary's.

"I think we can further develop projects that have begun this year," Johnson said.

Johnson cited the example of the Diversity Student Leadership Conference as an event that the two hope to improve and strengthen if they are elected.

Hodges felt she and her running mate's experiences this year as members of SDB would benefit their productivi

see DEBATE/page 4

see VOLUME 40: ISSUE 85 FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2006 NDMSOBSERVER.COM
INSIDE COLUMN

Where's the eight ounce yogurt?

With all the campaign promises and reforms and controversies swirling around the school, one major University problem has been blatantly overlooked.

The yogurt challenge.

In the past few weeks, the Grab-O's on campus have cut back, replacing the 8 oz. yogurt cups that had become a staple in my on-the-run lunches with a 6 oz. variety, while still registering them as two items.

Why is this a problem?

Cynics may say I'm upset because I love food, that, given the choice between going to a movie with Rachel McAdams or eating a free, delicious steak, I'd run the risk of getting food poisoning and then having to eat the food at home.

My opponent will no doubt say, "I think you're becoming hysterical and don't deserve discussion anymore." I think he's being very effective; it should be required for everyone to wear one.

The moment doesn't seem as strong on it was in the fall semester.

Eric Retter
Sports Writer

QUESTION OF THE DAY: Do you think the "Gay Fine by Me" t-shirts are still effective on campus?

I, Mike Randolph, senior, off-campus, think this is a mistake, please contact us at 631-4541 so we can correct our error.

I, Kevin Rabii, sophomore, Fisher, say they're still great.

I, Cory Ingle, sophomore, Fisher, think they're common and don't inspire discussion anymore.

I, Joell Steiner, sophomore, Sanford, say they're very effective; it should be required for everyone to wear one.

I, Megan Ericson, freshman, Mcgillin, say broken fine by me... that would be fine by me.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2006

The Observer • PAGE 2

IN BRIEF

The Pasquarrella East Musical Co. will present Footloose at 7:30 p.m. tonight and Saturday at Washington Hall. Tickets are $5 for students and $7 for adults and can be purchased at the LaFortune Box Office.

The Edith Stein Project: Redefining Feminism, a two­
day conference on violence against women, will take place from 12 to 5 p.m. today and from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday in McKenna Hall.

The Notre Dame Symphony will present its winter conc­
cert at 8 p.m. Saturday in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. It will feature two student soloists — winners of the ND Concerto Competition on the Beethoven Violin Concerto and Schumann Piano concerto. Tickets are $3 online. They can also be purchased through the box office at 1-2800.

The Notre Dame men's tennis team will take on Purdue University at 1 p.m. Saturday at the Eck Tennis Pavilion.

The Handbell and Celebration Choirs are pre­
senting their annual joint concert of sacred music at 8 p.m. Sunday in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart. Admission is free.

The Notre Dame men's bas­
ketball team will take on University South Florida at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday in the Joyce Center Arena.

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

CORRECTIONS

The Observer regards itself as a professional publication and strives for the highest standards of journalism at all times. We do, however, recognize that we will make mistakes. If you have made a mistake, please contact us at 631-4541 so we can correct our error.

OBSERVER CORRECTIONS

OFFBEAT

Olympic team still waiting for luggage

MADRID — The Spanish Winter Olympic team have got off to an unfortu­
nate start to the Games with several members of the 31-strong squad still waiting for their luggage to turn up after arriving in Turin Monday.

Competitors were left without skis, snowboards and cases after their lug­
gage was lost on depart­
ture from the newly opened terminal at Madrid's Barajas airport, Spanish media reported on Thursday.

"Things haven't started well for reasons that have nothing to do with the competition," said the head of the Spanish Olympic Committee, Alejandro Blanco was quoted as say­
ing by sports daily Marca.

"It's sad that we are arguing about something like this before the Games ... They are looking for the luggage in Madrid.""Ban rock concerts and football games? DES MOINES, Iowa — An Iowa sheriff's decision to ban out our tickets instead of arrests for small amounts of mari­
juana invited a lawmaker's slap that it would be simpler to ban rock con­
certs and football games.

Johnson County Sheriff Lonny Pulkhabek, who oversees the University of Iowa in Iowa City, told a legislative committee he would treat these possession cases of small amounts of mari­
juana like a traffic viola­
tion, allowing hundreds of students arrested each year to graduate without a criminal record.

"The guy that's carry­ing 30 bales of marijuana ... that's a different ani­
mal," Pulkhabek said, adding he favored rounding up intoxicated people in a locked "detox cen­
ter" in lieu of the crowd­
ed jail.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

WINTER OLYMPIC TEAM

Freshmen Ryan McCune, left, and Tim Szewczyk provided musical entertainment as they engaged in the student government debate Monday in LaFortune. McCune and Szewczyk are running for student body president and vice president, respectively.

Contact Eric Retter at eretter@nd.edu

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

LOCAL WEATHER

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Nursing, education and social work majors required to hold jobs

By KELLY MEEHAN
Senior News Editor

While many college seniors mark the countdown to graduation with memories of late nights with friends, spring break trips and parties, some Saint Mary's students are already busy exercising their education and expertise in a professional setting.

Students who major in nursing, education and social work are required to work several hours each week in their first prior to receiving their degree.

Senior social work major Katelyn O'Brien during her last semester works approximately 32 hours per week at the St. Joseph Health Center's Clifton Street Clinic in South Bend, said she does not find it stressful, but instead more stressful than being a full time student.

"I am a real job, and it requires just as much effort," Smith said, "I do not have homework, so I do not have to do in the field everyday and then come back to the office (work)"

The College's Social Work Web site edit the information that "students...encourage an opportunity for students to learn more about their professional interests as they plan their careers."

All seniors are required to complete a supervised internship during their senior year and report it on a local or national position.

Social Work students typically complete an internship through two or more semesters while simultaneously meeting their core credit practicum seminar class, according to the Social Work Web site.

"It is not only having some experience in a general education requirement are done," senior nursing major Alexa Heimann said. "We do it and it is called "library search"." We really search and see what kind of work we are doing in the classroom full time."

"We talk about topics and procedures that involve people and their dreams," Van Meter said. "The stuff we learn we are responsible to students, to tend to and need to know in order to pass the class, tests, and to make it on our own in the nursing profession."

The high demands of being both a professional and college student often prevents seniors from being in class on the same day as the students. In order to attend class, the students will need to take the course and make it on their own in the classroom.

"Teaching is so complex, and they need that real life experience before they have their own classroom," Van Meter said. "I think it is important for them to understand how a classroom works and what they need to do as a teacher."

Senior education major Jessica Landgraf said she had high expectations placed upon her as a student teacher at Ballard Elementary School in Mifflin, Mich., far surpasses any challenge she has faced in a classroom college.

"I am not just working for my grades anymore," Landgraf said, "I have a responsibility to be in my classroom and to my students to do my best and be prepared. There are no excuses or re-do's."

Van Meter said senior education majors are required to observe in classrooms during their sophomore and junior years. They also must take national exams and have a minimum GPA prior to student teaching.

Nursing majors are also required to attend class while gaining part-time experience through working and observing in a place that is compatible for nursing students.

"I think it is nice only having some seniors working while at the class, tests, and to make it on our own in the nursing profession."

"The stuff we learn we are responsible to students, to tend to and need to know in order to pass the class, tests, and to make it on our own in the nursing profession."
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ated most.

Wycliff has remained engaged with Notre Dame throughout his journalism career, serving on advisory committees for both the College of Arts and Letters and the Gallivan Program for Journalism, Ethics and Democracy. He also authored a Gallivan "Media Criticism" course during the spring semester.

"He's certainly been an active alumnus, so the time it will take to ramp up to the Notre Dame position will be fairly short," Sorin said Thursday. "I think in addition to being smarter, more complex and rambunctious than I am, he brings some of the same things to the office, including a knowledge of Notre Dame." ... I joked to my staff, 'I may be able to play a nice guy on TV, but he's really a nice guy.'"

Staying collegial in the demanding role of public editor — the Tribune's reader representative, responsible for responding to their inquiries and often fiery comments — served a role for Wycliff. Knowing field questions as University spokesman, Wycliff said, "People, even a student in Notre Dame, and that's very much the way it is with a newspaper — people feel entitled to have a say about it, said." If I approached that as well as teaching a training school to be a university spokesman, I might tell them to be a public editor.

Heading the news and information staff in 1991 after a communications department meeting,日军 will be Dennis Brown, whose promotion from associate director to assistant vice president was also announced Thursday. "I have a feeling in the newsroom," Crokkick said, by observing the department's staff and operations and prioritizing its treatment of campus news on a daily basis, while Wycliff will "concentrate a bit more on the big picture," Brown said.

"Don has been on the University's radar as just an extraordinary fit as an individual as well as a journalist," Crohkick said. "I consulted with a number of different people as to who could fill Matt Storin's shoes ... and when I sought advice and counsel, (Wycliff's) name was the one that was reiterated most.

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Deadly violence occurs on holy day

HANGU — They were slaughtering their heards, walling and whipping their backs with chains when the religious ceremony for Shiites Muslims came to a bloody, chaotic end in northeastern Pakistan.

A suicide bomb tore through the crowd of hundreds as they walked through a bazaar Thursday in the town of Hangu, killing worshippers and sparking a riot that resulted in more deaths. Twenty-seven people died and more than 50 were wounded, authorities said.

After the bombing, which appeared to be a sectarian attack, security forces battled enraged worshippers who torched shops and cars and took up positions on hills overlooking the town, where the sound of gunfire echoed through the smoky streets.

Sudan and Chad sign peace deal

The leaders of Sudan and Chad have signed a peace agreement to end recurring tension over Sudan's Darfur region, pledging to normalize diplomatic relations and deny refuge to each other's rebel groups.

Noumin President Omar al-Bashir and Chad's president Idriss Deby pledged late Wednesday, after a day of talks hosted by Libyan leader Muammar Gadhafi, "to immediately commit themselves to work to prevent the presence of rebels on each other territory," Libya's Jamahiriya news agency reported.

A communiqué issued by Sudan and Libya, as well as Burkina Faso, Congo and the Central African Republic, whose leaders attended the talks, said a committee of African countries overseen by Libya would monitor the implementation of the deal.

National News

Agreement reached on Patriot Act

Republican holdouts reached agreement Thursday with the White House on minor changes in the Patriot Act, hoping to clear the way for passage of anti-terrorism legislation stalled in a Senate filibuster.

Sen. John Ensign, R-Nev., and three other GOP lawmakers — all of whom joined Democrats last year to block a long-term extension of the law — were to announce the accord late Thursday.

White House press secretary Scott McClellan pre-empted them, saying the changes "continue to build upon the civil liberties protections that are in place but do so in a way that doesn't compromise our national security priorities."

Judge speaks on domestic spying

A judge is expected to convene Thursday to hear arguments whether the Bush administration's domestic spying program is constitutional, according to court officials.

The president's month-long campaign to convince Americans the government's eavesdropping program is essential to the war on terrorism appears to be making an impact.

In an AP-JLS poll, 48 percent now support wiretapping, up from 42 percent last month. Half say the administration should have to get a warrant, down from 56 percent. Men in particular have come around to Bush's view over the last month, the poll suggested.

And on Capitol Hill Thursday, four Senate Republican holdouts reached agreement with the White House on minor changes in the Patriot Act, hoping to clear the way for renewal of anti-terrorism legislation that Bush says is essential in the fight against terrorists.

In his speech, at the National Guard Memorial Building, Bush said Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the reputed mastermind of the Sept. 11 attacks, began planning the West Coast operation in October 2001. Mohammed's key planners was a man known as Hamabi, the alleged operations chief of the terrorist group Jamah Islami, which is affiliated with al-Qaida.

"Rather than use Arab hijackers as he had on Sept. 11, Khalid Sheikh Mohammed sought out young men from Southwest Asia — whom he believed would not arouse as much suspicion," Bush said.

As the plot was described, the hijackers were to use shoe bombs to blow open the cockpit door of a commercial jetliner, take control of the plane and crash it into the Library Tower in Los Angeles, a 73-story building since renamed the U.S. Bank Tower. In his speech, Bush uncharacteristically referred to the site as "Liberty Tower.

The president said the plot was derailed when a Southeast Asian nation arrested a key al-Qaida operative. Bush did not name the country or the operative.

West Coast terror plot disclosed

Bush says that U.S. surveillance helped stop a terrorist attack on L.A. skyscraper

WASHINGTON — Under fire for electronic snooping, Americans, President Bush said Thursday that spy work strengthened from the U.S. to Asia helped thwart terrorist plots to use shoe bombs to hijack an airliner and crash it into the tallest skyscraper on the West Coast.

"It took the combined efforts of several countries to break up this plot," Bush said. "By working together, we stopped a catastrophic attack on our homeland."

Shortage information about the failed attack was disclosed last year, but Bush offered more details. He did not say whether information about the West Coast plot was collected by his administration's program to monitor terrorists — without court warrants — some calls to the U.S. from terrorist suspects overseas.

The White House said that issue was not the point of the speech, but the president and his advisers have been vigorously defending the legality of the program, which has been questioned by both Democratic and Republican lawmakers.

After weeks of insisting that divulging details of the monitoring program would hinder intelligence gathering, the White House released Wednesday and began briefing some additional information.

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Fragos Townsend, assistant to the president for homeland security and counterterror­ism, said Mohammed, work­ing with Hamabi in Asia, recruited four members of the terrorist cell and trained his leader in how to use shoe bombs.

Townsend said it was not clear whether there was any connection between the West Coast plot and shoe bomber Richard Reid, who tried to blow up a trans­Atlantic flight in December 2001. After that, the Transportation Security Administration began ask­ ing passengers to take off their shoes for inspection.

Iraq

Hostage journalist pleads for help

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Kidnapped Associated Press journalist Jill Carroll appeared in a video aired Thursday by a local Baghdad TV station, appealing for her support­ers to do whatever it takes to win her release "as quickly as possi­ble."

The Associated Press correspondent, who was sent to Baghdad last month, was seized in Baghdad by armed men who killed her Iraqi transla­tor. She was shown sitting on a chair in front of a wall with a large floral design.

The 28-year-old freelance reporter for The Christian Science Monitor said she had sent one letter and was sending another to "prove I am with the mujahedeen."

"I sent you a letter written by my hand, but you wanted more evi­dence," she said. "I am here. I am fine. Please just do whatever they want, give them whatever they want as quickly as possible. There is very short time. Please do it fast. That's all."

The 22-second video was carried by AlJazeera TV, a private Kuwaiti channel, and included audio, unlike two previous videos of Carroll that were broadcast by AlJazeera television. A producer at AlJazeera said the station did not receive any letters with the videos it aired.

After Thursday's broadcast, Carroll's family issued a brief statement through The Christian Science Monitor, saying only that "the family is hopeful and grateful to all those working on Jill's behalf."
natures now but want to collect "a coalition of the concerned," representing the petitions to Jenkins during the middle of next week, Redfield proposed.

"I think students are beginning to understand that critical unrestricted academic freedom is to the mission of this Catholic university," said Schlueter. "We can sustain our academic repu­
tation only by critically engaging every intellectual, spiritual and ideological viewpoint of our Notre Dame family. Intolerance is never the answer."

Anna Gomberg, a third-year graduate student and co-nor­
mator of the far-left gay/straight student group AllianceND, said her group had come together with United for Free Speech in support of the Gay and Lesbian Film series — a unity that is "absolutely" essential to furthering their cause.

"I am really, really inspired by the way United for Free Speech and everybody around us has pulled together, made this a real coalition," said O'Neill. "We think that it's a pretty vis­ible statement that United for Free Speech is on one place on the first day of the Gay and Lesbian Film series.

"And it seems like debate will con­
continue. ... We're planning to keep our name out there," O'Neill said.

"I don't think there's much of a change — an agreement reached by the student body president of the film, Television and Theatre department and student organi­
zation to permit the filming of the rele­
vancy of the film series and that much of our concerns would be "out­
rightly" eliminated except for the showings were banned from cam­
pus.

"I think that we are taking this as a blow to academic free­
dom. Giving in by allowing this film is something I think would be taken as a clear signal to the University away from being an academic institu­tion that would be the beginning of the end of the University."

"We are hoping the petition will show the administration just how committed the students are to academic freedom."

The majority of people enter­
ing the Performing Arts Center Thursday night had said so since the academic freedom petition.

"The Queer Film Festival is really a huge part of this academ­
ic freedom discussion," and it is something that we are here," Leighton said.

Students on their way to class Thursday night passed by a copy of the Open Speaker Paper outside the administration's "statement that United for Free Speech members believe fully supports the controversial per­
vasive events like 'The Vagina Monologues' on campus.

And it seems like debate will con­
tinue, said O'Neill. Redfield. She has been contacted by numerous national and interna­tional newsmakers, including the New York Times, the U.S. Catholic Press Agency, Radio Associated Press — and hasn't seen any decrease in activity or interest.

"This is not an issue that will die easily," she said.

Contact Maddie Hanna at
mhanna1@nd.edu

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 year 2006 annual competition for travel in support of summer research and foreign study in Italy. Grants will be made in amounts not to exceed $3,000, and will not normally cover all expenses. Notre Dame graduates and undergraduate students majoring in or offering to major in the program of summer study in Italy are invited to apply. Students must have completed at least one year of Italian language. The course work will normally be in Italian; will involve the presentation or theses research, and must be approved on the student's degree program at the University of Notre Dame.

Recommended programs for foreign study include, but are not limited to: Loyola University in Rome, Boston University in Padua, UCLA in Pisa, Miami University in Urbino, Columbia University in Scandiano in Italy. Interested students are encouraged to consult the materials on Italian foreign study in the Department of Romance Languages, 343 O'Shaughnessy Hall.

Students 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 description of the background, interests, and long-term goals;
3) a description of the research project or the program they intend to follow;
4) a budget indicating the costs involved;
5) the names of two references.

Application Deadline: Friday, February 17, 2006
Albert Ravarino Italian Studies Travel Scholarship
Program in Italian at Notre Dame
343 O'Shaughnessy Hall
University of Notre Dame

...
**IN BRIEF**

Average for jobless claims decreases

WASHINGTON — The number of Americans applying for unemployment benefits was up by just 4,000 last week, putting the weekly average over the past month at the lowest level in nearly six years. Analysts said the big improvement in claims in recent weeks was apparently not a fluke but an indication that the labor market has improved significantly.

The Labor Department reported Thursday that 323,000 new claims were filed last week, up from 319,000 the previous week. That was an increase of 4,000 from the previous week.

That was below the gain of 12,000 that economists were expecting and provided further evidence that the labor market has strengthened significantly in recent weeks.

Automakers moved four-week moving average claims for claims, which smooths out weekly volatility, fell again last week to 276,590, the lowest level since April 2000. Jobless claims have been below the 300,000 mark for five of the past six weeks.

Companies demonstrate how to cope

PHOENIX — Despite powerful search engines, the vast and rising sea of information on the Internet often makes users feel like they’re stuck alone in a rowboat when it comes to fishing out exactly what they need.

Even after someone finds an answer, the next person with the same question must start again. Some information is locked away inside a photo or other media file that’s largely inaccessible to search engines that scour the Internet for text.

The problem with corollary results from today’s search engines was a major theme at this week’s DEMO tech conference, where nearly 70 companies were given six minutes each to show off their up-and-coming products.

“There’s a belief that whatever it is I’m looking for is out there, but I have a really different time finding it,” said Chris Shipley, executive producer of the elite show. “Search algorithms alone are falling short in being able to provide real context around information.”

**Business**

**GM’s plans lack luster**

Autonaker struggles to cope with expensive employee benefits, Asian competition

Frank Giacomo, a transmission technician at General Motors, is shown working after GM announced plans that will cause pay cuts for workers.

The numbers speak for themselves. The future cash savings from a dividend cut, a reduction in white-collar benefits and a cut in executive pay — totaling less than $300 million a year — merely skirt the problems facing a company that reported a net loss of $8.6 billion in 2005.

The look of two invincible monster trucks in the room, are more than a quarter million workers with hugely expensive benefits and a management team that hasn’t figured out how to design and build cars to the level as those from Asian rivals that consumers are buying. You can’t fix problems like these with financial nips and tucks.

It’s logical to expect investors and the small fraction of GM workers affected by the company’s latest plans to share the pain. But in all fairness to the union workers who ultimately will be forced to endure the worst, the reductions in the dividend, executive pay and white-collar care benefits for white-collar employees don’t go far enough, particularly if management hoped to make a point.

Since GM is looking to shed a 51 percent stake in its profitable financing arm, General Motors Acceptance Corp., it’s easy to argue that the dividend should have been eliminated instead of halved. GMAC, contributed $2.5 billion in cash to GM last year, and any potential investors would cut future cash flows in half, while GM’s dividend cut saved just $565 million for the financial arm.

Likewise, since the intent is so obviously symbolic, management could have made a far stronger statement by giving up all salary and agreeing to a bonus arrangement that only reclaims a successful turnaround.

Instead, the plan includes an assortment of pay cuts, odd-sounding increments: a 10 percent reduction for the top three vice chairmen and the president, a 7 percent cut for the general counsel. To their credit, there will be no bonuses for last year’s dismal performance, but no pledges were made on that score for 2006.

The United Auto Workers union dismissed GM’s moves as unworthy of new concessions, suggesting the upcoming contract brawl will be even more venomous. That’s troubling, given that GM lost nearly $1.5 billion per car, GM obviously is spending too much to make a less exciting product.

The unavoidable fact is that GM’s unionized workers enjoy a level of pay, health insurance and pension benefits that can’t be sustained. And then there’s the jobs bank, a singularly unique entitlement program that pays laid-off workers most of their salaries for an extended period.

Peter Morici, an economist at the University of Maryland, estimates that to make money, GM’s hourly cost per employee needs to be nearly halved to about $40 — a number he derives from the steel industry, a business that’s been dragged kicking and screaming into a new era of profitability.

Some may dispute his math, but it’s clear that more than incremental change is required.

The union argues that such a reduction would amount to a huge broken promise that would leave many of its members in dire straits. True enough, GM hasn’t lived up to its word, but the union also bears responsibility for playing hard-enough bail to extract such extravagant promises.

**Market Recap**

**Stocks**

**Dow Jones**

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**Stocks lag at close despite earnings**

**Associated Press**

NEW YORK — Wall Street’s momentum saged Thursday, leaving the major indexes mixed after investors’ enthusiasm over a six-year low in unemployment claims and strong corporate earnings waned in the face of lingering-term economic worries.

With lingering questions remaining about the health of the economy, interest rates, oil prices and geopolitics, Wall Street took profit-taking, focusing on the economy and technology sectors that led the most recent rallies.

"Most companies have already reported their qatures, and I think we’re getting to a quiet period where it can be tough to keep anything positive going," said Hans Ober, managing director and chief investment officer at Bingham Legg Advisers.

There’s a lot out there to deal with. While weekly first-time jobless claims rose slightly, Wall Street was initially encouraged after the Labor Department said the four-week moving average of claims, a strong indica-

tor of the labor market’s health, fell to its lowest level since April 2000.

Positive earnings reports from Best Buy Co. Inc. and Aetna Inc. also cheered would-be buyers for much of the session.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 24.73, or 0.23 percent, to 10,883.35 after gaining 108.86 points Wednesday.

Broader stock indicators were lower, however. The Standard & Poor’s 500 index fell 1.37, or 0.15 percent, to 1,263.78, and the tech-

focused Nasdaq composite index dropped 11.11, or 0.49 percent, to 2,255.87.

Bonds reversed direction from the previous session and climbed higher as the first auction of 30-year Treasury bonds since 2001 was gen-

erally well received. The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note fell to 4.54 percent from 4.59 percent late Wednesday.

The dollar was mixed against most major currencies, while gold prices edged lower.

**BRIEF**

**NEW YORK** — General Motors Corp. made some tough decisions this week.

Unfortunately, the autonaker’s mess requires tougher moves and a job of imagination.

The numbers speak for themselves. The future cash savings from a dividend cut, a reduction in white-collar benefits and a cut in executive pay — totaling less than $300 million a year — merely skirt the problems facing a company that reported a net loss of $8.6 billion in 2005.

The look of two invincible monster trucks in the room, are more than a quarter million workers with hugely expensive benefits and a management team that hasn’t figured out how to design and build cars to the level as those from Asian rivals that consumers are buying. You can’t fix problems like these with financial nips and tucks.

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Random thoughts on a winter's day

...
As quoted in a Catholic News Service release of Feb. 3, Notre Dame President Father John Jenkins said that academic freedom at Notre Dame is "the same academic freedom that is enjoyed anywhere else.

The article reports that in the interviewed, Jenkins has referred to the "Vagina Monologues" as not being appropriate for Notre Dame. I have previously discussed Jenkins' reasoning about this issue. Now I will again address Jenkins' claim that academic freedom at Notre Dame is essential, not just academically.

Here's a take-home assignment for Jesuit students: I'd like to see my newspaper article (and those interviews) interested in investigating his claims about academic freedom. Ask presidents and deans on campus at major universities whether academic freedom at their institutions permits academic departments to sponsor events as they see fit or not to attach to Notre Dame academic departments.

Surely what Jenkins really means is that on his view academic freedom at Notre Dame protects some but not all of the same rights protected at other universities. He mentions the right to publish research and the right to think what we want to think. But to leap from these facts to the claim that academic freedom at Notre Dame is the same as at other universities is a move that will not stand up to the truth, as the simple fact-checking exercise suggested above will reveal.

I am exasperated with the recent Viewpoint letters mainly because I see two sides passionate about an important issue, but, because of the Internecine struggle on campus, neither side is achieving anything. I would like to propose an alternative. Taking into account the facts that "The Vagina Monologues" have been performed for the past few years that violence against women persists at a shocking rate, it seems that we must engage in a more effective means of preventing this violence.

For those who want to denounce the typical opponents of the campus are arguing for (the stereotypically male, conservative, religious types), consider this: the young men are not the ones violating women. As a consequence, we are probably some of the most chaste men on campus. So, supporters of the "Monologues," lay off these folks and join them as your partners.

And to you, opponents of the "Monologues," consider the group supporting the "Monologues": it is dedicated to demolishing all violence against women. So, work together with this group in establishing a campus more dedicated to Christian ideals of non-violence.

Both groups must come together and impose immense pressure on the one group that is the enemy of all of us. The self-centered young men at this University who rape, abuse, take advantage of and hook up with the women of Notre Dame. These jerks use tools like alcohol and vulnerability in working toward their end. While we sit and argue about the "Monologues," our discussion does not thwart the weekend plans these men have.

I propose we choose our friends with whom we want to spend time. Such social gatherings are responsible and which aren't, limit the amount that we drink, and try to end into enterable situations, These are some concrete steps we can take to end violence against women. Please embrace these steps with sincerity and thought, and stop arguing about this play — the health of our University's students is at stake.

Daniel DiMassa
Kneel Hall
Feb. 9

Cable regretted

I lament the University's decision to install cable in individual dorm rooms. Among other things, I worry what it will do to Notre Dame's proud residential tradition in the time to come.

Lounges and bobbies, the exclusive domain of the campus' cable television, become places for social bonding. Speaking from experience living in a men's dorm, any televised sports event has the power to draw half a hallway into the lounge for an evening. Even private common rooms where roommates set up satellite become open-door congregations.

Once all three channels are available in our dorm, I wonder if that camaraderie will go the way of the Dunham Ndment (i.e., disappear) by the hour before any time, but I get the feeling that since the unfathomable age before every room had internet connections, the social atmosphere at Notre Dame has been affected negatively. This seems to be another inevitable, albeit convenient, step in that direction.

The news that installation is now available is good news for students, like myself, who refuse to own a cell phone — six weeks without my dependable, reliable, above-all-usable land-line phone. At least I want to call home, I have an excuse to drive in on a friend who still has service. More importantly, what do I do in my own room if I have an emergency? How about the SGA? I've paid for phone service this semester, I'll receive a refund for these six weeks, Office of Student Accounts! Or I have to give in and join the ranks of the cellular, publicly announcing my whereabouts with every next-minute ring?

While my hopes are these aren't the halcyon days for the sense of community I've found, one thing nice about the project is the quiet time it's brought for contemplation. When the dark ages are finally over, I may just leave my connection unhooked and enjoy the prolonged silence there. Let's think of the one, that I've been able to write without distraction.

Fritz Warfield
Associate Professor
Department of philosophy
Feb. 8

Open letter to Father Jenkins

"For as of late there has been an active campaign, carried on in the name of the social function and propaganda for specific views which are dogmatically asserted to be socially necessary." John Dewey, Freedom and Culture, 1939

Dear Father John Jenkins,

In the weeks since your speech on Academic Freedom and Catholic Culture, the campus has been embroiled in debate. Many have offered eloquent and passionate arguments in support of events such as the Quer Film Festival and "The Vagina Monologues." I have been impressed by their articulate responses in The Observer, in dorm discussions and personal talks with friends, yet have even started to come to an understanding of what they are arguing against.

I don't think even they entirely understand, however, what it is they are arguing for.

You see, nobody is arguing that Notre Dame must sponsor every academic event, conference or performance that comes its way. I also have not heard anyone argue that "The Vagina Monologues," for example, are not egregiously opposed to Catholic teachings.

What I have heard are many arguments that such events are irreparable. Again, using "The Vagina Monologues" as an example, supporters have argued that performances help heal wounds, educate the campus about women's issues and stop domestic violence.

By claiming that "The Vagina Monologues" are the only vehicles through which such healing can take place, its supporters are demanding that Notre Dame take a position which has clear ideological implications. Let me sketch out the ramifications of their argument as follows:

1) Assuming that the Vagina Monologues are indeed egregiously opposed to Catholic teachings, 2) and accepting its supporters, position that any comparable production, which would include the Catholic perspective, could accomplish the same goals, 3) it follows that Catholic teachings must be ignored for the said goals to be fulfilled.

1) If Catholic teachings must be ignored, this must mean that Catholic beliefs about sexuality are not only insufficient (in which case a performance which united both secular and Catholic viewpoints would suffer), but completely wrong. 2) If the University agrees that "The Vagina Monologues" do indeed have an irreplaceable impact on campus, and therefore allows them to be performed, this must mean that the University believes statement 4 is true.

Can the supporters of "The Vagina Monologues" really ask Notre Dame to make this statement and in doing so, contradict our Catholic identity? Knowingly or not, that is what they are doing.

We, as students, must agree that "The Vagina Monologues" could be amended so as not to completely oppose Catholic teaching, or acknowledge that in supporting this performance, Notre Dame would be denying part of its Catholic identity by denying part of the Church's claim to truth.

The same logical proposition holds true for all similar events. Notre Dame could conceivably sponsor an event which was non-Catholic, but any production which is specifically anti-Catholic and refuses to address relevant Catholic perspectives leads to the same conclusion as "The Vagina Monologues."" I am not encouraging Notre Dame to withdraw from the secular world. Rather, as a leading Catholic University, we need to challenge it. But if we — with our immense intellectual, financial and spiritual resources compare to modern culture to the extent that we begin to believe that only through anti-Catholic measures can our collective (or personal) goals be met — we will have settled for a position which will end up nullifying our great Catholic intellectual heritage.

Jessica Nelson
sophomore
Beve-Phillips
Feb. 8

Want to be a columnist, copy editor or illustrator for Viewpoint? E-mail Sarah at Viewpoint.l@nd.edu
SUB PREVIEW

Talented authors highlight festival

By GRACE MYERS
Scene Writer

The highly anticipated Notre Dame Literary Festival will occur this upcoming week, starting Feb. 13, bringing together diverse and highly acclaimed writers, novelists, journalists, poets and our most promising student writers.

Laura Fox, the Student Union Board (SUB) Chair for the Literary Festival, worked diligently to gather respected writers that will appeal to everyone on campus. She worked to continue scholarly and creative study of contemporary literature, and our most promising student writers.

Laura Fox, the Student Union Board (SUB) Chair for the Literary Festival, worked diligently to gather respected writers that will appeal to everyone on campus. She worked to continue scholarly and creative study of contemporary literature, and our most promising student writers.

Fox said her main goal is to make this week "about a celebration and love of literature." This Festival is created for and run by students, offering a unique opportunity for the entire student body to better acquaint itself with the literature of this generation.

Fox noted that this is an important event for Notre Dame students because it gives students the opportunity to look at contemporary culture and see these great films, Laina said. "The films present students with the opportunity to ask academic questions and raise questions about our contemporary culture."

The six films being screened are "Brokeback Mountain," "Breakfast on Pluto," "Happy Endings," "Saving Face," "Gay Republicans" and "Cachorro (Bear Cub)." The first three films explore the complex genre of a gay and lesbian film.

"Brokeback Mountain," starring Oscar nominees Heath Ledger and Jake Gyllenhaal, follows the love story of a ranch-hand and a rodeo who fall in love herding s...
RYAN BLACK  
**president**  
CATHERINE MARTINEZ  
**vice president**  

Who They Are  
Black is a freshman in Knott Hall who intends to major in English. Martinez is a freshman in Cavanaugh Hall who intends to major in Political Science.

In Their Words  
- **Top Priority:** Their top priority is to improve Notre Dame's community relations with South Bend. They said they can resolve this issue over the next three years. 
- **Least Feasible Idea:** Natural Disaster Relief Committee
- **Worst Idea:** Diminishing dances, from their Web site: “Dances tend not to be a good idea to better Gender Relations. People invite friends of the opposite sex to dances, thus making it difficult to meet other students of the opposite sex.”
- **Most Feasible Idea:** This freshman duo is inexperienced and unprepared. They have good intentions, and Martinez is a strong leader; however, they are not ready to take the role of representing the Notre Dame student body. Their platform is incomplete, especially in the important realm of community relations. Black and Martinezs plans for dining hall reform are not feasible, as are some of their plans to improve gender relations. These two do not seem to have a true idea of what they would be getting into if elected, and should use their sophomore years to get more involved in student government.

JASON LAWS  
**president**  
BOB COSTA  
**vice president**  

Who They Are  
Laws is a junior political science and Spanish major who lives in Fisher Hall. Costa is a sophomore in Zahm Hall who is an American Studies major.

In Their Words  
- **Top Priority:** Laws and Costa said they want to join groups on both sides of the debate on academic freedom. They said they want students to have a voice while the issue is resolved.
- **First Priority:** The first project for the Laws/Costa ticket was to bring back Legends of the Hidden Temple, a much less popular Nick shows.
- **Fun Fact:** Laws is a junior political science and Spanish major who lives in Fisher Hall. Costa is a sophomore in Zahm Hall who is an American Studies major.

RYAN McCUNE  
**vice president**  

Who They Are  
McCune and Szewczyk are both freshmen from Zahm Hall. McCune intends to major in electrical engineering, while Szewczyk is an intended biology major.

In Their Words  
- **Best Idea:** McCune and Szewczyk are both freshmen from Zahm Hall. McCune intends to major in electrical engineering, while Szewczyk is an intended biology major.
- **Worst Idea:** Trying to bring back Legends of the Hidden Temple, a much less popular Nick show. McCune was the cross country deep threat champion in high school and can spin almost anything on his finger. Szewczyk cannot throw up on command.
LIZZI SHAPPELL president
VICE PRESIDENT
February 10, 2006

Who They Are
Shappell, the current student body vice president, is a Badin Hall resident majoring in political science and peace studies. Andrichik is a junior in Stanford Hall majoring in political science and English.

In Their Words
- Top Priority: Shappell and Andrichik have outlined a comprehensive and realistic agenda to help students not only adjust to off-campus living but also to improve community relations with the city of South Bend.
- Worst Idea: None
- Most Feasible Idea: College Readership Program
- Least Feasible Idea: Establishing a café in the Hesburgh Library
- Fact: Shappell can detect types of mint by smell. Andrichik, although a long-time Wisconsin resident, hates the NFL's Green Bay Packers.

In Our Words
- Best Idea: Community Relations plan. Shappell and Andrichik have outlined a comprehensive and realistic agenda to help students not only adjust to off-campus living but also to improve community relations with the city of South Bend.
- Worst Idea: None
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- Fact: Shappell can detect types of mint by smell. Andrichik, although a long-time Wisconsin resident, hates the NFL's Green Bay Packers.

Bottom Line
Shappell's experience as the current student body vice president is impressive. However, Andrichik is an articulate and capable candidate who has a proven track record of success. She has already established connections with the city of South Bend and is ready to take on the leadership role.

ERIC WELLS president
VICE PRESIDENT

Who They Are
Wells is a sophomore psychology major who lives in Pangborn Hall. Chamberlain, a freshman, lives in Sorin College and intends to major in political science and psychology.

In Their Words
- Top Priority: To improve Multicultural and Gender relations by working with the Gender Relations Council and the MSNs in addition to finding a way to educate freshmen about such issues.
- First Priority: To put students back in the hands of students by creating open forums and giving students more chances to be heard.

In Our Words
- Best Idea: Soliciting student opinion on academic freedom and Catholic character through straightforward, accessible surveys and e-mails.
- Worst Idea: Community bikes — bikes around campus designated for general student use.
- Most Feasible Idea: Bringing student government to students by periodically moving student government meetings to residence halls and by meeting informally with students.
- Least Feasible Idea: Open forums with rectors to give them student feedback on their performances — rectors evaluations are already in place through the Office of Residence Life and Housing.
- Fun Fact: If she could, Wells said she would go skydiving everyday for the rest of her life — she's done it twice and has plans to do it again. Chamberlain can drink a gallon of milk in under half-an-hour without immediately throwing up.

Bottom Line
These two say they aren't politicians and it is obvious why. Wells has never been involved in student government, and despite her involvement in the Gender Relations Council, she is not ready to assume such a leadership role. Chamberlain is impressive for a freshman; however, he has much to learn. This ticket has some good ideas, including the use of the GRC, however, they haven't investigated the feasibility of a lot of their proposals. This ticket said they only have a few proposals because that is what they think they can accomplish, but the limits they set for themselves are not ones students should want their leaders to impose on their potential.
One year ago at this time, when Dave Baron and Lizz Shappell were running for and winning the positions of Notre Dame’s new student body president and vice president, The Observer didn’t think they were the best candidates for the job. While Baron was a strong, experienced leader, Shappell lacked his polish and stayed too silent in his shadow. But that changed quickly and dramatically over the last 12 months, as the pair ran a professional, productive administration that led to singular praise from Vice President for Student Affairs Father Mark Poorman and other administrators who are typically wary of student government — a respectful rapport that allowed Baron and Shappell to strongly represent students at the highest level of the University.

Far from remaining in the background of these relationships, Shappell equally earned his standing with Baron while also emerging as a leader in her own right. Her presidential campaign this year has reinforced this image, showing that, joined by junior class president Bill Andrichik, Shappell too can head the student body.

The Shappell-Andrichik platform addresses the biggest issues facing Notre Dame today — community relations, academic freedom and diversity — presenting necessary and realistic plans of action for each. However, Shappell and Andrichik are not the only qualified, driven candidates in the race.

Jason Laws and Bob Costa form a political ticket with strong personalities and a unique passion for student government. Stressing they wanted to run for office “the right way,” Laws and Costa developed their platform only after seeking input from a multitude of student groups, dorms and athletic teams. This was the right way to go about developing a campaign-getting student opinion before developing ideas that are supposed to benefit students, rather than brainstorming in isolation.

The ticket’s desire for transparency in student government to pave the way for future student leaders are commendable. Laws’ honesty is also refreshing — from acknowledging he did a lot of soul-searching before deciding whether to seek to the presidency to saying of his running mate this kid last year when he ran.” When he says his campaign is “the heart, voters should believe him. But Laws and Costa lack the relationships with — and arguably respect for — the key administrators with whom, and through whom, student leaders must work to accomplish their goals. “Stick it to Jenkins,” the laws-Costa ticket’s plan to convey student opinion on academic freedom, is a bold statement to the University president, is an immature approach the student body cannot afford on such a pivotal issue. At a time when students are fighting for their voices to be heard in a crucial debate about Notre Dame’s identity, their platform cannot allow us to trust their president and vice president to convey those voices firmly, but also professionally and respectfully, in order to be taken seriously.

Laws and Costa would not be able to trust their president to convey those voices firmly, but also professionally and respectfully, in order to be taken seriously. This ticket knows its stand on academic freedom and Catholic character — believing ideas that are supposed to benefit students, rather than brainstorming in isolation.

Shappell and Andrichik say they will go dormant in their platform, tickets, there is a significant dropoff in the quality and experience of candidates. While it is encouraging that an unusually high number of underclassmen demonstrated interest this year in taking leadership roles and improving student life, they lack the background and executive knowledge to succeed in the student body’s highest office.

Ryan Black and Catherine Martinez, both freshmen, don’t know what they’re getting themselves into just yet. Martinez showed poise and should certainly become more involved in student government, perhaps to take a top position a few years in the future, but she is not ready yet.

Erica Wells and George Chamberlain are not prepared to take office either. Their proposals are few and they have not researched their platform thoroughly. Chamberlain, another unusually polished freshman, has potential to do good things for student government, but he needs more experience.

Shappell and Andrichik platform also presents necessary and realistic plans to improve relations with the South Bend community, voters should believe him.

Shappell and Andrichik are not prepared to take office either. Their proposals are few and they have not researched their platform thoroughly. Chamberlain, another unusually polished freshman, has potential to do good things for student government, but he needs more experience.

The ticket’s desire for transparency in student government to pave the way for future student leaders are commendable. Laws’ honesty is also refreshing — from acknowledging he did a lot of soul-searching before deciding whether to seek to the presidency to saying of his running mate this kid last year when he ran.” When he says his campaign is “the heart, voters should believe him. But Laws and Costa lack the relationships with — and arguably respect for — the key administrators with whom, and through whom, student leaders must work to accomplish their goals. “Stick it to Jenkins,” the laws-Costa ticket’s plan to convey student opinion on academic freedom, is a bold statement to the University president, is an immature approach the student body cannot afford on such a pivotal issue. At a time when students are fighting for their voices to be heard in a crucial debate about Notre Dame’s identity, their platform cannot allow us to trust their president and vice president to convey those voices firmly, but also professionally and respectfully, in order to be taken seriously. This ticket knows its stand on academic freedom and Catholic character — believing ideas that are supposed to benefit students, rather than brainstorming in isolation.

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Overall, the platform doesn’t address this issue.
A cowboy with one eye and a broken arm tries to break free of another Golden Boy, as he tries to escape an arranged marriage.

RULE OF EVENTS

SUNDAY

1PM SCREENING: "IN Greenland," 1982
DIREC/PROD: ROBERT CRIPPS
MODERATOR: PROF. MARY R. BANNISTER

4PM SCREENING: "Naked Fear," 1965
DIREC/PROD: ROBERT KIMBURGER
MODERATOR: PROF. MARY R. BANNISTER

4PM SCREENING: "The Opposite of Sex," 1998
DIREC: LISA LAINA
PROD: ROBERT KIMBURGER
MODERATOR: PROF. MARY R. BANNISTER

6PM SCREENING: "The Devil Wears Prada," 2006
DIREC: DAVID LOWERY
PROD: DR. MARILYN RIDDELL
MODERATOR: PROF. MARY R. BANNISTER

5PM SCREENING: "Saving Face," 2000
DIREC: LISA LAINA
PROD: ROBERT KIMBURGER
MODERATOR: PROF. MARY R. BANNISTER

6:30PM SCREENING: "Happy Endings," 2005
DIREC/PROD: ALAN BALL
MODERATOR: PROF. MARY R. BANNISTER

SUNDAY

7PM QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION

FRIDAY, February 10, 2006

THE OBSERVER SCENE

ALEXANDER AND LESBIAN FESTIVAL SET TO EXPLOR E PERCEPTIONS

The lives of characters of 10 different stories. After the screening, Roos, who also directed "The Opposite of Sex" and "Honour" and who is a writer in the upcoming movie "The Devil Wears Prada," will be leading a question and answer session in this rare opportunity.

Two of the screenings will show international films. "These films represent gay and lesbian people in a multicultural and international context," Laina said. "Saving Face" follows the life of a young Chinese-American surgeon whose single, pregnant mother moves in with her as she grapples with falling in love with a ballet dancer and scandalizing her Chinese community. The director of "Cachorros," Miguel Albaladejo, will also be in attendance for his film's screening and will be hosting a question and answer session as well. The film tells the story of Pedro, a gay man who unexpectedly must care for his young nephew as the two forge a close bond.

The last film in the festival, "Gay Republicans," follows Log Cabin, the Gay Republican Club, in the intense time leading up to President George W. Bush's election, and reveals the extremely difficult choices gay Republicans were forced to make.

In addition to the screenings and the question and answer sessions, the series is hosting a number of panels featuring prominent professors from Notre Dame. Panel topics include "Making Gay & Lesbian Film" and "Gay & Lesbian Film, Queer Theory & the Academy."

The goal of the panels is to encourage discussion among the Notre Dame community and to provide students and faculty with a forum to express their thoughts and opinions about contemporary gay and lesbian films.

"These films are important because they are very much within the tradition of film scholarship and within the spirit of inclusion at this University, which we feel to be a strong spirit," Laina said.

By looking to these films, students can gain awareness of the diversity in the world and have the opportunity to view films they might not otherwise see. The film series takes a close look at gay and lesbian films and encourages scholarly debate, redefining the perceptions which are associated with this film genre.

Contact Cassie Belek at cbielek@nd.edu

In "Breakfast On Pluto," Cillian Murphy, left, plays Patrick, who in the 1970s travels to London in search of his mother and becomes a transvestite.
NHL

Brodeur makes 37 saves in comeback victory

Modin scores two goals as the Lightning come from behind to win against divisional foes, the Carolina Hurricanes

Associated Press

BOSTON — Brian Gionta scored his second goal in over-time and Martin Brodeur made 37 saves to lift the New Jersey Devils to a 3-2 victory over the Boston Bruins on Thursday night.

New Jersey snapped a three-game road losing streak when Sergei Brylin circled around the net and connected with a streaking Gionta, who knocked the puck past goalmie Tim Thomas while falling to the ice at 2:10 of overtime.

Gionta put the Devils ahead 2-1 with a short-handed goal with 12:04 remaining in the third period, but Wayne Primeau tied the game at 2 for Boston 4:13 later.

Just before Gionta’s goal, P.J. Axelsson missed an opportunity, scoring his second goal in over two seasons, for the third time this season, and Andrew Brunette tested the net with a wrist shot from the right circle before sending a nifty pass across to a wide open Gionta.

Waiting for goalie Ryan Miller to cross, Gionta snapped a shot past the far post.

The goal quieted a crowd that was still cheering Pomisovil’s tying goal, coming when he deflected Alexei Kotalik’s point shot. Pomisovil’s goal made up for a mistake when his turnover led to Boston’s short-handed goal, which gave Montreal a 2-1 lead late in the second period.

It was the second straight game in which the Canadians scored a short-handed goal against Buffalo after Chris Higgins scored Tuesday. The Sabres have given up 12 short-handed goals this season, tied with Washington for the most in the league.

Cristobal Huet stopped 26 shots improving to 3-1 in his first five starts.

Theodore, who was scheduled to start, watched the game from the bench. Theodore was the center of attention after Canadiens coach Dan Maloney announced in Montreal that the goalmie tested positive for a banned substance in pre-Olympic testing. Maloney said the test was the result of Theodore taking Propocia, a pain reliever, which is also considered a masking agent for a performance-enhancing steroid.

Theodore wasn’t chosen to represent Canada at the Olympics but was on the team’s 81-man eligibility list. The test didn’t affect Theodore’s NHL status.

Tampa Bay 5, Carolina 3

John Grahame came off the bench early in the second period to make 28 saves, and Fredrik Modin had two goals as the Tampa Bay Lightning beat the Carolina Hurricanes on Wednesday night.

Grahame replaced starter Sean Burke, who allowed three goals on eight shots, after Erik Cole led the Hurricanes ahead 2-1 at 6:58 of the second. Grahame stopped 14 shots in the second, including Cole on a penalty shot at 11:26.

Modin gave Tampa Bay its first lead, at 4-3, on a rebound goal from the low slot that appeared to hit Carolina defensemen Aaron Ward with 9:48 left. Ruslan Fedotenko added an empty-net goal in the final minute.

Tampa Bay also got goals from Evgeny Artyukhin and Vyacheslav Prospal. The defending Stanley Cup champions, 2-9-2 overall, made it 2-0 on a power-play goal at 4:10 of the first.

Artyukhin got the Lightning within 2-1 at 10:45. Tampa Bay tied it at 2 on Modin’s short-handed goal later in the first. The Hurricanes regained the lead at 3-2 on Gionta’s goal at 6:08 of the second. He raced down the left wing boards, picked up a loose puck and beat Burke from in close.

Atlanta 2, Ottawa 0

Ilya Kovalchuk and Andy Sutton scored power-play goals and Kari Lehtonen made 34 saves, leading the Atlanta Thrashers to a win over the Ottawa Senators on Thursday night.

Kovalchuk tied the game late in the second with his 27th goal, which moved him to within one of the New York Rangers’ Jaromir Jagr for the league lead. The Thrashers beat the Senators 3-2 and 3-1 in their first two meetings.

Marc Savard and Nicklas Havelid combined to set up both power-play goals for Atlanta, which won for the second time in three days in the season-high seven-game losing streak.

Senators rookie Andre Meszaros scored an unscheduled goal 14:50 into the second to open the scoring, but that was all the Senators could muster despite outshooting the Thrashers 35-22.

The low-scoring game featured five of the NHL’s top 10 scorers, including Kovalchuk, Savard and Marian Hossa, who has a point in both of his first games in Ottawa since he was traded from Chicago to the Thrashers.

Two of his shots were sent to Atlanta in the Aug. 23 trade that brought Danny Heatley to the Senators.

The Thrashers beat the Senators 8-3 on Jan. 2 in Atlanta, the 17th consecutive game Heatley has lit the net on fire, and the 13th in his last 15 games.

Small market salary. Need not speak French or German. Call Nina Chara.

Whitney became the first winner of the NHL’s rookie of the year award with 44 points, including 13 goals.

The Observer accepts classifieds every business day from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Notre Dame office, 574-993-2208. For more details, call Mr. Charlie at 574-993-2208 or grooms@ourweb.

The charge is 5 cents per character per day, including all spaces. The Observer reserves the right to edit all classifieds for content and spelling errors.

For rent

WALK TO SCHOOL 3-4 BED-ROOM HOMES McKenzieRealty.COM 570-2068

Area houses and apartments for rent.

Log onto MichianaRentals.com.

Call 574-993-2068.


1325 N. Main, 3 blocks from TV or entertainment, free hair removal. Call 574-206-3915.

3,4,5,6 bedroom homes. Web 574-993-2068 or @growndgraphnet.

COLLEGE PARK CONDOMINIUMS AVAILABLE FOR 06 SCHOOL YEAR. $775-2068 FOR MORE INFO.

Large 4-6 bedroom, 2 1/2 baths. Close to N.I.U. $1100mo. Call 574-993-2068.

101 Midwest Ave. 3-blk from TV or entertainment, free hair removal. Call 561-4071.

UNPLANNED PREGNANCY? Don’t know what to do if you are someone who needs confidential support or assistance, please call Mr. M. to discuss.

Personal

Bansha Spring Break Cruise 5 days from 899 including meals, MTV Celebrity Parties! Cancun, Mexico. Information from 54993 Campus Cruises Needed! Please call 574-993-5388.

College Park Condominiums Available for 06 school year. 06775-2068 for more info.

Spring Break 2006 with Student Travel Services to Jamaica, Mexico, Panama and Florida. Do not get left behind Book now, limited space available. Call 848480 for details.

Cruise to Alaska. Call 574-993-5388.

Wanted

WANTED 1 vacancies for Cardiac Clinic. Women with medical experience preferred. Experience in Cardiology an advantage. Please call our clinic to work in regional Cardiac Clinic.

Please send CV by e-mail to the_cardiograms@hotmail.com or by fax to 241-6167-001.

WANTED: Notre Dame student interested in working for the League office.

The Observer classifies every business day from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Notre Dame office, 574-993-2068.

Call 241-6167-001 for more information.

Call 574-993-5388
**NHL**

**Eastern Conference, Atlantic Division**

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<tr>
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<td>Philadelphia</td>
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**Eastern Conference, Northeast Division**

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**Eastern Conference, Southeast Division**

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**Western Conference, Central Division**

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**MIAA**

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**NHL**

**Wiretaps indicate Gretzky tried to cover up**

Wayne Gretzky poses with his wife, actress Janet Jones, in 2002. Jones allegedly bet over $1,000,000 on football games. Wiretaps show that Gretzky tried to keep his wife from being implicated on these charges.

Wayne Gretzky was considered serious medal contender when the ban was announced early Friday.


during the Olympics, including two Americans, were suspended for five days after they were found to have used excessive hemoglobin levels, the International Ski Federation announced Thursday.

None of the skiers suspended were considered serious medal contenders and, it was not immediately clear whether any would be kept from competing under the ban. It was not clear when the ban began.

Gulls seeking common from the ski federation and the International Olympic Committee were not immediately returned early Friday.

The American athletes are Kikkan Randall, 23, from Anchorage, Alaska, and Tof Zimmermann, 22, of Bothell, Mont. The others are: Sean Crooks of Canada, Sergey Dalidovitch of Belarus, Jean Marc Gaillard of France, Aleksandr Latrunkin of Belarus, Natalia Matveeva of Russia, and Evi Sachenbacher of Germany.

Theodore tests positive for banned substance

MONTREAL — Montreal goalie Jose Theodore has tested positive for a banned substance in pre-Olympic screening because he was using a hair-growth drug that can be used as a masking agent, the Canadians' team doctor said Thursday.

The test wasn't part of the NHL's new testing program, so he will not be subject to league discipline.

Theodore was not implicated in the 5-year-old ban that would have kept him from competing. It's not clear whether anyone involved in the 5-year-old operation, which authorities say led to a connection in organized crime in Philadelphia and southern New Jersey, wagered on NHL games. Gretzky is not the main focus of the probe, the person said.

*The Star-Ledger* of Newark, citing unidentified law enforcement sources, first reported of a wiretap involving Gretzky in

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**In Brief**

Skiers suspended for excessive hemoglobin levels

TUBIN, Italy — Eight cross-country skiers competing in the Olympics, including two Americans, were suspended for five days after they were found to have used excessive hemoglobin levels, the International Ski Federation announced Thursday.

None of the skiers suspended were considered serious medal contenders and, it was not immediately clear whether any would be kept from competing under the ban. It was not clear when the ban began.

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The test wasn't part of the NHL's new testing program, so he will not be subject to league discipline.

Theodore was not picked for Canada's Olympic team, but was on the preliminary 81-player eligibility list. He is appealing the result and his case has yet to be heard by an arbitrator.

Canadians' team doctor David Mulder said at a news conference that Theodore was tested Dec. 12. A month later, the Hockey Canada doctor informed Mulder about Theodore's test result.

**U.S. begins Davis Cup play**

SAN DIEGO — The United States will try to take the first step in ending a long dry spell in Davis Cup play, facing Romania in first-round matches beginning Friday.

The Americans have won the Cup 31 times, but not since Pete Sampras took his singles matches and teamed with Todd Martin to win doubles against Russia in the 1995 final. Patricia McEnroe has high hopes for this year's team, which sends out Andy Roddick and James Blake in singles, and twins Mike and Bob Bryan in doubles against Romania.

"I think all the guys really feel like this year could be our year," said McEnroe, in his sixth year as the U.S. captain.

"We have a good chance to go deep in the event. I think we've got as good a chance as anyone to win it." That doesn't mean McEnroe is taking the opening matches for granted, saying Romania will be very tough to beat.

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**around the dial**

**NBA**

San Antonio at New Jersey 8 p.m., ESPN

**Women's College Basketball**

Rutgers at West Virginia 7 p.m., ESPN

**PGA TOUR**

AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am 3:00 p.m., USA
NBA
Coaches reward Pistons with four All-Stars

After being snubbed by fans, four of Detroit's five starters were selected as reserves for the Eastern Conference team.

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Detroit was rewarded Thursday night for one of the best starts in NBA history. Four of its five starters were named All-Stars by coaches, making the team the All-Star team as reserves.

Channing Billups, Richard Hamilton, Ben Wallace and Rasheed Wallace all were picked for the Eastern Conference team that will be led by Detroit coach Flip Saunders. Tayshaun Prince was the lone Pistons player not chosen in voting by East head coaches.

"I would just like to thank the coaches in the league for recognizing our players," Pistons president of basketball operations Joe Dumars told The Associated Press after Thursday night. "What the coaches are saying by voting our guys in is that they appreciate our whole situation, great attitude and unselfishness." The Pistons (40-8) became the first team with four players in the NBA All-Star game.

LOS ANGELES — The Los Angeles Lakers sent Shaquille O'Neal, Kobe Bryant, Eddie Jones and Nick Van Exel to the 1998 game in New York. Joining the Pistons on the reserves for the Feb. 19 game in Houston will be Toronto's Chris Bosh, Boston's Paul Pierce and Vince Carter of the New Jersey Nets.

The Western Conference reserves are guards Ray Allen of Seattle and Tony Parker of San Antonio, and forwards Dirk Nowitzki of Dallas, the Clippers' Elton Brand, Memphis' Pau Gasol, Minnesota's Kevin Garnett and the Suns' Shawn Marion.

Despite playing in the NBA Finals the last two years, recognition had come slowly for the Pistons and coach Flip Saunders because of the middle of the season in recent years.

Ben Wallace was Detroit's only All-Star in each of the last three years, and the Pistons haven't had multiple selections since Grant Hill and Jerry Stackhouse in 2000.

The only other teams with four All-Stars were the Celtics (1990, '91, '92 and '93), Lakers (1962) and 76ers (1983). This is the first time four players from one team have been picked as reserves by the coaches.

The starters were voted on by fans and were announced last Thursday. Miami's Shaquille O'Neal and Dwyane Wade were chosen in the East along with forwards LeBron James from Cleveland and Deron Williams of New Jersey.

Philadelphia's Allen Iverson was the other guard.

Houston's Yao Ming and Tracy McGrady were voted in, along with guards Kobe Bryant of the Lakers and Steve Nash of Phoenix, and San Antonio forward Tim Duncan. The Mavericks' Avery Johnson is the West coach.

Jermaine O'Neal is injured and his replacement will be chosen by the NBA commissioner at a later date.

The toughest omissions in the East seemed to be guards Gilbert Arenas of Washington, the league's No. 4 scorer at 28.2 points per game, and Milwaukee's Michael Redd.

Joining the Pistons on the reserves were Eddie Dukes and Chauncey Billups.

"I'm happy for our guys on the team," Pistons coach Flip Saunders said Thursday. "I'm happy they recognized our unselfishness, great attitude and great play. I appreciate our coaches saying by voting our guys in that they appreciate our whole situation."}

PGA
Pebble Beach Pro-Am gets off to a record-setting start

Donald matches course record with a 62 only one year after Phil Mickelson setting the seemingly unapproachable mark.

Associated Press

PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. — Luke Donald was in the group ahead when Phil Mickelson blistered Spyglass Hill last year for a course-record 62. He remembered Mickelson's record, the score, and hearing how it would be a long time before anyone would break it.

Donald holed out for eagle from 12 feet, made the same putt he had on the 15th, then made a three-shot lead after the first round. Donald was only one of two players ever to break par, and hearing how it meant, "I knew that was for 62," he said.

He knew he had plenty of work left to do to match the seemingly unapproachable mark. Donald was only one of two players who started from a sloppy start to make five straight birdies along Stillwater Cove. He missed only one fairway and two greens, and the thing he didn't get with a 63 was the lead.

"I knew there was going to be some low scores today," Weir said. "But 10 under at Spyglass? I thought of the lower scores, there might be more on this golf course than the other two. But Luke obviously did a great job, and he went over and at Spyglass to do that." The low score at Poppy Hills, unusually the easiest of the three courses because it has five par 3s and eight par 4s, led to a 62. Mickelson set the seemingly unapproachable mark at Spyglass Hill last year for a course-record 62.

"I've never had a game," Donald said. "I didn't really threaten to make bogey today and kept it in play."
NCAA FOOTBALL

New challenge rules established

NCAA makes plans to nationalize video replay in football

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — The NCAA will make additional changes in practice rules at least one replay challenge per game next season and require conferences to use a universal review format if Thorne’s recommended changes by the rules committee are approved in March.

The announcement was made Thursday at the conclusion of the committee’s three-day meeting in Indianapolis.

The NCAA allowed conferences to experiment with instant replay the past two seasons, allowing it to be used to review game officials’ calls on the field. Last season, nine of 11 Division I-A conferences used replay on an experimental basis for the first time. Only the Sun Belt and Western Athletic conferences did not.

But the rules varied. The Mountain West Conference, for instance, was the only league that permitted coaches’ challenges. Of the 35 plays challenged, only five calls were reversed.

“That may not sound like a lot, but if you have five plays that could change the game if not corrected, that is a pretty strong percentage,” said Charles Broyles, chairman of the committee and coach at Pittsburgh State University.

“We thought that providing a coach’s challenge would act as an additional safety net and give the referees more involve-

ment in the process. Coaches would call timeout to make a challenge. If the call was overturned, the team would keep its timeout and retain its challenge until they lost one. If the call were upheld, the team would be charged a timeout and the coach couldn’t challenge again.

“There could be as many challenges as they are right about,” said Ty Halpin, associate director of the replay rules oversight panel.

“The committee felt they should be rewarded as long as they got the challenge correct.

“But the committee did not make the broadest possible change — requiring replay to be used in games. Still, Halpin said he expected all Division I-A conferences to use replay next season, and television monitors will still not be allowed in coaching booths.

“The rules would apply to all three NCAA divisions.

“The playing rules oversight panel must still approve the recommendations.

“Another change would not allow the visiting team to determine if replay will be used in nonconference games.

“Last year, Southern California opted not to have replay when it played at Notre Dame. If approved, that option would be in place next season.

“Halpin also said that the committee discussed contingency plans if there are technical difficulties, such as buzzers not working or malfunctioning video feeds. He said faulty buzzers were one explanation replay was not used to look at some close calls during the NCAA Bowl season in Nebraska. Wolverines coach Lloyd Carr was forced to use timeouts in that game just to stop play and give officials a chance to review.

“Although conferences are trying to devise a backup plan, Halpin said the committee would not mandate those changes.

“The use of instant replay has generally received positive reviews from coaches.

“I really didn’t have any complaints with the way it was last year,” Rutgers coach Greg Schiano said in a telephone interview.

“He did concede the coach’s challenge ‘was probably a good idea.

“If you’re willing to risk a timeout for it, it’s probably worth it,’ he said. ‘Having instant replay in any form is better than not having it. Let’s make a good thing the best we can make it.’

“The committee also made several recommendations to shorten games — such as 15 minute halftime — which are more frequently going beyond four hours.

“Approved, halftime would be shortened from 15 to 20 minutes and running time would start when the ball is kicked — not when it is touched by the receiving team.

MLB

World Champs enjoy rewarding off-season

White Sox celebrated last year’s victory in style this winter

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Ozzie Guillen’s off-season was short and frenetic, a time to share the World Series championship with a variety of people in a lot of different places.

For a man who likes to talk, the manager of the Chicago White Sox had plenty of stories to tell and opinions to express to a wide variety of listeners.

“I never thought just because we did it last year my life was going to change everywhere,” Guillen said. “To go back to my country and see people the way they react, walking the Chicago streets and see people and how excited they are. It was fun. But besides that it was a little dizzying.

“The frequent flier miles piled up for Guillen, who is as big a hero in Venezuela as he is to fans of a team that had more than 40 years for a trophy. The AL Manager of the Year also found time to become a U.S. citizen.

“I was doing a lot of stuff, especially when you speak Spanish,” Guillen said. “I had four different countries in the Caribbean, and down in Venezuela there was something to do every day.”

But one thing Guillen wants to make very clear — he’d gladly do it all again.

“Hopefully I’ll have the same offseason this year I had last,” he said.

The White Sox return to Tucson, Ariz., next week for spring training, which starts Feb. 17. It was just 3 1/2 months ago that they completed a World Series sweep of the Astros with a 1-0 victory in Houston.

General manager Ken Williams made some changes in the offseason, bringing in Jim Thome, Javier Vazquez and Bob Markw...
OLYMPICS

Olympic organizers refuse to identify who will light flame

Former Italian sports heroes are rumored possibilities for symbolic moment in Opening Ceremonies

Associated Press

TURIN, Italy — It is always the signal on everyone’s mind leading up to the Olympics, long before a single medal is awarded or a record shattered.

Who will light the Olympic flame?

Italian organizers, as officials traditionally do at each Olympics, remained tightlipped about the identity of the final torch bearer for Friday’s opening ceremony at the Olympic Stadium. A crowd of 35,000 was expected to watch the event live, with an estimated 2 billion more tuning in worldwide.

Rumored torchbearers include a pair of Italian Olympic heroes: cross-country skier Stefania Belmond and skier Alberto “La Bomba” Tomba. Neither was shy in the run-up to the 2006 Games about their designs on the honor.

The ceremony promises an event filled with “Rhythm, Passion and Speed” — including a performance from the sublime Italian tenor Luciano Pavarotti, and the promise of inline skaters with ridiculous helmets shooting six-foot red flames.

The official Turin Web site promises the fiery sight, dubbing the “Sparks of Passion.” will evoke “the world of myths and, at the same time, the look of cartoons, infecting the stadium public and television viewers all over the world.”

Show producers did a rough rundown of the Olympic festivities on Thursday. Executive producer Marco Balligh, who has worked in the past with U2 and Pink Floyd, said the show would demonstrate the “passionate way in which the Italians live life — the way they drive, the way they dress.”

Designer Giorgio Armani designed the costumes used for the protocol ceremony presenting the host country’s red, green and white flag; supermodel Gisele Bundchen will light the flag before it is raised above the stadium.

Other highlights: Fake cows on rollers share the stage with the gold dancing trees in a tribute to the Alps and their farming culture. A rocessed row of benches in the middle of the stage will allow athletes to stand front and center.

Olympians will enter in the traditional parade of nations, a segment lasting more than 30 minutes in which athletes from some 80 countries parade by.

But these Winter Games ceremonies feature no ice of any kind, not when temperatures in the 40s render outdoor surfaces faceable. Expect some snow — or at least white-clad dancers sporting balloon-like giant bubbles.

The lighting of the Olympic flame, regardless of who gets involved, is always a highlight of the ceremony.

Four years ago, the members of the 1980 U.S. hockey gold medal team reunited to handle the honors. Japanese skating great Midori Ito, tears stream­ ing down her face, ignited the flame at Nagano in 1998. The 1994 Lillehammer Games began with ski-jumper Stein Gruben sailing through the night sky, torch held high as the world watched.

In Atlanta in 1996, a trembling Muhammad Ali famously lit the torch.

Whatever happens, a replay of the last Winter Olympics held in Italy — the 1960 games in Cortina — is unlikely.

The opening ceremony crown watched in disbelief as skater Guido Caroll tripped and fell while heading to light the Olympic flame.

He managed to keep the flame burning during his spill a half-century ago, and even enjoyed a role in getting this year’s flame to Turin. Carroll accompanied skier Kristian Ghedina as he relayed the torch through Cortina in January.

ND TRACK

Notre Dame set for Windsor meet

By JORDAN BEITZ

Sports Writer

Notre Dame returns to action this weekend as it hosts an event on the border to participate in the Windsor Invitational in Windsor, Ontario. The Windsor Invitational is the final meet before next weekend’s Big East Indoor Championships, which will be held in Akron, Ohio.

The Irish are coming off of a strong showing in the Meyo Invitational, a meet in which the team set three new program records. Junior Kurt Benninger came up just short in challenging reigning national champion Mike Woods, a Michigan senior, in the 3,000-meter run, but Benninger’s time set a new school record and qualified him for the NCAA Indoor Championships on March 10-11 in Fayetteville, Ark.

Benninger was not the only Irish runner to turn in a strong performance. Sprinter Maryann Erigha qualified for the NCAA championships in both the 60-meter dash and the 200-meter dash.

MLB

Anaheim loses in contract battle

Jury decides that Angels were legally justified in changing name

Associated Press

SANTA ANA, Calif. — A jury ruled Thursday that the Angels did not breach a contract with the city of Anaheim when the baseball team changed its name.

Juniors rejected the city of Anaheim’s argument that the baseball team violated a stadium lease and cost the city where it plays at least $100 million in lost tourism, public relations and the name last year from Anaheim Angels to the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim. The jury, which deliberated for a little more than four hours, also found the team did not violate a state law requiring good faith and fair dealing.

The city sued the Angels for breach of contract in January last year, shortly after Moreno changed the name.

City officials said the case could cost Anaheim as much as $100 million in lost tourism, public relations and the name last year from Anaheim Angels to the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim. The jury, which deliberated for a little more than four hours, also found the team did not violate a state law requiring good faith and fair dealing.

The city sued the Angels for breach of contract in January last year, shortly after Moreno changed the name. The jury, which deliberated for a little more than four hours, also found the team did not violate a state law requiring good faith and fair dealing.

“Long-term, we’re going to have a stronger franchise that can compete,” Anaheim Mayor Curt Pringle said.

Freshman pole vaulter Mary Saxer once again performed well, taking home second place in the women’s pole vault with a vault of 3.95 meters.

“My goal for the remainder of the season is to just get back to where I was last season,” Saxer said Thursday. “I want to be able to consistently clear the heights that I was clearing when I was at my peak last year.”

Notes:

- Notre Dame has added another meet to the home schedule, the Alex Wilson Invitational, which it will host March 3-4. It will be designated an official last chance meet, or one of the final meets to qualify for the NCAA championships.

Contact Jordan Beitze at jbeitze@nd.edu

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FENCING

Irish travel west to San Diego for Duals

Team set to face Cal Fullerton, Stanford, Air Force, and others

By DAN MURPHY
Sports Writer

Notre Dame will finish up its regular season this weekend by traveling to the University of California at San Diego (UC San Diego) this Saturday to take on a host of top competitors.

With All-American fencers from Air Force and Stanford competing at the annual San Diego Duals, the Irish will have a good opportunity to prepare for the upcoming NCAA Tournament.

Cal State Fullerton, UC San Diego and Cal Tech are among the other teams in the strong field that will challenge the Irish before the team embarks on its postseason national title defense.

The NCAA Tournament begins March 4.

The Irish have reason to be hopeful this weekend, as they have improved steadily in many categories since last year.

The men's foil and sabre teams have seen some of the most dramatic leaps in winning percentage, going from .694 to .724 and .750 to .798, respectively.

The women's epee team also has improved steadily throughout the year thanks to contributions from senior Becca Chimahusky and junior Amy Orlando.

The men are ranked No. 2 nationally, and the women own the top spot in the polls.

After the San Diego Duals, the Irish will be back in action Feb. 25-26 for the Midwest Fencing Conference Championships. The Midwest Regionals of the NCAA Tournament follow a week later.

Contact Dan Murphy at dmurphy6@nd.edu

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ND WOMEN'S TENNIS

Team faces stiff foes this weekend

Notre Dame faces North Carolina and Wake Forest in N.C.

By DAN MURPHY
Sports Writer

Notre Dame travels to Tobacco Road this weekend to take on two ACC tennis powerhouses. The No. 23-ranked Irish will face their toughest challenge to date in the spring season against the strong opponents.

After defeating both Ohio State and Xavier 7-0 on Jan. 28, the team remains unbeaten but also largely untested up to this point.

Despite the quality of the competition, Notre Dame made a statement in its first weekend of competition. The team dropped just 18 games in its 15 sets in the two easy wins.

The Irish first face the ITA No. 25 Demon Deacons of Wake Forest Saturday in Winston-Salem, N.C. The next day, the team makes the short trip to Chapel Hill to take on another ranked opponent, No. 10 North Carolina.

In both matches the Irish will look for big performances from standout juniors Katrina and Christian Thompson, as well as senior Kristina Staitsey, who already has racked up eight wins.

Another key will be the play of the underclassmen. Freshmen Keyley Tefft and Katie Potts both produced comfortable wins in their debut last weekend.

The weekend match-ups will prove crucial in shaping the team's mindset for the rest of the season.

Contact Dan Murphy at dmurphy6@nd.edu
Belles guard Allison Kessler shoots a running leaner during the team's 76-64 loss to Calvin Feb. 4. Kessler scored 17 points and is the reigning MIAA player of the week. Saint Mary's faces

Start continued from page 20

ranking in the Inside Lacrosse media poll were not enough to make the Top 10 field for the NCAA Championships last year, it hopes to change that this year. The Irish played for a tournament run in 2006, the Notre Dame travels to Durham, N.C., Saturday for a rare lacrosse doubleheader against Bucknell and Duke.

The preseason No. 12 Irish will open up at noon against the No. 25 Bison of Bucknell, who finished 8-5 last year as co-champions of the Patriot League. Bucknell's Patriot League Tournament semifinal semifinalist from day one. We just emphasize it, we continue to emphasize it. We're talking about it, and hopefully it brings up the fact that we can score. We need to score and it needs to be a priority for us.

Ferris continued from page 20

shooting the puck," he said. "Traffic, tips, rebounds — all the things that we talked about from day one. We just emphasize it, we continue to emphasize it. We're talking about it, and hopefully it brings up the fact that we can score. We need to score and it needs to be a priority for us."

The Bulldogs are equally as dangerous on offense, coming off 7-2 and 4-2 wins over Western Michigan last weekend. The Irish must neutralize Notre Dame's 3-2 loss to Michigan State Feb. 3.

"We're going down to Durham to find out about ourselves," Corrigan said. "We're going to get an appreciation for who we are."

With the Irish slated to open up the regular season with No. 13 Penn State at home on Feb. 26, Corrigan sees the Duke match up, in particular, as a test to work out any problems before official play begins.

"They're going to expose our weaknesses," Kevin Corrigan

Irish coach

believe in exposing the Belles weaknesses."

Contact Tim Dougherty at
tdougherty@nd.edu

Belles continued from page 20

game, the Belles were 12-21 from behind the arc, setting a school record for three-pointers in a game. Captain Breanna Price had 23 points, and sophomore guard Allison Kessler added 22.

Saint Mary's previous game against Kalamazoo was the first win in what has been a history-making run, which has seen the Belles take five of their last seven games and surge into fourth place in the MIAA.

One major reason for the team's improvement in the second half of the season is its play when facing familiar opponents.

The Belles are now 3-2 when facing a team for the second time, their revenge made all the more sweet by passing conference opponents in the standings.

The Belles attribute their success the second time around to their mental toughness.

"I don't think it makes a difference anymore," freshman forward Erin Newsom said. "How we did against a team in the past is over."

Nevertheless, the team's positive experience with Kalamazoo this year will boost the Belles' confidence after a tough loss to Calvin Feb. 3.

As the loss, Saint Mary's will continue playing hard, the trade-mark of its second-half schedule.

"We can stay with any team in the conference," Newsom said. And despite the pressure that the Belles might feel in these last few games, they are confident that they can come through in the clutch against Kalamazoo.

Contact Tim Kaiser at
tkaiser@nd.edu

ERASMUS Books

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This weekend is taking this weekend in stride and hopes to make a statement in the stretch run of the CHCA season. And to do so the team looks to continue to play to their strengths — power plays and faceoffs — and improving their offensive weaknesses.

"I think our power play has been pretty good moving the puck and I think we're coming together, our kids are working hard," Pooley said. "We want to improve everything, that's why we are at right now.

Ferris State goaltender Mitch O'Keefe will pose a strong threat for the Irish scorers as he has posted a 17-7-5 record this year with a 2.60 goals against average and a .906 save percentage.

The Bulldogs are equally as dangerous on offense, coming off 7-2 and 4-2 wins over Western Michigan last weekend. The Irish must neutralize Notre Dame's 3-2 loss to Michigan State Feb. 3.

Notre Dame returns nine of 11 starters from last year's squad by preseason sec-

One major rea-

son for the team's improvement in the second half of the season is its play when facing familiar opponents.

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Contact Tim Kaiser at
tkaiser@nd.edu

Notes:

• After this weekend, Notre Dame will have played eight games against teams currently ranked in U.S. College Hockey Online's national top-20. That elite list includes five top-10 teams — No. 2 Miami (Ohio), No. 7 Michigan, No. 8 Colorado College, No. 9 Denver and No. 10 Michigan State. The Irish also faced No. 18 Nebraska-Omaha and No. 19 Lake Superior State.

• Although eight of the 11 teams in the CHCA are ranked, Notre Dame still can earn an opening round series at home with a strong showing down the stretch.

Contact Kyle Cassilly at
kcassilly@nd.edu

Belles guard Allison Kessler shoots a running leaner during the team's 76-64 loss to Calvin Feb. 4. Kessler scored 17 points and is the reigning MIAA player of the week. Saint Mary's faces
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by Henri Arnold and Mike Arghion

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Hockey

Notre Dame has two games with fifth-place Ferris State

Team lost two games to Michigan State by one goal last weekend

By KYLE CASSILY
Sports Writer

Notre Dame has two games with fifth-place Ferris State this weekend. The Irish have found stiff competition in 25 Wake Forest and No. 10, 2006 PORTS.

Irish face DePaul in road rematch; won last meeting, 78-75

By ERIC RETTER
Sports Writer

The Irish are hoping their second meeting with DePaul will have the same end result as their first one.

Senior guard Megan Duffy will head Notre Dame's lineup. She averages 15.7 points and 38.7 minutes per game. Senior Courtney LaVere also should start, averaging 14.6 points a game the past three contests.

McGraw said the Irish will rotate their players in the first half and play the hot hands towards the end of the game. "Everybody goes and plays in the first half, and whoever plays the best plays in the second half," McGraw said.

The Blue Demons will challenge with center Khara Smith, who is currently fourth in the Big East with 17.9 points per game.

Irish guard Megan Duffy drives to the basket Tuesday during Notre Dame's 69-65 overtime loss to Villanova.

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Chi-town showdown

Irish travel to Eck for big weekend series

By KATE GALES
Associate Sports Editor

There's no place like home for the Irish.

After a grueling stretch of three road matches in four days, the team returns to its home turf at the Eck Tennis Pavilion for three matches this weekend.

The Irish are 2-4 this season — with three losses coming to top-10 teams — but 1-0 at home after notching a 7-0 shutout of William & Mary on Jan. 29.

The team held optional practices on Wednesday and Thursday after a 7-0 loss to Illinois on the road Tuesday night.

"I'm sure [staying at home] has helped," coach Bobby Blylas said. "Just physically, the travel and the three-match streak by calling them-body institute a coaches' Spyglass Hill with a 62 indicates that Wayne Gretzky knew of an illegal gambling ring.

Men's Tennis

Squad travels to Durham for face Duke and Bucknell

By TIM DOUGHERTY
Sports Writer

The last time the Irish took the field, they took no prisoners in a 16-5 stomping of Ohio State. But that was nearly a year ago, and Notre Dame has two scrimmages this weekend for its first competition in nine months.

The team's 7-4 record and No. 16

see START/page 18

Men's Lacrosse

Irish set to kick off new season

see BELLES/page 18

SMC Basketball

Team goes for second K'zoo win

By TIM KAISER
Sports Writer

The Belles hope that will be all that changes from their first matchup with Kalamazoo.

Saint Mary's turned in a convincing 10-point victory in Kalamazoo on Jan. 14, beating the Lady Hornets 81-73. In}

Sports

The Irish are used to taking to the ice against some of the best teams in the country — it's unavoidable when they play in a powerhouse conference like the CCHA. This weekend will be no exception, as Notre Dame (9-16-4, 7-12-3 CCHA) faces the No. 20 Ferris State Bulldogs (14-10-4, 9-8-5) in a home-and-home.

"We've been playing good hockey and in college hockey there's not much difference between the two teams," Irish associate head coach Paul Pooley said. "A power play goal here, a five on five facelock goal here and all of a sudden your winning some games."

Prior to last weekend's sweep at the hands of Michigan State, the Irish had gained points in every one of their series dating back to the last weekend of November, when they suffered a two-game sweep at the hands of Ohio State. Currently the teams are tied for ninth in the league with Bowling Green and Alaska-Fairbanks — the two teams left on Notre Dame's schedule after this weekend.

"I don't think we need a sweep, we just want to keep progressing as a team," Pooley said of the team's need to get a jumpstart up the standings. "That's our main priority — going into the playoffs feeling good about ourselves."

An area in which the Irish have been trying to improve has been on offense. In the last four games they have lit the lamp only four times and were shut out by Ohio State two weekends ago.

To combat this, Pooley and the rest of the Irish staff hold an optional skill practice to focus on scoring — a practice that a majority of the team attended. Also, the team has gone back to the chalkboard to discuss how a goal is scored according to Pooley, and he thinks the extra focus will pay off.

"I think we have some kids that can shoot it and getting to the net for rebounds and