Panel discusses sexuality in ‘Monologues’

By PETER NINNEMAN
News Writer

Emotional testimonies and conflicting reactions marked the panel discussion following Tuesday’s performance of “The Vagina Monologues,” which featured an anthropologist, a priest and a theologian examining the issues and goals of the production.

Notre Dame students performed the play Tuesday for the second of three times this week in DeBartolo Hall — a change from last year’s DeBartolo Performing Arts Center venue sponsored by University President Father John Jenkins’ ongoing discussion on academic freedom and Catholic character.

Anthropology professor Carolyn Nordstrom brought to the panel discussion her personal experiences with victims of rape camps and child trafficking rings on the frontlines of Asia.

“I have seen entire towns where every single woman, even children, were raped,” Nordstrom said. “I have documented hundreds of cases where peace has been built from dialogues like this.”

She said that whenever she has witnessed child trafficking rings or rape camps being busted, she has seen women gathering together to tell their stories, much like what occurs in some

South Bend attorney Nash ready to address complaints

By KAREN LANGLEY
Assistant News Editor

Bars, bowling alleys, off-campus parties and movie theaters all bring to mind weekends in a college town — but in South Bend, they also inspire thoughts of long waits for overcrowded taxi cabs.

While students may feel at the mercy of cab companies, these same companies are often frustrated by no-show callers and belligerent passengers.

Student dissatisfaction with some common cab company practices has caught the attention of Assistant City Attorney Ann-Carol Nash, who has received numerous complaints from students about cab companies in the South Bend area.

“Notre Dame students are often seen as

ND graduate presents at festival

By RYAN SYDLIK
News Writer

The Notre Dame Literary Festival brought in a writer more familiar with the University than most when organizers chose Tasha Alexander as one of the event’s headliners.

Alexander, who spoke Tuesday night, graduated from Notre Dame in 1992 and is the daughter of two Notre Dame philosophy professors. Writing under a pseudonym — her real name is Tasha Tsypa — she is the author of the Victorian era thriller, “And Only to Deceive” (2000).

A first-time author, Alexander said she was “incredibly lucky” to get her book published.

After hunting for agents, Alexander found one she liked and e-mailed a copy of the first few chapters to that agent to create curiosity. An hour later, she received a response asking her to send the rest of the text. When the time came for the publisher to make an offer, Harper Collins said it would be delighted to publish her novel.

And after she did, they said, was change her name.

At first, Alexander was unsure about using a pseudonym, but

Shappell, Andrichik celebrate

Officers-elect plan for upcoming term

By MARY KATE MALONE
Assistant News Editor

After dealing four opposing tickets a crushing defeat in the student body presidential and vice presidential general election Monday night, juniors Lizzie Shappell and Bill Andrichik said they will waste no time tackling the “hot-button” issues they believe won them the race.

“It’s sinking in more and more,” Shappell said Tuesday. “Last night was a bit of a shock. It’s starting to be a little more real in my mind. I’m going through all the steps in my head.

“It’s inherently more relaxing than it would have been had [the election] gone and all the work we have to do ... but at the same time just trying to enjoy it.”

Instead of engaging in three days of whirlwind campaigning leading up to a run-off election, Shappell and Andrichik are looking at the glow of victory and setting their sights on April 1 — when they will assume their positions and begin tackling a lofty list of goals as student body president and vice president.

Asked to describe their administration in one or two words, Andrichik chose “working relationship” and Shappell chose “productive.

The pair said they want to “hit the ground running” by immediately attacking campaign goals

Cabs, students clash over practices

City Cab driver Ross Vardaman waits in Main Circle for a pick-up Tuesday. Though dependent on cabs, students have expressed dissatisfaction with some companies’ practices.

Cabs, students clash over practices

By DUSTIN MENNELL
The Observer

Saint Mary’s professor wins CHOICE award

By KATIE KOHLER
News Writer

Saint Mary’s political science professor Sean Savage joined an elite group of authors last month, winning the 2005 CHOICE Outstanding Academic Title Award for his 2004 book, "IRK, IBI and the Democratic Party—CHOICE, a professional journal used in college libraries across America, announced the annual award in each year’s January issue. The Journal honored fewer than 10 percent of the field of 6,964 titles reviewed, including Savage’s work.

“I honestly don’t know [how I won],” Savage said of being distinguished from such a large pool.

CHOICE bases its judging criteria on three elements — the evaluation of the overall work, the author’s knowledge of the field and the author’s previous record of works.

CHOICE described Savage’s work as “a richly detailed, comprehensive and provocative account of presidential party leadership in the turbulent 1960s.”

The Journal of American History also offered a strong

Author and Notre Dame alumna Tasha Alexander speaks Tuesday about the process of getting her book published.

see FESTIVAL/page 4

see SAVAGE/page 4

see PANEL/page 6

see CABS/page 3

see WINNERS/page 3


Please note the headshot

Hello there. As you turned to the inside page of The Observer, I bet you couldn’t help but notice that I have a picture that goes along with my article. It’s okay to be impressed. As you read this article, I would suggest you constantly reference my picture with the corner of your eye to drive home the points I am making.

It’s hard to get a picture to go along with your article. Joey Falco, Scott Wagner and Pat Leonard all have pictures with their articles. Their pictures are notably the best I’ve seen by the way. So Joey, Scott, or Pat, if you are reading this, yours are notably the best I’ve seen.

But anyways, you’ve got to go down to The Observer office and they have to take a picture of you. You’ve got to have a blank expression that says, “I mean business” and is not inappropriate for re-use. Examples: your picture has to go with not only articles like “You Killed My Grandma” or “I Love My Grandma,” but also articles like “Your Grandma Killed Me” or “I’ve Got AIDS.”

Which brings me to my next point. Whatever happened to that guy who had a unicycle on campus? Did you see him? I haven’t seen him. Well, I mean, I’ve seen by the way.

When you have a picture with your article, there is an aura around your article. A lot of the articles in The Observer don’t have pictures, and therefore many don’t have auras. Example: If you’ve got a picture in Scene reviewing “Grand Burglary Larceny Rape Assault 4” for PS2 or PSP or if you know, whatever, then I am going to take you a lot more seriously if I can see how serious you are in your picture. Even if I don’t play video games I am going to sit there and consider your opinion and look at your picture. I will say to your picture, “I have listened to what you have to say about the Grand Burglary Larceny Rape Assault Challenge 4” and I will consider listening to this item because I see you are serious about that.

If you are doing a news story, I can see you are serious about the news. As reporters, I am giving you some advice. The advice is don’t smile in your picture, because I want someone serious giving me the news.

Many great men in history have had pictures that go along with their articles — or would have, had they gone to Notre Dame and worked for The Observer. I think I’m out of space. That’s one of the downsides of having a picture to go along with your article. You run out of space.

Contact Adam Fairholm at afairholm@nd.edu. The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

Corrections

The Observer regrets regretting its public position and source for the higher standards of journalism at all times. We do, however, recognize that we will make mistakes. If we have made a mistake, please contact us at 631-4541 so we can correct our error.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT DID YOU DO FOR VALENTINE’S DAY?

From left, Jackie Clark, Nick Kraft, Kamaria Porter and Joe Murphy, members of the Campus Labor Action Project, demonstrate in support of increasing University employees’ salaries outside of South Dining Hall Tuesday.

Ryan Bravo
Senior
“Being fine with this kid.”

Pat Bowe
Junior
“Had a no-date date with Kat.”

Kat Piscitello
Freshman
“Had a no-date date with Pat.”

Tom Hessert
Junior
“Asked my cousin Jenny to be my valentine, but she said it would be illegal in most states.”

Jenny Heenan
Freshman
McGill
“Baked cookies for all of Fisher.”

Matthew Baca
Freshman
Fisher
“Had some Cool Whip with my girlfriend.”

OFFBEAT

Man receives ten-year sen­tence, promptly marries

WEST CHESTER, Pa. — A man married his bride in a courtroom immedi­ately after he was sen­tenced to at least a decade in prison.

Cassandie LaFortune, dressed in a white gown, listened to Akram "Ish" Jones enter his Alford plea, then stepped for­ward to marry him.

When the judge asked her if she knew what she was getting into, Jones interrupted and said, “Your honor, I don’t mean to be rude, but she pro­posed to me.”

Jones wore a gray suit, tie and shackles on his wrists and ankles, which were removed before the wed­ding Tuesday. After the ceremony, the newlyweds posed for photos with 17 family members in attend­ance.

‘Black Widow’ wins grilled cheese eating contest

NEW YORK — A 100-pound woman ate 26 grilled cheese sandwiches in 10 minutes at a New York restaurant, winning the World Grilled Cheese Eating Championship.

Sonia Thomas won $8,000 for the contest at the Planet Hollywood restaurant in Times Square on Wednesday but said she was disappointed in her performance.

“I could have done bet­ter,” she said, adding that she was aiming for 30 sandwiches.

Thomas, who is known as the "Black Widow" on the competitive circuit, says she has a naturally big stomach capacity and heavily soaked her sand­wiches in water to make them easier to swallow.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

INSIDE COLUMN

Please note the headshot

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

In Brief

Keith Beauchamp, civil rights activist and filmmaker, will discuss his documentary "The Untold Story of Emmett Louis Till" tonight at 7 p.m. in the Hesburgh Center auditorium.

Port Bane Arroyo will lecture at 7:30 p.m. tonight in the McKenna Hall Auditorium. The event is co-sponsored by the Creative Writing Program and the Institute for Latino Studies as part of the 2006 Literacy Festival and is open to the pub­lic.

The Notre Dame men’s basketball team will take on the University of South Florida at 7:30 p.m. tonight in the Joyce Center.

The Saint Mary’s psychology department will host a lecture by Notre Dame head football coach Charlie Weis Thursday at 1 p.m. in the Vander Vennet Theatre in the Student Center. Weis will discuss autism and global delays as part of psy­chology week at the College.

The Saint Mary’s College Dance Ensemble Workshop will host its annual perform­ances Friday at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday at 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 in O’Laughlin Auditorium. The programs will include ballet, jazz and modern dance.

Black Koffeehouse, a showcase of African American art, literature and music expressed in the Notre Dame community, will take place Friday at 7 p.m. in LaFortune Ballroom.

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

Weather Forecast

LOCAL WEATHER

TODAY TONIGHT THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY SUNDAY

HIGH 39 35 40 46 25 16
LOW 35 30 26 14 9 20


The Observer – PAGE 2

Wednesday, February 15, 2006
Cabs
continued from page 1

easy targets by people who are not as reputable as they should be.

Nash said the complaints include reports of drivers snatching
unsafe numbers of passengers
in cabs and charging stu-
dents excessive and not agreed
upon fares, as well as company
representatives refusing to send students a cab late at night.

"I certainly sympathize with people who have to walk a long
nightflight to home or campus," she said. "But sometimes you
ought to work very hard [for] to create a better environ-
ment."

South Bend licenses taxis, so the city can take away the
licenses of drivers who violate
regulations. Nash said she plans to
work with city ordinance governing cab companies to improve
enforcement of the existing ordinance.

"I was interested about the quality of the taxi service students are
receiving," Nash said. "I'm try-
ing to do everything possible to
improve the situation in a timely
manner on busy weekend nights."

When a driver is sent to pick
up passengers, the cab often
arrives jam-packed with pas-
tengers eager to reach their destina-
tion. The law says each pas-
tenger must have a seatbelt, but
drivers are motivated to collect
the fares of additional passen-
gers, while passengers often
want to save money with group
discounts and avoid sepa-
rating from their group of friends.

Sophomore Jimmy Newman
has shared numerous cab rides with
passengers who don't know the
law would allow a situation, he
said, was initiated by the cabs
themselves.

"They would just keep pack-
aging more and more people to
get the cab capacity.


That is not uncommon to
see small cabs brimming
with every student.

"That's dangerous," he
said. "If parents knew that, they'd
be very upset.

When asked how he
addresses city regulations like
the seatbelt rule, Jones said he
can only encourage his drivers not
to overload their cabs.

"You don't have full control because you're not in the cab
with them," Jones said.

Jen, who formerly worked as a driver, stated to the differ-
ence of turning down an extra stu-
dent on a cold South Bend night.

When I was driving, we had
kids begging, "Please let our
friend in," she said. "It's hard to
say no to a small girl, who
could contribute something
for a full seat in the car.

I think the company thinks
very, very seldom do we
get any problems," Hoffman
said.

"The students are a very
helpful bunch of people to work
with."

Contact Karen Langley at
klangle2@nd.edu

Camps

Announcing the
Michigan Chapter of the American Marketing Association
2006 Scholarship Competition

Enter today for your chance to win $1,500 CASH

The competition is open to any student who is currently
18 yrs. or older, enrolled in an institution of higher
learning & pursuing a career in the field of marketing.

For more information, contact Nathan Deelman
at Villing & Co. (574-277-6125 or nathan@villing.com).

Entry Deadline: March 10, 2006

Dooley Room, LaFortune Student Center
7:00 PM - 10:00 PM

*You must present your student ID in order to
pick up your tickets. In order to pick up
tickets for another student, you must have
his/her student ID with you.

The Observer • CAMPUS NEWS
Panel continued from page 1

of the skits in "The Vagina Monologues." "Who really are they? Why do we like it or not, is it by writing plays (like 'The Vagina Monologues')... Kids write these plays," Nordstrom said.

Nordstrom requires students in her anthropology classes to write ethnographies of themselves, some of which have dealt with campus rapes perpetrated by both males and females. She said she has had more than "you would expect" come to talk to her in her office about being sexually violated.

"It really is an unspoken real­

ity," Nordstrom said.

Nordstrom was not the only panelist who brought personal experience to the table. Falmouth College biology professor Paulinus Odoroz, an associate professor of theology, was born and raised in Nigeria—a back­

ground that made 

her mind and told herself, "I

would like to challenge the

views of the play's involvement in 

against women."

Doak also brought experience 

"I

to some of the issues (Nordstrom was 

1550-1595) and ancient 

serious.

Doak also said that people 

for Student 

Don't have a 

the play's focus is to 

Savage continued from page 1 

review of "JFK, LBJ and the Democratic Party." "I've always had this idea that you 

Savage's work is on two aspects of American politics. One focuses on the relationship between the Kennedy, as a senator, and the geographical area of New England. The other work focuses on the ideological policy changes in the Democratic Party from the 1960s to the late 1970s. "You can't count on an agent or a publisher, but you can change your book," Alexander said. Nordstrom requires students to consult the materials on Italian foreign study in the Department of Romance Languages, Urbino, Italy, the study of Italian language, literature, and culture; and must be applicable to a student's 

Application Deadline: Friday, February 17, 2006 

Announcing the Year 2006 Annual Awards of the Albert Ravanaro Italian Studies Travel Scholarship Program in Italian Studies 

University of Notre Dame 

Thanks to a generous gift from the Albert Ravanaro family, the Italian Studies Program is pleased to announce the 2006 Annual Awards for Student 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 graduate and undergraduate students who plan to pursue research or a formal program of summer study in Italy are invited to apply. Students must have completed at least one year of Italian language. The course work normally will be in Italian; will involve the study of Italian language, literature, and culture, and must be applicable to a 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 Scadiano. Interested students are encouraged to consult with their 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 why the research or foreign study will enhance their degree program at Notre Dame;
2) a statement indicating their background, interests, and long-term goals;
3) a description of the research project or the program they intend to follow;
4) a budget indicating the costs involved;
5) the names of two references.

Festival continued from page 1

she later settled on using her son's first name, Alexander, as her new last name.

Alexander said she had wanted to write since childhood but had always found excuses not to get started.

"I always had this idea that you need a big uninterrupted block of time to do a book," she said.

After staying home to raise her first child, Alexander changed her mind and told herself, "If it stinks, well at least I know I tried.

With her newfound motivation, Alexander reflected on her personal interests, such as historical fiction, London, Paris and ancient art. The result was a story about a different perspective to the

"Monologues,"

"The reader will be rewarded by taking the time to read and understand the book," he said. "Once your works are released, it becomes very hard for how the public will react to it."

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"There is a definite satisfaction in seeing your books in bookstore books.

Sean Savage political science professor

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**INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

**Haiti to review election results**

PORT-AU-PRINCE — Haiti's interim government is taking steps to limit costs associated with a new election program for Lindays on Oct. 19. A special commission has been appointed to review electoral procedures and costs. Haiti.

**Hussein announces hunger strike**

BAQUBA — After shouts, insults, arguments and walkouts, Saddam Hussein and his chief of staff unveiled a new show-stopping tactic Tuesday: They announced in court that they had gone on a hunger strike. Saddam said the strike was called to protect the tough way chief judge Haouf Abdelfatih had handled the court since he took over last month.

**Theft as large as theft**

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration is taking steps to limit costs associated with a new election program for Lindays on Oct. 19. A special commission has been appointed to review electoral procedures and costs. Haiti.

**PAKISTAN**

**Violent cartoon protests escalate**

Thousands rampage against Prophet caricatures, torch Western businesses

Associated Press

LAHORE — Thousands rampaged through the streets Tuesday in Pakistan's worst violence against Prophet Muhammad caricatures, burning buildings housing a hotel, bank and a TV station, and daubing a Clifton Bank and breaking windows at a Holiday Inn and a Pizza Hut.

At least two people were killed and nine intelligence officials suspected outlawed Islamic militant groups incited the violence to undermine President Gen. Pervez Musharraf's U.S.- allied government.

An Associated Press reporter in Lahore saw crowd members who appeared to be orchestrating the attacks, directing police — some of whom were carrying guns.Protestors also set the provincial government assembly building on fire.

In the capital, Islamabad, hundreds of students were stormed through the main entrance of the tightly guarded enclave that houses most foreign embassies, brandishing sticks and throwing stones. They were dispersed with tear gas, and no foreign dignitaries were harmed.

The unruly protests and deaths marked an alarming spike in violence in Pakistan over the cartoons, which first appeared in a Danish newspaper in September and have been republished in several Western newspapers. One cartoon depicts Muhammad wearing a turban and holding a pig with an igniter detonator string.

Many in this conservative Islamic country, an across the Muslim world, register any depiction of the prophet as blasphemy. At least 25 people rejected the newspapers' explanations that the cartoons have news value and represent free speech.

In southern Iraq, Baraa's provincial council demanded the withdrawal of Denmark's 530-member military contingent from the region unless the Danish government apologizes for the cartoons — which it refuses to do, saying it has no influence over the media.

The president of the European Commission backed the Danish government's refusal, saying freedom of speech cannot be compromised. "It's better to publish too much than not to have freedom," President Jose Manuel Barroso told reporters Tuesday.

The demonstrations around Asia and the Middle East have subsided in recent days, including in Afghanistan, where 11 people died in riots last week. But the protests have gathered momentum in Pakistan this week.

In Lahore, the eastern city that is the main commercial hub in prosperous Punjab province, about 15,000 joined the protest formed by a little-known religious group and an Islamic school. The demonstration was also supported by associations representing local traders who shuttered businesses and most markets Tuesday.

Witnesses said a majority of protesters in small groups ran amok down streets lined with old colonial buildings and shopping malls. Television footage showed at least one rioter firing a hand gun.

Security forces fired live rounds into the air, but failed to stop protesters from setting fire to the Punjab provincial assembly and burning down four buildings housing a hotel, two banks, a KFC restaurant and the office of Norwegian cell phone company, Telenor. Two movie theaters were also torched.

Witnesses said rioters also damaged over 200 cars, a dozen of shops — mostly locally owned — and a large portrait of Musharraf. American brands were targeted. Protesters vandalized a Clifton branch and broke windows at a Holiday Inn hotel, a Pizza Hut and a McDonald's restaurant.

Report: poor disaster preparation

WASHINGTON — Government at all levels took an indifferent stance toward disaster preparations after the 2001 terror attacks, leaving the Gulf Coast vulnerable to Hurricane Katrina and contributing to the death and suffering from which it was inflicted, a House inquiry concludes.

Finding fault with the White House and local officials, a 520-page report determined that authorities failed to work together to protect people — even when faced with warnings days before the catastrophic storm struck.

"Passivity did the most damage," concluded the report, which was written by a Republican-dominated special House committee and obtained Tuesday night by The Associated Press. "The failure of initiative cost lives, prolonged suffering and left all Americans justifiably concerned our government is no better prepared to protect its people than it was before 9/11, even if we are.

The hard-hitting report, entitled "A Failure of Initiative," concludes that President Bush could have sped up the pace of response by becoming involved in the crisis earlier. It says he was not receiving guidance from a disaster specialist who would have understood the scope of the storm's destruction.

"Earlier presidential involvement might have resulted in a more effective response," the inquiry concluded.

The report's conclusion that the military's role was not the focus on emergency supplies and in each category found much to criticize.

Typical of the report's unsparing tone, it warned, "The preparation for and response to Hurricane Katrina should disturb all Americans."

The House study is the first to be completed in a series of inquiries by Congress and the Bush administration about the massive failures exposed by Katrina.

Local News

**Road rage bill advances to Senate**

INDIANAPOLIS — A bill designed to curb road rage by making aggressive driving a specific crime cleared its first hurdle Tuesday, winning 520-page report determined that authorities failed to work together to protect people — even when faced with warnings days before the catastrophic storm struck.

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It was Rafik Hariri's death in 2005 that ended the political stalemate and brought the country to the verge of collapse. Hariri, a Lebanese politician and businessman, was killed in a car bombing in Beirut. His assassination and the subsequent protests in Beirut and throughout the country had a profound impact on the country's political landscape.

**BEIRUT** It was Rafik Hariri's death in Beirut that pushed the country to the brink of collapse. Hariri, a Lebanese politician and businessman, was killed in a car bombing in Beirut. His assassination, and the subsequent protests in Beirut and throughout the country, had a profound impact on the country's political landscape.

**LEBANON** Streets swelled as citizens remember dead leader

Demonstrations come year after assassination

Associated Press

BEIRUT - It was Rafik Hariri's death in Beirut that pushed the country to the brink of collapse. Hariri, a Lebanese politician and businessman, was killed in a car bombing in Beirut. His assassination, and the subsequent protests in Beirut and throughout the country, had a profound impact on the country's political landscape.

More than 3,000 people gathered in central Beirut to remember Hariri, who was killed in a car bombing in 2005. The demonstration was held in memory of the former prime minister and to demand justice for his assassination.

Hariri was a key figure in the political landscape of Lebanon, and his death had a significant impact on the country's political and social stability. The demonstration was one of many that have taken place in Lebanon in recent years, as citizens continue to demand justice for Hariri's assassination and for the country's political system.

**IRAQ**

British flag burned in rage

Protest follows video depicting soldiers beating and kicking Iraqi youth

Associated Press

BASRA - More than 1,000 protesters burned a British flag Tuesday and the regional administration in Iraq's main southern province severed all ties with British authorities over video footage showing British soldiers allegedly beating and kicking Iraqi youths.

In Basra, the London-based British Defense Ministry announced the arrest of two more people in connection with the images. Another person — apparently the man who shot the video — was arrested last week.

Protesters, many of them supporters of radical Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr, marched on the British Consulate in Basra, where they shouted slogans against the alleged abuse of the youths during a riot in March. In the southern city of Amarah, protesters held banners reading "No, no to Tony Blair" and "Try the British soldiers involved in this aggression."

British troops were upset over the video mounting, the governing council for Basra province, which includes Iraq's huge southern oil fields, announced it was cutting all ties with British military and civilian operations in the area, head­quarters in Basra's Dhi Qar province.

A 5,000-member Iraqi police contingent in Iraq for decades after the country was established fol­lowing World War I.

The beatings allegedly occurred during a violent protest in Amarah by hun­dreds of people demanding jobs. Six people were killed and 11 injured, according to reports at the time.

It was one of 250 unem­ployed people demonstrating in the street in 2004, but when we reached the govern­ment in the province we were sur­prised by the presence of the British forces," Shaker said.

"But when we saw this tape and the amount of it caused inside and outside Iraq, we decided to come today ... to use the British forces and compensate us," he said. "Those troops humili­ated us and violated our rights to demand jobs."

Relations between the British and the Shiite-domi­nated provincial administra­tion have been strained in recent weeks after an up­rise in attacks on British troops in the south. The Iraqis have accused the British of failing to do enough to stop the violence.

Last month, British troops arrested four police officials, allegedly they were involved in militia and criminal activities. Basra authorities had threat­ened to suspend contacts with the British over the crack­down well before the video was first reported in London's News of the World.
**Companies assist in censorship**

Internet companies caught between Chinese rules and U.S. demands for free speech

**Associated Press**

BILLING — Yahoo Inc., Google Inc. and other U.S. Internet companies are under fire for assisting in China’s censorship efforts in insisting they must obey Beijing or risk limiting access to their most promising market.

As the companies face congressional hearings in Washington on Wednesday, they are asking the regime, in the wake of the regime, that they are appealing to the U.S. government for help, saying no private business can resist China on its own.

Yet analysts say that even if Washington stopped in to enforce free-speech standards, perhaps by forcing U.S. companies to stop offering their Internet services or equipment to China, the companies would likely be blunted as entrepreneurs from China and other countries move in to fill the void in the rapidly growing market.

Google, Yahoo and other high-tech stalwarts like Microsoft Corp. and Cisco Systems Inc. have been steadily expanding in China, believing it will emerge as an Internet gold mine during the next decade. China already has the world’s second-largest Internet population, behind the United States, with more than 100 million people online.

Yahoo already spent $1 billion for a 40 percent stake in Alibaba.com, China’s top e-commerce site, while Google and Microsoft have been investing heavily in the country.

Meeting the demands of China’s government under imposed intangible costs on U.S. Internet companies as they fend off complaints about censoring online content and shutting down Web logs with sensitive content — actions that critics say violate American principles.

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Google’s corporate mantra, “Don’t Be Evil,” lost some of its resonance last month when it started a Chinese version of its popular search engine that doesn’t provide links to content deemed unacceptable by the government.

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And Yahoo is accused of providing information that led to the jailing of two of its employees.

“All U.S. and international firms operating in China face the same dilemma of complying with laws that lack transparency and that can have disturbing consequences inconsistent with our own beliefs.” Yahoo spokeswoman Mary Osako said in a statement in which she also sought U.S. government help.

In a statement posted on Google’s online journal, senior policy counsel Andrew McLaughlin urged the U.S. government to treat censorship as a "barrier to trade" and to bring up such concerns as part of bilateral diplomatic talks.

U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice on Tuesday took a step in the direction favored by Yahoo and Google by creating a Global Internet Freedom Task Force.

Activists complain that U.S. Internet companies have already gone beyond their legal obligations in China by selling its government the tools and providing know-how to monitor Web use, track users and block access to foreign sites run by dissidents and human rights groups.

Julian Rain, who heads Internet Research for the Marie-based press freedom group Reporters Without Borders, called on the U.S. Commerce Department to blacklist the American companies’ contracts with China, “to make sure they don’t collaborate on these kinds of human rights abuses.”

**Moody’s cuts Boston Scientific debt**

Associated Press

BOSTON — Moody’s Investors Service on Monday lowered Boston Scientific Corp.’s long-term debt ratings, citing the debt risks the medical device maker is taking on in its $27 billion acquisition of Guidant Corp.

The move came three days after another credit agency, Fitch Ratings, said it expected it would downgrade Boston Scientific’s ratings to junk if the transaction closes without changes to its current structure.

Several banks that have been keeping a close eye on Boston Scientific after the agreement said they would move in to rival the debt “is based on a level below investment grade. Such a move would likely hit the stock of Boston-based Boston Scientific to find lenders, and more expensive for it to borrow.

Moody’s move lowers its rating of Boston Scientific’s debt down one notch from “A3” to “Baa1” — a level that still leaves it with an investment-grade rating, but at the right-lowest rung among 10 investment-grade rankings.

Boston Scientific’s move it would keep Boston Scientific under review for another possible downgrade pending the completion of the Guidant deal, which Boston Scientific hopes to close by the end of March. If the deal closes by then without any surprises, Moody’s said it would likely cut Boston Scientific’s rating another two notches, to “Baa3” — the lowest investment-grade rating, one notch above junk status on the Moody’s scale.

Moody’s said Monday’s cut of Boston Scientific is driven by debt level. It based its belief that if the transaction is not completed, the bid for Guidant signals management’s willingness to leverage its balance sheet in a manner inconsistent with an A3 rating.

Moody’s also cited concerns that a recent warning from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration about quality-control problems at Boston Scientific creates uncertainty about the company’s ability to approve new products.

Moody’s announced its ratings move shortly before Boston Scientific shares dipped 9 cents to close at $21.77 on the New York Stock Exchange.

**Companies assist in censorship**

Internet companies caught between Chinese rules and U.S. demands for free speech

**Associated Press**

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American Dada exhibit to open

National Gallery of Art will host conceptual art form for first time

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Marcel Duchamp's version of the Mona Lisa added a mustache and goatee to the Da Vinci original. Man Ray exhibited a diorama with a row of stacks glued to the bottom.

Their work was typical of the art-rebellion movement they called Dada.

A challenge to both artistic and political establishments of the early 20th century, Dada flourished in New York as well as western Europe.

More than 450 Dada works are getting their first big American exhibit Sunday at the National Gallery of Art.

Dada can mean various things in various languages: "yes, yes" in Italian and Romanian, a hobby horse in French, baby talk for "daddy" in English. The name seems to have been chosen to mean nothing in particular.

Dada's first publisher, Romanian-French poet Tristan Tzara, gave a formula for writing a Dadaist poem. Choose a newspaper story of the right length, cut it up word by word, shake the words in a bag, take them out one by one and arrange them in the order they emerge.

Dada was born in the slaughter of World War I. It did have a basic motivation: fierce and bitter contempt of the old men who sent young men to kill one another for principles that had little or no meaning to artists. Dadaists said traditional art bore much of the blame for the war, and they did their best to subvert it.

Duchamp, the most prominent of Dadaists in New York, made both political and artistic points.

On Jan. 23, 1917, President Wilson was still trying to persuade both sides to a "peace without victo­ry." But the German High Command was preparing an announcement of massed submarine war. That made it almost inevitable that the United States would join the war on the side of the western allies.

That night Duchamp, with American artist John Sloan and four friends, climbed the Washington Arch at the foot of Fifth Avenue, a Greenwich Village landmark. They took a picnic lunch, several bottles of wine, some red, white and blue balloons and a proclamation.

After drinking a certain amount of the wine and fixing the balloons to the ramparts, five of the conspir­ators fired off cup pistols and the sixth declared the proclamation.

It consisted almost entirely of repetitions of the word "wherever" — a typical Dada touch — and ended with declaring Greenwich Village a free and inde­pendent state.

A little more than two months later a group of artists with Duchamp as chairman of their board, met to consider a sculpture called "Fountain," a porcelain urin­nel Duchamp had bought at a plumbing supplies shop. The com­mittee voted to reject it. Duchamp and photographer Alfred Stieglitz, another member of the board, resigned in protest.

"Fountain" became an ancestor of conceptual art, art based on a concept; found art, objects the artist has just picked up; and "ready-made" art, existing objects the artist just changed a bit, like the doctored Mona Lisa.

"Fountain" and the version of the Mona Lisa are both in the National Gallery show.

It's as if the Dadaists anticipated a quote that the Andy Warhol Foundation attributes to its founder: "Art is what you can get away with."

The exhibit includes work by Duchamp, Man Ray, Francis Picabia, Max Ernst, Hans Arp, Paul Klee and others who became famous for their work among the Dadaists and in other styles. They frequented a kind of salon in the ample apartment of Walter and Louise Arensberg, just off Central Park West. The couple kept a collection of modern art, now in the P h i l a d e l p h i a Museum of Art, and they set up a studio for Duchamp.

One of the habits was the Barness Elza von Freytag-Loringhoven, wife of a German who was a war prisoner in France. She was a precursor of today's performance artists. The catalog for the show mentions her as wearing a coal scuttle or wastebasket for a hat and clothes hung with things she found on the street or shopped from Woolworth's, including toys, gilded vegetables, tea bags, curtain rings and a battery light rigged as a hood.

"I cannot figure out what Dada is," poet Hart Crane wrote in a letter. "But if the baroness is to be kept as a kite about — then I think I can possibly know when it is coming and how to avoid it."

"Dada" will be in Washington through May 18, then it goes to the Museum of Modern Art in New York, May 18 to Sept. 11.

'Friends' writer sues for sexual harassment

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — California's top court heard arguments Tuesday in the case of a former assistant on the hit show "Friends" who claims she was subjected to sexual harassment in writing meetings.

Citing free-speech rights, lawyers for the show's producers, Warner Bros. Television Productions, insisted that trash talk during writers' meetings was part of the creative process and, therefore, the studio and its writers not culpable.

"The writers needed to, as part of their jobs, take on taboo subject matter," Warner Bros. attorney Adam Levin told the justices.

"The writers needed to have the freedom and breathing room to explore sexual topics," he explained. "That's what the show dealt with."

The case was initiated in 2000 by Amaani Lyle, now 32. She charged that the raw sexual remarks that peppered work ses­sions and conversations added up to harassment against women. The state Supreme Court justices will weigh if a lower court's deci­sion to let the case proceed to a jury trial should stand or be dis­missed.

Lyle was fired almost six years ago after four months on the job, the producers citing her secretar­i­al skills as cause.

Lyle's attorney, Scott Ohara Cummings, said many of the sexu­ally graphic things did not di­rectly refer to the show. She did, however, write a vagina during the me­eting.

"That's an offensive thing that shouldn't be in the workplace," Cummings said.

Warner Bros. acknowledges that some, but not all, of the sexually explicit talk Lyle alleges did take place, but feels the comments were a vital part of the creative process.

Levin said Lyle had been warned when she was hired that explicit discussions were part of develop­ing the sexually charged NBC com­edy about six friends in New York.

Lyle alleged she was offended by repeated references to the actors' sexual lives and to the writers' own sexual exploits. She also grew tired, she charged, of repeated profanity, talk about women's breasts and even simulated mas­­‪‬murbation allegedly performed dur­ing script meetings.

In making the earlier ruling, a state appeals court said the writ­ers' comments were protected speech, but that Lyle also has a right to prove that the vulgari­ties strayed beyond that which cre­ative process and perhaps violated workplace harassment rules. The Supreme Court has to rule within 90 days.

Development/Arts: Dada exhibit to open in DC

February 16 What Really Happens in Graduate School and How do I Get There? Meet representatives from the Graduate School and learn about graduate school options and how to get there. Harries Student Lounge, Coleman Morse.

Contact information: Office of Undergraduate Studies 104 O'Shaughnessy, 7-0978.

Nelson sings cowboy song with new tune

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Country music outlaw Willie Nelson sang "Mamas Don't Let Your Babies Grow Up to Be Cowboys" and "My Heroes Have Always Been Cowboys" more than 25 years ago.

He released a very different sort of cowboy anthem this Valentine's Day: "Cowboys Are Frequently, Secretly (Fond of Each Other)"

Available exclusively through iTunes, the song features choppy Tex-Mex style guitar runs and Nelson's duet-rich delivery. Fans can listen to "Cowboys Are Frequently," made gay cowboys a hot topic.

The Standing Committee on Gay and Lesbian Student Needs (Confidential information, education, and resources) Contact: Dr. Maureen Cummings, CSC, 1-555, or student members (web site student contact info) The Standing Committee on Gay and Lesbian Student Needs (Confidential information, education, and resources) Contact: Dr. Maureen Cummings, CSC, 1-555, or student members (web site student contact info) Contact: Fr. Dick Warner, CSC, at 1-5704

University Counseling Center (Individual counseling) Contact: Dr. Maureen Cummings, CSC, 1-555, or student members (web site student contact info) Contact: Fr. Dick Warner, CSC, at 1-5704

For more information, check out our web site http://www.ad.utm.edu/gsc/gc/
Cheney's companion suffers heart attack

Critics call for vice president to speak on incident

Associated Press

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas - The 78-year-old lawyer who shot Sept. 5 President Bush's grandson said Tuesday on the shooting. A young man who identified himself as his grandson said he did not want to comment on the shooting. A young man at the scene who identified himself as his grandson said he did not have time to talk to a reporter and closed the door.

Coryne Whittington was shot by a shotgun pellet in his chest traveling at walking speed, hospital officials said.

Whittington suffered a "silent heart attack" - obstructed blood flow, but without the "typical" heart attack symptoms of pain and pressure, according to a report released Tuesday by the Parkland Hospital Corpus Christi Medical Center.

The doctors said they decided to treat the situation conservatively to allow the pellet alone to exit rather than operate to remove it. They said Whittington was highly optimistic.

Whittington will remain in the hospital for at least a few days, said Dr. Scott McClennan, Whittington's doctor.

"This is a life-and-death situation," McClennan said. "We are treating him conservatively."

Hospital officials said they knew that Whittington had some birdshot near his heart and that there was a chance it could move and cause a tear in the surface tissue that had not had time to harden and hold the pellet in place.

After Whittington developed an irregular heartbeat, doctors performed a cardiac arrest, in which a thin, flexible tube is inserted into the heart, to determine his condition, said Dr. Peter Banko, the hospital's medical director.

I think it's time the American people heard from the vice president," said Harry Reid, Senate Democratic leader. Reid said he heard from the vice president.

The shot was either touching or embedded in the heart muscle near the top chambers, called atria, officials said. Two things resulted:

- It caused inflammation that pushed on the heart in a way to temporarily block blood flow.
- It caused doctors to call a "silent heart attack" because there is no traditional heart attack where an artery is blocked. They said Whittington's atria, in fact, were healthy.

White House physicians advised on the course of treatment. White House officials said.

Texas officials said the shooting was an accident and no charges were brought against the vice president. A Texas Parks and Wildlife Department report released today said the vice president was retrieving a downed bird and stepped on the firing line he was sharing with Cheney. "Another covey was shot and Bush and Cheney swung on a bird and fired, striking the decoy. Whittington was in the lock and chest at approximately 30 yards," the report said.

WASHINGTON - If improving science and math education is suddenly a national priority, someone apparently forgot to tell the parents and the students.

In a new poll, 57 percent of parents say "things are fine" with the amount of math and science being taught in their child's public school. High school parents seem particularly content - 70 percent of them say their child gets the right amount of science and math.

Students aren't too worried either, according to the poll released Tuesday by Public Agenda, a public opinion research group that tracks education trends.

Only half of children in grades six to 12 say that understanding sciences and having strong math skills are essential for them to succeed in life after high school.

This is not what the people in charge of the country want to hear.

Congressional leaders, governors, corporate executives, top scientists - all of them have urgently called for schools to raise the rigor and amount of math and science taught in school. In his State of the Union address, President Bush made the matter a national priority.

Yet when public officials and employers see slipping production in the sciences as a threat to the nation's economy, parents and students don't share that urgency. Nor do they put much weight on the national push for more science and math.

There is energy and leadership at the top, but there is a task to be done in getting parents and kids to understand some of the ideas," said Jean Johnson, executive president of Public Agenda. "You can do a lot from the top, but you can't do everything. Schools are local. The Leadership needs to reach out and help the public understand the challenge.

In theory, parents and students say, more math and science education is a good thing. For example, 62 percent of parents say it is crucial for most of today's students to learn high-level math, like advanced algebra and calculus.

The story changes, though, when parents talk specifically about their kids' schools, and when the children relay their own experiences.

"The leadership needs to reach out and help the public understand the challenge," said Johnson. "I think it's time the American people heard from the vice president."

Please join the Law School and the Department of Anthropology for this presentation in the 2005-2006 Law... series.
Happy belated birthday, Darwin

In case you missed it, Sunday was the 197th birthday of Charles Darwin. In hundreds of churches across the nation fides of ratio-minded Christians gathered in a spirited, if frustrated, attempt to remind the rest of America that sound science and religion cannot be enemies of each other. Of course, you claim that the creator is a liar and that a faith that requires you to close your mind in order to believe is not much of a faith at all.

...or perhaps troubling—fact that approximately half of all Americans will not accept the plausible and foundational principle of evolution by natural selection, no matter what evidence or proof is given for it. Those rejecting this principle, though, are generally given many rather childish and ignorant excuses for their reluctance—once the word "evolution," which does not even float comfortably in their sea of outright contradiction merely because they are terrified of what it might mean in their self-image. We should, I suppose, be grateful that this type of bizarre attitude is presently present only regarding to evolution in the present day. Certainly if the attitude were, for example, to take hold in the arena of public health, it would be impossible to proceed.

You have probably figured out by now that I take a very dim view of scriptural literalism, which happens to be one of the causes of the particular problem. Augustine of Hippo was reading Genesis as a metaphor by the fourth century. His predecessors had already taken major steps toward developing a system for weeding out inconsistent passages, which today allows us to write away Paul's misogyny and Joshua's genocide and to locate in the Bible the kernel of complementary ideas that have become Christianity. This flexible, and almost unique, attitude toward its holy books, together with an early embrace of science, is perhaps the single greatest strength of the Christian religion. In this context, I regard scriptural literalism as undermining at best and lethal at worst.

I draw your attention to the issue of evolution in America because it is indicative of the growth of a particularly nasty type of thought in the modern world. This type of thought, which goes by many names, but is often referred to (somewhat confusingly) as fundamentalism, manifests itself broadly as the notion that classical Western liberalism, free speech, gender equality, scientific truths and/or religious tolerance, are incompatible with the tenants of a given religion and that they should consequently be eradicated.

There are both Christian and Islamic fundamentalists in the world today (whom some people have recently taken to calling Christians and Muslims, respectively). Each of these groups speaks with increasing strength, political and religious, of the same general nature. If only for this fact, the rise of fundamentalism in our world should be troubling.

Keeping in mind the historical Catholic understanding of the union of faith and reason, of science and theology and of the tradition of liberal orthodoxy can coexist without pain, and that, in truth, all of them are the better for this mixture. To fail to see this is to fail to see the very purpose of an American university is to show, not only that the principle of orthodoxy, but that the principle of democratic equality can be as well.

At its very best, Notre Dame is a living model for the rest of the world, in particular those places and persons infected with fundamentalism, that reason, freedom, equality and orthodoxy can coexist without pain, contradiction or compromise to any of them, and that, in truth, all of them are the better for this mixture. To fail to see this is to fail to see the very purpose of an American university is to show, not only that the principle of democratic equality can be as well.

Lance Gallup is a 2006 graduate of Notre Dame. Comments should be e-mailed to tidewaterblues.com. More of his opinions can be found at www.tidewaterblues.com. The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

Vote solicitation went too far

In the aftermath of the recent student body election, I was greatly disappointed by the behavior of many of the candidates and their supporters. I received around six different e-mails from people supporting the various candidates. I also received four private messages on Facebook. Worst of all, of the two messages on Facebook came from the same person, and they each endorsed different candidates. They were also sent out within one minute of each other. This immediately invoked my suspicion.

This leads me to believe that either ad-war software was used to produce these mass messages remotely or that someone stole this person's password to do so. Since I know the person who "sent" the messages, I doubt he had anything to do with them mailing. These messages are highly dubious. Furthermore, the messages I received were from three of the five ticket leaders.

That is not the whole story. There were flyers everywhere, some of which were without the proper student activity authorization for display. One ticket team even went into unlocked rooms around campus and put flyers on people's desks. This gross disregard for personal privacy drove me away from voting for that particular candidate.

Of the five tickets, only the obvious joke ticket which did not even try to win, avoided using these tactics. It is a sad statement to democracy when student government elections cannot even be run without campaigning. Sadly enough, this strategy worked. I know a lot about each ticket because of this intrusive campaigning. So who knows what will happen? In a few years, maybe Dick Cheney will be running for President, telling me to vote for him too. Well at least I'll be able to put that into my junk mail along with all those herbal Viagra ads I keep getting.

God bless America.

John Nawara

MBA

Zahn hall

Feb. 14

The Observer is a member of the National Press Club. All opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the views of the Observer. (574) 631-4869

Thursday, February 15, 2006

Letter to the Editor

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One part of University President John Jenkins' accent on academic freedom and Catholic character that has largely been overlooked is also one of the most challenging and consequential. Jenkins lauded our freedom as a "gift" and one of the highest ideals of the University of Notre Dame, a quality which "demands of us that we consider every conviction about one's ignorance, and a corresponding willingness to entertain questions and vary answers to them." He went on to note that such a temper may sound "extraordinary, even irrational" and that it "must remain".

This should be a serious provocation to each member of our community, as it poses a far greater challenge to the character of this university than does its Catholic character. As Jenkins carefully defined limits on the sponsorship of certain events. Taken seriously as it should, and as Jenkins intended it, it is an invitation for us to strive to be a great university, a Catholic university and a much freer community than many of us have imagined we could be capable of being for.

"Jenkins' words indicate a university which is intensely concerned with a thrust for a true understanding of reality in all of its dimensions and thus, one not settling for half-truths..."

Jenkins' words indicate a university which is intensely concerned with a thrust for a true understanding of reality in all of its dimensions and thus, one not setting for half-truths...
**MOVIE REVIEWS**

**Uneven thriller bolstered by Pierce Brosnan**

By GARY HOTZE

Seeing a film starring Pierce Brosnan as a hit man has certain expectations. However, Brosnan, who will nest assured "The Matador," directed and produced by Richard Shepard, will meet none of them — and that's not necessarily a bad thing. Was it Brosnan's son a real thriller — as many of the previews suggested it would be — it does succeed, at least partially, as a satirical dark comedy. In the end, "The Matador" is an ironic buddy flick and comedy-drama. Ultimately, it's really the story of the strange friendship that arises from a happenstance meeting in a Mexico City bar.

Brosnan and Greg Kinnear play the two unlikely allies. Julian Noble (Brosnan) is a far-from-noble hit man whose agency career is often marked with free intoxication and sexual engagement with prostitutes and young women.

Danny Wright (Kinnear) is a more battle-hardened fellow who married his high-school sweetheart. At the film's start, Danny has fallen into financial trouble and is trying to find a way out. Each man finds himself in Mexico City in pursuit of career opportunities. For Julian, it's a corporate motivated big hit from his handler, Mr. Randy (Phillip Baker Hall). For Danny, it's a last-ditch effort to land a job with a Mexican firm that will solve his financial troubles. Their chance meeting at first goes awry as a crazily drunken Julian makes a joke out of the situation. Complications arise in Danny's deal, which leaves him stranded in the hotel a couple more days. This is enough time for Julian — suddenly lonely after he realizes it's his birthday — to seek redemption and friendship. He takes Danny to the bullfights and finds in him with his seemingly occupation, dubbing himself a "facilitator of fatalities." Julian must of course prove this to Danny, and it is only a matter of time before Julian asks Danny to help as part of his plot. The ensuing interplay between the two men drives most of the narrative.

But the motion doesn't last long. The story stalls quite often. While the exchanges between these two characters provide a lot of quirky, dark comedy, towards the latter half of the film, scenes slowly grow more dialogue-heavy. The thriller aspect of the film never really takes hold. "The Matador" in no way seems to know where it is going, which kills the film's momentum toward the end.

The performances by Brosnan and Hope Davis — as Danny's devoted wife, Bean. — keep the flawed movie from completely submerging before arriving at a disordered destination following a somewhat lackluster finale.

For this and its many other flaws, "The Matador" is a good but not great film. But it is easily Brosnan's best performance to date. He strikes a note as the margarita-soaked and ever-aging hit man, in contrast to his drab performance in the lackluster "After the Sunset." And if nothing else, no one who has seen "The Matador" will ever view Brosnan, the former debonair James Bond, the same way again. He provides one of the few truly classic moments in the film in the sight of him as he prances through a busy hotel lobby, grasping a beer and clad only in a black Speedo and boots, is unforgettable.

Contact Gary Hotze at rhotze@nd.edu

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**Timeless message drives ‘Glory Road’**

By COURTNEY WILSON

Scene Critic

These days, it is unlikely that anyone would question the talent, influence of the place of black athletes in competitive basketball. In the 1960s, however, black athletes and racist thinking was still commonplace.

While "Glory Road" replicates the same formula as previous Disney sports movies, its message resonates.

"Glory Road" tells the story of how Coach Don Haskins (Josh Lucas) made basketball history by turning around Texas Western University's (Texas University at El Paso) program by changing the makeup of the school's basketball team. He eventually played an all-black starting lineup in the NCAA Championship in 1966 against a white Kentucky team. Haskins, after leaving his job as a girl's high school basketball coach, is determined to make a winning team despite the lack of name recognition among top players. Desperate, but nonetheless keeping an open mind, Haskins recruits a team full of black players who, based solely on color, are unwanted by other colleges.

Facing opposition from all sides, Lucas plays Haskins' fierce yet controlled character impressively. Haskins is tough on his players, demanding discipline both on and off the court. Hostile opposition from crowds and local racists are set off by Haskins' stern and unwavering fatherly figure. Despite the lack of name recognition among top players, Haskins' stern and unwavering fatherly figure.

For this and its many other flaws, "Glory Road" is a good but not great film. But it is easily Brosnan's best performance to date. He strikes a note as the margarita-soaked and ever-aging hit man, in contrast to his drab performance in the lackluster "After the Sunset." And if nothing else, no one who has seen "The Matador" will ever view Brosnan, the former debonair James Bond, the same way again. He provides one of the few truly classic moments in the film in the sight of him as he prances through a busy hotel lobby, grasping a beer and clad only in a black Speedo and boots, is unforgettable.

Contact Gary Hotze at rhotze@nd.edu

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**THE OBSE</p>
By SEAN SWEANY  
Scene Writer

As the Olympic Games at Torino kick into high gear this week, headlines are filled with updates from the Italian Alps.

For some, the abundance of coverage is pure bliss, but others actively look forward to the closing ceremonies of the 2006 Winter Olympics. Hollywood can provide a simple alternative for both those awaiting the next piece of coverage and for anyone hoping for warmer weather. Various films use the competitive zeal of the winter olympics as a backdrop, but only a select handful appear ageless and continue to enthral audiences regardless of the season.

**D2: The Mighty Ducks (1994)**

Quack. Quack. Quack. This popular cult, made famous by the first "Mighty Ducks" movie, echoes the same goofy sentimentality in this second film of the Disney franchise.

Emilio Estevez returns as Gordon Bombay, a minor league hockey hopeful who must return to coach the Minnesota Mighty Ducks after suffering an injury. The Ducks are invited to a teenage version of the Olympics — the Junior Goodwill Games — in Los Angeles, Calif.

Branded as Team USA, the group is quickly overwhelmed by the hype and glamour of Los Angeles. Much like the first film, both the coach and the team lose focus before rallying around each other at the end of the movie to beat the biggest and meaner Iceland squad.

There are many reasons why this should be a bad film. The plot is predictable and laughable, the acting ranges between the 8-grade talents of Emilio Estevez and Joshua Jackson ("Harrison's Greek") and the hockey presented in the movie is horribly fake. Nevertheless, "D2" has found a deserved place in the hearts of many viewers.

As expected with a Disney film, the message is positive and conveyed in an interesting format. Any youth aspiring to play hockey is undoubtedly aware of the "Knucklepuck" and "The Flying V" two moves immortalized in the "Mighty Ducks" series, but in the warmer, dryer climate of Southern California.

Additionally, the dramatic theme song "Cold and Winter Weather" is so catchy, especially during the final shootout scene, when the Ducks win victory over Iceland wearing the same uniforms the NHL's Anaheim Mighty Ducks use. While cheesy and simple, "D2: The Mighty Ducks" is a film that resonates and recalls childhood. Tied to the Olympics at least somewhat, it is a film that captures the spirit of international hockey competition.

**Cool Running (1993)**

"Cool Runnings" falls in the same genre as "D2" — another feel-good, inspirational family movie from Disney. Inspired by a true story, the film relates the trials of the 1988 Jamaican bobsled team, which struggled against the odds to simply train and compete in the Winter Olympics at Calgary.

The story begins with Jamaican track runner Derice Bannock (Leon Robinson, "Dr."), who falls victim to an accidental tripping incident, disqualifying him from representing the Jamaican team at the Olympics. In his desire to compete, Bannock decides to organize a bobsled team since one does not exist in Jamaica. In spite of the fact that there is no snow in Jamaica and little time remains before the Olympics, he folds three other men for a team and finds a coach in living legend John Candy, "Home Fries." (The magic of Hollywood can provide a simple alternative for both those awaiting the next piece of Olympic coverage and for anyone hoping for warmer weather.)

Publicly disgraced when he had a gold medal taken away for cheating, Blitzer is another misfit who joins the group. Thanks to the acting of Candy and the other members of the bobsled team, there is enough comedy to carry the movie through to its completion.

The team faces much hardship and scrutiny from outsiders because of its true story, appearance and actions once at the Olympics. Their looks, reggae music and unconventional style draw derision and make them stick out like sore thumbs in the cold weather of Canada — until they begin to perform well and amaze the world.

This is an entertaining movie that even viewers who don't watch the sport it is set in can tell a story about personal courage in a fun, light-hearted manner. The late Candy turns in an emotional, inspired performance that highlights his diversification as an actor.

The various bobsled scenes provide enjoyable action, including a funny run down the hills of Jamaica. "Cool Running" is another enjoyable Winter Olympics movie that tells of the unending perseverance of the human heart.

**Miracle (2004)**

The 1980 "Miracle on Ice" — the U.S. men's hockey victory over Russia — is documented in the film "Miracle." The movie stars Kurt Russell ("Backdraft") as Herb Brooks, the legendary coach of the team of college players against the Russian juggernaut at the Lake Placid Olympic games. During the Cold War, when the threat of a possible nuclear showdown between the United States and Russia loomed overhead, the world watched as the two countries battled on the ice.

This excellent film manages to capture the mood of the time while detailing the training and play of the Olympic team. The scenario of a young team facing a perennial powerhouse and winning is the inspiration for many sports movies, including the Mighty Ducks series, but this version is the precedent from which the other movies draw their ideas.

The hockey in "Miracle" is real, as director Gavin O'Connor cast actual hockey players as his actors. Unique cameras and microphones were used in production to capture the sights and sounds of the hockey scenes filmed for the movie. This credibility makes the movie enjoyable for serious hockey fans and those looking for a relaxing watch.

As the Americans make their way through the Olympics, coming from behind to beat every team they play, the showdown with Russia in the semi-finals takes the world stage.

Russell turns in a spectacular performance as a stern, caring, plus-size, deaf, head-coaching head coach who must lead his team to victory amidst many distractions. The historic game against Russia is tense and exciting, capped with the famous Al Michaels question at the final buzzer, "Do you believe in miracles? Yes!"

Overall, "Miracle" is well done and presents both the spirit of Olympic competition and a feel-good success story.

Contact Sean Sweany at sweany@nd.edu

Herb Brooks (Kurt Russell), center, sketches a play in 2004's "Miracle." The film follows the underdog 1980 gold medal U.S. Olympic hockey team.

"D2: The Mighty Ducks," the highly successful sequel to "The Mighty Ducks," follows the USA hockey team as it competes in the Junior Goodwill Games.

Photo courtesy of Ismael Ortega

Photo courtesy of moviestill/stock
DPAC SPOTLIGHT

Not quite saved, but still good enough

By TOPHER MAHONEY
Scene Critic

Alice Wu’s “Saving Face,” one of the movies in last week’s “Gay and Lesbian Film: Filmmakers, Narratives, Spectatorships” series, takes a look at the intersecting lives of Chinese Americans living in New York City.

Written and directed by first-timer Alice Wu, “Saving Face” not only tells the story of a young lady named Wil, a surgery resident who falls in love with Vivian, a ballet dancer. Vivian is also the daughter of the chef of surgery at Wil’s hospital. This spurs Wil to keep the illicit relation-ship secret from her extremely tightly knit Chinese immigrant and conservative Chinese commu-nity.

In a concurrent plot line, Alice Wu’s middle-aged widowed mother becomes pregnant and refuses to reveal the father’s identity. This leads Wil’s grandfather to disown her unless she can find a husband. With no place to go, Wil’s mother moves in with Wil, and hijinks ensue.

Alice Wu’s script keeps things bouncy through mixing different plots. The film is part mystery (who is the baby’s father?) and part romance with sort of an unfamiliar, foreign aspect.

“Saving Face”

Director: Alice Wu
Writer: Alice Wu, starring Bink Chang, Joan Chen, Lynn Chen and Ato Essandoh

The movie is based on a true story, and as far as biographies goes, it does a familiar job of selecting the most salient part of Jim Braddock’s life in terms of interest. While the subject matter itself is interesting, director Ron Howard paces the film too slowly and it would have benefited from some trimming.

The greatest strength of “Cinderella Man” is its high-caliber cast, and actors all do a fantastic job with their respective parts. Crowe is a convincing actor both on and off the canvas, and he is particularly effective at portraying both the pain and resilience of boxing through just his expressions and physical movements.

While Zellweger isn’t given a great deal to work with and has a number of painfully cheesy lines in the film, she does a good job of playing the equally nervous and supportive wife of a boxer. Giacatt’s character, like Zellweger’s, isn’t particularly meaty, but he does a great job as a supportive manager and friend.

The boxing scenes are extremely well choreographed and gut-wrenchingly effective in portraying the sheer physical pain of boxing.

Cinderella Man

Widecreen Edition
MCA Home Video

DVD REVIEW

Hard-hitting boxing film comes to DVD

By MOLLY GRIFFIN
Scene Editor

Much like the inspiration for its title, “Cinderella Man” is a familiar story. It explores the common sports film cliché of the underdog overcoming insurmountable odds to find victory.

While it doesn’t necessarily add anything new to the genre, it is an entertaining movie. It has a great cast and an intriguing real-life story, and in spite of some overly sentimental moments, it emerges as an engaging movie.

“Cinderella Man” follows Jim Braddock (Russell Crowe), a once successful boxer whose career suffers due to injuries and the onset of the Great Depression. He and his wife Mae (Renée Zellweger) must cope with the encroachment of poverty, and Jim must deal with being unable to box the way he used to. Through some hard work and lucky breaks, Jim — with the help and support of Joe Gould (Paul Giamatti), his manager — reclaims his boxing career. He faces his greatest challenge, both as a boxer and a family man, when he is called to face heavyweight champion Max Baer (Craig Bierko), who has built an imposing reputation for previously killing a man in the ring.

The Chinese immigrant milieu never-theless is set in the every-city, New York.

“Saving Face” is also a coming-of-age story. But the direction tends to be unimaginative and of little consequence.

Wil’s mother is the most interesting character. She’s a hypocrite. As a victim of love’s mischance, which brings shame upon her family, Wil’s mother should understand Wil’s predicament as a fellow community outsider. But her only response to Wil’s sexual orientation is to ignore it — thus perpetuating the unspoken hostile attitude towards Wil’s sexuality.

Wil’s mother also starts the film as someone who never really set foot outside her Chinese immigrant neighborhood. She has never lived by herself. She has race anxieties, and, most importantly, she’s never dated before, complicating her urgent search for a husband. But Vivian and Wil make a fairly interesting pair. Wil is the wide-eyed surgery resident who falls in love with her Chinese immigrant neighborhood.

She’s never lived by herself. She has race anxieties, and, most importantly, she’s never dated before, complicating her urgent search for a husband.

While Zellweger isn’t given a great deal to work with and has a number of painfully cheesy lines in the film, she does a good job of playing the equally nervous and supportive wife of a boxer.

Giacatt’s character, like Zellweger’s, isn’t particularly meaty, but he does a great job as a supportive manager and friend.

The boxing scenes are extremely well choreographed and gut-wrenchingly effective in portraying the sheer physical pain of boxing.

“Ringside Seats” provides historical footage from the Braddock-Baer fight in 1935, and “Friends and Family Behind the Legend” features interviews with people who knew Braddock. “For the Record: A History in Boxing” provides a look at the accuracy of the boxing scenes in the film.

There are also a number of deleted scenes that come with optional commentary from Howard, as well as a short featurette entitled “A Filmmaking Journey,” which chronicles how the film itself was made. The featurette “The Fight Card” details how the cast got selected with the producer. “Cinderella Man” is far from perfect, but much like the film’s protagonist, it manages to overcome its difficulties with determination and persistence. While it is a familiar story, the great cast and loving direction of Howard make it an enjoyable experience, and the extras add historical context to an already strong film.

Contact Molly Griffin at mg Griffin@nd.edu
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VOICES FROM HEAVEN
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EDGAR MEYER AND MIKE MARSHALL
THU. MAR. 9 AT 7:30 PM
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LEIGHTON CONCERT HALL | STUDENT TICKETS: $15

Listen to “A Celebration of the Artistry of James Galway” on WSNB (89.9 FM) at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 21, featuring an interview with the artist about his upcoming performance at Notre Dame.
The Observer accepts classifieds every business day from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Observer reserves the right to edit all classifieds for content or criminal referrals.

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WINTER OLYMPICS – TURIN

Ligety shocks Alpine field to capture gold

Associated Press

SESTRIERE, Italy – Not that long ago, Ted Ligety was everything Bode Miller is not: unknown, unsponsored, unaccomplished.

Now, thanks both to his own clean, aggressive skiing and errors by Miller and other favorites, Ligety is an Olympic champion.

Miller still is not.

"It’s great to be where I am," the 21-year-old Ligety said, his voice hoarse, "but it’s unexpected, that’s for sure."" 

Never before a competitor at a Winter Games, never before a winner of any major race, Ligety produced two spectacular slalom runs to pull out the combined event Tuesday night, only the fourth time in Olympic history an American man has collected a gold medal in Alpine skiing.

A few hours before, it appeared Miller might win that medal. Fastest in the downhill portion of the three-leg event, he was disqualified after straddling a gate in the first slalom.

In second place following the afternoon downhill, Ligety took a star turn under the floodlights during the evening slalom. He was as consistent as a metronome, rocking smoothly back and forth, back and forth, sacking away gates with his orange gloves and black shin guards.

"You’ve just got to get in the starting gate," Ligety said, "and throw down whatever you’ve got.

When he finished his final run, the day’s fastest at 43.84 seconds, the youngster nicknamed "Ligity Split" raised his hands and took a well-deserved bow.

Still, Ligety had to wait to celebrate.

First, Ivica Kostelic of Croatia finished a half-second shy.

Then, World Cup slalom champion Benjamin Raich of Austria went off course about 30 seconds into his run.

That was it. U.S. skiers Steven Nyman and Scott Macartney ran over to tackle Ligety, and the trio of teammates relived in the snow. Ligety took a victory ride on the others’ shoulders, waving a U.S. flag.

"It’s a great day, especially with Bode skiing out," Marinaro said. "Ted stepped up.

IN BRIEF

Rose-Hulman hires second-youngest NCAA coach

TERRI HAUTE, Ind. — Steve Englehart has been promoted to head football coach of Rose-Hulman, becoming the second-youngest coach in NCAA football.

The 28-year-old Englehart had been the offensive coordinator since 2003 and was quarterbacks coach in 2002. The strongest coach is Brian Galvatez of Principia College, Ill., who is six months younger than Englehart.

Rose-Hulman was 5-5 last season under Ted Kerras Jr., who resigned to accept the Marian, Ind., head coaching position. Marian, a private school of about 1,300 students, will become Indiana’s 23rd football-playing college in 2007.

Englehart played high school football for Terre Haute North and college football at Indiana State.

Rose-Hulman went 14-16 in the three seasons after his promotion to offensive coordinator.

Plushenko positions himself for Olympic gold

TURIN, Italy — Evgeni Plushenko’s biggest fan Tuesday night was his closest competitor — U.S. champion Johnny Weir.

Weir marveled at the 90.66 points the Russian star put up in the Olympic men’s short program. Plushenko’s personal best gave him more than a 10-point lead over the three-time U.S. champ, a massive gap.

"It’s wild. I didn’t think anyone would get above 80.00," Weir said.

Plushenko soared far beyond it and pretty much put the gold medal in his pocket, even if he wouldn’t say so.

"It’s a lot of pressure right now, guys, come on," Plushenko said.

"Nothing happened. I just skated today perfect and did my job.”

Plushenko, winner of three world titles, was Weir’s pick for gold before the Olympics began and Weir still doesn’t think there’s much of a chance he’ll lose in Thursday night’s free skate.

Radomnovic, Wilcox pack bags for new destinations

SEATTLE — The Seattle SuperSonics traded forward Vladimir Radomnovic to the Los Angeles Clippers for Chris Wilcox on Tuesday.

Radomnovic, who will be a free agent after the season, has struggled for the past month despite being put in the starting lineup after new coach Bob Hill took over on Jan. 3.

Radomnovic, who turned down a $42 million, six-year deal with the Sonics before the season and signed a one-year tender instead, is averaging 9.3 points — down from the 11.8 he averaged last season. Because he signed a one-year tender, Radomnovic had the right to block the trade.

Wilcox’s production also has dwindled, even with the Clippers challenging for the Pacific Division lead. The 6-foot-10 forward is playing only 13 minutes per game and averaging 4.5 points.

around the dial

WINTER OLYMPICS

8 p.m., NBC

MEN’S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Georgia Tech at North Carolina 7 p.m., ESPN

Cincinnati at Syracuse 7:30 p.m., ESPN2

Oklahoma at Colorado 9:30 p.m., ESPN2

The Observer’s Wire Services

page 17

Compiled from the Observer’s Wire Services

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

NBA Standings

Eastern Conference, Atlantic Division

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Eastern Conference, Central Division

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Eastern Conference, Southeast Division

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Western Conference, Pacific Division

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Western Conference, Southwest Division

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Men’s College Basketball

Big East Conference

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USA Olympics — Turin

USA men's curling team having strong showing at games

Associated Press

PINEPOLO, Italy — The U.S. men are hogging wins in Olympic curling. If they keep this up, they might start getting as much attention as the American women.

Pete Fenson’s team picked up a 10-4 victory over New Zealand in eight ends on Tuesday, wrapping things up two frames early a day after a last-rock loss to Finland.

"Unfortunately, we're playing pretty well," American vice-skip Shawn Rojeski said. "Unfortunately, yesterday we missed the last shot of the day."

The Americans’ next game is against host Italy, where curling is usually associated with fusilli. Throw in Wednesday’s game against the wireless Germans, and Fenson’s team (2-1) probably needs to steal just one or two more victories in its other four games to reach the medal round.

The U.S. women, meanwhile, fell to 0-3 with an 11-5 loss to Canada on Tuesday morning, followed by a 6-5 loss to Japan later in the day. The American women, who started with two of their toughest opponents, need to win at least five of their remaining seven games to qualify for the medal round.

So did sisters Cassie and Jamie Johnson deserve all of their pre-Olympic talk? "Of course they should get the attention," men’s lead John Shuster said. "They're coming off a silver medal at the worlds."

Neither team wants the attention for itself as much as for the hacks, hammers and hog lines beloved by curlers but befuddling to a country that doesn’t know those terms refer to the push-off blocks, the last stone and the red lines that divide up a curling sheet.

"As long as curling's getting the promotion it's getting, that's really good for the sport," Rojeski said. "Whether it's our team or their team, I don't think it matters."

New Zealand went scoreless for five straight ends despite having the last rock — a big advantage, called the hammer — in four of them.

In the third, the Kiwis (10-3) tried to sneak a rock through a couple of blockers and nicked one of them. The Americans overcame the hammer — think of it like a tennis player breaking serve — for the first of three times in a four-end span.

New Zealand managed to snap the slump in the seventh, but in the eighth Fenson kept clearing them out of the target zone and scored three. Kiwi skip, or captain, Sean Becker shook hands to concede.

A regulation curling match lasting at least 10 ends, or innings, but a team usually concedes when it doesn’t have enough rocks to catch up.

Call for Student Nominations

The College of Science invites student nominations for Kaneb Teaching Awards.

Take advantage of the opportunity to nominate your best professor in the College of Science for a Kaneb Teaching Award.

Nomination forms may be found on the College of Science webpage at: http://www.science.nd.edu/kanebAward.shtml or you may pick up a nomination form in the Dean’s Office, 174 Hurley Hall

Deadline for nomination is Friday, March 1

Return to: Sr. Kathleen Cannon, O.P., Associate Dean Dean’s Office, College of Science 248 Nieuwland Science Hall

WINTER OLYMPICS — Turin

U.S. men's curling team having strong showing at games

Associated Press

TURIN, Italy — Wayne Gretzky said he didn’t do it. Again.

He said his own troubles won’t affect Canada’s supposedly good-as-gold Olympic hockey team. Repeating himself there, too.

Looking tired and drawn, Gretzky arrived at the Olympics with Team Canada on Tuesday, recapping what he’s said for days but is vowing not to talk about anymore: that he placed no wagers with a betting ring allegedly run by one of his best friends and possibly patronized by his wife.

“As I said seven days ago, it doesn’t involve me.”

Wayne Gretzky executive director Team Canada

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Great One focuses on Team Canada’s future

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Wright signs seven-year extension with 'Nova

Coach led Wildcats to best Big East start in program history

Associated Press

VILLANOVA, Pa. — Jay Wright received a bump of a reward for knocking off the No. 1 team in the country. One day after his fourth-ranked Wildcats beat Connecticut, Villanova on Tuesday gave Wright a seven-year contract extension through the 2012-13 season that gives him many more chances to beat a No. 1 — and maybe even take his team to the coveted spot himself.

"The timing of this is incredible," Wright said, smiling. "I know it looks like we really planned this well."

It was an incredible 24 hours for Wright after the Wildcats 69-64 Monday night, their first victory over a top-ranked team in nearly 11 years.

Wright and Villanova athletic director Vince Nicastro had talked about an extension since spring after the Wildcats returned to the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 1999. The timing of the announcement was purely coincidental, since the new deal couldn’t be approved until the board of trustees meeting Tuesday morning.

Still, it’s two more memorable days for Wright in what has already been a remarkable season.

The Wildcats raced to their best start in conference history and have their sights set on a No. 1 seed in this year’s tourney.

They’ve done it with a unique four-guard starting lineup that was born out of necessity when star forward Curtis Sumpter was lost with a torn ACL.

"We’re right where we wanted to be right now," Wright said. "Honestly, I didn’t think it would take this long. God had other plans. We had some struggles."

Hired in 2001 to replace Steve Lappas, the Wildcats went to the NIT in Wright’s first three seasons. Parts of two seasons were severely derailed because of a phone-card scandal that forced the Wildcats to field a seven-man team and greatly underachieve, including a 15-16 mark in 2002-03.

The 44-year-old Wright banked Villanova’s turnaround on this year’s highly recruited senior class of Allan Ray, Randy Foye, Jason Fraser and Sumpter. They all played major roles in the renaissance the past two seasons, even if injuries have only rarely allowed them on the court at the same time.

Villanova head basketball coach Jay Wright talks with reporters on Tuesday after signing a seven-year contract extension.
Indiana's Davis will ride out Hoosiers problems

INDIANAPOLIS — Mike Davis doesn't plan to resign, quit or leave Indiana any time soon.

After fluctuating speculation Monday that his tenure with the Hoosiers might be short-lived, Davis said in interviews Tuesday that he appreciated the opportunity to coach one of the nation's top basketball programs.

"I'm not quitting. I'm going to coach the remainder of the season," he said during an interview with The Sporting News Radio. "We're right there at making the tournament; we're right there. Now someone has to lose for us to have a chance to win the conference championship, but everything's right there.

Tuesday's Hoosiers practice was closed to reporters. The school released quotes from Davis afterward — but referred to his comments Monday during the Big Ten's weekly conference call with each of the league's coaches.

"Questions about Davis' future have increased with the Hoosiers 11-3, 5-5 Big Ten losing five of their last six games and dropping out of The Associated Press Top 25 this week for the first time this season.

As the team boarded a plane in Bloomington to travel to Penn State for Wednesday's game, Davis said Indianapolis television station WTHR that he could not comment on whether he would return next season but that he believed IU should be one of the nation's premier programs.

"If that means more of me being here or not being here, I have no problem with that," Davis said.

After a promising 10-2 start, this season has turned sour for Davis, who has gone 109-75 since he replaced the fired Bob Knight in September 2000. While he coached IU to the 2002 NCAA championship-game appearance, the Hoosiers went 29-29 over the past two seasons, missing the NCAA tournament both years.

Davis wants his team to concentrate on winning as Indiana has six regular-season games remaining before the Big Ten tournament.

"It's just too much emphasis on Mike Davis. It's just too much emphasis on every press conference. It's just too much emphasis on where he's going to be at next year," Davis said in the radio interview. "It's been six years now. So it's time for everybody to get on the same page and just pull for these young men.

When Davis was asked Monday to explain why Hoosiers fans have embraced him, Davis suggested it was because he wasn't an Indiana alum. On talk radio and on Internet sites, many fans speculated that Davis had already determined he would resign and move on.

"I appreciate this opportunity; it's a blessing for me," he said. "If I say some things out of line, if I say some things people don't agree with, I'm not the first one to do it.

Davis missed Saturday's 70-67 loss to Iowa, the Hoosiers' first Big Ten loss of the season, because of flu-like symptoms. Davis attended Tuesday's practice, departed with the team for Penn State and was expected to coach the Hoosiers on Wednesday.

"I've put my mind now is whether the Hoosiers can end their slump in time to save their coach's job," Bley said. "Watching even Davis can't answer yet.

Snowboardcross

American injured in debut sport

SAUZE D'OULX, Italy — The rough-and-tumble sport of snowboardcross claimed its first Olympic victim before the opening race was even run when American Jayson Clemons tore up his knee during a practice session Tuesday.

He was running alone, not four-wide as is typical in competition, when he got too much air and hit the victim before the open-jump.

"I'm not quitting. I'm going to coach the remainder of the season," Mike Davis head coach

American rider Jason Smith said last week. "You're going down on the course as fast as you can with three other guys. That's got to be a little crazy. But we're all professionals, we've all been doing this a long time. We know the risks involved.

There are also timed qualifying heats in which riders go alone. Much of training is about trying to find the fastest line down the mountain, which is what Hale was trying to do when he wrecked.

The 27-year-old from Sierraville, Calif., tore up the same knee last March, shortly after finishing third in the 2005 World Championships.

Hale returned in September and had a pair of top-five finishes in World Cup events this season, squeezing onto the Olympic team at the last moment. He was ranked 13th in the world coming into the Olympics, behind American teammates Nate Holland, Seth Wescott and Smith.

Next month he will compete at the World Championships in Avenches, Switzerland. He hopes to improve his standing enough to qualify for the Olympics in 2009.

Deaton to investigate coaches

The University of Missouri will investigate the circumstances that led to Quin Snyder's sudden resignation as men's basketball coach last week.

Snyder stepped down Friday, a day after vowing to finish his seventh season with the Tigers.

The four coaches preparing to submit Watanabe's name as an official of the U.S. Olympic Committee's chief medical officer, said Hale tore his anterior cruciate ligament and suffered significant bone bruising around the knee.

"He is comfortable and stable," Sterling said.

Hale returned to the athletes' village in Bardonecchia, where the snowboarding events are held. He is expected to decide in the next few days whether he wants to remain in Italy for the remainder of the games or go home.

Hoosiers have lost five of last six games

The Associated Press

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BELLES
continued from page 24

a roll.
"We've had a lot of freshmen mature during this season and that has led us to win a lot more games," senior captain and guard Bridget Boyce said. "We've become a lot tougher mentally, and I don't think we could have won without it.

The first matchup against Albion also boosted the Belles' mental toughness, Boyce said. Saint Mary's showed in that game it could win as the underdog in a close game — and without one of its main contributors, point guard Alyssa, a North Carolina freshman guard who played last weekend in the 4th of July tournament in Charlotte, N.C.

Coach Todd Doubler took advantage of the depth in the Irish lineup this weekend, trying new variations throughout singles and doubles. The results were clear: two 6-1 victories and a 7-0 shutout to cap off the weekend against Bradley. "It was more of a team effort," Boyce said. "Just looking at the scores, different people struggled a little bit to win their matches in one match, but then played much better in a different one."

The team has exhibited strong play throughout the lineup, including the top two positions.

Spartans
continued from page 24

Continued from page 24

Last year, the Irish earned a hard-fought 4-3 victory in East Lansing. "Their courts are pretty fast mentally," said Shelly Bender, the Belles guard.

"We're certainly more comfortable playing there," said associate head coach Todd Doubler. "I am very aware of who the Spartans have and what their tendencies are."

Bobby Bayliss
Irish coach

They were for his daughter, Alyssa, a North Carolina freshman who played last weekend in a softball tournament in Miami. It was a welcomed change for the Red Sox manager, who lost center fielder Johnny Damon and OF Theo Epstein (temporarily) during a hectic offseason.

Francena stepped down.

Red Sox have tried but failed to honor trade requests by Manny Ramirez and David Wells. Francena took it all in stride, hobbled though that stride may be.

They have won without it. "We've alternated positions over the weekend, they both found ways to win when they didn't always have their 'A' game," Boyce said. "The rest of the lineup wasn't far behind.

"Brett [Helgeson] and Barry [King]... and Ryan [Kleckley] have played at close to the same level," she said. "I thought Eric played a strong match against Wisconsin, finishing the match on a much more aggressive note than it started... and Ryan Kleckley..."

Changes in the doubles lineup have also been effective. "Andrew Ruth's really been a sparkplug for us at third doubles," Boyce said. "The Irish hope to continue their strong performance today against the Spartans."

Contact Kate Gales at kgales@nd.edu

BELLES guard Bridget Lipke defends a Kalamazoo player during Saint Mary's 57-54 victory Feb. 11.

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MBL

Francena enjoys time with daughter after his knee surgery

Associated Press

FORT MYERS, Fla. — An excited Terry Francena watched his third baseman get off to an impressive start with a new team: four hits in eight at-bats plus three walks and two RBIs in three games.

"I was like, 'Wow,'" he said, and they weren't for Mike Lowell, Boston's new third baseman.

They were for his daughter, Alyssa, a North Carolina freshman who played last weekend in a softball tournament in Miami. It was a welcomed change for the Red Sox manager, who lost center fielder Johnny Damon and OF Theo Epstein (temporarily) during a hectic offseason.

Francena also lost his knee. He had his right knee replaced six months ago — the 10th operation on that knee and 19th on both knees combined. The surgery was done about six weeks after the Red Sox were swept in the AL division series by the Chicago White Sox and three weeks after Epstein stepped down.

Not long after Epstein's departure, Damon signed with the New York Yankees. Just one month after that, Epstein returned as GM, but so far the Red Sox have tried but failed to honor trade requests by Manny Ramirez and David Wells.

Francena took it all in stride, hobbled though that stride may be.
Bulls
continued from page 24
have come just before schedule
balls. The Irish beat Providence
92-77 on Jan. 14 for their first
conference win, moving to 1-3
at the time. But after six days
of rest, they lost consecutive
games to Marquette, Georgetown, Villanova, West
Virginia and Louisville.
South Florida — new to the
conference this season — is the
only winless team in the Big
East, but the Bulls lost to the
Hoysas, Wildcats and Cardinals
by only three points each. The
Georgetown and Louisville losses were on the road, as
well.
"I think they really like to
play on the road more than at
home," Brey said. "They really
fearlessly, go on the road. They'll be excited to play
here."
Notre Dame is coming off a
90-63 blowout of the same Rutgers team that won 91-84
Sunday over Marquette — a
team that beat the Irish by two
points on a buzzer-beater Jan.
20. The Big East produces such
parity.
Ish senior forward Torin
Francis was named to the Big
East Weekly Honor Roll for the
third time this season after
scoring 21 points and grabbing seven rebounds against
Scarlet Knights. He combined
with senior forward Rick
Cornett (14 points, seven
rebounds) in that game to domi-
nate the inside on both ends of
the court — a performance
Brey hopes to replicate
Wednesday.
"South Florida really, physi-
cally, gets it after you defen-
sively," Brey said. "They're pretty
straightforward with how they
play. They're a talented group.
I know they haven't had the
best of luck finishing games,
but we can't feel sorry for them."
Our Dame is 9-4 at home
this season but only 2-3 in Big
East games at the Joyce Center.
The Irish have five games
remaining, including tonight's
test, to make up ground on the
teams ahead of them for the final spots in the Big
East tournament field.
Providence (4-6), Rutgers (4-
7), Louisville (4-7), St. John's (3-7), DePaul (2-9) and Notre
Dame are all at the bottom of
the pack. And if Marquette (6-
5), Syracuse (5-5) and Cincinnati (5-6) hold their
spots at Nos. 7, 8 and 9, that
will leave just three openings.
Three other Big East games
take place tonight, all with cer-
tain or possible implications for
Notre Dame postseason hopes.
Pittsburgh plays at Providence, Cincinnati visits Syracuse and St. John's goes
on the road against Rutgers,
with all games beginning at
7:30 p.m.
Contact Pat Leonard at
pleonard@nd.edu

Michigan
continued from page 24
The last time Notre Dame
faced this Big Ten foe was in
last year's match when the Irish claimed the 7-0 victory
one of only two shutouts Michigan suffered last season.
Today, the Irish are hoping to
use their three nationally
ranked doubles teams to their
advantage to follow up on last
year's success.
"No other team in the coun-
try has all three of their dou-
bles teams ranked," junior
Christian Thompson said.
"(Coach Jay Louderback) said he'd be shocked if we gave up
any doubles points this sea-
son."
The No. 1 ranked Thompson
twins are hoping to lead the
team in trying to dominate
their opponents as well
rebounding from their first
loss of the season. The duo fell
to North Carolina's Sara
Anundsen and Jenna Long 8-3
last weekend.
"Last week Catrina and I
struggled mentally," Christian
Thompson who is
"We didn't take advantage of the
break points and that is what
hurt us. But we have two other
great doubles teams that we
can count on to pull through."
Following the Thompson sis-
ters are the No. 35-ranked
pair of sophomores Buck Brook
and freshman Kelsey Tefft.
Playing at No. 3 for the Irish
and ranked No. 45 in the
country is the pairing of sen-
iors Kiki Statney and captain
Lauren Connelly.
In singles, playing at No. 1
for the team is No. 24-ranked
Catrina Thompson, who shares the most wins on the
team this season with Statney
at 13.
Following at No. 2 is Chris-
tian Thompson who is
coming off an impressive 6-0,
6-3, 6-4 win over No. 46-
ranked Caillin Collins. That
victory clinched the win for the
Irish over the Tar Heels
Saturday.
Buck is playing at No. 3, fol-
lowed by Tefft, Statney and
freshman Katie Potoz at No. 6.
"Katie has had a great start
this season. Her wins at Wake
Forest and North Carolina
have really helped the team
group off to the great start we've
had," Catrina Thompson said.
"We are definitely going to
need her in today's match."
Following the match against
Michigan, the Irish will return
back home to compete against
Tennessee and Harvard
Saturday and Sunday, respect-
ively.
Contact Dan Tapetillo at
jtapett@nd.edu

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THE OBSERVER

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EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Drew Bladon, 34; Meg Tilly, 66; Florence Henderson, 77; Judith Key, 85.

Happy Birthday: Don't put things off or expect someone else to take on your responsibilities. You must push a little harder this year if you want to gain any ground. You will have to push on your own if you want to keep things moving along rhythmically. Your numbers are 3, 18, 22, 27, 39, 45.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Everyone expects your energy should go into making things happen, work or a worthwhile project. Keep the door of communication open. It's important that you step up involved as an integral part of the equation. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Nothing is worth fighting over. You can have a much better time if you can keep your opinions to yourself and listen to what others want. Don't try to assume the role of the pain bearer. Allow yourself the freedom to try something you have never done before. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): This day is the day to start something new. Tidy up what's been on your plate for the last few weeks in order when dealing with loved ones. You won't get your way if you try to. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Things are beginning to go your way and it is certainly time for you to spread your wings and fly. This is the perfect time to develop an idea or project or to see someone who can help you in a big way. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't limit yourself. You shouldn't be backing away from the things you want to do. Put more time and effort into making things happen more comfortably for you both mentally and physically. Be flexible about the way you feel things are. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Pleasure, passion, being inventive and trying new things in the color of the day. Travel and stimulate your mind in whatever way you can. Let yourself be looking very promising. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't get all worked up over nothing. Put more time and effort into enjoying yourself rather than worrying about what others are doing or saying. Be honest and straightforward in your thoughts. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Keep in mind that anything can be worked out if you communicate. Make some changes to your routine and your personal life. Be patient and cool as you go if you are following an mow you have been on for some time. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Anything you do with travel, excitement and adventure will buck you but not completely — you may end up overreacting. Avoid any argument with someone who would prefer you to take a path less perilous. Think twice about what you do. ***

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Take time out to do something special with someone you enjoy spending time with. This is a good day for love and romance. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Let's get back to the bad part you found you can communicate well enough to make your relationship better, considering moving on. It could cost you emotionally, mentally and financially. ***

PIECES (Feb. 19-March 20): Everything will be up in the air regarding your feelings. Try to see your feelings for yourself and make your way back to something possible. A chance to get ahead, sign a contract or make some money is evident. ***

Birthday Baby: You are curious and extremely passionate about the way you do things. You are motivated, engaged and emotionally creative. Your life will be filled with change and you will thrive on experiencing new things. You are charming and socially smart.

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EDUCAD

Now arrange the circled letters in the puzzle to form the surprise answer as suggested by the above cartoon.

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argue

I'm building a chan because people can't stop picking them.

What the inves­tor did when he bought a doughnut shop.

To PREVIOUS PUZZLE

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

42 M. France :: Italy
43 Divining captors
44 Geographical
45 Curp
46 Name of a series
47 'A Book of Verse
48 Stainted writing
49 Author's signatures
50 Diner
51 Waiter's after­dinner offerings
52 Bump out
53 Pro's rival
54 Classic novel
55 Olds
56 "Listen"
57 Part of a casa
58 Gothic with cow's horns
59 Way back when
60 Geographical
61 Gem of the Garden
62 "Miss ____________'
63 Following "A", with a literal hint
64 ClassicThompson
65 "I didn't care about that anymore"
66 "What'd I tell ya?"
67 "I'm going to Columbus, Ohio."
68 "The colors anyway"
69 Portland
70 Easy run
71 "Be careful of the cagoues the TV clown makes your friends get scared from one time. No joke.""OCTOBER"

DOWN

1 Firefighter's need
2 Middle of O.E.D.
3 Your's love, in "Doctor Zhivago"
4 Printed with the "Bough" poet's
5 Underneath the
6 Drawer
7 Work after dinner offerings
8 In the Church
9 From Columbus, Ga., to Columbus, Ohio
10 "Listen" without hearing
11 Opposite of guilt

For answers, call 1-900-814-5554, $1.20 per minute; or, with a credit card, 1-400-014-5554.

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CROSSWORD

15 Curb
39 Australian
40 Kindergarten
41 Blues or yellowfin
44 "What's it all about?
45 Like many
46 "I didn't care about that anymore"
47 "Miss ____________'
48 "Listen"
49 Fictional dog
50 "I didn't care about that anymore"
51 "What's it all about?"
52 Blue hue
53 Tropical stop
54 "How'd I love ya?"
55 Who's betting
56 "How'd I love ya?"
57 "I didn't care about that anymore"
58 "Listen"
59 Biblical
60 "How'd I love ya?"
61 "How'd I love ya?"
62 "How'd I love ya?"
63 "How'd I love ya?"
64 "How'd I love ya?"
65 "How'd I love ya?"
66 "How'd I love ya?"
67 "How'd I love ya?"
68 "How'd I love ya?"
69 "How'd I love ya?"
70 "How'd I love ya?"
71 "How'd I love ya?"
72 V.P.
73 Like many
74 "I didn't care about that anymore"
75 "I didn't care about that anymore"
76 "I didn't care about that anymore"
77 "I didn't care about that anymore"
78 "I didn't care about that anymore"
79 "I didn't care about that anymore"
80 "I didn't care about that anymore"
81 "I didn't care about that anymore"
82 "I didn't care about that anymore"
83 "I didn't care about that anymore"
84 "I didn't care about that anymore"
85 "I didn't care about that anymore"
86 "I didn't care about that anymore"

Puzzle by John McWeeney and Nancy Bobinie.

ONCE UPON A TIME

TOODAY

JOCKULAR

ALICE WHITE & ERIK POWERS

THE OBSERVER

![Image of a page from a book with text](image-url)

![Image of a puzzle with clues](puzzle-url)

![Image of a crossword puzzle](crossword-url)

![Image of a zodiac chart](zodiac-url)

![Image of a birthday card](birthday-card-url)

![Image of a newspaper section](section-url)
MEN'S BASKETBALL

Crunch time

Irish look to tame the Bulls in crucial conference contest

By PAT LEONARD
Sports Writer

The last time Notre Dame received this long a break - Big East play, seven days - it went on to lose five straight games. But the team stayed alive for postseason eligibility by beating Rutgers Feb. 8.

The Irish (11-10, 2-8 Big East) have had a week off leading up to tonight's 7:30 p.m. tipoff with South Florida (6-17, 0-10) at the Joyce Center. Entering the season's final stretch, they know repeating such a losing streak would leave them watching the Big East tournament from home.

"Everybody wants the opportunity, no matter what you do in the regular season, to get to your league tournament," Irish head coach Mike Brey said at a press conference in the Joyce Center Monday. "But we knew the rules [of qualification]. We knew the ground rules before we started this thing, so you deal with it."

Notre Dame's only two conference wins came against Albion, then 12-4, in a showdown Jan. 19. They entered the game with a guarantee of no less than fourth place. What's more, a win tonight would give the Belles their first 10-win season since joining the MIAA in 1997.

Saint Mary's (11-12, 9-5 MIAA) had their longest homestand of the season tonight as they face the University of Saint Mary's teams.

SMC BASKETBALL

Belles seek tenth league win against Albion

A Saint Mary's victory would mark the first double-digit win total in program history

By JAY FITZPATRICK
Sports Writer

The Belles are trying to reach .500 for just the second time this season tonight at Albion College (15-8, 7-7 MIAA). The only other time Saint Mary's (11-12, 9-5 MIAA) had an even record was after a 65-61 win over Franklin in the team's second game of the season. The Belles lost their next four games.

But with their recent stretch of six wins in their last eight games, the Belles are serious contenders going into the MIAA tournament, boasting a 9-5 record in conference play and a guaranteed finish of no less than fourth place. What's more, a win tonight would give the Belles their first 10-win season since joining the MIAA in 1997.

Irish forward Tolin Francis dribbles in the post against Rutgers' Byron Jones during Notre Dame's 90-63 win over the Scarlet Knights Feb. 8.

MEN'S TENNIS

Irish will host Spartans at Eck

By KATE GALES
Associate Sports Editor

The Irish look to wrap up their longest homestand of the season with a 4-0 record at 4 p.m. today as they face Michigan State at the Eck Tennis Pavilion.

The No. 31 Irish improved to 5-4 with three straight victories at home over the weekend.

"I think everybody was tired Sunday with two matches, and the day off was good," head coach Bobby Bayliss said. "I think we're ready to go."

The Spartans are tied for No. 75 nationally and boast a 4-4 record coming into today's match. "I'm very aware of who they have and what their tendencies are," Bayliss said.

Rinks and Adam Monich, who have lost only one match this season — to Ball State's Joe Epkey and Matt Baccarani, ranked No. 4 nationally, Rinks is also a dangerous singles player. "He was in the final four players [of the 2005 ITA Midwest Regional Championships] so we know he's a good player," Bayliss said.

Irish forward Tolin Francis dribbles in the post against Rutgers' Byron Jones during Notre Dame's 90-63 win over the Scarlet Knights Feb. 8.