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Rape prevention is common goal

Amid 'Monologues' controversy, groups fight campus violence

By KATIE PERRY
Assistant News Editor

While the production of "The Vagina Monologues" has long been a polarizing issue on campus, one of the play's stated goals — stopping sexual violence against women — is a constant objective at Notre Dame and Saint Mary's. And various organizations on both campuses are making efforts to emphasize it, whether or not they support the play. Notre Dame Feminist Voice and Right to Life organizations have found the issue's severity outweighs its partisan volatility, and leaders are in talks with student government and the Orestes Brownson Council — a campus group dedicated to the study of traditional Catholic teachings — to collaboratively host a fundraiser for groups that benefited financially from previous years' presentations of "The Vagina Monologues." Student body president Dave Baron said representatives from Feminist Voice, Right to Life, the Orestes Brownson Council and student government met Feb. 8 to discuss a way — a benefit formal — to raise funds for sexual assault prevention in an attempt to replace those not earned from this year's "Monologues," held in DeBartolo Hall Monday through Wednesday. Last year's performances raised approximately $15,000.

see GOAL/page 4

Bissinger buzzes on famous football novel

By BRIDGEC KEATING
News Writer

Venerated author Buzz Bissinger delivered a spirited message on the power of sports and the inspiration they lent to his best-selling novel "Friday Night Lights" to an enthusiastic crowd at Washington Hall 7 p.m. Thursday evening in the final event of the Notre Dame Literary Festival (NLDLF).

NLDLF Chairperson Laura Fox described the event-sponsoring Student Union Board's attraction to the author of "Friday Night Lights" as a fitting end to the Festival. Her message was titled "Through the Looking Glass."

"Bissinger's talent and work appeal to students' sports fascination and varied interests, as he has written about football, baseball and urban politics," Fox said.

Bissinger, winner of prestigious awards such as the Pulitzer Prize, Livingston Award, American Bar Association Silver Gavel Award and the National Headliners Award, delivered a pointed speech on his book, which centered on the impact of high school football on small-town life. He began by verbally painting a picture of his journey to Odessa, Texas, through "dry, dusty Texas," where high school stadiums were "shrines, temples, glistening, perfect. It was obvious that something powerful was going on in these places."

He animatedly emphasized the "sacred, special American"

see BISSINGER/page 9

Junior parents pour onto campus for weekend event

By JACLIN MADDEN
News Writer

The parents of Notre Dame junior parents have migrated annual-
ly to South Bend for Junior Parents Weekend since 1952, when University President Emeritus Father Theodore Hesburgh wanted juniors' par-
ents to have the opportunity to take part in their child's Notre Dame life prior to graduation. More than 1,200 families are scheduled to arrive in the South Bend area today to celebrate the 54th annual Junior Parents Weekend (JPW). This year's JPW theme, "Traditional Notre Dame," embraces the true nature of the three-day gathering — for parents to experience the spiritual, social and academic aspects of Notre Dame.

JPW 2006 chairperson Marri Kajfez, a junior herself, expressed enthusiasm for the weekend and all its family-ori-
ented events.

"We hope that the juniors and their parents enjoy the traditional Notre Dame that we have sewn through our events," she said. "I'm really excited to see all the parents that are going to be here experiencing Notre Dame in such a unique way."

JPW kicks off at 9 p.m. today with the Opening Gala, a for-
mal event at the Joyce Center to include dancing, a cash bar, hors d'oeuvres and portrait photography. On Saturday morning, the College of Science, College of Engineering, College of Arts and Letters and Mendoza College of Business will hold Collegiate Workshops for their students in which juniors and parents will hear faculty addresses and attend departmental presentations. Juniors and parents then will head to each student's residence hall for hall luncheons, where parents can mingle with rectors and roommates.

University President Father John Jenkins will celebrate the JPW Mass at 5:30 in the Joyce Center Arena. Immediately following the Mass, the President's Dinner

see JPW/page 4

SMC hosts Ensler-like production

'SMC Monologues' is in its second year

By KELLY MEEHAN
Assistant News Editor

The Saint Mary's community will unite to promote campus awareness of sensitive issues like rape and violence against women this weekend during two perfor-
mances of the SMC Monologues — its personal adap-
tation of Eve Ensler's "The Vagina Monologues," which has not been held on campus since 2004.

The SMC Monologues mirrors the format of "The Vagina Monologues," but each monolo-
logue is a personally written reflection of the experiences of Saint Mary's students, faculty, staff and Sisters of the Holy Cross.

Campus Alliance for Rape Elimination (CARFE) president and SMC Monologues producer Ginger Francis said "The Vagina Monologues" was held on the Saint Mary's campus between 2000 and 2004, but students decided the SMC Monologues was a more appropriate production given its closer connection to the Saint Mary's community.

This is the second consecutive year CARFE, Feminists United and Straight and Gay Alliance (SAGA) have produced this event, which is designed to increase campus activism and awareness in the prevention of sexual assault against women.

Francis said the overwhelmingly positive response she received last year from the College admin-
istration and members of the campus community prompted
INSIDE COLUMN
Running on empty

Between a costly, poorly-led war and Social Security complications, the Bush Administration faces numerous problems as George W. Bush begins his second term. Unfortunately, the one issue that remains largely overlooked—the environment—will unquestionably prove the most disastrous.

At first Bush’s concern for the environment looked promising—while speaking to several environmental advisors in May of 1999, he pledged that after his term as president, “the air will be cleaner, the water will be cleaner, and the land will be better cared.”

Today, this statement is less true than the threat of WMDs in Iraq. In his first three months after being sworn in to office as the 43rd president of the United States, Bush announced that the United States would not take part in the Kyoto Protocol, an agreement between countries to reduce carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions. Without the United States which, with only five percent of the world’s population, emits almost a quarter of the world’s carbon dioxide, the goals of the Kyoto Protocol cannot be reached.

Alarmingly, Bush refuses to take part in the agreement in part because he believes the rise in global temperatures is a natural phenomenon, despite countless research indicating that global warming is human-induced.

In September, rejecting the Kyoto Protocol and undermining the threat of global warming, Bush has also supported drilling in the Arctic Wildlife, weakened clean air and water standards, broken his promise to protect and repair our National Parks and slowed the cleanup of toxic waste dumps. It is not surprising that environmental protection groups see the Bush Administration of neglecting global warming and other environmental problems.

President Bush has made many irreversible, serious mistakes during his presidency. None will prove as catastrophic as his decision to ignore the pressing environmental issues that face our world. The Bush Administration’s regressive environmental policies are disastrous for the American people, our standing in the world, the companies who are struggling to implement environmentally safe technology, and the irreplaceable biodiversity of our earth.

In his recent State of the Union Address, Bush spoke of further clean-energy research, ethanol as an alternative energy source, and increased American energy independence. I sincerely hope Bush carries out these promises, but his past environmental record suggests otherwise. I can only pray that the successive leaders of our country take these environmental issues seriously—convinced that if our country continues to approach environmental issues as the Bush Administration has, the irreversible damage inflicted on our world will be devastating beyond imagination.

Contact Ann Kelley at skelly@nd.edu
The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

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

QUESTION OF THE DAY: ARE YOU GOING TO SMC MONOLOGUES?

Caroline Dunne
junior Regina

"No, I'm not going to all that feminism stuff."

Cindy Wahlman
senior Opus

"Yes, I am going to support the women of Saint Mary's and academic freedom."

Elin Fitzpatrick
junior LeMans

"No, because our school forced them to change the name from 'Virginia' to 'SMC'."

OFFBEAT
Rutned ira­qi city promotes peace with olive trees

FALLUJA, Iraq Residents of Falluja, the Iraqi city devastated by a U.S. offensive in 2004, have begun planting thousands of olive trees in a bid to promote peace.

The first trees were planted Wednesday near a football pitch that became a graveyard for the victims of the U.S. military assault against insurgents holed up in the city. The aim is to plant 250,000 trees by April, organizers said.

"It is a peace message to all Iraqi cities to cast away all the sectarian and ethnic issues and hold together," said Hassan Muhammed, a member of Falluja's Cultural House group.

Falluja, 50 km (31 miles) west of Baghdad, was a stronghold of Sunni Muslim militants until the U.S. offensive, which left much of the city — known as the "city of mosques" — in ruins.

Mourners photograph deceased with cell phones

TOKYO — Japan's observation with camera-equipped mobile phones has taken a bizarre twist, with mourners at funerals now using the devices to capture a final picture of the deceased.

"I get the sense that people no longer respect the dead. It's disturbing," a funeral director told the Mainichi Shimbun newspaper.

At one ceremony several people gathered round the coffin and took out their phones to photograph the corpse as preparations were made to begin a cremation, she was quoted as saying.

"I'm sure the deceased would never want their faces photographed," she said.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF
The Saint Mary’s College Dance Ensemble will host its annual performances today 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.

Our Dame Concert Bands will perform a Rosa Parks Memorial Concert today at Leimbach Concert Hall in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. It is a free but ticketed event. Call 574-631-2800 to reserve tickets.

Black Coffeehouse, a showcase of African American art, literature and music, expresses in the Notre Dame community, will take place today at 7 p.m. in LaFortune Ballrooms.

The Chicago-ba­sed improv comedy troupe Second City will perform today at 9:30 in Washington Hall. Tickets are $5 for students and $10 for non-students and are available at the LaFortune Box Office.

The Irish women’s tennis team will face Tennes­see at 12 p.m. Saturday and Harvard at 10 a.m. Sunday at the Eck Tennis Pavilion.

Israeli philosopher Aish Marga­llit will speak at the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies’ annual Howard Yoder Dialogues on Religion, Nonviolence and Peace at 11 a.m. Monday at the Hesburgh Center for International Studies.

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

LOCAL WEATHER

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New York 55 / 42 Philadelphia 55 / 43 Phoenix 70 / 47 Seattle 33 / 19 St. Louis 35 / 24 Tampa 79 / 61 Washington 64 / 49
Weis gets personal at Saint Mary's disability lecture

By NICOLE ZOOK and
AMANDA SHROPSHIRE
News Writer

Notre Dame head football coach Charlie Weis discussed his experience as the father of a child with developmental disorders in a talk to students at Saint Mary's Thursday.

Weis asked the standing-room-only crowd in Vander Venet Theater to imagine their first child — "apparently thriving, apparently normal" — fade into her own little world, "almost like a fog."

That was the case with Weis' daughter Hannah 11 years ago when she was first diagnosed with Pervasive Development Disorder (PDD). Weis said he and his wife, Maura, went through a difficult time, asking themselves what they did wrong after realizing the problem could not be fixed.

"PDD is kind of a catch-all," Weis said. "They have autistic qualities, but it doesn't matter if the child is autistic or not."

While people who suffer from PDD can have a variety of symptoms, Hannah's include autistic qualities, severe food allergies and multiple seizures.

Fortunately, Weis said, he and his wife had the financial resources to help her daughter. They soon realized developmental delays affected families around the world, and they wanted to help. The pair founded Hannah & Friends, a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing better quality of life for children and young adults affected by autism and global delays.

"This is not a promo on charity work," Weis said. "This is telling you how you can make a difference with any disorder. We did not go raise money for research. We were trying to go right to the kids to make their lives better."

Weis said the original goal of the foundation was to raise $100,000 per year. But every grant requested in the first year was satisfied, and the foundation now raises more than $500,000 every year.

Weis said the organization fulfills needs such as fences for backyards — so children do not wander off — and computer software for kids to speak through. Weis, who calls himself a "very private person" and said he had "zero awareness of autism" prior to Hannah's diagnosis, now receives more than 2,000 requests to speak each year — donating all of the speaking fees to Hannah & Friends.

"To be honest with you, I don't really like talking about football," Weis said. "In the flip side, I don't have much of a problem talking to students or anyone about people who are globally and developmentally delayed, because it is personal."

"Winning football games doesn't do me any good. I'm a miserable person as a football coach, because if I don't win every game, I'm not happy," he said. "The good part of me doesn't come from football, it comes from bringing compassion to people who just don't get it." Weis said he attempted to give his audience "a grasp of what you really deal with" when someone you love has autism.

"There is no day that it doesn't affect you," Weis said. Weis said he and his wife have a long-term goal of building a farm with multiple dwellings for people with special needs to live and work on.

Weis said this project was inspired by Hannah, who is "a very social girl — she likes to have friends."

"We've tried to involve her more in social programs with other kids with special needs," Weis said. "She has a heck of a lot more fun because she realizes she's not alone."

Weis said the farm would be geared toward people with various special needs and would allow them to live fulfilling lives almost on their own. He also said he and Maura "greatly look forward to the day" Hannah lives on the farm.

"I will not consider my success based on football," Weis said. "The day Hannah is taken care of, my son and wife are taken care of. I will have done my job."

Weis also said Hannah serves as inspiration to the Weis family every day.

"My wife and I talk about her as an angel," Weis said. "Hannah came to us so we could do some good. She was given to us to be a messenger. Our lives are much more fulfilled because of what she has given to us."

Contact Nicole Zook at zook8928@saintmarys.edu and Amanda Shropshire at ashrop01@saintmarys.edu

ACE invites you and your parents to a

Juniors

JPW Open House

In the offices of the Alliance for Catholic Education, 112 Badin Hall

From 2-4PM
Friday, Feb. 17th

If you're interested in ACE, and want to let your parents find out more information, please stop in!
continued from page 1

It was one of the most impressive meetings that I've been to at Notre Dame," Baron said. "To see individuals who are diametrically opposed on the issue of 'The Vagina Monologues' come together in a shared spirit of creativity and shared opposition to sexual violence is great."

Baron and student body president Kendra Shappell met Feb. 10 with Executive Assistant to the President Frances Shavers and Vice President for Public Affairs and Communication Hilary Crnkovich. He said the purpose of the meeting was to update the administration on campus sentiment and discussions regarding academic freedom.

"We told them of the joint meeting with the FAIR, Voice and Feminist Student government on the issue of a collaborative effor... and we presented the basic idea of a benefit formal to fight sexual assault, which they could do, but..."

Baron said event organizers will likely seek funds from the Counseling and Psychological Services student organization. He added that "we need a culture of social friendship, a network of people who..."

"We want to encourage students to come forward and we know..." said Johnson. "It..."

"We need a culture of social friendship, a network of people who..." Ноrdsrom said the University..." and..."

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Cheney's explanation 'just fine'

Bush approves the vice president's handling of his traumatic hunting accident

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush said Thursday he was satisfied with Vice President Dick Cheney's explanation about his hunting accident, and Texas authorities said they had closed their investigation without filing any charges.

"I thought the president handled the issue just fine," the president said in his first public comments on Saturday's accident. "I thought his explanation yesterday was a powerful explanation." Bush said it was "a deeply traumatic moment" for Cheney "and obviously it was a tragic moment for Harry Whittington," who was shot.

In Texas, meanwhile, the Kenedy County Sheriff's Department released its report from Chief Deputy Gilberto Miguel Jr., who said he interviewed Cheney on the morning after the shooting.

Cheney explained that he did not see hunting companion Whittington come up behind him and accidentally sprayed him with birdshot in the face and upper body while aiming at a quail, the report said.

As for the timing of the public disclosure of the shooting, Bush said democrats are drawing "the wrong conclusion about what they say it depicts the White House as overly secretive."

"Yesterday when he was here in the Oval Office, I have told Harry and I know the vice president feels the same way," Bush said.

Whittington remained in stable condition Thursday at a Texas hospital, two days after doctors said one of the shotgun pellets sprayed him to travel his heart and he had what they called "a mild heart attack."

While some White House officials were unhappy about the vice president's handling of the accident, Bush did not publicly object to Cheney's decision not to make the shooting public until Sunday, the day after it happened. The president also did not express concern about the fact that Cheney did not speak to him about the accident until they saw each other on Monday.

Cheney recounted the explanation of the accident. "He heard a bird flush and he turned and pulled the trigger and saw his friend get wound­ed," the president said.

Bush, during an Oval Office photo opportunity, seemed ap­posed to the idea of the explanation being "one of the worst days of my life," he rejected any notion that Whittington bore any responsibility, saying, "I'm the guy who pulled the trigger and shot my friend." Cheney also defended his decision to keep the shooting from the public until a day after it happened, allowing the news owner to tell a local news­ paper about it instead of making an official announcement from the White House.

Guantanamo should be shut down

Guantanamo should be shut down

Associated Press

MCLENNAN — Former Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld said Thursday he supported the president in his plan to close the prison for terror­ ism suspects at Guantanamo Bay and either rehouse the detainees or put them on trial.

Rumsfeld, in an interview with a newspaper in the Washington, D.C., area, said the military prison at Guant­namo has been "a disaster." Some interrogation techniques — particularly the use of dogs, exposure to extreme temperatures, sleep deprivation for several consecutive days and prolonged isolation — caused extreme suffering, the report said.

"Such treatment amounts to torture," it said, urging the United Nations to refrain from any practice amounting to torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment.

It also said Guant­namo's military com­missions are under­mine the authority of the White House and that detainees should have trials.

Death squads to be investigated

MOGADISHU — The White-dominated Interior Ministry announced an investigation Thursday into claims of death squads in its ranks as police found a dozen more bodies, bringing the number of apparent victims of sectarian reprisal killings here to at least 30 this week.

The minister was announced after U.S. military officials indicated there was evidence to support the allegation of death squads. The 12 men found on Thursday had been bound and shot in the brief execution-style.

At least 25 other people were killed in vio­ lence across Iraq, including three tribal sheiks slain in a drive-by shooting north of the capital.

A soldier was killed in a mortar attack on a military compound in Basra, U.S. cle­ rics Muqtiada al-Sadr died in a Baghdad mortar barrage.

Preval is winner of Haiti election

PORT-AU-PRINCE — Former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide was declared the winner of Haiti's presidential election Thursday under an agreement between the government and electoral council, staving off a crisis over last week's disputed vote.

With nearly all the ballots counted, Preval had been just shy of the 51 percent margin needed to win.

Under the agreement, officials decided early Thursday to divide the 85,000 blank ballots cast in the Feb. 7 election among the candidates in proportion to the percentage the each had already won. Preval, a 51.15 percent majority, said Michel Branauche, chief of Cabinet for interim President Boniface Jobert.

The blank votes represented about 4 per­ cent of the estimated 2.2 million ballots cast.

National News

Man trained to commit jihad in U.S.

MADAMOTO — A man accused of attempt­ ing an al-Qaeda training camp is a trained terrorist intent on attacking Americans, prosecutors alleged Thursday, but his attor­ ney called him just a directionless young man prone to wild storytelling.

In opening statements of Hamid Hayat's federal trial, prosecutors said the 23-year-old Lodi resident went to the Pakistan camp in 2002 with the goal of becoming a suicide attack against a U.S. home in California farm country and awaited instructions on his potential terror targets.

"Hamid Hayat talked about jihad before he even left the United States," prosecutor Laura Ferro said in opening statements. He "admitted he went to a jihadist training camp, not once but twice."

White house defends its port sales

SAN FRANCISCO — The White House defended its port sales at a press conference Thursday afternoon, reiterating that it is legally justified to sell the ports to the highest bidder.

Adminis­ tration officials said there was no pressure from the United Nations or the government to keep the ports.

"We're not being sued by anyone or anything," said Department of Justice spokesperson John đoànt. "This is an open bidding process."

In a separate news conference Senator John Kerry said there was a "bewildering" lack of consultation with the United Nations about the sale.

"I am deeply concerned by the fact that the administration did not consult with the United Nations about the sale of the ports," Kerry said.

Kerry said the sale was "a mistake and a failure" and that it should be reversed.

"This is not a light decision," Kerry said. "It sends a message about the United States. It sends a message about our priorities. It sends a message about our values. It sends a message about our commitment to the rule of law."

President George W. Bush is expected to announce his decision on whether to sell the ports later this week.

Local News

Arrest made in hospital fondling

ANADIRON — A teenager who entered a woman's hospital room and fondled her before then breaking into her room is charged with sexual assault.

Police officers arrested Derek D. Hutchinson, 18, of Anderson, inside the volunteer services office in the United Nations Medical Center at 2:30 a.m. Wednesday on preliminary felony charges of burglary, theft and sexual battery.

Hutchinson was a visitor of an emergency room patient when he went into the main part of the hospital, said Marlene Carey, St. John's vice president of corporate communications.

Switzerland

Preval is winner of Haiti election

Preval is winner of Haiti election

Associated Press

Preval, a former military chief who at the time was elected Haiti's second democratically elected president in a vote marred by fraud, has been re-elected in a landslide.

Preval was the acknowledged final choice of many opposition parties after the disputed vote and the European Union backed his victory.

"I won by a clear majority, said Preval, a 51.15 percent majority, said Michel Branauche, chief of Cabinet for interim President Boniface Jobert.

The blank votes represented about 4 percent of the estimated 2.2 million ballots cast.

"I'm not going to permit the scene to resurface," Preval told reporters. "There is a legal basis for the decision, and this is the result of a democratic vote."

"In an election that was fair, I was the majority choice," he said.

"I will not accept another vote," he said. "There was a clear decision, and I am the candidate who won."

"I will fight for Haiti," he said.

"I'm not going to pretend that nothing happened," he said. "But there was a clear majority."

"There is no crisis," he said. "There was a clear decision."

"I am the majority," he said.

"I am not a candidate," he said. "I am the president."

"I am the winner," he said.

"I am the president," he said.
Skilling blamed for dispensing false info
Rice claims he was told to mislead Enron board

MC C.A.R.E. (Campus Alliance for Rape Elimination) presents:
2nd Annual SMC MONOLOGUES 2006
Saturday, February 18th @ 7pm
Sunday, February 19th @ 2pm
Carroll Auditorium in Madeve Hall

The SMC Monologues are an original production of the stories based on the experiences of women in the Saint Mary’s Community!

Suggested Donation of $3. All proceeds will go to SOS (the rape crisis center for St. Joseph County) and theYWCA

Don't miss your chance to hear the voices of Saint Mary's speak!! It is an AMAZING and EMPOWERING production. Join us as we celebrate the lives of Saint Mary’s women

Sensitive, adult topics intended for mature audiences

For more information please contact Ginger Francis @ fran3260@saintmarys.edu or Jen Hanlon @ hanl6805@saintmary.edu

Sponsored by C.A.R.E., Feminists United, and SAGA (Straight And Gay Alliance)
**MARKET RECAP**

**Stocks**

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**NEW YORK** — Stocks posted moderate gains Thursday, buoyed by Hewlett-Packard's earnings, a surprising jump in home construction, and more positive comments from the Federal Reserve. The Dow, which had an industrial average posted a new 4.1/2-year high on a late surge in trading.

Hewlett-Packard's ongoing turnaround encouraged buying in the technology sector and helped the Dow reach its highest level since June 5, 2001, demonstrating Wall Street's confidence in large-cap stocks.

Investors' economic worries were eased as the news on home construction, which jumped 14.5 percent from last month, followed a rash of economic outlook from new Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke.

"Clearly, the market has turned for the better here," said Joseph Battaglia, chief investment officer at Ryan Beck & Co. "You're seeing today some of the ebbs and flows that's the in a market like this, but Bernanke saying the economy is still powering ahead is a no a bad environment to be in."

However, with the major indexes posting substantial gains for the week, Thursday's trading was lackluster until the last half-hour of the session, when the Dow fell 214, 0.6 percent, to 10,120.68.

"Every concern of investors was the announced department of Pierce J. Roberts Jr. from XM's board of directors, who said in his resignation letter that he was "troubled" by the company's direction.

"Given current course and speed there is, in my view, a significant chance of a crisis on the horizon," Roberts wrote in the letter, which the company disclosed in a regulatory filing. "Even with a crisis, I believe that XM will inevitably serve its shareholders poorly without major changes now."

**Commodities**

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**IN BRIEF**

XM Radio posts wider quarterly loss

NEW YORK — XM Satellite Radio Holdings Inc.'s losses soared in the fourth quarter on higher costs for marketing and acquiring subscribers, and a key director quit over disagreements about the company's direction, warning that the company's current course "is a not a bad environment to be in."

However, with the major indexes posting substantial gains for the week, Thursday's trading was lackluster until the last half-hour of the session, when the Dow fell 214, 0.6 percent, to 10,120.68. The Standard & Poor's 500 index, also posted modest gains. The Standard & Poor's 500 index, also posted modest gains.

Bonds were little changed, with the yield on the 10-year Treasury note falling to 4.59 percent from 4.60 percent late Wednesday. The dollar rose against most major currencies, while gold prices fell.

A jump in oil prices limited the stock market's gains. A barrel of light crude settled at $58.46, up 11 cents, on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The recent drop in oil prices settled at $58.46, up 11 cents, on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

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**Swift plant cannot ship meat to Japan**

BOSTON: The Agriculture Department has prohibited a Swift & Co. meat-packing plant in Nebraska from shipping beef to Japan.

The department said the plant's beef met all the rules for exporting to Japan, but its procedures did not.

"It was not a situation of unsan flesh or anything like that," Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns said.

The Grand Island, Neb., plant chose cattle suppliers without gaining the approval of its corporate headquarters, a violation of export rules that turned up in a routine audit this week, the department said.

Department spokesman Ed Loyd said the audit was unrelated to 2015, but the finding is a possible indication that the plant did not meet Japan's sanitary and veterinary standards for meat, which it needs to meet to export beef to Japan.

The plant cannot ship beef to Japan until an inspection committee of beef inspectors from both countries determines that the plant has corrected the problems.

The plant produces about 250,000 pounds of beef per week, according to a company official.

**Boston Scientific stock up sharply**

Associated Press

BOSTON — Shares of Boston Scientific Corp. rose nearly 9 percent Thursday after the medical device maker's top chief financial officer gave nearly $45,000 in shares worth of his company's stock, probably raising its value 10 percent, according to insiders and analysts.

The increases in the company's pending $27 billion acquisition of Guidant Corp. Shares of Boston Scientific also have languished following a Jan. 25 warning by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration about quality-control problems at the Neilson-based company.

Analysts said Thursday that the acquisition was more attractive for medical device companies and in need of the cash to pay off debt.

"The market is more than ready for the opportunity to diversify its product line," said John Wieland, a analyst with A.G. Edwards & Sons.

Best, chief financial officer and a senior vice president, bought 200,000 shares on the open market Wednesday at an average price of $22.43, according to a filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

In recent days, another company insider, board member Nicholas Nicholaus Jr., bought 25,000 shares.

Shares of Boston Scientific rose $1.97 to close at $24.54, and traded at more than the normal volume on the New York Stock Exchange. It was the highest closing price since Jan. 13, when shares closed at $25.20.

"The Wall Street analyst, said in a research report that the moves by Best and Nicholaus increased his confidence in the outlook for Boston Scientific and its Guidant acquisition.
Bissinger continued from page 1 phrase — "Friday Night." He went on to speak about the power of sports and the experience of seeing 20,000 fans cheering on high school boys when he moved to Odessa in 1988.

The author then turned to the negative influence of athletics and "the other side, the way in which kids were literally being sacrificed in the hope of winning a state championship."

He further described the town's obsession and adoration of high school football.

"Preparation for life after this intoxicating experience is considered little more than an afterthought," he said. He spoke at length about Booby Miles, the Permian High School football player whose life and high school football career are chronicled in "Friday Night Lights." Bissinger said the book started positively and "began as a love story, like 'Hoosiers,' but turned out a cautionary tale."

The author fielded questions from the attentive audience about the movie, its effects and more. He described his experiences with the film — which his cousin directed — as positive.

He also expressed that his next project would necessarily involve sports.

"I'm not a sports writer," he said. "I gravitate toward subjects that light me up."

Throughout his speech, Bissinger alluded to Notre Dame's tradition and reputation, contrasting the University to other schools in which academics are a second priority to athletics and where athletes "are not there to study."

In a post-lecture interview, he expressed his respect for Notre Dame's 'unique tradition of excellence and off the playing field.' The concept of student-athlete has not been compromised here," he said. "It is one of the few schools that can attract top students and continue to have a winning tradition." Audience members were able to socialize with the acclaimed author at a reception following the speech. SUB Manager Jimmy Flaherty commented on the lecture's role as the culminating event of the Literary Festival. "Bissinger is a premier author," he said. "This event was an amazing opportunity for students to interact with him in an informal setting, which is what NDLF is all about." Begun in 1967, NDLF encourages close interaction between students and the visiting wide spectrum of writers.

Contact Bridget Keating at bkeating@nd.edu

**Senate nears Patriot Act passage**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Senate pushed the Patriot Act a step closer to renewal Thursday, overwhelmingly rejecting an effort to block it.

Passage is expected next month for extending the law that was passed weeks after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks as a weapon to help the government track terror suspects.

The 96-3 vote Thursday was no surprise to Sen. Russell Feingold, the Wisconsin Democrat who was the lone senator to oppose the law four and a half years ago and is the chief obstacle to extending 16 provisions now due to expire March 10.

Feingold is considering seeking his party's presidential nomination, plans to make the Senate spend several more days on the bill. He complained that Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., had used procedural maneuvers to prevent him from trying to add more protections for people investigated by the government.

"We still have not addressed some of the most significant problems with the Patriot Act," Feingold said.

At the White House, spokesman Scott McClellan urged the Senate to keep up the momentum on the legislation, which he called "a good faith effort" to improve the law.

"Yet there are still some Senate Democrats who want to continue to engage in obstructionist tactics and prevent this vital legislation from being reauthorized," McClellan said. "We hope the Senate will move ahead quickly and reject the continued obstructionist effort."

Only Sens. Jim Jeffords, I-Vt., and Robert C. Byrd, D-W.Va., supported Feingold on Thursday's vote to stop what Frist had characterized as a filibuster preventing the Senate from acting on the legislation. Sen. David Vitter, R-La., did not vote.

The changes Feingold was seeking included an amendment that would set a four-year expiration date on Patriot Act provisions regarding National Security Letters — demands made to banks, libraries, Internet providers and others without warrants — for records of their customers or clients.

Another amendment would require the government to notify the subject of a secret search within seven days or obtain court permission to maintain the secrecy for a longer period. The bill would give authorities 30 days after a search before they had to notify the subject of it.

Feingold said the new deal was the result of negotiations between GOP and Senate Republicans brokering with the White House on civil liberties protections would "still allow government fishing expeditions."

Other senators also had advocated more curbs on the government's power to investigate people. But with the law already extended temporarily twice since December and a midterm election approaching, most of those who share Feingold's concerns are willing to accept the compromise struck last week with the White House.

Among all of the 45 senators who had stood with Feingold last year to kill a House-Senate agreement abandoned the effort this month after two of them, Republican Sens. John Sununu of New Hampshire and Larry Craig of Idaho, struck a deal with the White House to add more privacy protections.

"Compromise and consensus require concessions and flexibility," said Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., who sided with Feingold in December but who will now vote for the bill. "It is the responsibility of the Congress to 'provide for the common defense,' and I believe we live up to that duty in this bill."

Sixty votes were required to overcome Feingold's filibuster.

Supporters expected the Senate to pass the bill March 1 and the House to quickly add its approval.

Under the deal, recipients of court-approved subpoenas for information in terrorist investigations would have the right to challenge a requirement that they refrain from telling anyone. The bill would also remove a requirement that an individual provide the FBI with the name of an attorney consulted about a National Security Letter. A third change, supporters say, makes clear that most libraries are not subject to National Security Letter demands for information about suspected terrorists.

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**looking for something to do during JPW?**

**Feb 17th**

**Washington Hall**

6:30 and 9:30 pm
(two showings)

$5 student
$10 non-students

Tickets on sale beginning February 8th @ LaFortune Box Office. Extra tickets will be sold at the door.
January boasts record-breaking housing construction

WASHINGTON — Construction of new homes and apartments, defying forecasts of a housing slowdown, shot up in January at the fastest pace in more than three decades.

The Commerce Department reported Thursday that building activity was up 14.5 percent last month when compared to December, pushing construction to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 2.276 million units.

That was the fastest construction rate since March 1973, but it was expected to be a one-time blip caused by unusually warm weather in January that prompted builders to start work on more homes. Analysts are forecasting that housing construction will slow this year as the nation’s five-year housing boom quiets down.

In other economic news, the number of Americans filing claims for unemployment benefits rose 297,000 last week, up 19,000 from the previous week. The increase was larger than economists had expected but they cautioned against reading too much into the one-week rise. They said the level still remained in a zone that indicates a strong job market.

Ian Shepherdson, chief U.S. economist for High Frequency Economics, said that jobless claims are likely to bounce around quite a bit for a few weeks, reflecting the disruptions in filing claims caused by the weekend’s huge snowstorm in the Northeast.

The weather played a major factor in the big rise in construction last month, which was the mildest January in more than a century. Some economists, however, said that a 6.8 percent rise last month in building permits, which are not affected by the weather, could be a signal that housing activity will not slow as much this year as previously thought, as long as mortgage rates do not rise too quickly.

"Low long-term rates and a strong jobs market will continue to provide substantial support to the housing market," said Bob Walters, chief economist for Quicken Loans, an online lender.

On Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial average rose 61.7 points to close at 11,428.1 on Thursday. The 14.5 percent rise in construction activity followed a 6.9 percent drop in December. Analysts had been expecting a 9 percent rise last month.

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Academic ‘Monologues’ belong at ND

Let’s hope we saw what we saw. A blunt, vulgar, shocking production that without hesitation por­
trays masturbation, extramarital sex and lesbian seduction sneaks into campus. As much as production that absolutely belongs at the nation’s top Catholic university.

The Observer Financial Officer John Jenkins said he attended “The Vagina Monologues” Wednesday — Notre Dame students’ third and final performance of the Eve Finder play this year — “to bein and learn.” That is exactly what he had to do before deciding whether academic departments can continue to sponsor the play at the University, and he should be commended for his attendance. Now — while the play campaign’s demonstrative peak. Catholicism — for another year — comes the waiting game, as the Notre Dame community continues to prepare the president’s verdict.

And now that Jenkins has seen the play in the academic setting he required, he should choose to allow the “Monologues” to remain. A choice he should make not only in favor of academic freedom, but in favor of the University’s Catholic character, as well.

Not that he wasn’t right to be concerned. “The Vagina Monologues” contains plenty of crude, disturbing and arguably immoral content that own the most liberal viewpoints find offensive, as well as some seemingly pointless o. For example, including scenes of what a vagina would wear or say—that are not particularly enlightening. Questioning the appropriateness of Finder’s approach was clearly within President’s bounds. Though Jenkins should allow the play’s performance to continue, criticism of the “Monologues” is certainly valid.

However, for Notre Dame to dare, to quote its 15th president, Father Theodore Heshburg, to grapple “some of the most intelli­gent” Catholic university.” It’s a lofty and widely recognized as the best Catholic university in the country. Indeed, all Catholic university: “Monologues” is the only institution that within the University’s Catholicism-conflicting events on campus. Notre Dame is still widely recognized as the best Catholic university in the country. It protects its students from being exposed to any character that threat — status, as associate professor of theology Father Paulines O’Gara said at Tuesday’s panel, events like the “Monologues” that conflict with Catholic teaching cannot “go unchallenged in a Catholic university.

President Jenkins, you cannot. Such challenges — not by banning the “Monologues,” not by silencing student voices, not by fighting speech with speech: holding panels, sparking dis­cussions and pushing intelligent Catholics to graduate from Notre Dame having challenged, utilized and strengthened their faith, not having hidden behind it.

I have followed with some interest the discussion in the Viewpoint section on academic freedom at Notre Dame and other, secular, universities. However, I believe certain participants in this discussion have made a subtle but important category mistake. For example, Professor Gary Anderson discusses the case of aolland student organization and put their professed Catholicism-conflicting events on campus. Notre Dame in future years, then the play must retain the academic setting it achieved in 2006. The “Monologues” should continue to be held in a large classroom, an environment that plays an important part in setting the audience’s expectations and the event’s academic tone. Other campus academic events don’t have the benefit of audience, so the “Monologues” shouldn’t be allowed: the funds the play raises for charities fighting violence against women cannot be raised through other means, just as campus clubs are attempting to do this spring. Snapping sexual vio­lence, as Jenkins said in his academic freedom and Catholic char­acter addresses last month, is also a morally worthy cause, and the Notre Dame community should show its support by pledging its dollars to the fundraising alternative the groups covet.

Add to that the argument that keeping the character of the “Monologues” is the continuation of the panel discussions that fol­lowed this year’s performances. The discussions provide valuable insight into the themes of the play, as well as a wider context for its content that enhanced the audience’s understanding of the play’s purpose. Future panels should maintain these goals, as well as recurring a range of viewpoints are represented by seeking out both supporters and detractors of “The Vagina Monologues,” to speak on behalf of its merits and faults. And students and faculty must make speakers’ educational effect worthwhile—by listening to the panelists respectfully, questioning them intensely and seeking in the discussion implications for the freedom of which audiences did successfully this week.

Retaining these academic components for future Notre Dame productions of the “Monologues” should leave no question about whether the play belongs under the University’s academic freedom umbrella. Academic departments should be able to decide to sponsor the play on the grounds of sponsoring learning, not on the grounds of enforcing the content of the “Monologues” If the University administration squabbles about the play attracting publicity and prompting questions about Notre Dame’s Catholicism, it can charge money for attendance. Is the University not try­ing to enforce the play’s context and values due to the University’s Catholic character, some of its departments have chosen to censor the play as an academic exercise.

“The Vagina Monologues” has been performed at Notre Dame for five years in a pervasively Catholic Catholic university. The Catholic university: “Monologues” administration is squeamish about the play attracting publicity and prompting questions about Notre Dame’s Catholicism, it can charge money for attendance. Is the University not trying to enforce the play’s context and values due to the University’s Catholic character, some of its departments have chosen to censor the play as an academic exercise.

This academic context is essential, however. If academic free­dom were cited to justify “The Vagina Monologues” at Notre Dame in future years, then the play must retain the academic setting it achieved in 2006. The “Monologues” should continue to be held in a large classroom, an environment that plays an important part in setting the audience’s expectations and the event’s academic tone. Other campus academic events don’t have the benefit of audience, so the “Monologues” shouldn’t be allowed: the funds the play raises for charities fighting violence against women cannot be raised through other means, just as campus clubs are attempting to do this spring. Snapping sexual vio­lence, as Jenkins said in his academic freedom and Catholic char­acter addresses last month, is also a morally worthy cause, and the Notre Dame community should show its support by pledging its dollars to the fundraising alternative the groups covet.

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AN UNHOLY APPROACH TO TELEVISION’S LURE FOR TITHING

A ‘Mountain’ of discovery

Sooner or later, more than a few of us do a mountain stint. For me, movie scenes from “Brokeback Mountain” flash bigger than the memories of time I spent on that lonely hilltop. My Brokeback occurred way back in 1990, a year and a half before it opened in New York, months before the movie’s protagonist, Jake Gyllenhaal, broke off that engagement six weeks short of my wedding day.

Believe me, it was not easy telling my fiancée a hurtful truth. I was guy. Sure enough, it was during an engaged Kendall weekend that I, the then a Roman Catholic, prayerfully faced up to my own truth.

I was an only son, and pressures of family, church and state weighed heavily on me. No much expectation rested on my shoulders to marry well and continue the Ennis and Jack different societal pressures ensured them.

It was bad news; it has nothing less than a miracle the courage that I, a then very conflicted 28-year-old naval officer, mustered. It was palpably risky for me. My fiancée’s father was a retired member of the Catholic faith, a good Catholic family, rage and hurt could easily have given way to paybacks, to reporting me to military officials as I break the silence and came out of the closet.

Instead, my fiancée’s mother phoned a few days after breaking off the engagement, and said to me: “Chuck, I know that you what did for my daughter, telling her, you did out of love for her. I will never forget that.”

The parish priest, who had mentored and confirmed me into the Catholic faith in my hometown of Johnstown, Pennsylvania, encouraged me to break off the engagement and come clean. He assured me that I would find widespread pastoral care for my parents as they dealt with a bitter disappointment.

Fortunately, I lived in California. Gay life and sex were not quite so alien and I traveled a lot from 1963 to 1969, through loneliness and heartbreak that E. Annie Proulx’s “Brokeback Mountain” touches on with wrenching stark prose.

The story’s plot line and mood are only tangentially about Jack and Ennis, the two picture captures all of the pathos and more, with full moons and crystalline blue skies, the alpine beauty of big-sky country Wyoming-style, the wide-open stretches of landscape that Ennis and Jack share with coyotes, bears and herds of sheep.

For me, Gustavo Santalla’s haunting music captures perfectly the prevailing melancholy. That music and the dark Wyoming skies pierced only by moonlight enabled me to go back in time, connecting with my own private Brokeback. In the film, it is the moun­t­tain­st­ring­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong­ong-
Upcoming Events...

Rosa Parks Memorial Concert
Friday at 5 p.m.
The University of Notre Dame concert band honors Rosa Parks during Black History Month with a special performance in Leighton Concert Hall.

Wallace and Gromit — The Curse of the Were-Rabbit
Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m.
The much-loved duo from the Oscar-winning clay-animation shorts returns to thrill audiences in the Browning Cinema.

Gone With the Wind
Saturday at 3 p.m.
A sweeping, tragic love story, this 1939 classic takes its place within the PAC Classic 100 film series screened in the Browning Cinema.

Soweto Gospel Choir
Saturday at 8 p.m.
The 25-member choir performs an inspirational, soulful African gospel program in Leighton Concert Hall.

...at the DeBartolo Center for the Performing Arts

'Triplettes' transcends atypical fare

"The Triplets of Belleville," a French animated movie, hits screens with its unorthodox style and sense of humor. The film challenges the ideals that are commonly associated with animated films.

The film visually pokes fun at a variety of cultural stereotypes. Paris is portrayed as an expanding metropolis so big that it has expanded to the point that it has swallowed up its rural suburbs, while Belleville is painted as an overwhelming, gaudy city. The citizens of Belleville are obese and the French in the film actually eat frogs.

Once viewers become accustomed to this different animation style, it becomes addictive, particularly because it allows the story to be effectively told without words. While speaking is nearly absent from "The Triplets of Belleville," the emotive animation and music allows the characters to express genuine emotion without dialogue.

The music in "The Triplets of Belleville," which is an eclectic jazz sound that uses found objects like bike wheels and vacuum cleaners, emerges as one of the best aspects of the film. The music is distinctly French, but the film manages to add enough to the songs to make its own distinct sound, musical or not, present throughout the entire film. For example, Madame Souza's every step is marked by her clunky orthopedic shoe, Champion perpetually踏着 his bike and each one of the triplets is constantly tapping out a rhythm on something.

It is rare to find a foreign film sans subtitles, but "The Triplets of Belleville" makes effective use of alternate means of communication. With its blend of jazzy rhythms and an unusual percussion section, the extremely catchy musical number "Belleville Rendez-Vous" is undeniably one of the highlights of the film. It is nearly impossible to get out of your head for days after the film is over.

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Writer and director Sylvain Chomet, who also writes "Belleville Rendez-Vous," clearly had a distinct vision for "The Triplets of Belleville," and the movie refuses to cave into the common ideals that viewers would normally expect from an animated film.

It is a celebration of European style, whether through the use of innovative music or the love and tenacity of a woman for her child. "The Triplets of Belleville" is truly unique and quite unlike any other movie — particularly among modern day animated features — out today and is a must-see for any fan of European cinema, animated or not.

By MOLLY GRIFFIN
Assistant Scene Editor

The Triplets of Belleville
Where: DPAC Browning Cinema
When: Friday and Saturday at 10 p.m.
Tickets: $6, $5 faculty/staff, $4 seniors and $3 for all students

Sound, musical or not, is present throughout the entire film. For example, Madame Souza's every step is marked by her clunky orthopedic shoe, Champion perpetually taps his bike and each one of the triplets is constantly tapping out a rhythm on something.

It is rare to find a foreign film sans subtitles, but "The Triplets of Belleville" makes effective use of alternate means of communication. With its blend of jazzy rhythms and an unusual percussion section, the extremely catchy musical number "Belleville Rendez-Vous" is undeniably one of the highlights of the film. It is nearly impossible to get out of your head for days after the film is over.

Writer and director Sylvain Chomet, who also writes "Belleville Rendez-Vous," clearly had a distinct vision for "The Triplets of Belleville," and the movie refuses to cave into the common ideals that viewers would normally expect from an animated film.

It is a celebration of European style, whether through the use of innovative music or the love and tenacity of a woman for her child. "The Triplets of Belleville" is truly unique and quite unlike any other movie — particularly among modern day animated features — out today and is a must-see for any fan of European cinema, animated or not.

Contact Molly Griffin at mgriffin@nd.edu
Show Review

‘Van Gogh’ paints powerful portrait

By MARTY SCHROEDER
Scene Critic

"Inventing Van Gogh," by Stephen Dietz, is a powerful play that brings characters from different times together for a dynamic inquiry into the human experience. It involves love, obsession, what is meant by the word "art" and, ultimately, what it means to be a human being with something to live for. None of the characters involved are perfect, but they all display their humanity in distinct ways.

This play is about Patrick Stone, a struggling painter in the present day. Viewers learn that he has painted for some time and that his work is good, if not great. Unfortunately, Patrick is now going through the painter's equivalent of writer's block. He is commissioned by the painting authenticator René Bouchard to paint — or forge — the long-lost and only remaining self-portrait of Vincent Van Gogh, from which Bouchard hopes to make a fortune. The play then begins to delve into a series of flashbacks that bring Van Gogh and important figures from his life into Patrick's world.

At this production, directed by Patrick Vassel and Drew McElligott, the script to life very adeptly. The play involves some scenes that take place during Van Gogh's life, some that occur during Stone's life and a few that involve both characters interacting in the same time period. Due to the nature of the play, the action can be hard to follow at some isolated points, but overall this production does a very good job of minimizing any confusion. As the play progresses, the viewer is caught off guard by the fact that Stone re-enters Van Gogh's time period and vice versa. But suspension of disbelief is something that comes naturally with this play due to the excellent acting.

This acting is the heart of the production. Vassel is adept at playing the confused Stone, and Nathaniel Grams is the appropriately arrogant and effete Bouchard. But the play is carried by Drew McElligott as Van Gogh and Matthew Goodrich as Stone's late professor, Dr. Jonas Miller. Goodrich also plays Van Gogh's doctor, Paul Gachet, but is better as the Van Gogh-obsessed Miller. The cast is rounded out with London Vale playing both Miller's daughter and Stone's love interest, Halle Miller and Van Gogh's love interest and Gachet's daughter, Marguerite. Finally, Brandon McGirr is excellent as Van Gogh's arrogant yet insecure mentor, Paul Gaugin.

The play ends quite dramatically, but its real power lies in the middle. In this section, there is much interaction, ranging from Miller and Stone discussing their past, to Dr. Miller's fruitless quest for Van Gogh's last self-portrait, to Gaugin and Stone arguing over what art is and what previous artists are of merit. One particular scene involves Stone, Van Gogh and Gaugin arguing over which artists that came before Van Gogh are noteworthy. The subtext of this scene is how one should live life. The interaction between McElligott, McGirr, and Vassel is one of the strongest aspects of the play.

McElligott, at his most energetic here, walks all over the stage and gives Van Gogh an erratic presence that seems to mirror his painting style. McGirr is also at his strongest. He portrays a very self-assured Gaugin but the script betrays this slightly with some self-doubt. McGirr's delivery combines these two to give his character many levels. Finally, Vassel brings to the stage a confused Stone who is absorbing what these two great artists have to say.

While the end provides the resolution to all the conflict throughout the play, it is this very conflict that arouses the most emotion and gives the most satisfaction to the audience.

The Washington Hall Lab Theater is admirably used as Stone/Van Gogh's studio, which ultimately fuses into one studio they both use. The lighting, designed by Ryan Retarda, has the stage awash in blues, reds and yellows, giving an essence of the colors that become an important part of Van Gogh's character.

While this play is not perfect, it is an excellent, thought-provoking piece of contemporary theater.

Contact Marty Schroeder at
mschroed@nd.edu

Notre Dame's Best... JPW Destinations

BY OBSERVER PHOTO STAFF

The Dome may be golden on the outside, but don't pass on the opportunity to appreciate its inner beauty, too. Beware, though — an ancient tradition forbids all who have not yet graduated from entering by the front stairway.

With its stunning array of sculpture, painting, photography and Indigenous art from around the world, the Snite Museum is the hidden jewel of the south side. Stop in for a journey from the Mesoamerican through the Postmodern.

For next week: Where is the best light on campus? Send your suggestions to obsphoto@nd.edu.

The final destination of any visit to Our Lady's University is Her own Grotto. On a cold night, in the glow of moonbeams, starlight and flickering candles, it's easy to believe in miracles.
OLYMPIC HOCKEY

Switzerland edges record with upset victory

United States, Canada take care of undermatched opponents Thursday with flashy offense and strong goalkeeping

Associated Press

TORINO, Italy David Aebischer got stronger with each period and carried Switzerland to one of its greatest hockey victories, a 3-2 win Thursday over the world champions, Canada.

"It's great for Swiss hockey that we won," said Aebischer, who stopped Jaromir Jagr six times in the second period. "We have to be careful because it's one game."

Men's and Canadians defense­man Mark Streit, who has only one NHL goal this season, gave Switzerland a 1-0 lead in the first period and Thierry Paterlini answered Jagr's goal in the second by getting to his feet after being knocked down to net a short-handed tally midway through the period.

Switzerland earned only one Olympic win in 2002 and hasn't finished higher than fifth since 1992.

USA 4, Kazakhstan 2

It didn't take long for the pressure to ease on the U.S. goalie and his teammates in a victory Thursday night over Kazakhstan.

DiPietro dressed in stars-and­stripes pads and a mask that bears the image of the helicopter his father piloted in the Vietnam War, needed to make only 11 saves in his successful Olympic debut.

"Obviously, you're going to have jitters the first time you play in this event, but at the end of the day, it's still the same game," the New York Islanders goaltender said.

The difference was in the result.

The U.S. (1-0-1) used three first-period goals to move into second place in Group B with six of the final eight penalties in the period and were down two men and a penalty shot in the last 5:44.

Marek Zidlicky tied it at 2 for the Czech Republic (1-1) a minute to be careful, but this was the last goal they'd get.

"I wanted it more," he guessed. "Our veterans are forward Mark Rucinski said.

"Maybe it's a good thing this happened to us. Maybe it will wake us up and give us a warning."

Jagr, who scored the first goal for the Czechs to tie it 2-2 in the second, had several other chances. After going without a shot in the first period, he fired from all over. He was stopped on the very times.

Aebischer's left pad on a drive from the right circle. Set up the penalty with a power play, Jagr fired high out of play.

"I think a couple of times he missed his shot," Aebischer said.

Tomas Vokoun made 16 saves in the loss for Kazakhstan goalie Dominik Hasek and said he didn't feel any added pressure.

"It's good, I just played bad," he said.

A team physical therapist said

Hasek, who has an injured left hamstring, has a 30-40 percent chance of playing again in the Olympics. He will test his sore, stiff leg on Friday.

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USA's Mike Modano celebrates a first period goal against Kazakhstan Thursday. The United States won 4-1 to improve its preliminary round record to 1-0-1.

"It's kind of a miracle," Streit said. "It's our kind of a game."

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NCAA Men's Basketball

Men's College Basketball

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Davis to leave Indiana at season's end

Indiana head basketball coach Mike Davis answers questions at a press conference Thursday. Davis announced that he plans to step down at the end of this season.

Associated Press

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. — Mike Davis' departure from Indiana was as sudden as his ascent to the top of Hoosiers basketball.

Just a couple dozen yards from where he became Bob Knight's successor in 2000, Davis walked into a crowded room and announced he would resign at the end of the season.

He was still wearing a crimson Hoosiers' sweater as he urged fans to unite behind the program.

"Don't be sad for me. Don't be sad for us," Davis said as his wife watched from the side. "This is like the MasterCard commercial. You know, it's priceless what God has given me to be the head basketball coach here."

The embattled heir to one of college basketball's signature programs made his decision public with five games left before the Big Ten tournament. In six seasons, he was 109-76. But Indiana (13-9, 5-6) has been slumping lately. The Hoosiers have lost four straight games and are just 3-7 since a promising 10-2 start that put the team in the top 10.

Indiana president Adam Herbert said he had planned to wait until after the season ended to evaluate whether the 43-year-old Davis would return as coach next year, but Davis wouldn't wait. Herbert said Davis initiated discussions before the Connecticut game on Feb. 4.

They met again afterward and eventually agreed on an $800,000 buyout — a hefty price for an athletics department that has run a multimillion dollar deficit in recent years.

Davis was scheduled to earn about $800,000 with outside income over the final two years of his contract.

At the news conference, Herbert and athletic director Rick Greenspan extolled Davis' successes — becoming the first coach in school history to win 20 games and reach the NCAA tournament in each of his first three seasons, leading the Hoosiers to the national championship game in 2002 and producing one of the nation's finest recruiting classes two years ago.

But fans unrest, unfinished business and inexcusable pressure led to Davis' decision.

In Brief

Gordon is Daytona favorite

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Jeff Gordon thinks it's far too early to label him the Daytona 500 favorite.

But based on his early Speedweeks showings, and an outstanding string of success in the Great American Race, he's the only one who doesn't think he's once again the driver to beat.

Gordon staked his claim Thursday by winning one of the twin qualifying races at Daytona International Speedway that is used to set the field for Sunday's season opener. Elliott Sadler won the first race, which also had strong runs from Dale Earnhardt Jr., Jimmie Johnson and Tony Stewart.

"I don't know how you can just pick one guy, there's strong cars out here," Gordon said. "I felt like (Sadler) was really strong in that first race. I know that Tony and Junior and Jimmie and those guys who weren't in our race are going to be strong."

Steinbrunner speaks out against Baseball Classic

TAMPA, Fla. — George Steinbrenner began spring training in classic Yankee style, saying he was disappointed some of his New York Yankees stars will be leaving camp for the first World Baseball Classic.

Steinbrenner was surrounded by reporters when he finished his lunch at Legends Field on Thursday, the team's reporting date for pitchers and catchers. He gave brief responses to questions, talking about the Yankees and the WBC, which runs from March 3-20. Derek Jeter, Alex Rodriguez and Johnny Damon are on the U.S. roster, and Bernie Williams is on Puerto Rico's preliminary roster.

When baseball owners approved the World Cup in August 2004, the Yankees abstained.

"We don't like it that well," Steinbrenner said. "If a player gets hurt, he's risking a lot. But it was Selig's idea and he wants to do it, so I suppose we're going to do it."

Wilson and Rose lead NCAA Open ahead of Woods

LOS ANGELES — Dean Wilson has seen enough of the big hitters on the PGA Tour to realize there will be tournaments that put him at a disadvantage. The Niswan Open is not one of them.

Wilson navigated his way around Riviera Country Club without a bogey for a 7-under 66, putting him atop the leaderboard with Justin Rose among the early starters on a course that requires more than sheer length.

They were two shots clear of a group that included Fred Couples, who was so sick upon returning from Australia that he stayed in bed Monday and Tuesday, skipped the pro-am Wednesday and felt his hands shaking over his first put, but wound up with a 68, then went back to bed.

Also feeling ill was Tiger Woods, although he had nothing to do with being allergic to Riviera. Woods finished with a 69.
ND Women's Tennis

Undefeated Irish face two ranked opponents

By DAN TAPETILLO
Sports Writer

After coming off a dominating 6-1 win over rival Michigan Tuesday, the No. 12 Irish women's tennis team can be confident as they head into this weekend's matches against two top-30 opponents. On Saturday, the Irish face No. 22 Tennessee, and the competition will only get tougher Sunday with No. 9 Harvard coming to town.

"This weekend is definitely going to be tough," junior Christian Thompson said. "But ever since we beat [then-No. 10] North Carolina, we know we can compete with the best teams in the country."

This season, Tennessee has proven themselves with wins over Purdue and Illinois. However, the Lady Vols are coming off a recent loss to No. 23 Wake Forest, a team the Irish defeated 4-3 last weekend.

"Wake Forest was not an easy team to beat," junior Catrina Thompson said. "So [Tennessee's loss to Wake Forest] does not mean Tennessee is going to be an easy win for us on Saturday."

Heading into this weekend's matchup, Tennessee holds a pair of nationally ranked doubles teams. Playing at No. 1 for the Lady Vols this season is the national No. 28 duo of Blakely Griffith and Bryce Marahle. The second nationally ranked pairing for the Lady Vols is Melissa Schaub and Samantha Orlin, who stand at No. 38 in the country.

But the Irish are the only program in the nation that has three ranked doubles pairings. The No. 1-ranked duo of Christian and Catrina Thompson have led the Irish this season with only one loss to their record. The Thompsons are followed by the No. 35-ranked pairing of sophomore Brook Buck and freshman Kelsey Tefft, who are currently on an eight-match winning streak.

They are followed by the No. 45-ranked seniors Kiki Stastny and captain Lauren Connelly. "Stastny and Connelly have been such a big part of our success this season," Christian Thompson said. "They have a great record in doubles and we wouldn't be so good as we are without them."

Leading the team in singles this weekend are Christian and Catrina Thompson, who both have earned national rankings at Nos. 24 and 44, respectively. Christian Thompson is coming off of a tough win over Michigan's No. 48-ranked Nina Yaffai (6-4, 7-5) last Tuesday.

"The win at Michigan [over Yaffai] was really big," Christian Thompson said. "It was because it took a lot of mental strength for me to pull it out.

In Sunday's match against Harvard, the top-ranked Thompsons will face the challenging No. 6-ranked doubles pairing of Melissa Anderson and Ellie O'Ryan.

"This weekend is definitely going to prove where our team stands against the best in the country," Catrina Thompson said.

Contact Dan Tapetillo at jaspell@nd.edu

NBA

Stern pleased with new attitude

NBA players have cleaned up the league's reputation

Associated Press

HOUSTON — David Stern is happy to be talking basketball as NBA commissioner knows the alternative.

"We haven't had excessive rage toward him because he was calm and seemed to be going to support his wife. "We haven't had excessive flirtatious. These are things that commissioners worry about."

"The year before we went in sort of post-Gamutics and potentially pre-lockout, so there have been issues and there are always issues. The reality is if there's nothing to write about, you guys have to find something to write about anyway."

Following the brawl, Stern made it a point to improve the image of the NBA players. A dress code was introduced this season, mandating that players dress in "business casual" attire when conducting league business. Players sitting on the bench who aren't in uniform are required to wear a sports jacket.

After a few early objections, there has been little criticism of the rule. Even the one big potential headache that brought a reminder of the brawl passed fairly quickly. Antonio Davis was suspended five games for going after the wife of former NHL star Wayne Gretzky was sitting on the bench.

"You have to parse the connections," he said. "And to us the parsing requires you to say that our players shouldn't be engaged in illegal activities and they shouldn't be on basketball games. If they behave there, that's all there is in terms of regulations."

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310 Coleman-Morse

Tuesday, February 21

7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

310 Coleman-Morse

The Standing Committee on Gay and Lesbian Student Needs invites gay, lesbian, bisexual, and questioning students at Notre Dame

Tuesday, February 21

7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

310 Coleman-Morse

Coffee and refreshments will be served

The Standing Committee on Gay and Lesbian Student Needs invites gay, lesbian, bisexual, and questioning students at Notre Dame

Coffee and Conversation

For Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Questioning Students at Notre Dame

Sponsoring organizations include: Student Association of Gay and Lesbian Students, Catholic Campus Ministry, Graduate Student Union, Notre Dame Gay and Lesbian Student Association, University Village, and the Interreligious Student Association.
FENCING

Junior Olympics provide tune-up
Notre Dame sends seven young athletes to compete in Hartford

By JACK THORNTON
Sports Writer

While the Irish are enjoying success as a team, seven members of the squad are competing in the Junior Olympics in Hartford, Conn. this weekend. The competition begins today and continues through Monday.

The women are sending fencers Adrienne Noi and Rachel Gou, as well as epee Kim Montoya and sabre Ashley Serrette. Of the men, foilists Mark Kubik and Alexander Grigorpenko are going along with sabre Tom Horton.

"I'm really excited to go," Serrette said. "For me it just seems really important and special. It's pretty tough competition because you have to compete from each region and others who are just here to experience it."

The Irish contingent will join nearly 2,000 other athletes at the event, split between junior (under-21) and cadet (under-17) divisions. Players could either qualify by winning regional tournaments or by amassing enough points on the national circuit.

"I had to go through qualifiers, and when I qualified through that I got to go," Serrette said. "But there are other people with a high ranking."

Many of Notre Dame's best fencers are ineligible to compete because of the age restrictions in the tournament.

Kubik is competing in his fifth Junior Olympics — he took third place overall as a foilist two years ago.

"I'm coming here to do a little better — hopefully winning," Kubik said.

Competing in the Junior Olympics earns competitors points on the national circuit, a points-based championship series.

Freshman sabre Bill Thanhouser would be competing in the Junior Olympics, but instead is competing at the World Cup in Paris, France this weekend.

"He chose to go to the World Cup because it's more points towards the circuit," Notre Dame coach Janusz Bednarski said.

The team returns to competition as a full squad Feb. 25 with the Midwest Regional Championships at the Joyce Center. Both teams finished the regular season 29-1. The women are currently ranked No. 1 in the nation, while the men are ranked No. 2.

Contact Jack Thornton at jThornton@nd.edu

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TRACK AND FIELD

Irish prepare for Championships

ND looks to cap off a successful winter in Akron this weekend

By JASON GALVIN
Sports Writer

Notre Dame will put its strong record to the test this weekend at the 2006 Big Ten Invitational in Akron, Ohio. The top athletes from the conference will perform at their most competitive meet before the NCAA Championships in March.

The Irish men's and women's teams are looking to shine this Saturday and Sunday.

"I think we can do well and hopefully improve on what we've done," junior sprinter Maryann Ergiba said. "Our conference gets more and more competitive each year, and the high level of the athletes who compete here makes this event something to really look forward to."

Ergiba is off to a strong start with several wins during this season's campaign — two alone coming at last weekend's Windsor Challenge at Ontario, Canada. She will look to improve upon her best times in the 60-meter (7.42), and 200-meter (23.74) sprints.

We have a lot of good competitors and our freshmen have been really impressive this year as well," Ergiba said. "We're looking to perform well in all our events and do our best to win this tournament."

Freshmen jumper Mary Saxer and multi-event specialist Alyssa Hasan have put together solid starts to their careers at Notre Dame. Hasan set a school record for the pentathlon — 3,565 points at the Notre Dame Invitational on Jan. 27 — and Saxer cleared a height of 4.05 meters, setting a new school record in the pole vault. The two are looking to make the final showings and build upon already solid performances this year.

"I just have to keep going up in my heights, qualify for the NCAA Championships and keep getting better," Saxer said. "I'm pretty hopeful about doing well and everyone just wants to do their best and win it." Other athletes, such as senior All-American distance runner Stephanie Mudia, are set to take their performances to the next level.

Mudia finished fourth at the Meyo Invitational in the 3,000-meter run and qualified for the Big East meet with a time of 9:57.47, but she wants to build upon this finish. Mudia will compete in the 5,000 and 3,000 meter runs. And though she also qualified for the mile, she has decided to cut this event from her list.

"I'm not really thrilled with how I did at Meyo, and I haven't sort of a ways to go from my expectations," Mudia said. "Right now, though, it's just a matter of getting into the race and getting it done, and I'm definitely ready for it."

Irish junior All-American Kurt Benninger, who earlier this year kept the Notre Dame Invitational because the first Irish runner to clock a sub-four-minute mile (3:57.40) twice in his career, also will compete for the Irish this weekend.

Contact Jason Galivan at jgalvan@nd.edu

...
Optimism
continued from page 24

Five years ago, the Irish beat Connecticut — twice — the second win coming in the Final Four just two days before the Irish won the 2001 national championship.

Beginning with that victory, the Irish won four out of their next 10 games against the Huskies, becoming a yearly threat on UConn’s schedule. A young rivalry began to bud. On Sunday, Notre Dame again squares off with the Huskies in a must-win game. But this time, the Irish are fighting to salvage their season, struggling to turn around a disappointing stretch in the Big East that has them at 3-7 in conference with losses to mediocre opponents like Seton Hall and Villanova.

"This year I think of it a little bit different — it’s a big game for us," McGraw said. Connecticut, like so often in the past two years, enters the game with an imposing 22-3 record and a No. 3 national ranking.

The Huskies, however, have a lot to lose. "They're fighting for a No. 1 seed in the NCAA Tournament.

"We have the confidence to know that this group, right here, has the ability to beat them," McGraw said. "If you look at the stats of that game, it wasn’t because [former Irish star forward] Jackie Batteast had a great game, so we have confidence".

The stars of that game included Courtney LaVere (14 points) and Charel Allen (11) - both of whom McGraw said she will not start Sunday for strategic reasons.

"I think we need a spark off the bench," McGraw said. "I think that she gives that energy coming in off the bench." McGraw said.

"They’re a really good defensive team, and I think it’s something they don’t get enough credit for," McGraw said. "People overlook that because they score so many points."

That combination of offense and defense has led to sheer dominance of Connecticut’s opponents. The Huskies average scoring 74.9 points per game and giving up just 55.5. The 19.4 average margin of victory is sixth in the nation.

But McGraw said Notre Dame’s win in Storrs, Conn. last year, which snapped Connecticut’s 21-game conference home winning streak, gives the Irish hope heading into the matchup.

"I think we need a spark off the bench. I think that she gives that energy coming in off the bench," McGraw said. "They have a lot of confidence because she knows her team can beat the Huskies. After all, they did it last year.

In the Irish’s 65-59 win in 2005, All-American Jacqueline Batteast shot 3-of-17 from the floor, and senior center Teresa Burton had five points. That day, Notre Dame was led by Courtney LaVere, Megan Duffy and Chara Allen, who had 14, 12, and 11 points, respectively.

All of them were hot that day. And all of them are peakining now. Duffy has been the team’s anchor all season, averaging 15.3 points per game, and at times she has been responsible for keeping the Irish in games.

LaVere has recently rediscorvered her form in the post, scoring in double figures in each of her last four games. Against Villanova on Feb. 7, Allen had 14 points in the second half and almost single-handedly led the team back from a 20-point deficit to send the game to overtime.

"I think we need a spark off the bench," McGraw said. "They’ll be ready to play."

Connecticut is one the best teams in the country, and its national ranking accurately reflects that. But the way McGraw sounds, maybe it won’t be so shocking if the Huskies weren’t ranked No. 3 Monday morning.

Rivals have a way of making those things happen.

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

Contact Eric Better at ericbetter@nd.edu

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Friday, February 24, 2006
Irish travel to Ohio to play Bowling Green in two crucial games

By CHRIS KOREY
Sports Writer

After a crucial sweep of Ferris State last weekend, the Irish will travel to Bowling Green this week in their last two road games of the regular season. The Falcons are 16-3-1 overall, 10-6-1 in the conference, and 36 assists this season, and Jonathan is a top 10 player in the nation. They have two of the best players in the entire conference," Jackson said. "We can't let them get rolling." Notre Dame is coming off its first sweep since its two wins over the Falcons in November, beating the Bulldogs 4-1 and 3-2 in the home contests on Friday and Saturday. Jackson said a large part of the team's success was due to goaltender David Brown and the defense in front of him. "Brown played extremely well," Jackson said. "Ferris' coach complemented our defensive play — that we weren't letting them get many rebounds. Every time David would save a low rebound our backcheckers were cleaning the puck." While scoring — especially shooting in strength situations — has been difficult for the Irish, Jackson said he has seen serious improvement that he expects to continue. "If we get a power play goal a game and a couple of even strength goals a game, the way we've been playing defensively and with our goaltending, it should give us a good chance to win every game," he said. The all-time series between the Falcons and Irish is tied at 34-34-11.

Contact Chris Korie at ckorey@nd.edu

SMC BASKETBALL

Belles focused for difficult finale

Team tries to avenge early season defeat to conference foe Hope

By TIM KAISER
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's will take on Hope College in Holland, Mich. Saturday in the team's last regular-season game. They're coming off a tough loss to Albion on Wednesday night but were able to hold their spot at third in the MIAA standings. The game is more important than ever because the Belles are definitely fired up. Belle sworthy forward Bernadette Broderick said, "We want to win the game, the season and the post season better than we've ever done."

The Belles will still have a chance to win the regular-season title. 35-34-11, the Fighting Dutch end Saturday's Hope finale 23-1 with a perfect 15-0 record in the MIAA. The Belles last played Hope on Nov. 30 and lost in a rout, 77-38. Saint Mary's has improved since then, and Hope is the same dominant squad. 'It's hard to say (where Saint Mary's is compared to Hope) because the beginning of the season is so different, but they're an all-around solid team from the one-to-five positions,' Broderick said. 'I'm not surprised they are still undefeated.'

Senior forward Shelly Bender was less impressive. 'I didn't think they were going to be under-rated,' she said. 'They're good, but not unbeatable.' On Monday night the Belles' perfect MIAA record will affect us at all. The Belles have seen what Hope can do, but after a whole season, they are confident that they can force a different result this time. "We need to play an all around solid game, from a post perspective, point guard, shooting guard," Broderick said. "We're looking to dictate." Berner also thought her team should stick to the game plan that's been driving the winning ways. "We don't need to change, just play like we know how to play," she said. "We can win if we do that. [Hope] was our first home game. Now we're playing for two months, improved, and we know we're going to do well." Despite their struggles last time, the Belles think that a season's experience will make this contest much more competitive. "We are going in with a lot more confidence, more experience, and we've improved so much from November," Broderick said. "Our coach has devised a really really good game plan. We're playing with more confidence, and knowing that it is the last game this regular season, we want to give it all they have; let it on the line, like they do every game. Broder also thought her team would play just as hard in their final regular-season game. "We're just going to go out there and play," she said. "We've been improving every day, and we're planning to play a lot longer. Everyone is just more and more excited, and we're building up to the tournament." Contact Tim Kaiser at tkaiser@nd.edu

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Contact Tim Kaiser at tkaiser@nd.edu

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Hockey

Heat turns up in last road trip of the season

BY JEFF JACKSON
Irish coach

"We can't worry about Bowling Green or the teams that are right in front of us."
Ann Arbor, improving to 6-4 with a great match at home and they certainly impact on their Michigan in the first round of Wednesday's win over Michigan the No. 14 rank, Bayliss still the fall I realized that there will have to pick architecture program. But as architecture out for a fifth-year senior, and those players happening for quite a while," Hiben said. "During the spring break, I cradled our fan. After all, it's impossible to do both. So I'm going to leave the team. I realized that this would have to happen.

Senior Anthony Fasano decided to forgo his final year of eligibility to enter the NFL Draft, leaving junior John Carlson as the probable starter and senior Marcus Freeman as the only other returning scholarship tight end.

Freeman's status is unclear because he would be a fifth-year senior, and those players coming back for a fifth-year have not been announced. Hiben's departure opens the door for highly touted signee Konrad Reuland, who was a first-team USA Today All-American out of San Capistrano, Calif.

Hiben said he spoke with director of personnel development Ron Pouwls throughout the process, and Pouwls told him that if architecture was the best choice for him, he should pursue it. Hiben also said that although Weis was surprised when he informed him of his final decision, he is leaving the team on amiable terms.

"I think [Weis] was surprised — he wanted me to stay," Hiben said. "He was telling me he wanted me to think about it, that hopefully we can work something out. However, the reality is that you do have to choose either architecture or football... It was very pleasant when I left the team, which was a relief. It was my decision, and I think people will respect that.

Since he is leaving the team, Hiben will no longer attend Notre Dame on a football scholarship. But he said he has been working with the Office of Financial Aid to ensure he can stay at Notre Dame.

"The scholarship will be cut off in a few days," said Hiben, who said that after talking to Pouwls he almost immediately went to Financial Aid to get things squared away. "That's one of the big things that my family's been aware of. We were prepared for that to happen.

Hiben, who was also a track and field standout in high school by setting school records in the hurdles and shot put, said he has not ruled out competing for the Irish track and field team at some point. But he emphasized that if it happened, it would occur in the future. For now, he's focused on the major that took him away from football.

"The reason for leaving the team is so that I can excel at architecture," Hiben said. "So I have to make sure I adapt to life without football, that school is going great for me and after that I will definitely talk to the track coach. I'm not sure if that will be this spring or next year when I return from Rome, but that's definitely in my future.

"I'm in the best shape of my life — how can I stop competing all together? So that's something to look forward to."

Contact Heather Van Hoogarden at hvanhoeg@nd.edu

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Michigan continued from page 24

The Irish prepared for a tough match, knowing that any team playing a national rival like Michigan would have to battle for every point.

"We had the upper hand of late, I remembered that they were very capable of playing a great match at home and they certainly did," Bayliss said. The Irish fell 4-3 in a match that had a severe negative impact on their NCAA Tournament seeding, dropping the team to the lower part of the top-10.

Although the Irish would beat Michigan in the first round of that year's NCAA Tournament at the No. 14 rank, Bayliss still remembers that crushing loss.

"I've got a lot of memories of going to Ann Arbor," he said. The Irish return to the scene of those memories tomorrow, taking on the Wolverines in an evening match in Michigan to continue the streak of Big 10 teams in the schedule. After a loss to Illinois on Feb. 7, the Irish have posted dominant wins over Northwestern, Purdue, Wisconsin, and Michigan State. They play Ohio State at home on Feb. 24 and travel to Indiana on March 2.

"I want to play the better teams in the Big 10 early," Bayliss said. "I want to play the very best teams in the country.

Bayliss said the team's almost-uninterrupted stretch of Big 10 teams from January through the beginning of March is the result of scheduling around mid-semesters.

"The Big 10, of course, has mandatory round robin scheduling that begins in late March and goes through late April," Bayliss said. "Because of our spring break and most other schools' spring breaks taking up two weeks in March... those dates are usually not available.

The Irish are riding a four-match winning streak going into Ann Arbor, improving to 6-4 with Wednesday's win over Michigan State. Notre Dame's doubles teams have been playing particularly well, as they have won the point in each of the past four wins.

In singles, Stephen Blass and Sheeva Parbhu have alternated in the top two spots of the lineup. Ryan Keckley, Barry King and Brett Holgerson have been consistent in the third-through-fifth positions, and Eric Langenkamp, Irackli Akhvlediani, Patrick Buchanan and Andrew Roth have also seen time in singles.

The team will be forced to focus in Ann Arbor to beat 5-2 Michigan.

"They fill their place up and have a pretty raucous crowd," Bayliss said. "Hopefully we can compete as we have this year."
Welcomes

JON M. HUNTSMAN

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“It seems like our offense is a little stagnant at times, and we've got to do a better job of getting guys the ball in the right spots.”

Chris Quinn

Irish guard

“Juggling those roles is tough,” Quinn said after Wednesday's 62-55 win over Seton Hall. “We need to be aware of different players the other team has.”

Coach Mike Brey said follow­ing Tuesday, “We're tough kids.”

Irish forwards Torin Francis, Rick Cormett and Bob Kurz to combat the physical Pirates frontcourt, though Notre Dame knows it is just as important to improve on offense from the 12-tourney, 11-assist performance against South Florida.

“It comes out of moving the ball better,” Quinn said of taking care of the ball. “It seems like our offense is a little stag­nant at times, and we've got to do a better job of getting guys the ball in the right spots.”

Brey's Irish will need to maintain their three-game home stretch of their own.

“Seton Hall is resilient as heck, obviously,” Notre Dame coach Mike Brey said follow­ing Wednesday's 62-55 win over South Florida. “They get smoked by Connecticut, and they come right back and beat West Virginia. And West Virginia couldn't get a shot off. I mean you saw it — they just smother you.”

Seton Hall, under fifth-year coach Lois Orr, actually aver­ages fewer points scored (71.3) than points allowed (72.9) in Big East play. The Pirates also lost three of their first four conference games — to Notre Dame.

But Seton Hall rattled off five straight wins up to its loss to Connecticut. The Pirates are No. 6 in the Big East, and their frontcourt has been dominant recently.

Forwards Grant Billmeier, Brian Lang and Kelly Whitney combined to score 50 points on 18-of-28 shooting against the Mountaineers. That perform­ance has Brey comparing this Seton Hall team to a familiar opponent from the past.

Brian Lang and Kelly Whitney

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Brian Lang and Kelly Whitney
FOOTBALL
Irish tight end Hiben leaves team in favor of architecture

Freshman prioritizes academic goals ahead of football ambitions

By HEATHER VAN HOEGARDEN
Sports Writer

Joey Hiben knew he had to make a choice—three hours of football practice every day or architecture at the University. "It came down to architecture (being) more important than football to me," Hiben told The Observer from his dorm room Thursday.

A University spokesman said Irish head coach Charlie Weis would have no comment on the matter. Architecture majors at Notre Dame are required to study in Rome during their third year of the five-year program. Hiben said the foreign study requirement was not the deciding factor in his decision to eliminate football in favor of a major in architecture, because he could have made that a redshirt year anyway.

He said instead that the conflict of mandatory studio and football practice in the fall forced him to make a decision. And he chose the major that had always caught his interest. "It basically boils down to the time constraints of architecture," Hiben said. "Ever since I was 12 years old, I [have been] very interested in architecture." Hiben, a Chaska, Minn., native, said one of the reasons he chose Notre Dame after originally committing to Purdue during recruitment was its architecture program.

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Hustlin' the Huskies

Irish look to upset No. 6 Connecticut this weekend

By KEN FOWLER
Sports Writer

It's the kind of game that can define a season. Coming off a 79-50 drubbing at the hands of DePaul, the Irish (14-9, 5-7 Big East) host No. 6 Connecticut (23-3, 11-1) Sunday at 7 p.m. in the Joyce Center in a matchup of conference rivals heading in opposite directions. Notre Dame has struggled all season, playing inconsistent offense and defense and rarely winning the battle on the boards. But the team is looking forward to the game with Connecticut.

"We had one of the best practices of the year yesterday. At this point of the year, some teams have quit," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said. "But we have battled ... and I think that shows a lot about the character of this team." The Irish want to rebound after their 29-point loss Feb. 12 and improve their record to 7-4 in Big East play against a team that has battled through the league's image.

Irish guard Charel Allen drives left during Notre Dame's 69-65 overtime loss to Villanova Feb. 7. The Irish host No. 6 Connecticut Sunday at 7 p.m. see HUSKIES/page 18

ND faces familiar foe in unfamiliar circumstances

Five years ago, it wasn't a rivalry. Five years ago, Notre Dame had never beaten Connecticut, one of the standard bearers of women's basketball over the last decade. Back then, Irish head coach Muffet McGraw announced that Notre Dame was a national power, the UConn matchup a must-win game — the cover charge to get into the elite door of NCAA women's hoops.

Irish guard Russell Carter aims for the hoop Wednesday during Notre Dame's 62-55 win over South Florida at the Joyce Center.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

It's no easy walk down the Hall

By PAT LEONARD
Sports Writer

No. 1 Connecticut waits on the horizon. The Huskies (22-2, 9-2 Big East) are virtually unbeatable at home, and Notre Dame (12-10, 3-8) needs every win it can get to qualify for postseason eligibility.

If only the Irish had the luxury of preparing for the Huskies this early. A date with Seton Hall (16-7, 7-4) stands in the way. And the Pirates host the Irish at 7 p.m.

Irish guard Michael Chase drives to the basket during Notre Dame's 62-55 win over South Florida at the Joyce Center.

Men's Tennis

Maize and blue set to show ND's true colors

By KATE GALES
Associate Sports Editor

Notre Dame travels to Michigan tomorrow at 6 p.m., nearly four years after the Wolverines pulled a stunning upset of the Irish in a match at the William Clay Ford tennis facility.

Not a single player from that match remains on either team, but tennis coaches have long memories. It was March 2002, and the Irish were No. 4 in the national team rankings. The team was traveling to Ann Arbor to play the Wolverines, barely in the national top-50.

"We had just moved up to No. 4 in the rankings, which is the highest we'd been in a while," Irish coach Bobby Bayliss said. "Michigan had beaten us there two years prior [in 2000] with pretty much the same team. These guys knew each other pretty well." see MICHIGAN/page 20

SMC BASKETBALL

Saint Mary's at Hope

The Belles take on a league powerhouse in the regular-season finale.

HOCKEY

Notre Dame at Bowling Green

The Irish have two crucial games against a conference foe.

ND WOMEN'S TENNIS

The squad faces No. 22 Tennessee Saturday and No. 9 Harvard Sunday at the Eck Tennis Pavilion.

NBA

In an interview with the Associated Press, Commissioner David Stern said he is happy with the league's image.

NCAA BASKETBALL

After weeks of rumors, Indiana coach Mike Davis announced he will resign at the end of the season.

OLYMPICS

United States 4 Kazakhstan 1

The Americans got back on track a day after tying Latvia in hockey.