Dunn named to University post

Rector replaces Gude in Student Affairs

By KATHYLYNN RIELY
News Writer

Lyons Hall rector Sister Susan Dunn has been appointed Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs, University officials announced Monday. Dunn will begin performing the duties of her new position July 1 — replacing Sister Mary Louise Gude, who will retire at the end of the spring semester.

Dunn will work under Vice President for Student Affairs Father Mark Poorman and supervise the University’s housing, counseling and career centers. Poorman said Monday that he approached Dunn for Gude’s replacement was “fairly straightforward.”

Dunn quickly emerged as the preferred candidate.

“She is a splendid leader, a treasured colleague throughout the Student Affairs office,” Poorman said. “She is dedicated to the dual mission of the University, academic inquiry and personal formation.”

Gude, who has worked at the University for 23 years, said she is confident Dunn has the experience to thrive in her new position.

“She has an extensive and varied background in student affairs,” Gude said. “She’s been here long enough that she really knows Notre Dame.”

Both Gude and Dunn are involved with the University Standing Committee on Gay and Lesbian Student Needs — Gude as a committee member.

“Dunn will make her own way and figure out what she wants to do as her own person,” Gude said. “Given her experience, I think she’s a very strong person. She has her own ideas about things.”

Dunn said she is eager to begin working with Poorman and the other members of the senior staff.

“I was honored and humbled to accept the position,” Dunn said. “The hardest part is having to leave Lyons Hall.”

Dunn has served as rector of Lyons Hall for five years. She works part-time at the Center for Social Concerns.

Mooney delivers promising SMC update

College president says Saint Mary’s is ‘more relevant than ever’

By MEGAN O’NEIL
News Editor

Citing strong leadership development, increased application numbers and a commitment to diversity, Saint Mary’s President Carol Mooney gave a largely upbeat progress report of the first two days during a press luncheon in the President’s Dining Room of the Student Center.

After assuming the presidency at Saint Mary’s in June 2004, Mooney said Monday, she realized the wider community was largely unaware of the academic and personal success of Saint Mary’s students. Occasionally she must answer the frequently posed question of whether a woman’s college remains relevant.

“My answer, of course, is absolutely,” Mooney said. “I believe we are more relevant than ever.”

The College is particularly strong in the sciences, Mooney said. Saint Mary’s graduates have performed so well in medical school in recent years, she said, the College now receives requests for applicants from outside programs.

“We expect a lot from our students,” Mooney said. “We don’t coddle them. Their academic experience is rigorous.”

Mooney said her 1972 class included many women who went on to exceptional careers. She attributed her own success to her experience at a women’s college, saying “not only was I prepared [for life after college], I was super-prepared.”

“Can you in the leadership skills that got you to where I today learned as in student government?”

Mooney/February 21, 2006

College town goal discussed

By KAREN LANGLEY
Assistant News Editor

In a few years, Notre Dame might be known not just as a university famous for its athletes, academics and Catholicism, but also as one with a great college town.

At least that’s what student leaders suggested as they brainstormed ideas for the University’s plan to construct a new development with a college-town atmosphere south of campus at Monday’s Council of Representatives meeting.

Construction could start across Angela Boulevard as early as this summer, though students will not see full development for another two to three years, student body vice president Liz Shappell said.

Student government intends to participate in the project by helping to conduct market research to determine what types of eateries, retail establishments and other venues should be present in an off-campus center.

“We want to know what would make [the area] whole and viable for students and community members,” junior student body president Dave Baron said.

Shappell said while the University owns the land in question, the developer — who will receive the data collected by student government — is in

Wait-listed study abroad hopefuls find process confusing

By KAREN LANGLEY
Assistant News Editor

Sophomore Paula Kim was surprised when she was wait-listed a week-and-a-half ago for the second of two international studies programs. She also realized for the first time how confusing the application process seemed.

Kim’s concerns at being placed on the wait lists for the Trinity College Dublin program (in which she has been two students in January) and the program in Toledo, Ohio, concern that of numerous students who remain unsure about the Office of International Studies’ selection process — and the meaning of being placed on a wait-list.

“The way Notre Dame describes the application process, they want every student who is qualified to go,” Kim said. “I never really got the sense that applying to study abroad programs [was] so competitive.”

Claudia Kielman, director of the Office of International Studies, described the process as extremely competitive — a feature that limits some qualified applicants from participating in a program.

“We have an incredible number of excellent applicants,” Kielman said. “We just don’t have room for them. We’d love to take more students.”

Kielman said the Office of International Studies is unable to increase the number of students who can participate due to “natural limitations abroad in terms of accommodations.”

Up until now, Kielman said, students have only been considered for their first-choice programs. Kim claims this fact is unclear to many students.

“That’s an ambiguity,” she said. “I don’t know whether my being wait-listed at Trinity affected my being wait-listed at Toledo. Nobody knows exactly.”

Wait-listed candidates are seen as “eligible to participate, but not as strong overall as the students who were accepted,” Kielman said.

Though the majority of applicants who were not accepted were placed on wait-lists, some students were rejected outright if the selection committee deemed them不合格.

Joseph Stangel, associate director of the London Program, said no students have

Waitlisted study abroad hopefuls find process confusing

The Observer

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The Observer/February 21, 2006

Notre Dame sophomore Nick Chambers reads his study abroad acceptance letter last week.

The Observer/February 21, 2006

Notre Dame sophomore Nick Chambers reads his study abroad acceptance letter last week.
INSIDE COLUMN

JPW joys

When do parents stop being the enemy and start to become friends? Maybe it's the fact that I don't live at home for nine months out of the year. Maybe it's that it has something to do with the fact that we talk on the phone everyday, or that I'm just getting older. Maybe my stories of Notre Dame bring back my parents' memories of their time here.

Or, as one friend put it, it's when you stop fighting with your parents, and start planning events to drink with them.

Whatever it is, JPW marked a change in my relationship with my parents. There is really nothing like introducing your friends to your life in college. It's not a hectic football weekend, with the band playing at every turn and NISP roaming the parking lots around the stadium armed with breathalyzers. It's not a woopy Freshman goodbye or a frantic end-of-the-semester packing debacle.

In addition to meeting my friends, my parents also had the opportunity to interact with the parents of my friends. Some were familiar faces from tailgating the last few years, some were total strangers. Thrown together at a Saturday night party with nothing in common but tuition bills, my parents made conversation about everything from trips to Spain to trips to Mitchell, South Dakota. They cut moves on the dance floor, made friends with my friends.

It felt a lot like August 4th.

For the first time, I had a weekend with nothing to do but enjoy the company of my friends. It was a lot like other times here with my friends. But instead of a circle of friends dancing to "I'm Just a Princess," it was my dad. Instead of running to Delloittos in the clothes I slept in the night before, my parents accompanied me to meetings with my professors. Replacing Fajita Friday at 3011 with a bouquet for 1,000 other juniors on the ice rink, and you have the Saturday night dinner.

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But it's also what friends are for. And it only turns on it when it wants to.

Chris Morrisey peers down at a demonstration for Peace Week in front of O'Shaughnessy Hall Monday. Each boot represents an American soldier in the National Guard who has died in the war in Iraq.

OFFBEAT

Girl's prosthetic legs stolen for second time

LOS ANGELES — For the second time in three months, a 16-year-old California girl lost a leg in an accident has had her artificial limbs stolen.

Mollisa Huff, an Arcadia High School student who uses a $16,000 prosthetic limb to play softball for the school team and another one, valued at $12,000, for everyday use, said both were taken from her bedroom Tuesday.

"I was picking up my little brother from school when my mom called me and asked where I left the two prosthetic legs," Huff, who lives in the Lavagna sub­urb of Templo City, told Reuters in an interview. "I knew right then that it had happened again."

Lisa Huff, her mother, said she came home midday on Tuesday and found the room shared by Mollisa and her older sister a mess. Only the prosthetic limbs were missing.

Striping away the mystery

AMSTERDAM — Amsterdam's famed red light district held its first ever "open day" Saturday as its peep-shows and strip clubs gave crowds of wide-eyed visitors free entry to help shed the area's increasingly negative reputation.

Armed with a list of 25 establishments opening their doors and flinging back their red curtains, hundreds of tourists and locals seized the opportunity to see a prostitute's bedroom, watch a free live peep-show or chat to a lap dancer.

The "Around the World Film Festival" will take place at 7 p.m. Wednesday in Vander Vennet Theater in the Saint Mary's Student Center.

Wasted and Wounded II, a tutorial on Internet predators, will take place at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday in O'Laughlin Auditorium.

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

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

Contact Kate Gales at kgales@nd.edu

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

IN BRIEF

The Faculty Forum "Engaging The Merchant of Venice: Academic Freedom and Anti-Semitism" will take place today at 5 p.m. in the Phibin Theater in the DeBartolo Center for Performing Arts.

Debbie Johnson Schibert, Chair of the Saint Mary's Board of Trustees, will speak as part of the "After Graduation: Your Saint Mary's Degree" at 6 p.m. Wednesday in the west wing of The Noble Family Dining Hall.

The "Around the World Film Festival" will take place at 7 p.m. Wednesday in Vander Vennet Theater in the Saint Mary's Student Center.

Bishop Thomas J. Gumblet of Detroit will speak at 7:30 p.m. Thursday in the Carney Auditorium in the Hesburgh Library as part of the Catholic Think Tank lecture series.

Gabriel Meyer, author of "War and Faith in Saddam," will give a lecture at 7:30 p.m. Thursday in room 131 of Delloittos Hall.

To submit information to be included in this section of The Observer, e-mail detailed information about the event to obnews@nd.edu
Group approves funds for chemistry club’s trip

By LIZ HARTER
News Writer

Saint Mary’s Board of Governance (BOG) officers approved a $1,500 co-sponsorship for the Saint Mary’s Affiliates of the American Chemical Society (SMACS) at their meeting Monday night. The funding will help finance the chemistry club’s spring trip to an Atlanta-based science conference, executive treasurer Jillian Waters said. The co-sponsorship had already been approved by the Student Academic Council and needed the approval of BOG.

“BOG is not the only place they are asking for money,” Waters said. “But it is probably going to be a costly trip for them.”

In addition to fundraising, the Saint Mary’s chemistry department has already agreed to pay for the group’s airline tickets. However, if BOG approves the SMAACS co-sponsorship, the department would like to be reimbursed, Waters said.

Junior class president Illeidi Geepinger questioned how sending just a few students to the conference would benefit the campus as a whole.

Residence Hall Association president Jackie Wright voiced similar concerns.

“I personally feel this is quite a bit of money if it is only going to benefit seniors and their senior compositions,” Wright said.

The Board had the opportunity to reduce the co-sponsorship by half, but chief of staff Monica Lindblom said the conference is credible and the College received a formal invitation to attend it.

Other Board members added that since chemistry is a male-dominated field, it would reflect poorly on the College to send a delegation to the event.

“The least we can give them is $750,” student body president Kellye Mitros said. “Or we can give them up to $1,500.”

Health and wellness commissioner Meghan Lambourne moved to approve the $1,500 request, and the motion was approved.

In Other BOG News:
• Elections commissioner Danielle Lerner announced that campaigning for class elections begins this week.
• McKayla Hensel and Junior Class President Illeidi Geepinger discussed co-sponsorship for the Saint Mary’s Affiliates of the American Chemical Society on Monday.

Dunn continued from page 1

and is a rector representative in the Campus Life Council. She was uncertain about whether she would continue her involvement in these organizations once she takes on her new responsibilities.

Becky Lyman, an assistant rector in Lyons Hall, said she was sad to see Dunn leave the dorm but is equally convinced that Dunn will succeed in her new job.

“I’m thrilled for her,” Lyman said. “I couldn’t think of a better person. She’ll be amazing, as she has been here.”

Dunn has previous experience working at the administrative level.

She was the assistant dean of student affairs at St. Thomas Aquinas College in Sparkill, N.Y., before she came to Notre Dame in 2001.

Maddie Illano and Mary Kate Malone contributed to this report.

Contact Kaidynn Riely at kriely@nd.edu

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Abroad

dliamentary. Erin Mulholland said the process of gathering student opinions should focus on current freshmen and sophomores.

"I think it's important to include in focus groups younger students who would be around when changes are made," Mulholland said.

Kough senator Rob Lindley Jr. noted that a nearby development could increase already-growing 
dent use of Transpo, the local public transportation system.

"The relationship - we've built with Transpo, that's something we have to take advantage of," Lindley said.

"Now if you have an attraction like college town as somewhere to go, that's even more of an incentive to use it." Baron noted that before the Transpo agreement, Notre Dame students made up two percent of total Transpo riders in the city. Now, they comprise five percent of riders.

Shappell said student research will continue with focus groups and both qualitative and quantitative web-based research.

"We want something neighborhood-focused, like a sports bar, retail, clothing shops, restaurants and coffee shops," Shappell said. "We want to open it up for suggestions."

Club Coordination Council President Beth O'Shaughnessy asked about the intended atmosphere of the future development.

"Would it be something quaint, with coffee shops and little stores, or big name stores?" O'Shaughnessy said.

Since the development will not be completed for a few years, sophomore class president Lizzi Shappell said student body vice president

\[ \text{Contact Karen Langley at klanglel@nd.edu} \]

Challenges of choosing how to use the property.

The market research will focus on topics such as the types of stores students frequent and their current shopping habits.

"For example, if students shop at J. Crew online, will they stop and shop at a J. Crew store if it opens south of campus?" Shappell said.

Shappell shared some suggestions about establishments in the development and inquired about representatives' thoughts.

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\[ \text{Contact Karen Langley at klanglel@nd.edu} \]
**INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

Militants act, cut daily oil output

LAGON, Nigeria — Militants holding nine foreign students hostage launched attacks Monday on a pipeline and a boat in Nigeria's swampy delta region, vows to spread their campaign across the petroleum-rich south from where most of the African oil giant's crude is produced.

Attacks on oil installations in recent days by the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta have now cut about 20 percent of daily oil output in Nigeria, an OPEC member and Africa's leading producer of crude.

The latest violence didn't cause further production cuts but helped send oil prices higher.

Leaders discuss future of Kosovo

VIENNA, Austria — Serbs and ethnic Albanians trying to resolve one of the toughest disputes that faced the Balkan states of the 1990s met Monday to discuss whether Kosovo should be independent or remain part of Serbia-Montenegro.

A spokeswoman for the chief U.N. mediator described Tuesday's meeting as "very constructive." She said, "The whole meeting was very constructive." She also said the U.N. mediator, clickable, held high-level talks with Kosovo's government and ethnic Albanian leaders on Monday.

**National News**

Officials investigate church fires

GLENCOE, Ala. — A suspicious fire did minor damage to the exterior of a small church, but authorities said Monday it doesn't appear to be linked to a string of suspected arson cases that have damaged or destroyed 10 rural churches in Alabama.

The regional director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, Jim Cavanaugh, said investigators believe the fires were set by people with "a motive.

Johnny Chambers, acting chief of the Glennville Police Department, said members of the joint federal-state task force investigating the cases were asked to review the fires after a nearby fire occurred early Sunday at Chapman's Chapel.

Rice discusses Palestinian finances

WASHINGTON — Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice talked Monday with otherwould-be-Mideast peace negotiators about the financial situation of the Palestinian territories after the Israeli Cabinet halted the transfer of hundreds of millions of dollars in tax money to Palestinians.

Later in the day, Rice was traveling to the Midwest in an effort to solidify Arab allies in Egypt and Saudi Arabia to send Hamass a message to moderate its views and to seek unity against helping fund the militant Islamic Palestinian leadership if it does not.

**LOCAL NEWS**

New proposal pushesgraduation

INDIANAPOLIS — Lawmakers are considering a proposal that would make it more difficult for some students to drop out of high school — a legislative effort to help boost Indiana's graduation rate.

The bill would allow students between ages 16 and 18 who have completed only a year of high school to drop out only if they have a financial hardship, health reason or a court order permitting them to quit school. Currently, students between ages 16 and 18 can drop out for any reason with the consent of a parent and school principal.

**Bush proposes new energy plan**

President optimistic technological advances will lessen dependence on foreign oil

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Saying the nation is on the brink of technological breakthroughs that would "startle" most Americans, President Bush on Monday outlined his energy proposals to help wean the country off foreign oil.

"It creates a national security issue and we're held hostage by foreign nations that may not like us," Bush said.

Bush is focusing on energy as a time when Americans are paying high power bills to heat their homes this winter and have only recently seen a decrease in gasoline prices.

One of Bush's proposals would expand research on a coal-based auto-parts supplier Johnson Controls Inc.

During his trip, Bush is also focusing on a proposal to increase investment in hydrogen-powered electric vehicle power sources, and proposals to speed the development of biofuels such as "cellulosic" ethanol made from plant or agricultural waste.

Energy conservation groups and environmentalists say they're pleased with the president's move.

Alaska's governor, in the city of Anchorage, said: "I think the president's proposal is in the right direction.

The department "has informed that the NREL lab director will use these funds to immediate-ly restore all of the jobs that were cut earlier this month due to budget shortfalls," the department said in a statement Monday.

"Our nation is on the threshold of new energy technology that I think will startle the American people," Bush said.

"We're on the edge of some amazing breakthroughs," breakthroughs all aimed at enhancing our national security and our economic security and the quality of life of the folks who live here in the United States.

Monday, Bush visited the United Solar Ovonic Plant, which makes solar panels, in Auburn Hills, Mich., outside Detroit. "This technology right here is going to help us change the way we live in our homes," Bush told reporters.

**Haiti**

Top election officialflees country

Associated Press

PORT- AU-PRINCE — The head of Haiti's transitional government fled the coun-

ty after opponents threatened his life and burned down his farmhouse near the capital.

Jaquez, who was ordered three months ago to bring order to a council that was plagued by organizational problems and inflighting, left Sunday and may have traveled to Miami, said Michel Brunache, chief of staff for interim President Boniface Alexandre.

On Friday, Bernard had reported receiving threats and requested more security amid allegations about the vote count from the Feb. 7, elections, which returned former President Rene Preval to the office, Brunache said.

"He said he was afraid for himself and his family and said he wanted more security," Brunache told The Associated Press. "I was shocked when I heard he had left."

The U.N. peacekeeping mission in Haiti said it didn't know Bernard's whereabouts.

Bernard had kept a low profile since the nine-member court declared Preval the president on Thursday, eight days after the long-awaited vote. Preval, who received four times as many votes as his nearest rival, was declared the victor as the electoral council agreed to divide 8,500 blank ballots among the 33 candidates proportionally according to the votes they had received. That gave Preval the 51 percent he needed to avoid a runoff.

**OIL SHORTAGES**

U.S. President George W. Bush presented his energy proposals Monday at Johnson Controls, Inc. in Milwaukee, Wis. Bush said the country needs to invest in alternate forms of energy.
Mooney

continued from page 1

at Saint Mary's."
Mooney said. Saint Mary's also has the most graduates from any women's college (four) in the House of Representatives, though most would guess Massachusetts institutions Wellesley College or Smith College held the distinction.

Application numbers for next fall are strong, Mooney said. The College has received 22 percent more applications than last year, the most at Saint Mary's in 17 years. "We've adopted some different tactics in the admissions office [like the use of the Common Application for our applicants] that I think have been successful for us," Mooney said.

The College's endowment fund also has risen, albeit slightly. When Mooney took office 18 months ago, the endowment stood at roughly $101 million and she publicly stated it was one of her top priorities to double it. As of Monday, Mooney said, the total was $107.5 million.

In an effort to diversify the College's faculty and staff, Mooney said she implemented a policy that requires a member of a historically under-represented ethnic group be among the final pool of candidates for any position at the College. If there is no such candidate, Mooney said, there must be documentation as to why not.

The Saint Mary's Board of Trustees is also taking progressive steps to include alumnae of color, traditionally absent, among its ranks, Mooney said.

The challenge now, Mooney said, is to open the College to the larger community and publicize its students' accomplishments. Campus facilities are already being used for non-college sponsored events, Mooney said, and she hopes that will increase.

"I think the misconception that I would like to correct is that the community is not welcome on campus," Mooney said.

Mooney said big campus events, especially those sponsored by the Center for Women in Intercultural Leadership, generally have received appropriate attention from local media outlets.

"I think our newspaper coverage has actually been quite good," Mooney said. "We have realized in some sense we aren't always the biggest story in town because we were not the biggest school in town."

College spokeswoman Melanie McDonald added that although journalists don't always have the time to do the research on certain types of stories, she would like to see coverage that is less event-driven.

"I think that it would be great to expand Saint Mary's [coverage] beyond events and who we are and what we are," McDonald said.

Responding to a question about "The Vagina Monologues" and academic freedom in light of the controversy at Notre Dame, Mooney clarified that the play has never been banned at Saint Mary's. Mooney attended "The SMC Monologues," skits written and performed by members of the College community, during the weekend and said silencing students would not be appropriate action to take at Saint Mary's. "I believe ['The SMC Monologues'] are extremely powerful simply because they are our own stories," Mooney said. "I think they are more powerful than [telling the words of other women]."

One of the biggest events for the College in the upcoming year will be a groundbreaking on the new academic building, Mooney said. The unnamed building will be located on the far northeast corner of campus and serve as the primary academic facility on campus. Although fundraising has not been completed, the start date has tentatively been set for fall of 2006. Two searches are currently underway to replace outgoing Vice President and Dean of Faculty Pat White and outgoing Vice President for Student Affairs Linda Timm, Mooney said.

"We expect a lot from our students. We don't coddle them."
Carol Mooney
Saint Mary's president

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RadioShack president resigns

Edmondson steps down amid accusations of multiple resume fabrications

RadioShack CEO and president David Edmondson, shown here at the company's head­quarters in Texas, resigned Monday after facing accusations that he lied on his resume. That investigation won't continue since Edmondson quit, the company said. Edmondson, 46, joined RadioShack in 1994 and had been CEO since May 1998. He had claimed that he received degrees in theology and psychology from Pacific Coast Baptist College in California, which moved in 1998 to Oklahoma and renamed itself Heartland Baptist Bible College.

The school’s registrar told The Star-Telegram that records showed Edmondson completed only two semesters and that the school never offered degrees in psychology. The school official declined to comment to The Associated Press.

Edmondson was out by Wednesday he believes that he received a theology diploma called a ThD, but not the four-year bachelor of science degree listed on his resume. He could not document the TThD diploma.

Roberts said company background checks did not include academic verification in 1994 as it does today.

Roberts said Edmondson’s severance package will be less than $1 million in a cash pay­out, but said more details will be released Tuesday in a regulatory filing.

The move did not surp­rise Stacey Witzlitz, anal­yst for Furlan Global Partners LLC, though she didn’t think the change would come on a public holiday, as it did, when finan­cial markets were closed.

If you think about his tenure, it’s not as if he led a turnaround of this company, she said. “That being said, it would be diffic­ult for the board, con­sider­ing the things that have come out, to find a reason to keep him.”

The company has since removed biographical sketches of its executives, including Bahrowksi, and replaced it with the fol­lowing statement: “We are currently updating and validating all of the biog­raphical information for each of our senior exec­utives.”

Governor presents housing plan

Lake Charles, La. - Gov. Kathleen Blanco outlined a $7.5 billion rebuild­ ing, relief and buyout plan Monday for thousands of residents whose homes were lost or damaged after last year’s hurricanes.

It is Louisiana’s first comprehensive housing assistance proposal since Hurricane Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast in August and allowed a month later by Hurricane Rita.

“In the not too distant future, I pre­dict the sounds of hammers and saws will be ringing through all of our com­munities as our homes are being rebuilt,” Blanco said.

Assistant would be capped at a maximum $150,000 per homeowner under the proposal. But direct relief is still months away, and homeowners receiving the aid could be taking on more debt to rebuild.

The draft faces scrutiny from local officials, state lawmakers and the affected residents, and it depends in large part on federal dollars awaiting congressional approval.

But the plan represents a significant step in using billions of already avail­able federal recovery dollars.

About $4.2 billion of the money pro­posed for the program has been recom­mended by the White House but hasn’t yet been approved by Congress. Plans for spending the federal aid that Louisiana already has received — and any additional housing money appro­priated by Congress — would require approval from the Legislature and fed­eral officials.

An estimated 128,000 owner-occup­ied homes had major damage by the storms and 210,000 more received minor damage, according to Blanco’s Louisiana Recovery Authority, which heard the proposal at its meeting in Lake Charles, a southwest Louisiana town that was heavily damaged by Rita.

The Blanco administration plan would provide money to repair or rebuild damaged homes and to relocate people who want to build elsewhere in Louisiana. For those who don’t want to relocate or rebuild in Louisiana, the plan would buy them out at 60 percent of the pre-storm home value.

Governor presents housing plan

LONE STAR CHRONICLE, Beaumont — Texas Gov. Rick Perry has released a $1.2 billion plan to help homeowners who were flooded by Hurricane Rita.

The program is designed to help owners who had mortgage-assisted homes damaged by the storm to repair or rebuild. Homeowners who have end­ed their last $150,000 per home under the program, but direct relief is still months away, and homeowners receiving the aid could be taking on more debt to rebuild.

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Governor presents housing plan

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Business professors scarce

Diminishing supply and rising demand increase teacher pay

Roger Jenkins, dean of the Richard F. Farmer School of Business at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, described the shortage as severe.

Those in business education say that several factors have combined to create the imbalance. Besides the growing number of business schools in the United States, there has been an explosion of such schools in other countries — schools that are seeking American-trained faculty with doctoral degrees.

There are 80 AACSB-accredited business schools outside of the United States, compared with 21 five years ago, said Sorenson, who is also dean of the Pampal College of Business at Virginia Tech.

Jenkins said budget cuts to state universities have led many schools to cut back their doctoral business programs, which are among the most expensive degree programs. The schools bear most of the cost of those programs, providing teaching stipends and tuition waivers to students for four years or more earning doctoral degrees.

The number of Ph.D.s coming out of the large institutions has been decreasing about 20 percent a year for the past three to four years," said Jenkins. The expense and time required for a doctoral degree also discourages students who can make much higher salaries in business.

A 24-year-old with an MBA, for instance, will make more in one year with a new hire can make much higher salaries in business.

"It's a huge cut in the supply and no turnaround in sight," he said.

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A 24-year-old with an MBA, for instance, will make more in one year than salaries for business Ph.D.s who have been earning in business four years.

Retiring baby boomers with doctoral degrees who have been teaching for decades also are contributing to the doctoral faculty shortage that is expected to increase at least over the next decade.

Business schools are taking measures to remain competitive and searching for alternatives to fill some vacant faculty positions.

Some, like Miami, are adding student fees to provide more money for facilities and for competitive salaries for new doctoral faculty. Total annual compensation for those new hires can range from $100,000 to $180,000 — often much higher than salaries for business Ph.D.s who have been on school faculties for years.

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Security outsourcing plan said to put U.S. security in jeopardy

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Two Republican governors on Monday questioned a Bush administration decision allowing an Arab-owned company to operate six major U.S. ports, saying they may try to cancel lease arrangements at ports in their states.

New York Gov. George Pataki and Maryland Gov. Robert Ehrlich voiced doubts about the acquisition of a British company that has been running the U.S. ports by Dubai Ports World, a state-owned business in the United Arab Emirates.


"Ensuring the security of New York's port operations is paramount and I am very concerned with the purchase of Peninsular & Oriental "Nanes by Dubai Ports World," Pataki said in a news release.

"I have directed the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey to explore all legal options that may be available to them in regards to this transaction," said the New York governor, who is still in the hospital recovering from an appendectomy.

Ehrlich, concerned about security at the Port of Baltimore, said Maryland officials got no advance notice before the Bush administration approved an Arab company's takeover of the operations at the six ports.

"We needed to know before this was a done deal, given the state of where we are concerning security," Ehrlich told reporters in the State House rotunda in Annapolis.

The state of Maryland is considering its options, up to and including voiding the contract for the Port of Baltimore, Ehrlich said, adding: "We have a lot of discretion in the contract."

Pataki is also asking the federal government to "Share all critical relevant information made available to the Council on Foreign Investment during the course of the review of the purchase," a reference to the federal panel that approved the deal.

"New York's legal options could include canceling the lease for operation, effectively shutting down Dubai Ports World from port activities. P&O signed a 30-year lease with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey in 2000 to operate the Port Newark Container Terminal.

The governors are the latest elected officials from both parties to complain about the deal.

House Homeland Security chairman Peter King, R-N.Y., has been one of the most vocal, saying secret assurances obtained by the government don't go far enough to protect the nation's seaports.

Democratic New Jersey Sen. Robert Menendez joined the chorus of complaints on Monday.

"We wouldn't turn over our customs service or our border patrol to a foreign government," Menendez said during a Monday news conference in Newark. "We shouldn't turn over the ports of the United States, either.

Menendez said he and Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y., will introduce legislation prohibiting the sale of port operations to foreign governments.

Bush administration officials, including Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff and Attorney General Alberto Gonzales, have defended the decision.

During a stop Monday in Birmingham, Ala., Gonzales said the administration had a "very extensive process" for reviewing such transactions that "takes into account matters of national security, takes into account concerns about port security."

Critics have cited the UAE's role as an operational and financial base for the hijackers who carried out the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. In addition, they contend the UAE was an important transfer point for shipments of smuggled nuclear components sent to Iran, North Korea and Libya by a Pakistani scientist.

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Menendez said he and Sen. Robert Menendez

New Jersey

"I wouldn't turn over our customs service or our border patrol to a foreign government."
Abductivity and eccentricity make life worth living. They are the weird quirks in human personality, experience or event. Mardi Gras is almost here; there will be music, dancing and of course, the parties. It is a holiday based around floats, beads, costumes and booze. What a truly ridiculous and beautiful at the same time. Mardi Gras captures the lust for life that we possess all, from time to time of course. What brings particularly true this year at Mardi Gras. New Orleans hailed from a flooded wasteland. Yet the party will go on, and it will be one incredible party. The concept of the party is one of the greatest human inventions. The party is the perfect example of the absurd, which is why people instinctively refer to a good party as "ridiculous." To understand the party, we have to understand the absurd. Reveling is a conscious decision to forget about the cares of life and enjoy the fact that, despite all, we are alive and have the ability to realize happiness, if but for a moment in time. It is a liberation that spurs the dance of life. Social conventions are scattered as ashes upon the sea of exuberance. Pretension and reserve wither away, and a visceral experience rises from their fetid corpses. At least that is what happens at a good party, had parties do have their share of people too self-important to let go of their prejudices, pride or pretension. To each their own, but who would want to go to even more inspired events by the Victorian era or those wretched Puritans, who wore nothing but detestful for this country? Music is the most crucial element to any party. It uplifts the spirit and brings people together. Music is not by nature absurd, but at a party it is often used as an instrument thereof. The spontaneous karaoke that occur invariably at any party is often one of the more enjoyable experiences of the night. Music also provides the energy and raw power to proffer an environment where people feel free to let drop and bring out their inner nature. The Rolling Stones said it best on "Rocks Off" and their "Exile On Main Street" album, when Mick Jagger snarls, "The sunshine boxes the daylight's end."

Despite being a dedicated sun-worshipper, it's the night when the real solar centrum is reviled. Dancing is a noble hobby that is present within the party. Taken objectively, the decision to gyrate the body in generally absurd motions is a ridiculous concept. Yet put to music, and most importantly, enthusiasm, it becomes a wonderful experience. Yes, many of us, especially this writer, often look far more than comical when attempting to dance. The act of the dance allows one to express himself or herself, and different dances can convey the wide range of human emotions — e.g. the last major in Ancient Greek and Roman Civilizations. Having retired from the College Republicans and adopted independent politics, he has entered the private life of the American public. The human is an absurd creature exclu­sive; rather, they are the characters that make up the life of a fest and indeed make life festive. People are the most important ingredient to any situation. So go forth and embrace that which is wild, ridiculous and embodied within Mardi Gras.

Ian Ronderos is a senior majoring in Communications. Having retired from the College Republicans and adopted independent politics, he has entered the private life of the American public. The human is an absurd creature exclusive; rather, they are the characters that make up the life of a fest and indeed make life festive. People are the most important ingredient to any situation. So go forth and embrace that which is wild, ridiculous and embodied within Mardi Gras.

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**LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

**Time to reexamine Jewish-Christian relationship**

"Now is the winter of our discontent." The title of Shakespeare's play, "Richard III" surely describes the intense discussions in The Observer and on our campus about its Catholic character. During this week, our campus community has the opportunity to see a performance of "The Merchant of Venice," as well as a personal meditation on its grand dialogue of love, money and the tension in a series of films that focus on the problem of Anti-Semitism.

University President Father John Jenkins assured us that Notre Dame would never have a publicly sponsored showing of the "Oberammergau Passion Play" or anything that promoted Anti-Semitism because it would not comport with the Catholic character. His words are reassuring to me and to other Jewish members of the faculty. Notre Dame is committed to the message of Nostra Aetate, the document on non-Christian religions that appeared in the final ses­sion of the Second Vatican Council. Yet, the problem is more complex, isn't it? Put in historic perspective, the 19th­century racism had no roots in centuries of anti-Semitism and its racist doctrines which declared Jews to be non-human citizens of the Reich. The Nazis were racist in their approach to Jews and Judaism. This may permit the audience at Notre Dame to declare that the Nazis were not Christians and distort themselves from the play.

Jews have a very different perspective. They see a more direct link between how Christians write about Jewish people in the Vatican II Council and anti-Semitism. Jews were among the economic boycott during the first months after Hitler came to power. When the head of the Jewish community, accompanied by Father Bernard Eichenberg of the Berlin Cathedral, approached Bishop Beltram of the German Bishops Conference, the reply was, "This is a matter of economics, of measures directed against an interest group which has no very close bond with the Church." Jews were just another economic interest group that had no kinship to Christianity. The line between Jews as an economic menace in the Nazi boycott found no resistance in the Bishop's letter. During the past 40 years, there has been a lively and constructive conversation between our two religious communities about how closely Christian anti-Judaism and modern anti-Semitism are cojoined.

I hope that these issues will be part of our campus culture this week. Jews and Judaism are rarely part of the public discourse on this campus. During the 40th anniversary of Nostra Aetate in Oct. 2005, there was no public discussion of that document. When the first academic symposium for first-year students took place on the topic of peace in the Middle East, there were no Jewish speakers and no readings assigned by Israeli authors. When the Passion of St. John is read during Holy Week, the students and faculty think about how these readings have been understood by past generations of Christians — and how those sentiments have led them into very un-Christian attitudes. At the very least, maybe our community will ask itself, "What does it feel like to be Jewish at the University of Notre Dame?"

The answer to that question may lead us to the deeper inquiry: How shall Christians understand the statement by Pope John Paul II that God's covenant with the Jewish People has "never been revoked?" Is it possible that at this Catholic University some of our theologians and scholars will find a response to the call of Pope Benedict XVI when he declared at the synagogue in Cologne during World Youth Day that, "Jews and Christians should come to respect one another and love one another?" The answer will come about through a dialogue between human beings who live in different faith communities and have very different worldviews.

I surely hope that a play that has become synonymous with the worst stereotype of the Jew may lead us deeper into a discussion of Catholic character. The basic decency and fairness of our faculty and student body are capable of hearing a variety of voices which have been, and continue to be, excluded. By listening to the voices of those who cause us inner pain and challenge, can this community move beyond the comfortable walls that provide false protection by making the other into an object?"

Rabbi Michael A. Sigier
Abravanel Professor of Jewish Thought and Culture

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**LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

**Mental illnesses shouldn't be taboo**

Every morning I wake up and take 50 mg of lithium. It's a mood stabilizer that is intended to help me control my emotions, or at least keep them from shooting up and down uncontrollably. Mental depression and have been for a number of years now. Originally, I had decided that it was something I could work through on my own. This was a bad idea, but I did it anyway because I was "strong" and I could "handle it on my own." Meanwhile, my emotional instabil­ity was exhausting those I loved and those who loved me. Eventually, my freshman year, a friend dragged me to get help.

Help. I had a hard time thinking of this as a social taboo. Even though having disorders is a social taboo, even having those disorders is a social taboo. The social fear of this type of disorder goes back to when there wasn't treatment for those problems. If someone was found to have a disorder like this, they would be simply labeled as crazy and people would do their best to avoid them. For some reason, that social stigma remains. But there are some other facts to take into account now. For instance, according to WebMD, 15 per­cent of people suffer from clinical de­pression at some point in their lives. This doesn't include bipolarism, schizophrenia, anxiety or any other disorder although some of them tend to overlap, i.e. anxiety causing depression and vice versa. Until you live under a rock and only leave to pick up a copy of the UA on

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**EDITORIAL CARTOON**

This column was originally published on Feb. 17 in The Daily Athenaeum, the daily newspaper at West Virginia University.

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

By TAE ANDREWS
Assistant Scene Editor

"Walk down the right back alley in Sin City, and you can find anything."

So the film ends. Pick the right chapter of the "Sin City: Recut, Extended, Unrated" two-disc DVD set, and fans can find whatever dark delight their twisted hearts desire. For viewers who like their violence bloody and their fiction pulp, the film absolutely delivers as an over-the-top romp through the muck and mire of Sin City's past criminal underworld.

Housing the original theatrical version of the film on the first disc, the second splits the film into its three distinct storylines, which follow the exploits of Sin City's male protagonists, and also features the theatrical cut's prologue and epilogue — "The Customer is Always Right," featuring Josh Hartnett — spliced together.

"That Yellow Bastard" chronicles the amorous misadventures of Hartigan played by Bruce Willis, an aging cop who rescues a child named Nancy Carruf from a fate worse than death committed by hands of a vicious serial pedophile (Nick Stahl).

Its one-scene vignettes are a great job of capturing the comic-book feel in shooting the scenes and entertaining the graphic novel to life.

Tim Burton, in the second of his "Sin City" graphic novels to life, may truly be your opinion, whatever it is, because it's your opinion. It's the opinion of the author and not necessarily that of the Observer critic, some of his highlights include:

"Armageddon" reportedly used the services of Capt. Wild. Why did you make that choice? The dialogue is either shouted one-liners or romantic drivel. "It's gonna be fun and rewarding. And don't worry about critis of critics. So long as you express yourself well, it's unlikely you'll be able to slam your opponents.

Until then, there are a thousand better ways to expend more effort reviewing it than being told, then they probably do. Your review shouldn't aim for the indefatigable. It should go according to what saying that "Schindler's List" is great cin-

So don't say it.

"300" is a better critical role model. Readers who aren't a good customer won't.
s ante on noir action

brick walls and bullet holes are mere flesh wounds which serve more to mildly inconvenience than to incapacitate the protagonists.

Even the film's color scheme perfectly mimics the experience of turning pages at the local comic book store. Shot mostly in black and white, Rodriguez dashes on splashes of color to great effect, such as Dwight's bright-red throwback Converse sneakers or Kevin's haunting blue-eyed stare.

Gritty voice-overs by the main characters round out the film noir experience, as the audience really gets the feel of "the big city" while traversing through the seedy bars and dark back alleys of Sin City. Rodriguez is in his element as he descends into the grimy underworld of Sin City.

The rest of the DVD box set comes complete with a pair of commentary tracks by Rodriguez and various members of the cast, in addition to 67 minutes of features covering Frank Miller, guest director Quentin Tarantino and the film's extensive use of special effects.

All in all, "Sin City: Recut, Extended, Unrated" contains enough sinful pleasure (and extra-feature goodies) to make even the most fussed Catholic Notre Dame student contemplate confession.

Contact Tae Andrews at tandrew@nd.edu

PLAY PREVIEW

‘SubUrbia’ tackles hard issues

By ANALISE LIPARI
Same Writer

It would seem to the average viewer that life in the suburbs is the ultimate in 21st century disaffection. Modern films such as "American Beauty" and "Edward Scissorhands," or even Nicholas Ray's classic "Rebel Without a Cause," examine these smaller towns as havens for (or, rather, lukewarm-beds of) hypocrisy, inertia, dissatisfaction, apathy or all of the above.

This weekend, another look at the suburbs and their inhabitants comes to campus in the Washington Hall Lab Theater — Eric Bogosian's "Suburbia," performed by the Student Players.

Directed by Notre Dame senior Cameron Rains, "Suburbia" is a look at 12 hours in the lives of a few token Gen-Xers with little to do other than stand outside a local 7-Eleven. Jeff, Souze, Bee Bee, Pakeezah and the rest are average in most respects as they go through the motions of their daily lives as part of the MTV generation.

This routine, however, is jarringly interrupted by the arrival of Pony, a former high school freak who has reinvigorated himself as a rock star. The way that each character reacts to his success, or rather to his escape from the lethargy of the everyday, is for Rains the essence of the work.

"Suburbia" is a story of characters who are trying to escape, to be free, to do something with their lives," Rains said in an interview with The Observer.

"The thing is that none of them can get out, the street corner is a cage to them. Everyday, they will gather at the corner and do seldom more than wax philosophical about the price of Oreos or the current state of world hunger.

What's interesting for that average Notre Dame or Saint Mary's student, however, is that the honesty of the characters' musings and struggles is very much in tune with their own common experiences. College students could have trouble understanding the motivations of characters more likely to walk out of the convenience store in "Clarks" than the hallways of Betteardo. But for the cast, this is less likely than it seems.


"What makes it personal for me is that I saw it as what would happen to Notre Dame students if they didn't go to college, if they just stayed home and didn't try to do anything with their lives," Hoepflinger said.

Other cast members see the play as a chance to examine these current times, with a tough look at the conventions of the average American small town.

"The show centers around themes of unfulfilled ambition, illiteracy and the subsequent frustration and despair," Jennifer Betancourt, who plays Souze, said. "It is an account of their lives which are spent in front of their local convenience store and their failure to find meaning in an age of conflicting values."

By looking closely at the conflict and inherent apathy of these times and these lives, however, the play deals with deeper themes that stretch across our own boundaries.

"The play also deals a lot with racism, violence, sex and other controversial and contemporary topics," said Elise Yahner, who plays Pony's publicist, a rich girl getting a taste of the suburban life during her client's visit home. "Among all of this is humor, so this play has it all."

American playwright Eric Bogosian wrote "Suburbia" after writing a string of powerful one-man shows. Rains sees this, the playwright's first ensemble piece, as something extremely relevant for its current audience.

"The play has become a driving force in my life, because I believe that the characters carry with them messages that resonate deep within the members of our generation," Rains said. "We find characters really asking the questions that we college students and adults are forced to confront, 'What am I going to do with my life? And is there really something better?'

"To Rains, the play couldn't be timelier in light of the recent discussions of academic freedom and Catholic character.

"SubUrbia" is a show that stresses the importance of Notre Dame's academic freedom and stands as an example as to what students and faculty may be forced to lose," Rains said.

Contact Analise Lipari at alipari@nd.edu

There are a number of special features found on the disk, which expose on several facets of the film. They feature Tim Burton and the stars who provided the voices, describing the processes that were required in the completion of the film. However, none of the special features shed any new light, as the tricks to clayimation have been chronicled already in many different venues. Minor details are revealed, such as the process of animating the Adam's apple on Victor's throat, but nothing that really adds to the depth of the film.

"Tim Burton's Corpse Bride" is a fun, visually-entertaining movie. Running only 77 minutes, it stands on the short side when compared to standard Hollywood fare. Despite this brevity, the film still manages to entertain and is another charming union of Burton, Depp and Elfman's considerable talents.

Contact Mark Benemenderer at mbemende@nd.edu

Victor, left, is set to marry the Corpse Bride in Tim Burton's latest Hollywood film. This marks the fourth collaboration between Johnny Depp, Tim Burton and Danny Elfman.

Three actors play out a scene in the Student Players sponsored "Suburbia." The production addresses contemporary issues and is set in modern times.
NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL

Syracuse upsets No. 14 West Virginia, 60-58

No. 22 Sooners hold on, edge Texas Tech

Associated Press
SYRACUSE, N.Y. - Terrence Ross gave the Syracuse Orange a jolt when they needed it most.

The junior forward broke out of a three-game slump with 16 points and 10 rebounds, and Syracuse beat No. 14 West Virginia on Monday night, its first win since a three-game skid.

"It was one of those nights," said Ross. "I felt like I could do it."

West Virginia had been reeling with five losses in six games. For West Virginia (18-8, 5-7 Big East), it was its second straight loss after a 2-0 start to the conference.

Syracuse (20-6, 8-4) doubled its season total of 12 wins over ranked teams.

"It's always hard to win here," said West Virginia coach Bob Huggins. "We've come here and played poorly the last two times we've come here.

"It's hard to do that in that atmosphere."
Welcomes

JON M. HUNTSMAN

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**MLB**

Curt Gowdy spends a moment to honor the former Red Sox great Ted Williams shortly after Williams' death on Nov. 9, 2002. Gowdy, the former announcer for the Red Sox and NBC, died Monday of leukemia at age 86.

**Former Red Sox announcer dies at 86**

Associated Press

FORT MYERS, Fla. — He was the smooth voice of sports history, a welcome companion who brought listeners Ted Williams' last home run, the first Super Bowl and dozens of other dramatic moments.

Curt Gowdy, who died Monday, told generations of Americans about the games they loved from the broadcast booths at 13 World Series, 16 All-Star baseball games, numerous Rose Bowls and the 1976 Montreal Olympics.

"He was the first super-star of sports television because he did all of the big events," veteran NBC broadcaster Dick Enberg said. "He's the last of the dinosaurs. No one will ever be the voice of so many major events at the same time ever again."

Gowdy died of leukemia at his winter home in Palm Beach. He was 86.

It all started as he sat on a box, with his microphone in another box, for his first play-by-play — a six-man football game in Chyenne, Wyo., in subzero temperatures in 1944. Before cable television spawned a new breed of announcer — those who use shouts and hip phrases instead of subdued sounds and straightforward description — Gowdy was a star who just wanted to tell a story, a well-liked man who stayed that way as his fame grew.

He brought a warm feel to the broadcast booth, his commentary full of good humor and enthusiasm.

He once said, "I tried to pretend that I was sitting in the stands with a buddy watching the game, poking him in the ribs when something exciting happened. I never took myself too seriously. An announcer is only as good as yesterday's performance."


Gowdy spent 15 years as the Boston Red Sox main play-by-play announcer from 1951-1965. He left the Red Sox for a 10-year stint as the baseball broadcaster on NBC's "Game of the Week" through 1975.

**IN BRIEF**

**Czech cross-country skiing coach fired for error**

TURIN, Italy — The Czech Republic fired cross-country coach Kvetoslav Zalcik on Sunday after he inadvertently submitted the wrong name for the final leg of the men's Olympic 4x10 km relay race.

"It's a very hard mistake he made, and the result is he got fired and he will go home," Czech Olympic Committee spokesman Jan Martinek told The Associated Press.

Martinek said the Czech Olympic team discussed possible options "for this bad situation that occurred after the race. It's a really bad result for the Czechs." Ultimately, officials decided to dismiss Zalcik, who Martinek said had been in the job for 10 years.

Zalcik accidentally wrote in sprint specialist Dusan Kozisek instead of Milan Sperli for the fourth and final leg.

Kozisek, who doesn't normally ski distance events, was in bed in nearby Sestriere when the squad left for Turin, and had to hustle to the venue and borrow skis to compete. He arrived at the Pragelato Plan course about 30 minutes after the relay started.

**Kostelic sets women's Olympic record for medals**

AN SICARIO, Italy — At age 18, Janica Kostelic didn't even plan on skiing the super-G. She did, though, and the Olympic record book will never be the same.

Kostelic's silver Monday was her sixth Alpine skiing medal — her second in as many races here and a new career record for a woman.

"For now I have six and we will see, even if I quit now I would be happy," Kostelic said.

Her four golds — one here and three in Salt Lake City in 2002 — are another record.

Austrian Michela Dorfmeister followed her downhill victory with her second gold medal of these games, covering a relatively easy super-G course in 1 minute, 32.47 seconds.

**New look Marlins open spring training in Florida**

JUPITER, Fla. — The Florida Marlins opened their first day of spring training Monday. Joe Girardi, their new manager, Joe Girardi.

There was a different look to the Florida Marlins on the first day of spring training Monday, when pitchers and catchers worked out and worked on learning each other's names.

"Fortunately we have names on the jerseys," said Girardi, one of many newcomers on a team filled with them. Seven everyday regulars and three top pitchers departed in a pay-roll purge, and the new manager began his search for replacements with a rigorous workout — at least by baseball standards.
NBA

Races heat up for scoring title, playoff seeds

Mavericks, Bryant top headlines as the season resumes on Thursday

Associated Press

Being one of the best in the West might not be good enough for Dallas.

Finish second in their conference, and the Mavericks likely open the second round in San Antonio. Win the West and Dallas still probably gets the defending champions in the conference semifinals — but might have to go through Kobe Bryant just to get there.

In case anyone forgot, Bryant scored 62 points in three quarters of a game against the Mavs this season.

"You can get an eight seed and it'd be the best seed you ever had, and get a one seed and be dreading the matchup, so it doesn't really matter," Mavericks guard Jason Terry said. "We're definitely going to be in there, but home-court advantage is nice." At least the Mavericks have secure playoff position. Despite their individual brilliance in the first half, Bryant and Allen Iverson have no such guarantees.

For the races for the West and scoring titles will be among the biggest story lines when the NBA returns from the All-Star break to start the second half of the season Tuesday night.

For some, such as the Pistons or All-Star game MVP LeBron James, the focus is on building on strong first halves and avoiding the kinds of late-season struggles that cost James a playoff spot last year.

But for others, there's plenty of work to do.

The Mavericks (41-11) have the best record in the West, but they are only a game ahead of San Antonio. Because both teams play in the Southwest Division, the team that finishes second can earn a berth on the No. 4 seed.

"It's a tough situation, but it is how it is set up and people are going to have to gel," Spurs All-Star Tim Duncan said. "We're going to try to play and just try to work it from there."

"Basketball is as unpredictable as it can be," Locked On: NBA host Robertson said.

"There's a lot of things that game, but he's just that good," Dallas' Dirk Nowitzki said. "When his shot is on he's so tough to guard. So we've got to pressure up on him, but then he's got one of the quickest first steps that I've ever seen and he just goes by you. He's the toughest matchup probably on the perimeter in the league."

Bryant is averaging 35 points, with Iverson at 33.2 and James at 31.2. The NBA hasn't had three players average 30 or more points since 1962, when George Gervin heat out Moses Malone and Adrian Dandley to win the scoring title.

That hasn't translated to nearly enough wins for Bryant or Iverson. Three teams are within 2 1/2 games of Los Angeles for eighth in the West, while Philadelphia is just two games ahead of Chicago for the East's last playoff spot.

"I want to win a ring," Iverson said. "I want to have the opportunity to get back to the Finals, but I just have to take it one day at a time, and understand that it can happen — and I always believe that. Once I stop believing the goal can be accomplished, there is no need to keep dressing up every night. All that matters is us getting into the playoffs, because then, anything can happen."

James appears ready to get his chance. A late-season collapse kept Cleveland out of the playoffs last year, but with a better supporting cast surrounding one of the NBA's most talented players, a repeat seems unlikely.

"They got a more experienced team than they did last year," Wizards guard Gilbert Arenas said. "He's in his third year now, the players he's got around him is in their third, the young ones. So they got older pieces now that won't let that happen."

The trade deadline is Thursday, and one look at the Pistons shows the difference the right deal can make. They acquired Rashard Wallace at the deadline two years ago, and all they've done since is win a title, nearly repeat last year, and get off to one of the best starts in league-history this season.

"It definitely helped our team," said Ben Wallace, one of Detroit's four All-Stars. "I think it helped everybody on our team get better. He played a major role in us winning a championship, so we're glad it happened."

A pair of intriguing returns are on tap for the second half.

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The Hornets play their first of three games in New Orleans on March 8 when they host the Lakers.

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**Austrian ski coach leads police on chase, crashes car**

**Walter Mayer had been banned for 2002 blood doping charges**

Associated Press

The banned Austrian ski coach was the subject of a doping investigation at the Turin Olympics crashed his car into a police roadblock. 

Police said Mayer, who was being sought in connection with a doping investigation at the 2002 Olympics, crashed his car into a police roadblock early Wednesday morning. Mayer was wanted by Italian authorities as a suspect in a doping investigation at the 2002 Winter Games.

The car was seen by police after it collided with a roadblock near a ski resort in the Turin area.

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U.S. women’s hockey takes Olympic bronze

American team skates past Finland 4-0 for medal round victory

Associated Press

TURIN, Italy — Katie King wished she could’ve thrown her gloves in the air in a gesture of jubilation and jumping into a pile of her teammates on the ice.

Instead, she and the rest of the U.S. women’s hockey team had to settle for something — and a bronze medal.

King scored two of her three goals in the first period to give the Americans a three-goal lead and they glistened to a victory over Finland on Monday, playing in a third-place game they would’ve rather watched on TV from their dressing room.

“It’s hard to be excited because we came for gold,” forward Kim Kero said. “We were living in disbelief the last two days, and we had to get over it. We wanted to play in the 8:30 game tonight.

“That’s going to be there for a while, and it’s going to be hard to get over.

One game too late, the U.S. hustled to bounce pucks, finished checks and showed superior talent in a dominating performance.

After time expired, the Americans gathered around goaltender Chanda Gunn, embraced, slapped backs and raised sticks to the crowd.

“It was subdued after the game, but we’re happy to go home with at least some hardware,” said King, who added that she had played in her final game.

What do they have to show from the competition match three-time Olympian Angela Ruggiero? Sunday.

America’s women’s hockey veterans — herself, King, Tricia Thun-Luma and Jenny Potter — now have a complete set of Olympic medals: gold from Salt Lake City, silver from Vancouver and bronze from the Turin Games.

Expecting to fare Canada in Monday night’s gold-medal game, the American women ended up vying for bronze after the biggest blowout in women’s hockey history. Sweden’s 3-2 shootout win Friday.

“I am glad we had a couple of days after the semifinals,” U.S. coach Lisa Schindler said. “We had a chance to regroup."

Though it fell to an anticlimactic game, the Americans played with inspiration, harassing the Finns and celebrating a victory.

One game too late. Latina Thompson smothered offensively — even with an extra skater — harassed backchecking forwards and stingy defenseman. Despite having a power play early in the second period, the Finns didn’t get a shot on Gunn for more than 11 minutes.

Gunn had to make just 14 saves for the shutout.

It didn’t take long for the Americans to give her a cushion.

Two-plus minutes after the puck dropped, Kelly Stephens deflected Julie Chu’s shot past goalie Noora Ryyppo.

King scored twice — impressively — midway through the first period.

After a crafty off-boards pass from Helon Resor, King carried the puck along the right boards, swooped across Italy and flipped the puck above her.

King pumped her stick in the air, then had another reason to celebrate a few minutes later. Peter Feding with a pass up the middle of the ice, she outskated defenseman Heidi Petters and wristed a shot over Ryyppo’s stick.

“We came out and did not have enough speed,” Finnish defenseman Emma Laakkonen said. “The U.S. won it in the first period."

The Americans made it 4-0 early in the second period on King’s goal off a circle-to-circle pass from Chu.

Finland then pulled Ryyppo, replacing her with Maija Haisanen, but it was too late to make a difference. The two goaltenders combined for 16 saves.

The game was so different from the matchup in the preliminary round, when the U.S. rallied from a two-goal, second-period deficit to beat the Finns 7-3.

We had to set the tone, if we gave them an inch, they would’ve taken it,” Haisanen said. “We didn’t do that the last time we played."

One game too late.

Canada defeats Sweden to earn gold medal victory

Impressive offense leads to 4-1 triumph

Associated Press

TURIN, Italy — Danielle Goyette scored to lead the way.

We are around this moment forever, wearing a gold medal around her neck and waving a Canadian flag wildly over her head.

The three-time Olympian’s teammates eventually had to grab her by the flag and drag her to the locker room. The 40-year-old player is not really won’t skate for Canada again —

and she’ll never skate for a team as good as the Canadians who dominated Turin to win the 5-2 victory over women’s hockey tournament.

They scored with pinpoint passing and dazzling pass that soft wrist shots and firm tips. In a victory Monday night wasn’t the rematch everyone expected with the U.S., but Canada still sent upstart Sweden home with the same thumping it had planned for its American archrivals.

When the fourth goal bulged the Canadian net, Kim Martin’s net, the shrugs, claps, shoulders slightly and looked straight ahead — perhaps all the way to the top of the podium. "It’s been such a long time, when the world might stand a better chance.

“We showed Hockey Canada is dominant,” Goyette said. "We've shown that we're a team that can play in the big game and win it."

After the 3-2 win, they were 3-0 in the tournament and set up a date with Sweden in the semifinal.

But grinding the Canadian machine, the Swedes before-three straight games were played practically flawlessly in games just as one-sided as every other in their march through Italy by a combined score of 46-2.

When it was over, the Canadians roared their beach hit goalie Charline Labonte so hard that they dissected the net from its moorings. Goyette jubilantly threw over her glove and stick in the direction of the over-head scoreboard, while Wickenheiser held her adopted son.

The Americans, who beat Finland 4-0 in the bronze-medal game earlier, gracefully received their medals on the ice after Canada’s Meghan Agosta and Jennifer Botterill finished displaying a Canadian flag sewn to an Italian flag.

“It’s far and away the best team I’ve ever played for,” defender Cheryl Pounder said. “We saw the entire game going into it, and that’s why the tears came to the surface at the end.”

Several Canadians wept while getting their medals — Pounder crying the most, just as in Utah four years before — and none could stand still.

After singing along to “O Canada,” the Americans and Canadians shook hands and hugged. Sadly, it was their only medal.

Jayna Hefford added a goal and an assist, while Caroline Ouellette and Cherie Piper also contributed goals as Canada won 14-0 over Sweden.

The Swedes have 14 medals, the second most of any country. Sweden has won the women’s gold medal twice, silver three times and bronze twice.

The Americans were down 0-0 and 3-0 in the medal game, the Swedes before-three straight games were played practically flawlessly in games just as one-sided as every other in their march through Italy by a combined score of 46-2.

Charlotte was frozen early at a rink kept chillier than a Canadian prairie wind to improve the ice quality. Frosted-fingered fingers didn’t deter the hundreds of proud Great White Northerners who drank hot chocolate, wrapped themselves in beach-towel-sized maple leaf flags and rang cowbells amid chants of “O, Canada Go!”

The Canadians now have two golds and a silver from three Olympic women’s hockey tournaments. The Swedes have their nation’s biggest finish in an international event — and judging by their wide smiles as they received silver medals, they’re thrilled with that.

Sweden already won its biggest prize in the semifinals. Before Friday, neither North American team had ever lost in an international tournament except to each other. This shocker was tough for the U.S. But a welcome development for a sport enduring grumbles about the huge parity gap stretching across the Atlantic Ocean.

Finland’s Evelina Simola gained tripped by the United States’ Kristy Wendell during the Olympic bronze medal game Monday.

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The Observer • SPORTS page 19
**Squash team wins division title at nationals**

**MLB**

**Bonds skips voluntary reporting date for Giants players**

**Unruly Words and Affections**

**Embattled star must report before March**

**Sailing team places 17th in Charleston**

**Special to The Observer**

Notre Dame’s squash club won the Emerging Teams Division Championships at the CSA National Team Championships this weekend in Princeton as 46 teams competed for championships in six divisions. The Irish defeated rival USC in a championship match, 3-2, as they swept the top three matches. The Irish trailed 2-0 in matches before staging the comeback.

Peter Gschicka and Leigh Chapman dropped their matches at Nos. 4 and 5 to Devin Jones and Varun Peddy, respectively, giving the Trojans a 2-0 victory. Michael McConnell railed Rizwan Allawala throughout the first game, but rallied to win 10-8, 9-4, 9-4 to pull the Irish to within one. Trojans fans celebrated prematurely as Harsh Poddar rolled 9-5, 9-3 in the first two games and looked to close out the match, but Phil Moss fought back to even the match at 2-2 with 9-4, 9-2 scores in the third and fourth games, setting up what proved to be a breathtaking fifth game. Moss again found himself in a 0-3 hole, trailing Poddar 8-4. Moss forced a tie at 8-8, faced more match points, then tied at 9-9 only to face yet another match point.

Moss eventually climbed back to win both the serve and the final point, keeping Irish hopes alive and setting the stage for the final match. In the deciding No. 1 match, James Zhang completed a 12-0 individual season with a 3-0 victory over USC’s Tom Stanley winning 9-0, 9-3, 9-1 to secure the championship.

In the semi-finals, the Irish whitewashed Rutgers 5-0.

Zhang, Moss, Girchiera and Chapman all won in straight games, 3-0, while McConnell was extended to the limit, winning in five games over the Scarlet Knights’ Eric Bramwell. Other teams in this division included Lafayette, Boston College, Bard and Vanderbilt.

Zhang became the first Notre Dame player to qualify for the National Singles Championships and will compete in two weeks in Amherst, Mass.

**Bonds skips voluntary reporting date for Giants players**

**Sailing team places 17th in Charleston**

**Special to The Observer**

One day after contradicting reports that Barry Bonds was staging the comeback, the embattled star must report Monday on the voluntary reporting date for Giants players.

Bonds told the team last week through his agent that he would come a day or two later, but he’s Barry Bonds, and his knee brace and his left shoulder are still bothering him. He needs help, and he’s Barry Bonds, so OK, good luck, but he’s Barry Bonds.

Bonds is in the final season of his $90 million, five-year contract and will be eligible for free agency after the World Series, meaning his time with the Giants could be up even if he doesn’t retire.

"It wouldn’t totally surprise me if he retired during the season, if his knees are hurting and he’s miserable," said new Detroit manager Jim Leyland, who managed Bonds in Pittsburgh.

In Tampa, Fla., Alex Rodriguez said he is unhappy with organizers of the World Baseball Classic for the way they handled his decision to play for the United States instead of the Dominican Republic. The New York Yankees’ third baseman took issue with reports that he was threatened with playing for the Americans and the Dominicans.

"Just to make it clear, I only spoke once and then I spoke again three months later," Rodriguez said after returning from spring training. "All the garbage in between was Major League Baseball. I didn’t go back and forth. I said once, ‘I wasn’t playing,’ and then at the end I said, ‘So OK, I am playing.’"

"That’s why we worked," he said. "That’s as hard a day as I’ve been in in spring training."
**Belles continued from page 24**

"After struggling at home for the first half of the season — losing four of five home contests — Saint Mary’s has embraced the home court advantage. The Belles have played like a different team down the stretch, improving to 9-7 in the MIAA (11-14 overall) after beginning conference play with a 3-3 record."

"At the beginning of the season, we had trouble playing at home, but now I believe we still bring a lot of confidence," Freshman forward Erin Newsom said.

Saint Mary’s is coming off a two-game lurching streak to end the season, dropping a contest to No. 4 seed Albion Wednesday and finishing Saturday with a loss to No. 1 seed Hope, which finished its season 23-1 with a perfect 16-0 MIAA record. Despite their recent troubles, the Belles are confident about playing Alma in the first round, having swept their season series 2-0.

Bender addressed the Belles’ woes by shaking things up.

"As far as mentally, I know our girls are really excited to play them, because we’ve played Alma, and we know [they are] good. It’s just that a team that losses times in a year, but we’ve just got to put out and do it." The Belles’ 35-11 match has been adjusted to teams the second time they meet, which has shown the strength of their coaching and their ability to read other teams’ playing styles.

"We’ve been getting really good crowds, they’ve been getting excited," Bender said. "I think it’s a tremendous advantage."

Though the Belles have been a team to watch twice — away and once at home — the Irish games have been close. Saint Mary’s edged Alma, 74-68, Dec. 10 on the road and took the 72-55, at home on Jan. 10.

"I think by playing them twice and beating them twice, we know how to play them," Newsom said. "Obviously we can be effective on defense but also at the same time, I think they’ve been working on beating us, but I think playing at home we’ll give us an advantage, and when we come on top. Few Saint Mary’s players thought that while playing at home would help them, it would not phase the Scots, who feature a balanced offensive attack and solid defense led by senior Darcie Albrecht and her sister, Sophie O’Rourke.

"I don’t think they’re going to be intimidated," Bender said.

"Both Saint Mary’s and Captain Bridge Boyle said, "I think they’re going to come ready to play, but we’re going to come prepared and we’ll take it from there." Bender echoed his captain’s feelings as Alma has not faltered despite its team’s recent success against them.

"Alma’s not going to be intimidated at all," Bender said, "they’re going to come up with some bizarre plan, we’re so even ready."

"The firepower they possess." Bender said the Belles all agree on what they will need to do to come away with the victory.

"We’ve been playing them pretty good and we know what we have to do," Lipke said. "So hopefully we can execute everything we’ve been planning." Newsom was even more specific about her blueprint.

"I think [if] we play solid defense, we don’t fall down their high-low game and have a good shooting day ... we can win," Lipke said.

Contact Tim Kaiser at tkaiser@nd.edu

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**Fencers continued from page 24**

"It was more of ... "Wow, why is Emily Cross so good," said Nota. "I compete against Cross kind of style, so it was kind of normal for me, and a lot of times you’ll think you’ll be tricky and she’s already on to you. It was more like I’m glad I have this opportunity to get to fence her."

The silver-medal performance was key on the junior national circuit. The Irish fencers were the champions.

"She fenced amazingly well this weekend," Cota said. "We were all very proud of her."

For her effort, Nota was awarded 552 national circuit points, good to top 16 finishers in each bracket. The points allow fencers to qualify for national events and work towards national rankings.

Saint Mary’s fencers, who finished third in the foil for taking 15th in the junior division, while Kubik got 302 for his 14th place performance in the junior division sabre.

The men’s bracket, Horizon fenced in the sabre junior, and he has a good compet­ition in the foil junior (112th). Also competing on the women’s side was Montoya in the epee, junior (34th). Kota in the foil junior (124th) and Serrotte in the sabre.

"Our support system for our teammates is wonderful," Rachel Cota Irish fencer said.

Contact Tim Kaiser at tkaiser@nd.edu

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**Sizzlelini Bellini Tuesdays**

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**Bettis continued from page 24**

mainstay of the league’s prime-time offerings on NBC since the NFL’s launch of its all-sports network in 1984.

Bettis will get his first taste of regular-season action from press row when the Steelers take on the Denver Broncos this Saturday, Sept. 7, in Pittsburgh. The first-year, 5-foot-9 running back, who is the reigning champions face an opponent yet to be named.

"When the regular season gets under way in September, it will be the proudest night of my life," he said. "I will finally get my ring, and I will start my new career in television as a commentator for all the Steelers fans.

"I really look forward to extending my skills as a commentator for the Pittsburgh Steelers on NBC Sports."

Bettis was the first snorkel player with the NFL for executives with the NBC deal to bring football to fans around the country. Bettis finished his NFL career in 1991 with 1,369 rushing attempts — the third most carries in history. He was named to the Pro Bowl in 1987 for an average of 3.9 yards per carry.

In his three seasons at Notre Dame, Bettis averaged 77 yards per carry. He left the Irish after his junior season and was drafted by the NFL draft and returned to Notre Dame to work toward his degree. He made his NFL debut in the spring of 1996 when he ended his tenured with the Saints, who drafted him in 1993. He never earned his diploma, however, as the Steelers signed the free agent, and he has spent his entire career in Pittsburgh.

Bettis, who carries Irish home football games, did not say if Bettis will work with the Saints or if he will be signed by a new team.

Contact Ken Fowler at kfowler1@nd.edu

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The Observer • SPORTS
Tuesday, February 21, 2006

Huskies continued from page 24

they kick it into gear, which we’ve seen, they can be pretty devastating.”

The Irish — who have won their last three games against Rutgers, South Florida and Seton Hall — have improved their Big East record to 4-8 (13-10 overall) as they contin-
ue the effort to grab one of the final Big East tournament spots.

Notre Dame has four games remaining, including Tuesday night’s game at the Hartford Civic Center, and Brey knows any win will have the same significance, regardless of the opponent.

“For us, it will help us get to New York — simplest terms, man,” Brey said. “That’s how I’ve looked at it, that’s how I’ve presented it to our guys. It would be another step closer to qualifying for the tournament in New York. That’s been our focus, and that’s what we’ve talked about.”

Brey also conveyed Monday morning what Notre Dame’s focus will be in stopping a Connecticut team that is 10-2 in the Big East and 23-2 overall.

Connecticut is also a perfect 13-0 at home this season.

“When we’ve had success against怀念 Hall — we’ve limited transition and second shots,” Brey said. “So that’s kind of where you start with a general feeling.”

Limiting transition points and second shots will be diffi-
cult for Notre Dame given Connecticut’s athleticism (for-
ward Rudy Gay is considered one of the most talented players in college basketball) and ability to rebound on the offensive end (forwards Josh Boone, Hilton Armstrong and Gay have a combined 192 offensive rebounds this season).

Senior Chris Quinn said Sunday he considers Connecticut to be one of the best teams in the country because of the problems — such as transition and second chance points — they present every game.

“Connecticut is, if not the best, one of the best five teams in the country,” Quinn said. “Extremely talented, big, physical and quick. It’s defi-
nitely going to be a tough test going into their place, but the only thing we can do is go in there and play with nothing to lose.”

Notre Dame forwards Torin Francis and Rick Cornett will need to play strong under-
neath the basket to try to limit Connecticut’s ability to get to the glass. Brey also said all four big men — Rob Kurz and Luke Zeller included — will make an impact.

“We’ve been tough to get to the fourth big guy, but you know what? Tomorrow night, Luke might play 15 minutes the way this thing’s going,” Brey said. “All four of those guys need to be good.”

Against Seton Hall Saturday, Francis and Cornett controlled the glass and kept up with the Pirates’ physical play. They combined for 18 rebounds. Francis led the way with 10.

Brey said Irish guard Russell Carter — who is averaging 12.3 points per game during Notre Dame’s three-game win-
ning streak — will be key in helping out the bigger for-
wards on the boards for Notre Dame. Carter has helped on the defensive glass recently by boxing out large bodies.

Brey also complimented Carter Monday for his recent improvement. Brey said Carter is beginning to understand how to play the game of bas-
ketball, which compliments his overall ability.

“Now, when you learn how to play and then you’ve got the athletic ability and power and explosiveness that Carter has, then you start to see what we’re seeing the last four or five games,” Brey said. “And we certainly need it right now; he’s a very confident young man.”

Defending Gay will also be a challenge given the improve-
ment he has made this season on the offensive end. Gay is averaging 16 points per game after averaging 11.8 last sea-
son. Brey said Gay is a con-
cern when it comes to limiting second chance shots because of his ability to score off offen-
sive rebounds.

“He’s a great player. I mean, we’re not going to spend a lot of time talking about Rudy Gay,” Brey said. “He’s a hell of a player.”

“He’s going to make plays because he’s a very talented kid, and I think he plays with a beautiful demeanor.”

Notre Dame forward Rob Kurz blocks a South Florida player’s shot during a 62-55 Irish victory Feb. 15.

Notes:
• Tuesday is Rudy Gay growth poster day at the Hartford Civic Center. Fans will receive a life-size poster of the explosive Huskies for-
ward before the start of the game.

Contact Bobby Griffin at
rgriffin@nd.edu

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63-Across 49 Famed fireman
65-Down 50 Autumnal
69 Position 51 See 24-Across

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36 Over's need 40-Site
39 Adore 41-Site
42 See X-Across 43 A.40
44-Down 46-Down
50 Mead studies 59-Down
52-Down 54 Buddhist temple
55 See 24-Across 56 Persistorically
26 Position 57 Name

ANd ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

HOROSCOPE
EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Brian Littrell, 31; Andrew Shue, 39; Cindy Crawford, 40; French Stewart, 42.

Happy Birthday! Do you see what you fixed yourself ahead. A change may be frightening but it is necessary. If you feel it, you are feeling something the same. Now is the time for action. What comes back to haunt you is the end. A proximate past to you is the tip welling up. Your numbers are 5, 19, 24, 32, 37, 41

Aries (March 21-April 19): Your financial future should be your concern. Check your bankbook and make sure that you’re going in the right direction. Start a new savings plan or get your cash into a high-yield investment.***

Taurus (April 20-May 20): The appetite and affections. If you are not hungry or too busy to notice what the people in your life are up to, it will cause a chain reaction of negative problems. A lack of patience will be your downfall!***

Gemini (May 21-June 21): Take a weekend break in some foreign country! You will not regret your decision. The people around you will be curious and you will be able to impress them.***

Cancer (June 22-July 22):Work hard to develop a talent you enjoy and you can make even more. Treat or offering a driving course that interests you will educate your own awareness and introduce you to people heading in the same direction. New relationships are likely.***

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): You will have to be on your toes today. One mistake and you may be doing something haphazard. Don’t let anyone talk you into doing something that doesn’t suit you. Follow your own path even if it does seem far-reaching.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Spend time with people who will encourage you to follow through with your plans. Someone you meet will make a difference to your life or career. Relax as you will find a friendship or romance.***

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don’t hesitate to make a financial or career move. Money matters will improve if you are happy with what you are doing. End the cycle that has been causing you grief. Only you can stop the merry-go-round.***

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You will feel pressured to change your direction and now is a perfect time to do so. The outcome of the alchemists you make to real people. Take a moment to enjoy spending time with people who can offer comfort and advice.***

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): It’s time for a complete overhaul both at home and at work. Make your surroundings more comfortable and you will benefit from more positive. You are likely to be called upon to take care of an older friend or someone’s problems.***

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Partnerships will turn out to be a greater benefit than you imagined. Be ready to adapt what others have to say – make your conclusions and take action. You are likely to have a captive audience because of your insightful ways.***

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Make your point and get rid of things. Someone may give you the wrong direction or misinterpret what you are trying to convey, so be precise. Concentrate on where you can do. A clear mind will lead to success.***

Pisces (Feb. 19-Mar. 20): You will receive a new idea or a tip from someone. Talk to people who are in the know. Warded opportunities will result in frustrations and depression. Follow your heart when it comes to change and you will lead the way.***

Birthday Tip: You are sensitive, creative and expressive. You are productive but need to be a few. You think in big terms and are open and receptive to new methods and concepts.

Eugenia’s Web site: www.eugeniacassidy.com for full interpretations for specific individuals.

Drug warning. To avoid addiction, active adults should consult their doctor before purchasing the drug. If you are pregnant or nursing, and have any questions about drug use, please consult your doctor.
**Men’s Basketball**

**Testing the best**

No. 3/4 Huskies are undefeated at home

By BOBBY GRIFFIN
Associate Sport Editor

Notre Dame did not want to look past Seton Hall Saturday to a looming game against the Connecticut (No. 3 AP/No. 4 coach’s poll), but a match up with the team Irish coach Mike Brey calls the best he’s ever home, and the stakes couldn’t be higher.

“In my opinion, they are the best team in the country and have the most weapons and the most bodies,” Brey said at a press conference Monday in the Joyce Center. “And when you look past

see HUSKIES/page 22

**SMC Basketball**

Belles ride defense to MIAA Tournament

By TIM KAISER
Sport Writer

No. 3- seed Saint Mary’s will host No. 6- seed Alma tonight at 7:30 in the first round of the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association (MIAA) playoffs, marking the Belles’ first-ever home playoff game since they began competing in the MIAA in 1997.

The Belles are excited to play at home, both because of the home-court advantage and their share in the program milestone. Under first-year head coach Steve Bender, Saint Mary’s has had its best season since it began conference play.

“(Our improvement thus far has been) huge,” junior captain and starting point guard Bridget Lipke said.

“It’s a new thing for us. It’s really exciting because I think we’ve worked really hard for it and we’ve really had a lot of fun this year.”

“No...[and] we’ve gotten a lot of fans this year, getting a lot of support. It’s definitely a lot better playing at home rather than

see BELLES/page 21

**Fencing**

Fencers duel as individuals in Junior Olympics

Not leads eight competitors participating in Connecticut meet

By JACK THORNTON
Sport Writer

While both the men’s and women’s fencing teams are hunting national titles, eight Irish fencers competed for something unique this weekend — themselves.

The group from Notre Dame flew to Hartford, Conn. to fence in the Junior Olympics, which took place Friday through Monday. The annual event brought together more than 1,600 fencers from around the country competing in Cadet (under-17) and Junior (under-20) divisions in foil, saber and epee.

The Irish contingent included sophomores Rachel Cota and Tom Horton and freshmen Adrienne Nott, Emilie Prot, Mark Kubik, Alexander Grigorenko, Ashley Serrette and Kimberlee Montoya.

Nott led the way among her teammates, placing second out of 204 competitors in the junior foil. Nott won all of her six pool bouts and then won six consecutive direct elimination bouts before falling in the final match to two-time World Cup Champion and Harvard fencer Emily Cross.

Though she was fencing for the title against someone she considered her idol, Nott wasn’t caught relishing the moment.

see FENCING/page 21

**FOOTBALL**

‘Bus’ will switch to TV booth

Former ND star Bettis takes commentator job

By KEN FOWLER
Sport Writer

Former Irish running back and Super Bowl champion Jerome Bettis will trade in his cleats for a microphone next fall, as NBC announced the recently-retired Bettis will join the broadcast team on the network’s upcoming studio show for Sunday night football games.

“Football Night in America.”

“After retiring, I wondered what I was going to do on Sundays, but now I still have a place to go every Sunday night,” Bettis said Monday in a statement released by NBC.

Bettis, known as “The Bus” to football fans for his hard-hitting running style and large body frame, will serve as an analyst on the show alongside veteran football hosts Bob Costas and Cris Collinsworth.

“Football Night” includes both the pre-game studio show and the NFL’s Sunday night game, which will replace Monday Night Football in 2006 as the