Administrators question Facebook postings

Faculty, staff at Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s view students’ profiles

By MARY KATE MALONE
News Editor

As a growing number of Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s students poke, post and tag their way into the Facebook universe, administrators on both campuses are taking a closer look into the social-networking Web site—in some cases, creating their own accounts and viewing student profiles.

Facebook, created two years ago by Mark Zuckerberg, has exploded in popularity across college campuses nationwide. And since the only requirement for membership is a “.edu” e-mail address, virtually any staff member with a University e-mail address can join.

Associate Vice President of Student Affairs Bill Kirk said there is no formal policy “that would prohibit or require” the use of Facebook in disciplining students.

see FACEBOOK/page 8

Jenkins continues to answer questions

Grad students engage academic freedom issue

By KATHLEEN MCDONNELL
News Writer

University President Father John Jenkins addressed academic freedom issues ranging from the timing and intent of his Jan. 23 and 24 speeches to hypothetical situations involving stem cell research and artistic expression in an open discussion with graduate students Monday.

After giving a brief introductory speech, Jenkins fielded questions for nearly an hour in a forum arranged by the Graduate Student Union in Bellarmo 101.

Graduate students have a unique and integral place in a university, Jenkins said, performing research and teaching roles like faculty members, but subject to supervision like undergraduate students.

He stressed their importance in contributing to the discussion on academic freedom and Catholic character at Notre Dame.

see JENKINS/page 6

College completes self-study

By MEGAN O’NEIL
Senior Staff Writer

Two years of research and self-analysis will come to a head at Saint Mary’s today as representatives of the Higher Learning Commission conclude a three-day campus visit as part of a reaccreditation process.

Led by Vice President and Dean of Faculty Pat White and Director of the Center for Academic Innovation Pat Pierce, the College compiled a 134-page self-study report that examines the progress of the institution over the last ten years and its direction in the future.

Pierce described the report, two years in the making, as a “really unique one ... very different from accreditations in the past.”

In the past, the report has been more like an inventory of the College, Pierce said, and included data such as the number of students enrolled and the number of volumes in the library.

see STUDY/page 4

Wedding bells toll as graduation approaches

By KAREN LANGLEY
Assistant News Editor

Notre Dame seniors Victoria Wittner and Dan DiMassa first discussed marriage while studying abroad in London near the end of sophomore year. While Wittner and DiMassa—who began dating at the beginning of that year—knew they were right for one another, they decided not to take any definite steps towards marriage until graduation drew near.

And drew near it did.

As the two drove to DiMassa’s Cleveland home the first weekend of the fall semester, they approached a roadside spot where they traditionally stopped to kiss.

DiMassa flicked on the car’s hazard lights as he pulled over, and while such a stop was hardly unusual, Wittner knew something was going to happen.

“I asked myself, ‘Is he going to propose?’” Wittner said. “I said, ‘No, Victoria, don’t be stupid. That’s not what’s happening.’”

But DiMassa got down on one knee and asked Wittner to marry him.

She said yes.

There is no count of how many Notre Dame undergraduates are engaged, but enough couples make the commitment each year to keep stories of Graet love proposals and “ring by spring” Basilica bookings alive. And while the vast majority of students wait until after college to decide on marriage, many engaged couples can be characterized by the uncommon certainty that they are right for one another.

see RINGS/page 4
INSIDE COLUMN

Three phones and counting ...

If only my cell phone had nine... This year, I learned that nothing in life comes easy. All college students are faced with daily challenges and, as part of the growing up process, need to deal with them without the help of their parents. Some things that seem simple can just drive you crazy. What specific simple thing I am referring to is the almighty cell phone. I have had the unfortunate experience as to break/drop/lose/damage my cell phone multiple times this year. Was it my fault? Well, yes, sometimes it was. Dropping the cell phone down multiple flights of stairs was all me. Some things, though, were out of my control. I mean who put that there? Going against my parents’ advice, I guess a belt clip would avoid all of the dropping and mishandling, but what fun is that? For me, it is hard enough to keep track of my cell phone, but trying to get a new one entirely in South Bend is a nightmare. It has taught me to appreciate the essence of the cell phone and prize it with my life so I don’t have to go through that ordeal again.

You would think getting a new phone would be easy, but both times I had to replace my poor phone I ended up paying full price for a whole new one because it was too much of a hassle to go through the motions of filing a police report for losing it (yes, you actually have to do that if you have insurance), explaining it to my parents, or activating a new one. And I even had insurance! What is insurance for if you can’t buy a new phone in time?

I am not blaming any of my misfortune on Verizon — even though it would make my parents feel better — but just the overall process. Ugh. Spending the entire day at the mall trying to plead with Verizon to give me a new phone is really draining. It really is.

If you know what kind of phone I have, you would probably be shocked that after all that work, I don’t have the top-of-the-line phone. I am smarter than that. My new phone has been the cheapest, most durable and biggest piece of equipment in the store. Sure, it would be cool to have a new Casio or a camera phone, but with my constant history of banging up my cell phone, that makes no sense. I am proud to say that I have had my newest cell phone for two months — knock on wood — and I have not been back to Verizon yet. Impressive, eh?

Oh, it’s the little things in life that bring us the most satisfaction.

Contact Katie Kohler at kkohle01@unimont.edu

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CORRECTIONS

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It's who you know.

Robert Putnam
Professor of Public Policy
Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University

Sunday, April 2 at 4:00pm
Jordan Auditorium Mendoza College of Business

Robert Putnam's book, Bowling Alone, seems to have struck a chord with many concerned with the decline of civic engagement in the United States over the last thirty years. A question and answer session will follow Professor Putnam's presentation.

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Students aid social service agency

Notre Dame students win Indiana Careers Consortium competition

Special to the Observer

Four teams of students from Notre Dame, Saint Mary's College, Goshen College and Indiana University South Bend weren't told much about issues facing the Marshall County Neighborhood Center in Plymouth, Ind. — only that it was having difficulties meeting the needs of the community's changing demographics.

With that limited information, and in the spirit of the first case competition hosted by the Indiana Careers Consortium earlier this semester at Saint Mary's, their task was to fill in the missing pieces through research and then offer solutions.

One of the oldest social service agencies in Marshall County, the Neighborhood Center, a United Way agency, was founded 23 years ago and currently runs a food pantry; provides clothing, furniture, appliances, household goods and toys; and offers life skills, budget counseling and energy assistance.

While most of these services have always been offered there, a recent restructuring of the center's board of directors resulted in a new goal. Rather than simply handing out charity, the center now strives to foster independence among its beneficiaries.

"The lack of information provided to us actually presented our biggest challenge," said Notre Dame senior Trey Williams. "We were told very little about the true nature of the center's problems. The competition required a lot of investigation before we could begin." After a 15-minute question-and-answer session with Nikitas, Williams and his teammates, Matthew Mitchell, Rebecca Sphrer and Danielle Stealy, all seniors at Notre Dame, went to work. They dedicated the bulk of their free time during the first week of the semester to learning all they could about non-profits and brainstorming about the center and its surrounding community.

"Because of our changes, we needed help creating a new public image and revising our internal structure and fundraising efforts," said Jerry Nikitas, the center's director. "That's where the students came in. But, under the guidelines of the competition, they weren't told exactly what was needed unless they asked the right questions.

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**Study**

continued from page 1

library. This time, however, the Higher Learning Commission, an institutional accrediting agency, required Saint Mary’s to conduct a self-analysis based on five criteria — missions and integrity, preparing for the future, student learning and effective teaching, acquisition and application of engagement and service.

"It’s a much better [method] than the other approach. This is a real improvement," Pierce said. "It is [more work] but I think it makes the self-study and self-study report more valuable."

The more in-depth nature of the study required White and Pierce to involve a broader spectrum of the College community in the project. Staff and faculty members were selected to research and prepare different sections of the self-study report. Pierce said. They conducted interviews with students, faculty, staff, alumnae and members of the Board of Trustees — "all sorts of constituencies on campus and off campus," Pierce said.

Drafts were made available to faculty and staff last spring for feedback, Pierce said, and certain themes in the report caused dissent. Diversity at Saint Mary’s was one such point of contention. Individuals had varying perspectives on where the College stands on the issue, Pierce said, and where and how far it should progress in the future.

"I think there are differing perspectives between faculty, faculty and students, between members of the Board," Pierce said.

Pierce said there was no effort to hide the existence of disagreements at the College and said all contributors were encouraged to be completely honest in their responses in order to give the accreditors an accurate perspective of the school.

"They are going to do that to see if everyone contributed their own understanding of what is going on," Pierce said.

The various drafts were edited and assembled over the summer by a writing team made up of White, Pierce and professor Laurel Thomas. They continued to fine-tune the document throughout the fall, Pierce said.

"I guess the hard thing is that it’s a long process and it needs to be a long process and then we gather tons and tons of information then and it becomes a huge writing project ... what do you put in and what do you leave out?" White said.

During their three days on campus, the three Higher Learning Commission representatives met with administrators, staff, students, faculty, staff, alumnae, students, and community members in order to assess the effectiveness of the College in carrying out its Mission as an institution of high education.

The final meeting will take place today with College President Carol Ann Mosney. The visitors will give a general report to the College met the requirements for accreditation, Pierce said.

An official report will be issued in the following weeks. The College met the requirements for accreditation, Pierce said.

Ryan said he and his colleagues were impressed by how thorough the Saint Mary’s report was being lived out in the various departments of the College. Ryan said he and his colleagues were impressed by how thorough the Saint Mary’s report was being lived out in the various departments of the College.

"It’s also something I think we should be proud of," Pierce said. "It’s also something I think we should be proud of," Pierce said. "We continued from page 1"
INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Ex-Liberian warlord disappears

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Ex-Liberian warlord disappears

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Moussaoui offers self-testimony

ALFAXDRIA, Va. — Al-Qaida conspirator

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The Nigerian government said Taylor van­

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A 37-year-old Frenchman of Moroccan descent

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The announcement came three days after President Bush was under pressure from Washington and others — agreed to surrender Taylor to a U.N.-backed tribunal. He would be the first African leader to face trial for crimes against humanity.

One million protest French labor law

PARIS — More than one million people poured into the streets across France and work­

ers disrupted air, rail and bus travel Tuesday —

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Thomas

Sharon, who formed the party shortly before suc­

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part of a brief government rebuttal case, this

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President Bush replaced longtime

a loud and clear voice,” Olmert declared, “Israel wants, Khaddama,” which

means forward in Hebrew.

Olmert said he was ready

for new peace talks and was prepared to make

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Jenkins continued from page 1

Jenkins said he agreed with the prepared statement sent to him by graduate students and their point that the principles he articulated in his addresses were not completely clear. The addresses were intended to start the discussion, not deliver a final decision, he said.

"My initial talk was meant to affirm both academic freedom and Catholic character," Jenkins said. "Obviously they have to be a part of any Catholic university. My job is to defend both as vigorously as I can.

When asked why he decided to confront the issue of academic freedom and Catholic character now, Jenkins said he began to discuss "The Vagina Monologues" as questions arose. He said he realized more input was needed.

"I just felt that as I started my presidency it was important to address it in a way that would characterize future discussions," Jenkins said. "One could have carried on the discussions behind the scenes, but I wanted to say 'These are my thoughts.' I think that is the character of a university."

While he invited contribution from the Notre Dame community, Jenkins reaffirmed his position that his ultimate decision on certain controversial issues — like the place of "The Vagina Monologues" on campus — would not be made by consensus. A higher level of common understanding will be achieved through discussion, he said, but on such a divided issue, no answer will please everyone.

One student questioned whether alumni have more voice in the discussion than other members of the Notre Dame community given their role as University donors, and whether this will cause Jenkins to come to a more conservative conclusion than he otherwise might have.

Jenkins restated the importance of all contributors to the debate and denied that any group has a particularly strong influence based on its financial power.

"You cannot say to the alumni, 'We'll do exactly what you want,' but you can't say that to the students or faculty either," Jenkins said. "I think it is wrong to say we better not do what we think is right because we'll lose money. But this is true of all universities. We rely on people outside the university to support what they're doing. What we do is, in a large extent, based on the fact that people support us, financially and otherwise."

Jenkins repeatedly has not made a final decision on the status of next year's production of "The Vagina Monologues." He did, however, explain how he feels repetition can imply endorsement.

"If the political science department invited President Bush to speak five years in a row and did not invite an equally prominent Democrat, wouldn't everyone say that the political science department favors Republicans?" Jenkins said. "No sharp lines can be drawn here, but we need to be conscious of that and use discretion in making judgments."

Graduate students also discussed a number of situations that they believed could potentially pose problems if academic freedom is restricted at Notre Dame.

Jenkins said artistic freedom should not be limited, saying while art is sometimes provocative, that is acceptable for a university.

While he said it would be appropriate to cover an obscene artwork if children were passing through the gallery, he also confirmed the artist's right to create the work and display it within the bounds of the University.

Another student questioned whether a chemical engineering dissertation would be allowed if bone cell tissue from an aborted fetus was used.

Jenkins said these types of situations could be problematic.

"I don't think we would allow it if there were some fundamental values that institutionally if we don't affirm, we should cease calling ourselves Catholic," Jenkins said. "I don't know that particular case, but I do feel that there is a conflict, because Catholic view says that's a human being, and you shouldn't destroy humans for research purposes."

Jenkins could not stay to answer every question but thanked students for their interest and input.

He also urged members of the Notre Dame community to continue to share their views with him.

"As Irish author James Joyce said about Catholics, 'Here comes everyone.' We want a diversity of views," Jenkins said. "I think we're a better university with wider views, with a more vibrant face."

"If the Catholic institutional identity is going to be maintained, someone once told me, it's going to be maintained at Notre Dame."
The Federal Reserve's new interest rate cuts have tempered expectations for inflation to take off.

Economists closely track consumer confidence because consumer spending accounts for two thirds of all U.S. economic activity.

The Conference Board said that its consumer index climbed 4.5 points to 107.2, the highest level since May 2002, when the reading was 110.3. Analysts had expected a reading of 102.

The latest measure was up from a revised 102.7 in February, which was down 4.1 points from January and was a three-month rebound from last year's Gulf hurricanes.

"The improvement in consumers' assessment of past and present conditions is yet another sign that the economy gained steam in early 2006," Lynn Franco, director of The Conference Board Consumer Research Center, said in a statement. "Consumer expectations, while improved, remain subdued and still suggest a cooling in activity in the latter half of this year."

The upbeat report on consumer confidence is an encouraging sign for retailers, whose sales of spring fashions have been uneven amid cool temperatures. Economists closely track consumer confidence because consumer spending accounts for two thirds of all U.S. economic activity.

GM lays off hundreds of employees

DETROIT — General Motors Corp. laid off several hundred white-collar employees Tuesday as part of a plan to bring its ailing North American operations back to profitability.

"It was the first round of salaried cuts this year for the world's largest automaker which is struggling with sluggish sales, shrinking U.S. market share and high health and pension costs that have played competitive disadvantages against Asian rivals."

GM said it will give exact figure but said fewer than 500 jobs were cut Tuesday at 30 locations across the United States, including factories and engineering centers. A cut of just less than 500 jobs would represent about 1.3 percent of GM's U.S. salaried work force of 36,000.

GM has said it plans to cut 7 percent of its salaried work force this year, or 2,500, so more cuts are on the way.

GM spokesman Robert Herta said the company hasn't released a figure indicating how much it will save from the salaried layoffs.

GM shares fell 18 cents, to close at $22.75 on the New York Stock Exchange after rising as high as $23.25 earlier in the day.

Detroit-based GM announced a restructuring plan in November in the face of mounting losses. Under the plan, GM wants to cut 30,000 U.S. hourly workers and close 12 facilities by 2008. GM lost $10.6 billion in 2005, largely because of increased competition and rising costs in North America. The layoffs are GM's second major jobs-related announcement in a week. GM said last Wednesday that it would offer buyouts of between $35,000 and $140,000 to its 113,000 U.S. hourly workers. GMSalaried workers aren't eligible for those buyouts.

Chuck Mooney, a director at the Detroit restructuring management firm Conway, Mackenzie and Dunleavy, said he was surprised GM didn't lay off more workers Tuesday.

"It's critical for GM to get through the reductions as quickly as possible. This has been a distraction to the employees since November," Moore said. "The longer this goes dragged out, the greater the chance there is that the most valued employees will walk out the door on their own and GM will have difficulties attracting new employees."

Herta said GM's timeline for layoffs is based on the requirements to run the businesses.

The size of GM's salaried workforce is similar to one of its key competitors, Ford Motor Co., which has around 55,000 salaried employees. But Ford is in the midst of its own restructuring, and Moore said GM can't get complacent.

"They have to cut in every area possible," Moore said. "The number of employees they have right now is still substantially higher than what their current market share will support."
plenary situations, but cautioned that students must be prudent with what they reveal on their profiles.

"I just don't think there's much of an expectation of privacy on Facebook and students are misguided if they expect privacy on a public medium — that would be a misunderstanding," Kirk said.

Director of Residence Life and Housing Jeffrey Shoup would not specify how many in his office have Facebook identities, but said "at least one of us" has a Facebook account.

"I'd say every couple of weeks someone is accessing Facebook from the Office of Residence Life and Housing," Shoup said. So what exactly do University administrators do on Facebook?

"It gives you an example," Shoup said. "Say some student comes in and says 'I've never been underage in a bar,' and I said 'So if I pull you up on Facebook, would you see a picture of you in a bar?' And they said 'sure,' and I might pull them up, and if they have a picture of themselves in a bar, I think that would be a problem." Kirk and Shoup both stressed that Facebook profiles are not using Facebook as a tool to uncover potential D.U.A.C. violations. Residence Life has not taken punitive measures based on the content of a student's profile, Shoup said.

"I'm not going to sit here all evening and see if people are violating policy, but if a student has been accused already, I might take a look and check out Facebook," Shoup said.

But administrators and rectors alike are aware of Facebook and — in light of national news stories about the dangers of the third party site — becoming increasingly skeptical of it.

Farley rister Carrine Etheridge, who does not have a Facebook account, said she is aware of Facebook's pervasiveness on college campuses, thanks to a cautionary e-mail she received from Vice President for Student Affairs Father Mark Poorman earlier this semester.

The e-mail included a copy of a news story about administrators at Pennsylvania State University who used Facebook to track down and punish students who stormed the football field after Penn State's win over Ohio State last fall. Etheridge said, "It was more FYI," she said. "(Poorman) sends us things periodically." Etheridge said that the information from Poorman did not indicate that similar actions would be taken by the University, but the e-mail a Facebook account, said she is the "dangers" of Facebook and other social networking websites like MySpace.com.

"The other thing I worry about with Facebook is that things that students put on Facebook that are funny now could become back when they're trying to get a job... I think that's a real shame to be up for a really great job bailing to have a picture that's on Facebook cast a shadow over their character," Etheridge said.

For Navy ROTC (NROTC) midshipmen, Facebook profiles are under further scrutiny by their superiors.

"We have no set policy per se over here, but our midshipmen are by definition, representatives of the United States Navy and Marine Corps, and as such officers and instructors-in-training for the Navy and Marine Corps we wouldn't have anything that would violate the OBC standing," NROTC commander Jeffrey Morris said.

Morris said he has his own Fair use account, but he addresses only about once every two months "to see what everyone is doing." "It's purely random," he said. "It's like keeping your finger on a pulse. Some people might say it's a little more than that. I'm trying to see what's out there." Morris has received "numerous e-mails" from NROTC units at other universities around the nation, most of which advise midshipmen to "check and see what your midshipmen are posting" on Facebook.

He said he's only had to pull someone up once in the last year or so. "It was something that was questionable on a picture, he said, "I'm trying to see what's going on there." Morris has received "numerous e-mails" from NROTC units at other universities around the nation, most of which advise midshipmen to "check and see what your midshipmen are posting" on Facebook.

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Wednesday, March 29

THEOLOGY ON TAP

Jenni Oliva
Sr. Mary Lynch S.S.J.
Rector, Howard Hall
Sr. Ellen Marie, S.S.J.
Rector, McGlinn Hall

The Role of Women in the Church

Where have we been...

...and where are we going?

More to Come on 4/5

Get tapped in at Legends
Doors Open at 9:30pm, Speaker starts - 10:00pm
Free soft-drinks and food, cash bar

Thursday, March 29

College of Arts and Letters
University of Notre Dame
Invites Nominations for the
Sheedy Award

Each year, the Sheedy Award, named for a former dean of the college of Arts and Letters, honors one member of the Arts and Letters faculty for outstanding teaching.

Both students and faculty are invited to submit nomination letters for this year's award to:

Stuart Greene
Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies
104 O'Shaughnessy Hall

Deadline: Monday, 10 April 2006

Students often feel comforted when posting photos or adding comments to their Facebook profile. The site's users can also start private messages, join an interactive and ongoing personal message board.
Reagan defense secretary Weinberger dies

Conservative statesman remembered for role in ending the Cold War, involvement in ‘arms-for-hostages’ controversy

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Caspar Weinberger, who oversaw the Pentagon’s biggest peacetime spending increase as President Reagan’s defense secretary and later was indicted for his role in the Iran-Contra affair, died Tuesday. He was 88.

Weinberger had been hospitalized in Bangor, Maine, with a high fever and pneumonia brought on by his age, according to his son, Caspar Weinberger Jr.

President Bush called him "an American statesman and a dedi­cated public servant" who strengthened the military and helped end the Cold War. "This good man made many contribu­tions to our nation," the pres­i­dent said in a statement.

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said, "He left the U.S. armed forces stronger, our country safer and the world more free."

Weinberger served as President Nixon’s budget direc­tor and was given the nickname "Cap the Knife" for his efforts to slash government spending. Yet Weinberger’s best-known role may have been as Reagan’s defense secretary, when the classic cold warrior presided over a cumulative $2 trillion in military spending.

Determined to ensure U.S. strategic strength to counter the Soviet Union, Weinberger pushed Congress to fund such programs as the Strategic Defense Initiative, Midgetman and MX missiles, B-1B bombers and stealth aircraft.

But it was also during this time that reports surfaced of excesses at the Pentagon, from $600 toilet seats to $400 ham­mers. Cartoonists had a field day portraying Weinberger with toilet seats around his neck.

In a Feb. 10, 1986, interview with The Washington Post, Weinberger defended his defense secretary. "That’s the same price that TWA and Delta and United pay. It is a molded cover for the entire toilet system. And, yes, it does cost around that much."

Supporters contended the defense buildup helped cause the collapse of the Soviet Union. "This is a strong, free America, and for this and for a lifetime of selfless service, a grateful nation thanks him," former first lady Nancy Reagan said Tuesday.

A lifelong Republican, Weinberger’s early interest in politics and government — sparked by his father, a lawyer — led him to the Pentagon and White House.

But his work also led to a trouble — federal felony charges stemming from his alleged role in the sale of weapons to Iran to finance secret aid to the Nicaraguan Contras.

The "arms-for-hostages" affair poisoned the closing years of Reagan’s administration and permanently stained the reputa­tion of the inspectors involved.

In one of the first President Bush’s final official acts after his 1992 loss to Bill Clinton, he granted Christmas Eve pardons to Weinberger and five others accused in the affair. Bush was Reagan’s vice president.

Weinberger, 75 at the time, had been scheduled in trial in less than two weeks on charges that he concealed thou­sands of pages of his handwritten notes from congressional investigators and prosecutors.

He’d earlier rejected inde­pendent counsel Lawrence Walsh’s plea-bargain offer to testify against his longtime friends and colleagues — includ­ing Reagan — and plead guilty to a misdemeanor.

Weinberger had said he was innocent of all the charges and considered the indictment a political attack.

After the pardon was announced, Walsh alleged that "the Iran-Contra cover-up, which has continued for more than six years, has now been completed."

Weinberger’s son said Tuesday, "My father was just a world diplomat, a No. 1 great American patriot. He always stayed the course. He always had beliefs, he held to those beliefs."

Boney, 35, was convicted in 1988 of assisting Boney’s convic­tion and prosecu­tors contended Camm left the game, killed his family, then returned. He reported the deaths when he returned home.

Boney was charged with con­spiring with Camm, convicted on three counts of murder and sentenced to 253 years in prison. But a state appeals court overturned the verdict, ruling that testimony about Camm’s extramarital affairs had unfairly biased the outcome.

The prosecution’s case cen­tered on the bloodstained T-shirt he wore the night of the killings. Crime scene experts testified in 356 jurors placed him within five feet of his daughter when she was shot while strapped into a seat of Kimberly Camm’s SUV.

"Defense attorneys argued that the stains got on Camm’s shirt when he found the bod­ies," according to the trial. "The evidence does not show that Camm was involved in these killings."

"The case is closed."

"Because of evidence restric­tions, jurors in Camm’s trial were not told that Boney, 35, was convicted in January."

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Indiana officer killed his wife, two children

Associated Press

BOONVILLE, Ind. — A judge on Tuesday sentenced a for­mer Indiana state trooper to life prison for the murders of his wife and two young chil­dren.

Camm was convicted on five counts of murder for the September 2000 slayings of Kimberly Camm, 35, and seven­ year-old Bradley and five-year-old Jill.

At the same time Camm’s trial was under way, another jury across the state was hear­ing testimony that led them to convict an ex-convict in the same killings.

Prosecutors said the two men conspired to carry out the shootings.

"This jury should have heard the whole story of Charles Boney as the killer of my fami­ly," Camm said tearfully in court Tuesday. "I do not under­stand this, and I never will."

Prosecutor Keith Henderson, who tried both men, said he did not believe Camm’s emo­tion­al address.

Justice has been done here," he said. "This case is closed."

Because of evidence restric­tions, jurors in Camm’s trial were not told that Boney, 35, was convicted in January.
RUSSIA

UN nears consensus in Iran nuclear debate

Associated Press

MOSCOW — Iran has proposed setting up a nuclear fuel production facility within its borders with international help, the Iranian Embassy said Tuesday, as diplomats reported that the U.N. Security Council was "very close" to an agreement on how to confront Tehran's suspect program.

The new Iranian proposal is an alternative to Russia's offer to host Iran's nuclear fuel production as a way to ease concerns that enrichment conducted in Iran could be used to develop weapons. Iran maintains its atomic program is for generating electricity.

Russia said its enrichment offer was contingent on Iran resuming a moratorium on domestic enrichment, but the Iranians rejected that link.

"In terms of satisfying its needs, Tehran cannot remain dependent on international suppliers," the Iranian government said in the statement. "Iran would welcome the creation of an international nuclear fuel center on its territory with the participation of other countries and in the framework of an international consortium."

It was not clear whether the offer differed from one that Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad made before the U.N. General Assembly last September. At that time, he offered foreign countries and companies a role in uranium enrichment inside Iran.

Iran also reiterated that Security Council intervention in the dispute would "escalate tensions, entailing negative consequences that would be of benefit to no party."

Nonetheless, the five veto-wielding members of the Security Council said Tuesday they were nearing a deal on a proposed statement addressing Iran. Russia and China have so far opposed a proposal from Britain, France and the United States that would demand Iran comply with demands that it suspend uranium enrichment.

"We have reached agreement on the bulk of the text, so there was movement on all sides, and now we need to see whether we can cross this last bridge but we're very close."

John Bolton
U.S. Ambassador

said after the permanent five held three meetings Tuesday. Britain and France circulated the text of a proposed statement later Tuesday to the rest of the 15-nation Security Council. Diplomats said that was a sign that divisions with China and Russia had narrowed after three meetings in eight hours, though they said differences remained.

The five permanent members of the council have struggled for three weeks to come up with a written rebuke that would urge Iran to comply with demands from the U.N. nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency, that it suspend uranium enrichment.

CHINA

Pope may visit China for maiden Vatican trip

Associated Press

HONG KONG Pope Benedict XVI told a delegation from Hong Kong he will visit China in what would be an extraordinary papal visit to the communist nation, but he said the trip's timing depends on "God's wish," media reports said Tuesday.

One of the Vatican's goals is to restart official relations with China, which forced its Roman Catholics to cut ties with the Holy See in 1951 after the official allegiance of Communist leaders.

But millions of Chinese belong to unofficial Chinese churches. People can worship only in government-controlled churches.

Pope John Paul II, the most-traveled pontiff in history, was unable to visit China during his 26-year papacy. Pope Paul VI made a three-hour stopover in Hong Kong in 1970 when it was a British colony.

No pope has ever visited mainland China. The Pope Benedict delegation was in Rome for ceremonies installing 15 new cardinals, including Hong Kong Bishop Joseph Zen.

Zen, an outspoken champion of religious freedom in China, said he believed the pope would visit China first if he made a China trip.

"Hong Kong is part of China and perhaps he should come here as a first step," Hong Kong's South China Morning Post quoted Zen as saying.

The delegation included Hong Kong media mogul Jimmy Lai, who told the pope Monday, "Please come to China to bring us love and democracy." Lai's Apple Daily newspaper reported in a front-page story.

The pope responded, "I will come," the newspaper reported.
Misbehaved ones

Katie Redfield is quite rightly one of our campus’s most competent and energetic leaders. At Notre Dame, some issues will drag you through the ringer. Her efforts in standing up against violence against women have been inspiring. I appreciate Redfield’s persistent leading student groups on these issues even until her senior year. Her investment in challenging us on these issues is beyond popularity or filling a role. Redfield is disheartened by situations in which people cannot tell stories of victimization nor seek adequate help for this anger fuels her. I foresee that the changes the dialogue she has facilitated will mark this campus better for all its daughters and sons.

In my blood goes most of my admiration for taking up an issue close to my heart. As many African American students could instantly, when I arrived here I know that flying in was not a possibility. Boyd has reoriented through a way to not only uplift the images and stories of minority students but also to invite majority students to enter conversation about cultures different from their own. Her push to create cultural competency is a tool that fits our role as an academic institution. We should value the amount of love, curiosity and care that Notre Dame students have for people as much as we do for books and intangible knowledge. Boyd realizes the potential of a university education to prepare people for life in diverse communities, not only a career.

Despite her double major, I cannot shrink a light on less Colbert. During her time here, she has really engaged the South Bend community, built and plans to work on something related to the Middle East—engaging the other for peace and understanding. Women make great leaders, teachers and comrades. We are blessed here to have these and many more Notre Dame women who misbehave, take the lead and change our world. I am honored to have worked with these leaders, in every way and in every aspect to receive my degree in their company.

Kamaria Porter

Black, Red and Catholic

Spirited inclusion appreciated

Sometime recently, I was walking through my dorm and came across a rather large rainbow flag inscribed with the words “Spirit of Inclusion” hanging in my dorm lobby. My first reaction was shock. Never in a million years did I expect to see a rainbow flag decorating a dorm on this campus (excluding students’ private rooms). My second was deep gratitude.

I am a senior and have been out on this campus for a little over three years now, and have been involved with the Standing Committee for Gay and Lesbian Student Needs since the beginning of my sophomore year. Needless to say, I have seen a lot over the past four years revolving around GLBT issues.

Some of what I have seen has been good, and some of it has made me feel incredibly unwelcome here. What I felt most of all, however, was invisible. So many students see GLBT issues as something that is debated over lunch or in a class, for me, it involves an important part of who I am. I struggle daily with the assumption of heterosexuality that the majority of people on this campus hold regarding the people around them.

To see a rainbow flag up in my residence hall told me, in the most simple manner I can think of, that GLBT students and embraced as part of the Notre Dame community and that discrimination and intolerance are not welcome in our halls. For that, I am incredibly grateful.

I recently found out that these flags were offered to all the hall rectors but that only a handful agreed to display them. For those who did, I would like to say thank you. For those who have not, I would like to ask you to reconsider. It could make all the difference in the world to a GLBT student living in your hall to see this symbol of acceptance. I can only imagine, if the flag had such a strong impact on someone like myself who has come to terms with my sexuality, what kind of impact it may have on the students here who are still struggling.

Tiffany Thompson

Senior

Welsh Family Hall

March 28

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Submit a Letter to the Editor at www.ndsmcobserver.com

Wednesday, March 29, 2006

PAGE 12
Injustice in the fields of Florida

The Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) is a community-based worker organization composed mainly of immigrants with low-wage jobs in the tomato fields of Florida. The CIW focused its efforts towards achieving respectable working conditions and wages for these traditionally oppressed people in the region, as well as the right to be directly involved in decisions that affect their lives. In order to achieve these goals, the CIW set their sights high and aimed for the corporations that purchased tomatoes from the fields they worked in. In 2001, the CIW launched The Real Rights Tour, designed to travel the country educating students, among other allies, on the situation in Florida. Included in its destinations was our University of Notre Dame. This Thursday, March 30, from 12:15-2:15 p.m. in the Carey Auditorium of the Hesburgh Library, the CIW will be presenting their experiences in the tomato fields and educating on the McDonald’s Campaign. They will then continue on, concluding their tour with a rally in Chicago, Illinois this coming Sat., April 1, in which some Notre Dame students will be participating.

Someone once said, “If you educate people, they will come down on the side of justice.” As members of the Notre Dame family, we have a great opportunity here to educate ourselves on what we can do in the fight for justice.

Nate Gibson
Rosa Lopez
Carlos Santos

March 27

Pirate mascots offensive too

I would like to voice my opinion on the ongoing debate amongst different factions at Our Lady’s University regarding the name of our sporting teams. I tend to agree with Paul Varley, our Head Bowl, et al. in the attack on our mascot. This issue is very important to me, for being a sports fan I, too, am under constant assault of an unfortunate depiction of my own people’s history. My father, you see, was a “pirate.”

Buccaneering has a long and rich history in the Bochinski family. The ugly word “pirate,” however, harkens back to days when men with ships of hay and men with boats pil- laged and generally raised a ruckus. While there certainly is swashbuckling involved in the life of a buccaneer, this archaic word is clearly associated with the negative aspects of the occupation.

Let me tell you, every day on the playground was terrible on the psyche of a young boy. “Let’s see your parrot!” some kids would say. “Where’s your eye patch?” others would yell.

Indeed in this day and age, pirates are forced into the main profession of their ilk — the service industry. Unfortunately, this industry is almost completely reliant on tourists, mostly Americans, who have no idea what real pirates are all about. Therefore pirate mascots and rides perpetuate an image of the drunken, makeup-wearing, pillaging sort. While there is drooling in very limited pillaging. And there is absolutely no makeup.

Myles Brand recently stated that, “The NCAA objects to institutions using racist/ethnic/national origin references in their inter-collegiate athletics programs.” If this is true, we must take it one step further. We must get rid of every mascot that can possibly offend any one.

I personally find Seton Hall’s mascot offensive. But we cannot possibly stop there. My friend Bobby’s father works at a ranch — change Oklahoma’s mascot? My friend Megan’s second cousin was mauled by a mountain lion — I say for her sake change Penn State’s mascot.

Stop the madness. We wouldn’t want to offend anyone.

Jim Bochowski
Sophomore

March 27

‘Fighting Irish’ moniker testament to character, not slur

Paul L. Richards letter on March 22 has gotten our Irish up, on to speak, by suggesting that the “Fighting Irish” nickname is offensive. As proud Irish-American Catholics and proud sons of Our Lady, we believe that the term “Fighting Irish” has come to be associated with a legendary spirit of tenacity and persistence towards unprecedented athletic excellence.

We agree with Richards that the nickname “Fighting Irish” originally arose as a slur directed against Irish-Americans in general and the largely Irish-American student body of the University of Notre Dame in particular. We do not deny that the term has its roots in anti-Catholic and anti-Irish prejudice of the worst kind. However, we contend that the term “Fighting Irish” has taken on a drastically different meaning in the decades since it was coined.

Since it became the official Notre Dame nickname in 1927 (at the behest of then-University President Rev.Matthew Walsh, C.S.C., an Irish-American), the term “Fighting Irish” has come to be associated with a legendary spirit of tenacity and persistence towards unprecedented athletic excellence. The victories of the Fighting Irish of Notre Dame, especially in football, have long been a point of pride for working-class Irish-Americans. Like our athletic teams, Irish-Americans as an ethnicity have worked hard and forged success for themselves, often in the face of long odds and historical abuse.

The legendary subway alumni — including our own greatfathers — were drawn to Notre Dame because, under the banner of the “Fighting Irish,” it exemplified the ability of the underdog to succeed through determination and commitment to excellence.

We believe that the “Fighting Irish” nickname is a vital part of Notre Dame’s heritage. Rather than perpetuating a stereotype or shaming an ethnicity, the nickname represents the Notre Dame character of triumph against all odds. We are proud to be known as the Fighting Irish, and hope it ever remains as an emblem of Notre Dame’s fighting spirit.

Brendan J. Hauchan
Michael F. Varley

OBSERVER

Wednesday, March 29, 2006
MOVIE REVIEW

By TAE ANDREWS
Assistant Scene Editor

Pair two industry veterans with impressive portfolios and savvy to match, then throw in an up-and-coming for good measure, and the result is more than a sound investment — it’s a blockbuster. Actor Denzel Washington reunites with director Spike Lee for their fourth collaboration in “Inside Man,” a heist film in which Washington plays Detective Keith Frazer, a cop trying to catch up with a bank robber (Clive Owen) who always seems to be one step ahead.

As one of the finest actors of his generation, it’s no coincidence that Washington’s surname is identical to that of George Washington, the founding father whose visage is printed on the dollar bill — Denzel is money, plain and simple. Washington’s currency as an actor is his versatility, as his talents include recent turns as an embattled football coach in 2000’s “Bluies,” a lethal assassin opposite Matt Damon in 2001, Owen as an up-and-comer for good but seemingly endless in “Inside Man,” a heist film in which Washington plays Detective Keith Frazer, a cop trying to catch up with a bank robber (Clive Owen) who always seems to be one step ahead.

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Writer: Russell Gewirtz
Starring: Denzel Washington, Clive Owen, Jodie Foster and Willem Dafoe

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CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

By BRIAN DOXTADER

In a career that now stretches over two decades, director Spike Lee has established himself as one of America's premier filmmakers. From his NYU film school days to "Inside Man," Lee has explored various controversial topics with skill and grace. Though he has well over a dozen films to his credit, there are a few in his oeuvre that stand out.

She's Gotta Have It (1986)

A brief (85 minutes), busy film about a woman who can't decide between three men, Lee's feature debut helped usher in a new wave of American independent cinema. Shot in 15 days on a budget of less than $200,000, "She's Gotta Have It" introduced the world to the 29-year-old director's considerable talent. Though the film was not as sharp, insightful and published as Lee's later works, "She's Gotta Have It" has a quirky charm and energetic style that the director would never again quite capture.

Do the Right Thing (1989)

By 1989, Spike Lee had established himself as one of America's premier directors, and he fulfilled his promise with the masterpiece "Do the Right Thing." A pro-crash examination of racism, "Do the Right Thing" bristles with gusto and righteous anger. Praised and criticized in almost equal measure for its passionately incendiary content, the film was nonetheless a box office success and helped pave the way for black directors like John Singleton ("Boyz N the Hood").

At once invigorating, difficult and groundbreaking, "Do the Right Thing" remains Lee's masterpiece and one of the best films of the 1980s. There are those who still feel that the film was robbed at the Oscars, where the uplifting and relatively uncontroversial "Driving Miss Daisy" took top honors.

Malcolm X (1992)

Lee's 1992 biography of the assassinated civil rights leader is as epic as they come, following Malcolm X's entire life over the course of 205 minutes. Anchored by an astounding performance by Denzel Washington, Lee's film manages to capture the civil rights icon as a difficult, complex and ultimately realistic man — the director neither makes him a larger-than-life figure nor demystifies him for his flaws. "Malcolm X" solidified Lee as a director of great talent and considerable vision, though the overall quality of his work dipped slightly in the decade following its release.

Summer of Sam (1999)

Noted critically as Lee's first film without a primarily black cast, "Summer of Sam" is more problematic because of its unforced sprawl. Touting such acting talent as John Leguizamo, Adrien Brody and Mira Sorvino, the plot never quite gels. Though this multi-faced narrative tableau is a trademark of Lee's style, "Summer of Sam" is one of his few films that never becomes quite engaging enough to sustain momentum over its considerable length. The atmosphere of paranoia and fear is suitably oppressive, but becomes wearing as the film surpasses the two-hour mark. Still, the director's ambition and conviction shine through (as usual), and his commitment to detail prevent "Summer of Sam" from being a complete failure.

25th Hour (2002)

A complex, difficult film starring Edward Norton and Philip Seymour Hoffman, "25th Hour" was the first Hollywood film to address post-9/11 New York City. Following a drug dealer's final day before he is to go to prison, Lee's film is a desperate search for hope, redemption and resolution in an uncertain world. Though anchored by the unerring performance of Edward Norton in the lead, "25th Hour" still did not live up to the director's admittedly high standards. Its manic, aggressive style and visual overload was problematic for many, who saw the film as an example of the director allowing style to overshadow substance. One of Lee's last forays into didactic cinema, it helped pave the way for 2006's "Inside Man."

Contact Brian Doxtader at bdoxtade@nd.edu
Cinematic crime films emerge as fresh film genre

By SEAN SWANEY
Scene Writer

The job. The con. The heist. In Hollywood, the heist film is one of the few types of films built of such action. The job must be airtight. The con must be airtight. The heist film must be airtight. If there is a certain level of ambiguity, the viewer will be put off. The movie is a puzzle. The puzzle must be complex and the story must be believable for a heist film to be successful. Failure of these prerequisites, the audience is either horribly bored or delightfully entertaining. Here are some of the better examples of an increasingly popular genre.

The Sting (1973)

A winner of seven Academy Awards, "The Sting" is perhaps the quintessential pre-civil rights era Atlanta to a hummer-filled caper, complete with a plot line that constantly twists and turns. "The Sting" can easily be watched repeatedly thanks to its clever plot and memorable soundtrack. The acting here is superb, and it's easy to see that the filmmakers had a fun time making the movie, a trait that usually translates to success and longevity for Hollywood films. This classic has some of the best bench work for all heist films and still maintains its vitality and relevance.

Reservoir Dogs (1992)

The first true directorial effort of Quentin Tarantino, this movie uses the flashback format to tell the story of seven of the greatest living filmmakers. Known for films that concern themselves with race and ethnicity, Lee's pictures frequently delve into societal ills such as poverty, crime and media influence over these subject matters. Despite the controversy they elicit, Lee's best films certainly deserve recognition as important cinema. Born in pre-civil rights era Atlanta to a jazz musician and schoolteacher, Lee moved to Brooklyn as a young child. After high school in New York, Lee went back to Atlanta and completed a B.A. at Morehouse College, the all-male college for blacks that counts Martin Luther King, Jr. among its alumni. He would then go on to complete an M.F.A. at the prestigious Tisch School of the Arts at New York University (NYU). While at Tisch, fellow classmate Ang Lee — whose directorial credits include "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" and "Brokeback Mountain" — helped Spike Lee with his student film "Joe's Bed-Stuy Barbershop: We Cut Heads."

Completing his education, Lee started his own production company, 40 Acres & A Mule Filmworks — so called because the cheap 16mm film was used to make films he could not afford to make otherwise. "He's Gotta Have It" is one of the best films of Lee's career. His third film, "Do The Right Thing," in which he also starred, would garner an Academy Award nomination for Best Original Screenplay and prove to be one of the most controversial films Lee has made to date.

The film opens with a quotation from Martin Luther King Jr. in which he comments on violence and states that "violence is a poor harvest of hate that deals with relationships as it follows a count of the arsenal of Hollywood genre cliches to engross themselves in the film's plot. The film's plot revolves around a violent standoff between a mob and a gang led by the charismatic and magnetic Tony Tiger, I Iidden & King.

Both "Ocean's Eleven" and "Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels" are examples of an addictive heist movie where four idiots try to scam a group of dumb drug dealers. "Lock, Stock" combines an intelligent heist plot with quick, witty British humor. The actors, headlined by Jason Statham, Gary Oldman, Ray Winstone, and Vinnie Jones, are superb, and it's easy to see that the filmmakers had a fun time making the movie, a trait that usually translates to success and longevity for Hollywood films. This classic has some excellent bench work for all heist films and still maintains its vitality and relevance.

Another remake of a 1970s film, "The Italian Job" is a fun, action packed movie that stars Matt Damon, a master thief plotting a large heist in the middle of Los Angeles. A supporting cast of Charlize Theron, Edward Norton and Donald Sutherland keep the movie entertaining, but the real fun lies in the stunts. Car chases abound here, especially with the new Mini-Cooper vehicle made famous in the film. It is obvious that the film crew took pride in their stunts and special effects, as most of the main actors performed their own stunts. This adds realism to the film and allows audiences to engross themselves in the action of the film.

What all these heist films have in common is the ability to grab the audience's attention and hold it. It is a genre that is perfect for filmmakers who are just starting out as well as established filmmakers who want to try something new. These films have all the elements of an action film, including high-stakes, excitement, and plenty of thrills. Whether you're a fan of classic heist films or new takes on the genre, there is something for everyone in these movies.
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STUDENT TICKETS: $15
Associated Press

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. — The Detroit Pistons enjoyed beating Dallas so much that they want a championship ring again.

"I told Avery (Johnson) after the game that I'd like to see him seven or eight more times, starting in about three months," Pistons coach Mike Woodson said Tuesday.

If the Pistons (56-14) and Mavericks (54-17) do meet in June, Detroit, which owns a 90-82 rout in Dallas on Nov. 19, will have beaten the defending champions 40 times in one quarter, and Billups wanted to make sure there wasn't a repetition.

"Dallas and Phoenix are the two teams that really make an effort to jump on you early, so I knew I had to be aggressive tonight. "I think the team plays better when I'm aggressive," he said.

Rashheed Wallace added 21 points and 10 rebounds for Detroit, while forward Richard Hamilton scored 14 points.

"It's a lot of fun to play games like these," Billups said. "Especially when you are going up against one of the NBA's best teams, like we were tonight."

Hill Nowitzki and former Piston Shawn Bibby each scored 19 points for Dallas.

"That's as good as it gets in this league," Stackhouse said. "But we're going to look at this film and we're all going to (mad), because we had the game, didn't play smart, and that cost us the game."

Stackhouse, who still holds the Pistons' single-game scoring record, had nine points in the third quarter, but the Mavericks needed Keeshawn Howard's late 3-pointer to stay within 72-69 at quarter's end.

"Stark did his thing tonight," Wallace said, a close friend. Stackhouse's since their days at North Carolina. "I just wish he would have done it against someone else."

The teams traded the advantage four times in the final quarter of the fourth, and the game was tied with 3 minutes to play.

Charlotte 254, Atlanta 250

Charlotte Bobcats guard Brevin Knight looked at Gerald Henderson and thought of an NBA legend.

"He had 17 layups — those are Will Chamberlain numbers," Knight said after Wallace scored 18 of his career-high 41 points in the fourth quarter of the Bobcats' victory over the Atlanta Hawks on Tuesday night.

Wallace added 20 points and 10 assists, and hit the clinching 3-pointer with 3 seconds left. Charlotte shot 57 percent, snapped a three-game losing streak and scored the most points in its two-year history.

Wallace hit 17 of 22 shots, almost all coming in the paint, including two alley-oop dunks in the final quarter to set a franchise record for points in a game. The Hawks had 27 points.

"Karrem Rush had against Indiana on Nov. 16. "They played him 1-on-1 for the most part and he's tough to guard," Knight said. "He attacks the basket."

Despite Wallace's big night, the Hawks had a chance to tie, but Zaza Pachulia missed a foul-line jumper with 52 seconds left. Fenton, who missed Sunday's loss to Memphis with an abdominal injury, hit his fourth from the right wing on the next possession to seal it.

Joe Johnson led the Hawks with 35 points and Josh Smith added 20 points and 14 rebounds for the Hawks, who lost five straight.

The game, matching teams with the league's best records (Charlotte) and the fourth-worst (Atlanta), featured little defense. Wallace took the biggest advantage of the Hawks' soft interior, repeatedly beating defenders Marvin Williams and Smith on poor moves before the Hawks switched to a zone.

"It's ridiculous. Our commitment to defense is awful," Atlanta coach Mike Woodson said. "We're not even trying to defend."

MILWAUKEE 132, Phoenix 110

Charlie Bell had career highs of 19 points, 13 assists and 10 rebounds for his first career triple-double, and the Milwaukee Bucks hit a franchise-record 18 3-pointers in a victory over the Phoenix Suns on Tuesday night.

Michael Redd had 28 points as the Bucks set season highs in almost every offensive category, scoring 46 points in a blistering third-quarter 3-point assault.

Milwaukee finished 18-32 from 3-point range and set season marks for points, points in a half (74), points in a quarter, field goal percentage (60 percent) and assists (36).

Early in the fourth quarter, Bobby Simmons hit a 3, followed by a dunk and a layup and a dunk by Dan Gadzuric where the Bucks ran the same play three straight possessions as it built a 14-6 lead. The Bucks never let Phoenix get close again and led by as many as 24.

Bell had the type of night most expected from winning MVP Steve Nash, who scored 23 points and had seven assists, one of their 21 3-pointers.

Earl Watson had 15 points, while Rashard Lewis added 14. Nash hit his first seven shots and got an extended rest early in the game with Phoenix in a stretch of five games in six days.

Meanwhile, Eddie House came off the bench and hit his first five shots and scored 13 points in 7 minutes. He finished with 19.

SEATTLE 106, Dallas 97

Ray Allen made an off-bal­ lance 19-footer with 0.3 seconds left, and the Seattle SuperSonics overcame Pau Gasol's 44 points to beat the Memphis Grizzlies on Tuesday night.

With Amare Stoudmire returning to the Suns' bench with knee pain after a sluggish night Monday, the Bucks went with a bigger lineup and began taking over in the third quarter.

Tied at 90, Milwaukee hit five consecutive 3s to start a 17-3 run that made it 97-83 midway through the third.

After Suns coach Mike D'Antoni called a timeout, he disputed a foul call and was given a technical foul, but it didn't spark the Suns, who trailed 104-88 going into the fourth quarter.

Tony Kukoc had a season-high 17 points after playing sparingly before last week's road trip. Gadzuric also scored 17, while Simmons and Mo Williams each had 15. Andrew Bogut added 14.

Nash hit his first seven shots and got an extended rest early in the game with Phoenix in a stretch of five games in six days.

Meanwhile, Eddie House came off the bench and hit his first five shots and scored 13 points in 7 minutes. He finished with 19.

SEATTLE, 98, Memphis 97

Ray Allen made an off-bal­ lance 19-footer with 0.3 seconds left, and the Seattle SuperSonics overcame Pau Gasol's 44 points to beat the Memphis Grizzlies on Tuesday night.

The Grizzlies had their seven-game winning streak snapped despite Gasol's franchise-record scoring total.

Allen drained the left to the wing, and as Eddie Jones made a stab at the ball, Allen shot the jumper which bounced on the rim before dropping through. Shane Battier's inbounder lob as time ran out hit the backboard.

Allen led the Sonics with 20 points and five assists, one of seven Seattle players in double figures. Johan Petro finished with 15 points, while Rashard Lewis added 14 before being helped off the court with a leg injury with 3:12 left.

Earl Watson had 13 points and six assists for Seattle, while Chris Wilcox and Luke Ridnour each scored 11, Mikki Moore scored 10 points and had seven rebounds.

Jones had 16 points for Memphis, while reserve Mike Miller added 11. Gasol grabbed nine rebounds.

The Sonics scored seven straight points midway through the final period and held an 89-86 lead with 5:21 left. But Memphis retook the lead on a 10-0 run that broke the franchise record, and back-to-back baskets by Miller. The Grizzlies held a 97-93 lead when Miller scored again on a freeway 15-footer with the shot clock running down and 1:07 left in the game.

Seattle's Ray Allen throws up a shot as time expires in Tuesday night's game against the Memphis Grizzlies. Allen made the basket, and the Supernovos won the game, 98-97.
NCAA WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Tar Heels crush Volunteers to make it to the Final Four

Associated Press
CLEVELAND — Ivory Latta flexed her muscles at LeBron James, shook hands with Pat Summit and helped North Carolina drop mighty Tennessee out of the NCAA tournament. She's fearless. She's fast. She's feisty.
And, she is Final Four-bound.
The littlest Tar Heel, making every big play down the stretch, put top-seeded North Carolina in its first Final Four since winning the 1994 national championship with a 75-63 win over Tennessee in the Cleveland Regional on Tuesday night.

After complaining that their road to Boston was way too tough, the Tar Heels are packing their bags for another road trip.

“'We're the No. 1 team in the nation,” said Latta, "and tonight we showed it."
The 5-foot-6 (with heels on, maybe) Latta finished with 20 points, nine assists and four steals in 40 minutes for the Tar Heels (33-1), who will play Maryland in this weekend's Final Four. The Terrapins were the only team to beat North Carolina, edging the Tar Heels by three points in overtime on Feb. 9.
Latta scored nine of her team's final 11 points, drilling a crucial 3-pointer with 3:27 left.

“An Evening of Prayer from Around the World”

Please join us for an evening of Christian Taize prayer as part of a series exploring the beliefs and practices of the world's great faith traditions:

Thursday, March 30, 2006
330 Coleman-Morse
7:745 p.m.
Danica Patrick and crew opt out of Toyota 300

Associated Press

HOMESTEAD, Fla. — Danica Patrick said Tuesday the Rahal Letterman Racing team made the right decision in keeping both her and teammate Buddy Rice out of Sunday’s season-opening race at Homestead-Miami Speedway after the death of rookie Paul Dana.

“I don’t think you can ever question the decision that your boss makes,” she said during a break in testing on Homestead’s road course.

Referring to team co-owner Bobby Rahal, she added, “If he would have said ‘race’ or ‘don’t race,’ that’s what I would have done. I race for him. I think he did a very, very good thing. This is life. We drive race cars, and it’s what we love, and it’s our job, but we don’t walk out there a couple minutes afterward and say, ‘I’ve forgotten already.’

“I don’t think that anybody can criticize the fact that he said ‘don’t race.’ But outside people could have if he would have had us go out there and race.”

Patrick and Rice both plan to race on Sunday at St. Petersburg in the second IRL IndyCar Series race of the season.

Dana, a 32-year-old rookie, joined the team this season and was scheduled to make his first start of Rahal Letterman last Sunday. Instead, he was pronounced dead two hours after crashing into the nearly stopped car of Ed Carpenter, who had hit the wall several seconds earlier.

Carpenter spent a night in the hospital, but was released Monday, suffering from a bruised lung.

Patrick, last year’s rookie phenomenon who led and finished fourth in the Indianapolis 500, said she didn’t know Dana very well.

“I told him to keep a little bit to myself,” she said. “I don’t talk to very many people. I pretty much go from my motorcoach to my truck and to the track. I really didn’t get to know him very well.

“I told him to move over a couple of times when he was sitting in my seat right next to my engineer,” she said, smiling. “But he was a very nice guy. And, gosh, did he want it.”

Patrick pointed out that Dana got his ride with Rahal by getting Team Ethanol to sponsor his No. 17 race car.

“Either you get a free ride or you bring a sponsor along,” she said. “You can write your own checks, and you write your own ticket. He did the hardest thing: he got a sponsor to stand behind and give him a ride.

“They said, ‘All right, Paul Dana, we believe in you.’ I remember at the Christmas party, and I was sitting in a meeting with the team and I thought, ‘What’s going on here, is he going to drive for the team?’ I was surprised, but he made it happen. Good for him.

“And you know what, he was proving he was driving the thing. I was a little scared because he was keeping up with us. I think he did better than I expected.”

Rice, the 2004 Indy 500 winner, remembered Dana as a driver with a lot of heart.

“That guy put everything he had into becoming a race car driver,” Rice said Tuesday. “Obviously he got a little bit of later start than some of us; that’s just the way of the course. I think he had a lot of drive, he had a lot of heart and he put everything he had into becoming a race car driver.

“Obviously, it was short but he got to do what he wanted to do and he made it to the top level.”

Patrick said race car drivers understand that it is their job to race, even under difficult circumstances. She said there was no hesitation about getting back in the cockpit this week.

“Things are a lot more somber, and rightfully so,” she said. “Somebody died. It sounds a little bit cold, but it is the job. We do have to keep racing, but we will give him the best tribute and the best thoughts and prayers that we can.”

Teamwork for Tomorrow

Applications Due April 2nd

Email teamwork@nd.edu to receive an application.
**NHL**

Eastern Conference, Atlantic Division

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Eastern Conference, Northeast Division

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**NCAA Basketball**

Oklahoma basketball coach Kelvin Sampson watches his team play Oklahoma State in a basketball game on Feb. 27 in Norman, Okla. Sampson announced he will leave Oklahoma to coach at Indiana.

**Oklahoma's Sampson bolts for Indiana**

Associated Press

**IN BRIEF**

**NASCAR's Gordon fined for track-side altercation**

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Jeff Gordon has always been a model of good behavior off the track, the rare driver able to keep his emotions in check.

That changed when he angrily shoved Matt Kenseth following the race at Bristol Motor Speedway, an action that drew a $10,000 fine from NASCAR on Tuesday. It's the first time in Gordon's 14-year career that he's been penalized for his conduct.

Don't expect Gordon, who was placed on probation until Aug. 30, to turn into another Tony Stewart or Kurt Busch. But the image-conscious driver is committed to letting loose the emotion he's kept bottled up over the years.

"For many, many years I've been so reserved from controversy," he said. "I was just so concerned with What was this person going to think? And What was that person going to think? And I was more caught up in that than I was in being true to myself."

"You see today is a more true Jeff Gordon and who I really am. I'm not a robot. I have a personality and I have emotions and I have a humorous side to me and an angry side to me."

**Outfielder Grissom calls it a career after 17 seasons**

MESA, Ariz. — Marquis Grissom announced his retirement Tuesday after a 17-year major league career.

The 34-year-old outfielder signed a minor league contract with the Chicago Cubs in January and had hoped to make the team as a backup. But he batted just .205 in 17 spring training games.

Grissom leaves as one of seven players with 2,000 hits, 200 home runs and 400 stolen bases, joining Craig Biggio, Roberto Alomar, Barry Bonds, Rickey Henderson, Paul Molitor and Joe Morgan.

Grissom finished with 2,000 hits, 200 home runs and 400 stolen bases, including a career-high 78 in 1992. He was a two-time All-Star and four-time Gold Glove winner during a career that saw him play in the majors with six teams.

"I'm at peace with myself. I'm happy," Grissom said. "I feel like the whole world has been lifted off my shoulders."

**Indiana highway will not be named for Reggie Miller**

CARMEL, Ind. — A stretch of U.S. 31 won't be named for retired Indiana Pacers star Reggie Miller after all.

"That's because the highway section just north of Indianapolis that was to be designated for Miller by the Indiana Department of Transportation has spent the past 12 years as the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Highway."

"Once we were made aware of it and spoke with the veterans and that sort of thing, we decided to not pursue that plan," highway department spokesman Gary Abell said Tuesday.

**Around the dial**

NBA

Detroit vs. Philadelphia, 7:30 p.m., ESPN

Boston vs. New York, 7:30 p.m., ESPN2

Utah vs. Denver, 7:30 p.m., ESPN2

MLB

Pittsburgh vs. Boston, 1 p.m., ESPN

TENNIS

2006 NASDAQ-100 Open, 12 p.m., ESPN
PAT•GREEN

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TICKETS ONLY $10.00

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NBA

Spurs beat Clippers to claim conference lead

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Tim Duncan and the San Antonio Spurs vividly remembered what Elton Brand did against them three weeks ago.

They were not about to let him repeat it.

Duncan had 20 points and 13 rebounds, and did a lot of the heavy work in containing Brand on the other end of the floor Tuesday night in leading the Spurs to a 98-87 victory over the Los Angeles Clippers.

"Elton is having such a great season, he's been an MVP candidate all year long, and we felt we should start there because he hurt us so bad last time," Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said. "It worked out for us this time."

Brand led the Clippers with 20 points and 10 rebounds, but he shot only 3-of-11 and scored 11 points after the first period. He had 30 points and nine rebounds March 7 in a 98-85 victory over the Spurs at Staples Center. "It was a huge key," Duncan said of containing Brand. "We really hurt us last time. We decided to come after him and make them change their game a little bit."

Michael Finley also scored 20 points, Bruce Bowen had 16, and Manu Ginobili had eight points and nine assists for the Spurs (55-16), who moved into first place in the Western Conference, one game ahead of Dallas.

The Spurs won for the seventh time in nine games despite the absence of leading scorer Tony Parker, who sat out because of a sore right shin. He was injured Sunday night during a 106-102 loss in Seattle, when he was accidentally kicked.

"It's really sore," Popovich said. "He can't push off or put any weight on it."

Popovich said Parker might be available Thursday night when the Spurs play the Lakers.

"Tony's a really good player, but their offense is so easy to run," Clippers guard Cuttino Mobley said. "You dribble it down, you give it to Tim, and those guys are knocking shots down and making plays. That team is deep enough that it's OK."

"If you miss Tim Duncan, then there's a difference. But you can make up Tony's 20 points, and Finley's a starter anywhere else."

Chris Kaman added 18 points and eight rebounds and Corey Maggette had 16 points, 11 rebounds and six assists for the Clippers (41-29), who lost for just the fourth time in 12 games and need only one victory to clinch their first winning season in 15 years.

Sam Cassell was held to eight points and seven assists.

"It was a little disappointing," Brand said of the Clippers' performance. "We built some confidence playing against this team. We felt like we should have won at their place and lost in overtime, then we beat them pretty handily here, and with their full complement ... Tony Parker, Ginobili, Duncan, everybody.

"But they played pretty well tonight. They made shots and we didn't. We didn't take it to the court, and they got easy layups and easy shots."

The Spurs shot 36-of-73 (49 percent) including 10-of-25 from the arc.

The Clippers went 28-of-74 (38 percent) including 1-of-10 from beyond the arc.

"Good win for us against a very good team," Popovich said. "We needed to get back to who we are and what our personality is. I thought we did that tonight."

Popovich referred to the solid defense his team played, something he hasn't seen for the past few weeks.

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May 31- June 8, 2006

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Saint Mary's College
220 Madeleine Hall
574-284-4465 or 574-277-4918
gmandell@saaintmarys.edu

On the 75th Anniversary of the Death of Knute Rockne
The Notre Dame Athletics Department Presents
"Knute Rockne and His Fighting Irish"
A 52-minute Video Documentary
Showings at 3:00, 4:00, 5:00 and 6:00 p.m.
Friday March 31, 2006
Hesburgh Library Auditorium
Admission is Free

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Write Sports. Call Ken at 1-4543
Cubs place Prior and Wood on disabled list

Associated Press

Mark Prior and Kerry Wood went on the 15-day disabled list Tuesday along with the hopes of many Chicago Cubs fans. Neither move came as a surprise, as both have been rehabilitating from injuries.

"We knew neither one of them would be ready for opening day," Cubs manager Jim Hendry said. "Mark has been throwing again and has had no discomfort. Woody has been very, very good." Prior, who has not pitched in a spring training game, has a strained muscle in the right shoulder. Wood had arthroscopic surgery on his right knee this month to repair a minor cartilage tear. He began throwing shortly after that. He threw 60 pitches from a bullpen mound earlier this week. Also at Cubs' camp in Mesa, Ariz., Marquis Grissom announced his retirement after a 17-year major league career. The 38-year-old outfielder signed a minor league contract in January and had hoped to make the team as a backup. But he batted just 200 in 17 spring training games.

"It's been a pretty fun ride along the way," Grissom said. "I came into spring training to this organization to really see if I could go out and play baseball again for another year. And I got that opportunity from the Cubs. It didn't work out. Over a period of the last two, three weeks, I've been going in and out, strength-wise, body-wise emotionally, whether I wanted to do it, could I do it." After Kansas City claimed infielder Tony Gwynnoff Wednesday from waivers from San Diego, returning him to the Red Sox eight months ago.

Vandy continued from page 28

over Anastasia Kugakova. Other players contributing to the team's depth are Taka Bertrand and Amanda Taylor. Bertrand dedicated conference member Adrian but lost to non-conference foe Aquinas. Saint Mary's is looking to win its third conference match, which would already equal its conference win total from last season.

"A win this weekend would really help the team's confidence," Belles head coach Dee Stevenson said. "It would reaffirm in their own minds that they are among the best, not just in the conference but out of conference as well." A tough Hope team, however, stands in Saint Mary's path. Hope finished second in the MIAA last season, and they have won three straight matches heading into their clash with Saint Mary's. While admitting his team will be challenged today, Stevenson is optimistic about his team's chances. "They're definitely one of the better teams in the conference," Stevenson said. "They are year in and year out, but that's not to say that we can't compete with them. Last year's match (that Saint Mary's lost 5-4) could have gone either way, and it will probably be a similar match this year."

The Belles are also hoping that they will finally be able to field their best team when the two teams meet today. Due to either sickness or injury, Saint Mary's was without its top players this season. Stevenson has emphasized the importance of today's match. "I've been stressing to the girls that if they want to compete in conference, they have to be able to compete with teams like Hope," he said.

Contact Greg Arboagast at garbogas@nd.edu

MLB

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Contact Greg Arboagast at garbogas@nd.edu
Irish Women's Softball

Notre Dame hopes its return to the Dome will help it prepare mentally for a team with a record that may conceal its talents.

"They're a very good team," Irish coach Kevin Corrigan said. "They haven't gotten a lot of wins thus far, but they haven't been in any games this year. We've seen video of theirs this year, and they've played very good games and stayed right with their opponents."

Three of the Bears' four losses have come by four goals or fewer, including two-point losses to No. 18 University of Maryland-Baltimore County and last Saturday to Ohio State. They also lost to No. 7 Massachusetts 13-9 in a game in which they trailed by two midway through the fourth quarter.

"This is a statement game for us, coming off a bad loss, to come back and get back on our feel," Driscoll said. "We've seen the type of offense they run all year in practice. We have to play a full game and play with the potential we have on our team has, and we can run with any.

If Notre Dame's effort at practice Monday is indicative of how the team will respond in today's game, Corrigan expects the Irish to be fully recovered from Saturday's loss.

"If the guys come out and had a good practice (Monday)," Corrigan said. "They came out and competed. That's all you can ask - that's how you get better. We have to take what we can learn from the last game and expect to come out and play better."

Corrigan is confident his team can win at the highest level if it plays a mistake-free game and execute the bare fundamentals of lacrosse from start to finish.

"I don't think we need to do anything different. We need to do things consistently. That's been our biggest challenge this year. We haven't continued to execute for 60 minutes the way we need to. We haven't put together the 60 minutes on both sides of the ball."

Driscoll believes the Irish are close to making that jump.

"I watched a film and saw that we made some simple mistakes," Driscoll said. "Coach has told us that Brown runs the same style of offense as us, and it's all about execution."

Though Corrigan said sophomore midfielder Mike Podgorny will not be ready to play a full game, he will see action as he continues to recover from menorrhagia.

The Irish will also be without sophomore face-off specialist Taylor Claggett, who is recovering from a shoulder injury.

Claggett's absence Saturday critically hurt the Irish, as they lost 16 of the game's 22 face-offs and struggled to gain possession of the ball all day, managing just five goals.

Senior backup Steve Panos will make his third straight start at face-off for the Irish. After winning 9-12 against Bellarmine, Panos managed 2-15 against Hofstra, as he split time with sophomore Sean Dougherty.

"We'll continue to look for answers out there," Corrigan said. "Steve has had one real good game and one where he struggled. We'll start with Steve and go from there."

Contact Tim Dougherty at tdougherty@nd.edu

By JAY FITZPATRICK

After starting the season with 23 consecutive road games, the Irish (13-10) finally take the field at Notre Dame, playing their home opener against Bowling Green (17-8) today at 5 p.m.

The Irish are coming off arguably their best day of the season so far, having swept a doubleheader against Western Michigan last weekend. Not only did Notre Dame win both games, but won both in very different, yet equally dramatic, fashions. The combined no-hit game by Heather Booth and Kenya Fuemmeler in the first game and the eight-inning, 2-1 victory in game two showed Notre Dame's ability to win tough games.

Notre Dame head coach Deanna Gumpf hopes to take this weekend's game and use it as motivation for her team against Bowling Green.

"I hope we can use the momentum from the weekend, but three days is a long time for softball," Gumpf said.

Bowling Green has had an impressive start so far this year, having already beaten No. 13 Washington earlier in the season. Going into Tuesday night's matchup with defending champion Michigan, Bowling Green has a seven-game win streak, including five shutouts.

Gumpf recognized the need for her team to be at their absolute best in a game playing against one of the strongest Bowling Green teams in recent memory.

Although they have been strong defensively all season, the Irish will look to wake up their bats, as Notre Dame batters reached base safely only seven times in eight innings against Western Michigan.

The Falcons have a lineup that could challenge the Irish pitching staff. Bowling Green has three starting players hitting over .300 for the year, the most fearsome of whom is third baseman Gina Rango, the Bowling Green cleanup hitter currently batting .392 with a .662 slugging percentage.

Senior Heather Booth and freshman Brittany Bargar will most likely split the game against this potent lineup. While Booth has a 6-7 record, she owns a 1.70 ERA and a 1.23 WHIP (walks and hits per innings pitched). Bargar has been a very consistent pitcher this year, winning seven of her first ten starts in her Irish career.

The Irish are 14-3 all-time in season home openers, and have beaten Bowling Green in six of their last seven meetings. More importantly, the Irish know they thrive on intensity — something that has propelled them to every one of their victories so far this year.

"They [the team] knows they need to keep their intensity high because when we don't play with intensity, we don't win," Gumpf said.

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Irish prepared for home opener
Shutout
continued from page 28

tonight," Irish head coach Paul Mainieri said of his rookie ace.

Sophomore David Gruener started the game on the mound for the Irish, before being relieved after three innings of one hit, one walk, three-strikeout work.

Freshmen Brett Graffy, David Phelps and Sam Elam threw five innings each for Graffy and Phelps, one for Elam — before junior Mike Dury closed out a 10-pitch, hitless ninth.

"It played out exactly as we had hoped," Mainieri said of the pitching workload. "We have two mid-week games. This is when these young pitchers have to get the experience so that when we really need them down the line we’re not all of a sudden throwing them out there for the first time."

Valparaiso (2-13) managed only two innings from starter Dallas Calwanzell (eight hits, six earned runs, one strikeout) before turning the ball over to a platoon of four relievers, who allowed four hits and four runs in seven innings of work.

The Irish hitters battled around the order in the second inning and left the frame with an 8-0 lead. Senior centerfielder Alex Nettey collected his 100th career hit and senior left fielder Matt Bransfield sent home his 100th career RBI in the seventh-run deluge.

Sherrif Greg Lopez laid down a bunt with two men on base to score Nettey from third for the 2-0 advantage to open the floodgates. After a Cody Rizzo fly out, third baseman Brett Lilley singled in Dury — who had reached base on a double down the right field line — on a line shot to right for the 3-0 lead.

A Danny Dressman RBI single was followed immediately with a Jeremy Barnes RBI double to left centerfield to put the Irish up 5-0. Bransfield plated a run with a sacrifice fly and was followed by consecutive RBI singles by Ross Brezovsky and Nettey to round out the inning at 8-0. Nettey was 2-for-4 with two RBIs and one run on the game.

"It was good to see some guys come through with some real clutch hitting, and I think we showed we that are capable of being a good offensive team," Mainieri said of the Irish batting. "When everybody is clicking and everybody is swinging the bats the way that they can, we can back this up now with tomorrow’s game and do it through the week."

The Irish opened the first inning with a run off a Bransfield single to right centerfield and Barnes on second.

It was the sixth consecutive game in which the Irish have scored a first-inning run. Notre Dame has outscored opponents 22-5 in the first frame this season.

"In all honesty, with us not being a home run-hitting team by scoring early in the game and taking the lead, it allows us to use a squeeze bunt early there in the game — we hit and ran a couple of times," Mainieri said. "We have to try to manufacture some runs because we don’t have an enormous amount of power in our lineup."

Notre Dame scored again in the sixth inning on a single to centerfield by Eddie Smith, who filled in at second base for Brezovsky.

A three-run eighth on Crusader sophomore hurler Aaron Rank rounded out the Irish tally. Smith and Nettey took consecutive walks a Dury was hit by a pitch — all with the bases loaded — sending three runners home for the 12-0 final. Freshman Eddie Mendiola and sophomore Chris Soriano were sent home by the walks after reaching base on back-to-back line drive singles, and Bransfield was walked home after he reached his load base on balls.

"If they’re hitting it, I’d rather have them hitting it than us walking them — which happened when we allowed a sophomore to come in at the very end so we could give him an inning," Valparaiso head coach Paul Twenge said.

The Irish are in action again today against Western Michigan in a 5:05 p.m. game at Frank Eck Stadium.

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BASEBALL

Five pitchers scatter three hits in shutout

By KELLY CASSITY
Sports Writer

A seven-run second-inning explosion— the second consecu­ tive home game with seven men plated in one frame — and a three-hit shutout propelled Notre Dame over Valparaiso 12-0 on Tuesday night at Frank Eck Stadium.

The Irish (13-8) collected three hits — seven in the second inning alone — and got behind a planned rotation of five young hurlers — three freshmen, one sophomore and a junior — to scatter the three Crusader hits in sepa­ rate innings. It was the fewest hits Notre Dame has allowed in a game since a 21-1 victory over Pittsburgh on May 16, 2006.

"The key of the game today was really the outstanding pitching, really the kiddle corps, was out there throwing..." Notre Dame second baseman Ross Brezovsky takes a swing during Tuesday's game against Valparaiso. The Irish won the game, 12-0.

ND WOMEN'S TENNIS

Irish ready for strong Vandy foe

By DAN TAPETILLO
Sports Writer

The Irish have proven them­ selves as one of the nation's top programs after remaining undefeated 16 matches into the season. However, Notre Dame will face competition today as it heads back to the road to face No. 11 Vanderbilt.

"We have both had really great seasons and I feel we have a strong lineup," junior Catalina Thompson said. "Every match is going to be a big one. It's going to come down to who performs the best."

Under the leadership of jun­ ior Amanda Fish, the Commodores (13-2) are coming off their third SEC sweep after topping Mississippi State 7-0 in Starkville. After Vanderbilt swept the doubles point, Fish followed with a 6-1, 6-1 win.

FOOTBALL

Zbikowski to fight pro debut at MSG

Irish safety's decision won't affect eligibility

By KEN FOWLER
Sports Editor

Irish rising senior Tom Zbikowski will announce at an 11:15 a.m. press conference today in New York City that he will make his professional boxing debut June 10 at Madison Square Garden. ESPN.com reported Tuesday.

His father, Ed Zbikowski, told the Associated Press the four­ round fight will not jeopardize his son's NCAA football eligibility. Zbikowski, Notre Dame's start­ing strong safety and punt returner was unavailable for com­ ment Tuesday, as was Irish head coach Charlie Weis.

The Chicago Sun-Times reported Zbikowski's decision to fight professionally Tuesday morning. The Sun-Times report­ ed Zbikowski will sign an agree­ ment with Bob Arum of Top Rank Promotions that would have the third team All-American fight three times within 12 months.

In an e-mail to members of the media, Notre Dame assistant sports information director Alan Wasielewski said there would be no official comment from the ath­ letic department before the press conference.

"There will be no reaction to the Chicago Sun-Times story on Tom Zbikowski from the Notre Dame football program until the issue discussed in the article becomes official," Wasielewski said in the e-mail.

The WBO junior welterweight title fight between Miguel Cotto and Paul Malignaggi will be the headline bout the night Zbikowski fights, the AP and Sun-Times reported. The Sun­Times article said Zbikowski's fight would be included on HBO's pay-per-view coverage of the event.

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