Leaders take final bows

Saint Mary’s Mitros, McCullfud proud of term

**By LAUREN LAVELLE**

As Saturday’s Board of Governance turnover approaches, student body president Kellye Mitros and student body vice president Susan McCullfud said they are pleased with the mark they have left on Saint Mary’s.

“I am very proud of the work we did this year,” Mitros said. “We had a very successful year and I can look back on it with satisfaction.”

Both Mitros and McCullfud said they are proud to have completed most of the objectives on their platform, which included adding a Health and Wellness Commissioner to the Board of Governance (BOG), raising awareness about College history and working closely with President Emeritus Dan Meyer.

Mitros and McCullfud said they are satisfied with their involvement in the creation of the first annual Heritage Week — a series of events that interweaved the history of jazz. The esteemed musician has consistently been awarded the annual Heritage Week, a Board of Governance meeting.

ND’s Baron, Shappell, Kozlow reflect on year

**By MADDE HANNA**

For Dave Baron, his year as student body president all boils down to the campaign slogan that came to him one sleepless night — one student voice, 8,000 strong.

And three leaders who believed in doing it right.

Baron, Shappell and Kozlow were visibly stressed after Wednesday’s Senate meeting, which centered on Minority Affairs committee chair Shea Boyd’s lobby to permit a board of governance meeting.

**Banking moves 'spring forward'**

**By KAITLYN RIELY**

For years, residents of St. Joseph County have watched their clocks steadily click while the rest of the country sprang forward or fell back. But come Sunday, they will lose an hour with the rest of the nation when Indiana starts to follow daylight-saving time.

Senior Joseph Burum does not expect the time change to have a significant effect on her life.

“I am definitely enjoying living in a series of events that raised awareness of the arts and sciences, which are vitally important to life. Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua. Ut enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exercitation ullamco laboris nisi ut aliquip ex ea commodo consequat. Duis aute irure dolor in reprehenderit in voluptate velit esse cillum dolore eu fugiat nulla pariatur. Excepteur sint occaecat cupidatat non proident, sunt in culpa qui officia deserunt mollit anim id est laborum. Sed ut perspiciatis unde omnis iste natus error sit voluptatem accusantium doloremque laudantium, totam rem aperiam, eaque ipsa quae ab illo inventore veritatis et quasi architecto beatae vitae dicta sunt explicabo. Nemo enim ipsam voluptatem quia voluptas sit aspernatur aut odit aut fugit, sed quia consequuntur magni dolores eos qui ratione voluptatem sequi nesciunt. Neque porro quisquam est qui dolorem ipsum quia dolor sit amet, consectetur, adipisci velit..."
INSIDE COLUMN

The little guys

To all you March Madness Maniacs out there...

Were you as shocked as I was during the selection show? Forget the bid upsets and the teams left out of the tournament — more appalling than any of those was the behavior of analyst Billy Parker.

During the show, he told the television thrashed selection committee chair Craig Littlepage, bemoaning the field's lack of power conference teams. As the interview wrapped up, Littlepage wanted to offer his congratulations to the selected teams. But Billy didn't let the poor guy get a word in edgewise.

Let me say this about Billy Parker: He's an elderly, cantankerous, scowling man whose name the game of basketball has long passed. Forget his choice words during the selection show — no one could have anticipated the success of the mid-major teams this year.

But CBS still needs to flat out drop him, because of his overly critical, negative attitude while calling games. Billy, we don't want to hear you whine about the stupidity of the players, coaches, and refs — our family/friends/viewers are doing a good enough job of that.

The upbeat who accompanied this year's Selection Sunday has elucidated a problem with college basketball that has grown progressively worse in recent years.

The so-called "power conferences" have the NCAA in a vise grip, and it's only getting tighter. It's the power conferences that reap the financial benefits of commercialized college basketball — the national television exposure, the mass merchandising, and the NCAA tournament revenues.

Sure, most of the teams in these conferences are really good to begin with, so their exposure and tournament bids are well deserved. But the whole-sport creates a "rich get richer" dynamic that makes it difficult for a school on the fringe of notoriety to build up its program. Meanwhile, the power conferences are reaping the most money to recruit the best players, hire the best coaches, and construct the finest facilities. So much for the fairness of the chances of the college game, right?

This year, the tournament belongs to the Big East, the Big Ten, and the Pac-10. The latter has the Pac-12. Some of these conferences are really good to begin with, so their exposure and tournament bids are well deserved. But the whole-sport creates a "rich get richer" dynamic that makes it difficult for a school on the fringe of notoriety to build up its program. Meanwhile, the power conferences are reaping the most money to recruit the best players, hire the best coaches, and construct the finest facilities. So much for the fairness of the chances of the college game, right?

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WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Marie Ellen Ehourouv
Junior Regina-North
Electronic News Wire Editor

"I told my parents that I was expecting."  "I tricked my teacher with the chalk and eraser routine."  "When I wore a sling to school and acted like I broke my arm."  "Hiring Ty Williamson as coach. That one went a little too far."  "I told my parents that I registered as a Democrat."  "One year, I screwed all my brother's furniture to the ceiling."  

Members of Saint Mary's Club La Fuerza sponsored "Fast Food, Fair Trade" in Stapleton Lounge Thursday where members staged a presentation on the exploitation of farm workers.

OFFBEAT

College student lives in Wal-Mart for 42 hours

DES MOINES, Iowa — For spring break, some college students set out for sun-drenched beaches or cheap European cities. Skylan Barrels headed for the local Wal-Mart.

Barrels, 20, an aspiring writer and Drake University sophomore thought he'd spend a week in a Wal-Mart as a test of endurance, using it as the premise for a magazine article. His college adviser liked the idea.

"I just intuitively thought, 'This is brilliant!'" said Carol Spaulding-Kruse, an associate professor of English. "I wasn't quite sure why, but it just sounded like a really good idea."

For 41 hours, Barrels wandered the aisles of a Wal-Mart Supercenter in Windsor Heights that's open 24 hours a day. He checked out shoppers, read magazines, watched movies on the DVD display and played video games.

Old Shakespeare plays to fetch millions of dollars

LONDON — A rare volume containing some of William Shakespeare's most famous plays, printed only seven years after his death, will go on sale for millions of dollars at auction in July, Sotheby's has said.

Describing it as "the most important book in English literature," Sotheby's said it was printed in 1623 and contains 36 plays, half of which had never been printed before.

"The First Folio preserves 18 of his plays, including some of the most major, which otherwise would have been lost for all time," said Peter Selley, Sotheby's English literature specialist.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

In Brief

Saint Mary's seniors Emily Fannon, Sinnamone Wolfe, Amanda Caddy and Amber Painter will host a senior comprehensive art gallery opening today from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Moreau Art Galleries in the Moreau Center for the Arts. The event is free and the public is welcome to attend.

Famed Notre Dame head football coach Lou Holtz will give a lecture on "Catholicism and Competition" today from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the Stepan Center. The event is sponsored by Students Government as part of the Catholic Think Tank of America Lecture Series. Notre Dame's Saint Mary's and Holy Cross students must present student ID at the door.

The 2006 Notre Dame student peace conference, "Voices of Today, Changes for Tomorrow," will be held today and Saturday in the Hesburgh Center for International Studies.

The Irish softball team will play Connecticut at 12 p.m. Saturday at Ivy Field.

The No. 11 Irish men's lacrosse team will face off with Dartmouth at 12 p.m. Sunday at Notre Dame's Moose Krause Stadium.

The Irish men's baseball team will face off against Pittsburgh at 12:05 p.m. Sunday at Frank Eck Stadium.

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

The Observe® PAGE 2

Friday, March 3, 2006

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TODAY TONIGHT SATURDAY SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY

LOCAL WEATHER

HIGH LOW HIGH LOW HIGH LOW HIGH LOW HIGH LOW HIGH LOW

86 40 70 30 60 20 60

H snaps, a Swiss photographer has made a name for himself for his work, which documents the daily lives of ordinary people in a way that is both intimate and universal. His photographs capture the beauty of the ordinary, the extraordinary, and the mundane, and they remind us of the power of simple moments in our lives.

The Observer regrets these errors.

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Pat Moore

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Two years in the making, Saint Mary’s debuts SMC-TV

By KATIE KOHLER
News Writer

After two years in the development stage, SMC-TV — an independent television station operated by Saint Mary’s — went on the air Wednesday as the first student-produced television program in Saint Mary’s history.

SMC-TV will air its programming on Tuesdays at 4:30, 5:30 and 6:30 p.m. on Channel 3.

The station is based out of the Huisking Family Instructional Technology Resource Center in the basement of the library and receives a large portion of its funding from the Huisking Family Foundation.

Senior Michelle Fitzgerald, co-creator and general manager of the station, worked with 20 faculty members and students for two years to make SMC-TV a reality.

Fitzgerald said she was proud of the first broadcast and has high hopes for upcoming productions.

“Our first broadcast went very well and my staff and I were excited to see a product on the air after almost two years of hard work creating the station,” Fitzgerald said.

The broadcast was led by two anchors — senior Janet Brace and junior Erin Hanifin. The top story included highlights from Midnight Madness, SMC Toastal and Accepted Students Weekend.

The show also surveyed students’ spring break plans.

Hanifin said in addition to covering campus news, SMC-TV will also be a positive resource for prospective students.

“We are hoping this can become a tool in attracting future freshmen to our school,” Hanifin said.

SMC-TV originally was going to be broadcast in the dining hall and other campus locations. But televisions were not installed in time for the first broadcast.

Fitzgerald said the televisions should be installed in the dining hall this week, a location chosen primarily because almost every student visits the facility at least once a week.

“By placing a TV in a visible area, students will see the SMC-TV broadcast — gaining the maximum number of viewers for both the station and our advertisers,” Fitzgerald said.

Campus news is not the only focus for SMC-TV. Other programs in Wednesday’s broadcast included “Art Talk,” which profiled a visiting artist on campus.

Future shows will include a program called “Community Forum” and coverage of campus events such as the Theology on Fire series.

A cooking show and morning workout broadcast are also in the works.

“We recognized the size of our endeavor and knew we had to start small,” Fitzgerald said. “We will use this broadcast as a springboard to improve on the quality of SMC-TV each week.”

Keith Fowlkes, director of information technology and SMC-TV faculty advisor, was impressed with the finished product.

“The quality and content were super,” Fowlkes said. “They had some small technical difficulties, but that is expected for a first broadcast.”

Fitzgerald said many students provided positive suggestions — like airing the campus news program more than once a week.

“We (the staff) hope that interest will grow as students are able to check out the first broadcast via the homepage and tune in the following weeks,” Fitzgerald said.

The whole program will be accessible through a link on the Saint Mary’s homepage and will be broadcast in the dining hall every Tuesday on channel 3.

student visits the facility at least once a week.

“We (the staff) hope that interest will grow as students are able to check out the first broadcast via the homepage and tune in the following weeks,” Fitzgerald said.

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Student-oriented advertisements also play an important role in the success of SMC-TV.

Contact Katie Koehler at kkohlel@ saintmarys.edu

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A Saint Mary’s student watches SMC-TV during its first day of programming Wednesday. The station will air programs at 4:30, 5:30 and 6:30 p.m. every Tuesday on channel 3.
Baron continued from page 1

"The administration really does take us seriously. ... And I think we did take advantage of that this year."

While his interactions with members of the administration have helped his administration achieve its goals, for Baron, those conversations have transcended the working environment and developed into lasting relationships.

"I consider myself extremely lucky to have seen Notre Dame from an angle that most students don't get to see," he said, "to come to know personally this assembly of people who have committed their lives to furthering the mission of the University." Baron said he considers Vice President for Student Affairs Fadhor Mark Poorman "one of my greatest friends" and Jenkins an "introverted leader, as a listener to come into our ability to listen and lead at the same time."

"That's shaped me in ways I have even yet to figure out," Baron said.

While Shappell attested to the deep rapport between this year's student president and the University, she said it was relationships with students that made the experience stand out for him.

"It's been more working with peers ... motivated to improve this University," Shappell said. "You're grown up and you're still in college, and you're acting like an adult and you're still in college. It's something we struggle with." "I think the team we've worked with has been phenomenal," Kozlow said. "Our attempts, the way we put our hearts into it — that's been the most rewarding."

This year's lessons, Baron said, will carry him into his future. "I'd say I learned a lot about the student role," Baron said, half-jokingly. "Kozlow, a junior, will take over as Judicial Council president Saturday, Baron, who is graduating, will be attending law school in the fall."

Contact Maddie Hanna at mhanna1@nd.edu

Laetare continued from page 1

and said, "the Great Spirit made us all."

"Science through DNA knows this to be true," he said. "The very cells of our body know this to be true, and our great religions know it to be true. Our hope lies in the Great Spirit, the God of all Creation, that my particular faith talks to the Holy Spirit.

Born Dec. 6, 1920 in Concord, Calif. and raised on a nearby dude ranch, Brubeck first aspired to be a rancher — though the musical persuasion did not evade him for long. By age four the young virtuoso had wowed his mother — a classical pianist and teacher — with his advanced keyboarding skills and simultaneously unnerved her with his unique improvisations. A music major at the College of the Pacific in Stockton, Calif., Brubeck met his wife of 65 years while playing jazz on a campus radio program. He graduated from the school in 1942 and was drafted into military service for two years during World War II. After the war, Brubeck attended Mills College to resume his musical studies. He formed the now-famous Brubeck Quartet in 1951.

Notre Dame announces its Laetare Medal recipient each year on the Fourth Sunday of Lent on the Church calendar. The medal is subscribed with the Latin phrase, "Magna est veritas et praeventurus," or "Truth is mighty, and it shall prevail."
The first Laetare Medal was awarded in 1883. Preliminary medal winners included President John F. Kennedy, opposition Walker Percy and death penalty abolitionist Sister Helen Prejean.

Contact Katie Perry at kperry5@nd.edu

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Legends is currently hiring the following positions for next year:
Student Manager
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IT Support
Graphic Designer

View job descriptions and apply online at: legends.nd.edu (applications due by April 5th)
INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Carroll speaks out about captivity

President Bush and the

Carroll speaks out about captivity, the kidnappers brought her a newspaper. Her room warned from a small adjoining bathroom and shower. She could hear the sounds from another, they let her watch a little television. She had little idea what was going on in the outside world.

Still, she says, "It's important people know that I was not harmed."

The 28-year-old American reporter's hostage ordeal ended around mid-Thursday when she was left on a Baghdad street corner from a Sunni political party office. Wearing a green Islamic head scarf and a gray Iraqi robe, Carroll walked inside. She was then driven 20 minutes to party headquarters, where she called her family and gave an interview to Baghdad Television before being handed over to U.S. authorities.

Nations work together on economy

CANCUN - President Bush and the leaders of Canada and Mexico worked to iron out disagreements over trade and border security Thursday and to keep a North American economic edge against competition from rising powers like China.

"There is no question that the future of maquiladora factories, hence the whole economic strategy of the U.S., depends on the success of the maquiladoras," said Mexican President Vicente Fox. A lavish dinner for his guests.

National News

Jury deliberates on Moussaoui's fate

ALEXANDRIA, Va. - The jury weighing Zacarias Moussaoui's role in the deaths on Sept. 11, 2001, asked for a definition of "martyr" late Wednesday, then returned to deliberating Thursday as it worked to decide whether the al-Qaeda conspirator is eligible for the death penalty.

The jurors obtained the definition as deliberations neared four hours. U.S. District Judge Leonie Brinkema said the definition includes acts of terrorism. One of the three convictions on which Moussaoui could receive the death penalty is conspiracy to committed or cause mass destruction.

The nine men and three women, who got the case late Wednesday, then returned to deliberating whether Moussaoui is a calculating terrorist who could have prevented the Sept. 11 or an al-Qaeda lack with delusions of grandeur who had no role in 9/11.

Mine survivor returns home early

NATIONAL

Jury deliberates on Moussaoui's fate

The passengers were released upon arrival on Bahrain television. The passengers were thought to be a mix of Bahrainis, nationals of other Gulf Arab nations and Westerners.

Health Minister Nada Haffadh told al-Arabiya television that survivors who arrived at hospitals included nationals of India, South Africa, Singapore and Britain.

Information Minister Mohammed Abul-Chafar, interviewed on al-Arabiya television, said the passengers included 25 Britons, 20 Filipinos, 10 South Africans and 10 Egyptians.

Haffadh said 24 people were hospitalized and that other survivors had been released upon arrival on shore. Television footage showed survivors, appearing to be in shock and their hair still wet, squatting on the floor of a hospital.

Many of them covered themselves with blankets. One survivor was shown being treated for cuts to the head.

Interior Minister Sheikh Al Kahlifa said most of the ferry's passengers were employees of a Bahrain-based company.

Al-Katim said there were 150 guests at a dinner party aboard the ferry. The guests, he said, ate dinner while the ferry was still docked and that up to 20 of them disembarked before it sailed.

Cndr. Jeff Breslau, a spokesman for the U.S. Navy, told The Associated Press that the U.S. military aided the rescue effort. The Navy has had a presence in Bahrain for more than 50 years.

"We're sending divers, small boats and a helicopter," Breslau said.

Army prohibits use of some armor

WASHINGTON - Soldiers will no longer be allowed to wear body armor other than the protective gear issued by the military, Army officials said Thursday, the latest twist in a running battle over the equipment that the Pentagon gives its troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Army officials told The Associated Press that the order was prompted by concerns that soldiers or their families were buying inadequate or untested commercial armor from private companies — including the California-based Pinnacle Armor.

"We're very concerned that people are spending their hard-earned money on something that doesn't provide the level of protection that the Army requires people to wear. So they're, frankly, wasting their money on substandard stuff," said Col. Thomas Spoehr, director of materiel for the Army.

Murray Neal, chief executive officer of Pinnacle, said he hadn't seen the directive and wants to review it.

"We know of no reason the Army may have to justify this action," Neal said. "On the surface this looks to be another of many attempts by the Army to cover up the billions of dollars spent on ineffective body armor systems which they continue to try quick fixes on to no avail."

The move was a rare one by the Army. Spoehr said he doesn't recall any similar bans on personal armor or devices. The directives are most often issued when there are problems with aircraft or other large equipment.

Congress groups immediately denounced the decision.

Nathanial R. Helms, editor of the Soldiers for the Truth online magazine Defense Watch, said he has already received a number of e-mails from soldiers complaining about the policy.
Mitros

continued from page 1

about the school’s history.
“Out of our term, I think I am most proud of what we did with Heritage Week,” Mitros said. “It really raised awareness and left students and faculty a source to learn more about our history, whereas in the past, students could not have cared less.”

The week earned a lot of attention and positive feedback from the College community, Mitros said.
“I am so proud of the way the week turned out,” Mitros said. “It was a huge success.”

While Mitros and McIlduff met success with Heritage Week, they said they also dealt with disappointments and criticism — most of which stemmed from the cancellation of the College’s annual Pride Week.

“Most students try to pin the cancellation of Pride Week on us,” McIlduff said. “We did not have any hand in that process. It was the Student Academic Council that had the final say in that matter.”

Other challenges for Mitros and McIlduff included learning how to balance their office responsibilities with their class schedules as well as learning to handle different opinions among 800 members. But Mitros said these challenges were small compared to what some administrations have had to deal with in the recent past.

“We have been pretty lucky this year that there weren’t really any huge issues that came up,” she said. “Looking back on recent years at Saint Mary’s, other administrations have faced so much more than we did.”

While criticism has been minimal, Mitros and McIlduff said some people questioned the seriousness of their administration. Some members of the College community claimed 800 did not conduct itself in a professional manner, Mitros said. It was not their intention to be unprofessional, McIlduff said.

“I would say our term was very non-traditional,” McIlduff said. “Kelley and I took a path less traveled when approaching how to run a board.

Both women said they dealt with opposition by looking objectively at the criticism and their own actions.

“I think it is important to address a problem and acknowledge that I am human,” McIlduff said. “Constructive criticism is valuable because it helps me grow as a person and as a leader. Without it, I would not have direction or a sense of where I need to improve.”

While both women said the end of their term is bittersweet, Mitros and McIlduff are ready to move on to other interests. McIlduff also said she is ready to take on the challenge of becoming student body president.

“I am sad that my term as student body vice president is over but at the same time I am ready to meet with the new Board and to become next year’s student body president,” McIlduff said. “I enjoyed this year and hope success continues into next year.”

For Mitros, her end of term coincides with the end of her years as a Saint Mary’s student. While she hopes to remain an active part of the Saint Mary’s community after graduation, Mitros said she will miss being able to serve her fellow students.

“To the students of Saint Mary’s, I would just like to say thank you for a fantastic year,” Mitros said. “One of the greatest pleasures of my life has been serving you and I hope you can also look back on this year with as much fondness as I do.”

Contact Lauren Lavelle at flavel01@smmary.edu

Peace

continued from page 1

Children’s Defense Fund is speaking at 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. respectively.

The conference includes presentations on a wide variety of topics including immigration, human rights, religious conflict and peace through economic development. Interested students should check the Kroc Institute Website for a full list of presentations.

The peace conference promises to be a rewarding experience for all who attend, Walsh said.

The annual Notre Dame Student Peace Conference works to enlighten students from the Notre Dame community and beyond on how to work for a more just and peaceful world,” Walsh said.

“We hope to do so by confronting the very serious challenges to peace that we face and by envisioning real ways to overcome these obstacles,” he said. “We hope the conference inspires students to participate in this dialogue into action in their own daily lives and in their professional careers.”

Contact Kathleen McDonnell at kmcdona3@sna.edu

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Venezuela takes on Exxon Mobil

CARACAS — Venezuela had a blunt message this week for Exxon Mobil, one of the world’s most powerful oil companies: Get off my back.

Exxon is tightening its squeeze on the oil industry, telling oil companies to give the state a greater share of profits — or get out.

Oil Minister Rafael Ramirez on Wednesday said Exxon Mobil Corp. was one of the companies that would “prefer to leave… rather than adjust” to recent policy changes.

“We said we don’t want them to be here then,” Ramirez told the state TV broadcaster adding, “if we need them, we’ll call them.”

Exxon Mobil indicated Thursday it had no plans to pull out.

“ExxonMobil de Venezuela continues to have a long-term perspective of its activities in Venezuela,” it said in an e-mail to The Associated Press.

The flap helped push the price of oil above $67 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange on Thursday as the market reacted to the latest signs of tighter state-control of energy around the globe.

Venezuela is taking in big oil at a time when rising oil prices, political instability in the Mideast and Nigeria and new buyers in Asia have put the world’s fifth-largest oil exporter in a winning position.

After snubbing Exxon Mobil, Ramirez said Venezuela has other eager partners, including state companies from Russia, Iran, China, India, as well as traditional oil companies.

The new climate has given Venezuela the flexibility to diversify away from Western investors and incorporate state-owned companies from allied countries... more willing to abide by new, tighter terms,” said Patrick Esteruelas, analyst at the Washington-based Eurasia Group, which has been watchful for any hint of inflation amid signs that the Federal Reserve will keep hiking interest rates to control price increases.

“I think you’re seeing the market raising its estimates on economic growth, but that also may mean higher rates,” said Brian Gendreau, investment strategist for Mantuano Investment Management. “So we’re still digesting what all this means, and the result so far is a flat-to­lower­cost stock market.”

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 62.00, or 0.58 percent for the week, to 10,585.00, extending the opening in positive territory.

Broad stock indicators were narrowly mixed. The Standard & Poor’s 500 index lost 2.64, or 0.2 per­­cent, to 1,300.25, while the Nasdaq Composite rose 0.34, or 0.13 percent, to 2,340.82, reaching its second straight five-year high.

Bonds continued falling amid concerns that rising yields will draw away interest in stocks, with the yield on the 10-year Treasury note jumping to 4.86 percent from 4.80 percent late Wednesday. The dollar was mostly lower against other major currencies, and gold prices rebounded.

Crude futures pushed past last week’s $67 per barrel and reached a two-month high as investors worried about political tension over Iran’s nuclear arms program and a fourth straight weekly drop in U.S. gasoline reserves. A barrel of light crude settled at $67.15, up 70 cents, on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Fear of higher interest rates were exacerbated as the Labor Department reported that weekly claims for unemployment benefits fell by 10,000 to 302,000 last week, and said the results still indicate a tight labor market.

More employment means more people spending, which could increase demand and spark inflation.

Yet despite high oil prices and overarching concerns about inflation, the lack of massive selloffs after the Fed’s rate hike shows the stock market remains bull­ish, according to Brian Belski, senior equity wealth management strategist at Merrill Lynch.

**Market Recap**

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**Commodities**

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**Exchange Rates**

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**New in Brief**

Delphi to ask judge to cancel contracts

DETROIT — In a move that would send shudders through an ailing U.S. auto industry, Delphi Corp. was expected to ask a federal judge to cancel its union contracts Friday following months of trying to reach an agreement with General Motors Corp. in order to lower workers’ wages.

Delphi, the largest U.S. auto supplier, had set a deadline of Thursday to reach an agreement to lower wages for its 34,000 U.S. hourly workers, but it appeared unlikely Delphi would meet that goal since the United Auto Workers and GM hadn’t agreed to Delphi’s latest wage proposal as of Thursday afternoon.

On its Web site Thursday, the United Auto Workers said Delphi would file motions to void its contracts on Friday morning. Delphi spokesman Lindsey Williams said the company wouldn’t comment on that posting.

Williams said Delphi was still in talks with GM and its unions as of Thursday afternoon and hadn’t set a deadline for those talks to end. On three other occasions, Delphi has delayed filing motions to cancel its contracts to continue negotiating with GM and its unions. The company has the option of delaying again.

Small businesses lose out in contracts

WASHINGTON — Small businesses lose out on hundreds of millions of dollars in Energy Department contracts each year because the government often gives no-bid work to large firms on rocky grounds, congressional auditors say.

A report by the Government Accountability Office, obtained Thursday, looks at small-business contracting practices at the department, whose $22.8 billion in annual awards for research, nuclear arms program and environmental cleanup make it the largest civilian contracting agency.

The report says the agency failed to meet small-business contracting goals for 5.5 percent or lower in four of the last five years due to lack of controls, poor specification and questionable assumptions that smaller firms couldn’t handle the jobs.

The Energy Department "is clearly constrained by the department’s traditional reliance on a limited group of large firms and universities to manage high­cost projects in which public safety and national security are important concerns," says the report, scheduled to be released next month.

**The Observer Business**

**Stocks lower after GDP report**

Renewed inflation fears, new data on gross national product affect Wall Street

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Renewed inflation fears left stocks mixed Thursday as new data on gross national product from domestic product bolstered the Federal Reserve’s view that the economy remains strong.

Investors fretted after the Commerce Department revised upward its fourth quarter GDP, which was raised to an annual growth rate of 1.7 percent from an earlier 1.6 percent estimate.

The slowdown in growth — which grew at 4.1 percent in the third quarter — was blamed on an unexpected drop in government spending and business investment.

But while the final GDP reading caught economists’ expectations, the department’s chair­feller — an inflation measure — rose 3.5 percent, above forecasts for 3.3 percent growth.

Investors have been watchful for any hint of inflation amid signs that the Federal Reserve will keep hiking interest rates to control price increases.

"I think you’re seeing the market raising its estimates on economic growth, but that also may mean higher rates," said Brian Gendreau, investment strategist for Mantuano Investment Management. "So we’re still digesting what all this means, and the result so far is a flat-to­lower­cost stock market."
Study findings show prayer does not benefit recovery

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Does praying for a sick person’s recovery do any good?

In the largest scientific test of its kind, heart surgery patients showed no benefit when strangers prayed for them.

And patients who knew they were being prayed for had a slightly higher rate of complications.

The researchers could only guess why.

Several scientists questioned the concept of the study. Science "is not designed to study the supernatural," said Dr. Harold G. Koenig, director of the Center for Spirituality, Theology and Health at the Duke University Medical Center.

The researchers who tested the power of prayer emphasized that their $2.4 million study could not address whether God exists or answers prayers made by another’s behalf. The study could look only for effects from the specific prayers offered as part of the research, they said.

The highly anticipated study “did not move us forward or backward” in understanding the effects of prayer, said Dr. Charles Bethea, a co-author and cardiologist at the Integris Baptist Medical Center in Oklahoma City. “Intercessory prayer under our restricted format had a neutral effect.”

Koenig, director of Harvard Medical School’s principal investigator of the study, said, “We cannot come to a conclusion, except to say that by this study design, with our limitations, this is what we found.”

The researchers also said they didn’t know why patients who knew they were being prayed for had a rate of complications than patients who only knew that such prayers were possible.

Maybe they became anxious by the efforts of those that had been selected for prayers, Bethea said: “Did the patients think, ‘I am so sick that they had to call in the prayer team?’”

“Did the patients think, ‘I am so sick that they had to call in a prayer team?’” Charles Bethea, study co-author

The researchers said family and friends shouldn’t be discouraged from telling a patient about their plans to pray for a good recovery.

Experts called it the largest and best-designed study ever to test the medical effects of intercessory prayers — praying on behalf of someone else. That’s different from studying the effect of a person’s prayers and spiritual practices on his or her own health; many studies of that have shown a positive effect.

The new study followed about 1,800 patients at six medical centers. It was financed by the Templeton Foundation, which supports research into science and religion, and one of the participating hospitals, it is "Divine Strake,” seemed to resemble a mushroom cloud, “It is explosive in the right thermal characteristics, planned detonation."

On Thursday it was a Pentagon official musing about the air threat following a 700-ton explosive in the Nevada desert — a test blast dubbed “Deep Strake” that the official said might remind some of the days of open-air nuclear testing, before the blasts were moved underground to avoid the danger of radioactive fallout.

“I don’t want to sound glib here, but it is the first time in Nevada that you’ll see a mushroom cloud over Las Vegas since we stopped testing nuclear weapons,” said James Tegnelia, head of the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, a Pentagon unit that is working on technical aspects of how to destroy deeply buried enemy weapons.

The United States stopped conducting underground nuclear tests in 1963.

Tegnelia’s use of the term "mushroom cloud" seemed to unsettle some in Washington.

In an entirely different context, Rice spoke prior to the U.S. invasion of Iraq in 2003 of the risk of waiting too long to commit with complete confidence that Iraq had a nuclear weapon. The first confirmation, she said, could be a mushroom cloud over the United States. It turned out that Iraq had no active nuclear weapons program.

Several hours after Tegnelia made the mushroom cloud remark to a group of reporters, his office put out a written statement stressing that "Deep Strake" was not a "nuke blast, that it poses minimal health and safety risks to the public, and that there are no radioactively contamined soils in the vicinity of the planned detonation.

And the mushroom cloud? “All explosives, given the right thermal characteristics, will create a cloud that may resemble a mushroom cloud,” the statement said, adding that "Deep Strake" was declared "a mission accomplished" for June 2 — may reach an altitude of 10,000 feet but “is not expected to be visible from Las Vegas.”

Tegnelia said the Russian government has been notified to avoid any misunderstanding about the nature of the blast.

Associated Press

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Model Naomi Campbell charged in Manhattan assault

NEW YORK — Supermodel Naomi Campbell was charged with assault for throwing her cell phone at a housekeeper after accusing her of stealing clothes when she couldn’t find a pair of pants she wanted to wear on “Upbra,” prosecutors said.

She was released on her own recognizance and allowed to keep her passport after her lawyer argued that her famous face would prevent her from fleeing.

“She is probably the most recognized and prominent model in the world,” defense attorney David Breitbart told a judge Thursday in Manhattan Criminal Court. “There is no place she could go and not be recognized.”

Campbell, wearing a white fur poncho, was arraigned on a charge of second-degree assault before Judge Richard Weinberg. He said Campbell called the request for $3,500 bail “an insult,” saying his client’s Park Avenue apartment is worth more than $3 million and she earns “more than six figures on a regular basis.”

He said Campbell needed her passport for a trip to South Africa next week to visit Nelson Mandela. He asked the judge for orders to keep the housekeeper away from Campbell’s apartment.

The judge said Scolavino, a plea of not guilty on her behalf.

In a statement issued late Thursday, Campbell called the allegation that she hit or injured her housekeeper “completely untrue.” She said she had questioned the housekeeper, Ana Scolavino, about missing items since she started working for the model more than two months ago.

“Two weeks ago, while I was out of town for a fashion show, I returned to find the apartment trashed and a note that said, ‘I need you to find me a new house and place I can go and not be recognized.’”

The assault took place at about 8:30 a.m. inside Campbell’s apartment, according to a criminal complaint. The housekeeper was hit in the back of the head and was treated at Lenox Hill Hospital, it said.

A woman who answered the after-hours media relations number at the hospital said no one was available to comment and that she could not provide any information on Scolavino.

Campbell was taken into custody shortly after police responded to the hospital to investigate the reported attack.

Facing a familiar sea of cameras, Campbell exited a Manhattan police station shortly after 4 p.m. in a scene that was part runway, part perp walk. Scores of photographers, reporters and film crews gathered to record her departure.

In a statement, a Campbell spokesperson said the supermodel was not responsible for any assault.

“We believe this is a case of retaliation, because Naomi had fired her housekeeper earlier this morning,” said the statement from F.M. Johnson. “We are confident the courts will see it the same way.”

This was not the first time the volatile Campbell, 35, was accused of reaching out and touching someone with a phone. In 2003, the supermodel was sued by a former administrative assistant who said Campbell had thrown a phone at her during a tantrum two years earlier.

In August 2004, in the same apartment, Campbell and her maid battled it out, with the worker claiming the supermodel slapped her across the face. Campbell accused maid Millicent Burton of instigating the fight.

Campbell was discovered at age 15 and launched a career that landed her in magazines worldwide — including the Sports Illustrated swimsuit issue. Campbell’s high-profile lifestyle has included appearances in music videos by George Michael and Jay-Z and a close friendship with Mandela.

The international modeling sensation has appeared in several films and dabbled in a musical career.

The mercurial Campbell has a reputation for angry outbursts and abusive behavior. She pleaded guilty in Toronto to an assault charge for beating another assistant while making a film in Canada in 1998.

She also battled a cocaine addiction before reportedly getting straight several years ago.
JAMAICA

Nation swears in first female prime minister

Associated Press

JAMAICA - The new prime minister of Jamaica, Portia Simpson Miller, was sworn in on Thursday for her first term, becoming the Caribbean island's first female prime minister.

Prime Minister Simpson Miller addressed the nation from Parliament on Thursday, following the ceremony attended by Gov. Gen. Kenneth Taylor.

“Prime Minister Simpson Miller has undergone a transformation, from being a lawyer and a university professor to a mother and political power player,” said Prime Minister Andrew Holness, who was sworn in as prime minister of Jamaica in January.

Simpson Miller was sworn in after receiving the royal assent of the governor general, who is the representative of the queen of Jamaica.

She is the first female prime minister in the region, and her appointment comes amid a wave of change in the region, where women are increasingly taking on leadership roles.

In addition to being the first female prime minister in Jamaica, Simpson Miller is also the first woman to hold the position of prime minister in the Caribbean.

Simpson Miller's appointment comes at a time when women are increasingly being recognized for their leadership in the region, as well as globally.

Several women have been appointed as prime ministers in other countries, including New Zealand, Norway, and Iceland.

The appointment of Simpson Miller as prime minister is a significant milestone for women in the Caribbean and around the world.

JERUSALEM — A Palestinian suicide bomber killed four Israelis after initiaing a vehicle in Jerusalem Thursday, just days after the new Hamas-led government took office and Israel elected a new parliament.

A fifth body was discovered in the ruins of the vehicle a while later.

The attack, which took place in the mixed Jewish-Arab neighborhood of Shuafat, came at a time when the Israeli government was under intense pressure to take action against the growing number of suicide bombings.

The Associated Press

Hamas ministers take office

Associated Press

Gaza City — It may have been a smooth handover, but it was far from orthodox.

The Palestinian Authority's new prime minister was no where in sight. Ahmed Qureia turned over his office in the West Bank city of Ramallah to his successor, Mahmoud Abbas.

And at the Foreign Ministry, incumbent al Qazzaz was only jostling as the departing minister debated with his successor over the need to hold agreements with Israel.

Restrictions and internal friction led to some bizarre moments during the handover of Palestinian government ministries to Hamas, underscoring the migant group's challenges as it tries to govern.

Qureia turned his office to new Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh's deputy, because Israel wouldn't allow Hamas ministers and lawmakers to travel through Israel between Gaza and the West Bank — and Haniyeh was in Gaza.

Still, Hamas insisted the seamless transfer was a testament to Palestinian democracy.

"This is proof that our people is a great civilized people, and the peaceful handingover power will now be a routine that our people will abide by," he said.

Instead of 100 days of grace, the Hamas government got barely 100 minutes before Western nations, led by Canada, France, U.S., moved to cut off funding to the Palestinian Authority, triggering an immediate financial crisis.

The Associated Press

Hamas ministers take office

Associated Press

Hamas ministers take office

Associated Press

Gaza Strip

Hamas ministers take office

Associated Press

"This is proof that our people is a great civilized people, and the peaceful handingover power will now be a routine that our people will abide by," he said.

Ismail Haniyeh

Palestinian Prime Minister

Haniyeh said the aid cuts hurt the Palestinian people.

"We were hoping that some countries would respect the rules of the democratic game and that they would have had different positions and not act like this," he said.

And Foreign Minister Mahmoud Zahar hinted that any country that shuns Hamas will be considered an "enemy of the Palestinian people."

He said Foreign Minister Haniyeh would not be allowed to talk to them.

The United States was reviewing its Palestinian aid programs to see which ones it would freeze, emphasizing that the U.S. will not "provide funding to a Hamas-led government."

Rice said she expected to talk about Palestinian funding with France, Germany, and the EU during her current trip.

"We've been very much on the same page," she said.

The Quartet of Middle East mediators — the U.S., EU, Russia, and the United Nations — warned the Hamas-led government Thursday to recognize Israel and seek peace talks if it wants to be guaranteed continued aid.

"The Quartet concurred that there inevitably will be an impact on direct assistance to that government and its ministries" if those conditions are met, the mediators said in a statement.

Israel has already stopped transferring tens of millions of dollars a month in taxes it collects on behalf of the Palestinian Authority.
North Carolina introduces lottery

Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — North Carolina lost its label Thursday as the only East Coast state without a lottery, getting off to a quick start as commuters, car-players and the curious snatched up the first batch of instant tickets.

Attracted by the promise of $400 million annually for education and spurred on by Gov. Mike Easley, the General Assembly narrowly passed a lottery last summer, following the lead of 41 other states and all of its neighbors.

"Why should we be giving our money to Virginia, South Carolina and Tennessee?" Sarah Haynes asked after buying 40 $1 tickets at a gas station north of downtown Raleigh. She was wearing a jacket emblazoned with the logo of an out-state casino. "Taxes are already too high."

More than 5,000 retailers statewide began selling tickets at 6 a.m., shortly after State Board of Education chairman Howard Lee bought the ceremonial first tickets at dawn. "This is fantastic," Lee said, holding up the tickets at the lottery's Raleigh office. "This is a great day in the state of North Carolina."

By midday, Lee had given his five tickets to North Carolina Teacher of the Year Wendy Miller, who won $10 that she then gave back to the state. It was part of the estimated $1.3 million in prizes paid out by mid-afternoon, lottery officials said.

Ticket sales by then had reached about $6.5 million, well beyond the early $2 million estimate of lottery officials. Executive director Tom Shahan estimated that sales would reach more than $10 million for the day.

At least 35 percent of the proceeds from every ticket sold must go public-school construction, class-size reduction, need-based college scholarships and a voluntary prekindergarten program.

North Carolina will join the multistate Powerball numbers game in May.

The lottery law also sets aside up to $1 million to assist problem gamblers and requires strict advertising restrictions.

Easley was considering starting a lottery in the early 1980s. Easley began pushing the idea again after taking office in 2001, and it gained momentum after South Carolina and Tennessee began lotteries a few years later.

But resistance to the lottery remained stiff, as Tar Heel notables from the Rev. Billy Graham to retired North Carolina basketball coach Dean Smith expressed opposition.

They and other opponents said the games would siphon money from the pockets of the poor, encourage more compulsive gambling and simply shift education spending to the lottery without adding any new money.

This people would be led to believe the lottery is a cash cow for education, and it's not," John Rustin, with the N.C. Family Policy Council, said Thursday.

Easley and legislative leaders countered that North Carolina residents were paying to educate children in other states by playing lotteries there.

Across the state Thursday, early customers bought lottery tickets along with their coffee and gasoline. When Brian Begley stopped at a Raleigh convenience store, the clerk and store manager were still reading instructions about the game.

Wildfires threaten homes in Amarillo

Eight wildfires erupted Thursday in this dry and windy city, destroying eight homes and several structures before they were brought under control, officials said.

There were no reports of injuries.

About 400 acres burned, though estimates were difficult because wind gusts of nearly 40 mph grounded Forest Service aircraft, agency spokesman Traci Weaver said. The fires were 90 percent contained by Thursday afternoon, she said.

Several cars burned in a junkyard, and authorities tried to evacuate homes in the area, but most efforts focused on protecting homes in the fire's path, said Amarillo Fire Capt. Bob Johnson.

"We did save a lot of structures," but it was moving so fast, Johnson said. "It kept moving, too."

The temperature was in the high 60s with a relative humidity of 12 percent.

Weaver said the conditions were similar on Friday, when dozens of blazes broke out in the parched region, burning some 960,000 acres and killing 11 homes.

Since Dec. 26, more than 11,000 fires have burned about 4.9 million acres and destroyed about 400 homes, said Gov. Rick Perry's office.

The fires were burning about 17 miles from the nation's only nuclear weapons assembly facility, but the western winds meant it likely wouldn't be long before the two were close neighbors.

Amarillo, a city of 176,000, is in the Texas Panhandle, about 335 miles northwest of Dallas.

Massachusetts court ruling leaves gay couples confused

Associated Press

BOSTON — Amy Zimmerman and Tanya Wexler knew their 6-year-old son and 5-year-old daughter wouldn't sit still for details about a state high court ruling on the legality of their marriage, so they agreed to deliver the news with a simple thumbs-up.

It wasn't that easy.

"I said, 'OK guys, looks like it's a thumbs sideways," Wexler said.

The Supreme Judicial Court, which in 2003 made Massachusetts the only state to legalize gay marriage, on Thursday upheld a 1913 state law that makes nonresidents from marrying there if their marriage would not be recognized in their home state.

The decision was a disappointment for gay rights groups, and left uncertainty for Zimmerman and Wexler, who are from New York.

The court sent their case, and the case of a couple from Rhode Island, back to a lower court, saying it was unclear where their home states prohibit same-sex marriage.

Gay marriage advocates said the ruling means couples from states where gay marriage isn't explicitly banned can argue for their marriages to be recognized in Massachusetts, Zimmerman said she wasn't sure what it means.

"We do consider ourselves still married," Zimmerman, 33, said. "It's important that other states have the right to make their own determinations of marriage and not follow the wrong course that our Supreme Judicial Court put us on.

"It's a painful decision," said Tanya Wexler, 33, who with her wife Zimmerman, 33, and their two children, are from New York.

"It's painful to know you'll be treated unequally under the law and only if you happen to live here," she said. "Otherwise, you're completely unequal as a gay person."

In oral arguments before the high court in October, a lawyer for the couples argued that the 1913 law had been unused for decades until it was "dusted off" by Romney in an attempt to discourage same-sex couples. Attorneys for the state argued that Massachusetts risked a buckshot if it ignored the laws of other states.

Romney, a Republican who is leading the debate to redefine marriage as only between a man and a woman, said that the state's laws are simply a "matter of fairness and respect.

"We do consider ourselves still married," Zimmerman, 33, said. "It's important that other states have the right to make their own determinations of marriage and not follow the wrong course that our Supreme Judicial Court put us on."

Attorney Thomas Beatty said in oral arguments before the high court: "It is really to recognize that it's up to each state to decide what their laws will be." Attorney General Thomas Reilly said. "This decision does not impact in any way Massachusetts citizens."

Beatty said the equality of out-of-state couples who received licenses would have to be determined in their home states on a case-by-case basis.

New York's top officials have said same-sex marriage is illegal there, and that their interpretation of state law is being challenged. Rhode Island law does not specifically ban nonresident same-sex marriage, but leading politicians there also oppose it.

According to the Registry of Vital Records and Statistics, 7,714 gay couples tied the knot in Massachusetts between the first marriages in May 2004 and December 2008.

The state does not track how many of those couples were given licenses in Massachusetts.

Opponents of gay marriage argue that the November 2008 ballot question that would define marriage as only between a man and a woman.

The question has gathered the required signatures from registered voters and now needs legislative approval to be placed on the ballot.

Political Caucus called the decision "a painful reminder that we still have a long way to go." "It's painful to know you'll be treated unequally under the law and only if you happen to live here," she said. "Otherwise, you're completely unequal as a gay person."

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They’re watching.

And don’t say you didn’t see it coming.

From your underage roommate’s tagged photos of her or his casual attire to a friend’s membership in a questionable group, the material publicly documented on the Facebook Web site has finally caught the attention of University administrators who have created accounts and viewed student profiles.

From its seemingly innocent beginnings of linking friends at colleges and universities to law enforcement officials a tempting glimpse into what many students falsely consider their private worlds.

While University officials have said they do not pursue student profiles in a quest to uncover law violations, Associate Vice President of Student Affairs Bill Kirk said there is no policy “that would prohibit or require” the utilization of Facebook in the disciplinary process. “It’s an ambiguous statement that clouds any future speculation.”

At Saint Mary’s, the monitoring of the site may have additional implications for students. Director of Residence Life Michelle Russell said the College is preparing “to explore ways to utilize Facebook to communicate with students and to determine if these sites should be considered when hiring student leadership positions.”

At another school the administration doled out punitive measures based solely on infractions spotted on Facebook – marking the first time Facebook has been cited. The outside scrutiny is far from illegal, since the only requirement for Facebook membership is an “.edu” e-mail address. But have friends visiting? By the time you find out, the police and virtually anyone who has an “.edu” e-mail address at some point in his or her life has access to the site.

It’s important to remember that as a public domain, Facebook requires users to be responsible for what they post and to be careful about what they post on the site. Given the examples of Facebook crackdowns at other universities paired with some Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s faculty and administrators’ admitted Facebook usage habits, it is ignorant to think that what you post on the site is for your friends’ eyes only.

Unless you make it that way, that is.

Bottom line: Be careful.

You can’t keep administrators from trying to peek, but there are easy ways to protect yourself from their scrutiny. Re-set your privacy settings to only allow friends to see your profile. Un-tag your photos.

What is considered is not the only face looking at your Facebook profile.

The Last Waltz

Next weekend marks St. Mary’s Senior Formal — a night which I have heard many refer to as “drunk prom.” My friends and classmates are anticipating a great evening that doesn’t even include an actual dance. My friends convinced me to come by pulling out the “we only have a few more weeks” card. My really good friends, who obviously know me even better, pulled out the “you’ll get to see a new dress and heels” card. I was sold. I was even briefly looking forward to the night. That was until the issue of who I would bring came up. I thought this would not be a problem. Not surprisingly, I checked to see if my boyfriend could come first. One would think this is a definite “yes.” Think again — it seems that first year students that do not get take-home finals this year were not invited to attend events, but even worse, it was social suicide.

I have found myself waking up cold sweats after having nightmares of what life was like in high school. Along with the pressure of finding someone to walk in the door with there are all the pictures. Everything was captured on film — be it laughing at me. They think it is hilarious that I am having such trouble. While University officials have said they do not pursue student profiles in a quest to uncover law violations, Associate Vice President of Student Affairs Bill Kirk said there is no policy “that would prohibit or require” the utilization of Facebook in the disciplinary process.

I recall putting my head down on my book and seeing all the pictures that were already taken. I didn’t even really want to go to the dance, but I found myself getting roped into buying a hundred dollar ticket for an evening that doesn’t even include an open bar.”

“...a perfect reminder of why if there were up to me there would be no more dances.”

Molly Acker is a senior communications major at Saint Mary’s. She can be reached at macker@sm.edu. The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

Observer Poll

How do you feel about people other than the user themselves using your Facebook profile?

☒ 4. strongly considered
☒ 5. highly concerned
☒ 1. strongly support
☒ 2. moderately concerned
☒ 3. it does not affect Facebook
☒ 6. it doesn’t matter

13%
**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

**Unite for higher wages**

Just this week Notre Dame hosted a conference on white privilege. Generally speaking, white privilege refers to the advantages in this society that members of the white race are granted solely on the basis of their membership in that race. Being white automatically assures a person, perhaps the most significant unearned inheritances of all sorts: money, respectability, etc. Conversely, this economic fantasy (a fantasy because there is a whole class of jobs that do not require a college diploma—alas, no matter how long or hard you work, you cannot survive) also allows the well-off to imagine that if a person and her or his family are poor, it is somehow that person's fault: even if the person worked as hard as the imagination, if that person is working.

My purpose here is to argue for the living faith of the Christian, necessity of a living wage for campus workers. I speak from my own experience. This story is borne out in my own family. My wife and I graduated from Notre Dame, and ran a corner drug store in Akron. But we were not prepared for our careers and equipped with an adult faith that has served us well as we raise our own family. Two of my nieces now attend Notre Dame and are doing well academically as they participate in a wide array of service projects.

But Catholic colleges — and indeed all faith-based institutions — cannot just live off the ideas and traditions of the past. Historian Jaroslav Pelikan has said that "true fidelity to living faith requires that we not be the "living faith of the living" but that we must go beyond the idea that the only things that really matter are the success of the students and the quality of the research. Their challenge is to see their mission in a broader way and be leaders of good conscience in a society that is in short supply, it is that almost every individual associated with this University would like for every other student to be provided with a living wage for campus work. If I may I would like to see if the administration would have enough to eat, to have access to adequate healthcare, to live in a safe house and area and to afford decent clothes for themselves and their children. But I feel that is in our class-based capacity to deny social and economic injustice, since we ourselves probably have not been victims of it, that permits us to avert our engaged attention away from those who work here at this school, for us, everyday, and yet who are often unable to keep themselves and their families above that mystical (to us) poverty line.

Since the idea is also the family, the alumni, our parents, etc. make up this University, if a critical mass of us demanded more of this wage for all campus workers, the administration would undoubtedly make this happen. After all, this is not an issue of scarce resources, but of budget priorities (think: the new main entranceway). However, our money buys us the privilege which we accept, of ignoring this matter of inadequate wages and feeling apathetic towards campaign for its solution. We must make the University's economic policies more humane, more just. But, in a system that does not ensure each worker enough to survive and to support her or his family on the worker's income alone is not simply the concern of the workers or of volunteer groups like CLAP — it is a problem of the University itself, for its economic policies are our own. And if we do not challenge them, we enforce them.

Patrick Wall
A.O'Neill Hall
March 30

**Military contract not ambiguous**

In response to Jonathan E. O’Reilly’s letter, I believe our University does not honor ROTC contract, March 28). O’Reilly’s letter accuses the university of any such action by the University of the Commander-in-Chief, and are therefore granted the unique responsibilities and obligations of this esteemed office. One of the obligations is to serve as long as one’s services are deemed necessary, not by the individual, but by the organization. When an officer resigns his or her commission, it is a request to resign, a request which may be turned down.

I am not questioning O’Reilly’s dedication or faithful eight years of service to the Army, but as an officer he should know that the maximum length of service is eight years, and another four in the “inactive reserves,” where I served with no unit and did not participate in any military activities. The total length of service for my contract was “indefat,” meaning that, unlike many of my classmates, I did not resign my commission after completing my obligatory eight years. After my eight-year commission expired, I did resign at this point, and it was accepted.

However, officers who have completed their obligation are not granted the guarantees that the contract is indeed a request which could be denied. When O’Reilly resigned to O’Reilly when the time of his resignation, that was a failure of his ROTC staff, but I must ask to the fact that currently the ROTC staffs are stressing the capacity of being held below the minimum requirement. O’Reilly alludes to this at the end of his letter where he wants this clause pointed out to him in the contract. As future officers and leaders of young men and women of the enlisted ranks, we are expected to be fully responsible for our actions, including reading and fully understanding what our office actually entails. It is not anyone else’s responsibility to ensure that officers understand their obligations and that they are granted the special trust and confidence of the Commander-in-Chief.

William Sullivan
unice of O’Reilly
March 28

**Two sides to contract interpretation**

Regarding the letter, "U.S. Army doesn’t honor ROTC contract," March 28), I feel it is important to see the other side of the contract. As I mentioned in my letter, I was in Army ROTC at Notre Dame from 1989-1993. My contract for service with the U.S. Army required eight years of service, and I served four years on active duty and another four in the "inactive reserves," where I served with no unit and did not participate in any military activities.

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William Sullivan
unice of O’Reilly
March 28
Cultures collide in Heaney's 'Burial at Thebes'

By GRACE MYERS

"Ae Fond Kiss" is the story of an inde­
pendent Scottish woman and a first-genera­
tion Pakistani man who fall in love in middle-class Glasgow. When their family and friends discover their love, scandal breaks and threats are thrown at them apart.

Sound familiar? Yeah, there's nothing particularly groundbreaking about this love story and just like plot. But director Ken Loach goes the spin the plot makes it fresh and appealing.

The film addresses the issues of race, immigration and religion in multicultural Britain, beginning with the younger sis­
ter's class speech stating, "I reject the Western simplification of a Muslim." Indeed the problems this family faces are anything but simple, focusing on how Muslims are viewed in British society during our modern age of terrorism. "Ae Fond Kiss" is indeed provocative, intense and fabulously up-to-date. It's a great love story by a renowned director.

Casim (Atta Yaqub) is the jewel of his tight-knit, first-generation Pakistani family. His parents have struggled greatly to raise and educate their children in a city they do not understand. The audience discovers that Casim's father is busy building an extension to their house, so the younger one work on his own. Casim leaves his family, knowing that it is, sadly, the only way he can be with the woman he loves.

"Ae Fond Kiss" is the first major film for both of the leads. Their presence is often evident and they sometimes do not quite carry the gravity of their role. However, their innocence helps the film in many ways. The two sometimes seem nervous in a subtle way, indicating the feelings of a new romance. They grow more comfortable as the film progresses and are remarkably on-screen chemis­
try.

Director Ken Loach is an internationally acclaimed British director, who began working as a television dramatist for the BBC in 1963. Throughout the 1990s he rose to international acclaim for his fea­
ture films containing highly provocative and often radical political messages. He is not afraid to display the worst aspects of society. But "Ae Fond Kiss" is not typical of Loach. It takes place in comfortable, middle-class Scotland, free from drugs and gangs, with characters that have ideals, hopes, dreams and a sense of humor.

"Ae Fond Kiss" may not be highly origi­
nal, or a landmark piece for Loach, but it is a remarkable love story with a highly relevant call for tolerance.

Contact Grace Myers at gmyers@nd.edu
University President Father Jim Junkins announced Thursday that the exclusion of Saint Mary's and Notre Dame's students from campus all year with its cynical and vitriolic humor - occurs annually - will soon be made permanent, Junkins said.

"With students gone, there won't be anyone to embarrass the University by drinking in class or failing off balconies," the president said. "That way, the University and I can celebrate the holiday the way God and Our Lady intended it — in an academic setting, like 339 O'Shaughnessy."

Unlike in his recent addresses concerning the "Monologues" and the former Queer Film Festival, Junkins did not ask various campus constituencies for feedback about his St. Patrick's Day choice.

"Can you believe faculty and students actually wanted all that time writing Viewpoint letters and e-mailing me about their opinions?" Junkins said incredulously. "Between flying my BAN [page 3]

**Ordinance bars students from city**

By REGINA GEORGE

Following months of tension between South Bend residents and Notre Dame and Saint Mary's students living in off-campus party houses and inflammatory stereotypes, the South Bend Common Council on Thursday passed a new housing ordinance banning students from living anywhere in the city.

Students living in houses or apartment complexes off-campus have until 11:59 p.m. April 1 to vacate the premises, and must take all of their belongings and vehicles with them. Assistant City Attorney Nan-Cheryl Splasch said.

"Despite all the bitching about that amendment we passed last summer, we only got six real evictions out of it," Splasch said. "So this will be like one HUGE eviction — we're getting rid of all the snotty, spoiled, puking, fornicking brats at once!"

Common Council member Yummi Itjello said she proposed the ordinance after her constituents complained about Notre Dame and Saint Mary's students having cracked-out naked orgies in the South Bend residents' living rooms. But other behavior is just as problematic, she said.

"If a police officer can hear any bit of noise coming from your house when your face is pressed up against the window, you are just too loud," Itjello said sternly. "We're talking about something extremely disrespectful, something that will keep the entire neighborhood awake — especially after normal nighttime hours like 2 a.m."

Splasch and Itjello said the Council considered waiting until students were away from campus for the summer to pass the new ordinance — as the group did for the amendment in July 2005 — but ultimately decided against it.

**New ad is aired by University**

**ND tops 'Candle' with God appearance**

By MOTHAT BOOZE

Amid much speculation during the last several weeks, administrators finally confirmed Thursday that the new University institutional spot, set to air during halftime of all 2006 Notre Dame football games, will star none other than God Himself.

"We've been in talks with Him for a while but didn't want to let the cat out of the bag until it was a done deal," University spokesperson Tom File said.

The commercial, according to File, "still has a lot you don't know about outgoing student body president Duve LeBaron — and that's all about to change."

In a recent interview with The Absurder, LeBaron revealed a side rarely seen by his adoring Notre Dame public, expounding on topics from his future political ambitions to where — in a pinch — he would hide his student senators' dead bodies.

**Duve LeBaron reveals all**

By MORE POWERFUL THAN YOU

You know he's a hardcore Kelly Clarkson fan. You probably guessed he forbid his 5-foot female vice president from wearing heels. You may even know he sleeps over at Father Poorman's house. But there's still a lot you don't know about outgoing student body president Duve LeBaron — and that's all about to change.

In a recent interview with The Absurder, LeBaron revealed a side rarely seen by his adoring Notre Dame public, expounding on topics from his future political ambitions to where — in a pinch — he would hide his student senators' dead bodies.

**SMC takes revenge on Shockular twosome**

By MEAGHAEN O'NEALLE

A group of Saint Mary's students calling themselves Mooney's Posse kidnapped Notre Dame junior Alec Black and senior Erik Powerless from their respective residences Thursday night and are holding the pair hostage somewhere in the Saint Mary's tunnel system.

Black and Powerless are best known as the creators of The Absurder's comic strip "Shockular," which raised eyebrows and ruffled feathers on campus all year with its cynical humor and visual innuendo.

In a ransom note issued shortly after the kidnapping, members of Mooney's Posse stated Saint Mary's College and its students are the butt of the joke in a disproportionate number of Shockular comics.

"Saint Mary's women are sick and tired of being portrayed as unintelligent Jersey chasers who go around telling people they attended Notre Dame," the statement read. "These images serve only to promote hurtful stereotypes in our community. Letters to the editor and complaints made directly to Mr. Black and Mr. Powerless have gone unheeded. As such we have been forced to take matters into our hands."

**The many faces of Duve LeBaron, above, Notre Dame's favorite baby bureaucrat.**

By BARE HEINYGIRL

University President Father Jim Junkins, left, called St. Patrick's Day celebrations, right, an intolerable embarrassment to Notre Dame.
**INSIDE COLUMN**

Eat fresh

Hey, that long, rambling story you're telling sounds just like the inside Column. I couldn't help but overhear your conversation about how every time you really hate when Subway has a long line, and I have to say, it sounds just like my last inside Column for The Absurder.

Our shared opinion regarding the unnecessarily long line that one must wait in to get a sub sandwich just proves that, while seemingly trivial, this issue needs to be a part of what we at Hopkins saucn story that was long, rambling story. Doesn't anyone wish to tap into the line and get just a sandwich. Walking student detained NORTH QUAD — A student was detained late Wednesday night for walking across the quad. An NSP officer, who was on patrol, saw the student while he perched on his ATV and eating donuts. The student was suspected of trafficking cocaine with intent to distribute.

While there was no visible evidence that would suggest the student was carrying an illicit substance, the officer on patrol had an itch on his call which he took to be a sixth sense indicating that the student might be up to no good. The student was questioned and released, but NSP is considering sending the case to RedLife pending the results of a 20-page questionnaire that was distributed to his peers. NSP said they want to know more about how people feel about the incident before they take the next step.

Endowment "Flushed" SNITE — University officials, in a surprise move, decided this week to invest the entire $4 billion endowment fund on a toilet for the Snite Museum. The toilet is rumored to have had its porcelain gazed over by the legendary Chuck Norris, the legendary martial arts master and movie star.

"We've been looking to acquire more and more pieces of historical significance, and I think we've managed to grab something that will make a real splash," said University CFO Scott Malapropriate. Students protested the move Thursday by flushing copies of Dr. Seuss' book to theines, causing a massive backup of campus sewer systems — and ironically, the only working toilet left on campus is the newly purchased "Chuck Norris Toilet," which is currently locked in a room in the Snite.

**QUESTION OF THE DAY:** What do you like to do in your spare time?

John Zabowski
Irish safety

"Hit people ... in the face."

Baby Finn
Irish quarterback

"Shave my arms."

Farty Booney
Irish quarterback

"Secretly play interhall football."

Shark Face
Irish wide receiver

"Brush my hair."

Robby Burton
Irish offensive lineman

"Lasso Texas cattle and ladies."

Donald Malley
Irish defensive lineman

"Run, bitch."

Absurder employees Kyle Castley, far left, and Smatthew Wedburgh, far right, exhibit it a very public — and strangely symmetric — display of affection.

**IN BOXERS**

Editors of the Irish Bover will be showing copies of their newspaper to students in the Student Union Hall tonight from 8-9 p.m. Students who read it immediately be labeled Satan-worshiping liberal baby killers.

The Irish men's and women's basketball teams will be hosting a coed naked beer pong tournament in the Joyce Center tonight from 8-9 p.m. until someone besides Chris Quinn or Megan Dolly makes a shot. The event is free and open to the public, except the Leprechaun Legion.

The men of Keenan Hall will be staging a retaliation against Zahm at 2 p.m. today. Residents will be vomiting not only under the Zahm room's window, but also on his Bible, under his desk and inside his pillowcase.

University President Father Jim Junkins will be holding a town hall meeting for the University community to discuss Academic Freedom and Catholic Character on God Quad today at 4 p.m. Junkins will not be in attendance; however, former University spokesman Fat Borein, will field questions in the president's absence.

The PSA, CLAP, V-Day, AllianceND, College Democrats, College Republicans and Right to Life will not be holding protests on the quad, in the Main Building or next to DeBartolo today. Apothecary students are encouraged not to notice.

The Notre Dame Fraud and Advisory Services Department will host an open house titled "Don't Be Afraid of the Big Bad Wolf." From 1-3 p.m. today, Director Bill Lapoluoni promises not to look at your expense reports if you bring him a beer.

**BEATOFF**

Walking student detained

NORTH QUAD — A student was detained late Wednesday night for walking across the quad. An NSP officer, who was on patrol, saw the student while he perched on his ATV and eating donuts. The student was suspected of trafficking cocaine with intent to distribute.

While there was no visible evidence that would suggest the student was carrying an illicit substance, the officer on patrol had an itch on his call which he took to be a sixth sense indicating that the student might be up to no good. The student was questioned and released, but NSP is considering sending the case to RedLife pending the results of a 20-page questionnaire that was distributed to his peers. NSP said they want to know more about how people feel about the incident before they take the next step.

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**LOCAL WEATHER**

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Ann Arbor 56 / 32 Acapulco 95 / 90 Austin 85 / 57 Columbus 58 / 31 Kankakee 43 / 27 Orange County 65 / 23 Philly 59 / 38 Seattle Grace Hospital 23 / 52 Somewhere in Middle America 45 / 43 The Ritz-Carlton San Francisco 67 / 41
Famous Notre Dame prof defends himself against plagiarism charges

By BOLLY WEFELIN
News Writer

Father Dick McFrien — the Notre Dame theology professor and nationally renowned commentator who faced plagiarism accusations twice this year — held a conference on campus Thursday to discuss his work on the upcoming film adaptation of "The Da Vinci Code." McFrien served as an advisor for the film, and during his lecture previewed scenes from the movie in which he claimed his influence was most visible.

McFrien began the lecture by welcoming listeners and thanking them for their support during the plagiarism controversy. McFrien insisted he has no fears about further accusations, saying "Frankly, my dear, I don't give a damn."

The rest of McFrien's opening remarks, while welcoming, inspired some confusion. "Call me Ishmael," Romans, countrymen, this experience has been of times, and it has been the worst of times, but I have always depended on the kindness of strangers.

The first scene shown to the crowd, described as "auction" by McFrien, interestingly showed a large bust with Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet rather than the billed stars of the film, Tom Hanks and Audrey Tautou. In response to seeing a clip from the film for the first time, McFrien exclaimed, "I feel like the king of the world!"

Questions about the appearance of the unbilled DiCaprio and Winslet in the clip from what was billed as "The Da Vinci Code" arose from several audience members. McFrien replied by saying "The truth? You can't handle the truth." He subsequently refused any further questions on that topic.

The next scene featured a character not seen in Dan Brown's novel, J. Church, and mysteriously took place in a galaxy "far, far away." McFrien claimed that he was "unable to avoid his role of the scene without ruining the film" but told audience members to "use the force" to better understand the relationship of this scene to what they imagined the rest of the film would be like. When asked if he continued to pursue further work with "The Da Vinci Code" director Ron Howard, McFrien responded by saying "I'll make him an offer he can't refuse." He declined to comment on what exactly the offer to Howard would entail.

"When I first took the job on this project, I sent a proposal to Temple University's planning board to have a film produced," McFrien said. "After about six weeks, I took my proposal to the University of Notre Dame and received the approval I needed." McFrien expressed some interest in finding a studio to option his novel, provided that they could "show [him] the money."

Contact Bolly Wefelin at cardinalnews@nd.edu

Kidnap

continued from page 1

In exchange for Black and Powerless' release, the Posse decreed the strip be discontinued in The Aborder and the newspaper be screened for any content that presents The College or its student body in a negative light. If their stipulations are not met by Monday, May 8, the Posse said, Black and Powerless will never see the "glint of the Golden Dome again but instead will remain eternally under the aura of the Bell Tower."

Police said they believe the hostages are being held somewhere below Le Mans Hall and are working to determine their specific location. Saint Mary's officials screened their phone calls and locked their office doors Thursday to avoid having to comment on the situation at this time.

Animosity toward Black and Powerless has been building for months, and a large crowd of students assembled on the Le Mans green Thursday night to express support for the kidnapped professors. "Those Shockular guys are huge jerks," said sophomore Maighan O'Sullivan. "They took their jokes too far and now they are paying for it. I hope they never make it out of the tunnels alive."

Contact Maighan O'Sullivan at belleliff@acrossstreet.com

Ban

continued from page 1

trustee entourage to Rome and planning the first-anniversary-of-my-inauguration gala, who has the time to look at all of it?"

"If the president of the United States doesn't read the president of Notre Dame should's have to either."

Junkins added he fully supports the goals of St. Patrick's Day — the need to promote Irish-American heritage, one unequivocally shared by all at this University," he said — but "doesn't think the holiday is the appropriate means to achieve them."

"Given the distinct character and aspirations of Notre Dame, you can't have just any holiday on campus," Junkins said. "I mean, we wouldn't have Yom Kippur, or God forbid, Martin Luther King Day."

The president said he also considered banning Halloween on the basis that its title seems to promote and celebrate a pagan lifestyle. However, after the holiday's organizers agreed to change its name to "All Hallow's Eve: Ghosts, Ghouls and Christian Responses," Junkins decided it could still take place at Notre Dame.

Students and faculty swiftly responded to the university's repudiation of academic freedom and intellectual achievement, "history professor [Jesse] Tenure said. "Father Junkins' power trip has gone too far. I miss Monk letting it be known that the S. News and World Report rankings were inconsequential."

Right to Sobriety president Socrates Scarewss agreed. "I don't like it," a University president who stands up for what Notre Dame is really about," Scarewss said, "dropping to his knees in prayer. "Forbidding staff. What could be more Catholic than that?"

Contact Bare Heinygall at don- tyooreatoucchiimin@nd.edu

Sell your soul. Call News at 1-532-
Holy
continued from page 1
Highcliff, features a prospective student who visits a chapel every day to pray and make a sizeable cash donation. Then, on the third day, the student receives a visit from God, who hands the student his Notre Dame acceptance letter, which emits a heavenly glow. God then smiles and says, “I’m off to the Dome to visit my mother. See you in the fall.”

The role of God was originally scripted for screen star Charlton Heston, who had agreed to the part, but administrators wanted to do “better than that.” Highcliff said. Talks with God began in December, but did not conclude until after University President Father Jim Junkins’ trip to Rome in early February.

“It wasn’t until Junkins met with the pope that God seriously considered taking the role,” said Highcliff. “When we met — that’s what we call the pope around here; we’re very close — told God He should take the part, talks began in earnest.”

The pope told God the commercial would be good for His image and make film more accessible to the people, he continued. Administrators are thrilled God has chosen to include Himself in the project, but there are other perks.

“We don’t need any special effects technicians, as God takes care of all that,” Highcliff said.

“We didn’t want to give the impression that those who pray a lot don’t get into this University,”

Contact MoThBooze at behindthe8ball@nd.edu

Jedi
continued from page 1
believe the issues that picked me. Issues as small as to-go cups, and as overarching as academic freedom. Issues as universal as a living wage, and as local as a city ordinance. Issues that all touched my heart and my desire to serve. Issues.

The Absurder: Okay, okay, easier question. Who is your favorite administrator?

Duve LeBaron: Gosh, I respect them all so much. I mean, there’s Father Jenkins, of course. He wrote me such thoughtful letters of recommendation. And I have Father Poorman’s cell phone number. But it’s not just priests. Dr. Affleck-Graves and I are on a first-name basis. Hurish and Crnkovich, too. And I could never forget Brian Coughlin. Did I mention I have Father Poorman’s cell phone number?

The Absurder: Yes, Duve. How about your life outside of student government?

What can you tell us about that?

Duve LeBaron: [stares blankly]

The Absurder: Duve?

Duve LeBaron: Next question.

The Absurder: All right. What are your plans for after graduation?

Duve LeBaron: Well, right now I’m planning on attending law school at Harvard, Yale, Chicago, Duke, Michigan or outer space.

The Absurder: Outer space?

Duve LeBaron: Yes, I’m a huge Star Trek fan. [pulls file from desk drawer] See?

The Absurder: We see. Put that away.

Duve LeBaron: [looks crestfallen, closes drawer]

The Absurder: You’re spoken very highly of your successor, Frizzi Sharrell. Would you compare her to any contemporary leaders?

Duve LeBaron: Osama bin Ladin.

The Absurder: What?

Duve LeBaron: Frizzi and al Qaeda have four qualities in common. Strong will, determination, empathy, terrorism.

The Absurder: Right. Sounds like she’ll be great. Do you have any regrets as you turn over the presidency?

Duve LeBaron: Well, between dealing with the South Bend Common Council, serving on the Board of Trustees, building respectful relationships with administrators, sucking up to the press, implementing the College Readership program and keeping the student union in line. I have been too busy to address one important issue — the dead cats. But people need money to care about cats. So the cats remain.

The Absurder: [dumbfounded]

Duve LeBaron: Thanks for the exit interview. I’ll put in a good word with Father Mark. And if there are any dead bodies in the ceiling tiles tomorrow, you know where to find Frizzi bin Ladin.

Contact More Powerful Than You at 3gopubliche@nd.edu

Get out
continued from page 1
Junkins decided it made no difference whether or not students were present to defend themselves.

Duve LeBaron: Well, obviously, but they didn’t have to go and say it.”

student body sycophant Slaveto Poorman said sulkily. “Hey, I’m still talking.”

Off-campus president Matthew Wormsregrass popped his collar and declined to comment.

The announcement of the ordinance prompted angry reactions from students and landlords.

Sharon Krymer, owner of Krymer’s Monopolies, which controls 99.97 percent of all student housing in South Bend, said the Council was infringing on his right to profit.

“Oh, and it’s pretty inconvenient for the students, too,” Krymer added hastily, punching buttons on his diamond-studded cell phone. “Tell me, are the townies this hostile in Granger?”

When asked whether the University would intercede on the off-campus students’ behalf, Associate Vice President for Residence Life Will Jork folded an arm, shook his head and stuck out his tongue.

“We don’t need any special effects technicians, as God takes care of all that.” Highcliff said.

“We didn’t want to give the impression that those who pray a lot don’t get into this University.”

Contact MoThBooze at behindthe8ball@nd.edu

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Control
continued from page 8

enough," he screamed. Then Cheis held out his left hand, covered in Super Bowl jewelry. "Kiss the rings," Cheis said.

Notes
- CheisTV will be supported by money raised from The Shirt sales. Though some students are skeptical of purchasing the fan shirt in the future.
- Irish's yellow. I'm not buying it. This year's shirt was the worst fan shirt I've ever seen," said every student.
- The commercials for CheisTV will consist of Chuck Norris videos.

Irish coach barley Cheis flips his whistle while he politely tells a reporter that he's stupid for asking a question.

Losing
continued from page 8

an 87-84 loss to Michigan in Ann Arbor in the second round of the NIT on March 20. The loss was the fourth overtime loss for Notre Dame this season.

"I know how I lost to Michigan, but I'm proud of this group," Frey said. "They fought, they fought hard. We really are the Fighting Irish. Did I tell you how much I love Notre Dame?" Frey reflected on his fifth season as the head coach at Notre Dame, one that was filled with missed last-second shots and failures to win a close game.

"I really love this team," Frey said. "I know they got flattened at the end of games, turning the ball over too much and waiting until the last second to take a bad shot, but they're a great bunch of guys. They really are." Frey reiterated that he wouldn't have done anything differently this season, even if it meant the Irish would fail to win those close games again.

"I will go to my grave with Bliss Gin shooting the ball," Frey said. "He could shoot from the top row of the bleachers with 0.06 seconds left — I wouldn't care. I put all my trust in Bliss — he's the man. I really love that kid!"

However, Frey has come under fire as the state-of-the-art Meyers Center has failed to fill up for games this season, and the Irish continued to struggle just three years after making the Sweet 16 of the national tournament.

But Black responded to criticism of Frey by saying that he still believed in him as a person and a basketball coach.

"I know he will eventually find a way to win games, because he is a disciple of Coach Z at Duke. Coach Z is a pretty good coach and we're just waiting for it to show up in Iowa. After all, it's only football where we're impatient with coaches."

Contact Working Overtime at Irish@wooseedrehscaa.com

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Don't get me wrong. I think our football program has been at its very best from Sundays to Fridays, but think it this time we took steps to improve the way our program performs on Saturdays. When I first heard that Barley Cheis was being hired to be our coach, I was worried that he would bring the same results to Notre Dame that he had in New England in the NFL. Unfortunately, I was completely correct.

9-3! Are you serious? That's not even close to acceptable. A program like Notre Dame should be having 13 games last season, easily. I Hyrone Twillingham, who is perhaps the greatest leader of men to ever coach football, would have easily had us playing in a National (Golf) Championship at season's end. If more importantly, there wouldn't be any excuses being made.

Note this: "it takes 2 years to implement a system" or "we played hard and things didn't go our way" BS. Any other coach wouldn't make excuses, he would just get it done.

And finally, there's the reason no one wants to talk about, but I'll say it. Affirmative Action. I know we have to have diversity at Notre Dame, as should all institutions for that matter. But hiring a guy like Cheis just to paint a prettier picture of Notre Dame, with little regard to his actual football know-how and coaching ability, is just plain wrong.

How long will it take for us to realize that Cheis is just Bumbling about in this profession with no real plans or direction for us to be going to win games? Hopefully, the administration and Board of Trustees will see this situation for what it really is and act.

Byrne Billingham
Seattle, Wash.
Class of 1969
March 31

Fire Barley Cheis

Looking down on Notre Dame from heaven, I have observed many angry conversations among administrators, faculty and students about the content of certain "Shockular" cartoons. Even my chosen disciple, Barley Cheis, has been provoked to anger by Black and Erik Powerless’ work and admonished The Absurder for running "offensive material."

But I say to you, my children, I am not offended by Shockular pictures. Neither is my Son — who frequently appears in the comic — and therefore you should not be either. While some might think Black and Powerless are overtly rude, they serve the important function on campus of reminding you all not to take yourself too seriously. And while some of the strips certainly flirt with the line between appropriate and inappropriate, you must remember there is some truth to every joke.

For example, the Nov. 1 comic poked fun at female students and their choice of Halloween costumes. Can you honestly tell me ladies, that you nor any of your friends use Halloween as an excuse to dress in ridiculously scanty clothing? I believe a quick search of your Facebook pictures would prove otherwise.

And is there any topic more ripe for parody then the Notre Dame social scene? Perhaps I'm biased, but I assure you it is OK to laugh at the popular perception of your professors. Administrators, your University will not be any less Catholic if students openly talk about sex. Women, you know you make just as much fun of guys as Shockular does as you, so why don't you submit your own comic for next year?

And to all the rest of you, just lighten up, will you?

Tyrese Billingham

Laugh at Shockular, with my blessing

I'm writing in response to twoship Rumsfeld's March 27 letter to the editor, which was written in response to my March 25 letter titled "The war in Iraq is an inexusable moral outrage."

After thoughtfully reading Rumsfeld's letter multiple times and carefully considering her opinion of our country's current involvement in military action in Iraq, I have come to the conclusion that she is in fact correct and President George W. Bush was wise to invade that country.

As Rumsfeld eloquently and convincingly states, Saddam Hussein was a cruel dictator who needed to be removed from power in order to ensure world stability. The fact that our original purpose for going to war — finding and destroying weapons of mass destruction — turned out to be a farce does not diminish the fact that the Iraqi people now have the joy of living under a peaceful system of democracy.

Nor does the now-obvious lack of ties between Hussein and Al-Qaeda undermine the infrastructure building we are doing in cities like Baghdad and Basrah. In her Pointless letter, Rumsfeld also convinced me that not only should the United States government keep our troops in Iraq, the number of troops should actually be increased. It was silly of me to think our presence was "disruptive and deadly" as I stated in my original letter.

Our soldiers are not viewed as the enemy, they are seen as liberators just as they were in Vietnam 40 years ago. "United States marines serving in Iraq are not only protecting the freedom of the Iraqi people, they are bringing to them the blessing of American democracy." Rumsfeld writes in her letter.

After being a strong opponent of the war in Iraq for the last three years, I am tremendously grateful to Rumsfeld and the Pointless section of The Absurder for showing me the errors of my ways and pushing me to reconsider my stance. The Pointless section continues to serve as a wonderful forum for intelligent and honest discussion on seriously global issues such as the Iraq war and the Notre Dame mascot.

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Bare Hendlryg The Cap
Henrietta Van Roevergardt
Sam Pardington
Hair Smiley
Mo' That Beaus
Mouthern O'Nejule
Sancho Marlohn
Billy Wofflin

Today's Staff

Abuserd Poll
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Vote at www.ndsmcabsurder.com by 5 p.m. today.

We're not afraid to splash them across high-profile, glamorous lifestyle found in the Pointless Hall basement? — but we suspect it runs deeper than that. We think you're intimidated.

Admit it, Absurder haters. You couldn't resist the Pointless tone and topic of campus conversation, to print Saint Mary's swimming stories no one will read — all that overwhelms you, doesn't it? It's easier to just tune it out, isn't it?

We thought so. So think twice the next time you're tempted to declare yourself above The Absurder's standards. We know where you live, we know all your dirty secrets and we're not afraid to splash them across the front page. If only every profession could be so noble.

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We -en-c-a: en has a national television said Thursday.

SMC PREDATOR

ND joins CAA due to George Mason basketball successes

By PATRIOT ENVY
Sports Writer

In a stunning move, Notre Dame athletic director Kevin Black announced Thursday Notre Dame would be leaving the Big East Conference to join the Colonial Athletic Association in pursuit of basketball greatness. "As we watch George Mason in the Final Four this weekend, our fans can now realize that next year that can be Notre Dame," Black said in a press conference. "We expect nothing but the best from our basketball program, and this is the step in the right direction." Black said all other Notre Dame sports would also be a part of the CAA — with the exception of football, because Irish head coach Barry Cheis refused to allow it.

"All of our teams will benefit from the competition of the CAA," Black said. "However, the winter leadership of the University decided football will not be joining the conference. The money received from the exclusive contract with NBC is essential to pay mine and Cheis' salaries, in addition to helping some students."

The move comes in light of Mason's dramatic and historic run to the Final Four as a No. 11 seed. LSU and Florida, both SEC teams, and UCLA, a Pac-10 team, round out the Final Four. The Big East had just two teams in the Elite Eight and four teams in the Sweet 16.

"We felt the Big East wasn't good enough for us anymore," Black said. "At Notre Dame we hold ourselves to the highest standard, and the CAA is just that in basketball."

"It's good in other sports, too."
The Big East had seven teams in this year's tournament, but the Irish didn't make it, after finishing 15-13 overall and 6-10 in the Big East. The Irish also failed to win a game in the Big East Tournament, dropping their first game to Georgetown. But Black maintained that Notre Dame basketball was doing just fine.

see CAA/page 6
Acting powers ‘Violence’

By MOLLY GRIFFIN
Assistant Scene Editor

The title of the film "A History of Violence" doesn’t lie — the film is raw, bloody, and emotionally devastating. It boasts fantastic performances from a bevy of talented actors, and while the story gets lost at times in the sheer grittiness of the film, it is a deeply powerful portrayal of one of humanity’s most basic instincts.

"A History of Violence" centers on Tom Stall (Viggo Mortensen), a seemingly normal everyman living in a small town in Indiana. His life changes radically when he displays a somewhat eerie proficiency for killing when his diner is almost robbed. His violent act, while portrayed as heroic, only leads to greater and more escalated violence in the world around him. His brutal exhibition eventually calls his identity into question as he manages to tear his family apart.

The film displays a variety of types of violence, from heroic to senseless, youthful to sexual, and it reveals the destructiveness of the film to the more graphic international release. "Too Commercial for Cannes" looks at the film’s release at the French film festival, while the third feature of violence, which clocks in at 65 minutes, provides the entire background on the film’s production.

A lengthy deleted scene is included on the DVD, and it includes optional director commentary. Along with this lengthy scene is the featurette "The Unmaking of Scene 44" which details how the scene was made and why it was ultimately axed from the film.

The extras on the DVD add insight into the film’s purpose, but in the end, it is the film itself that stands alone as a somewhat complicated work. While viewers may leave the film with conflicted feelings, it is impossible to remain untouched by the raw emotional power of the film.

Contact Molly Griffin at mgriffin@nd.edu

The DVD of "A History of Violence" centers on Tom Stall (Viggo Mortensen). Stall shows an eerie violent streak when his diner is nearly robbed.
NHL

Roloson makes 20 saves in 4-0 Edmonton win

Senators blast Rangers 4-1; third period rally sparks Detroit over Nashville; Afanasenkov leads Lightning past Atlanta

The Observer • CLASSIFIEDS
Friday, March 31, 2006

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**NBA Standings**

**Eastern Conference, Atlantic Division**

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**Eastern Conference, Central Division**

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**Western Conference, Northwest Division**

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<th>Team</th>
<th>Record</th>
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**Western Conference, Pacific Division**

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**Western Conference, Southwest Division**

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**NCAA Men's Baseball**

Top 20

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<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rice</td>
<td>9-3</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>North Carolina</td>
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<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tennessee</td>
<td>12-3</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mississippi St</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cal State-Fullerton</td>
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<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arkansas</td>
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<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louisiana State</td>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oregon State</td>
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<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arizona</td>
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<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
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<tr>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>11-2</td>
<td>NR</td>
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**NCAA Men's Lacrosse**

DURHAM, N.C. — The lawyers for Duke men's lacrosse players said Thursday that police and an outraged community will owe the team an apology after DNA tests are completed — tests they said will prove no one on the team raped an exotic dancer.

Four attorneys representing nearly all the 46 players forced to give samples protested what they said was a presumption that their clients attacked the dancer or kept quiet about what happened. No one has been charged.

"We believe that the DNA will show that that this not true. We believe that a full and complete and fair investigation will show that it is not true," lawyer Joe Cheshire said. Investigators are still collecting evidence, but District Attorney Mike Nifong has said in recent days he already believes a crime occurred. Even if the state crime lab's DNA analysis proves inconclusive or doesn't provide a match for any of the athletes, Nifong has said he'll have other evidence.

"If the only thing that we ever have in this case is DNA, then we wouldn't have a case," Nifong said Wednesday. This week, university president Richard Brodhead suspended the highly ranked team from play until the school learns more about the accusations.

But Cheshire said Nifong and police have created a mob mentality that has tainted the men "before the evidence has all come out in a way that they will never recover."

Nifong's office did not return calls Thursday seeking a response to the criticism.

Associated Press

Blue Devils await DNA test results

Duke University graduate student Jacob Remes calls for the firing of lacrosse coach Mike Pressler and athletic director Joe Alleva Thursday during an open mike protest in front of the university's administration building in Durham, N.C.

Boehm believes rapid increase in Division I schools, to more than 300, and increased parity, as demonstrated by George Mason reaching the Final Four, indicates its time to include more teams.

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**In Brief**

**Ochoa ties record for best round in an LPGA major**

**RANCHO MIRAGE, Calif.**— Lorena Ochoa had only 100 or so people following her record round Thursday in the Kraft Nabisco Championship, which was fine with her. She was able to hear that familiar voice, her father urging her to attack the flags and stick it to her game.

"Just like this," Javier Ochoa said to her after she began the first round with a 9-iron to 2 feet birdie.

And she obeyed, knocking down flags on a calm morning in the desert, piling up birdies until she was in the record book with a 10-under 62 that gave her a four-shot lead over 16-year-old Michelle Wie.

We got all the attention and matched her best score on the LPGA Tour, a bogey-free 66 in which she played with poise and precision and had a birdie putt on every hole.

**Boehm wants to see more teams in tournament**

**INDIANAPOLIS**— Jim Boehm wants more schools playing in the NCAA tournament, and his coaching colleagues appear to agree.

The Syracuse coach believes the tournament field should expand from its current 65 teams and hopes to start lobbying for an increase Friday during a meeting with the National Association of Basketball Coaches.

"I have a number in mind, I think it should probably be about four to six, somewhere in there," Boehm said Thursday. "The problem really is that it shouldn't come down to logistics."

The field expanded from 48 to 64 in 1985, then added a 65th team to the field in 2001 when the NCAA increased the number of automatic bids from 30 to 31.

Boehm believes the rapid increase in Division I schools, to more than 300, and increased parity, as demonstrated by George Mason reaching the Final Four, indicates its time to include more teams.

**Roddick continues slide with loss to Ferrer**

**KEY BISCAYNE, Fla.**— Andy Roddick shanked a service return, sending the shot straight up, then took off his cap and used it to catch the ball.

Give Roddick credit for trying to make the best of a difficult day. He hit another bump in his bid to shake an early-season slump Thursday, losing to David Ferrer 6-3, 4-6, 6-4 in the quarterfinals of the Nasdaq-100 Open.

Roddick, who slipped from third to fourth in the rankings last week, has yet to reach a final this year.

"I feel a lot better leaving this tournament than I did a couple of days before this tournament," he said. "I feel like I'm on the verge of playing really good tennis again."

Roddick's biggest weapon — the serve — betrayed him against the 11th-seeded Ferrer in the first set he made only 35 percent of his first serves.
MLB

Anna Benson asks for divorce from Orioles pitcher husband

Associated Press

FORT LAUDERDALE — Anna Benson has requested a divorce from Baltimore Orioles pitcher Kris Benson, who still believes the New York Mets traded him in response to actions by his impulsive wife.

Anna Benson, an actress and model who has posed Topless, filed for divorce in Atlantic County on Thursday. The petition for divorce claims the marriage is "irrevocably broken." The couple has been married for seven years.

Kris Benson initially protested the deal that sent him to the Orioles. But now he thinks the Mets did him a favor.

"I was a little upset because I enjoyed my time in New York and I feel like they had a good team coming into the season," Benson said in a recent interview. "But now that I realize the opportunity I have, it's going to be a good career move for me."

Now, it appears as if he will go at it alone.

In 2005, his first full season with the Mets, Benson allowed three runs or fewer in 19 starts. He was 10-8 with a 4.31 ERA, but New York won 17 of the 28 games in which he pitched.

Despite those numbers, the right-hander was traded to the Orioles in January for pitchers Jorge Julio and John Maine. There was speculation that the deal was perpetuated by the behavior of Anna, who has her own web site and publicly discussed intimate details of their sex life.

Mets general manager Omar Minaya contended that Anna Benson was not a factor in the trade. Kris Benson isn't buying it.

"New York is just a world of its own. I knew that coming in, but you learn that a little more when you get put in the spotlight like that in a negative and undeserving way," Kris Benson said. "It was a little frustrating at the time because people kind of believe what they read. For her it's been a little tough, because they kind of portray her in a negative light."

Anna Benson wore a provocative dress at the team Christmas party, and there was talk that she was considering posing nude for Playboy. Kris Benson bristles at the memory.

NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL

Gamecocks beat Michigan at MSG

Victory gives South Carolina second NIT title in as many years

Associated Press

NEW YORK — South Carolina certainly didn't begin the season hoping to repeat as NIT champions.

The Gamecocks were, however, happy to end it that way and became only the second school to win consecutive NIT titles.

Tarence Kinsey scored 21 points and Tre' Kelley added 20 and seven assists to help South Carolina beat Michigan 76-64 on Thursday night.

With four starters back from last year's NIT champs, the Gamecocks began the season with hopes to graduate to an NCAA tournament berth this season. It didn't work out, though South Carolina (23-15) made a late run at an automatic bid before losing the Southeastern Conference title game 49-47 to Florida.

Back in the NIT, the Gamecocks made the most of it and joined St. John's, which won the NIT in 1943 and 1944, as the only teams to win back-to-back championships.

Kentucky was the only other team to make the playoffs in consecutive championship games (1946-47).

The SEC could make it a tournament sweep with Florida and LSU playing the NCAA Final Four on Saturday.

Rasheed Wallace added 30 points, 11 rebounds and six blocks and was named the MVP of the tournament for his performance.

Daniel Horton, who was the MVP of the 2004 NIT, scored 18 points to lead Michigan (22-10), which was trying to win its second championship in three years.

Cecil Hunter and Brent Petway each added 12 for Michigan, which won the title in 2004 with most of the same players who led this year's run to the Garden.

Trailing 24-14, Michigan went on a 7-0 run to close to 24-21 on Ron Coleman's 3-pointer with 6:07 left in the half. Tempers flared soon after when Balkman blocked Petway's shot.

Balkman grabbed the loose ball and caught Petway with an elbow in the lip. Petway responded, shoving Balkman to the floor for an intentional foul.

The couple has been married for seven years.

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NCAA Men's Basketball

100,000 fans expected in Indy for Final Four

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Marc Sawyer figures he won't sleep much this weekend.

The 21-year-old UCLA senior was flying with several friends to Columbus, Ohio, late Friday, then renting a car and driving three hours to Indianapolis. Once here, he'll don a blue and yellow outfit that includes colored glasses, gym shorts, a T-shirt, knee socks and a pompon to cheer on the Bruins in the Final Four before returning to Los Angeles 30 minutes before his first class Tuesday morning. Whirlwind trip? You bet.

"We're just running on adrenaline once we get there," said Sawyer, a San Diego resident who is president of The Den, UCLA's student athletics fan club. "We're not even going to want to sleep."

Thanks to a monthlong buildup, multimillion-dollar ad campaigns and celebrity-studded entertainment, this year's Final Four will be a far cry from the event's humble beginnings in 1939, when only eight teams competed for the title. This weekend, when an expected 100,000 fans descend on downtown Indianapolis for the culmination of a nationwide basketball frenzy, the tourney will have transformed itself into a full-out extravaganza.

"When a sporting event moves to the next level and becomes a big event, it's more than just attending the games — it becomes a destination point on everybody's calendar of events," said John Rowady, president of rEvolution, a Chicago sports marketing agency that partnered with the NCAA to promote various game packages. "I think (the Final Four) has moved into the realm of being a rival to the Super Bowl."

Included in the lineup is a free, two-day music festival headlined by Indiana rocker John Mellencamp and featuring last season's "American Idol" winner, Carrie Underwood.

The NCAA's Hall of Champions museum will be open for a marathon 100 straight hours to mark the governing body's centennial. Thousands of entertainment-minded fans were expected to visit an interactive festival at the Indiana Convention Center.

That doesn't count the scores of private parties, hospitality suites, rooms and VIP events for special ticket holders and corporate partners who have shelled out thousands of dollars for all-inclusive Final Four packages.

All the while, CBS will be broadcasting games on 11 jumbo screens throughout downtown.

"When consumers expect more of a total fan experience, that's what we're seeing here," said Vince Thompson, president and chief executive officer of the Atlanta-based Creative Presence Partners, which is working with the NCAA and Coca Cola Co. to put on the musical festival.

"Fans aren't the only ones demanding more. Big corporations use tickets to top sporting events such as the Final Four, the Super Bowl, the Masters golf championship and the Kentucky Derby to schmooze their best customers."

"The Final Four is becoming one of the premier events in the country from a corporate perspective," said David Lord, chief executive of RazorGator and PrimeSport, an online ticket broker based in Los Angeles. "It's becoming more and more the approach of the big sponsors to leverage these events as opportunities to get close to their big clients."

RazorGator expects to send as many as 4,000 customers to the Final Four — half of them through corporate packages that include work meetings, a casino night and special appearances by top coaches and players.

Evolution's premier package costs $55,000 and includes 10 lower-level seats in the RCA Dome, a four-night downtown hotel stay and access to other VIP events.

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NBA
Pacers honor Miller, fall to Phoenix, 114-104

Marion scores 29 to lead Suns, Indiana has lost 6 of 8 games

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — The capacity crowd that showed up at Conseco Fieldhouse to watch Reggie Miller's retirement ceremony had nearly vanished by the fourth quarter. That's because the Pacers didn't resemble the team Miller turned into a contender with his countless clutch shots.

Shawn Marion scored 29 points, Steve Nash nearly had a triple-double, and the Phoenix Suns beat Indiana 114-104 Thursday night to snap a two-game losing streak.

Nash finished with 15 points, 13 assists and eight rebounds.

"Miller Time" never came because the Pacers were out of the game so early. Phoenix led 58-44 at halftime and 92-78 at the end of the third quarter.

Phoenix entered the game averaging a league-best 101 points.

The Suns' offense was too sharp for Indiana's fourth-ranked scoring defense.

"They had some bigger guys," Marion said. "We were trying to force the tempo of the game. They couldn't run with us and it showed."

Indiana got no closer than nine points in the second half.

"They make you play their tempo," Indiana point guard Anthony Johnson said. "If you don't make shots, they can dominate you. We would put up a string of baskets and you look up at the board and you're still down by 12."

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SMC TENNIS
Belles try to avenge defeat

Saint Mary's will face Olivet Nazarene and Wheaton this weekend

By GREG ARBOGAST
Sports Writer

Coming off its first conference loss, Saint Mary's will have a chance to get back in the win column when it takes on Olivet Nazarene at 2 p.m. today and Wheaton College at 5 p.m. Saturday in the Jack Schwarz Memorial Classic Tournament in Wheaton, Ill.

As this weekend's tournament is sandwiched between conference matches, the Belles players will have a brief reprieve from the pressure of the conference schedule. The team hopes to put that break to good use, senior Kristen Palombo said.

"Touraments like this take the pressure off for a little while because we know that no matter what happens, it won't affect our conference standing," Palombo said. "We're able to try new things in these matches, and we're able to work on parts of our game that we might not be comfortable using in conference matches."

Saint Mary's will still be taking this weekend's matches seriously, though, and will be facing some difficult competition. Olivet Nazarene has won two NAIA Region III-VII Championships and made three NAIA National Tournament appearances since 2001. This year, Olivet Nazarene boasts a 3-1 record, having won their last three matches.

-Wheaton will present an even greater challenge for the Belles, as they enter this weekend with a record of 6-0 and are currently ranked No. 18 in the nation by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association.

In addition, two of Wheaton's players are ranked in the region.

Freshman Jordan Hooks is currently the No. 5 player in the central region, and she comes into this weekend with an unblemished record of 19-0.

Senior Elizabeth Maclellan, a two-time winner of the CCW Player of the Year award, is currently the No. 2 player in the central region.

The team, however, sees the benefits of playing against such strong competition.

"No matter what happens regarding the outcome, it makes you a better player," Palombo said. "You have to try harder, come up with shots you didn't know you had, and you have to expand your game."

Contact Greg Arborgast at garborg@nd.edu

Photos Eye Film
Men's Golf
Squad to play in Augusta

ND will try to bounce back from mediocre finishes during break

By JOE QUINN
Sports Writer

Notre Dame will head south to Augusta, Ga., this weekend to take part in the Augusta State Invitational at Champions Retreat Golf Club. After finishing ninth at the Border Olympics March 19 and 11th at the General Jim Hackett Invitational March 13, the Irish are anxious to start competing for tournament championships, and, Irish coach Jim Kubinski said, there's no better place for that than Augusta.

"Just the name Augusta brings to mind thoughts of championship golf," Kubinski said. "I feel we are ready to start playing our A-game, and what better place to do it than Augusta, Georgia."

"There's no better place for that championship to take place in the Augusta area," he said. "It's the weekend where the team returns to the form it showed in the fall."

Irish sophomore Greg Rodgers putsts in last year's Notre Dame Invitational. Notre Dame will travel to Augusta, Ga. for the Augusta State Invitational this weekend.

"We had such a strong fall season, I just want the guys to match that this weekend," he said. "We played top-20 golf (all fall) and now is the time to prove to everyone else that we are a top-20 program."

The Irish will take on some of the top teams in the country in Augusta. UCLA leads the field coming in ranked No. 5, in the country according to the GCAA/BridgeStone Top 25. In addition to the Bruins, the tournament field boasts three top 20 teams — East Tennessee State (No. 11), Tennessee (No. 12) and Clemson (No. 14).

Besides the four top-20 teams, there are five more teams just outside the top 25 and the top ranked team in Division II, South Carolina – Aiken. While the Irish are one of the few teams competing in Augusta that is not ranked in the top 50, Kubinski said he is confident about their chances.

"If we can play like I know we can play, we'll show that we're closer to the team we were in the fall than the one that's been playing this spring," he said.

Kubinski is going to tweak his line-up for the weekend, adding freshman Josh Sandman. Sandman's outstanding play in qualifying rounds this past week, according to Kubinski, is the reason for the move.

"We played in three (qualifying rounds) this past week and (Josh) finished behind only Cole (Ishlan) and Scott (Gustafson)," Kubinski said.

Kubinski said Sandman's proficiency near the hole will help the Irish this weekend.

"(Josh) always exhibits fantastic short game. I'm hoping he'll add a little something to the mix down in Augusta," Kubinski said.

Contact Joe Quinn at
jquinn@nd.edu

Tennis
Sharapova advances on opponent's injury

Russian star fails to convert four match points, endures boos

KEY BISCAYNE, Fla. — Maria Sharapova blew a big lead, drew boos for taking a bathroom break and won only when opponent Tatiana Golovin was forced to retire in tears because of an ankle injury.

The hollow victory Thursday night earned Sharapova a berth in the final at the Nasdaq-100 Open.

Sharapova failed to convert four match points in the second set and played for another 75 minutes before Golovin twisted her left ankle and fell chasing a shot in the corner.

A trainer taped Golovin's ankle. The French teenager played one point, hobbled a return wide, then called it quits with Sharapova serving and leading 6-3, 6-7 (10-8), 5-3, ad in.

The stadium was less than half full when the match ended at 11:40 p.m. EST, but the fans who stayed were noisy. Three times they jeered Sharapova for taking a break leading 5-4 in the second set.

The interruption didn't deter Sharapova, who won the crowd's favor by completing her comeback from a 5-1 deficit in the second set and held four match points in the third. The fifth set was played for another 75 minutes before Sharapova sealed it 6-3, 6-7 (10-8), 6-4.

Sharapova extended winning streaks of 25 consecutive matches against Americans, 46 matches in a row in the United States and a record 22 in a row in Masters Series events.

Sharapova has reached the semifinals in his past 13 tournaments.

"Maybe I'm a slow learner," said Blake, who also lost to Federer in the Indian Wells final two weeks ago. "But he doesn't make it easy. I'm starting to feel like one of those basketball players in the early '90s. You feel like you make Michael Jordan play well, but every time he comes up and beats you and makes you realize why he's the best."

Like Federer, Sharapova is bidding for back-to-back titles after winning at Indian Wells. She's 7-2 against fellow Russian Kuznetsova, winning the last three.

Sharapova led the No. 22-seeded Golovin 5-1 in the second set and held four match points serving at 5-3. But the situation inspired Golovin to raise her level of play, and she hung on by winning a series of tight points to stave off a 5-1 deficit to 5-4.

Sharapova requested a bathroom break. Because of the timing of the request, the chair umpire initially turned her down before relenting.

Fans jeered as Sharapova trotted off the court and bosed again when she returned.

Golovin twice held serve to force the tiebreaker. She reached set point at 6-5, then hit a forehand that skipped off the net cord and landed on the baseline for a winner. Sharapova challenged the call, but instant replay confirmed the line judge's ruling, and the crowd erupted.
**WOMEN'S CREW**

**Rowers ready to churn waters of Mission Bay**

Team travels to San Diego to participate in annual Classic

By TIM KAISER

**Sports Writer**

This weekend the Irish will travel to southern California to race in the San Diego Classic.

The races, which will host over 3,500 competitors, will be held in Mission Bay in San Diego. Both men's and women's college teams will compete, along with club teams from all age groups. Thousands of spectators are expected to attend the event, which is one of the most popular in the country every year.

Rowing relies on its premier national events, like the Classic, to raise interest in the sport. College coaches use the Classic to scout high school programs for good rowers.

The Classic began in 1976, a joint effort between the San Diego Rowing Club and the ZLAC Rowing Club for women and the first event featured eight schools from the west coast and the Naval Academy.

This year's event will feature the Naval Academy, Washington, Long Beach State, San Diego State, UC-Santa Barbara, Harvard, Yale, Stanford, UC-Berkeley, Duke and Virginia.

The Irish will compete for the Jessop-Whittier Cup, the top honor for women at the Classic. The cup features eight-person races, Notre Dame's probable varsity line-up will consist of coxswain Maria Romano and rowers Julie Sobolewski, Amanda Polk, Mary Quinn, Laura Pearson, Allison Marsh, Melissa Felker, Megan Boyle and Sarah Palandech. They will look to improve upon last year's time of 7:03.21, which earned them eighth place.

Teams of Irish rowers will also compete in the JV and Novice races.

The Irish fared well in their last competition, winning six of seven races at the Lubbers Cup in Grand Rapids, Mich., despite hailstorms and turbulent water.

I Irish head coach Martin Stone was pleased with his team's performance and is looking forward to seeing what his team can do at the Classic.

"I thought we raced well and hard under hard conditions," Stone said after last weekend's competition in Grand Rapids. "I'm happy how we handled the racing conditions, and I could see that each of our boats improved from the previous week."

Martin Stone

Irish head coach

"I'm happy how we handled the racing conditions, and I could see that each of our boats improved from the previous week."

"I thought we raced well and hard under hard conditions."

Contact Tim Kaiser at tkaiser@nd.edu

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FOR MORE INFORMATION: Professor John Ross, Political Science Department, Ross 148.

FOR AN E-MAIL APPLICATION, simply send a request to Professor. The application deadline is noon on Thursday, March 8. Late applications will be accepted only if openings are available.

PPE INFORMATION MEETING

Monday April 3

5 PM,

209 O'Shaughnessy
**WOMEN'S LACROSSE**

**Irish travel to face Huskies**

8-1 ND squares off against struggling UConn in Storrs

By CHRIS WILLIAMS  
Sports Writer

The Irish hope to continue their winning ways as they face Connecticut today at 1 p.m. in Storrs, Conn.

After avenging their 21-12 loss to Northern Illinois with a dominating 18-2 win over Canisius, No. 10 Notre Dame heads into Friday's game against Connecticut with an 8-1 record.

After the win over Canisius, senior captain Crysti Foote was named to the Tewaaraton Award watch list.

**SMC SOFTBALL**

Team opens conference season against Adrian

Belles split two games against Manchester earlier this week

By DEIRDRE KRASULA  
Sports Writer

The Belles will play their first Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association (MIAA) game Saturday at 1 p.m., taking on Adrian College at home.

While Saint Mary's (10-4) has had more success this season than the Bulldogs (9-7), Belles head coach Erin Sullivan said her team is taking nothing for granted.

"I think that Adrian is a team that is often overlooked, so we need to play with the same intensity we do against teams that we know are very talented," Sullivan said.

The Belles' come out of a split in a doubleheader against Manchester on March 5. The Irish coach Tracy Coyne and team members were traveling and were unavailable for comment Thursday night.

Contact Chris Williams at cwill11@nd.edu

**SMC GOLF**

Belles look to defend Purple and White title

Squad set new course record last season at Foxfire Golf Club

By BECKI DORNER  
Sports Writer

The Belles will look to defend their championship at the Purple and White Invitational, hosted by Capital University this weekend at the Foxfire Golf Club in Lockbourne, Ohio.

The Belles shot a tournament record 357 as a team last year to defeat 12 other teams at the Players Club Course.

Capital University comes into the meet off a win last weekend, shooting a total of 352 to triumph over Ohio Northern by two strokes. The Crusaders were led by Charissa Mills on Sunday who fired a team-best 85 to tie for third-place, while Emma Stowe was two strokes behind with a score of 87. The meet begins Friday morning at the Players Club Course before moving to the Foxfire course on Saturday for the final round.

Megan Mattia, last season's Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association (MIAA) most valuable player, will look to improve on her top-20 finish at the tournament last year.

Mattia and the Belles finished 11th in cold and snowy conditions last weekend at the Northern Kentucky Spring Invitational.

Mattia led the Belles with an 82 on day one and a 79 on day two for a total of 161 (+17) — good enough to earn her 30th place in the 91-golfer field. The Belles showed off their young talent with contributions from a sophomore — Katie O'Brien with a score of 169 in 49th place and a freshman — Alex Sei with a score of 177 for 66th place and finished ahead of Division I Dayton.

In addition to Mattia, the other two seniors made big contributions. Nicole Bellino had a score of 171 good enough for 56th place and Kirsten Fantom had a score of 175 for 63rd place.

Contact Becki Dorner at rdorner1@nd.edu
**MEN’S LACROSSE**

Irish offense ready to mow down Big Green

By GREG ARBOGAST
Sports Writer

After an 11-5 victory over Brown Wednesday, Notre Dame looks to finish the week undefeated when they take on Dartmouth at Moose Krause Stadium Sunday at 12 p.m.

Notre Dame’s 11 goals against Brown marked its largest scoring output of the season, and Irish head coach Kevin Corrigan said he is looking for his offense to turn in a similar performance Sunday.

“Against Brown, we did a better job of dodging and aggressively trying to get to the goal,” Corrigan said. “Also, when you play as many good defenses as we have, your offense starts to react to the defense rather than the defense react to the offense.”

Another positive aspect from the Brown game was the vast improvement in face-offs. Although face-off specialist Taylor Glagost was still sidelined with an injury, senior midfielder Steve Panos was effective, helping the team win 11 of 20 face-offs, a major improvement over the 6 of 22 face-offs the team won in their first game without Glagost — a loss to Hofstra.

“Steve did a terrific job last week, and we really hope that he can do it for us again this week,” Corrigan said.

After losing to the Pride, the team talked about the Brown game as a statement game. After sating this mindset statement Wednesday, Corrigan said the Irish will look at Sunday’s game as a momentum-builder.

“We know how important it is to have momentum going into league play,” Corrigan said. “It’s not just momentum for league play, though, because every game counts for the NCAA. The last two years we’ve been the seventeenth team in the 16-team NCAA tournament. If there’s anybody who knows that every game counts, it’s us.”

A tough Dartmouth squad stands in Notre Dame’s way this weekend. Dartmouth is currently 4-3 on the season, and it’s coming off a 12-9 win over No. 11 Albany. The game before that, the Big Green were blown out, 14-2, by No. 3 Maryland, but the Irish aren’t giving as much weight to that performance.

“I definitely think that the Albany game is more indicative of what Dartmouth is,” senior co-captain DJ Driscoll said. “They just never really got into the Maryland game. We’re going to expect the best from them.”

Notre Dame rested Thursday after its game Wednesday, and they hasn’t had much time to prepare for Dartmouth.

“Coming off a short week, the game is more about your matchups and less about adapting to the other team, so we’re going to focus more on ourselves,” Corrigan said.

Contact Greg Arborgast garborgas@nd.edu

**TRACK AND FIELD**

Team to host outdoor event

Distance runners to participate in Nike Stanford Invitational

By DAN MURPHY
Sports Writer

The Irish team welcomes four regional foes Saturday to Moose Krause Stadium for the 1st outdoor home meet of the season.

The last time Notre Dame hosted an outdoor meet was two years ago on April 3, 2004. The team hopes to repeat their effort in that meet, which earned Notre Dame 10 event victories.

“The early season meets are all about getting some good times under your belt and starting off the year in a strong way,” said sophomore sprinter Zach Labrecque.

Labrecque will run the 100 and 200-meter races for the Irish Saturday.

Notre Dame will also see its first conference action of the outdoor season as DePaul comes to South Bend. The meet will meet the Blue Demons’ season after last weekend’s performance at the Southern Illinois Spring Classic. Only one DePaul runner, freshman Gabe Harris, competed at Notre Dame earlier in the year at the Alex Wilson Invite. Harris finished 10th in the 400-meter run, Detroit-Mercy of the Horizon League, whose full team will face Notre Dame this week, also sent three of their runners to the indoor invitation- nal held at the Loftus Center in February.

Another Horizon League team, Loyola-Chicago, will also be competing this weekend. The Rambler men opened up their outdoor season placing 12th in Tuscaloosa, Ala., at the Alabama Relays.

The women’s team failed to place despite the 4x100 relay team setting a new school record with a time of 49.25 seconds. In a small victory, Michigan will round out the field Saturday. The Chippewa men have pulled out of 15 of 16 NCAA qualifiers and only 17 members of the women’s squad will be there for their first outdoor meet.

None of the four teams will be at full strength this weekend as many of the distance runners will be racing in the nationally known Nike Stanford Invitational. The annual outdoor tournament attracts elite runners from across the country and more than 4,000 college and high school athletes are scheduled to compete.

“Some of our best athletes will be missing this weekend, so in that sense it will hurt us.” Corrigan said. “We still think we will be able to do well.”

Irish junior Thomas Channery will lead the small Notre Dame contingent heading to Palo Alto. He is a main contender to win the 800-meter race after being named an All-American at the NCAA Indoor Championships.

On the women’s side, Molly Huddle and Stephanie Madia will make the trip to Palo Alto. Huddle makes her season debut after sitting out the winter with a leg injury. "A lot of the girls have been running well in the past few weeks and they are showing that they are ready to race fast," Madia said. "We are all excited to get some regional qualifiers this weekend."

Madia traditionally runs the five-kilometer event but is giving herself a break this weekend after qualifying for the NCAA Regional Tournament last weekend in Tuscaloosa, Ala. She will compete in the 1,500 meter run.

"I want to keep my speed pretty consistent because my ultimate goal is to continue to improve my time in the 5,000," Madia said.

Contact Dan Murphy at dmurphy6@nd.edu

Make monthly tuition, and room & board payments at our LaFortune Student Center Branch. Now that’s convenience!
Knute
continued from page 28

here.

The memorial service will start at 10 a.m. CST and include a ritual football toss and prayers. Family and friends of the seven other victims on the flight will be in attendance.

Emma helped organize some of the pilgrimage, assisting chief organizer Pat Reis, a 1984 graduate of Notre Dame. Reis has been making annual pilgrimages since he was in college.

"A bunch of my roommates — like college guys do — just decided they wanted to road trip and see where the big, concrete marker that's seen in a lot of Notre Dame football films is."

Pat Reis
Notre Dame alum

A 52-minute Video Documentary
"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

On the 75th Anniversary of the Death of Knute Rockne
The Notre Dame Athletics Department Presents
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So we graduated.

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Knute continued from page 28

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The monument salutes our alma mater Notre Dame and all the things Rockne did.

Jim Sears
Notre Dame alum

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Big East continued from page 28

of business in the conference. "We have amazing talent, motivation and team chemistry, and when we bring all of those aspects to the field we are one great ball club," Leen said.

The Friars, who face Notre Dame in two games Sunday afternoon, also come to South Bend firing on all cylinders. Before losing to Rutgers last weekend, Providence had reeled off eight straight wins to bring its record to 15-5 on the year.

Eagles continued from page 28

Senior Sara Schoonaert huddles with teammates during Wednesday's 1-0 extra-innings victory over Bowling Green.

Forget everything you learned at Notre Dame! 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.

business.nd.edu/socialcapital

The Observer ● SPORTS
Friday, March 31, 2006

Win three of the six singles matches to claim the win. The two wins in singles came from No. 4 Katie Stastny and No. 6 Kaile Potts, who has only lost once in dual matches this season.

"The whole team fought hard in the last match," Potts said. "We've also had a great season, so now we just need to play great tennis in the upcoming matches.

Eastern Michigan heads into the contest with an impressive 6-1 win over Ball State last Saturday. The Eagles now stand at 6-6 overall and 1-1 in the Mid-American Conference.

In the match, Eastern Michigan claimed the doubles point with wins from their Nos. 2 and 3 doubles. Playing at No. 2 for the Eagles was the duo of Catherina Bestaehorn and Elizabeth Syrova and at No. 3 was Falvia Micicati and Laura Fernandez.

Leading the team in singles is Syrova at No. 1 and Aditi Krishnan at No. 2.

"Although Eastern Michigan isn't ranked as high as us, we never want to underestimate any of our opponents," Potts said. "We are expecting great matches from them.

The Irish feature two highly ranked doubles teams. Leading the team is the No. 3 duo of juniors Christian and Catrina Thompson at No. 1.

The Thompsons are coming off a 9-7 win over Vanderbilt's Bowing Alone!

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12 Always has a home
13 Raid targets
14 Warmed by the fire
15 Animate
16 Bird
17 Consumes with flair
18 Puts forth
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NEW JUMBLE

Saturday's Answer: Although he was a vegetarian, the diner had a-

THE OBSERVER
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BASEBALL

Blood in the water

Samardzija ready to lead Irish against Pittsburgh in Big East home opener at Eck Stadium

By KEN FOWLER
Sports Editor

Notre Dame right-hander Jeff Samardzija will make his 2006 home debut tonight as the Irish (14-10) begin a three-game series against Big East foe Providence at 6:05 p.m. at Frank Eck Stadium.

"It's going to be exciting — especially being a Big East game — coming home and getting that first start of the year," Samardzija said after Notre Dame's 2-1 victory over Western Michigan Wednesday. "We'll see, hopefully it'll be a good opener on Friday under the lights."

Samardzija enters the contest with a 2-1 record and a 3.72 ERA in five starts. He has struck out 10 and allowed 26 hits in 29 innings.

Samardzija said tonight's start will be important as the team starts to get deeper into its schedule.

"I'm just trying to take advantage of it every time we get out — bring the control around."

Irish ace Jeff Samardzija delivers a pitch against Connecticut in a 9-7 win in on April 17, 2006. Samardzija will make his first home start of the season tonight at 6:05 p.m. against Pittsburg.

FOOTBALL

Pilgrims to honor Rockne

75th anniversary of coach's death will be marked with tribute

By KEN FOWLER
Sports Editor

At 10:48 a.m. today, a small section of the Flint Hills of Kansas will return to the quiet state that consumes it on most days of the year — and to the serenity it held every day until that minute 75 years ago.

More than 100 pilgrims are expected to surround a stone monument just outside Bazaar, Kan., today and pause for a moment of silence at that time, marking the anniversary of the death of Notre Dame football coach Knute Rockne, in one of the first commercial plane crashes in American aviation history on March 31, 1931.

"(It) is a tremendously solemn but yet very powerful anniversary in our nation's history, and I don't think that is an overstatement," 1984 Notre Dame alumnus Chuck Emma said via telephone from Kansas City, Mo. last night. "It's a very important moment in many different ways."

The political fallout from Rockne's crash forced the Aeronautics Branch of the Department of Commerce — the predecessor to the Federal Aviation Administration — to release the results of aerospace accident investigations, something that was not done until that point.

"People understand to be the death of the greatest football coach who ever lived, and that is true," Emma said. "But additionally, there are many different socio-political elements that come from Rockne's life and his death.