Monologues move off ND, lack sponsor

By KATE ANTONACCI
News Editor

Nearly one year after the sexually explicit play "Vagina Monologues" caused a storm of controversy and weeks of academic freedom debate on campus, organizers announced that this year's show will hit the stage in early March — but, for the first time in six years, that stage will be one off campus. "This is not the Notre Dame Monologues. This is the "Vagina Monologues" performed by Notre Dame students," said co-organizer Michelle Lewis. "It is not affiliated with the University at all."

The reason for the move off campus is lack of sponsorship. Lewis said. After campaigning unsuccessfully to different academic departments, play organizers decided to ensure the play's performance by taking it to a venue off University grounds.

Last year, "The Vagina Monologues" was held in an academic setting — performed in a classroom and followed up with a series of panels addressing sexual offenses.

Authorities investigate sex crimes

Two students report separate incidents

By KAITLYNN RIELY
Assistant News Editor

Police are investigating two incidents of reported sex offenses that occurred on campus in the past few days, said separate e-mails sent by officials Wednesday.

The reported offenses, one a forcible fondling sex offense and the other a sexual assault, were both reported by Notre Dame students.

A student notified Notre Dame Security/Police Wednesday afternoon that a man approached her Tuesday night between 8:30 and 8:50 p.m. in the C3 parking lot and began talking to her while she cleared snow away from her car. The student said the man stood close to her and touched her inappropriately.

The suspect was described in the e-mail as male, possibly south Asian with a dark complexion. He is thought to be in his late 20s, about 2-foot-9 and weigh approximately 175 pounds. He was wearing a knit hat and he spoke with a foreign accent, the e-mail said.

The man was seen driving a vehicle that was described to the police as a maroon, newer model Mitsubishi with what might have been Illinois license plates.

A second e-mail said a student reported a sexual assault committed by an acquaintance on campus.

No other information was available Wednesday.

Contact Kaitlynn Riey at kriely@nd.edu

Brown, Smith face off in debate

By SONIA RAO
News Editor

Presidential candidates Danny Smith and Liz Brown, and their respective running mates Ashley Weiss and Maris Braun, reiterated their platforms and extensive student government experience during a debate in LaFortune Wednesday night — the tickets' final opportunity to swing votes before today's run-off election.

Although both tickets were challenged on the plausibility of their platforms during the previous debate, both candidates argued that their initiatives were well researched and realistic.

"We've had numerous meetings with administration to make sure our ideas are feasible," Smith said. "We don't want to step on any feet."

Brown also reiterates the

see DEBATE/page 6

Resident assistant selection begins

Multiple interviews force student applicants to consider position's benefits, drawbacks

By EVA BINDA
News Writer

With the academic year well past the midway point, residence halls are already gearing up for next year by selecting their staff. Applications for next year's Resident Assistants were due Jan. 19, but the process is far from over.

The position of resident assistant (RA) comes with many benefits and many sacrifices. Although RAs receive free room and board, they often give up many extracurricular activities and time with friends to devote much of their free time to the dorm.

RA applicants must be willing "to take on the unpleasant tasks of staying up late [or] consecutive nights and pretty much giving up all her [or his] free time to the residence," Badin Rector Denise Lyon said.

Current Alumni RA Joe Nava had similar feelings regarding his position.

"You don't see the reality of the choice you've made until school starts. [...] I realized how much I had to say 'no' to activities outside the dorm," he said.

Nava also mentioned "hanging disciplinary issues" as one of the hardest things about being an RA.

Despite some of these drawbacks, many juniors apply each year to join the ranks of hall staff. Students fill out an application that is sent to the Office of Student Affairs soon after semester break, which tracks their academic performance as well as their disciplinary history over the past three years. Three recommendations are also required.

In addition to an application, dorms require interviews to get to know the candidates. Each dorm has a different system in choosing their staffs.

Most dorms, like Cavanaugh and Sorin, have two interviews, while Badin requires three. One of the interviews at Badin is with a Student Selection Committee, which is composed of 11 to 14 residents who interview the candidates from a resident's point of view.

During the interviews, the hall staff — made up of the resident assistant and current RAs — asks questions about participation in activities, especially within the dorm, and how he or she might behave in certain situations.
Falling for you, Mac

To my new found love: Your features are perfect, your curves superb. With each day I discover new things about you, and fall further for your intelligent design. Why, I asked, didn’t we meet sooner?

Hold on, folks. No, this is certainly not an offensively sappy and belated Valentine Day’s wish. This is about true, lasting love. And such, I proclaim to the world: I love you, MacBook.

PC, may you rest in peace. With your broken LCD transformer (or whatever the OS service guy called it), and your out of the question repair price, you bit the dust.

The MacBook arrived only one and a half weeks ago, and I have officially become a full-fledged Mac fanatic. With Steve Jobs leading the mission, I would feel the same about any new Mac. Perhaps my affection for this faster work, and an array of fun new features that would never grace the PC, is my way of compensating for having to suffer work on public computers. It was an anxious time, filled with count­less visits to the ever-busy LaFoun­dation, the CoMo lab, and anyplace on campus where computers are available. I think the CoMo cluster supervi­sors know me by face, now. (Yes, it’s me, that kid who planted himself in the lab for hours on end.)

During the wait, Facebook — and partner in crime AOL — finally took a second seat to homework as I was forced to budget my time (I wanted to spend as little time as possible in the computer lab). They already knew my juggling of work and homework, as I was second seat to homework as I was forced to work hard as I was forced to do my computing on public computers. No longer do I feel the same urges to compulsively check my wall or spend as little time as possible in the computer lab. They already knew my face. That’s about as personal as I was able to get. (Side note: once an item is shipped, you can’t call in and upgrade an FYI.)

I finally took a Mac home, and I have officially become a full-fledged Mac fanatic. Perhaps my affection for this faster work, and an array of fun new features that would never grace the PC, is my way of compensating for having to suffer work on public computers.

OFFBEAT

Cross-dressing lawyer hangs up his dress

WELLINGTON, New Zealand — A male lawyer who appeared in court dressed in women’s clothes as a protest against what he said was New Zealand’s overly-masculine judiciary was suspended Wednesday after being found to be in contempt of court.

The High Court found Rod Modde, a 60-year-old, balding man who appeared in court in dresses and tying a handbag, was in con­tempt for circulating sup­pressed documents outside the court in one of his cases.

According to the National Institutes of Health, hiccups are caused by involuntary contractions of the diaphragm, which causes vocal cords to briefly close, which makes that distinctive hiccup sound.

It is not clear what trig­gered Jennifer’s hiccups. Her mother, Rachel Bobbitt, only turned to the local newspaper for help. “I’m just looking for some answers where somebody’s gone through this,” Bobbitt said. The St. Petersburg Times. Information compiled from the Associated Press.
**WebCT aids ND academic quest**

Internet-based course software system utilized by most students

By JOHN PAUL WITT

After supplementing classroom education at Notre Dame for seven years, WebCT will soon have a new image.

Assistant director of the Kanel Center for Teaching and Learning Chris Clark said the internet-based course software system utilized by most students are being taught using WebCT are being taught using 73 percent of the internet-based course software system has been purchased by a competing company.

In addition to a new name, Clark said, “WebCT will either be known as the Blackboard Learning System or we may rename it the ND Course Pages.”

The changes, however, might not end with a simple renovation.

“In several years, we may replace WebCT with one of several new, open-source, free programs that accomplish the same thing WebCT does in new ways,” he said.

WebCT currently is used most by the psychology, music, mathematics, theology and language departments, according to statistics provided by Brandon Rich of the Office of Information Technology.

“THIS semester, 388 sections are being taught using WebCT. That represents 20 percent faculty usage, reaching 73 percent of students,” Rich said.

The major consumer of WebCT is Math 10260 — Calculus II for Business — directed by Professor Alex Himonas.

“The problem with home- work is that students cannot see their mistakes — WebCT corrects this,” Himonas said.

WebCT informs users instantly when they have made an error.

“We like the trial and error element of the class,” Himonas said. “Students can see where they are making mistakes, and can practice until they get it right.”

WebCT has also found novel applications in the foreign languages. Professor Maria Coloma uses WebCT to post handouts, visual aids and multimedia for her Spanish classes.

“I love it. It lets me keep in touch with students — there’s even music we can sing on WebCT to help with pronunciation,” Coloma said. “I encourage all foreign language professors to use WebCT.”

Students like sophomore Marcela Monsalve appreciate the broad applications of WebCT.

“I used it in my pre-med science classes, but also in WebCT Democracy in Africa,” Monsalve said. “All the lecture notes were posted, as well as the syllabus. I like the convenience of it.”

One of the most popular applications in WebCT is used for multiple choice questions based on an assigned reading. Clark said.

“Students may say on TCs that classes with WebCT are better because they do the reading for quizzes, which leaves them more prepared for exams at the end of the semester,” he said.

WebCT appeals to many of its users, but also comes with its fair share of criticism.

“IT allows us to do very basic things, but students still have to type in an answer at the end,” Himonas said. “We can’t test [students’] ability to draw graphs or determine mistakes in each step of the process, only the solution.”

Clark said the system is seen as “clunky” and difficult to use, but said a new version of WebCT would be implemented soon to fix this problem.

“The new version will add a more advanced discussion tool, the ability for students to keep an individual online journal and a class web log feature, as well as a scoring rubric,” he said. “The rubric will allow students to grade their own work before turning it in to see if they have met their professor’s expectations for a given assignment.”

Contact John-Paul Witt at jwit11@nd.edu

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**Latino Studies receives Getty Foundation grant**

Special to The Observer

The Institute for Latino Studies (ILS) at the University of Notre Dame has been awarded a $100,000 grant from the Getty Foundation for the Midwest Latino Arts Documentary Heritage Project.

Building upon a successful pilot program conducted in Illinois and Michigan, the project will produce foundational reference tools and compile a Web-based directory to the fundamental research tools of 20th-century Latino artists and arts organizations in the Midwest. The resulting Web site and print publications will not only assist scholars and educators in their research and teaching, but also help librarians and archivists in collections development.

“Although this art history may seem ‘invisible’ much of it actually remains in the file cabinets, basements and storage boxes of its creators and, thus, is difficult for researchers to access,” said Tracy Grimm, ILS archivist and project director. “Many of these collections of papers, files, correspondence, catalogs and photographs are in critical danger of being lost unless action is taken soon.”

Unique in its approach, the project team will combine the expertise of art historians and an archivist to locate and survey Latino art collections, museums, galleries, cultural centers and individuals, as well as the libraries and archives.

The project will produce a preservation awareness brochure, distribute a records management guide for non-profits, conduct field surveys of private collections and a survey of collections already held by libraries and archives, gather oral histories, conduct records management and preservation workshops, create an on-line guide for researching Latino arts primary sources, and publish a foundational chronological survey of the history of Latino arts in the Midwest with a selected bibliography and exhibitions list.

The Institute for Latino Studies was established in 1999 to promote understanding and appreciation of the Latino experience in the United States through research, education and outreach. Its areas of study include Latino art, spirituality, literature, history, politics and socioeconomic conditions.

The Getty Foundation provides support to institutions and individuals throughout the world, funding a diverse range of projects that promote the understanding and preservation of the visual arts.

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**LOST COCKAPOO**

REWARD OF $500 FOR THE SAFE RETURN OF MILO, OUR DOG, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

By now, tear stains would have formed near Milo’s eyes into his fur, which would appear dark brown. He could be wearing a red sweater and would have a teal colored collar, with matching leash. I believe his rabies shot was given by Kryder Clinic so he should have that tag on his collar. Milo was apprehensive of people he didn’t know. He was a "puppy mill" dog. We believe he would run from someone if he was approached.

If found, please contact Animal Hospital of South Bend (Milo’S VET) 282-2303
Senate
continued from page 1

atmosphere” and address the stereotypes that exist among students from the two schools. Student body vice president Bill Andrichik decided to post-
pone voting on the letter and instead present it to the Senate University Affairs committee for further discussion. This
group will also discuss whether a summit should be held with representatives from Saint Mary’s and Notre Dame to talk about underlying issues.

Andrichik said he made this decision because he felt the issue is longstanding and will be sustained even if a vote on
the letter is delayed by a week.

Continued from page 1

Spring Senate’s Oversight Committee chair Chris Hollon agreed the relationship between Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s is a
problem that has caused concern one, citing the lacrosse game that appeared in The Observer last year — one which referred to Saint Mary’s students as “parasites.”

“I think that since this viewpoint back and forth has only existed for two days now that it is not critical that we respond to it in this way,” Hollon said. “But I do think this discussion has to be had, since this problem has arisen twice in the last 12 months.”

Other senators agreed the issue of Notre Dame-Saint Mary’s relations is one that the Senate should examine in the future. “I think that the sentiment we feel is we recognize that Jonathan Klingler brought up an important issue and it touched a lot of people’s nerves,” Fisher senator Drew Clary said.

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RA
continued from page 1

In Badin Hall, applicants are asked to describe their leadership style and how they have grown since fresh-
men year.

Most importantly, however, RAs must be able to work
well in a team. “You need a group of guys who can work together and relate to the other guys in the
dorm.” Nava said. “Personally, it’s who can work with and be a support to Father George because he’s the heartbeat of our
dorm.”

Ultimately, the hall staff comes to a consensus about which applicants will receive the positions.

“If the Rector really wanted or did not want a specific individual, then he or she has the power to override the others, but I don’t think that happens too often,” Cavanaugh Hall rector Amy de la Torre said.

Competition for the posi-
tions varies between dorms. Alumni Hall consistently
receives a greater number of applications than positions available. This year, Alumni received 15 applications for six spots.

“The reason we have so many applicants is because Father George has been the guy you want to serve and work with,” Nava said.

Sorin Hall only has six applicants for four positions. However, Sorin RA applicant Pat Reidy said there is “com-
petition in a different sense” despite the seemingly lower number of applicants.

“All of the guys are incredibly com-
petitive applicants,” Reidy said. “It’s less difficult for those of us applying, but it puts greater pressure on the hall staff picking (RAs) for next year. It’s harder to say ‘no’ to two guys than six.”

Most RA applicants expressed a desire to be a leader in their dorm and a willingness to make sacrifices for the position because of a love of their dorm. “I love my dorm,” Reidy said. “I look at the RA posi-
tion as the greatest way you can serve the dorm.”

Residence halls must make their decisions by March 2 and turn them into the Office of Residential Life. The appli-
cants will find out if they have been selected prior to Spring Break.

Contact Eva Binda at
jinda@nd.edu
**WORLD & NATION**

**INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

**North, South Korea discuss solution**

SEUL — The two Koreas set up a meeting for the first time in 16 years, amid elevated talks, the first sign of tensions relaxing on the divided peninsula after North Korea signed a breakthrough nuclear disarmament agreement.

Besides committing North Korea to halting its nuclear programs in exchange for all, the accord calls for efforts to normalize relations with regime-ruled South Korea, which technically remain at war.

"What is very important about this agreement," South Korean President Roh Moo-nyun said, "is that it allows the North Korean issue itself, and in a further step, it includes a clause for discussions, negotiations on establishing a permanent peace regime on the Korean Peninsula."

**Warlords threaten Somali Peace**

MOGADISHU — Somalia's warlords are re-emerging and pose a threat to humanitarian aid deliveries to the needy, the United Nations warned Wednesday, as the country's weak, Ethiopian-backed transitional government could lead to a "return of the chaos" that plagued Somalia for 16 years, the U.N. said in a monthly report.

"Rising violence and a power vacuum caused by the ongoing conflict may limit access to conflict zones," the UN office to co-ordinate humanitarian assistance said. "The situation is clearly deteriorating."

**Abortion bill incites controversy**

NEW YORK — A Senate committee Wednesday that the provision to bar doctors from telling women seeking an abortion. A Republican senator said in a monthly report.

"It's a dominant theme of reporters' questions because of conflicting statements about U.S. intelligence in Iran and recent speculations are that U.S. intelligence in Iran is behind the attack on the Hamas."

"We have a dominant theme of reporters' questions because of conflicting statements about U.S. intelligence in Iran and recent speculations are that U.S. intelligence in Iran is behind the attack on the Hamas."

**GERMANY**

**U.S. Britain rank low in U.N study**

NEW YORK — A study released Wednesday by the United Nations ranked Britain and the United States as the countries that are lowest in terms of social development.

"What they have in common are very high levels of inequality, very high levels of child poverty, which is also associated with inequality, and in rather different ways poorly developed services to families with children," said Brabrand, a professor of sociology.

"They don't invest as much in children as continental European countries do," he said, calling the lack of day care services in both countries and poorer health coverage and preventative care for children in the U.S.

The United Nations study compared the nations based on their performance in 2006, while Britain said it failed take into account recent social improvements.

The study also gave the U.S. and Britain low marks for their higher incidences of single-parent families and risky behaviors among children, such as drinking alcohol and sexual activity. In general, northern European countries with strong social welfare systems dominated the upper half of the rankings.

**LOCAL NEWS**

**Abortion bill incites controversy**

INDIANAPOLIS — A bill requiring doctors to tell women seeking an abortion that human life begins at conception drew criticism before a legislative panel Wednesday that called a bill that defines when human life begins is built around a specific religious belief not widely shared by all faiths.

An attorney representing the American Civil Liberties Union. "This bill is just walking around and looking for somebody to shoot."

"I've asked our command board to do something about it. We're going to protect our troops," Ahmadinejad said.

"We do not know whether or not the head leaders of Iran ordered the "Quds Force to do what they did."

"Presser again on the subject, Bush displayed some irritation and said, "Whether (Iranian President Mahmoud) Ahmadinejad ordered the "Quds Force to do this, I don't think we know. But we do know that they're there and I intend to do something about it. And I've asked our command board to do something about it. And we're going to protect our troops," Ahmadinejad said.

"Doubts the Iranian government "is very important about this agreement," he said.

"What do we know that?" Bush said, "That the Quds Force was part of the Iranian government. "That's a known," he said.

"What we don't know is whether or not the head leaders of Iran ordered the "Quds Force to do what they did."

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The Observer ● CAMPUS NEWS

Thursday, February 15, 2007

Venue continued from page 1

ing the issue of sexuality. The panel came as part of an effort to address rising concerns of members of the Notre Dame community, Lewis said. John Jenkins — who questioned the decision to hold the play with the Catholic character of the University.

"We assumed those roles this year knowing that sponsorship wasn't guaranteed, and are dedicated to the cause and the play regardless," Lewis said.

Jenkins said last year that events sponsored by the University or one of its units — including a a c d e m i c departments — that are deemed to conflict or appear to conflict with Catholic beliefs "should not be allowed at Notre Dame." You'll recall that last year, Jenkins ultimately decided that the "Vagina Monologues" did not fit that criterion, and would be allowed to take place on campus, but would undergo an approval process every year, just like any other campus performance.

And the process was one that Lewis, co-organizer Lisa Flash and director Sarah Muscarella could not effectively complete this year. They tried "a lot of departments," but got a lot of "nos of sponsorships.

Though the sociology department has sponsored the Monologues in the past years, this year it said it did not want to sponsor the event every year. Lewis said the department agreed to sponsor the play every other year — which means that the performance will take place on campus next year.

As per Jenkins' decision, academic departments were given the ability last year to "decide what events should or should not be sponsored," as well as the responsibility to point out that sponsorship of an event does not imply endorsement. Organizers are looking into a "couple different options" for the venue, Lewis said, declining to name some of the local places she has been in contact with.

The group is now left to raise its own funds to cover the cost of the venue and programs. Lewis was quick to say, however, that the group — who will now be charging for tickets — will donate all of the proceeds to the YWCA.

"Half of the goal is to raise awareness but also to raise money and give it to women who actually need it," Lewis said. "It was good to have it on campus last year, but it was kind of disappointing that we couldn't raise money, and now we're able to get it out into the community.

Three audition sessions were held near two weeks ago, and a cast of "about 25 women" was chosen, despite Lewis saying that sponsorship was not confirmed.

"We're very happy with the 2007 cast, and the breadth of talent allowed us to cast appropriately — a very diverse group of girls with different backgrounds auditioned," Lewis said.

But without official sponsorship, organizers were not allowed to advertise. Instead, Lewis and the other organizers started a group on Facebook.com and sent a lot of e-mails.

Since V-day is February 14th, the play — as originally created by Eve Ensler — is intended to be performed as close to that date as possible in order to pair the play with the message of awareness about violence against women. Lewis said, "We needed to go ahead with auditions and play preparations while simultaneously working to get sponsorship."

Lewis said that, because of the performances of "Loyal Daughters" in the fall and the uncertainty of whether the Monologues would be performed, organizers "kind of got off to a late start."

Still, despite the slow start and the lack of sponsorship, Lewis said the Monologues have a very important place on the Notre Dame campus. This is a "global movement — performing this play makes Notre Dame a part of this global community, bringing discussion and awareness about issues such as violence against women and gender equality which are universal concerns," Lewis said. "The play changes every year to accommodate and address new pertinent issues as experienced by different women."

Despite last year's controversy, Lewis said that the "dialogue we had with anybody from the University was initialled.

Though the play had been performed on campus for consecutive years as part of the anti-violence against women V- Day campaign, last year Jenkins criticized the "graphic" nature of the play attempted to achieve its goals.

Jenkins outlined his concerns last year in addresses to faculty members and to students. He questioned the University's sponsorship of certain events in light of Catholic teaching and asked for experts to play the issue before a formal policy announcement.

Contact Kate Antonacci at kantonacci@nd.edu

Debate continued from page 1

validity of her platform.

A lot of issues are going to come up throughout the year that will require us to take a different approach," she said. "Our past experience... shows we can handle that."

Experience was a focal point of the debate, as both tickets have been involved in the inner workings of student government at Notre Dame. Smith is the only senator to have a resolution, in particular, about Dotter Dollars, passed unanimously through both the Senate and Campus Life Council. Brown has spent the last year as current student body president Lizzi Shappell's chief executive assistant.

"Liz has really been integrated within the system," Braun said. "She has seen the inner workings of how things are pushed through from start to finish."

Both Smith and Brown are backed by well-versed vice presidential candidates. Weiss was instrumental in coordinating Notre Dame's First Eating Disorder Conference, one that she said a visiting doctor called "by far the most recognized and well put together conference that she had ever attended.

Braun has organized seminars on off-campus housing, educating students on how to go about signing leases and 'encouraging students to be aware of their surroundings'.

She is also chair of Major's Night, which is one of the largest academic night student government hosts.

Both tickets also placed heavy emphasis on community relations. Smith proposed the idea of allowing Dotter Dollars to be accepted off-campus at restaurants unique to the South Bend area.

"Good business builds good relations," she said.

Braun discussed an initiative for a community-based curriculum, which Brown said would "get more students involved in the community on a daily basis."

In addition to community relations, both candidates stressed improving the relationship between the student body and student government.

"We really want to get more connected with the student body and ensure that everything we're doing is responsive of what the student body really wants," Brown said. Smith echoed Brown's concerns, suggesting an online message board for students to communicate needs to their government officials.

"We want to increase communication between the student body and student government," he said.

Elections will take place from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. today and the final results will be announced tonight at 9:00 p.m.

Contact Sonia Rao at srao@nd.edu

"A lot of issues are going to come up throughout the year that will require us to take a different approach."

Liz Brown, student body president

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Contact Sonia Rao at srao@nd.edu
**Former prosecutor faces inquiry**

**Assistant Attorney General General bought house with ConocoPhillips lobbyist**

**Associated Press**

WASHINGTON — Nine months before agreeing to let ConocoPhillips delay a half-billion-dollar pollution cleanup, the government’s top environmental prosecutor bought a $1 million vacation home with the company’s top lobbyist.

Also in Kiawah Island, S.C., house deal was former Deputy Interior Secretary J. Steven Griles, the highest-ranking Bush administration official target for criminal prosecution in the Jack Abramoff corruption probe.

Just before resigning last month, Assistant Attorney General Sue Ellen Woodrige signed two proposed consent decrees with ConocoPhillips: one giving the company as much as $2 million for 37 years to install $255 million in pollution controls, and the other dealing with a Superfund toxic waste dump.

Last April, Woodrige, ConocoPhillips Vice President Donald R. Duncan and Griles had gone together on a $900,000 home in a gated community at Kiawah Island. Records from the Charleston County Auditor’s office obtained by The Associated Press list Duncan as a 50 percent owner of the home and Woodrige and Griles as 25 percent owners.

The deed is filed under Griles as 25 percent owner of the house and Woodrige and Griles as 25 percent owners.

Experts say, however, that it isn’t as easy as it looks and that there are many ways consumers can save money as they navigate the grocery aisles.

After all, we spent a lot of time doing this at home, including 34 percent for food at home and in restaurants takes 13 percent of the consumer budget, behind the 35 percent for housing and 18 percent for transportation.

The average family spent $230 a month, or nearly $3,350 a year, at the grocery store in 2004, the most recent year for which data is available. People are saving and the price of food has risen.

**In Brief**

**Grocery shoppers could save money**

**NEW YORK — Most of us take it for granted that we know how to shop for groceries. After all, we spent a lot of time doing it easy as it looks and that there are many ways consumers can save money as they navigate the grocery aisles.**

**Americans, in fact, spend a lot of their money on food. Department of Labor statistics indicate that food at home and in restaurants takes 13 percent of the consumer budget, behind the 35 percent for housing and 18 percent for transportation.**

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**As a general rule, a publishing firm whose products include tax information, said business owners make the same common mistakes that individual taxpayers make. In order to sign their returns, fail to include their Social Security numbers don’t attach required forms, as those needed for specific deductions and credits. They also make a lot of mathematical errors.**

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Change is not easy, but, as David Bowie sang, you’ve got to turn and face the strain. I don’t really know what that means, but I refer to it as a starting point to talk about environmental change, car manufacturers and the power of the consumer.

Earlier this year, the Environment Commissioner of the European Commission, Stavros Dimas, endorsed mandatory standards for auto manufacturers aimed at reducing cars’ carbon dioxide outputs. The new standards would require the average car produced by a company — allowing for specific models to be above or below the standard — to emit only 120 grams of CO2 per kilometer by the year 2012. Mr. Dimas, however, drives a Mercedes — inherited from his predecessor, admittedly — that pumps out over 270 grams per kilometer. People laughed at his hypocrisy, and the motor industry balked at such ridiculous reforms.

Meanwhile, the majority of society continued their lives as usual. People drove instead of walked or cycled, flipped switches on and ignored recycling bins. Changing for the greener sounds like a good idea, but we neglect our responsibility to change ourselves.

Pollution is a problem, and we are right to push politicians to enforce more stringent standards. Every time policymakers start to create regulations and goals, they butt heads with industries that become recalcitrant at any mention of boundary or limit to their capital pursuits. When this happens, the public inevitably shakes its head and thinks the matter is out of its hands.

But it’s not. In our capital society, industry and the public are inseparable. The automobile industry, for example, does not exist as a separate entity apart from the government or outside the influence of the public. We control it and we affect its course. We prefer to set our obligations to work for change. And we can do a lot.

First, our knowledge compels us to exercise our power as consumers by making wise, conscious decisions on how the products we use, the companies we buy from, and the manner of living we choose. We are social creatures, and a change that will dramatically affect the entire world must come from across the board, not just from the words of our political leaders or the reluctant consent of our economical figureheads.

Second, we must demand that our politicians avoid hypocrisy in their claims of the industry — auto, energy, or otherwise — which is made up, run by, and supported by the public. Our governmental leaders ought to lead by example. Driving a Hummer to work and then asking a car manufacturer to cut emissions may — conceivably, possibly, hypothetically — send mixed messages to some.

Finally, we are obliged to use our influence as human beings upon each other and communicate directly with the industry whenever we have the chance. It may seem difficult or nigh impossible to have any sort of effect on the pyramidal structure of most industries, when so much of the decision-making processes rest in the hands of so few. But eventually information can filter upstream and even the highest echelons can hear the voices of the common people speaking in a united and strong fashion.

Hopefully the EU can enforce their standards, and hopefully the public will welcome the green changes so economies are not sacrificed. But all this depends on the consumer, on the public — on us.

James Dechant is a junior studying Business at University of Notre Dame de la La and Saint Mary’s College. Editorial cartoons are by Jarred Wafer. The Observer is the independent, daily newspaper. The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
On refection

I was rejected last week. I can’t hang an employment rejection letter on my door or claim a broken heart, but I did try to offer a part of myself to the local community and was kindly but firmly told, “Thanks, but no thanks.”

In response to numerous local stories and even emails regarding the great need for donated blood, I headed over to the South Bend Medical Foundation Blood Bank to share some of mine. It had been years since I had given blood, so I sat and filled out several forms and then a woman named Melissa led me into the Screening Room. She apparently had quite a list of Screening Questions to ask me, but we started with my blood pressure. We also ended with my blood pressure, which, as it turns out, is too low to donate blood. Melissa even checked it twice, on both arms. 98-over-56 falls under their official cutoff and I would have, Melissa assured me, passed it had I been a few minutes earlier. Oh, well.

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I’m probably not such a bad idea to allow that rejection to slowly to close to the surface. Lives. It can give us a moment’s pause before we carelessly speak harshly, as well as the courage to turn rejection into victory. We’ve each felt such a failure at times, which we should keep in mind whenever we’re about to cause another to feel the same. As we enter into Lent next week, we can listen in our prayer for Jesus’ words to us, and offer his love to those we encounter: “You are good enough. You are needed. I really do like you ... yes, in every way.”

This week’s FaithPoint is written by Kate Barrett, director of resources and special projects in the Notre Dame Campus Ministry. She can be reached at kbarrett@nd.edu.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Discussion of Klingler’s column continues

Sister schools should act like family

"Unfortunately, for Notre Dame," Jonathan Klingler writes, the "vast majority" of the benefits of the relationship between Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s "go to Saint Mary’s." It is not clear why this situation is unfortunate, but it seems likely that one reason is that she who to seem to involve some disadvantage to Notre Dame students is the possibility that a Saint Mary’s student might get a better seat at a Notre Dame student at football games (but is it really true that this occurs "often" and what does Mr. Klingler mean by "often")?

I am attending to process and decide if you can continue reading...I joking aside, I am proud of my education and I am proud of the rich tradition of my Big Ten roots. I attended one of top high schools in the United States and started college with sophomore credit due to my high school AP credit. The weight of applying to five schools crossed my mind, along with a number of other private schools. In the end, I only applied to Big Ten schools — like you, I had grown up in the legacy of Big Ten athletics, but that didn’t work for me.

To all Saint Mary’s College and Notre Dame students and alumni, I just have to ask — what are you arguing about? I am up front that I am an admitted student in Notre Dame, Ind., or South Bend, Ind., or anywhere remotely close. I did not even attend a private university (Gasp! I'll give you a minute to process and decide if you can continue reading...). I don’t need God.

The beautiful lesson of Jesus’ example, both as marriage, and sister, is to reject-or and reject-reject, is that his story ended in victory. He teaches us how to reject whatever turns us away from God, whether it’s worshipping false gods, enjoying our status too much or believing we don’t need God. Out of the ultimate rejection, of course, arose the ultimate triumph: from Jesus’ death came resurrection and the offer he makes to each of us of eternal life.

In my own family during this Lent, we will try to become more aware of what we need to reject, of what is obviously trying to lure us away from God. However, we also have to concentrate on how we sometimes reject each other — either unknowingly or on purpose — in speech or actions. I have suggested to my kids that as a family we give up all unkind words this Lent, as we each know (as most families do) exactly what to say to wound those we love the most.

I am writing in response to Jonathan Klingler’s column ("Saint Mary’s — we need to talk") Feb. 13) rings true, but does not sound as malicious or condescending as many of the Viewpoint responses seem to imply. So often people’s emotions get in the way of interpreting what is actually being said. The article raised some valid (yet clearly sensitive) points. But think about it: Notre Dame, by rite of being a larger, more well-known school (arguably the best known school in the country) has more to offer to Saint Mary’s students than Saint Mary’s has to offer to Notre Dame students. Not only the variety of offerings, but also the culture that accompanies them. It is an environment built, preconceived, pre-composed for the Notre Dame students. Saint Mary’s students: you chose your school; you knew that you were not attending Notre Dame. Not that you are not happy with your acceptance letter. However, one draw of Saint Mary’s was the proximity to Notre Dame and opportunity to take advantage of the powerhouse’s offerings. That is an aspect of your school to be proud of — so why are you offended by mention of it? Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s women want to distinguish your identity from that of Saint Mary’s — you are the true Notre Dame, your acceptance letters and diplomas say so.

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**DEARLY 'DEPARTED' Brought to Life on DVD**

By BRIAN DOXTADER

**2007 Oscars Best Picture Nominees**

By TAE ANDREWS

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**SCELLOSSE'S STATUETTE SNUBBERRY**

By TAE ANDREWS

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**Dignan (Mark Wahlberg, Best Supporting Actor Oscar nominee) confronts Costigan (Matt Damon, Best Actor Oscar nominee) in the possibility of a mole in the Boston police department.**

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**The Departed**

Warner Home Video

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**“Hard Out Here for a Pimp” to the “Hustle & Flow” soundtrack, Stewart took the microphone and proclaimed, “You know, I never thought I’d be playing a gangster. You know, I never thought I’d be playing a gangster.”**

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**Best Director Oscar nominee Martin Scorsese, right, takes a break from directing and enjoys a moment with Jack Nicholson on the set of “The Departed.”**
It's a scenario he's puzzled over for years, chiseling away at the concept with purpose. Each new question added fresh fuel to the fire. "For over a decade, in fact, screenwriting was a killer or a victim, what would you do if you were chained up in a dungeon and you had all the money in the world? That's the kind of stuff I enjoy exploring."

"I think it's in those life and death moments that people truly are who they are. Your identity emerges in those types of moments, and that's the kind of stuff I enjoy exploring."

Like his characters, Waynee has stood on the edge of that line before. Born and brought up in nearby Bay City, Mich., he was once a promising high school football and basketball player. But a horrific event would alter the course of his life. "When I was 16, after my sophomore year. I was in a car accident," Waynee said. "I ended up having eight hours of brain surgery, and I shouldn't have survived the whole incident. That ended my football career and changed my whole athletic focus." The person who emerged from that event traded in his hoop dreams for another obsession — writing. Waynee became a voracious reader and was drawn to the darker, edgier work of newsmagazines and thrillers. "I was drawn to the darker, edgier work of nontextual sources asked, 'Imagine if you had all the money in the world. What would you do with your time?' And that's what you should do with your life, because you can always find ways to make money. It's about doing what you truly love," he said.

In the 11 years since he left the Golden Dome in his rearview, Waynee has only been back on campus once — a brief stop on his cross-country trek out to California. Even now, he feels nostalgic about his time under the Golden Dome, and the memories are sure to come flooding back when he returns home. It's taken Waynee years of questioning how you thought it could become a film. "He just laughed it off then, but he could remember me that night that I told him about this idea, and for him to see it finally up on the screen, it was great to hear those words as well." Contact Rama Gottumukkala at rama@indiana.edu
Boston forward Paul Pierce, left, drives past Milwaukee forward Maurice Williams in Boston's 117-97 win Wednesday night. The win marked the end of the Celtics' 18-game losing streak.

Associated Press

BOSTON — Al Jefferson was happily watching the final seconds tick away when he heard the Boston bench when Delonte West gave him a piece of advice.

"We've got nothing to celebrate," Jefferson recalled afterward. "He just reminded me of what we've been through."

That's why it returned after missing two Celtics' games with a sprained right ankle. Jefferson scored 17 with a 29-point average, but he said he was "on my shot back on target," getting his feet right, getting ready.

"I'm feeling good about it. But don't run off the court like we won the championship," Jefferson said.

Paul Pierce scored 32 points and John Green had 21 in 20 minutes on Wednesday night to lead the Celtics to their first victory since Jan. 5 and send them into the All-Star break with a six-game winning streak. Milwaukee had a lot of things to worry about, rallying against teams in playoff position.

"You take advantage of them,

"You don't want to be the team that beat them. That's why it had to be the weekend," Jefferson said.

Jefferson scored 17 with 10 rebounds. Wally Szczerbiak returned after missing two games with a sprained right ankle and scored 14, it was the first time Pierce and Szczerbiak both played since a win on Dec. 16 gave the Celtics a five-game winning streak.

Thomas punched a teammate during practice and Arenas predicted he'd score 50 points against Portland, only to fall 4 points short.

Arenas eclipsed his nine-point effort in the previous loss, but his shooting woes continued. He was off 3-for-15 effort against the Trail Blazers, a 10-for-24 showing against San Antonio and a 4-for-14 performance against Seattle.

Washington coach Eddie Jordan seems to think the grungy first half finally caught up to Arenas.

"I see a little bit of fatigue in Gal," said Jordan, who has the Wizards atop the Southeast Division with a record of 29-21.

Arenas rejected the idea that he is tired.

"I don't feel it, but sometimes when I'm shooting, I'm like, 'Am I using my legs?'

It's a big game, a close game in the fourth quarter, finishing the first half off an 18-4 run for a 52-39 halftime lead.

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This is not the team that lost 18 in a row," Bell said. "With Pierce back, he gives them a whole other element. They're a much better team. If they didn't beat them, they were going to beat somebody else. I don't think they were going to get the record.

Boston forward Paul Pierce, left, drives past Milwaukee forward Maurice Williams in Boston's 117-97 win Wednesday night. The win marked the end of the Celtics' 18-game losing streak.
Lawyer's plea saves Chronicle writers

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Two San Francisco Chronicle reporters will avoid jail time after a criminal defense lawyer agreed to plead guilty to leaking them secret grand jury documents from the BALCO steroids investigation.

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Ellerman said he was hoping for a contract for Hearst Communications so he could continue to practice law.

Ellerman’s attorney, Scott Tedmon, could not immediately be reached for comment.

Giants and Valente were among five men who pleaded guilty in an earlier phase of the investigation, along with chemist Patrick Arnold. Bonds’ personal trainer Greg Anderson, and track coach Remi Korchemny.

Bonds has never been charged but a cloud of suspicion continues to plague the San Francisco Giants slugger as he chases baseball’s career home run record.

IN BRIEF

Yankees’ Rivera gives club no edge in free agency

TAMPA, Fla. — Mariano Rivera had this warning for the New York Yankees: If he becomes a free agent, he’ll consider offers from other teams.

“Everybody has the same shot,” he said Wednesday. “The Yankees will not have an advantage.”

Brian Cashman tells ESPN Radio 1050’s Michael Kay that a chat with Mariano Rivera cleared the air over the closer’s remarks, but confirmed they won’t talk new contract until later.

Yankees general manager Brian Cashman called the 37-year-old clos­ er Tuesday night, a day after Rivera said he was hoping for a contract extension. Cashman told Rivera his preference is to push back the mat­ ter until after the season.

Catcher Jorge Posada also is entering the final season of his con­ tract.

Elis Garcia start PGA tour at Nissan Open without Woods

LOS ANGELES — Ernie Els, Retief Goosen and Sergio Garcia are among international players making their first PGA Tour start of 2007 at the Nissan Open, and it’s no coincidence that Rivera has the deepest field on tour this year.

Even without Tiger Woods.

The last few years have brought an unstoppable shift in the world of golf, and now a majority of the top players in the world rankings come from abroad. Sure, Woods and Jim Furyk give the Americans a 1-2 punch at the top, and the way Phil Mickelson won at Pebble Beach last week, it might not be long before he makes it a threesome.

Top to bottom, however, golf has gone global.

“Over here, we play for a lot of money,” Els said Wednesday. “So that draws a lot more players to come and play the U.S. tour.

Ferrore defeats Roitman in first-round Brazil Open play

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Third-seeded Nicolas Almagro of Spain routed Fernando Vicente 6-0, 6-1 in a match that was suspended on Tuesday because of rain with Almagro up 6-0.

In other first-round matches, Ruben Ramirez Hidalgo defeated Stefano Galvani 7-6 (4), 6-3, and Albert Montanes beat qualifier Pablo Andujar 6-2, 7-6 (3).

Ferrore has won 11 career titles, but none since 2003 when he won the French Open. Last year at Costa do Sauipe, he was upset in the first round.

around the dial

NBA

Dallas at Houston
8 p.m., TNT

Cleveland at L.A. Lakers
10:30 p.m., TNT

NCAA BASKETBALL

UCLA at Arizona St.
8:30 p.m., FOX

MLB

San Francisco Chronicle reporters Mark Fainaru-Wada, left, and Lance Williams will avoid jail time after BALCO founder Victor Conte’s attorney, Troy Ellerman, admitted Wednesday to leaking grand jury testimony.

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Zito adjusts quickly to life in San Francisco

Bonds yet to sign new contract with Giants

Associated Press

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Barry Zito wandered into his new spring training clubhouse carrying an Oakland Athletics duffel bag and plopped into Barry Bonds' chair.

"Oops!" Zito said, chuckling.

"I probably don't know better yet," Zito said, chuckling.

It might have been a first in San Francisco franchise history. Zito requested that he dress next to the slugger back home this season, too.

"Barry and I have a good relationship," Zito said. "If I can somehow lighten the load a little bit, of him, so you guys can just take a hard right when you're going to his locker and start talking to me."

Zito reported to the Giants' spring training complex at Scottsdale Stadium on Wednesday sporting his signature relaxed style — jeans and a T-shirt. He looked the same, save for the 10 extra pounds of muscle he says he added to his lower body this winter.

A new $126 million, seven-year contract apparently hasn't affected the left-bander's ways. And it's clear he already feels part of his new team, even though the Giants' pitchers and catchers don't take the field together for the first time until Thursday.

"It's been pretty seamless," he said of the adjustment. "It feels good. It feels natural. I feel like I know most of the people in the clubhouse just because I've played against them and played with a couple of them or at least know some of the field." Zito played some light catch with reliever Steve Kline, who was wearing a bushy beard he will soon lose before it really warms up in the desert. Kline's welcome was interesting: The nameplate above his locker read "Rich Kline," a mistake that happened because his spot is right next to infielder Hich Aurilia's.

"I like it," Kline said. "I want to keep it."

"Zito also likes Zito, and tried to make the new ace feel at home right away.

"I was nervous," Kline said. "I thought if I hit him in the kneecap, I'd get released. I talked to him and tried to make him feel welcome. Coming to a new team is always hard. He's a big part of our team."

The 28-year-old Zito will be almost as popular a topic as Bonds this spring.

"Ever since the press conference I've been just wearing my Giants hat around everywhere in L.A., just getting used to it and preparing myself to have it be natural," Zito said. "I would just wear it my car, not going out."

Bonds' arrival day at spring training is unclear, though position players are due to report to camp Monday. He typically holds his state-of-Barry address the first or second day, but his contract remains unresolved. He could sign after spring training starts.

"I'd expect that he'd be here on reporting day," said general manager Brian Sabean, who noted that the two Barrys together in the clubhouse is "interesting, but I don't know if it's a big deal."

The seven-time NL MVP begins his 22nd major league season 22 homers shy of breaking Hank Aaron's career record of 755. The Giants have differing views of certain language in his $15.8 million, one-year deal and Bonds has yet to sign a revised version.

"Hmm, just details," Zito said. "I saw him at UCLA a few times working out. We caught up there and kind of shot the breeze a little bit. He looks amazing. He's ready to go."

Zito hopes he is ready to go at the plate now that he'll be batting every fifth day in the National League. He has been working with good friend Brady Anderson on his hitting and baserunning for about a month. He has a .034 — 2-for-52 — career batting average during seven seasons with Oakland.

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ND WOMEN'S TENNIS
Freshman secures Irish win at home

By CHRIS HINE Sports Writer

Notre Dame captured the first of three matches against top-25 opponents this week with a 6-1 win Wednesday over No. 23 Michigan at the Eck Tennis Pavilion.

"We played well. All three doubles teams played really well," Irish coach Jay Louderback said. "We lost one match, but I felt like they played well because Michigan had won at least four singles matches in each of their matches this season."

Freshman Cosmina Ciobanu's 6-0, 6-3 defeat of Wolverines senior Elizabeth Exon gave No. 2 Notre Dame its fourth point and the victory. The win lifts Ciobanu's dual match record to 8-0 and 18-4 overall.

"The first set especially, she played really well," Louderback said. "[Exon] has played as high as [the No. 1 singles slot] for them."

After getting her third straight 6-0 set victory, Ciobanu dropped two of the first three games in the second set, but fought back to win four of the next five.

"If you win the first set 6-0 but finally lose a game or two in the second set, you start thinking 'Oh, no, this kid's coming back on me,'" Louderback said. "But down 2-1, she cruised from there."

The Irish began the match by sweeping all three doubles matches to take a 1-0 lead. Junior Brook Buck then made quick work of Michigan freshman Tania Mahtani, 6-0, 6-1 to give the Irish a 2-0 lead.

"She didn't play our last few matches," Louderback said. "But every match she's played she's gotten better."

Freshman Colleen Rielley could not break out of her slump against Michigan, dropping her fourth straight match against Wolverine sophomore Chisako Sugiyama, 6-4, 6-3. "[Rielley] still had a tight match," Louderback said. Sugiyama is tough, especially indoors. She plays a big game and hits the ball hard. She's a tough kid."

Sugiyama's win pulled Michigan within 2-1, but the final four matches belonged to the Irish.

At No. 1 singles, senior Catrina Thompson overcame losing the first three games of the match to capture a 6-3, 6-1 win over Michigan fifth-year senior Jenny Kusum. "She takes a little while to get going. She'll do that occasionally where she starts off slow the first two, three games, and then her serve picks up and her forehand starts going and she gets on a roll," Louderback said. "Her serve and forehand are really big. She gets a lot of free points because of those. It's hard for kids to return them."

After Ciobanu's win clinched the match, senior Christian Thompson overcame a first-set loss to defeat Michigan senior Kara Delicata 5-7, 6-2, 10-6 while sophomore Katie Potts completed the match with a 6-1, 7-6 (11) win over Wolverine junior Allie Shafner.

"It was good to win the last two," Louderback said. "They were tight matches but they made it 6-1 which was nice."

The Irish will have little time to rest before hosting No. 7 North Carolina Friday and No. 20 Wake Forest Saturday.

"First, we just have to beat North Carolina, but [winning both matches] would be big for us just because we've played such a tough schedule, and we've come through a lot of big matches now," Louderback said. "A sweep would be very good for us at this point."

Contact Chris Hine at chine@nd.edu
WOMEN'S FENCING

Providence continues to put teammates first

By KEN FOWLER
Sports Editor

The only results Valerie Providenza says she keeps stored in her mind are three NCAA Championship appearances. If that's the case, the senior has forgotten more wins than any Irish women's sable in history.

This weekend, she went 12-0 in the Duke Duals to break former teammate Destanie Milho's record of 144 regular-season victories. While the mid-season bouts got lost in the shuffle, Providenza's memories start sweetly.

In 2004 she finished fifth in the Midwest Fencing Conference Regional but mounted a stunning comeback in the national semifinal and topped Penn State's Sophia Hiss for the NCAA crown. "Freshman year, I came in wanting to prove I should be here," she said.

As soon as Providenza got to Notre Dame, she knew she would put the team ahead of her individual career. She often chose NCAA events over the individual tournaments needed to gain points on the national rankings. "I consider the team my second family," she said. "Coming in, I knew I was going to be here for only four years - and it was something I wanted to make the most of."

That sentiment was not lost on Irish coach Janusz Bednarski. "The number of bouts she has competed in shows her engagement and devotion to the program," he said.

Bednarski said Providenza's commitment to the team whenever individual tournaments conflicted with NCAA events, combined with her skill, propelled her toward the record.

Providenza entered Notre Dame with high expectations and started for the sabres as a freshman. Bednarski said he was comfortable putting the responsibility on her shoulders.

Ever since, she's helped lead the Irish. Providenza finished fourth in the nation as a sophomore and ninth in 2006. Providenza entered the season with an .822 winning percentage, including a 39-6 mark en route to the 2004 women's sable crown and a remarkable 47-9 record as a sophomore.

While her wins totals are high, Providenza, who's born every burden for the Irish, takes competitions just one at a time. She said she even gets nervous if she thinks about the NCAA's too far in advance. For someone who has finished in the top-10 nationally three straight years, that mindset might seem strange. But for Providenza, it's a modus operandi.

"You take every season as it comes," she said in a cool, explanatory tone. "If I'm not concentrated on the tournament at hand, I don't perform as well."

The strategy also keeps the second-semester senior from becoming overwhelmed with schoolwork, impending graduation, and a start in the post-college world.

Ranked No. 11 in the nation, Providenza would have an outside shot to make the American Olympic team for the 2008 Beijing Games. But to qualify, she would need to participate in tournaments worldwide beginning now - a prospect that lead Irish junior sabre Mariel Zagunis to withdraw from school to start an Olympic title defense.

Already exhausted after tournaments from Columbus to London every weekend for the past three months, Providenza decided to focus on her team. The travel to NCAA competitions strain her body far less than the constant jet-setting of the international circuit, something Providenza is keenly aware of as she battles occasional knee and ankle problems.

"It's really tiring," she said. "You see the hotel, fence for one or two days and then fly back."

So instead of jumping into the Olympic path, Providenza has other plans.

"I'm graduating this semester and I'm working next summer - and hopefully going to graduate school," she said.

But she wants to leave with one more goal, and it can't come from any regular-season record. Providenza thinks the Irish could have won the NCAA crown last year when they finished fourth, behind Harvard, Penn State and Ohio State.

With a top finish this year at the NCAA Championships, Providence would become the first Irish women's sabre ever to earn All-American honors four times. But she says she wouldn't be completely satisfied with anything less than a team win and an individual title.

That makes sense for someone whose only memories come from the biggest tournament of the year.

Contact Ken Fowler at kdfowler1@nd.edu
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Kessler once again provided the offensive spark for the Belles throughout the game, scoring a game-high 23 points and adding eight assists. Sophomore Erin Newsom crashed the boards for her fifth double-double of the year with 13 points and 15 rebounds. Senior Bridges Lipke added 18 points in the winning effort.

Albion held a 35-31 halftime lead after Britons guard Amy Aemisegger hit a 3-pointer at the buzzer. The Belles overcame the deficit and claimed a 57-52 lead with 5:25 remaining. Albion chipped away at the lead, however, and tied the game at 57-57 with 1:49 remaining.

The Belles will conclude their regular season Saturday with a home game against second-place Hope. Although neither team can change seeding based on the result, Saint Mary's will look to show its improvement from their last meeting when the Flying Dutchmen dismantled the Belles 67-42.

The third-seeded Saint Mary's squad will then host sixth-place Alma in the first round of the MIAA Tournament Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. Saint Mary's won 10 conference games this season, the most ever for its program, and will host only the second MIAA playoff game this season.

"I think the regular season shows how far we've come," Henley said. "We just need to carry this high-level of play into the tournament when it counts."

Contact Michael Bryan at mbryan@nd.edu
Alaska
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beautiful — not a cloud in the sky.

"Everyone always says that where they live is God's country — to me it's a little more (man-to-man defense) than a lot of their defense," Van Guilder said.

Sharaud Curry and forward Herbert Hill have been so far this season, MacMillan said that the extreme cold is not a problem for most of the players, because most were raised in Western Canada. Hill, who also averages 8.4 points per game, accounted for more than one-third of Notre Dame's offensive production, scoring 26 points against the Bulls and 20 points against the Blue Demons.

"Hill's having as good a year in the Big East as anybody," Kurz said. "We just have to be in good position on him, make sure he doesn't catch it too deep in the post and make sure we have good pressure on the guards so they don't have easy post passes. It's going to be a team job."

The Irish return home after dropping the last two games of their three-game road swing. In losses at South Florida and DePaul, Falls (14.3 points per game) continued from page 18

The Irish flew to Fairbanks on Monday, Jan. 21, and practiced in tonight and Friday morning before Friday night's game. Jackson said that class constraints kept the Irish from traveling to Anchorage — when other CCEA teams normally travel.

"It was 30 degrees colder than anything I had experienced around this area," Irish center Mark Van Guilder said of the trip his freshman year. "But there's no wind, it's really peaceful. The wind (in South Bend) is just killing me!"

Back in 2004, the Irish took off for Fairbanks in a blizzard that reduced their ride to a flight at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport to a five-hour cruise. And the next day they traveled to Anchorage, an eight-hour storm delay kept them grounded in a crowded terminal. But former Irish players Tony Gill and Morgan Coney provided enough comic relief to keep the team grounded in the terminal and yanked away whenever a passenger went to pull it. "Tony was in charge at first with pulling the string back with the dollar on it," Van Guilder said.

"Gill pulled it, he pulled it on a two-year-old girl, and everyone loughed. He also said the Irish of the trapped holiday travelers — buy for hours with a dollar bill attached to a string that the players placed in the middle of the terminal and yanked away whenever a passenger went to pull it. "Tony was in charge at first with pulling the string back with the dollar on it," Van Guilder said. "Gill pulled it, he pulled it on a two-year-old girl, and everyone loughed. He also said the Irish of the trapped holiday travelers — buy for hours with a dollar bill attached to a string that the players placed in the middle of the terminal and yanked away."

Once the weather cleared a little bit and the Irish were able to land in Anchorage, Alaska, they got another patch of black ice when their plane could not leave. But after over a full-day of delays, grunts and snarls they made it and beat the Nanooks 3-2 on the second night — with five wins in the entire season.

Jackson said the team did most of its bonding during the early season travel to New England and Florida, so the trip was seen as an opportunity to become more tight-knit. He also said the Irish haven't done anything yet that he has not seen before in his three decades of hockey road trips.

Hockey players are all the same," Jackson said. "There's always occasional ketchup on somebody's shoe under the ham in the Bull ring. They do the wedding bell ring — ring the glasses — that means somebody's got ketchup or had something on their shoe."

But Jackson acknowledged that he wasn't an authority on everything that happened on the ice. "They don't want me to know what's going on anyway, are you kidding me?"

The Irish hope that there will not be a repeat of the Alaska trip two years ago, but it still brings back some warm memories — at least on first thought. "It's not too bad," Van.Guilder said before passing. "Uh yeah, it's kind of bad.

Contact Kyle Cassily at kcassily@nd.edu

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HOCKEY

Irish travel to Fairbanks to face Nanooks, cold weather

By KYLE CASSILY
Sports Writer

Notre Dame has already left for another weekend road trip where its status as the country's best team will be put up for debate. But this time the Irish must travel thousands of miles to a land that's covered in snow — yet oddly where snowballs are impossible to make due to a lack of moisture — and to where one longtime resident gushed about the beautiful, blue winter skies that sometimes exist only thousands of miles away.

A two-game series against the Alaska Nanooks, the Irish embarked Wednesday on a five-day trip to the Great White North for a two-game series against the Alaska Nanooks, the first time the team has made the trip since an ill-fated trek over Thanksgiving break in 2004. To put the massive undertaking it requires to travel to Fairbanks — a town of 31,000 located squarely in central Alaska — into context, if the Irish were to play a team in Bogota, Colombia, it would be over 200 miles closer than it would be to travel the 2,900 miles to Fairbanks.

The Irish upperclassmen who made the trip in their then-freshman- and sophomore-seasons in 2004 recalled the shock they received when they first stepped outside in Fairbanks after a 27-hour trip hampered by snow-covered roads, delayed flights and spotty Alaska air travel.

"It's cold. I remember stepping outside the doors of the airport and just having to take a couple breaths just to catch your breath because it hurts," Irish goalie Dave Brown said. "The wind, the air is just so cold it takes a little getting used to, that's for sure.

I'll be Representing head coach Tavis MacMillan — the longtime resident who has spent years in Fairbanks as a player and now a coach in his third season with the Nanooks — and Irish coach Jeff Jackson offered up different views of the land of the Midnight Sun.

"When you go to the Midwest, you see gray sky all the time. You have to take a paintbrush with you and some colors," MacMillan said. "There's blue sky there! — its

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

Homeward bound

ND returns to the Joyce Center after consecutive road losses

By CHRIS HINE
Sports Writer

After dropping their last two games at South Florida and DePaul, the road weary Irish return home tonight to face Providence with key positioning in the Big East standings — and Notre Dame's 1-0 home record — on the line.

"It feels good to be back home. This home floor has been good to us," Irish forward Rob Kurz said. "We're excited after being on the road to get a chance to play in front of the home fans.

In their last outing Saturday, the Friars (15-8, 5-5 Big East) upset bid against No. 3/7 Pittsburgh fell short. Despite building a six-point lead with 2:27 remaining, the Irish were able to catch Fireman's after a 27-hour trip hampered by snow-covered roads, delayed flights and spotty Alaska air travel.

"It's cold. I remember stepping outside the doors of the airport and just having to take a couple breaths just to catch your breath because it hurts," Irish goalie Dave Brown said. "The wind, the air is just so cold it takes a little getting used to, that's for sure.

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FOOTBALL

Weis testifies in malpractice suit Wednesday

Coach claims surgeons failed to notice internal bleeding, infections

Associated Press

BOSTON — Despite the potential risks, Notre Dame coach Charlie Weis decided to have weight.

first en route to winning most matches in Notre Dame history.

see SMC BASKETBALL

Belles need overtime, top Britons

Kessler drops 23 for Saint Mary's in win

By MICHAEL BRYAN
Sports Writer

After a 10-foot jumper by Albion guard Jessica Babcock sent the game into overtime, Saint Mary's took over in the bonus period, winning 71-63 Wednesday at the Angela Athletic Center.

The Belles dominated the overtime period, scoring on six of their 10 possessions while forcing four turnovers after regulation.

Belles guard Allison Kessler gave Saint Mary's a 29-27 lead with only 40 seconds left after nailing a running layup before Babcock's game-tying shot.

The win not only clinched the No. 3 seed for the Belles in the MIAA tournament, but it also averaged Saint Mary's (11-11, 10-5 MIAA) 72-69 overtime loss Jan. 17 at Albion (13-10, 8-7).

"That loss really served as motivation," Saint Mary's coach Jennifer Henley said. "That made this win that much sweeter.

The game was far more heavily contested than the final score indicated, with 16 ties and neither team leading by more than five points during regulation.

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