Brown chooses new chief executive

Sheena Plamoottil's selection solidifies all-female team in student government's top three

By KAITLYNN RIELY
Associate News Editor

Student body president-elect Liz Brown and vice president-elect Maria Braun took one of their first steps as student government leaders Tuesday when they announced Pangborn senator and Senate Social Concerns chair Sheena Plamoottil as their Chief Executive Assistant (CEA).

Plamoottil will fill the position Brown currently holds under the Lizzi Shappell-Bill Andrichik administration.

Brown called Plamoottil the "best person for the job" and said she has followed her progress closely in the Senate. Plamoottil redefined the Social Concerns committee at the beginning of the year. Brown said, and "she really took the committee and ran with it and has gotten some good things accomplished."

The selection of Plamoottil fills the top three positions in the student government with women, something that has never before happened at Notre Dame. Brown said she is happy to be part of history, but said the choice of Plamoottil was

Conflict arises over pets in dormitories

By EVA BINDA
News Writer

Beginning last fall, controversy has been brewing in Pasquerilla East Hall because of a new resident, hand-chosen by the dorm's rectress, Breyan Tornifolio. The unconventional resident is a cocker spaniel dog named Ella.

Though numerous dorms on campus have pets, Ella's presence in Pasquerilla East caused a slew of problems for three students — Jacqueline Collins, Catherine Wetten and Lauren Carr — who suffer from allergies.

Originally placed in the dorm because it is air-conditioned — and thus the best placement for students suffering from severe allergies — the women were left with a tough decision following Ella's debut. They could either stay in Pasquerilla East and deal with recurring health problems or move out of the dorm.

Students give thanks to donors

Letters to be written to benefactors

By STEVE KERINS
News Writer

Students are giving thanks today for the nearly $68 million received by the University for scholarships this year by partaking in "Thanksgiving in February," an event organized by the Development Office allowing students to personally thank individual donors.

"Thanksgiving in February" is basically an event to educate the students to the importance of donors to Notre Dame and to give the students the opportunity to say thank you," said Aly Baumgartner, a member of the Senior Gift Committee helping to organize today's campaign.

From noon to 7 p.m. today, students can stop by the Sorin Room in LaFortune to compose a note thanking Notre Dame's donors for their contributions. The Development Office will post some of the responses on its Web site and make others available in print.

Throughout the day, seniors on the Co-Curricular and Development Office staff members will be on hand explaining the purpose of "Thanksgiving in February" and situating students at computer stations.

Baumgartner said that the event's timing is not accidental, but rather a recognition that donors are important to the University for scholarships, athletics and more.

Computer difficulties delay SMC elections

By MANDI STRHONE
News Writer

Student Class Elections at Saint Mary's have been postponed for the second time as many days because of administrative problems with the computer system students use to vote, Board of Governance members said.

Students were supposed to vote Monday using Prism — the Saint Mary's Internet program used for various academic processes as well as Student Election voting. Because of recurring problems, voting was pushed back to yesterday and then rescheduled again for today. Students received an e-mail Tuesday from the Board of Governance informing them of the voting difficulties and the procedures that need to be followed. "Elections for class boards have been postponed until [tonight] due to problems with Prism. The survey on Prism has been reset. Voting will start at 12:00 p.m. [Thursday.] If you have already voted, you must vote again," the e-mail said.

Elections Commissioner Christian Molnar first noticed problems Friday when she realized that the online survey would not be ready in time for the Prism voting to begin Monday. Because of that error, the voting was pushed back to Tuesday, she said.

The candidates were notified

Dinner held for Cambodian school

Students raise funds for PEPYND

By ROHAN ANAND
News Writer

Nearly 100 students skipped the dining hall Tuesday instead of dinner, they attended a Thai-Cambodian fundraising dinner for Cambodian schoolchildren and a school they hope will be built.

One hundred percent of the proceeds from the evening — which was the Student International Business Council's second fundraising dinner this winter — went toward the Protect the Environment, Protect Yourself (PEPY Ride) organization. The members of PEPYND serve Thai and Cambodian food at the group's fundraiser Tuesday in the Sorin Room of LaFortune.

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INSIDE COLUMN

The thrill of the fall

I love the feeling of skydiving. I love the freedom that I get up in the air. Jumping’s scary. When I jump out of that plane, I struggle to do it at first. I look down and can’t see how big the fall can be, and wonder what’s the worst that can happen? I can’t honestly realize that the worst thing that can happen is something that kind of sucks. I could die.

But honestly, what are the chances of that? I’m not really sure, but I know that they’re pretty slim. I’m not willing to do anything to break something — my leg, my arm, my skull, who knows what else.

When I first jump out of the plane, I’m scared. I think what’s going to happen to me? What all can I break? What all will I break? Will I still have a skull? What it will be like? I will definitely feel the fall, and trust that I will land safely. But I realize that I can’t enjoy the skydiving experience and (obviously, I’m up there because I want to enjoy it) if I don’t just relax and let gravity and my parachute take me away.

I’ve taken a risk. It could end badly, but I wouldn’t have bothered taking the risk if I thought that it would. I would never have allowed myself to go skydiving in the first place if I thought that I’d die, or if I thought I’d wind up with a broken skull. So let me enjoy the fall, and trust that I will be safe. Skydiving is not a sport for the weak. You have to know your bodily limits on earth before you attempt to challenge them in the air. You must be confident in your own skin, on your own surface, before reaching out to the different environment of the vast sky. Otherwise, it’s bound to end in a failure of some variety.

I love skydiving. But I only done it once. I don’t want to go again, even though I can’t name an experience we had that I’ve enjoyed more. Nothing compares to the excitement got when I realized that I was totally exposed, that anything — for better or for worse — could happen to me when I hit the ground. Nothing compares to the serenity and peace I felt when I realized I didn’t care what happened when I hit the ground. Because the thrill of the fall itself was worth whatever price I might have to pay with a broken limb (or even with a broken skull).

Before I went skydiving, I had one love in my life — cookies. Skydiving tripled that number. Now I love skydiving, but, more importantly, I love the ground that I hit. Do something you love today.

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

Contact John Tierney at jtiemel@nd.edu

QUESTION OF THE DAY: What celebrity would you like to come to campus? Why?

Andrea Baker
sophomore
Vashon Family

"Stacy and Clinton because
there’s so many
people who walk around
in pajamas."

Caroline Green
sophomore
Carugannagh

"Will Ferrell. This place
needs a little more cowbell."

Jean Henegan
junior
Lewis

"Daniel Craig because
those eyes and that accent."

Tony Piskurich
sophomore
St. Edward’s

"Rosie O’Donnell because
we could have more
controversy."

Kevin Prawdik
sophomore
Fisher

Mike Lavery, center, and Tim Campbell, for right, race in the Men’s A category race in Columbus, Ohio at an event put on by Ohio State this weekend.

IN BRIEF

The Department of Film, Television and Theatre presents Agatha Christie’s "The Mousetrap" on the DeBartolo Mainstage Theatre at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. The show opens today at 7:30 p.m., and continues March 4. Evening performances are at 7:30 and the Sunday matinees at 2:30. Tickets prices are $12 for the general public, $10 for senior citizens, ND faculty and staff and $8 for students.

There will be a panel presentation on "Sex and the City of God" tonight at 7:30 in 101 DeBartolo Hall. It will examine the interplay between Catholicism and contemporary culture.

Muslim prayer and meditation will take place tonight at 7 in room 330 of the Coleman-Morse Center.

Breun-Phillips Hall will host the annual Breen-Phillips Meal Auction today from 7 to 9 p.m. in the LaFortune Ballroom. Meals with "campus celebrities" are being auctioned off and a silent auction for restaurant gift certificates will be held, all proceeds to benefit Meals on Wheels.

Freshmen can vote Thursday in the run-off election for the sophomore class council. Voting will take place between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. Students can access the voting Web site by clicking on a link in an e-mail from the Judicial Council.

Legends will host Last Comic Standing Thursday at 10 p.m. Admission is free.

To submit information to be included in this section of The Observer, e-mail detailed information about an event to obnews@nd.edu.
Members to debate, vote on two fiscal amendments

By SONIA RAO
News Writer

Student body vice president Bill Andrichik announced Tuesday that two amendments will be debated and voted on tomorrow concerning the fiscal policies discussed during recent Council of Representatives (COR) meetings.

One of the amendments concerns moving presidential division of the Student Union Board's budget to Student Government's budget.

The presidential division is a separate part of the SUB budget set aside for programming that is used by student government. SUB manager Patrick Vandel proposed that the funds be moved out of SUB budget and into student government funding.

Andrichik said that the oversight committee has approved the request.

"The new amendment would require that the student body president make a formal request for allocation to the office of the president budget that would encompass all policy-based programming," he said.

The second amendment concerns the SUB budget set aside for Disability Awareness Month.

"As an assistant, she has demonstrated the ambition, drive, and capacity necessary to serve the student body," Friend said.

"I hope to continue to work with the Student Union Board to increase the amount of funds available," Friend said.

The new plan under the proposed amendment would be a "hybrid model," Andrichik said, with the limit being "five percent of the group budget or $5,000, whichever is higher."

In other COR News:

• Judicial Council President Liz Kozlowski reported that both senior and junior class council elections were suspended due to both senior and junior candidates running unopposed. The sophomore class council elections resulted in a run-off, which will take place Thursday, she said.

• Student Union Treasurer Steve Friend nominated Kadeja Gaines as his successor for the term that begins March 1.

"Kadeja is qualified, dedicated, and hard-working," Friend said in a recommendation letter to the COR members.

"As an assistant, she has demonstrated the ambition, drive, and capacity necessary to serve the student body," Friend said.

• Club Coordination Council President Kerry Kilbourn presented a COR Collaboration Fund Appeal for Disability Awareness Month sponsored by Best Buddies, Perspectives and Sophomore Class Council. Most of the proposed funding is to be spent toward a speaker, Kilbourn said. The event was granted $1,385.

Peggy McIntosh speaking on White Privilege

Workshop: "Deriving Racial Understanding From Our Own Experiences"

Keynote Address "How I Came To See I Had a Privilege and What I'm Learning I Can Do With It"

Peggy McIntosh, Ph.D., is the associate director of the Wellesley Centers for Women, and the founder and co-director of the National S.E.E.D. (Seeking Educational Equity and Diversity) Project on Inclusive Curriculum. McIntosh directs the Gender, Race, and Inclusive Education Project, which provides workshops on privilege systems, feelings of fraudulence, and diversifying workplaces, curricula, and teaching methods.

To register please contact:
Office of Multicultural Affairs
Saint Mary's College
214 Student Center
Phone: (574) 284-4721
DSLC@saintmarys.edu

Please recycle The Observer.
Pests
continued from page 1

One such student was sophomore Catherine Wetten, who moved into Lyons Hall at the beginning of the semester because of asthma and allergies that were intensified by living in Pasquerilla East. She began experiencing congestion and pain while sleeping and "real bad headaches because I wasn't getting enough oxygen."

"It's a ridiculous situation. You'd never think you'd get replaced by an animal," said Wetten's former roommate Karta Abilio.

Although Wetten was able to move to Lyons, she said the solution was not a good one. "I was upset and didn't want to move. I have bad airborne allergies. I'm just hoping it doesn't get too warm for too long," said Wetten, referring to the fact that Lyons Hall does not have air-conditioning.

Wetten and Carr, who still reside in Pasquerilla East, are hoping to move to McNichols, a currently petless dorm, next fall.

"My main issue was that it didn't have to be a win-lose solution," Carr said. "There are breeds of dogs that are better for [people] with allergies. Cocker spaniels are not one of them. I don't understand why there couldn't be a different breed of dog in the dorm."

But Wetten's decision to move was not made without discussions and attempts at negotiation with the Office of Residential Life and Housing and the Pasquerilla East rectress.

Tornifolio met with all the residents with allergy issues after receiving a letter from Carr.

The letter detailed the reasons why Carr felt that having a pet in the dorm was unjust — including that the students "are paying $40,000 to attend this University, we have lived here longer, we may have a harder time adjusting to a new housing arrangement, we are more productive and active members of the community of PE and Notre Dame, and it is our health and well-being that is sacrificed."

Still, Tornifolio said that she felt the discussion was "pretty open and honest."

"I'd like to think we've been working together to try to find some solution," she said.

In order to try to appease all parties, the dog is confined to a certain area of the building — Tornifolio's room — and only goes through the lobby to be taken out for walks.

"The dog is not allowed to be in spaces where the community would gather such as common areas. We try to be understanding of those with allergies," said Tornifolio, who also noted that residents with allergies tend to not live on the first floor so they are not near the pet on a daily basis.

The Office of Residence Life performed a risk assessment and decided that it was not necessary to force Tornifolio to get rid of the dog.

Wetten, however, said she got the feeling that "RealLife and the Office off Student Affairs hasn't been paying much attention to it."

The Office of Residence Life did not return requests for an interview.

Still, some residents feel this ignores the problem instead of putting it to rest. "I can't see it as something that should happen, especially at Notre Dame which values family and community," said Abilio, who would like to see one dorm for each gender designated as an allergies dorm.

According to junior Erin Buckley, "I may have up to three friends forced to leave the dorm on account of a pet, and I know that in my case I would so much prefer these three people in my dorm than a dog."

"There aren't any community you have to go with the greatest good and that's the only way community works," said Amy de la Torre, rectress of Pasquerilla East.

Wetten's former roommate You'd never think you'd get replaced by an animal," said Wetten's former roommate Karta Abilio.

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

North, South Korea resume talks SEOUL — North and South Korea held high-level reconciliation talks Tuesday for the first time since the communist nation’s nuclear test in October, paving the way for a resumption of aid deals to feed poor rival countries.

The meetings came as North Korea showed strong signs of commitment to its Feb. 13 pledge at international arms talks to shut down its main nuclear reactor within 60 days in exchange for a light fuel deal.

It has already invited the chief U.N. nuclear inspector to visit to discuss verification of a shutdown.

North Korea’s main nuclear negotiator, Vice Foreign Minister Kim Kye Gwan, arrived in the United States for talks on following through on the landmark deal on dismantling its nuclear weapons program.

South Korea’s nuclear envoy, Dai-hoon Lee, arrived in Beijing en route to the U.S., the Chinese Foreign Ministry said.

Hamas not ready to recognize Israel MOSCOW — Hamas has pledged to end missile attacks and violence against Israel, Russia’s foreign minister said Tuesday, but the radical Palestinian group’s spiritual leader struck a less conciliatory note, saying it was not ready to recognize Israel.

With Russia markedly increasing its efforts in the Middle East peacemaking, Khaled Mas'ha'al traveled to Moscow for the second time in a year amid deep Israeli consternation - in a visit that reflected the Kremlin’s position that negotiations, rather than sanctions, are the best way to deal with Hamas.

His reception shows that Hamas is gaining at least tentative support outside the Middle East.

NATIONAL NEWS

Officially Castro era to end this year WASHINGTON — Repression is increasing in Cuba under the control of Raúl Castro, and the domination of the government by his brother, Fidel, is nearing an end, Bush administration officials said Tuesday.

It is the second this year the U.S. will mark the end of the long domination of that country by Fidel Castro, Mike McConnell, the nation’s new spy chief, told Congress.

McCormick, who did not explain his remark, told the Senate Armed Services Committee that significant positive change immediately after Fidel Castro’s death was unlikely. He said Raúl Castro has had the opportunity to solidify his control in the seven months since his brother’s incapacitating illness last July.

Conservatives call Gore ‘hypocrite’ WASHINGTON — President Kim Jong Il, known for the fight against global warming, is being called a hypocrite by a conservative group that claims his North Korean regime has cut down millions of black body bags. Tears streamed down the face of one man sitting in the passenger seat of a SUV that carried two other victims of a fire.

Although the bomber did not get closer than roughly a mile to the vice president, the attack highlighted an increasingly precarious security situation posed by the resurgent Taliban.

Five years after U.S.-led forces toppled the Taliban-led militants, they have stepped up attacks. There were 139 suicide bombings last year, a fivefold increase over 2005, and a fresh wave of violence is expected this spring.

The guerrillas, according to NATO officials, have the flexibility to organize an attack quickly and may have been able to plan a bombing at the base while Cheney was there after hearing news reports on Monday that he was delayed by bad weather. The Taliban have attacked in the area north of the capital in the past even though people living in the Bagram area have not been supportive of the guerrillas. Col. Tom Collins, the top spokesman for the NATO force, said the Taliban had cell in Kandahar that could have traveled the 30 miles north to Bagram.

As I asked the Taliban were trying to send a message with the attack, Cheney said: “I think they clearly try to find ways to question the authority of the central government. Striking at Bagram with a suicide bomber, I suppose, is one way to do that. But it shouldn’t affect our behavior at all.”

Cheney was the highest-ranking U.S. official to star overnight in either the Afghanistan or Iraq war zones.

President Bush was not awakened to be told of the attack, but received an update early Tuesday morning. White House press secretary Tony Snow said Bush’s first reaction was to ask if Cheney was OK.

A message posted on a Web site used by militants said “a mujahid (holy war­rior)... carried out a suicide attack in front of the second gate of the Bagram Air Base... The target was Bush’s vice president, Dick Cheney.”

A purported Taliban spokesman, Qari Yusuf Ahmad, said Cheney was the target of the attack carried out by an Afghan named Mullah Abdul Rahim.

“We knew that Dick Cheney would be staying inside the base,” Ahmad told The Associated Press by telephone from an undisclosed location. “The attacker was trying to reach Cheney.”

LOCAL NEWS

Bill raises General Assembly salaries WASHINGTON — A bill to raise the $30,000 pay of General Assembly members would increase salaries barely but double their retirement packages would be reduced under a bill that cleared the Senate Tuesday night.

The legislation would increase the base salary for Indiana General Assembly mem­bers from the current $11,600 a year to more than $20,700, said bill sponsor Sen. Gary Dillon, a Republican from Peru County.

“Despite a good package we’re waiting to enable people from all walks of life to have the opportunity to do this job,” Dillon said.

U.S. to join Iraq-sponsored meeting

WASHINGTON — In a diplomatic turnaround, the Bush administration will join an Iraq-sponsored “neighbors meeting” with Iran and Iraq, and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said Tuesday.

It marks a dramatic change of approach by the United States, which has resisted calls by members of Congress and by a bipartisan Iraq review group to include Iran and Syria in talks designed to stabilize Iraq.

The move came amid growing discontent over the war, even as President Bush run­ches an additional 21,500 U.S. troops to Iraq and congressional Democrats struggle to settle on their next steps to end U.S. participation.

The administration said its decision to take part in the Iraq conference did not represent a change of heart.

Although the White House has accused both Iran and Syria of duplicitously meddling in the war, “We’ve always been inclined to participate in an Iraqi-led conference,” White House counselor Dan Bartlett said.

The administration in recent weeks has increased its criticism of Iran’s role in Iraq, charging it with supplying advanced technologies for the most lethal form of roadside bombs. The administration has accused Syria of harboring anti-Iraqi government forces and allowing weapons to cross its border.

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CEA continued from page 1

because she was the most qualified.

Plamoottil called the selection of an all-female ticket for president and vice president "long-awaited."

"I think that it's an awesome accomplishment for women," she said. "I think that we are very capable young women and I think that is great that the student body has elected two women. I am happy and proud to join that team as the third woman."

Plamoottil said her ideas and her passion for student government align closely with those of Brown and Braun. Once their administration takes office, Plamoottil said she would like to work with them to address advocacy issues and make student government more open to student concerns.

As the CEA, Plamoottil will serve as the chair of the Executive Programming Board, coordinate Student Senate activities and run the daily logistics of the student government office.

"It's a unique job because it's a lot of tying up loose ends and a lot of making sure that things run smoothly," Brown said.

And it's a job Plamoottil said she is "pumped" to start once turnover occurs April 1.

"I had previously wanted to run for student body president, but with my major and the MCATs, I wasn't able to run," she said. "So this is the next best thing and I think it will be perfect for what I want to do and the passion I've had for student government all my life."

Plamoottil, a science pre-professional and psychology double major, has been involved in student government at Notre Dame since she sat on the Freshman Class Council.

She was a committee chair for the Sophomore Class Council the following year. She said her experience in the policy-making arena of student government this year has prepared her with effective leadership skills and taught her important lessons.

"I've never been afraid to take on multiple initiatives at the same time and work hard for the end that we want to see," Plamoottil said.

Brown's tenure as CEA set a good example for her to follow, she said.

"She took several initiatives and ran with them," Plamoottil said. "That will be something that I hope to do as well."

"I think that we are very capable young women and I think that is great that the student body has elected two women. I am happy and proud to join that team as the third woman."

Sheena Plamoottil
chief executive assistant-select

Donors continued from page 1

The end of February "is roughly the time when, if Notre Dame relied solely on tuition money, [funds] would run out," she said. "March, April and May run primarily on donor money... It's also around the date when student financial aid forms are due."

This year's "Thanksgiving in February" event will be very informal, relying heavily on the interest of passersby, Baumgartner said.

"It's just going to be kind of foot traffic. I'm hoping we can just draw people's interest and have them come in," she said.

The purpose of "Thanksgiving in February" is to allow students an opportunity to share their gratitude with University donors, who they may not otherwise be in contact with. Notre Dame's scholarship coordinator and Assistant Director of Financial Aid Jeff Petrick said.

"We hope that, by sharing appreciation, benefactors will understand the positive impact of their generosity," Petrick said.

Despite the potential for an increase in donations, the "Thanksgiving in February" event may provide. Petrick said that the University’s facilitation of this event is not done with an eye towards securing funds for the future.

"Although sharing appreciation with donors may increase scholarship giving over the long term, our efforts are focused on cultivating opportunities for students to share appreciation with donors," Petrick said.

Still, Baumgartner stressed that contributions from individual donors -- which made up nearly two-thirds of the $68 million -- are a vital component in students' ability to finance a Notre Dame education.

"Tuition can't run the University," Baumgartner said. "So even if a student doesn't receive financial aid, which so many students do, that's why it's so important (to say thank you)."

Contact Steve Kerins at skerins@nd.edu

Muslim Prayer
Wednesday, February 28th
7:00 - 7:45 pm
330 Coleman-Morse

Experience an evening of Muslim prayer and meditation as the fourth in a series exploring the beliefs and practices of the world's great faith traditions.

"An Evening of Prayer from Around the World"

Sponsored by:
ND Muslim Student Association, Campus Ministry.

ND Graduate School, 2007-08 University Award

Chipotle
MEXICAN GRILL

We're serving naturally raised chicken that doesn't require a prescription.

In fact, the chicken and pork we serve in Mishawaka are free of antibiotics and added growth hormones, fed a vegetarian diet and raised humanely.

We think meat raised this way, naturally, tastes better.

Serving naturally raised chicken is another step in our ongoing Food With Integrity journey -- bringing you the best ingredients from the best sources.

MAIN & DOUGLAS

GET ANTIBIOTICS FROM YOUR DOCTOR, NOT YOUR CHICKEN.
Chrysler will pay off workers

Toyota to build new $1.3 billion plant

AT&T call-center able to hire 425

Indiana Union members get offers from Chrysler

Chrysler Group to pay $1.3 billion to U.S. workers

Associated Press

DETROIT - Chrysler Group will offer all 49,600 hourly workers in the U.S. up to $100,000 to leave the company as part of a recovery plan announced earlier this month.

The company, which lost $3.475 billion in 2006 and said it expects losses to continue through 2007, said on Feb. 14 that it would cut 13,000 jobs, including 11,000 hourly positions and 2,000 salaried, as it tries to further shrink itself to match reduced demand for its products.

A company document obtained by The Associated Press outlines an early retirement program for hourly workers near retirement age and a buyout program for those with at least one year of tenure with the company.

The offers were reported earlier Tuesday by The Detroit News.

Under the buyout offer, workers would receive a pretax lump-sum payment of $100,000 plus six months of medical and vision coverage in exchange for their departure.

The early retirement package includes a $70,000 payments, health care benefits and whatever pension a worker is eligible for based on age and years of service.

According to the document, the United-Auto-Workers-union and DaimlerChrysler AG's Chrysler Group agreed on the offers, which are not as lucrative as some made to workers leaving Ford Motor Co. and General Motors Corp. under restructuring plans.

"UAW members are once again stepping forward to make hard choices," union President Ron Gettelfinger said in a statement. "Now it's up to our members to move the company forward, by using the skill and dedication of our members to deliver quality vehicles that customers want to buy."

The offers come as Chrysler tries to reduce production by 400,000 vehicles per year.

All U.S. production workers will get the offers, including those at a plant scheduled for closure in Newark, Del.

Of the production job cuts, 9,000 are in the U.S. and 2,000 are in Canada. All the cuts will take place during the next three years.

Chrysler's 10,000 Canadian workers were given separate offers earlier this month.

The company document said that each U.S. facility would have different timing for workers to take the packages, but the timing for plants slated to lose production this year will be between April and December. Further cuts scheduled for 2008 and 2009 will be done in similar fashion.

To be eligible for early retirement, workers must have 30 years with the company or be at least 60 years old and have at least 10 years of service, or be at least 55 years old and their age and years of company service must total 85 or more.

A worker also could be at least 65 and have at least one year of pension credit to be eligible, according to the document.

Chrysler, part of Germany-based DaimlerChrysler AG, said Feb. 14 that 11 U.S. plants would be affected by the announcements.

The Deltafel, plant would close during the next two years, and Chrysler also plans to cut shifts at plants in Warren, Mich., and St. Louis.

MANAGEMENT REAPCP

In Brief

Toyota to build new $1.3 billion plant

Toyota Motor Corp.'s 5-Highlander sport utility vehicle should start rolling off the assembly line at a new, $1.3 billion plant in northeast Mississippi by 2010, company and state officials said Tuesday.

Toyota disclosed the site for its eighth vehicle plant, which Mississippi officials courted Toyota for two years in prison and a

pleaded guilty to conspiring to employ illegal immigrants pleaded guilty

 marketer to a new plant, which Mississippi officials courted Toyota for two years.

The Mississippi plant will manufacture 250,000 Highlanders a year. It also will create 1,500 jobs and "will be built on a 1,700-acre site at Blue Springs, about 10 miles northwest of Tupelo. It also will be situated in neighboring states Arkansas and Tennessee.

The Mississippi plant will manufacture 150,000 Highlanders a year. It also will create 2,000 badly needed jobs in an area with an economy that has slowed because of losses in furniture manufacturing positions.

Mississippi officials courted Toyota for two- and one-half years, mostly out of the public eye.

"As Elvis would say, "Only fools rush in."

Ray Tangany, executive vice president of Toyota-Motor-Engineering and Manufacturing North America Inc., said during the company's announcement at Tupelo High School.

Managers plead guilty to illegal hires

ALBANY — Five former managers from a major crate and pallet manufacturer that employed illegal immigrants pleaded guilty Tuesday, 10 months after federal agents staged sweeping raids at company sites in 26 states.

James Rice, 37, of Houston, an executive manager of the Albany Facility, pleaded guilty to conspiring to employ illegal workers, Robert Behbin, 43, of Sturtevant, Wis., a former general manager of the Albany IFCO plant, pleaded guilty to two felony conspiracy charges.

The 11 former managers could face up to two years in prison and a $50,000 fine, Assistant U.S. Attorney Tina Schiachet said.

Netherlands-based IFCO Systems N.V. described itself as the leading pallet services company in America. It reported $108 million in profits in 2006 on revenues of $847 million.

The state will provide up to $1 million in training funds and income tax credits, and the city will provide more than $279,000 in personal property tax abatement to AT&T, which will invest more than $4.6 million in new equipment and other upgrades, state and local economic development officials said.

The call center jobs previously had been outsourced, but AT&T chose to bring them back in-house at Indianapolis because the passage of the telecom reform bill encourages the industry to invest in the state, Fleetwood said.

"I think these jobs could have been placed anywhere in the country where we do business," Fleetwood said. Of about 20 states that have tackled telecommunications reform in the last few years, Indiana has done so most comprehensively.

"We at AT&T believe no one has done it better than Indiana," he said.

The General Assembly last year approved legislation that frees telephone companies from state regulations and changes the way the cable industry works.

Since then, in addition to Tuesday's announcement, AT&T and Verizon have announced they would expand high-speed DSL Internet service to 102 rural communities, and Verizon and Cingular have said they will create 375 new jobs in the state. AT&T last month also launched an Internet television service in Anderson, Bloomington, Indianapolis and Muncie, among just 11 markets nationally, Fleetwood said.

Gov. Mitch Daniels and lawmakers also have said that Indiana consumers can expect to see lower prices for cable and other services.

Danieles said AT&T had promised to invest more in Indiana if the reforms passed.
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Newson ‘alarmed and concerned’ after San Francisco man’s actions

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — A man talked his way into Mayor Gavin Newsom’s apartment building late one night before a downtown called police, according to statements that helped persuade a judge to issue a temporary restraining order.

Han Shin, 42, told the doorman around 1 a.m. on Feb. 15 that he was visiting a woman who lived there. The woman said she didn't know him, according to the doorman’s declaration.

Shin then showed the doorman pictures of himself with Newsom and another of Newsom standing next to an Asian man wearing only a diaper, and asked if Newsom was home. The doorman said he was not, and Shin left as the doorman called police.

The next day, police got a warrant to search Shin’s car. Inside, they found a city map with the mayor’s apartment building highlighted, a color composite photograph of the mayor, Shin and Shin’s father and material labeled “President Newsom,” according to court papers.

On Feb. 10, Shin sat in the front row at a meeting held by Newsom and appeared to be taking photographs of the lower half of Newsom’s body, according to a statement from a member of the mayor’s security team.

Newsom’s jacket fell off a chair and Shin picked it up, wiped it off gently and held it in his lap, according to court documents. Afterward, he grabbed the mayor and prevented him from closing his car door until a police officer intervened.

Newsom told police Shin has long shown his support and often attempts to get to his father and material against the allegations.

Newsom was in November with making criminal threats against two family members and a police officer, false imprisonment and obstructing a law enforcement officer, according to the Alameda County district attorney’s office. In November 2006, Shin was charged with lying to a police officer. Those cases are pending.

Shin was charged in November与其他有犯罪记录的罪犯有关。在这一点上，我们不关心与市长有关的这张照片。索雷斯说："我们的焦点在于切断分销渠道。"

索雷斯在佛罗里达州的星期二对两家药店进行了联邦和州的检查，包括两名药剂师，包括一名已婚夫妇，分别被指控为非法销售药物，以及一名有运动能力的药剂师。

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In a recent episode of "The Office"... Kelly: "Oh my god, I have so much to tell you."
Jim: "Really?"
Kelly: "Yes. Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes, they had a baby named Suri. And then Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie had a baby too and named it Shilo. And both babies are a-mazing!"
Jim: "Great. What's new with you?"
Kate: "I just told you."

To many loyal "Office" fans out there, Kelly is known as the annoying and clingy dit. However, she unfortunately has the same priorities and world view as many Americans. Hence why this scene is so funny: we all know someone like Kelly and laugh at his or her naiveté. However, perhaps our Kelly-like friends are not the ones to be blamed for their lack of world view. Over the past two weeks it has been nearly impossible to find a news station that was not reporting the latest updates on the Anna Nicole Smith case. Although somewhat interesting and often times comical, celebrity news deserves no spot in the evening headlines. There are more relevant and demanding events happening in the world than trying to decide who is Anna Nicole's baby, dad, and husband. To help us get our priorities straight in our daily paper and prime time affairs in our daily paper and prime time affairs before it is too late.

By now, we are all aware of the possible causes of death of Anna Nicole Smith. Not only is there debate over her cause of death, but also the location of her burial. The father of her child is still a hot topic of discussion, and remains, 20 days later, to be headline news. Consequently, foreign affairs and political matters have fallen to the wayside and fly under the public radar. The fact that the Iraqi president is controversially ill and hospitalized will lead to the controversy regarding Jennifer Aniston and her reportedly new baby. If the President in Iraq is in fact on his deathbed, the United States' ongoing struggle in Iraq may just grow exponentially worse, which means more deaths for soldiers and civilians alike.

The consequences of Jen getting a new job, however, are obviously more important to the American public. And the fact that Britney is committing acts of mass destruction to her appearance (and her career) is far more important than the threat of destruction and death in the newfound Al-Qaeda operation in Pakistan. And this is all according to "The Today Show" and CNN, not "Entertainment Tonight" and the TV Guide Channel as one would expect. It is not much thought that entertainment is what sells, but consumers should not buy into this hype due to our low news. For some reason, we all enjoy hearing about the latest celebrity gossip who is dating whom, who is gaining weight, and who is going to rehab. Our culture thrives on this information, and, as a result, the news media have succumbed to our obsession. We are thus sadly left recognizing the names "TomKat" and "Brangelina" instead of Zawahri and Talabani.

And we at Notre Dame cannot escape the epidemic. Students seem to be more concerned about the Notre Dame/Saint Mary's conflict than the ongoing, deadly conflict in the Middle East. Our ignorance of worldly affairs will lead to not only our personal downfall, but the downfall of the country as well. The students of Notre Dame and Saint Mary's hold the key to our nation's future, and if we cannot recognize and understand the current crisis that is occurring, our future is bleak.

Pretty soon, the lack of public awareness of current events is going to take its toll. The threat of global warming and the ongoing conflict in Iraq have managed to fall through the cracks, and those are the issues that have more effect on our lives, definitely more than who won the Oscar Sunday night. If we do not start holding the media responsible for providing us with substantial, significant information, the welfare of our country will plummet. As citizens, we need to be well informed so that we can make better decisions in our daily lives, elect political leaders that will provide the best well being for our constituents, and exercise our freedom of speech so that we may have a voice in public policy. The sooner we start acting like responsible citizens, the sooner buzzworthy will refer to significant news rather than Britney's new do.

Kate Palmitier is a sophomore political science major. She can be contacted at kpalm@gmail.com. The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Speech should be free but genial

The issue of censorship and freedom of speech has been the subject of fervent debate on campus and in the Viewpoint of late. Questions have arisen of whether certain cartoons should be published in The Observer and also of whether certain plays, such as the "Vagina Monologues" and "Loyal Daughters" have a rightful place on this campus or not. As Americans, we have been trained since grade school to quote our Constitutional rights and the "freedom of speech" rights derived from the First Amendment are the ones most often quoted. The mantra is, "It's a free country, and I can say or print whatever I want," and of course, I must be grateful of this reality, because these very words of mine have not been censored.

Yet, what does freedom of speech really mean? It is true that in America, unlike other repressive regimes such as the Communist U.S.R., the government cannot restrict the speech and publications of its citizens (with some exceptions, like child pornography). But this is a restriction upon the government, not upon the editors of newspapers or upon the authors of plays or comic strips. Would it not be equally repressive for the government to require that newspapers publish everything submitted to them, taking away their power of self-censorship? In such a case, The Observer, the recent letters asking that it make the editorial decision not to publish certain cartoons do not breach the First Amendment. Their request is that an independent newspaper censor itself and tighten the standards for what it publishes. No doubt, if The Observer features articles or cartoons lampooning African-Americans, Jews, or homosexuals in a mean-spirited way, members of those communities would be upset and call upon the paper to censor itself in the future. Yet, does this mean that The Observer should only publish articles or cartoons portraying the Church in a favorable light? No, the paper and the University should remain an open forum of debate, facilitating the exchange of opinions and teachings, this being the hallmark of any great intellectual institution. We must be free to debate whether there is any truth to be known, and if there is, what it is and how it affects our lives. That is what academic freedom is all about and what Oliver Wendell Holmes means by "free trade in ideas... in the competition of the market" (Jake Vox, "Paper should uphold free trade of ideas," Feb 27). But in order for it to remain an open market, all ideas and viewpoints must have the freedom to be heard and no side must become so belligerent as to do violence to other points of view. Thus, those in favor of the Church's views must make their cases without being self-righteous, judgmental, or insulting. Likewise, those who offer viewpoints different from those of the Church should be free to air their opinions at Notre Dame and in The Observer, but also must be polite and genial. Freedom of speech does not mean the right to be as nasty and brutal as one can, but rather the right to speak one's piece in such a way that will further the dialogue, seeking to persuade the opposition and not simply taking a cheap shot at them.

Chris Spellman
senior
off campus
Feb. 27

' Monologues' not only gender issue

While many of us on the Notre Dame campus had mixed feelings regarding the debates about the "Vagina Monologues," academic freedom and Notre Dame's Catholic character last year, I think it's important not to see the "Vagina Monologues" as the only response of the campus community to the admitted difficulties of gender relations here at Notre Dame.

Personally, I find it sad that the move of the "Vagina Monologues" off campus this year made the front page of The Observer while there was no mention of the Edith Stein Project, a student-run conference that addresses difficult issues of gender (rape, abortion, etc.) in a context that seeks to integrate femininity, intelligence, and Catholic identity. There were many big names from the ranks of the national Catholic community, women like Jennifer Roback Morse, Janet Smith and Dr. Pia de Solloni, who have successfully reconciled their identities as women with their identities as Catholics. They have managed to do so without ignoring the difficult issues that face women, and they have done so without rejecting men. If anything came out of this year's Edith Stein Project, it is the need to see all of us, men and women, in our integrated human identity. That integrated identity is relational, and we cannot exile one sex or the other and hope to remain healthy and whole ourselves.

I found it very affirming that Edith Stein organizers included a talk on pornography given by two male undergraduates, for as Calcutt and Patrick Tighe, who bravely explored the difficult issues of male sexual transgression here on campus but did so in a way that invited dialogue and mutual vulnerability between men and women. Isn't this what we're all trying to do on campus?

Similarly, in this year's production of "Loyal Daughters" there were segments that explored male-on-male sexual assault, and female-on-male alcohol-induced rape. Gender relations on this campus will never improve until we all, male and female, start admitting our own sins toward each other and work for healing, forgiveness and change in Christian charity.

Samanth Cahill
grad student
off campus
Feb. 27

EDITORIAL CARTOON

"Why is the 'Mainstream Media' so insensitive to Christianity?"

"We're sensitive to religion... we refused to publish those Muhammad cartoons, didn't we?"

"Jesus' Tomb Found?"

"Jesus? Tomb Found?"

"Jesus? Tomb Found?"

"Jesus? Tomb Found?"
DPAC Spotlight

Notre Dame to host Genocide Film Series

Films include Oscar winners and powerful documentaries

By MARTY SCHROEDER
Assistant Scene Editor

With militant combat stories emerging out of Darfur, UN rulings concerning the massacre at Srebrenica, Bosnia and other terrible events happening in various parts of the world, genocide has become a topic: our generation must face — not only current atrocities but also those of the past.

As we struggle to grapple with the horrific capabilities of mankind’s violence against itself, filmmakers have offered their interpretations on the consequences of war. Their films offer a peace in some cases, solace in others or sometimes merely grapple the topic, offering more questions than solutions to the problem.

In an attempt to further explore the themes and ideas necessary to end genocide, the Genocide Film Series will be screened at the Browning Cinema of the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center (DPAC) this weekend. This event — subtitled “On Our Watch!” — showcases some of the best explorations of genocide that film cinema has to offer. These include a wide range of entries, from Oscar winners to relative unknown films, all powerful and important in their own way.

“The Last King of Scotland” (2006)

Starting Forest Whitaker, who won the Best Actor award at the 79th Academy Awards last Sunday, this is the highest profile film in the series. Whitaker’s darkly mesmerizing performance as the complex Idi Amin, the de facto dictator of Uganda from 1971-79, led critics to hail the film as one of the year’s best.

But it’s Whitaker’s recent Oscar win — against the likes of Peter O’Toole, Leonardo DiCaprio, Will Smith and Ryan Gosling — that has drawn even more attention to the headlining film in the Genocide Series. "The Last King of Scotland" will show March 3 at 7 p.m. and March 4 at 1 p.m.


This 2004 documentary is based on a book of the same name by now-retired Lieutenant-General Roméo Dallaire, commander of the United Nations forces that served in Rwanda during the 1993-94 genocide. Dallaire implied the UN for more troops but was ultimately denied. However, his actions are credited for saving approximately 20,000 lives. The film was nominated for seven Academy Awards during the Sundance Film Festival. “Shake Hands With the Devil” will show March 4 at 4 p.m.


This British film is about the actions directed by the Khmer Rouge regime in Cambodia. The story is told through the eyes of three journalists — Dith Pran, a Cambodian, Sydney Schanberg, an American and John Swain, a Briton. This picture, directed by Roland Joffé, won three Oscars and stars Sam Waterston and John Malkovich. It is the 100th greatest British film according to the British Film Institute, it is an excellent look at the war in Cambodia, which is often overshadowed by the U.S. involvement in Vietnam. The genocide instituted by Pol Pot and his Khmer Rouge is thought to have contributed to the deaths of over 1.5 million Cambodians. This award winning film about an often-overshadowed tragedy will show March 2 at 10 p.m.

“No Man’s Land” (2001)

This Best Foreign Language Oscar-winner depicts two soldiers, one Bosnian and the other Serb, who find themselves alone in a trench during the Bosnian War. With no other avenues available, the two trade insults and also find common ground in an interesting mix of irony and futility. The United Nations, ordered to remain neutral in the conflict, must bring aid to these wounded soldiers after an American journalist brings media attention to their situation. To further complicate matters, another Bosnian soldier awakens near the first two only to discover himself on top of a handmine that hasn’t been removed.

The worst of the killings in the Bosnian War took place in the region of Srebrenica, located within the nation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Many sources say that over 8,000 men were killed in this region alone. Recently, the International Court of Justice ruled that Serbia is not to blame for the genocide that occurred during the war. Thanks to this ruling, this film has become especially important in the discussion of international jurisdiction and what the specific definition of genocide is. “No Man’s Land” will show March 3 at 10 p.m.

Each film this weekend covers something different to the forefront of the discussion on genocide. Whether big, dramatic narratives or more realistic, probing documentaries, they all cause viewers to reflect on the nature of human life and the costs of taking it.

The Genocide Film Series is sponsored by the Nanovic Institute for European Studies, the Notre Dame Holocaust Project, the Center for Social Concerns and the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center.

Contact Marty Schroeder at mschroed@nd.edu
Rama: Magic is an art form built around misdirection. In film, its first cousin is the thriller, a genre where, like a fragile deck of cards, deceits and ruses are layered one on top of the other.

With his 2006 film "The Prestige," director Christopher Nolan melded the two pursuits together in hopes of conjuring the greatest magic trick the cinema had ever seen. The result is a superb film about the devotion of two illusionists to their craft, and the darkness that drives them to pursue their great triumphs.

At the heart of "The Prestige" lies a rivalry between two Victorian-era stage magicians, Robert Angier (Hugh Jackman) and Alfred Borden (Christian Bale). Angier is the more gifted showman but he lacks Borden's ingenuity and passion for creating new tricks. When his wife Julia (Piper Perabo) drowns after a water tank illusion goes awry, Angier is inconsolable and blames Borden. A friendship built upon a mutual admiration dissolves, replaced by a vindictive, near murderous, need to prove himself. Angier and Borden go into the film's careful set and costume design and its dark, moody, and often beautiful look.

The other only feature is "The Art of the Prestige," a gallery of production stills, posters, costumes and sets, all arranged in slideshow fashion. It's a fun addition but is often the most lightly regarded extra on much larger discs like the superlative "Lord of the Rings" extended editions. Here, it seems like more effort was spent on the DVD's charming and elegant menu system than the special features that system hosts.

Fortunately, the movie itself looks and sounds great. With deep, rich colors and a dimly-lit scenes, the video, especially, is a beautiful film to watch. Nolan and his production crew take advantage of the visually appealing Victorian era as a setting, creating a rich, textured world for viewers to pore over with their eyes.

So, with all of these redeeming qualities, what costs the DVD release of "The Prestige" to fall short of the mark?

The answer basically comes down to the film's storytelling. Nolan's plan in making the movie was to create a mystery within a mystery, and in order to do this effectively, the narrative of the film must make sense, which it turns out is far from the case. Nolan's execution of this technique is clumsy and confusing. Viewers are left trying to figure out how the narrative is working as they can spend enjoying it, which is not a good sign. One tagline for "The Prestige" recommended multiple viewings, presumably for enjoyment, but those could be necessary just to understand the convoluted storytelling.

It is a shame that the method of storytelling has such glaring flaws, for the rest of the film itself is exceptional, especially when compared to its contemporaneous competitor, "The Illusionist." The potential here was high, but Nolan miscalculated his approach to the film and did not achieve that potential.

Nevertheless, "The Prestige" is an entertaining, if not great, film and deserves better treatment than it has received on DVD. Two, yes, two special features fill out the disc to give fans a peek into how the film was made. These features are insightful and well done, but their brevity and paucity detracts from the experience they begin to promise. Finally, an inconsistent sound quality during the film perhaps indicates a lack of studio effort in putting together the DVD for "The Prestige."

Overall, the DVD of "The Prestige" is a very mixed package. Excellent plot, acting, directing and set design exist in a confusing method of storytelling and on a single-disc DVD that is painfully light on special features. This ultimately makes for an entertaining rental that disappoints because of what it could have been.

Contact Rama Gottumukkala at gottumukkala@nd.edu and Sean Sweany at sweany@nd.edu.
A closer look at the other side of the Oscars

“Departed” lovers out there, let me say that I loved this film. It was fantastic. But the continuation of two stories — the greatness of the film and the fact that Martin Scorsese, who had never won an Oscar for directing, helmed it — made me ask a question. Was it a foregone conclusion that Whitaker would win the Oscar for directing and his film would win Best Picture by association? Let me put it this way: if Stephen Sommers — the director of the awful “Mummy” films and the even more abominable “Van Helsing” — had directed “The Departed,” would it have received so much attention to win the Oscars for directing and picture? Probably not.

The point here is that actors, directors and films can receive unfair benefits or disadvantages based on their name, association or particular marketing campaign. Take for example, Johnny Depp’s Best Actor nomination in 2004 for playing Captain Jack Sparrow in Disney’s “Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man’s Chest.” It was hard to deny that his performance was better than any of his competitors from that year, including Forest Whitaker (who won for “Mystic River” or Bill Murray for “Lost in Translation.” But this was quietly Johnny Depp, acting in a popcorn-munching effects-laden, summer blockbuster Disney movie. There was no chance that the Academy would deem him (and the movie as a whole) worthy of one of their awards. The situation is somewhat akin to the Heisman Trophy award in its convoluted nature. In 2005, Reggie Bush won college football because he was the best player on the team everyone believed to be the best in the country. Nevertheless that Vince Young was more talented, a better leader on his team and ultimately more deserving of the award. Bush’s highlights saturated the ESPN family of networks, he and USC were media darlings and the result, as they say, is history.

The Academy Awards seem like they could be following victims to this predilection of allowing the media and Hollywood politics to help determine who should and does win. Were Forest Whitaker or “The Departed” really deserving winners or did the hype machine help them win? Perhaps a better question is whether the hype machine is avoidable or not — it probably isn’t — or even a new phenomenon — it’s not. When you look at it that way, you can’t really complain, just watch “The Last King of Scotland” and “The Departed” and wait until next year’s Academy Awards.

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

Contact Sean Sweany at ssweany@nd.edu

Classic ‘Indemnity’ gets double treatment on DVD

By BRIAN DOXTADER
Scene Editor

A man bleeding from a gunshot wound stumbles into his office, turns on a dictating machine and tersely admits he is a murderer in Hollywood. It’s also interesting to think that this seedy tale of adultery, murder and greed was released in 1944, a time when Hollywood was still regulated by the Hays Code — its glorious Purdonia is one of the most alluring aspects of “Double Indemnity,” even 60 years later.

“Double Indemnity,” along with the original 1953 “King Kong” and “The African Queen,” is one of the last American Film Institute’s 100 Greatest Films to come to DVD. Universal finally rectified this at the end of last year, releasing the film in a two-disc special edition with a re-mastered print and sound. “Double Indemnity” certainly looks good on DVD, with relatively clean picture, especially considering that the film is over 60 years old. There is a Dolby Digital 2.0 Mono audio track, and a pair of commentaries, one from Richard Schickel and one from Lem Dobbs and Nick Rodman.

There are only two special features, but they’re both pretty interesting. The first is a new documentary, “Shadows of Suspense,” which explores the film and its impact. The other is the 1973 “Double Indemnity” TV movie, which really proves just how powerful Wilder’s film is.

“Double Indemnity” is one of the great film noirs, and some would argue it’s the greatest. Critic Roger Ebert once claimed that film noir is not a genre of detectives and mysteries, but of ordinary people who find within themselves the capacity for great evil. In that respect, “Double Indemnity” is a prototypical film noir. Neff commits horrific crimes, but it ends on an oddly sympathetic note. As if to say that yes, man has the capacity for great evil, but the capacity for great dignity as well.

Contact Brian Doxtader at bdoxtader@nd.edu

Forest Whitaker, left, poses with his Best Actor Oscar for “The Last King of Scotland” while Martin Scorsese holds his first Best Director Oscar at this year’s awards.

DVD REVIEW

Classical ‘Indemnity’ gets double treatment on DVD

By BRIAN DOXTADER
Scene Editor

A man bleeding from a gunshot wound stumbles into his office, turns on a dictating machine and tersely admits he is a murderer.

So begins “Double Indemnity,” Billy Wilder’s 1944 film noir masterpiece, and a cornerstone of American cinema. “Double Indemnity” arrived near the height of film noir’s popularity and success, standing alongside (and some would argue above) noir classics like “Laura,” “The Postman Always Rings Twice” and “The Big Sleep.” The film has been a long time coming on DVD, and has finally arrived in a respectable package that pays homage in the considerable influence it has had on Hollywood.

“Double Indemnity,” based on James M. Cain’s 1943 novel “Three of a Kind,” follows insurance agent Walter Neff (Fred MacMurray), who is seduced by femme fatale Phyllis Dietrichson (Barbara Stanwyck) into killing her husband to collect the insurance money. Unfortunately for Neff, after the hit goes as planned, his boss Barton Keyes (Edward G. Robinson) takes over the murder investigation.

Is there a more under-appreciated director in Hollywood history than Billy Wilder? “Double Indemnity” was his first masterpiece, but the filmmaker would go on to helm such classics as “The Lost Weekend,” “Sunset Boulevard,” “Stalag 17,” “The Seven Year Itch,” “The Spirit of St. Louis,” “Some Like It Hot” and “The Apartment” over the course of a several decade career.

What makes “Double Indemnity” so effective is Wilder’s inventive and atmospheric use of lighting and his moody sense of purpose, which drives the film throughout. He also gets some of the best work out of veteran actors like MacMurray, Stanwyck and Robinson, all of whom ignite the picture with a creasing sense of paranoia.

It’s also interesting to think that this seedy tale of adultery, murder and greed was released in 1944, a time when Hollywood was still regulated by the Hays Code — its glorious Purdonia is one of the most alluring aspects of “Double Indemnity,” even 60 years later.

“Double Indemnity,” along with the original 1953 “King Kong” and “The African Queen,” is one of the last American Film Institute’s 100 Greatest Films to come to DVD. Universal finally rectified this at the end of last year, releasing the film in a two-disc special edition with a re-mastered print and sound. “Double Indemnity” certainly looks good on DVD, with relatively clean picture, especially considering that the film is over 60 years old. There is a Dolby Digital 2.0 Mono audio track, and a pair of commentaries, one from Richard Schickel and one from Lem Dobbs and Nick Rodman.

There are only two special features, but they’re both pretty interesting. The first is a new documentary, “Shadows of Suspense,” which explores the film and its impact. The other is the 1973 “Double Indemnity” TV movie, which really proves just how powerful Wilder’s film is.

“Double Indemnity” is one of the great film noirs, and some would argue it’s the greatest. Critic Roger Ebert once claimed that film noir is not a genre of detectives and mysteries, but of ordinary people who find within themselves the capacity for great evil. In that respect, “Double Indemnity” is a prototypical film noir. Neff commits horrific crimes, but it ends on an oddly sympathetic note. As if to say that yes, man has the capacity for great evil, but the capacity for great dignity as well.

Contact Brian Doxtader at bdoxtader@nd.edu

Forest Whitaker, left, poses with his Best Actor Oscar for “The Last King of Scotland” while Martin Scorsese holds his first Best Director Oscar at this year’s awards.

DVD REVIEW

Classic ‘Indemnity’ gets double treatment on DVD

By BRIAN DOXTADER
Scene Editor

A man bleeding from a gunshot wound stumbles into his office, turns on a dictating machine and tersely admits he is a murderer.

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Contact Brian Doxtader at bdoxtader@nd.edu
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Vols topple defending champs in home finale

No. 12 Panthers best Mountaineers 80-66

Associated Press

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — Chris Lofton scored 21 points, and Tennessee pulled away from No. 5 West Virginia after a first-half 11-0 run to hold on for an 86-76 victory Tuesday night.

Jas Ingram added 16 points for Tennessee and Rama Smith and Dane Bradshaw each had 10 points.

The Gators (25-5, 12-3 Southeastern Conference) suffered a surprising setback during the Cougars' 62-58 upset. Bradshaw, before the final home game, Bradshaw made go-ahead layups in each of the Vols' starts last year over Florida.

The Gators had an easier time against Tennessee in Gainesville, winning 94-78, while Tennessee was playing without Lofton because he had a sprained right ankle.

The Gators finished undefeated at home for the first time since 1975-76, and a near-capacity crowd of 24,047 saw the home finale.

No. 12 Pittsburgh 80

West Virginia 66

Associated Press

Pitt displayed No. 12 Pittsburgh at its best. Aaron Gray scoring consistently and leading Kevin Cook to make it difficult on opponents inside, and Mike Cook and Ronald Ramon hitting 3-pointers to extend runs and build leads.

What a conundrum. It is keep this going for, say, another five weeks.

But this was the Volunteers' night. With Lady Vols coach Pat Summit dressing as a cheerleader and singing "Rocky Top" and Super Bowl MVP Peyton Manning watching his alumnus, Tennessee (21-9, 9-6) finished the season 16-0 at home.

The Vols dominated Florida during the Cougars' 62-58 surprise win.

The Gators rallied from 18 points down against Alabama on Feb. 14 to win 76-67. It was the biggest deficit overcome by a team coached by Billy Donovan, and they looked poised for another miracle comeback. However, Tennessee couldn't sustain a rally.

After pulling to within eight, the Gators ran it to nine three times, but the final 1:58 featured seven trips to the foul line for Tennessee. The Gators went 8-14 in free throws down the stretch.

In the first half, Florida was leading 17-16 with 13:48 left after Horford scored and as Bradshaw's basket over Noah space the big man. When Chokwe Crews scored with 8:03 left to end it, the Vols were up 33-17.

Noah had another off night, scoring only eight of his points in Florida's late run.

Appropriately, the Vols honored their lone senior, Bradshaw, before the final home game. Bradshaw made go-ahead layups in each of the Vols' starts last year over Florida.

The Gators had an easier time against Tennessee in Gainesville, winning 94-78, while Tennessee was playing without Lofton because he had a sprained right ankle.

Tennessee forward Wayne Chism dunks over Florida forward Taurean green during the Volunteers' 86-76 upset of the No. 4 Gators.

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**NHL**

**Eastern Conference, Atlantic Division**

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**Eastern Conference, Northeast Division**

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**USA Today/USA Hockey Magazine Men's Hockey**

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<td>3 Mankato</td>
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**NBA**

**Clippers guard Shaun Livingston was carted off the court Monday night during Los Angeles’ 100-93 win over the Charlotte Bobcats. Livingston tore three of the four ligaments in his left knee and dislocated his patella while driving to the basket.**

**Torn ligaments end Livingston’s season**

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Clippers point guard Shaun Livingston will be out 8-12 months after tearing three of the four ligaments in his left knee while driving to the basket against Charlotte.

"It’s probably the most serious injury you can have to the knee," Clippers physician Dr. Tony Daly said Tuesday. "He might miss all of next year.

Livingston had an MRI exam Tuesday which revealed tears in the interior cruciate ligament, posterior cruciate ligament, medial collateral ligament and lateral meniscus. He also dislocated his patella, besides the previously diagnosed dislocation of his tibia-femoral. As a rookie in 2004, he dislocated his right knee.

Livingston was driving to the basket on a fast break Monday night, went up for a layup, and his left knee contorted as he collapsed in pain. A team doctor had to pop his knee back into place to alleviate the pain.

"He came down on the leg without any contact with anybody. It’s a freak accident, that’s for sure," said Daly, who has rarely seen anything similar in 24 years of practice. He said the injury is more commonly associated with contact sports such as football and rugby.

Daly will solicit various medical opinions over the next two weeks, after which Livingston will have arthroscopic surgery, the doctor said. It wasn’t yet decided if all three ligaments would be repaired at once.

Daly said Livingston did not tear an artery or damage any of the nerves in his knee, which can be serious complications.

"If everything goes well, he could be back playing as soon as eight months," Daly said. "My nature is to be conservative. I’ve seen people who’ve had this done by other people and it hasn’t worked out.

Livingston, a three-year veteran who was drafted by the Clippers out of high school, has been hampered by injuries and has yet to play a full season in the NBA.

He sat out two games in January with a sprained right ankle. He missed 39 games during his rookie season because of a dislocated right knee, and another 12 that season because of torn cartilage in his right shoulder. Last season he sat out the first 21 games with a stress reaction in his lower back.

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**IN BRIEF**

**Oilers trade Smyth to Islanders before deadline**

The New York Islanders kept their leading scorer and nabbed the Edmonton Oilers go that makes the Edmonton Oilers go. Just minutes before the NHL trading deadline expired Tuesday afternoon, the Islanders plucked Ryan Smyth away from the Oilers after deciding to hold onto Jason Blake.

New York’s big deal trumped those made earlier in the day that sent Bill Guerin from the St. Louis Blues to the San Jose Sharks, Todd Bertuzzi from Florida to Detroit, and longtime Kings captain Mattias Norstrom from Los Angeles to Dallas.

True to form, the final ‘dealing day’ was very busy. The 25 trades made in the final six hours before the deadline matched last year for the most active in NHL history. The 30 clubs moved 44 players, two shy of the mark set in 2006.

**Duke committee finds need for increased diversity**

RALPHI, N.C. — Duke University needs to become more diverse, inclusive and engaged, a committee concluded Tuesday in its evaluation of campus culture following rape allegations involving the lacrosse team.

"It’s our opinion that the appropriate time to make changes is now," said the committee, which was not identifying the members.

Duke will solicit various medical opinions over the next two weeks.

"It wasn’t yet decided if all three ligaments would be repaired at once. Daly said Livingston did not tear an artery or damage any of the nerves in his knee, which can be serious complications. "If everything goes well, he could be back playing as soon as eight months," Daly said. "My nature is to be conservative. I’ve seen people who’ve had this done by other people and it hasn’t worked out. Livingston, a three-year veteran who was drafted by the Clippers out of high school, has been hampered by injuries and has yet to play a full season in the NBA. He sat out two games in January with a sprained right ankle. He missed 39 games during his rookie season because of a dislocated right knee, and another 12 that season because of torn cartilage in his right shoulder. Last season he sat out the first 21 games with a stress reaction in his lower back."

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**Safin defeats Kouba while battling tough winds**

LAS VEGAS — Marat Safin beat Stefan Kouba of Austria 7-5, 6-2 in his opening round-robin match at the Tennis Channel Open on Tuesday.

The third-seeded Russian, now 3-0 in his career against Kouba, had to adapt going winds of up to 32 mph throughout his match.

"It is very difficult to play your very best tennis. You just try to stay as cool as you can and try to attack. That is the only way to try and control the ball," said Safin.

Safin never trailed and never faced a break point. He made 83 percent of his second serve points compared to 63 percent for Kouba.

Second-seeded Lleyton Hewitt of Australia triumphed over Vincent Spadea 6-3, 6-3.

Hewitt, a two-time event champion and a 2006 finalist, led throughout Tuesday’s match.
BASEBALL HALL OF FAME

Vets committee issues veto
election with 57 of 65 necessary votes

Ron Santo closest to

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The Hall of Fame is one - vote short.
Ron Santo, Jim Kaat, Marvin Miller and all the other can-
didates were left out Tuesday when the Veterans Commit-
tee admitted no new members for the third straight election.

The blank slate could lead to changes before the next vote in
2009.

"We're being blamed because something hasn't happened." Hall member and vice chair-
man Joe Morgan said. "If you're asking me, 'Do we lower our standards to get more peo-
ple in?' my answer would be no."

Santo came the closest to the required 75 percent. A nine-
time All-Star, the former Cubs third baseman was picked on
57 of 82 ballots (70 percent). Players needed 62 for election.
Kaat, a 283-game winner and strongly backed by hall mem-
ber Mike Schmidt, drew 52 votes. Gil Hodges, who hit 370
home runs, got 50 votes and three-time A batting champion
tony Oliva had 47.

Umpire Doug Harvey received 62 of the necessary 61 votes on the ballot for managers, umpires and
the union head who led players to four-agent riches, showed a
strong increase in getting 51 of the potential 81 voters.

The vets committee was revampad after charges of cor-
ruption when it elected Bill Mazeroski in 2001. That
marked the eighth straight year the 15-member panel sent
someone to Cooperstown.

The 84 eligible voters on the vets committee included 61 Hall mem-
bers, 14 broadcasters, eight writers and one holdover
from the previous panel.

Morgan said he voted for the
maximum 10 players.

"I feel there are some guys out there that belong in the Hall of
Fame," he said. "The writers voted on those people for 15
years and they weren't elected. Why are we being criticized be-
cause we haven't elected someone?"

Maury Wills, Joe Torre, Roger
Maris, Luis Tiant and Bobby
Bonds were among the 27 can-
didates on the players ballot.

"Nobody got in? That's too
bad. I'm sorry to hear that,"
Torre said. "I'm not exactly sure
what process they use. Don't forget, you've got the old
umpire and the young guard.
People with different interests.

Torre drew 32 percent of the
votes based on his playing career. The New York Yankees
manager — and former NL MVP — is expected to be elec-
ted when his name in the dugout
is considered.

"Joe Torre, when he retires and he has 6,000 votes or what-
ever, I think that people would vote for him," Morgan said.

Dick Williams, Whitey Herzog,
Walter O'Malley and Charlie O.
Finley also were among the 15 names on the composite ballot.

Santo said it was hard to pick from those
candidates.

"It is difficult for some of the
players or me to evaluate their per-
formance on a Hall of Fame level. It is much easier for me to eval-
uate the players," Morgan said.

Morgan received 63 percent, moving up from 44 percent in
the previous election.

"Personally, I would love to
see him get in," Torre said at the
Yankees' spring camp in Tampa, Fla. "It's made such an impact on this modern play-
er and the game itself."

Union head Donald Fehr said
it was "profoundly disappoint-
ing" that Miller did not get
enough support.

"Given the increased number of votes for Marvin this time, there is certainly reason to be
concerned that the votes will be there in the future," he said.

Two years ago, Santo and Hodges each came within eight votes of election in drawing 65
percent.

Santo was a five-time Gold
Glove winner and hit 342 home
runs.

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Everything was going fine until President
Bush dropped the ball.

Bush honored the Miami Heat championship basketball
team on Tuesday, joking with players in his usual man-
er.

But Shaquille O'Neal got the last laugh when Budi-
ted to hoon a basketball in the
7-foot-1 star.

It thudled flat on the stage.

Bush looked startled as O'Neal and his
teammates laughed.

As Bush landed the Heat in the East
Boom, fans in Miami had to wonder if this season's
championship aspirations have also fallen flat after star
Dwyane Wade diluted his left shoulder last Wednesday.

Wade, one of the top scorers in
All-Star voting, came with his
left arm in a sling. He intends to
decide by the end of the week whether to have season-
ending surgery or enter a rehab program that could get
him on the court in weeks.

"It's eventually surgery," Wade said, according to
AllNba.com.

"It's also an opportunity in that I can opt for the rehab
and get stronger and be able to make a return by the end of
the season, I'm feeling as good as I can feel. My spirits are high
and that's the main thing. I'm not feeling good because I'm
not on the court and I'm not playing with my teammates
but my spirits are high."

The president wished the
heat to

Dwyane Wade
Heat guard

"We wish you a speedy recov-
ery, Dwyane."

The president noted that the team has overcome obstacles
before, losing the first two games to the Dallas Mavericks
before winning four straight to start the finals.

"It was a team effort that got these men here to the
White House," Bush said as the players stood behind him.

"They had the players, everybody knew who the stars
are, but it was the capacity to play together, to put the team
ahead of themself. They enabled them to be here at the
White House," the president said.

Still, there was some star treat-
ment on Tuesday. Most of the team
entered the room, and the three big
names had a separate entrance — O'Neal, Wade and
celebrity coach Pat Riley.

The president called O'Neal "one of the most well-known
figures in the United States of America."

"Standing next to Shaq," Bush said, "is an awe-inspir-
ing experience." The champi-
onship was the first in the 18-
year history of the Heat, and it
came from a few famous NBA play-
ers, like guard Gary Payton and
center Antonio McDyess.

Bush devoted most of his comments to praising individ-
ual Heat players for their charity work.

Biley gave a jersey and then
told the audience: "I voted for the man. If you don't
vote you don't count."

Addressing reporters later, Biley changed that after he had
injected politics into the cere-
money. "I'm pro-American,
pro-democracy, I'm pro-gov-
erment," the coach said. "I
follow my boss. He's my boss."
Wednesday, February 28, 2007

The Observer • SPORTS

NBA

League renews All-Star pledge to New Orleans

Questions of city's infrastructure raised after Vegas display

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The NBA and its players' association reiterated their commitment to New Orleans on Tuesday, a day after union director Billy Hunter said he could sue over the league's plans to host its next All-Star game there.

Hunter plans to fly to New Orleans next week for his first visit to the city since Hurricane Katrina, and will meet with city officials and look into accommodations for players and their guests. He also said he has a number of meetings planned with commissioner David Stern to discuss plans for next year's festivities.

On Monday, Hunter told Newsday that, "If the union is not convinced that the city can accommodate the All-Star game, it's an issue that will be subject to litigation between the union and the league."

However, Hunter said he was just speaking hypothetically and would only act if he felt the safety of his players was in jeopardy. He said he anticipated no problems, adding that a number of Hornets players look forward to their return to the city.

"If things for some reason or other were to degenerate to the level where everybody was alarmed, where it just wouldn't make sense to go, in that instance I could always initiate a lawsuit," he said. "That's not to say I'd prevail, but clearly I could do that. But we're nowhere near that, and it's a hypothetical situation to begin with."

The Hornets have spent most of the two seasons since Katrina in Oklahoma City, but will return to New Orleans full-time next season. To show its commitment to the city, the NBA announced last year that it would stage next year's All-Star weekend in New Orleans.

Hunter was responding to questions about whether New Orleans could handle the event, after there were hundreds of arrests and complaints about the crowds during All-Star weekend in Las Vegas. But while Hunter and Stern have expressed concern over the direction of the rebuilding efforts, both sides expect a successful weekend.

"We're looking forward to New Orleans playing host to next year's All-Star events and are equally excited about the Hornets' return to the city next season," Stern said in a statement. "The reports we have received about other major events and conventions recently held in New Orleans have been very positive, and we fully expect All-Star 2008 to be a great success."

"We're alarmed, where it just wouldn't make sense to go, in that instance I could always initiate a lawsuit," he said. "That's not to say I'd prevail, but clearly I could do that. But we're nowhere near that, and it's a hypothetical situation to begin with."
Strength
continued from page 24

freak, benched 225 pounds 25 times — far from spectacular for a defensive lineman. Michigan's Alan Branch and Arkansas' Knith Jackson — no relations — managed 33 reps. Joe Cohen from Florida put the bar up 34 times.

But the median most feared defensive end, UCLA's Justin Hickman, did 23 reps of 225.

Maybe the bench isn't the be-all, end-all.

Let's look a little closer.

Along with Hickman, who was listed at 263 pounds — seven less than Abiarniri — UCLA had Kevin Brown (293 pounds) and Brigham Harwell (266) as its starting tackles. By comparison, former Irish defensive tackle Derek Landri was listed at 277, while fellow tackle Trevor Laws is at 283. On the inside, Notre Dame gave up 10 more pounds per player than did UCLA, and the lighter Hickman benefited.

To be fair, Landri clocked in with 24 reps at 225, beating only five of 20 competitors in his group. And yet, Landri had a year that deserved All-America consideration. He finished with 15.5 tackles for loss, including seven sacks.

Hardly a result of too little muscle mass, right?

Well, not quite.

Landri benefited from the defense's inability to get the opponent off the field. He had extra plays on which to bring down running backs behind the line, because too often, the opposition would tear through the Irish defense on the next play and mitigate any prior defensive stop.

A large part of Notre Dame's failure to stop offenses was the lack of a pass rush, and the relative lightness of the Irish defensive line was an unfortunate compounding factor. Against Michigan State's spread offense, the Irish offensive line barely outweighed the Spartans defensive line by 10 pounds per player. On the flip side, Michigan State held a 30-pound edge per lineman when the

Spartans were on offense.

It's no wonder the Irish couldn't control the line of scrimmage and get a running game going that September night.

The question then is, what's the proper formula?

The defensive unit needs to be fast on the ends and big in the middle.

With the implementation of the 3-4 personnel, it's only fair to wait and see how the conditioning staff deals with the new configuration. But the offensive line needs to get bigger.

Ryan Harris was an All-America candidate and Notre Dame's most effective man on the offensive line, according to Irish coach Charlie Weis. Yet he didn't meet the hype, nor by a mile.

Harris, who weighed in over 300 pounds, did 22 reps of 225 this week, while fellow former Irish lineman Dan Santucci did 23. While they weren't at the bottom, neither came close to the top end of the offensive linemen in the drill.

Both Harris and Santucci, along with fifth-year applicant John Sullivan, were recruited for Tyrone Willingham's "West Coast" offense. The formula then might have been smaller, faster offensive linemen. But it sure hasn't worked in the pro-style sets Charlie Weis runs. The Irish offensive line got beat all season in 2006, and beat badly.

If it wants to be successful in 2007, Notre Dame must control the line of scrimmage. No first-year starting quarterback, no matter how good, can be expected to operate at any level close to what Brady Quinn did behind the porous offensive line.

The starters need to be physical and strong. Fast is good, but it's tough to run screens when you can't run up the gut.

So if this week is the impetus for any revelation, it should be this one: It's time to bulk up.

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

Contact Ken Fowler at kfowlerJ@nd.edu

The Office of Student Affairs is now accepting nominations for the

Denny Moore Award

For Excellence in Journalism

Candidates must be seniors who exemplify the qualities for which Denny Moore was known, including personal integrity and character, commitment to Notre Dame, and writing ability.

Candidates may be nominated by faculty, staff, or fellow students.

For a nomination form, please visit our website at:

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Nominations are due by Friday, March 2, 2007.

Recycle The Observer.
A CONVERSATION ABOUT:
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**Sawatske**

continued from page 24

short list of contenders to take the title from Wisconsin next month.

Sawatske, along with fellow seniors Wes O'Neill and Noah Babine, has helped to anchor the top-ranked defense in the country this season.

"I felt like I had a lot more to give and I wanted to go somewhere where I could get a little better degree," he said. "Notre Dame was a perfect fit for me."

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Irish guard Russell Carter returns to his home state of New Jersey to lead the Irish against Rutgers Saturday.

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**Hurley**

continued from page 24

Richmond a month later, Hurley ascended to second in the weekly rankings.

But that wasn't even good enough for first in her house.

Hurley's younger sister, Courtney, is an epee prodigy of her own. The younger Hurley took first in the cadet division (under-16) in Albuquerque and also played on the U.S. under-18 team with Babine and Tim Williams, who played right wing for Notre Dame last year. That team went on to win a gold medal in the 2002 World Championships.

"Nush and I have been buddies for a while. It was a familiar situation and I was really excited about the opportunity," Sawatske said.

Sawatske, who joined the team in head coach Jeff Jackson's first season, was also used to adjusting to a new coaching staff. He arrived at Wisconsin just as Mike Eaves was taking over their program and the two teams went through many of the same trials under new leaders.

The 5-foot-11, 196-pound Sawatske fit in well under Jackson's new system, one that stressed puck control and defensive hockey. Although he does not fill up the net on a regular basis (three goals and four assists this season) defensive play has earned him the respect of his teammates and coaches.

"I'm just trying to go out every night and shut down whatever line Wes and I are playing against," Sawatske said. "I try to help us out on defense when I can, but mainly my goal is just to keep the opposing team off the scoreboard."

If Sawatske and the rest of the six-handed monster that is the Notre Dame defensive corps can continue to keep opponents off the scoreboard, Sawatske's former teammates may be watching his victory lap this April.

Contact Dan Murphy at dmurphy6@nd.edu

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**Rutgers**

continued from page 24

low.

Notre Dame, on the other hand, has a lot riding on this game. A bye in the Big East tournament would be unwarranted.

The Irish are just 3-11 all-time at the tournament and seniors Gibb Falh and Russell Carter are just 1-3 in their careers. To overcome history like that, Notre Dame will need to be on a roll going to New York. Losing to one of the Big East's worst teams just days before the tournament could be devastating.

In addition, a bye is not assured if the Irish lose. The Orange are on the bubble for an NCAA berth and should beat a Wildcats team that has been inconsistent for most of this season. If that happens, Notre Dame will need to beat Rutgers to take the debocker from 11-5 Syracuse.

A bye will be important for the Irish not only because just one team has ever won the Big East tournament without earning a bye, but also because having a bye gives Notre Dame positive publicity in the eyes of the NCAA Tournament selection committee.

Although the difference is only one place in the Big East standings, a fourth-place Irish squad with a bye would likely earn a higher seed than a fifth-place team forced to play in the first round in New York.

The Big Dance

The Rutgers men will have a direct effect on Notre Dame's seed for the NCAA tournament. The Scarlet Knights are currently ranked 205 in the RPI, according to collegerp.com. A loss to them would be devastating to Notre Dame's own RPI, which is currently 22. Most experts, including ESPN's Joe Lunardi, are projecting the Irish as high as a five or six seed based on other factors, like Notre Dame's 6-3 record against the Big East and its win over Ferris State Saturday.

Notre Dame might want to make sure Rutgers can help themselves in the NCAAs as the line, the Rutgers game suddenly means a whole lot.

Contact Chris Khoory at ckhooey@nd.edu

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**Irish fencing**

Tom Sawatske Irish fencer

Kelley Hurley, right, battles Ohio State's Alexandra Obrazanova in the Notre Dame Duals Jan. 20. Hurley is 5-4 this season.
JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

KORPE

HAFFC

SUTTRY

THORCC

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THE OBSERVER

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Badgering for a chance

Sawatske hungers for title after transferring from Wisconsin to ND

By DAN MURPHY
Sports Writer

Last spring, as the Wisconsin Badgers took home their sixth national championship in Milwaukee, Irish defenseman Tom Sawatske was forced to watch his former teammates celebrate their victory from his apartment.

Sawatske transferred from Madison to South Bend prior to his junior season after playing for the Badgers in the first two years of his collegiate career. The senior played in 54 games for Wisconsin while picking up 3 goals and 11 assists from his spot on the blue line, but chose to leave for both hockey and academic reasons.

"I was happy for all the guys that I played with. They deserved it," Sawatske said. "But at the same time it was kind of tough to know that you could have been there."

It didn't seem likely at the time — Notre Dame had finished its season at 13-17-4 — but Sawatske may get a second chance at a championship. The No. 1 Irish are certainly on a roll.

Irish defenseman Tom Sawatske fights for the puck with two Ferris State icons during Notre Dame's 5-2 loss to the Bulldogs Friday. Sawatske joined the Irish last season after transferring from Wisconsin.

see SAWATSKE/page 22

FENCING

Hurley learned to fence at 'dinner'

By KEN FOWLER
Sports Editor

Kelly Hurley is the youngest fencer for Notre Dame, but she just might be the best.

The freshman epeeist is 5-1-4, 100 pounds, 16 years old at the time, she climbed her way up the national and world rankings.

Hurley, who learned fencing from her parents, Tracy and Robert, became the youngest U.S. women's epee junior champion in 2004 after taking the national crown as a 14-year-old. The junior circuit is open to all fencers under 19.

"Fencing has always been taught at the dinner table," she said. "And everywhere else."

After taking first in the junior competition at the North American Cup (NAC) event in Albuquerque, N.M., last November and second in the senior NAC competition in Indianapolis throw into question whether one of Notre Dame's freshmen will earn its first NCAA Tournament berth this season.

see HURLEY/page 22

MEN'S BASKETBALL ANALYSIS

Overlooking Rutgers could cost ND

On the surface, No. 17/22 Notre Dame's matchup against Rutgers Saturday means little. The Irish (25-6, 10-5 Big East) can wrap up a bye in the Big East tournament even with a loss and are a fair bet to make the NCAA Tournament.

For the Scarlet Knights (10-18, 3-12 Big East), the game will be their last this season regardless of the outcome.

In reality, Saturday's matchup can have tremendous impact. For Rutgers, a win over Notre Dame would give a positive ending to an otherwise dreadful season. The Scarlet Knights have nothing to play for except an upset over a top-25 team. They will be motivated to play with reckless abandon, because they have nothing to lose.

see RUTGERS/page 22

SPORTS

AT A GLANCE

NBA
Veterans committee refuses new members to Hall of Fame for third straight year.

MLB
2006 champs Heat visit White House as Dwayne Wade ponders surgery.

NCAA BASKETBALL

Kansas State 86 Florida 76
Chris Lofton scores 21 points in Volunteers upset.

NCAA BASKETBALL

Pittsburgh 80 West Virginia 66
The Panthers capture Big East title in win.

NCAA BASKETBALL

Big Ten Young 62 Air Force 50
The Cougars snap Air Force's 20-game home winning streak.