NCAA hockey costs jump for fans

$55 increase Regionals passes since 2004 keeps some students away from weekend action

By KEN FOWLER
News Writer

Three years and a 12-place jump in the polls apparently caused Notre Dame students to take note of the inclusion of the Fighting Irish in the NCAA hockey regional later this month, which the Office of Research has been supporting with a $55 increase Regionals passes since 2004.

Students race in Dame's only previous game in the NCAA hockey tournament. He got a bus trip, a box lunch and a multi-game pass for $10. But as the no-No. 1 Irish prepare to host BC in the Huntley tonight, students will be paying more than six times the amount they paid three years ago for a chance to see the Irish on the ice.

"I was kind of surprised that they weren't doing something with regard to the ticket prices," said McDermott, who is driving to tonight's game.

The increase in cost is not the result of Notre Dame raising prices but rather the athletic department's decision not to subsidize the ticket cost for students as it did in 2004.

"That would be something you'd have to do on your own," associate athletic director John Heisler said of a subsidy for student tickets. "We can do whatever we want, but for the tickets that we receive from the NCAA, there's only one price. It's not like they provide a room student discount." Nonetheless, Ticket Office director Josh Berlo said Notre Dame had sold 125 three-day passes to students for this year's action after selling 115 such passes in 2004. As a whole, the Notre Dame ticket office has sold approximately 265 three-game passes at $65 apiece for this weekend's events, said Matt McCormack, coordinator of athletic promotions.

But for sophomore Anna Jones, the cost was too steep.

Jones, who attended the team's conference playoff games and often lined up near two hours before Irish hockey home contests, said she immediately decided against going when she saw the dollar figure for the tickets. She said

see HOCKEY/page 4

Holy Half benefits Helping Hands

By KATIE PERALTA
News Writer

More than 375 students, faculty and staff members and South Bend residents will get ready set and run Sunday at 10 a.m. in the third-annual Holy Half Marathon, a 13.1-mile race around the Notre Dame campus to benefit charitable organizations.

Holy Half director Kathleen Overcick, a junior, said the race raised more than $6,000 last year to benefit Catholic Charities — a figure organizers hope to surpass this weekend.

Sponsored by the Class of 2000, Notre Dame Women's Running Club, the race will collect money to benefit Hurricane Katrina victims in Louisiana through Operation Helping Hands, a volunteer program under the umbrella of Catholic Charities.

Jen Richard, presidential of the Women's Running Club, said the race promised to be a good time and for a good cause.

"The Holy Half is a fun, well-organized race," Richard said. "The Holy Half Marathon organizing committee does an amazing job, and they deserve a lot of credit."

Holy Half organizers said Operation Helping Hands' dedication to the continued relief of the Greater New Orleans area devastated by Hurricane Katrina made the charity an ideal destination for the race's funds.

The program organizes a large volunteer corps of several 10-15 person groups who travel to Louisiana to volunteer their time and labor for different time periods, ranging from a few hours to several weeks.

see MARATHON/page 4

Research office updates software, bookkeeping

By KAITLYNN RILEY
Assistant News Editor

The Office of Research recently introduced two new initiatives — a change to the business process and the implementation of a new type of electronic research software — to streamline research procedures at Notre Dame.

For faculty researchers like chemical and biomolecular engineering professor Edward Maginn, these new systems will make filing research proposals and tracking grants much easier.

A new business system

Under the new business system, which the Office of Research started in December, Maginn has three research administrators assigned to his proposals — a pre-award research administrator, a post-award administrator and a research accountant.

This new team is helpful because the management and tracking of a research project can be a time-consuming process, Maginn said. The federal government requires that research proposals go through Grants.gov. "It's a really complicated software interface," Maginn said.

Just figuring out how to turn in the proposal can take several hours, he said. "It's too time-hard of expertise," Maginn said. "The nice

see RESEARCH/page 6

Bruton discusses US-EU relations

Ambassador speaks on peacekeeping, economy in Europe, America

By EVA BINDA
News Writer

There wasn't an empty seat Thursday in the Jordan Auditorium as students and faculty members packed in to hear European Union (EU) Ambassador to the U.S. John Bruton deliver the lecture "The Future of Economic and Political Relations between the European Union and the United States.

The lecture also included an explanation of the nature of the European Union and as a result an analysis of current political problems facing Europe and America.

Bruton, formerly the youngest

see EU/page 4

NDSP promotes Johnson

21-year veteran officer replaces Rex Rakow

By KEN FOWLER
News Writer

It's a promotion that comes with the heaviest of hearts.

Two weeks after the death of Notre Dame Security/Policing (NDSP) director Rex Rakow, longtime friend and current associate director of NDSP, Phil Johnson, was named Rakow's successor Thursday.

"I'm very humbled and honored by the appointment," Johnson said. "I think that Rex worked very hard through the years to form a wonderful group of people — a group of people I'm honored to lead. ... This department has had great leadership, and I've been lucky to be a part of a great leadership team for many years."

Johnson assumed Rakow's day-to-day responsibilities as head of the department when the former director became too sick to work and went on leave in January. Rakow battled cancer for 18 months before his death March 7.

Johnson joined NDSP as an assistant director in 1986 and was promoted to associate director in 2005. Before coming to Notre Dame, Johnson served as director of security at Carleton College in Northfield, Minn., and director of campus safety at Aquinas College in Grand Rapids, Mich. He said his years at Carleton and Aquinas were "formative," though his 23 years

see NDSP/page 4

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INSIDE COLUMN

Why I Hate Grey's

By now, if you're an undergraduate at Notre Dame and don't live in a cave (or perhaps Carroll Hall, undoubtedly you've seen an episode of "Grey's Anatomy," the worst show on television. There are several reasons for hating this medical drama, but for brevity's sake I'll start with the main reason: I despise this show. George, (T.R. Knight) is a simpering, fainting little twerp who spends much of his time crying out for him, listening to Death Cab for Cutie and lamenting how hard his life is. Despite having lived with multiple attractive women throughout the course of the show, George has neither the guts nor the game to actually ask said women out and instead spends his free time screen trying to act cute and endearingly awkward. Quit whining, whimpering and generally acting like a little wuss, George.

The second reason I hate "Grey's Anatomy" is Dr. Meredith Grey herself, quite possibly the most annoying character of all time. In fact, when I heard the news that Grey had possibly died, I rejoiced. No more pretentious endless monologues about the meaning of life. No more whiny soliloquies about the pain of her unrequited love with "McDreamy," and no more no-again, off-again romance with "McDreamy." a.k.a. Dr. Shepherd.

Finally, there's Dr. Yang (Sandra Oh), who manages to irk me almost as much as George does through her neurotic, self-important state of perpetual PMS. As uninteresting as she is obnoxious, Yang exists on the show only to detract from Dr. Burke (the homophobic Isaiah Washington) and to enrage the audience.

In addition, "Grey's Anatomy" never fails to deliver with the most ridiculous and innane plot lines. On one episode, a man with a tumor present before delivering a tumor baby. That's right, a tumor baby. As in a baby-shaped tumor, or perhaps a tumor-shaped baby. Take your pick. Then in another shining moment, two patients found themselves transfused by a steel pole. Finally, in perhaps the best example of "Grey's Anatomy's" shining plot lines, one unfortunate patient found himself stuck in his stomach. You heard me right. A bomb. In. His. Stomach. If only we would be so lucky as for a fake medical accident to wipe out all of the characters memorably. The show might have been induced to start watching this show again.

Even worse is the way "Grey's Anatomy" has affected the male population on campus. Friends of mine, good guys who normally spend their time reading the Sports Illustrated's (is it porn? is it a game?). Should be watching football, sweating and pursuing other muchly pursuits, fastidiously set their clocks so they don't (gasp) miss an episode of "Grey's Anatomy." It's time for a good, honest discussion.

"Grey's Anatomy" is this year's "The O.C." a dying show which needs to be put out its misery. It's about time we pulled the plug on this farce.

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Tae Andrews at tandeuat@nd.edu

QUESTIONS OF THE DAY: WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU TALKED TO YOUR PARENTS AND WHY?

Jane Lee
sophomore
Pasquella East

"Today because I love my mommy." 

Adedola Giwa
sophomore
Alumni

"I called my mom to tell her I made it toMichy and my dad told me it to school." 

Adam Hipp
junior
Dillon

"Today because my dad knows how to use AIM." 

Stephen Barbera
juniors
Alumni

"Yesterday because I forgot my cell phone charger and need it mailed because I'm good like that." 

Joe Nava
senior
Alumni

"Yesterday, my mom's freaking out because I'm finally graduating." 

BRIEF

As part of the Clarke Family Medical Ethics Conference, keynote speaker Margaret Monahan Hogan, an ethics professor at the University of Portland will deliver the lecture "Bioethics and Its Gorn's Knot" at McKenna Hall at 4 p.m. today.

The Notre Dame baseball team will play against South Florida at Frank Eck Stadium at 5:05 p.m. today.

The Browning Cinema at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center will present the film "Black Gold" at 7 and 10 p.m. tonight. Admission is $3 for students.

Toby Feyeh & Orchestra Africa will play traditional African beats and rhythms with helpings of jazz, rock, pop, and Latin at podiums at 10 tonight. Admission is free.

The Notre Dame baseball team will play against South Florida at Frank Eck Stadium at 1:05 p.m. Saturday.

The Browning Cinema at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center will present the film "Volver" at 7 and 10 p.m. Saturday. Admission is $3 for students.

The Holy Half Marathon will kick off behind South Dining Hall at 10 a.m. Sunday. Registration cost is $15 and proceeds will benefit Catholic Charities and Operation Helping Hands assisting hurri cane relief in New Orleans.

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

IN BRIEF

OFFBEAT

Peeping Tom in hot water over shampoo camera

MANCHESTER, Conn. — A man landed in hot water after police say he hid a tiny camera in a shampoo bottle to watch two of his female roommates as they took showers.

A male roommate, curious why the shampoo wasn't moved for some time, found wires protruding from the back of the bottle, then called police, authorities said.

The camera recorded through a pinhole, and the images were sent to Steven Thibodeau’s television, police said. Thibodeau, 25, had placed the camera to record the women showering and many items of clothing, including clothes, according to police.

L.A. minister sues over marijuana bust

LOS ANGELES — A minister who was arrested on charges of marijuana possession said sued police for $30 million, contending his civil and religious rights were violated because he heads a church that uses pot during worship.

The Rev. Craig X Rubin, 41, is the founder of Temple 420, which holds that pot is a religious herb.

“Our congregation mandates members study the Bible, have faith in God and regularly burn the herb cannabis (The Tree of Life mentioned in the Bible) as sacrament,” says the lawsuit filed Wednesday in court.

Rubin, his son and another man were charged last fall with two felony counts each of selling or transporting marijuana.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

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The Observer regrets itself as a professional publication and strives for the highest standards of journalism and strives for the highest standards of journalism.
InFocus conference opens up
Conference caters to entire student body, highlights Asian culture

By ROHAN ANAND
News Writer

The Asian American Association (AAA) is hoping it has found a signature event that will fit into communities at large," said junior Ashley Chan, a member of the conference's organizational team. "We’re hoping to bring together not only the Asian community but the entire campus to see how we all fit into the big picture," she said. "If you see America as a mosaic, we’re many different people with different personalities.”

AAA president Vince Niou was optimistic about the weekend, predicting the conference will put a positive spotlight on diversity issues at Notre Dame.

"If we cater the conference just for minority students, it adds to the stigma that we’re just here for the benefit of minorities," said Niou, a senior. "Our main goal is to provide events and activities for the entire student body to enjoy as a whole." Steph Chang, a stand-up comedian from Comedy Central, will lead a workshop titled "Asians in the Media" in the Carney Auditorium of the Hesburgh Library today to kick off the conference. "It fits in well with the vision of our conference," Chan said. "Asians in pop culture have become a bigger part of society, and we want to highlight that with the conference." The conference will include a number of cultural presentations and lectures Saturday that will cater to almost all interests and tastes, with speakers ranging from a professional chef and a plastic surgeon to a taekwondo instructor.

During the first session, from 10:40 a.m. until lunchtime, Kim Lim, a chef at Penang Malaysian Restaurant in Chicago, will be hosting a cooking session titled "The Fusion of Asian and American Culinary Styles." Simultaneously, Jacqueline Schmidt, a 2001 Notre Dame graduate, will be presenting a lecture called "Hapa." She will speak about being half-Asian and the hardships of trying to uphold her heritage between two worlds.

Lunchtime will bring a cultural fair presented by the Chinese Cultural Society, the Japan Club, and the Vietnamese, Indian, Filipino, and Korean Student Associations. Ethnic foods and drinks will be served to participants.

"It will really highlight the uniqueness of the smaller cultural groups of Asian descent," said junior Kathy Lee, another conference organizer.

The day will conclude with a presentation from Jesse Hsieh, a physician and president of the South Bend Clinic, and a Martial Arts demonstration by Max Hong, an instructor of the taekwondo team.

Additionally, guest speaker Josephine Det will fly in from New York to speak about Asian fashion in the business culture and her experiences running a company that outsources projects for Victoria’s Secret and Calvin Klein.

All of the conference’s sessions highlight popular fields of interest about Asian culture in connection with the Asian-American community's desire to blend in American society.

"Americans love Asian food and self-defense for all," Chan said. "But by and large we can see that there is still a huge complex in trying to fit in."

At midnight, the Indian Students Association will be hosting a Bhangra Bash at Legends, celebrating Indian dance and music.

"We’re really stretching to recognize all of the demographics on campus and bridge the gaps between them," Lee said. "And we’re hoping that through the use of pop culture, we’re going to achieve that end and attract more participants."

Besides the AAA, other major sponsors of InFocus include Multicultural Student Programs and Services, the International Student Services Association, and the Student Activities Office.

Contact Rohan Anand at ranand@nd.edu

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Midnight Madness offers prizes for all

By AMANDA SHROPSHIRE
News Writer

With the slogan "Take it to the limit," Saint Mary’s students will unwind at the Angela Athletic Facility tonight and let the free food, contests and prizes of the eighth annual Midnight Madness take over for four hours of spirited fun.

In an office filled with the balloons and prizes for tonight’s event, Athletic Director Lynn Kachmarik said she came up with the idea to offer students a way to celebrate school spirit at Saint Mary’s.

"We’re really fortune because not only students but the administration love and support this event and do everything possible to keep it going," Kachmarik said.

The event’s popularity at the College has spread in recent years with three-figure cash prizes, vouchers for free restaurant dinners and a trip to Chicago up for grabs.

But students told this year’s organizational committee that they felt they did not always have a chance to win prizes, so the Committee co-chair Julie DeMaio said Monday: With more donations, however, from the community and campus groups — including the Board of Governance, Sodexo Food Services and the department of Information Technology — and local businesses and faculty members, more than 200 students in each class will be eligible to win prizes, Kachmarik said.

"I would go out on a limb and say that everybody that wants to participate in an event is going to be able to and will walk away with some kind of prize, and that is probably the biggest change we’ve had,” she said.

Besides more prizes, students at Angela tonight should expect participation by the alumni board, entertainment from Chicago City Limits improvisational comedy group and the presentation of popular communication professor John Pauly as this year’s master of ceremonies.

The event will carry on the tradition of color-coded classes. T-shirts, a tug of war, obstacle courses, relays and musical chairs — but it will also incorporate less traditional games, including rounds of "Fear Factor" challenges and a big surprise for those who stay all night, Kachmarik said.

"I want it to be about Saint Mary’s and I would say for the majority of women that come, that is what it is about," Kachmarik said.

Contact Amanda Shropshire at ashrop01@stmarys.edu
Marathon
continued from page 1

handful of days to several weeks, the Catholic Charities Web site said. Tuesday, the agency helped some of the 20,000 homeowners in the area who have set up tents to rebuild their lives by reconstruc- ting some of the 200,000 homes destroyed by Katrina. And while the prospect of commuting to disaster relief is the race’s appeal to many runners, other participants find the athletic challenge just as appealing. Sophomore Denise Pineda participated last year to support the mission of the event, but her commitment to Holy Half was also fortuitous. “I was in shape after indulging in too many baked goods, she said.” However, she noted, eating lot of a very tasty carrot cake, I was on a sugar rush,” Pineda said. “Tommy, a very good friend of mine, and I decided to go running like at 9 p.m. That was how we started running. We parked the car in the Andel Arena dining hall and thought that it would be fun. Parents and their friend, sophomore Tommy Osberger, will compete again this year.

Freshman runner Meghan Shaughnessy said she signed up for the marathon because she loves to run and thought it would be an enjoyable experi- ence, she said. “It’s a really fun fellowship,” a fellow runner Saturday.

“ Personally I wanted to do it with her, so I thought it would be something fun we could do together,” Shaughnessy said. “And also I ran in high school and have missed that, so I thought this would be a good chance to get involved with that stuff again.” Shaughnessy has been training for the marathon for approximately two months. The 13.1-mile course will take the runners along the coast, and the route of the Holy Half participants across campus, with the starting line located behind Duling Hall, outside McGlinn Hall. The running path will loop around campus, from the Main Gate down Edison Road, up the newly reconstructed Tauchennah Hall, and then to the new reconstructed Hennes-Mosby Hall, organizers said. Runners will then conclude the half-marathon jog around Saint Joseph’s and Saint Mary’s residence halls.

In preparation for the race Saturday, the Andel Arena Food Fort will host a mass Saturday evening at Duling Hall, followed by a carbo-loading pasta dinner in the Coleman-Morse Lounge for participants. Though 375 runners have already signed up, there is always room for more partici- pants, Richard said. Students who are interested in running in the Holy Half marathon who have not regis- tered may do so on Sunday morning between 8:30 a.m. and 9:45 a.m. behind South Duling Hall. Entry fee (5) and checks can be made payable to the Class of 2008, organizers said. If the desire to help Katrina victims, get in shape and have a good time is not enough motiva- tion to sign up, Richard said maybe the free T-shirt all regis- tered participants will receive may encourage more students to join the Holy Half effort.

Contact Katie Peralta at kperalta@nd.edu

Hockey
continued from page 1

the $65 price tag was too much, especially since a second Notre Dame game isn’t guaranteed. And the players believe not being toward the cost of student tickets, it will provide transportation and food for stu- dents as it did three years ago. McCormack stressed that the buses and the meals come at a significant cost to the university. We won’t even close to breaking even since there are two buses going up without anybody paying — which is great,” McCormack said. “The main thing is to just get a contingent... of students, who have been great supporting the team all year.”

The promotions office will sell the buses in a two-day window, Friday’s action and, if the Irish win in the afternoon, one to Saturday’s game. Although stu- dents could reserve seats on the buses, McCormack said fans could also buy single-game tickets for $35 through the Van Andel Arena ticket office, where the teams will meet. The buses will leave from Gate 4 of the Joyce Center at 2 p.m. today and 5 p.m. Saturday, McCormack said. “We’re not only going to win their first contest, Notre Dame plays at 5 p.m. today, and McCormack said the buses likely would return after the second game tonight, so fans could watch Notre Dame’s opponent for Saturday’s second round game. But if there is enough demand to return immediately, McCormack said, one bus may return after Notre Dame’s game.

McCormack said Notre Dame initially received 200 tickets for the buses to sell to stu- dents and the public, but the promotions office quickly asked for additional passes because the demand exceeded the supply.

Contact Ken Fowler at k Fowler@nd.edu

NSDP
continued from page 1

of experience at Notre Dame will be the key to his success as director. "We have a really good sense of our mission and our values, and I think we have a very good vision of the future," McCormack said. Notre Dame officials praised the announcement Thursday in a news release. "I am grateful that Phil has accepted our offer for the leadership of Notre Dame Security/Police," vice president for Student Affairs Mark Poorman said. "His service, espe- cially over the last few months, has been a genuine inspiration to the department, and he is an eminently respected professional in the law enforcement communi- ty."

vice President for Residence Life Bill Kirk called Johnson "the natural choice" to replace Bukov. "He is an excellent administra- tor, an outstanding police officer, and a person truly committed to serving our students well," Kirk said.

Johnson is currently the direc- tor-at-large of the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators and serves on the board of the Family Justice Center of St. Joseph County.

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EU
continued from page 1

prime minister in Ireland’s histo- ry, began his address by providing background information about the European Union. Founded 50 years ago this Sunday, the EU is composed of 27 member nations and is the only multi-national democracy in the world, he said.

"The 700 members of the Parliament are elected directly by the European people," Broutis said. "It's without precedent and proving to be a very good model."

In addition to direct elections, Broutis said, the EU Parliament requires "full agreement of each member" before any measure is passed. This means that if one country does not agree to a treaty, it will not be approved, he said.

"We've created a political union that has expanded with the agreement of its members at every stage," the ambassador said.

Broutis also discussed certain requirements of membership in the EU. A country must "pass 80,000 pages of legislation" that includes everything from environ- mental regulations to workplace safety standards, he said. The country must also be a democracy and not allow the death penalty. In return, countries reap the economic benefits of a common market, Broutis said, allowing countries from any EU country can work anywhere in the EU and goods from anywhere in the country can be sold anywhere in the Union.

Broutis said Ireland, a rapidly growing economy known as the "Celtic tiger," would never have transformed itself into an eco- nomic power if it had not joined the EU.

Broutis, however, said the United States should not view the EU as a rival because both bodies are heavily invested in each other.

"We're not rivals. We own part of the United States, and you own part of the EU," he said referring to the fact that the U.S. is the largest investor in the EU and the EU is the largest investor in the U.S. "U.S. companies make more profits in the EU than anywhere else," Broutis said. "American companies make three times more investments in Ireland alone than in China.

But he didn't deny there is a feeling of national competitiveness from both sides. "Europeans may feel superior when things go badly for the U.S.," Broutis said. "You sometimes have the same feeling about Europe, but it's important that we got on.

Not only are the EU and United States joined by economic interdependence, but by other such as the proliferation of nuclear weapons, the conflict between Israel and Palestine and global warming.

Broutis said the EU and U.S. are "working very closely" to deal with the issues of nuclear prolifer- ation and the Israel-Palestine con- flict. "If we can work together with the U.S.," Broutis said, "then we can lead and make the difference in the world, then we can change history and save the future for the human race."

"One generation has a choice.

Are we going to use our power to make sure everyone has the same chance to be free, to live in a world with peace?" he asked his audience. "We Europeans and Americans working together, can make a difference in the human history and make real changes in the next 20 years."

Contact Eva Edna at j Fedin@nd.edu

Regarding global warming, Broutis said the EU and the United States needed to accept responsibility for past actions that may have contributed to the cri- sis.

"The bulk of the greenhouse gases that are causing problems haven't been made by the Chinese, by the Indians, the Africans or anyone other than us — the U.S. and Europe," he said. Broutis stressed the importance of taking the lead and taking the sacrifices to solve environmental problems.

The ambassador also said Europeans would be willing to strive for lower greenhouse gas emissions if the United States agreed to the same standards.

Finally, Broutis said the period during which Europeans and Americans have the steering wheel and can set their agendas probably won't last more than 20 or 30 more years.

"After that, other countries will be sharing the predominance with us," he said.

Broutis challenged students to make a difference during the remaining supremacy of the EU and the U.S. "Your generation has a choice. Are we going to use our power to make sure everyone has the same chance to be free, to live in a world with peace?" he asked his audience. "We Europeans and Americans working together, can make a difference in the human history and change things in the next 20 years."

Contact Eva Edna at j Fedin@nd.edu
INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Three arrested in London bombings

LONDON — Counter-terrorism police arrest­ed three men Thursday in the 2005 suicide attacks on the London transit system, the first major arrest in the investigation in months. Two of the suspects were detained as they prepared to board a flight to Pakistan.

The third man was arrested in Leeds — the northern city that was home to three of the four bombers. Police also raided five proper­ties in the city — at least one on the same street where one of the bombers lived.

"Anybody who imagined that this had simply gone would have been wrong," a police offi­cer said Thursday as he confirmed the arrests.

Beside him, Iraq's usually dour prime minister didn't even flinch, and managed a slight smile at the starling welcome to Baghdad for U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

The U.N. leader was standing next to Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki when a Katyusha rocket exploded about 50 yards from the building in the capital's high-security Green Zone where they were answering questions from reporters.

Al-Maliki hardly blinked, but Ban — seemingly less accustomed to the tumult of war — quickly crouched, and appeared shaken. The blast could make it difficult for al-Maliki to return before August 2004.

"We are very optimistic about the road to stability," al-Maliki told Ban moments after the rocket attack.

Ban's presence was broadcast as soon as it happened, but the trip had been kept secret even his press spokeswoman didn't know he was in Iraq. His public schedule had called for Ban to leave New York on Thursday for a trip to Egypt, Israel and an African Union summit in Saudi Arabia.

The U.N. military announced three Americans died in combat Wednesday — an Army soldier slain in Baghdad and another sol­dier and a Marine killed in Anbar province. At least 44 Iraqis were killed or found dead Thursday, including 25 bodies dumped in the capital, all showing signs of torture, police said.

IRAQ

Rocket welcomes U.N. chief to capital
Ban's first visit to Baghdad marred by insurgent attack near Green Zone

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — The U.N. chief ducked, as if to find shelter behind the red and white flowers on the podi­um. He narrowed his eyes, and looked back at the audience.

"We are very optimistic about the road to stability," al-Maliki told Ban moments before the rocket attack.

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Beside him, Iraq's usually dour prime minister didn't even flinch, and managed a slight smile at the starling welcome to Baghdad for U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon Thursday. Ban was startled by a rocket blast during his first trip to Baghdad.

The military also reported a major breakthrough in the campaign against rogue Shiite militias, saying it captured two brothers responsible for a sneak attack Jan. 20 that killed five U.S. soldiers guarding the provincial headquarters in Karbala, a city 50 miles south of Baghdad.

Qais al-Khazali, his brother Laith al-Khazali and several other members of their network were rounded up over the past three days, the military said.

Some speaking English, wearing U.S. mili­tary uniforms and carrying American weapons killed one American soldier dur­ing that attack, then carried off four captured soldiers and later shot them to death about 25 miles from Karbala.

Edwards presses on with campaign

WASHINGTON — Democrat John Edwards said Thursday that his presidential campaign "goes on strongly" in the face of a repeat cancer diagnosis for his wife, Elizabeth, a somber development that thrusts the White House bid into uncharted territory.

"It's a lot of a matter of priorities," said Rep. Matt Pierce, D-Bloomington. "We control our own destiny.

Rep. Terri Austin, D-Anderson, who helped organize the meeting, said much attention has been focused on Gov. Mitch Daniels' latest road proposals, but not much time had been devoted to the topic of public transportation.

Lawmakers discuss mass transit

INDIANAPOLIS — Public transportation sys­tems have problems dealing with traffic, pollution and energy chal­lenges in the near future, lawmakers said during a hearing held Wednesday.

"It's a lot of a matter of priorities," said Rep. Matt Pierce, D-Bloomington. "We control our own destiny.

Rep. Terri Austin, D-Anderson, who helped organize the meeting, said much attention has been focused on Gov. Mitch Daniels' latest road proposals, but not much time had been devoted to the topic of public transportation.

Local News

Edwards presses on with campaign

WASHINGTON — Democrat John Edwards said Thursday that his presidential campaign "goes on strongly" in the face of a repeat cancer diagnosis for his wife, Elizabeth, a somber development that thrusts the White House bid into uncharted territory.

"It's a lot of a matter of priorities," said Rep. Matt Pierce, D-Bloomington. "We control our own destiny.

Rep. Terri Austin, D-Anderson, who helped organize the meeting, said much attention has been focused on Gov. Mitch Daniels’ latest road proposals, but not much time had been devoted to the topic of public transportation.
Research

continued from page 1

thing about this [new system] is that people with this expertise are being dedicated to that," he said.

Each faculty researcher works with a pre-award administrator, a post-award administrator and a research accountant at different stages in the development of research projects.

The pre-award administrator helps the researcher with the parts of the proposal that do not directly involve the "science." Once the grant is obtained, the post-award administrator takes over and aids the researcher in the administration of the project. The accountant takes care of managing the money that the researcher obtains from the grant.

Now that the Office of Research assigns administrators to be "partners" with the faculty — rather than overseeing their progress — it is relieving the faculty from much of the burden of handling the administrative aspects of their research projects, Maginn said.

"Any time you can take some of the administrative burden off the faculty and let the faculty do the research part and not have to do the administrative part, you are going to be more productive," he said. "The idea is, if you can make the faculty more productive, they can spend more time with students and doing research and not doing accounting and bookkeeping."

Since the new business system was started, Maginn said he has submitted six proposals for research grants — including three in the past week. And, he said, the process of submitting these last six "definitely" went much faster than before the implementation of the new business system.

New software

The second new initiative is the implementation of a new software program from Inforid, a company that makes an integrated software package that can manage the whole research process, Maginn said. The research administrators can use Inforid for several steps of the process to ensure that researchers win grants and comply with the guidelines of the grants, he said.

Inforid is currently used by leading research universities like Columbia, Northwestern, Duke and UCLA.

The idea for bringing this new system to Notre Dame developed from discussions about how "to streamline the process and become paperless," said Michael Edwards, director of the Office of Research.

Since many federal government agencies have converted — and many are planning to convert — to an electronic format for grant proposal submissions, Notre Dame needed to implement a new system to adjust to this change, he said.

The Office of Research began the 18-month long implementation process at the start of the year for an Inforid program. It should be fully operational by June 2008, Edwards said.

These two new initiatives signal a step forward in Notre Dame's ambitious effort to join the ranks of top-tier research institutions, an objective University President Father John Jenkins described in his address to the faculty last fall and which Provost Tom Burish echoed in a subsequent address.

Jenkins told faculty members that Notre Dame has made significant strides in research in the past several years but said the University has the potential to rise much higher in the rankings of top research universities.

Now that the Office of Research operates under this new business model and with the scheduled implementation of new software, Edwards said he is confident that the number of research grant proposals will increase.

Every research administrator in the Office of Research can handle 200 proposals a year, Edwards said, so the office will be able to process up to 1,200 proposals a year between 800 and 900 proposals will be submitted, he said.

"We fully expect that the number of proposals will increase," Edwards said. "We expect the number of awards to increase."

Maginn said the new initiatives streamline the administrative aspects of the research process — an improvement to the infrastructure that is vital for Notre Dame to improve its reputation as a research university.

"The analogy is that if we want to have a good football program, we need to have good facilities for the football team," he said. "If you want to have a great research university, you have to have great research infrastructure. A big part of that is supporting the people who get the grants to pay for the research."

Terri Hall, the associate director of pre-award teams, said since the new business process was started in December, the reaction from faculty members has been "very, very encouraging."

"We did a couple of faculty surveys a year or so ago, and that was one of the things that they pointed out — that the paperwork burden of the proposals took up so much of their time," Hall said.

Now that the Office of Research has assumed a lot of the non-science and scholarly activity of the process, the faculty members can focus more on their research projects — a business process Edwards called "revolutionary."

"From an industry standard this is a very different way of handling proposal submission," he said.

Edwards said he believes this is the best process because it creates a closer relationship between faculty members and research administrators.

"It's a very important relationship," he said. "Researchers need as much support as we can give them."

Contact Kaitlynn Riely at kriely@nd.edu

The Core Council is seeking new undergraduate student members, regardless of sexual orientation.

Applications are available in the Office of Student Affairs (316 Main Building) or on the Core Council web site http://corecouncil.nd.edu/

Applications are due by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 23, 2007, and can be submitted to the Office of Student Affairs.

Please visit our web site for more information.

The Sheedy Award

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

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

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

Deadline
Monday, April 9, 2007
Brussels, Belgium — The European Union approved its first aviation deal with the United States on Thursday that opens up restricted transatlantic routes to new rivals, but left unresolved the thorny issue of when it will begin in delaying when the agreement takes effect.

The "Open Skies" deal will allow airlines to fly from anywhere in the EU to any point in the U.S., shedding limitations that also discourage them from charging what they like or combining with other carriers.

The EU said its 27 nations had unanimously voted for the deal, which will take effect at the end of the month.

The statement unleashed a wave of buying that boosted the Dow by 159 points Wednesday, but Thursday's session was erratic, with the Dow weaving in and out of negative territory.

"The Europeans had asked us to do this, which is Britain, which has stoked... the idea behind this... precondition it set for a... Heathrow to the... U.S. Airlines' new... airlines remain... unchallenged." - the key precondition it set for a... Berlin, Germany - The European Union will open up restricted transatlantic routes to new airlines by allowing them to fly from anywhere in the EU to any point in the U.S., the EU said Thursday.

The agreement will allow airlines to fly from anywhere in the EU to any point in the U.S., shedding limitations that also discourage them from charging what they like or combining with other carriers.

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"So far the U.S. has made no meaningful concessions," he said. "American carriers can now fly into Heathrow, Europe and beyond while their own back yard remains a no-go area for EU carriers and foreign airlines' remaining unchanged." - British Airways Chairman Martin Broughton, who said the agreement would allow airlines to fly from anywhere in the EU to any point in the U.S.

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The Notre Dame community welcomes our 2007 Early Action Admitted Students Participating in the Reilly Scholars Visitation Weekend!!
Thursday, March 22 – Sunday, March 25, 2007
We are happy that you are visiting us!

Gregory Angle
Daniel Belatti
Elizabeth Benson
Jennifer Berry
Chase Boren
Timothy Bossidy
Andres Bravo
Jonathan Browalski
Molly Bryan
Alyssa Ceretti
Patrick Corcoran
Kevin Danchisko
Andrew Ea
Brian Ea
Jessica Everage
Kale Frank
Michelle Giezeman
Jessica Hedrich
Derry Herlihy
Jenelle Huddleston
David Jerome
Cecilia Jou
Will Joyce
Kimberly Kukurba
Emily Kutil
Peter Lobaccaro
Grace Loppnow
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Sean McGee
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Chanel Mosby
Stephen Motter
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Soeren Palumbo
Alexander Pelan
Jonathan Pfrommer
Andrew Pierce
David Rudy
Kevin Sallah
James Shirey
Andrew Skoda
Kathleen Snyder
Cara Sweeney
Caroline Swinehart
Laura Szejka
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Jaclyn Woodruff
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Be a Cluster Support Consultant

Get paid to help professors and students with computer problems

U.S. developer to be fifth space tourist

Associated Press

STAR CITY — Decades before helping to write the programs that led to Microsoft Word and Microsoft Excel, Charles Simonyi learned the basics on a clunky, Soviet-era computer called Uralk-2.

Next month, the U.S. billionaire programmer will carry a paper-tape memento from that first computer and put his faith in the heirs to that Soviet-era technology when he blasts into space aboard a Soyuz rocket to become the world's fifth space tourist.

"I will take one of those paper tapes with me to remind me where it all started," Simonyi told reporters Thursday at Russia's Star City cosmonaut preparation center.

Simonyi's skill at computers and his work in helping to develop the world's most commonly used word processing and spreadsheet programs earned him enough money to spare more than $20 million to become the world's fifth "space tourist," set to blast off early next month.

Simonyi, 58, will travel to the international space station aboard a Soyuz TMA-10 capsule together with Russian cosmonauts Fyodor Yurchikhin and Oleg Kotov and return to Earth 11 days later with its current crew - Russian cosmonaut Mikhail Tyurin and Sunita Williams, an American astronaut.

"I am nervous about public appearances and press conferences, but I think that about the flight I am not nervous at all," Charles Simonyi, future space tourist

"The dinner, which Simonyi said cost him "like a meal at the Four Seasons in New York," will take place on April 12, when Russia celebrates Cosmonauts Day.

While Simonyi will spend just a few days on the station, the two Russians will spend 190 days in space. Yurchikhin played down the fact that he had never ridden a Soyuz capsule before and that Kotov had never been in space before, saying they were perfectly qualified for the job.

"The answer to that question is very simple — neither Yuri Alexeyevich Gagarin, nor German Stepanovich Titov ... nor the others had had any flight experience," Kotov said referring to the Soviet cosmonauts who were the first humans in space. "But they fulfilled their task wonderfully."

Interested in space since childhood, Simonyi hopes the trip will help popularize space science among others, especially children. But he also said he is hoping for an unforgettable experience.

"Space is very much on our minds," he told AP. "You can fly ... the sky is black instead of blue, you can see the globe."
Jenkins, Senate to be commended

Student government meetings are often a lot of words and little action, but at Wednesday's session of Student Senate, that was the goal — and it was a positive conversation, not a frustrating imbalance.

University President Father John Jenkins stopped by for a question and answer session with the senators, a visit he first made during last spring's debate about academic freedom and Catholic character and a practice that hopefully will be repeated many times during his presidency.

The two organizations — the University administration and student government — like to talk about dialogue, but on Wednesday there actually was some, and both sides did their part. Jenkins took time out of his day to meet with senators, but the students also asked tough questions — and the president responded sincerely.

Senators peppered Jenkins with queries ranging from why sexual orientation has not been added to the University's anti-discrimination policy to why tuition continues to rise. To their credit, the senators were persistent, asking follow-up questions after Jenkins had given his original answers.

And on the president's side, Jenkins did his best to explain certain policies, clarifying, for instance, that the University does not promote discriminating against homosexuals but is worried about what a blanket statement in its non-discrimination policy would commit it to.

Jenkins should not have answered concerns about the cost of tuition by implying that the high salaries many Notre Dame students expect after graduation justify the ever-increasing price tag, but he even managed to recover from that after Morrissey senator Greg Dworjan explained how that attitude discourages graduates from going into community service.

The problem of post-graduation debt needs to be addressed. Jenkins responded — an admission that meant Dworjan effectively made his point without creating antagonism. The administration may or may not take steps to try to reduce debt in the future, but it was important that students brought the issue to Jenkins' attention in an atmosphere of mutual respect.

That respect is essential, and the openness and candor of the administration and student government is refreshing. If both parties continue to engage in constructive dialogue, the entire campus community will benefit.
Eight. Four. One. Initially, it seems as if you might have fallen asleep and are dreaming that your math professor is asking you to write out answers to a series (if only math problems here were that easy).

Unfortunately, that is not the case, and this bad dream is actually a nightmare. Eight is the number of students (to the best of my knowledge) who paid their respects to the Emergency Room in a local hospital last semester in one night due to intoxication. Four is the number of times I nearly stepped in vomit on various sidewalks on campus one Sunday morning a few weeks ago. And one? One is a number I hope we can avoid.

I recently had two discussions, one with a local health care employee who works in the emergency room where I volunteer on Saturday mornings and one with an alumnus of the university. Like any other student, I was proud to say that I am attending Notre Dame. Unfortunately, while I was expecting the usual congratulations and admiration, what I received may have been likened to disgust and disappointment. I would like to say that I was shocked to learn of our notoriety on account of the extracurricular activities on campus, but after volunteering in that particular Emergency Room for a third semester, I was not. Employees at this particular facility strongly dislike (I believe the word “hate” was actually used...) students from Notre Dame due to their frequent presence in that establishment as a result of intoxication. You know, it really is quite difficult to adequately take care of legitimately ill individuals when there are eight intoxicated students to deal with throughout the night as well. Now that I have addressed the disgust (I will spare you my own personal disgust experienced during my Sunday morning walk), I will discuss the disappointment I encountered. My conversation with the alumnus revealed a great deal about how we are viewed from the community. This person informed me of his disappointment of the tolerance of alcohol on campus and the lack of adequate supervision and disciplinary action for intoxication to such extremes.

It disappointed him to see our reputation falling and such intelligent student make such decisions to consume it in large quantities in light of that fact, the unfulfilling response I received was, “I don’t know.” Yes, I understand that the majority of the students here take on a great amount of stress, and, for some reason, many think that alcohol is a way to relieve stress, have fun, open up, to be more sociable. But, what kinds of reasons are these for such dangerous extremes? Will these be adequate to explain the fate of the one?

You may say that I am exaggerating, but be aware that this potential fate as a result of the direction in which we are heading. I have brought up the issue of our reputation, but so much more is at stake. Please be responsible and do not make the same mistake as the Emergency Room Doctor who will never be able to answer my question, “Why?”

Megan Rybarczyk is a sophomore biological sciences major. She can be contacted at mrybarcz@nd.edu

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

Our reputation: a sobering reality

Letter to the Editor

Thank you, Coach Jackson

It shouldn’t be any secret by now that Jeff Jackson has worked wonders for our hockey program. To refresh your memory, he has taken a team that won five games two years ago to a program record for wins, our first conference championship and the No. 1 ranking in the national polls.

As a sophomore, I was proud to say that I am attending Notre Dame. Unfortunately, while I was expecting the usual congratulations and admiration, what I received may have been likened to disgust and disappointment. I would like to say that I was shocked to learn of our notoriety on account of the extracurricular activities on campus, but after volunteering in that particular Emergency Room for a third semester, I was not. Employees at this particular facility strongly dislike (I believe the word “hate” was actually used...) students from Notre Dame due to their frequent presence in that establishment as a result of intoxication. You know, it really is quite difficult to adequately take care of legitimately ill individuals when there are eight intoxicated students to deal with throughout the night as well. Now that I have addressed the disgust — out of his own pocket. Kudos to you, Coach Jackson — we will continue to do for us. And one more thing: Brown for Hobeys.

David Hennessy
sophomore
Zahm Hall
March 21

Editorial Cartoon

In Berlin, Animal Rights Activists Want An Orphaned Polar Bear Cub Euthanized Rather Than... "Suffer the Humiliation of Being Treated as a Domestic Pet!"

A spokesmen said they feel similarly about Angelina Jolie's latest addition.

 украшения

Staff Editorial

Staff Editorial

It's nice that Disney is going back to its hand-drawn style for this film. This way it'll be easier to group this film with the older "original" movies. And looking back on this film years from now, hopefully people will also consider it a classic.

This new movie idea was sparked when parents began putting pressure on the company to make a character that was not white like the majority of other princesses in the past, with the exceptions of Pocahontas and Jasmine.

It’s hard to not think of these kids, even care, about the color of the character’s skin. Most children are interested in the story line and not so much with what the characters look like.

Given the choice though, a young black girl could be more likely to choose a black princess, as the main character, but they have also announced the return of the hand-drawn animation rather than computer animation.

A princess of our time

At this month’s news release in New Orleans, Disney announced its first-ever black princess. According to the Disney Web site, the movie, The Frog Prince, will be set in New Orleans where Maddy, the princess, will be living amid the charming elegance and grandeur of the famed French Quarter.

Maddy will be added to the list of the other Disney princesses and also used at the theme parks and in consumer products.

Not only is this a first for the company, with a black princess as the main character, but they have also announced the return of the hand-drawn animation rather than computer animation.

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DVD REVIEWS

‘Bicycle Thieves’ gets new DVD treatment

By RAMA GOTTUMUKKALA
Scene Writer

Following World War II, hopefulness was in short supply across Europe. The continent was in ruins, and countries could no longer afford to entertain their citizens with escapist cinema. Out of this despair came a movement that irreversibly changed global cinema — Italian neorealism.

From the many notable films of this movement, one in particular — "Bicycle Thieves," Vittorio De Sica’s masterful 1948 tale — has withstood the test of time. Its intimately detailed story of a father and son chasing down their stolen bicycle remains as powerful today as it was nearly 60 years ago. Tales of improvisement, a popular topic in Hollywood and world cinema at this time, but never felt this raw or palpable.

The story of "Bicycle Thieves" is a simple one, but its deep emotions keep it from ever becoming simplistic. Antonio Ricci (Lamberto Maggiorani) struggles to provide for his family at a time when jobs were scarcer than hope. Against all odds, he gets a position putting up posters around the city, a task that requires a bicycle. Scrapped for money, Ricci’s wife even sells the family bed sheets to buy the cycle. Hope seems just around the corner.

But when a pack of thieves steal the bike, the family’s livelihood, Ricci enlists the help of his young, impressionable son Bruno (Enzo Staiola). Together, they scour the streets of Rome in a frantic search.

The pioneers of neorealism followed one mantra: "We must capture life as it is." They used amateur actors like Maggiorani and Staiola to invest true emotion into their pieces, shooting on location in every corner of Italy and telling stories about the working class. Minimalist storytelling revealed the traces of feeling.

As with most socially conscious fare, "Bicycle Thieves" is not an entertaining film. But that never diminishes its power. Unlike the self-importance that seeps from many Best Picture winners, "Thieves" never feels like a morality play. Part of this stems from its simplicity, but mostly it’s because Ricci and Bruno captivate our emotions.

Like many films from the period, "Bicycle Thieves" has suffered in its video releases. The Criterion Collection recently released a beautiful two-disc set of the film, complete with a 75-page commemorative booklet. The first disc of "Thieves" suffered from hasty video quality, marred by scratches, dirt and general wear. With this release, Criterion has dramatically improved the audio and video quality.

Although some segments still suffer from scratches, it’s unlikely the material can ever look better on a DVD release.

For the supplements, Criterion has assembled three impressive documentaries for the second disc. Collecting interviews from actors, screenwriters and scholars, they offer a glut of information about De Sica, screenwriter Cesare Zavattini, the Italian neorealist movement and the film’s place among the best films of that era. The only regrettable omission is a commentary. Criterion recruits top scholars to comment on some of the most significant films ever made, but not "Bicycle Thieves." It seems incomprehensible that a scholar couldn’t be found to shed light on this film.

Despite the missing commentary, the film itself is the DVD’s real gem. The character of Borat was created by Brit Davis, a writer on TV’s "The Daily Show." Along with gangsta rap and flamboyant Austrian fashion reporter Bruno, Kazakh journalist Borat forms the comedic trinity of the film.

"Borat" is trying to do something. Like many socially conscious films, Borat may make us laugh while we see it. The DVD is a single disc with some rather good extras. The "National P.R. Tour" section includes the appearance of Borat at film premieres and on both Conan O’Brien and Jay Leno’s late night shows. The "Jay Leno" bit includes a scene where Martha Stewart tries to teach Borat how to make a bed. Needless to say, the scene ends with Borat in the bed sans undergarments.

Other deleted scenes round out the extras on the DVD. This film, however, deserves a larger version. The video transfer is very good and the audio mix performs well. This isn’t a film that needs the expansive 5.1 mix, but it’s good nonetheless.

What makes Cohen’s work so great is its ability to make Americans howl with laughter at themselves. Even though he did face legal repercussions regarding some of the scenes, he shows America a side of itself that it rarely sees — or rarely wants to see. But, as "Borat" shows, we might as well laugh while we see it.

Contact Rama Gottumukkala at rgottumu@nd.edu

The Observer
Friday, March 23, 2007
Literary counterparts could use a little advice

A Note to a Select Group of Literary Figures:

Green Valley, my dears. My name is Analise, and I have been a faithful reader of your respective works for quite some time. I'm writing to you not as a critic, but as a friend. We've had some great times together—lazing summer afternoons in the sun, indoor recedes of yore, even whole rainy days spent in each other's company. I love you all for various reasons, but I'm of the opinion that in every good, loving relationship, one needs honest and open communication to keep things running smoothly. In that light, I have to tell you guys the truth.

It's not me—it's you.

As awesome as you are, each in your own way, you have some issues that need to be addressed. Therefore, I've taken it upon myself to enlighten you a bit as to how you've been frustrating me and other readers with bad decisions and general naivete.

Call them instructions, tips or nuggets of wizened advice, but I suggest that you pay close attention. Your future fans will pay you no mind if you can't say something nice, don't say anything at all.

The same goes for you, Emily Dickinson. The sun is a good thing. As is proper punctuation, but we can deal with that later. Disney's Thumper got it right the first time. "A kiss is not a kiss unless you say something nice, don't say anything at all."

And Beowulf. Fighting beasts at your own risk? Shame on you. I understand that you have ego issues that even Freud didn't see coming. But the Geats need you or, at least, they need you to stay alive for another few months without being fatally scorched by dragon breath.

Also, just because Moby Dick emasculated you so cruelly by taking your leg, Captain Ahab, doesn't mean you have the right to risk the lives of everyone else you know by rabidly following the Great White Whale. I suggest some sort of grief counseling or anger-management seminar.

Lastly, as a general announcement to Gilbert Blythe of "Anne of Green Gables"—what do you think of jumping off of the pagoda and into the three-dimensional world? You'd be surprised at what science can accomplish these days.

I hope that these tips can help you all deal with your issues, and I wish you the best in your future literary endeavors. Just no badly-written sequels or prequels, please. I don't need to see "The Scarlet B" in my local bookstore anytime soon. Faithfully yours in reading,

Analise Lipari

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

Contact Analise Lipari at alipari@nd.edu

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Colin Firth, left, and Jennifer Ehle star in a film version of "Pride and Prejudice." Elizabeth Bennett's dealings with Mr. Collins are a source of frustration for readers.

DVD REVIEW

Wayne, 'Searchers' shine in two-disc release

By BRIAN DOXTADER

Scene Editor

When "The Searchers" was released over 50 years ago, it was as much as just another John Ford western. Starring John Wayne and featuring the Southwest's iconic Monument Valley, it didn't seem overly different from other Ford features like "Stagecoach" or "Fort Apache.

Yet years after its release, "The Searchers" can be regarded as not only Ford's finest film, but one of the greatest and most influential pictures of all time. Available for years only as a single-disc DVD, it has recently been re-mastered and released by Warner Bros. in a special edition to commemorate its 50th anniversary.

French New Wave directors such as Jean-Luc Godard and Francois Truffaut cited "The Searchers" as an example of complete American filmmaking, and it remains one of the greatest works of the cinema. It was also a major thematic basis for "Taxi Driver," and its dark undercurrent and technical mastery won it many supporters in the years after its release.

"The Searchers" is the story of Ethan Edwards (John Wayne), a Civil War veteran who sets off with his nephew Martin (Jeffrey Hunter) and a search party to rescue his niece, who was kidnapped by a Native American tribe. The trip takes years; and as it progresses, Martin begins to doubt the depth of Edwards' obsession.

Ethan Edwards is perhaps the greatest of all of John Wayne's roles—an erstwhile war veteran and anti-hero whose vigilant-like obsession drives him to complete his quest, no matter how futile it seems. He anchors the picture throughout, which is especially evident in the final iconic shot of Wayne in a darkened doorway, overlooking the endless desert. The shot serves to emphasize the differentiation between Edwards and the ordinary folk who populate the rest of the film.

Warner's special edition of "The Searchers" has been long overdue, though it was released last year specifically to coincide with its 50th anniversary. A major step up from the original single-disc release, the new edition is worth being acquired every way.

Foremost, the picture quality is stunning—Warner has taken a major step to restore the film, and it shows. Ford shot "The Searchers" in "VistaVision" and Technicolor, and the image pops off the screen. This is the best that "The Searchers" has looked since its original release, and it accentuates Ford's film's cinematography. The sound comes in the original mono, which is a solid track — often these are re-mastered in a digital 5.1 version, but Warner wisely retained the sound as it was first heard.

The extra features include a commentary by director Peter Bogdanovich. Unfortunately, both Ford and Wayne have passed on, but the remaining features showcase both prominently.

There are three documentaries featured: "The Searchers: An Appreciation," "A Turning of the Earth: John Ford, John Wayne and The Searchers" and "Behind the Camera: Meet Jeffrey Hunter, Monument Valley, Meet Natalie Wood, Setting Up Production." All three are insightful and extensive, with a surprising amount of background detail.

Fifty years after its original release, "The Searchers" has only grown in stature. As an iconic piece of American cinema, and perhaps the greatest western of all time, its reputation surely continues to grow over the next half century. Warner has finally given the film the release it deserves, which makes it a rich and important addition to any film library.

Contact Brian Doxtader at bdoxtade@nd.edu

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The Searchers

Warner Home Video

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Photo courtesy of nd.edu
Tigers make Elite 8 with tight win over Aggies

Late free throws propel Memphis over Texas A&M; Led by Rush, Kansas advances with win over Southern Illinois

Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — Visualize this: The Memphis Tigers are one win away from the NCAA Final Four.

Forget these season-long struggles from the free throw line. The Tigers are making them when it counts, with Anthony Anderson hitting two with 3.1 seconds left Thursday night for a 63-64 victory over Texas A&M in the NCAA South Regional semifinal.

Anderson's shooting 64 percent from the free throw line and was 1-for-4 when he went to the line after being fouled at the end of a wild sequence in which the Tigers missed three quick shots.

The Tigers have been one of the nation's worst free-throw shooting teams all season. They were so bad that coach John Calipari quit having them shoot in postseason practice and told his players to visualize making them instead.

Memphis (33-3) stretched its winning streak to 25 games and advanced to a regional final for the second straight year. The Tigers, who last went to the Final Four in 1985, will play Ohio State or Tennessee on Saturday.

Texas A&M (27-7), three seasons with coach Billy Gillispie removed from an 8-16 record in the Big 12, had one final chance, but Dominique Kirk's shot from just inside half-court was woefully short.

Kirk took the final shot instead of "Captain Clutch," senior Alera Law, who had 12 points. He was only 6-of-12 from the field in his final game for the Aggies — and blew a layup with just under a minute left after he took a long inbound pass.

That was the last shot the Aggies got.

Texas A&M was unable to take advantage of a partisan crowd, the stands in the Alamodome filled mostly with maroon-clad fans providing a football-like atmosphere waiting to celebrate another big victory.

Instead, it was the small conglomeration of fans in blue behind the Memphis bench including former Tigers star Penny Hardaway — who were cheering at the end.

After Law's blown layup, Jeremy Hunt missed a 3-pointer for the Tigers. But Anderson got the rebound and they called timeout with 26 seconds left.

Andre Allen missed a 3-pointer with 13 seconds left and Hunt and Robert Dezotz missed follow-up attempts before Anderson grabbed another rebound — and was fouled by Donald Sloan while trying his own putback.

Texas A&M outrebounded the Tigers 36-31, but didn't get the ones at the end that mattered the most, and might have created a different outcome.

But Anderson, the Tigers' sixth man, had 19 points. Chris Douglas-Roberts, wearing a brace to support a sprained left ankle sustained last weekend, scored 15 points on 5-of-8 shooting. Andersen and Texas A&M's 17 points and eight rebounds for the Aggies, were his new regional semifinal since 1980. Joseph Jones scored 14 points.

Now there will be questions about if Gillispie remains at Texas A&M. The coach is already being mentioned as a possible replacement for Kentucky after Tubby Smith left the Wildcats to become Minnesotta's coach.

KANSAS 61
Southern Illinois 58

The Kansas Jayhawks knew they had to abandon the beautiful game they usually play to beat Southern Illinois. The Jayhawks admit they don't like winning ugly — but they like losing even less.

When the Salukis slowed down into the grit for a win they had to abandon the beautiful game they usually play to beat Southern Illinois.

But Kansas multiplicity of styles, forcing a deliberate tempo on the high-flying Jayhawks while keeping the tempo low.

The Salukis defensive aggression and offensive rebounding were complemented by just enough big shots from its struggling scorers to keep it close.

But Kansas adjusted with a majority that wasn't present in coach Bill Self's last two teams. Nine players got a field goal for the Jayhawks, who patiently waited for holes in the Salukis' defense — and then threw themselves into defending the other end.

It was elemental basketball, and Kansas put all the elements together. "Whenever plays Southern isn't going to look good offensively," Self said. "It just isn't going to happen. ... We didn't anticipate how some guys handled the heat, but when the game was on the line, we handled it well." Jamaal Tatum scored 19 points in his final college game for the fourth-seeded Salukis (29-7), who couldn't get the break they needed to reach the round of eight for the first time in school history with just their second loss in 17 games.

Julian Wright's free throw with 1:23 left put Kansas up 54-53, but Tatum hit a 3-pointer moments later. Calipari, a free throw, and Tatum added another jumper to cut the Jayhawks lead to 59-58.

But Rush confidently drove the lane with 25 seconds left and flicked home a basket with the poise that might someday make him the best of his three basketball-playing brothers.

"Somebody had to step up down the stretch and make a big play and I'm glad I did," Rush said.

Rush's layup provided the game's final points, but Tatum missed a chance to tie it on a 3-pointer with 8 seconds left.

The shot I took is a shot I've practiced numerous times in the gym at night (and) in between classes," Tatum said. "It felt good. I don't know what to say."
**AROUND THE NATION**

**Friday, March 23, 2007**

**USCHO.com/CSTV Top 25**

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<td>Minnesota 30-8-3 714</td>
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<td>Claremore 25-9-5 637</td>
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<td>Boston College 26-11-1 625</td>
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<td>New Hampshire 20-12-2 581</td>
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<td>Michigan State 22-13-3 439</td>
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**USA TODAY/ESPN Division 1 Baseball Coaches' Poll**

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**ESPN.com/USA Softball Division 1 Rankings**

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**NCAA Men's Basketball**

**Smith leaves Kentucky for Minnesota**

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — With Kentucky fans dogging him after another disappointing finish, Tubby Smith is bolting the bluegrass for Minnesota.

Smith will be introduced as the 16th coach of the Golden Gophers at a noon press conference Friday, ending a 14-year tenure in Lexington that seemed to be nearing an end even before Minnesota contacted him.

The Wildcats went 22-12 this season and made it to the NCAA tournament, but looked awful in the second round, turning up the heat on the coach of college basketball's winnest program.

Peyton Manning to star on "Saturday Night Live" — Indianapolis Colts star Peyton Manning will make his first appearance on "Saturday Night Live" this weekend, and he's already promising fans some surprises. Manning, who has been a regular on the show in recent years, said in an interview with the Associated Press that he's "very excited about this opportunity." He added that he's "looking forward to having a good time with the cast and crew." Manning is set to host the show along with musical guest Bruno Mars. The episode is scheduled to air on Saturday, March 24, at 11:30 p.m. ET on NBC.

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**Artest pleads not guilty to charges of battery**

MURPHYSVILLE, Calif. — Sacramento Kings forward Ron Artest pleaded not guilty Thursday to misdemeanor charges stemming from a domestic dispute with his wife earlier this month.

A Placer County Superior Court judge also ordered him to stay at least 100 yards away from his wife and children until further notice.

Artest's attorney, William Pertomanos, entered pleas of not guilty to charges of battery and corporal injury to a spouse, false imprisonment and dissuading a witness from reporting a crime.

The former Indiana Pacers player sat in the audience section of the small courtroom among other defendants and members of the media. He spoke only when asked direct questions by Judge Francis Kearney, responding no when asked if he owned firearms and yes when asked if he understood the conditions of the restraining order.

This week, Manning must do it himself.

Jonathan Papelbon returns to Red Sox bullpen as closer

The Boston Red Sox suddenly have a closer again. Same one as last season.

For the rest of my career, Papelbon said Thursday. "I've been nothing but a starting pitcher. But the move has nothing to do with the fact that Mike Timlin's injury left the Red Sox in dire need of late-inning relief.

"It's something I want to do for the rest of my career," Papelbon said Thursday. "It has nothing to do with Timlin's health or us not having a closer or my shoulder. I broke into the league as a closer. They drafted me as a closer. In college, I learned to pitch in the bullpen. It's where my heart is.

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**ESPN College Basketball**

Florida vs. Butler

7:10 p.m., CBS

Georgetown vs. Vanderbilt

7:25 p.m., CBS

Oregon vs. UNLV

9:40 p.m., CBS

around the dial

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**NCAA Basketball**

**Florida vs. Butler**

**Georgetown vs. Vanderbilt**

**Oregon vs. UNLV**

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**IN BRIEF**

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Pakistan cricket captain Inzamam-ul-Haq, right, and manager Talat Ali mourn their deceased coach, Bob Woolmer.

Associated Press

KINGSTON, Jamaica — Pakistan's cricket coach Bob Woolmer was strangled in his hotel room after the team's shocking World Cup loss to Ireland, police said Thursday.

Police Commissioner Lucius Thomas said in a statement that the pathologist report found Bob Woolmer's death was due to "asphyxia as a result of manual strangulation."

The statement, which was read by a police spokesman at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel where Woolmer was killed on Sunday, said police were now treating the case as a murder investigation.

Police said they were reviewing security cameras at the hotel and seeking witnesses to the crime.

"It is our belief that those associated with or having access with Mr. Woolmer may have vital information to assist this inquiry," Thomas said in the statement.

Woolmer, 58, was found unconscious in his blood- and vomit-splattered hotel room in Kingston on Sunday, a day after his team's upset loss to Ireland on St. Patrick's Day at the Cricket World Cup.

Woolmer was Pakistan's coach for the second time, after initially resigning in March 2002. He returned after the team was hung up by a row with former coach Bob Woolmer over the direction of the national team.

Earlier Thursday, Assistant Police Commissioner Les Green, former Manchester United goalkeeper, said the team was fingerprinted as part of standard procedure "to eliminate persons from fingerprint prints which would be found in the room."

"After a thorough investigation, fingerprints not belonging to Mr. Woolmer were found in the room," he told The Associated Press.

On Wednesday, a forensic team spent hours combing Woolmer's room on the 12th floor of the hotel in Kingston.

Investigators had called in an American pathologist to help determine the cause of death amid local media reports that Woolmer had been strangled. An initial autopsy was inconclusive.

Shields declined to comment when asked by media to describe the condition of Woolmer's body. "There are some issues surrounding marks on his body, but for the moment I would rather we stick to the cause of death, which is asphyxia," he said.

Woolmer's wife, Gill, said Thursday in an interview from South Africa with Britain's Sky TV that she had not ruled out her husband was murdered.

"I mean some of the cricket fraternity, fans are extremely volatile and passionate about the game and what happens in the game, and also a lot of it in Asia, so I suppose there is always the possibility that it could be that (murder)," she said.

Former Pakistan player Sarfraz Nawaz speculated earlier in the week that the coach was killed by gambling interests.

But his widow said her husband had not recently mentioned anything about match fixing. He had been South Africa's coach in the 1990s when the team's captain, Hansie Cronje, admitted taking money to fix matches and was banned for life. Woolmer was never implicated.

"We're absolutely looking into the possibility of a well-organized conspiracy," said Lord Paul Condon, head of the International Cricket Council's anti-corruption unit, which was investigating the coach's murder.

Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — Maybe now folks will realize there's more to Ohio State than Greg Oden.

The big man finally looked like a freshman, getting mired in foul trouble as the top-seeded Buckeyes fell behind by 20 points before halftime. But senior Ron Lewis and fellow freshman Mike Conley bailed out Oden and lifted Ohio State past Tennessee, 85-84 Thursday night in the semifinals of the NCAA South Regional.

"In this tournament, the two most important words are 'survive' and 'advance,' and we've been very, very fortunate the last couple of games to do those things," said Buckeyes coach Thad Matta, whose club needed a furious final minute and overtime to get past Xavier in the second round.

Lewis, who hit the big 3-pointer in the Xavier rally, scored 18 of his 25 points in the second half and Conley had nine of his 17 from the foul line — including the winner with 6.5 seconds left.

But Conley missed a second shot, giving Tennessee one last chance. Ramar Smith grabbed the rebound and went all the way to the rim with Conley defending him. They went up together and time expired with his ball in the air.

Then Conley roared to the rescue, swatting the ball into the Volunteers' cheerleaders and dribbling downcourt with his biggest smile of the night, while Smith planted himself face down in front of the Tennessee bench.

The Buckeyes (13-3) won their 20th straight game, keeping alive their longest run in the tournament since reaching the Final Four in 1999. They can get there again with a victory Saturday against Memphis, a 65-64 winner over Texas A&M earlier Thursday.

For the Volunteers (24-11), this was a second straight heartbreak loss to one of the nation's top teams. The first was a 64-66 defeat in Columbus, Ohio, in mid-January when Oden had the first breakout game of his career.

"We played about as well in the first half, I think, as we can play," Tennessee coach Bruce Pearl said. "We're terribly disappointed. We've proven we can beat some of the best teams in the country. We've also proven we can come close to beating some of the best teams in the country."

The 7-foot, 270-pound Oden scored only nine points, matching his lowest in 15 games, and set a season-low with three rebounds. He never fouled out, though, needing quick substitutions in the final few minutes to avoid getting disqualified. He played only nine minutes in each half, a season-low total of 18.

After the game, Oden needed stitches in his chin because of a collision during the second half.

Associated Press

Owen seals Ohio State win

Buckeye center's block as time expires gives OSU 85-84 victory

Associated Press

Ohio State center Greg Oden blocks Tennessee's Lamar Smith's last-second shot during the Buckeyes' 85-84 win Thursday.

Associated Press

NCAA BASKETBALL
Prior's latest start positive

Oft-injured pitcher throws four innings, gives up four hits

Associated Press

PEORIA, Ariz. — Mark Prior had his best outing of the spring. Whether he's about to start the season on the Chicago Cubs' active roster is still unclear.

With the rotation pretty much set a week before the Cubs break camp and with Wade Miller the top candidate to be the fifth starter, there might not be a spot for Prior. At least not right away.

"He threw the ball better, that's the most important thing. A really nice step forward for him," manager Lou Pinella said after Prior's four-inning outing Thursday in a 10-1 loss to the San Diego Padres. "I think the idea of not rushing him, giving him time, it's the right tactic."

Prior gave up four straight two-out singles in the first — the only singles in the first five innings because of rain.

"I felt pretty good," Maddux said. "I'd like to get a little better each time out." 

Prior's performance Thursday came after Pinella said before the game that Miller was pretty much set as the No. 5 starter, joining the rotation of Carlos Zambrano, Ted Lilly, Jason Marquis and Rich Hill.

But not so fast.

"We'll see where we go from here. But obviously it was an improvement and I'm happy to see it," Pinella said after the game, adding that Prior was able to get his breaking pitch over and also looked more comfortable on the mound.

Pinella said he didn't know if Prior would pitch against the Cubs again.

"Our defense was spectacular tonight. It had to be or we weren't going to win this game," Howland said. "We were physical."

Third-seeded Pitt advanced to Elite 8

Briots win 23-26 of free throws in 64-55 win

Associated Press

SAN JOSE, Calif. — Ben Howland set the tone early, shooting into a defense with his arms in the air, yelling out assignments.

"There's only one coach," Howland said.

His players paid just as much attention to the defensive end in a style all-too-familiar for Pittsburgh. The style Howland employed in five years at Pitt ended up knowing the Panthers out of the NCAA tournament when the Bruins won the West Regional semifinal during the Bruins' run to the title game a year ago because of a hip surgery.

Whether he'll start the season on the spring and has now worked below the 25 to 27 innings starters.

Oft-injured pitcher throws four innings, Piniella said he wanted to give his

"He wasn't going to be or we weren't going to win this game," Howland said.

"Our defense was spectacular tonight. For whatever reason, we were physical," Shipp said. "We were physical."

Third-seeded Bruins (29-5) never trailed in the 100-90 win.

"We really pulled away," Afflalo said. "That team kept competing and they were physical."

"Our team kept competing and they didn't really hit too many balls hard," Maddux said.

"Prior was making just his third appearance and second start of the spring and has now worked only 7-13 innings. That's well below the 25 to 27 innings Pinella said he'd like to give his starters.

"He felt the arm and the feel good," Prior said. "There weren't too many good swings off me and they didn't really hit too many balls hard."

When Prior completed his fourth inning by slipping a called third strike past former teammate Greg Maddux, he walked off the field and was greeted by a handshake and pat on the back from pitching coach Larry Rothschild.

Prior entered the game with an 0-1 record and 18.90 ERA in two short outings. He'd also pitched four innings last week in an intrasquad game.

Maddux was sharp in his first start against a major league lineup, making just his third start of the spring and has now worked below the 25 to 27 innings starters.

"There wasn't a lot of credit. They did a great job of keeping our arms up. At the same time, we missed a lot of shots that we're are accustomed to making," Howland said.

The Panthers shot just 2-of-14 to open the second half, missing more than a dozen layups as UCLA's defense held the Panthers scoreless on a 37 percent foul shooting night. Shipp added 12 as the Bruins shot 23-for-26 from the line, scoring 12 of their 18 points on foul shots.

"I think we never had to play the defense tonight," Shipp said. "I think we were just getting down to business and focusing on free throws.

"We never really pulled away," Afflalo said. "That team kept competing and they were physical."

Third-seeded Pitt (29-8) cut a 12-point lead down to five. Even when Leavance Fields hit a pair of 3s and Ronald Ramon added another, the Bruins weren't contested.

"We never really pulled away," Afflalo said. "That team kept competing and they were physical."

"We had to be or we weren't going to win this game," Ben Howland, UCLA coach.

"You'd be or we weren't going to win this game," Howland said.

"Our defense was spectacular tonight. It had to be or we weren't going to win this game," Howland said.
**ND SOFTBALL**

**Bargar leads team to victory**

Sophomore throws complete game with four hits and three Ks

By MIGEAN MISHAY

Sports Writer

Notre Dame snapped a three-game losing streak Thursday with a 6-1 win over IUPUI in its home opener.

Right-hander Brittany Bargar pitched a complete game for the Irish, picking up the win to improve to 7-7 on the year. "It feels good to take the wins as they come," Bargar said. "We've been working hard, but we'll take the win." Bargar allowed only four hits while striking out three in her league-leading 11 complete games this season. The offense got started early for the Irish (10-12), putting up two runs in the bottom of the first inning. Third baseman Heather Johnson hit a double to score Olivia Bargar for the first run of the game and shortstop Kaia Laing followed with a double of her own to give the Irish the 2-0 lead. Bargar then picked up three hits and two R1 in the first inning of her career.

Notre Dame picked up another two-out run in the third after second baseman Linda Kohan walked. Junior Sarah Smith pinch-hit for Kohan, and scored all the way from first on another double by Johnson.

With the Wolverines (15-3) still struggling in the sixth, the Irish put the game out of reach with three more runs. Center fielder Stephanie Brown earned an R1, beating out an infield single with two out that scored a run, followed by left fielder Beth Northway hitting an error on an error. Notre Dame senior Geesia Hudehugh singled home Brown for the sixth and final run for the Irish.

Bargar also won herself two tips and scored two runs, increasing her team-leading batting average to .310. IUPUI finally got on the board in the seventh inning with a single, hitting hitter Susan Jones hit into a fielder's choice, driving home center fielder Sarah Needy for the Jaguars' only run of the day. Irish coach Deana Gump said the key this weekend was the luck girls who were really throwing hard and with a lot of movement," Gump said. "Now we can come back and see some girls who are who are good, but they don't look so good anymore." The Belles (-1) against Western Kentucky will give up four earned runs over 5 2/3 innings to take the loss for IUPUI.

While the Irish have had their early season struggles, Gump believes the most important part of the season begins in conference play. "Right now, our record doesn't mean anything," she said. "The only thing that matters is how well we prepared ourselves to play in the Big East." Notre Dame will begin its conference schedule this weekend with two weekenders at home against St. John's Saturday and St. Lawrence Sunday.

Contact Michael Bryan at mbryan@nd.edu

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**SMC SOFTBALL**

**Beller returns home after 10 road games**

By REBECCA SLINGER

Sports Writer

After 10 road games — all in Florida — Saint Mary's is finally playing in front of its home crowd.

The Bellens (9-1) take Brown-Hulman (7-5) Sunday at 2 p.m. in their home opener. "There's always apprehension for the first game when the weather is different here from Florida," Bellens coach Erin Bargar said this weekend, "the team is just excited." The offense got started early for the Bellens, who recover leads Brown-Hulman at the plate with a 488 average, 16 runs and 21 hits. "Though we don't quite have the Bellens record, their offense featuresswitch-hitting second baseman Moss. Coach Bargar believes the team in good practice and prepare us for play in the Big East." Notre Dame will begin its conference schedule this weekend with two weekenders at home against St. John's Saturday and St. Lawrence Sunday.

Contact Rebecca Slinger at rslinger@stmarys.edu

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**CREW**

**Irish travel to Ann Arbor to compete in 4-team regatta**

By DANIELLE KELLER

Sports Writer

After an impressive performance last season against Alabama and Clemson, the No. 11 Irish take on Clemson, Michigan and Michigan State Saturday in Ann Arbor, Mich. The Wolverines and Spartans have both started off strong this season, as ranked No. 15 and No. 14, respectively, in the US Rowing Coaches Association poll.

The Irish novice-eight crew looks to extend its undefeated season, while the other varsity and novice boats will look for a strong finish. Saturday's regatta marks Notre Dame's second regatta of the season.

Irish coach Martin Stone declined to comment on the team's upcoming competition. "I'm excited to get back into the game this weekend," Stone said. "We have a lot of experience returning from last season, and we have a lot of potential for growth this year." The duo also comprises the Belles' top two returners for the coming season. Johnson picked up three hits and scored two runs, increasing her team-leading batting average to .310. IUPUI finally got on the board in the seventh inning with a single, hitting hitter Susan Jones hit into a fielder's choice, driving home center fielder Sarah Needy for the Jaguars' only run of the day. Irish coach Deana Gump said the key this weekend was the luck girls who were really throwing hard and with a lot of movement," Gump said. "Now we can come back and see some girls who are who are good, but they don't look so good anymore." The Belles (-1) against Western Kentucky will give up four earned runs over 5 2/3 innings to take the loss for IUPUI.

While the Irish have had their early season struggles, Gump believes the most important part of the season begins in conference play. "Right now, our record doesn't mean anything," she said. "The only thing that matters is how well we prepared ourselves to play in the Big East." Notre Dame will begin its conference schedule this weekend with two weekenders at home against St. John's Saturday and St. Lawrence Sunday.

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**SMC TENNIS**

**Squad travels to face IVY after last home start**

By ELLYN MICHALAK

Sports Writer

After crushing Oliver 8-1 in its home opener Saturday, the SMC golf team (1-0) will travel this weekend to take on Indiana Wesleyan University.

The Belles got off to a good start in the season with the Oliver victory Wednesday — the team's first conference match. "We're really making a little bit in doubles, we did very well in singles," Belles coach Dee Stevenson said. "They've really one of the top schools in our divi-
ND Men's Tennis

Bass, Irish take on Purdue

Irish ranked in top-5 for the first time since March of 2002

By DEIRDRE KRASULA Sports Writer

Notre Dame takes on Purdue Sunday, while ranked nationally in the top-five for the first time since the Irish were No. 4 in the Intercollegiate Tennis Association poll in March 2002.

Despite breaking into the top-five, Notre Dame coach Bobby Bayliss said he prefers not to think too much about rankings.

"I really don't put a whole lot of credence into the rankings at this point," he said. "There's still a lot of tennis to be played."

Even though Bayliss is not focused on the rankings, he is still proud of the way the team is performing this season.

"It's a tribute to the fact that our guys have made big commitments this year and have stayed together as a team and have performed when it mattered," he said.

No. 1 singles player, senior Stephen Bass, also rose in the rankings from No. 12 to No. 8 — his highest career ranking.

Bayliss said that Bass deserves the ranking and has been determined since he first stepped foot on Notre Dame's courts. As a freshman, Bass struggled with his serve and forehand but never gave up, Bayliss noted.

"He was a guy that made you hit a lot of balls, and you had to beat him because he wasn't going to beat himself," he said. "He has really maximized his abilities and should be extremely proud of what he's been able to achieve."

Bass defeated Tula's No. 5 Arnaud Brugues in the semifinals of the Blue/Gray Classic last week. The No. 7 duo of senior Ryan Keckley and junior Sheeva Parbhu will likely take on Purdue's Branko Kuzmanovic and Paul Row.

Notre Dame's top duo dropped their last match 8-3 to Alabama's Dan Bukema and Mathieu Thibaudau.

Bayliss feels that Purdue will present the Irish with a challenge but is confident that team is up for the task.

"I'm most concerned with our ability to play well and to continually improve as the year goes on," he said.

Contact Deirdre Krasula at dkrasula@nd.edu

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ND Women's Tennis

Squad defeats Wisconsin, extends win streak to 11

By DAN MALOOF Sports Writer

Fresh off victories over two top-25 opponents last weekend, No. 3 Notre Dame stretched its winning streak to 11 matches and improved its overall record to 16-1 with a dominating 7-0 win over the Wisconsin Badgers on Thursday.

"We played really well," Irish coach Jay Louderback said. "It's a combination of the fact that our confidence is up since we haven't been playing well, and our confidence is up since we have been playing well."

Both teams were dealing with injuries as Notre Dame was without junior Brook Buck and freshman Colleen Riffel, who were unable to play with undisclosed injuries. The Badgers' best player, No. 18 Caitlin Burke, was just returning from an injury that had kept her sidelined for two months, forcing her to play only in the No. 2 doubles match.

With neither team at full strength, the Irish stepped up their level of play.

"It gave some of our other kids who haven't played much singles a chance to play, and we played well," Louderback said. "We only lost three games in the singles and...I don't want to say we didn't win some balls and no one was missing any."

Freshmen Cosmina Ciobanu and Kali Krisik controlled the No. 3 doubles match with an 8-1 triumph over Wisconsin's Chelsea Nusslock and Kim Roberts. No. 4 ranked doubles team Christian and Catrina Thompson shut out the Badgers' tandem of Kayani Caliai and Elizabeth Carpenter 8-0 to clinch the doubles point.

After gaining the doubles point, the Irish singles easily won all six singles points. Kali Krisik, playing in her first singles dual action, got the first singles point in straight sets beating Wisconsin freshman Kim Roberts 6-1, 6-0.

Sophomore Katie Potts continued Notre Dame's rout in her first singles since Feb. 14 by defeating junior Morgan Tuttel 6-1, 6-1.

Sophomore Kelsey Tefft clinched the match with a 6-0, 6-0 shutout of junior Chelsea Nusslock.

No. 62 Ciobanu and No. 19 Catrina Thompson emerged victorious with a 6-0, 6-0 sweep while Christian Thompson won for the first time in her last four matches, defeating Elizabeth Carpenter 6-0, 6-1.

Louderback was pleased with Christian Thompson's ability to put her previous defeats behind her to emerge victorious against one of Wisconsin's top players.

"She played with a little more confidence and very positively and she wasn't worried about losing a few points," Louderback said.

Next up for the Irish is No. 21 Wichita State on March 30.

Contact Dan Maloof at dmaloof@nd.edu
Loyola

continued from page 24

players scored a point in the victory. Sophomore Jane Stoeckert and senior Meghan Meguire had four points apiece.

The Irish trended the Buckeyes defensively, forcing 16 turnovers on the game. Notre Dame also out-shot Ohio State 33-26.

"It was a very good game Wednesday, but we're not happy with just a win over Ohio State," Coyne said. "We have to go game by game, and we have

to win. With the goals we have, losing is not an option."

Against Loyola Sunday, the Irish will key its defense on Greyhounds junior Maura Kenny, leading her squad in scoring for the second season in a row. On the offensive end, Notre Dame will look to take advantage of the sophomore Byers and junior McKinney. Both goal-scorers were recently named to the Tawasconton Trophy watch list for the best player in women's lacrosse.

Contact Michael Bryan at mbryan@nd.edu

NBA

Thomas' last second tip-in gives Bulls win

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Tyrus Thomas wasn't quite sure what happened. The details were a little fuzzy.

"I remember doing the post-up, but the video because this one is worth another look."

The rookie scored on a tip-in with two-tenths of a second left after Ben Gordon's missed jumper from the corner. The ball got to the opposite or feeling good.

"I apologize to anyone who is driving limit is 0.08 percent. Jupiter police said in a statement. Florida's legal driving limit is 0.08 percent. "I'm not sure what type of statement to give," La Russa said after his team's 2-1 spring training loss to the Florida Marlins on Thursday.

"I've been scribbling stuff."

"Last night's situation is the opposite of feeling good. It was an embarrassment, I apologize to anyone who is close to me, members of the Cardinals organization, our fans. I regret it, take responsibility and I'm not sure there is anything else I can say."

Undercover officers saw La Russa's SUV sitting partial­ly in an inter­section around midnight and not moving despite two green lights, police said. O F f i c e r s knocked on the window and La Russa did not initially respond.

The SUV was in drive and running, with La Russa's foot on the brake, police said. When he woke up, the o f f i c e r s asked him to get out of the SUV. La Russa was coop­erative during his arrest, police said.

The 62-year-old La Russa was booked into the Palm Beach County jail on Thursday night.

"I would have rather lost by 100 points than lose by a tip-in like that," Anthony said. "We can't let this happen to our confidence."

He thought the outcome might have been different had Marcus Camby not left with back spasms in the third quar­ter.

Either way, it was a much­needed victory for the Bulls after losing to two teams with losing records.

One of the Bulls' goals is to finish with fewer than 10 losses at home, and it's still within reach — barely. They're 26-9, with six games left at the United Center. Two of those are against Detroit and Cleveland, so achieving that goal will be difficult.

More important for the Bulls is securing home-court advan­tage in the first round of the playoffs. That could be the dif­ference between a postseason run and an early exit, given their 14-21 road record.
NCAA
continued from page 24

teams set to square off in the first round today, it’s time to take a broader look at how the Tournament will project and how fortunate the Irish are. Alabama-Huntsville is not only on the fringes of college hockey geographically, but the Chargers play in a five-team conference - College Hockey America — that has been rumored to be in the process of dismantling. The CHA is awarded one automatic bid into the tournament for its play-off winner — one of six leagues earn an auto-bid — but Alabama-Huntsville has not been rumored to ever earn an auto-bid under any circumstance whatsoever. They should not have an automatic bid, and not necessarily those of The Irish. In fact, the NCAA continued to look overmatched, and just plain sloppy in the two games, and Spartans goalie Jeff Lerg was beaten more times than an Irish secondary.

Eric Ehn, and traditional main-stays Miami and Massachusetts in the other tourney four-spots, Notre Dame has, by such a vast first-round opponent of any- one in the field.

And things in the other half of the four-team Grand Rapids region has shaped up more favorably for the Irish than if the team had been sent to any of the other three loci - Denver, Rochester, N.Y., and Manchester, N.H.

Notre Dame will face the winner of a Boston University-Michigan State pairing. The Spartans squeaked out a third-place finish in the CHA playoffs last weekend with a 7-6 overtime win over Lake Superior State, but not before they surrendered 11 goals in two games to the Lakers and Michigan. Michigan State looked overmatched, out-worked and just plain sloppy in the two games, and Spartans goalie Jeff Lerg was beaten more times than an Irish secondary.

Boston University is a defensive team along the lines of Notre Dame hockey. They have some of the best power play in front that the Irish provide with their "little-guy line" of Ryan Thang, Kevin Deeth and Erik Condra. The Irish defense would provide more than enough time for the forward lines to penetrate the Territories defense and their former walk on - and now Hobey Baker finalist — goaltender John Curry. With Michigan State or Boston University the prize for beating cupcake Alabama-Huntsville, the Grand Rapids regional must seem like a trip to Disney World for overall No. 1 seed Minnesota. The Golden Gophers were placed at the top of the Denver regional — a bracket so stacked that it brings to mind the World Cup's "Death Groups" that com- prise four of the world's nine dangerous teams into one devil-ishly sinister trap. In the Mike High City, Minnesota will be joined by offensively stacked Michigan and the Fighting Sioux of North Dakota, along with an Air Force squadron that will enjoy a near-home-ice situation. Whichever team emerges from that gauntlet will be the most seasoned and capable team to advance to the Frozen Four — and, yet again, the Irish pull the long straw and avoid a matchup with the deadly victor if they advance to St. Louis.

The Grand Rapids winner is bracketed to face whoever emerges from Rochester, N.Y. — a watered-down regional with no dominant team. Top-seeded Clarkson could easily be upset in the tournament's opener with Massachusetts and second-seed- ed St. Cloud will face Maine in a battle of two teams who lost twice in their league tourna- ment. In short, if there was a choice before the tournament of which region's winner to face in the Frozen Four, any Vegas odds-maker would choose the Irish. And what about the ultimate stop — the National Championship?

Well, let's save that one for later. It's time will come. The vims expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

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IRISH BASEBALL VS.
FRIDAY, MARCH 23
SATURDAY, MARCH 24
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Friday, March 23, 2007
FRIDAY, MARCH 23
SUNDAY, MARCH 25
@ 5:05PM @ 1:05PM
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Irish
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Irish
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16-7 record, the top in the Big East.

Irish junior shortstop Brett Lilley and freshman A.J. Pollock have led the Irish offensively so far. Pollock and Lilley lead the team with .390 and .370 averages, respectively. Most recently, Pollock had five hits against Michigan and Lilley drove in five runs.

After posting a season-high 17 runs against Western Michigan, Notre Dame is prepared to sharpen the defense.

"Schrage always stresses less mistakes on defense, don't give other teams more opportunities to get runs, don't give them free bases," Pollock said.

Contact Deirdre Krasula at dkrasula@nd.edu

Irish pitchers David Phelps, Wade Kerpi and Dan Kapala will lead Notre Dame from the mound this weekend. Phelps has been a force, boasting a 1.20 ERA in 30 innings. The right-hander helped Notre Dame defeat top teams Texas Christian and Nebraska.

"Phelps had been great all season, he's been the most consistent starter," Irish coach Dave Schrage said.

Schrage said the team is aware of the strong pitchers they will be facing this weekend. Right-handers Danny Otero, Daniel Thomas and Chris Delaney head up the Bulls' staff. Thomas leads the three-man rotation with an ERA of 1.27 and is 2-1 in five appearances. Otero has a team-high 32 strikeouts.

"It's going to be a tough series," Schrage said. "The Bulls have very good pitching. We are going to face some great arms this weekend. It will be a real challenge to our offense."

Pollock said the team will look to counter South Florida's strong pitching by focusing on cutting down on errors.

"Schrage always stresses less mistakes on defense, don't give other teams more opportunities to get runs, don't give them free bases," Pollock said.

"So if we can cut that down we will definitely be a very good team."

Schrage also noted the advantage Notre Dame will have playing at home. South Florida has yet to play a game outside of the Sunshine State and likely will have some difficulty adjusting to the northern climate. Beyond the weather advantage, the Irish are ready to take on the Bulls and see how they will match up against a top team.

"It will be great for us to open with (South Florida)," Schrage said. "I think it will be a good test to see where we are at."

Irish pitcher Ross Schnitter has played a key role for the team this season with a .390 batting average and 32 strikeouts in 30 innings. He is also the team's top hitter with a .400 average.

Irish third baseman Brett Lilley cradles past Knights midfielder Bryan Brown during Notre Dame's 13-3 win over Bellarmine Tuesday.

WESTERN Illinois appears to sharpen the defense this weekend. Pollock and Lilley have led the Irish offensively so far, with Pollock leading the team with .390 and Lilley with .370 averages.

"I think it will be a good test to see where we are at," Pollock said.

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**HOCKEY**

The puck drops here

Icers take on UAH in NCAA first round

By DAN MURPHY

No. 1 Notre Dame will attempt to make history once again tonight by winning their first-ever NCAA Tournament game. The Irish face off with College Hockey America champion Alabama-Huntsville at 8 p.m. in the first round of the regional in Grand Rapids, Mich.

The Irish have made only one appearance in the tournament in their 37-year history. Three years ago they lost 5-2 to No. 1 seed Minnesota in the opening round.

"We've just focused on going up there and making a step in Notre Dame history -- winning a game in the NCAA Tournament," senior defenseman Wes O'Neill said.

The Irish are heavily favored in the contest, but Alabama-Huntsville brings a boatload of motivation and momentum into the regional with them. The Chargers arrived in Grand Rapids after they went on a Cinderella run through theCHA tournament, twice coming from behind to knock off higher seeds along the way. Their most impressive victory came in the championship game against Notre Dame this season.

The Irish defeated the Greyhounds 12-1 win over Cleveland State May 2, despite three goals from junior Kate Flippelli.

Notre Dame has clear path to Frozen Four

No draw is an easy draw, but Notre Dame may very well have gotten the freshly Zamboni-ed path to the National Championship when the NCAA Selection Committee announced the four regional brackets Sunday.

The No. 1 Irish were saved the week-long burden of traveling by plane to the Rockies or Northeast after the icer were shipped two hours up the road to be the one-seed in the Grand Rapids regional. The Irish are heavily favored more than a month of controversial and disputed hockey bracketology over which teams will be sent where and who will fall off the bubble in the 16-team NCAA Tournament.

When the snow spray settled, the Irish were given the second-overall ranking in the tournament and a matchup with the only college hockey team south of the Mason-Dixon line — the sub-500 Alabama-Huntsville Chargers. And with the two

**BASEBALL**

Squad has 3-game set with USF

Young arms lead staff in Big East opener

By DEIRDRE KRASULA

The three-game series against Notre Dame this weekend could be a cold wake-up call for South Florida. The series — which kicks off today at 5:05 p.m. — is the first time the Bulls will travel out of state this season, as well as the first Big East game for the Irish.

Despite struggling in early non-conference games with a 10-9 record, the Irish have had a strong burst coming into their series against South Florida. Notre Dame defeated Cleveland State 5-3 in its home opener Tuesday and went on to rout Western Michigan 17-9 Wednesday. Notre Dame has won six of its last seven games.

The Irish have a successful history with South Florida, going 4-1 all-time against the Bulls. This season could prove to be more of a challenge as South Florida arrives in South Bend with a recent 2-0 record and with a team that has struggled in recent years.

**ND WOMEN’S LACROSSE**

Irish try to bounce back in Baltimore

After falling to Orange Sunday, team travels to meet Greyhounds

By MICHAEL BRYAN

No. 12 Notre Dame will look to earn its first Big East victory of the season Sunday in Baltimore against Loyola.

The Irish (6-2) will face the struggling Greyhounds (1-11) in the conference opener for Loyola. Notre Dame opened its Big East schedule with a 16-13 loss at Syracuse Sunday.

The Greyhounds, who finished 7-8 last season, have started the season slow after the loss of several seniors from the 2006 campaign. Face No. 10 Princeton Wednesday, Loyola fell 14-6 on the road despite three goals from junior Kate Flippeli.

The only win of the season so far for the Greyhounds came in a 10-9 victory over mid-major Maryland-Baltimore County.

Notre Dame coach Tracy Coyne said despite Loyola’s recent struggles the Greyhounds are still a dangerous team.

"It’s scary because I don’t think they’ve played up to their full talent level," Coyne said.

"They have too much tradition and history not to turn their season around — we’re just making sure it won’t happen on Sunday."

In last year’s matchup, the Irish defeated the Greyhounds 13-9 in Florida. Caitlin McKinney and Jillian Ryers scored three goals each in the victory.

Notre Dame is coming off a dominant performance Wednesday at home against Ohio State, routing the Buckeyes 16-9. After several games in a row where the Irish trailed early, Notre Dame stormed out of the gate to take a 9-1 halftime lead.

After the half the Buckeyes made a quick run to cut the deficit to 9-5, but Notre Dame quickly responded to put the game out of Ohio State’s reach.

In a balanced offensive attack, nine different Irish