Schmidt-Weber administration begins term

Leaders outline 'big four' initiatives for 2009-2010

By MADELINE BUCKLEY
News Editor

Student body vice president Grant Schmidt said four initiatives — which he called "the big four" — will be his prime focus as he assumes the position of student body president today.

Taxi reform, cheaper textbook options, an online syllabus database and changes in the class registration system are first on the to-do list, he said.

"We would like to have a way for students to prepay for cab rides," Schmidt said. "That way, students wouldn’t have to worry about carrying cash all the time or be confused with change.

Cynthia Weber, who took the position of student body vice president, said her administration learned about life from four special refugees Monday night in the Stapleton Lounge at LeMans Hall.

Jasminka Giezenaar, Joseph Olier, Soeren Palumbo and Ghada Kalid to share their personal and very emotional experiences to help their peers understand the difference in their personal experiences.

Jasminka Giezenaar, originally from Bosnia, has been in the United States for 10 years and her road here has not been easy, she said. Her story started in the 1990s when religious wars in Bosnia began.

Giezenaar, whose married parents were of different religions, said, "If you were not Orthodox, you were practically told to move out because you were a minority."

The Red Cross helped her and her family over the Bosnian border to a neighboring nation. From there, her family moved to Germany.

Refugees give lecture at College

By JESSICA ROBBINS
News Writer

A small group of Saint Mary's students and faculty from across the country learned about life from four very special refugees Monday night in the Stapleton Lounge in LeMans Hall.

Janice Pilarski, coordinator of the Justice Education Program, introduced Jasminka Giezenaar, Joseph Olier, Soeren Palumbo, and Ghada Kalid to share their personal and very emotional experiences to help celebrate the sixtieth anniversary of the Declaration of Rights during a lecture titled "Speaking Truth to Power."

Giezenaar, originally from Bosnia, has been in the United States for 10 years and her road here has not been easy, she said. Her story started in the 1990s when religious wars in Bosnia began.

Giezenaar, whose married parents were of different religions, said, "If you were not Orthodox, you were practically told to move out because you were a minority." The Red Cross helped her and her family over the Bosnian border to a neighboring nation. From there, her family moved to Germany.

Hoffman, Griffin take SGA office at College

Pair plan to alleviate tension by being more transparent, create open forums for students

By ASHLEY CHARNLEY
Saint Mary's Editor

Student body president and rising senior Jenny Hoffman and student body vice president and rising junior Meg Griffin begin their term today for the 2009-2010 academic year.

There has been a rift between student government and the student body after the stipend dispute in the fall semester. However, Hoffman said transparency is their main goal for the term.

"I feel like our theme this year is transparency. In the sense that, our main goals should be the main priorities of our students," Hoffman said. "In that way, I think it will alleviate tension that has been felt in the past."

Griffin also added she hopes to make Student Government Association (SGA) more approachable by the students. She said she hopes to do this by creating open forums for people to voice their concerns.

"We are part of the student body. We are not here to accomplish the goals we are interested in, we are here for the student body," Griffin said.

Students pledge to stop using the 'R-word'

By IRENA ZAJCKOVA
News Writer

Yesterday, the University participated in an "End the R-Word Day" event, the goal of which was to collect pledges from Notre Dame students to end their derogatory use of the word "retarded."

Student volunteers manned booths at the LaFortune Student Center as well as both dining halls to encourage students to sign pledge banners that read: "As a member of the Notre Dame community, I pledge to end my pejorative use of the word 'retarded.'"
INSIDE COLUMN

Last Firsts

I think my real last first hit me last night. Bookstore basketball, not just for drunk freshmen anymore. Regardless, “senioritis” has hit me hard. Standing in the pouring rain, actually physical, athletic domination in the pouring rain, made me realize my time here is almost up. And it’s not just Bookstore. Everyday for most seniors is a realization that it’s time to move on; reality is just a few steps away. But Notre Dame is a place that allows seniors to revel in their final moments:

Basketball is just one of those moments.

Last night was my last best friend since the first day I stepped on this campus showed our athletic prowess; it was pretty, of course! We faced the No. 6 ranked team, and did we dominate? Is that even a legitimate question? Of course we dominated, the score however may reflect otherwise.

I thing that the thing I fear most is today’s date. Sure by April 1, April Fool’s Day, the Abuser is released upon the working wog. April 1 signals the last full month for seniors on this campus.

Raise your hand if you aren’t ready for graduation. I’m guessing that 99.9 percent of my class isn’t ready to see May 17 knock on their door.

So for those of you may have dominated their final Bookstore game, but failed to advance to the next round of Bookstore, here’s a few “lasts.” I encourage you to partake in:

1. If you’ve had classes, come on you know you aren’t really paying attention anyway.
2. If you live off campus, return home your Home under the Dome that is. Pay a trip back to where you grew up—be it where you first got in trouble or where you figured out who you were.
3. Unemployed, who cares? Welcome to the world of 2009. We’re graduating into a world nearly as bad, if not comparable to our grandparents. 2009, may well be the beginning of the next Great Depression, but don’t take my word for it.
4. If you haven’t secretly wished they scored however may reflect otherwise.

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Deirdre Krasula at dkrasula@nd.edu

CORRECTIONS

An article in the March 31 edition of The Observer titled “Matzenko stole most publics” incorrectly stated that the publics were not paying enough. The article should have said University-funded programs in the public sciences must need to be published to students.

The Observer regrets this error.

Have an idea for Question of the Day? E-mail observer.questions@gmail.com

question of the day:
what is your favorite thing about bookstore basketball?

Beckl Dorner
senior
Bidan

VvVv Le
senior
Bidan

Katie Rose Hackney
senior
Bidan

Megann Veith
senior
Bidan

Hannah Duffy
senior
Bidan

“Sideline
Grinding”

“Jamal the
Leprechaun.”

“The
ensembles.”

“Bad decisions.”

“The amazing people.”

Maestro Tsung Yeh of the South Bend Symphony Orchestra conducts the Notre Dame Chorale and the Bethel College Choir during rehearsal in the Leighton Concert Hall on Tuesday night. The two choirs and the South Bend Symphony Orchestra are teaming up for an upcoming concert at the Morris Performing Arts Center on April 4.

IN BRIEF

The play “Our Town,” by Thornton Wilder will be shown today through Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 2:30 p.m. in DeBartolo Mainstage Theatre of the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. The play was first published and produced in 1938, and depicts life in Grover’s Corners, New Hampshire, transforming the simple events of everyday existence into universal truths. Regular ticket prices: $15 general public; $12 senior/ND faculty/staff; $10 students.

Pig Roast in Paradise, sponsored by Breen-Phillips Hall will take place today on North Quad from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Free food and drinks for students.

Cavanaugh Hall will host Dance-a-Thon 2009 tomorrow from 7 p.m. to midnight in the LaFortune Ballroom. Buy raffle tickets now for $1 each or 12 for $10 at North or South Dining Hall during dinner and potentially win prizes. Proceeds benefit St. Margaret’s House and Healing Monkeys.

Dr. Richard Wolff, professor emeritus, University of Massachusetts, Amherst will give a lecture on “Capitalism Hits the Fan: A Marxist Perspective of the Crisis” from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. tomorrow in DeBartolo Room 141.

The annual Student Peace Conference will be held this Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Hesburgh Center. Its theme this year is “Perspectives on Peace.” Admission is free, but registration is required.

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

OVERRIDE

Man charged with drunk driving after crashing bar stool

NEWARK, Ohio—Authorities in Ohio say a man has been charged with drunken driving after crashing his motorized bar stool.

Police in Newark, 30 miles east of Columbus, say when they responded to a report of a crash with injuries on March 4, they found a man who had wrecked a bar stool powered by a deconstructed lawn mower.

28-year-old Kile Wygle was hospitalized for minor injuries. Police say he was charged with operating a vehicle while intoxicated after he told an officer at the hospital that he had consumed 15 beers. Wygle told police his motorized bar stool can go up to 38 mph. Wygle has pleaded not guilty and has requested a jury trial.

Jobless gather in NYC for Unemployment Olympics.

NEW YORK—Who hasn’t secretly wished they could pin the blame on their boss? Or slam office equipment against the wall? Doubles of unemployed people got the chance to do exactly that during the homespun, t o n g u e - i n - c h e k

Unemployment Olympics at Manhattan’s Tempkin’s Square Park on Tuesday.

In a twist on the classic game Pin the Tail on the Donkey, participants pulled a hat over their eyes and spun around before using a pushpin to attempt to Pin the Blame on the Bools.

Competitors also played a game of Office-Phone Slam Ball.

Nick McGlynn attended. He was laid off in November and said he’s thrilled to have an activity to fill part of his day.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

university events

Wednesday, April 1, 2009

The Observer
COUNCIL OF REPRESENTATIVES

Members discuss topics to be addressed by new administration

By LIZ O’DONNELL
News Writer

Topics for next term’s administration were discussed Tuesday evening at student body president Bob Reinh’s final Council of Representatives (COR) meeting. Reinh said that he would like to leave student body president-elect Grant Schmidt and student body vice president-elect Cynthia Weber with a “springboard” for COR.

One topic discussed was to address what was spoken about at the recent Intercollegiate Symposium and apply it to Notre Dame student government.

“We should look to apply what was liked from the Symposium,” Weber said. “We would like to see if there is anything we need to implement or change.”

O’DONNELL
page 3

Newton appointed dean of Law School

Special to the Observer

Nell Jessup Newton, most recently chancellor and dean of the Hastings College of the Law at the University of California, has been appointed as the next president of the University of Notre Dame.

Newton succeeds Patricia A. O’Hara, who will be ending her tenure as dean after serving in that capacity for 15 years and will remain professor of law at Notre Dame.

“We are pleased to have Professor Newton join us,” said University President John Jenkins.

Newton succeeds Patricia A. O’Hara, who will be ending her tenure as dean after serving in that capacity for 15 years and will remain professor of law at Notre Dame.

“In Notre Dame, Newton has gained a superb scholar, a proven academic leader, and a person deeply committed to the University’s mission,” Jenkins said. “She will help us continue and deepen education and research in our law school, and I am delighted to welcome her to Notre Dame.”

Newton’s appointment was announced Thursday, April 2nd and will become effective on July 1.

“I am humbled and excited to have been chosen to lead the Notre Dame Law School and bring to it the best intellectual tradition and mission of the University,” she said. “It is an honor to follow one of the great law deans, Patricia O’Hara, who has done so much for the law school during her tenure.”

Newton’s scholarship focuses on American Indian law with an emphasis on tribal property and federal constitutional issues. She is the author of more than 50 articles on Indian legal issues, co-author of the third edition of the text-book “Cases and Materials on American Indian Law,” and serves as the editor-in-chief of “Cohen’s Handbook of Federal Indian Law.” Her law review articles have been reprinted in comparative law, the law of reparations, and the philosophy of law. She is also an associate justice of the Yurok Tribal Supreme Court.

A member of the Hastings faculty since 2006, Newton previously served as dean of the law schools at the University of Connecticut and the University of Denver and taught at American University and Catholic University of America law schools.
Turnover
continued from page 1

Hoffman and Griffin would like to continue the initiatives that were started by exiting student body president Mickey Gruczmcki and student body vice president Sarah Falvey. These proposals include putting printers in the Student Center and residence halls, extending the hours of the Student Center and possibly the library, and improving communication between the student body and SCA.

"There is a lot of information on this campus, and I think it would be easier to consolidate all that information in one place," Hoffman said.

They do have short-term goals they would like to see accomplished before the end of the school year, such as putting a printer in the Student Center and creating a more efficient system for monitoring student use. Also, they will be sending out a student survey in order to determine long-term goals for the upcoming school year.

"We would like to have a student survey which we hope will encompass a lot of issues and will help us to determine our long-term goals for next year," Hoffman said.

Schmidt
continued from page 1

the hopes that more students would continue the initiatives that were started by exiting student body president Mickey Gruczmcki and student body vice president Sarah Falvey. These proposals include putting printers in the Student Center and residence halls, extending the hours of the Student Center and possibly the library, and improving communication between the student body and SCA.

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**INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

Migrants drown off coast of Libya

TIRPOLI, Libya — Hundreds were feared dead Tuesday in the chilly waters of the Mediterranean Sea, days after an overcrowded wooden fishing boat packed with migrants seeking a better life in Europe capsized in stormy waters off the coast of Libya.

A few survivors — those who could swim — were rescued, but authorities pulled 21 bodies from the waters and at least 200 more were still missing after the boat capsized Friday.

The winds of African, Asian and Middle Eastern migrants fleeing wars and poverty use Libya and other North African countries as a launching pads for the dangerous journey across the Mediterranean to southern Europe — often in rickety, overloaded boats.

China denies report on spy ring

BEIJING — China on Tuesday denied a research report’s contention that a Chinese-based computer spy ring stole sensitive information from thousands of hard drives worldwide, saying it would “sincerely” respond to the queries.

In China’s first reaction to the report, Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang said the conclusions were “slanderous,” because “the Chinese government opposes any form of espionage, and the Chinese government never does such thing.”

He added that Beijing was ready to work with any party that is “serious” and is “willing” to cooperate “based on equality and mutual trust.”

The report by the Information Warfare Monitor added to growing concerns that China has become a center for cyber-warfare, spying and crime.

**NATIONAL NEWS**

Raw nuts: Source of salmonella

TERRA BELLA, Calif. — The salmonella scare that prompted a blanket federal warning against eating pistachios may have erupted because contaminated raw nuts got mixed with roasted nuts during processing, the company at the center of the recall said Tuesday.

Lee Cohen, the production manager for Setton International Foods Inc., said the company does not believe pistachios were contaminated by a human or animal source in its plant. He said the company suspects that the only way the salmonella could get into its plant with raw nuts that could have contained traces of the bacteria is through ending the Israeli occupation that began in 1967 and establishing an independent Palestinian state,” Erekat said.

Netanyahu’s refusal to embrace the idea of a Palestinian statehood could put him at odds with the Obama administration and much of the rest of the world.

In recent days, however, Netanyahu has moved to soften his image, welcoming the centrist Labor party into his right-wing coalition and announcing that he supports peace talks with the Palestinians.

The 59-year-old politician — the son of a prominent politician and the brother of a war hero who died commanding the during World War II, is set to return to the premier of the United States.

The aide, speaking on condition of anonymity so as not to pre-empt any announcement, said Netanyahu will say something that will "take this issue off the table" and avoid confrontation with the world.

If he does, Netanyahu would join the ranks of hard-line Israeli leaders such as Menachem Begin and Ariel Sharon, who changed their minds about giving up land and ended up making far-reaching concessions.

However, so far there is no indication that Netanyahu’s latest conciliatory statements are anything more than words designed to curry favor with the West.

**LOCAL NEWS**

Senates approve ‘puppy mills’ bill

INDIANAPOLIS — An Indiana Senate committee has advanced a bill to regulate large-scale dog breeding operations in the state, but some want stricter requirements on breeders.

The Senate panel unanimously supported the revised bill, saying current animal neglect laws that simply require dogs to have food and water are not enough for prosecutors to go after so-called “puppy mills.”

**STORMS THREATEN RECOVERING SOUTHEAST**

GENCEA, Ala. — Thunderstorms accompanied by the threat of tornadoes rolled across the already soaked Southeast on Tuesday, raising new worries for residents still recovering from a weekend deluge that flooded hundreds of homes, washed out roads and forced evacuations.

Tornado warnings were issued for points in southeast Alabama, the Florida Panhandle and Mississippi, and the National Weather Service forecast more thunderstorms in the region Wednesday and Thursday.

Southern Mississippi residents were still cleaning up from tornadoes and flooding as disaster officials warned them to brace for another round of potentially severe storms that could further swollen rivers. In southeast Alabama, volunteers and Houston County jail inmates filled more than 2,000 sandbags for people to place in front of their homes to keep out water.

“We’ve had more than 300 houses flooded countywide,” sheriff’s Lt. Jeff Carlisle said. “It’s everywhere, even in places where it’s never flooded before. Every low-lying area in the county is flooded.”

Schools were closed in one Mississippi county and more than a dozen residents in Alabama were staying at a motel. The problems could worsen.

In their 40-plus years running Simson’s Groceries in Geneva, Ann and Lloyd Simson said they’ve never seen so much rain in such a short time.

“Saturday afternoon people were pulling up carpets and cleaning up all over downtown,” Ann Stinson said. “That’s so frustrating is to think they’re going to have to do it all over again.”

The area could receive about a foot of rain by this weekend.

The National Weather Service called Tuesday for as much as three to five inches across south Alabama, the Florida Panhandle and Georgia.

Those amounts are expected to increase with new storms spreading rain throughout the area.

Israel’s Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu addresses the Knesset, Israel’s Parliament, ahead of the swearing-in ceremony of his new government, Tuesday.

He has not retracted his promise to press ahead with construction in West Bank settlements to make room for settlers’ growing families. And his new government includes many ministers opposed to territorial compromise, including a housing minister from an ultra-Orthodox Jewish party that sees giving up land as a betrayal of God’s will.

Perhaps most troubling to those seeking moderation in Mideast politics is the fact that Lieberman, head of the Yisrael Beiteinu Party, is now the Jewish state’s top diplomat. He based his recent campaign on a proposal that would require Israeli Arabs to swear loyalty to Israel or lose their citizenship.

As he stepped into the job, Lieberman made clear his intention to soften his image, welcoming the centrist Labor party into his right-wing coalition and announcing that he supports peace talks with the Palestinians.

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Refugee
continued from page 1
where more religious contradic-
tions nearly forced them, yet again, out of the country.
Fortunately, a local member of Saint Joe's Catholic Church and a Saint Mary's alumna, Lori Pinter, sponsored Giezenaar and her family during their difficult time of complete relocation into the United States.
Bukassa of the Congo demonstrated his story as one of change. From a life of stability and strength to a war-ridden and politically unstable habitat before he could even begin to fathom how the world around him was shifting, he said.
"In my country, men never cry; never weep. But since I have been here, I have cried nearly every day," Bukassa said.
While going through the long process with the U.S. Embassy, Bukassa was forced to spend time away from his beloved ones for months at a time in order to ensure a bet-
ter life for his loved ones. Giezenaar, Joseph Bukassa and Jean Baptiste Cyusa at the lecture Monday.

The Observer is online at ndsmcobserver.com

The Ford Program presents
Science, Technology, and Development

Mary Ann McDowell & Stephen Silliman
TONIGHT at 7:00 PM — Coleman-Morse Lounge (1st floor)

The Observer • NEWS
Wednesday, April 1, 2009

Pledge
continued from page 1
Palumbo, who is a co-director of the Special Olympics quên that he came to the idea while talking with Tim Sweeney, a Yale stu-
dent, at the Special Olympics World Winter Games in Boine, Idaho.
The two students decided to declare their public day as "End the R-word Day" in order to ensure their project had the biggest impact. They created a Facebook page and people learned of the idea, more and more people wanted to help, he said.
Special Olympics International got involved, as did actor John C. McGinley of "It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia," who has promoted the event through various media appearances. This advertis-
ing inspired many high schools and universities, including Notre Dame, to bring the event to their cam-
puses.
Palumbo relied heavily on a range of do-good leaders to promote the event on cam-
pus. Students hung up posters, involved their friends to a Facebook event and dec-
orated the ground with side-
walk chalk. He said he was happy to see so much support for the event from students.
"It's cool to see that there are all these other people on campus that really pas-
sonate about it," Palumbo said. "It's not just some little pet project.

Sophomore Mary Fopp is one such student. She said she has been affected by the use of the word "retarded" by war, politics and even a relative's effect on her older sister.
"My older sister Marita has several physical and mental handicaps and I've seen how her life is by people's thoughtless use of the word," she said. "I realize that people don't mean to hurt any-
one by the use of this word, but it does hurt them."
Ed Suski, the president of Best Buddies at Notre Dame, agreed that much of the problem stems from students not understanding what insulting the word is.
"The goal of this project is really raising awareness," he said. "You hear people saying the R-word all the time and they don't even think about how it's hurtful."
Palumbo and Fopp have both been a younger sister with an intel-
lectual disability, said he and Fopp agreed to work to inspire people to get involved in the cause.
Fopp said she can take the pledge but it's about much more than just signing:
"It's a matter of putting your hand on your heart and saying, 'This is really important to me.'"

Contact Irena Zajickev at iazickov@nd.edu

Trial begins for marine
in Iraq killing case

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. — A court-martial began Tuesday for a Marine accused of killing an unarmed captive in Iraq in 2004.
Weemer, 26, of Hindsboro, Ill., is accused of killing in Iraq an unarmed captive in Iraq in 2004. In a case officials knew nothing about until the defendant sought a Secret Service job.
Weemer is the first fatality. The shaven-headed Weemer was shot by a sniper.

An attorney for Sgt. Ryan Weemer told the jury that prosecutors cannot prove their case because he has a good body, no forensic evidence and no relatives complaining of a lost loved one. Prosectors, however, played recorded interviews in which Weemer said he and another Marine killed a total of four men in Fallujah ahead of an assault.

"We went into this house," Weemer said in the recording. "We went into this house and we asked about the most seri-
ous crime he ever committed.

"We went into this house, the Marines asked him about the most seri-
ous crime he ever committed.

"He said, 'I have killed five people with an AK-47.'"

The case came to light long after the battle.
In 2006, after he left the Marine Corps, Weemer applied for a job in the Secret Service. During a background check, Weemer was asked about the most seri-
ous crime he ever committed.
"We went into this house, the Marines asked him about the most seri-
ous crime he ever committed.

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ous crime he ever committed.
"We went into this house, the Marines asked him about the most seri-
ous crime he ever committed.

"He said, 'I have killed five people with an AK-47.'"
Corporations are expected to spend less on federal contracts this year, according to a new survey by the Society for Human Resource Management.

A recent report by the Society for Human Resource Management found that corporations are planning to cut back on federal contracts, with 44 percent of respondents reporting a decrease in planned spending. The survey was conducted among 1,500 HR professionals and covers a range of industries, including technology, healthcare, and finance.

The report highlights the impact of government spending cuts on the private sector, as corporations are forced to adapt to a shrinking market. "The government is an important customer for many businesses," said Jennifer Spanier, managing principal at Deloitte Consulting, a global professional services firm. "It's a significant source of revenue for companies, and any reduction in contracts can have a ripple effect on the economy."
Obama's aunt a symbol in debate

Associated Press

BOSTON — Barack Obama's Kenyan aunt lost her bid for asylum more than four years ago, and is now fighting a bitter legal battle. She and 6,424 from El Salvador are considered under a little-used provision in U.S. immigration rules that allows denied asylum claims to be reheard if applicants can show that something has changed to make their case more plausible.

Such as the ascension of her nephew to the presidency of the world's most powerful country.

"If she were to talk to Kenya, she is going to be much more in the limelight, and that, in and of itself, could put her at a greater risk. The chances of her going back and keeping a low profile are gone at this point," said Boston immigration attorney Linda Oyang'o.

Oyang'o, 56, the half-sister of Obama's mother, Kenya gained independence in 1963, and an immigration judge ordered her deported in 2004; she is now living in public housing in Boston.

In December, a judge agreed to consider the situation and reopen her case. An initial hearing is scheduled in the U.S. Immigration Court in Boston.

Oyang'o has said repeatedly that he didn't know his aunt was living in the United States illegally and believes that laws covering the situation should be followed. If she wins asylum, she could seek protection from deportation. If she loses, she could face criticism from immigrant advocacy groups.

The White House says Obama is staying out of it.

"The president believes that the case should run its ordinary course, and neither he nor his representatives have had any involvement," spokesman Ben LaBolt said last week.

Over the past decade, relatively few Kenyans have sought asylum in the United States: 343 compared with 9,250 asylum requests from China and 6,424 from El Salvador.

Only 60 Kenyans were granted asylum that year through immigration courts.

During the fiscal years 1999 through 2006, about 20 percent of Kenyans who applied through immigration courts were granted asylum, according to an Associated Press review of immigration records.

People who seek asylum must show they face persecution in their homeland on the basis of religion, race, nationality, political opinion or membership in a social group.

Oyang'o's reasons for seeking asylum have not been made public, and her immigration hearing will be closed at her lawyer's request.

Kenya has been fractured by violence in recent years. In 2007, more than 1,000 were killed in the East African nation's disputed presidential poll, which saw a Luo candidate, Raila Odinga, lose.

Since Kenya gained independence from Britain in 1963, periodic tensions have arisen among the Luo — Oyang'o's tribe — and some of Kenya's other tribes, including the Kikuyu, the largest tribe in the country.

Kenya was among the first four countries to reach the status of a "major ally and a partner," Obama said last week.

"That's a major ally and a partner," Obama said last week.

"And the Kenyan people are always worried because of her relationship with Obama," Oyang'o's lawyer, Margaret LaBolt, said last week.

In his memoir, "Dreams from My Father," Obama describes the Kenyan government may perceive — because of her relationship with Obama — "that she may have some level of political power and be able to transfer that power" to her tribe's political candidates.

Oyang'o's lawyer, Margaret Wong, may also argue that she needs to stay in the United States for medical reasons.

Onyango, who has been photographed walking with a cane, has some kind of a neurological condition, said Mike Rogers, Wong's spokesperson.

"In my dream, "Dreams from My Father," A Story of Race and Inheritance," Obama affectionately referred to Onyango as "Auntie Zeituni" and described meeting her during his 1988 trip to Kenya.

Oyang'o has not responded to requests for interviews. The case is being closely watched by people on all sides of the immigration debate. Some critics say her status has already damaged the president's credibility on immigration issues.

"The president's moral authority has been compromised by his aunt's situation," said Dan Stein, president of the Federation for American Immigration Reform.

"Americans have the right to expect aliens to respect our law, to leave when they are supposed to and not thumb their nose at the legal system," Stein said.

But immigrant advocates say opponents are unfairly targeting Oyang'o's case as political fodder.

"Whether it's the president's aunt, my aunt or your aunt — anybody who's seeking asylum is seeking that status for a very important reason," said Ali Noorani, executive director of the National Immigration Forum. "We are all worried that a person whose asylum claims are rejected, that they end up in a situation where they are a political pawn."
ARGENTINA

Argentine President Alfonsin dies at age 82 of lung cancer

Government leader symbolized the return of democracy across Latin America after an era of military dictatorship

Associated Press

BUENOS AIRES — Raúl Alfonsin, whose presidency symbolized the return of democracy across Latin America after an era of military dictatorship, has died.

Alfonsin, born in the small town of Chascomus near Buenos Aires, where he completed primary school and first found an interested in politics, joined the Radical Party, Argentina’s brand of Social Democracy.

He was later named as a key figure of democracy until the end.

“Your are a symbol of democracy,” Cristina Fernandez told him as she was sworn in as Argentina’s Peronist President in 2003.

He made clear, however, that there was still work to be done.

“Our democracy is limp and incomplete,” he said at the nation’s main anniversary of civilian rule. "Intimidation and violence," he said, were problems Argentina needed to solve.

Alfonsin explained his strong rejection of authoritarian rule as inherited from his father, a former member of the Republican Forces, a group of Franco Francos in the Spanish civil war.

After elementary school, however, he went for five years to a military school. "Those were five very good years," he said later, "for they served to me in the future." He later observed.

As a 23-year-old law gradu- ate from the University of La Plata, Alfonsin married Maria Peron, who was a known since childhood and had six children.

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An apology to Saint Mary's girls

This column is for the ladies, specifically the ladies of Saint Mary's College. No, I'm not just angling for a date to your side of Route 31. I'm a (male) dancer with nothing to do on April 25.

Instead, this column is an attempt to atone for a year of neglect from your brothers and sisters across the lakes. I know some of you might be thinking, "Why should Notre Dame apologize?" Surely they've done nothing but respect and support us over the years! A few might feel vindicated: "Finally! Someone recognizes that we are not Notre Dame's red-headed step-sister!" Still more might be confused: "What is this guy talking about? Why am I reading this column when I could be watching 'Gossip Girl'?"

The truth is, we Domers have been pretty selfish in '08-09 — we haven't given you a Viewpoint war to call your own. We've been completely preoccupied with our own issues, (Melissa's bunions, swaddles, yelling "suck it!" at basketball games, Obama mania, etc.), and have completely overlooked the Saint Mary's firestorm that normally arrives every spring with the tulips.

Furthermore, a quick glance at the calendar shows little chance of Saint Mary's making the Sweet Sixteen this year. In two weeks' time, everyone will be upset over the Saint Mary's schedule, and unless you act now, you won't make it in.

To add insult to injury, even the Keenan Revue refrained from making any Saint Mary's jokes this year. The Keenan Revue, of all things! By junior year at Notre Dame, I was sure of only three things: losing in the first round of basketball, sweatpants after Thanksgiving and smick chick jokes at the Revue. All that's left of the Revue now is a bunch of guys in their under-shorts grabbing each other's butts. (not that the butt-grabbing isn't tastefully choreographed).

In talking with a few seniors at Saint Mary's, I've learned that they feel cheated by these developments. To them, Helle-hashing is an annual rite, something to be celebrated rather than avoided. To me, their thick skin and ability to take a joke is a quality which I hope will someday cross Route 31. They have to put up with our endless indignation over nonissues all year, and it is only fair that they get their 15 minutes of fame. Therefore, in the spirit of making amends before I have to be forcibly removed from campus in May, (trust me, I'm not leaving without a flight), NDSP, I would like to give this year's female-choreographed Saint Mary's firestorm back to the ladies. Notre Dame letter: You probably can't read this because of your inferior technology, or you shouldn't be allowed in the student section at football games because you can't understand our complicated cheerleading.

Saint Mary's letter: That's not true! Respectfully, Katie '09.

Notre Dame letter (guy): I hate you because I can't get my ring by spring from that dreamy guy in O'Neill. The reservation I made my freshman year to have my wedding in the Basilica will now go to waste!

Saint Mary's letter: The first day of spring was two weeks ago. Don't hate the player, hate the game. There you have it, in so many words. I'm glad that's behind us. Now we can get back to debating important topics like Bookstore team name censorship.

Brad Blstrom is a senior majoring in finance, economics and corporate counseling. Although he loves being a college student, he can't wait for the day 40 years from now when he will still be writing outraged letters to the Viewpoint editor while yelling at kids to get off his lawn. He can be contacted at bblstrom@nd.edu.

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and necessarily those of The Observer.
In a far more idealistic time, I swore never to write on the column with the words, "As I sprawled out to write this column, I said to myself, 'Self! What lifeful optimistic aspect of my personality are we going to go frolicking in this week?" **Katherine** 

Both Sides Now

"But then I didn't. "Self, since very early in this column, we've been in literally on the roaring edge of the question of whether unions are a good idea or not. And we should, just for us, try to keep it that way. This column, Self, can explain what the irony of the ironies is." Self rolled her eyes and went out for a Muddle.

***

For those of you who aren't aware, I am a pro-boss, anti-union, free market, European travel, type of advertising and service suggests it considers its patrons no more than piggy banks desperate to be squeezed. It's a plain and simple observation, free riders get to ride for nothing, and those that disagree with him. Yet, we do not speak only for the self and Self. I think we simply believe that there is absolutely no downside to unionization for workers. However, one must look no further than one of the most heavily unionized industries in the country, the automotive industry, to see why some workers might want the opportunity to say no to unions with the privacy of a secret ballot. There are budget airlines out there that don't offer almost that same experience (except for the upfront charged). They treat customers as people, and not chaotically simulated ATMs. And these are the ones I will patronize. Will one person's defecting from RyanAir affect the company at all? Probably not. But by defecting, has said person reassessed some measure of personhood? I speak only for Self and I think so. ***

Of course, if you couldn't care less what the inside of your plane looks like, so long as you make it to Paris in one piece, more power to you. Although there could be something else that makes you feel a bit dehumanized. Maybe it's something that no one else in your world seems to care about. But if your feelings are hurt, and asserting them causes the course, then why not act? Just act effectively.

I'd accomplished nothing if I only wrote this column to complain about RyanAir, but had I stopped giving it money, Convincing others of one thing, but that's the point if you don't do it for yourself first. A case in point: Maybe spending weeks on end as an anonymous salvia receptacle isn't as fun if you'd be around you, and I'd like to be there more often. I speak only for my, Self cut her brain muffin into quarters. "I know, but it'd help make it about everyone. Did you want some blueberry jam on yours?" **Katherine Khorey**

is a junior studying English and Russian at Trinity College, Dublin. She can be contacted at khorey@nd.edu The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Explain yourselves Sorin

I'm sure this is precisely what you want: A rise out of the W.I.L.D. women in response to another whiny protest of Sorin College (Should I remind you that you walked out on Bon Jovi?). While you eloquently attempt to state your case, it is downright nonsensical and avoids the actual reasoning of another argument. We reside in a world where you hate Walsh, I, myself, have experienced the animosity of Sorin towards Walsh for what seems no reason, as you launched water bottles at our football team while we innocently walked to the Grotto. Clearly, something big is happening between the dorms for such a war to be waged, but it has confused me since I'm only a freshman. Currently, I can answer the question; I asked fellow freshmen that reside in Sorin why exactly we're their disliked neighbors. Their response? "They tell us first day, 'That's Walsh. Walsh is like them.'" And simply, that's all. While I've heard a rumor going from a system where both parties get a breakup gone bad between a Walsh girl and Sorin boy, which occurred before any of us attended Notre Dame, I feel these vicious allegations had to be

Unions may be the problem

Yesterday Sarah Lyons wrote an letter in support of the ironically named Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA). The Act, she seemed unsure of its impact, in favor of an election, there is a waiting period trig­gering all over the place. The ironically named Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA) never to begin a column with the words, "Unions are bad because employees don't get to make a choice anonymously, to a sys­tem where one side of the argument gets to openly cajole and intimidate workers until they get their way, see why some workers might want the opportunity to say no to unions with the privacy of a secret ballot.

Brian Benjamin**

jester

Koon

March 30

Stand up for ideals

I wish to express my gratitude to the students who, earlier this month, presented a petition to Fr. Jenkins asking that sexual orienta­tion be added to the University's non-discrimination clause. Fr. Jenkins' decision to reject the petition is deeply distressing. I hope that in the future Notre Dame will reconsider this decision, which contradicts the ideals set out in the 'Spirit of Inclusion.' Despite the disappointing result, I thank those brave students who stood up for the rights of L.G.B.T.Q. students, and stood up for the ideals Notre Dame claims to uphold.

Albha Darcy

goshen makes no sense

March 31

We aren't supposed to fill this space, you are!

Submit a letter to the editor
### Kings

**Starring:** Christopher Egan (David), Ian McShane (Silas), Eamonn Walker (Samuels), Allison Miller, Susanna Thompson, Sebastian Stan, Dylan Baker, Wes Studi, Santa Choudhury  
**Airs:** Sundays, 8pm on NBC

The plot of "Kings" purposefully models itself after the David and Goliath story from the Bible. In accordance with the Biblical connection, there is a heavy religious influence in the show. While they are not specifically any one denomination, King Silas often references his own religious beliefs. He speaks of his monarchy as being ordained by God and relies heavily upon the approval of the Reverend Samuels. A favorite anecdote of the King recounts a moment when a great swarm of butterflies came down upon his head. At that moment, Silas knew God approved of his work. Ominously, a similar event occurs to David upon his arrival to Shiloh, perhaps fore-shadowing a royal future of his own.

An ambitious undertaking by any producer, Green seems to have made his modern adaptation of David and Goliath work — at least for the time being. At least the plot and dialogue of "Kings" can be seen as overworked or insincere. There is no doubt that the story is packed full of archetypes and symbols, many go by too quickly for the audience to catch on. Still, there is something strangely enthralling about the show. There is deceit and trickery, lies and secrets, romance and passion, and it is all wrapped up in a story from the Bible. While it may be a stretch to say that this series is groundbreaking or a must-watch, it is, at least three episodes into the first season, hard to stop watching. If nothing else, the desire to find out what the future holds for David keeps this author coming back.

"Kings" airs on NBC Sunday nights at 8 p.m.

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### Killzone 2

**Price:** $59.99  
**ESRB Rating:** M  
**System:** PS3  
**Pros:** Multiplayer mode, customization, best-of-seven gameplay  
**Cons:** Uninspired single-player mode, boring storyline

By ANDREW SERHOFF  
Scene Writer

At first glance, the highly anticipated "Killzone 2" looked like everything a video-gaming male could ever want: killing and zone warfare. While the game delivers in these aspects, there are a couple of factors that make this game fall short of being the Halo-killer it was predicted to be.  

As with most first-person shooters, "Killzone 2" features both single-player and multiplayer modes. Unfortunately, it suffers a similar fate as highly touted first-person shooter games before it. Its single-player mode is flat and uninspired. You start the game dropped right into a Normandy-style invasion, with explosions and gunfire all around you. Orders are barked at you by the radio voice god, and you complete these arbitrary objectives, usually utilizing the tacky Sixaxis motion-sensitive controls for non-combat related tasks. The gameplay and visuals (especially the cutscenes) are exceptional, but the story is uneventful and uninteresting. In addition, the known remedy to disappointing storylines — an exceptional cooperative campaign — is suspiciously absent.

The multiplayer is the reason to play "Killzone 2." The mechanics feel like the widely successful "Call of Duty 4," especially with the customizable soldier loadouts. In "Killzone 2," customization is expanded to include different unlockable classes, talents and weapons with a unique system that is intuitive and challenging (but not to the point of absurdity). While gameplay is too advanced for first-person shooter beginners to have a chance against seasoned veterans a la Halo, it won't take the average gamer long to adjust to the nuances of "Killzone 2." Probably the best new feature is a best-of-seven game rotation on a single map, giving the player the opportunity to play all the classic first-person shooter objectives without the tedious pre-game and post-game setup and loading.

"Killzone 2" makes great work of the PS3's power and is a valuable addition to any first-person shooter fan's library. The multiplayer is near-flawless and a pinnacle of the genre, but if online shooting isn't for you, neither is "Killzone 2."

Contact Andrew Schoff at asehoff@nd.edu
The University of Notre Dame is a premier university, with ample opportunities for success available to young people of all backgrounds. Arguably, no other institution offers the variety in academics, athletics, artistry and culture that is so accessible here on our campus. Notre Dame boasts the capacity to turn nearly any interest into regular practice with its wide array of facilities, faculty and student leadership.

Why then, is there a significant shortage of casual performance of popular music by Notre Dame’s students? In comparison with many other colleges of varying sizes, Notre Dame lacks notably in this department. This statement is not meant to be taken as a criticism of the musical inclinations of Notre Dame’s student population. The talent is clearly there, evident in any special performances, talent shows, and the rare sunny-day drum circle. Rather, the claim is that there is a scarcity of opportunities and venues for Notre Dame musicians to display the soul, the chillness and the flow that is characteristic of college-age music.

Now, when compared to other student bodies, Notre Dame students may be slightly more preoccupied with their academic endeavors than with publicly mellowing out with an acoustic guitar strapped to their shoulders. The claim can be made that between difficult classes, the environmental club, applying for scholarships, and the co-rec ultimate Frisbee team (note the Notre Dame manifestation of the Jack Johnson stereotype), casual "jamming" is unfortunately pushed to the back burner.

Students, however, seem to have little difficulty involving themselves in ways that tailor to their interests and talents. See any Notre Dame stage production and it is clear that students are willing and capable of producing performance masterpieces. The problem may then lie in the availability of casual performance opportunities, both on campus and in South Bend.

Weekly Acousticafé performances display the talent being discussed. But these unplugged sessions don’t guarantee a full bill and three for a larger commitment. And how often do Notre Dame student performers climb on stage for exclusive shows, or even as opening acts for the many touring bands that pass through? Unless it’s the case of very poor advertising, there exist virtually no student performances anywhere off-campus.

What Notre Dame and South Bend need are more venues and opportunities to kick out a few jams. We’re talking coffee shops, cafes, restaurants, nightclubs and other locations that would allow a college student to sit down, with or without accompaniment, and bust out a few popular covers, or even introduce the community to some original songwriting. Talented student musicians always seem to seep out of the woodwork at one-and-done events like talent shows or some of the various cultural festivals that sweep quickly across campus. Why not have a place where these valuable talents can stick around for a while.

Hopefully, what we as students will see, or more appropriately, hear, in the near future is the mellow musings of musicians during the quieter hours at Reckers. Perhaps a fellow student will present a touring artist with his own tunes at Legends. Maybe soon posters alerting passing students of upcoming off-campus performances will adorn the walls of O’Shag. Opportunities abound for students at Notre Dame. It’s time that student music was given the same chance.
Thunder prevent Spurs from clinching berth

Anthony's 29 against Knicks leads Nuggets into second place; Bobcats earn critical win over Lakers

Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — Kevin Durant scored 31 points and the Oklahoma City Thunder continued to torment the San Antonio Spurs with a 96-95 victory Tuesday night.

The Thunder led by as much as 16 and denied the Spurs a playoff-clinch win after beating San Antonio for the second time this month. With eight games left, the Spurs lost their slim lead in the Southwest Division and fell into a first-place tie with Houston.

Russell Westbrook had 16 points and 10 assists for the Thunder, who fought off a furious rally from the Spurs to break a three-game losing streak and win in San Antonio for the first time since 2004.

The Thunder, a chance to win, but Michael Finley's off-balance jumper as time expired clanked off the back of the rim. Tim Duncan scored 21.

San Antonio has lost two straight and will play five of its final eight games on the road, including another one at Oklahoma City next week. San Antonio still needs either a win or a Phoenix loss to clinch a playoff spot for the 12th straight year but could still be seeded anywhere from No. 2 to No. 8.

The Thunder seemed determined not to punch San Antonio's playoff ticket.

Oklahoma City, who had won just once in the six games since beating the Spurs on March 16, built a 74-57 lead in the third before the Spurs came storming back. The Thunder's lead shrunk to 94-93 with 1:11 left on a 3-pointer by Finley, but New Orleans Hornets' Jr. Smith hit a jumper to push the lead back to three.

Duncan blocked a layup by Jeff Green with 13 seconds left, but the Spurs struggled to find a shooter after immediately pushing the ball up the floor and settled for Finley's errant jumper as the buzzer sounded.

Marvin Williams scored 17 points in his first start since December. Duncan had 14 and Tony Parker had 11 for the Spurs.

Nuggets 111, Knicks 104

Carmelo Anthony scored 29 points and the Denver Nuggets clinched a playoff spot by holding off for a victory over the New York Knicks on Tuesday night after blowing most of a 27-point, second-quarter lead.

The Nuggets' win, coupled with losses by other playoff-bound teams in Oklahoma City, moved Denver into the No. 2 spot in the Western Conference heading into the final two weeks of the season.

Denver's 49-26 record is its best-73 game mark since joining the NBA in 1976. The Nuggets clinched a playoff spot for the sixth time in franchise history.

Oklahoma City, Dallas, Detroit and San Antonio have also made the playoffs every year since the Nuggets entered the NBA.

Denver has won nine of 10 and New York has lost nine of 10, so a mismatch was expected, and the Nuggets obliged by racing out to a 17-0 run in the opening minutes left in the first half.

That's when they got stopped, and the Knicks, who were led by Nate Robinson's 30 points, got hot.

The Knicks used a 26-3 spot spanning halftime to pull to 65-66, and make as much of it go as the Thunder, who staged a 22-5 run to close out the third on a 3-pointer by Jefferson with 2.9 seconds left in the third, but it was too little, too late as the Knicks couldn't get the Nuggets scored the next 14 points.

Bobcats 94, Lakers 84

Needling victories to make up ground in the playoff race, the schedule fell perfectly for the Charlotte Bobcats. The mighty Los Angeles Lakers came to town.

Continuing perhaps the most unlikely dominance of one team over another in the NBA, the Bobcats got 21 points and 13 rebounds from Gerald Wallace and using stifling defense to force the Lakers on Tuesday night and move within one game of the final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference.

Raymond Felton added 16 points, D.J. Augustin scored 14 and Boris Diaw had 12 as the Bobcats frustrated Kobe Bryant and completed a season sweep of the Western Conference leaders, who have lost six of seven to Charlotte over the past four seasons.

"We match up real well with them," explained Wallace after the fifth-year Bobcats set a franchise record with their 34th win.

"We kind of force Kobe into taking a lot of tough shots, and kind of get him out of the way he wants to do things offensively. At the same time, we're able to attack them and take advantage of their weaknesses."

Fallling to reach 100 points in consecutive games for the first time since November, the weary Lakers dropped their second straight with one game left Wednesday in Milwaukee in their seven-game, 13-day road trip.

Bryant scored 25 points, but hit just 11 of 28 shots. Lamar Odom added 20 points as the Lakers slipped to three games behind Cleveland for the NBA's best record and home-court for a possible finals matchup.

"We just need to put momentum, ball movement," Bryant said, who is 18-47 from the field in the past two games.

"You want to be playing well going into the playoffs," said Jeff Boll, shadowing Bryant, the Bobcats held the Lakers to 39 percent shooting — and as the game went on, Bobcats fans drowned out the thousands of Lakers fans who helped produce the largest crowd for a Bobcats game in their 4-year-old arena.

"It was like an NCAA tournament game," Bobcats coach Larry Brown said. "They were cheering for the underdog."

Brown's latest tournament job has the likely regards Bobcats in the playoff mix despite a brutal closing schedule that includes six of eight on the road, starting Wednesday in Boston.

After losses by Chicago and Detroit on Tuesday, the Bobcats are a game behind the eighth-loss Knicks, who are a game behind the sixth-place Bulls and two back of the seventh-place Pistons.

"We give it a big chance to make it to the playoffs this sea".

San Antonio has lost two buckets in an 8-0 run to get the Lakers within 80-78 with 5:32 left. Diaw hit a floater in the lane and Bell made a 3-pointer on the next possession.

The Thunder played without star forward Kevin Durant for the second time in his four-year career, Tuesday in Boston. The Observer accepts classifieds every business day from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Notre Dame office.

If you or someone you care about has been sexually assaulted, visit Support Services for Victims of Sexual Assault at:

www.ohiosafetycontext.com

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around the dial

High School Basketball
McDonald's All-American Game
8 p.m., ESPN

NHL
Chicago Blackhawks vs. St. Louis Blues
8:30 p.m., CSN
Poll: Major League ticket prices too high

Associated Press

Take me out to the ballgame — because I can't afford it. The high price of going to a game is now the No. 1 problem in Major League Baseball, a new Associated Press-Knowledge Networks poll of fans shows.

Scoring salaries and steroids dominated fans' worries in past AP surveys. But with opening day less than a week away, the main concern is delivering the biggest blow.

"Like every election, it's the economy," said New York Yankee star Mark Teixeira, who tested positive for drugs in 2003 before the game began, set off the stampede. The weight of the fans pushing forward caused a wall to come crashing down, according to an AP photographer and other witnesses. An Abidjan morgue listed 19 dead, and 73 people died.

"We see people falling from the top bleachers. The stampede was provoked by the security forces who threw tear canisters at us," said Diarrassouba Adama, who was inside the stadium. The stampede was provoked by the security forces who threw tear gas canisters at us. I don't know why, but I think they are trying to get the stadium out of control. The security forces were on the terrace. They pushed people from the top of the stand."

"We are all so sad about what happened and can only send our condolences to the families and friends of those who died," said Didier Drogba, who scored two goals for the Ivory Coast in the match. The organizer of the next World Cup, meanwhile, pledged Monday there will be no stadium stampedes during Africa's first World Cup in 2010 or during the 2009 Confederations Cup, both being held in South Africa.

"It triggers a stampede that leads to disaster," Jordan said. "Those things will not occur in the Confederations Cup or the World Cup. It is impossible."

Jordan said World Cup and Confederations Cup fans will be chased well in advance and those without tickets will be stopped far away from the stadium.

"We have people losing their jobs, and CC Sabathia — I love him, he was my favorite — he gets more millions than a third baseman making his country's national budget," she said.

"I'm not happy about the prices," she said this week at the Indians' new dome. "Every sports team in America, every professional athlete, is out of control.

"We people losing their jobs, and CC Sabathia — I love him, he was my favorite — he gets more millions than a third baseman making his country's national budget," she said.

"I'm here for spring training. But I think this is the last time. Every year, I get more disillusioned with the millionaire players. Now, with Americans really in a financial bind, these guys keep getting richer? This is too much."

"I'm not surprised with the economy being so bad and the way things are, the price of a ticket is probably going to be astronomically high. This is not going to come out and support us," he said.

Over the past year, 45 percent, followed by player salaries (42 percent) and the length of games (42 percent), were the fans' main concern. The toll of attending a game was tops at 60 percent, followed by player salaries (59 percent) and concession prices (58 percent). But the cost of tickets, concessions, parking and everything else added up to fans' most serious worry in 2003.

"The only seats at either of the two new ballparks opening in New York. At the Mets' Citi Field, it's $18 just to park. The average ticket price in the majors was $25.43 last year — up 11.7 percent over 2002 — according to a report to The Team Marketing Report. The 2003 cost hasn't been determined yet, but the increase is typically outpace the inflation rate.

MLB said two-thirds of the 30 teams lowered either their average ticket price or some level of seats. The Toronto Blue Jays went even further, offering a season ticket in the upper deck for $76 — less than $1 per game for all 81 home dates.

"The prices at the concession stands are insane," Cleveland fan Larry Jameson complained at spring training in Goodyear, Ariz. "Eight bucks for a beer. My wife bought a T-shirt. It cost $22 bucks. She was going to get me a golf shirt. It was 55 bucks. I said forget about it, we need a plane ticket home."

Margaret Costello, a retired teacher from Sydney, Ohio, assessed blame across the board.

"I'm not happy about the prices," she said this week at the Indians' new dome. "Every sports team in America, every professional athlete, is out of control.

"We people losing their jobs, and CC Sabathia — I love him, he was my favorite — he gets more millions than a third baseman making his country's national budget," she said.

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Overall, almost 60 percent of poll respondents said going to a game was more expensive than other entertainment they might consider. Yet there was no indication they would stay away because of the prices — only 11 percent who went to a game in 2008 said they weren't likely to go back this year.

Mlb Poll: Major League ticket prices too high

Associated Press

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OLYMPICS

Chicago prepares for Olympic visit

Coastal Observer "SPORTS" page 17

Chicago, Illinois — Chicago has rolled out the red carpet for kings and queens, presidents and movie stars, not to mention Bulls, Torks and Bears. But this week a few VIPs most people have never heard of get the royal treatment as the city tries to land the 2016 Olympic Games.

Mourni Sahbet, Alexander Popov, Dr. Ching-Kuo Wu and a few others from an International Olympic Committee delegation will inspect the city in its first stop during the competition against Rio de Janeiro, Madrid or Tokyo. It follows meetings last week in Denver where each city made a 20-minute presentation.

Chicago officials have been busily rehearsing, painting, practicing, painting and planting. For example, they’ll make sure IOC members see two Millennium Park fountains in all their glory, just the way they are when they become one of the city’s top summertime attractions.

The delegation usually wait until April 15, but the water will be turned on when the committee arrives, said Jill Hurwitz, cultural affairs department spokeswoman.

Workers are also trying to finish renovating the famed Buckingham Fountain ahead of time. Around the city, community groups and businesses have planted flowers in parks and planters along streets. And in this season of Olympic year, work crews are laying down fresh asphalt in Washington Park, where the Olympic stadium would be built.

Roads department spokesman Brian Steele said crews are working across Chicago, not just near Olympic venues. Still, he acknowledged, “If we wanted to complete those streets prior to the IOC visit.”

In Denver last week, Madrid, Tokyo and Rio de Janeiro officials all talked specifically about the slow global economy as part of the presentations to the IOC members. Chicago bid leader Pat Ryan said he would go into detail about the city’s economic plan during this week’s visit.

Chicago plans an Olympics with 90 percent of the athletes within 15 minutes of their competition venues, all based around Lake Michigan.

Chicago also planned to greet each IOC member with someone who speaks their language and knows their countries’ customs. A.D. Frazier, the chief operating officer of the Atlanta games, said it’s a safe bet that the visitors aren’t caught in traffic during their tour.

“You think the IOC ever saw a traffic jam in Beijing?” he asked. “I guarantee you they never saw a traffic jam in Beijing.”

Chicago organizers acknowledge they’ve got detailed biographical information about each IOC member.

“We have done some research about who they are: We’ve got cultural and other interesting spots that they might want to take a look at when they’re in town,” said Lori Igelis, Chicago 2016 director of events, volunteers and accommodations. “We have information at our fingertips of key places they might be interested in.”

Chicago organizers say 1,500 people could play some role in the visit: children were planned to be a part of the event, and a visit to Soldier Field, where the NFL’s Chicago Bears play, at Lincoln Park, site of the proposed tennis venue, tennis players will also be involved.

Staffers have rehearsed each stop on the venue tour and the drive to get there. Judging by one recent rehearsal the media was allowed to watch, they will assure the IOC that Chicago, which hosted the 1933 World’s Fair, has the potential to be charming, impressive and exciting.

“They feel the stars will be aligned, literally and figuratively,” said Doug Logan said. “We will be working with the Jamaican federation, our athletes and other stakeholders over the next few months to put together a top-tier event.”

With Bolt’s gold medals and world records in the 100 and 200, and sprinter winning Shelly-Ann Fraser and Veronica Campbell-Brown, Jamaica won all four sprints at the Beijing Olympics.

The city bid plans an Olympics that will prove captivating to the world, said Jitu Brown of the Kenwood Oakwood Community Organization.

But, he said, “We are not anti-olympics.” Just anti-dismantling residents.

A group calling itself “No Games Chicago” says the city should be spending money on schools and housing, not the Olympic Games. The group plans a Sunday rally.

Associated Press

DIGITAL STADIUM

OLYMPIC PARK

Associate Press

Chicago — Usain Bolt and the rest of Jamaica’s Olympics-dominating sprint crew are ready to take on the best from the U.S. in the bid to boost track and field’s profile in non-Olympic years, the two countries will square off in both the men’s and women’s 100 and 200.

In a bid to boost track and field’s profile in non-Olympic years, the two countries will square off in both the men’s and women’s 100 and 200.

The countries will have one meet in the United States — probably on the East Coast — and one in Jamaica, sometime in May or June before the European track season begins.

“We feel the stars will be aligned, literally and figuratively,” said Doug Logan said. “We will be working with the Jamaican federation, our athletes and other stakeholders over the next few months to put together a top-tier event.”

Two hurdles distances, three relays and the long jump

“We look forward to taking on our American friends in track and field in 2010,” Jamaican federation president Lennox and Fraser said.

“We are confident that this kind of team competition, featuring the most exciting events in athletics, will prove captivating to fans around the world.”

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Associated Press

Silicon Valley

Olympic Park

Jamaica

Olympic Village

OLYMPIC GREEN

The Observer • SPORTS

Recollect the Observer.
Baylor moves on to NIT final

Associated Press

NEW YORK -- Curtis Jerrells tries not to think about where he's come from. "When you arrive, the stresses it had endured, the perception of it around the country. He'd much prefer to think about where we're going."

Jerrells scored 23 points and LaceDarius Dunn had 23 as a remarkable senior class carried the Bears into the NIT championship game, 76-62 over San Diego State on Tuesday night. Fellow senior Kevin Rogers added 14 points for Baylor (24-14), which has won seven of its last eight games and matched the 1947-48 team that lost in the national championship game for the second-most wins in school history.

"We've always said we'd rather be here, coming to New York, play­ing for a championship, than to make it to the NCAA tourna­ment and maybe lose right away," said Jerrells, whose team will play a nonconference sched­ule this past month and the numberous violations under former coach Dave Bliss. "It may be many more years before the school shakes that ugly past, but these seniors have done their part.

The Bears didn't allow them to go so far so quickly. They still were in control of the game with less than 12 minutes to go, but the Bears couldn't hold on. They had the capability and potential to play in games like this.

The Bears pushed the lead to 53-42 early in the second half on the strength of their 3-point shooting, with Dunn hitting three of them on five trips down floor.

San Diego State, which beat Saint Mary's and star guard Patty Mills in the quarterfinals, mounted its only rally of the second half with five straight points that cut the lead to 55-47. A few moments later, Billy White's basket off a turnover made it 57-51.

But the Bears were too athlet­ic, too quick and playing for far too much.

Twenty Carter hit a 3-pointer to kick off an 8-0 spurt, Jerrells finished a three-point play after slashing to the rim, and even big Josh Lemons put down a dunk to make it 72-55 with 2½ minutes left. Bringing the folks wearing green and gold sprinkled throughout Madison Square Garden to their feet.

And assuring a memorable senior class one more game.

"When we brought in these seniors," Drew said, "we knew they had the capability and potential to play in games like this.

The Aztecs and their own sen­ior-laden bunch did their best to ruin things for Baylor early, going on a 13-3 first-half run and briefly taking the lead on D.J. Gay's basket with 1:12 left. But the elusive Jerrells got free on the perimeter and was fouled, making two of three free throws to give Baylor a 35-34 lead at the break -- the first time the Aztecs trailed at half­time in the NIT.

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NHL

Bruins win fourth straight; Panthers down Sens

Associated Press

BOSTON — The Boston Bruins are going to be in the playoffs — perhaps for a nice, long run — and Manny Fernandez would like to be able to help them while they are there.

"You've got to feel confident, no matter what happens, that another goalie can help them win," the Bruins backup said Tuesday night after stopping 24 shots to lead Boston to its fourth straight victory, 3-1 over the Tampa Bay Lightning. "I've got to make sure my game is there, whenever I come in."

Blake Wheeler and Chuck Kobasew scored -- becoming Boston's seventh and eighth 20-goal scorers this season. Zdeno Chara matched his career high with his 17th goal and added an assist for the Eastern Conference-leading Bruins, who lead the Washington Capitals by nine points and the New Jersey Devils by 10.

Boston could clinch home-ice advantage through the conference finals as early as tonight. "It's only fair to our team, to the city, to our fans," Fernandez said. "It's important to have your backup goaltender ready for anything if called upon. It's only fair to our team, to our fans that we can be. We're getting ready for that."

Wheeler backhanded a shot past McKenna with 5:57 left in the first period to give Boston a 1-0 lead. The Bruins got a pair of power-play goals just as the penalized Lightning players were settling into the box.

Patrice Bergeron fed a perfect cross-ice pass to Chara, who was coming in from the right circle to make it 2-0 just 25 seconds into the second period. He converted a pass from Evgeny Artyukhin's high-sticking minor. Kobasew made it 3-0 later in the second period when he redirected Chara's shot from the point -- losing his stick in the process -- 19 seconds into Richard Petiot's hooking penalty.

"If you're trying to top Z's shot -- it's pretty tough," Kobasew said. "They come in pretty good."

Panthers 5, Senators 2

The Florida Panthers have picked the right time to find a spark for their power play.

Richard Zednik and Bryan McCabe scored man-advantage goals late in the second period and lifted the Panthers to a win over the Ottawa Senators on Tuesday night.

Nathan Horton and Stephen Weiss also scored for Florida, which won its third straight game. Michael Frolik added an empty-net goal with 3:30 left.

"It's not something that snuck up on us," Ottawa captain Daniel Alfredsson said. "We've known this situation for a long time. Our guys hasn't been only on trying to get into the playoffs, it's been on turning around things, which we definitely have, and now it's a matter of trying to keep our momentum and keep playing. Even though we didn't win today, we did a lot of great things and we've got to keep that going until the end of the season."

The Panthers, meanwhile, entered play Tuesday ninth in the East. Florida, which has ne’ en to the playoffs since 2000, was one point behind Montreal. The Canadiens beat Chicago 4-1 on Tuesday night.

With Brendan Bell serving a double minor for high-sticking, Zednik scored with 2:42 left in the second period. He pushed the puck through McCabe's pads to give Florida a 2-1 lead after Elliott stopped his initial shot from the side of the net. Then 1:06 later, McCabe's slap shot from the high slot went off Ottawa defensemen Anton Volchenkov and trickled into the net to make it 3-1.

"It's a very small margin sometimes," Alfredsson said. "That was probably the heartbreaker for us."

Weiss put the Panthers up 4-1 at 2:02 in the third period when he deflected David Booth's shot from the wing. Campbell's shot went off the leg of Florida defensemen Karlis Stukkis to make it 4- 2 at 15:27 of the third period. Horton, who missed six games this month with a fin- naceration, opened the scoring at 4:35 in the second period. He converted a pass from Cory Stillman on a two- on-one for his 21st goal.

They had won 10 of 13 but are in 11th place in the East. Ottawa, a Stanley Cup finalist in 2007, hadn't missed the playoffs since the 1995-96 season.

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Blackhawks blanked by Luongo's 26 saves

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Robert Luongo and Henrik Sedin scored goals 60 seconds apart Thursday afternoon as the Vancouver Canucks sent the Chicago Blackhawks a loud公开课 message Sunday night.

Luongo made 26 saves to match his career high with seven shutouts and Daniel Sedin had two goals and an assist in the Canucks' 4-0 victory over the Blackhawks.

Alex Burrows had a goal and two assists, Ryan Kesler also scored, and Henrik Sedin had three assists to help the Canucks end Chicago's three-game winning streak and move into a fourth-place tie in the Western Conference.

If the Blackhawks finish fourth and the Vancouver Canucks' record unchanged, they'll meet in the first round of the playoffs' and give the Vancouver team a home-ice advantage.

"We're the only team that's scored on them back-to-back at home, and by doing that, we've got a lot of confidence going into the playoffs. They know we're tough here. They know they're going to need to play their best game, and we're going to try and make them do that," Burrows said.

"They've got a very, very good goalie in Roberto. I think we can win games like this with just an average goalie. With Roberto, they're going to need to have their best game every night," Burrows said. "It's going to be a tough series if we get past that first step."
ND BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL
Rain wipes out pair of nonconference games

By CHRIS MICHALSKI
Sports Writer

Today's conference double-
header is set to begin at 3:30 p.m.
with the MIAA, so the Irish will have the advantage.

The team is always excited to play, so the matches go well tonight, we get to be together.

"This can be mentally exhausting, but we have a day or two between most games to mentally prepare for the next game."

Junior shortstop Maureen Hanley has been leading the team offensively lately, going 2-for-3 in the first game against Calvin with two runs batted in and 3-for-8 in Wednesday's doubleheader, having named the MIAA's position player of the week for her role in a pair of victories over Franklin last Thursday.

The first game of the doubleheader is set to begin at 3:30 p.m.

Contact Chris Michalski at
jmichalski@nd.edu

SMC SOFTBALL

Belles to host Olivet for two

By BOB STAVICK
Sports Editor

Tefft said.

"But we got to the

We had some open looks in the
defensive third of the field, which we
didn't have today," Sullivan said.

"Our goal now right is to beat the
team we are supposed to beat,
the exact same team," Tefft said.

"They're going to be very
difficult to get," said Tefft. "I think
giving them three losses on our record, I think they would want to especially top Northwestern, who is always a rival of ours," Tefft said.

"Hopefully the loss today will just get us more motivated on Saturday," Tefft said.

Contact Danielle Farmer
at dfarmer@nd.edu

Baylor
continued from page 24

freshmen Kristy Frilling, lost. Baylor's No. 16 duo of Lenka Broosova and Csilla Borsanyi won the match 8-6.

"They are a really tough
team. They are really good
over six. Last year they got to the NCAA semifinals, and they have basically
underclassmen tried to remind the seniors how much they con-
tributed to the Notre Dame bas-
ketball program.

"We were just trying to cheer them up because they're all a little
down right now," Jackson said.

"But we try to remind them that some of them will play again next level and some will stick around. There's always room for good guys like those," Harangody said.

Harangody agreed with Jackson, saying that the seniors have left an indelible imprint on the team.

"We just have to realize how much they've all done for the program," Jackson said. "They put Notre Dame basketball on the map."

Steve Staniuk and Taylor Ormond, K-5. The third doubles team of freshman Shannon Mathews and junior Corinne Selby loss, clinching Baylor the doubles point.

Tuesday was only the fourth
time this year Notre Dame has
lost the doubles point.

"At the end of the
time." Sullivan said.

"The first half but could not get
closer," Penn State forward Jamele Collier said. "We couldn't get an opportunity to
propel his team to the victory.

"We felt great after we got it (in hitting four but we couldn't get
any closer)," Harangody said. "We had some juice going but it just came down to free throws and they got it done.

For Notre Dame, 6 made 15 free throws while Notre Dame con-
verted 8.

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"They switched up their lineup,
which we didn't expect. We
made up as well today.

They got to the

semifinals in the one and six spots,
respectively.

"When those matches went,
only Tefft and Kрисtis were victorious for the Irish, in the one and six spots, respectively.

"It was a complete 180," he
said. "I went from the bottom
the top of the bag, which was
very good," Jackson said. "We
had some open looks in the
first half but it just wasn't a
good flow for us.

Harangody led the Irish with
17 points but shot just 5-of-16 from
the field.

"I couldn't tell you exactly what
happened," Harangody said. "We were a couple points behind, and our defense was playing well but we just couldn't close the gap.

The Irish went on a 17-2 run to

cut the deficit to 51-47 late in the
second half but could not close
the game. Penn State forward Jamele Collier scored with 15 points, converted a basket on the next Nittany Lions possession to
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The Notre Dame Law School Natural Law Institute presents

The 2009 Natural Law Lecture

Habeas Corpus and Guantanamo Bay: A View From Abroad

Timothy Endicott
Dean of Law Faculty
and
Professor of Legal Philosophy

Balliol College, Oxford University

Thursday, April 2, 2009
4 p.m.
Eck Hall of Law
Room 3130
**Men's Basketball**

**End of the line**

Slow start dooms Irish in season-ending defeat

By FRAN TOLAN

Senior Staff Writer

Even though Notre Dame was playing in the City that Never Sleeps, the team's offense never woke up Tuesday night. The Irish fell to Penn State 67-59 in the NIT semifinals at Madison Square Garden in New York City.

Notre Dame shot just 21-of-63 from the field, including 1-of-13 from the three-point arc.

"It was too late when we couldn't get a shot to fall," Irish junior Luke Harangody said. "I was laughing with coach Brey on the sideline because we just couldn't get a shot to fall."**

see NIT/page 21

**Men's Lacrosse**

Team ties program record for best start with victory

By SAM WERNER

Associate Sports Editor

Wind, cold, rain and a feisty Villanova squad couldn't stop No. 3 Notre Dame from running its record to 8-0 on the year, matching a school best.

The Irish downed the Wildcats 9-7 on a late goal from senior Peter Christman, who netted a hat trick on the afternoon.

With just 2:54 left in the game and the score tied at seven, Christman ripped a shot past Wildcat netminder Andrew DiLoreto, who made 12 saves in the game. The Wildcats had one last chance with just under a minute left in the game, but a save by Irish goalie Scott Rodgers, who made nine saves on the day, preserved the win.

Villanova coach Michael Corrado said he didn't draw up anything specific for that last-minute play.

"We kind of ran what we did the whole time," he said. "We tried to spread them out." A goal from junior Neal Hicks with four seconds left sealed the deal, and kept the Irish perfect on the year.

Villanova got on the board first with a goal from Matthew Fritts just three minutes into the first quarter. The Irish fought back, though, and goals from Hicks and Christman gave Notre Dame a 2-1 lead.

The teams traded goals for the rest of the half, with neither squad going up by more than one, and went into the break tied at four.

The Irish came out flying in the second half, though, and goals from seniors Ryan Hoff and Tim Driscoll, along with a goal from junior Neal Hicks with four seconds left, gave Notre Dame a 6-4 lead, its largest of the game.

But the Wildcats just wouldn't go away, as Villanova goals from Fritts and Tim Driscoll cut the lead to two. The Irish just couldn't get a shot to fall, and said his team still had work to do on offense.

"We didn't do our best in the game today, but we had a very good week of practice offensively," Corrigan said. "So, I think we're coming along."**

see BAYLOR/page 20

**Hockey**

Hanson signs pro contract

Senior center inks deal with Toronto franchise

By SAM WERNER

Associate Sports Editor

Even though Notre Dame's hockey season ended with last Saturday's loss to BCMidli State in the first round of the NCAA Tournament, one Irish hockey player will be in action this weekend.

Senior center Christian Hanson signed a two-year entry-level contract with the Toronto Maple Leafs Tuesday, and said he expected to play in the team's Friday night game against Philadelphia.

"It's pretty surreal," Hanson said. "It hasn't really hit me yet. I think when I wake up tomorrow morning, show up to the rink and the media frenzy's there for pre-game skates, I...

see HANSON/page 21

**Bookstore Basketball**

Bad Decision Badin falls to Delivery Boys

By ERIC PRISTER and KATE GRABAREK

Sporis Writers

Utilizing their distinct height advantage and experience, The Delivery Boys swept through their first round game, defeating Bad Decision Badin, 21-7.

In true Harlem Globetrotters style, The Delivery Boys ran up and down the court, fast-breaking and throwing behind-the-back passes on their way to the victory. The fast break was an important part of The Delivery Boys' game plan, and will continue to be so.

"We're a run and gun team and we like to fast break," Sophomore Michael Garcia said. "It'll be part of our game plan, but we also like the half-court set up as well."

Despite the one-sided nature of the contest, the rain was a factor, forcing The Delivery Boys to slow down and stay fundamental-ly sound.

"We had to adjust at the beginning. We were fak­led over," Garcia said. "But in the end, we got our stuff together and came out with a victory."

The Delivery Boys, No. 6 overall, look to go far in the tournament, but Garcia said they enjoyed their first round match-up, even if it did little for preparation as they move forward.

"This is the first time that any of us has played girls, but it was fun," Garcia said. "We knew a lot of the girls, and, I mean, it's Bookstore. You've got to love it."

see BOOKSTORE/page 20
Way to go, President Yomama cancels speech

Most powerful man in the world brought to tears by Viewpoint letters, Junkins' second choice proves he's gone insane

By HINE'S KETCHUP
Sarah Minser

After reading his daily copies of the Observer from last week, President Yomama has decided to cancel his visit to campus to speak at this year's commencement ceremony.

Apparently, all of the strongly-worded Viewpoint letters condemning his invitation to speak, have, for the first time in history, actually gone beyond aimless complaining and have inspired action.

The Pope had no comment on the issue, except to say, "Condoms don't fight AIDS and Holocaust deniers are OK, but no way should Yomama speak here." Fr. Jim Junkins, University president expressed his displeasure with the Viewpoint authors.

"What the hell is wrong with you people? Do you ever stop complaining?" Junkins said in an e-mail to all students and alumni Wednesday. "The football coach should be fired. The Vagina Monologues are obscene, the ushers are fascists. I try to do something nice and bring the president of the freaking United States here and, of course, you've got a problem with that!"

The Viewpoint letters sharply criticized the University for inviting Yomama and giving him an honorary degree in light of Yomama being a pro-choice president, and, according to some letters, Satan incarnate.

"They made me cry," Yomama said Wednesday before hanging up the phone in tears.

A defiant Junkins is likely to spark even more controversy with his second choice to speak at Commencement.

"They think Yomama is bad," Junkins harumphed in a phone interview with The Absurder. "Well I'd like to see what they think of this guy — Dr. Jack Kevorkian."

I HATE SO MUCH ABOUT THE THING THAT YOU CHOOSE TO BE.

Ad hoc group to combat skunks

Problem got out of hand with skunk-human birth

By PEPE LE PEW
Mamz'breed

The Notre Dame Ad Hoc Committee on Repelling Skunks has been renamed the Notre Dame Ad Hoc Committee on Repelling Skunks and Enforcing Skunk-Related Partialities Offenses, University President Father Sean Shankins said Tuesday.

Shankins created the initial ad

see LEPEW/page 5

Under 21? Want to go to a bar? Go to BJ's!

By BUNSEN and BEAKER
Nobel Prize-winning scientists

Absurder sources have learned that the local South Bend bar and eatery, BJ's Pub on North Michigan Ave., has been granting underage students entry. Sources tell The Absurder that while BJ's requires proof of age before entering, nearly any form of identification will suffice in proving an entrant is 21-years of age.

"When I was a freshman I speak at Notre Dame," one senior said. "The bouncers barely looked at my ID. It said I was 40, a red-head and 6-foot tall. I'm 5-foot-2 and redhead."

When asked if she thought the bouncers intentionally let underage students into BJ's, the student replied, "Of course, I mean, I'm pretty sure they're there for the beer and free popcorn just like the rest of us were."

But while it was no secret

see SATAN/page 5

Absolute's HARD-HITTING JOURNALISM

Meish, Dam put the 'stud' back in student government

By RED WRITING HOOD
Positively the daintiest kid ever born.

Honestly? You couldn't tell it was a wolf?

Former student body president Robbie Meish and current student body president Ulysses Dam have both been offered $5 million mod­eling contracts after a talent scout spotted an old copy of The Observer featuring a picture of the two presiding over a Student Senate meeting.

Meish and Dam both said they were "flattered" by the offers, and said they plan on taking them.

"It's a great opportunity to raise awareness about how good looking student government can be," Meish said, pointing with his pencil for emphasis.

Meish, who graduates this year,

see SEXINESS/page 3

Winter, spring, summer or fall, all Satan has to do is call, and Yomama will be there, yes he will. Satan's got a friend.

DAM BRADLEY/Observer 2006

Winter, spring, summer or fall, all Satan has to do is call, and Yomama will be there, yes he will. Satan's got a friend.
QUESTION OF THE DAY: HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE NOTRE DAME MEN’S BASKETBALL SEASON?

BeatoFF

Notre Dame "Just Catholic enough"

CHE-TOWN—The Society of Catholic Educators has issued a report stating that Notre Dame is "Just Catholic enough."

"A lot of people say Notre Dame isn’t Catholic enough. Others say it is too Catholic. We’ve done extensive research and concluded that Notre Dame is just Catholic enough," said Mark O’Donnell, the president of the society.

The report analyzes data including the ratio of class-rooms to crucifixes, the number of times the catechism is quoted in the school newspaper’s opinion section, the average number of hook-ups per student per weekend and the number of beers that use the phrase “sack it.”

The society also factored in the ratio of people that have attended the "The Vagina Monologues" to the number of crosses planted on campus during pro-life demonstrations.

Notre Dame spokesman Menace Brown declined to issue a statement in response to the release, saying he didn’t want to "fink it.”

Following the news about the report, the Irish Rover, Notre Dame’s conservative newspaper, announced today they plan to jeer the Society of Catholic Educators in their next issue, then devote the rest of it, as usual, to explaining why Notre Dame is not Catholic enough.

SMC to donate alcohol to RedEye survivors

Saint Mary’s students are collecting pleasantly consumed bottles of hard alcohol or cases of beer to donate to recovering RedEye survivors.

"We just want to make sure the girls can get back on their feet," college president Caroline Moody said.

Alcohol will be distributed accordingly students who are most deserving of the moral support, Moody said.

Information compiled by washed out seniors living off campus.

Boxers or Briefs?

The Excise Police will be visiting all off-campus apartment complexes tonight from 11 p.m. to 3 a.m. Students are asked to be hospitable. Free breathalyzer tests will be available.

Club 23 is offering bullet-proof vests to the first 100 students in line on Monday. The initiative, titled "Getting Caught is Costing Us Business" will be followed by a brief seminar called "Be Careful Whose Screen Doors You Knock On.”

Students will be passing out free "Nem Cell Research? Fine By Me" T-shirts at LaFortune today from 3 p.m. to 5.

Graduating seniors can purchase Obama voodoo dolls at LaFortune this week. All proceeds go toward Planned Parenthood.

Tonight in Coleman-Morse, Student Government will host the next installment of its newly original Last Lecture Series. Tonight’s speaker will be Carl Goodrook, this week’s behind Hot Carl’s Chicken Sandwich.

The Irish Rover and the Right to Life Club will be holding a public flagging and stamping of all College Democrats at Notre Dame tonight at 8 p.m. on the steps of the Main Building. Contrary to e-mails sent out earlier this week, the groups do not have enough stones for everyone to throw, so please, bring your own stones. It’s only polite.

F. Heshrub will be hosting a kegger tonight in the 13th floor of the library, sponsored by Bill Papaiou and the Audit and Advisory Services.

Why do we let people publicize this crap for free?
NEWS YOU WON'T READ

Wednesday, April 1, 2009

Compiled from The Absurder's Intrepid Reporters

BOG uses stipend to buy Observer comic strips

President Mickey McSmickey is glad no more SMC chicks will be made fun of in paper's most popular page

By DRUNK KOHLER
Studol

After years of frustration, outrage, and parastic references, Saint Mary's Board of Governance (BOG) has decided to use their $60,000 annual stipend to buy the rights to Observer comics, citing they are "Like totally not true and super annoying," student body president Mickey McSmickey said.

The stipend, which is allotted to the six top executives on the Board, has typically been used on alcohol, tank tops from Forever 21, and quadAddnals from the Cyber Café is now being used for a greater purpose — for student rights, McSmickey said.

"We're like really tired of getting made fun of so, we're taking a stand against those mean boys who write those comics. First of all, they're not funny. And, B, we don't even look like that," she said.

Student body vice president Caitlinson McCarron echoed McSmickey's sentiments. "We're more than just douches, you know." While rights to the comics cost less than $10,000, BOG is donating the rest of the stipend to the campus group Students Against Stupid Toon Who Make Fun of Other Students Across the Street.

"It's for a good cause. A lot of people out there have been affected by the comics and it's time to take a stand," said Brown.

McSmickey said the space usually reserved for the comics will be filled with a special "She's Saint Mary's" section where students will compete weekly to have their pictures featured. "It's a great way to get more dates and show how totally awesome we are," Callinmun said. "We might also try to buy the Question of the Day space so more of us can be in The Observer. We think it's totally the best idea ever. Seriously." Students are relieved to have the space and also to be featured in campus' most read and reliable news source.

"I already sent in 10 of my sexiest Facebook pics. I really hope I get picked. I look really good in black and white," freshman Lizzie LeMans said. "I've never been to a school that has so many opportunities." Even though the Board has forfeited the stipend money to the students, they will still take their annual cruise to the Caribbean and have all their meetings catered by Ruth's Cris Steak House.

"Seee? We can do good stuff and still get tan. I love steak," executive assistant Bella Belles said. "I agree. I mean we put in at least four hours a week for our school. Don't we deserve a vacation too? I think yes," McSmickey said. As for the future of the Observer comic strip, Editor in Chief Jenny Meis is a little disappointed.

"Our funds were low, so we had to give in. I'm just going to miss all those nights in the office without Papa John's."

"McSmickey and the rest of the Belles are happy that the comics and subsequent Viewpoint battles have been laid to rest. "Boys are mean. Throw rocks at them."

Contact Drunk Kohler at Passedout@gmail.com

Don't worry SMC students, your money won't go to providing Student Government with alcohol or nights in luxurious hotels anymore.

Hi there, this is your friendly neighbors at Reslife. We realize that we're not the most popular people on campus, and that we try to take all the fun out of college. We just want to say — don't expect us to stop now.

You whiny little brats shouldn't have fun, because we at Reslife are stuck in a dead-end bureaucratic hellhole for the rest of our careers with no end in sight. We need an outlet for all of our frustration. We didn't have fun in college and neither should you. So, for the rest of your time here at Notre Dame, expect us to keep breaking up your fun and likely violating your Constitutional rights by serving you with inordinately high punishments for relatively petty offenses.

And don't think that because you move off-campus or even graduate that you're free from us. Oh no, DuLac applies everywhere. Why is that? Because it says so in DuLac. That's ironclad logic right there.

Don't like it? Suck it up. That's what she said.

This ad paid for by Jeff Shopaholic and Captain Kirk.

Yomama
continued from page 1

That's right. Jenkins' next choice to speak at the graduation of the most prestigious Catholic University in the world is the euthanizing, recently-released from prison doctor who has assisted in the deaths of over 130 people.

"I was initially shocked when I received a phone call from Fr. Junkins and thought he was going to condemn me to hell," Kevorkian said. "But hey, the economy's bad and people don't have the money to be euthanized since I got out of jail. Too many are resorting to just plain old suicide. I could use the money."

Kevorkian was released from prison in 2007 after serving eight years of a 25-year prison sentence. He was released on parole for good behavior. All this information on Kevorkian was obtained by The Absurder using that beauteous section where students can talk about besides euthanasia.

"Maybe he can talk about his time in prison. That's what kids want to hear at Commencement."

"Na it isn't," said senior Spoiled Brain. "If we couldn't get Stephen Colbert, Yomama was a great second choice. But now, those stupid alumni and right-wing idiots ruined my graduation."

Many alumni expressed outrage with Junkins' choice.

"This is ludicrous," said Dis Grunted, Notre Dame '80. "Though I don't know who'd be worse, an abortion-loving president or a euthanizing criminal. After all, the people that were euthanized didn't want to die anyway. Fetuses don't have a choice. But who cares what the students think? We need to make a point here."

South Bend/Fort Wayne Bishop John F'Arsey fell over in his chair and accidentally killed himself when Junkins told him about Kevorkian. F'Arsey could not be reached for comment.

Contact Hine's Ketchup at jwillinstresspond@gmail.com

"Our funds were low, so we had to give in. I'm just going to miss all those nights in the office without Papa John's."

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Don't like it? Suck it up. That's what she said.

This ad paid for by Jeff Shopaholic and Captain Kirk.
Success has no place in ND athletics; Fire Janush

Janush Bedellow is one of the top coaches at the University. As fencing coach, he has won National Championships, produced All-Americans and even a few Olympians. And for that, he must go.

Notre Dame’s athletic department has taken a new turn in the last few years, and Bedellow does not exemplify that direction. Since new Athletic Director Jack Swashbuckle took over during the summer, Notre Dame has striven for mediocrity.

Receives Notre Dame fencing came in second in the NCAA Championships, losing to Penn State at State College, Pa. It’s not that second place isn’t good enough, it’s that second place is too good for Notre Dame.

Let’s look at the facts.

Chuckie Wise and the football team got the ball rolling early, realizing how things worked midway through the season. After a surprising 5-2 start to the season, Weis figured out how things work now, finishing the season 6-6. So as not to make his losing to the current, Weis at least coasted during the Hawaii Bowl to get a winning record to end the season.

“Thanks for the hook-up. It was... amazing. It wasn’t a typical freshman year hook-up at all,” (Father Juniors... hehehehoo0000!).

Some of you thought with just one pass we can win CR (I have seen people say we can win CR). Weis insisted it because we didn’t stop you. I love to kiss janitors and presidents of prestigious universities. Other times, you pretend you don’t see me at all and just go on praying or serving mashed potatoes. To be fair, I think I may have gotten a "boy" from one or two or a "Body of Christ" on occasion (but it’s been a while).

What about my number? You know you asked for it. That was my way of saying, "Thanks for the hook-up, you can have my number so that I can give you ResLife at a later date?" Well it worked; I haven’t heard from any of you, except via e-mail, which was addressed to the whole student body. I know you all have Katie O’Katerson in your phone book. Use it. I’m very needy.

I thought I’d come to Notre Dame, get my easy business degree, watch "Family Guy" 247 and not get swiped by "getting involved" with any campus activities. That’s for nerds.

Then I heard something that really got my gears.

"The Subway in Lafayette will not sell $5 footlongs.

This is absolutely outrageous. Don’t they know they are being watched by the entire country selling?” Those price gougers.


Letter to the Editor

Hook-up, schmook-up

Dear four guys, two dining hall workers, my roommates, Father Juniors, and, my number, staff of The Huddle:

This is the hook-up. It was... amazing. It wasn’t a typical freshman year hook-up at all. (Father Juniors... hehehehoo0000!).

Some of you thought with just one pass we can win CR (I have seen people say we can win CR). Weis insisted it because we didn’t stop you. I love to kiss janitors and presidents of prestigious universities. Other times, you pretend you don’t see me at all and just go on praying or serving mashed potatoes. To be fair, I think I may have gotten a "boy" from one or two or a "Body of Christ" on occasion (but it’s been a while).

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Don’t blame me for not calling you. I broke my phone and I drunkenly threw it in the lake as I was crying over you not calling. You probably wouldn’t answer anyway, I’ve blocked my number several times and called and you still don’t answer. What the eff?

Of course I don’t render myself blameless. Our hook-up was the most convenient form of instant gratification that I could find. I am just as guilty as you are (except I doffly take a voice). But next time I smile at you on the quad, wear shirts that show off my cleavage, have a "wardrobe malfunction," or accidentally drop my fork in the dining hall, can you pretend that you haven’t gone both dead and blind since that night we met?

I am sure of one thing after all of this: you are where I draw the line. This weekend, I refuse to add to my list (unless your name is Menance Brown or Ted). I can’t afford to have any more people refusing to look at me. I am looking to make friends (not lovers, clergy or staff alike). I can find a new hobby, hopefully something that really does make me happy, but, like Kelly Connelly, I do not look up. See you at the dining hall.

Sincerely,
Katie O’Katerson

P.S. Don’t worry about our dome under the Dome. Xoxo.

Observer Poll

Would you hit that?

(A) Yes. (B) No.

(C) After 5 or 6

Vote by paper ballot in the University president’s office.

Quote of the Day

"I know that human beings ask fish can coexist peacefully."

George W. Bush

Former president of the United States

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Policing

The Absurder Online cannot receive any new comments in this section as it is not subject to review of the Absurder administration. We hope to see you soon.

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**Bj's**

continued from page 1

that undergraduate students can gain entry into Bj's, more notorious faces have been appearing. Sources tell the Absurder that someone with a silver spot has been overheard telling them to "lay low for awhile." The Absurder also heard Wise state that Bj's would be "too small and not enough and that all of this will be blown over." The Absurder reported that a couple of skunks are drinking at Bj's is a new issue. The Absurder reported similar problems back in 2005 when then-freshman quarterback M a n m e a t B r a y i s spotted at Bj's before he was even a pub owner. Bj's Pub owner Connor Martin is determined that while he does not permit undergraduate students in his bar, it is possible to breed skunks, removing that skunk-human hybrid offspring, who has been seen on many occasions visiting South Bend drinking establishments.

Shankins remained the ad hoc committee to address the parietals and the Absurder's concern. "After careful consideration and prayerful deliberation, I have decided to create an ad hoc group, which will report directly to me, composed of students, faculty, and student workers. The group will not permit entry of Notre Dame students having sex with skunks! I'm withdrawing my donation until Notre Dame becomes Catholic again. I've also ripped Notre Dame's sweatshirts and I pitched a baby I saw at the grocery store holding a toy football because it reminded me of Notre Dame. I'm not going to say this, but Notre Dame is no longer my university!" Some students, however, have supported the skunk parietals. "Notre Dame is a great place, but it is so anti-skunk," she said. "Why are they taking me out of the non-discrimination clause?" Martin is planning on selling black and white striped shirts that say "Skunk! Fine by me.

Contact Pepe Le Pew at cfeecp@schmank@pol.edu

**Studly**

continued from page 69

will begin modeling in the summer. Dan, currently a junior, will begin in a year. Dan said he still anticipates appearing on the front page of The Observer most days of the week.

"Appearing on the front page of The Observer is a great way to help students remember that student government is here, working for the students and that the people in charge of student government look really, really good when they do things," he said. In a statement released by the University, President Jim Spankies states, "under Du Lac, undergraduate drinking problem open, these things happen. And with dozens of other students, we're still trying to fill out four more lines of text before the article can end. Pheu! There we go!"

Overtired copy editor The Absurder

**Le Pew**

continued from page 100,000

hoo group in response to student complaints about the presence of skunks on campus.

"After careful consideration and prayerful deliberation, I have decided that the thought of several members of the Notre Dame community, as well as students, was not occurring at local establishments. I highly doubt any of them will bite," Le Pew said.

"We do not condone undergraduate drinking," Wise said. "But if you do not condone undergraduate drinking, I will occur at local establishments. I highly doubt any of them will bite," Le Pew said.

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**Riots**

continued from page 8

swordfight with my roommate all the time, it's not that hard." The hundreds of fans that wreaked havoc on innocent women and children following the loss apparently first tried to express themselves constructively. They initially looked into appealing the NCAA's decisions. However, none of the fans knew any of the rules of fencing, or had ever seen a match, so that plan never got off the ground.

Fans instead relied on the unfair home advantage given to Penn State to justify their complaints. The championship tournament was held at the Nittany Lion's home fighting area - the Happy Valley ThunderHome. Several Irish fighters complained that the raucous State fans threw off their concentration several times.

"Oh really, no such thing as a home advantage? Haven't you seen 300?" said senior Matthew Wacca.

Berdnarz, in fact, had never seen the 2007 Zach Snyder film, but he did admit that playing at Penn State presented a bigger hill to climb. "Sure, it was bush league, total bush league," he said. "What do they think is women's basketball?"

Wacca is the president of the Destructive Rioters Upset with Notre Dame Kinesthetics (DRUNK) and has led several riots after disappointing losses. Up until this past weekend, DRUNK was best known for urinating in the Stone Henge fountain after the Notre Dame football team lost to Syracuse. Wacca said the organization normally sticks to no more than throwing eggs or PVC pipes, but the fencing loss needed something bigger.

"To be honest, I was pretty drunk. I'm not sure what happened. I was just trying to do something crazy," Wacca said.

When police arrived on the scene several houses were on fire and students were douching in circles singing the classic Billy Joel song, "We Didn't Start the Fire."

Initial reports show that two bicycles, a picnic set and three home fighting area homes were burnt to the ground. The city believes that the damage will cost over $700 to repair.

Contact with public toilet seats can give you diseases.

---

**Hot Dogs**

continued from page 8

tossin' around the pigskin without trippin' on your own two feet? Silly really."

To combat not just under-age drinking, but drinking in general, Gagne has equipped each usher with a shotgun. "If you booze, you lose... possibly even an arm or a leg now," he said.

Roger Underager was one of the POW's who The Observer spoke to via telegram. "This is a load of sh*t. Stop. I don't pay $40,000 a year for this bullsh*t. Stop. SOS. Stop."

University President Father John Junkie issued an official statement yesterday claiming that he sees no problem with addressing the problem head on. "Drinking? At Notre Dame? They don't pay $40,000 a year to be blowing it all on unsacred mental wine."

Gagne said once football season ends, they will move onto other highly attended sports including fencing and women's crew. "We'll hit 'em where it hurts."

At this time, the time of release of the prisoners is still uncertain. "We'll let them out when they learn their lesson," Gagne said.

He added that if the prisoners wrote a letter saying they had in fact learned their lesson and pretended to complete 20 hours of community service he would seriously consider shortening their sentences. The new shotgun measure caused concern with Notre Dame alumni's premier website, slackernation.com Many angry threads have been posted and caused the website's administrator, Lipton IcedTea, to quit his dayjob just to manage the site.

One poster, %Druebagoltz69, summed up poster's concerns: "The only shotguns that should be on campus are made with keyholes and beer cans," %Druebag said. "And it's out God-given right to shotgun those beers in the Stadium, and nobody will ever take that away!"

Joe College lost his blackberry. Contact him at a dorm party.

---

**Another Stupid Story**

By TOM WOLFE

Local pet salesman Marcus Craymur lost his house in the riot. Above is all that remained when the fire station arrived.

---

**Moving off campus?**

In the market for a portable dishwasher? Don't mind the occasional gunshot? Enjoy talkative crack addicts that sell socks door-to-door?

Call I-Have-No-SHAMER.

You may lose your security deposit, you may be forced to move, but you'll never be evicted.

Properties still available for the 2008-2009 school year.
Tuesday, April 1, 2009

Hilarity

continued from page 8

names referencing Cleveland Browns wide receiver Dante Stallworth, who was recently involved in a fatal car crash that claimed the life of Mario Reyes, a 59-year old man in Miami.

"He hit a guy with his car and the guy died. Hahahaha," Pooper said. "Naturally, it was all we could do to contain ourselves anytime we saw a team name that said something similar to 'Dante's Killer Drives.' Oh man, that one really cracked me up."

Pooper reiterated his claim that anything to with alcohol should be censored.

"Unlike domestic violence and manslaughter, alcohol ruins lives, it's nothing to joke about," Pooper said. "Also, did you know that the drinking age was 21? Most students on this campus shouldn't be drinking. Domestic abuse and manslaughter, on the other hand, have no age limits."

Pooper said this policy is unlikely to change any time soon, since allowing alcohol and sex-related names in Bookstore Basketball is absolutely unacceptable.

"It's not just harmless fun," Pooper said. "There are Catholic principles at stake here and we all know, the University will not compromise its iden
tity as a Catholic Institution."

Pooper also said the policy that says Bookstore censors cannot allow any team names that make fun of anybody within the University will stand.

"You don't want to offend anybody with these Bookstore names."

Part E. Pooper Bookstore censor

"You don't want to offend anybody with these Bookstore names."

Contact Censor This at dirty Sanchez@nd.edu

Skanks

continued from page 8

McBlarney gained his coveted status after Brady's assumed suc
cessor, Stork Dausen, failed to live up to the renowned lofty expecta
tions of the Jersey Chasers.

"Everyone thought Stork would replace Mannmeat," said Darla Skankintosh, president of the Jersey Chasers. "But he just assumes girls want to hook up with him, which is true — don't get me wrong. A lot of us would still totally do Stork — but McBlarney, just does something to us that's indescribable. We all want to marry him, then divorce him for the money."

Skankintosh said McBlarney's smile, his sexy on-again, off-again beard, and velvety Staten Island accent put him ahead of other candidates on the football and basketball teams.

"Have you heard him speak? Holy crap," said Lyla Loosehips, vice president, or "the sloppy sec
don't want to offend anybody with these Bookstore names."

Hilarity

"The Absurder"

IT'S BEAKON-FACE! The Absurder

McBlarney's two-year reign at the top rivaled that of Mannmeat, and he can go to bed as the envy of thousands of women.

"He's not bad. Handsbro's qualifications, McBlarney said the man who will take his place in the start-

Sorry, Mack Hillandsand, the Jersey Chasers all agree, you're not as hot as Irish McBlarney. What's up with the creepy face?"

Contact Hines Ward at SuckitRayLewis@gmail.com

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SMOKIN' HOT

Jersey Chasers: McBlarney No. 1 catch

President Skankintosh says all want to marry him, then divorce him for money in 5 years

By HINES WARD
Base of the Raveus

When Manmeat Brady left Notre Dame, he left a void on campus, a void many thought would be left unfilled for years. No, not the void he left at Notre Dame's quarterback position, rather the void in the hearts of the many undying, jersey-chasing females on campus as the unanimous No. 1 catch at Notre Dame.

Thankfully, one man stepped up to fill those shoes and raise the heart rates of women (and even some men) all over campus – senior basketball star Irish McBlarney.

“It’s been a burden to bear these past two years since Manmeat went to the NFL,” McBlarney said after the Jersey Chasers elected him the No. 1 catch. “At first, I didn’t know how I’d handle my new role, but I think there’s been plenty of me to go around. Luckily, the Jersey Chasers are easier for me to conquer than Marquette’s half-court defense.”

FOOZEBALL

Ushers given shotguns

University no longer content with capturing drunken, rabid fans

By JOE COLLEGE

Forty-two students, 12 alumni, three hot dog vendors, and a blind spectator have been taken into custody as prisoners of war (POWs) at Saturday’s football game. What was your question? "The war on underage drinking," usher leader Chappy Gagne said. "Zero tolerance. I won’t rest until prohibition is reinstated at Notre Dame.”

Gagne, who has been at Notre Dame since prohibition in 1920, said it is the only way to make football games fun again. "Whatever happened to

BOOKSTORE BASKETBALL

Censors: Alcohol and sex = bad. Domestic abuse = hilarious

By CENSOR THIS
Nothing But Class

Once again, the Bookstore commissioners did their usual hatchet job on hundreds of potential bookstore names that clever Notre Dame students tried to sneak by them. No doubt, these heroes spent countless hours on Urban Dictionary trying to decide if such teams as “The Backdoor Threats,” “The Impenetrable Threats,” and “A Little Dribble Between My Legs” should be replaced with plain, old numbers. And of course, anything to do with alcohol has to be banned.

“It’s only natural,” Bookstore commissioner Part E. Pooper said. “Alcohol and sex have no place at Notre Dame, whatsoever.”

But Pooper said there was one category of team names the committee didn’t have to think twice about approving — anything to do with the Chris Brown/Rihanna domestic abuse scandal.

“Let’s face it, domestic abuse is a bane of our lives,” Pooper said. “And it really brings out the best in creative thinking among Notre Dame students.”

“Beneath your shoe, beneath your heel, beneath your career, beneath your soul, beneath your heart.”

By MARCUS CRAYMUR
Nova Noelle

Irish fans have had enough. Last Sunday, following Notre Dame’s second place finish at the NCAA Fencing Finals, loyal athletic supporters showed their outrage by rioting in South Bend.

South Bend Police Chief Ray Jingflamerr said that several homes, big screen televisions and lives were destroyed.

“We were able to get things under control pretty quickly,” Jingflamerr said. “I didn’t want to make any arrests because I feel for these kids. I saw the finals on the Ocho and I was upset about it too. We’re not the excite, you know.”

Notre Dame students have grown used to disappointing clubs falling short of expectations this year. Back-to-back poor football seasons, a projected top 10 basketball team now playing in the NIT and a loss in the women’s soccer national championship laid the groundwork, the fencing loss was the final straw.

The Irish fencers finished the regular season as the No. 1 team in the country. However, perennial powerhouse Penn State proved to be too much in the tournament. Irish coach Janski Berdnarz said that he was proud of the way his team fought throughout the whole season.

“You’re not going to come out on top every time you have a sword in your hands. Just ask Rufio,” he said.

Upset fans found that hard to understand.

“I don’t get it,” senior Jim Andruszewicz said. “I see RIOTS/page 6

FENCING DISASTER

Fencing flop ignites riots among ND students

By MARCUS CRAYMUR
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