Wall Street Journal honors COBA

Business college ranked No. 31 in survey

By KATHERINE GALES

The Wall Street Journal has again recognized the excellence of the University's Medusa College of Business, ranking it thirty-first among the nation's top business schools for the second consecutive year.

The school's grade of 61.90 out of 100 reflects its strong performance in a variety of areas, including faculty quality, research, and student satisfaction.

The rankings were based on a comprehensive evaluation of the school's programs and faculty, as well as student feedback and industry assessments.

According to the publication, the Wall Street Journal Places Interactive Business School Year 3 Survey was based on the online inter-

Police report unclear on fight details

University says it will not investigate the incident

By SHELIA FLYNN

The Notre Dame students and local residents involved in a Sept. 19 fight in downtown South Bend gave police conflicting reports of what provoked the incident, said South Bend Police Captain John Williams.

A University spokesman also said the school does not plan to investigate the incident, which is generally more the responsibility of the local police department.

The report said three Notre Dame students were injured in the fight on East Wayne Street, involving a double major, minor, concentration or some combination of the three. Unfortunately, they may be making a big sacrifice in the process, said Ava Preacher, Assistant Dean of the College of Arts and Letters.

"It's really been a disappointing shift towards a 'check-it-off mentality,'" Preacher said. "Especially during the last six years, we have seen a real expansion of students using minors, double majors, even triple majors as a credential-
INSIDE COLUMN

Stand-ins no better

Ah, yes ... the powers-that-be at this University strike again! No longer satisfied with dictating the lives of Notre Dame students, the fine administration has taken on a greater mission: controlling the television viewing decisions for all of Michiana. Instead of showing the new sitcom “Coupling,” WNDU will treat its viewers to the recently filmed “Roastin’ the Golden Boy,” featuring former Notre Dame Heisman Trophy winner Paul Hornung. After the “roast,” we’ll be reintroduced to the hilarious reruns of the ABC-cancelled “Spin City.” Apparently, WNDU feels the need to determine the “boundaries of good taste” and “community standards” for each resident of South Bend and Elkhart. As a fan of the British version of the comedy featured in the United States on BBC America, I will admit the show features an exorbitant number of sex jokes. Yet instead of letting television viewers express their distaste for the “extreme” humor, WNDU is making television viewers express their distaste for the “extreme” humor. “Coupling” is inappropriate for our community standards and replacing it with “Roastin’ the Golden Boy” is not going to do much. The censorship-crazy WNDU, I’ll do it. Then I can finally catch “Coupling” at its regular time, and I won’t have to watch it on a half hour a week, WNDU feels the need to make the choice for them by not showing “Coupling” at all. The University’s General Counsel claims it’s not censorship. However, according to Black’s Law Dictionary, to “censor” is “to officially inspect and delete material considered offensive.” That’s exactly what has happened here, for WNDU has imposed three episodes of “Coupling,” judged it inappropriate for all local audiences. Comically, WNDU has replaced the racy, yet entirely fictional, “Coupling” with two programs featuring individuals known for their real-life sexual escapades. Notre Dame’s own Paul Hornung was well known throughout his NFL career for his hard-drinking and womanizing ways. Just last year, Sports Illustrated ran a feature article on Hornung in which former teammates noted his inability to bring a different woman back to his hotel each night on the road. Fortunately, after the end of what I can only assume was a hilarious roast, Michiana residents can tune in to watch Charlie Sheen’s “Spin City” character last after Heather Locklear. Just don’t read old news clips on Sheen, because you might discover he was a frequent client of notorious Hollywood Madam Heidi Fleiss’ “dating service.” I won’t even touch Sheen’s drug habits or Madam Heidi Fleiss’ “dating service.” I’ll do it. However, just because I can drive to the ABC-cancelled “Spin City.” Apparently, WNDU feels the need to determine the “boundaries of good taste” and “community standards” for all of Michiana. Instead of showing the new sitcom “Coupling,” WNDU will treat its viewers to the recently filmed “Roastin’ the Golden Boy,” featuring former Notre Dame Heisman Trophy winner Paul Hornung. After the “roast,” we’ll be reintroduced to the hilarious reruns of the ABC-cancelled “Spin City.” Apparently, WNDU feels the need to determine the “boundaries of good taste” and “community standards” for each resident of South Bend and Elkhart. As a fan of the British version of the comedy featured in the United States on BBC America, I will admit the show features an exorbitant number of sex jokes. 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University denies it plans for a smoke-free campus

By JOE HETTLER
News Writer

Smokers across campus can breathe a sigh of relief. According to Trudy Diamond, personal assistant to associate vice president for residence life Bill Kirk, the school does not have a smoke-free campus in its future plans, despite any indications of such a change in dollar.

Diamond also said that, while duLac states that students are permitted to smoke anywhere on campus, this inference would be unwarranted and incorrect.

Only 5.9 percent of students smoke three or more times a week at Notre Dame, which is significantly less than the national average of 24 percent at universities, according to the Office of Drug and Alcohol Education.

Contact Joe Hettler at jhetler@nd.edu

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Student Senate
Council reps approved

By MAUREEN REYNOLDS
Associate News Editor

The Student Senate unanimously approved three of four students Wednesday to represent the student body on the University's Academic Council this year.

The students were selected by the Deans of their respective colleges before being approved by the Senate. Meghan McCabe represents the College of Science, Willa Qian comes from the College of Engineering. The fourth student representative from the College of Arts and Letters was appointed earlier by the Office of the Student Body President and already appears on the Academic Council.

Senators questioned the students regarding their position on the issue of TCE publication before approving them. They all expressed their eagerness to work on the issue with faculty and administrators and to convey student opinion on the issue.

However, the representatives said they do not know when the issue will go before the Academic Council. The proposal must first be discussed by the Undergraduate Committee within the Academic Council before it can be put on the Council's agenda.

Wykoff also commented on the reservations of faculty members to have the TCE's published for student use. She said this reluctance was apparent when the three representatives met with Academic Council members.

"They realize that there definitely needs to be something there to help students choose classes," she said. "It seems like it could be much more useful that they come up with an alternative to publishing TCE's."

Senators also passed a resolution today requiring that the undergraduate representatives to the Academic Council submit a written report regarding the council's progress on the TCE issue, as well as other issues, within seven days of each Academic Council meeting. The purpose of this is to keep Senators abreast of proceedings within the Academic Council.

In other Senate news:

- The Senate unanimously approved two new Student Union Board members at their meeting today. Christian Palmer was approved as the new head operator for SUB, and Bridget MERHEAM assumes the role of concert program.
- Student Body President Pat Hallahan spoke on the Church in Africa Conference, which ended Wednesday and included a speech by Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo.
- "It's these kind of issues that I think we should pay attention to. We have an obligation, I feel, to help those who don't have the opportunities that we have," Hallahan said.

Contact Maureen Reynolds at mreynolds@nd.edu

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Students who believe that a second major will boost their chances of law school acceptance or an immediate post-graduation job offer may be in for a harsh awakening, Preacher said.

"I can definitely say that law schools are not very impressed by a student whose double major does not reflect a truly complementary curriculum," she said.

Preacher suggested that instead of looking at a minor or a double major as just another credential to list on an application, students should reexamine the idea of deeper intellectual development within their primary major.

"Majors should not be approached as markers that you complete after taking the minimum amount of courses for four years," she said. "The whole idea of a major is to deepen and expand the breadth of your knowledge of a subject that you are seriously thinking about going into."

For certain students genuinely interested in two subjects, a double major can make sense, Preacher said.

"Since I'm going into medicine, I am also really interested in cultural and evolutionary anthropology," Joseph said. "These disciplines have a definite connection to my primary biology major, and I would have graduated early without the anthropology course."

Every student like Joseph, Preacher maintained that in most cases, double majors serve as unnecessary padding.

"In truth, the same knowledge can be gained by taking courses across disciplines," she said. The College of Arts and Letters did not include in their platform a cure for the double major problem.

"We're very pleased with the voter turn out," elections commissioner Nicole Haerbele. "It's similar to what we get for the other three classes, which make us happy because it's always a little harder getting first-year students acquainted with the system.

Haerbele is hopeful for a similar turn out today, as students make their final decision between the two tickets.

Sharing the same last name, yet unrelated, Toth and Toth ask freshmen to "Vote TNT for democracy representation." The running mates met earlier this year in their freshmen orientation group.

"One of our leaders told us to get involved in student government and we just thought it would be a good idea to run together because we have the same last name," Ashley Toth said.

Included in their platform is the idea to open a Belles General Store with a communication between freshmen and student government. Like their opponents, Lindblom and Bogdanowicz also see the importance of good class representation.

"At this point, we don't even care who they vote for, it's just the fact that they vote," Lindblom said. "We're in it to win, but that's not our main concern.

"Our main goal is bonding and getting to know one another," Monica Lindblom of Saint Mary's freshman class president candidate said.

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Briton escapes Colombian captors

SANTA MARGARITA, Colombia — A British tourist kidnapped 12 days ago in the mountains south of Cartagena by a group of armed men escaped by sliding down a precipice and was fed by Indians before an army patrol found him Wednesday.

Matthew Scott, 19, of London, evaded his captors during a forced walk through the thick jungles of the Sierra Nevada mountains, Gen. Carlos Alberto Osipina, commander of the Colombian army, told The Associated Press.

An exhausted Scott said from a hospital bed at a military hospital in Santa Margarita that "he doesn't even think about it anymore for the last 12 days."

"Baghdad Bob" slams U.S. intel

CAIRO, Egypt — Iraq's former information minister told an Arab television station Wednesday that U.S. attempts to target ousted Saddam Hussein during the war were far off target.

Muhammed Saccd al-Sahhaf became infamous during the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq for hurling anti-American insults and outlandish claims of Iraqi military victories over the coalition.

"All the bombing hits places where Saddam had never existed and tactic U.S. intelligence was a failure," al-Sahhaf said on Abu Dhabi Television, which was monitored in Cairo.

Asked whether the remaining American leadership would have announced his death if Saddam had been killed, al-Sahhaf said: "I think they would join it." The Associated Press

NATIONAL NEWS

Dean leads Dems in fundraising

WASHINGTON — Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle of South Dakota said the U.S. president's re-election campaign continues to show signs of vulnerability.

"They've had a good month," Daschle said Wednesday of U.S. President George W. Bush. "But I think the [Democrats] continued to make gains."

"They've continued to raise money," Daschle said. "And they've continued to show that we're the party of the future and they're the party of the past."

Dave Matthews plays Central Park

NEW YORK — Tens of thousands of fans danced Wednesday night to jam sessions by the rock star Dave Matthews in Central Park.

The 37-year-old musician, who has released a dozen albums and has had 10 top-10 singles, showed up on the steps of the Metropolitan Museum of Art for a free concert Wednesday night in Central Park to raise money for music programs in city public schools.

The band opened with "Don't Drink the Water," a tune from their album "Before These Crowded Streets," which released a dozen albums and has had top-10 singles.

"So nice to run into you in the park here," Matthews said in his world tour of New York on how to receive his first Grammy Award.

Early Thursday, two suspected Iraqi resistance leaders were arrested in New York on New York City.

The arrests in Tikrit's affluent neighborhoods were part of an intensified campaign against people believed responsible for a series of deadly attacks against U.S. troops.

"We want to move toward national sovereigns," he said. "But currently, the Americans want to be drawn into the debate over a specific timetable.

"We don't want to become involved in fruitless discussions," said Moussa, one of four council representatives at the news conference.

The debate among the United States and other allies over Iraq's future moved this week to New York, where the Bush administration seeks a Security Council resolution encouraging other nations to contribute troops to Iraq security forces.

"The debate among the United States and other allies over Iraq's future moved this week to New York, where the Bush administration seeks a Security Council resolution encouraging other nations to contribute troops to Iraq security forces."

Vatican

Pope skips audience due to illness

Associated Press

VATICAN CITY — An increasingly frail Pope John Paul II missed his general audience Wednesday — a rare absence from one of his penultimate public duties — with fresh concerns about his health just weeks before he presides at ceremonies marking his 25th anniversary as pope.

A Vatican hospital released a statement Wednesday that the pontiff had been managed to address the crowd at the Vatican in an audiovisual setting. "He spoke with a weak voice and slurred his words — symptoms of the Parkinson's disease he has had for years."

"I am sorry for not being with you," John Paul said. "I carry all you in my heart and I bless you with affection."

The pontiff was to have traveled from his vacation home in Castel Gandolfo, south of Rome, to Vatican City to greet thousands of the faithful on the final day of his papacy. But his doctors advised against the trip after he came down with a mild "intestinal indisposition," according to a statement released by the Vatican on Tuesday afternoon.

The pope's health has been a matter of concern as the Roman Catholic Church prepares to select his successor in the conclave that will convene after the Vatican's 83-year-old pontiff delivers his "Urbi et Orbi" blessing from the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica on Sunday's Christmas Day.

The pope delivered his brief remarks Wednesday afternoon in Castel Gandolfo, the scenic villa, whose heavy weapons fire killed at least three Iraqis, reported division spokesman Maj. Jasslyn Aberle. A fourth was seriously wounded.

In a second clash near al-Fadil, a U.S. patrol killed three Iraqis waiting in ambush with small arms and rocket-propelled grenades, the military said.

Another U.S. patrol in the same area opened fire on three men trying to bury a homemade bomb — a mortar shell that was probably to be triggered remotely — on a highway used by U.S. convoys. Two of the Iraqis were killed.

For the first time in the war, Iraqi resistance fighters exploded a homemade bomb — a roadside bomb. One Iraqi was killed and 19 were wounded, according to an Associated Press reporter in the region around Balad.

A U.S. soldier runs past a Bradley armored vehicle during a Wednesday raid on a Tikrit-area farmhouse. The raid was one in a series of operations targeted at Iraqi resistance fighters.

Associated Press

Iraq

Violent strikes hit Iraqi cities

Blasts rock Baghdad mosques, Meso ustr troops kill nine in raids

BOGOTÁ, Colombia — Another U.S. soldiers kidnaped 12 days ago in the mountains south of Castellano and eventually on the same area opened fire on three men trying to bury a homemade bomb — a mortar shell that was probably to be triggered remotely — on a highway used by U.S. convoys. Two of the Iraqis were killed.

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A U.S. soldier runs past a Bradley armored vehicle during a Wednesday raid on a Tikrit-area farmhouse. The raid was one in a series of operations targeted at Iraqi resistance fighters.
**Jefferson**

continued from page 1

A jury in the civil trial awarded $1 million in damages Tuesday to the former Saint Mary's student who alleged Jefferson raped her on March 22, 2001. Anderson recognized that the burden of proof is much lower in a civil trial compared to a criminal trial. However, he intends to forward information he has gathered and testimony from the civil trial to the prosecutor's office in about two weeks, recommending that criminal felony rape charges be filed against Jefferson.

"Dvorak is a very fine prosecutor and whatever his determination is, I will respect it," Anderson said.

Dvorak's office did not return a phone call seeking comment.

At the time of the 2001 incident, Dvorak had not yet been assigned to the former student's case.

Anderson recognized that the 2001 incident is "not very accurate," said. "Recruiter polls, have a lot of noise," Woo said. "The curricu

lum is good, our teaching is excellent and there are three things we stand for: academic rigor, implementation skills and values. We know if we keep on doing a good job on those three things, the rest will follow." Contact Katherine Gales at kgales@nd.edu

Contact Meghanne Downes at mdowms1@nd.edu

**COBA**

continued from page 6

views of 2,191 MBA recruiters from November 2002 to March 2003. The Journal "focuses on the opinions of recruiters who hire full-time business school graduates," and deals with 183 schools in the United States and 73 institutions abroad.

"This poll was tabulated from data which has a lot of noise," Woo said. "Recruiter polls, alumni responses, sample sizes, which particular person you're talking to ... this type of calibration is not very accurate, but gives a general sense of where the school fits." Among rating criteria, most recruiters considered communication and interpersonal skills, teamwork, analytical and problem-solving skills, and ethics to be "very important," the Journal said.

In today's uncertain economy, a degree from a well-regarded business school gives graduates an advantage in the job hunt. To be ranked is better than not being ranked," Woo said. "It's a good thing, but recruiters' knowledge is so much deeper than the polls." The Journal claims the poll is "the best objective source of information about U.S. business schools."

"We focus on the best educational experience," Woo said. "The curriculum is good, our teaching is excellent and there are three things we stand for: academic rigor, implementation skills and values. We know if we keep on doing a good job on those three things, the rest will follow." Contact Katherine Gales at kgales@nd.edu

Contact Meghanne Downes at mdowms1@nd.edu

**Fight**

continued from page 1

"had a large bump on his forehead," Ball "had a busted lip and nose" and Krakowski "had been punched in the face and had some of his teeth busted out," Williams said.

Ball's injuries prevented him from marching with the Irish Guard Saturday.

University spokesman Matt Storin said the administration is "obviously concerned about the injuries to one of our students."

Band directors discussed the incident with Guard members Tuesday, but Storin said Notre Dame is not investigating the incident because it happened off campus and no criminal charges have been filed.

Band director Kenneth Dye addressed the marching band Wednesday night in what some band members described as an uncommon speech. Although Dye did not specifically mention the fight, he cautioned band members against being in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Contact Sheila Flynn at sflynn2@nd.edu

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- Ann E. Thompson, Health Services, 1-8286

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- Catholic Charities: 234-3111
Credit card delinquencies fall
WASHINGTON — After going up for a year, late credit card payments edged down in the last quarter. Delinquency rates for some other types of loans, however, offered a mixed picture of how Americans are handling their debt obligations.

The seasonally adjusted percentage of credit card accounts 90 or more days past due dropped in the April-to-June quarter to 4.04 percent, down from a record high of 4.07 percent in the first three months of this year, the American Bankers Association reported in its quarterly survey released Wednesday.

Tyson to ax 600 Ark. workers
FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. — Tyson, the world’s largest meat company, will cut up to 600 jobs, or about 7 percent of the work force, at its chicken processing plant here, a company spokesman said Wednesday.

Between 500 and 600 employees will lose their jobs beginning Oct. 4, company spokesman Ed Nicholson said.

Tyson Foods will have other companies in Arkadelphia and Dardanelle do some of the labor-intensive operations that are now performed by workers at the Hope plant, Nicholson said.

Vivendi posts $723M loss
PARIS — Vivendi Universal reported a narrower loss for the first half of the year and stronger results in its media and telecommunication businesses, a sign of a recovery after the French conglomerate came close to bankruptcy a year ago.

Vivendi posted a $723 million (€493 million) in the January-June period, in contrast to a loss of 12.31 billion euros in the first half of 2002. Last year’s figure included an 11 billion euro impairment charge. Vivendi said in a sign of stability that its operating margins have stabilized.

In Vienna. The organization announced a cut In oil production today, raising concerns about a further softening of prices and OPEC’s expectations of a surge in major importing countries’ demand next year.

OPEC said it was filling a production quota of its own output, Ibrahim said, although the cartel is not making its cut conditional on that cooperation, as it did in December 2001.

OPEC was widely expected to keep its daily production ceiling at 25.4 million barrels. However, a recent slide in prices and OPEC’s expectations of a surge in oil inventories among major importing countries have compounded its fears about a further softening of the market.

Iraq’s gradual return to the market also was a factor. Zanganeh noted that a cut of 900,000 barrels a day, the Iraqi oil minister said earlier, would “steer” Iraq and Iran towards a “first step” and did not mark a “zero point.”

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“OPEC wants independent, non-OPEC producers such as Russia to take concrete measures to restrain their own output, Ibrahim said, although the cartel is not making its cut conditional on that cooperation, as it did in December 2001.”

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Lecture examines Hispanic Catholicism

By NATALIE BAILEY
News Writer

Timothy Matovina, associate professor of theology at Notre Dame and director of the Cushwa Center for American Catholicism, spoke on the topic "Guadalupe and the Crucified One: Hispanic Ways of Being Catholic," to continue Saint Mary's Center for Spirituality annual fall lecture series, "There is more than one way to be Catholic."

Matovina shared his experience of how the Hispanic culture practices the Catholic faith. He said he became aware of one difference in religious expectations just from delivering lectures.

"I got used to members of the audience coming up to me and telling me how I had a good insight or bad made them think or something in a round way," he said. "Hispanic audiences tend to tell me that I have touched their heart."

Matovina noted the Hispanic emphasis on the crucifixion of Christ and the Virgin Mary, specifically Our Lady of Guadalupe. He also shared an observation that there is a difference in the focus of spirituality.

Matovina noticed this when he attended an English Mass and then a Spanish Mass in Texas on Easter Sunday. The difference became apparent when the English Mass began with the song, "Jesus Christ is Risen Today," putting the emphasis on triumphant rejoicing. The Spanish Mass closed with the song, "We Are a People on the March," emphasizing that although Christ has risen and redemption is in sight, we are not there yet.

In his time spent in San Antonio, Matovina also observed that the Hispanic Catholicism is structured with positive reinforcement, good coaching, support from the top, success in the classroom, and you are recruiting with that same vision, then your programs will begin to improve," said Linda Timm, who became athletic director in 1999.

"Our team numbers are increasing, and we have taken huge strides in the last four years and we are now competitive across the board," Timm said.

Saint Mary's crossed a huge boundary last spring when the golf team took fourth in the NCAA Division III Golf National Championship and junior golfer Stefanie Simmerman won SMC's first individual NCAA Championship.

Intramural sports have also seen an increase from 50 to 80 participants since Timm's arrival four years ago and will be adding whiffle ball this spring. Although participation and ability are improving, Timm wants to go further.

"I have had a vision since I arrived here of packing our stands for home athletic events," Timm said. Some student-athletes think we are getting closer to this goal.

"I think school spirit has greatly increased over the past four years, and this translates to better support for athletics," said senior softball player Marnie Walsh. "You can always improve, but I feel the turnout has been better this year."

Contact Emile Desjardins at deoj986@saintmarys.edu

Student involvement on campus is constantly increasing at Saint Mary's College, said Georgeanna Rosenbush, director of the Cushwa Center for American Catholicism, spoke on the topic "Guadalupe and the Crucified One: Hispanic Ways of Being Catholic," to continue Saint Mary's Center for Spirituality annual fall lecture series, "There is more than one way to be Catholic."

Matovina shared his experience of how the Hispanic culture practices the Catholic faith. He said he became aware of one difference in religious expectations just from delivering lectures.

"I got used to members of the audience coming up to me and telling me how I had a good insight or bad made them think or something in a round way," he said. "Hispanic audiences tend to tell me that I have touched their heart."

Matovina noted the Hispanic emphasis on the crucifixion of Christ and the Virgin Mary, specifically Our Lady of Guadalupe. He also shared an observation that there is a difference in the focus of spirituality.

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Oil industry wants changes

WASHINGTON — While still pressing the need for more drilling, the oil industry is now saying that conservation and greater energy efficiency hold the biggest immediate potential for preventing natural gas prices from skyrocketing.

A report by a committee of oil and gas executives who advise the Energy Department says natural gas prices could average between $5 and $7 per 1,000 cubic feet for years to come without significant advances in energy efficiency.

The spot price for natural gas Wednesday was $4.58 per 1,000 cubic feet, about 50 percent higher than a year ago.

"There has been a fundamental shift in the natural gas supply-demand balance that has resulted in higher prices and volatility in recent years," the National Petroleum Council says in the report to be released Thursday by Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham.

"In the very near-term, reducing demand is the primary means to keep the market in balance because of the lead times required to bring new supply to market," according to an 89-page executive summary of the report obtained by The Associated Press.

To cut consumption, the council recommends updating building codes and equipment standards and implementing rules that would encourage power providers to use their most efficient plants.

Without significant advances in energy efficiency, the country's annual demand will rise above 30 trillion cubic feet by 2025, up from about 23 trillion cubic feet today, the council says. But it adds that even with advances in conservation, North America's natural gas resources will be insufficient to meet demand in the long term.

Production from traditional U.S. and Canadian basins has reached a plateau, the report says, noting that volume from North American natural gas fields is declining at an annual rate of more than 25 percent, requiring that many more wells to be drilled every year just to keep supplies steady.

To address supply problems, the council wants the Bush administration to relax onshore and offshore drilling restrictions, and to encourage natural gas imports.

The report comes when the nation's supply of natural gas is tight and the government is bracing consumers to expect higher home heating costs this winter. Many of the issues raised in the report are being debated by Congress as it attempts to pass broad energy legislation.

Abraham asked the council in March 2002 to advise him on what industry and the government could do to guarantee "adequate and reliable supplies" of natural gas. While a similar study was prepared in 1999, Abraham said substantial changes had occurred in natural gas markets since then and further analysis was needed.

The issue added attention last spring when natural gas prices in some areas dropped to its lowest level since the government began keeping records in 1976 and Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan warned that rising prices would damage the economy, particularly the manufacturing sector.

More than 60 million Americans heat their homes with natural gas, up from about 48 million in 1987, and 90 percent of all new power plants use this fuel, which has been embraced because it burns cleaner than coal and can be found domestically in large quantities.

The report also argues that environmental laws requiring power companies to add expensive pollution controls when modernizing their plants only discourages investment in fuel-efficient technology.

Another solution, the report says, is improving access to a growing global market in natural gas through liquefied natural gas, or LNG.

It recommends a quicker permitting process for new LNG terminals, where tankers from around the world can bring the icy-cold fuel to be gasified and pumped into pipelines. There are just four such facilities nationwide.

The council also wants moratoriums lifted on drilling offshore of the Atlantic and Pacific coasts and more access to energy-rich lands in the Rocky Mountain region. It also endorses the proposal now before Congress, for a new natural gas pipeline from Alaska to the lower 48 states.

The report's authors include Burlington Resources Inc. CEO Bobby Shackouls, Energy Undersecretary Robert Card and Exxon Mobil Corp. CEO Lee Raymond.

Lecture criticizes IN environment

By MATT SMEDBURG

Betsy Balanoff addressed the topic of "Environmental Justice in Northern Indiana" Wednesday in the Hesburgh Center auditorium as part of a Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies lecture series entitled "Environmental Justice: Grassroots Voices." Balanoff is a retired lawyer who has organized efforts to increase responsibility by industrial sites in the industry-heavy South Shore area. Her organization, the Coalition for a Clean Environment (CCE), is currently engaged in work with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Army Corps of Engineers, who are under contract to dredge the highly polluted Shipping Canal and maintain the Confined Disposal Facility (CDF), both in East Chicago, Ind.

The CCE aims to ensure that projects are planned and carried out with regard to public health and sound policy for the future.

Balanoff said that four major industrial cities — Gary, East Chicago, Hammond and Whiting — span most of the pollution problem of northern Indiana. Each has its own particular challenges. Gary, for example, has a minority population of 95 percent which is suffering under the sharp decline in steel production, a historic staple of the Gary economy. Whiting, alternatively, is dominated by the BP-Amoco refinery. It has suffered in better economic shape regarding pollution problems, which are primarily petro- leum-related, as opposed to airborne toxins and sludge-dumping.

Much of the campaigning done by the CCE and similar groups centers around the human toll of carelessness and corner-cutting when toxic chemicals are involved.

Balanoff recounted her story of taking on a medical researcher when fighting to block the conversion of a sulphuric acid recycling plant with a few blocks of large numbers of low-income housing units into an incinerator for general toxic waste.

She knew that cancer-reporting methods were woefully inadequate in her area, and so she and her task force gathered data on cancer incidence in the population immediately surrounding the plant, to document the increased incidence of cancer more than three times the normal rate.

She also mentioned instances of prohibitively rare forms of cancer striking repeatedly in areas exposed to certain toxins; multiple cases of a form of juvenile cancer which has an incidence of only a few in the United States every year were reported subsequent to abuses by a chemical production plant.

Balanoff stressed the need for trained scientists to be involved in such "urban environmentalist" efforts.

She emphasized that "if the people who live in these areas, who depend upon this industry for their livelihood, are not to be destroyed by the waste which is being produced", it is imperative that we find safe and useful ways to both protect them and the industries themselves.

Betsy Balanoff

Historian

"It is imperative that we find safe and useful ways to both protect them and the industries themselves."

Study Abroad Fair

at Saint Mary's College

Presented by the Center for Women's Intercultural Leadership, and the Office of International and Intercultural Learning

Tuesday, September 30th, 4:00-6:00 p.m.
in the West Wing of the Noble Family Dining Hall.

Learn about any and every abroad program currently offered at Saint Mary's College, including academic year and summer programs. Plus, learn about the new programs to be announced this year. Additionally, speak to students who have previously studied abroad and listen to their exciting stories.

Financial Aid will be available to answer questions regarding how to make the dream of studying abroad a reality.

Both Saint Mary's and Notre Dame students are welcome, especially the Class of 2006 & 2007.

Contact Matt Smedberg at smedberg.1@nd.edu
Jesus of the Quran

Pop quiz, How is Jesus depicted in the Quran? (a) He is not mentioned at all. (b) He is praised as a high prophet. (c) He is criticized and Muhammad is lauded instead as being divine. (d) He is hailed as the Son of God. While many may think that the Quran bears no commonalities with Christianity and the Bible, we may be surprised to learn that the Quran not only discusses Jesus many times but also gives him a role of high honor, though only as a prophet. Who is the Islamic Jesus, and how are the Quran and the Bible related? Jesus is one in a succession of highly revered prophets, including Abraham and Moses, in the Quran. The Quran, which is broken into 114 Surahs (chapters) and verses, describes Jesus, miracles (5:110) and his special relationship as “the word” and “the spirit of God” (4:171). Muslims believe Christ was taken alive into heaven and will return at Judgement Day (4:159).

The Quran also tells how the Lord silenced Zechariah as a sign that his wife would have a son even in their old age (19:2). The son’s name in the Quran, Yahya, in the Gospel it is John the Baptist (Luke 1:5). Maryam (Mary) also has a special role in Islam. The Nineteenth Surah bears her name and describes how the Angel Gabriel announced her virgin birth of Jesus (19:16). While there are some initially striking similarities between the Quran and the Bible, they are followed by some stark differences. The main difference between Christianity and Islam is the belief in Jesus’ divinity. Islamic belief is that God would never take a son (19:35). The Quran states explicitly that Jesus was not the Son of God and calls against the idea of Trinity (4:171). Also significant is the Quranic claim that Jesus was not crucified and that it was only made to appear so (4:157).

The Quran also says that during his birth, Jesus talked to Mary to encourage her through the labor pains and told her to shake a palm tree to get dates for eating (19:25). Muslims believe that God’s word was intact to Jesus and the other prophets but that the Bible has been corrupted over time, whereas the Quran has retained the true word of God. The Quran itself was revealed through Muhammad. He was known as a very kind man who did not practice idolatry like those in his city of Mecca. When reflecting one night in a cave at the age of 30, the Angel Gabriel appeared and commanded Muhammad, who was illiterate, to speak, saying “Recelte in the name of your Lord who created mankind out of a mere blood clot” (96:1). This was the first of many verses that were revealed to Muhammad until his death at age 63 in 632.

The Quran actually seldom mentions Muhammad. Most knowledge about Muhammad has been passed through Hadith, traditions or sayings of Muslims that are received as religious law and moral guidance. Muhammad is not attributed with divine but is regarded as the seal of prophets, the last one to come until Resurrection Day (33:40). In this discussion, one must be sure to include Judaism. Judaism, Christianity and Islam are regarded together as “the religions of the book.” Despite their differences, the three faiths share many common virtues.

Followers are to extend this compassion to others. The 106th Surah directs believers to show neighborly charity, to care for the needy, and to feed the hungry. Islam places a special exclusivity on God, praising his oneness and power, and declaring his worthiness of believers and unhindered, peaceful submission. Believers are to have an intimate relationship with God in their heart. The Quran continuously praises God’s compassion: “[with your spouses] you may find serenity and dwell in tranquility, and he has set love and mercy between your hearts. Surely in this are signs for people who think and contemplate” (30:21). The 114 Surahs each open with: “In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.”

The recent academic convocation raised intellectual discussion about Middle Easterners and U.S. cultures. Our understanding of Islam is particularly key as the world’s second-largest faith with 1.5 billion, or 19.6 percent, of the world’s population as followers. Search through an online Quran at http://www.prin斯顿.edu/islam_html/Quarans.html. Samuel Huntington, author of “The Clash of Civilizations?”, suggests that conflict with the Middle East will end only when we bring our political interactions to the personal, human level. Our fear and ignorance cannot extinguish the hope to be found in building relationships. Professor Joseph Amar noted that there are many cultures where Muslims and Christians have lived together in harmony. Ours should be no exception.

Class of 2007, you in particular are in a special position to change our times. As a whole, your class is more knowledgeable about Islam than any in our school’s history. Our generation is inheriting a world where globalization must be renewed by the touch of humanity. We must be daring enough in our faith to embrace relationships in a new, transforming way and to find the God that only others can show us.

Andrew DeBerry is a fifth-year senior studying aerospace engineering and minor in Middle Eastern Studies. He can be reached at adeberr@nd.edu.

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

 observerpoll

Are you in favor of a smoke-free campus, including outside buildings and on the quads?

Vote by 5 p.m. Thursday at www.ndsncobserver.com

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“Civilization is built on a number of ultimate principles ... respect for human life, the punishment of crimes against property and persons, the equality of all good citizens before the law ... or, in a word, justice.”

Max Nordau
Zionist statesman
Debating president’s speech

Last year at this time, President George Bush delivered a speech acclaimed even by the amnesic media as a powerful indictment of Iraq, and of the United Nations itself.

Yesterday, the president outdid himself. Most major news editors, and even the "stories" themselves, portray the president’s speech as something ranging from "gawking" to outright "failure." It is difficult to comprehend how such important statements as the president made yesterday, could go unrecognized by so many. David Frum of the National Review probably provides the best answer. The press is "disappointed because Bush neither apologized to the United Nations...nor pleaded for its support."

Prejudiced disappointment is seemingly the only way the talking heads could have so spectacularly failed to grasp the import of Bush’s words. David Frum got it. The president rejected outright any notion that he made the wrong decision when he invaded Iraq. He dispelled any suspicion that he may have felt chided by events in Iraq and international opposition, or that his willingness to carry out the war might failering. The war on terrorism continues. Bush is undeterred in that conviction. The editorial variously describe the speech as "rare" or "perfunctory." Did they read it? Speaking of terrorists who target relief workers and innocents, "have no place in any religious faith and they should have no friends in this chili chute." He looked the General Assembly in the eye when he said that. "Between those who seek order and those who spread chaos...there is no neutral ground. All governments that support terror are complicit in a war against civilization." He looked Syria, Iran, North Korea and France in the eyes when he said that. The president repeated almost verbatim the words from his first war speech and his first State of the Union Address. You are either with us or against us. We have not waivered from the determination, to enforce the line which we have consciously drawn in the sand. The fact that most nations in the world and all nations in the Middle East, refuse to stand squarely on our side or either side, only reinforces our determination to exact from them the consequences of their choices. "The former regimes of Afghanistan and Iraq knew these alternatives, and made their choices." Don’t tell me that didn’t stiffen a few spines, or for those lacking, cause a distinct tingling.

Despite all the criticism, all the opposition, the president remains resolute. Like it or not, that was a rousing speech.

Padric McDermott

Editorial Cartoon

CALIFORNIA’S HANGING CHAD

U-WIRE

Conservatism growing on campuses

At long last, Liberals and conservatives achieving something together. While going about it in two entirely different manners, conservatives and liberals alike are working to nurture conservatism on college campuses nationwide.

Most people agree that universities are notoriously liberal. However, there are many campuses with such left-wing political cultures that they actually may be hurting their cause. Students who once thought that they were liberal before coming to school find themselves appearing to be rather conservative in comparison to the other so-called liberals on campus.

As one of my left-of-left friends said, "I consider myself pretty damn liberal, but the people on this campus are just fanatical." And so the backlash ensues. When moderate liberals come to campus, it may be hard for them to identify with supposedly like-minded classmates who have become extreme in their liberal views. It makes finding a niche in the campus political culture much more difficult for these students. If they can’t identify with other liberals, whom can they identify with? As a result, these students may begin to gravitate toward more conservative groups, sometimes even outright Republican organizations.

However, these conservative groups have gone through a notable image transformation. College Republicans are no longer the leader-wearing fraternity jocks that they were once stereotyped to be. And, speaking for myself, I don’t own a single string of pearls.

More interestingly, campus conservatives have, overall, become more moderate. Almost any of these students would bristle at the stigma of racism and homophobia that many liberals use to describe them. Their role models have changed. Students who once thought that they actually may be hurting their school find themselves appearing to be more moderate. Almost any of these students would be able to tell you the names of the people who fought for your rights in this country, and among them are African Americans, women, Jews, and other minorities. The image of the TAG (thesaurus, all campus Segs. 24)

Nicole Marklein

The Wisconsin Badger Herald

Markleln

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The Badger Herald

This column first appeared Sept. 24 in The Wisconsin Badger Herald and appears here courtesy of U-Wire.

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
Late-night heavyweights so

From Letterman to Leno, Scene offers the insomniacs

By MOLLY GRIFFIN
Scene Writer

The college circadian rhythm tends to be a bit out of whack, meaning that night no longer carries with it a responsibility of sleep. Without parental constraints or curfews constantly looming, students tend to return to their inherent animal instincts and become nocturnal. Suddenly, 2 a.m. seems like a reason to return to the drudgery of study, not to mention the endless gimmicks, sidekicks and all sorts of flashy tricks to win Nielsen ratings.

Late-night talk shows have a long and sordid history, beginning with programs that were not much more than televised vaudeville routines. Steve Allen first used the format that is seen today, but the most famous innovator of night television was, of course, Johnny Carson. Whether the quality has gone up or down from the era of Carson is something few college students could debate; most weren't alive during many of his broadcast years. It is very clear, though, that the late-night playing field has expanded greatly.

Now it seems that anyone who's anyone either has a talk show on the air or has a cancelled one in his or her past. The typical format of Monologue, First Guest, Skit, Second Guest, Band. Finale is still used by most shows, but a few have worked to change it or have chosen an entirely new means of presenting entertainment.

The best way to evaluate the merits of these shows may be by looking at the college student's old friend, essays. Compare and Contrast. For the sake of simplicity, and because there is only so long one can read about talk shows, we won't look at shows like late-night show. Only the biggest, best or at least most notorious makes the list: The Tonight Show with Jay Leno on NBC, Late Night with David Letterman on CBS, The Daily Show with Jon Stewart on Comedy Central, The Late Late Show with Craig Kilborn on CBS, and Late Night with Conan O'Brien on NBC.

Tom Green was with Conan O'Brien when he was not a member of the Late Night band, Paul Shaffer, and boasts the popular "Top Ten" lists. Their ability to survive in this cutthroat time slot.

Before we start, here's a very brief description of each show/personality for those readers who may not have ever stayed up late before. Jay Leno took over for Johnny Carson and has an impressive car collection and is famous for his large chin. David Letterman was unhappy that Leno got Johnny's old job, and he has a heart attack and is from Indianapolis, Ind. Jon Stewart, former stand-up comic who took over "The Daily Show" from Craig Kilborn, was a professional talk dancer with the New Jersey Soft Shoe Club. Kilborn left "The Daily Show" for his own eponymous late-night show, played college basketball and was in the movie "The Simpsons." Now that we know who these hosts are, we can begin to compare.

The natural place to start the comparisons may be at the beginning of each show: the opening monologue. This segment lets the host make a few jokes, introduce his band and/or sidekick, mention the guests are for the evening, and then make a few more jokes. This round has to go to the heavyweights of late-night: Leno and Letterman. They have plenty of experience under their belts, and both have almost perfected the monologue format. They rarely deviate from the jokes-introductions-and then make a few more jokes. This is still used by most shows, but a few have worked to change it or have chosen an entirely new means of presenting entertainment.

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Hour off to find best host

compare-and-contrast guide to after-hour talk shows

TV Shows

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<th>Name</th>
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<td>The Daily Show with Craig Kilborn</td>
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<td>The Late Night Show with Conan O'Brien</td>
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Competition because the show has no band. Some credit must be given to the program, though, because it has a cool theme song. It isn’t a good sign when the leader of the band is not only not memorable but is not to be found on the Internet as well, so Craig Kilborn is not doing too well in the bandleader category. In the case of the band leaders, it comes down to David Letterman and Conan O’Brien, with Letterman winning the most recognizable and O’Brien taking the prize for best overall band leader.

Special segments are the meat and potatoes of the late-night talk show, as there has to be something slightly interesting to fill the gaps between the celebrity guests. Leno requests that viewers send in humorous news clippings, which he presents on the show. This works well, because the jokes basically tell themselves, so everyone wins. Jay also has a segment where he asks simplistic, obvious questions and records the answers people on the street give. Funny, yes, but it is also a sad commentary on America’s education system and the basic knowledge that the general population possesses.

Letterman may possess one of the most notorious segments, his infamous Top Ten List, but he also has his weekly clips roasting daytime talk show therapists Dr. Phil and stupid human and pet tricks. Conan O’Brien has a surprising array of stupid, yet brilliant, segments, including Triumph the Comic Insult Dog. In the Year 2000, if They Mated, Clutch Cargo and Pimp Phreek 5000. Jon Stewart only really has news segments on “The Daily Show,” but with the distinct difference marking it from real news of being intentionally funny. The news segments usually focus on some strange and obscure situation or individual and making their story sound eerily like the real news, and there are also daily segments like Lewis Black’s “Back on Black” or the “Moment of Zen.” Kilborn’s show has a segment entitled “5 Questions,” which originated during his stint on “The Daily Show” in which he asks five random questions to his guests. He also reviews movie posters, and has a troupe of actors for skits that act as filler between guests. Looking at the shows in terms of their random skits, Leno and Letterman both have a solid repertoire, but Conan wins this round by virtue of the sheer number of memorable skits and because he is not afraid to do stupid and juvenile things to himself or others on his show. Maybe that’s what they teach you at Harvard.

The final factor we’ll look at is the guests on each show. It isn’t really effective to look at who has “better” guests, as celebrities are by their very nature media hounds and will go on anything if they have a movie to promote, so instead we’ll focus on the interview style of each host. Leno plays the personable, clean-cut host who shies away from really controversial questions, but in a way that means the celebrities feel comfortable on the show. Letterman is equally personable, but has a little more edge, so his questions are a little hit-and-miss. He has some truly memorable moments with guests, including Madonna swearing on air, Drew Barrymore stripping and Farrah Fawcett rambling incoherently. In this respect, he has a huge advantage. Conan will do anything for a laugh, including trading clothes with a much smaller Roberto Begloli, but this can be a way that distracts from the guests themselves. Conan is the focus of his show, not his guests. Jon Stewart’s interviews are smart and funny and are elevated from the typical banter of Hollywood in that he gets to talk about politics and gets actual politicians on the show. This may not always guarantee a laugh, but it is always fascinating and proves that some people who may appear to have no sense of humor are hilarious, like Former Senator Bob Dole. Craig Kilborn uses his “5 Questions” segment to his advantage, but his lower position on the late-night totem pole does limit his roster of big name stars, so he simply can’t compete with the other hosts. Letterman and Stewart take the cake as far as guests, though. Letterman for his memorable past incidents and Stewart for the sheer variety of guests that differentiates his show from the others.

In looking over this analysis, it becomes clear that Leno and Letterman are still at the top of the talk show food chain, but they have a few new boys, namely Conan O’Brien and Jon Stewart, nipping at their heels. Craig Kilborn must pay his dues in the late, late time slot before he can really be a competitor for the big-time ratings. Ultimately, though, the real choice is much simpler than picking between shows. It really boils down to Is this worth missing sleep over? I only hope this analysis can help lead you to the right choice. Good luck, and good night.

Molly Griffin at mgriffin@nd.edu

Conan O’Brien has had a number of famous guests, including the “I-didn’t-do-it” Boy, Bart Simpson. This interview showed off Conan’s talent and grace, as well as his animated nature.

Jon Stewart, host of “The Daily Show,” was recently honored at the Emmy awards as the host of the best “Variety, Music or Comedy Show.”

Thursday, September 25, 2003
In this chapter, Dick Tracy and the Los Angeles Dodgers are featured, setting up a classic scenario. The Dodgers face the New York Yankees in the World Series. Dick Tracy, the only detective who can prevent the crime, must gather clues and solve the case. As the series progresses, Tracy uses his deductive reasoning to uncover the truth behind the giant mannequin that has been terrorizing the city. Will Tracy be able to stop the mannequin before it's too late? Only time will tell.
Campus Ministry

introducing

Our new & improved website
campusministry.nd.edu

events calendar • daily reflections • retreat applications • mass schedules

what's happening

friday 9.26
Freshman Retreat #48
Sacred Heart Parish Center

NDE Retreat #77
Fatima Retreat Center

Sophomore Road Trip
Destinations, Unknown

sunday 9.28
RCIA-Session
10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
330 Coleman-Morse

monday 9.29
Reflections on Asian American Catholicism by the Most Reverend Bishop Ignatius Wang
4:00 p.m.
Jordan Auditorium
5:15 p.m. Mass
Basilica of the Sacred Heart

notre dame welcomes

First Asian American Catholic Bishop
The Most Reverend Bishop Ignatius Wang
Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of San Francisco

Monday, September 29
Reflections on His Personal Journey and Asian American Catholicism
4:00 p.m.
Jordan Auditorium
followed by Mass in the Basilica at 5:15 p.m.

mass schedule

Twenty-sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time

basilica of the sacred heart
Saturday Vigil Mass
5:00 p.m.
Rev. John E. Conley, C.S.C.

Sunday
10:00 a.m. (Red Mass)
Most Rev. John M. D'Arcy,
Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend
11:45 a.m.

CM WELCOME CENTER (room 111): Sunday through Thursday 4 p.m. to Midnight.
OFFICE HOURS: Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
CM WELCOME CENTER: Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
CM WELCOME CENTER (room 111): Sunday through Thursday 4 p.m. to Midnight.

considerations...

Theology on Tap
A Priest, a Prof and a Student walk into a bar...

by Lauren Willoughby
intern, Campus Ministry

Everyone on this campus has questions. We have questions about our futures, about issues affecting our world, and about our faith. We want to know about God, about what our Church teaches, and about how we can incorporate that into our lives. There are many places we can look for answers, but sometimes this isn’t easy. In class, it can be difficult to bring up issues that have a personal significance for us. We can be intimidated by the formal setting, by others in the class, or by the pressure to meet a professors’ expectations. Sometimes class lessons don’t get “off track” enough to address the things that we really want to know.

Now there is something new, something different—a chance to ask the questions that we want to ask in a comfortable environment. How many deep and meaningful conversations have we had while simply relaxing with friends? It is in these personal chats that we get to talk about what is that is important to us and ask the questions we really want to know. This is the basis for Theology on Tap.

Theology on Tap is the chance to bring together students to address the important questions in our lives. It takes theology out of the classrooms and brings it to a more casual environment (Legends!). It is an opportunity to hear about issues that are relevant to young adults’ lives and talk about them from a Catholic perspective. The format is simple— some time for socializing, a short talk by a dynamic speaker, and some discussion and good conversation afterwards. It’s a place to find “straight talk, hard facts, and real answers” to the questions that are on our minds.

Starring next Wednesday, Theology on Tap will come to Legends. We’ll bring in speakers who are passionate and knowledgeable about meaningful topics. They will give a short talk and then open it up for questions. This is the chance to ask the hard questions that we have. It’s not a classroom or lecture so there isn’t any pressure to have keeping track of grades or comments; it’s just an opportunity to talk about important issues.

At the end of the evening, the discussions continue among everyone there. The conversations continue among everyone there. The speaker’s topic is a built-in conversation starter for talking to new people and learning from each other. There is no way that the subjects can be exhausted in an hour so the conversations can and should continue long after the speaker’s microphone turns off. Theology on Tap provides the tools and foundation to think about important issues. It is up to each of us to continue to think about and discuss the questions that we have about our Church, our faith, and our lives.

Theology on Tap kicks off next Wednesday, October 1, in the club side of Legends. Come join us for free soda and appetizers as we have an open and honest discussion about relationships. Meet fellow students in a relaxed setting as we talk about those issues that are important to us and together find the answers that we are looking for.
USOC faces changes

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Senate has agreed to streamline the U.S. Olympic Committee in hopes of bringing more accountability to the scandal-ridden organization. Legislation, approved by voice vote Tuesday night, would dramatically scale back the USOC's governing structure and provide more congressional oversight.

Instead of 124 members, the new USOC board of directors would have nine members, plus the U.S. delegates to the International Olympic Committee and a representative from the Olympic Assembly.

"I believe the reforms in our bill today are necessary adjustments that will return the focus of the United States Olympic Committee to our original intent, our American athletes," said Sen. Ted Stevens, R-Alaska.

Since the 2000 Games in Sydney, the Olympic committee has had four chief executives and three presidents and endured a bribery scandal involving Salt Lake City's 2002 Winter Olympics bid.

Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell, R-Colo., had been holding up the legislation to get assurances that the USOC would keep its headquarter's in Colorado Springs. Colo. The legislation now requires the USOC to remain in Colorado Springs until the full board.

A House subcommittee, meanwhile, approved a similar bill Wednesday. Like the Senate measure, the bill advanced by the House Energy and Commerce Committee's trade and consumer protection subcommittee would cut the USOC board of directors to nine members plus the U.S. delegates to the IOC.

Holcomb's status uncertain, Couch is ready to go

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Kelly Holcomb shuffled along like an old man, not an NFL starter.

Wearing protective braces on both ankles, bound by yards of tape for support, Cleveland's quarterback walked slowly onto the practice field Wednesday.

He didn't appear ready to play Sunday against Cincinnati, but after waiting seven years for a starting gig, Holcomb's not about to let a broken right leg and sprained left ankle stop him.

"I'm playing," Holcomb said before practice. "I mean, you have to think that way."

Last Sunday, Holcomb refused to give in to the pain and rallied the Browns to a 13-12 win at San Francisco while playing with a hairline fracture in lower leg.

"It feels a lot better than I thought it would," Holcomb said before practice. "But I've still got a lot of healing to do.

Escorted by two trainers, Holcomb was the final player to emerge from the locker room for Wednesday's workout. He began jogging but stopped after a few strides.

After sitting on the bench for almost an entire career, he doesn't want any time off.

"I'm a firm believer that if you start something, you finish it," said Holcomb, who was 12-6-14 on Cleveland's game-winning, 91-yard drive to beat the 49ers. "If I get out there, I'm going to do my darnest."

Holcomb is listed as questionable, but coach Butch Davis hasn't ruled him out, saying: "Let's wait and see.

Holcomb won Cleveland's starting job over Tim Couch last summer after seven pro seasons as a backup, and he's not about to switch roles again unless he has to.

If Holcomb can play this week, he knows the Bengals (0-3) won't take it easy on him just because he's hurt.

"This is a collision sport," he said. "It's like churning the water, when sharks get around it, they're going to go after it. You're going to take some kicks, you just want it to hold up. If it doesn't, you want it to be healed enough that it can take some punishment."

The Browns didn't ask Holcomb to do any running in Wednesday's practice. During the first 20 minutes when reporters are permitted to watch, Holcomb stood to the side and played catch.

Couch, Cleveland's four-year starter who led the Browns to eight wins last season, took the majority of snaps with the first-team offense.

Davis wants to see how Holcomb responds to treatment over the next few days before deciding on a starter. It's possible he may not know until after pregame warmups Sunday.

"I think it's important for him to go out and be able to move around, throw and plant and see if he has velocity on the ball," Davis said. "He has to be able to execute. Kelly is no different than anyone else. They have to be able to perform the duties on Sunday."

There are already signs of change at quarterback.

While Holcomb was the last player on the field before practice, Couch was the last one off it after. As Davis spoke to the media about Holcomb's status, Couch stayed late and worked on passing drills.

Following his performance Sunday, Holcomb was asked to rate his pain on a scale of 1 to 10 and gave it a 5. After two and a half days of treatment, Holcomb said the pain had subsided.

Holcomb acknowledged that he was hurting badly at halftime Sunday when the Browns told Couch to get ready. So how was he able to manage the pain?

"Adrenaline, tape and prayer," he said. "It's one of those things you've got to block it out. You just got to tape it up, tape it tighter and go.

Holcomb promises he won't take any unnecessary risks and play Sunday if he's not completely ready. That wouldn't be fair to his coaches or teammates, he said.

"If he can't go out there and play the way he's capable of, then I'm sure he won't go. He's coachable, he's a professional and if there's a chance he can go out there and be effective then he'll go out and do that."
**Poor second half dooms Mariners once again**

**Oakland 5, Texas 3**

Before this homestand began, outfielder Chris Singleton offered Jose Guillen a $100 bet: Who would get back onto the field first? Guillen didn’t take it, but he should have.

Playing with a broken bone in his left hand, Guillen hit a two-run homer and homered the go-ahead run in his second start back from the injury to lead the Oakland Athletics over the Texas Rangers 5-3 Wednesday.

"He doesn’t owe me anything," Guillen said, smiling as usual. "I think the bet was forgotten. I got onto the field first. I win the battle."

Singleton was also in there Wednesday, getting two hits to break an 0-for-14 slump.

Tim Hudson pitched seven solid innings as Manager Ken Macha rested most of his regulars, a day after Oakland clinched its second straight AL West title. Chad Harris pitched the ninth for his first major league save.

The As are headed to the playoffs for the fourth straight season.

**Chicago 9, New York 4**

When last the New York Yankees went down swinging, Esteban Loaiza walked out of the dugout to a standing ovation, his teammates waiting on the mound to congratulate him.

Seven months ago he was just trying to land a job, a non-roster invitee to spring training. Now he’s a 20-game winner, a milestone even some of the best pitchers never reach.

"It’s really great," said Loaiza, who became the fifth 20-game winner in the major leagues. "I hope I’m a big part of the team for the未来 years."
Associated Press

PROVIDENCE — The Big East plans to invite four Conference USA teams to join the league in 2005, keeping the conference intact after defections of its two biggest football programs threatened to split it in two. Cincinnati, DePaul, Louisville and Marquette will be invited in November, a source close to the expansion plans told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity Wednesday.

The additions of Cincinnati and Louisville would give the Big East the eight football teams it needs to keep its NCAA certification in 2005. Marquette and DePaul will join for basketball and other sports.

"We're being talked about," Louisville athletic director Tom Jurich said. "Is anything finalized? Absolutely not. If we do have the opportunity, it is something to look forward to. We have the utmost respect for the Big East."

After Miami and Virginia Tech defected for the ACC in June, the Big East schools considered splitting into two conferences — one that plays football and one that doesn't.

The next big question for the Big East is whether it will keep its automatic spot in the Bowl Championship Series.

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — The San Diego Chargers sent wide receiver David Boston home before practice on Wednesday as a disciplinary measure. Boston was sent home after a morning meeting with coach Marty Schottenheimer.

Schottenheimer was guarded in his comments about Boston, who signed a $47 million contract as a free agent in March.

"David and I had a discussion and in the course of the discussion, thought we ought to have this day off, and he's been excused for a matter that is not related to the medical part of it," Schottenheimer said.

General manager A.J. Smith wouldn't be more specific, but did say that it wasn't one incident that led to Boston being sent home, but rather, "It's several things."

"Let's just say we've got some guidelines here to adhere to," Smith said. "And David wasn't meeting them to our expectations."

Club officials planned to discuss Boston's situations in meetings Wednesday night.

"There is no suspension yet," said Smith, who expected Boston back on Thursday.

Mitch Frankel, Boston's agent, did not return phone messages Wednesday.

Boston, a Pro Bowl selection with Arizona in 2001, has made nearly as much news off the field as on it since joining the Chargers.

He raised eyebrows when skipping the Chargers' second game with a bruised heel, then was caught leaving the bench area before the end of the 37-13 loss to Denver. He also declined to join his teammates in the locker room.

Last Sunday he returned to action and caught six passes for 91 yards. But before the Chargers' 24-10 loss to Baltimore, he was involved in a shouting incident with injured wide receiver Reche Caldwell.

Following that game, he declined to speak to reporters. It was Smith who signed Boston to a seven-year contract, which included a $4.55 million signing bonus and $575,000 in base salary this year.

While with the Cardinals, Boston pleaded no contest to a charge of driving under the influence of drugs. Police said he tested positive for cocaine and marijuana.

Schottenheimer expects Boston to play Sunday in Oakland.
Women's Soccer NSCAA Poll

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Men's Soccer NSCAA Poll

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NBA

Iverson signs four-year deal extension

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — The lights dimmed as the video scoreboard started playing Allen Iverson's career highlights. There was no way he wasn't being announced as Philadelphia's No. 1 draft pick, and later holding his MVP award. There he was celebrating victories, acting silly off the court and hugging former coach Larry Brown.

The memories showed what makes Iverson so valuable and why the Sixers couldn't afford to lose him. Now, they won't have to worry about that.

Allen Iverson wanted to be a Philadelphia 76er and, with this contract, we're telling him we always want him here as well," team president Billy King said.

Iverson has one year plus an option remaining on his current deal, which will pay him more than $28 million over the next two years. The extension begins in 2005-06.

Iverson and King signed the contract in front of nearly 200 wildly cheering fans. Iverson will be 33 when the deal expires and it means he will be the longest-tenured Sixer in team history.

"Iverson said he never thought about exploring free agency and wanted the deal done now so it wouldn't be a distraction during the season.

"You all didn't have a chance to make a big circus about it," Iverson joked with reporters. Iverson repeatedly credited the fans for making him feel comfortable in Philadelphia.

"You've always embraced me through my ups and downs," he said.

Now Iverson wants to add the one thing missing in that highlight reel — a championship.

"I want to be in those rafters one day," he said.

IN BRIEF

Cardinals manager, coach suspended after conflict with umpire at Houston last weekend

NEW YORK — St. Louis Cardinals catcher Mike Matheny, manager Tony La Russa and pitching coach Dave Duncan were suspended and fined Wednesday for their conflict with an umpire last weekend during a game against the Atlanta Braves. Matheny was ejected from the game and Matheny and Matheny said that Matheny repeatedly credit the fans for making him feel comfortable in Philadelphia.

"You all didn't have a chance to make a big circus about it," Iverson joked with reporters. Iverson repeatedly credited the fans for making him feel comfortable in Philadelphia.

"You've always embraced me through my ups and downs," he said.

Now Iverson wants to add the one thing missing in that highlight reel — a championship.

"I want to be in those rafters one day," he said.

Yankees' secretary arrested after incident with clubhouse security guard

CHICAGO — New York Yankees traveling secretary David Szen was charged with misdemeanor battery Tuesday night as the team celebrated its AL East title.

Szen was arrested in the visiting clubhouse at U.S. Cellular Field for pushing a security guard, police spokeswoman Alice Casanova said early Wednesday.

"During a verbal altercation the victim was pushed several times," Casanova said.

Casanova said she didn't know what caused the dispute. Yankees spokesman Rick Cerrone declined comment. Szen, 51, was released on a personal recognition bond. 

The Yankees beat the Chicago White Sox 7-0 Tuesday night, clinching their sixth straight AL East title.
Badin set to face defending champion Pasquerilla East

By ANDREW KIRKSEY, ANN LOUGHERY AND KATHERINE GALES

The girls of Badin are looking for the 'W' over Pasquerilla East this Thursday as they enter into Shamrocks. The Shamrocks strong team," said quarterback defending champion Pasquerilla experience and reputation of for the 'W' over Pasquerilla East started their drives inside of the to dominate PE defensively. is confident in her team's ability looking forward to the game; she in that game. Carter had three picks against two risky situations 21-20. Badin captain Jennifer Carter is Badin's defense held last week aged by the solid defense that This year has been one of the Disappointed by their loss, but PE captain Laura Wolohan. Although confident in her team's ability to mix things up on offense, and their show of defensive strength in their first game, she isn't making any predictions. "Most people you'd talk to would say that we'd win, but I'd rather show it then say it," said Wolohan. The game is being held at Bielke West field at 9 p.m. Howard vs. McGlinn Badin teams have met adversity this season. The Howard Ducks are yet to win a game with an 0-2 record, while the McGlinn Shamrocks (2-1) suffered their first loss this season to the Lewis Chicks. Players from both teams anticipate an intense game Thursday. "I'm sure they put up a fight," said McGlinn running back Raquel Ferrer. "It's just about us starting out strong. We tend to come out scared and a little hesitant at the beginning." Ferrer cites a lack of intensity as one of the key obstacles the Shamrocks encountered in the game against Lewis Sunday. The game ended early under the mercy rule in a 19-0 win for the Chickens. However, Wednesday's practice in the rain should be the source of the Shamrocks' energy tomorrow, she said. The Ducks are also rebounding from a 0-1 loss to Pasquerilla East and looking to score their first touchdown this season. Howard co-captain Brin Anderson attributes this close game to a slight change in defensive strategy. "And once we put some points up on the board, I feel that will give our team the motivation to come out on top," said Anderson. The Shamrock defense should expect to meet opposition from Ducks freshman safety Megan Marshall, who had multiple interceptions against the Pasquerilla East Pyro's on Sunday. Offensively, Gallie Whalen, Sydney Aversa and quarterback Shena Ketchum should make significant contributions. "Our offense just needs to calm down and run the plays," she said. "It's all about getting it done. We have a lot of talent, we just need to do what we're told and be strong." "The defense has been good at putting the pressure on the other team's offense. It should be an interesting game." McGlinn and Howard will square off Thursday at Riehle West field at 7 p.m. Lewis vs. Lyons This week's rain has not diminished the Lewis Chicks' anticipation for their game against rival Lyons on Thursday evening. The Chicks enter the game at an undefeated 3-0, hoping to extend their winning streak to four games. Lyons, looking to post its first victory of the season, is prepared for the challenge. "It's been really tough for us because we started practicing really late in the season," said Lyons captain Lauren White. "With the weather lately, it's been really hard to get any practice in." The Chicks are fresh off a decisive Sunday victory against McGlinn. Despite the quick turn-around, sophomore defender Julia Burke said that "we use games as a learning experience." Lyons junior player Sheila Dawes concurred. "We make mistakes, but learn from them," she said.

Not many mistakes. Badin posted six points against Lewis early in the season — the only six points scored on a solid defense. This defense looks to challenge a Lyons quarterback back from studying abroad, as well as Megan Ragan, a transfer from Dayton who White said is one of the tandem's best receivers. "We want to limit first downs and yards allowed," Dawes said. Lewis also boasts an explosive offense. Mimi Lundgren, Lynne McChrystal and Katy Clare are prime targets for standout quarterback Erin Naurahall. Lyons' two losses are to Badin and McGlinn in close games. Although the Chicks have beaten both opponents, they take nothing for granted. "As the season progresses, our team has improved," said Dawes. "We need to assume every other team improves also, or we're going to get beaten." Last year, Lyons and Lewis faced off in a close contest in the regular season's last game. Lyons got the playoff spot — Lewis was forced to wait for the next season. The game will be played this evening at 8 pm at Riehle West field.

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Former Irish star Riley shines on the big stage

By HEATHER VAN HOEGARDEN
Sports Writer

The Observer ◆ SPORTS

Thursday, September 25, 2003

Ruth Riley is in a league of her own at Notre Dame.

When her WNBA Finals MVP award, she became the first woman to be named a Finals MVP at both the college and professional levels. She won the 2001 NCAA Finals MVP when the Irish won the national championship. Not even former Irish quarterback and three-time Super Bowl MVP Joe Montana won both. He was not named MVP in the 1977 Irish national championship victory in the Cotton Bowl.

Riley won the WNBA finals MVP award after scoring a career-high 27 points in the Detroit Shock's 83-78 over the Los Angeles Sparks. She stepped up in the big game, hitting 15-foot jump shots consistently and playing exceptional defense on Sparks star Lisa Leslie.

"It was a shock," Riley said. "I'm on a team with three all-stars, and what makes us so good is that we are so balanced. They could have given the award to anybody." However, it was Riley who won the MVP, becoming the first woman to be named Finals MVP in both college and the WNBA. Hailing from the small town of Macy, Ind., Riley has made it big both in college and now in her third year in the WNBA.

Riley was coached by the former Detroit Piston and Irish forward Bill Laimbeer. Laimbeer won two NBA Championships with the Pistons and took Notre Dame to the Final Four and Elite Eight in 1978 and 1979, respectively.

"Bill's great," Riley said. "I get to throw him being a Dumer in there to all my teammates, especially those from Connecticut and other rival schools.

Laimbeer can also be credited for his determination in bringing a WNBA franchise to the city of Detroit. However, his efforts didn't end there, as he led the Shock to a title, after finishing with the worst record in the league last year. He revamped the lineup, and got the players that he wanted to win with — and win, he did. "I love playing for Coach Laimbeer and you couldn't ask for a better season than the way we ended up." Riley led a team with an average age of just under 25 years old, with the oldest player being 29. Riley attributed their success to new players that created a fresh look for the Shock.

"It's an amazing feeling to be on the team that's considered the best in the world," Riley said. "We had a lot of young players that were thrown together this year, and it's truly a great accomplishment for us.

Riley once again stepped up when it counted, as her performance mirrored that of the 2001 NCAA Championship game, when she scored 24 points, missing only four shots, and pulled down 13 rebounds. In that game, she was head and shoulders above Purdue. However, she can't decide which championship trophy means more to her.

"They're the same, but different," Riley said. "At Notre Dame, you work with the same group of girls for four years, and it was such an amazing way to end your collegiate career. But, on the professional level, this was a new team and so it's an amazing accomplishment to be the best team in the world." So, what does Ruth Riley do now? "I'm running around everywhere," she said.

For now, she is in South Bend. Yesterday, she spoke to current Notre Dame student-athletes at the Academic Honors Banquet. "I love coming back to campus," Riley said. "It's like my second home."

She maintains her Notre Dame ties with head coach Muffet McGraw. McGraw called Riley just before she stepped up on the podium to accept the MVP. Riley was sure to e-mail her former coach later that evening.

"(Coach McGraw) is great," Riley said. "She's a great resource basketball-wise, and I think that our relationship grew even more after I graduated."

Next stop for Riley is Russia, where she will play for the WNBA Select team to take on different European countries in the Women's Basketball World Cup from Oct. 14-19.

"After that, who knows, as the tryouts for the USA women's national team will be in the winter.

For Riley, it is just another opportunity to excel in the game at which she has worked so hard.

"I'm truly blessed," Riley said. "The success I've had here at Notre Dame and then to go on and do it at the professional level is a great accomplishment."

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By ANDREW SOUKUP
Sports Writer

Offensive lineman Bob Morton volunteers as designated driver for students

"Irish getting ready to face Bradley"
By PAT LEONARD
Sports Writer

The Notre Dame men's soccer team continues its seven-game, September home stand with a nonconference match versus Bradley this Thursday at Alumni Field. The Braves (4-4-0) have a 2-1 all-time series lead on the Irish and hold a 4-3 advantage over Notre Dame in Prolor. Ill. locations.

The Irish have scored four goals in their last five games, including two in a 2-1 overtime victory over Fresno State. Notre Dame is 3-1-1 on the home side, including a 4-2 loss to opponent St. John's 3-0 and tying non-conference but perennial foe Akron, 0-0. The other two victories came in two 1-0 wins over Indiana and West Virginia.

Entering Thursday's game with a non-ranked opponent, coach Bobby Clark is confident this team will remain focused and play its own game. "This is a test. It's a mental test. Coach [Kevin] O'Shea and most of the boys will underestimate that. We've played the last two years and they've been very hard games. Last year, the [Bradley] heat of us, so I don't think anyone in our camp will feel they're going to be an easy game.

Notre Dame cracked slightly in the Grill showing on back-to-back victories, coming in at No. 8 in Soccer America and No. 15 in the NSCAA polls.

"Move up still does not mean a relaxing in tempo or style," the Irish have a hard road ahead of them. "We watched some tape and we were very impressed with them," Clark said. "I'll be a tough one. They're good, but if we do things right, we can play with anyone in the country." The potential of Notre Dame starters is starting to receive national recognition.

After scoring the game-winning goal against Indiana and all but shutting off the left side of the field for opposing forwards, junior defender Kevin Goldthwaitte earned Big East defensive player of the week honors as well as a nomination to the College Soccer News team of the week. Clark, however, prefers to view awards as team accomplishments.

"Soccer is a team sport," he said. "Goldie got the award, but he got that award not just for what he did but for what his buddies have done as well. That award goes to all the backs. In the back, to Kevin [Richards], to Jack [Stewart], to Greg Dalby and Chris Sawyer. I think Kevin would be the first to second that."

Notes
Freshman midfielder Ryan Miller is in the infirmary with a torn ACL and could be out for the season. He played against UAB and against Cal," Clark said. "The week before practice for St. John's he got hurt and we didn't know what it was. Then we found out later it was a torn ACL. He could be out for the season. That's the way it goes sometimes.

Clark says that because Miller only played two games, he still has four years left of eligibility, including a "medical year of eligibility" due to the injury. A player must play three or four games, Clark says, before counting as an official member of that season's roster.

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Abiamiri
continued from page 24

knew I had potential, but I didn't really know how I stacked up against the other players," Abiamiri said. "If I came here, I knew I would have a chance." That's what he did. After struggling through fall camp and impressing coaches with his solid technique and willingness to learn, Abiamiri made his way onto the two-deep depth chart and started earning more repetitions in practice. He saw playing time in Notre Dame's first two games, but admitted to a case of the butterflies when he found out he would be starting in place of a banged-up Tuck.

"Victor's appearance is not just based on injury," Willingham said. "Victor has played very well when he arrived in our camp. He's shown himself to be a physical player. He's shown himself to be an intelligent player, and he's adapted very well to college football.

Although Abiamiri initially cracked the starting lineup because of an injury, Willingham said that wouldn't be the last time he made a significant contribution for the Irish this season. The plan now is to rotate Abiamiri and Tuck in and out of the game as needed. "You'll see Victor on the football field a lot the next few years," defensive line coach Greg Mattison said, "as long as he continues doing what he's doing."
NCAA

Is this a major conference call for the Irish?

Atlantic Coast Conference, Big Ten reportedly approach Notre Dame about conference switch

By ANDREW SOUKUP
Sports Writer

The ACC and Big Ten are talking with Notre Dame to gauge the school's interest in becoming the 12th member of each conference, according to a report published Wednesday in the Charlotte Observer. The article, which attributed all information exclusively to unnamed sources, said ACC commissioner John Swofford has expressed a willingness to let the Irish join the league as a partial member within the next year or two.

Notre Dame athletic director Kevin White has remained silent on the issue of Notre Dame's conference future since Miami and Virginia Tech announced it would join the Big East by June 2004, throwing the collegiate sports world into turmoil.

Notre Dame is currently a member of the Big East in most sports with the notable exception of football. Although the Irish are one of only four Division I-A independent football teams, they play a limited schedule against Big East teams each year. But Notre Dame associate athletic director for media relations John Heisler said he "had no idea" if Notre Dame had been negotiating with the ACC.

"Every day there's another speculative story written, and given our relationship with the Big East, I think (White) has felt it's not appropriate or fair to guess or suggest or predict what's going to happen with any of this until we get to the point where something does happen," Heisler said.

According to the sources cited in the Charlotte Observer, two different options are under discussion, which involve Notre Dame becoming a member of the ACC in all sports except football. One plan under discussion is for Notre Dame to schedule as many games as possible against ACC schools each year. The other option involves Notre Dame becoming a full-fledged football member.

The Observer cited sources that said Notre Dame has also talked with the 11-team Big Ten, a conference whose invitation the Irish rejected in Feb. 1999. But those sources said the Big Ten has not been pushing the football angle as much as the ACC.

It is advantageous for conferences to have 12 football teams because then they become eligible under NCAA legislation to hold a conference championship and guarantee at least $10 million in revenue. Ten- or 11-team conferences cannot hold championship games, although the ACC has petitioned the NCAA to overturn the rule.

"This probably fuels a lot of the speculation, but Kevin spends a lot of time with all of these sources and they are part of the BCS," Heisler said.

Heisler maintained that Notre Dame hadn't de-valued the importance of football independence.

"I don't sense there's been any suggestion that we're prepared to do an about-face," he said.

Notre Dame's television deal with NBC expires in 2005, the same year as the expiration of the Bowl Championship Series contract. Notre Dame is the only school outside the six major BCS conferences to have a separate agreement with the BCS.

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SPECIAL TO THE OBSERVER

Freshman defensive lineman Abiamiri has provided an instant spark for the Irish

By ANDREW SOUKUP
Sports Writer

What does Victor Abiamiri have in common with former Irish players Anthony Wever, Renaldo Wynn and Bryant Young? All are defensive linemen. All started as true freshmen. And Wever, Wynn and Young, who went on to start four years, all were NFL first- or second-round draft picks.

It's a standard Abiamiri hopes to live up to.

"Notre Dame has had a wonderful tradition of making good players," he said. "I'm still young. I hope I can listen to the older players and I hope it can happen. The rest is in God's hands." With the way Abiamiri has been playing lately, though, teams are going to take notice of him sooner rather than later.

Making his first collegiate start against Michigan State in place of injured Justin Turk, Abiamiri recorded eight tackles — the second-most on the team, behind tackles-eating linebacker Courtney Watson. Although Notre Dame lost, the Irish were impressed by Abiamiri's play at defensive end.

"When he came out and played as well as he did," Tuck said, "he made plays that normal freshmen don't make." W ever it not for a recruiting violation, though, Abiamiri might have followed his two older brothers to Maryland. But on the eve of national signing day last February, reports surfaced that a Maryland assistant coach had given Abiamiri $300. The secondary violation cost the coach his job and Maryland its chance at landing the 6-foot, 245-pound lineman.

Abiamiri went to Notre Dame believing Tyrone Willingham's philosophy that the best players would play, regardless of year. But he had little idea if he'd even crack the playing field.

"I knew I could be good, I see ABIAMIRI/page 22

Irish grad. rates among DI-I East

Notre Dame ranks among the top 10 Division I-A institutions in five major student-athlete graduate rate categories — overall, football, men's and women's basketball and African-American — according to statistics released this month by the NCAA.

The federally mandated 2003 NCAA Graduation Rates Report, the 13th such survey conducted by the association, covers student-athletes who entered between 1993 and 1996 at Division I institutions, including Notre Dame and Big East-LA. The NCAA bases graduation rates on the raw percentage of student-athletes who entered an institution and graduated within six years. Students who leave or transfer, regardless of academic standing, are considered in graduation rates.

Using the NCAA formula, Notre Dame graduated a four-year average of 87 percent of its student-athletes, third only to Duke and Northwestern Universities, both at 89 percent. The national average for Division I-A schools is 60 percent.

Among student-athletes who completed all four years of athletic eligibility at Notre Dame, 99 percent earned their degrees. The national average was 83 percent.

Notre Dame graduated 92 percent of all women competing in varsity athletics, to rank second among peer institutions behind North Carolina at 98 percent. Among men, Notre Dame's 85 percent was second only to Duke at 88 percent.


The NCAA recently presented an Academic Achievement Award to Notre Dame for its best-in-the-nation one-year graduation rate of 92 percent among all student-athletes who enrolled in 1996.